



Notes from Meeting with PCS Offset team, 19 Apr 2016

Present: PCS Offset management Group: Clare McInnes, Nina Bruns, Jasmine Foxlee (from 5 pm)
Craig Wainwright (PCS Parkcare Support Officer)
fotpin: John Brannan, Warren Bond, Keith Thomas (until 5 pm)

Meeting commenced at 1540

1. Offset Management Plan (OMP) [Clare McInnes, Environmental Offsets Planning Co-ordinator]

Clare is currently working on revisions from Federal DoE, and we can expect another draft in the next few weeks, accompanied by some requests for further input from fotpin.

Have already requested data to establish the history of involvement of fotpin in management of the offset site (which Warren is currently working on).

Clare canvassed fotpin opinions on the following:

- Rabbit control. What monitoring will continue and what a threshold result from monitoring should be to trigger (or stop) treatment
- Pathogens such as Phytophthora. Guidelines for hygiene, etc. to prevent or minimise impact
- Using tree guards to protect naturally regenerating shrubs (fotpin likely to become involved in deploying these)
- Revegetation around the dam and gully
- Cultural heritage – recognising and notifying

It was stressed that the OMP contains things that must be done, but does not exclude other things from being done within the total available budget.

Fotpin asked about explicit inclusion in the OMP of the management of the buffer areas around the offset site.

Clare said that while it was fully intended that there would be management of the buffer areas (as mentioned in the reply to fotpin Comment 45 on the OMP in November 2015) it was difficult to include that in the OMP because of the regulations concerning expenditure of offset money, and that the OMP would need to pass audit on this.

[Note: fotpin needs to foster cooperation with PCS in order to ensure this happens]

2. Implementation and Management [Nina Bruns, Senior Ranger, Offsets (The Pinnacle Extension, Watson Woodlands & Isaacs Ridge Extension)]

Nina raised the following topics for discussion and feedback from fotpin

- Location of fence crossings (styles, or step-overs)
We agreed on the locations for one step-over, taking into account convenience for weeders and visitors to the Reserve and minimising impact on sensitive areas. It will be half-way along the diagonal fence dividing the Extension. We discussed putting another on the fence between the Extension and Bottom Pinnacle a short distance south of the junction with the dividing fence, but it was decided that it was sending the wrong message to the public about access to Bottom Pinnacle. Subsequent to the meeting Nina agreed to remove the top strand of barbed wire on the fence dividing the Extension from Bottom Pinnacle to make access easier for fotpin weed control
The main entry point for visitors will be the gate in the gully below five-ways, with a suggested walk following the track to the dam in the south-west corner of the extension, turning left along the track that through the existing gate into the southern triangle and following that track until it peters out, then following track markers either to S1 and back out the entry point.

- A biomass management plan is to be developed and Reiner Rehwinkel has been contracted to do it by end of September. This will deal with appropriate methods to control biomass and when they should be used (grazing, fire, slashing, other management, etc.). Fotpin will be asked to comment on the plan when it is completed.
- Offset Operating Plan. This will most likely to be incorporated into the Pinnacle Reserve Operating Plan

3. Issues raised by fotpin

- As requested by the General Meeting on 17th April, we reported the concerns of some members about the size of the offset area.
Clare pointed out that this was not within PCS jurisdiction; PCS was “presented” with the offset as a fait accompli and expected to manage it according to the guidelines for offsets
- Inclusion of buffer management in the OMP (discussed above)
- We also raised the need for better information for ParkCare groups about the offset process and assessment procedures. PCS agreed and said that it they would consider making it a topic for the one of the monthly ParkCare “Fringe Forums”. They also reminded us that there had been a briefing for individual ParkCare groups, including fotpin. Fotpin’s briefing was in April 2014 and attended by John, Warren and Elizabeth Smith. A general briefing was held in July 2014.
- We discussed briefly the removal of a large Hawthorn and the immediate weed control needs and plans for the Offset area

Meeting closed at 1800.

*Notes by Warren Bond and John Brannan
21 April, 26 April & 11 May 2016*