

This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright

**1585 – 1605
Mickleham Road,
Yuroke**

Native Vegetation
Assessment

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Prepared for St Abdisho's
Community
c/- PMDL

June 2023
Report No. 18086 (1.0)



**Nature
Advisory**

(Formerly Brett Lane & Associates Pty Ltd)

5/61-63 Camberwell Road
Hawthorn East, VIC 3123
PO Box 337, Camberwell VIC 3124

(03) 9815 2111

www.natureadvisory.com.au

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Executive summary..... | 11 |
| 2. Introduction | 13 |
| 3. Definitions, methods, and assessment process..... | 14 |
| 3.1. Definitions..... | 14 |
| 3.1.1. Study area | 14 |
| 3.1.2. Native vegetation..... | 14 |
| 3.2. Field methods | 15 |
| 3.3. Planning permit and application requirements..... | 15 |
| 3.3.1. Exemptions..... | 15 |
| 3.3.2. Application requirements..... | 15 |
| 3.3.3. Referral to DEECA..... | 16 |
| 4. Existing information and results | 17 |
| 4.1. Site description, zoning and overlays..... | 17 |
| 4.1.1. Zoning..... | 17 |
| 4.1.2. Overlays..... | 17 |
| 4.2. Native vegetation..... | 17 |
| 4.2.1. Species recorded | 18 |
| 4.2.2. Patches of native vegetation | 18 |
| 4.2.3. Scattered trees | 20 |
| 4.2.4. Listed species | 13 |
| 4.2.5. Listed ecological communities | 20 |
| 5. Assessment of impacts | 21 |
| 5.1. Proposed development | 21 |
| 5.2. Proposed native vegetation removal..... | 21 |
| 5.3. Design recommendations..... | 21 |
| 6. Implications under legislation and policy | 23 |
| 6.1. Clause 12.01 of the of the Planning Scheme..... | 23 |
| 6.2. Clause 52.17 of the Planning Scheme | 23 |
| 6.2.1. Exemptions..... | 23 |
| 6.3. Avoid and minimise statement | 23 |
| 6.4. Modelled species important habitat | 24 |
| 6.5. Assessment pathway..... | 24 |
| 6.6. Offset requirements | 24 |

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| 6.7. Offset statement..... | 24 |
| 6.8. Zoning..... | 24 |
| 6.9. CaLP Act | 25 |
| 7. References | 26 |

Tables

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1: Description of habitat zones in the study area | 18 |
| Table 2: Summary of Vegetation Quality Assessment results | 20 |
| Table 3: Listed flora species and their likelihood of occurrence in the study area..... | 14 |
| Table 4: EPBC Act-listed ecological communities and likelihood of occurrence in the study area..... | 20 |
| Table 5: Assessment pathway matrix..... | 24 |

Figures

| | |
|---|----|
| Figure 1: Study area and native vegetation..... | 21 |
| Figure 2: Impacts of proposed development on native vegetation..... | 22 |

Appendices

| | |
|---|----|
| Appendix 1: Details of the assessment process in accordance with the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP 2017a) | 27 |
| Appendix 2: Detailed Vegetation Quality Assessment results | 31 |
| Appendix 3: Large trees in patches and scattered trees recorded in the study area | 32 |
| Appendix 4: Flora species recorded in the study area | 33 |
| Appendix 5: Photographs of native vegetation proposed for removal | 35 |
| Appendix 6: EVC benchmarks..... | 39 |
| Appendix 7: Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report | 40 |
| Appendix 8: Evidence that native vegetation offset requirement is available | 41 |
| Appendix 9: Construction mitigation recommendations..... | 42 |

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

1. Executive summary

Nature Advisory Pty Ltd undertook a native vegetation assessment of an approximately 5.71-hectare area of land at 1585-1605 Mickleham Road, Yuroke, and the adjacent road reserve. The construction of a primary school and a secondary school is proposed at 1585 and 1605 Mickleham Road respectively.

This report presents the information relevant to native vegetation on the property to accompany a planning permit application under Clause 52.17 of the Hume Planning Scheme, in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP 2017a), herein referred to as 'the Guidelines'.

Vegetation in the study area primarily consisted of introduced pastures. Gardens of exotic plants also occurred around existing dwellings. Planted treed vegetation was present along property boundaries and included exotic species and various eucalypts. A number of mature River Red-gums occurred in the road reserve along Mickleham Road, some of which hung over the property boundary. Native vegetation was comparatively limited in extent and comprised small patches of Wallaby-grass, Spear-grass and Weeping Grass occurring in the east of the study area, on both public and private land.

The following native vegetation was recorded in the study area:

- Nine patches of native vegetation, totalling 0.289 hectares (including one large tree in patches); and
- Five small scattered trees.

The proponent proposes to remove 0.172 hectares of native vegetation comprising:

- 0.123 hectares of native vegetation in patches (including no large trees in patches); and
- One large scattered tree, equating to an area loss of 0.049 hectares.

The application site lies within Location 2. Based on the extent of native vegetation, the number of large trees, and the location category, the proposal must be assessed under the **Intermediate** assessment pathway. This **would not** trigger a referral to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA).

A *Native Vegetation Removal (NVR)* report for this proposal is provided in Appendix 7.

Offsets required to compensate for the proposed removal of native vegetation from the study area are:

- 0.051 general habitat units, with following offset attribute requirements:
 - A minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) of 0.626
 - Located within the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA boundary or the Hume municipal district.
 - Include protection of at least one large trees.

Under the Guidelines all offsets must be secured prior to the removal of native vegetation.

The offset target for the current proposal will be achieved via a third-party offset.

The table below summarises the compliance of the information in this report with the application requirements of the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP 2017a).

| Application requirement | | Response |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1. | Information about the native vegetation to be removed. | See Section 5.2. |

| Application requirement | | Response |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 2. | Topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed. | See Section 4.1 and Figure 1. |
| 3. | Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed. | See Appendix 5. |
| 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. | Not applicable. |
| 5. | An avoid and minimise statement. | See Section 6.3. |
| 6. | A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan contained within an agreement made pursuant to section 69 of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> that applies to the native vegetation to be removed. | Not applicable. |
| 7. | Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defensible space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary. This statement is not required when the creation of defensible space is in conjunction with an application under the Bushfire Management Overlay. | Not applicable. |
| 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). | Not applicable. |
| 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. | See Appendix 8. |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

2. Introduction

PMDL on behalf of St Abdisho's Community, engaged Nature Advisory Pty Ltd to conduct a native vegetation removal assessment of a 5.71 -hectare area of land at 1585-1605 Mickleham Road, Yuroke, a property proposed for construction of a primary and secondary school. This assessment also included the public road reserve adjacent to this property.

This investigation was commissioned to provide information on the extent and condition of native vegetation in the study area according to Victoria's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP 2017a), herein referred to as 'the Guidelines'. Potential impacts on flora and fauna matters listed under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have been considered as part of a review of existing information and field investigation; no relevant implications were identified under either Act.

This report provides an update and extension of a Native Vegetation Assessment conducted by Nature Advisory (previously Brett Lane & Associates) (BL&A 2018). This brings information within the report in line with recently gazetted changes to Victoria's native vegetation removal regulations and includes an additional property at 1605 Mickleham Road.

Specifically, the scope of the investigation included the following:

- Review existing information on the flora, fauna and native vegetation of the study area and surrounds, including:
 - Victorian Biodiversity Atlas administered by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA);
 - The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) Protected Matters Search Tool; and
 - DEECA Native Vegetation Information Management system (NVIM).
- A site survey involving:
 - Characterisation and mapping of native vegetation on the site, as defined in Victoria's Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or lopping of Native Vegetation (the 'Guidelines');
 - Assessment of native vegetation in accordance with the Guidelines, including habitat hectare assessment and/or scattered tree assessment;
 - Compilation of a flora species list for the site; and
 - Assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of EPBC Act and Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) listed flora, fauna and communities on the site.

This investigation was undertaken by a team from Nature Advisory comprising Arend Kwak (Botanist), Emma Wagner (GIS Analyst) and Dr Kate Callister (Senior Ecologist & Project Manager).

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

3. Definitions, methods, and assessment process

3.1. Definitions

3.1.1. Study area

The study area for this investigation is defined as 1585-1605 Mickleham Road, Yuroke, and adjacent roadside, as shown in Figure 1.

3.1.2. Native vegetation

Native vegetation is currently defined in Clause 73.01 of all Victorian planning schemes as ‘plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses’. The Guidelines (DELWP 2017a) further classify native vegetation as belonging to two categories:

- Patch; or
- Scattered tree.

The definitions of these categories are provided below, along with the prescribed DEECA methods of assessment. Further details on definitions of patches and scattered trees are provided in Appendix 1.

Patch

A patch of native vegetation is defined as one of the following:

- An area of 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 trees¹ where the drip line² 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’s *Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM) system* (DEECA 2023b).

Patch condition is assessed using the habitat hectare method (Parkes et al. 2003; DSE 2004b) whereby components of the patch (e.g. tree canopy, understorey and ground cover) are assessed against an Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) benchmark. The score effectively measures the percentage resemblance of the vegetation to the original condition.

The NVIM system (DEECA 2023b) provides modelled condition scores for native vegetation to be used in certain circumstances.

Scattered tree

A scattered tree is defined as:

- A native canopy tree that does not form part of a patch.

Scattered trees are counted and mapped, the species identified and the circumference at 1.3 m above the ground is recorded.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

¹ A native canopy tree is a mature tree (i.e. able to flower) that is taller than three metres and normally found in the upper layer of the relevant vegetation type.

² The drip line is the outermost boundary of a tree canopy (leaves and/or branches) where the water drips onto the ground.

Tree Protection Zone

A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is defined as the area around the base of a tree, with a radius of 12 × that tree's diameter at breast height (DBH). The maximum TPZ is 15 metres, while a minimum of 2 metres applies. Dead trees are treated in the same manner.

3.2. Field methods

The field assessment was conducted on 19 April 2023. During this assessment, the study area was surveyed on foot.

Sites in the study area found to support native vegetation or with potential to support listed matters were mapped through a combination of aerial photograph interpretation and ground truthing using ArcGIS Collector (accurate to approximately 5 metres).

Whilst this assessment was not designed to provide an exhaustive inventory of flora species in the study area, all efforts were made to schedule the site assessment at a time of year when most of the native vegetation life forms are likely to be present. The autumn timing of the survey and condition of vegetation was considered suitable to ascertain the extent and condition of native vegetation.

3.3. Planning permit and application requirements

State planning provisions are established under the *Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Clause 52.17 of all Victorian Planning Schemes states the following:

A permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation, including dead native vegetation.

A permit is not required if the following apply:

- If an exemption in Cl. 52.17-7 specifically states that that a permit is not required.
- If a native vegetation precinct plan corresponding to the land is incorporated into the planning scheme and listed in the schedule to Cl. 52.16.
- If the native vegetation is specified in a schedule to Cl. 52.17.

3.3.1. Exemptions

Exemptions listed in Cl. 52.17-7 relevant to the study area include:

- Planted vegetation: Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that was either planted or grown as a result of direct seeding.

3.3.2. Application requirements

Any application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must comply with the application requirements specified in the Guidelines (DELWP 2017a).

When assessing an application, Responsible Authorities are also obligated to refer to Clause 12.01-2S *Native vegetation management* in the Planning Scheme that, in addition to the Guidelines, refers to the following:

- *Assessor's handbook – applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (DELWP 2018a).
- Statewide biodiversity information maintained by DEECA.

The application of the Guidelines (DELWP 2017a) is explained further in Appendix 1.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

3.3.3. Referral to DEECA

Clause 66.02-2 of the Planning Scheme determines the role of DEECA in the assessment of native vegetation removal permit applications. If an application is referred, DEECA may make certain recommendations to the responsible authority in relation to the permit application.

Any application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must be referred to DEECA if any of the following apply:

- The impacts to native vegetation are in the *Detailed* assessment pathway;
- A property vegetation plan applies to the site; or
- The native vegetation is on Crown land that is occupied or managed by the responsible authority.

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

4. Existing information and results

4.1. Site description, zoning and overlays

The study area for this investigation (Figure 1) constituted approximately 5.71 hectares of land located at 1585-1605 Mickleham Road, Yuroke, and the adjacent public road reserve. The study area is 25 kilometres north of the Melbourne CBD and bordered by Mickleham Road to the east and private property to the south, west and north.

The study area supported soils of volcanic origin on a gently sloping, east-facing landscape. A single dwelling occurred in the west of the property. Two man-made dams occurred in the east of the properties (near Mickleham Road).

The properties have been used for residential dwelling, with small-scale livestock grazing. Surrounding land predominantly supported properties used for rural living and horse agistment.

Vegetation in the study area primarily consisted of exotic pastures, including Kikuyu, Cocksfoot, Toowoomba Canary-grass and Couch. Broadleaf herbaceous weeds such as Ribwort, Flatweed, Soursob and Common Sowthistle were occasionally interspersed. Gardens of exotic plants, such as Agapanthus and Lavender, occurred around existing dwellings. Planted treed vegetation was also present along property boundaries and included species such as Monterey Pine, Oak, Desert Ash and various eucalypts. A number of mature River Red-gums occurred in the road reserve along Mickleham Road, some of which hung over the property boundary. Native vegetation was comparatively limited in extent and comprised small patches of Wallaby-grass, Spear-grass and Weeping Grass occurring in the east of the study area, on both public and private land.

The study area lies within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion and falls within the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment and Hume local government area.

The study area falls within the Bushfire Prone Area.

4.1.1. Zoning

The study area is currently zoned Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) in the Hume Planning Scheme.

This zoning aims to protect and conserve land for its agricultural, environmental, historic, landscape, recreational and tourism opportunities, and mineral and stone resources.

4.1.2. Overlays

No overlays in the Hume Planning scheme relevant to this investigation cover the study area.

4.2. Native vegetation

Pre-1750 (pre-European settlement) vegetation mapping administered by DEECA was reviewed to determine the type of native vegetation likely to occur in the study area and surrounds. Information on Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) was obtained from published EVC benchmarks. These sources included:

- Relevant EVC benchmarks for the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion³ (DSE 2004a);

³ A bioregion is defined as “a geographic region that captures the patterns of ecological characteristics in the landscape, providing a natural framework for recognising and responding to biodiversity values”. In general bioregions reflect underlying environmental features of the landscape (DNRE 1997).

- *NatureKit* (DEECA 2023a).

4.2.1. Species recorded

During the field assessment 43 plant species were recorded, of which 11 (26%) were indigenous and 32 (74%) introduced, planted or non-indigenous native in origin. A full list of flora species observed is provided in Appendix 4.

4.2.2. Patches of native vegetation

Pre-European EVC mapping (DEECA 2023b) indicated that the study area and surrounds would have supported Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) and Plains Grassland (EVC 132) prior to European settlement based on modelling of factors including rainfall, aspect, soils and remaining vegetation.

Evidence on site, including floristic composition and soil characteristics, suggested that Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61) was present in the east of the study area (Figure 1). A description of this EVC is provided within the EVC benchmarks in Appendix 6

Nine patches (referred to herein as habitat zones) comprising the abovementioned EVC, were identified in the study area (Table 1). This totalled an area of 0.289 hectares of native vegetation in patches and included one large tree.

Table 1: Description of habitat zones in the study area

| Habitat Zone | EVC | Description |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| A | Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61) | Patch of woodland on private land with a healthy canopy of River Red-gums overhanging from road reserve. No eucalypt recruitment observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Wheat-grass, spear-grass and Windmill grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Montpelier Broom also noted. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |
| B | | Patch of woodland on private land with a healthy canopy of River Red-gums overhanging from road reserve. Recruiting eucalypts observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Wheat-grass, spear-grass and Windmill grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |
| C | | Patch of woodland on private land lacking a canopy. No eucalypt recruitment observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Wheat-grass, Spear-grass and Windmill grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Some planted eucalypts and wattles in patch. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

| Habitat Zone | EVC | Description |
|--------------|-----|--|
| D | | Patch of woodland on private land lacking a canopy. No eucalypt recruitment observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Wheat-grass, Spear-grass and Windmill grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |
| E | | Patch of woodland in road reserve lacking a canopy. Adjacent to road drain. No eucalypt recruitment observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, spear-grass, Windmill grass and Common blown-grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |
| F | | Patch of woodland in road reserve with a healthy canopy of River Red-gums, including one large tree. Recruiting eucalypts observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Wheat-grass, Spear-grass, Windmill grass and Red-legged grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |
| G | | Patch of woodland in road reserve with a healthy canopy of River Red-gums. Recruiting eucalypts observed. Ground-layer dominated by native grasses including Common Wallaby-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Wheat-grass, Spear-grass, Windmill grass and Red-legged grass. Low cover of weeds but dominated by high-threat grass weeds including Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. Moderate cover of bryophytes and soil crust. Moderate amount of native leaf litter. No logs. |
| H | | A woodland patch occurring on the eastern border of 1605 Mickleham Road. This patch comprised a ground-layer of Common Wallaby-grass and Spear-grass, with an incidental occurrence of Variable Willow-herb. Moderate-high cover of weeds, consisting of Chilean Needle-grass, Couch, Rat-tail Grass and various planted trees. Low cover of bryophytes and an absent soil crust component. High cover of exotic organic litter. No logs. |
| I | | A woodland patch occurring in the road reserve, east of 1605 Mickleham Road. Native vegetation comprised a ground cover of Common Wallaby-grass and Windmill Grass. Weed cover was moderate and consisted of Chilean Needle-grass, Rat-tail Grass, Paspalum and Couch. A low cover of bryophytes and soil crust was present. Organic litter cover was moderate and exotic in origin. No logs present. |

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

The Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) results for these habitat zones are provided in Table 2. More detailed habitat scoring results are presented in Appendix 2. Details of large trees in patches are provided in Appendix 3.

Table 2: Summary of Vegetation Quality Assessment results

| Habitat Zone | EVC | Area (ha) | Condition score (out of 100) | No. of large trees in HZ |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A | Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61) | 0.008 | 23 | 0 |
| B | | 0.023 | 28 | 0 |
| C | | 0.012 | 18 | 0 |
| D | | 0.001 | 18 | 0 |
| E | | 0.063 | 18 | 0 |
| F | | 0.021 | 38 | 1 |
| G | | 0.022 | 28 | 0 |
| H | | 0.122 | 14 | 0 |
| I | | 0.016 | 16 | 0 |
| Total | | 0.289 | | 1 |

4.2.3. Scattered trees

Scattered trees recorded in the study area would have once comprised the canopy component of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61). Five scattered trees occurred in the study area (Figure 1), including the following:

- Five small scattered trees (< 80 cm DBH).






Details of all scattered trees recorded are listed in Appendix 3.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Figure 1: Study area and native vegetation

Project: 1585 Mickleham Road, Yuroke
Client: St Abdisho's Community
Date: 27/04/2023

-  Study area
 Property boundary
- Native vegetation**
-  Large tree
 -  Scattered tree
 - Plains Grassy
 -  Woodland (EVC 55_61)



4.2.4. Listed species

Records from the VBA (DEECA 2023d) and Commonwealth EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (DAWE 2023a) indicated that within the search region there were records of, or potential suitable habitat occurred for, 16 species listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and 25 listed under the state FFG Act, including 13 listed under both Acts. No flora species listed under the EPBC Act were recorded during the field survey.

The likelihood of occurrence of species listed under the EPBC Act and FFG Act in the study area is addressed in Table 3. Species considered ‘likely to occur’ have very high potential of occurring in the study area based on numerous records in the search region and suitable habitat in the study area. Species considered to have the ‘potential to occur’ are those for which suitable habitat exists, but recent records are scarce.

This analysis indicates that no listed flora species are likely to naturally occur or have the potential to naturally occur.

The following listed flora species was observed on site but was considered planted::

- Giant Honey-myrtle (FFG Act: Endangered)

Variants of the following species were also observed to be planted on site, but were not identified to subspecies:

- Large-fruit Yellow-gum (FFG Act: Critically Endangered)
- Mugga (FFG Act: Endangered)

ADVERTISED PLAN

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

Table 3: Listed flora species and their likelihood of occurrence in the study area

| Common Name | Scientific Name | EPBC Act | FFG Act | Habitat | Number of records | Date of last record | Likelihood of occurrence |
|--------------------|--|----------|-----------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Spotted Gum | <i>Corymbia maculata</i> | | Vulnerable | Coastal Plains and hills. Endemic to the Tara range in East Gippsland (Walsh & Entwistle). | 2 | 1/09/2017 | Outside natural range, conspicuous species not identified during the site assessment. Unlikely to occur. |
| Tough Scurf-pea | <i>Cullen tenax</i> | | Endangered | Grasslands and grassy woodlands, subject to irregular flooding, with relatively rich soils derived from alluvium. *An exception is the population near Shelford, which grows from rocky clay soils derived from basalt* (DSE 2005). | 1 | 1/11/2017 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, minimal nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Sticky Wattle | <i>Acacia howittii</i> | | Vulnerable | Victorian endemic, confined to east from upper Macalister River area near Howitts to near Yarram and east to near Tabberabbera, growing in moist forest; widely cultivated and naturalising in some areas (e.g. Portland, Geelong, Melbourne, Dandenong Ranges etc.) (VicFlora 2022) | 1 | 29/11/2017 | No suitable habitat present, outside typical range, minimal nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Western Golden-tip | <i>Goodia medicaginea</i> | | Endangered | Sporadically placed, however prefers dry sites. | 1 | 29/11/2017 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, minimal nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Giant Honey-myrtle | <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> subsp. <i>armillaris</i> | | Endangered | Near coastal sandy heaths. Widely planted | 4 | 29/11/2017 | Identified in the study area but considered planted. Known to occur. |
| Bog Gum | <i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i> | | Critically Endangered | Occurring on coastal lowlands from Yarram west to Cape Otway, and Mt Richmond near Portland. It also occurs on top of Mt Oberon (Wilson's Promontory) and on nearby Snake Is. An inland collection from near Woohlpooer | 1 | 5/12/2017 | Outside typical range, conspicuous species not identified during field assessment, minimal nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

| Common Name | Scientific Name | EPBC Act | FFG Act | Habitat | Number of records | Date of last record | Likelihood of occurrence |
|---------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | | (west of the Grampians) requires verification. | | | |
| Large-fruit Yellow-gum | <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. megalocarpa</i> | | Critically Endangered | Undulating low hills of thin loam over limestone in coastal shrubland. Naturally restricted to far south-western Victoria, near the Glenelg River estuary south of Nelson, and south-eastern South Australia. Other occurrences comprise planted individuals (Nicolle 2006). | 1 | 5/12/2017 | Planted Yellow Gum identified, but subspecies not confirmed. Potential to occur. |
| Mugga | <i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon subsp. sideroxylon</i> | | Endangered | Confined to the Chiltern area, northern Warby Range and south of Winton (RBGV 2023). | 1 | 5/12/2017 | Planted Ironbark identified, but species not confirmed. Potential to occur. |
| Basalt Peppercress | <i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i> s.s. | Endangered | Endangered | Known to establish on open, bare ground with limited competition from other plants. Previously recorded from Eucalypt woodland with a grassy ground cover, low open Casuarina woodland with a grassy ground cover and tussock grassland. Now generally found amongst exotic pasture grasses and beneath exotic trees (DAWE 2020). | 1 | 21/05/2018 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, minimal nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Rye Beetle-grass | <i>Tripogonella loliiformis</i> | | Endangered | Dry and rocky sites (Walsh 1994). Grows in shallow soils over-lying (or on the edges of) flat basalt rocks in Plains Grassland where there is an accumulation of moss and organic matter (D. Coppolino personal obs). | 2 | 24/10/2018 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, minimal nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Plump Swamp Wallaby-grass | <i>Amphibromus pithogastrus</i> | | Critically Endangered | Currently confined to treeless grassland or sedgeland, includes, gilgai depressions in seasonally wet Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) dominated grassland, a seasonal soak dominated by Common Bog-rush <i>Schoenus</i> | 4 | 24/10/2018 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance. Unlikely to occur. |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | EPBC Act | FFG Act | Habitat | Number of records | Date of last record | Likelihood of occurrence |
|---------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | | apogon and in a stand of Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp. aff. <i>bichenoviana</i>). Only known from Bathurst and Armidale (DSE 2004). | | | |
| Fragrant Saltbush | <i>Rhagodia parabolica</i> | | Vulnerable | Steep rocky and broad ridges between Sunbury and Geelong, but can be locally common (Walsh 1996). | 7 | 10/11/2020 | No suitable habitat present. Unlikely to occur. |
| River Swamp Wallaby-grass | <i>Amphibromus fluitans</i> | Vulnerable | | River Swamp Wallaby-grass grows mostly in permanent swamps and also lagoons, billabongs, dams and roadside ditches. The species requires moderately fertile soils with some bare ground; conditions that are caused by seasonally-fluctuating water levels (DAWE 2020). | 4 | 10/11/2020 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance. Unlikely to occur. |
| Matted Flax-lily | <i>Dianella amoena</i> | Endangered | Critically Endangered | Lowland grassland and grassy woodlands on well-drained to seasonally waterlogged fertile sandy loams to heavy cracking soils derived from sedimentary or volcanic geology. It is widely distributed from eastern to south-eastern Victoria (DAWE 2020). | 24 | 10/11/2020 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance. Unlikely to occur. |
| Austral Crane's-bill | <i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i> s.s. | | Endangered | Damp to dryish usually sheltered sites in grassy woodlands, often along drainage lines (Smith 1999). | 14 | 10/11/2020 | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance. Unlikely to occur. |
| Adamson's Blown-grass | <i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i> | Endangered | Endangered | Confined to slow moving creeks, swamps, flats, depressions or drainage lines that are seasonally inundated or waterlogged and usually moderately to highly saline. Appear to favour sites that have some shelter from the wind (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | EPBC Act | FFG Act | Habitat | Number of records | Date of last record | Likelihood of occurrence |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| Trailing Hop-bush | <i>Dodonaea procumbens</i> | Vulnerable | | Grows in low lying, often winter wet areas in woodland, low open-forest heathland and grasslands on sands and clays. Largely confined to SW of Victoria (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records, outside natural range, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Clover Glycine | <i>Glycine latrobeana</i> | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Found across south-eastern Australia in native grasslands, dry sclerophyll forests, woodlands and low open woodlands with a grassy ground layer. In Victoria, populations occur in lowland grasslands, grassy woodlands and sometimes in grassy heath (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Small Golden Moths | <i>Diuris basaltica</i> | Endangered | Critically Endangered | Grows in herb-rich native grasslands, dominated by Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) on heavy basaltic soils, often embedded with basalt boulders. All locations that the species is known to occur form part of the 'Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain' (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | No suitable habitat present, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Spiny Peppercress | <i>Lepidium aschersonii</i> | Vulnerable | Endangered | The Spiny Peppercress occurs in periodically wet sites such as gilgai depressions and the margins of freshwater and saline marshes and shallow lakes, usually on heavy clay soil. Almost all sites receive some degree of soil waterlogging or seasonal flooding. | None | N/A | No suitable habitat present, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

| Common Name | Scientific Name | EPBC Act | FFG Act | Habitat | Number of records | Date of last record | Likelihood of occurrence |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| Button Wrinklewort | <i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i> | Endangered | Endangered | In Victoria restricted to open stands of plains grassland and grassy woodlands, on fertile clays to clay loams, usually in areas where the grass cover is more open, either as a result of recurrent fires or grazing by native macropods or stock. It also occurs on low rises with shallow, stony soils at less than 100 m above sea level. | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Large-headed Fireweed | <i>Senecio macrocarpus</i> | Vulnerable | Critically Endangered | Victoria, occurs most commonly in grasslands on red-brown earth soils; may also occur in grassy woodlands and open woodlands predominantly in the Western (Basalt) Plains grassland on red brown earth soils found on recent (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Swamp Everlasting | <i>Xerochrysum palustre</i> | Vulnerable | Critically Endangered | Grows in wetlands including sedge-swamps and shallow freshwater marshes, often on heavily black clay soils. Commonly associated species include Amphibromus, Baumea, Carex, Chorizandra, Craspedia, Eleocharis, Iscolepis, Lachnagrostis, Lepidosperma, Myriophyllum, Phragmites australis, Themeda triandra and Villarsia (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | No suitable habitat present, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Sunshine Diuris | <i>Diuris fragrantissima</i> | Endangered | Critically Endangered | Native grasslands dominated by Kangaroo Grass, on heavy basalt soils, often with embedded basalt boulders; the only remaining natural population at Sunshine occurs in a small (0.1 ha) remnant of Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | No suitable habitat present, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |

| Common Name | Scientific Name | EPBC Act | FFG Act | Habitat | Number of records | Date of last record | Likelihood of occurrence |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| White Sunray | <i>Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor</i> | Endangered | Endangered | Occurs in a wide variety of grassland, woodland and forest habitats, generally on relatively heavy soils. Plants can be found in natural or semi-natural vegetation and grazed or ungrazed habitat. Bare ground is required for germination. The unpalatability of this species is likely to protect it in heavily grazed areas where patches of bare ground are likely to develop, favouring recruitment (DAWE 2020). | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Swamp Fireweed | <i>Senecio psilocarpus</i> | Vulnerable | Endangered | Herb-rich winter-wet swamps on volcanic clays or peaty soils (Walsh 1999). Known from approximately 10 sites between Warrar, about 45 km north of Melbourne, and Honans Scrub in south-eastern South Australia (TSSC 2008). | None | N/A | No suitable habitat present, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Green-striped Greenhood | <i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i> | Vulnerable | Endangered | Occurs in mixed Box-Stringybark mesic woodlands by understorey, often with <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> as a major component on sandy or clay loam soils (Duncan et al. 2009). | None | N/A | No suitable habitat present, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |
| Spiny Rice-flower | <i>Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens</i> | Critically Endangered | Critically Endangered | Occurs in grassland or open shrubland on basalt derived soils, usually comprising black or grey clays. Plants from more northerly populations occur on red clay complexes, while plants from southern populations occur on heavy grey-black clay loams. Topography is generally flat but populations may occur on slight rises or in slightly wettish depressions. | None | N/A | Habitat suboptimal due to high cover of high-threat weeds and historical disturbance, no nearby recent records. Unlikely to occur. |

Notes: EPBC-T = threatened species status under EPBC Act; FFG = threatened species status under the FFG Act.

4.2.5. Listed ecological communities

The EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (DAWE 2020a) indicated that four ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act had the potential to occur in the search region (Table 4). Occurrence of these communities in the study area was determined based on an assessment of the native vegetation present against published descriptions and condition thresholds for these communities.

Table 4: EPBC Act-listed ecological communities and likelihood of occurrence in the study area

| Ecological Community | EPBC Status | Occurrence in the study area |
|---|-------------|--|
| Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain | CR | Woodland patches did not meet the minimum patch size (0.5 hectares), and native grasses characteristic of this community did not meet the minimum perennial cover threshold ($\geq 50\%$ cover). Does not occur. |
| Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia | EN | Grey Box, the characteristic canopy species of this community, was not identified in the study area and is not typically associated with the EVCs modelled to occur. Does not occur. |
| Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain | CR | Native grassland was not identified in the study area and is not modelled to occur. Does not occur. |
| White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland | CR | Dominant and co-dominant tree species associated with this community were not identified in remnant patches and are not typically associated with the EVCs modelled to occur. Does not occur. |

Notes: EPBC = status under the EPBC Act.

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

5. Assessment of impacts

5.1. Proposed development

The current proposal will involve the construction of a primary school at 1585 Mickleham Road, and a secondary school at 1605 Mickleham Road.

To determine the extent of impacts to native vegetation, the proposed school development plan was overlaid with the native vegetation mapped as part of this investigation. Based on this plan, native vegetation impacted by the following was considered removed:

- Direct removal:
 - Native vegetation within all proposed building envelopes.
 - Native vegetation within all proposed driveways.
- Consequential removal:
 - Native vegetation within 10 metres of all proposed building envelopes.
 - Trees with the more than 10% of their TPZ encroached.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

5.2. Proposed native vegetation removal

The current school development will result in the loss of a total extent of 0.172 hectares of native vegetation as represented in Figure 2 and documented in the *Native Vegetation Removal* (NVR) report provided by DEECA (Appendix 7).

This comprised the following:

- 0.123 hectares of native vegetation in patches (including no large trees in patches);
- One large scattered tree, equating to an area of loss of 0.049 hectares.

The native vegetation to be removed is in an area mapped as an endangered EVC.

Photographs of native vegetation proposed for removal are provided in Appendix 5.

5.3. Design recommendations

The following design recommendations are provided to avoid/minimise impacts on native vegetation, and flora and fauna habitats:

- Where River Red-gum and native grass patches are conserved, enhancement of this native vegetation could occur through supplementary plantings of indigenous species characteristic of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61). This will enhance the study area's biodiversity values, provide visual amenity and support screening of the school development.
- Remnant River Red-gum in the road reserve should be retained where feasible. This will allow for the protection of nesting and foraging habitat for native fauna, as well as aiding in screening the school development.

Further mitigation recommendations to mitigate impacts to native vegetation during construction are provided in Appendix 9.


**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**


Figure 2: Native vegetation to be removed

Project: 1585 Mickleham Road, Yuroke

Client: St Abdisho's Community

Date: 22/05/2023


 Study area


 Property boundary


Native vegetation

 Large tree

 Scattered tree

 Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61)

 Tree to be removed

 Native vegetation to be removed



Metres
0 10



PO Box 337, Camberwell, VIC 3124, Australia
www.natureadvisory.com.au
03 9815 2111 - info@natureadvisory.com.au

6. Implications under legislation and policy

6.1. Clause 12.01 of the of the Planning Scheme

The overarching purpose of Clause 12.01 is to protect and conserve Victoria's biodiversity. This proposal is largely in accordance with Clause 12.01, as the land selected for development is largely devoid of native vegetation, with only small and disconnected patches of highly modified woodland being present. This vegetation does not contribute to meaningful biolinks in the greater landscape and is unlikely to be relied upon by native fauna. Therefore, the very limited removal resulting from this development will not have a significant impact on native habitat. It should also be noted that valuable native habitat components, such as mature River Red-gum, will mostly be retained. Although some fauna habitat may be lost as a result of this development, an abundance of comparable habitat also exists in the study area surrounds.

6.2. Clause 52.17 of the Planning Scheme

A permit for the proposed removal of native vegetation is required under Cl. 52.17 of the State Planning Provisions.

6.2.1. Exemptions

Exemptions listed in Cl. 52.17-7 relevant to the study area are:

- *Planted vegetation*: Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that was either planted or grown as a result of direct seeding. This exemption does not apply to native vegetation planted or managed with public funding for the purpose of land protection or enhancing biodiversity.
- *Regrowth*: Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that has naturally established or regenerated on land lawfully cleared of naturally established native vegetation, and may be classified as one of the following:
 - Less than 10 years old, or
 - Austral Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*), or
 - Within the boundary of a timber production plantation, as indicated on a Plantation Development Notice or other documented record and has established after the plantation; or
 - Less than ten years old at the time of a property vegetation plan being signed by the Secretary to DEECA (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*) and is shown on that plan as being 'certified regrowth'; and on land that is to be used or maintained for cultivation or pasture during the term of that plan.

This exemption does not apply to land where native vegetation has been destroyed or otherwise damaged as a result of flood, fire or other natural disaster.

6.3. Avoid and minimise statement

In accordance with the Guidelines, all applications to remove native vegetation must provide an avoid and minimise statement that describes any efforts undertaken to avoid the removal of, and minimise the impacts to biodiversity and other values of native vegetation, and how these efforts focused on areas of native vegetation that have the highest value. Efforts to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation in the current application are presented as follows:

- *Site level planning* – The school development has been sited on land that predominantly supports introduced vegetation, therefore limiting impacts to native habitat. The majority of remnant vegetation in the adjacent road reserve, including the majority of mature River Red-gum trees, will be retained.

The bulk of Habitat Zone H, within the north of the study area, will also be retained within a vegetated play area.

6.4. Modelled species important habitat

The current proposal footprint will not have a significant impact on any habitat for any rare or threatened species as determined in the Native Vegetation Removal Report (Appendix 7).

6.5. Assessment pathway

The assessment pathway is determined by the location category and extent of native vegetation as detailed for the study area as follows:

- **Location Category:** Location 2
- **Extent of native vegetation:** A total of 0.172 hectares of native vegetation (including one large tree).

Based on the extent of native vegetation removal being <0.5 hectares, including at least one large tree, and being in Location 2, the Guidelines stipulate that the proposal is to be assessed under the **Intermediate** assessment pathway, as determined by the following matrix:

Table 5: Assessment pathway matrix

| Extent of native vegetation | Location Category | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Location 1 | Location 2 | Location 3 |
| < 0.5 hectares and not including one or more large trees | Basic | Intermediate | Detailed |
| < 0.5 hectares and including one or more large trees | Intermediate | Intermediate | Detailed |
| ≥ 0.5 hectares | Detailed | Detailed | Detailed |

6.6. Offset requirements

Offsets required to compensate for the proposed removal of native vegetation from the study area are:

- 0.051 general habitat units, with following offset attribute requirements:
 - A minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) of 0.626
 - Located within the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA boundary or the Hume municipal district.
 - Include protection of at least one large tree.

Under the Guidelines all offsets must be secured prior to the removal of native vegetation.

6.7. Offset statement

The offset target for the current proposal will be achieved via a third-party offset.

An online search of the *Native Vegetation Credit Register* (DEECA 2023c) has shown that the required offset is currently available for purchase. Evidence that the required offset is available is provided in Appendix 8. The required offset would be secured following approval of the application to remove native vegetation.

6.8. Zoning

The study area is currently zoned Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) in the Hume Planning Scheme.

This zoning aims to protect and conserve land for its agricultural, environmental, historic, landscape, recreational and tourism opportunities, and mineral and stone resources.

Although the current proposal is not consistent with the land's zoning, it is consistent with the increasing trend towards urbanisation in association with the Craigieburn township. Development from the township is progressing westwards, with land parcels directly east of Mickleham Road being zoned Urban Growth Zone (UGZ). Facilities offering community services are required to be established to support Craigieburn's expanding township, and this proposal is therefore consistent with this urban transition. Furthermore, environmental values on the site are limited to several small, highly modified woodland patches within the study area. These do not represent key environmental values, and with the exception of remnant River Red-gum, are unlikely to persist given the extent of high-threat weeds. The limited size of the land parcels also limits opportunities for agricultural development.

6.9. CaLP Act

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) requires that landowners (or a third party to whom responsibilities have been legally transferred) must eradicate regionally prohibited weeds and prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds.

Property owners who do not eradicate Regionally prohibited weeds or prevent the growth and spread of Regionally controlled weeds for which they are responsible, may be issued with a Land Management Notice or Directions Notice that requires specific control work to be undertaken.

In accordance with the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, the noxious weed species listed below, that were recorded in the study area, must be controlled.

- Serrated Tussock

Precision control methods that minimise off-target kills (e.g. spot spraying) should be used in environmentally sensitive areas (e.g. within or near native vegetation, waterways, etc.).

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

7. References

Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A) 2018, 1585 Mickleham Road, Yuroke Native Vegetation Assessment-Report No. 18086.01 (1.0), Brett Lane & Associates Pty Ltd, Hawthorn East, consultant report prepared for Assyrian Schools Limited.

DAWE 2023a, *EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool*, Department of the Environment and Energy, Canberra, <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html>.

DAWE 2023b, *Species Profile and Threats Database*, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>.

DELWP 2017a, *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

DELWP 2017b, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Protected Flora List, June 2017*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

DELWP 2018, *Assessor's Handbook – Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (Version 1.1, dated October 2018), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

DELWP 2021, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List, October 2021*, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, East Melbourne.

DEECA 2023a, *NatureKit*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit>.

DEECA 2023b, *Native Vegetation Information Management*, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, East Melbourne, <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-information-management>.

DEECA 2023c, *Online Search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register*, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, East Melbourne, <https://nvcr.delwp.vic.gov.au>.

DEPI 2013, *Permitted clearing of native vegetation: Biodiversity assessment guidelines* (dated September 2013), Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, East Melbourne.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) 2004a, *Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) Benchmarks by Bioregion*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) 2004b, *Native Vegetation: sustaining a living landscape, Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – guidelines for applying the Habitat Hectare scoring method (Version 1.3)*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Parkes D, Newell G & Cheal D 2003, Assessing the Quality of Native Vegetation: The 'habitat hectares' approach, *Ecological Management and Restoration* 4:29 – 38.

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Appendix 1: Details of the assessment process in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP 2017a)

Purpose and objective

Policies and strategies relating to the protection and management of native vegetation in Victoria are defined in the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF). The objective identified in Clause 12.01 of all Victorian Planning Schemes is 'To ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation'.

This is to be achieved through the following three-step approach, as described in the Guidelines:

1. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
2. Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

Note: While a planning permit may still be required, if native vegetation does not meet the definition of either a patch or a scattered tree, an offset under the Guidelines is not required.

Assessment pathways

The first step in determining the type of assessment required for any site in Victoria is to determine the assessment pathway for the proposed native vegetation removal. The three possible assessment pathways for applications to remove native vegetation in Victoria are the following:

- Basic;
- Intermediate; or
- Detailed.

This assessment pathway is determined by two factors:

- **Location Category**, as determined using the state's Location Map. The location category indicates the potential risk to biodiversity from removing a small amount of native vegetation. The three location categories are defined as follows:
 - **Location 1** – shown in light blue-green on the Location Map; occurring over most of Victoria.
 - **Location 2** – shown in dark blue-green on the Location Map; includes areas mapped as endangered EVCs and/or sensitive wetlands and coastal areas.
 - **Location 3** – shown in brown on the Location Map; includes areas where the removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation could have a significant impact on habitat for rare and threatened species.
- **Extent of native vegetation** – The extent of any patches and scattered trees proposed to be removed (and the extent of any past native vegetation removal), with consideration as to whether the proposed removal includes any large trees. Extent of native vegetation is determined as follows:
 - **Patch** – the area of the patch in hectares.
 - **Scattered Tree** – the extent of a scattered tree is dependent on whether the scattered tree is small or large. A tree is considered large if the diameter at breast height (DBH) is equal to or greater than the large tree benchmark DBH for the relevant bioregional EVC. Any scattered tree that is not a large tree is a small scattered tree. The extent of large and small scattered trees is determined as follows:

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

- **Large scattered tree** – the area of a circle with a 15 metre radius, with the trunk of the tree at the centre.
- **Small scattered tree** – the area of a circle with a ten metre radius, with the trunk of the tree at the centre.

The assessment pathway for assessing an application to remove native vegetation is subsequently determined as shown in the following matrix table:

| Extent of native vegetation | Location Category | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Location 1 | Location 2 | Location 3 |
| < 0.5 hectares and not including any large trees | Basic | Intermediate | Detailed |
| < 0.5 hectares and including one or more large trees | Intermediate | Intermediate | Detailed |
| ≥ 0.5 hectares | Detailed | Detailed | Detailed |

Note: If the native vegetation to be removed includes more than one location category, the higher location category is used to determine the assessment pathway.

Landscape scale information – strategic biodiversity value

The SBV is a measure of a location's importance to Victoria's biodiversity, relative to other locations across the state. This is represented as a score between 0 and 1 and determined from the SBV map, available from NVIM (DEECA 2023b).

Landscape scale information – habitat for rare or threatened species

Habitat importance for rare or threatened species is a measure of the importance of a location in the landscape as habitat for a particular rare or threatened species, in relation to other habitat available for that species. This is represented as a score between 0 and 1 and determined from the habitat importance maps administered by DEECA.

This includes two groups of habitat:

- **Highly localised habitats** – Limited in area and considered to be equally important, therefore having the same habitat importance score.
- **Dispersed habitats** – Less limited in area and based on habitat distribution models.

Habitat for rare or threatened species is used to determine the type of offset required in the detailed assessment pathway.

Biodiversity value

A combination of site-based and landscape scale information is used to calculate the biodiversity value of native vegetation to be removed. Biodiversity value is represented by a general or species habitat score as follows.

The extent and condition of native vegetation to be removed are combined to determine the habitat hectares as follows:

Habitat hectares = extent of native vegetation × condition score

The habitat hectare score is combined with a landscape factor to obtain an overall measure of biodiversity value. Two landscape factors exist as follows:

- **General landscape factor** – determined using an adjusted strategic biodiversity score, and relevant when no habitat importance scores are applicable;
- **Species landscape factor** – determined using an adjusted habitat importance score for each rare or threatened species habitat mapped at a site in the Habitat importance map.

These factors are subsequently used as follows to determine the biodiversity value of a site:

General habitat score = habitat hectares × general landscape factor

Species habitat score = habitat hectares × species landscape factor

Offset requirements

A native vegetation offset is required for the approved removal of native vegetation. Offsets conform to one of two types and each type incorporates a multiplier to address the risk of offset:

- A **general offset** is required when the removal of native vegetation does not have a significant impact on any habitat for rare or threatened species (i.e. the proportional impact is below the species offset threshold). In this case a multiplier of 1.5 applies to determine the general offset amount.

General offset (amount of general habitat units) = general habitat score × 1.5

- A **species offset** is required when the removal of native vegetation has a significant impact on habitat for a rare or threatened species (i.e. the proportional impact is above the species offset threshold). In this case a multiplier of 2 applies to determine the species offset amount.

Species offset (amount of species habitat units) = Species habitat score × 2

Note: If native vegetation does not meet the definition of either a patch or scattered tree an offset is not required.

Offset attributes

Offsets must meet the following attribute requirements, as relevant:

- **General offsets**
 - **Offset amount** – general offset = general habitat score × 1.5
 - **Strategic biodiversity value** – the offset has at least 80% of the SBV of the native vegetation removed

- **Vicinity** – the offset is in the same CMA boundary or municipal district as the native vegetation removed
- Habitat for rare and threatened species – N/A
- **Large trees** – the offset includes the protection of at least one large tree for every large tree to be removed
- Species offsets
 - **Offset amount** – species offset = species habitat score × 2
 - Strategic biodiversity value: N/A
 - Vicinity: N/A
 - **Habitat for rare and threatened species** – the offset comprises mapped habitat according to the habitat importance map for the relevant species
 - **Large trees** – the offset includes the protection of at least one large tree for every large tree to be removed

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendix 2: Detailed Vegetation Quality Assessment results

| Habitat Zone | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Bioregion | | | VVP | VVP | VVP | VVP | VVP | VVP | VVP | VVP | VVP | |
| EVC Number | | | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | 55_61 | |
| Total area of Habitat Zone (ha) | | | 0.008 | 0.023 | 0.012 | 0.001 | 0.063 | 0.021 | 0.022 | 0.122 | 0.016 | |
| Site Condition | Large Old Trees | | /10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | No. large trees in habitat zone | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Tree Canopy Cover | | /5 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | Lack of Weeds | | /15 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| | Understorey | | /25 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | Recruitment | | /10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | Organic Matter | | /5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| | Logs | | /5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Site condition standardising multiplier* | | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| | Site Condition subtotal | | | 20 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 25 | 11 | 13 |
| Landscape Context | Patch Size | | /10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Neighbourhood | | /10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Distance to Core | | /5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Condition Score | | | /100 | 23 | 28 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 38 | 28 | 14 | 16 |

* Modified approach to habitat scoring - refer to Table 14 of DEECA's Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual (DSE, 2004).

Appendix 3: Large trees in patches and scattered trees recorded in the study area

| Tree No. | Common Name | Scientific Name | DBH (cm) | Circumference (cm) | Habitat Category | Radius of TPZ (m) | Remove/Retain |
|----------|---------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1 | River Red-gum | Eucalyptus camaldulensis | 32 | 100.48 | Small Scattered Tree | 3.84 | Retain |
| 2 | River Red-gum | Eucalyptus camaldulensis | 20 | 94.2 | Small Scattered Tree | 2.4 | Retain |
| 3 | River Red-gum | Eucalyptus camaldulensis | 54 | 169.56 | Small Scattered Tree | 6.48 | Retain |
| 4 | River Red-gum | Eucalyptus camaldulensis | 72 | 226.08 | Small Scattered Tree | 8.64 | Remove |
| 5 | River Red-gum | Eucalyptus camaldulensis | 37 | 116.18 | Small Scattered Tree | 4.44 | Retain |
| 6 | River Red-gum | Eucalyptus camaldulensis | 104 | 326.56 | Large tree in HZ F | 12.48 | Retain |

Notes: DBH = Diameter at breast height (130 cm from the ground); **TPZ** = Tree Protection Zone.

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendix 4: Flora species recorded in the study area

| Origin | Common name | Scientific name | EPBC | FFG-T | FFG-P | CaLP Act |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------|-------|-------|----------|
| † | Agapanthus | <i>Agapanthus sp.</i> | | | | |
| * | Galenia | <i>Aizoon pubescens</i> | | | | |
| | Berry Saltbush | <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> | | | | |
| | Spear-grass | <i>Austrostipa spp.</i> | | | | |
| | Red-leg Grass | <i>Bothriochloa macra</i> | | | | |
| † | Bottlebrush | <i>Callistemon sp.</i> | | | | |
| | Windmill Grass | <i>Chloris truncata</i> | | | | |
| † | Lemon-scented Gum | <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> | | | | |
| * | Artichoke Thistle | <i>Cynara cardunculus</i> | | | | |
| * | Couch | <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> | | | | |
| * | Cocksfoot | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | | | | |
| * | Panic Veldt-grass | <i>Ehrharta erecta</i> | | | | |
| | River Red-gum | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> | | | | |
| † | Blue Gum | <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> | | | | |
| † | Yellow Gum | <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> | | | | |
| † | Yellow Box | <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> | | | | |
| † | Eucalypt | <i>Eucalyptus sp.</i> | | | | |
| * | Ox-tongue | <i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> | | | | |
| * | Flatweed | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> | | | | |
| | Native Rush | <i>Juncus sp.</i> | | | | |
| * | Rye | <i>Lolium sp.</i> | | | | |
| | Lesser Loosestrife | <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> | | | | |
| † | Giant Honey-myrtle | <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> | | | | |
| † | Swamp Paperbark | <i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> | | | | |
| † | Prickly-leaved Paperbark | <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> | | | | |
| | Weeping Grass | <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> | | | | |
| * | Red-flowered Mallow | <i>Modiola caroliniana</i> | | | | |
| * | Chilean Needle-grass | <i>Nassella neesiana</i> | | | | R |
| * | Serrated Tussock | <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> | | | | C |
| † | Olive | <i>Olea europaea</i> | | | | |
| * | Soursob | <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> | | | | R |
| * | Wood Sorrel | <i>Oxalis sp.</i> | | | | |
| * | Paspalum | <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> | | | | |
| * | Kikuyu | <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> | | | | |
| * | Toowoomba-canary Grass | <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> | | | | |
| † | Monterey Pine | <i>Pinus radiata</i> | | | | |
| * | Ribwort | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | | | | |
| † | Oak | <i>Quercus sp.</i> | | | | |
| | Common Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i> | | | | |
| | Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma spp.</i> | | | | |
| * | Common Sowthistle | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> | | | | |
| * | Rat-tail Grass | <i>Sporobolus africanus</i> | | | | |
| | Kangaroo Grass | <i>Themeda triandra</i> | | | | |

Notes: EPBC = Threatened species status under the EPBC Act; FFG-T = Threatened species status under the FFG Act; FFG-P = Listed as protected (P) under the FFG Act;

CaLP Act: Declared noxious weeds under the CaLP Act (S = State Prohibited Weeds – any infestations must be reported to DEECA that is responsible for control of these; P = Regionally Prohibited Weeds – landowners must eradicate these; C = Regionally

Controlled Weeds – landowners must prevent the growth and spread of these; R = Restricted Weeds – trade in these weeds and propagules, either as plants, seeds or contaminants in other materials is prohibited).

* = introduced to Victoria

= Victorian native taxa occurring outside the natural range

† = planted

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendix 5: Photographs of native vegetation proposed for removal

All photographs were taken on 19 April 2023.



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



Habitat Zone B



Habitat Zone C



Habitat Zone D

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



Habitat Zone E



Habitat Zone H

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**



Habitat Zone I

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

Appendix 6: EVC benchmarks

Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55_61) – Victorian Volcanic Plain

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion

EVC 55_61: Plains Grassy Woodland

Description:

An open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall. Occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey consists of a few sparse shrubs over a species-rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer. This variant occupies areas receiving approximately 500 – 700 mm annual rainfall.

Large trees:

| Species | DBH(cm) | #/ha |
|------------------------|---------|--------|
| <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp. | 80 cm | 8 / ha |

Tree Canopy Cover:

| %cover | Character Species | Common Name |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 10% | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> | River Red Gum |

Understorey:

| Life form | #Spp | %Cover | LF code |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|---------|
| Immature Canopy Tree | 1 | 5% | IT |
| Understorey Tree or Large Shrub | 3 | 5% | T |
| Medium Shrub | 3 | 10% | MS |
| Small Shrub | 1 | 1% | SS |
| Prostrate Shrub | 1 | 1% | PS |
| Large Herb | 3 | 5% | LH |
| Medium Herb | 8 | 15% | MH |
| Small or Prostrate Herb | 3 | 5% | SH |
| Large Tufted Graminoid | 12 | 5% | LTG |
| Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid | 12 | 45% | MTG |
| Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid | 2 | 5% | MNG |
| Bryophytes/Lichens | na | 10% | BL |
| Soil Crust | na | 10% | S/C |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

| LF Code | Species typical of at least part of EVC range | Common Name |
|---------|--|-----------------------|
| MS | <i>Acacia pycnantha</i> | Golden Wattle |
| MS | <i>Acacia paradoxa</i> | Hedge Wattle |
| SS | <i>Pimelea humilis</i> | Common Rice-flower |
| PS | <i>Astroloma humifusum</i> | Cranberry Heath |
| PS | <i>Bossiaea prostrata</i> | Creeping Bossiaea |
| MH | <i>Oxalis perennans</i> | Grassland Wood-sorrel |
| MH | <i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i> | Common Raspwort |
| MH | <i>Acaena echinata</i> | Sheep's Burr |
| SH | <i>Dichondra repens</i> | Kidney-weed |
| SH | <i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i> | Stinking Pennywort |
| LTG | <i>Austrostipa mollis</i> | Supple Spear-grass |
| LTG | <i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i> | Knead Spear-grass |
| MTG | <i>Themeda triandra</i> | Kangaroo Grass |
| MTG | <i>Elymus scaber</i> var. <i>scaber</i> | Common Wheat-grass |
| MTG | <i>Austrodanthonia setacea</i> | Bristly Wallaby-grass |
| MTG | <i>Austrodanthonia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i> | Stiped Wallaby-grass |
| MNG | <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i> | Weeping Grass |

Recruitment:

Continuous

Organic Litter:

10 % cover

Logs:

10 m/0.1 ha.

ADVERTISED
PLAN

EVC 55_61: Plains Grassy Woodland - Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion

Weediness:

| LF Code | Typical Weed Species | Common Name | Invasive | Impact |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------|--------|
| MS | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | African Box-thorn | high | high |
| LH | <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> | Spear Thistle | high | high |
| LH | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> | Common Sow-thistle | high | low |
| LH | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Ribwort | high | low |
| MH | <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> | Cat's Ear | high | low |
| LNG | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire Fog | high | high |
| MTG | <i>Vulpia bromoides</i> | Squirrel-tail Fescue | high | low |
| MTG | <i>Romulea rosea</i> | Onion Grass | high | low |
| MTG | <i>Briza minor</i> | Lesser Quaking-grass | high | low |
| MTG | <i>Briza maxima</i> | Large Quaking-grass | high | low |

This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment May 2004

© The State of Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment 2004

This publication is copyright. Reproduction and the making available of this material for personal, in-house or non-commercial purposes is authorised, on condition that:

- the copyright owner is acknowledged;
- no official connection is claimed;
- the material is made available without charge or at cost; and
- the material is not subject to inaccurate, misleading or derogatory treatment.

Requests for permission to reproduce or communicate this material in any way not permitted by this licence (or by the fair dealing provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*) should be directed to the Nominated Officer, Copyright, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002.

For more information contact: Customer Service Centre, 136 186

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

www.dse.vic.gov.au

Appendix 7: Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Scenario test – native vegetation removal

This report provides offset requirements for internal testing of different proposals to remove native vegetation. **This report DOES NOT support an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation under Clause 52.16 or 52.17 of planning schemes in Victoria.** A report must be obtained from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Date of issue: 24/05/2023
Time of issue: 10:06 am

Report ID: Scenario Testing

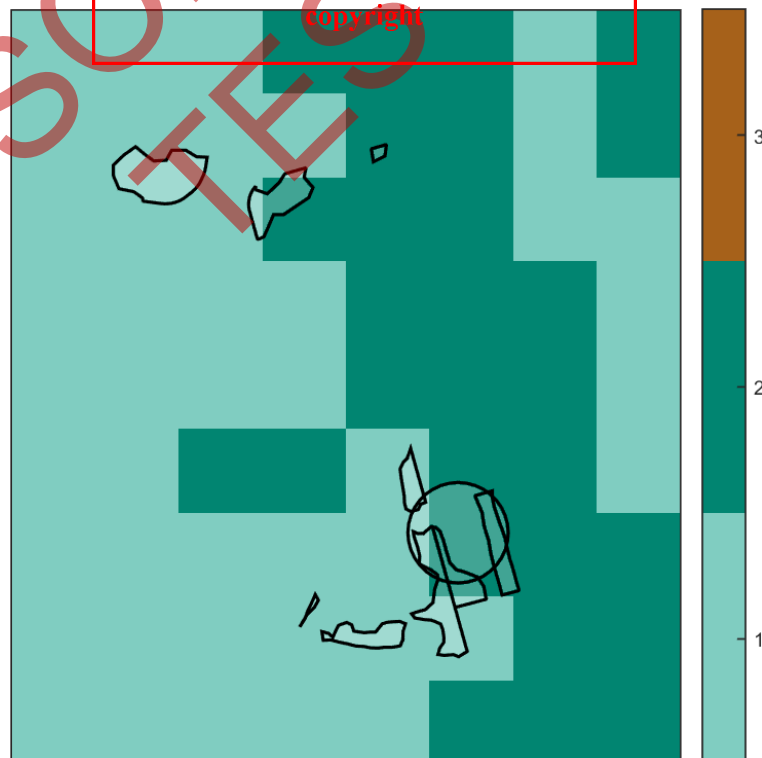
Project ID 18086_Mickleham_Rd_removal_230512

Assessment pathway

| Assessment pathway | Intermediate Assessment Pathway |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Extent including past and proposed | 0.172 ha |
| Extent of past removal | 0.000 ha |
| Extent of proposed removal | 0.172 ha |
| No. Large trees proposed to be removed | 1 |
| Location category of proposed removal | Location 2 |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

1. Location map



ADVERTISED
PLAN

Scenario test – native vegetation removal

Offset requirements if a permit is granted

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

| | |
|---|--|
| General offset amount¹ | 0.051 general habitat units |
| Vicinity | Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or Hume City Council |
| Minimum strategic biodiversity value score ² | 0.626 |
| Large trees | 1 large tree |

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

SCENARIO
TESTING

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

¹ The general offset amount required is the sum of all general habitat units in Appendix 1.

² Minimum strategic biodiversity score is 80 per cent of the weighted average score across habitat zones where a general offset is required

Scenario test – native vegetation removal

Next steps

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

This report DOES NOT support an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation under Clause 52.16 or 52.17 of planning schemes in Victoria.

If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you must submit the related shapefiles to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for processing, by email to ensymnvrtool.support@delwp.vic.gov.au. DELWP will provide a *Native vegetation removal report* that is required to meet the permit application requirements in accordance with *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Guidelines).

SCENARIO
TESTING

ADVERTISED
PLAN

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

ADVERTISED PLAN

Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

All zones require a general offset, the general habitat units each 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 |
| 1-A | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.230 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.950 | | 0.003 | General |
| 1-C | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.180 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.950 | | 0.003 | General |
| 1-B | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.280 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.950 | | 0.010 | General |
| 1-H | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.140 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.410 | | 0.003 | General |
| 1-I | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.160 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.410 | | 0.000 | General |
| 1-F | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.380 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.950 | | 0.008 | General |
| 1-G | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.280 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.950 | | 0.005 | General |
| 1-4 | Scattered Tree | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 1 | no | 0.200 | 0.070 | 0.047 | 0.950 | | 0.014 | General |
| 1-H1 | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.140 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.410 | | 0.005 | General |
| 1-D | Patch | vvp_0055_61 | Endangered | 0 | no | 0.180 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.950 | | 0.000 | General |

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

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

This is not applicable in the Intermediate Assessment Pathway.

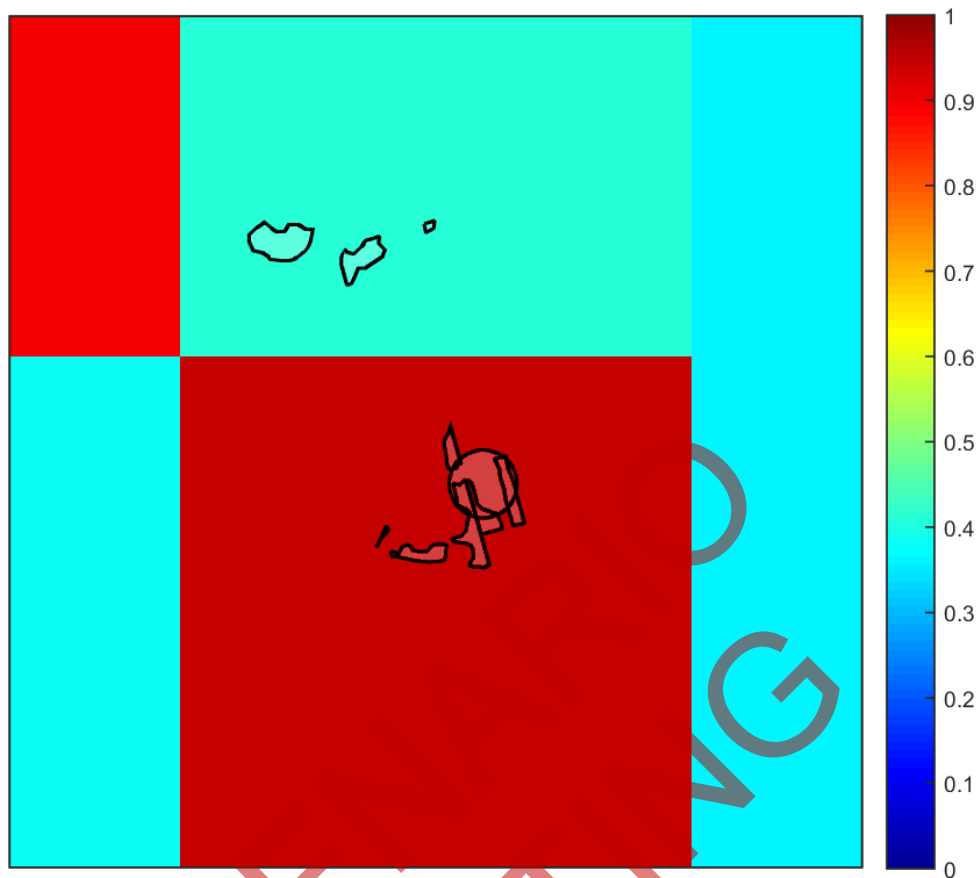
**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

SCENARIO TESTING

This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright

Appendix 3 – Images of mapped native vegetation

2. Strategic biodiversity values map



This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Appendix 8: Evidence that native vegetation offset requirement is available

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 07/06/2023 10:03

Report ID: 19302

What was searched for?

General offset

| General habitat units | Strategic biodiversity value | Large trees | Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district) | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| 0.051 | 0.626 | 1 | CMA | Port Phillip and Westernport |
| | | | or LGA | Hume City |

Details of available native vegetation credits on 07 June 2023 10:03

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

| Credit Site ID | GHU | LT | CMA | LGA | Land owner | Trader | Fixed price | Broker(s) |
|----------------|--------|------|---|----------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|------------------------|
| BBA-0277 | 4.486 | 453 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Mornington Peninsula Shire | No | Yes | No | Abezco, Ethos, VegLink |
| BBA-0670 | 17.706 | 141 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Cardinia Shire | No | Yes | No | Abezco, VegLink |
| BBA-0678 | 44.587 | 2612 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Nillumbik Shire | No | Yes | No | VegLink |
| BBA-0678_2 | 0.388 | 59 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Nillumbik Shire | No | Yes | No | VegLink |
| BBA-2789 | 1.151 | 8 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Baw Baw Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Contact NVOR |
| BBA-2870 | 2.314 | 390 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |
| BBA-2871 | 14.042 | 1348 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |
| TFN-C1636 | 0.486 | 115 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Yarra Ranges SC |
| TFN-C1650 | 0.098 | 12 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yarra Ranges SC |
| TFN-C1664 | 1.520 | 61 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Yarra Ranges SC |
| TFN-C1962 | 0.092 | 8 | Goulburn Broken, Port Phillip and Westernport | Macedon Ranges Shire | No | Yes | No | Contact NVOR |
| VC_CFL-3687_01 | 0.278 | 61 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Baw Baw Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Baw Baw SC |
| VC_CFL-3709_01 | 0.077 | 142 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-------------|
| VC_CFL-3710_01 | 7.606 | 322 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |
| VC_CFL-3740_01 | 1.010 | 92 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Cardinia Shire, Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Bio Offsets |
| VC_CFL-3740_01 | 0.318 | 16 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Bio Offsets |
| VC_CFL-3744_01 | 0.514 | 71 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Macedon Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |
| VC_CFL-3764_01 | 5.659 | 33 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |

These sites meet your requirements using alternative arrangements for general offsets.

| Credit Site ID | GHU | LT | CMA | LGA | Land owner | Trader | Fixed price | Broker(s) |
|----------------|-------|-----|------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| BBA-2790 | 2.911 | 116 | Port Phillip and Westernport | Baw Baw Shire | Yes | Yes | No | Contact NVOR |
| VC_CFL-0838_01 | 0.121 | 354 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Yarra Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |
| VC_CFL-3762_01 | 0.120 | 85 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Moorabool Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

| Credit Site ID | GHU | LT | CMA | LGA | Land owner | Trader | Fixed price | Broker(s) |
|----------------|-------|-----|------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| VC_CFL-3746_01 | 3.416 | 333 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Macedon Ranges Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |
| VC_CFL-3781_01 | 5.568 | 24 | Port Phillip And Westernport | Moorabool Shire | Yes | Yes | No | VegLink |

LT - Large Trees

CMA - Catchment Management Authority

LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation

Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation

Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

| Broker Abbreviation | Broker Name | Phone | Email | Website |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Abezco | Abzeco Pty. Ltd. | (03) 9431 5444 | offsets@abzeco.com.au | www.abzeco.com.au |
| Baw Baw SC | Baw Baw Shire Council | (03) 5624 2411 | bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au | www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au |
| Bio Offsets | Biodiversity Offsets Victoria | 0452 161 013 | info@offsetsvictoria.com.au | www.offsetsvictoria.com.au |
| Contact NVOR | Native Vegetation Offset Register | 136 186 | nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au | www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation |
| Ecocentric | Ecocentric Environmental Consulting | 0410 564 139 | ecocentric@me.com | Not available |
| Ethos | Ethos NRM Pty Ltd | (03) 5153 0037 | offsets@ethosnrm.com.au | www.ethosnrm.com.au |
| Nillumbik SC | Nillumbik Shire Council | (03) 9433 3316 | offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au | www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au |
| TFN | Trust for Nature | 8631 5888 | offsets@tfn.org.au | www.trustfornature.org.au |
| VegLink | Vegetation Link Pty Ltd | (03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546 | offsets@vegetationlink.com.au | www.vegetationlink.com.au |
| Yarra Ranges SC | Yarra Ranges Shire Council | 1300 368 333 | biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au | www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au |

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2023



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you

credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Obtaining this publication does not guarantee that the credits shown will be available in the Native Vegetation Credit Register either now or at a later time when a purchase of native vegetation credits is planned.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you must ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, legislation, awards or orders and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and the like that affect, are applicable or are necessary to undertake any action to remove, lop or destroy or otherwise deal with any native vegetation or that apply to matters within the scope of Clauses 52.16 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and Victorian planning schemes

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**

This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright

Appendix 9: Construction mitigation recommendations

Recommendations to mitigate impacts to vegetation during construction are provided below:

- Establish appropriate vegetation protection zones around areas of native vegetation to be retained prior to works.
- Establish appropriate tree protection zones around scattered native trees to be retained prior to works.
- Ensure all construction personnel are appropriately briefed prior to works, and that no construction personnel, machinery or equipment are placed inside vegetation/tree protection zones.
- A suitably qualified zoologist should undertake a pre-clearance survey of planted trees to be removed in the week prior to removal to identify the presence of any nests or hollows.
- If considered necessary based on the results of the pre-clearance survey, a suitably qualified zoologist should be on site during any tree removal works to capture and relocate any misplaced fauna that may be present.

**This copied document to be made available
for the sole purpose of enabling
its consideration and review as
part of a planning process under the
Planning and Environment Act 1987.
The document must not be used for any
purpose which may breach any
copyright**

**ADVERTISED
PLAN**