



Office of the
Environmental Protection Authority

Fauna Survey for Environmental Impact Assessment - Considerations

EIANZ, ECA Workshop 6 July

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Overview:

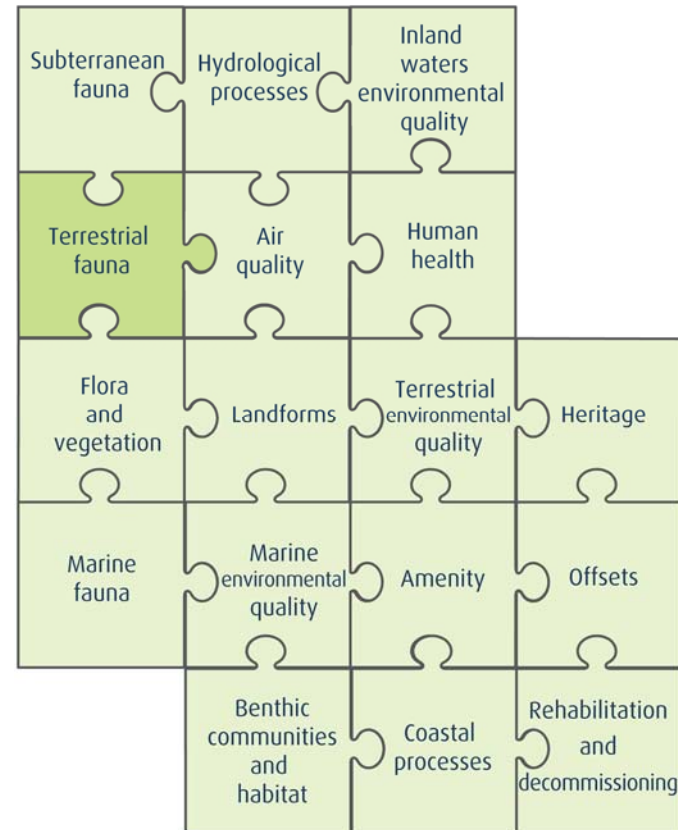


- Environmental Impact Assessment Framework
- EPA requirements
- Policy
- Key things EPA look for
- Policy review

Assessment framework



Theme	Land
Factor	Terrestrial Fauna
Objective	To maintain representation, diversity, viability and ecological function at the species, population and assemblage level.





Survey for EIA

Should provide enough information to enable the EPA to make informed decisions on the significance of any impacts on terrestrial fauna where it is likely to be preliminary factor.

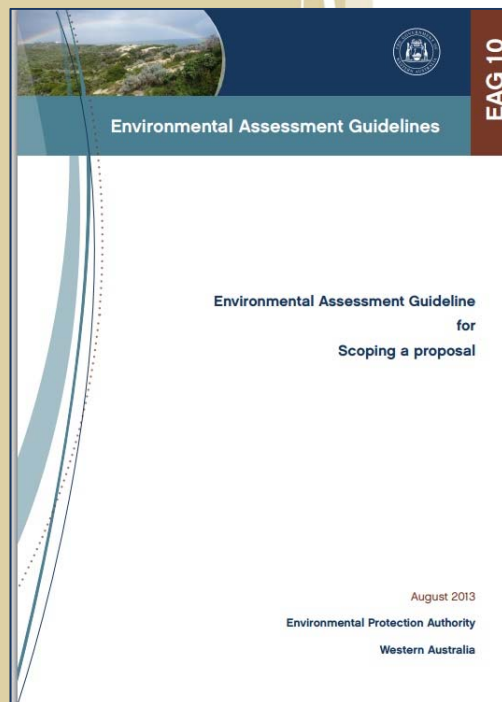
EPA requirements



Determined by environmental scoping document and policy.

Varies according to complexity including:

- likelihood of habitat supporting fauna;
and
- likely degree of impacts

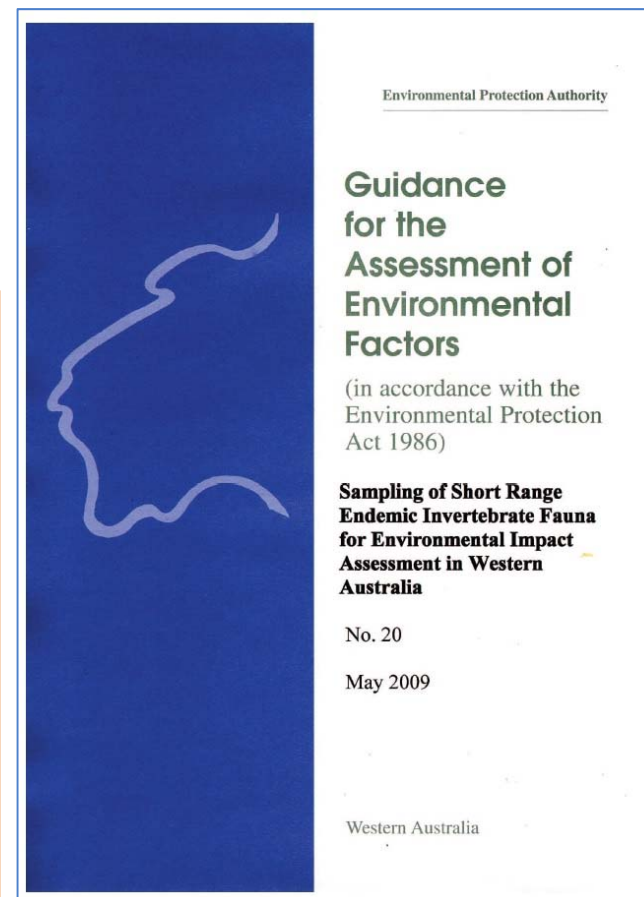
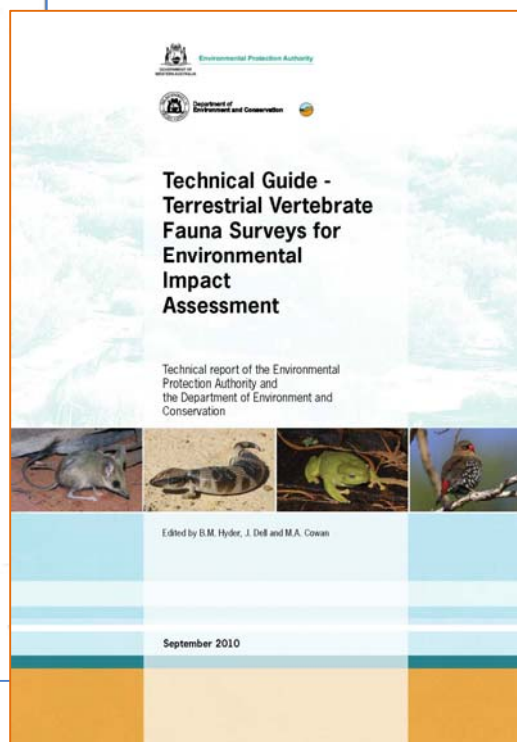
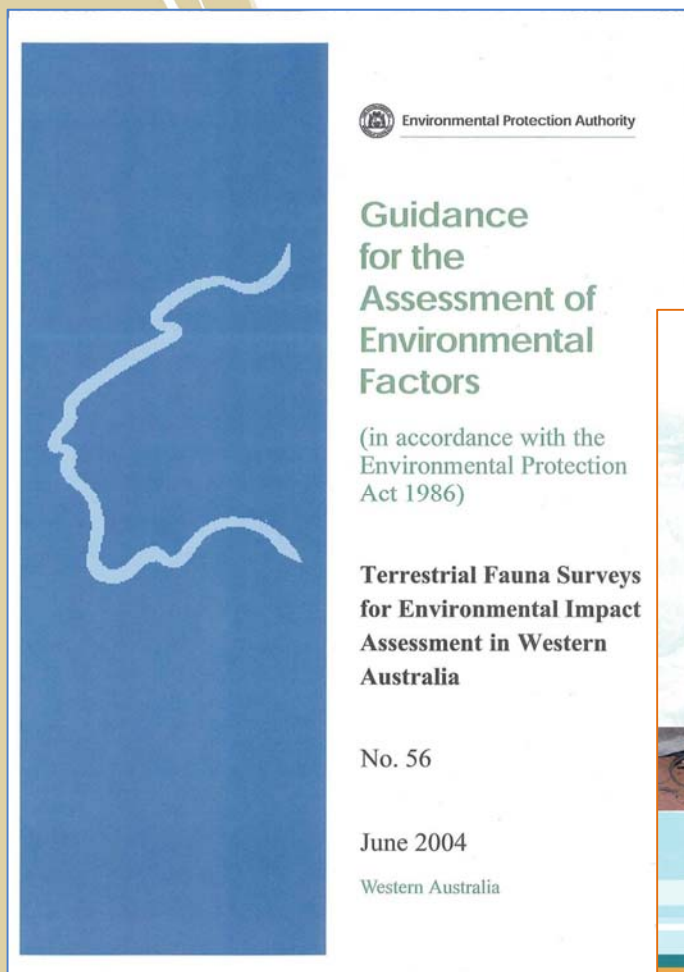


Scoping varies depending on level of assessment: API A - EPA issues scoping guideline

PER - environmental scoping document prepared



Key policy documents



Key things the EPA look for...



- **Desktop study** used to guide survey effort and level, and identifies potential conservation significant fauna or important habitats;
- **Survey effort** and **methods** appropriate for region and survey level, and taxa expected;
- Survey sites both inside and outside the area of impact and representative of fauna habitats;
- **Limitations** - justification for diversion from guidance;

Key things the EPA look for...



- **Figures:** appropriate scale, keys to clearly illustrate the location of survey sites and records of significant fauna in relation to:
 - boundaries of the impact areas; and
 - fauna habitat including beyond the footprint;
- Summary of the **results** by site and habitat;
- Data presented quantitatively with clear distinction between project collected data and desktop generated data;

Key things the EPA look for



- Were expected species recorded or not recorded?
- Information on significant species - conservation status, distribution and habitat in project area;
- Discussion including significance of assemblage;
- Discussion what management needed to avoid/mitigate impacts;
- Raw data presented, including nil results, in appendices or as attachments.



Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity Checklist

<http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/EPADocLib/EIA-Checklist%20for%20marine%20and%20terrestrial-120516.pdf>

 Environmental Protection Authority
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Checklist for documents submitted for EIA of proposals that have the potential to significantly impact on Sea and Land factors¹

This checklist should be used by proponents and their environmental consultants both during the proponent's initial project planning and environmental scoping and specifically in the final checking of documents they intend to submit to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for environmental impact assessment (EIA). This checklist will be reviewed and revised periodically to refer to EPA guidance documents as they are released.

The purpose of this checklist is to provide the basis for proponents to conduct initial in-house screening of the quality of their EIA (QA/QC). The intent is to more clearly define a minimum standard that be met for some of the more common and fundamental elements of documentation submitted to the EPA under Land and Sea themes.

Meeting this minimum standard should, in turn, facilitate timely consideration of documents by the EPA. It is complementary to, but does not replace, the approved Scoping document.

The checklist has been set out in four parts. Part 1 addresses general document quality. Parts 2 and 3 deal with key EIA requirements for marine and terrestrial fauna, habitat and environmental quality impacts. Part 4 addresses requirements for proponent certification of the checklist.

To confirm that each element has been addressed, proponents are asked to tick in the boxes provided. Where an element of the checklist is not addressed, checking the box with "N/A" will be adequate.

A copy of this checklist certified by an appropriate proponent representative and complete and accurate must be lodged with EIA documentation submitted to the EPA. Completed checklists will be reviewed by the EPA when documents are submitted for EIA. Incomplete or inaccurate checklists will be returned for proponent completion before the EPA will commence its review of the documents.

It should be noted that the EPA's acceptance of a complete and accurate checklist simply indicates that basic requirements in terms of document quality and comprehensiveness have been met. The EPA's acceptance of the checklist does not imply adequacy of technical work or appropriateness of policy interpretation. These matters are reviewed in more detail later in the assessment process.

¹ See EAC 8 Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Environmental Principles and Objectives (EPA 2015) for description of Sea and Land factors and objectives.

PART 3 – TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY ISSUES

For proposals likely to impact on native flora and vegetation, the EIA document describes how potential direct and indirect impacts have been addressed in the context of EPA Guidance Statement No. 51 – Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (June 2004) and Technical Guide – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA and DPAW 2015) including:

- determining the level of flora and vegetation survey, including a survey area encompassing direct and indirect impacts, utilising suitable survey methodology and listing survey limitations;
- maps illustrating the survey area in both a local and regional context, location of quadrats, vegetation unit mapping, location of significant species or vegetation, vegetation condition and predicted extent of impact on the vegetation;
- a comprehensive list of flora species (using the nomenclature of the WA Herbarium) which are known or reasonably expected to occur in the area and a quantitative assessment of direct and indirect impacts to threatened, priority or other significant flora and/or threatened, priority or other significant vegetation (as defined in Technical Guide);
- an evaluation of the impact of the proposal on flora and vegetation, including analysis of the local, regional and cumulative impacts of the project; and
- quadrat data provided as excel spreadsheet in raw form, in addition to hardcopy reports.

If applicable, please identify relevant sections of the report in the box below:

For proposals likely to impact on vertebrate fauna or fauna habitat, the EIA document describes how potential impacts have been addressed in the context of EPA Guidance Statement No. 56 – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (June 2004) and Technical Guide – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA and DEC 2010), including:

- determining the level of fauna survey consistent with that expected;
- describing the survey methodologies, including timing, duration and survey effort used to sample each of the fauna groups sampled, any survey limitations and the nomenclature used (WA Museum/Orbicle Australia);
- maps illustrating the survey area in both a regional and local context; fauna habitats within and outside the development envelope; description of predicted extent of impact on the habitat; location of survey sites and conservation significant fauna in relation to the proposal; and
- a comprehensive list and assessment of vertebrate fauna known or reasonably expected to occur in the area, including Specially Protected, Priority and other significant fauna (as defined in Guidance Statement No. 56), and an evaluation of the impact of the proposal on the species and key habitats.

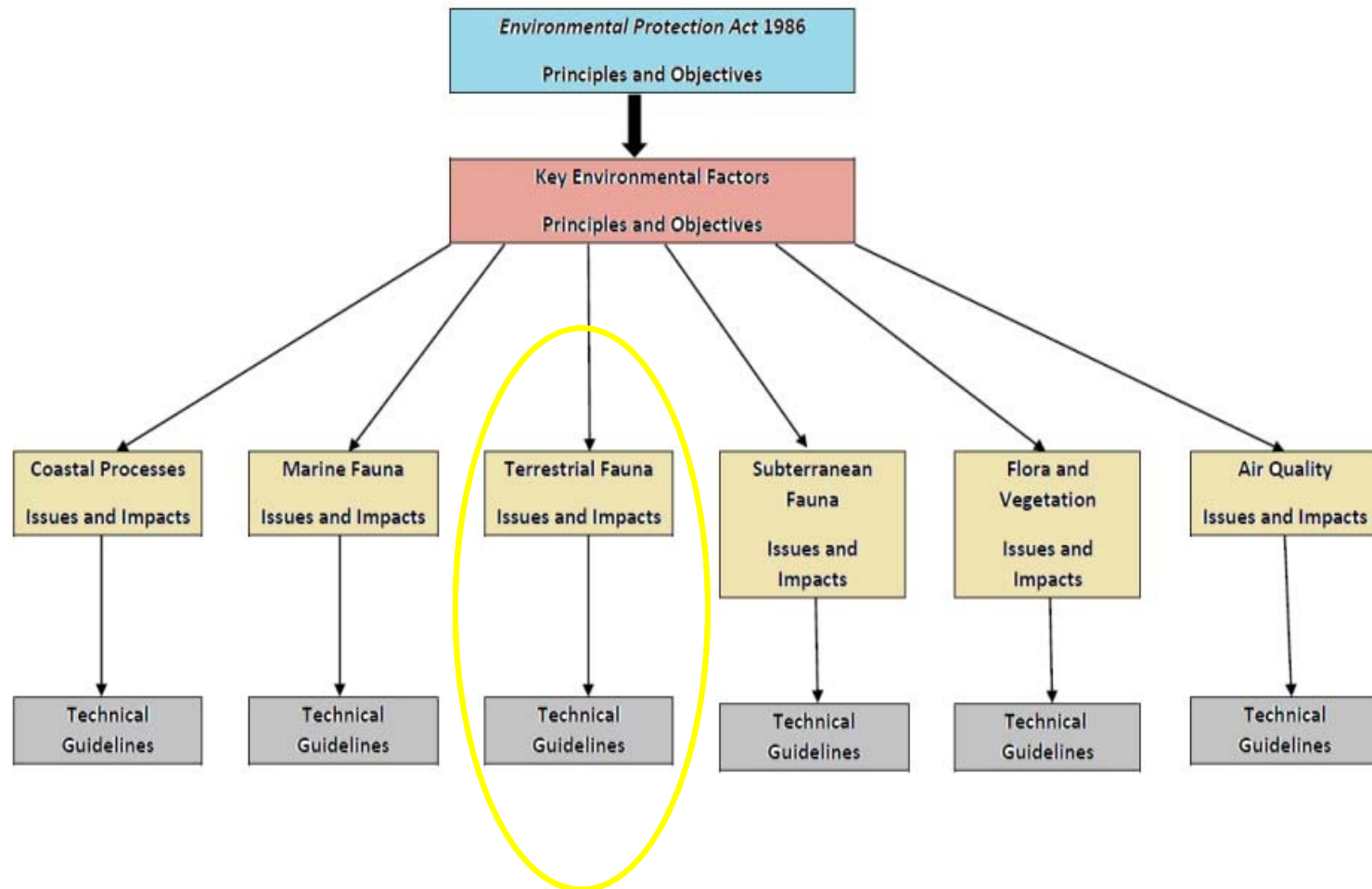
If applicable, please identify relevant sections of the report in the box below:

Legal and Governance Review



- following a decision by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia (in *Save Beeliar Wetlands (Inc) v Jacob [2015] WASC 482*) about the environmental assessment of the Roe 8
- early 2016 Minister for Environment initiated a review of EPA policies and guidelines
 - content, development, and application
- 6 May 2016 review report released
- revised suite end of 2016

Recommended hierarchical structure





Terrestrial Fauna Policy Review

- Review will change G56, G20 and technical guide.
- Overarching policy will cover vertebrates and invertebrate SRE's
- Likely to be at least two technical guides under overarching policy
- Advice on policy revisions will be sought through the Stakeholder Reference Group.



Thank you

