

Briefing Note

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From	Cormac Collins
Date	10 March 2026
Subject	Yathroo Wind Farm: Summer 2026 BBUS

Survey methods

The Summer 2026 BBUS at the Yathroo Wind Farm Project Area was undertaken between 16 February 2026 and 20 February 2026 and is the sixth BBUS completed at the site (following surveys in Spring 2024 and Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring 2025). Field personnel included Senior Ecologist Brittany Osborn, Senior Ecologist Liam Chirio, Ecologist Deon Loo and Ecologist Mark Hutchinson.

Systematic surveys were stratified across fauna habitat types (FHTs) that had been previously defined and delineated within the Project Area (**Figure 1**). The survey work consisted of:

1. **Paired vantage point surveys (30 minutes) and area searches (20 minutes) for birds.** Three replicates of each survey were conducted at sites representing Agriculture (six sites), Banksia Woodland (four sites), Flooded Gum Floodplain (five sites), Jarrah Marri Forest (three sites), Pine Plantation (three sites), and Wetland (one site) FHTs; totalling 22 sites, 132 surveys (66 vantage points and 66 area searches) and 3,300 survey-minutes. One site was unable to be accessed during this survey.
2. **Ultrasonic recordings for bats.** Autonomous recording units (ARUs) were deployed for three nights within Agriculture (three sites), Banksia Woodland (three sites), Flooded Gum Floodplain (two sites), Jarrah Marri Forest (two sites), and Wetland (two sites) FHTs; totalling 12 sites and 36 survey-nights.
3. **Wetland surveys for waterfowl and shorebirds.** Waterbird census was undertaken at four regularly surveyed open-water wetlands and an additional three wetlands that held water (and waterbirds) at the time of survey.
4. **Water quality testing.** Salinity, dissolved oxygen (%) and pH testing was undertaken at seven wetlands alongside the waterbird surveys using a water quality meter.

Incidental/opportunistic observations, especially of conservation significant (those listed under federal or state legislation or ranked as a priority species by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), or at-risk (those most likely to pose a collision risk with wind

turbines) taxa, were made continuously throughout the survey program including whilst travelling between sites.

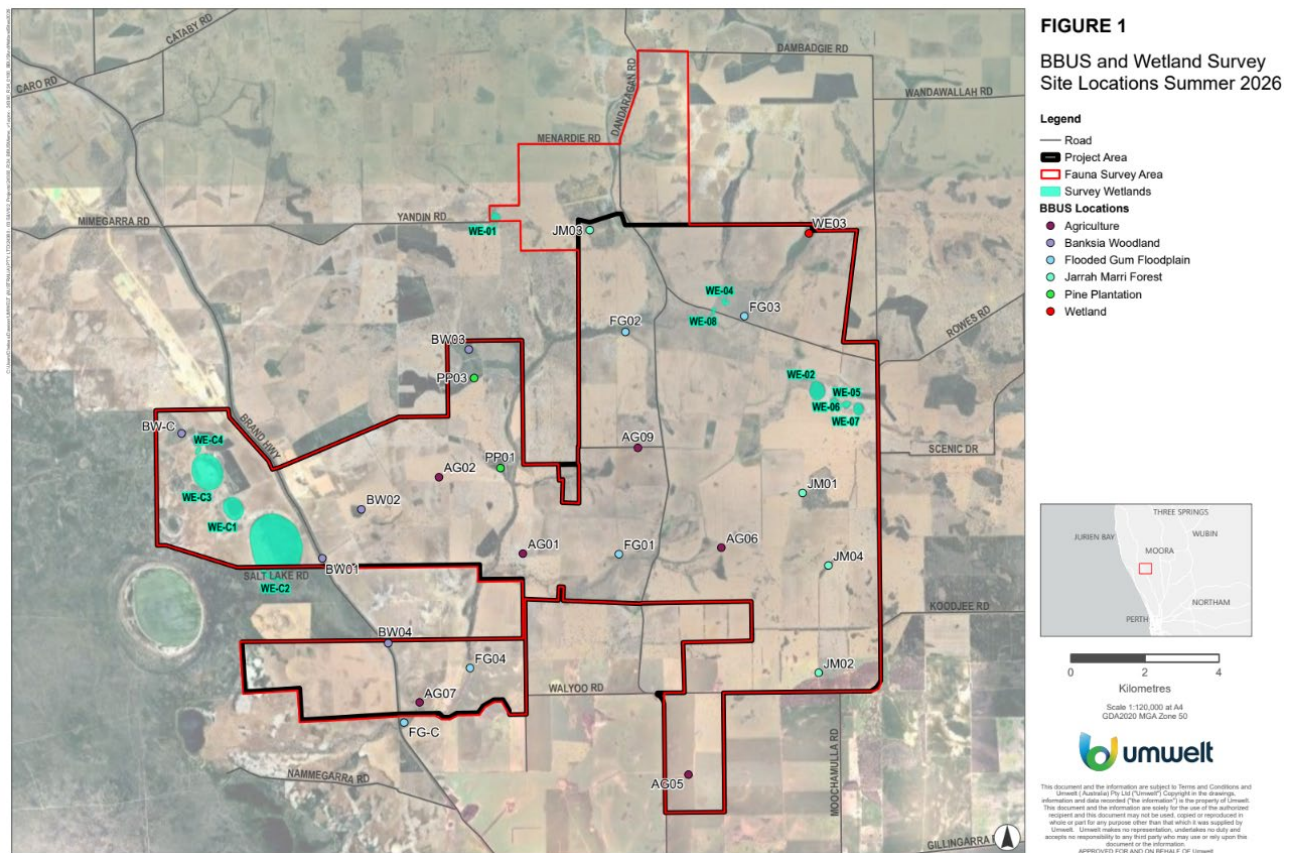


Figure 1 BBUS and Wetland Survey Site Locations

Survey limitations

Several exclusion zones were implemented prior to the 2026 Summer BBUS due to restricted landholder access. As a result, vantage point BW03 (Minty property) could not be accessed during this survey. Correspondence with landholders was positive throughout the week, with no additional access restrictions encountered.

Moderate weather conditions were experienced throughout the week, including warm days and cool nights. Maximum and minimum temperatures of 39°C and 15°C respectively were recorded during the survey period. Wind speeds between 15 km/h and 33 km/hr were experienced throughout the week.

Five wetlands (WE-C3, WE-C4, WE05, WE06 and WE07) had dried up over the summer period and therefore were not surveyed for shorebirds and waterfowl or assessed for water quality.

Results summary

Vantage point and area searches (birds)

- 646 observations from 54 bird species, including 46 species recorded from vantage points, 46 recorded in the area searches and three recorded as incidental observations only.
- Most frequently recorded species included Australian Ringneck, Australian Raven, Galah, Australian Magpie, Rainbow Bee-eater, Grey Fantail, Western Gerygone, Weebill, Western Long-billed Corella and Striated Pardalote.
- One conservation significant species was recorded. A single flock of approximately 70 Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (listed as Endangered under both the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Western Australian *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)) were observed during a vantage point survey.
- Two previously unrecorded species were added in the Spring 2025 surveys: Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Eastern Barn Owl. None of these are of conservation significance.
- Three observations of individuals flying within rotor swept area (RSA) (59 m above ground level), including Black-shouldered Kite (1 record), Wedge-tailed Eagle (1 record) and Whistling Kite (1 record). None of these are conservation significant species
- A complete list of all bird species recorded during the surveys is provided in **Appendix A.1**.

ARU surveys (bats)

- Data will be sent to a subconsultant for analysis. No results are available at present.

Wetland surveys

- 3,140 individuals of 31 waterbird species were counted across all wetlands.
- Two wetlands surveyed (WE-C1 and WE-C2) during the 2026 Summer BBUS recorded migratory shorebirds:
 - A single migrant shorebird was recorded at WE-C1:
 - Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), listed as Endangered and Migratory under both the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Western Australian Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act), with six birds recorded.
 - Three migrant shorebird species were recorded at WE-C2:
 - Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*), listed as Vulnerable and Migratory under both the EPBC Act and the BC Act, with three birds recorded.
 - Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), listed as Migratory under both the EPBC Act and the BC Act, with seven birds recorded.
 - Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), listed as Critically Endangered and Migratory under both the EPBC Act and the BC Act, with one bird recorded.
 - One non-migrant conservation significant species was recorded. The Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*), listed as Priority 4 under the BC Act, with a cumulative record of 30 observations made over two days at WE02.

- Two previously unrecorded species were added in the Spring 2025 surveys: Black-tailed Nativehen and Curlew Sandpiper. The Curlew Sandpiper is of conservation significance.

Incidental records

- Nine incidental observations of raptors were recorded in the Project Area including Wedge-tailed Eagle (5 records), Swamp Harrier (2 records), White-bellied Sea-Eagle (1 record) and Australian Hobby (1 record).
- Two species of raptors were recorded flying at RSA: Wedge-tailed Eagle (2 records) and White-bellied Sea-Eagle (1 record).

Salinity, dissolved oxygen (%) and pH testing results

- Water quality testing, including measurements of salinity, dissolved oxygen (%) and pH were conducted at seven wetland sites. These wetlands include WE-C1, WE-C2, WE01, WE02, WE03, WE04 and WE08. Results are provided in **Appendix A.2**.

Conservation significant species summary

Six conservation significant species were recorded in the Summer 2026 BBUS:

- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (BBUS)
- Blue-billed Duck (wetland surveys)
- Common Greenshank (Wetland surveys)
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Wetland surveys)
- Red-necked Stint (Wetland surveys)
- Curlew Sandpiper (Wetland surveys).

None of these species were recorded flying within the RSA.

Future surveys

The BBUS survey program is progressing as expected and, at this stage, is providing data that are deemed adequate to reasonably assess the risk to most bird and bat species on site. The next monthly migratory shorebird survey is scheduled for 12 March 2026. The requirement for Autumn and Winter BBUS is currently being considered against the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water request for information.

Appendix A

Data Summaries

A.1 Bird species recorded in the Summer 2026 BBUS

Family	Common Name	Taxon	EPBC Act Listing	BC Act Listing	Transect Survey	Vantage Point Survey	Wetland Census	Incidental
Casuariidae	Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>				X		
Anatidae	Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>					X	
	Australian Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadornoides</i>					X	
	Pink-eared Duck	<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus</i>					X	
	Australian Wood Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>					X	
	Australasian Shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>					X	
	Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>					X	
	Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>					X	
	Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>					X	
	Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>		P4			X	
	Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>					X	
Cuculidae	Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites basalis</i>				X		
Columbidae	Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>			X			
	Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>			X	X	X	
Rallidae	Black-tailed Nativehen	<i>Tribonyx ventralis</i>					X	
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					X	
Podicipedidae	Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>					X	
	Hoary-headed Grebe	<i>Poliiocephalus poliocephalus</i>					X	
Recurvirostridae	Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					X	

Family	Common Name	Taxon	EPBC Act Listing	BC Act Listing	Transect Survey	Vantage Point Survey	Wetland Census	Incidental
	Banded Stilt	<i>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</i>					X	
Charadriidae	Red-kneed Dotterel	<i>Erythronyctes alba</i>					X	
	Red-capped Plover	<i>Anarhynchus ruficapillus</i>					X	
	Black-fronted Dotterel	<i>Thinornis melanops</i>					X	
Scolopacidae	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	VU & MI	MI			X	
	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	CR & MI	CR			X	
	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	MI	MI			X	
	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	EN & MI	MI			X	
Laridae	Silver Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae</i>					X	
Phalacrocoracidae	Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>					X	
	Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>					X	
Threskiornithidae	Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>					X	
	Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>					X	
	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>					X	
Ardeidae	White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>			X	X	X	
Pelecanidae	Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>					X	
Accipitridae	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>			X	X		
	Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>				X	X	X
	Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>						X
	Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>			X	X		X
	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i>						X
Tytonidae	Eastern Barn Owl	<i>Tyto javanica</i>			X			
Alcedinidae	Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>			X	X	X	

Family	Common Name	Taxon	EPBC Act Listing	BC Act Listing	Transect Survey	Vantage Point Survey	Wetland Census	Incidental
Meropidae	Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>			X	X	X	
Falconidae	Australian Kestrel	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>			X	X		
	Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>					X	X
	Brown Falcon	<i>Falco berigora</i>				X		
Cacatuidae	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	EN	EN	X	X		
	Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>			X	X	X	
	Western Corella	<i>Cacatua pastinator</i>			X	X	X	
	Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>			X	X		
Psittaculidae	Red-capped Parrot	<i>Purpureicephalus spurius</i>			X	X		
	Australian Ringneck	<i>Barnardius zonarius</i>			X	X	X	
Maluridae	Purple-backed Fairywren	<i>Malurus assimilis</i>			X	X		
	Splendid Fairywren	<i>Malurus splendens</i>			X	X	X	
	White-winged Fairywren	<i>Malurus leucopterus</i>			X	X		
Meliphagidae	White-fronted Chat	<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>				X		
	Brown Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>			X	X		
	Singing Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis virescens</i>			X		X	
	Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>			X	X		
	Yellow-throated Miner	<i>Manorina flavigula</i>			X			
Pardalotidae	Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>			X	X		
Acanthizidae	Weebill	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>			X	X		
	Rufous Fieldwren	<i>Calamanthus campestris</i>			X			
	Spotted Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis maculatus</i>			X			
	Western Gerygone	<i>Gerygone fusca</i>			X	X	X	

Family	Common Name	Taxon	EPBC Act Listing	BC Act Listing	Transect Survey	Vantage Point Survey	Wetland Census	Incidental
Artamidae	Inland Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza apicalis</i>			X	X		
	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>				X		
	Western Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza inornata</i>			X			
	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>			X	X	X	
	Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>			X	X		
	Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>			X	X	X	
	Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>			X	X	X	
Campephagidae	Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>			X		X	
	Black-faced Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>			X	X		
Pachycephalidae	Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>			X	X		
	Grey Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>			X	X		
Rhipiduridae	Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>			X	X	X	
	Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>			X	X		
Monarchidae	Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>			X	X	X	
Corvidae	Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>			X	X		
Petroicidae	Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>			X	X		
	Red-capped Robin	<i>Petroica goodenovii</i>				X		
Hirundinidae	White-backed Swallow	<i>Cheramoeca leucosterna</i>			X	X		
	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>			X	X	X	
	Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>			X	X	X	
Zosteropidae	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>			X	X		
Dicaeidae	Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>				X		

A.2 Water quality results

Wetland Sites	Salinity (EC)	Dissolved Oxygen (%)	pH
WE-C1	34,100	110.2	6.37
WE-C2	5280	69.04	6.44
WE01	4300	166.2	6.37
WE02	6570	163.5	6.38
WE03	1891	96.88	6.36
WE04	1258	163.5	6.52
WE08	2400	151.6	6.21

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