

ORGANISATION DETAILS			
Principal contractor:	Brendan McKenna Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Contact number:	0417 710 806
Project manager or supervisor:		Contact number:	
Person completing the SWMS:	Brendan McKenna	Contact number:	0417 710 806
Position:	Site Manager	Reviewed by:	Ron Broadhurst
Date prepared:	19/05/26	Review date:	As required
PROJECT DETAILS			
Project	Vernon Conservation Park – Fireline Construction Works		
Project Reference	P263811		
What is the scope of the work?	Hazardous tree removal, vegetation trimming and chainsaw operations within approved fireline and access corridor work areas, including assessment, felling, cutting, removal and disposal of vegetation and hazardous trees.		
Who else was consulted/involved in preparing this SWMS?	This SWMS has been developed in consultation with relevant workers, supervisors and subject matter experts. Control measures will be monitored and reviewed where incidents occur, hazards are identified, or site conditions and work activities change.		
What high risk work activities are covered by this SWMS?	Chainsaw operation, hazardous tree felling/removal, work near mobile plant, work adjacent to roads or public access areas, and use of powered equipment during vegetation clearing activities.		
References: Legislation, Australian Standards, Codes of Practice, MSDS and SOPs.	WHS Act 2011 (Qld) WHS Regulation 2011 (Qld) Safe Work Australia – Guide to Managing Risks of Tree Trimming and Removal Work Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace Code of Practice Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces Code of Practice Project Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Relevant Risk Assessments and SWMS Manufacturer operating instructions for chainsaws and plant/equipment QPWS project requirements and site conditions		
Plant involved in the scope of work:			
What high risk licence classes will be required to do the work?	Relevant plant competencies and verified chainsaw training required where applicable. Construction White Card and QPWS site induction required. TMI competency required where traffic controls are implemented.		

The following notes apply to the risk controls where relevant:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): The following PPE will need to be worn by workers at times on this project as directed:

- ☐ High Vis Garments
 ☐ Hearing protection
 ☐ Safety Glasses
 ☐ Hard Hats
 ☐ Gloves
 ☐ Safety Footwear
 ☐ Other— Face Shield | Chainsaw Chaps
 / Leg Protection | Long Sleeve Clothing

Hazardous Tree Removal & Chainsaw Operations:

- Work must remain within approved fireline, access track and clearing alignments only.
- QPWS site induction is required for all workers and subcontractors before commencing work.
- Trees greater than 300 mm DBH and habitat trees are to be retained where possible unless approved for removal.
- A licensed fauna spotter/catcher is required where habitat trees cannot be avoided.
- Hazardous trees must be assessed before cutting and safe fall direction and escape routes established.
- Exclusion zones must be established around tree felling activities.
- Stop work immediately if fauna, cultural heritage items, human remains, unstable trees or unsafe conditions are identified.
- Follow the Find–Stop–Notify–Manage process for cultural heritage discoveries.

Controls are to be implemented in accordance with site conditions, worker competency, client requirements, environmental controls and the BME Integrated Management System. Work must stop if conditions change, if hazards cannot be controlled, or if workers are unsure how to proceed safely.

The SWMS must be reviewed following any incident, near miss, change in work method, change in site conditions or introduction of new plant or equipment.

Identify each task in order	Specify the hazards/risks you have identified	What are the risks to health and safety?	Who is responsible for implementing and monitoring controls?
Site arrival, induction & work area confirmation	Hazards: Uncontrolled work area, workers unaware of site hazards, unauthorised access, environmental or cultural heritage disturbance. Risks: Injury to workers/public, damage to protected vegetation, disturbance of cultural heritage areas, breach of site requirements.	All workers to complete site induction before commencing. Confirm approved work area, clearing limits and access tracks before work starts. Review SWMS, EMP, emergency procedures and communication requirements. Identify exclusion zones, no-go areas, environmental controls and any cultural heritage requirements. Work must stop if unexpected cultural heritage material is identified and supervisor/client notified.	Site Manager or Supervisor/ All Workers
Pre-start inspection of chainsaws, tools & equipment	Hazards: Damaged chainsaw, faulty guards, fuel leaks, blunt chain, incorrect PPE, defective tools. Risks: Cuts, lacerations, equipment failure, fire, uncontrolled release of stored energy.	Complete pre-start inspection before use. Do not use defective equipment. Check chainsaw condition, chain tension, guards, emergency stop function, fuel/oil leaks and general serviceability. Ensure chainsaw PPE is worn, including helmet, eye/face protection, hearing protection, gloves, long pants/chaps and suitable boots. Remove defective plant/tools from service and report to supervisor.	Chainsaw Operator / Supervisor
Establish exclusion zones & public/worker separation	Hazards: Falling branches, falling trees, flying debris,	Establish exclusion zones before cutting starts. Only required workers are to enter the work area.	Supervisor / Spotter / All Workers

	mobile plant interaction, unauthorised entry. Risks: Crush injury, impact injury, serious injury or fatality.	Maintain communication between chainsaw operators, spotters and plant operators. Use spotters where required. Stop work immediately if unauthorised persons, vehicles or plant enter the exclusion zone.	
Hazardous tree assessment before cutting	Hazards: Dead limbs, unstable trees, hung-up branches, storm damage, split trunks, uneven ground, wildlife. Risks: Falling objects, crush injury, uncontrolled tree movement, wildlife injury or worker injury.	Inspect tree and surrounding area before work starts. Identify dead limbs, lean, ground conditions, overhead hazards and escape/access routes. Do not commence if tree is unsafe, unstable or beyond worker competency. Escalate to supervisor and engage specialist arborist support where required. Check for fauna prior to works and stop work if wildlife is identified.	Supervisor / Competent Chainsaw Operator
Chainsaw cutting, trimming & vegetation clearing	Hazards: Chainsaw kickback, contact with chain, flying debris, unstable vegetation, poor footing, fatigue. Risks: Cuts, lacerations, eye injury, hearing damage, slips/trips, serious injury.	Chainsaw use only by competent workers. Maintain firm footing and clear work area of trip hazards. Keep non-essential workers outside exclusion zone. Use correct PPE at all times. Do not cut above shoulder height. Do not work alone in remote areas without agreed communication controls. Stop work if conditions become unsafe, visibility is poor, or fatigue affects safe work.	Chainsaw Operator / Supervisor
Tree felling or removal of hazardous trees	Hazards: Uncontrolled tree fall, falling limbs, wind, incorrect exclusion zone,	Daily assessment of weather conditions, wind conditions, tree stability, surrounding vegetation and ground conditions shall be undertaken prior to hazardous tree activities commencing.	Competent Chainsaw Operator / Supervisor / Spotter

	nearby plant, roads or services. Risks: Crush injury, fatality, property damage, environmental damage.	Tree felling must only be undertaken by competent persons. Confirm fall direction, exclusion zone and communication before work starts. Keep all workers clear of the fall zone. Nominate and maintain a minimum of two clear escape paths before tree felling commences. Stop work if wind, visibility, unstable tree condition or site constraints make the task unsafe. Supervisor to reassess controls before recommencing.	
Working near roads, tracks or public access areas	Hazards: Vehicle interaction, public access, moving plant, limited visibility, dust. Risks: Vehicle strike, injury to public/workers, traffic incident.	Implement traffic controls where required. Use signage, spotters, barricades or Traffic Guidance Scheme controls if work may affect vehicles or public access. Workers must wear hi-vis clothing. Stop work if traffic or public movement cannot be safely controlled.	Supervisor / TMI Competent Worker / Spotter
Manual handling of branches, logs and equipment	Hazards: Heavy or awkward timber, repetitive lifting, dragging branches, uneven ground. Risks: Muscle strain, back injury, slips/trips, crush injury to hands/feet.	Use mechanical assistance where practical. Cut material into manageable sizes. Team lift where required. Avoid twisting while lifting. Keep hands and feet clear of pinch points. Maintain clear access routes and remove trip hazards progressively.	All Workers / Supervisor
Use of plant to assist with vegetation removal	Hazards: Plant/person interaction, reversing plant, unstable loads, falling timber.	Only competent operators to operate plant. Maintain exclusion zones around operating plant.	Plant Operator / Spotter / Supervisor

	Risks: Crush injury, struck-by injury, plant rollover, property/environmental damage.	Use spotters where required. Do not stand under or near suspended/unstable loads. Maintain communication between plant operator and ground workers. Plant must remain within approved access tracks and work areas.	
Environmental, fauna & cultural heritage controls	Hazards: Disturbance outside approved areas, fauna interaction, weed spread, damage to protected vegetation, cultural heritage disturbance. Risks: Environmental harm, injury from wildlife, breach of client/environmental requirements.	Clearing must remain within approved work areas only. Do not disturb vegetation outside approved limits. Check for fauna before cutting. Stop work and notify supervisor if wildlife, nests, hollows or cultural heritage material are identified. Maintain biosecurity and hygiene controls for plant and equipment where required.	Supervisor / All Workers
Refuelling chainsaws and handling fuel/oil	Hazards: Flammable liquids, spills, fumes, ignition sources. Risks: Fire, burns, environmental contamination, inhalation exposure.	Refuelling shall not occur near waterways, drainage lines or environmentally sensitive areas. Refuel in a safe, ventilated area away from ignition sources. Allow equipment to cool before refuelling where required. Store fuel/oil in approved containers. Spill kit to be available. Clean up spills immediately and report environmental incidents to supervisor.	Chainsaw Operator / Supervisor
Emergency response and	Hazards: Remote work, chainsaw injury, falling object injury, poor	First aid kit and emergency communication must be available. Workers must know emergency access points and site location details.	Supervisor / First Aid Officer / All Workers

incident management	communication, delayed response. Risks: Serious injury, delayed first aid, escalation of incident.	Stop work immediately following injury, near miss, equipment failure or uncontrolled tree movement. Notify supervisor and follow incident reporting procedure. Review SWMS controls before work recommences.	
Clean-up and removal of cut material	Hazards: Trip hazards, unstable timber piles, sharp branches, manual handling, environmental disturbance. Risks: Slips/trips, cuts, strains, blocked access tracks, damage to surrounding vegetation.	Remove or stack cut material as directed by supervisor/client requirements. Keep access tracks and work areas clear. Do not stockpile outside approved areas. Ensure remaining vegetation, logs or branches are stable and do not create a hazard. Final inspection to be completed before leaving area.	Supervisor / All Workers

This SWMS has been developed in consultation and has been read, understood and signed by all workers undertaking the scope of works:

Print Names:	Signatures:	Dates: