

## **Health, Safety & Environment**

### **Injured or Dead Bird and Bat Response Procedure**

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#### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of the procedure is to detail the process for collecting, treating and/or caring for a dead or injured bird or bat found at the wind farm sites, and the reporting and other tasks required.

#### **2. Scope**

The procedure applies to all Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding (WNH) personnel and contractors working at WNH Wind Farm sites.

#### **3. Process steps and considerations for managing and collecting dead or injured bird and bats**

##### **3.1 Initial Alert**

If a bird or bat (dead or injured) is found at a WNH operated Wind Farm, the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Manager or HSE Advisor must be contacted immediately (or in accordance with contractual requirements).

##### **3.2 Injured birds**

###### **3.2.1 Safety precautions for collection of injured birds and bats**

**Caution** - Injured birds can cause serious and permanent injuries.

If an injured bird is found, it should be captured if possible. Personnel who are attempting to catch injured birds or bats should consider their personal safety and the safety of others. Any persons not competent to undertake the task (or for eagles not trained in eagle capture and management) should seek help from the relevant personnel.

It may be necessary to conduct a risk assessment, implemented specific control measure or source additional equipment and PPE to protect yourself and the injured bird or bat. A standard risk assessment can be found in the Injured/dead Bird Recovery Kit but should be reviewed and 'on the day controls' inserted where applicable.

A 'spotter' may be required to observe the injured bird or bat while the risks are being considered or additional equipment or PPE is obtained.

**For eagles:** If an injured eagle is identified, only personnel trained in eagle capture and management should attempt to capture the injured bird. This is because injured eagles have the potential to cause **SERIOUS** injury. A kit and transport tube is located at the control building (or ancillary building) of each wind farm (Injured/dead Bird Recovery Kit/Transport Tube) and includes detailed instructions, standard risk assessment and the appropriate equipment to capture an injured eagle (and other birds). This kit should be obtained prior to attempting to capture an injured eagle. If a trained person is not available at the site then the HSE Manager or Advisor should be contacted prior to attempting

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to capture the bird. As outlined above, where practical the injured bird should be observed until it is captured to ensure that if it moves it can be found.

**For all other birds/bats: Injured birds can cause serious and permanent injuries – exercise **caution****

A kit is located at the control building (Injured/Dead Bird Recovery Kit) and includes detailed instructions, risk assessment and the appropriate equipment to capture an injured bird or bat. This kit should be obtained prior to attempting to capture the injured bird or bat. Approaching the injured bird or bat in a crouched position often reduces alarm in the animal. Approach it slowly, but confidently to capture it as quickly as possible to prevent escape or further injury. Attempt to capture the animal by placing a bag or cloth over it. Contact the HSE Advisor or Manager if advice on capture is required.

**General** - the following precaution should be followed: Take precautions against being bitten or scratched by the bird or bat. Additional task specific PPE is provided at each site (control building) in the Injured/dead Bird Recovery Kit and shall be worn at all times when attempting to capture injured birds or bats. Detailed instruction is also provided in the kits and this shall be followed.

Lyssaviruses are known to have been transmitted through open wounds (bites, sores, etc.), and through mucous membranes (e.g. eyes, nose or mouth). Bats can easily bite through cloth or leather gloves, so take particular care to hold the head to prevent bites. Avoid direct contact with saliva of bats. Note that simply touching animals or coming into contact with their urine or faeces will not transmit lyssavirus or other closely related viruses, but may expose you to other micro-organisms that cause disease.

If bitten or scratched, immediately wash the wound thoroughly (e.g. for approximately 5 minutes) with soap and water. (If available, a virucidal antiseptic should be applied after washing). Proper cleansing of the wound is regarded as the single most effective measure for reducing transmission of lyssaviruses. If you get bat saliva in your eyes, nose or mouth, you should flush the area thoroughly with water. In all cases you should then seek medical advice immediately even if you have been vaccinated. If any personal injury or near miss results from the collections of an injured bird or bat then an incident report from shall be used to document the incident.

### **3.2.2 Handling and transporting injured birds and bats**

Injured birds and bats should be handled with wings folded in their natural position and should be held in a cloth bag or gently wrapped in a cloth for transportation to a suitable veterinary practice. Note: many birds and bats are very delicate and susceptible to overheating, so handle them carefully and also provide as much airflow and circulation as possible. Covering the bird or bat's head with a cloth (while allowing them to breathe) will often calm them when they are handled. Transport the bird or bat either in a cloth bag or a dark box or container.

Injured eagles should be transported in the eagle transport tubes that are located either at the control building or other designated locations on site. The injured eagle should be carefully place head first into the tube and pushed slowly to the head of the tube. The tube shall be secured for transport to ensure the eagle does not slide out of the tube in transit. Care should be taken not to wrap or cover the tube as this may 'over-heat' the injured bird.

Injured birds or bats should be taken to a suitable veterinary practise for treatment and appraisal. The HSE Advisor or Manager will provide instruction on where to take the bird or bat.

### **3.2.3 Report form**

A Bird/Bat Report Strike Report form needs to be completed for each injured bird or bat found. The form should be referred to before collecting the injured bird or bat to ensure that all relevant information is obtained. Photographs must be taken where possible. A Bird/Bat strike form should be located in the Injured/dead Bird Recovery Kit. The form must be provided to the HSE Advisor or

Manager as soon as possible (who will register the incident and conduct the external reporting if required).

### **3.3 Dead birds and bats**

The bird or bat or their remains (feathers, bones etc.) need to be collected, and this should be done so immediately upon discovery (details in 3.1). Prior to collecting remains, the location of the evidence should be determined and photographs taken for future reference and analysis. Remove all remains from where it was found as per section 3.3.1.

**Note** - in some cases it may be necessary to contact the HSE Advisor or Manager prior to collection. Such cases would include dead WTE, WBSE, OBPs or where more than 3 carcasses are identified.

#### **3.3.1 Collecting dead birds or bats**

The following equipment and task specific PPE are required for the collection of dead birds and bats. An Injured/dead Bird Recovery Kit is held at the control buildings on site and contains the following:

- Latex gloves
- Plastic bags (garbage and/or ziplock )
- Waterproof tape
- Permanent markers
- Fridge or esky and ice for storage
- Bird/bat strike form

Store the remains as follows:

- Seal in 2 layers of plastic garbage or ziplock bags
- Secure bags with tape or zip-tie
- Enclose a copy of the Bird/Bat Report Strike Form in the outside plastic bag.
- Place the sample on ice or in the freezer (if available on site).

#### **3.3.2 Report form**

Complete a Bird/Bat Strike Form as per section 3.2.3 of this Procedure.

## **4. Definitions**

WTE - Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, which refers to the Tasmanian sub-species of Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax fleayi*

WBSE - White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

OBP – Orange-bellied Parrot *Neophema chrysogaster*

## **5. Accountabilities**

### Employee

Fully cooperate and implement this procedure

### HSE Advisor/Manager

Ensure employees and contractors are aware of and comply with this procedure.

## **6. Consequences of breaching the procedure**

Any breaches of this procedure may lead to disciplinary action.

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