



# SCENIC RIM TRAIL

## ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT 2024/25

**Scenic Rim Trail - Thornton Trailhead to Spicers Canopy Nature Reserve, Queensland (EPBC 2016/7847).**

**Time Period: 9 December 2024 – 8 December 2025**

Version No.	Date of Issue	Issued by
V 1	08/12/2025	Kira Klein

### **Declaration of accuracy**

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed

Full Name: Kira Klein

Position: General Manager – Scenic Rim Trail

Organisation: THRL Pty Ltd trading as Scenic Rim Trail

Date: 08 December 2025

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## **Table of Terms and Abbreviations**

ALA	Atlas of Living Australia
BAAM	Biodiversity Assessment and Management Pty Ltd
BDCP	Baseline Data Collection Plan
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
GRAWHP	Gondwana Rainforest of Australia World Heritage property
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
PWaSM	Plan for Wastewater and Sewage Management
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
SRT	Scenic Rim Trail - Thornton Trailhead to Spicers Canopy Nature Reserve
SRTMP	Scenic Rim Trail Management Plan
SWMP	Sewage and Wastewater Monitoring Plan

## 1.0 DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

**EPBC number:** 2016/7847

**Project name:** Scenic Rim Trail- Thornton Trailhead to Spicers Canopy Nature Reserve, Queensland

**Approval holder and ACN:** 137 592 593

**The approved action:** To construct and operate a five to six day supervised bushwalk trail and four associated campsites from Mt Mistake to Spicers Peak Nature Refuge, within and adjacent to the Main Range National Park, Queensland.

**Location of the project:** Main Range National Park

**Person accepting responsibility for the report –** Kira Klein, General Manager

**Dates for the reporting period of the report:** 9 December 2024 – 8 December 2025

**Date of preparation of the report:** 01 December 2025

## 2.0 PURPOSE

This document sets out the status of compliance with the conditions imposed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) through Approval EPBC 2016/7847 within the required reporting period of 9 December 2024 to 8 December 2025 for the Scenic Rim Trail (SRT) - Thornton Trailhead to Spicers Canopy Nature Reserve, Queensland (the Project).

## 3.0 BACKGROUND

On 18 January 2019, the Minister for the Environment and Energy (the Minister) approved the construction and operation of the Scenic Rim Trail subject to conditions under the EPBC Act. The Minister, through EPBC 2016/7847, approved the proposed action of:

*To construct and operate a five to six day supervised bush walk trail and four associated campsites from Mt Mistake to Spicers Peak Nature Refuge, within and adjacent to the Main Range National Park, Queensland.*

The controlling provisions to which EPBC 2016/7847 relates are:

- World Heritage Properties (sections 12 and 15A, EPBC Act).
- National Heritage Places (sections 15B and 15C, EPBC Act).
- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A, EPBC Act).

The conditions of Approval EPBC 2016/7847 were varied by the Minister on 2 July 2019, to delete conditions 8, 9, 14, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 32 attached to the approval and substitute with the conditions specified in the variation, and again on 10 March 2020, to delete attachments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 attached to the approval and substitute with the attachments specified in the variation.

The Action commenced on 16 September 2019 and construction was completed in April 2020. Commercial operation of the walking trail commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

#### 4.0 CONDITION COMPLIANCE

The status of compliance with each condition under EPBC 2016/7847 is set out in Appendix 1.

#### 4.1 UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS ON MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

**World Heritage Properties and National Heritage Places:** No known unavoidable impacts have occurred during the reporting period.

**Listed threatened species and communities:** No known impacts on listed threatened species and communities are considered attributable to the Scenic Rim Trail Project during the reporting period.

##### 4.1.1 MITIGATION MEASURES

No additional mitigation measures have been required or implemented as a result of unavoidable impacts on MNES.

##### 4.1.2 PLAN AMENDMENTS

No amended plans have been resubmitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water as a result of an identified non-compliance or a request made by DCCEEW.

##### 4.1.3 BASELINE DATA 8A

The approval holder must not implement any onsite disposal of sewage or wastewater until the Minister has approved a Sewage and Wastewater Monitoring Plan (SWMP).

An application **has** been submitted with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and an outcome is pending.

#### APPENDIX 1 EPBC APPROVAL CONDITIONS COMPLIANCE TABLE

Condition Number	Condition	Compliance	Evidence / Comments
14.a.ii	Minimise, manage and remediate erosion along the Scenic Rim Trail;	Compliant	Trail maintenance completed in February 2025 by TrailWorx, the company who constructed the trails. This work remediated erosion issues identified in the 2024 natural values and trail report.
14.a.iii	Reduce the risk of spread of existing vertebrate pests,	Compliant	Operational vehicles are gurnied after each use to reduce the risk of spread.

	weeds and pathogens, including chytrid fungus;		A boot washing station was installed in 2020 and continues to be maintained by the Scenic Rim Trail team.
14.a. iv	Reduce the risk of introduction and establishment of new vertebrate pests, weeds and pathogens, including chytrid fungus;		Weeds at camps within the leased area have been managed following the annual inspections with the Ecotourism Department and collaboration with Main Range National Park Ranger in Charge.  Annual weed management conducted at Mt Mistake property adjoining MRNP. Including Lantana spraying, cool burn on paddocks adjoining MRNP and fireweed removal by hand along fenceline.
14.a. v	Control any new and existing weeds and pathogens outside of the Main Range National Park along the Scenic Rim Trail and at any camps;		
14.a.vi	Ensure trail guides are trained to identify any new or existing invasive species of weeds;	Compliant	Trail guides receive training on weed identification via field guide manuals.
14.a.vii	Report any new or existing invasive species of weeds, pests or pathogens to the Queensland Government agency responsible for the management of the Main Range National Park;	Compliant	<b>Refer to Appendix. 3</b> - Natural Values Report, which reports the findings of weeds, pests & pathogens and has been shared with the Department of Environment and Science and Senior Ranger in Charge of Main Range National Park. Re-growth post 2019 fires continue to show positive signs with no new weeds, pests or pathogens identified.  Increase of pig activity has been observed by EcoGuides compared to last year. The HOGHOPPER program has not been maintained to the same level as the previous year by QPWS potentially due to resourcing constraints.
14.a.ix	Minimise the impact of artificial light and noise on the Hastings River Mouse at Timbergetters Ecocamp	Compliant	Light level audit conducted in 2024 with no recommendations made. The next audit will be conducted in 2027. No changes have been made to lighting.
14.a.x	Remove food waste and litter from the Scenic Rim Trail and at Timbergetters Ecocamp and Amphitheatre View	Compliant	All rubbish including food waste is removed from the Ecocamps at the end of each walk and disposed of outside of Main Range National Park. Rubbish is stored within sealed waste containers whilst at camp.

	Wilderness Ecocamp to outside of the GRAWHP and Main Range National Park		
14.c	Specify the details of a 10-year annual ongoing monitoring program (including methodology, effort, timing, frequency and responsibilities) capable of predicting and detecting:	Compliant	2025 is year five of the monitoring program. The SRTMP required under conditions 10-13 has specified the details of a 10-year annual ongoing monitoring program under Sections 9, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5 and 9.6 of the SRTMP.
	i. a decrease of the population of Hastings River Mouse at the Timbergetters Ecocamp compared to the baseline population established under condition 8.a.;	Compliant	Completed by BAAM Ecology, the 2024 survey is the third consecutive year that Hastings River Mouse has not been captured in the environs of the Woodcutters Ecocamp; however, the zero captures from 400 trap nights in 2024 is little different from the single capture from 400 trap nights during the baseline survey and the absence of captures at Woodcutters Ecocamp in 2024 was matched by an absence of captures at the control site; due to the naturally low and variable trapping rates for this species, there is no evidence of a significant impact of the Project on Hastings River Mouse relative abundance in the vicinity of the ecocamp based on the monitoring  No feral rodents were captured during the 2024 survey.  <b>No corrective action required.</b>
	ii. a decrease of the population of Fleay's Frog and Mountain Frog at each crossing of the new trails at Blackfellow Creek and Dalrymple Creek compared to the baseline population established under condition 8.b.;	Compliant	Completed by BAAM Ecology, Frog abundance was significantly lower in operation year 5 compared with baseline surveys at both Blackfellow and Dalrymple creeks. However, since this change did not differ between upstream control and downstream impact sites, it indicates no significant impact under the BACI design.  Tadpole abundance was not significantly different to the baseline at Blackfellow Creek but was significantly lower at Dalrymple Creek in operation year 5 compared with baseline surveys. However, since this change did not differ between upstream control and downstream impact sites, it indicates no significant impact under the BACI design. Refer to Appendix. 4 for the full report.  <b>No corrective action required.</b>

		Compliant	<p>Frog calling activity was not significantly different between baseline and operation year 5 periods at both downstream 'impact' and upstream 'control' sites at Blackfellow Creek. The absence of significant change in frog calling activity between the downstream and upstream transects indicate no significant impact under the BACI design. Refer to <b>Appendix. 4</b> for the full report.</p> <p><b>No corrective action required.</b></p>
	iii. changes in water quality compared to the baseline established under condition 8.c. at either crossing of the new trails at Blackfellow Creek and Dalrymple Creek; and	Compliant	<p>Completed by Moreton Environmental and Health, there has been no change in water quality referred to in conditions 8A, 14.c. or 15A of the Conditions of Approval and no incident associated with the operation of the Scenic Rim Trail Eco Camps. Refer to <b>Appendix. 5</b> for the full report.</p> <p><b>No corrective action required.</b></p>
	iv. a decrease of riparian habitat quality at either crossing of the new trails at Blackfellow Creek and Dalrymple Creek compared to the baseline established under condition 8.d.	Compliant	<p>Completed by BAAM Ecology, there was no evidence of damage to riparian vegetation or evidence of feral animal activity within 100 m upstream or downstream of the Dalrymple Creek crossing. There was evidence of Feral Pig activity downstream of the Blackfellow Creek crossing; otherwise, no damage to riparian vegetation detected. Feral pigs were active in Blackfellow Creek during the baseline surveys, so the Feral Pig activity during the fourth year of operation is not attributable to the Project. Refer to <b>Appendix. 4</b> for the full report.</p> <p><b>No corrective action required as QPWS already has Pig traps operational on the Winder Track above Blackfellow Creek.</b></p>
<b>Annual Compliance Reporting</b>			
22	Within 60 business days of every 12 month anniversary of commencement of the action, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish a report on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions, and	Compliant	<p>Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval were provided to the Department.</p> <p><a href="https://scenicrimtrail.com/about/environmental-protection-and-biodiversity/">https://scenicrimtrail.com/about/environmental-protection-and-biodiversity/</a></p>

	<p>any data, reports and analyses arising from the implementation of the SRTMP and BDCP and any other management plans as specified in the conditions.</p> <p>Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department at the same time as the compliance report is published. Reports must remain on the website for the life of this approval. The Minister may provide written consent to the approval holder to cease reporting under this condition if satisfied additional reports are not warranted. Note: The first compliance report may report a period of less than 12 months so that it and subsequent compliance reports align with the similar requirement under state approval.</p>		
<b>Reporting non-compliance</b>			
23	<p>The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 business days after becoming aware of the incident or noncompliance.</p>	Compliant	No incidents or non compliance occurred.
<b>Other</b>			

24	Vegetation transect survey of Winder trail	Observations	<p>Completed by BAAM Ecology. The survey was completed in August 2025 only due to public access roads being blocked by treefall in March 2025 with the survey team unable to pass. BAAM Ecology notified Ranger in Charge and General Manager, Scenic Rim Trail.</p> <p><b>Existing Winder Track Management:</b> Establishment of many new rainforest tree saplings by August 2025. In August 2025 there was no notable evidence of feral pig activity.</p> <p><b>Re-opened Winder Track Management:</b> In August 2025 there was some recent evidence of feral pig activity on the re-opened Winder management track (tracks, occasional diggings), and a single feral pig was found sunning on the track close to Transect 3. Dense ground cover was still present in August 2025 after further good wet seasons. Consistent with previous surveys, no introduced weed species were present in any vegetation layer at monitoring sites T3 and T4</p> <p><b>No corrective action required.</b></p>
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## Scenic Rim Trail Condition Reports 2024/2025 Reporting Period

### APPENDIX 2. VEGETATION TRANSECT SURVEY - RE-OPENED WINDER TRAIL 2025

[Winder Vegetation Transect Survey 2025](#)

### APPENDIX 3. NATURAL VALUES HEALTH CHECK REPORT 2025

[Natural Values Health Check Report 2025](#)

### APPENDIX 4. ECOLOGY MONITORING REPORT 2024/2025

[Scenic-Rim-Trail-Ecological-Monitoring-Report-2025](#)

### APPENDIX 5. WATER MONITORING REPORT 2024/2025

[Water Quality Monitoring Report 2024/25](#)