



VICFORESTS PRE-LOGGING FAUNA SURVEYS 2011

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PACKAGE 8

Standing Room Only

WILDLIFE UNLIMITED PTY LTD
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ACN 36 147 131 119

Survey Methods

Tracks and traces transects

Target Species: Long-footed Potoroo, Koala, large forest owls, Spot-tailed Quoll, Spiny Crayfish.

Tracks and traces transects were conducted along habitat corridors such as vegetated gullies with the aim of locating owl roosts and potoroo/bandicoot diggings. Transects of at least 500m were conducted at each coupe. Relevant findings were photographed and coordinates recorded. Scats and pellets were collected for analysis if encountered.

Transects targeting Spiny Crayfish were not conducted if creeks were dry, but cray holes were photographed and coordinates recorded when found within coupes. Searches for burrows and individuals in water pools and beneath rocks were conducted where possible.

Remote cameras

Cameras (Scoutguard & Reconnyx passive infra-red) were maintained *in situ* for a minimum of 20 days, which is regarded as being a suitable timeframe to guarantee a 90% chance of species detection. Cameras were photographed *in situ* and coordinates and time of deployment recorded. Effort was combined for some coupes that were small and in close geographical proximity, ie, two cameras were deployed per coupe rather than the usual four

TARGET SPECIES:

Spot-tailed Quoll

Two camera traps were deployed at each coupe. Sites of habitat significance for Spot-tailed Quoll (large logs, riparian verges, rocky areas) were selected if present. Bait holders containing fish baits were pinned to the ground for attracting predators such as quolls.

Long-footed Potoroo

Two camera traps was deployed at each coupe. Sites of habitat significance for Long-footed Potoroo, such as gullies with suitable thick vegetation were selected if present. Bait holders were set up to contain a bait mixture (peanut butter, oats and pistachio oil) suitable for attracting omnivores such as bandicoots and potoroos.

Spotlighting and call playback

Target Species: Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl, Masked Owl, Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, all frogs

A minimum of 1km/1hr spotlighting was conducted along road/track corridors adjacent to each coupe, which may have included some distance on either side of the coupe boundary. Species and coordinates were recorded for each observation. Playback locations and spotlight transects were combined for some coupes due to close geographical proximity

The spotlighting transects included:

- an on-dusk 15 min listening period initiated at dusk
- a 20 min playback session of Powerful, Boobook, Sooty and Masked Owls
- a 1km/1hr spotlighting transect by 2 observers.

Results

Tracks and Traces

Significant fauna tracks and traces were not detected.

Remote Cameras

Coupe No.	Coupe Name	Surveyers	Date deployed	Target sp.	Easting	Northing	Effective days in operation	Species identified
894-505-0006	Standing Room Only	AC, TM	4.10.11	Quoll	680564	5879417	31	Black Wallaby Bassian Thrush Superb Lyrebird
				Potoroo	680489	5879660	31	Eastern Yellow Robin Rattus species Superb Lyrebird Black Wallaby Bassian Thrush Mt. Brushtail Possum
				Quoll	680384	5879729	31	Rattus species Superb Lyrebird Dingo/wild dog Brushtail Possum Black Wallaby
				Potoroo	679816	5879258	31	Superb Lyrebird Dingo/wild dog (juvenile) Common Wombat Black Wallaby Rattus species

Nocturnal Callback

Coupe No.	Coupe Name	Date	Surveyers	Coords E/N	Dusk listen results	Playback Results	Est. position	Comments
894-505-0006	Standing Room Only	29 11 11	MC, TL	680307/5879618	Fan-tailed Cuckoo Common froglet	Southern Boobook Sooty Owl Sooty Owl Sooty Owl Sooty Owl	500m E 300m NNW 200m NE 100m SE 5m SE	Same individual called many times - initially from near gully, then came closer, circled a few times and eventually landed on branch just above the car

Spotlighting

Coupe No.	Coupe Name	Date	Surveyers	Start coords	End coords	Results	Easting	Northing	Est. position	Comments
894-505-0006	Standing Room Only	29 11 11	MC, TL	680307/5879618	679924/5879494	Sooty Owl Greater Glider Brushtail Possum Greater Glider macropod Greater Glider	680306 680314 680317 680340 680358 680172	5879631 5879659 5879717 5879910 5879948 5879532	20m NNE 30m N 30m W 10m NNE 20m NNE 50m W	Called out >5 times-very aggressive

Diurnal birds recorded at Standing Room Only

Brown Thornbill	Laughing Kookaburra	Spotted Pardalote
Crimson Rosella	Nankeen Kestrel	Striated Pardalotte
Eastern Yellow Robin	Pied Currawong	Striated Thornbill
Eastern Whipbird	Pilotbird	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Pink Robin	Superb Lyrebird
Flame Robin	Red Wattlebird	Australian Magpie
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	Rose Robin	White-browed Scrubwren
Golden Whistler	Rufous Whistler	White-naped Honeyeater
Grey Fantail	Satin Bowerbird	White-throated Treecreeper
Grey Shrike-Thrush	Shining Bronze Cuckoo	Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Further Information

The Sooty Owl recorded at Standing Room Only was heard at dusk (20:30) within two minutes of the calls being broadcast. The responses were first heard in the direction of the nearby gully. The Sooty Owl then kept calling and moving closer, circling above the car before landing on a branch nearby. The owl remained nearby upon completion of the callback and continued to call aggressively for a further 20 minutes during the spotlight. The aggressive territorial behaviour exhibited by the Sooty owl indicates that it may be nesting nearby, possibly in the gully which forms part of the proposed coupe.

