EASTERN FREEWAY – HODDLE TO BURKE ALLIANCE

NATIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL APPLICATION SUPPORT FOR EHBA – EASTERN FREEWAY

Yarra River Access Track – Eastern Bank

Prepared for: Eastern Freeway Hoddle to Burke Alliance

Prepared by: Tailored Restoration Ecology & Conservation Land Services (TREC Land Services)

Date: 4 March 2026

Revision Control

Revision	Remarks	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Date
A	Initial draft	Adrian Lamande	Daniel Young	26/11/2025
B	Addressing VIDA comments	Adrian Lamande	Adrian Lamande	16/12/2025
C	Updates to Table 2, Section 2.2.1 and Section 2.3	Adrian Dube	Adrian Lamande	23/01/2026
D	Update following DEECA NVRR (Appendix A)	Adrian Dube	Adrian Lamande	4/03/2026

Table of Contents

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

Definitions

Terms	Definitions
Canopy Tree	Canopy trees are defined as the uppermost stratum of woody vegetation (at least 5 m tall) that contributes to or forms the vegetation 'canopy'. As a guide, the benchmark lists species and genera that typically form part of the tree canopy cover for the EVC (DSE 2004).
DEECA	Department of Energy, the Environment and Climate Action
EBHA	Eastern Freeway – Hoddle to Burke Alliance
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
EVC	EVC Ecological Vegetation Class
FFG Act	*FFG Act Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
GHFF	Grey Headed Flying Fox
Native Vegetation	Plants that are indigenous to the region in which the vegetation is assessed, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses
NEL	North East Link. Includes the construction of tunnels from Watsonia to Bulleen to fix the missing link in Melbourne city's freeway network and upgrades to the Eastern Freeway and M80 Ring Road.
NVR	Native Vegetation Removal
Native Patch	• An area of native vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native, or • Any area with three or more native canopy trees where the drip line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy, or Any mapped wetland included in the Current wetlands map, available in DEECA systems and tools.
Patch tree	A native canopy tree within a patch
PSA	Planning Scheme Amendment
Scattered Tree	A native canopy tree that does not form part of a patch
The Guidelines	*Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025)
VQA	Vegetation Quality Assessment
VPP	Victorian Planning Provisions

1. Introduction

Tailored Restoration Ecology & Conservation Land Services (TREC Land Services) was engaged by the Eastern Freeway – Hoddle to Burke Alliance (EHBA) to prepare supporting documentation for an application to remove native vegetation associated with the Eastern Freeway Upgrade.

This report relates specifically to the work area associated with the proposed access route for construction of the Yarra Shared Use Path Bridge on the eastern bank of the Yarra River, where construction for access and associated works require the removal of a small extent of remnant native vegetation.

The works occur outside the approved North East Link Program (NELP) Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) boundary and supplement other Native Vegetation Removal Application Support Reports prepared for NELP works packages. This report has been prepared to meet the application requirements of Clause 52.17 – Native Vegetation of the Boroondara Planning Scheme, and the incorporated *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025).

This Native Vegetation Removal Report provides:

- A description of the native vegetation proposed to be removed;
- A summary of avoidance and minimisation measures undertaken;
- The extent and condition of native vegetation in accordance with DEECA assessment methods;
- The offset requirements determined under the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DEECA 2025); and
- Supporting mapping and contextual information consistent with a Detailed Assessment Pathway application.

This report adopts the structure, format, and terminology used in the approved DEECA Native Vegetation Removal Report template and includes placeholders for maps and photographs required for submission.

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to support an application to remove native vegetation required to facilitate construction works associated with the proposed access route for the Yarra Shared Use Path Bridge on the eastern bank of the Yarra River. The report addresses the removal of native vegetation outlined in **Figure 3.**

Table 1 outlines the application requirements for a Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) assessment as specified in the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DEECA 2025) (the Guidelines) and identifies where each requirement is addressed within this report.

Table 1: Application requirements for all applications for a permit to remove native vegetation (DEECA 2025).

Number	Application requirement	Where addressed in this report
1	Information about the native vegetation to be removed, including: • The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway. This includes the location category of the native vegetation to be removed. • A description of the native vegetation to be removed that includes: ○ whether it is a patch or a scattered tree (or both) ○ the extent (in hectares) ○ the number and circumference (in centimetres measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) of any large trees within a patch ○ the number and circumference (in centimetres measured at 1.3 ○ metres above ground level) of any scattered trees, and whether each tree is small or large ○ the strategic biodiversity value score ○ the condition score ○ if it includes endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes ○ if it includes sensitive wetland or coastal areas.	Section 2, and Appendix A – NVRR
2	Topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed, showing ridges, crests and hilltops, wetlands and waterways, slopes of more than 20 percent, drainage lines, low lying areas, saline discharge areas, and areas of existing erosion, as appropriate. This may be represented in a map or plan.	Section 1.2, and Section 1.3
3	Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed.	Section 2.1
4	Details of any other native vegetation approved to be removed, or that was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership as the applicant, in the five-year period before the application for a permit is lodged.	Appendix A – NVR
5	An avoid and minimise statement. The statement describes any efforts to avoid the removal of and minimise the impacts on the biodiversity and other values of native vegetation, and how these efforts focussed on areas of native vegetation that have the most value. The statement should include a description of the following: • Strategic level planning – any regional or landscape scale strategic planning process that the site has been subject to that avoided and minimised impacts on native vegetation across a region or landscape. • Site level planning – how the proposed use or development has been sited or designed to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation.	Section 2.2

	• That no feasible opportunities exist to further avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation without undermining the key objectives of the proposal.	
6	A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan contained within an agreement made pursuant to section 69 of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987 that applies to the native vegetation to be removed.	N/A
7	Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defendable space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary. This statement must have regard to other available bushfire risk mitigation measures. This statement is not required when the creation of defendable space is in conjunction with an application under the Bushfire Management Overlay.	N/A
8	If the application is under Clause 52.16, a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the native vegetation Precinct Plan considerations at decision guideline 8.	N/A
9	An offset statement providing evidence that an offset that meets the offset requirements for the native vegetation to be removed has been identified and can be secured in accordance with the Guidelines. A suitable statement includes evidence that the required offset: • is available to purchase from a third party, or • will be established as a new offset and has the agreement of the proposed offset provider, or • can be met by a first party offset.	Section 2.3
10	A site assessment report of the native vegetation to be removed, including: • A habitat hectare assessment of any patches of native vegetation, including the condition, extent (in hectares), Ecological Vegetation Class and bioregional conservation status. • The location, number, circumference (in centimetres measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) and species of any large trees within patches. • The location, number, circumference (in centimetres measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) and species of any scattered trees, and whether each tree is small or large.	Section 2.1
11	Information about impacts on rare or threatened species habitat, including: • The relevant section of the Habitat importance map for each rare or threatened species requiring a species offset. • For each rare or threatened species that the native vegetation to be removed is habitat for, according to the Habitat importance maps: o the species' conservation status	Section 2.2.1 Appendix A – NVRR

	○ the proportional impact of the removal of native vegetation on the total habitat for that species whether their habitats are highly localised habitats, dispersed habitats, or important areas of habitat within a dispersed species habitat.	

1.2. Study Area

The study comprises of public land north-east area of Yarra Bend Park, on the eastern bank of the Yarra River within the City of Boroondara. It is bounded by the Eastern Freeway to the south, Wurundjeri Spur to the north.

Yarra Bend Park is a 260-hectare recreational and conservation reserve managed by Parks Victoria, containing remnant and revegetated native vegetation, recreational open space, and areas of historical and cultural significance. The park supports important ecological values, including records of the EPBC Act listed Vulnerable Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and a core population of the FFG Act listed Critically Endangered Studley Park Gum (*Eucalyptus* × *studleyensis*). It also supports an extensive network of shared walking and cycling trails connecting Clifton Hill and Alphington in the north to Abbotsford and Kew in the south.

From a geomorphological perspective, Yarra Bend Park occurs within the Eastern Uplands geomorphological unit and is characterised by low-relief landscapes below 250 m AHD, with gentle to moderate slopes and limited topographic variation. The study area includes remnant riparian vegetation, steep embankments, and existing informal access paths within the Yarra River corridor. Ground conditions comprise sloping terrain with rocky and shallow soils on steeper slopes, transitioning to alluvial deposits near the riverbank.

The park extends along the Yarra River corridor and contains a mix of remnant and revegetated native vegetation, recreational open space, and areas of historical and cultural significance. It supports an extensive network of shared walking and cycling trails connecting Clifton Hill and Alphington in the north to Abbotsford and Kew in the south. The proposed East Bank Shared Use Path (SUP) works are located within the defined study area. The study area boundaries have been defined to capture:

- The footprint of proposed construction access and temporary working areas;
- All native vegetation proposed for removal, including remnant patch polygons identified in DEECA datasets;
- Adjacent vegetation that may be indirectly affected during works; and
- The ecological context relevant to assessing avoid-and-minimise opportunities, vegetation condition, and offset requirements.

The study area is shown in **Figure 3**, which illustrates the extent of the proposed works relative to the Yarra River, existing transport infrastructure, adjoining parkland, and the broader Yarra Bend landscape setting.

1.3. Works Description

The works involve establishing a temporary access route and small working areas to support construction of the Yarra Shared Use Path Bridge on the eastern bank of the Yarra River.

The works will occur within a highly constrained corridor between the Yarra River and the Eastern Freeway embankment. As a result, the works footprint has been refined to the minimum extent necessary to enable safe construction, and vegetation removal is limited to what is required to facilitate machinery access and bridge construction activities.

Native vegetation within the study area occurs primarily as remnant riparian vegetation and natural recruitment associated with the Yarra River corridor. The vegetation proposed for removal comprises a small remnant patch of native vegetation and two large trees, with no scattered trees requiring removal. Vegetation condition varies across the works area and reflects a modified landscape influenced by historic land use, existing infrastructure, and steep terrain.

The vegetation assessment focused on areas directly affected by the proposed works, with adjacent vegetation reviewed for contextual purposes only. The extent of native vegetation removal has been minimised through design refinement and avoidance measures and is limited to that required to support temporary access and construction activities associated with the Yarra Shared Use Path Bridge.

The works will occur within a constrained linear corridor located between the Yarra River and the Eastern Freeway embankment. Key construction activities include:

- Establishing a temporary access track to the bridge construction site (**Figure 3**)
- Minor vegetation clearing to provide adequate construction footprint, machinery access and safe operating areas; and
- Use of small temporary platforms or laydown spaces to support the movement and positioning of materials and equipment.

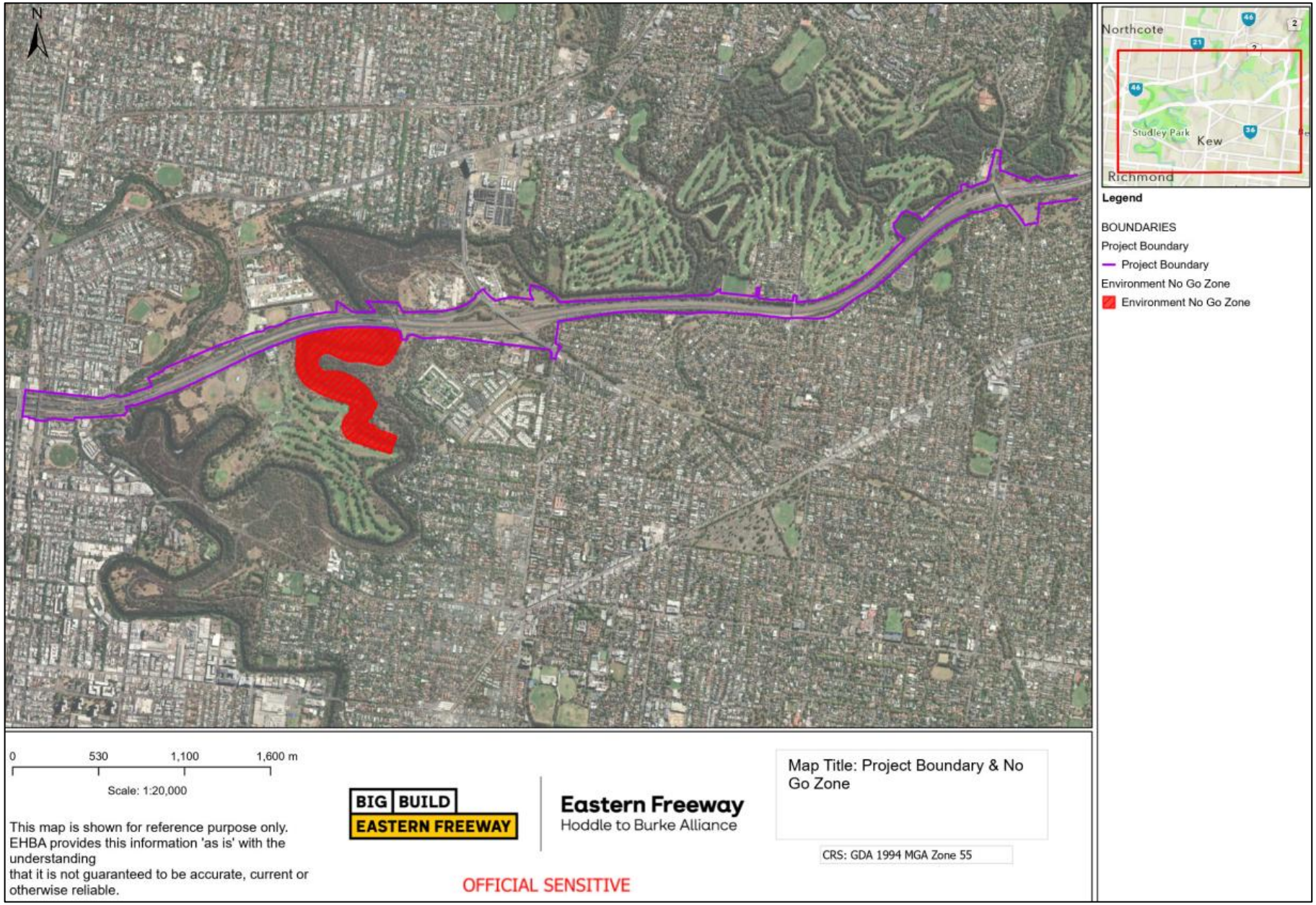


Figure 1 NELP Project Boundary

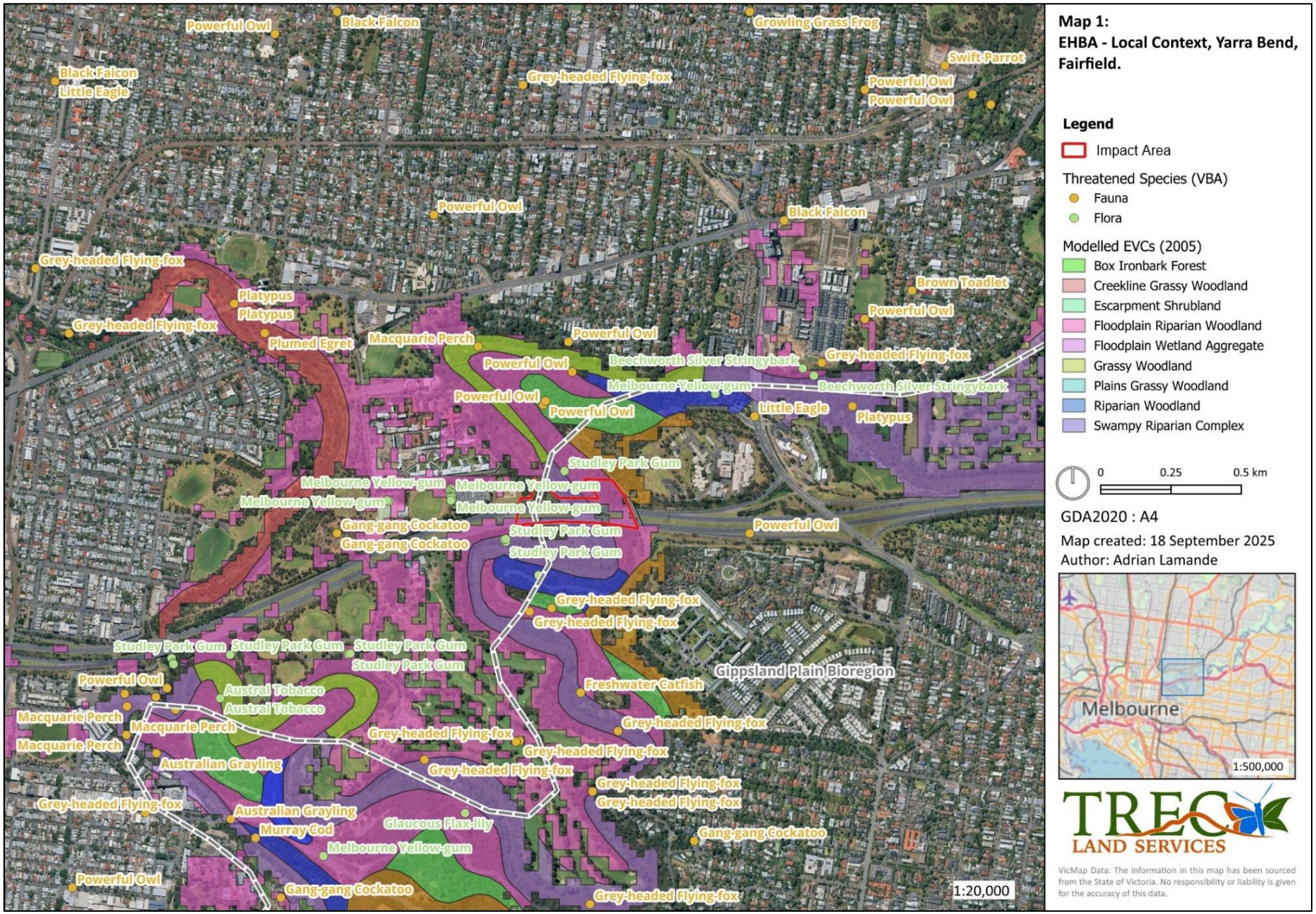


Figure 2: Local Context

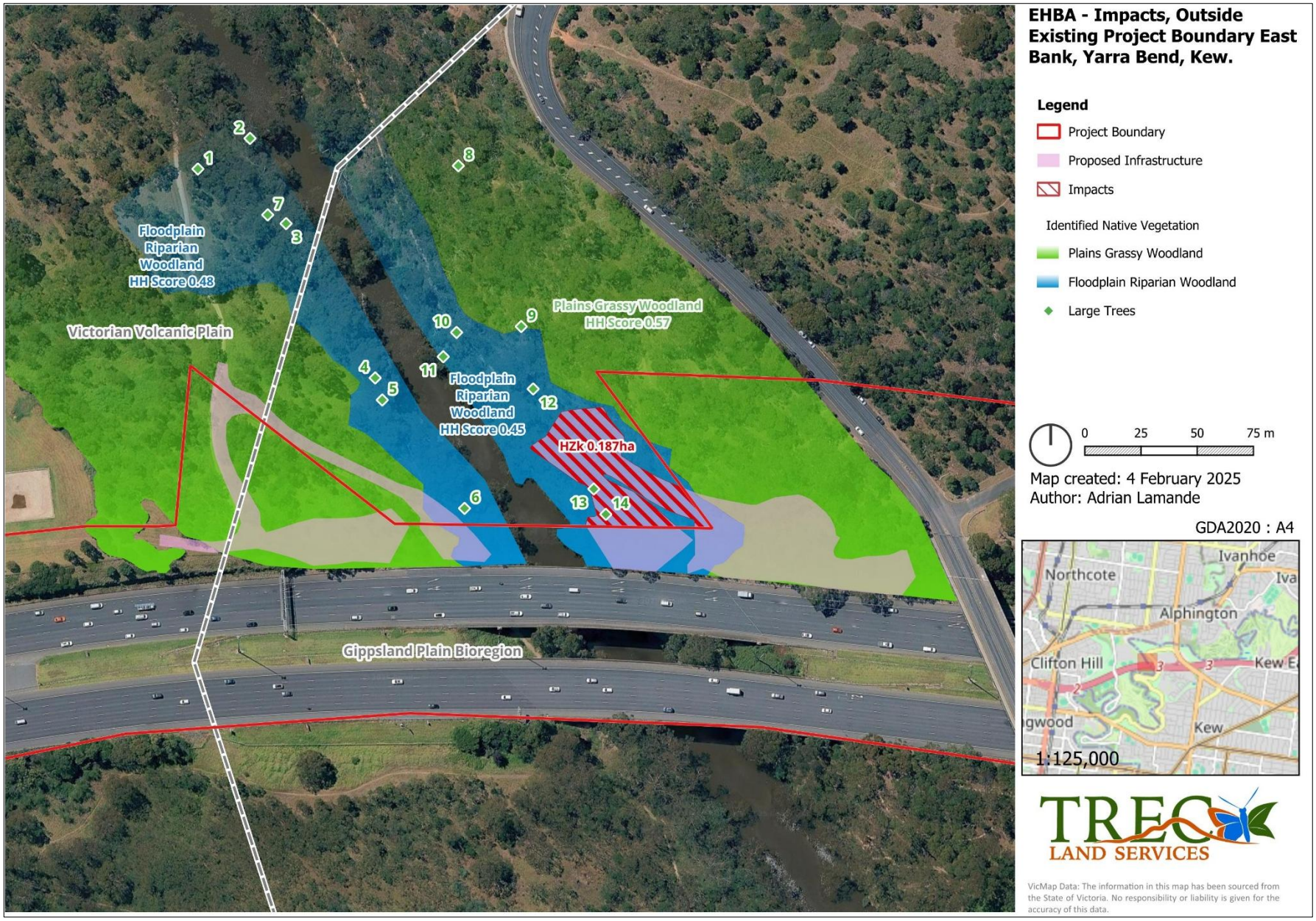


Figure 3: Study area – the proposed works area eastern bank of the Yarra River outside the Project Boundary.

2. Results

2.1. Native Vegetation Removal

Native vegetation was assessed in accordance with the Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) manual (DSE 2004), the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) and the Guidelines (DEECA 2025). VQAs were undertaken by DEECA-accredited VQA assessors.

Native vegetation is defined in Clause 72 of the VPP as 'plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses'. The Guidelines further define native vegetation as either a patch or scattered tree, further description is provided in **Table 2.**

Table 2: Classification of native vegetation under the Guidelines (DEECA 2025).

Native Vegetation	Definition
Patch	A patch of vegetation is: • an area of vegetation where at least 25 percent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native, or • any area with three or more native canopy trees where the drip line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy, or • any mapped wetland included in the Current wetlands map, available in DEECA systems and tools.
Patch Tree	• a native canopy tree within a patch.
Scattered Tree	• a native canopy tree that does not form part of a patch.

The Guidelines distinguish between 'remnant patches' and 'scattered trees' to determine the value of native vegetation and assess impacts associated with its removal. A canopy tree is defined as a mature tree greater than three metres in height and forming part of the upper vegetation layer.

Vegetation within the study area largely comprises planted and revegetated native vegetation, dominated by indigenous species. While this vegetation is not considered to have been established primarily for biodiversity purposes, it meets the definition of native vegetation under the Guidelines and has therefore been fully assessed as part of this application.

This assessment has determined that, in accordance with the Guidelines, the proposed works will impact remnant patches of native vegetation and 2 large trees – **Table 4**.

The relevant categories under **Table 3** Checklist for decision guidelines for applications in the Detailed Assessment Pathway (Assessor's Handbook: Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, Ver 1.1 Oct 2018) are addressed as follows:

Table 3: Checklist for decision guidelines for applications in the Detailed Assessment Pathway

Checklist description	Response
Feasible opportunities to avoid native vegetation removal and minimise impacts on native vegetation have been considered. Effort to avoid and minimise is	Potential impacts to native vegetation at the site have been considered and impacts to any remnant patches or scattered trees have been minimised where possible. Where potential

commensurate with and focused on areas of native vegetation with the most value	impacts to native vegetation were present and could be avoided without significantly impacting the project outcome the works alignment was modified to avoid impacts. The remaining native vegetation impacts result from unavoidable impacts. Impacts have been limited to only necessary native vegetation removal within the identified patches of native vegetation.
Impacts on land or water protection from the removal of native vegetation are acceptable	There may be minor impacts on land or water protection from removal of vegetation at the site, however these impacts have been addressed in the CEMP for the site and if implemented it is expected that there will be no-negative impacts on land and water protection
Impacts on identified landscape values from the removal of native vegetation are acceptable	There will be no negative impacts on the identified landscape values from the removal of vegetation at the site

Construction Impacts

Of the vegetation that requires a permit for removal, the vegetation loss associated with the proposed works includes:

- The removal of 0.187 hectares of native vegetation (condition score 0.450), comprising a single remnant patch (Habitat Zone K) on the eastern bank of the Yarra River; and
- Removal of two (2) Large Trees associated with the proposed works.

Areas of remnant native vegetation occur throughout the study area. These areas meet the definition of a remnant patch of native vegetation as defined by the Guidelines. Native vegetation meeting the definition of a patch outside the existing project boundary has been designated as a single Habitat Zone (HZk) – refer to **Figure 3.**

Habitat Zone K (HZk) is located east of the Yarra River and north of the Eastern Freeway and supports Floodplain Riparian Woodland. The vegetation is dominated by a River Red Gum canopy over a dense mixed midstorey of indigenous shrubs and small trees.

The ground layer is moderately degraded, dominated by exotic grasses but retaining scattered indigenous species, including Poa spp., Lomandra longifolia and Weeping Grass. Vegetation condition is slightly higher than on the western bank of the river. Large hollow-bearing trees, indigenous litter and coarse woody debris are present within the habitat zone.

The results of the Vegetation Quality Assessment for Habitat Zones K are summarised in **Table 5**.

Figure 3 outlines the proposed NVR and surrounding mapped native vegetation within the construction footprint, while **Figure 4** and **Figure 5** present recent photographs of each Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) proposed for removal.

Table 4: Details of Large Trees within the construction footprint outside the Project Boundary

ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	DBH	Large / Small	EVC	Impacted	Image	Date Image was taken
8	Dead	Dead	71cm	Large	PGW	Not Impacted		14/10/2025
9	Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box	72cm	Large	PGW	Not Impacted		14/10/2025

10	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	82cm	Large	FRW	Not Impacted		14/10/2025
11	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	95cm	Large	FRW	Not Impacted		14/10/2025
12	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	81cm	Large	FRW	Not Impacted		14/10/2025

13	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	83cm	Large	FRW	Impacted (Lost)		14/10/2025
14	Eucalyptus camaldulensis (dead)	River Red Gum	84cm	Large	FRW	Impacted (Lost)		14/10/2025

Table 5: Vegetation Quality Assessment results

Habitat Zone K			
Benchmark criteria		*Max Score*	**EVC**
			FRW (EVC 56)
Site condition	**Large Old Trees**	**10**	*4*
	Canopy cover	**5**	*5*
	Understorey	**25**	*10*
	Lack of weeds	**15**	*0*
	Recruitment	**10**	*10*
	Organic litter	**5**	*5*
	Logs	**5**	*3*
Site Condition Total			**37**
Context	**Patch Size**		*8*
	Neighbourhood		*0*
	Distance to Core		*4*
Landscape Context Total			**12**
Habitat quality score		**100**	**49**
Habitat score as above = #/100		**0.##**	**0.49**

Recent photographs of each Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) proposed for removal within the construction footprint

Figure 4: Recent photographs of the Plains Grassy Woodland EVC on the eastern bank of the Yarra River outside the Project Boundary

Recent photographs of each Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) proposed for removal within the construction footprint

Figure 5: Recent photographs of the Floodplain Riparian Woodland EVC on the eastern bank of the Yarra River outside the Project Boundary

2.2. Avoid and Minimise Statement

In accordance with Application requirement #5 of the Guidelines outlined in **Table 1**, it states that the avoid and minimise statement should describe efforts to avoid the removal of, and minimise the impacts on, the biodiversity and other values of native vegetation, and how these efforts focussed on areas of native vegetation that have the most value. The statement should include a description of the following:

- Strategic level planning – any regional or landscape scale strategic planning process that the site has been subject to that avoided and minimised impacts on native vegetation across a region or landscape.
- Site level planning – how the proposed use or development has been sited or designed to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation.
- That no feasible opportunities exist to further avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation without undermining the key objectives of the proposal.

2.2.1. Response

The proposed scope of works, including native vegetation removal, is required to facilitate construction of a new access path for the Yarra Shared Use Path Bridge.

The site is highly constrained by the Yarra River, steep embankments and the Eastern Freeway corridor, which limits opportunities to further avoid native vegetation while still providing a safe and functional access route. The design has therefore been refined to minimise impacts as far as practicable, resulting in a small footprint and only minor vegetation removal.

Field assessments identified small patches of remnant riparian vegetation within an otherwise modified landscape. Vegetation condition varies across the corridor, with no scattered trees occurring within the proposed removal area.

Yarra Bend and Studley Parks support areas of significant indigenous vegetation and biodiversity values, including records of the EPBC Act listed Vulnerable Grey-headed Flying-fox (GHFF) and a core population of the FFG Act listed Critically Endangered Studley Park Gum.

Fauna assessments recorded a small number of common bird and reptile species, with no Commonwealth or State threatened fauna observed during field surveys. While a range of threatened fauna species have been recorded within the broader area, the impact footprint was assessed as providing general habitat and landscape connectivity, rather than critical or limiting habitat for threatened species.

The affected vegetation is connected to larger areas of suitable habitat within the surrounding landscape and is most likely to function as supplementary foraging and movement habitat. Aquatic threatened fauna (e.g. fish, turtles, and aquatic mammals) are unlikely to be impacted, as works occur on higher ground and are setback from the Yarra River.

No hollow-bearing trees will be removed, and breeding habitat for hollow-dependent fauna species is therefore not expected to be impacted.

Overall impacts have been minimised where practicable and are unlikely to significantly reduce habitat function at the landscape scale. To further reduce risk, clearing will be undertaken using a two-stage approach, including identification and buffering of habitat features to allow fauna to relocate prior to final removal.

A pre-clearance survey will be completed within one week of clearing to confirm vegetation boundaries, identify habitat features, and implement fauna salvage if required. Any fauna management will be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist authorised under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

A total of four individual daisy family plants were identified within the proposed works area, including two Jagged Fireweed (*Senecio biserratus*) and two Cotton Fireweed (*Senecio quadridentatus*), which are predicted to be impacted by the proposed works. The Daisy species identified across the site will require an FFG Act permit 'to take' prior to the commencement of works.

Grey-headed Flying-fox habitat requirements include areas with flowering and fruiting native trees (such as eucalypts, melaleucas and figs) and tall sheltered roost trees typically located near waterways.

Mitigation measures to manage potential impacts to Grey-headed Flying-fox will include scheduling works to avoid key roosting and breeding periods where feasible, minimising night works and lighting spill, and managing noise and vibration through appropriate buffers and construction controls. Measures will be implemented in accordance with the Flora and Fauna Management Plan, with advice and supervision from a suitably qualified ecologist.

Based on the assessment and proposed mitigation measures, the impacted areas do not represent critical or limiting habitat for threatened fauna species recorded within 5 km of the study area, although the vegetation may continue to provide dispersal opportunities to nearby habitat.

The final removal footprint has been reduced wherever possible and comprises 0.187 hectares of remnant native vegetation within a single habitat zone (HZk). No scattered trees occur within the assessment area; however, two large River Red Gum trees will be impacted by the proposed works. This represents the minimum extent necessary to enable construction of the bridge and associated access path.

The proposed access works occur within an area of high Strategic Biodiversity Value (SBV 0.81–1.00), as shown in **Figure 6.**

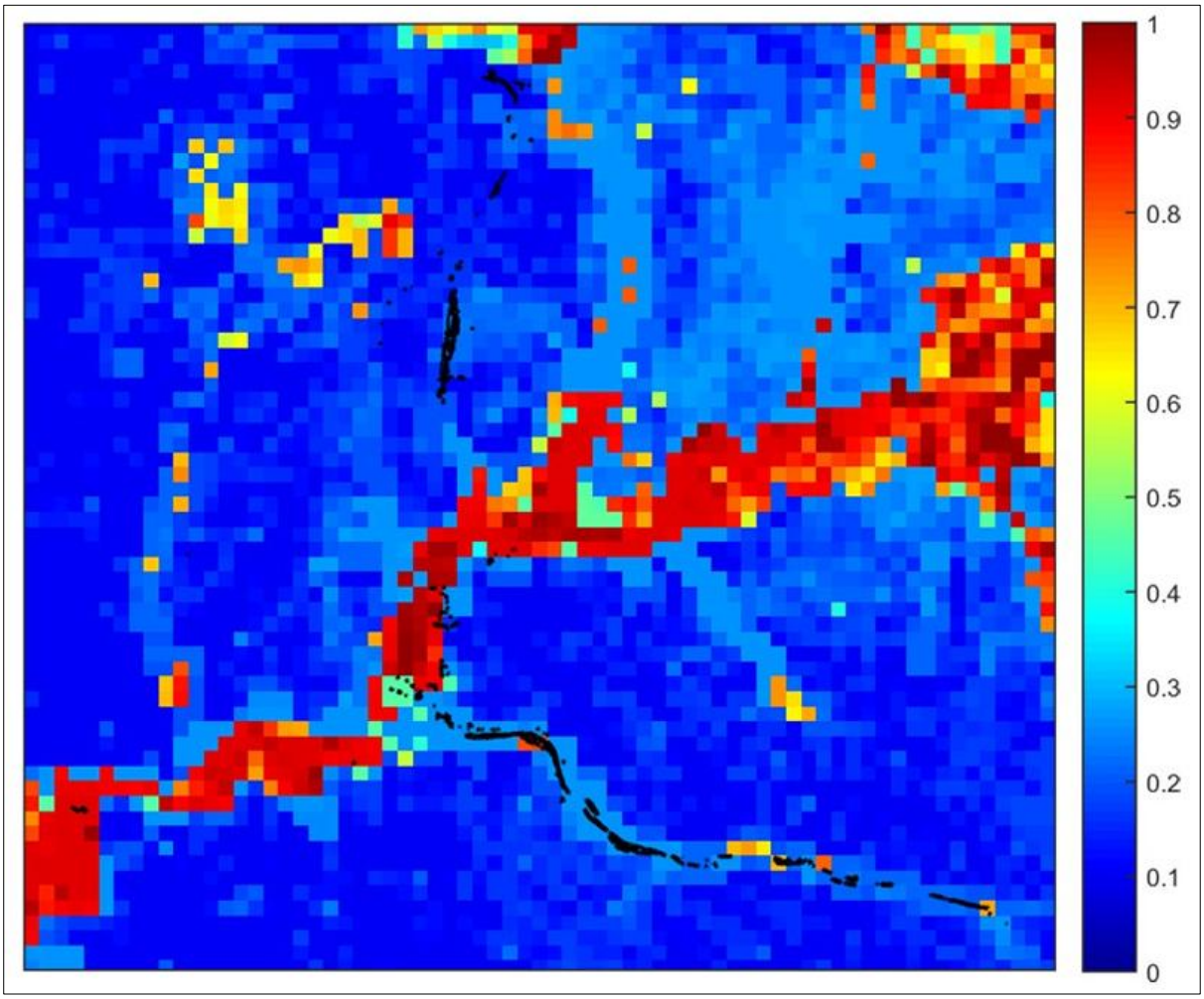


Figure 6: Strategic Biodiversity Value Map [NVR Report ID: NEL_2026_002]

2.3. Offset Statement

Although this application relates to works located outside the North East Link Project (NELP) Project Boundary, the assessment of native vegetation removal has been undertaken in the context of the cumulative native vegetation removal associated with the broader NELP. The Native Vegetation Removal Report (NVRR) therefore includes consideration of previously approved and completed native vegetation removal, in addition to the removal proposed under this application.

In accordance with Appendix 8 of the *Assessor's Handbook – Applications to Remove, Destroy or Lop Native Vegetation* (DEECA, 2025), offset obligations have been assessed using a staged approach that accounts for cumulative native vegetation removal across NELP.

For the purposes of this application, evidence demonstrating that EHBA has secured sufficient offsets to meet the offset requirements associated with the proposed native vegetation removal outside the Project Boundary (**Figure 3**), is provided in Appendix B.

The offset requirements for the removal of native vegetation for the construction footprint have been assessed using DEECA's EnSym Tool and are summarised in **Table 6.**

A full copy of the Native Vegetation Removal Report is included in Appendix A.

Table 6: Offset Requirements for native vegetation removal for NELP including the Construction Footprints covered in this report.

Any approval granted will include a condition to obtain an offset that meets the following requirements:	
Vicinity	Boroondara City LGA or Melbourne Water CMA
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score	0.81-1.00
Large trees	2
Species offset amount	0.150 Species Habitat Units for Grey-headed Flying-fox, Pteropus poliocephalus (11280)
Scattered trees	0
The total number of large trees that the offset must protect	2 Large Trees to be protected in either the General, Species or combination across all habitat units protected

3. References

DCCEEW (2025). Protected Matters Search Tool: Interactive Map.

http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra.

DEECA (2025). *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. Version 1.1

DEECA (2017b) *Exemptions from requiring a planning permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation – Guidance*. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

DEECA (2025a). NatureKit 2.0.

https://maps2.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/Html5viewer/index.html?viewer=NatureKit. Victorian Department of Energy, the Environment and Climate Action, East Melbourne.

DEECA (2025b). Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. http://vba.dse.vic.gov.au. Department of Energy, the Environment and Climate Action, East Melbourne.

DSE (2004). Vegetation quality assessment manual: Guidelines for applying the habitat hectare scoring method. Version 1.3. Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, East Melbourne.

DTP (2025) VicPlan – Maps and Spatial Data. https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/ Victorian Government Department of Transport and Planning, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix A. Native Vegetation Removal Report

Native vegetation removal report

This report provides information to support an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. The report **is not an assessment by DELWP** of the proposed native vegetation removal. Native vegetation information and offset requirements have been determined using spatial data provided by the applicant or their consultant.

Please note, the DEECA Biodiversity Compensation and Offset Systems (BCOS) team has applied Habitat Importance Map (HIM) exclusions to this report for Australian Grayling *Prototroctes maraena* (species ID 4686) based on a written agreement issued by the Secretary to DEECA.

Date of issue: **26/02/2026**
Time of issue: **11:13 am**

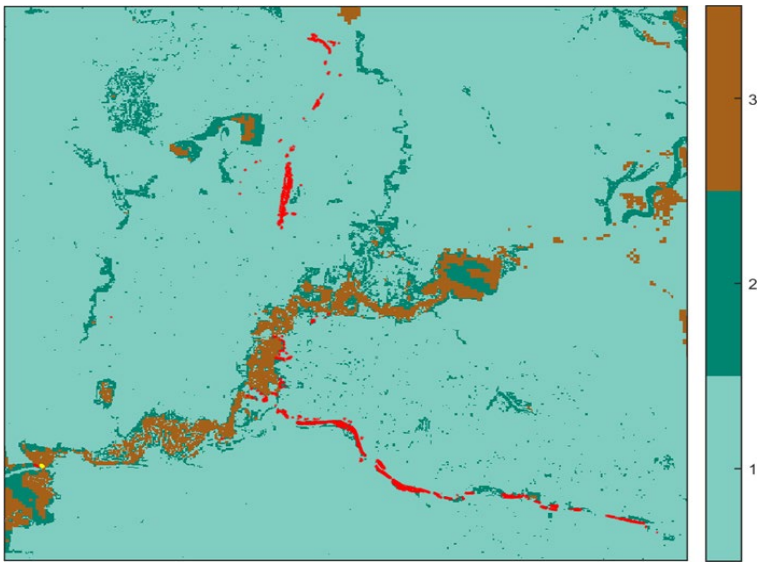
Report ID: NEL_2026_002

Project ID	NELP_NVR_Master_20260212

Assessment pathway

Assessment pathway	**Detailed Assessment Pathway**
Extent including past and proposed	44.200 ha
Extent of past removal	44.013 ha
Extent of proposed removal	0.187 ha
No. Large trees proposed to be removed	2
Location category of proposed removal	Location 3 The native vegetation is in an area where the removal of less than 0.5 hectares could have a significant impact on habitat for one or more rare or threatened species.The native vegetation is also in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (as per the statewide EVC map).

1. Location map



Offset requirements if a permit is granted

Any approval granted will include a condition to obtain an offset that meets the following requirements:

Species offset amount[1]	0.150 species units of habitat for Grey-headed Flying-fox, *Pteropus poliocephalus*
Large trees	2 trees

NB: values within tables in this document may not add to the totals shown above due to rounding

Appendix 1 includes information about the native vegetation to be removed

Appendix 2 includes information about the rare or threatened species mapped at the site.

Appendix 3 includes maps showing native vegetation to be removed and extracts of relevant species habitat importance maps

1 The species offset amount(s) required is the sum of all species habitat units in Appendix 1.

Next steps

Any proposal to remove native vegetation must meet the application requirements of the Detailed Assessment Pathway and it will be assessed under the Detailed Assessment Pathway.

If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council. Council will refer your application to DELWP for assessment, as required. **This report is not a referral assessment by DELWP.**

This *Native vegetation removal report* must be submitted with your application for a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

Refer to the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native* vegetation (the Guidelines) for a full list of application requirements This report provides information that meets the following application requirements:

- The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway
- A description of the native vegetation to be removed (partly met)
- Maps showing the native vegetation and property (partly met)
- Information about the impacts on rare or threatened species.
- The offset requirements determined in accordance with section 5 of the Guidelines that apply if approval is granted to remove native vegetation.

Additional application requirements must be met including:

- Topographical and land information
- Recent dated photographs
- Details of past native vegetation removal
- An avoid and minimise statement
- A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan that applies
- A defendable space statement as applicable
- A statement about the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan as applicable
- A site assessment report including a habitat hectare assessment of any patches of native vegetation and details of trees
- An offset statement that explains that an offset has been identified and how it will be secured.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne.

For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186

www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

The species-general offset test was applied to your proposal. This test determines if the proposed removal of native vegetation has a proportional impact on any rare or threatened species habitats above the species offset threshold. The threshold is set at 0.005 per cent of the mapped habitat value for a species. When the proportional impact is above the species offset threshold a species offset is required. This test is done for all species mapped at the site. Multiple species offsets will be required if the species offset threshold is exceeded for multiple species.

Where a zone requires species offset(s), the species habitat units for each species in that zone is calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines:

Species habitat units = extent x condition x species landscape factor x 2, where the species landscape factor = 0.5 + (habitat importance score/2)

The species offset amount(s) required is the sum of all species habitat units per zone

Where a zone does not require a species offset, the general habitat units in that zone is calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines:

General habitat units = extent x condition x general landscape factor x 1.5, where the general landscape factor = 0.5 + (strategic biodiversity value score/2)

The general offset amount required is the sum of all general habitat units per zone.

Native vegetation to be removed

Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant in a GIS file							Information calculated by EnSym					
Zone	**Type**	**BioEVC**	**BioEVC conservation status**	**Large tree(s)**	**Partial removal**	**Condition score**	**Polygon Extent**	**Extent without overlap**	**SBV score**	**HI score**	**Habitat units**	**Offset type**
373-HZk	Patch	gipp0056	Endangered	2	no	0.450	0.187	0.187	0.920	0.776	0.150	11280 Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*

Appendix 2: Information about impacts to rare or threatened species' habitats on site

This table lists all rare or threatened species' habitats mapped at the site.

Species common name	Species scientific name	Species number	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	% habitat value affected
Grey-headed Flying-fox	*Pteropus poliocephalus*	11280	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Top ranking map	0.0223
Grey-headed Flying-fox	*Pteropus poliocephalus*	11280	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map ; special site	0.0115
Australian Mudfish	*Neochanna cleaveri*	4703	Critically endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0007
Yarra Pygmy Perch	*Nannoperca obscura*	4882	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0006
Small Golden Moths	*Diuris basaltica*	501473	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0006
Grey Billy-buttons	*Craspedia canens*	504643	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0005
Veined Spear-grass	*Austrostipa rudis subsp. australis*	504940	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0004
Veiled Fringe-sedge	*Fimbristylis velata*	501369	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0003
Australian Grayling	*Prototroctes maraena*	4686	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Glossy Grass Skink	*Pseudemoia rawlinsoni*	12683	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Lacey River Buttercup	*Ranunculus amplus*	505019	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Spurred Helmet-orchid	*Corybas aconitiflorus*	500835	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Melbourne Yellow-gum	*Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. connata*	504484	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Salt Lawrencia	*Lawrencia spicata*	501888	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Fringed Helmet-orchid	*Corybas fimbriatus*	500839	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Growling Grass Frog	*Litoria raniformis*	13207	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Matted Flax-lily	*Dianella amoena*	505084	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Floodplain Fireweed	*Senecio campylocarpus*	507136	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Sticky Wattle	*Acacia howittii*	500044	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001

Pale Swamp Everlasting	*Coronidium gunnianum*	504655	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Lewin's Rail	*Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis*	10045	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Arching Flax-lily	*Dianella sp. aff. longifolia (Benambra)*	505560	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Purple Blown-grass	*Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. filifolia*	504222	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	10157	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Round-leaf Pomaderris	*Pomaderris vacciniifolia*	502675	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucogaster*	10226	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Austral Tobacco	*Nicotiana suaveolens*	502275	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Grey Goshawk	*Accipiter novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*	10220	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta nigripes*	10185	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Common Bent-wing Bat (eastern ssp.)	*Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*	61342	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australasian Bittern	*Botaurus poiciloptilus*	10197	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Blue-billed Duck	*Oxyura australis*	10216	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australian Little Bittern	*Ixobrychus dubius*	10195	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Eastern Great Egret	*Ardea modesta*	10187	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Intermediate Egret	*Ardea intermedia*	10186	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Musk Duck	*Biziura lobata*	10217	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Hardhead	*Aythya australis*	10215	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australasian Shoveler	*Anas rhynchotis*	10212	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Black Falcon	*Falco subniger*	10238	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
White-throated Needletail	*Hirundapus caudacutus*	10334	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Powerful Owl	*Ninox strenua*	10248	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Square-tailed Kite	*Lophoictinia isura*	10230	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

Habitat group

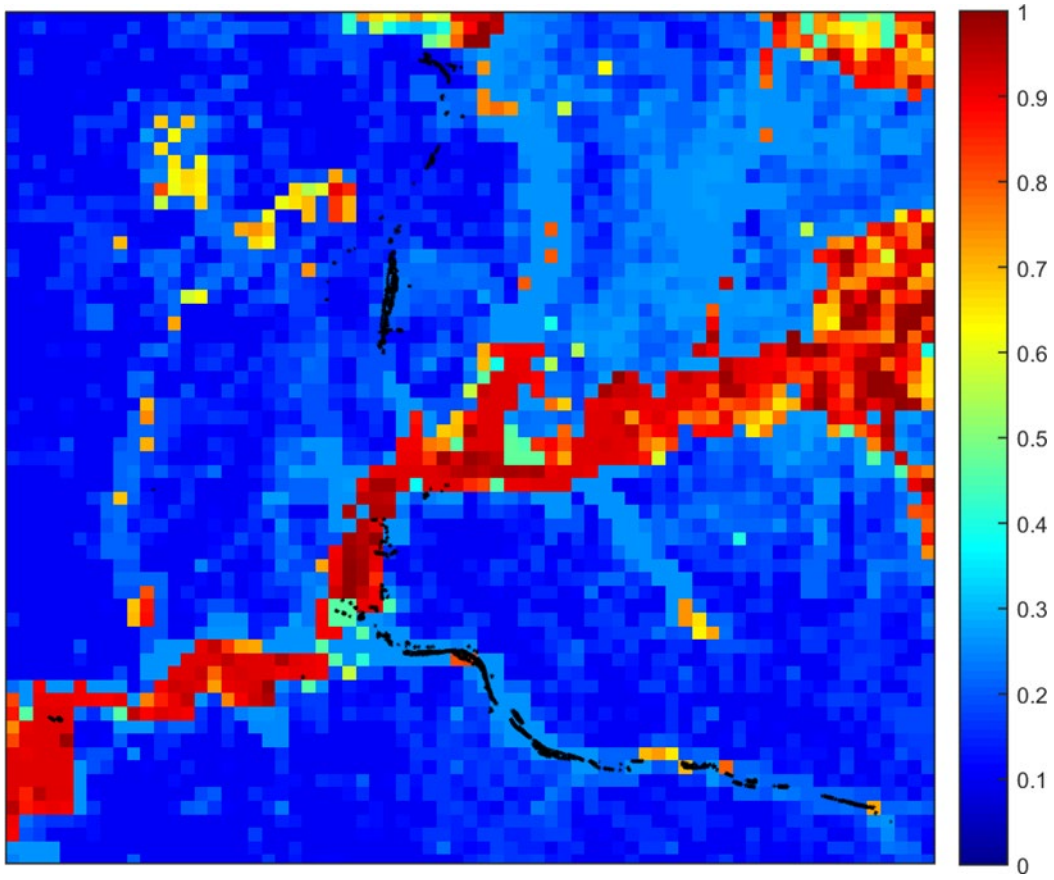
- Highly localised habitat means there is 2000 hectares or less mapped habitat for the species
- Dispersed habitat means there is more than 2000 hectares of mapped habitat for the species

Habitat impacted

- Habitat importance maps are the maps defined in the Guidelines that include all the mapped habitat for a rare or threatened species
- Top ranking maps are the maps defined in the Guidelines that depict the important areas of a dispersed species habitat, developed from the highest habitat importance scores in dispersed species habitat maps and selected VBA records
- Selected VBA record is an area in Victoria that represents a large population, roosting or breeding site etc.

Appendix 3 – Images of mapped native vegetation

2. Strategic biodiversity values map



3. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation

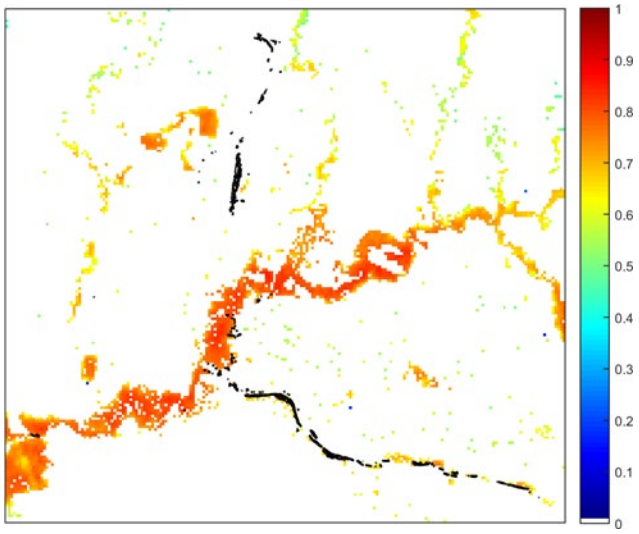
4. Map of the property in context

Yellow boundaries denote areas of proposed native vegetation removal.

Red boundaries denote areas of past removal of native vegetation.

4. Habitat importance maps

Grey-headed Flying-fox
Pteropus poliocephalus
11280



Appendix B. Evidence of EHBA Offsets – TBC

BIG BUILD EASTERN FREEWAY | Eastern Freeway
Hoddle to Burke Alliance

5 February 2026

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Native Vegetation Offset Procurement Status – Grey-headed Flying-fox (SHUs)

I write to confirm we (EHBA) are in the process of procuring Species Habitat Units (SHUs) for Grey-headed Flying Fox triggered by proposed native vegetation removals outside the Project Boundary at Yarra River bridge for the access tracks.

Bio Offsets Victoria have quoted 0.199 SHUs for the proposed native vegetation removals, from a possible 2.08 SHUs available.

The quote (attached to this letter) has been accepted and the Alliance vendor onboarding process for Bio Offsets Victoria is underway. Offset confirmation and the subsequent certificate will be issued to EHBA this month (February 2026).

EHBA request the Planning Permit be submitted with the Native Vegetation Report (NVR) received from DEECA so it can commence the permit process concurrently with the SHU offset procurement process.

Should you require any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Reid
Environment & EPR Manager
Eastern Freeway Hoddle to Burke Alliance (EHBA)
M: 0436 343 148 **E:** matt.reid@easternhba.com.au

Biodiversity Offsets VICTORIA

Matt Reid
Eastern Freeway – Hoddle to Burke Alliance
Tower 1, Collins Square, Level 9, 727 Collins Street
Docklands VIC 3008

19 January 2026
Reference Number: 0883

Dear Matt

RE: Native Vegetation Offsets Quote

Biodiversity Offsets Victoria Pty Ltd is an accredited offsets provider with the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). I understand that you are seeking a quote to satisfy the native vegetation offset requirements outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Native Vegetation Offset Requirements

Offset Type	Species offset
Rare or Threatened Species	Grey-headed Flying Fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*
Species Habitat Units (HUs)	0.199
Large Trees (LTs)	2

Biodiversity Offsets Victoria has native vegetation offsets available that meet the above requirements. The total cost to purchase these offsets is **$46,433.00 (exc GST)**. The attributes and cost breakdown of these offsets are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Native Vegetation Offsets Available.

Species	Grey-headed Flying Fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*		**Species HUs**	0.199	**Large Trees**	2
Price per Species HU	$215,000.00 (exc GST)		**Price per Large Tree**		$700.00 (exc GST)	
Cost Breakdown			**Price (exc GST)**		**Price (inc GST)**	
Cost of Native Vegetation Offsets			$44,185.00		$48,603.50	
DEECA Registration, Trade and Allocation Fees			$128.00		$140.80	
Biodiversity Offsets Victoria Trade Fee			$2,120.00		$2,332.00	
Total			**$46,433.00**		**$51,076.30**	

Quote Acceptance

This quote is valid for up to two weeks, however the offsets are subject to availability. To proceed with the above quote and secure these offsets, please complete and sign the *Quote Acceptance Form* (below), and return a signed copy either via email (scanned copy) to info@offsetsvictoria.com.au or by post to:

Biodiversity Offsets Victoria
155 Bambra Cemetery Rd
Deans Marsh VIC 3235

Invoicing and Timeframes

Following receipt of the *Quote Acceptance Form*, you will be required to review and sign a *Three Party Credit Trading Agreement* and *Notification to allocate native vegetation credits* within 28 days of receipt. Two invoices will then be generated:

1. $48,603.50 (inc GST) for the cost of the native vegetation offsets, payable to DEECA; and,
2. $2,472.80 (inc GST) for DEECA's and Biodiversity Offsets Victoria trading fees, payable to Biodiversity Offsets Victoria Pty Ltd.

Once both invoices have been paid in full, Biodiversity Offsets Victoria will release the *Allocated Credit Extract* within 3 – 7 business days. An *Allocated Credit Extract* provides confirmation to the relevant referral authority that the native vegetation offset requirements outlined in Table 1 have been satisfied.

Offset Trade Cancellation

If you need to cancel a requested offset trade following quote acceptance, a cancellation fee of $255.00 (exc GST) will apply. An offset trade cannot be cancelled or reversed following execution of the *Three Party Credit Trading Agreement* and payment of invoices.

Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this quote further.

Kind Regards,

Anna O'Brien

Biodiversity Offsets Victoria