



Natural Area  
CONSULTING MANAGEMENT SERVICES

## City of Kalamunda

## Independent Review of Fauna

## Assessment Report – Harry Potter

## Forbidden Forest Experience, Jorgensen

## Park, Western Australia

Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd

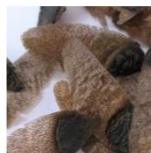
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## 1.0 Introduction

The City of Kalamunda commissioned Natural Area Consulting Management Services (Natural Area) to undertake an independent desktop review of a Fauna Assessment Report prepared by the event proponent, including advising on the environmental risks, regulatory compliance, and the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.

### 1.1 Scope of the Review

The independent desktop review included:

- An assessment of the potential impacts to flora, fauna and habitat values, including conservation-significant species and key habitat features.
- An evaluation of the environmental risks associated with lighting, noise, vegetation disturbance, and increased visitation.
- Reviewing the proposed mitigation measures against relevant guidelines, regulatory requirements, and industry best practice.
- Identification of any gaps, residual risks, or additional mitigation measures required.

The following report was reviewed as part of the scope of works:

- *Fauna Assessment Report – Harry Potter Forbidden Forest Experience, Jorgensen Park, Western Australia* (Practical Ecology, 2026), Version 1.1 dated 01/05/2026.

The following documents were provided by the City but were not part of this independent desktop review:

- *Waste Management and Cleaning Plan* (Clean Vibes, 2026), Version 1.
- Risk Management Plan (Fever, 2026), Version 1.0 dated 01/04/2026.

## 2.0 Findings and Recommendations

Key findings and recommendations relating to each scope item listed above are provided in the following sections.

### 2.1 Potential Impacts

This section provides an assessment of the potential impacts to flora, fauna and habitat values discussed in the report and identifies additional potential impacts that were not covered.

The proponent provides a detailed assessment of the potential impacts to flora, fauna and key habitat values resulting from the proposed event at Jorgensen Park. The proponent's assessment of the conservation significant species that are likely to occur or known to occur within Jorgensen Park is consistent with results obtained via online database searches and field surveys. No other conservation significant species that have not been mentioned in the report are considered likely to be impacted by the proposed event.

The report describes the specific impacts and mitigation measures relating to each conservation significant species and faunal group that may be impacted by the proposed event. This review has identified additional

potential impacts that were not discussed in the report. These are described in the following sections and include:

- Interference to inter and intra-species communication due to noise pollution.
- Potential population decline of short-lived fauna species due to interrupted breeding behaviours.
- Increased risk of vegetation degradation due to unauthorised access to vegetated areas and inappropriate rubbish disposal.
- Spread of Dieback via event attendees.

## 2.2 Environmental Risks

This section evaluates the extent of environmental risks associated with lighting, noise, vegetation disturbance and increased visitation discussed in the report and provides additional potential risks that were not covered.

Lighting has been extensively evaluated throughout the report, including outlining the potential impacts lighting has on different faunal groups and specific conservation significant species and recommends appropriate mitigation measures.

The impact of noise on fauna has not been adequately covered in the report and further consideration should be given. Noise pollution can mask the natural soundscape, making intraspecies communication more difficult which in turn can interrupt mating behaviours and navigation. Noise pollution can also interfere with predator - prey interactions by limiting species' ability to avoid predators or find their prey (Arcangeli *et. al.*, 2022).

There are potential long-term impacts on some species which have not been addressed in the report. As mentioned, noise and light pollution may reduce mating success of nocturnal mammals. This can have a detrimental effect on species with low birth rates or short lifespans such as the *Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger* (Brush-tailed Phascogale), whereby the males only live for one breeding season (Lawton, Holland & Bennett, 2021). This species is listed as 'Conservation Dependant' under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. If just one breeding season is disrupted, population abundance can be significantly reduced. As mentioned in the Fauna Assessment Report, the breeding season (mid-May to July) of this species will occur during the event timeframe; therefore, the event may reduce breeding success, potentially resulting in a significant impact to the local population of this conservation significant species. This significant impact on Brush-tailed Phascogales is determined as an ecological risk, rather than a formal determination of a statutory significant impact under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Minor vegetation disturbance was discussed via track reprofiling and vegetation trimmings in the report. Provided vegetation trimming only occurs where strictly necessary and mitigation measures are followed, the environmental risks related to vegetation disturbance are considered very low.

The environmental risks associated with increased visitation to Jorgensen Park were not adequately discussed in the report. Increased visitation increases the risk of vegetation degradation due to the increased likelihood of visitors not utilising existing paths and entering vegetated areas during opening hours of the event. There is also an increased risk of littering and inappropriate food/waste disposal due to the higher

number of people entering the reserve than usual. Vegetation disturbance and littering can result in vegetation degradation and reduced habitat availability for native fauna. Rubbish can also harm fauna directly by causing injury or death.

### 2.3 Regulatory Compliance

This review has considered the proposed mitigation measures against relevant Commonwealth, State and local regulatory requirements and guidelines applicable to fauna protection and environmental risk management.

Commonwealth considerations include:

- The *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, in relation to conservation-significant and migratory fauna species.
- The *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife (2023)*, which inform best-practice lighting design to minimise disturbance to fauna.

State considerations include:

- The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, particularly in relation to conservation-dependent, priority and threatened fauna species.
- Environmental Protection Authority guidance on application of the mitigation hierarchy for environmental factors, with a preference for avoidance of impact where practicable (EPA, 2023).

Local considerations include:

- City of Kalamunda bushland reserve management objectives and event approval requirements.
- Local requirements relating to waste management, access control and protection of reserve values.

The mitigation measures proposed within the report are consistent with the intent of the aforementioned guidelines and regulatory documents, particularly where they prioritise avoidance of sensitive habitat, directional and time-limited lighting, and use of existing disturbance footprints.

This review notes that regulatory adequacy is dependent on implementation and enforcement and recommends that mitigation measures be captured within a clear environmental management framework that identifies responsibilities, monitoring triggers and contingency responses should performance objectives not be met.

### 2.4 Additional Information and Mitigation Measures

This section outlines further information not covered in the report and provides additional recommended mitigation measures.

It was noted that in Section 2.2.1, the scientific names for Carnaby's Cockatoos and Baudin's Cockatoos were the wrong way around. The correct naming is *Zanda latirostris* Carnaby's Cockatoo and *Zanda baudinii* Baudin's Cockatoo. This did not impact the results and recommendations of the report, and the scientific name of these two species was corrected throughout the remainder of the report.

The event provider's proposed mitigation measures that are detailed in the report includes contractors, vehicles, and installation crews adhering to best-practice hygiene protocols throughout the works. The spread of dieback into Jorgensen Park is also possible via event attendees and should be considered. An appropriate dieback hygiene station at the beginning of the trail should also be implemented, requiring all event attendees to clean their shoes prior to entry.

Due to the increased visitation to Jorgensen Park as a result of this event, the risk of visitors littering and not utilising established trails and paths will increase. It is understood that fencing/barriers (that still allow fauna movement) may be installed along paths to guide attendees through the experience; this will reduce the risk of people entering vegetated areas. Additional mitigation measures should include ensuring event information and signage emphasises the importance of protecting native flora and fauna, including instructing attendees not to exit the designated event trails and to dispose of all rubbish in bins provided.

Whilst potential impacts and mitigation measures have been addressed in the report, parties accountable for implementing each mitigation measure and contingency measures if environmental management targets are not met, have not been provided. It is understood additional documentation exists relating to the management of this event, which include accountability and contingencies. These were not assessed during this independent review. Additional documentation includes:

- Fauna mitigation measures register
- Waste Management Plan
- Noise Management Plan
- Risk Management Plan.

## **2.5 Conclusion on Adequacy and Residual Risks**

Based on the desktop review undertaken, the Fauna Assessment Report prepared by Practical Ecology is considered conditionally adequate for the City of Kalamunda's decision-making purposes, subject to the implementation of the additional mitigation and management measures recommended in this independent review.

The report provides a comprehensive description of fauna values, habitat features and potential impacts associated with the proposed event, and appropriately identifies conservation-significant species known or likely to occur within Jorgensen Park. The fauna assessment was based on targeted field surveys, database searches and established guidance, and is considered technically sound for a temporary, trail-based event.

This review concludes that the proposal is unlikely to result in a statutory significant impact. Following implementation of the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the report and the additional measures recommended in this review, residual risk is assessed as low for most fauna groups, given the temporary nature of the event, confinement to existing tracks, controlled operating hours, and retention of extensive unlit refuge habitat including hollow-bearing trees and dense ground cover.

Residual risk for select nocturnal and hollow-dependent species, particularly Brush-tailed Phascogales, remains moderate, due to the overlap between the event period and the species' breeding season and the sensitivity of breeding success to disturbance. While these impacts are expected to be localised and temporary, they warrant careful consideration and active management.

Overall, provided that mitigation and monitoring commitments are implemented and enforced, the proposal is unlikely to result in long-term or irreversible impacts to fauna populations; however, some localised and temporary behavioural disturbance cannot be entirely avoided.

### 3.0 References

- Arcangeli, G., Ginevra Lulli, L., Traversini, V., De Sio, S., Cannizzaro, E., Galea, R.P., and Mucci, N. (2022). Neurobehavioral alterations from noise exposure in animals: A systematic review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(1), 591.
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- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). (2023). *Statement of environmental principles, factors, objectives and aims of EIA*. EPA, Western Australia.
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- Practical Ecology. (2026). *Fauna Assessment Report – Harry Potter Forbidden Forest Experience, Jorgensen Park, Western Australia*. Unpublished report prepared for Fever and the City of Kalamunda.