



Australian Government

Department of the Environment

# Implementing the One-Stop Shop reform

EIANZ SEQ webinar – 21 January 2014

Stephanie Secomb and Joe Walters



# Summary

1. One-Stop Shop policy and update
2. Implementation
3. Future directions

We'll answer questions at the end of the presentation, but please feel free to send your questions through as we go.



**Stephanie Secomb**



**Joe Walters**

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# ***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)***

- Nine matters of national environmental significance
- Protection of the environment, where Commonwealth land or agencies are involved
- Approval is only required if a *significant impact* is likely
- EPBC Act environmental assessment has three main steps:
  - Part 7 – Referral (i.e. *is it significant?*)
  - Part 8 – Assessment (i.e. *is there sufficient information?*)
  - Part 9 – Approval (i.e. *all considered, is it acceptable?*)





# Bilateral agreements: what do they do?

- Assessment bilateral agreements – new or updated
  - state/territory assessment, in lieu of EPBC Act assessment
  - projects are referred to Commonwealth before assessment
  - Commonwealth Minister retains approval power
- Approval bilateral agreements – new
  - accredit state/territory assessment and approval processes
  - exemption from Commonwealth referral/assessment/approval



# Queensland assessment bilateral agreement

- Finalised 18 December 2014
  - Accredits Qld to undertake assessment of MNES for actions assessed:
    - by EIS under the:
      - *Sustainable Planning Act*
      - *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act*
      - *Environmental Protection Act*
    - by a new Impact Assessment Report under the:
      - *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act* (for lower-risk projects).
  - A draft approval bilateral agreement has been out for public comment.
- 



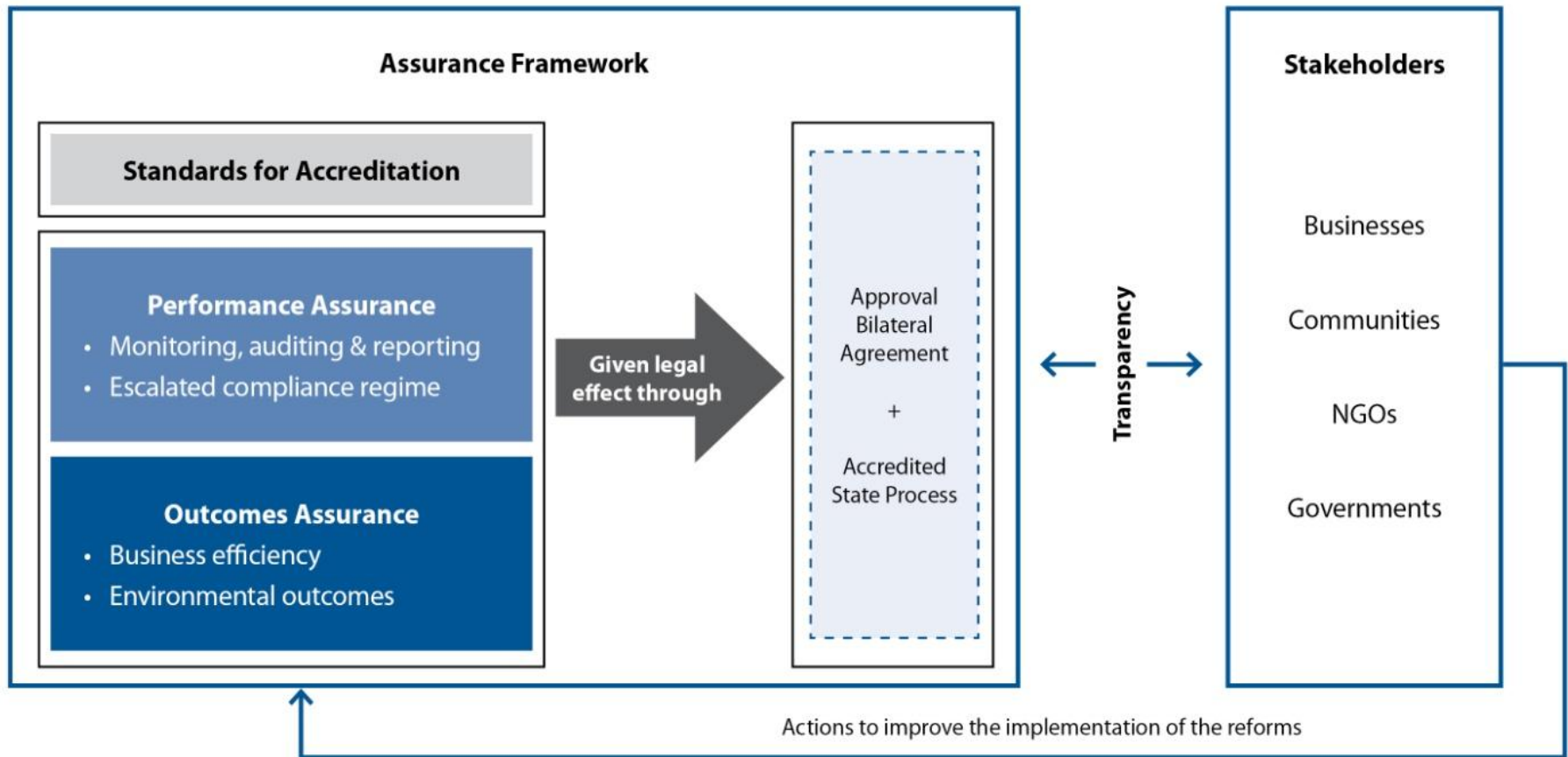
# Benefits of the One-Stop Shop

- Simpler, faster assessment and approval process with increased certainty for investors
- Increased sharing of environmental data between business, governments and the community
- Opens the way for a more coordinated and shared strategic approach nationally to important elements of environment policy and regulation
- Facilitates the integration of EPBC Act requirements into state and territory assessment processes
- Single holistic environmental assessment and approval decision



# Assurance framework

- The assurance framework provides appropriate checks and balances to help ensure a robust and legally durable reform



# Current status of agreements

Jurisdiction	Assessment Bilateral Agreement	Approval Bilateral Agreement
QLD	Signed – 18 December 2014	Consultation closed –13 June 2014
NSW	Signed – 20 December 2013	Consultation closed –13 June 2014
WA	Signed – 3 October 2014	Consultation closes – 13 February 2015
VIC	Signed – 27 October 2014	Negotiating
SA	Signed – 25 September 2014	Consultation closes – 2 February 2015
NT	Signed – 11 December 2014	Negotiating
TAS	Signed – 22 October 2014	Consultation closed – 11 September 2014
ACT	Signed – 16 June 2014	Consultation closes – 12 September 2014

- The Government has introduced amendments to the EPBC Act to facilitate the effective and efficient operation of the One-Stop Shop
- Once the amendments pass the Senate, the Minister can sign the approval bilateral agreements and table state processes for accreditation
- The approval bilateral agreements will take effect once the relevant state processes pass the disallowance period



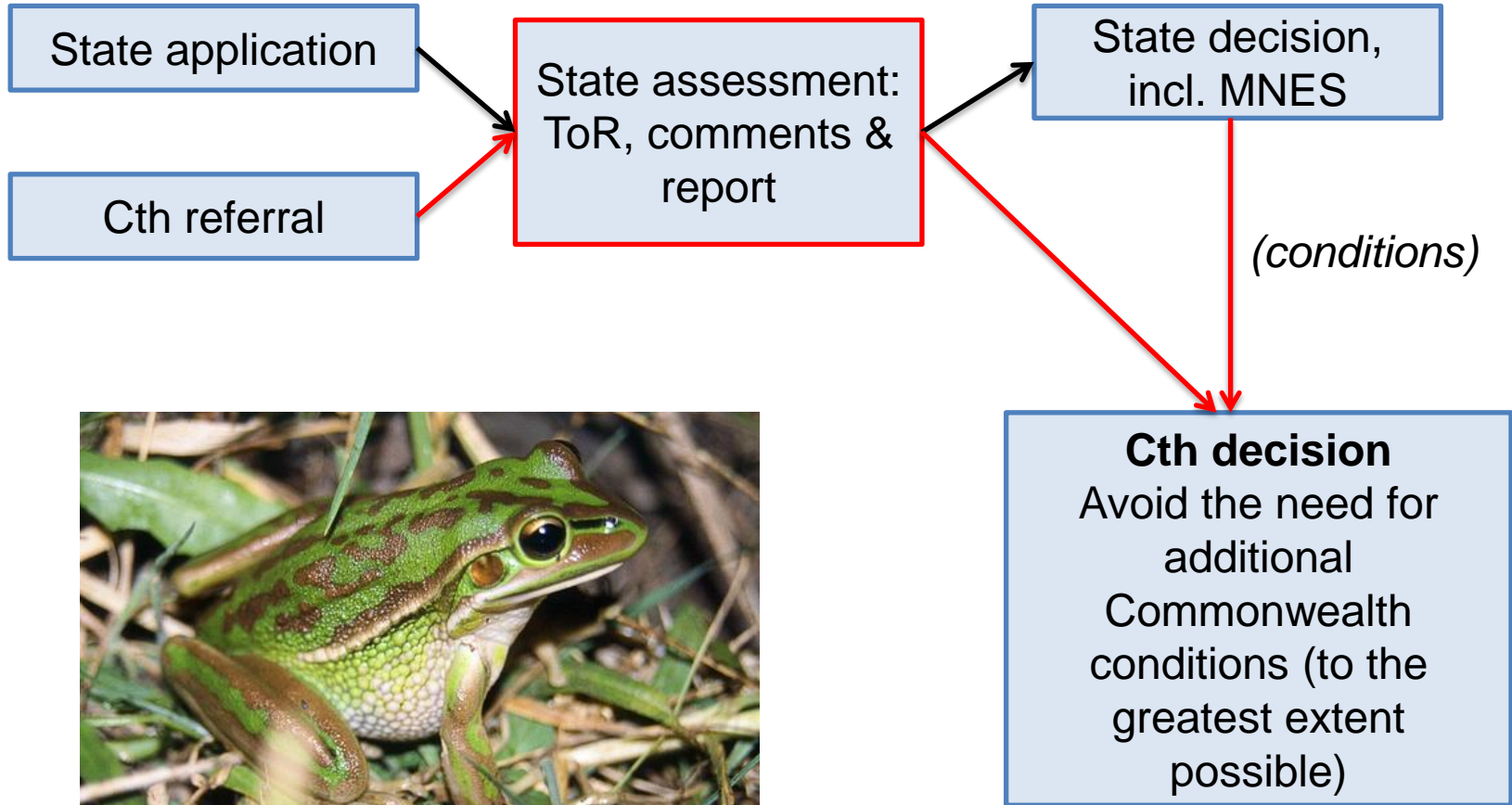
# Implementation

## ➤ Objective

- Maximise the benefits of the assessment and approval bilateral agreements
- Ensure smooth transition to full operation of approval bilateral agreements
- Achieve early gains from streamlining measures



# Implementation: assessment bilateral agreements



# Implementation: approval bilateral agreements

- Commonwealth continues to fulfil its national stewardship role in setting environmental policy and standards
- Commonwealth maintains an assurance and support role for One-Stop Shop implementation
- Commonwealth engagement continues with state agencies





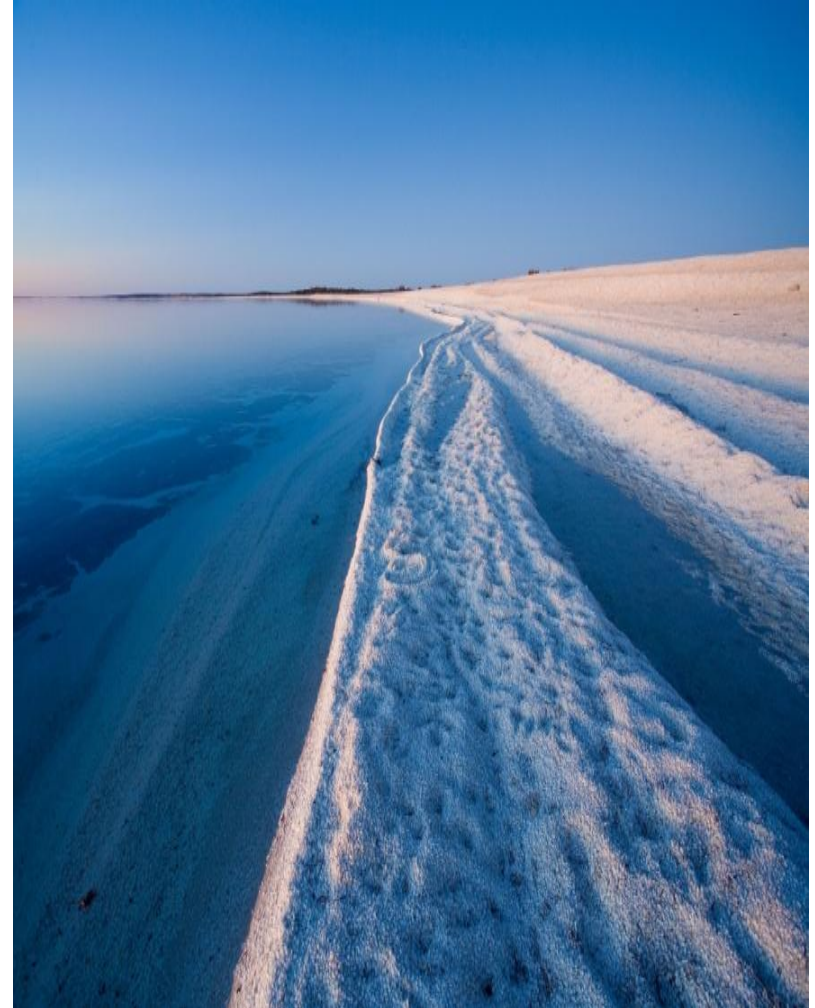
# Implementation: governance and assurance

- Senior Officers' Committees provide governance and oversight
- Audit, reviews and reporting are part of the approval bilateral agreements
- Clear dispute resolution for resolving issues as early and efficiently as possible
- These elements are part of the assurance framework and will help ensure commitments are met.



# Implementation: strengthening capacity

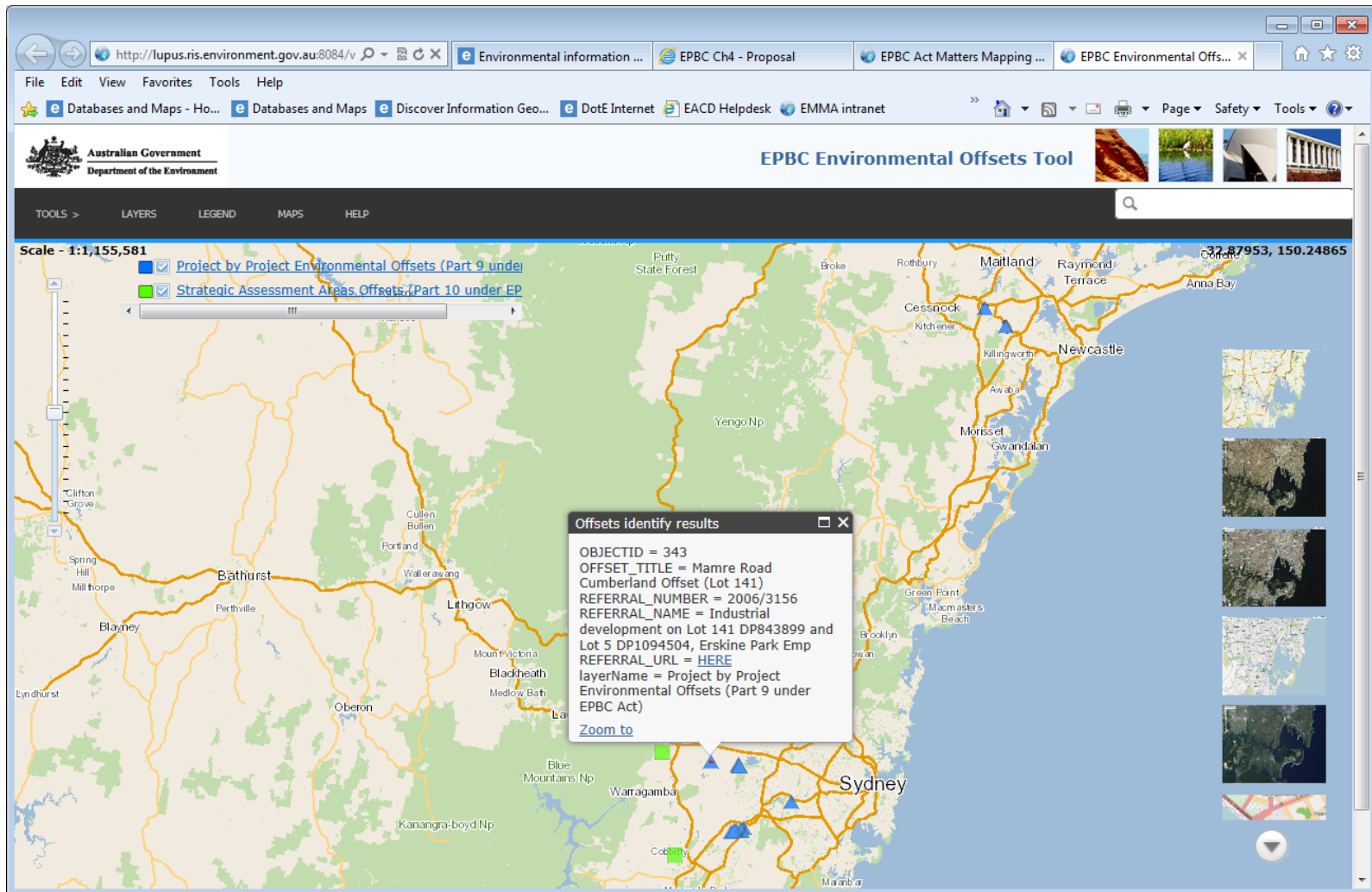
- Capacity-building with Commonwealth embedded officers
- Ongoing workshops and expert advice
- Guidance for Industry
- Data sharing, spatial tools and information





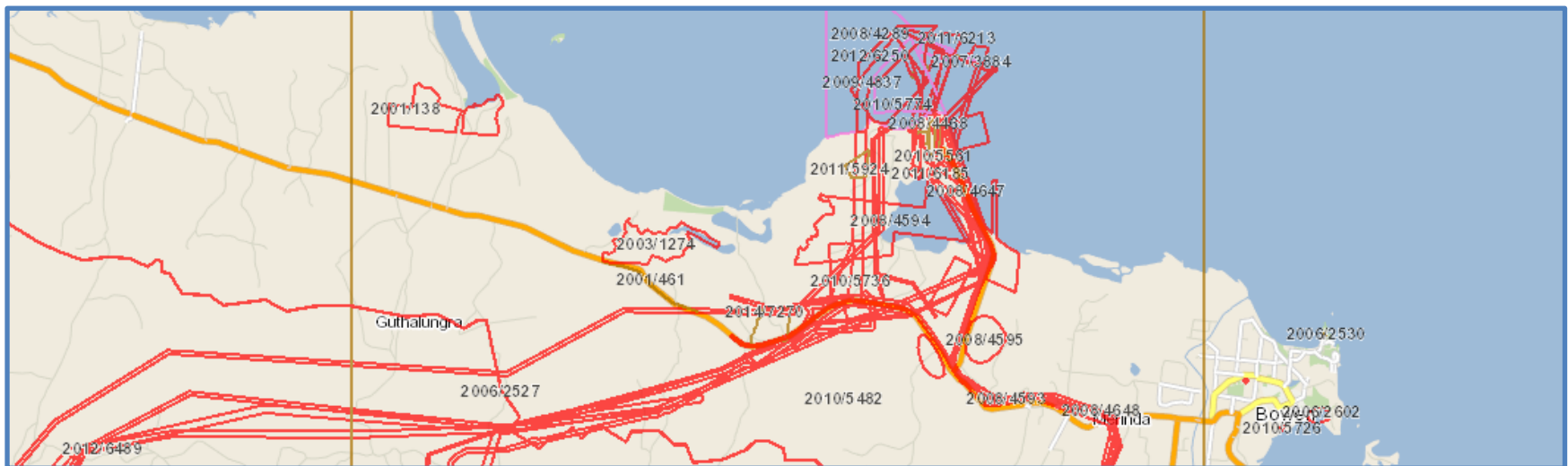
# EPBC Environmental Offsets Tool

- Internet tool that captures the spatial boundaries of direct environmental offsets secured under the EPBC Act



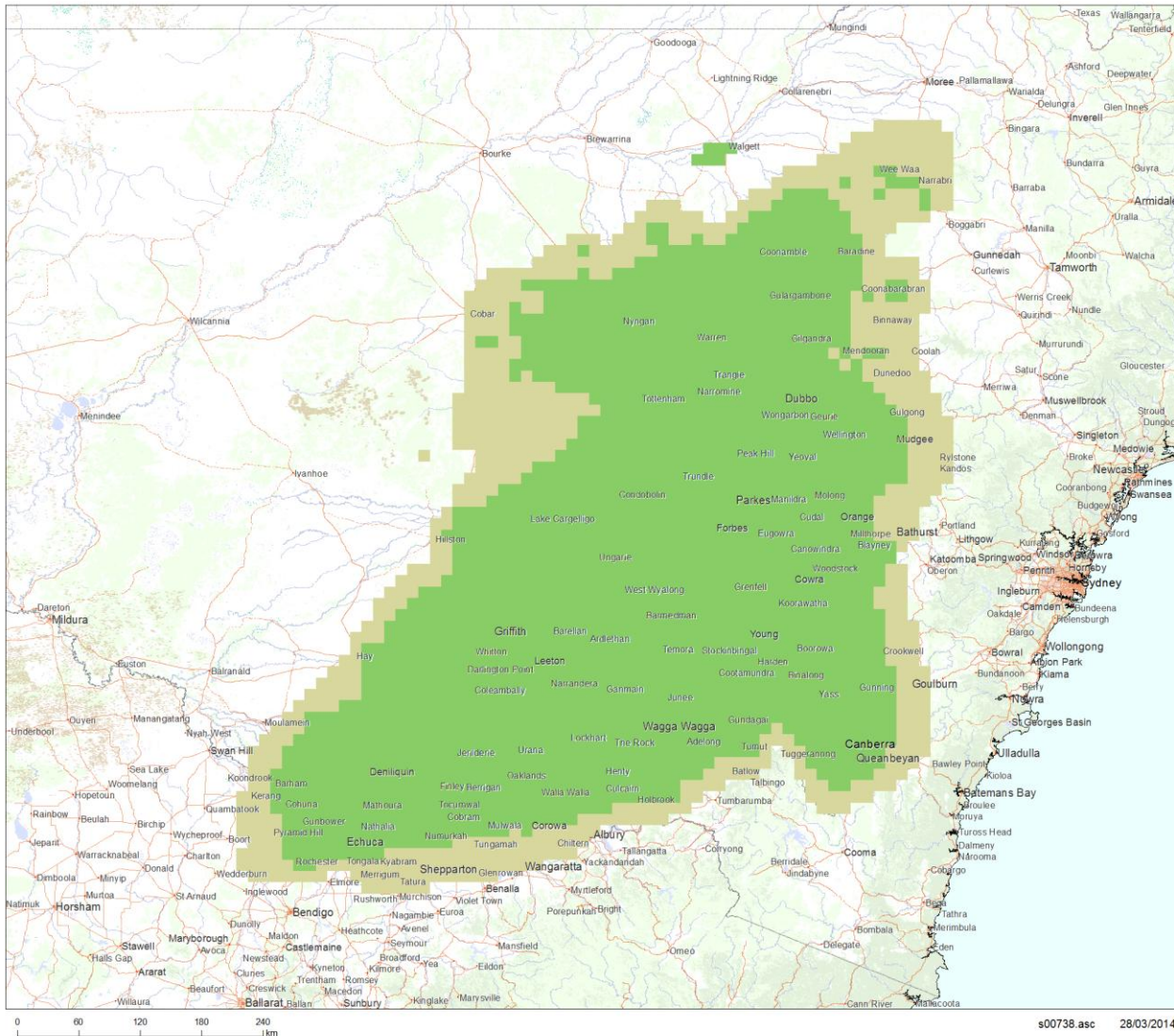
# Referrals dataset

- Maintain proposed development footprint of referrals
- Efficiencies can be gained by understanding what has gone before in the vicinity of a proposed action
- Allows us to look at cumulative impacts and pressures on the landscape



# Generalised grid product (10km resolution)

*Polytelis swainsonii* Superb Parrot



## Species of National Environmental Significance, Map Summary Version 1 2014

### Distribution

Species or species habitat likely to occur

Species or species habitat may occur

### Commonwealth Marine Area



Produced by: Environmental Resources Information Network  
Contextual data source: Geoscience Australia (2006), Geodata Topo 250K Topographic Data

Indicative Map Only: This map has been compiled from datasets with a range of geographic scales and quality. Species distributions are indicative only and not to be used for local assessment. Local knowledge and information should be sought to confirm the presence of the species, or its habitat, at the location of interest.



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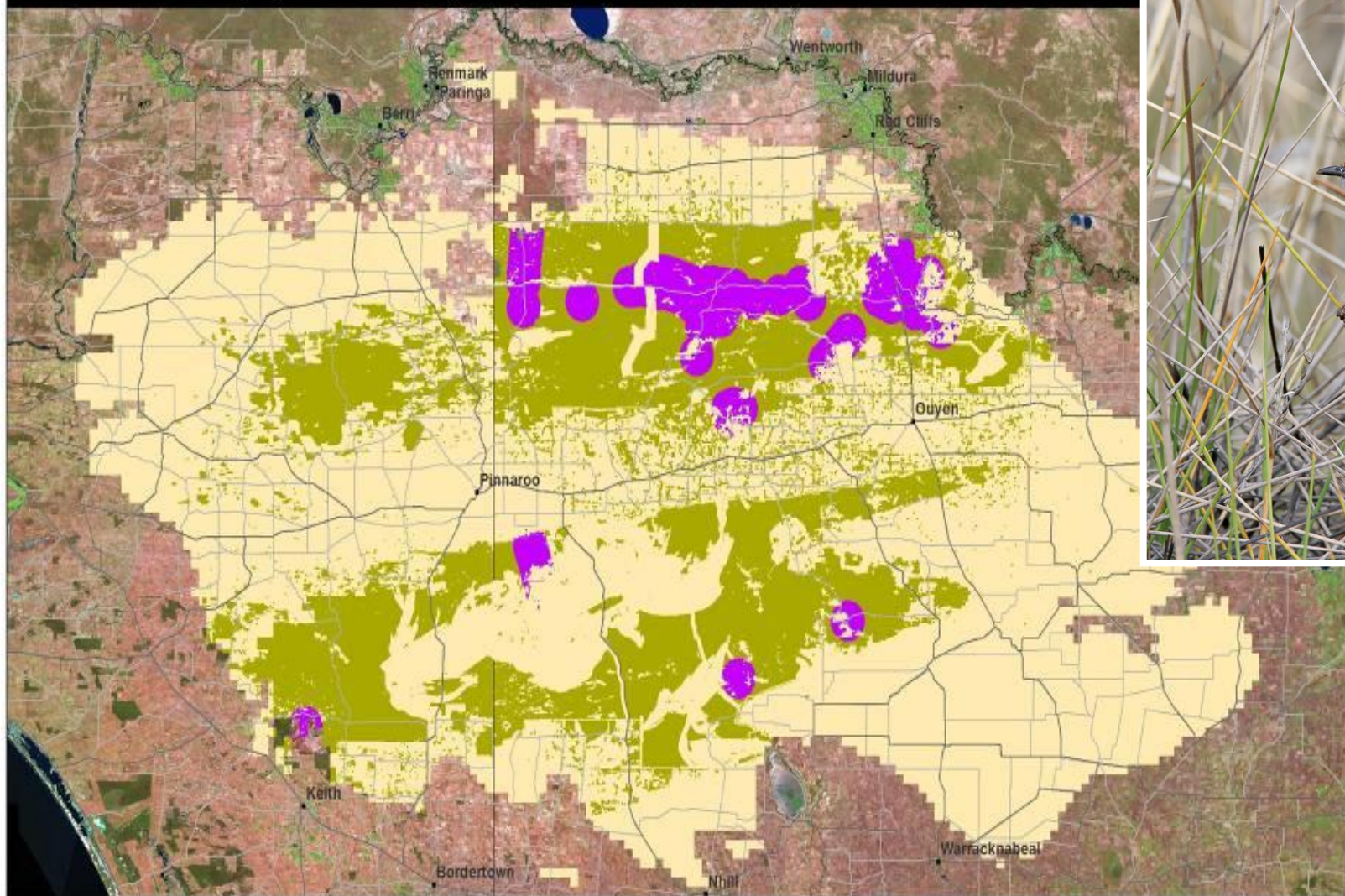
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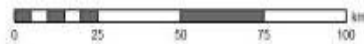


# Mallee Emu-wren (*Stipiturus mallee*)



## Legend

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| — Major Roads | Known to Occur Areas  |
| — Minor Roads | Likely to Occur Areas |
|               | May Occur Areas       |



Projection: Geographic  
Datum: GDA 1994  
1:1,201,091

# Next steps for 2015

- Implementing assessment bilateral agreements
  - Senior Officers Committees
  - Transitional support
  - Data sharing
- Pursuing amendments to the EPBC Act
- Entering into approval bilateral agreements





# Future directions

- Further streamlining:
  - outlined in Schedule 4 of each approval bilateral agreement
  - a range of measures in each state
  - focus on strategic approaches
- Outcomes-based regulation



To stay up to date with progress on the One-Stop Shop reforms, visit the Department's website at [www.environment.gov.au/epbc/one-stop-shop](http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/one-stop-shop).

