

Sandy Ridge - flora and vegetation

Detailed desktop and field investigations have been completed to establish the potential impacts on flora and vegetation in and around the Sandy Ridge facility.

The studies included Level 1 and Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Surveys undertaken by qualified and experienced local botanists.

The studies found:

- Sandy Ridge contains a range of different semi-arid vegetation types all considered common & widespread to the area. The most common vegetation association present is 'Shrublands; mixed acacia thicket on sandplain.'
- There are no threatened species listed under the Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Act or Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act within the development envelope.
- There are eleven priority flora species within or near the development envelope, including:
 - Priority 1: *Cryptandra exserta*, *Phebalium appressum*
 - Priority 2: *Hyalosperma stovea*
 - Priority 3: *Acacia crenulata*, *Calytrix cresswellii*, *Cryptandra crispula*, *Drosera eremaea*, *Labichea eremaea*, *Melichrus sp. Bungalbin Hill*
 - Priority 4: *Banksia arborea*, *Eucalyptus formanii subsp. circulata*

Direct impacts to flora and vegetation include the removal of up to 276.05 hectares of native vegetation. The impact of this removal is minimal given the abundance of similar vegetation in the general vicinity.

Potential indirect impacts include increased risk of fire, altered hydrology, dust, saline water uptake from dust suppression, and the introduction of weeds.

A comprehensive Flora Management Plan is in place to mitigate these impacts, aiming to maintain the health and stability of local flora and vegetation despite facility operations.



Calytrix cresswellii

