

# Buckland Iron Ore Project

## Iron Ore Holdings



### CLIENT:

Iron Ore Holdings Ltd

### LOCATION:

Hamersley Ranges, Western  
Pilbara

### SERVICES:

- Targeted Northern Quoll surveys
- Impact assessment
- Mitigation and management strategies

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Comprehensive local and regional Northern Quoll data collected
- Mitigation strategies resulted in significant reduction in impacts to Northern Quoll
- Streamlined approvals – project avoided assessment under the *EPBC Act*
- Cost-effective and regulator-endorsed monitoring and adaptive management program developed

A substantial Northern Quoll assessment program was undertaken after an initial Level 1 survey identified high potential for Northern Quoll presence in the project area. Well planned impact mitigation strategies and a commitment to ongoing adaptive management have satisfied the Federal regulators that impacts to Northern Quoll can be managed at an acceptable level. The project received a referral decision of ‘not a controlled action if undertaken in a particular manner’.

The first phase of a two-phase survey program entailed an intensive trapping program within the project area to accurately define Northern Quoll habitat extent and utilisation.

In the second phase, survey efforts were expanded considerably outside the project area providing regional context. Northern Quoll habitat was mapped on a large-scale, principally along four major, adjoining creeklines. Extensive trapping and camera trap records provided detailed data on quoll distribution and movement in the broader area. The regional-scale assessment greatly improved understanding of the importance of the project area to Northern Quoll and enabled a more informed environmental impact assessment.

Phoenix subsequently conducted surveys and mapped Northern Quoll habitat along a 180 km-long proposed haul road for the project. Extensive use of remote sensor cameras supplemented the trapping program to provide valuable additional data.

Following on from the surveys, Phoenix developed mitigation strategies to substantially reduce scale of impact to Northern Quoll in collaboration with the client, resulting in a highly favourable outcome under the Federal environmental assessment framework.

A cost-effective monitoring program and adaptive management plan for Northern Quoll has been developed, which will collect data 365 days a year and report quarterly, therefore facilitating a highly responsive management framework for the project.



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