

APPENDIX 1 – EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REF

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Name and Qualifications	Experience
<p>Steve Sass B.App.Sci (Env.Sci) (Hons), GradCert.CaptVert.Mngt (CSU) Director / Principal Ecologist / Project Manager</p> <p>Certified Environmental Practitioner, EIANZ OEH Biobanking and Biocertification Assessor Member, Ecological Consultants Association of NSW (ECA)</p>	<p>Steve is a highly experienced Consulting Ecologist having undertaken hundreds of terrestrial and aquatic ecological surveys and assessments across Australia since 1992. He has an in-depth working knowledge of environmental and biodiversity legislation across all states and territories which allows him to provide detailed and accurate assessments and formulate practical solutions to clients and specific projects on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Previous and current research holds Steve in high regard within both the scientific and ecological consultants' community. Steve was recently given 'Expert' status for 23 species listed under the NSW <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and is currently working with OEH on the Saving our Species Program for a newly identified species of dragon lizard in western NSW (<i>Ctenophorus mirrityana</i>) which Steve collaborated with other scientists to formally describe.</p> <p>Steve has extensive experience in western NSW. Over the past ten years, he has completed or provided specialist biodiversity advice to more than 600 environmental assessments for projects such as residential and industrial developments, highway upgrades and telecommunications, water, sewerage, energy, mining and electricity network infrastructure projects. Steve is highly conversant with the flora, vegetation communities, fauna and their habitats of the region. His expertise with regard to forest and wetland birds, reptiles, frogs and mammals is well known.</p> <p>Steve brings to this project his knowledge of the biodiversity of western NSW, and his extensive scientific background as a past employee of the Ecology and Biodiversity Group within the Institute for Land, Water and Society, a leading research group at Charles Sturt University, Australia's largest regional university and his accreditation as a BioBanking and Biocertification Assessor with OEH, and a Certified Environmental Practitioner by the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>For the REF Steve was the Project manager and the senior author.</p>
<p>Atticus Fleming Chief Executive Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p>	<p>Atticus is the Chief Executive of AWC. He has been with AWC for 14 years, and was previously a policy advisor to the Federal Environment Minister for six years which included extensive work on the development of the EPBC Act. He is currently an advisor to the Threatened Species Commissioner and a</p>

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	member of the Steering Committee for the Threatened Species Recovery Hub (NESP). He has held previous roles as a commercial and constitutional lawyer in the private and public sector.
<p>Dr John Kanowski PhD, BAppSc (Hons), BA National Science and Conservation Manager Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p> <p>Adjunct Research Fellow, Centre for Innovative Conservation Strategies, Griffith School of Environment</p> <p>Member Ecological Society of Australia</p>	John is AWC's National Science and Conservation Manager. He has been with Australian Wildlife Conservancy for eight years, and has 20 years' experience in applied research on ecology, conservation and restoration.
<p>Dr Rod Kavanagh PhD, MSc, GDipNatRes, DipAppSc NSW Senior Ecologist Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p>	Rod is AWC's Senior Ecologist for NSW, with responsibility for implementing AWC's science program in Mallee Cliffs NP. He has conducted extensive research on wildlife throughout NSW in the past 40 years, and has had a particular research focus in the Pilliga forests over the past 20 years.
<p>Dr Laurence Berry PhD, BSc (Hons) NSW Wildlife Ecologist Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p>	Laurence is a Wildlife Ecologist for AWC's NSW project. He has a background in fire ecology and threatened species.
<p>Dr Viyanna Leo PhD, BSc (Hons) NSW Wildlife Ecologist Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p>	Viyanna is a Wildlife Ecologist for AWC's NSW project. She has a background in predator ecology.
<p>Tim Allard National Operations Manager Australian Wildlife Conservancy</p>	Tim is the National Operations Manager. He has been with Australian Wildlife Conservancy for five years, and has 16 years' experience in key leadership roles in construction, mining and oil and gas industries with a focus on operational delivery, implementation of safe work systems and effective and efficient deployment of resources.
<p>Mark Harris B.App.Sci (Env Res Mgt) Senior Botanist/GIS Analyst</p> <p>Biobanking Assessor (OEH)</p> <p>Member, Ecological Consultants Association of NSW (ECA)</p>	<p>Mark is a highly experienced Botanist having undertaken flora surveys across eastern and central Australia. He has more than 12 years experience in Biodiversity Assessment and Planning. Mark has extensive experience with the flora and vegetation communities of the region confirmed by his two year tenure with the State-wide Native Vegetation Mapping Project.</p> <p>Mark prepared the majority of the maps within this report.</p>
<p>Linda Sass Ass.Deg.Gn.St (Science), B.A, Dip. Ed (Sec)</p>	Linda is an experienced ecologist having conducted flora and fauna surveys across western NSW for the past 9 years. Her recent projects include Threatened Species Investigations for

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<p>Director / Senior Ecologist Member, Ecological Consultants Association of NSW (ECA)</p>	<p>the Roads & Maritime Services where she completed target threatened reptile, bird and mammal surveys, and target threatened flora searches. During this work, she identified a previously unknown population of the threatened plant <i>Swainsona sericea</i>. Linda has a wide variety of experience working in western NSW which includes biodiversity surveys for a proposed mining operation at Nymgee, a Species Impact Statement for a proposed copper project near Hermidale,</p> <p>For this project, Linda conducted an internal review of the REF prior to certification and approval by the Principal Ecologist.</p>