

Good morning. I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk people. I am speaking here on behalf of team of Wetland Watchers who have now spent over two months attempting to ensure that the contractors comply with the Fauna Management Plan and the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Every day we watch and nearly every day I send an email to both the EPA and to the Federal Minister for the Environment – who claimed on the 15th February that neither he or his Department has received any report of breaches on site. These emails contain photos that outline the breaches we have just observed – and that try to prevent further breaches occurring. 20 emails so far, 20, and about 50, that's 50, breaches reported — and, to date, one response from the EPA, less than two pages long. That's one 8 paragraph letter responding to around 125 pages of emails.

Soon after the construction fences went up in early December, we became increasingly concerned about practices on site. We saw the constructors and trappers doing things that we couldn't believe to be compliant with the EPA approvals so we started investigating. Now we are a well-organised team, with well-established daily routines and reporting methods.

We can now quote parts of the FMP and the CEMP verbatim. We are familiar with DPaW Standard Operating Procedures and we have spent hours talking to fauna trapping and translocation experts as well as watching the site.

In an early conversation, an RSPCA inspector told me that in heavy rain traps must be closed or animals will drown. Table 7 of the FMP states: “In periods large volumes of rain traps will be closed after checking and reopened in the late afternoon to avoid capturing and drowning due to flooding.”

As far as I am aware it doesn't only rain in the daytime in Western Australia and animals are just as likely to drown at nighttime as during the day.

This was just the first of many inconsistencies and confusions we found within the Management Plans. Ian Munro of the Compliance

Division of the EPA admitted as much to me in a telephone

conversation on the 11th January regarding an inconsistency between section 4.2.3 and Table 7 of the FMP that I'd raised with him. He told me it took him "hours to work out", was "bloody confusing" and that the plans were "really badly written". Those are direct quotes.

The first most obvious signs of non-compliance were with dust management. According to Table 6 of the CEMP: "Water carts are to be operational at all times in dry and windy conditions". Throughout clearing if a cart has actually been on site it has rarely been used and never effectively.

Asbestos has already been dealt with.

We have photos of bandicoots being removed from the site hours before clearing commenced – despite the FMP requiring two clear nights before clearing starts.

We've seen consistently poor trapping practices – confirmed by trapping experts, one of whom described the trapping processes as tokenism. We've seen bandicoot traps removed from an area the night before clearing is scheduled – to ensure a clear night.

We've seen an area cleared after two days and nights of heavy rain when no trapping should have occurred, and where we know they caught the morning before the rain started, so no two clear nights.

We have seen a bulldozer pierce a barrel of unidentified liquid that started pouring onto the ground – yet clearing continued in contravention of Section 2.4.5 of the CEMP.

We have seen workers, police cars and horses, a cherry picker, water truck and the bulldozer drive between uninterpretable and uninfected sections of the site without any form of hygiene or washdown procedures in contravention of Dieback protocols in Table 10 of the CEMP.

And all of these breaches of compliance, and more, have been reported to the EPA – and all of them have either been ignored, or dismissed in that 8 paragraph letter.

Thank you for your time.