

# ADVERTISED PLAN

## Fulham Solar Farm Grid Connection

### Flora and Fauna Assessment

**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**

**Prepared for**  
Fulham Solar Farm **Pty Ltd** as a trustee for the  
Fulham Solar Farm Trust  
c/-Dartmouth Consulting

July 2024  
Report No. 20138.2 (1.4)



**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](http://www.natureadvisory.com.au)

# Contents

# ADVERTISED PLAN

- 1. Executive summary..... 1
- 2. Introduction..... 2
- 3. Planning and legislative considerations..... 4
  - 3.1. Local planning provisions ..... 4
    - 3.1.1. Clause 12.01 Biodiversity..... 4
  - 3.2. Overlays..... 5
  - 3.3. State planning provisions ..... 5
    - 3.3.1. Exemptions ..... 5
    - 3.3.2. Application requirements..... 5
    - 3.3.3. Referral to DEECA..... 6
  - 3.4. EPBC Act..... 6
  - 3.5. FFG Act..... 6
  - 3.6. EE Act ..... 6
  - 3.7. CaLP Act..... 7
- 4. Existing information and methods..... 8
  - 4.1. Existing information..... 8
    - 4.1.1. Existing reporting and documentation..... 8
    - 4.1.2. Native vegetation..... 8
    - 4.1.3. Listed matters..... 8
  - 4.2. Field methods..... 8
    - 4.2.1. Native vegetation..... 9
    - 4.2.2. Flora species and habitats..... 9
    - 4.2.3. Fauna species and habitats ..... 10
    - 4.2.4. Threatened ecological communities ..... 10
  - 4.3. Limitations of field assessment..... 10
- 5. Assessment results ..... 12
  - 5.1. Site description..... 12
  - 5.2. Native vegetation..... 13
    - 5.2.1. Patches of native vegetation ..... 13
    - 5.2.2. Scattered trees ..... 18
  - 5.3. Flora species..... 18
    - 5.3.1. Species recorded..... 18

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 not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright



5.3.2. Listed species ..... 18

5.4. Fauna habitats..... 21

5.5. Fauna species..... 22

5.5.1. Listed species ..... 22

5.5.2. Susceptibility of listed fauna to impacts ..... 28

5.6. Listed ecological communities ..... 29

6. Impact assessment ..... 31

6.1. Proposed development ..... 31

6.1.1. Impacts to native vegetation ..... 31

6.1.2. Impacts to listed flora species..... 31

6.1.3. Impacts to listed fauna ..... 31

6.1.4. Impacts to listed communities ..... 31

7. Implications under legislation and policy..... 32

7.1. Implications under Clause 52.17 ..... 32

7.1.1. Exemptions to Clause 52.17 ..... 32

7.1.2. Impacts to native vegetation ..... 32

7.1.3. Avoid and minimise statement ..... 32

7.1.4. Modelled species important habitat ..... 32

7.1.5. Assessment pathway ..... 33

7.1.6. Offset requirements ..... 33

7.1.7. Offset statement..... 33

7.2. Implications under other planning provisions ..... 35

7.2.1. Clause 12.01 - Biodiversity..... 35

7.2.2. Overlays..... 35

7.3. Implications under the EPBC Act..... 35

7.4. Implications under the FFG Act ..... 35

7.5. Implications under the EE Act..... 35

7.6. CaLP Act ..... 35

8. Design and construction mitigation recommendations ..... 37

9. References ..... 38

Appendix 2..... 43

Appendix 3..... 44

Appendix 4..... 45

Appendix 6..... 48

**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**

**Tables**

Table 1: Description of habitat zones in the study area .....13  
 Table 2: Summary of habitat hectare assessment results.....15  
 Table 3: Listed flora species and the likelihood of their occurrence in the study area .....19  
 Table 4: Listed fauna species and the likelihood of their occurrence in the study area .....23  
 Table 5: Listed ecological communities and likelihood of occurrence in the study area .....29  
 Table 6: Assessment pathway matrix .....33

**Figures**

Figure 1: Study area and native vegetation.....17  
 Figure 2: Impacts of the proposed development .....34

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: Details of the assessment process in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017a) .....39  
 Appendix 2: Detailed habitat hectare assessment results.....43

**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. Executive summary

Nature Advisory Pty Ltd undertook a flora and fauna assessment of approximately three kilometres of road reserve, comprising a portion of Settlement Road, McLarens Road and Hopkins Road, Fulham. This area was assessed in July 2021, November 2023 and May 2024. The construction of a grid connection to the Fulham Solar Farm was proposed for this land, herein referred to as the 'study area'. The study area is bordered by the Princes Highway to the north and farmland to the south, east and west.

Most vegetation in the study area consisted of introduced pasture grasses with herbaceous weeds interspersed throughout. Native patches occurred in the form of modified grassland, primarily on the eastern road reserves, and modified wetland along the western road reserves. Fauna habitat consisted of modified grassland and smaller sections of wetland restricted to drainage channels. No flora, fauna or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act or FFG Act were recorded and there are no implications under either of these Acts for the proposed development.

During the assessments, 39 patches of native vegetation were recorded, including:

- 22 Patches of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- 7 Patches of Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
- 10 Patches of La Trobe Valley Plains Grassland (EVC 132\_61)

The composition of these vegetation classes is described in Table 1.

The final placement of the Fulham Solar Farm grid connection based on the development plan provided will result in the following impacts to native vegetation:

- 0.005 hectares of native vegetation in patches.

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

- 0.001 general habitat units and must include the following offset attribute requirements:
  - Minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) of 0.350.
  - Occur within the West Gippsland CMA boundary or the Wellington Shire Council municipal district.

A referral to DEECA would not be required as the impacts would be assessed under the intermediate pathway.

There are no implications for the project under the FFG, EPBC or EE Acts.

**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**

## 2. Introduction

Ricardo Energy, Environment & Planning engaged Nature Advisory Pty Ltd to conduct a flora and fauna assessment of approximately 3 km of public road reserve in Fulham. This area was investigated over three assessments in 2021, 2023 and 2024. The specific area investigated, referred to herein as the 'study area', comprised a portion of the road reserves adjacent to Settlement Road, McLarens Road and Hopkins Road, as well as a block of land to the south of McLarens Road, in Fulham, Victoria. The establishment of a grid connection to the Fulham solar farm is proposed for the study area.

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', and any potential impacts on flora and fauna matters listed under the state *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This report outlines any implications under relevant national, state and local legislation and policy frameworks.

Specifically, the scope of the investigation included the following:

- 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 flora and fauna species lists for the site;
  - Assessment of the nature and quality of native fauna habitat; 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.
- A report including the following:
  - A statement of the methods used and sources of information for the investigation, including any limitations, where applicable;
  - The results of the review of existing information and site survey, documenting the native vegetation and fauna habitat on the site;
  - A map of the site showing the results of the assessment based on aerial photographs obtained through *NearMap*;
  - A determination of the extent of any proposed native vegetation removal based on one development layout;
  - A *Native Vegetation Removal* (NVR) report identifying any native vegetation removal, offset requirements and assessment pathway for a permit;
  - Discussion of the implications of the findings for the proposed use of the land, specifically addressing relevant legislative and policy requirements; and

- Recommendations for mitigation and management strategies, and any further investigation required.

This report is divided into the following sections:

**Section 3** provides the legislative background including details of all relevant Commonwealth, State and local legislation and policies.

**Section 4** describes the sources of information, including the methods used for the field survey.

**Section 5** presents the assessment results, including details of the native vegetation, flora and fauna of the study area.

**Section 6** discusses the proposed impacts of the project.

**Section 7** details the implications of the findings under the relevant legislation and policy.

**Section 8** provides design and construction recommendations to avoid and minimise impacts to flora and fauna.

This investigation was undertaken by a team from Nature Advisory comprising Merinda Day-Smith (Senior Botanist & Project Manager), Arend Kwak (Botanist), Guille Major (Senior Ecologist), Ezra Janetzki (Botanist) and Felicity Smith (Botanist).

## 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**



## 3. Planning and legislative considerations

This investigation and report address the application of relevant legislation and planning policies that protect biodiversity to the site. Local, state and Commonwealth controls are summarised below.

### 3.1. Local planning provisions

The study area is located within the Wellington local government area and is currently zoned Farming Zone in the Wellington Planning Scheme.

The study area is located within a Bushfire-prone Area.

Local planning provisions apply under the *Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

#### 3.1.1. Clause 12.01 Biodiversity

Clause 12.01 of all Victorian planning schemes provides an overarching framework to protect and enhance Victoria's biodiversity. The responsible authority is obligated to refer to Clause 12.01-1S – *Protection of biodiversity* and Cl. 12.01-2S – *Native vegetation management*. The objectives and strategies relating to the current proposal for each of these relevant Clauses are outlined below.

#### Clause 12.01-1S – *Protection of biodiversity*

The objective of this Clause is to protect and enhance Victoria's biodiversity through the following strategies:

- Use biodiversity information to identify important areas of biodiversity, including key habitat for rare or threatened species and communities, and strategically valuable biodiversity sites.
- Strategically plan for the protection and conservation of Victoria's important areas of biodiversity.
- Ensure that decision making takes into account the impacts of land use and development on Victoria's biodiversity, including consideration of:
  - Cumulative impacts.
  - Fragmentation of habitat.
  - The spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens into natural ecosystems.
- Avoid impacts of land use and development on important areas of biodiversity.
- Consider impacts of any change in land use or development that may affect the biodiversity value of national parks and conservation reserves or nationally and internationally significant sites; including wetlands and wetland wildlife habitat designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) and sites utilised by species listed under the Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA), the China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA), or the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA).
- Assist in the identification, protection and management of important areas of biodiversity.
- Assist in the establishment, protection and re-establishment of links between important areas of biodiversity, including through a network of green spaces and large-scale native vegetation corridor projects.

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 Protection and Conservation 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright.

- Support land use and development that contributes to protecting and enhancing habitat for indigenous plants and animals in urban areas.

**Clause 12.01-2S – Native vegetation management**

The objective of this Clause is to ensure there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation through the following strategies:

- Ensure decisions that involve, or will lead to, the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, apply the three-step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017):
  - Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
  - Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
  - Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

**3.2. Overlays**

No overlays relevant to this investigation cover the study area.

**3.3. State planning provisions**

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

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

A permit is not required if:

- An exemption in Table 52.17-7 specifically states that a permit is not required.
- A native vegetation precinct plan corresponding to the land is incorporated into the planning scheme and listed in the schedule to Clause 52.16.
- The native vegetation is specified in a schedule to Clause 52.17.

**3.3.1. Exemptions**

An exemption exists for the removal of native vegetation to the minimum extent necessary to provide vehicle access from public roads, as listed in Cl. 52.17-7. This exemption is relevant to the project.

**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 12.01-2 (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* (Version 1.1) (DELWP 2018a).

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

- Statewide biodiversity information maintained by DEECA.

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

### 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:

- 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.

### 3.4. EPBC Act

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) protects a number of threatened species and ecological communities that are considered to be of national conservation significance. Any significant impacts on these species require the approval of the Australian Minister for the Environment.

If there is a possibility of a significant impact on nationally threatened species, communities or listed migratory species, a Referral under the EPBC Act should be considered. The Minister will decide after 20 business days whether the project will be a 'controlled action' under the EPBC Act, in which case this cannot be undertaken without the approval of the Minister. This approval depends on a further assessment and approval process (lasting between three and nine months, depending on the level of assessment).

Implications under the EPBC Act for the current proposal are discussed in Section 6.3.

### 3.5. FFG Act

The Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) lists threatened and protected species and ecological communities (DELWP 2018b, DELWP 2017b). Any removal of protected flora, including threatened flora species and the plants that make up threatened communities, listed under the FFG Act from public land requires a Protected Flora Licence or Permit under the Act, obtained from DEECA.

The FFG Act only applies to private land where a license is required to remove grass trees, tree ferns and sphagnum moss for sale, or where an Interim Conservation Order has been made to protect critical habitat for a threatened species or community. As no such habitat has ever been declared, this mechanism under the FFG Act has never been implemented.

Implications under the FFG Act for the current proposal are discussed in Section 6.4.

### 3.6. EE Act

One or a combination of several criteria may trigger a requirement for a Referral to the Victorian Minister for Planning who will determine if an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required according to the *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (DSE 2006).

The criteria related to flora, fauna and native vegetation that trigger a Referral are described below.

One or more of the following would trigger a Referral:

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



- Potential clearing of 10 hectares of native vegetation or more from an area that:
  - Is of an Ecological Vegetation Class identified as endangered by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (in accordance with Appendix 2 of Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework); or
  - Is, or is likely to be, of very high conservation significance (as defined in accordance with Appendix 3 of Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework); and
  - Is not authorised under an approved Forest Management Plan or Fire Protection Plan.
- Potential long-term loss of a significant proportion (e.g. 1 – 5% depending on the conservation status of the species) of known remaining habitat or population of a threatened species within Victoria.
- Potential long-term change to the ecological character of a wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention or in 'A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia'.
- Potential extensive or major effects on the health or biodiversity of aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems, over the long term.

Two or more of the following would also trigger a Referral:

- Potential clearing of 10 hectares of native vegetation or more, unless authorised under an approved Forest Management Plan or Fire Protection Plan.
- Matters listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988:
  - Potential loss of a significant area of a listed ecological community; or
  - Potential loss of a genetically important population of an endangered or threatened species (listed or nominated for listing), including as a result of loss or fragmentation of habitats; or
  - Potential loss of critical habitat; or
  - Potential significant effects of a wetland supporting migratory bird species on habitat values.

Implications under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act) for the current proposal are discussed in Section 6.5.

### 3.7. 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.

**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**

## 4. Existing information and methods

### 4.1. Existing information

Existing information used for this investigation is described below.

#### 4.1.1. Existing reporting and documentation

The existing documentation below relating to the study area was reviewed.

- Wellington Planning Scheme

#### 4.1.2. 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 Gippsland Plain bioregion<sup>1</sup> (DSE 2004a); and
- NatureKit* (DELWP 2021a).

#### 4.1.3. Listed matters

Existing flora and fauna species records and information regarding the potential occurrence of listed matters was obtained from an area termed the 'search region', defined here as an area with a radius of ten kilometres from the approximate centre point of the study area (coordinates: latitude 38° 07' 45.14" S and longitude 146° 58' 18.32" E).

A list of the flora and fauna species recorded in the search region was obtained from the *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas* (VBA), a database administered by DEECA.

The online EPBC Act *Protected Matters Search Tool* (DAWE 2021a) was consulted to determine whether nationally listed species or communities potentially occurred in the search region based on habitat modelling.

### 4.2. Field methods

The field assessment was conducted on 28 July 2021. During this assessment, the study area was surveyed on foot. Additional detailed surveys of the roadside vegetation along Hopkins Road and McLarens Road were conducted on 22 November 2023 and 6 May 2024. These assessments were also completed 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 a hand-held GPS (accurate to approximately five metres). Species and ecological communities listed as threatened under the EPBC Act or FFG Act (where these occurred on public land) were also mapped using the same method.

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

<sup>1</sup> 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).

#### 4.2.1. 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 to assess these. Further details on definitions of patches and scattered trees are provided in Appendix 1.

##### Patch

A patch of native vegetation is either:

- 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 trees<sup>2</sup> where the drip line<sup>3</sup> 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 at *MapShareVic* (DELWP 2021b).

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 EVC benchmark. The score effectively measures the percentage resemblance of the vegetation to its original condition.

The *Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM)* system (DELWP 2021c) provides modelled condition scores for native vegetation to be used in certain circumstances.

##### Scattered tree

A scattered tree is:

- A native canopy tree<sup>2</sup> 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.

#### 4.2.2. Flora species and habitats

Records of flora species were made in conjunction with sampling methods used to undertake habitat hectare assessments of native vegetation described above. Specimens requiring identification using laboratory techniques were collected.

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

<sup>2</sup> A native canopy tree is a mature tree (i.e. able to flower) that is taller than 3 m and normally found in the upper layer of the relevant vegetation type.

<sup>3</sup> The drip line is the outermost boundary of a tree canopy (leaves and/or branches) where the water drips on to the ground.



Species protected under the FFG Act were determined by crosschecking against the FFG Act *Protected Flora List* (DELWP 2017b).

The potential for habitats to support listed flora species was assessed based on the criteria outlined below:

- The presence of suitable habitat for flora species such as soil type, floristic associations and landscape context; and
- The level of disturbance of suitable habitats by anthropogenic disturbances, and invasions by pest plants and animals.

Wherever appropriate, a precautionary approach was adopted in determining the likelihood of occurrence or flora listed under the EPBC Act and/or FFG Act. That is, where insufficient evidence was available regarding the potential occurrence of a listed species, the assumption was made that the species could be in an area of suitable habitat.

#### 4.2.3. Fauna species and habitats

The techniques below were used to detect fauna species utilising the study area.

- Incidental searches for mammal scats, tracks and signs (e.g. diggings, signs of feeding and nests/burrows).
- Turning over logs/rocks and other ground debris for reptiles, frogs and mammals.
- Daytime bird observations
- General searches for reptiles and frogs, including identification of frog calls in seasonally wet areas.
- General searches for bat habitat including waterbodies and potential roosting sites such as caves, dead trees with hollows and underneath bark of trees.

Fauna habitats are described using habitat components that include old-growth trees, fallen timber, leaf litter and surface rocks.

The study area's habitat connectivity (i.e. degree of isolation/fragmentation), including linkages to other habitats in the region, was determined using field observations, recent aerial photography and *NatureKit* (DELWP 2021a).

Wherever appropriate, a precautionary approach was adopted in determining the likelihood of occurrence or fauna listed under the EPBC Act and FFG Act. That is, where insufficient evidence was available on the potential occurrence of a listed species, the assumption was made that the species could be in an area of suitable habitat.

#### 4.2.4. Threatened ecological communities

The study area was assessed against published descriptions of relevant listed ecological communities modelled to potentially occur in the study area.

Reviewed ecological community descriptions comprised identification criteria and condition thresholds from listing advice for EPBC Act communities and FFG Act-listed community descriptions (SAC 2015).

### 4.3. Limitations of field assessment

The initial site assessment was carried out in winter. The short duration and seasonal timing of field assessments can result in some species not being detected when these may occur at other times.

Additionally, some flora species and life-forms may be undetectable at the time of the survey or unidentifiable due to a lack of flowers or fruit.

Difficulties in identifying flora in the current observed state due to the slashing of road reserves, limited the accuracy of determining the extent of patches of native vegetation. The timing of the survey and condition of vegetation were otherwise considered suitable to ascertain the extent and condition of native vegetation and fauna habitats.

These limitations were not considered to compromise the validity of the current investigation that was designed to address the relevant policies and decision guidelines.

Identification of EVCs considers vegetation types that would have naturally occupied the landscape prior to European impacts. Significant past vegetation clearance, and alteration of the study area's land form and hydrology has resulted in the emergence of an artificial site ecosystem that is likely to be notably different from what would have naturally occupied the study area. Identification of EVCs in altered areas was therefore based upon consideration of the following:

- Modelled EVC mapping (DELWP 2021a);
- Any observed indigenous flora species that are useful for determining EVCs; and
- Relevant published EVC benchmark descriptions.

If this information was not sufficient to allow for a reasonable conclusion to be made regarding which EVC would have naturally occurred and the observed vegetation resembled an EVC that is likely to have naturally occurred in the region, EVC identification was based upon the structure and floristic composition of current observed vegetation.

**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 results

### 5.1. Site description

The study area for this investigation (Figure 1) was approximately 3 kilometres of road reserve located at Settlement Road, McLarens Road and Hopkins Road, in Fulham, approximately eight kilometres west of Sale and 180 kilometres east-south-east of Melbourne's CBD. The area was surveyed over three site assessments conducted in July 2021, November 2023 and May 2024. The study area is bordered by Hopkins Road to the east, farmland and the Fulham Correctional Centre to the north, and farmland to the west and south.

The study area supported loamy soils on a relatively flat landscape. A small drainage line ran across the south-eastern corner, and several dams were present throughout, two of which were mapped as DEECA Mapped Wetlands. A house and planted treed vegetation occurred in the east of the study area. Drainage channels ran along both the east and west road reserves of Settlement Road. McLarens Road did not have obvious drainage channels. Planted immature treed vegetation was also present along all the road reserves.

The study area has historically served as road reserves for Settlement Road, except for the area of private land which is used for cattle grazing. Surrounding land also predominantly supported stock grazing.

Native vegetation primarily consisted of Spear Grass and Wallaby Grass, with herbs such as Sheep's Burr, Berry Saltbush and Kidney Weed occasionally interspersed throughout. Native vegetation also occurred in inundated drainage channels and consisted of wetland species including Tall Rush and Marsh Club Rush. Weed cover in the study area was dominant and included introduced pasture grasses such as Cocksfoot, Toowoomba Canary Grass and Kikuyu. Introduced herbaceous groundcover notably included White Clover, Buck's-horn Plantain, Ribwort and Onion Grass.

Fauna habitat within the study area comprised the following:

- Grassland habitat: Most of the study area comprised grassland consisting of both native and non-native vegetation. Some sections had been slashed.
- Wetland habitat: Drainage channels running along both road reserves are periodically inundated, providing potential habitat for frogs and feeding sites for birds.

The following key fauna habitat areas occurred within the region:

- The Holey Plains State Park is situated approximately 7.5 kilometres south of the study area. Fauna habitat in the study area is isolated from this habitat by pine plantations that occur immediately to the north of the State Park.
- Sale Common, part of the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site, was located approximately 10 kilometres east of the study area. Fauna habitat in the study area was connected to this habitat via adjacent properties. There are several minor roads that pass between the study area and the Sale Common, however, these are unlikely to impede fauna movement.

The study area lies within the Gippsland Plain bioregion and falls within the West Gippsland catchment management area.



## 5.2. Native vegetation

### 5.2.1. Patches of native vegetation

Pre-European EVC mapping (DELWP 2021a) indicated that the study area and surrounds would have supported Plains Grassy Woodland/Gilgai Wetland Mosaic (EVC 259), Swamp Scrub (EVC 53) 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 LaTrobe Valley Plains Grassland (EVC 132\_61), Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55), and Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) were present within the study area (Figure 1). Descriptions of these EVC's are provided within the EVC benchmarks in Appendix 5.

Twenty-five patches (referred to herein as habitat zones) comprising the abovementioned EVCs were identified in the study area (Table 1). These comprised 12 patches totalling 2.56 hectares found in the July 2021 assessment and an additional 13 patches totalling 0.42 hectares found along Hopkins Road in the November 2023 assessment. This added up to a total area of 2.98 hectares of native vegetation in patches and included 0 large trees.

**Table 1: Description of habitat zones in the study area.**

Habitat Zone	EVC	Description
A-I, K	LaTrobe Valley Plains Grassland (EVC 132_61)	These patches of native vegetation were predominantly composed of medium tufted graminoids such as Spear Grass and Wallaby Grass, with native herbs such as Sheep's Burr and Berry Saltbush occasionally interspersed throughout. Native cover was moderate for medium tufted graminoids (30%) and low for medium and small herbs (<1%). No large old trees or canopy trees were present. Weed cover was approximately 30% and notably included grasses such as Cocksfoot and Kikuyu, and herbs such as Onion Grass and Ribwort. Both bryophyte and soil crust cover were low (<1%). Organic litter occurred at 20% cover and was mostly native. No logs were present.
J, L	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	Plains Grassy Wetland was restricted to inundated roadside drainage channels on the western road reserves. Native species included Native Rush and Marsh Club-rush at the highest cover (40%) and a lower amount of Tall Rush and Finger Rush (1%). No large old trees or canopy trees were present. Weed cover was 4% and mostly consisted of Cocksfoot, Yorkshire Fog and Toowoomba Canary Grass. Bryophyte and soil crust cover were low (<1%). Organic litter was approximately 10% and primarily native. No logs were 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**

Habitat Zone	EVC	Description
M, O-R, V-Y	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	These habitat zones occurred on the roadside along Hopkins Road. No canopy trees were present, although some Black Wattle individuals occurred, forming up to 30% projective cover. There were minimal occurrences of shrubs, although some Berry Saltbush was present. The ground layer supported a diversity of native graminoids, including Common Tussock-grass, Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Spear Grass, Weeping Grass, Blown Grass and Gold Rush. There were also herbs that occurred amongst the graminoids, including Jersey Cudweed, Sheep's Burr and bindweed. Weediness varied between habitat zones from 5% to 50% projective cover. The dominant weed species were Yorkshire Fog, Sweet Vernal Grass, Ribwort, Buck's Horn Plantain and Cocksfoot. Bryophyte and soil crusts were absent from most patches, although formed significant cover (up to 40%) in the patches that were mown. Organic litter cover varied between patches (10-40%) and was primarily native. No logs were present.
N, S-U	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	These habitat zones were mapped in 2023 along Hopkins Road. They occurred in the drainage lines and were dominated by native graminoid species. These included significant patches of Mat Grass and Common Spike-sedge, as well as Tall Sedge, Gold Rush and Spear Grass. Herbs were interspersed throughout the graminoid layer. Notable species were Lobelia, Jersey Cudweed and Small Loosestrife. Weed cover varied slightly between patches and was approximately 25%. The most invasive weeds were Toowoomba Canary Grass, Yorkshire Fog and Ribwort. Bryophytes and Lichens were absent. Organic litter cover was approximately 40% and primarily native. No logs were present.
Z	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	This habitat zone was mapped in May 2024 to the south of McLarens Road. It had an overstorey of Swamp Gum and Tree Violet and Creeping Saltbush in the understorey. Otherwise the patch was weedy (80% cover) and there was a mixture of planted native and exotic tree species present in or near the patch. African Box-thorn, an invasive woody weed, was present in the understorey. The ground layer was largely dominated by Cocksfoot and Prairie Grass. There were many logs in the understorey and litter was largely exotic.
AA	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 55)	This habitat zone was mapped in May 2024 to the south of McLarens Road. It comprised cover of Gold Rush and Wood Sorrel amongst Rye-grass, Cocksfoot and Couch. It was highly modified, and native species covered around 30% while weed cover was closer to 70%.

**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	EVC	Description
AB-AH	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	These habitat zones were mapped in the road reserve to the south of McLarens Road. They contained several native grass species, including Mat Grass, Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass, Common Meadow-grass and Weeping Grass. Native herbs were occasionally dispersed throughout, including Sheep's Burr and Geranium. Native cover was around 70%, whereas weed cover was around 40%, although weedy infestations occurred adjacent to these patches. The primary weed species were Paspalum, Toowoomba Canary-grass, Cocksfoot and Couch. The patches were highly modified as they contained no shrub or canopy layers. Litter cover was around 75% and was primarily native.
AI	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	This habitat zone was mapped in a drainage line in the northern road reserve of McLarens Road. It consisted of a patch of Cumbungi at the end of a drainage line. Native cover was 55%, weed cover was 15% and bare ground cover was 20%.
AJ-AM	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	These habitat zones were mapped in the northern road reserve of McLarens Road. These represented poorer quality patches than those on the southern side of the road. They were in general smaller and less diverse, primarily composed of Weeping Grass and Mat Grass. Native cover was around 45% whereas weed cover was at 60%. Again there was no shrub or canopy layer.

The habitat hectare assessment results for these habitat zones are provided in Table 2. More detailed habitat scoring results are presented in Appendix 2.

**Table 2: Summary of habitat hectare assessment results.**

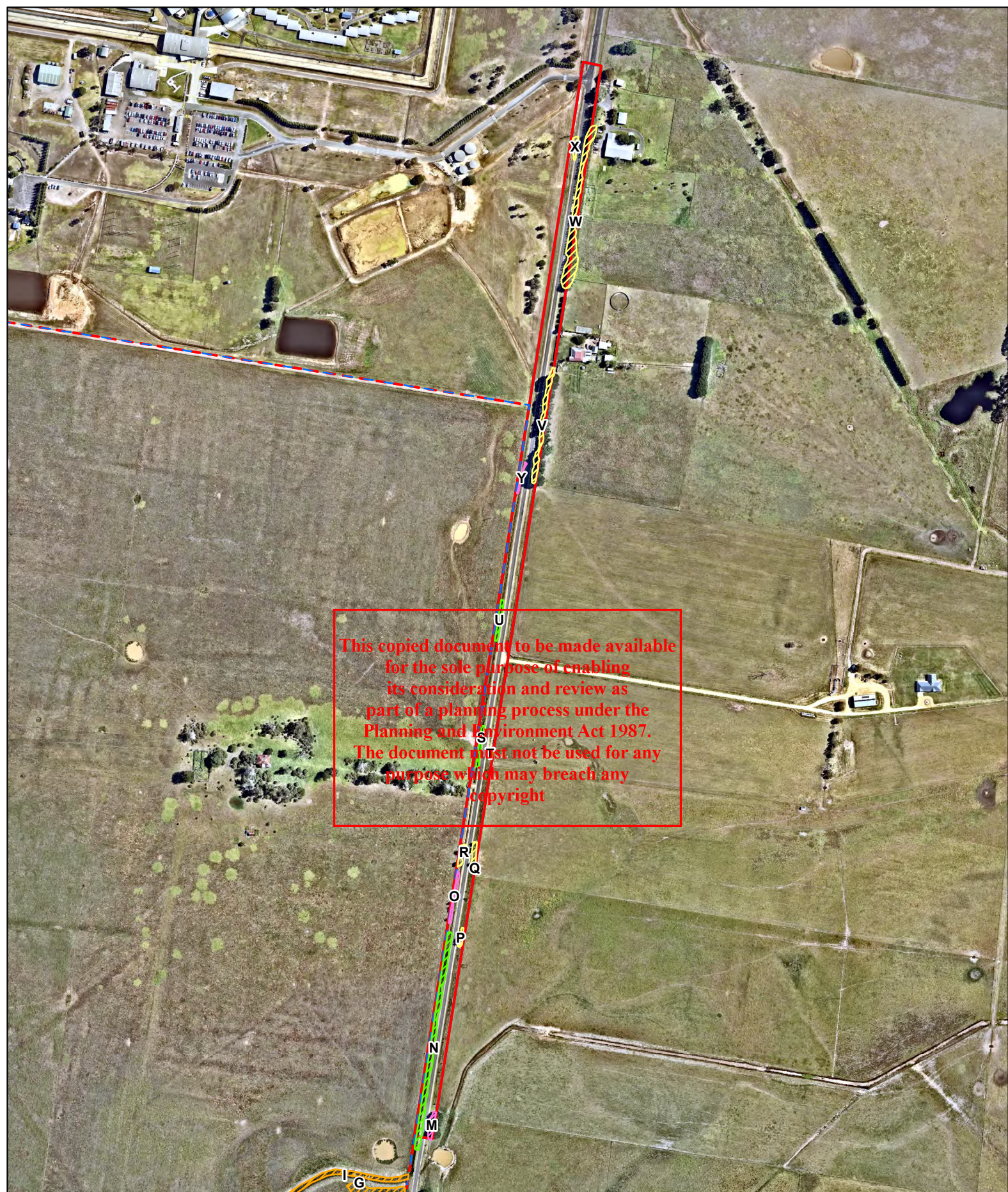
Habitat Zone	EVC	Area (ha)	Condition score (out of 100)	No. of Large Trees in HZ
A-I, K	LaTrobe Valley Plains Grassland (EVC 132_61)	0.194	22	0
J, L	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	0.008	26	0
M	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.015	14	0
N	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	0.119	22	0
O-R	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.049	17	0
S-U	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	0.306	27	0
V-W	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.188	21	0
X-Y	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.015	13	0

Habitat Zone	EVC	Area (ha)	Condition score (out of 100)	No. of Large Trees in HZ
Z	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.025	16	0
AA, AJ-AM	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.224	9	0
AB-AH	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	0.533	14	0
AI	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	0.005	39	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.085</b>		<b>0</b>

## 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**





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 1-1: Study area and native vegetation**

Project No: 20138.04 Project: Hopkins Rd, Fulham Date: 26/07/2024

- Study area
- 2023 Survey
- Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
- Property boundary
- 2024 Survey
- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
- 2021 Survey
- Swamp Scrub (EVC 53)
- Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)



**ADVERTISED PLAN**











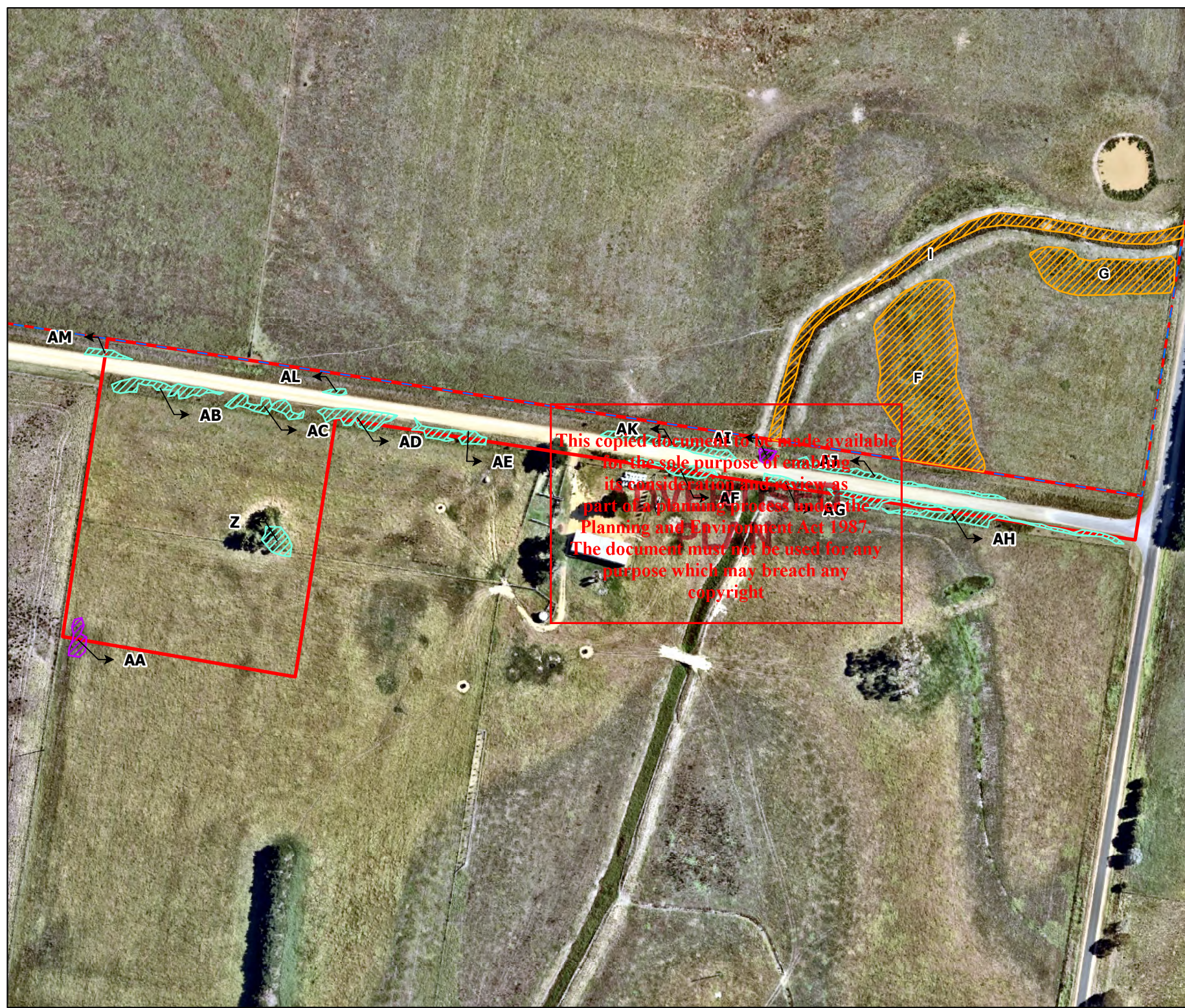
PO Box 337, Camberwell, VIC 3124, Australia  
 www.natureadvisory.com.au  
 03 9815 2111 - info@natureadvisory.com.au



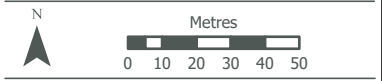
**Figure 1-2: Study Area and Native Vegetation**

**Project No:** 20138\_04  
**Project:** Hopkins Rd, Fulham  
**Date:** 26/07/2024

-  Property boundary
-  Property boundary
- 2023 Survey**
-  Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
-  Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- 2021 Survey**
-  Swamp Scrub (EVC 53)
-  Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- 2024 Survey**
-  Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
-  Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)



This copied document is 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



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



### 5.2.2. Scattered trees

No scattered trees were recorded in the study area.

## 5.3. Flora species

### 5.3.1. Species recorded

During the field assessment 63 plant species were recorded, 32 (51%) of which were indigenous and 31 (49%) of which were introduced or non-indigenous in origin (Appendix 3).

### 5.3.2. Listed species

VBA records (DELWP 2021d) and the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (DAWE 2021a) indicated that within the search region there were records of, or potential suitable habitat occurred for 11 species listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and ten listed under the state FFG Act, including eight 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' are those that have a very high chance of being in the study area based on numerous records in the search region and the presence of 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 occur or have the potential to occur in the study area.

# 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 the likelihood of their occurrence in the study area**

Common Name	Scientific name	EPBC	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
River Swamp Wallaby-grass	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	VU		River Swamp Wallaby-grass mostly grows 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 2021).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Thick-lip Spider-orchid	<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	VU		Coastal Open Woodlands, Lowland Forest, Heathy Woodland (Entwisle 1994).	None	N/A	Study area was unsuitable habitat, highly modified and there are no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Dwarf Kerrawang	<i>Commersonia prostrata</i>	EN	L	In Victoria, the Dwarf Kerrawang grows on swampy, sometimes ephemeral wetlands and lake margins, often dominated by <i>Lepidosperma</i> spp. (Short 1996; James 2003; Carter & Walsh 2010a). Dwarf Kerrawang is part of the Gippsland Red Gum ( <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> subsp. <i>mediana</i> ) Grassy Woodland and associated native grassland ecological community, listed under the EPBC Act as critically endangered. The species also occurs in habitat of the Victorian listed communities Coastal Manna Gum ( <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> subsp. <i>pyroriana</i> ) Woodland and Lowland Forest dominated by White Stringybark ( <i>Eucalyptus globoides</i> ) (James 2003).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Small Scurf-pea	<i>Cullen parvum</i>		L	The species grows in grasslands and grassy (River Red-gum) woodlands in areas with rainfall of between 450 and 700 mm (James 1996). These sites are subject to irregular flooding and have relatively rich soils derived from alluvium. An exception is the population near Shefford that grows on rocky clay soils derived from basalt (DSE 2005).	2	1/01/2005	Study area was highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Matted Flax-lily	<i>Dianella amoena</i>	EN	L	Lowland grassland and grassy woodlands on well-drained to seasonally waterlogged fertile sandy loams to heavy cracking soils derived from sedimentary or volcanic Geology. Widely distributed from eastern to south-western Victoria (DAWE 2021).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Purple Diuris	<i>Diuris punctata</i>		L	Principally in lowland native grasslands, grassy woodlands, heathy woodlands and open heathlands, usually on fertile, loamy soils and including periodically inundated areas (Earl & Barlow 2004).	12	7/10/2019	Study area was highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Clover Glycine	<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	VU	L	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 2021).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Basalt Peppergrass	<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i> s.s.	EN	L	Known to establish on open, bare ground with limited competition from other plants. Previously recorded from Eucalypt woodland with a grassy ground cover and low open Casuarina woodland with a grassy ground cover and tussock grassland. Now generally found amongst exotic pasture grasses and beneath exotic trees (DAWE 2021).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>

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. This is the population for Shefford that grows on basalt (DSE 2005) breach any copyright

Common Name	Scientific name	EPBC	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
Maroon Leek-orchid	<i>Prasophyllum frenchii</i>	EN	L	Grows mainly in open sedge swampland or in wet grassland and wet heathland generally bordering swampy regions. Sites are generally low altitude, flat and moist. Soils are generally moderately rich damp sandy or black clay loams. Climate is mild, with an annual rainfall of 600–1100 mm, occurring predominantly in winter and spring (DAWE 2021).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records – <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Wellington Mint-bush	<i>Prostanthera galbraithiae</i>	VU	L	Heathy open forest, usually on gravelly sand (Conn 1999).	61	14/09/2018	Study area was unsuitable habitat and highly modified – <b>Very unlikely to occur.</b>
Green-striped Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	VU	L	Occurs in mixed Box-Stringybark forest with a shrubby understorey, often with <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> as a major component on sandy or clay loam soils (Duncan <i>et al.</i> 2009).	None	N/A	Study area was unsuitable habitat, highly modified and there are no recent nearby records – <b>Very unlikely to occur.</b>
Swamp Fireweed	<i>Senecio psilocarpus</i>	VU		Herb-rich winter-wet swamps on volcanic clays or peaty soils (Walsh 1999). Known from approximately 10 sites between Wallan, about 45 km north of Melbourne and Honans Scrub in south-eastern South Australia (TSSC 2008).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records – <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Swamp Everlasting	<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>	VU	L	Grows in wetlands including sedge-swamps and shallow freshwater marshes, often on heavy black clay soils. Commonly associated genera include <i>Amphibromus</i> , <i>Baumea</i> , <i>Carex</i> , <i>Chorizandra</i> , <i>Craspedia</i> , <i>Eleocharis</i> , <i>Isolepis</i> , <i>Lachnagrostis</i> , <i>Lepidosperma</i> , <i>Myriophyllum</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Themeda triandra</i> and <i>Villarsia</i> (DAWE 2021).	None	N/A	Study area was highly modified and there are no recent nearby records – <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>

**Notes:** EPBC = threatened species status under EPBC Act (EX = presumed extinct in the wild; CR = critically endangered; EN = endangered; VU = vulnerable); FFG = threatened species status under the FFG Act = listed as threatened (L) under the FFG Act.

## 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



**5.4. Fauna habitats**

The study area supported the following fauna habitat types:

- Grassland habitat
- Wetland habitat



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

**Grassland habitat:** Native grassland covered the majority of the study area. Spear Grass and Wallaby Grass were the primary native cover. Almost the entire remainder of the study area supported non-native grassland dominated by Cocksfoot, Kikuyu and Toowoomba Canary-grass. Portions of the grassland habitat were slashed.



**Photo 2: Wetland habitat**

**Wetland habitat:** A small portion of the study area supported wetland habitat occurring in inundated drainage channels on the western road reserves. This habitat was degraded and supported dense pockets of native rushes amongst pasture grasses. These areas may attract frogs and some waterbirds, and provide a drinking spot for birds and other vertebrates.

## 5.5. Fauna species

### 5.5.1. Listed species

The review of existing information [including VBA records (DELWP 2021d) and results of the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (DAWE 2021a)] indicated that within the search region there were records of, or there was potential suitable habitat for, 34 fauna species listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act and the state FFG Act. The likelihood of occurrence of these species in the study area was assessed and the results are presented in Table 4.

This analysis of potential occurrence of listed fauna species excludes:

- Marine fauna given that the study area is inland; and
- Migratory oceanic bird species (such as albatrosses and petrels), and migratory shorebirds given that the study area is inland.

Species considered 'likely to occur' are those that have a very high chance of being in the study area given the existence of numerous records in the search region and suitable habitat in the study area. Using the precautionary approach, species considered to have the 'potential to occur' are those for which suitable habitat exists, but recent records are scarce. This analysis indicates that seven listed fauna species are likely to occur or have the potential to occur. These species include the following:

- Black Falcon (listed under FFG Act);
- Fork-tailed Swift (Migratory under EPBC Act);
- Great Egret (listed under FFG Act);
- Latham's Snipe (Migratory under EPBC Act);
- Magpie Goose (listed under FFG Act);
- White-throated Needletail (Migratory under EPBC Act);

The susceptibility of these species to impacts from development is discussed in Section 5.5.2.

**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 4: Listed fauna species and the likelihood of their occurrence in the study area**

Common Name	Scientific name	EPBC-T	EPBC-M	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<b>Birds</b>								
Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	EN		L	Terrestrial wetlands, including a range of wetland types but prefers permanent water bodies with tall dense vegetation, particularly those dominated by sedges, rush, reeds or cutting grass (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	1	4/04/2019	Habitat in study area is highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Australian Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	EN		L	Generally inhabits shallow terrestrial freshwater wetlands, including temporary and permanent lakes, swamps and claypans. This species also uses inundated or waterlogged grassland or saltmarsh, dams, rice crops, sewage farms and bore drains. Typical sites include those with rank emergent tussocks of grass, sedges, rushes or reeds, or samphire; often with scattered clumps of Lignum or Canegrass or sometimes Tea-tree. Sometimes utilises areas that are lined with trees or that have some scattered fallen or washed-up timber (DAWE 2021).	None	N/A	Suitable habitat in study area, however no records in the region and species very scarce in the SE of Australia - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>			L	Woodlands, open country and terrestrial wetlands; in arid and semi-arid zones; mainly over open plains and undulating land with large tracts of low vegetation. More commonly found in north-western Victoria and only occasionally found in southern Victoria. A highly mobile species, moving in response to food availability and seasonal conditions (Marchant & Higgins 1993).	1	18/05/2020	Suitable open habitat in study area and recent records in the vicinity - <b>Potential to occur.</b>
Black-faced Monarch	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>		M (Bonn A2H)		Rainforests, eucalypt woodlands, coastal scrub and damp gullies (Higgins et al. 2006).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>			L	Commonly found in box ironbark forests and woodlands and also occurs along watercourses and in farmland edges. Widespread but scattered. Forages on a wide range of seeds, which in some cases a large portion can be derived from weed species (Read 1994). Populations had declined in Victoria since the 1950s (Emison et al. 1987; Tzaros 2005).	2	30/12/1998	No habitat in study area. Nearest suitable habitat at the foothills of the ranges - <b>Potential to occur.</b>
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>		M (CAMBA, ROKAMBA, JAMBA)		The species can occur in wet sclerophyll forest but mainly prefers open forest or plains. Almost exclusively aerial and feeds up to hundreds of metres above the ground, but can feed among open forest canopy. The species breeds internationally and seldom roosts in trees (Higgins 1999).	None	N/A	Highly mobile aerial species, occurs in the region annually - <b>Potential to occur.</b>
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>			L	Terrestrial wetlands; prefers fresh, densely vegetated waters, particularly floodwater swamps and creeks vegetated with Lignum or Cane Grass. During dry seasons or droughts, moves off ephemeral breeding swamps and occupies large permanent waters (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	117	13/06/2019	Habitat in study area is highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		M (Bonn A2S)		Prefers freshwater inland wetlands, in particular, permanent or ephemeral water bodies and swamps with abundant vegetation (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	8	18/05/2020	Habitat in study area is highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			L	Occurs in a variety of wetlands including: permanent water bodies on flood plains; shallows of deep permanent lakes, either open or vegetated with shrubs or trees; semi-permanent swamps with tall emergent vegetation (e.g. Bulrush) and herb dominated seasonal swamps with abundant aquatic flora (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	61	6/05/2019	Suitable habitat in study area and recent records in the vicinity - <b>Potential to occur.</b>

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 other than as intended.

Common Name	Scientific name	EPBC-T	EPBC-M	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	VU		L	Inhabits arid and semi-arid zones; mainly on sandy and stony plains of inland drainage systems, lightly timbered with acacia. Hunts far into open areas, over spinifex, tussock grasslands and low shrublands. In Victoria, few records mostly in north and north-western regions (Marchant & Higgins 1993).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>			L	Inhabits rainforests, open forests, swamp forests, woodlands and plantations; most abundant where forest or woodland provide cover for hunting from perches. In Victoria, most common in Otway ranges (Marchant & Higgins 1993).	2	18/05/2020	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>		M (Bonn A2H, ROKAMBA, JAMBA, CAMBA)		Occurs in wide variety of permanent and ephemeral wetlands; prefers open freshwater wetlands with dense cover nearby, such as the edges of rivers and creeks, bogs, swamps and waterholes. The species is widespread in south-eastern Australia and most of its population occurs in Victoria, except in the northwest of the state (Naarding 1983; Higgins & Davies 1996).	84	2/02/2019	Suitable habitat in study area and several recent nearby records - <b>Likely to occur.</b>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			L	Occurs in a range of coastal and terrestrial wetlands, including freshwater wetlands with vegetation such as Bulrush and requires trees for roosting and nesting (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	8	10/11/2018	Habitat in study area is highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Magpie Goose	<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>			L	Terrestrial and aquatic habitats, but activities centered on wetlands, mainly those on floodplains of rivers (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	6	31/03/2007	Suitable habitat in study area, records in the vicinity in similar habitat - <b>Potential to occur.</b>
Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>			L	Open woodlands and forests that provide dense, tall tree cover, and adjoining open habitats such as cleared farmlands. In Victoria, most widespread in E. Gippsland (Higgins 1999).	1	30/03/2006	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Osprey	<i>Pandion cristatus</i>		M (Bonn A2S)		Rare vagrant to Victoria (Marchant & Higgins 1993). Littoral and coastal habitats and terrestrial wetlands. Mostly found in coastal areas but occasionally travel inland along major rivers (Marchant & Higgins 1993; Olsen 1995; Johnstone & Storr 1998). Require extensive areas of open fresh, brackish or saline water for foraging (Marchant & Higgins 1993).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	VU		L	Inhabits box-ironbark forests and woodlands and mainly feeds on the fruits of mistletoe. Strongly associated with mistletoe around the margins of open forests and woodlands. Can also be found in farmland containing remnant treed vegetation. Occurs at few localities. Uncommon breeding migrant from further north, arriving in October and leaving in February (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2001; Tzaros 2005).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Plumed Egret	<i>Ardea plumifera</i>			L	Mainly inhabits terrestrial wetlands; only occasionally visits coastal wetlands and forages amongst aquatic vegetation in shallow water and requires trees for roosting and nesting. Often occurs in wetlands that contain vegetation, including Bulrush (Marchant & Higgins 1990).	5	18/05/2020	Habitat in study area is highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>

**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-T	EPBC-M	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>			L	Found in tall, open wet sclerophyll forests with sheltered gullies and old growth forest with dense understorey. Also found in dry forests with box and ironbark eucalypts and River Red-gum. Large old trees with hollows are required by this species for nesting. In Victoria, Powerful Owl is widespread, having been recorded from most of the state. However, throughout its range it is uncommon and occurs in low densities (Higgins 1999). Also occurs in highly urbanised areas, such as metropolitan Melbourne, heavily reliant upon various forms of movement corridors (riparian strips, roadside vegetation and recreational reserves) to both hunt within and navigate throughout the landscape (Carter <i>et al.</i> 2019).	2	30/03/2006	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	CR		L	Inhabits dry box-ironbark eucalypt forests near rivers and creeks on inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Can also occur in small remnant patches or in mature trees in farmland or partly cleared agricultural land (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2001).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>		M (Bonn A2H)		In east and south-east Australia, mainly inhabits tall wet sclerophyll forests, often in gullies. When on passage in warmer months, sometimes recorded in drier sclerophyll forests and woodlands, and parks and gardens (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2006). Virtually absent from south-eastern Australia during winter (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2006).	1	4/02/2019	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>		M (Bonn A2H)		Mostly found in eucalypt forest, particularly tall wet forests and woodland with gullies (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2006). Also inhabits woodland comprising a sparse understorey and a grassy ground layer (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2006). Generally absent from rainforest (Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2006).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	CR		L	Prefers a select range of eucalypts in Victoria, including Yellow Gum, Grey Box, White Box, Red Ironbark and Yellow Box, and River Red-gum when this species supports abundant ferns (Saunders & Tzaros 2011). The species is also known to forage within planted stands of Spotted Gum and Sugar Gum (Nature Advisory, unpublished data). Breeds in Tasmania and migrates to the mainland of Australia for the autumn, winter and early spring months. It lives mostly north of the Great Dividing Range, passing through two areas of Victoria on migration: the Port Phillip district and Gippsland (Emison <i>et al.</i> 1987; Higgins 1999; Kennedy & Tzaros 2005), though it is also not uncommonly sighted in urban areas (Nature Advisory; unpublished data). Occurrence of this species on the mainland can substantially change from year to year depending on food availability, giving potential for this species to occur almost anywhere throughout its range (Emison <i>et al.</i> 1987).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>			L	Maritime habitats, large terrestrial wetlands and coastal lands of tropical and temperate Australia and offshore islands, ranging far inland only over large rivers and wetlands. The eagles usually breed on coast and offshore islands and inland beside large lakes or rivers, usually in tall trees in or near water, also in cliffs, rock pinnacles and escarpments (Marchant & Higgins 1993).	37	23/05/2019	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	VU	M (CAMBA, ROKAMBA, JAMBA)		Aerial, over all habitats, but probably more over wooded areas, including open forest and rainforest. Often over heathland and less often above treeless areas such as grassland and swamps or farmland (Higgins 1999).	8	21/01/2010	Highly mobile aerial species with recent nearby records - <b>Potential to occur.</b>

This copy of the document is to be made available for the sole purpose 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-T	EPBC-M	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		M (CAMBA, JAMBA, ROKAMBA)		Regular non-breeding visitor in northern Australia mainly spring-summer, vagrant to the south. Occupies a wide range of habitats, usually open areas with low vegetation such as crop, grassland and even parkland. Often recorded near water (Higgins, Peter & Cowling 1999)	None	N/A	Species scarce in the south of Australia and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
<b>Mammals</b>								
Southern Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	VU		L	In Victoria, this species inhabits forest habitats dominated by peppermint, stringybark, ash and gum eucalypts (Menkhorst 1995). Restricted to the central highlands and eastern Victoria, and common in areas of high rainfall. Rare in dry stringybark-box and Snow Gum forest, and does not occur in the box-ironbark or River Red-gum dominated riverina regions (Menkhorst 1995).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Spot-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	EN		L	Rainforest, wet and dry forest, coastal heath and scrub and River Red-gum woodlands along inland rivers (Menkhorst 1995).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
White-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>			L	Coastal tussock grassland and sedgeland, wet heath, and forest or woodland with a dense heathy understorey or mid-storey vegetation (Menkhorst 1995).	1	22/09/2017	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
<b>Bats</b>								
Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat	<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>			L	Known to occur from urban, agricultural semi-arid and tall wet forest habitats (Menkhorst 1995).	1	11/04/1990	Suitable habitat in study area. Species very scarce in southern Victoria- <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
<b>Amphibians</b>								
Giant Burrowing Frog	<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	VU		L	Across its range, the Giant Burrowing Frog appears to be dependent on areas with native vegetation, as no Giant Burrowing Frogs have been recorded from cleared lands. However, it should be noted that no targeted surveys for the species have occurred in such lands. A BIOCLIM analysis suggests that the species is not climatically suited to large river valleys, most of which have now been cleared for agriculture. In the southern portion of its range, the Giant Burrowing Frog has been reported to occur in a wide range of forest communities including montane sclerophyll woodland, montane riparian woodland, and wet and dry sclerophyll forest (DAWE 2021).	None	N/A	No suitable habitat in study area and no recent nearby records - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
Green and Golden Bell Frog	<i>Litoria aurea</i>	VU			Permanent water with fringing or emergent vegetation in streams, swamps, lagoons, farm dams and ornamental ponds (Cogger 2000). Also occurs in disturbed sites such as disused industrial sites, brick pits, mines and council tips (Tyler 1997).	2	18/05/2020	No suitable habitat in study area and recent records nearby - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>
<b>Fish</b>								
Australian Grayling	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	VU		L	Large and small coastal streams and rivers with cool, clear waters with a gravel substrate and altering pools and riffles (Cadwallader & Backhouse 1983).	1	3/02/2016	No suitable habitat in study area - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>

**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-T	EPBC-M	FFG	Habitat	Number of records	Date of last record	Likelihood of occurrence
Dwarf Galaxias	<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	VU		L	Ranges from the far west of the state through to the Mitchell River basin in central Gippsland. Vegetated margins of still water, ditches, swamps and backwaters of creeks, both ephemeral and permanent (Allen <i>et al.</i> 2002). Some wetlands where it occurs may partially or completely dry up during summer, with such wetlands reliant on seasonal flooding plus linkages to other sites where the species occurs, for habitat and population replenishment (Saddler, Jackson & Hammer 2010). Also often found in association with burrowing freshwater crayfish ( <i>Engaeus</i> spp.), with the crayfish burrows reportedly providing refuge from predators and dry conditions for the species (Saddler, Jackson & Hammer 2010).	4	28/03/2012	No suitable habitat in study area is highly modified - <b>Unlikely to occur.</b>

**Notes:** EPBC-T = threatened species status under EPBC Act (EX = presumed extinct in the wild; CR = critically endangered; EN = endangered; VU = vulnerable); EPBC-M: migratory status under the EPBC Act (M = listed migratory taxa; Bonn Convention (A2H) - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – listed as a member of a family; Bonn Convention (A2S) - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - species listed explicitly; CAMBA - China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement; JAMBA - Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement; ROKAMBA - Republic of Korea Australia Migratory Birds Agreement); FFG = listed as threatened (L) under the FFG Act; DELWP = status under DELWP’s (DSE 2009; DSE 2013) *Advisory List* (x = presumed extinct in the wild; cr = critically endangered; e = endangered; v = vulnerable; nt = lower risk near threatened; dd = data deficient).

## 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**

**5.5.2. Susceptibility of listed fauna to impacts**

The following analysis identifies the susceptibility to development of listed fauna species that may utilise the study area. This analysis includes consideration of the factors below.

- The mobility of the species
- The availability and extent of other suitable habitat in the region and the degree to which each species may rely on habitat in the study area

Targeted surveys will be required to determine the presence or absence of any listed fauna species considered to be susceptible to impacts from development.

*Birds (non-migratory)*

Three listed non-migratory bird species are considered to have the potential to occur in the study area. The susceptibility of these species to possible impacts from any development in the study area is discussed below.

- **Black Falcon (listed under FFG Act)**

This species mainly preys on small and medium-sized birds and the study area provides habitat for open farmland birds that constitute part of the diet. The species is uncommon in the region however and is therefore unlikely to be impacted by the development.

- **Great Egret (listed under FFG Act)**

Habitat on site for this species is suboptimal due to the lack of fringing vegetation and the shallow, ephemeral nature of roadside drainage ditches. However, due to the proximity of larger water bodies and wetlands the species may possibly occur incidentally in the study site. Due to the lack of quality habitat on site, Great Egret is unlikely to be impacted by the development.

- **Magpie Goose (listed under FFG Act)**

This species is scarce in Victoria and can use a variety of wetland habitats provided there are large wetlands with paddocks in the vicinity. The habitat on site is suboptimal due to the shallow and ephemeral nature of roadside drainage ditches. However, as high-quality habitat is found in the vicinity, the species may occur incidentally, however development of the site is unlikely to impact Magpie Goose.

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.

*Migratory Birds*

Three listed migratory bird species (excluding oceanic species and shorebirds) have the potential to occur in the study area. The susceptibility of these species to possible impacts from any development in the study area is discussed below.

- **White-throated Needletail (Vulnerable under EPBC Act)**

This species may occur in the study area, however only in the capacity of flying over due to the strictly aerial biology. White-throated Needletail depends mostly on extensive forests to forage but may occasionally use adjacent farmland. Due to the lack of forested areas in the vicinity this species is unlikely to be impacted by the development.

- **Fork-tailed Swift (Migratory under EPBC Act)**

This species may occur in the study area, however only in the capacity of flying over due to the strictly aerial biology. Unlike the White-throated Needletail, this species prefers open landscapes to forests.

However, due to the abundance of this habitat in the region and the scarce records of the species in the vicinity, this species is unlikely to be impacted by the development.

▪ **Latham’s Snipe (Migratory under EPBC Act)**

The site holds suitable habitat for the species in the form drainage ditches. The species may occur occasionally in the study area, however due to the wide availability of higher quality habitat in surrounding reserves, Latham’s Snipe is unlikely to be impacted by the development.

**5.6. Listed ecological communities**

The EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (DAWE 2021a) indicated that three ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act had the potential to occur in the search region (Table 5). An additional two FFG-listed ecological communities are also known to occur in the region. The occurrence in the study area was determined based on an assessment of the native vegetation present against published descriptions and condition thresholds for these communities.

It should be noted that both the FFG-listed Forest Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Central Gippsland Plains Grassland do not have established condition thresholds. However, published descriptions provide insight into the characteristic species and vegetative structure of these communities. Both were considered not to occur based on these diagnostic features being absent from remnant patches.

The Forest Red Gum Grassy Woodland does not occur as the characteristic canopy species, Forest Red Gum, was not present across the site. Furthermore, typical ground layer species were also largely absent. These include species such as Weeping Grass, Slender Wallaby Grass, Small St John’s Wort and Stinking Pennywort. Some species associated with the community were present, such as Kidney Weed and Spear Grass. However, these typically co-occur with the aforementioned species in this community and are not considered dominant species. Additionally, the patches do not describe the vegetative structure of the community – that of a woodland with a mosaic of smaller grassy areas. Patches were also derived from contraindicative EVC’s, comprising Plains Grassland and Plains Grassy Wetland.

The Central Gippsland Plains Grassland was also determined to not occur. It is typically dominated by Kangaroo Grass, which was absent from the site. Given the degraded quality of the site, most characteristic species were absent. These include species such as Common Everlasting, Yellow Rush-lily, Common Rice-flower, Short-stem Sedge and Golden Weather-grass. The structure of the community is typically an open, treeless grassland with a suite of tall flowering herbs. Much of the grassland habitat was dominated by invasive pasture species and tall native herbs were absent.

**Table 5: Listed ecological communities and likelihood of occurrence in the study area**

Ecological Community	EPBC Status	Occurrence in the study area
Gippsland Red Gum ( <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> subsp. <i>mediana</i> ) Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland	CR	The study area was highly modified and does not support any native treed vegetation – <b>Does not occur.</b>
Natural Damp Grassland of the Victorian Coastal Plains	CR	The study area was highly modified and any areas with the potential to host the community were less than 0.5 hectares – <b>Does not occur.</b>

Ecological Community	EPBC Status	Occurrence in the study area
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains	CR	The study area was highly modified and any areas with the potential to host the community were less than 0.5 hectares – <b>Does not occur.</b>
Forest Red Gum Grassy Woodland	L	The study area was highly modified and characteristic Forest Red Gum and understory species were absent. Patches lacked the vegetative structure of the community. Patches were derived from contraindicative EVCs. <b>Does not occur.</b>
Central Gippsland Plains Grassland	L	The study area was highly modified and characteristic Kangaroo Grass was absent. Characteristic herbaceous species were largely absent. Patches lacked the vegetative structure of the community. Outside known distribution. <b>Does not occur.</b>

**Notes:** EPBC: CR = Critically Endangered; EN = Endangered; VU = Vulnerable. FFG: L = Listed

## 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**



## 6. Impact assessment

### 6.1. Proposed development

The proposal involves the construction of power poles and lines for a grid connection to the Fulham Solar Farm. The proposal retains all native vegetation in the study area except for four very small areas (totalling 0.005 hectares) that will be impacted by power pole installation. Additionally, vegetation along McLarens Road will be impacted due to vehicle access requirements and is therefore exempt under Cl. 52.17-7, as shown in Figure 2.

#### 6.1.1. Impacts to native vegetation

The proposed development will result in the following impacts to 0.005 hectares of native vegetation. Refer to Section 7.1.2 for a summary of impacts and implications.

To determine impacts to native vegetation, the proposed development plan was overlaid with the native vegetation mapped as part of this investigation. Where mapped native vegetation intersects with the development layout, this was considered to be impacted. Trees are deemed impacted when the development footprint encroaches on the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)<sup>4</sup>. In addition to this, the following instances of consequential removal were accounted for:

- Native vegetation within 2 metres of proposed power poles.
- Native vegetation occurring within a 3-metre construction buffer from the outermost extent of earthworks for the construction of crossovers.

#### 6.1.2. Impacts to listed flora species

The likelihood of occurrence of species listed under the EPBC Act and FFG Act indicated that no listed flora species are likely to occur or have the potential to occur, therefore no listed flora species are considered to be susceptible to impacts from the proposal.

#### 6.1.3. Impacts to listed fauna

The likelihood of occurrence analysis indicated that five listed fauna species are likely to occur or have the potential to occur. For each of these species, a susceptibility and impact assessment was undertaken. This analysis indicated that no fauna species are likely to be impacted by the proposed development, as discussed in Section 5.5.2. As such, they are not discussed further.

#### 6.1.4. Impacts to listed communities

The likelihood of occurrence analysis indicated that the study area is unlikely to support any EPBC or FFG listed communities. Therefore there are no anticipated impacts to listed communities from the proposal.

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

<sup>4</sup> In accordance with the *Assessor’s Handbook* (DELWP 2018a), a tree is deemed lost when earthworks encroach on more than 10% of the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), unless deemed otherwise by an arborist. However, trees which form part of a ‘patch’ of native vegetation are not required to be individually mapped in accordance with the habitat hectare assessment method, unless they meet the minimum DBH of a large tree under the relevant EVC Benchmark.

## 7. Implications under legislation and policy

### 7.1. Implications under Clause 52.17

A permit for the proposed removal of native vegetation is required under Cl. 52.17 or 52.16 of the Wellington Shire Planning Scheme.

#### 7.1.1. Exemptions to Clause 52.17

##### Native Vegetation - Clause 52.17-7

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

- *Vehicle access from public roads:* Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to the minimum extent necessary to enable the construction or maintenance of a vehicle access across a road reserve from a property boundary to a public road.

This exemption is required to allow vehicle access to the battery site. This means that native vegetation along McLarens Road is exempt under Cl. 52.17-7.

#### 7.1.2. Impacts to native vegetation

Given the above exemption(s), The proposed development will result in the loss of a total extent of 0.005 hectares of native vegetation under the Guidelines as represented in Figure 2 and documented in the *Native Vegetation Removal (NVR)* report provided by DEECA.

This comprised the following:

- 0.005 hectares of native vegetation in patches

The native vegetation to be removed is in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class.

#### 7.1.3. 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 were focused on areas of native vegetation with the highest value. Efforts to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation in the current application are presented as follows:

- *Site level planning* – The development plan for the grid connection has been carefully designed to minimise impacts to native vegetation that occurs within the road reserves of Hopkins, Settlement and McLarens Roads. Vegetation in these road reserves is patchy and power poles have been strategically positioned between native patches of vegetation to avoid them. Where impacts could not be avoided, they are minimal and only a very small amount of vegetation will be impacted by the installation of power poles. This only occurs for four power poles. As such, the proposal avoids and minimises impacts to native vegetation almost to the maximum extent possible.

Design and construction recommendations to ensure the project avoids and minimises impacts to native vegetation are provided in Section 8.

#### 7.1.4. Modelled species important habitat

The current proposal footprint will not have a significant impact on habitat for any rare or threatened species as determined in the 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

**7.1.5. 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 0.005 hectares of native vegetation (including no large trees).

Based on the extent of native vegetation removal being <0.5 hectares, not including any large trees, 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 6: Assessment pathway matrix**

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

This proposal **would not** trigger a referral to DEECA based on the above criteria.

**7.1.6. Offset requirements**

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

- 0.001 general habitat units and must include the following offset attribute requirements:
  - Minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) of 0.350.
  - Occur within the West Gippsland CMA boundary or the Wellington Shire Council municipal district.

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

**7.1.7. 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 (NVCR) has shown that the required offset is currently available for purchase from a native vegetation credit owner (DEECA 2023d).

The required offset would be secured following approval of the application to remove native vegetation.

**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**





**Figure 2-1: Native vegetation to be removed**

Project No: 20138.04 Project: Hopkins Rd, Fulham Date: 26/07/2024

- ▭ Study area
- ▭ Property boundary
- ▭ Proposed powerline
- ▭ Proposed powerpole
- ▭ 2024 Survey
- ▭ Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
- ▭ Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- ▭ Swamp Scrub (EVC 53)
- ▭ 2021 Survey
- ▭ Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- ▭ Native vegetation to be removed



**ADVERTISED PLAN**














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



**Figure 2-2: Native vegetation to be removed**

**Project No:** 20138.04  
**Project:** Hopkins Rd, Fulham  
**Date:** 26/07/2024

-  Study area
-  Property boundary
-  Proposed powerpole
-  Proposed powerline
- 2024 Survey**
-  Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
-  Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
- 2023 Survey**
-  Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)
-  Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
- 2021 Survey**
-  Swamp Scrub (EVC 53)
-  Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)
-  Native vegetation removal exempt under 2.33

This copied document is 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



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



## 7.2. Implications under other planning provisions

### 7.2.1. Clause 12.01 - Biodiversity

The objectives and strategies of Clause 12.01 are in general, achieved by the 'Guidelines' and the avoid, minimise and offset obligations as detailed within this report. However, this clause is also relevant to the application by considering the protection and enhancement of habitat for indigenous plants and animals in urban areas and avoiding fragmentation of habitat.

This application responds to these objectives by retention of almost all native vegetation within the study area. Where native vegetation is impacted this has been minimised through strategic placement of power poles away from native vegetation wherever possible. The project does not completely cut through native vegetation patches and therefore no fragmentation will occur as a consequence of the proposal.

### 7.2.2. Overlays

No overlays relevant to this investigation cover the study area.

## 7.3. Implications under the EPBC Act

The EPBC Act protects a number of threatened species and ecological communities that are considered to be of national conservation significance. Any significant impacts on these species require the approval of the Australian Minister for the Environment.

Based on the relevant guidelines, the proposed development is unlikely to result in a significant impact on any EPBC Act-listed values.

Therefore, there are no implications under the EPBC Act.

## 7.4. Implications under the FFG Act

Impacts to FFG Act-listed values generally only has implications for where they occur on public land.

### Threatened species

No FFG Act values listed as threatened are anticipated to be impacted from the proposed development.

### Protected Flora

No FFG Act values listed as protected are anticipated to be impacted from the proposed development on public land. The FFG Act-listed values Black Wattle and Jersey Cudweed were observed within the public road reserves. However, Jersey Cudweed occurred in the eastern road reserve of Hopkins Road only (which is not impacted) and all Black Wattles can realistically be avoided by the project.

Therefore, a Protected Flora Permit under the FFG Act would not be required for the current proposal. If any Black Wattles would need to be impacted by power pole installation a Protected Flora Permit would need to be obtained through DEECA.

## 7.5. Implications under the EE Act

The *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (DSE 2006) identifies criteria that trigger a Referral to the State Minister for Planning.

Based on the relevant criteria, a Referral to the state Minister for Planning will not be required under the EE Act for the aspects covered by the current investigation.

## 7.6. CaLP Act

This copied document to be made available under the EPBC Act 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 *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.

- African Box-thorn (C)

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.).

## 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**

## 8. Design and construction mitigation recommendations

To completely avoid impacts to native vegetation, and therefore the need for a Referral to DEECA, it is recommended that the power poles are moved west onto private land. If this is not possible and the roadside vegetation must be impacted the following 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. This is of particular importance for power pole installation as some of these are being placed in small gaps between native vegetation.
- Protection zones around Black Wattle should be created so that this species is not affected by power pole installation. Otherwise a protected flora permit will have to be obtained from DEECA.
- Ensure all construction personnel are appropriately briefed prior to works, and that no construction personnel, machinery or equipment are placed inside vegetation zones.
- Where possible, avoid impacts to native vegetation along McLarens Road when constructing the accessway.

## 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**

## 9. References

- DAWE 2021a, *EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool*, Department of the Environment and Energy, Canberra, <https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html>.
- DELWP 2017a, *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (dated December 2017), 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 2018a, *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 2018b, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List, April 2018*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.
- DELWP 2021a, *NatureKit*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit>.
- DELWP 2021b, *MapShareVic*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/maps/maps-and-services/interactive-maps>.
- DELWP 2021c, *Native Vegetation Information Management system*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, <https://nvm.delwp.vic.gov.au/>.
- DELWP 2021d, *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas 3:25*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/victorian-biodiversity-atlas>.
- DELWP 2021e, *Online Search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, <https://nvr.delwp.vic.gov.au>.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) 1997, *Victoria's Biodiversity – Directions in Management*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 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.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) 2006, *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environmental Effects Act 1978*, 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.
- Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) 2015, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List: Characteristics of Threatened Communities*, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

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 detailed 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:

- Basic;
- Intermediate; or
- Detailed.

This assessment pathway is determined by two factors:

- **Location Category**, as determined using the states’ 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:
  - **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 (as well as 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 to be a large tree if it is greater or equal to the large tree benchmark diameter at breast height (DBH) for the relevant bioregional EVC. Any scattered

This native vegetation in Victoria are 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.

tree that is not a large tree is a small scattered tree. The extent of large and small scattered trees is determined as follows:

- **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 then determined as detailed 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 strategic biodiversity value (SBV) is a measure of a location’s importance to Victoria’s biodiversity, relative to other locations across the state. It is represented as a score between 0 and 1 and determined from the Strategic biodiversity value map, available from NVIM (DELWP 2021c).

*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. It is represented as a score between 0 and 1 and is determined from the Habitat importance maps, administered by DELWP.

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 are 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, detailed 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 other purpose.



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

$$\text{Habitat hectares} = \text{extent of native vegetation} \times \text{condition score}$$

Secondly, 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 then used as follows to determine the biodiversity value of a site:

$$\text{General habitat score} = \text{habitat hectares} \times \text{general landscape factor}$$

$$\text{Species habitat score} = \text{habitat hectares} \times \text{species landscape factor}$$

*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.

$$\text{General offset (amount of general habitat units)} = \text{general habitat score} \times 1.5$$

- 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.

$$\text{Species offset (amount of species habitat units)} = \text{Species habitat score} \times 2$$

**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 x 1.5

- **Strategic biodiversity value (SBV)** – 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 include the protection of at least one large tree for every large tree to be removed
- **Species offsets**
    - **Offset amount** – species offset = species habitat score x 2
    - **Strategic biodiversity value (SBV):** 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 include the protection of at least one large tree for every large tree to be removed

## 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 2: Detailed habitat hectare assessment results](#)

**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

Habitat Zone		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
Bioregion		GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	
EVC Number		132_61	132_61	132_61	132_61	132_61	132_61	132_61	132_61	132_61	125	132_61	125	55	125	55	
Total area of Habitat Zone (ha)		0.025	0.015	0.049	0.005	0.064	0.018	0.003	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.006	0.002	0.015	0.119	0.013	
Site Condition	Large Old Trees	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	
	Tree Canopy Cover	/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0	
	Lack of Weeds	/15	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	7	4	7	4	4	4	
	Understorey	/25	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
	Recruitment	/10	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	3	
	Organic Matter	/5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
	Logs	/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	0
	Site condition standardising multiplier*		1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.00	1.36	1.00
	<i>Site Condition subtotal</i>			20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	24	20	24	12	20	15
Landscape Context	Patch Size	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
	Neighbourhood	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Distance to Core	/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
<b>Total Condition Score</b>		<b>/100</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	

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

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

# ADVERTISED PLAN

Habitat Zone		P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	
Bioregion		GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	
EVC Number		55	55	55	125	125	125	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	
Total area of Habitat Zone (ha)		0.009	0.014	0.012	0.013	0.005	0.015	0.053	0.135	0.011	0.004	0.0125	0.0093	0.017	0.014	
Site Condition	Large Old Trees	/10	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Tree Canopy Cover	/5	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Lack of Weeds	/15	4	4	4	7	7	7	9	9	4	4	0	0	4	4
	Understorey	/25	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Recruitment	/10	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
	Organic Matter	/5	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
	Logs	/5	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
	Site condition standardising multiplier*		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	<i>Site Condition subtotal</i>			15	15	15	25	25	25	19	19	11	11	14	7	12
Landscape Context	Patch Size	/10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Distance to Core	/5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total Condition Score</b>		<b>/100</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

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

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



# ADVERTISED PLAN

Habitat Zone			AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK	AL	AM	
Bioregion			GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	
EVC Number			55	55	55	55	55	125	55	55	55	55	
Total area of Habitat Zone (ha)			0.02	0.012	0.011	0.006	0.042	0.003	0.016	0.02	0.002	0.005	
Site Condition	Large Old Trees	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Tree Canopy Cover	/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Lack of Weeds	/15	4	4	4	4	4	11	0	0	0	0	
	Understorey	/25	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
	Recruitment	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Organic Matter	/5	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	
	Logs	/5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Site condition standardising multiplier*			1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.36	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	<i>Site Condition subtotal</i>			12	12	12	12	12	37	7	7	7	7
Landscape Context	Patch Size	/10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Neighbourhood	/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Distance to Core	/5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
<b>Total Condition Score</b>		<b>/100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	

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

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

**Appendix 3: Flora species recorded in the study area**

**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**

Origin	Common name	Scientific name	EPBC	FFG-T	FFG-P	CaLP Act
	Black Wattle	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>			P	
	Sheep's Burr	<i>Acaena echinata</i>				
*	Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>				
*	Cape Weed	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>				
	Berry Saltbush	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>				
	Spear Grass	<i>Austrostipa spp.</i>				
	Marsh Club-rush	<i>Bolboschoenus caldwelli</i>				
*	Large Quaking-grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>				
*	Prairie Grass	<i>Bromus catharticus</i>				
*	Soft Brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>				
*	Kikuyu	<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>				
*	Tree Lucerne	<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>				
	Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus spp.</i>				
	Crassula	<i>Crassula spp.</i>				
#	Couch	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>				
*	Drain Flat-sedge	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>				
*	Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>				
	Kidney-weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>				
*	Panic Veldt-grass	<i>Emharta erecta</i>				
	Nodding Saltbush	<i>Einadia forsteri</i>				
	Grey Spike-sedge	<i>Eleocharis maculata</i>				
	Willow Herb	<i>Epilobium spp.</i>				
	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>				
	Fescue	<i>Festuca spp.</i>				
	Crane's Bill	<i>Geranium spp.</i>				
	Mat Grass	<i>Hemarthria uncinata var. uncinata</i>				
*	Cypress	<i>Hesperocyparis spp.</i>				
*	Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>				
*	Barley Grass	<i>Hordeum spp.</i>				
*	Flatweed	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>				
	Gold Rush	<i>Juncus flavidus</i>				
	Tall Rush	<i>Juncus procerus</i>				
	Finger Rush	<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>				
	Blown Grass	<i>Lachnagrostis spp.</i>				
	Jersey Cudweed	<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>			P	
	Lobelia	<i>Lobelia spp.</i>				
*	Rye Grass	<i>Lolium spp.</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 DELWP 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

Origin	Common name	Scientific name	EPBC	FFG-T	FFG-P	CaLP Act
*	African Box-thorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>				C
*	Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia arvensis var. arvensis</i>				
	Small Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>				
*	Mallow	<i>Malva spp.</i>				
*	Medic	<i>Medicago spp.</i>				
	Tree Violet	<i>Meliccytus dentatus s.l.</i>				
	Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides</i>				
*	Soursob	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>				R
	Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis spp.</i>				
*	Paspalum	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>				
*	Toowoomba Canary-grass	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>				
*	Radiata Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>				
*	Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>				
*	Ribwort	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>				
*	Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua s.l.</i>				
	Common Tussock-grass	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>				
	Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>				
*	Onion Grass	<i>Romulea rosea</i>				
	Dock	<i>Rumex spp.</i>				
	Wallaby Grass	<i>Rytidosperma spp.</i>				
	Common Bog-sedge	<i>Schoenus apogon</i>				
*	Black Nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum s.l.</i>				
*	Common Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>				
*	Rat-tail Grass	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i>				
	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>				
*	Hare's-foot Clover	<i>Trifolium arvense var. arvense</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

**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 DELWP 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



Appendix 4: Photographs of native vegetation present



Photo 1: Plains Grassland on the eastern road reserve, with a notable presence of native Spear Grass (28/07/2021).

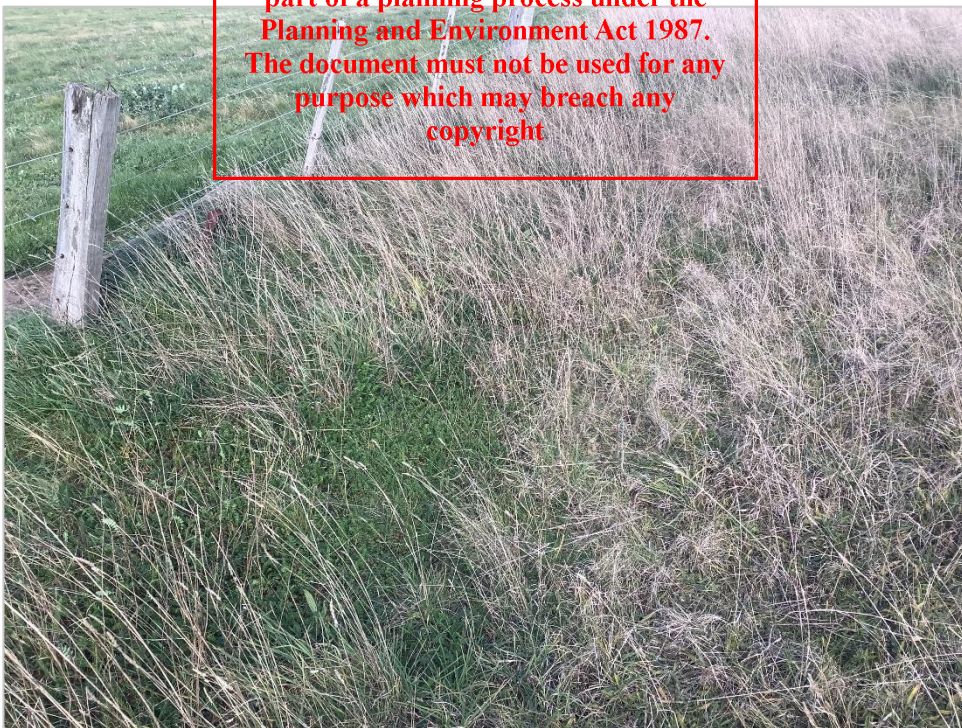


Photo 2: Typical native groundcover, including Spear Grass and Sheep's Burr (28/07/2021).

**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**





Photo 3: Plains Grassy Wetland on the western road reserves (28/07/2021).

**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**



Photo 4: Dense clumping of natives rushes amongst introduced pasture grasses (28/07/2021).

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

**Appendix 5: EVC benchmarks**

LaTrobe Valley Plains Grassland (EVC 132\_61) – Gippsland Plain

Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) – Gippsland Plain

**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**

# 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: 26/07/2024  
 Time of issue: 1:16 pm

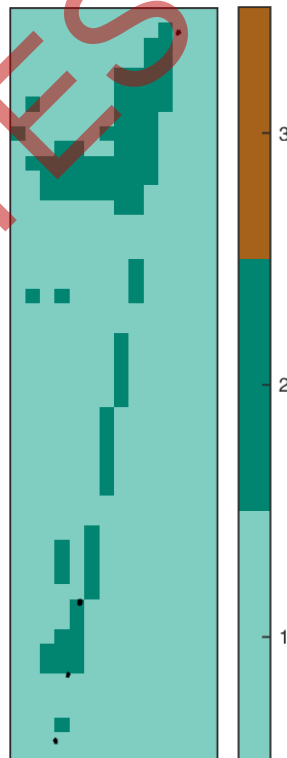
Report ID: Scenario Testing

Project ID	20138_Fulham_Solar_Powerpole_removal_240724
------------	---------------------------------------------

## Assessment pathway

Assessment pathway	Intermediate Assessment Pathway
Extent including past and proposed	0.005 ha
Extent of past removal	0.000 ha
Extent of proposed removal	0.005 ha
No. Large trees proposed to be removed	0
Location category of proposed removal	Location 2 The native vegetation is in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (as per the statewide EVC map). Removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this location will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species.

### 1. Location map



**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**

# 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:

<b>General offset amount<sup>1</sup></b>	0.001 general habitat units
Vicinity	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or Wellington Shire Council
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score <sup>2</sup>	0.350
Large trees	0 large trees

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

Appendix 1 includes information about the native vegetation to be removed

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

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

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto: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**



## 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:

$$\text{General habitat units} = \text{extent} \times \text{condition} \times \text{general landscape factor} \times 1.5, \text{ where the general landscape factor} = 0.5 + (\text{strategic biodiversity value score}/2)$$

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-W	Patch	gipp0055	Endangered	0	no	0.210	0.002	0.002	0.460		0.000	General
1-G	Patch	gipp0053	Endangered	0	no	0.200	0.001	0.001	0.450		0.000	General
1-N1	Patch	gipp0125	Endangered	0	no	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.450		0.000	General
1-N2	Patch	gipp0125	Endangered	0	no	0.220	0.002	0.002	0.410		0.000	General

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**

ADVERTISED  
PLAN

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

This is not applicable in the Intermediate Assessment Pathway.

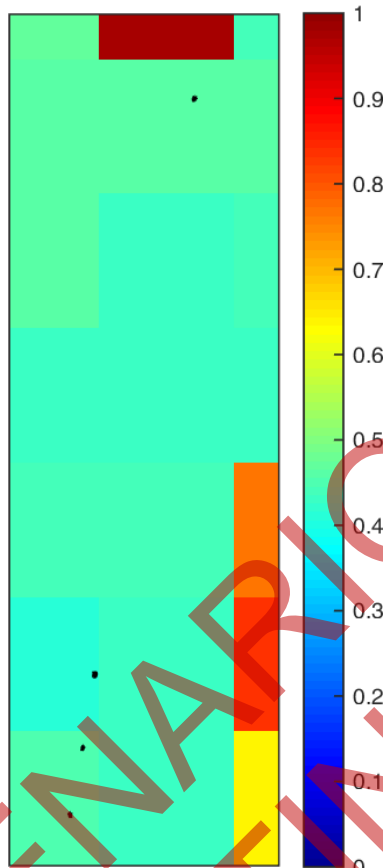
SCENARIO TESTING

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**

# Appendix 3 – Images of mapped native vegetation

## 2. Strategic biodiversity values map



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

ADVERTISED PLAN

**Appendix 6: Evidence that a vegetation offset is available**

**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**



# 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: 26/07/2024 03:14

Report ID: 25525

**ADVERTISED  
PLAN**

## What was searched for?

### General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)
0.001	0.35	0	West Gippsland

**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**

## Details of available native vegetation credits on 26 July 2024 03:14

### These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0115	2.914	0	West Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
BBA-0119	3.052	73	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-0138	24.007	1605	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric
BBA-0412	0.001	0	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ethos, VegLink
BBA-0759	18.868	659	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-1041	0.432	182	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-1041	0.317	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	Yes	VegLink
BBA-1146	0.009	8	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos
BBA-2321	0.093	16	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, VegLink
BBA-2348	3.442	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2623	23.877	873	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2751	10.307	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2757	0.436	0	West Gippsland	Bass Coast Shire	No	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
BBA-2810	7.758	613	West Gippsland	Latrobe City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2833	5.401	20	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos

BBA-2839	0.929	14	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2845	27.537	1068	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2849	2.678	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2850	5.888	0	West Gippsland	Latrobe City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2855	1.795	1	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2875	32.836	1037	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco
TFN-C0698	0.087	16	West Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
TFN-C0977	2.959	54	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
TFN-C1442	2.726	58	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
TFN-C1692	0.296	272	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
TFN-C1734	0.384	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
TFN-C1893	0.366	38	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
VC_CFL-2320_02	0.263	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3696_01	1.563	252	West Gippsland	Bass Coast Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos, VegLink
VC_CFL-3717_01	35.916	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
VC_TFN-C2078_01	0.819	57	West Gippsland	Wellington 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)
----------------	-----	----	-----	-----	------------	--------	-------------	-----------

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements when applying the alternative arrangements as listed in section 11.2 of the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

**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)
----------------	-----	----	-----	-----	------------	--------	-------------	-----------

There are no potential sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements.

LT - Large Trees

CMA - Catchment Management Authority

LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority

**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**

## 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 Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2024



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 Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at [nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto: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

**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**