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### **Document Control Record**

Document prepared by:

Aurecon Australia Pty Ltd ABN 54 005 139 873 32 Turbot Street Brisbane QLD 4000 Australia

- **T** +61 7 3173 8000
- **F** +61 7 3173 8001
- E brisbane@aurecongroup.com
- w aurecongroup.com

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### Fairview Ecological Assessment Report – Lot 25 WT22

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Aurecon Australia Pty Ltd ABN 54 005 139 873 32 Turbot Street Brisbane QLD 4000 Australia

- T +61 7 3173 8000
   F +61 7 3173 8001
   E brisbane@aurecongroup.com
- W aurecongroup.com

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## 1 Background

### 1.1 **Project description**

Santos Ltd (Santos) have commissioned Aurecon Australia Pty Ltd (Aurecon) to undertake ecological investigations of proposed areas of development for the Fairview gas fields.

The Fairview gas fields are centred around the Injune area in southern Queensland. This area is characterised by elevated sandstone ranges including the Carnarvon and Expedition Ranges and part of the Mount Hutton and Kongabula Ranges. The Dawson River and other smaller watercourses drain this area and the dominant native vegetation types include Eucalyptus and White Cypress Pine woodland, Brigalow and Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket (Eddie, 2007). Much of this area has been subject to cattle grazing and other agricultural practices, as well as previous development associated with the gas fields.

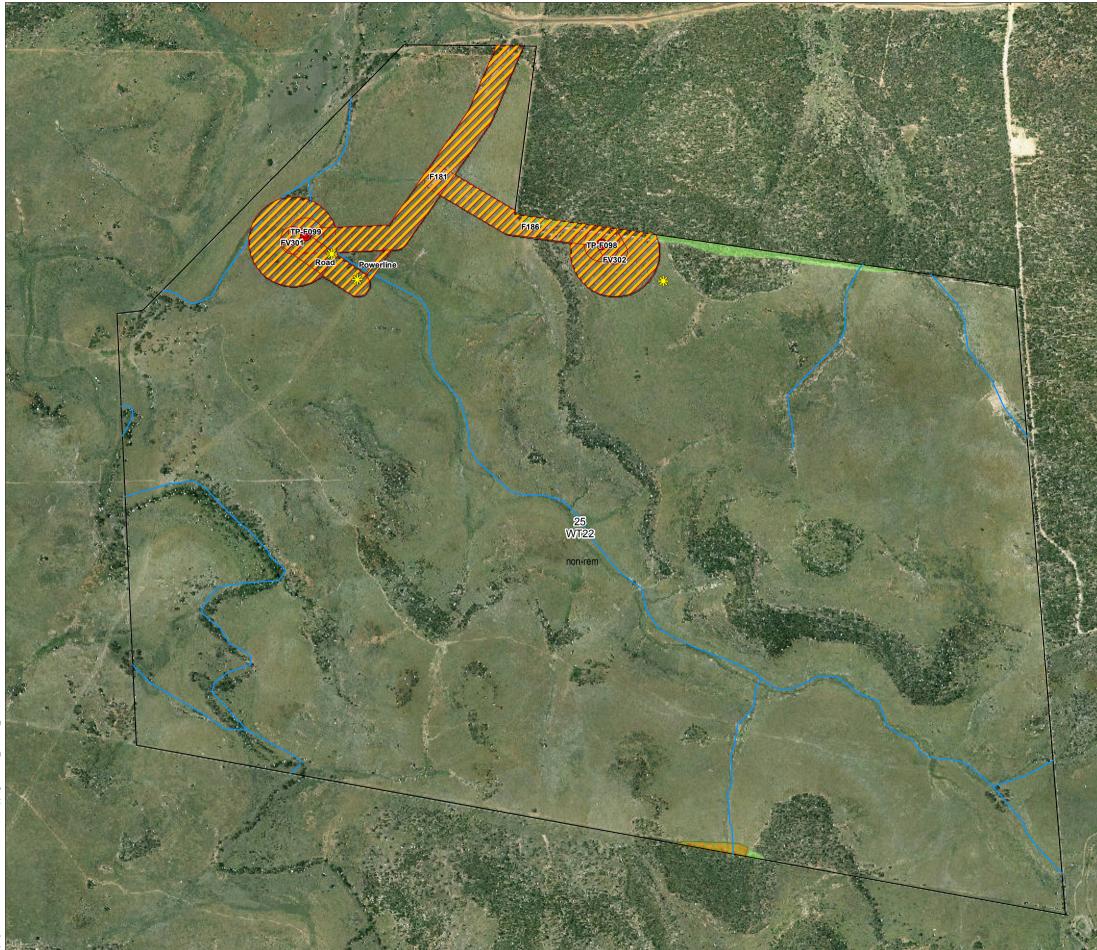
This report is specific to the proposed development areas located in Lot 25 WT22, which are listed below and shown in Figure 1 (Appendix B):

- Pipeline corridors F181 and F186
- Well pads FV301 and FV302
- Road corridor, and
- Powerline corridor

Note that the subject of this report is solely related to Lot 25 WT22. Where survey areas overlap additional properties, these sites will be further addressed in the report relevant to those properties/lots.

#### **1.2 Purpose of report**

The aim of this report is to provide an ecological assessment of the proposed development areas located on Lot 25 WT22 (Figure 1, Appendix B) and to identify areas and species of notable ecological or conservation value. This report does not make any recommendations regarding the development in relation to any Santos environmental authorities or other approvals.





A3 scale: 1:15,000

500 m

Job No: 215648 Coordinate system: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



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#### Legend

	Notable Species
0	Geotech Borehole Locations
	LOT 25WT22 Ground Truthed Areas
	Drainage (100K)
$\square$	ESA Category A
$\square$	ESA Category B
$\square$	ESA Category C
Regi	onal Ecosystem Mapping
	Non-remnant / regrowth
	Endangered - Sub-dominant
	Endangered - Dominant
	Of Concern - Sub-dominant
	Of Concern - Dominant
	Not Of Concern
	Plantation forest
	Water

Santos Lot 25 on WT22

## 2 Methodology

#### 2.1 Desktop methodology

Areas of development have been projected on a range of maps provided by Santos. These maps include Regional Ecosystem (RE) Mapping (version 6.0 DERM), Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) mapping, drainage mapping and aerial photography. Where available ahead of time, these resources were reviewed to determine target areas for the field inspection. It is important to note that the Regional Ecosystem classifications used in this report are based on the 'biodiversity status' of the vegetation and not the '*Vegetation Management Act 1999* status' of the vegetation.

#### 2.2 Field methodology

The proposed corridors were assessed by two (2) Aurecon ecologists (Grant Paterson and Luke Foster) on 20 June 2011. These assessments were to determine the existing vegetation communities and habitat value of the proposed clearing within the pipeline corridors as well as to verify the RE mapping as produced by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM).

GIS layers of the proposed development areas and environmental constraints mapping (e.g. RE Mapping, ESA mapping) and high resolution aerial photography were uploaded onto a toughbook (C5 mobile clinical assistant CFT-001 – Motion computing) with an integrated GPS to assist in locating the areas to be assessed whilst on site. Handheld Garmin GPS units (GPS map 76) were also used during the field investigations. It should be noted that while efforts were made to ensure the accuracy of GPS co-ordinates provided in this report, they should only be considered to be accurate to +/- 15 metres due to the limitations of the GPS devices used.

The corridors were 100 m wide and of varying lengths, and the circular well pad areas had a radius of 175 m. Geotechnical survey locations were also assessed as part of the corridors (a 50m buffer zone around each survey location was assessed). The ground-truthing of the corridors, well pad areas and the geotechnical survey locations included undertaking detailed flora species surveys including sampling of unknown flora, and recording all incidental fauna observations. All species known to be of conservation significance (such as endangered, vulnerable, near threatened or Type A species under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and/or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) were recorded using the toughbook.

A list of flora species observed in the proposed development areas has been included in **Appendix A**. Incidental fauna observations are provided in the relevant sections throughout this report.

### 3 Ecological assessment

### 3.1 Corridor 181-including FV301, TP-F099, Powerline and Road

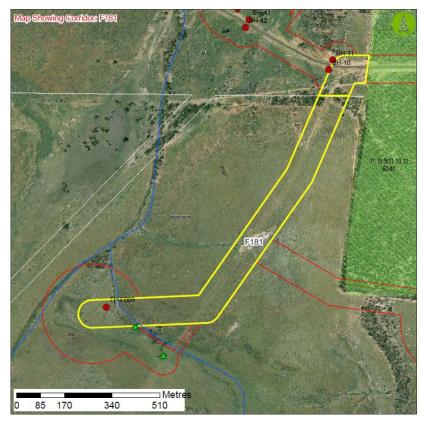
#### General

This corridor (Figure 2) heads south-west from the Injune-Taroom Road and splits off towards the west ending in FV301(Figure 3). A small road corridor (Figure 4) and a portion of a powerline corridor (Figure 5) adjoin FV301.

No RE mapping exists for this corridor and associated pads, as the location of the proposed areas is within historically cleared farming land.

Small scattered patches of intact remnant vegetation occur within the creek-line (stream order 3) running through FV301 and along the edge of the road corridor.

No ESAs were identified within the corridor and adjoined pads. The closest being 320 m away towards the north-east.





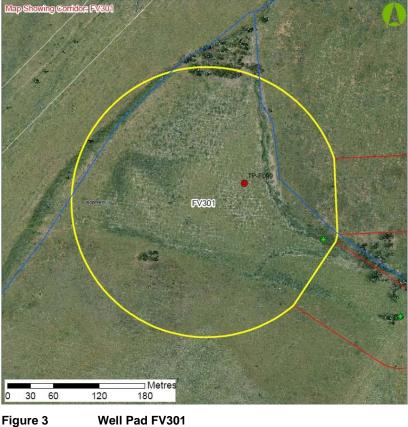


Figure 3

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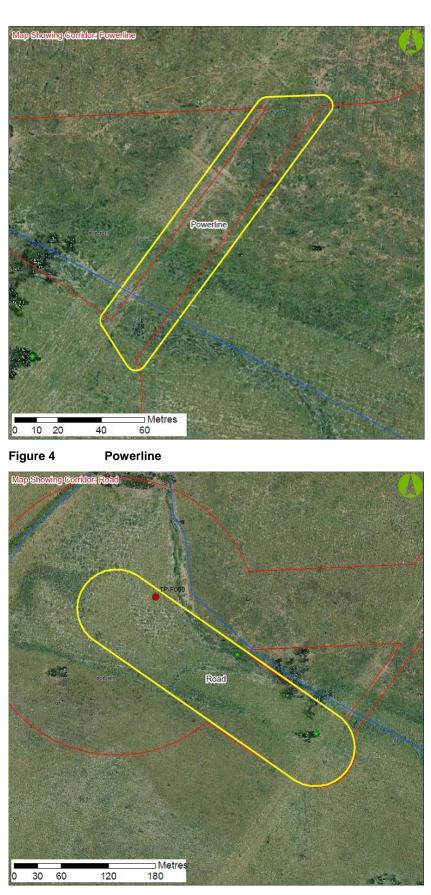


Figure 5 Road corridor



Canopy species are lacking within the corridor itself, however some canopy species are present within the pad area. Species present within FV301 include *Eucalyptus populnea* (Poplar Box), *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Cypress Pine), *Angophera floribunda* (Rough-barked Apple) and some smaller *Allocasuarina leuhmannii* (Bull Oak) saplings. The mid-storey is generally lacking within the open corridor and FV301 due to past clearing within the area. Groundcover is dominated by *Pennisetum ciliare* (Buffel Grass), with scattered patches of *Melinis repens* (Red Natal) and a number of *Chloris* species.

A total of two Type A restricted species were identified within the road corridor, the details and locations of which are given below in Table 3.1.

Species	Easting	Northing
	(GDA 94, Zone 55J)	(GDA 94, Zone 55J)
Brachychiton populneus	0688910	7141988
Brachychiton populneus	0688809	7142089

 Table 3.1.1
 Species of conservation significance for Road corridor and adjoining pads

#### **Habitat Values**

The corridor has undergone high levels of disturbance due to past clearing for agricultural purposes, and as such is considered to be of low habitat value.

FV301 is predominantly cleared however a small creek runs through the pad and contains scattered riparian vegetation with several mature trees present. These trees contained hollows which were being utilised by Eastern Rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) during the time of surveys. The presence of fallen timber, rocks, flowing water and hollow bearing mature trees indicates that this area represents high habitat value.

Several fauna species were recorded within these areas during surveys, including: Emu (Dromaius novaehollandiae), Australian Magpie (Gymnorhina tibicen), Pale-headed Parrot (Platycercus adscitus), Eastern Rosellas (Platycercus eximius), Sulfur-crested Cockatoo (Cacatua galerita), Richard's Pipit (Anthus novaeseelandiae), Feral Pig (Sus scrofa), Torresian Crow (Corvus orru), Eastern Grey Kangaroo (Macropus giganteus) and European Rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus).

### 3.2 Corridor F186 including FV302 and TP-F098

#### General

Corridor F186 and adjoining pads (FV302 and TP-F098) runs east from corridor F181 along the boundary of a state forest.

Vegetation mapping of the area shows remnant vegetation as RE 11.10.9/11.10.11 which is classified as 'not of concern'. During field surveys, it was noted that the vegetation mapping for the area is correct.

The majority of vegetation within the corridor and pads has previously undergone a high level of clearing. This is evident by the lack of canopy trees, cleared tracks, stumps, and scattered piles of timber still present in areas. Vegetation still remains on the northern edge of the corridor and along the escarpment running through FV302.

The escarpment, creek-line and remnant patches of vegetation all represent diverse areas in terms of flora species and habitat value.

No ESAs were identified within the corridor and adjoined pads, the closest being over 1 kilometre away in the southern portion of Lot 25 WT22.

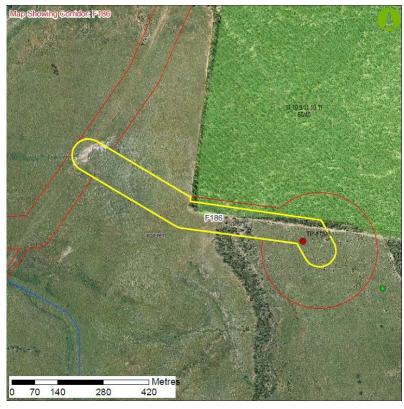


Figure 6 Corridor F186

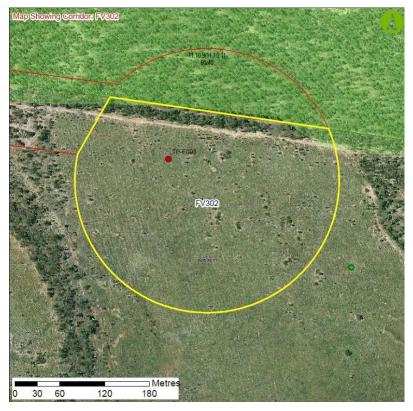


Figure 7 Well pad FV302

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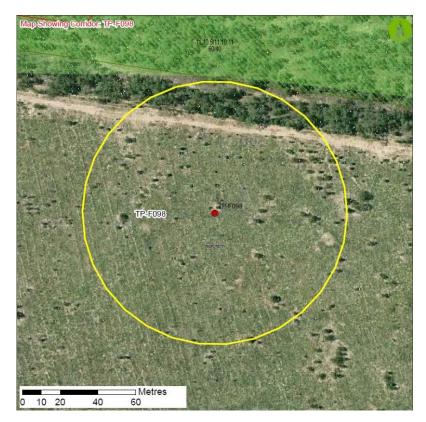


Figure 8 TP-F098

#### Floristics

FV302 has a sandstone ridge running north – south along the western edge of the pad area. This ridge-line is dominated by *Angophora leiocarpa* (Smooth-barked Apple) and *Acacia decora* (Pretty Wattle). The northern edge of the pad area is located within State Forest. This area is dominated by *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Cypress Pine) and scattered *Eucalyptus crebra* (Narrow Leaved Ironbark). Groundcover is dominated by *Pennisetum ciliare* (Buffel Grass), *Sporobolus creber* (Western Rats Tail Grass), and *Aristida vagans* (Three-awned Speargrass).

No Type A restricted plants were located within this corridor or adjoining pads. One *Brachychiton rupestris* (Narrow-leaved Bottle Tree) is located just outside the pad boundary.

#### **Habitat Values**

FV302 has been partially cleared in the past, however due to the presence of a ridgeline, many mature tree species remain. This area contains rocky gullies, small escarpments, healthy under-storey and mature hollow bearing trees. The State Forest also contains high levels of fallen timber. Due to the presence of key habitat attributes it is considered that FV302 is of high habitat value.

Several fauna species were recorded within these areas during surveys, including: Emu (Dromaius novaehollandiae), Australian Magpie (Gymnorhina tibicen), Pale-headed Parrot (Platycercus adscitus), Eastern Rosellas (Platycercus eximius), Sulfur-crested Cockatoo (Cacatua galerita), Richard's Pipit (Anthus novaeseelandiae), Feral Pig (Sus scrofa), Torresian Crow (Corvus orru), Eastern Grey Kangaroo (Macropus giganteus) and European Rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus).

#### Conclusion

The pipeline corridors occur across a variety of landscape and vegetation types. While most the corridors occur in previously disturbed areas, species of conservation significance occur in multiple corridors (ie Type A restricted plants).

The proposed development within corridor F186 and adjoining pads traverses an area mapped as RE 11.10.9/11.10.11 ('No concern at present'). The RE mapping was confirmed as correct during these investigations.

Multiple watercourses occur within, or in close proximity to, development areas. The watercourses within the proposed development areas have limited fringing riparian vegetation, and subsequently have low to moderate ecological and habitat value.

Two Type A restricted plant species were observed within the proposed development areas located in the road corridor.

No species protected under the provisions of the EPBC Act were observed within the proposed development areas during these investigations.

### 4 References

Eddie, C (2007) Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs of Eastern Queensland Oil and Gas Fields, First Edition, Santos Ltd, Adelaide.

Regional Ecosystem Mapping, Version 6.0, Queensland Government Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM).

## Appendix A Flora Species List

Scientific Name	Common Name
Abutilon leucopetalum	Abutilon
Acacia brachycarpa	other black wattle
Acacia decora	Pretty Wattle
Acacia excelsa	Iron wood
Acacia farnesiana	Prickly mimosa/ Needle bush
Acacia salicina	Sally Wattle
Acanthospermum hispidulum	Star burr
Achyranthes aspera	two spine burr
Acroptilon maculosa	Knap Weed
Aeschynomene paniculata	Panicle Joint Vetch
Allocasuarina leuhmannii	Bull Oak
Alloteropsis semialata	Cockatoo Grass
Alphitonia excelsa	Red Ash
Alstonia constricta	Bitter Bark
Alternanthera dentata	Joy Weed
Alternanthera nodiflora	Common Joy Weed
Alternanthera pungens	Kaki Burr
Alysicarpus rugosa	Chain pea
Angophora floribunda	Rough-barked Apple
Angophora leiocarpa	Smooth-barked Apple
Apophyllum anomalum	Warrior bush
Aristida caput medusae	Curly Head Wire Grass
Aristida holathera	Tall Wire Grass
Aristida inaequiglumis	Feathertop three awn
Aristida ingrata	Purple Aristida
Aristida jerichoensis	Jericho wire grass
Aristida jerichoensis var. subspinulifera	Jericho wire grass
Aristida latifolia	Hairy Aristida
Aristida leptopoda	Wire Grass
Aristida muricata	Wire Grass
Aeschynomene indica	Budda pea
Atalaya hemiglauca	Whitewood
Bidens pilosa	Cobblers Pegs
Bothriochloa bladhii	Forest Blue Grass
Bothriochloa decipiens var. decipiens	Pitted Bluegrass
Bothriochloa pertusa	Indian Couch
Brachiaria decumbens	Signal Grass
Brachychiton populneus	Kurrajong
Bracteantha bracteata	Everlasting Daisy
Bursaria spinosa	Prickly Pine
Callitris glaucophylla	White Cypress Pine
Calocephalus platycephalus	Billy Buttons
Calotis cuneifolia	Purple Burr Daisy
Calotis hispidula	Bogan Flea
Calotis lappulacea	Yellow Burr Daisy

Calotis multicaulis	Woolly head burr daisy
Canthium oleifolium	Hat stand, Wild Lemon
Capparis loranthifolia	Nipan, Wait a while
Cardamine hirsuta	Flickweed
Carex inversa	Nut Sedge
Carissa ovata	Currant Bush
Cassinia laevis	Cough Bush
Cenchrus setiger	Birdwood Grass
Chamaesyce australis	Hairy Caustic Weed
Chamaesyce drummondii	Caustic Weed
Cheilanthes sieberi	Mulga Fern
Chenopodium carinatum	Keeled Goosefoot
Chloris divaricata	Windmill Chloris
Chloris inflata	Purple Top Rhodes
Chloris ventricosa	Tall Chloris
Chondrilla juncea	Skeleton Weed
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Yellow Buttons
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle, Black Thistle
Cleome viscosa	Tickweed
Commelina diffusa	Wandering Jew
Conyza bonariensis	Fleabane
Conyza canadensis var. pusilla	Fleabane
Corymbia tessellaris	Moreton Bay Ash
Cotula australis	Carrot Weed
Crotalaria dissitiflora	Grey Rattlepod
Crotalaria dissitiflora	Grey Rattlepod
Cymbopogon bombycinus	Lemon Grass
Cymbopogon obtectus	Fluffy Tops
Cymbopogon refractus	Barbwire Grass
Cynodon dactylon	Green Couch
Cyperus difformis	sedge 2 - difformis, Dirty Dora
Cyperus gracilis	Bunchy Sedge
Desmodium brachypodum	Desmodium
Dianella caerula	Blue Flax-lily
Dianella longifolia	Dianella
Dichanthium sericeum	Queensland Blue Grass
Digitaria ammophila	Digitaria
Digitaria coenicola	Digitaria
Dodonaea viscosa subsp. spatulata	Sticky Hopbush
Echinochloa colona	Awnless Barnyard Grass
Echinochloa crus-galli	Barnyard Grass, Japanese Millet
Elaeodendron australis	Peach Leaf
Eleusine indica	Crowsfoot Grass
Enneapogon avenaceus	Bottle Washer
Enteropogon acicularis	Curly Windmill Grass
Enteropogon ramosus	Twirly Windmill Grass

Eragrostis australiensis	Swamp Cane Grass
Eragrostis basedowii	Neat Lovegrass
Eragrostis brownii	Browns Lovegrass
Eragrostis eriopoda	Woolly Butt
Eremochloa bimaculata	poverty grass
Eremophila mitchellii	False Sandalwood
Eriachne helmsii	Wooly butt
Eucalyptus chloroclada	Dirty Gum
Eucalyptus melanophloia	Silver Leaved Ironbark
Eulalia fulva	Silky Brown Top Grass
Evolvulus alsinoides	Speed Well
Fimbristylis dichotoma	Fimbristylis
Glycine falcata	Glycine
Gomphrena celosioides	Gomphrena Weed
Goodenia grandiflora	Goodenia
Goodenia rotundifolia	Goodenia
Goodenia strangfordii	Goodenia
Heteropogon contortus	Black Spear Grass
Hibiscus trionum	Bladder Ketmia
Hydrocotyle sp.	Pennywort
Hyptis capitata	Knob Weed
Hyptis spicigera	Bush mint
Hyptis suaveolens	Hyptis
Indigofera linifolia	Little Red Pea
Indigofera spicata	Creeping Indigo, Purple Indigo
Jacksonia scoparia	Jacksonia
Juncus polyanthemos	Sharp Rush
Juncus usitatus	Juncus
Lepidium sagittulatum	Pepper Cress
Lomandra longifolia	Lomandra
Ludwigia peploides	Water primrose
Macroptilium lathyroides	Phasey bean
Maireana villosa	Silky Bluebush
Marsdenia australis	Marsdenia
Marsdenia lanceolata	Marsdenia
Medicago polymorpha	Burr Medic
Megathyrsus maximus var maximus	Guinea Grass
Melia azedarach	White Cedar
Melinis repens	Red Natal
Monachather paradoxa	Mulga oats
Neptunia gracilis	Native Sensitive Weed
Opuntia stricta	Prickly Pear
Opuntia tomentosa	Velvety Tree Pear
Oxalis stricta	Yellow Wood Sorrel
Panicum decompositum	Hairy Panic
Panicum effusum	Inquisitive Grass

Panicum laevinode	Panic grass
Paspalidium caespitosum	Brigalow Grass
Paspalidium distichum	Water Couch
Paspalidium jubiflorum	Warrego Grass
Paspalum dilatatum	Paspalum
Paspalum paniculatum	Paspalum
Pennisetum ciliare	Buffel Grass
Petalostigma pubescens	Quinine
Phyllanthus fuernrohrii	Phyllanthus
Pimelea microcephala	Pussy Tail
Pittosporum spinescens	Wallaby Apple
Plectranthus parviflorus	Native Coleus
Podolepis jaceoides	Showy Copper Wire Daisy
Portulaca oleracea	Pig Weed
Pterocaulon sphacelatum	Apple Bush
Rhynchosia minima	Rhynchosia
Rhynchosia pterochaeta	Rusty heads
Richardia brasiliensis	Mexican clover
Rumex brownii	Swamp Dock
Sclerolaena birchii	Galvanised Burr
Senna barclayana	Bean bush, Pepper Senna
Setaria incrassata	Purple Pigeon Grass
Sicyos australis	Wild Cucumber
Sida acuta	Spiny head Sida
Sida cordifolia	Flannel weed
Sida fibulifera	Creeping Sida
Sida rhombifolia	Paddy's lucerne
Sida trichopoda	High Sida
Solanum americanum	American Nightshade
Solanum esuriale	Brown Potato Bush
Solanum nigrum	Black nightshade
Sonchus oleraceus	Sow Thistle
Sorghum halepense	Johnson Grass
Sporobolus actinocladus	Ray Grass
Sporobolus australasicus	Drop Seed Grass
Sporobolus creber	Western Rats Tail Grass
Stylosanthes scabra cv. Seca	Seca Stylo
Tagetes minuta	Stinking Rodger
Themeda quadrivalvis	Grader Grass
Tragus australianus	Burr Grass
Trianthema portulacastrum	Black Pigweed
Trianthema triquetra	Red Spinach
Tripogon Ioliiformis	Five minute grass
Urochloa mosambicensis	Urochloa
Urochloa panicoides	
-	Liverseed grass

Verbena bonariensis	Bunchy Verbena, Purpletop Verbena
Verbena litoralis	Tall Verbena
Verbena officinalis	Common Verbena, Native Verbena
Verbena tenuisecta	Mayne's Curse
Verbesina encelioides	Crownbeard
Xanthium occidentale	Noogoora Burr
Xanthium spinosum	Bathurst Burr

### aurecon

#### Aurecon Australia Pty Ltd

32 Turbot Street Brisbane QLD 4000 Australia **T** +61 7 3173 8000 **F** +61 7 3173 8001 **E** brisbane@aurecongroup.com

#### **Key Contact**

Jane Stark Environmental Scientist Level 14, 32 Turbot Street BRISBANE QLD 4001 **T** +61 7 3173 8218 **E** jane.stark@aurecongroup.com

Aurecon offices are located in: Angola, Australia, Bahrain, Botswana, China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam.

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