



EPBC 2016/7837

Annual Compliance Report

*Taxiway Zulu and northern compound project,
Melbourne Airport, Victoria*

Prepared by:

Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd

Reporting period:

2 July 2020 to 1 July 2021

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

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Date	30/09/2021

DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

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CONTENTS

Declaration of Accuracy.....	2
Document Version control.....	2
1 Introduction.....	4
1.1 Approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	4
1.2 Reporting period	4
1.3 New Environmental Risks	4
2 Compliance with approval	5
3 Supporting Information	11
3.1 Condition 1 – Progress of project in the reporting period	11
3.2 Conditions 4 and 5 – Implementation of the CEMP and PFAS Management Plan.....	12
Tables	
Table 1: Details of approved action	4
Table 2: Compliance with EPBC Approval	5
Table 3: Summary of audits and inspections conducted during the reporting period	12
Table 4: Summary of key corrective actions for the reporting period.....	12
Figures	
Figure 1 Status of work zones.....	11

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The Department of Environment issued approval for the Taxiway Zulu and northern compound project at Melbourne Airport on 9 January 2018. Summary details of the approved action are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Details of approved action

Project name	Taxiway Zulu and northern compound project
Person to whom the permit is granted	Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Limited
Approved action	To expand airside infrastructure including taxiways, taxi lanes and aprons, and to construct a northern construction site compound and associated infrastructure at Melbourne Airport, approximately 20 km north-west of Melbourne, Victoria.
EPBC Approval Number	2016/7837
Date of approval	9 January 2018

1.2 Reporting period

This annual compliance report outlines the state of compliance with each approval condition over the period 2 July 2020 – 1 July 2021.

1.3 New Environmental Risks

No new environmental risks were identified during the reporting period.

2 COMPLIANCE WITH APPROVAL

Statements regarding compliance with each EPBC Approval condition are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Compliance with EPBC Approval

Condition No.	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comments
1	The approval holder must not clear more than 18.913 ha of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain ecological community from the site.	Compliant	<p>During the reporting period the project continued at a reduced pace due to impacts associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Some areas of NTGVVP planned for removal have not yet been impacted.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the following areas of NTGVVP were removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern compound – 0.0022ha Taxiway Zulu – Nil. <p>The total amount of NTGVVP removed to date is ~17.961 ha.</p>
2	<p>To compensate for the loss of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain ecological community, prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> enter into an agreement with the landowner to secure the offset containing at least 77.9 ha of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian volcanic plain ecological community; provide the Department with a copy of the signed agreement within 4 weeks of the agreement being signed; and provide the Department with evidence that the offset has been secured and the offset attributes, shapefile and map(s) clearly defining the location and boundaries of each offset, within 4 weeks of the offset being secured. 	Compliant	<p>A copy of the signed agreement and shapefiles and maps clearly defining the location and boundaries of each offset were provided to the Department on 5 September 2018. Acknowledgement of receipt was received from the Department on 7 September 2018.</p>
3	The approval holder must ensure the Offset Management Plan is implemented.	Compliant	<p>As per the Offset Management Plan, the offset site Land Owner and a Qualified Ecologist produced the following report which outline compliance with the plan at the offset</p>

Condition No.	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comments
			<p>site. APAM received and reviewed these reports to confirm the requirements of the Offset Management Plan are being met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 2 (2020) Annual Report <p><i>Note:</i> For the purposes of the Offset Management Plan, Year 0 was defined as 6 June 2018 – Dec 2018. Implementation began in June 2018 however the Offset Management Plan requires annual reporting based on calendar year. Therefore Year 2 is Dec 2019 – Dec 2020</p>
4	<p>To mitigate impacts on the growling grass frog the approval holder must submit a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) for the Minister's approval prior to the commencement of the action. The approved plan must be implemented. The CEMP must include but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Runoff controls to ensure that the quality of the adjacent waterways is maintained or improved. Best practice sediment control to be implemented during construction. Detailed measures to avoid spills of fuels and management of accidental spills to avoid the introduction of pollutants and biocides during construction. Cleaning construction vehicles prior to entering the site to avoid the introduction and spread of weeds and pathogens. Cleaning of trucks leaving the site to prevent impacts from construction sediments to nearby growling grass frog populations. Routine management procedures to prevent local air and water quality impacts, such as daily inspections, dust suppression and storage and handling of chemicals. Monitoring and relevant remediation measures in the event of adverse monitoring results. 	Compliant	<p>The CEMP was approved by the Department on 19 June 2019.</p> <p>The CEMP has been implemented since the commencement of the action.</p> <p>Section 3.1 provides further details of auditing and verification of implementation of the CEMP during the reporting period.</p>
5	<p>The approval holder must submit a PFAS Management Plan for the Minister's approval prior to the commencement of the action. The PFAS Management Plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified expert. Commencement of the action may not occur until the PFAS Management Plan has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved plan must be implemented. The PFAS Management Plan must include but not be limited to:</p>	Compliant	<p>The PFAS Management Plan was approved by the Department on 2 April 2019.</p> <p>The PFAS Management Plan has been implemented since the commencement of the action.</p>

Condition No.	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identification of the extent and concentrations of possible contamination within the project footprint. b. Identification of possible exposure pathways and ecological receptors including from stored material. c. Relevant baseline data for the identified possible exposure pathways and ecological receptors. d. Possible risks tailored to the identified concentrations, pathways and receptors. e. The outline of management strategies, as well as any remediation action plans or strategies, to manage any identified or potential risks. 		Section 3.2 provides further details of auditing and verification of implementation of the PFAS Management Plan during the reporting period.
6	<p>The PFAS Management Plan, along with the sections of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) and Operational Environment Management Plan (OEMP) for the proposed action relating to contamination and soils, must be prepared by a suitably qualified expert and must, in relation to management of PFAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. be consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The National Environment Protection Council's <i>National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999</i> (as amended 2013), and ii. The Department of the Environment and Energy's <i>National Water Quality Management Strategy, including the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000)</i>, noting that the draft default guideline values for PFOS and PFOA in freshwater, as applied by the Victorian state government, are to be used until the default guideline values are finalised, and b. detail implementation and operational procedures that are appropriate to the risk posed by any contamination, noting the persistence, mobility and/or bioaccumulation potential of PFOS, PFHxS and PFOA, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. roles and responsibilities; and ii. management of PFAS contamination within the project area, including strategies to reduce runoff and migration of contamination across and off the proposed site; and 	Compliant	As per Conditions 4 and 5, above.

Condition No.	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. a contingency action plan for unexpected PFAS contaminant discoveries, including coordination, communication and engagement requirements, and c. detail soil and water monitoring requirements and testing and disposal procedures within the project area that are appropriate to the risk posed by any contamination, including references to relevant provisions of airport environmental management plan/s including on-site and, where relevant, off-site, PFAS contamination monitoring arrangements, and d. detail review procedures that are appropriate to the risk posed by any PFAS contamination, and e. impose the following performance measures for managing earthworks and storage of spoil to minimise the release of PFAS, due to disturbance of PFAS contaminated soils or sediments within the project area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. contaminated waste material (including excavated soil or sediment, and any leachate from soil or sediment, or water arising from de-watering of sediment or soil) to be handled appropriately to the risk posed by the contamination and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner such that potential for the PFAS content to enter the environment is minimised; and ii. contaminated waste material, including excavated soil or sediment, with a PFOS + PFHxS or PFOA content above 50 milligrams per kilogram (mg / kg) to be stored or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, to achieve nil environmental release of PFOS, PFHxS and PFOA content. The PFAS Management Plan will need to detail how materials at these concentrations, if encountered, would be handled to achieve nil environmental release; and iii. all soil remaining at the site of the action to be suitable for purpose. 		
7	Within 7 days after the commencement of the action, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Compliant	The action commenced on 2 July 2019, and written notification was provided to the Department on 8 July 2019.
8	The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the PFAS Management Plan and Offset Management Plan required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the	Compliant	Noted. Documentation is available on request.

Condition No.	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comments
	Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.		
9	Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. 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.	Compliant	This annual compliance report addresses this condition.
10	<p>The approval holder may choose to revise a management plan approved by the Minister under conditions 3, 4, 5 and 6 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. If the approval holder makes this choice they must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> notify the Department in writing that the approved plan has been revised and provide the Department with an electronic copy of the revised plan; implement the revised plan from the date that the plan is submitted to the Department; and for the life of this approval, maintain a record of the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. 	Compliant	APAM notified the Department of minor amendments to the Offset Management Plan on 3 April 2018. Acknowledgement of the revised Offset Management Plan was received from the Department on 6 April 2018.
11	The approval holder may revoke their choice under condition 10 at any time by notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice to implement a revised plan, without approval under section 143A of the Act, the plan approved by the Minister must be implemented.	Not applicable	
12	Condition 10 does not apply if the revisions to the approved plan include changes to environmental offsets provided under the plan in relation to a matter protected by a controlling provision for the action, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. This does not otherwise limit the circumstances in which	Not applicable	

Condition No.	Condition	Is the project compliant with this condition?	Evidence / Comments
	the taking of the action in accordance with a revised plan would, or would not, be likely to have new or increased impacts.		
13	<p>If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Condition 9 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised plan; and b. The approval holder must implement the plan approved by the Minister. <p>To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 10, 11 and 12 in the period before the day the notice is given.</p> <p>At the time of giving the notice the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time that condition 10 does not apply for one or more specified plans required under the approval.</p>	Not applicable	
14	Conditions 10, 11, 12 and 13 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the approval holder to submit a revised plan to the Minister for approval.	Not applicable	
15	If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not commenced the action, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Not applicable	
16	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all plans referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved by the Minister or being submitted under condition 10.a.	Compliant	Following approval of the plans referred to in the conditions of approval, all plans were published on the Melbourne Airport community engagement website (https://my.melbourneairport.com/taxiway-zulu).

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Condition 1 – Progress of project in the reporting period

Figure 1 shows the current status of work zones within the project. In this reporting period Zone SP1.6 and the majority of SP1.7 have been completed and works have progressed in SP4.3.

Figure 1 Status of work zones



3.2 Conditions 4 and 5 – Implementation of the CEMP and PFAS Management Plan

Since commencement of the action, APAM has implemented an audit and inspection schedule to verify implementation of the approved CEMP and PFAS Management Plan. A summary of the audit and inspection activities conducted within the reporting period is provided in Table 3.

It should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the progress of the project. Work areas continued to remain on hold and lockdown restrictions had an impact of the number of project workers able to attend site to progress works. This limited the number of audits / inspections that could be completed during the reporting period.

Table 3: Summary of audits and inspections conducted during the reporting period

Scope	General frequency	Total audits / inspections completed
Inspection of the northern compound active construction area to verify compliance with the CEMP	As required based on schedule of minor defect works	6 inspections*
Inspection of the Taxiway Zulu active construction area to verify compliance with the CEMP	Once every 4 weeks	15 inspections [#]
Inspection of the Temporary PFAS Soil Storage Facility to verify compliance with the PFAS Management Plan	Once every 4 weeks	12 inspections
Desktop-based audits to review documentation associated with implementation of the CEMP and PFAS Management Plan	Once every 4 weeks	1 audit [^]
Total		32 audits / inspections

Notes:

- *: Works on the northern compound were completed in July 2020. Minor defect works continued during the reporting period.
- #: Number of inspections completed was limited due to COVID-19 impacts on site progress (e.g. city-wide lockdowns and a reduction in construction workforce numbers).
- ^: Desktop-based audits placed on hold between August 2020 and July 2021 due to COVID-19 impacts on resourcing, with higher risk activities (i.e. site inspections of active construction areas) being prioritised.

Through implementation of the audit and inspection schedule, a number of corrective actions were identified and closed out. Positive observations were also recorded. A summary of key corrective actions for the reporting period is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Summary of key corrective actions for the reporting period

Project area	Issue identified	Resolution
Northern compound / Taxiway Zulu	Instances where turbid water was discharging from recently installed subsoil drains into stormwater drains without sufficient sediment controls	Sediment controls installed as per the CEMP. Investigation into subsoil installation completed and corrective actions implemented to prevent recurrence.
Northern compound / Taxiway Zulu	Instances of dust generation on internal haul roads	Water carts engaged to conduct dust suppression as per the CEMP.
Northern compound / Taxiway Zulu	Instances of weed growth within project area	Weeds sprayed by suitably qualified person as per the CEMP.

Project area	Issue identified	Resolution
PFAS Temporary Storage Facility	Stabilisation of final form Category 1 stockpiles to be completed	Hydroseeding of Category 1 stockpiles completed December 2020.

Key positive observations recorded for the reporting period include:

- Since September 2020 wastewater from site is now taken to the APAM wastewater treatment plant for treatment and reuse. Where capacity does not allow, wastewater is disposed offsite.
- Implementation of an internal '*Driving on Native Grass Permit*' to document access requirements to State / Commonwealth listed native grass areas and prevent unintended damage.