



Services for the Department of Defence

Wildlife, conservation and land management



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The Department of Defence is one of the most significant land managers in Australia. Supporting the activities and capability of its extensive personnel unit, whilst managing and monitoring the impact of its activities on the environment is a considerable task. Similarly, the need to manage the risks and impacts of bird and wildlife strike on Defence's airfield activities is critical.

From consultation and planning to on-ground assessments, management, monitoring and reporting, Ecosure understands Defence's unique position and offers a range of cost-effective solutions that comply with relevant Department standards and protocols.

Here are just a few of the ways we can assist the Department of Defence:

Wildlife dispersal, relocation and management

- Experience and permits to trap, restrain and relocate problem wildlife, take tissue samples and specialist technical support from our in-house veterinarian staff
- Bird and wildlife strike risk mitigation - our strategic business unit Avisure is an industry leader in this field, having completed projects at over 60 airports in Australia and around the world
- Training programs specifically for personnel involved in bird and wildlife strike management, delivered by experienced educators and specialists in the field of wildlife risk management at airports

Weed management and bush regeneration

- Ground based weed and vegetation surveys, and aerial surveys from fixed winged aircraft and helicopters, to assist with vegetation and habitat assessment, management, mapping and reporting
- Natural and assisted bush regeneration works on all scales including targeted weed control and maintenance activities across a range of ecosystem types
- Qualified and experienced bush regeneration teams that come fully equipped with 4WD vehicles and all the necessary specialised equipment for sensitive and successful restoration works on any site

Development

- Development approval applications and legislation compliance assessment
- Flora, fauna and aquatic pre-clear surveys, mapping, habitat assessments, impact statements, water quality monitoring and species management plans
- Works Safety Officers for airside development projects can provide appropriate levels of supervision, facilitate effective communication between construction stakeholders, issue and control visitor passes for workers without security clearance and provide airside vehicle escort services



Our Experience

A sample of our recent projects

Pest Animal Management

Ecosure was engaged to monitor and manage pest animal species at Canungra Field Training Area, a 6000 hectare training reserve owned by Department of Defence. Using sand plots and the Allen Index, along with infrared cameras and searches for animal sign, the abundance of each pest species on site was estimated. Pest species recorded on site included the European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), feral cat (*Felis catus*), wild dog (*Canis lupis familiaris*), and brown hare (*Lepus capensis*).

An integrated approach to management was implemented, including a 1080 baiting program, soft-jaw trapping and cage trapping. Management was highly successful, with a significant reduction in pest animal activity identified during post-management monitoring.

Wild dog scats and tissue samples were also collected for analysis to determine the level of dingo purity in the population. These results will continue to inform decisions to appropriately design and implement subsequent management strategies.

Shoalwater Bay Training Area Vegetation Management

Ecosure was engaged to carry out a vegetation management program at Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), a remote site in central Queensland owned by the Department of Defence covering 454,500 ha of terrestrial and marine environments.

The project involved monitoring and mapping of this large and high conservation value area, as well as the coordination and delivery of targeted on-ground control works for high priority weed species by a full time vegetation management crew (of

between two to six staff as required). Weeds treated at the site include species declared under pest management legislation and a range of environmental weeds. The success of the program was monitored via photo monitoring and transects, with detailed reports and revised strategies completed annually as key project outcomes.

Annual contracts were renewed to Ecosure successively from commencement in 2010, based on performance and value for money.

Pre-clearance ecological surveys

In preparation for a major development, Ecosure was contracted by our client to undertake works associated with the projects compliance and development application process.

Ecosure carried out a survey of 24 investigation sites prior to clearing and were required to complete a desktop survey of the area to identify the presence of habitat for flora and fauna species identified as threatened under commonwealth and state legislation. This included a review of satellite imagery, Regional Ecosystems and the Environmental Impact Statement previously prepared by Ecosure. A list of threatened species that were considered likely to occur in the study area was compiled before the field ecologist and field botanist mobilised.

None of the targeted species were identified within the potential disturbance area of the investigation sites or access tracks, however, three sites were found to be within regional ecosystems considered to be 'of concern'. The field data was used to develop GIS products as part of the key deliverables together with a brief written report.



Brisbane
PO Box 675
Fortitude Valley
QLD 4006
P 07 3606 1030

Gold Coast
PO Box 404
West Burleigh
QLD 4219
P 07 5508 2046
F 07 5508 2544

Rockhampton
PO Box 2122
Wandal QLD 4700
P 07 4994 1000
F 07 4994 1012

Adelaide
PO Box 145
Pooraka
SA 5095
P 1300 112 021
M 0407 295 766

Sydney
PO Box 880
Surry Hills
NSW 2010
P 02 9437 6919

Coffs Harbour
PO Box 4370
Coffs Harbour Jetty
NSW 2450
P 02 5621 8103

Sunshine Coast
PO Box 1457
Noosaville
QLD 4566
P 07 5357 6019