

Application for a



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

# Section 91 Licence

under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* to harm or pick a threatened species, population or ecological community\* or damage habitat.

1. Applicant's Name ^: (if additional persons require authorisation by this licence, please attach details of names and addresses)	Mr Peter Sparkes General Manager Peter.sparkes@lls.nsw.gov.au	
2. Australian Business Number (ABN):	57876455969	
3. Organisation name and position of applicant ^: (if applicable)	Central Tablelands Local Land Services	
4. Postal address ^:	P.O. Box 510, Cowra, New South Wales	Telephone: <input type="text"/> B.H. <input type="text"/> A.H. <input type="text"/>
5. Location of the action (including grid reference and local government area and delineated on a map).	LGA Bathurst Regional Council  B3. Eusdale Road 764117 6294660  B6. Turners 762832 6295518  B14. Kennedy Park 742885 6249610  Maps (air photos) are appended	

\* A threatened species, population or ecological community means a species, population or ecological community identified in Schedule 1, 1A or Schedule 2 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

^The personal details of all Section 91 licences will be displayed in the register of Section 91 licences required under Section 104 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. See notes.

<p>6. Full description of the action and its purpose (e.g. environmental assessment, development, etc.)</p>	<p>Cool ecological burning techniques will be used primarily to experimentally reduce weed and grass competition with the aim to promote regrowth of <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> to increase foraging resources for the endangered purple copper butterfly (<i>Paralucia spinifera</i>). A secondary benefit will be that these controlled prescribed burns will reduce the threat of unmanaged hot fire. The lack of fire and grazing at these sites has resulted in a high current probability of intense summer wildfire caused by significant build-up of leaf litter and woody debris. High intensity fires are now a yearly event in these areas and considered high risk by RFS (personal communication with RFS). Low intensity patchy/mosaic burning, targeting <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> will rejuvenate habitat for purple copper butterfly (Cayzer 1999). The larvae of this species of butterfly preferentially feed on the new growth of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> which is enhanced by appropriate low intensity burning (Cayzer 1999). Fires are to be conducted while pupae are safe within the underground nests of ants and fire ground surface temperatures will not exceed 36°C (mean = 20.5, n=30, unpublished personal data). It is important to note that this application will not be burning in food plant clumps that have been recorded with larvae over the previous season. This is a precautionary measure taken in initial trials. Burning trials of much higher intensity flame temperatures have been successfully conducted for the dull copper butterfly in Victoria showing that there were no negative effects to underground sheltering larvae (New 2000). In addition our proposed 2017 experimental trial at site B14 will only impact 1.3% of mapped <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> within food plant clumps that have not been used by butterflies in the past 2 years and for only one known population (B14) of purple copper butterfly. Proposed burns in the following years at B6 and B3 will also occur within non-used habitat and only after assessment of work in the previous year at B14.</p> <p>See attached extended methodology.</p>						
<p>7. Details of the area to be affected by the action (in hectares).</p>	<p>Proposed Burn Area</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>B3. Eusdale Road</td> <td>10 areas of 25m x 25m (250m<sup>2</sup>) (0.025ha)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B6. Turners</td> <td>5 areas of 25m x 25m (125m<sup>2</sup>) (0.012ha)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B14. Kennedy Park</td> <td>10 areas of 25m x 25m (250m<sup>2</sup>) (0.025ha)</td> </tr> </table> <p>See attached extended methodology.</p>	B3. Eusdale Road	10 areas of 25m x 25m (250m <sup>2</sup> ) (0.025ha)	B6. Turners	5 areas of 25m x 25m (125m <sup>2</sup> ) (0.012ha)	B14. Kennedy Park	10 areas of 25m x 25m (250m <sup>2</sup> ) (0.025ha)
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<p>8. Duration and timing of the action (including staging, if any).</p>	<p>It is intended that the action will take place between April – June 2017, but is dependent upon suitable weather conditions and availability of Rural Fire Service crews and permits. A detailed prescribed burn plan and risk assessment will be developed with the landholder, OEH Purple Copper Butterfly SoS Officer, RFS and Central Tablelands Local Land Services. Discussion relating to the burn plan has already commenced. All partners are currently working together on both this project and other related projects and are committed to a productive outcome and published results. This period has been chosen to minimise risks and produce the lowest intensity fire for the beneficial rejuvenation of native <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> and provide increased feeding habitat for threatened purple copper butterfly. During the intended burning period the pupae of the purple copper butterfly are beneath the ground in ant nest chambers and are insulated against external air temperature</p>						

	fluctuations above ground. Extensive monitoring of the adult and larval population of purple copper butterfly and growth responses of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> will be conducted in the spring-summer of 2017, 2018 and 2019.			
	See attached extended methodology.			
9. Is the action to occur on land declared as critical habitat? <i>(tick appropriate box)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
10. Threatened species, populations or ecological communities to be harmed or picked.	<u>Scientific name</u>  <i>Paralucia spinifera</i>	<u>Common name (if known)</u>  Purple Copper Butterfly  Tableland Basalt Forest	<u>Conservation status</u> <i>(i.e. critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable)</i>  Endangered (TSSC 1995) Vulnerable (EPBCA 1999)  Endangered Ecological Community (TSSC 1995)	<u>Details of no. of individual animals, or proportion and type of plant material</u> <i>(e.g. fertile branchlets for herbarium specimens or whole plants or plant parts)</i>  Occupied habitat will be affected; pupae should not be harmed  B14 is dominated by this community
11. Species impact: <i>(please tick appropriate box)</i> a) For action proposed on land declared as critical habtat; or b) For action proposed on land <u>not</u> declared as critical habitat.	an SIS is attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  Items 12 to 25 have been addressed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
N.B: Provision of a species impact statement is a statutory requirement of a licence application if the action is proposed on critical habitat. The provision of information addressing items 12 to 17 is a statutory requirement of a licence application if the action proposed is <u>not</u> on land that is critical habitat. Information addressing any of the questions below must be attached to the application.				
12. Describe the type and	Vegetation at Kennedy Park is dominated by a tall Tableland Basalt			
* Critical habitat means habitat declared as critical habitat under Part 3 of the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> .				

<p>condition of habitats in and adjacent to the land to be affected by the action.</p>	<p>Forest community (58 ha); with Mountain Gum (<i>E. viminalis</i>) and peppermint (<i>E. dives</i>) forming the main canopy, with Snow Gum (<i>E. pauciflora</i>) and Black Sally (<i>E. stellulata</i>) forming patches and along drainage lines. Silver Wattle (<i>A. dealbata</i>) and banksias (<i>Banksia marginata</i>) occur as infrequent small trees.</p> <p>Native Blackthorn (<i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i>) and Gorse Bitter-Pea (<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>) dominate sections of the understorey, however low shrubs are diverse if not dominant, with <i>Bossiae</i>, <i>Melichris</i>, <i>Hibbertia</i>, <i>Gompholobium</i> and <i>Lissanthe</i> all being present. Groundcover is predominantly comprised of a wide range of native grass and herb species (69 species in 20x20 quadrat, Mjadwesch 2011), however some sections have been over-run with Serrated Tussock (<i>Nasella trichotoma</i>), and the creekline in the west is in places heavily infested with Blackberry (<i>R. fruticosus</i>).</p> <p>The prescribed burning described in this application will occur within 250 m<sup>2</sup> of the 58 ha (580,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of Tableland Basalt Forest community. This represents a burn area of less than 0.04% of this vegetation community at this site. The small size of the burn is highly unlikely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction. It is far more likely that the burn described in this application will have positive effects on the native vegetation within this community by promoting regeneration of native species via the dormant seed bank and through reduction of competition by weeds. Both the extent of the burning and intensity of the fire will not substantially or adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.</p> <p>At a landscape scale the region contains numerous larger patches of this vegetation community that will not be impacted by this experimental prescribed burn.</p> <p>In relation to the ecological community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) There will be no habitat removed and modification as a result of the action is expected to be positive with reduction in competitive weed cover and increased diversity of native plant species via the current seed bank.</li> <li>b) The action of the prescribed burning will not lead to further habitat fragmentation or isolation from other areas</li> <li>c) There will be no habitat removed, fragmented or isolated. Modification to the habitat as a result of the limited prescribed ecological burning (0.04% of vegetation community at this site) is expected to enhance the long-term survival of the purple copper butterfly population and Tableland Basalt Forest community in the locality through stimulation of regrowth and germination of current senescing native plant species.</li> </ul> <p>The action (prescribed cool ecological burning) proposed does not constitute a key threatening process (inappropriate fire – hot fire)</p>
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	<p>and is unlikely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process. The impact of the cool burning will reduce the likelihood of inappropriate hot fires through reduction of current high levels of leaf litter.</p> <p>See attached ecological report.</p>
13. Provide details of any known records of a threatened species in the same or similar known habitats in the locality ( <i>include reference sources</i> ).	<p>The Hargans / Slingsby Road (B2 / B13) Purple Copper Butterfly population and B4 Telstra Tower site lies within a few kilometres of B6 B3, with numerous and consistently high counts of butterflies here over many years (see Mjadwesch 2011).</p> <p>Other populations around Yetholme are inactive, or are not particularly close to the proposed burn sites (such as sites at Sunny Corner, and in Winburndale and Eusdale nature reserves)</p> <p>There are no other known sites proximate to the Kennedy Park site at Mount David (B14), which forms part of this proposal. For this reason only small sections (10 x 25m<sup>2</sup>) of this site will be burnt (1.5% of the known/mapped 1.9 ha of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i>), to promote and maintain a mosaic of burnt and unburnt habitats across the property.</p>
14. Provide details of any known or potential habitat for a threatened species on the land to be affected by the action ( <i>include reference sources</i> ).	<p>B3. Eusdale Road. Consistently low numbers of butterflies reported in the road reserve and adjacent paddock area between 1997 and 2015 (Mjadwesch 2011 and see the ecology report attached).</p> <p>B6. Turners. Low numbers consistently observed in the roadside reserve between 1997 and 2016 (Mjadwesch 2011 and see the ecology report attached).</p> <p>B14. Good numbers of butterflies and caterpillars were observed in 2008-2009 (Mjadwesch 2011), however no larvae were observed in 2015 or 2016 (Mjadwesch pers comm.), though a sighting of one butterfly was reported in 2016 by the landowners.</p>
15. Provide details of the amount of such habitat to be affected by the action proposed in relation to the known distribution of the species and its habitat in the locality.	<p>The Purple Copper Butterfly persists at Yetholme in two main populations, being the Hargans / Slingsby Rd (B2 / B13) complex and the Telstra Tower Site (B4). Smaller satellite populations in the Yetholme area, such as the Boulder Site (B1), Eusdale Rd (B3), Clonturkle (B5), Turners (B6) and Macabees (B8) have low populations, or none from current knowledge (for example B8 was destroyed shortly after the sites' discovery). Unoccupied blackthorn occurs extensively in forested remnants in the Yetholme area.</p> <p>Populations are known to persist in the Lithgow area and Little Hartley. In total there are more than 30 sites where the purple copper butterfly has been recorded but this number will be reduced when some sites are merged after review of site proximity to each other and the probability of butterfly movements between sites/patches taken into account (pers. comm. D. Coote OEH).</p> <p>Kennedy Park (B14) contains about 1.9 ha of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> habitat that has been used by purple copper butterfly but also contains further areas of habitat that has not been mapped. In recent years a decline of occupied habitat was detected (2015/2016,</p>

	<p>2016/2017 no caterpillars found despite two nocturnal surveys), but one adult was observed in the recent 2016 flight period indicating that the species is still present somewhere on a perhaps un-monitored site.</p> <p>The exact area of habitat (<i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i>) currently occupied by purple copper butterfly is unknown across the entire potential range of the species. In the first year of this proposal it is intended to experimentally burn only 1.5% of the known/mapped 1.9 ha of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> on Kennedy Park (B14). At a landscape scale this is only one site of the 30 or more known locations. Further limited burning of less than 20% habitat at another two sites is planned only after detailed review of the results at B14 and a non-negative finding.</p> <p>The proposed ecological experimental burn using point ignition methodology, and protection of 98% of known habitat using wet-lines will not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) reduce the known extent of habitat but will modify 1.5% of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> as a result of the action. However this modification is expected to enhance the growth of this plant species and increase foraging resources for the purple copper butterfly</li> <li>2) fragment or isolate the experimental site from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and</li> <li>3) be expected to negatively impact the long-term survival of the species in the locality</li> </ol> <p>All sites have been monitored for purple copper butterfly population densities over the breeding season of 2015-16 and 2016-17. The burn areas proposed will not be within plant clumps currently occupied by butterfly pupae and will be conducted in an experimental mosaic design and monitoring will be continued over the following breeding seasons (2017, 2018, 2019) by CTLLS staff to assess the outcomes of low intensity burning.</p> <p>See attached extended methodology.</p>
<p>16. Provide an assessment of the likely nature and intensity of the effect of the action on the lifecycle and habitat of the species.</p>	<p>It is intended that the experimental design of this project will investigate the effect of cool ecological fires on both the recovery of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> through supposed positive vegetative responses and a resulting positive population response of purple copper butterfly because of increased fresh <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> foliage.</p> <p>During the period of intended cool ecological burning (late autumn) the only life stage of purple copper butterfly present within the study area are the pupae. This proposal will not burn clumps of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> that have been occupied by larvae in the previous season. These pupae reside over winter underground within the nests of ants and are therefore insulated against the above ground temperatures of the fire. The proposed mosaic low intensity late autumn burns result with very low ground temperatures (17-20°C) (mean = 20.5, n=30, unpublished personal data) and are highly unlikely to have negative impacts on pupae. There are no larvae feeding above ground during the period proposed by this study.</p>

	<p>Studies by New (2000) on the dull copper butterfly using much higher intensity hot burns found no negative impacts on underground larvae that were sheltering during burning.</p> <p>Blackthorn <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> is the only known food plant of this butterfly and positively responds to fire by re-sprouting from the base/rhizome following low intensity burning outside the summer period (Cayzer 1999). This proposal is expected to result in an increased availability of suitable food resources in the following spring with the possibility of increasing local populations of the endangered purple copper butterfly. The subsequent monitoring programme will measure the resulting intensities of the responses by purple copper butterfly and <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i>.</p> <p><b>Inappropriate hot summer fire</b> represents a threat to all stages of the life cycle of the Purple Copper Butterfly, with hot fire during active periods of the species' life cycle potentially killing flying adults or foraging caterpillars (particularly early instar larvae, which spend their time on the plant). High intensity fire which consumes leaf litter could present a threat to dormant larvae during late summer and early autumn, which are secreted/pupate underground in the ant nests at the base of the plant. There is a current risk, due to high fuel loads that either an early autumn or summer uncontrolled fire could cause significant damage (pers. comm. RFS Bathurst). This burning proposal will significantly reduce the risk of catastrophic summer fires causing site extinction of the endangered purple copper butterfly.</p>
<p>17. Provide details of possible measures to avoid or ameliorate the effect of the action.</p>	<p>The team that will conduct the burn has been formed through partnership with the Rural Fire Service and Central Tablelands Local Land Services. In addition members of the Local Aboriginal Land Council will assist Dr Milton Lewis in coordinating and conducting the appropriate methodology. As team leader for the burn, Dr Milton Lewis has more than 20 years experience in this methodology from previous work in the Northern Territory and Queensland. Local Land Services staff and some members of the Local Aboriginal Land Council team have in addition participated in cultural burning training camps in Cape York that were facilitated by northern Traditional Owners. All members of these groups in addition to cultural fire training have undergone RFS fire training, awareness and safety courses. The Rural Fire Service will provide equipment during the burn, including water tankers for managing wet fire-breaks around the prescribed burn areas.</p> <p>Conducting the prescribed burn under late autumn cool wet conditions will produce a low intensity burn (flame height below 50cm) and reduce the potential for the fire to consume mid- to deeper-levels of leaf litter around the base of plants, where pupae reside within underground in ant nests. However this proposal will not burn within areas containing larvae in the previous 2 years and therefore will have no immediate effect on the species at each burn site. The sites have been randomly determined (excluding sites used in the previous season) to ensure that statistically useful results are obtained from the smallest area burnt, ensuring that no more than 1.5% of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> is burnt within the entire B14 location.</p>

	<p>The perimeter of all nominated sites for burning and controls (controlling for effect of increased water availability for <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> plants) will be watered prior to burning to ensure the control of the fire edge. The fire will only be ignited under optimal conditions for a cool burn as prescribed in the <b>burn plan and risk assessment</b> that will be developed in consultation/partnership with the RFS. Adequate staff numbers will be supplied by all parties to ensure the prescribed burn is performed according to the RFS plan.</p> <p>See attached extended methodology</p>
<p><i>N.B: The Director-General must determine whether the action proposed is likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats. To enable this assessment the Applicant is required to address items 18 to 24. Any additional information referred to in addressing these items must be attached to the application.</i></p>	
<p>18. In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.</p>	<p>It is not expected that the proposed experimental burning will have any negative impacts on any life stage of the purple copper butterfly. However the statistical design of the experiment has minimised the necessary extent of burning required (1.5% of available habitat at only one known location). This very small amount of habitat modification will not cause the loss of a local population if the effects are negative. In addition, the proposed burns will be implemented so as to result in a patchy final fire ground, with all occupied plants being protected from fire. Prescribed fire applied under these constraints will not place any of the target populations at risk of extinction.</p>
<p>19. In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>20. In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:</p> <p>(i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological</p>	<p>Please refer to question 12 of this application for more details</p> <p>Kennedy Park (B14) is largely comprised of Tableland Basalt Forest; the surrounding landscapes, while frequently cleared, often retain scattered stands and remnants of this endangered ecological community. Applying a prescribed cool ecological burn to 0.04% of</p>



<p>community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or</p> <p>(ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.</p>	<p>the 58 ha site will not place the community at risk of extinction locally.</p> <p>Application of a cool ecological burning programme is a recognised tool for the revitalisation and rejuvenation of native Australian landscapes, forming a part of most management programs for remnant vegetation such as occurs in national parks and nature reserves.</p> <p>Implementing the burn as proposed is not likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the community, such that it is placed at risk of extinction locally.</p>
<p>21. In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:</p> <p>(i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and</p> <p>(ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and</p> <p>(iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.</p>	<p>Total site areas are provided in question 7 of this application. Final burn plans will limit the size of fire grounds at Kennedy Park to 1.5% (250m<sup>2</sup>) of known purple copper butterfly habitat and under 20% at the two other sites (B3, B6). Burning at B3 and B6 will not occur in 2018 unless the review of results for B14 are not negative. This very small area of habitat modification is highly unlikely to place these local populations of purple copper butterfly at risk of extinction. Previous published work on the outcome of burning with a similar species (dull copper butterfly) would indicate a positive population response from the experimental procedure (New 2000).</p> <p>Application of fire as proposed, with point ignition and active suppression around the edge of the prescribed burn area will create a mosaic of burnt and unburnt habitat areas across each fire ground (see attached extended methodology). This will not fragment or isolate habitats, with butterflies easily able to fly across intervening burnt spaces (25m<sup>2</sup>), if their activity remains focussed on unburnt habitats in the post-fire environment. The size of each burn patch was specifically designed to ensure successful movements of butterflies were not hindered within the area of B14.</p> <p>Purple copper butterfly populations apparently remain faithful within selected <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> clumps from year to year, although no experimental study of dispersal has been conducted. Personal observations of purple copper butterflies has on many occasions noted individuals of the species feeding on nectar of native flowers at distances greater than 50m from <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i>. In the absence of appropriate data, occupied habitats appear to be extremely important for the species' long-term survival at any given site. To account for the apparent sedentary nature of the species the experimental design of the project will only burn areas that are smaller (5m diameter circles of <i>B. spinosa</i> ssp. <i>lasiophylla</i> clumps) than the observed unpublished dispersal events. This methodology will prevent fragmentation of the local population within the site and therefore not reduce the long-term survival of the species.</p>

	<p>This project also aims to investigate whether adjacent unoccupied habitats will become occupied following disturbance, such as by the application of fire, as no-one presently understands how important unoccupied habitat is, with regard to long-term movement of the species under changing environmental conditions (disturbance from fire, heating / drying climate). Monitoring will occur in adjacent control sites to investigate this aspect.</p>
22. Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly).	N/A
23. Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.	<p>The recovery plan for the species suggests that fire may have been a factor maintaining an open canopy at some sites (page 11), which has allowed the butterfly to persist (at the time of writing 16 of the then-known sites had been exposed to recent and relatively frequent fire), however the plan also acknowledges that there are knowledge gaps for species management, amongst which it lists the role of fire.</p> <p>Exclusion of fire from butterfly sites is identified as a threat to the species, however citing threats to butterflies and caterpillars the Plan recommends that burning is planned with consideration for the ecology of the species, and that it occurs in the period of pupation (being optimally March to June) and in accordance with guidelines included at Appendix 4, that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• site descriptions are prepared prior to burning, defining utilisation of habitat</li> <li>• &lt;50% of any one site is treated per annum</li> <li>• An assessment of impact is conducted (this Licence application includes this assessment process)</li> </ul> <p>The actions and methodologies described in this proposal have acknowledged and incorporated the above recommendations of the recovery plan. In addition the data resulting from this work will provide essential information for developing future management plans for the purple copper butterfly.</p>
24. Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.	<p>Inappropriate fire regimes is listed as a Key Threatening Process under the TSSC 1995.</p> <p>With regard to the Tablelands Basalt Forest EEC, Gill &amp; Catling (in Bradstock, Williams &amp; Gill (Eds) 2002) suggest that prior to European settlement tall forests would have likely burnt at low intensity but frequently, on account of rapid accumulation of fuels in this vegetation type, so it may be that the long absence of fire from the proposed burn areas (probably &gt;40 years) has had a negative effect on species abundance, with species requiring more frequent fire probably occurring now at low density, if at all.</p> <p>Please refer to question 12 of this application for more details</p>

## **Important information for the applicant**

### **Processing times and fees**

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* provides that the Director-General must make a decision on the licence application within 120 days where a species impact statement (SIS) has been received. No timeframes have been set for those applications which do not require a SIS. The Director-General will assess your application as soon as possible. You can assist this process by providing clear and concise information in your application.

Applicants may be charged a processing fee. The Director-General is required to advise prospective applicants of the maximum fee payable before the licence application is lodged. Therefore, prospective applicants should contact the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) prior to submitting a licence application.

A \$30 licence application fee must accompany a licence application.

### **Protected fauna and protected native plants<sup>\*</sup>**

Licensing provisions for protected fauna and protected native plants are contained within the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. However, a Section 91 Licence may be extended to include protected fauna and protected native plants when these will be affected by the action.

If you are applying for a licence to cover both threatened and protected species please provide the information requested in Item 10 *as well as* a list of protected species and details of the number of individuals animals or proportion and type of plant material which are likely to be harmed or picked.

### **Request for additional information**

The Director-General may, after receiving the application, request additional information necessary for the determination of the licence application.

### **Species impact statement**

Where the application is not accompanied by a SIS, the Director-General may decide, following an initial assessment of your application, that the action proposed is likely to have a significant effect on threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats. In such cases, the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* requires that the applicant submit a SIS. Following initial review of the application, the Director-General will advise the applicant of the need to prepare a SIS.

### **Director-General's requirements for a SIS**

Prior to the preparation of a SIS, a request for Director-General's requirements must be forwarded to the relevant OEH Office. The SIS must be prepared in accordance with section 109 and 110 of the TSC Act and must comply with any requirements notified by the Director-General of OEH.

### **Disclosure of Personal Information in the Public Register of s91 Licences**

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<sup>\*</sup> Protected fauna means fauna of a species not named in Schedule 11 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Protected native plant means a native plant of a species named in Schedule 13 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Service 1974*.

The Public Register provides a list of licence applications and licences granted. A person about whom personal information is contained in a public register may request that the information is removed or not placed on the register as publicly available.

Copies of all applications and licences issued under section 91 and certificates issued under section 95 of the Act are available on the OEH website at

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/S91TscRegisterByDate.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/S91TscRegisterByDate.htm)

or in hardcopy form from The Librarian, OEH, 59 Goulburn St, Sydney.

## Certificates

If the Director-General decides, following an assessment of your application, that the proposed action is not likely to significantly affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, a Section 91 Licence is not required and the Director-General must, as soon as practicable after making the determination, issue the applicant with a certificate to that effect.

*N.B: An action that is not required to be licensed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, may require licensing under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, if it is likely to affect protected fauna or protected native plants.*

I confirm that the information contained in this application is correct. I hereby apply for a licence under the provisions of Section 91 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Applicant's name *Mr Peter Sparkes*  
(Please print)

Applicant's Position & *General Manager*  
Organisation (if relevant)  
(Please print)

Applicant's signature



Date *16 January 2017*

For more information or to lodge this form, contact the nearest branch of OEH's Conservation and Regulation Division:

Metropolitan Branch  
P: 02 9995 6802  
F: 02 9995 6900  
PO Box 668  
Parramatta  
NSW 2124

North East Branch  
P: 02 6640 2500  
F: 02 6642 7743  
PO Box 498  
Grafton  
NSW 2460

North East Branch  
P: 02 4908 6800  
F: 02 4908 6810  
PO Box 488G,  
Newcastle  
NSW 2300

North West Branch  
P: 02 6883 5330  
F: 02 6884 8675  
PO Box 2111  
Dubbo  
NSW 2830

South Branch  
Biodiversity Conservation Section  
P: 02 6122 3100  
F: 02 6299 3525  
PO Box 622 Queanbeyan  
NSW 2620

Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)  
PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232  
Phone: 131 555 (Environment Line) Fax: 9995 5999  
Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)