

ADVERTISED PLAN

Hastings Energy Generation Project

Native Vegetation Assessment

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Prepared for Esso Australia Pty Ltd

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1. Executive summary

Nature Advisory Pty Ltd undertook a native vegetation assessment of a 3.58-hectare area of private land at 11 Bayview Road and 4 Long Island Drive Hastings, where the installation of power plant infrastructure is proposed.

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

The following native vegetation was recorded in the study area:

- Ten patches of native vegetation, totalling 1.71 hectares (including 1 large tree in patches); and
- 10 scattered trees (namely 4 large scattered trees and 6 small scattered trees).

The proponent proposed to remove the following vegetation:

- 0.857 hectares of native vegetation in patches; and
- No scattered trees.

The application site lies within Location 1. As such, the proposal will be assessed under the **Detailed** assessment pathway. This **would** trigger a referral to DELWP.

The *Native Vegetation Removal* (NVR) report for this proposed removal is provided in the appendices. The tables below summarise the compliance of the information in this report with the relevant application requirements of the Guidelines (DELWP 2017a).

Offsets required to compensate for the proposed removal of native vegetation from the study area are provided below.

- 0.222 general habitat units and must include the following offset attribute requirements:
 - Minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) of 0.448
 - Occur within the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA boundary or the Mornington Peninsula municipal district.

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

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Application requirement		Response
1.	Information about the native vegetation to be removed.	Section 4.2
2.	Topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed.	Section 4.1
3.	Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed.	Appendix 5
4.	Details of any other native vegetation approved to be removed, or that was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership as the applicant, in the five-year period before the application for a permit is lodged.	N/A
5.	An avoid and minimise statement.	Section 4.3.1
6.	A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan contained within an agreement made pursuant to section 69 of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> that applies to the native vegetation to be removed.	N/A
7.	Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defensible space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary. This statement is not required when the creation of defensible space is in conjunction with an application under the Bushfire Management Overlay.	N/A
8.	If the application is under Clause 52.16, a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan considerations (at decision guideline 8).	N/A
9.	An offset statement providing evidence that an offset that meets the offset requirements for the native vegetation to be removed has been identified and can be secured in accordance with the Guidelines.	Appendix 8

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Additional requirements for applications in the Detailed assessment pathway		
	Application requirement	Response
10.	<p>A site assessment report of the native vegetation to be removed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A habitat hectare assessment of any patches of native vegetation, including the condition, extent (in hectares), Ecological Vegetation Class and bioregional conservation status. ▪ The location, number, circumference (in centimetres measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) and species of any large trees within patches. ▪ The location, number, circumference (in centimetres measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) and species of any scattered trees, and whether each tree is small or large. 	<p>Section 4.2.2 and Appendix 2</p> <p>Appendix 3</p> <p>Appendix 3</p>
11.	<p>Information about impacts on rare or threatened species habitat, including:</p> <p>The relevant section of the Habitat importance map for each rare or threatened species requiring a species offset.</p> <p>For each rare or threatened species that the native vegetation to be removed is habitat for, according to the Habitat importance maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The species' conservation status ▪ The proportional impact of the removal of native vegetation on the total habitat for that species ▪ Whether their habitats are highly localised habitats, dispersed habitats, or important areas of habitat within a dispersed species habitat. 	N/A

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2. Introduction

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Esso Australia Pty Ltd engaged Nature Advisory Pty Ltd to conduct a native vegetation assessment of a 3.58-hectare area of private land at 11 Bayview Road and 4 Long Island Drive Hastings, where the installation of power plant infrastructure is proposed. Bushfire management measures will also be undertaken, in accordance with Clause 44.06 Bushfire Management Overlay of the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme, and associated Clause 53.02 *Bushfire Planning*.

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'.

Specifically, the scope of the investigation included:

- Existing information on the flora and native vegetation of the study area and surrounds was reviewed, including:
 - DELWP's *Native Vegetation Information Management system* (NVIM); and
 - DELWP's *NatureKit*.
- Site surveys were undertaken 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; and
 - Compilation of a flora species list for the site.
- A report was prepared that includes 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 ground truthing and aerial photographs obtained through *NearMap*;
 - A determination of the extent of any proposed native vegetation removal based on one development layout (to be provided by Esso in MGA coordinates);
 - 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, as well as any further investigation required.

This report is divided into the following sections:

Section 3 describes the methods used for the assessment, definitions and the legislative background.

Section 4 presents the assessment results, proposed native vegetation removal and implications under the Guidelines.

This investigation was undertaken by a team from Nature Advisory comprising Arend Kwak (Botanist), Chris Armstrong (Botanist), Emma Wagner (GIS Analyst), Nhung Thi Hong Nguyen (Senior GIS Analyst) and Inga Kulik (Senior Ecologist and Project Manager).

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3. Definitions, methods and assessment process

3.1. Definitions

3.1.1. Study area

The study area for this investigation is defined as three sections of land at 11 Bayview Road and one section of land at 4 Long Island Drive Hastings, as defined in Figure 1.

3.1.2. Native vegetation

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

- Patch; or
- Scattered tree.

The definitions of these categories are provided below, along with the prescribed DELWP methods to assess them. 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 trees¹ where the drip line² of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy; or
- Any mapped wetland included in the *Current wetlands map*, available at *MapShareVic* (DELWP 2020b).

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 2020c) provides modelled condition scores for native vegetation to be used in certain circumstances.

Scattered tree

A scattered tree is:

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

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¹ A native canopy tree is a mature tree (i.e. it is able to flower) that is greater than 3 metres in height and is normally found in the upper layer of the relevant vegetation type.

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

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

3.2. Field methods

The initial field assessment was conducted on the 16th December, 2021. A second site assessment was conducted on the 28th March 2022 in response to updated development plans. During these assessments, the study area was surveyed on foot.

Sites in the study area found to support native vegetation were mapped through a combination of aerial photograph interpretation and ground-truthing using a hand-held GPS (accurate to approximately five metres).

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

3.3. Planning permit and application requirements

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

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

A permit is not required if:

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

3.3.1. Exemptions

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

- *Dead native vegetation:* Native vegetation that is dead is exempt and does not require a planning permit. This does not apply to a standing dead tree with a trunk diameter of 40 centimetres or more at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level. As such, any dead trees with DBH of 40 centimetres or more have been included in the tree data collected for this investigation.
- *Planted vegetation:* Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that was either planted or grown as a result of direct seeding. This exemption does not apply to native vegetation planted or managed with public funding for the purpose of land protection or enhancing biodiversity.
- *Regrowth:* Native vegetation that is to be removed, destroyed or lopped that has naturally established or regenerated on land lawfully cleared of naturally established native vegetation, and is:
 - Less than 10 years old; or
 - Austral Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*); or

- Within the boundary of a timber production plantation, as indicated on a Plantation Development Notice or other documented record, and has established after the plantation; or
- Less than ten years old at the time of a property vegetation plan being signed by the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (as constituted under Part 2 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*), and is shown on that plan as being 'certified regrowth'; and on land that is to be used or maintained for cultivation or pasture during the term of that plan.

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

- *Lopping and pruning for maintenance:* Lopping or pruning native vegetation, for maintenance only, provided no more than 1/3 of the foliage of each individual plant is lopped or pruned. This exemption does not apply to:
 - The pruning or lopping of the trunk of a native tree; or
 - Native vegetation on a roadside or railway reservation.

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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 which in addition to the Guidelines, refers to the following:

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

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

3.3.3. Referral to DELWP

Clause 66.02-2 of the Planning Scheme determines the role of DELWP in the assessment of native vegetation removal permit applications. If an application is referred, DELWP 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 DELWP 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 which is occupied or managed by the responsible authority.

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4. Existing information and results

4.1. Site description, zoning and overlays

The study area for this investigation (Figure 1) was approximately 3.58 hectares of private land located at 11 Bayview Road and 4 Long Island Drive, approximately 2.8-kilometres east-north-east from the Hastings Town Centre, and bordered by Bayview Road to the north, Long Island Drive to the east, the Long Island Fractionation Plant to the south and woodland to the west.

The study area supported sandy and loamy soils on a predominantly flat landscape, with the exception of the south-western portion of 11 Bayview Road, which sloped upwards from a drainage channel.

The land has historically supported industrial infrastructure, associated with oil refinement and gas generation. Surrounding land predominantly supported agriculture and residential dwellings.

Vegetation within the study area consisted of an array of native and planted components, as well as a significant proportion of high-threat weeds. Native canopy in the north and south-east was primarily composed of Rough-barked Manna Gum and Swamp Gum. In the south-west, Silver-leaved Stringybark and Narrow-leaf Peppermint also contributed to native canopy cover. The native understory commonly consisted of Coast Wattle and Coast Tea-tree, with a groundcover of Weeping Grass and Wallaby Grass. Native herbs such as Kidney Weed, Common Raspwort, Variable Willow-herb and Grassland Wood-sorrel were occasionally interspersed. Planted vegetation, including Southern Mahogany, Swamp Paperbark, Hakea and White Sallow-wattle, bordered the access road at 11 Bayview Road. Early Black-wattle was also widely planted in the south-eastern study area, at 4 Long Island Drive. Introduced species were commonplace throughout, and included woody weeds such as Monterey Pine, Flaxleaf Broom, Blackberry, Boneseed and Gorse. Introduced groundcover was primarily composed of Sweet Vernal, Cocksfoot and Panic Veldtgrass, with herbaceous weeds such as Spear Thistle, Common Centaury and Flatweed interspersed.

The study area lies within the Gippsland Plain bioregion and falls within the Port Philip and Westernport catchment and Mornington Peninsula local government area. It is currently zoned Special Use – Schedule 1 (SUZ1) and is covered by the following overlay in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme:

- *Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)* – this overlay aims to identify areas where bushfire hazards warrant the implementation of bushfire protection measures, such as understory clearing.

4.2. Native vegetation

4.2.1. Species recorded

During the field assessment 68 plant species were recorded. Of these, 32 (47%) were indigenous and 36 (53%) were introduced or non-indigenous native in origin (Appendix 4).

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4.2.2. Patches of native vegetation

Pre-European EVC mapping (DELWP 2020a) indicated that the study area and surrounds would have supported Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3), Heathy Woodland (EVC 48), Coastal Saltmarsh (EVC 9) and Mangrove Shrubland (EVC 140) 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 Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3) and Heathy Woodland (EVC 48), were present within the study area (Figure 1). A description of these EVCs is provided within the EVC benchmarks in Appendix 6.

Ten patches (referred to herein as habitat zones) comprising the abovementioned EVCs, were identified in the study area (Table 1). This totalled an area of 1.71 hectares of native vegetation in patches and included one large tree.

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Table 1: Description of habitat zones in the study area

Habitat Zone	EVC	Description
A, B	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	These species-depauperate patches are characterized by a canopy of moderately healthy Rough-barked Manna Gum, with an open understory of predominantly invasive groundcover. Native understory components include a sparse occurrence of Coast Wattle, occasionally overlying Sword-sedge and Spiny-headed Mat-rush. Weed cover is very high (75%) and consists of dense Panic Veldtgrass, Sweet Vernal and Cocksfoot, with planted vegetation such as Southern Mahogany, Monterey Pine and White Sallow-wattle overlying portions of the patches. Litter cover is exotic and of moderate cover (25-30%), and bryophytes and soil crust are absent.
C	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	This patch consists of an array of high-threat woody weeds, intermingled with dense growth of native shrubs and Swamp Gum. The native understory primarily comprises Coast Tea-tree and Coast Wattle, with a more sparse occurrence of Swamp Paperbark, Dogwood, Cherry Ballart and Hedge Wattle. Small-leaved Clematis and Wallaby Grass are also present in this patch. Weed cover is very high (70%) and mostly attributed to high-threat weeds such as Blackberry, Monterey Pine, Montpellier Broom and Gorse. Weedy groundcover primarily consists of Panic Veldtgrass and Cocksfoot, with herbs such as Common Centaury, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil and Spear Thistle also present. A drainage channel also runs along the eastern border of the patch and supports dense growth of Cumbungi. Litter cover is moderate (30%) and native, and bryophytes and soil crust are absent.
D, E	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	These patches are species-depauperate and support Swamp Gum and Coast Wattle, overlying a dense shrubby understory of invasive Flax-leaf Broom. Panic Veldtgrass and high-threat Blackberry are also notably present. Weed cover is very high (75%), and primarily attributed to Flax-leaf Broom. Litter cover is native and of moderate cover (40%), and bryophytes and soil crust are absent.

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Habitat Zone	EVC	Description
F	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	This patch is characterized by a mixture of Narrow-leaf Peppermint and Silver-leaved Stringybark overlying a native shrubby understory of Coast Wattle, Coast Tea-tree, Kangaroo Apple and Cherry Ballart. Native groundcover consists of Weeping Grass and Wallaby Grass. Weed cover is very high (75%) and most attributed to weedy grasses such as Panic Veldtgrass, Cocksfoot, Sweet Vernal and Yorkshire Fog. High-threat weeds such as Early Black-wattle, Blackberry, Boneseed, Spear Thistle and Bridal Creeper are also present. Litter cover is native and moderate cover (30%), and bryophytes and soil crust are absent.
G	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	Characterized by immature Silver-leaved Stringybark and Narrow-leaf Peppermint, with an open understory and species-depauperate ground layer. The predominating native groundcover consists of Weeping Grass and Wallaby Grass. Weed cover is high (60%) and attributed to Sweet Vernal, Cocksfoot and Panic Veldtgrass, with a notable occurrence of Blackberry. Litter cover is moderate (40%) and primarily native in origin. Bryophytes and soil crust are absent.
H	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	This patch lacks a canopy and consists of a shrubby understory of Black Wattle, Hedge Wattle and Cherry Ballart. Native groundcover includes two species of Wallaby Grass and Weeping Grass, with native herbs such as Common Raspwort, Grassland Wood-sorrel, Bidgee-Widgee and Small St John's Wort interspersed. Weed cover is moderate (30%) and attributed to species such as Fescue Grass, Ribwort, Spear Thistle and Panic Veldtgrass. Litter is predominantly native and of moderate cover (25%). Bryophytes and soil crust are present but of negligible cover.
I	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	This patch supports a healthy canopy of Swamp Gum, overlying an array of native shrubs, herbs and grasses. Native shrubs notably include Cherry Ballart, Coast Tea-tree, Drooping Sheoak, Hedge Wattle and Black Wattle. Groundcover consists of species such as Wallaby Grass, Weeping Grass, Wattle Mat-rush and Sword-sedge, with herbs including Kidney Weed, Bidgee-Widgee and Small St John's Wort also present. Weed cover is moderate (40%) and primarily high-threat. Weed species include Sweet Pittosporum, Monterey Pine, Blackberry, Boneseed, as well as a groundcover of Panic Veldtgrass and Fescue Grass. Litter cover is moderate (30%) and native. Bryophyte cover is high (15%), while soil crust is absent.
J	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	This patch comprises one large Messmate Stringybark over an understorey of Silver Wattle and Coast Tea-tree. Ground cover consists of weedy grasses including Panic Veldtgrass, Cocksfoot, Sweet Vernal and Yorkshire Fog. This patch was not scored as it will not be impacted by the proposed development.

The habitat hectare assessment results for these habitat zones are provided in Table 2. More detailed habitat scoring results are presented in Appendix 2. Details of large trees in patches are provided in Appendix 3.

Table 2: Summary of habitat hectare assessment results

Habitat Zone	EVC	Area (ha)	Condition score (out of 100)	No. of Large Trees in HZ
A	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	0.036	24	1
B	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	0.066	21	0
C	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	0.787	21	0
D	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	0.018	14	0
E	Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)	0.029	14	0
F	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	0.404	23	0
G	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	0.030	21	0
H	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	0.136	28	0
I	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	0.096	46	0
J	Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)	0.039	Not scored	0
Total		1.71		1

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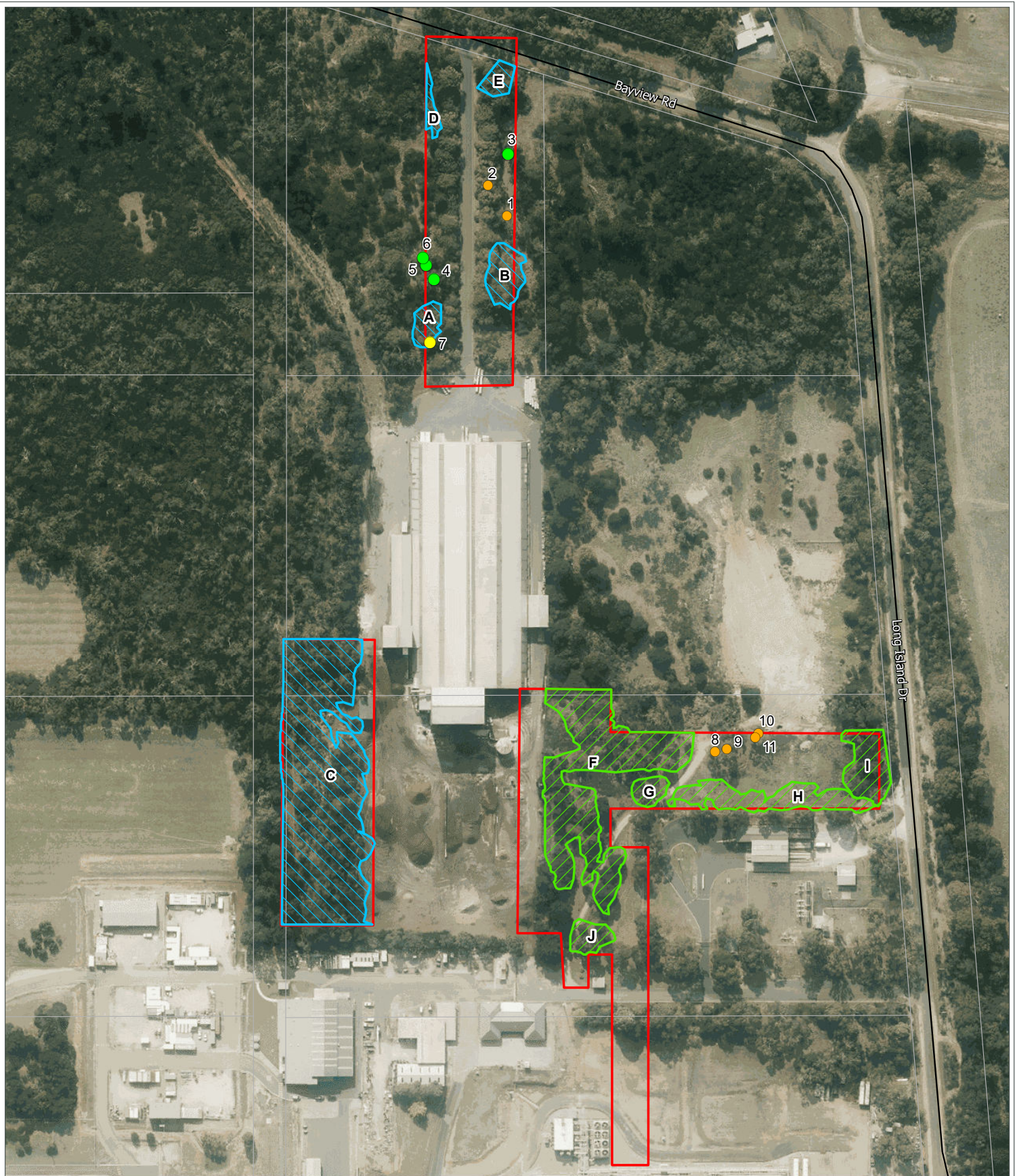


Figure 1: Study area and native vegetation

Project: Hastings Gas Generation Project

Date: 4/04/2022

Study area

Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)

● Large tree in patch

● Large scattered tree

● Small scattered tree

Native vegetation

Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)

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N



Metres
0 40

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4.2.3. Scattered trees

Scattered trees recorded in the study area would have once comprised the canopy component of Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3) and Heathy Woodland (EVC 48).

10 scattered trees occurred in the study area (Figure 1), including:

- 4 large scattered trees (≥ 70 -centimetre DBH); and
- 6 small scattered trees (< 70 -centimetre DBH).

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

4.3. Proposed development

The current proposal will involve the installation of power plant infrastructure and associated understory clearing for bushfire management.

To determine impacts to native vegetation, the proposed infrastructure plan and bushfire management measures were overlaid with the native vegetation mapped as part of this investigation. Native vegetation occurring in the following locations was considered to be removed based on the proposed infrastructure plan:

- Direct removal:
 - Native vegetation within the proposed infrastructure layout.
 - Native vegetation cleared for the purposes of bushfire protection measures. This constitutes full removal where understory clearing results in $< 25\%$ native vegetation cover, in keeping with the definition of a patch within the Guidelines (DELWP 2017a).
- Consequential removal:
 - Native vegetation within 3m of the gas feed line.
 - Native vegetation within 4m of all fencing.

Impacts to trees

In accordance with the *Assessor's Handbook* (DELWP 2018a), a tree is deemed lost when earthworks encroach on more than 10% of its Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). A TPZ is defined as an area around the trunk of the tree which has a radius of $12 \times$ the DBH (to a maximum of 15 metres but no less than 2 metres). Dead trees are treated in the same manner.

4.3.1. Avoid and minimise statement

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

- *Site level planning* – the layout of the power plant infrastructure has primarily been situated in cleared areas or those supporting planted vegetation, which will minimise impacts to remnant native vegetation. Furthermore, existing tracks will be used for site access. Tree canopies will be pruned to less than $1/3$ of the canopy in order to maintain clearance from the existing access tracks. This will avoid the removal of vegetation as no new access tracks will be constructed.

- Furthermore, no feasible opportunities exist to further avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation without undermining the key objectives of the proposal.

4.3.2. Proposed native vegetation removal

The current development footprint will result in the loss of a total extent of 0.857 hectares of native vegetation as represented in Figure 2 and documented in the *Native Vegetation Removal* (NVR) report provided by DELWP (Appendix 7).

This comprised:

- 0.857 hectares of native vegetation in patches; and
- No scattered trees

The native vegetation to be removed is not in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class.

It is understood that no native vegetation has been approved for removal on the property within the last five years.

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

4.3.3. Assessment pathway

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

- **Location Category:** Location 1
- **Extent of native vegetation:** A total of 0.857 hectares of native vegetation.

Based on these details, the Guidelines stipulate that the proposal is to be assessed under the **Detailed** assessment pathway.

This proposal **would** trigger a referral to DELWP based on the criteria specified in Section 3.3.3.

4.3.4. Offset requirements

Offsets required to compensate for the proposed removal of native vegetation from the study area are provided below.

- 0.222 general habitat units and must include the following offset attribute requirements:
 - Minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) of 0.448
 - Occur within the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA boundary or the Mornington Peninsula municipal district.

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

4.3.5. 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 (DELWP 2020e).

Evidence that the required offset is available is provided in Appendix 8. The required offset would be secured following approval of the application to remove native vegetation.

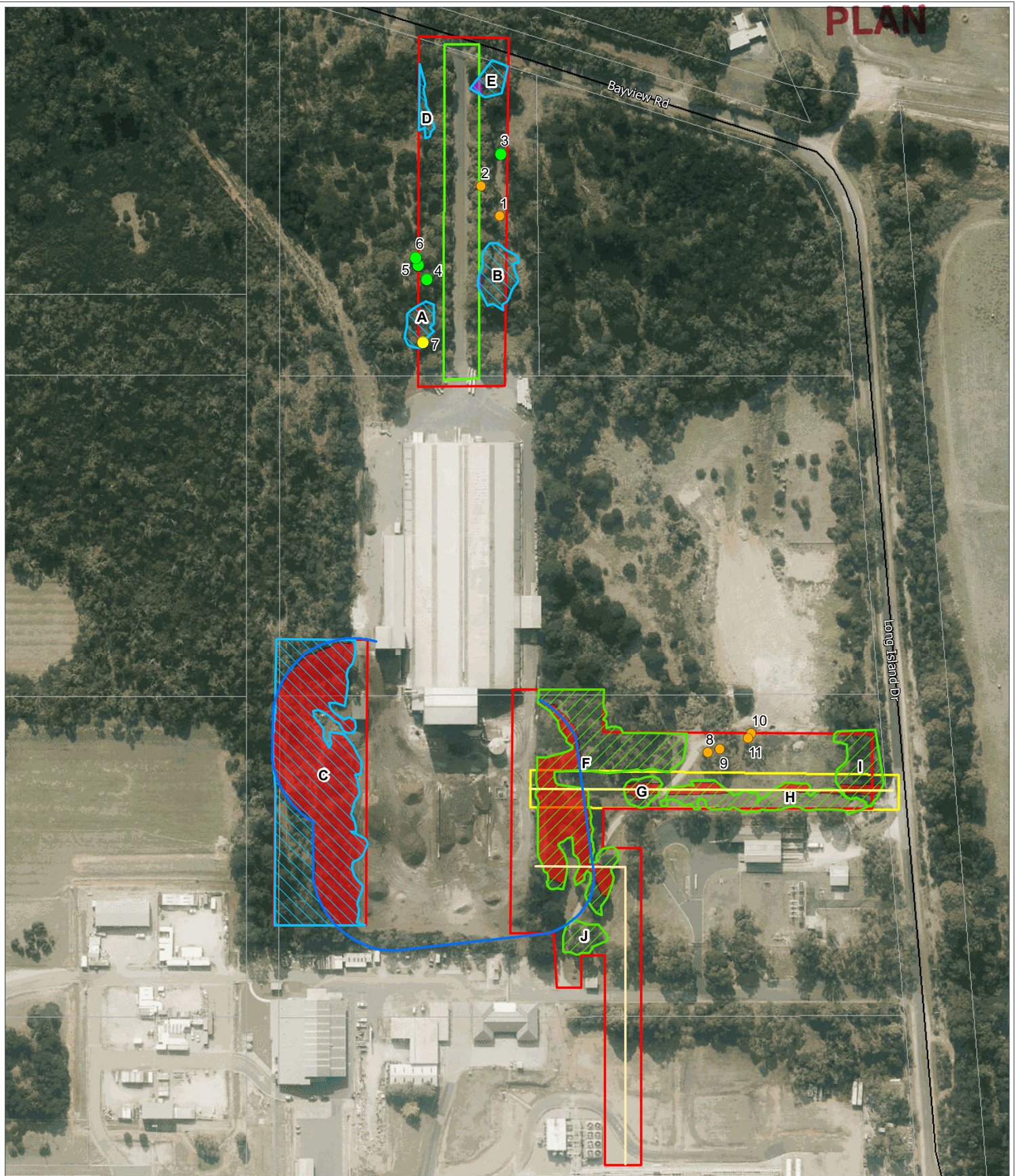
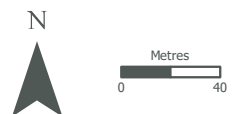


Figure 2: Native vegetation to be removed

Project: Hastings Gas Generation Project	Date: 5/04/2022
 Study area	● Large scattered tree
 Trench	● Small scattered tree
 Powerline	Native vegetation
 Bushfire management Zone	 Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)
 Understorey Clearance Main Entry	 Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)
 Vegetation Management Powerline	 Native vegetation to be removed
● Large tree in patch	



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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.

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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 its greater dimension is

large tree benchmark diameter at breast height (DBH) for the relevant bioregional EVC. Any scattered tree that is not a large tree is a small scattered tree. The extent of large and small scattered trees is determined as follows:

- **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 2020c).

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 area and based on habitat distribution models.

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

Biodiversity value

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

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

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Appendix 2: Detailed habitat hectare assessment results

Habitat Zone			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
Bioregion			GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	GipP	
EVC Number			3	3	3	3	3	48	48	48	48	
Total area of Habitat Zone (ha)			0.036	0.066	0.787	0.018	0.029	0.404	0.030	0.136	0.096	
Site Condition	Large Old Trees		/10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		No. large trees in habitat zone		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Tree Canopy Cover		/5	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	
	Lack of Weeds		/15	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	6	4
	Understorey		/25	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	15
	Recruitment		/10	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	6	10
	Organic Matter		/5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Logs		/5	0	4	2	0	0	4	5	2	5
		Site condition standardising multiplier*		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	Site Condition subtotal			20	17	17	10	10	19	17	24	42
Landscape Context	Patch Size		/10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	Neighbourhood		/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Distance to Core		/5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Total Condition Score			/100	24	21	21	14	14	23	21	28	46

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

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

Tree no.	Common Name	Scientific Name	DBH (cm)	Habitat Category	Radius of TPZ (m)	Remove /Retain	Notes
1	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	65	Small scattered tree	7.80	Retain	
2	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana</i>	56	Small scattered tree	6.72	Retain	
3	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana</i>	88	Large scattered tree	10.6	Retain	
4	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana</i>	90	Large scattered tree	10.8	Retain	
5	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana</i>	97	Large scattered tree	11.6	Retain	Dead
6	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana</i>	108	Large scattered tree	12.96	Retain	
7	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. pryoriana</i>	71	Large tree in patch	8.52	Retain	
8	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	42	Small scattered tree	5.04	Retain	
9	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	40	Small scattered tree	4.80	Retain	
10	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	37	Small scattered tree	4.44	Retain	
11	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	32	Small scattered tree	3.84	Retain	

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

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Appendix 4: Flora species recorded in the study area

Origin	Common name	Scientific name	EPBC	FFG-T	FFG-P	CaLP Act
	Silver Wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>				
*	Early Black-wattle	<i>Acacia decurrens</i>				
	White Sallow-wattle	<i>Acacia floribunda</i>				
	Black Wattle	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>			P	
	Hedge Wattle	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>				
	Coast Wattle	<i>Acacia sophorae</i>			P	
	Bidgee-Widgee	<i>Acaena novaezelandiae</i>				
*	Brown-top Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>				
	Drooping Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>				
*	Sweet Vernal	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>				
*	Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>				R
	Cranberry Heath	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>			P	
*	Large Quaking-grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>				
	Dogwood	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i> subsp. <i>aculeata</i>				
*	Kikuyu	<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>				
*	Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>				
*	Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>				C
*	Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>				C
	Small-leaved Clematis	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>				
*	Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>				
*	Couch	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> var. <i>dactylon</i>				
*	Drain Flat-sedge	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>				
*	Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>				
	Kidney Weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>				
*	Panic Veldt-grass	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>				
	Variable Willow-herb	<i>Epilobium billardioreanum</i>				
*	Flaxleaf Fleabane	<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>				
	Southern Mahogany	<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>				
	Silver-leaved Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>				
	Messmate Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>				
	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>				
	Narrow-leaved Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>				
	Rough-barked Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> subsp. <i>pryoriana</i>				
	Cherry Ballart	<i>Exocarpus cupressiformis</i>				
*	Flax-leaf Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>				C
*	Montpellier Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>				
	Common Raspwort	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>				
*	Hakea	<i>Hakea</i> sp.				
*	Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>				
*	Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>				
	Small St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>				
*	Flatweed	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>				
	Native Rush	<i>Juncus</i> sp.				
	Kunzea	<i>Kunzea</i> sp.				
	Sword Sedge	<i>Lepidosperma</i> sp.				
	Coast Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>				
	Wattle Mat-rush	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>				
	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>				

Origin	Common name	Scientific name	EPBC	FFG-T	FFG-P	CaLP Act
*	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>				
	Swamp Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>				
	Weeping Grass	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>				
	Grassland Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis perennans</i>				
*	Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis sp.</i>				
*	Red-ink Weed	<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>				
*	Monterey Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>				
*	Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>				
*	Ribwort	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>				
	Variable Plantain	<i>Plantago varia</i>				
*	Briar Rose	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>				C
*	Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus sp. agg.</i>				C
*	Clustered Dock	<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>				
	Common Wallaby Grass	<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>				
	Bristly Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i>				
*	Black Nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>				
*	Rough Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>				
*	Aster-weed	<i>Symphyotrichum subulatum</i>				
	Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>				
*	Cumbungi	<i>Typha sp.</i>				
*	Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>				C
*	Fescue Grass	<i>Vulpia sp.</i>				

Notes:**EPBC** = threatened species status under the EPBC Act

(EX = presumed extinct in the wild; CR = critically endangered; EN = endangered; VU = vulnerable);

FFG-T = listed as threatened under the FFG Act;**FFG-P**: listed as protected (P) under the FFG Act;**CaLP Act**: declared noxious weeds under the CaLP Act

(C = Regionally Controlled Weeds [Land owners have the responsibility to take all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of Regionally controlled weeds on their land]; R = Restricted Weeds [Trade in these weeds and their propagules, either as plants, seeds or contaminants in other materials is prohibited].

* = introduced to Victoria

= Victorian native taxa occurring outside their natural range

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Appendix 5: Photographs of native vegetation proposed for removal



Photo 1: Planted vegetation bordering the northern access road, adjacent to Bayview Road.



Photo 2: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3), with immature Swamp Gum overlying a Coast Wattle understory.



Photo 3: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3), with a dense weedy understory of Flax-leaf Broom.



Photo 4: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3) with a dense Coast Tea-tree understory.

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Photo 5: Healthy Woodland (EVC 48) with Early Black-wattle and Monterey Pine interspersed.

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Appendix 6: EVC benchmarks

Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland (EVC 3)

Heathy Woodland (EVC 48)

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EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain bioregion

EVC 3: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland

Description:

A low, grassy or bracken-dominated eucalypt forest or open woodland to 15 m tall with a large shrub layer and ground layer rich in herbs, grasses, and orchids. Occurs mainly on flat or undulating areas on moderately fertile, relatively well-drained, deep sandy or loamy topsoils over heavier subsoils (duplex soils).

Large trees:

Species	DBH(cm)	#/ha
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	70 cm	15 / ha

Tree Canopy Cover:

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
15%	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> ssp. <i>pryoriana</i>	Rough-barked Manna Gum

Understorey:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree		5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	1	5%	T
Medium Shrub	5	25%	MS
Small Shrub	3	5%	SS
Prostrate Shrub	1	1%	PS
Large Herb	2	5%	LH
Medium Herb	8	15%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	5	10%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	1%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	4	10%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	10%	MNG
Ground Fern	1	15%	GF
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL

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EVC 3: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland - Gippsland Plain bioregion

LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
T	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle
T	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
MS	<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath
MS	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
MS	<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
MS	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree
SS	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath
SS	<i>Dillwynia glaberrima</i>	Smooth Parrot-pea
SS	<i>Amperea xiphoclada</i> var. <i>xiphoclada</i>	Broom Spurge
PS	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath
MH	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Common Raspwort
MH	<i>Drosera peltata</i> ssp. <i>auriculata</i>	Tall Sundew
MH	<i>Viola hederacea</i> sensu Willis (1972)	Ivy-leaf Violet
MH	<i>Geranium solanderi</i> s.l.	Austral Cranesbill
SH	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort
SH	<i>Opercularia varia</i>	Variable Stinkweed
SH	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed
SH	<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	Small Poranthera
LTG	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
LTG	<i>Austrostipa mollis</i>	Supple Spear-grass
LNG	<i>Tetrarrhena juncea</i>	Forest Wire-grass
MTG	<i>Lepidosperma concavum</i>	Sandhill Sword-sedge
MTG	<i>Dianella revoluta</i> s.l.	Black-anther Flax-lily
MTG	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle-headed Mat-rush
MTG	<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	Grey Tussock-grass
MNG	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
GF	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken

Recruitment:

Continuous

Organic Litter:

40 % cover

Logs:

15 m/0.1 ha.

Weediness:

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
MH	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear	high	low
LTG	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	high	high
LNG	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	high	high

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EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain bioregion

EVC 48: Heathy Woodland

Description:

Spans a variety of geologies but is generally associated with nutrient-poor soils including deep uniform sands (aeolian or outwash) and Tertiary sand/clay which has been altered to form quartzite gravel. Eucalypt-dominated low woodland to 10 m tall lacking a secondary tree layer and generally supporting a diverse array of narrow or ericoid-leaved shrubs except where frequent fire has reduced this to a dense cover of bracken. Geophytes and annuals can be quite common but the ground cover is normally fairly sparse.

Large trees:

Species	DBH(cm)	#/ha
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	50 cm	15 / ha
<i>Banksia serrata</i>	40 cm	

Tree Canopy Cover:

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
10%	<i>Eucalyptus willisii</i>	Jimmy's Shining Peppermint
	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate Stringybark
	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i> s.l.	Narrow-leaf Peppermint
	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> ssp. <i>pryoriana</i>	Rough-barked Manna Gum
	<i>Banksia serrata</i>	Saw Banksia

Understorey:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree		5%	IT
Medium Shrub	5	30%	MS
Small Shrub	5	20%	SS
Medium Herb	2	5%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	5%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	1	5%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	1%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	1	5%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	5%	MNG
Ground Fern	1	5%	GF
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL
Soil Crust	na	10%	S/C

LF Code

Species typical of at least part of EVC range

Common Name

MS	<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath
MS	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree
MS	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
MS	<i>Monotoca scoparia</i>	Prickly Broom-heath
SS	<i>Amperea xiphoclada</i> var. <i>xiphoclada</i>	Broom Spurge
SS	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath
SS	<i>Dillwynia glaberrima</i>	Smooth Parrot-pea
LTG	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Red-fruit Saw-sedge
MTG	<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i> ssp. <i>lutea</i>	Small Grass-tree
MNG	<i>Hypolaena fastigiata</i>	Tassel Rope-rush
SC	<i>Cassytha glabella</i>	Slender Dodder-laurel

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EVC 48: Heathy Woodland - Gippsland Plain bioregion

Recruitment:

Episodic/Fire. Desirable period between disturbances is 20 years.

Organic Litter:

40 % cover

Logs:

15 m/0.1 ha.

Weediness:

There are no consistent weeds in this EVC.

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Appendix 7: Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report

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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: 04/04/2022
Time of issue: 1:33 pm

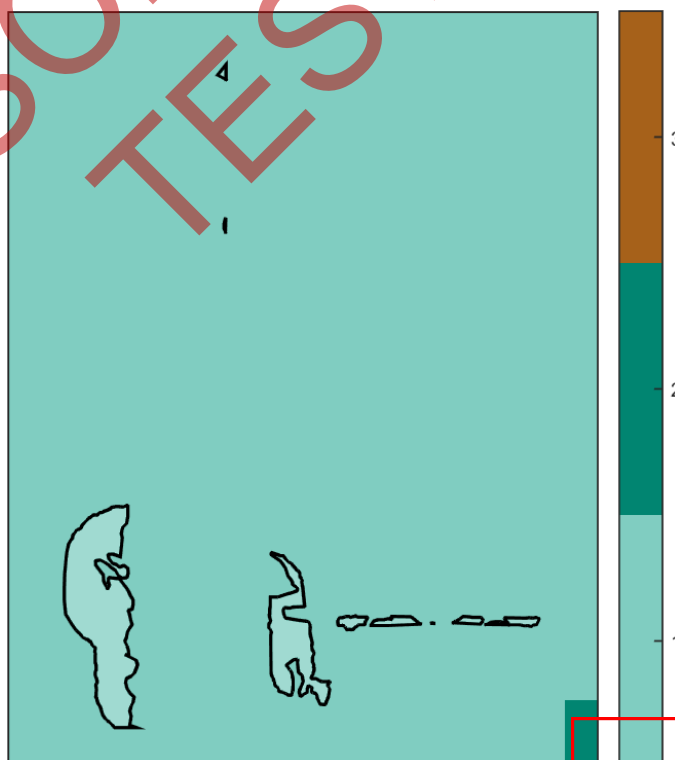
Report ID: Scenario Testing

Project ID	21291_Hastings_removal_220328
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Assessment pathway

Assessment pathway	Detailed Assessment Pathway
Extent including past and proposed	0.857 ha
Extent of past removal	0.000 ha
Extent of proposed removal	0.857 ha
No. Large trees proposed to be removed	0
Location category of proposed removal	Location 1 The native vegetation is not in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (as per the statewide EVC map), sensitive wetland or coastal area. Removal of less than 0.5 hectares in this location will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species

1. Location map



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Scenario test – native vegetation removal

Offset requirements if a permit is granted

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

General offset amount ¹	0.222 general habitat units
Vicinity	Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score ²	0.448
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

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

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

Scenario test – native vegetation removal

Next steps

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

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

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

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Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

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

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

$$\text{Species habitat units} = \text{extent} \times \text{condition} \times \text{species landscape factor} \times 2, \text{ where the species landscape factor} = 0.5 + (\text{habitat importance score}/2)$$

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

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

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

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-H1	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.280	0.019	0.019	0.770		0.007	General
1-H3	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.280	0.009	0.009	0.770		0.003	General
1-G	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.210	0.016	0.016	0.770		0.004	General
1-H2	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.770		0.000	General
1-C	Patch	gipp0003	Vulnerable	0	no	0.210	0.561	0.561	0.529		0.135	General
1-E	Patch	gipp0003	Vulnerable	0	yes	0.070	0.004	0.004	0.896		0.000	General
1-B	Patch	gipp0003	Vulnerable	0	yes	0.110	0.001	0.001	0.840		0.000	General
1-F1	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.573		0.063	General
1-H4	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.280	0.003	0.003	0.770		0.001	General
1-I	Patch	gipp0048	Least Concern	0	no	0.460	0.013	0.013	0.770		0.008	General

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

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

Species common name	Species scientific name	Species number	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	% habitat value affected
Coast Helmet-orchid	<i>Corybas despectans</i>	500836	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Coast Wirilda	<i>Acacia uncifolia</i>	504210	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Glossy Grass Skink	<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>	12683	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Growling Grass Frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	13207	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Coast Twin-leaf	<i>Zygophyllum billardiarei</i>	503615	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Green Leek-orchid	<i>Prasophyllum lindleyanum</i>	502702	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Coast Bitter-bush	<i>Adriana quadripartita</i>	504755	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Lewin's Rail	<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	10045	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Leafy Twig-sedge	<i>Cladium procerum</i>	500786	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Veined Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa rudis subsp. australis</i>	504940	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Parsley Xanthosia	<i>Xanthosia leiophylla</i>	504562	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Purple Blown-grass	<i>Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. punicea</i>	504206	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Dune Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis rubens</i>	502390	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Dense Leek-orchid	<i>Prasophyllum spicatum</i>	504506	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Purple Diuris	<i>Diuris punctata</i>	501084	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	10220	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Creeping Rush	<i>Juncus revolutus</i>	501839	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Clover Glycine	<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	501456	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	<i>Calamanthus pyrrhopygius</i>	10498	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>	10238	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Salt Lawrenzia	<i>Lawrenzia spicata</i>	501888	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	10334	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Elegant Parrot	<i>Neophema elegans</i>	10307	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Rough Blown-grass	<i>Lachnagrostis rudis subsp. rudis</i>	500159	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Swamp Skink	<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>	12407	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Mauve-tuft Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra malvina</i>	503374	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Golden Cowslips	<i>Diuris behrii</i>	501061	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Yarra Gum	<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>	501326	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	10149	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map ; special site	0.0000

Habitat group

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

Habitat impacted

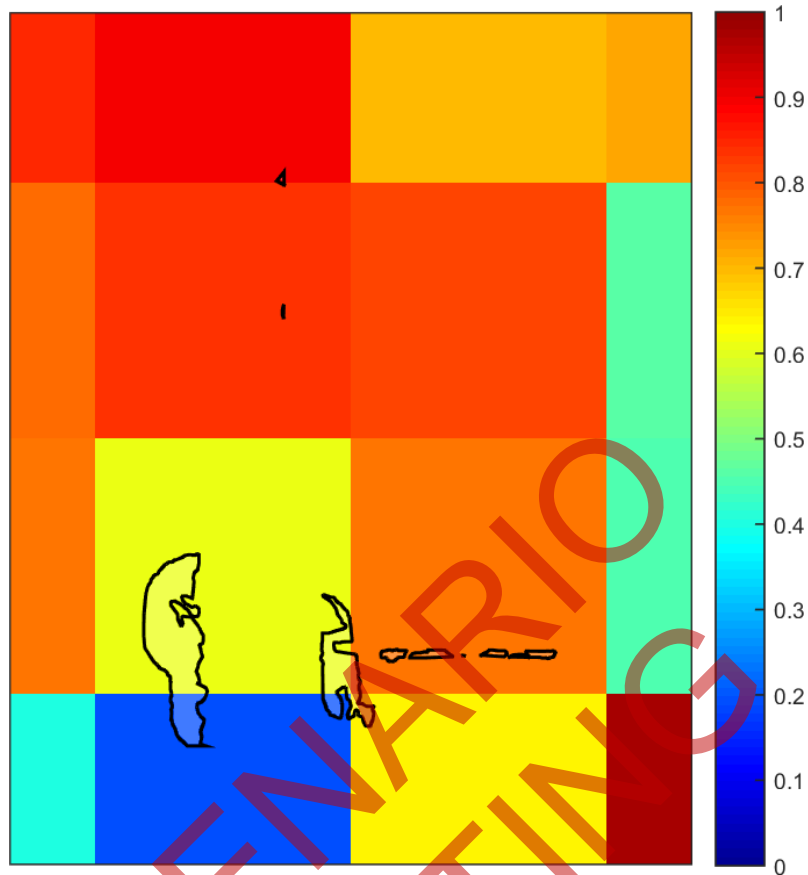
- Habitat importance maps are the maps defined in the Guidelines that include all the mapped habitat for a rare or threatened species
- Top ranking maps are the maps defined in the Guidelines that depict the important areas of a dispersed species habitat, developed from the highest habitat importance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

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Appendix 3 – Images of mapped native vegetation

2. Strategic biodiversity values map



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Appendix 8: Evidence that native vegetation offset requirement is available

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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: 04/04/2022 03:13

Report ID: 13461

What was searched for?

General offset

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General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)	
0.222	0.448	0	CMA	Port Phillip and Westernport
			or LGA	Mornington Peninsula Shire

Details of available native vegetation credits on 04 April 2022 03:13

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0277	7.222	462	Port Phillip and Westernport	Mornington Peninsula Shire	No	Yes	No	Abezco, Ethos, VegLink
BBA-0670	18.011	150	Port Phillip and Westernport	Cardinia Shire	No	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
BBA-0677	17.824	1527	Port Phillip and Westernport	Whittlesea City	No	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
BBA-0678	47.287	2629	Port Phillip and Westernport	Nillumbik Shire	No	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-0678_2	0.388	59	Port Phillip and Westernport	Nillumbik Shire	No	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2789	1.317	14	Port Phillip and Westernport	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2790	2.911	116	Port Phillip and Westernport	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2832	0.688	0	Port Phillip and Westernport	Nillumbik Shire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Nillumbik SC
BBA-2870	2.544	431	Port Phillip and Westernport	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2871	16.335	1668	Port Phillip and Westernport	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-3030	7.421	0	Port Phillip and Westernport	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
TFN-C1636	1.416	130	Port Phillip and Westernport	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yarra Ranges SC
TFN-C1664	2.998	85	Port Phillip and Westernport	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Yarra Ranges SC

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TFN-C1750	0.319	7	Port Phillip and Westernport	Cardinia Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
TFN-C1763_3	11.231	0	Port Phillip and Westernport	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric
VC_CFL-3084_01	0.714	474	Port Phillip And Westernport	Cardinia Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3682_01	1.695	0	Port Phillip And Westernport	Nillumbik Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco
VC_CFL-3762_01	5.224	148	Port Phillip And Westernport	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3762_01	0.869	0	Port Phillip And Westernport	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	Yes	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)
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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)
VC_CFL-3710_01	7.606	322	Port Phillip And Westernport	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3740_01	1.756	96	Port Phillip And Westernport	Cardinia Shire, Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
VC_CFL-3740_01	0.425	25	Port Phillip And Westernport	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
VC_CFL-3744_01	3.717	384	Port Phillip And Westernport	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3746_01	4.962	563	Port Phillip And Westernport	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

LT - Large Trees

CMA - Catchment Management Authority

LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority

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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

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

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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

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