

# Native vegetation removal report

## A report to support an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation in the **Intermediate Assessment Pathway** using the modelled condition score

This report provides information to support an application to remove native vegetation in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. The report is not an assessment by DELWP or local council of the proposed native vegetation removal. Biodiversity information and offset requirements have been calculated using modelled condition scores contained in the *Native vegetation condition map*.

**Date and time:** 07 December 2021 13:37 PM

**Lat./Long.:** -36.9922382913653,141.550377886549

**Native vegetation report ID:**

**Address:** GOROKE-HARROW ROAD CHARAM 3318

371-20211207-013

## Assessment pathway

### The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway

Assessment pathway	<b>Intermediate Assessment Pathway</b>
Extent of past plus proposed native vegetation removal	0.070 hectares
No. large trees	1 large tree(s)
Location category	Location 1 The native vegetation is not in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class, sensitive wetland or coastal area. Removal of less than 0.5 hectares will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species.

## Offset requirement

### The offset requirement that will apply if the native vegetation is approved to be removed

Offset type	General offset
Offset amount	0.020 general habitat units
Offset attributes	
Vicinity	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or West Wimmera Shire Council
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score	0.431
Large trees	1 large tree(s)

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## Biodiversity information about the native vegetation

### Description of any past native vegetation removal

Any native vegetation that was approved to be removed, or was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership, in the five year period before the application to remove native vegetation is lodged is detailed below.

Permit/PIN number	Extent of native vegetation (hectares)
None entered	0 hectares

### Description of the native vegetation proposed to be removed

Extent of all mapped native vegetation	0.070 hectares
Condition score of all mapped native vegetation	0.236
Strategic biodiversity value score of all mapped native vegetation	0.539
Extent of patches native vegetation	0.000 hectares
Extent of scattered trees	0.070 hectares
No. large trees within patches	0 large tree(s)
No. large scattered trees	1 large tree(s)
No. small scattered trees	0 small tree(s)

### Additional information about trees to be removed, shown in Figure 1

Tree ID	Tree circumference (cm)	Benchmark circumference (cm)	Scattered / Patch	Tree size
A	420	220	Scattered	Large

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## Other information

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Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must include all the below information. If an appropriate response has not been provided the application is not complete.

### Photographs of the native vegetation to be removed

Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed must be provided with the application. All photographs must be clear, show whether the vegetation is a patch of native vegetation or scattered trees, and identify any large trees. If the area of native vegetation to be removed is large, provide photos that are indicative of the native vegetation.

Ensure photographs are attached to the application. If appropriate photographs have not been provided the application is not complete.

### Topographical and land information

Description of the topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed, including any ridges, crests and hilltops, wetlands and waterways, slopes of more than 20 percent, drainage lines, low lying areas, saline discharge areas, and areas of existing erosion, as appropriate. This may be represented in a map or plan. **This is an application requirement and your application will be incomplete without it.**

### Avoid and minimise statement

This statement describes what has been done to avoid the removal of, and minimise impacts on the biodiversity and other values of native vegetation. **This is an application requirement and your application will be incomplete without it.**

### Defendable space statement

Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defendable space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary. This statement must have regard to other available bushfire risk mitigation measures. This statement is not required if your application also includes an application under the Bushfire Management Overlay.

### Offset statement

An offset statement that demonstrates that an offset is available and describes how the required offset will be secured. **This is an application requirement and your application will be incomplete without it.**

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## Next steps

Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must address all the application requirements specified in *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council. This *Native vegetation removal report* must be submitted with your application and meets most of the application requirements. The following needs to be added as applicable.

### Property Vegetation Plan

Landowners can manage native vegetation on their property in the longer term by developing a Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) and entering into an agreement with DELWP.

If an approved PVP applies to the land, ensure the PVP is attached to the application.

### Applications under Clause 52.16

An application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation is under Clause 52.16 if a Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (NVPP) applies to the land, and the proposed native vegetation removal is not in accordance with the relevant NVPP. If this is the case, a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the NVPP considerations must be provided.

If the application is under Clause 52.16, ensure a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the NVPP considerations is attached to the application.

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

For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186

[www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.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 an application will meet the requirements of Clauses 52.16 or 52.17 of planning schemes in Victoria or that a permit to remove native vegetation will be granted.

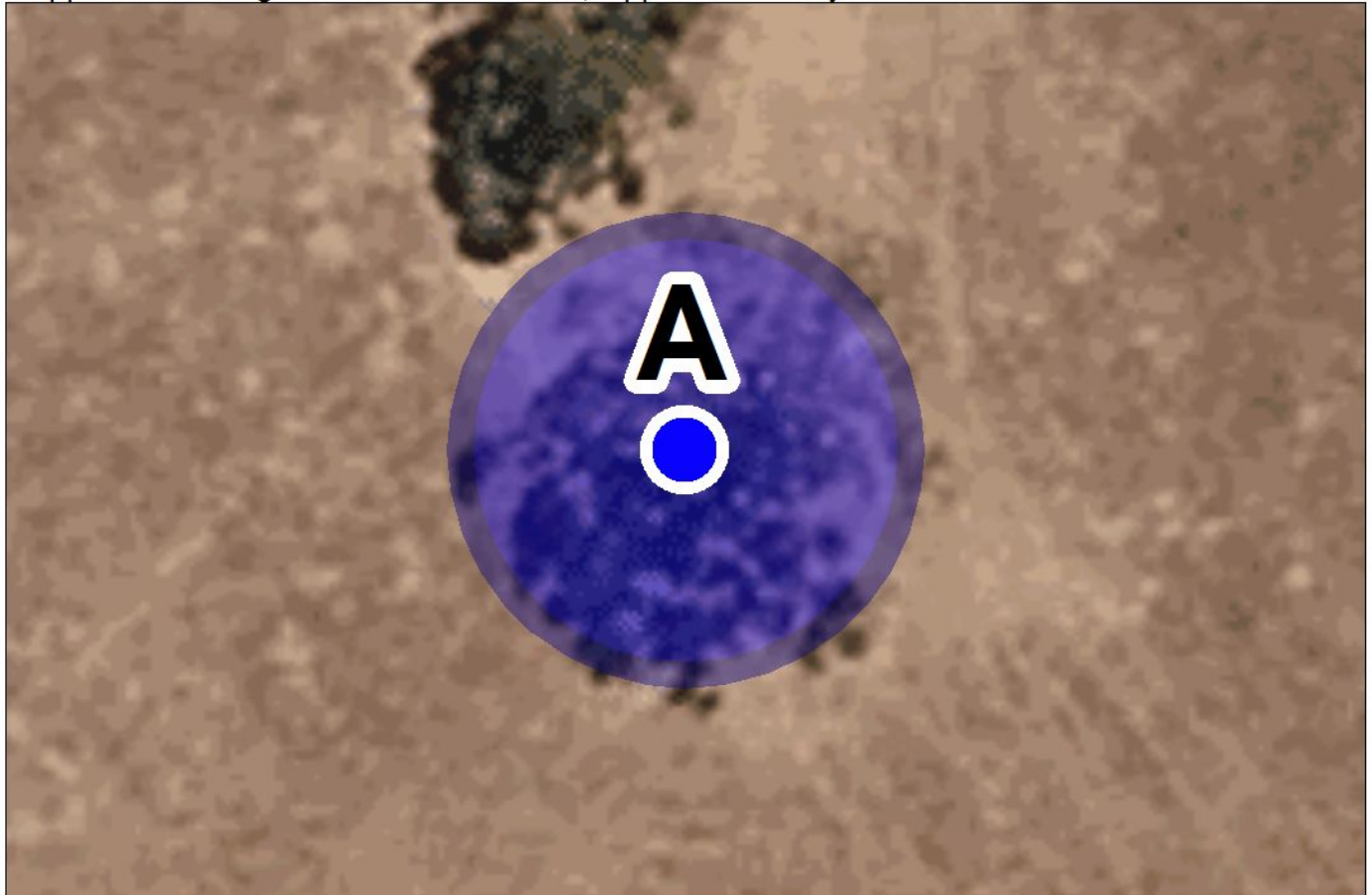
Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you must ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, legislation, awards or orders and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and the like that affect, are applicable or are necessary to undertake any action to remove, lop 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 planning schemes in Victoria.

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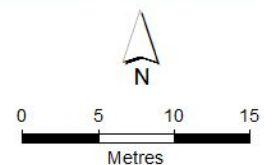
**Figure 1 – Map of native vegetation to be removed, destroyed or lopped**

Mapped native vegetation to be removed, lopped or destroyed



**Legend**

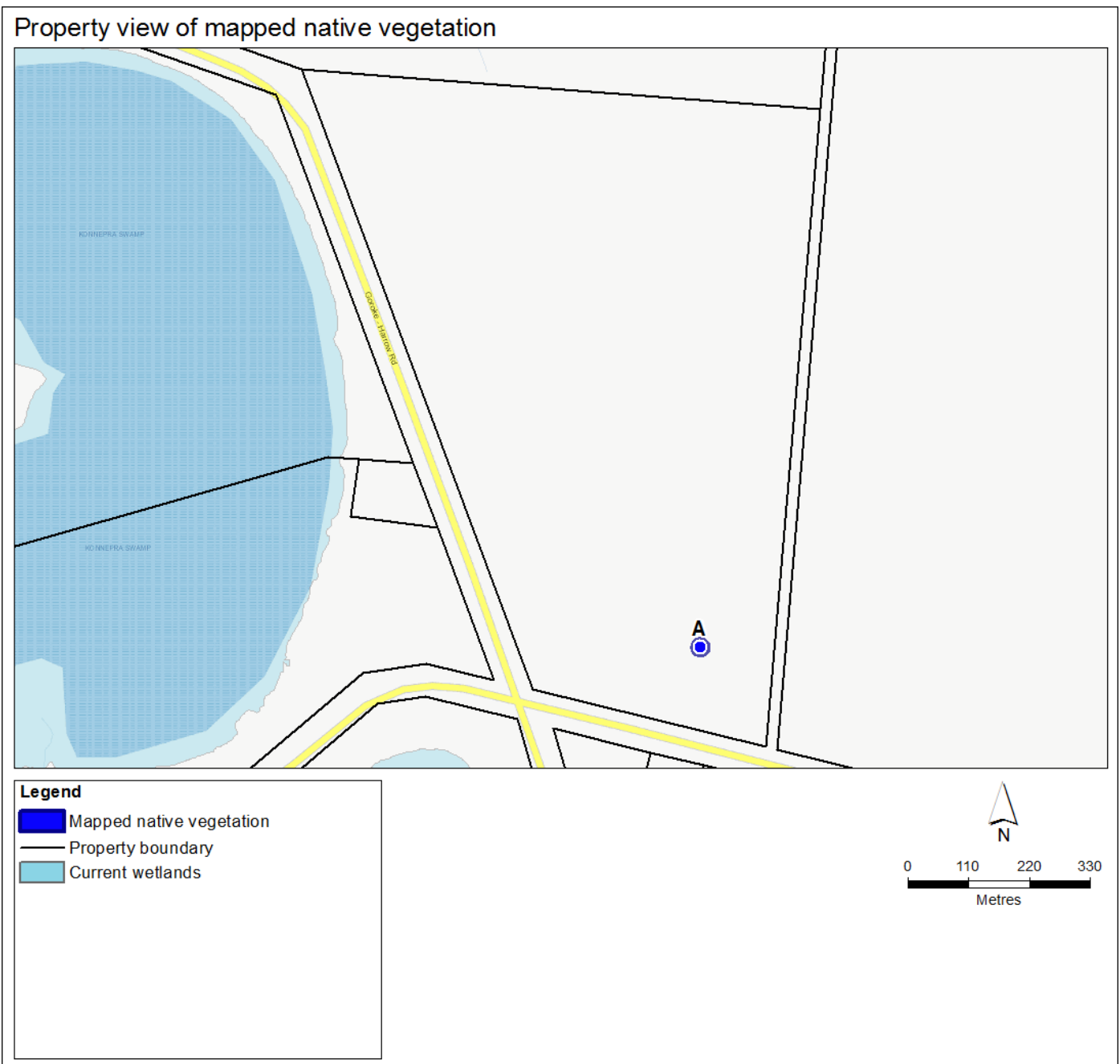
-  Mapped native vegetation
-  Property boundary



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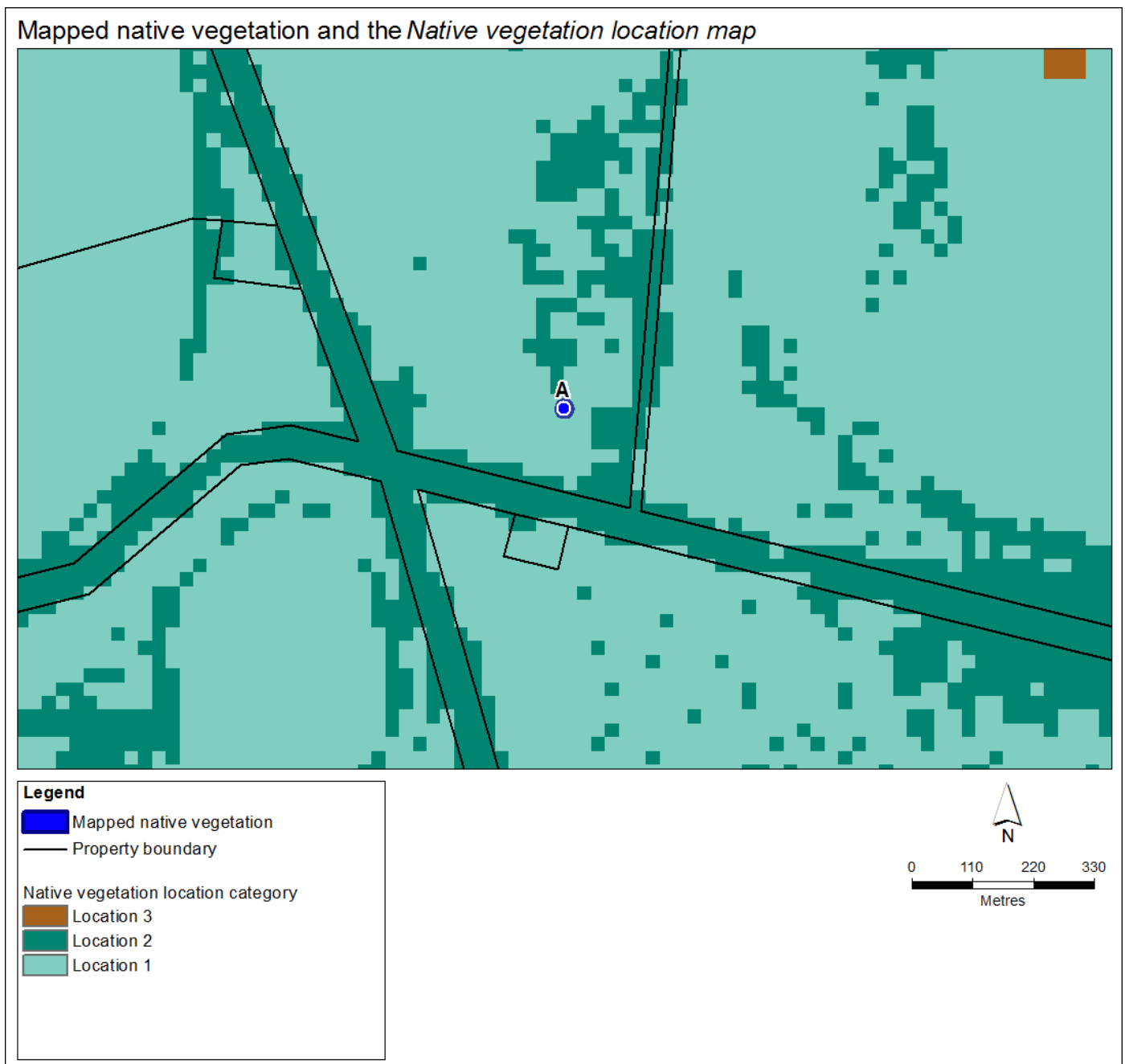
**Figure 2 – Map of property in context**



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## Figure 3 – Biodiversity information maps

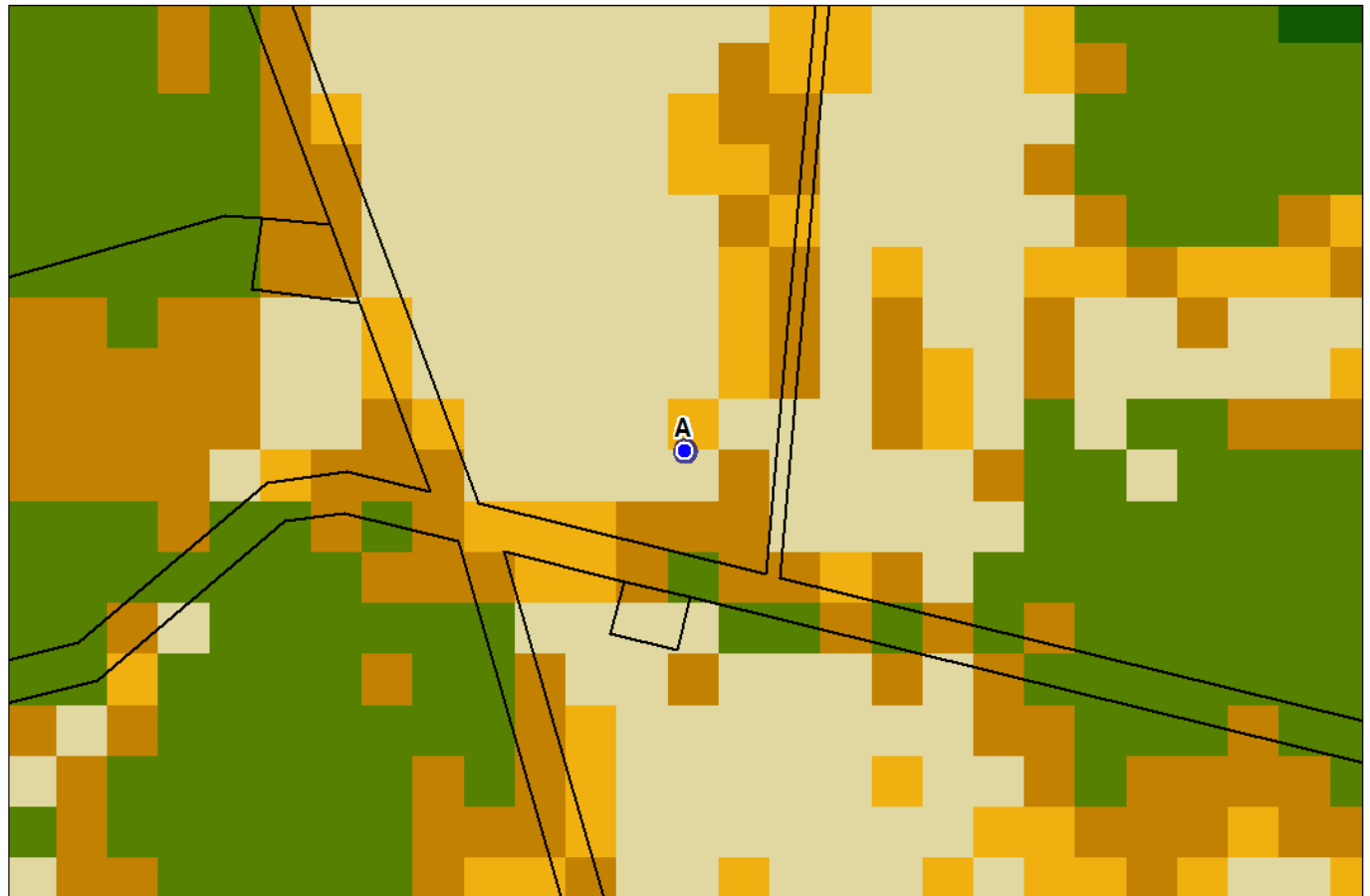


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# Native vegetation removal report






Mapped native vegetation and the *Native vegetation condition map*



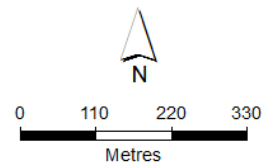
## Legend

-  Mapped native vegetation
-  Property boundary

## Native vegetation condition\*

-  0.81 - 1.00
-  0.61 - 0.80
-  0.41 - 0.60
-  0.21 - 0.40
-  0.00 - 0.20

\* These classes are for display purposes only



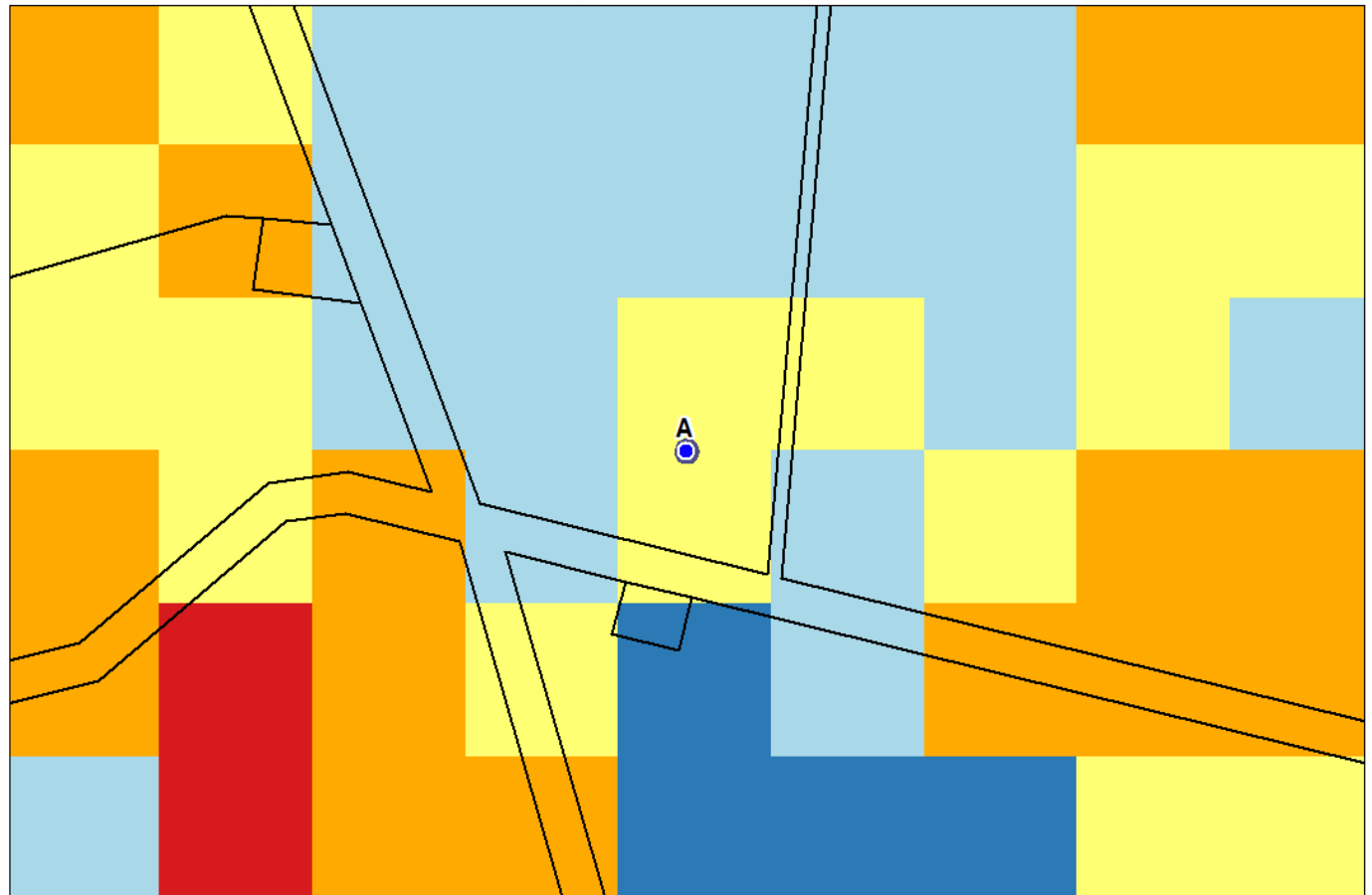
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# Native vegetation removal report






Mapped native vegetation and the *Strategic biodiversity value map*



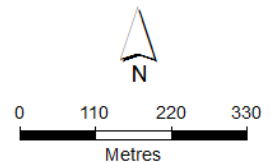
## Legend

-  Mapped native vegetation
-  Property boundary

## Strategic biodiversity value\*

-  0.81 - 1.00
-  0.61 - 0.80
-  0.41 - 0.60
-  0.21 - 0.40
-  0.00 - 0.20

\* These classes are for display purposes only



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## Appendix 1 - Details of offset requirements

### Native vegetation to be removed

<b>Extent of all mapped native vegetation (for calculating habitat hectares)</b>	0.070	The area of land covered by a patch of native vegetation and/or a scattered tree, measured in hectares. Where the mapped native vegetation includes scattered trees, each tree is assigned a standard extent and converted to hectares. A small scattered tree is assigned a standard extent defined by a circle with a 10 metre radius and a large scattered tree a circle with a 15 metre radius.  The extent of all mapped native vegetation is an input to calculating the habitat hectares.
<b>Condition score*</b>	0.236	The condition score of native vegetation is a site-based measure that describes how close native vegetation is to its mature natural state. The condition score is the weighted average condition score of the mapped native vegetation calculated using the <i>Native vegetation condition map</i> .
<b>Habitat hectares</b>	0.017	Habitat hectares is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. It is calculated by multiplying the extent of native vegetation by the condition score:  <b>Habitat hectares = extent x condition score</b>
<b>Strategic biodiversity value score</b>	0.539	The strategic biodiversity value score represents the complementary contribution to Victoria's biodiversity of a location, relative to other locations across the state. This score is the weighted average strategic biodiversity value score of the mapped native vegetation calculated using the <i>Strategic biodiversity value map</i> .
<b>General landscape factor</b>	0.770	The general landscape factor is an adjusted strategic biodiversity value score. It has been adjusted to reduce the influence of landscape scale information on the general habitat score.
<b>General habitat score</b>	0.013	The general habitat score combines site-based and landscape scale information to obtain an overall measure of the biodiversity value of the native vegetation. The general habitat score is calculated as follows:  <b>General habitat score = habitat hectares x general landscape factor</b>

\* **Offset requirements for partial removal:** If your proposal is to remove parts of the native vegetation in a patch (for example only understorey plants) the condition score must be adjusted. This will require manual editing of the condition score and an update to the calculations that the native vegetation removal tool has provided: habitat hectares, general habitat score and offset amount.

### Offset requirements

<b>Offset type</b>	General 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. All proposals in the Basic and Intermediate assessment pathways will only require a general offset.
<b>Offset multiplier</b>	1.5	This multiplier is used to address the risk that the predicted outcomes for gain will not be achieved, and therefore will not adequately compensate the biodiversity loss from the removal of native vegetation.
<b>Offset amount (general habitat units)</b>	0.020	The general habitat units are the amount of offset that must be secured if the application is approved. This offset requirement will be a condition to any permit or approval for the removal of native vegetation.  <b>General habitat units required = general habitat score x 1.5</b>
<b>Minimum strategic biodiversity value score</b>	0.431	The offset site must have a strategic biodiversity value score of at least 80 per cent of the strategic biodiversity value score of the native vegetation to be removed. This is to ensure offsets are located in areas with a strategic biodiversity value that is comparable to the native vegetation to be removed.
<b>Vicinity</b>	Wimmera CMA or West Wimmera Shire Council	The offset site must be located within the same Catchment Management Authority boundary or municipal district as the native vegetation to be removed.
<b>Large trees</b>	1 large tree (s)	The offset site must protect at least one large tree for every large tree removed. A large tree is a native canopy tree with a Diameter at Breast Height greater than or equal to the large tree benchmark for the local Ecological Vegetation Class. A large tree can be either a large scattered tree or a large patch tree.

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# vegetationlink

Our reference: VLQ-7614

Your reference: Goroke-Harrow Road,  
Charam

7 December 2021

**Duncan Lowis**

Chris Smith & Associates  
Duncan.Lowis@csmith.com.au

Dear Duncan

## RE: Quotation for the supply of native vegetation credits

Vegetation Link is an accredited offset provider with the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP). We offer a specialised brokerage service to enable permit holders and developers to identify suitable native vegetation credits to meet their planning permit offset requirements.

Based on the information you have provided, I understand you require the following native vegetation offset:

Offset type	Vicinity	General habitat units (GHU)	Min. strategic biodiversity value (SBV)	Large trees
General	Wimmera CMA	0.020	0.431	1

To meet your offset requirements, you can purchase native vegetation credits from a third party as per the option quoted below<sup>1</sup>. This quotation is valid for 14 days, subject to credit availability and landholder pricing.

Option 1: CTA pathway – offset site located in the West Wimmera Shire Council area (approx. 2-5 week turnaround from acceptance of quote)	
Cost of native vegetation credits – invoiced by DELWP	\$2,000.00
Transaction fees – invoiced by Vegetation Link	\$1,020.00
<b>Total (ex. GST)</b>	<b>\$3,020.00</b>
<b>Total (inc. GST)</b>	<b>\$3,322.00</b>

If you would like to purchase credits, let us know that you accept the quote and return the attached **purchaser details form** by email. Upon receipt of the form, we will begin the trade process. Further details of the process for credit allocation is in the FAQ below.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on 1300 VEG LINK (1300 834 546) or email [offsets@vegetationlink.com.au](mailto:offsets@vegetationlink.com.au).

Sincerely,



**Lisa Gormley**  
Biodiversity Offset Broker

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the transaction fee includes DELWP NVOR transfer and allocation fees and a Vegetation Link fee

## FAQs

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### What is a third party offset?

A third party offset is an offset site owned by another landowner who manages and protects native vegetation on their land. Landowners who establish these offset sites are required to:

- Enter into a Landowner Agreement for the specified offset site. A landowner agreement is in perpetuity and is binding upon the current and future landowners of the site. It permanently restricts use of the site for many purposes.
- Implement a detailed 10-year Management Plan endorsed by the DELWP Native Vegetation Offset Register to manage and improve the biodiversity values of the site.

### How is the price of native vegetation offset credit (GHUs, GBEUs etc.) determined?

Landowners who own offset sites set their own price for native vegetation credits. They determine the price based on numerous factors. This includes but not limited to site establishment, the cost to manage the site in perpetuity (e.g., maintain fencing, control pest species), foregone use cost, and administrative costs. Depending on how the site is registered, the credit fee may be paid to either DELWP or directly to the landowner.

Further information about the work some of our landowners are doing can be found on the [Vegetation Link website](#).

### What is the process after I accept the quote?

After you accept the quote and return the purchaser table, the following steps will be undertaken:

1. We will set up a contract between the parties involved and send the contract out for signing by all parties.
2. Once the contract is signed by all parties, invoices will be issued for the fees listed in the quotation. We will send you two invoices, one for our transaction fee invoiced by Vegetation Link and one for the credit fee, usually to be paid to DELWP or the landowner. We recommend providing remittances for your payments.
3. Once payments are received, Vegetation Link will send you an allocated credit extract from the Native Vegetation Offset Register and your executed contract as evidence that you have purchased the offset.

### How long will the process take? When will I get my credits?

Generally, the process from quote acceptance to having evidence of allocated credits takes between 2-6 weeks. This is dependent on a range of factors including the type of landholder agreement, contract types and organisational workflows. We work as quickly as possible to get your credits to you within this time period.

We note that you **cannot** remove vegetation until you have been given permission by the Responsible Authority (usually the council that has issued your permit).

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## What happens if I don't have a permit yet?

When people are buying credits before a permit is issued, the following three options are most common:

- You can pay for the offsets before the planning permit is available, and then the offsets are allocated to the permit when it is available. This will incur an additional \$50 fee from DELWP. When considering this option, it is important to realise that your estimated offset requirements may be different than the actual permit requirements.
- You can wait for the planning permit to be approved first and then request a quote to meet the requirements in your permit. Should credits be available, you can then start the offset purchase process. We then use the planning permit number for allocating the credits. Allocating credits to the permit is evidence that you have purchased your offset.
- You can request a quote to confirm availability and to get an idea of the cost of offsetting before you apply for a permit. Once you receive the planning permit you can request an updated quote. It is at this point that you can then go through the offset purchase process.

We cannot guarantee credit availability until a) contracts are executed, or b) credits have been held via a pending trade lodged with DELWP Native Vegetation Offset Register.

We cannot guarantee price until a) a quote has been accepted within 14 days, and b) a Credit Trading Agreement is signed within 21 days, and c) the invoice for the credits is paid within 28 days of the date the invoice is issued.

## If I sign the contract, does that mean I MUST pay for the credits?

Yes, you have entered into a contract agreeing to pay for the offset credits therein and are required to pay for those credits. The credits must be paid for within 28 days of the date of the invoice.

## Can you hold the credits for me, as I want to pay later?

We are unable to hold credits for later payment. Please also see 'What happens if I don't have a permit yet?' above.

For further information, see [our website](#) or the [DELWP website](#).

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