

Report for Accent Environmental

Ecological Assessment for Gippsland
BESS Project, Hazelwood North

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July 2026

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Disclaimer

This ecological assessment has been prepared to support a planning permit application and is intended solely for use by the client and relevant authorities involved in the planning process. The information, assessments, and recommendations presented are based on field investigations, desktop reviews, and applicable ecological guidelines current at the time of writing. While care has been taken to ensure accuracy, no warranty is provided regarding the completeness, currency, or future applicability of the findings nor does it account for any changes in circumstances after the time of publication. This report does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such.

The assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant Victorian legislation and policies, including the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, applicable local planning schemes, and, where relevant, the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (Vic) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). The authors accept no liability for decisions or actions taken by third parties based on this report and accept no liability for any error, loss or other consequence caused or arising from using the information provided within this report. It is the responsibility of the permit applicant to ensure all statutory requirements are met and to seek further professional or regulatory advice where necessary.

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Ian Finlay – Principal Environmental Consultant – Accent Environmental

Mark Nan Tie - Principal Environmental Scientist – Accent Environmental

Tania Brooker – Consulting Manager, ID Ecological Management

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Executive Summary

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Project Description

ID Ecological Management has been commissioned by Accent Environmental to undertake an ecological assessment of the Gippsland BESS Project, Hazelwood North, the site of a proposed utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The assessment seeks to identify any ecologically related impacts and legislative implications that the project may trigger.

The property is undeveloped pastoral land currently used for livestock/grazing activities. Approximately 250m of Bennetts Creek frontage runs across the southwest corner of the parcel.

Assessment of all native vegetation within the study area was completed by ID Ecological Management on the 26th of November 2024 and 2nd September 2025.

Targeted fauna species surveys were completed by Aquatica Environmental on the 18th & 19th of September 2025 and Wildlife Experiences during the months of March to October 2025.

Study Area- Ecological Values

Land surrounding the study area has been heavily cleared of its original native vegetation cover with agricultural land use and coal mining operations being widespread. Very little remnant tree cover or native vegetation cover remains within a 5 km radius of the study area.

Flora

The site is largely cleared and dominated by exotic pastured vegetation. Native patches, comprising mainly native aquatic, semi-aquatic and mid-storey trees and shrubs, covers approximately 5% of the site. Other native vegetation found on the site includes a cluster of scattered canopy trees and planted Victorian native trees.

Approximately 40 canopy trees were all positively identified as Strzelecki gum (*Eucalyptus strzeleckii*) within the study area, which were planted within revegetation windrows. Strzelecki Gum is listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation* (EPBC) Act 1999 and Critically Endangered under Victoria's *Flora & Fauna Guarantee* (FFG) Act 1988.

The likelihood assessment determined that all other threatened flora species identified in the database searches were unlikely to occur within the study area, due primarily to a lack of suitable habitat and the highly disturbed condition of most of the site. The site also does not contain any threatened ecological communities.

Fauna

No threatened fauna species were identified as incidental observations during the site assessment carried out by ID Ecological Management.

The fauna likelihood assessment determined that four threatened fauna species could possibly be present on the site, being swamp skink (*Lissolepis coventryi*), glossy grass skink (*Pseudemoia*

rawlinsoni), dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*) and Flinders pygmy perch (*Nannoperca* sp. 1). Swamp skink and dwarf galaxias are both listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act 1999.

After completion of targeted surveys these species likelihoods were revised to the following:

- Glossy grass skink was identified on site and the likelihood assessment revised to **Present**.
- Swamp skink was not detected them within the project area and the likelihood of occurrence was revised to **Unlikely**.
- Dwarf galaxias was not detected within the project area, nor at the upstream or downstream reference sites within Bennetts Creek. Therefore, the likelihood of occurrence was revised to **Unlikely**.
- Flinders pygmy perch was not detected within the project area; however, seasonal occurrence is likely when flows connect to upstream habitats, as the species was confirmed as present immediately upstream. Therefore, the likelihood of occurrence was revised to **Present**.

All other threatened fauna species identified in the database searches are considered unlikely to occur within or be reliant on any of the habitats within the study area.

Legislation/Policy Implications

Legislation and Policy	Relevant Ecological Feature on Site	Report/Approval required
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	Approximately forty (40) Strzelecki gum were recorded on site, all planted individuals located within revegetated windrows.	Under the current design proposal approx. 32 Strzelecki Gums individuals are lost due to their location within the proposed construction zone. A Significant Impact Assessment was completed which determined that the potential impact to Strzelecki gum from this project is unlikely to be significant. No referral recommended nor further consideration for Strzelecki Gum under the proposal.
	Dwarf galaxias and swamp skink were considered to have a moderate likelihood of occurrence at or near to the study area.	Targeted surveys did not identify dwarf galaxias or swamp skink on site. No additional consideration for these species is recommended.
State – Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988	No FFG Act protected flora or habitat for FFG Act protected fauna exists on the public road reserve that interfaces with the site.	No further actions are triggered in relation to public land impacted under the current design proposal.
	Swamp skink, glossy grass skink, dwarf galaxias and Flinders pygmy perch were considered to have a high or moderate likelihood of occurrence at or near to the study area.	Targeted surveys did not identify swamp skink or dwarf galaxias on site. No further consideration for these species recommended. Targeted surveys identified glossy grass skink on site. The design for the Gippsland BESS must consider the findings of the survey and protect

Legislation and Policy	Relevant Ecological Feature on Site	Report/Approval required
	This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright	the known locations of the species. A Fauna Conservation Management Plan should be developed to mitigate impacts, including additional habitat assessments and fauna salvage protocols. Targeted surveys identified flinders pygmy perch on site. The project should retain and maintain the existing fenced buffer around Bennetts Creek and avoid direct disturbance. Mitigation and monitoring measures should be included in the sites CEMP.
Planning and Environment Act 1987	21 native vegetation patches measuring approximately 4.0818 ha in area and 22 large, locally indigenous canopy trees have been identified within the study area.	Clause 52.17 of the Latrobe Planning Scheme requires a planning permit to clear or disturb native vegetation. Native vegetation will be impacted and or require removal under the proposal and as such, application of the 'Guidelines' to obtain a planning permit for the works is necessary. Under the current design proposal 0.018 ha of native vegetation (0.018ha of native patch) is deemed lost and offsets amount to 0.005 general habitat units with a minimum strategic biodiversity value of 0.3124.
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	The following noxious weeds were present on the site: • Spear thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>) Regionally Controlled. • Hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>) Regionally Controlled. • Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) Regionally Controlled. • Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>) Restricted. • Montpellier broom (<i>Genista monspessulana</i>) Regionally Controlled. • St. Johns wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>) Regionally Controlled. • African boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>) Regionally Controlled. • Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg.) regionally Controlled. • Crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>) Restricted.	Any contractors undertaking works on site must comply with the requirements of the Act to control/eradicate and avoid spreading these weeds onsite or to other areas. ADVERTISED PLAN

Legislation and Policy	Relevant Ecological Feature on Site	Report/Approval required
Environmental Effects Act 1978	Two endangered EVC's are potentially impacted by the proposal. The outcome of targeted surveys will determine if significant populations of swamp skink, glossy grass skink, dwarf galaxias and Flinders pygmy perch may be present within the study area.	Overall, 0.005 hectares of native vegetation from an endangered EVC has been determined to be impacted under the current proposal. This is significantly less than 10ha referral criteria. Targeted surveys did not identify swamp skink or dwarf galaxias on site. Targeted surveys identified glossy grass skink and Flinders pygmy perch on site. It is unlikely that the project will impact on the last remaining 1-5% of known remaining habitat or population of these species within Victoria. Additionally, no species-specific offsets were identified in the Native Vegetation removal Report. The design and staging of works must, however, minimise the impacts to these populations of threatened fauna.
State Wildlife Act 1979	The 22 large size locally indigenous canopy trees and the native vegetation within the site may be occupied by native fauna species.	Persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate any native fauna must have a permit or approval issued by the DEECA.
Water Act 1989	Under the Act approval must be sought from the local Catchment Management Authority and a 'Works on Waterways' (WoW) permit is required to construct, alter, operate, remove, or decommission': - any works on a waterway; or - a bore.	Under the current proposed general layout, a proposed cable connection crosses Bennetts Creek at a width of approximately 4-6 meters. Consultation with the WGCMA is recommended to determine any approval requirements.

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1 Introduction

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1.1 Project Background

ID Ecological Management has been commissioned by Accent Environmental to undertake an ecological assessment of Tramway Road, Hazelwood North, the site of a proposed utility-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The Gippsland BESS *Overall Site Plan* is provided as *Appendix 1* which displays the proposed location of the laydown areas, substation and proposed connection path crossing Tramway Road.

This report seeks to identify the presence of any important ecological values and identify opportunities to avoid and minimise impacts at this preliminary design stage. A Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report is included to give an indication of the potential offset requirements for the project. However, it is an expectation that the proponent will investigate opportunities to further avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation and biodiversity as required by the State Native Vegetation Policy Guidelines.

The property is undeveloped pastoral land currently used for livestock/grazing activities. Approximately 250m of Bennetts Creek frontage runs across the southwest corner of the parcel.

Assessment of all native vegetation within the study area was completed by ID Ecological Management on the 26th of November 2024 and 2nd September 2025.

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1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this assessment include:

- Undertake a desktop-based background review of relevant databases, including Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and Protected Matters Search Tool, and previous reports for ecological information of the site (if available), mapped EVC's and for records and identification of potentially present threatened species.
- Undertake site assessment of the study area, including:
 - A complete flora list;
 - Incidental observations of fauna;
 - Photographs of the site;
 - Map and record all native vegetation patches and complete vegetation quality assessments;
 - Map and record locations and diameter at breast height (DBH) of all scattered and large trees in patches to accuracy of approximately <3m (<1m where possible);
 - Identification and mapping of the location or extent of any species or communities protected by either the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) or *Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 & 2019 Amendment* (FFG Act); and
 - Map and record habitat features throughout the study area such as tree hollows, logs, waterbodies, drainage lines or other habitat characteristics which may be utilised by threatened fauna.

- Undertake data analysis that includes:
 - Undertake a likelihood assessment of all state or federal listed threatened flora and fauna species recorded on site or found within database searches (<5km radius);
 - Identify implications of relevant state and federal legislation and loss of native vegetation on fauna species habitat;
 - Make recommendations for any further works or investigations such as targeted threatened species surveys or the like;
 - Compile native vegetation information as per the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation including native patch, scattered tree and threatened species and / or habitat field recorded spatial data;
 - Complete vegetation quality assessment (habitat hectare) scoring for native patches; and
 - Assess potential native vegetation / species impacts/ habitat loss and identify opportunities to avoid / minimise impacts.
- Prepare a report that includes:
 - An executive summary;
 - Description of methods;
 - Results of background and field survey;
 - An assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for all threatened species identified in a 5km database search area;
 - Prepare maps to the OCECA standards that show the locations of all ecological features identified and the extent of impacts to native vegetation under the current indicative plans; and
 - Conclusion and Recommendations (where applicable) for each of the items listed above.

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1.3 Study Area

The study area (*Figure 1*) lies approximately 4 km southeast of the Morwell town centre and 160 kilometres east of the Melbourne CBD.

The study area is an approximately 32 hectares parcel of land which borders Tramway Road to the west and includes the riparian section of Bennetts Creek which runs through the southwest corner of the study area. The Hazelwood Terminal Station retains infrastructure and associated buildings throughout the southern half of the site, while the northern area contains an easement of open grass and vegetation plots holding both planted and naturally occurring native vegetation. The Tramway Road roadside is highly degraded, retaining minimal native vegetation.

The study area lies within the Gippsland Plains Bioregion, the West Gippsland Catchment Management area and the Latrobe City Council municipality.

Appendix 1 and 1a show the study area, associated proposed infrastructure and site access.

Land surrounding the study area has been heavily cleared of its original native vegetation cover with agricultural land use being widespread and high-level mining activities located approximately 3km to the west of the study area. Very little remnant tree or native vegetation cover remains within a 5 km

radius of the study area. Native vegetation cover in the region is mostly confined to roadsides, watercourses and small pockets of parks and reserves contained within the surrounding townships.

The closest significant tracts of native vegetation close to the study area include:

- Jeeralang North State Forest which is located approximately 6km southeast of the study area;
- Morwell National Park located approximately 9km south of the study area;
- Linear strips of riparian vegetation that follow the Moe River to the west, Eel Hole Creek to the south and Waterhole Creek to the east of the study area; and
- Brataualung Forest Park which is located approximately 15km south of the study area and holds approximately 8000 hectares of contiguous native bushland.

The study area is subject to the following planning zones and overlays:

Planning Zones

Farming Zone – Schedule 1 (FZ1)

Special Use Zone – Schedule 1 (SUZ1)

Planning Overlays

State Resource Overlay – Schedule 1 (SRO1);

Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

All or part of this property (Bennetts Creek) is an 'area of cultural heritage sensitivity'.

(DEECA, 2024)

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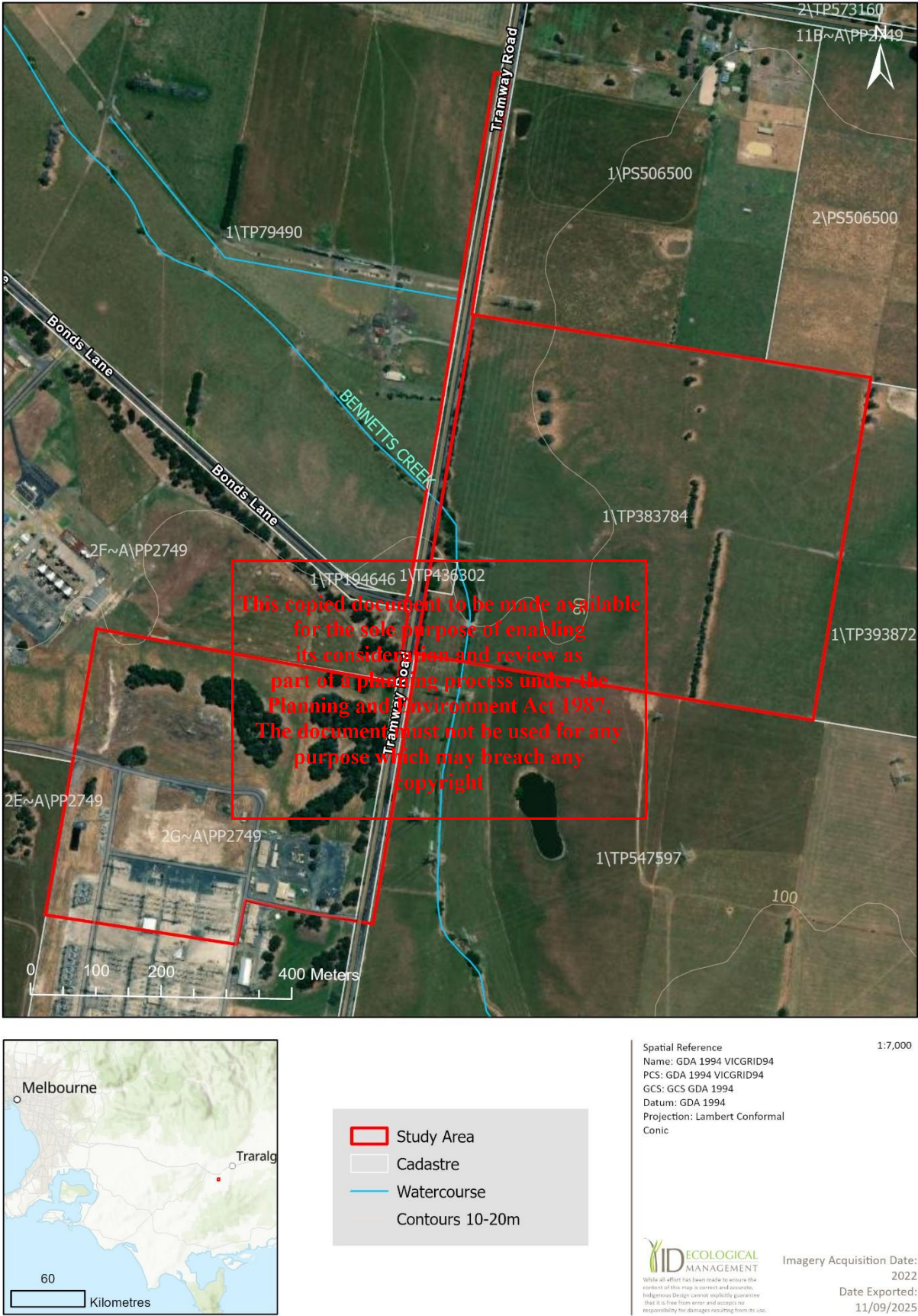


Figure 1: Study area.

2 Description of Methods

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2.1 Data and Literature Review

The DEECA's online interactive map, *Naturekit* (DEECA, 2024a) was used to gain an insight into the overall distribution of native vegetation on the site and the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) to which any remnant vegetation may belong.

The following resources were used to determine if any taxa listed or protected under the FFG Act or the EPBC Act have been, or potentially could be, located at the site:

- DEECA's *NatureKit Victoria* (DEECA, 2024a);
- DEECA's *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas* (VBA) (DEECA, 2024b);
- The DEECA's *Native Vegetation Regulations Map* (NVR Map) (DEECA, 2024c); and
- The Commonwealth's Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) (DCCEEW, 2024).

For the VBA and PMST, the search radius was five kilometres around the site.

2.2 Field Survey

The site survey was undertaken on the 26th of November 2024 and 2nd September 2025. During the survey, all flora present on the site was recorded and vegetation quality assessments were carried out using the methods described below.

The survey was completed by the following participant:

- Antares Fuhrmann- B.Sc. (Earth Sc.), DECCA accredited native vegetation assessor, with 10 years' experience in environmental consultancy and flora and fauna assessments.

The survey included:

- Recording all flora present. Flora species were recorded following the species nomenclature requirements of the VBA;
- Completion of a Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) for all native patches. These areas were Digital GPS (DGPS) mapped and assessed using the habitat hectare method described by DSE (2004) in the *Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – Guidelines for applying the habitat hectares scoring method - Version 1.3*;
- Recording all scattered and large old trees including collecting data on species, DBH and any habitat features (i.e. nests or hollows);
- Identification and recording of any flora and fauna communities including any threatened, protected species / communities or habitat;
- Completing a fauna assessment that included the opportunistic observation of scats, footprints, diggings, burrows, tracks, incidental bird and other fauna observations and listening for frog and bird calls;
- Identifying and recording notes on any habitat features including vegetation type and structure, proximity to water, the presence of hollow bearing trees and stags, logs and other

ground debris. The surrounding landscape was also observed, and notes taken regarding its habitat provision, intactness of native vegetation and connectivity with the study area; and

- Recording notes on specific issues such as noxious weed infestations and any evidence of pest animal disturbance including any active warrens or dens.

GPS mapping was completed using the ArcCollector application paired with a handheld Android device. An average recording accuracy of approximately +/- 5m was achieved.

The mapping included:

- Walking and recording a GPS location of the extent of all native vegetation patches within the assessment corridor;
- Walking and recording a GPS location of all scattered trees, Large trees within patches and any Large trees immediately adjacent to the assessment boundary;
- Walking and recording a GPS location of any threatened or protected flora species;
- Walking and recording a GPS location of the extent of any threatened ecological communities; and
- Walking and recording a GPS location of any pest animal activity locations and any noxious weed infestations.

2.2.1 Native Vegetation.

Native vegetation is defined in the Victoria Planning Provisions (Definitions – Clause 72) as *'plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses'*. DEECA's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA, 2017) (the Guidelines) further defines native vegetation into two categories: 'remnant patches' and 'scattered trees' outlined below.

A 'remnant patch' of native vegetation is either:

- An area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native; or
- Any area with three or more native canopy trees where the drip line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy; or
- any mapped wetland included in the *Current wetlands map*, available in DEECA systems and tools.

A 'scattered tree' is:

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

Following these definitions all native vegetation on site was categorised as either 'remnant patches' or 'scattered trees'.

All large size class trees within and immediately adjacent to the study area and all scattered trees on site were identified, GPS mapped and had their Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and any other relevant data recorded.

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2.3 Definitions of Significance

The significance of a species or ecological community described in this report follows its listing status under Commonwealth or State legislation.

- **National** significance includes all species listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under the EPBC Act 1999;
- **State** listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable on the FFG Act Threatened List (DEECA, 2024d).

2.4 Likelihood of Occurrence

In determining the likelihood of presence of a listed species a likelihood rating of present, high, moderate, low or unlikely is assigned. This rating is based on consideration of the following factors:

- Was the species recorded on site or has it been previously recorded on the site;
- Is there likely to be a resident population within the local area (5km radius);
- Is suitable habitat present on site or is habitat modified but aspects of suitable habitat present;
- Is it possible the species may seasonally or opportunistically use resources within the local area; and
- Are there any records for the species within the local area within the last 5, 10 or 25 years.

Table 1 - Likelihood of occurrence determination

Likelihood	Comments
Present	Species has been confirmed as present on site during field work
High	Suitable habitat present on site
	Likely to be a resident population/s in the local area*
	Previously recorded on site
	Numerous records within the local area within the past 5 years
Moderate	Aspects of habitat present but may be modified
	Species may be resident in the local area or it forms part of the species' range
	May seasonally or opportunistically use resources within the local area
	Less than 10 year old records within local area
Low	Limited aspects of habitat present or habitat highly modified
	Species may occur rarely or as an opportunistic visitor in the area
	Few records within the local area within the past 25 years
Unlikely	No suitable habitat present
	Site is located outside of species natural range
	Considered locally extinct
	No records of the species within the local area in the last 25 years

* Local area = within a 5km range of the site.

2.5 Legislation and Policy

Any biodiversity related implications for the project were assessed against the following biodiversity legislation and policy:

- EPBC Act including related listing advice, recovery plans and significant impact guidelines;

- FFG Act including related action statements and listing advice;
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987* including *Clause 52.17* and any overlays applicable to the study area under the Baw Baw Planning Scheme;
- The DEECA's *Guidelines* (DEECA, 2017);
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) including noxious weed and pest animal listings;
- *Water Act 1989*;
- *Wildlife Act 1979*; and
- *Environmental Effects Act 1987*.

2.6 Limitations

The site assessments were undertaken on the 26th of November 2024 and 2nd September 2025. The spring timing of the survey is considered suitable for vegetation and flora surveys. It is, however, possible that some annual, deciduous or dormant taxa may not have been visible. Additionally, some taxa have not been identified to specific or infraspecific (subspecies) rank due to the absence of flowering, or other material typically used for identification.

The timing of the survey (spring) and level of survey effort are considered satisfactory to identify any threatened or protected perennial flora species or habitat or threatened ecological communities and to assess the general fauna habitat values of the study area.

The likelihood of occurrence assessment did not involve targeted flora or fauna surveys nor the use of individual species experts for those species identified in the database searches. The assessment is undertaken using generalist expertise and knowledge of past targeted surveys and local area. Consequently, the potential for threatened or additional species being identified given further time, involvement of species experts, or undertaking of targeted surveys cannot be excluded. Likelihood assessment results could therefore vary given further survey results or expert opinion.

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3 Results

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3.1 Database Review

3.1.1 Flora Species

Interrogation of the DEECA's *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas* (VBA) (DEECA, 2024b) identified nine (9) flora species within a 5 km radius of the study area that are listed as threatened under Victoria's FFG Act or the EPBC Act (*Appendix 2*).

Interrogation of the EPBC Act *Protected Matters Search Tool* (DCCEEW, 2024) identified within a 5km search radius the potential presence of eleven (11) significant flora species that are listed as threatened at the Federal level (*Appendix 3*).

Appendix 4 provides a summary of the assessment of likelihood of presence for all threatened flora species found in both the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool and the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas within 5 km of the study area.

3.1.2 Fauna Species

Interrogation of the DEECA's VBA (DEECA, 2024b) identified 21 fauna species within a 5 km radius of the study area that are listed as threatened under Victoria's FFG Act (*Appendix 5*). Records of threatened fauna species identified close to the study area include:

- Eastern great egret (*Ardea alba modesta*), listed as Vulnerable on the FFG Act Threatened list, was recorded in 2019 approximately 2km north of the study area.
- Flinders pygmy perch (*Macinogonops flindersi*), listed as Vulnerable on the FFG Act Threatened list, was recorded in 2023 approximately 1km west of the study area within a tributary of Bennetts Creek.
- Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*), listed as Vulnerable on the FFG Act Threatened list, was recorded in 2023 approximately 2km east of the study area within Waterhole Creek.
- Glossy grass skink (*Pseudemoia rawlinsoni*), listed as Endangered on the FFG Act Threatened list, was recorded approximately 3km south of the study area in 1992.

Interrogation of the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (DCCEEW, 2024) identified within a 5km search radius the potential presence of forty-one (41) significant fauna species that are listed as threatened at the Federal level or that are listed migratory species under the EPBC Act (*Appendix 3*).

Appendix 6 provides a summary of the assessment of likelihood of presence for all threatened fauna species found in both the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool and the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas within 5km of the study area.

3.1.3 Threatened Ecological Communities

Interrogation of the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (DCCEEW, 2024), *Appendix 3*, identified the possible presence of one EPBC Act listed threatened ecological community within a 5km search radius of the study area; *Gippsland Red Gum* (*Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana*) *Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland*.

3.1.4 Wetlands of National Importance (Ramsar)

Interrogation of the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (DCCEEW, 2024), identified the presence of one Wetlands of National Importance; Gippsland Lakes, within a proximity of 50-100km of the study area (*Appendix 3*). No Wetlands of National Importance are present within the study area or its adjacent surrounds.

3.2 Vegetation

Appendix 7 lists the results of the flora survey and includes all flora species identified within native patches and degraded areas of the site, as identified during the site survey.

The land surrounding the study has been cleared for mainly agricultural use, coal mining and associated infrastructure and some area retaining semi-rural lifestyle properties. It contains very little remnant tree cover or remnant bushland and native vegetation patches are reduced to the margins of the creek line. A small number of scattered canopy trees are located adjacent to the watercourse and northeastern boundary, while the remainder of the parcel is dominated by exotic pasture grasses which have historically been utilized for livestock grazing.

The watercourse retains riparian understory vegetation, dominated by patches of native sedges and rushes such as common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and knobby club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*), while the midstory retains small trees and shrubs dominated by blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*).

Figure 2 shows an example of typical vegetation across the study area.



Figure 2: Example of typical vegetation across the study area.

3.2.1 Ecological Vegetation Classes

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC) are a type of vegetation classification which aims to group plant communities according to common flora species, vegetation structure and common environmental factors such as elevation, soils and average rainfall.

The study area is located with the Gippsland Plains Bioregion.

The DEECA’s *NatureKit* interactive map shows three EVC’s covering the study area and surrounds in its pre-1750 EVC modelling. EVC 53: *Swamp Scrub* is shown to align with the watercourse and EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland* is shown covering the northeastern reaches of the study area, while the remainder of the study area is covered by EVC 151: *Plains Grassy Forest*.

In its extant EVC mapping *Naturekit* shows all three EVC’s to be depleted across the study area with fragmented remnants scattered throughout the wider region.

The site inspection confirmed that EVC 151: *Plains Grassy Forest* and EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland* were the most appropriate EVC’s for the sites central and eastern regions consistent with the DEECA’s modelling. EVC 53: *Swamp Scrub* was also assigned to the creek line corridor consistent with the DEECA’s modelling.

EVC determination considered the sites apostrophe position in the landscape and where possible various ecological characteristics including the presence of typical life forms, vegetation structure and soils to the EVC that is assigned. Appendix 8 shows the EVC benchmarks assigned across the site.

Figure 3 shows the assignment of EVC over the study area and its surrounds. Table 2 provides the DEECA’s Bioregional Conservation Status, the large tree class size benchmark, and a description of the assigned EVCs (DEECA, 2024f).

Table 2: DEECA Bioregional Conservation Status, Description and Large Tree Size for Assigned Ecological Vegetation Classes-

Bioregion	Ecological Vegetation Class	Bioregional Conservation Status	Large Tree Size Benchmark	The DEECA’s Ecological Vegetation Classes Description
Gippsland Plain	EVC 53: Swamp Scrub	Endangered	70 cm+*	Closed scrub to 8m tall at low elevations on alluvial deposits along streams or on poorly drained sites with higher nutrient availability. The EVC is dominated by swamp paperbark <i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i> (or sometimes woolly tea-tree <i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>) which often forms a dense thicket, out-competing other species. Occasional emergent eucalyptus may be present. Where light penetrates to ground level, a moss/lichen/liverwort or herbaceous ground cover is often present. Dry variants have a grass/herbaceous ground layer.
	EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland	Endangered	80cm+	An open eucalypt woodland to 15m tall occurring on a number of geologies and soil types. Occupies poorly drained, fertile soil on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understory consists of a few

Bioregion	Ecological Vegetation Class	Bioregional Conservation Status	Large Tree Size Benchmark	The DEECA's Ecological Vegetation Classes Description
				sparse shrubs over a species rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer.
	EVC 151: <i>Plains Grassy Forest</i>	Vulnerable	70cm+	Open forest to 20m tall often above a heathy shrub layer and a diverse grassy, sedgy and herbaceous ground layer. Occurs on lowland plains and old river terraces made up of gravelly sandy clays.

**Taken from nearest related treed EVC 83: Swampy Riparian Woodland (DEECA, 2024f).*

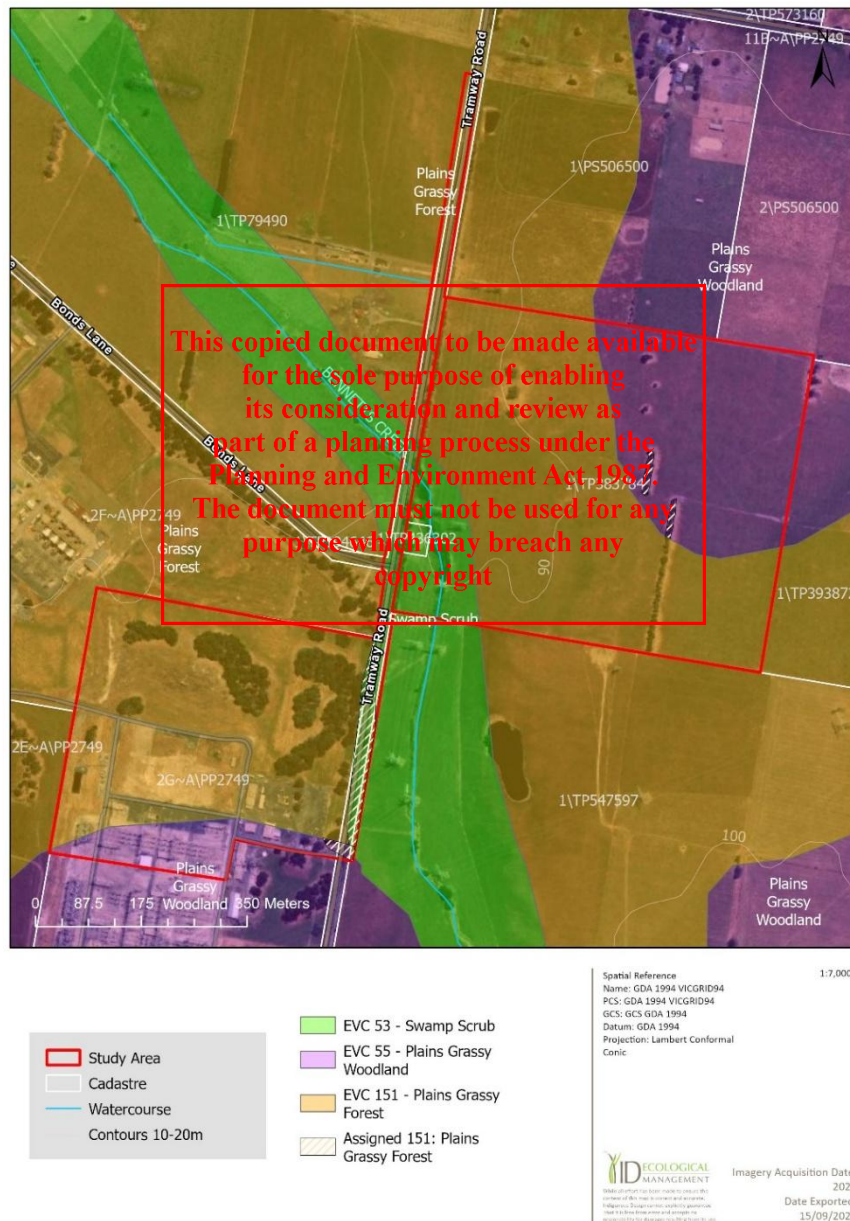


Figure 3: Distribution of Ecological Vegetation Classes over the study area and its surrounds.

3.2.2 Native Vegetation Quality Assessment

The vegetation quality assessment identified and mapped all native vegetation patches on site. The native patches were separated into twenty-one different habitat zones, with all patches determined to be either EVC 53: *Swamp Scrub* or EVC 151: *Plains Grassy Forest*. No native vegetation patches were assigned as EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland*.

Maps 1a-c shows the location and extent of all native patches and scattered trees GPS mapped within the study area and *Table 3* provides the total area of native patches that were mapped and assessed within the study area.

Table 3: Summary and breakdown of total area of native patches identified and assessed

Bioregoin	Ecological Vegetation Class	Habitat Zone	Area (ha)
Gippsland Plains	EVC 53: <i>Swamp Scrub</i>	1, 2, 4, 19, 20	0.5600
	EVC 151: <i>Plains Grassy Forest</i>	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21	3.5218
TOTAL			4.0818

A habitat hectare assessment was completed for each habitat zone. Habitat zone descriptions are provided below, and all flora species recorded in native patching are listed in *Appendix 7*.

Tables 4, 5 and 6 provide the results of this assessment, including the score attributed to each of the site condition components and landscape values for each habitat zone.

The zones scored poorly overall for the landscape values due to the dominance of cleared agricultural land and limited presence of native vegetation within a 5 km radius of the site.

Swamp Scrub – Habitat Zone 1 and 2

These zones are located along the margins of Bennetts Creek located in the southwest corner of the site and exhibit similar characteristics.

The vegetation quality assessments assigned scores of 33 points out of 100 (0.33) to habitat zone 1 and 40 points out of 100 (0.40) to habitat zone 2, indicative of their moderately intact state. These zones are characterised by a mid-storey dominated by shrubs and small trees including swamp paperbark and blackwood.

The understorey retains patches of native sedges and rushes including common reed, austral rush (*Juncus australis*) and knobby club-sedge intermixed with native herbaceous species such as Australian gipsywort (*Lycopus australis*) and sheep's burr (*Acaena echinata*).

Encroaching exotic pasture grasses are found throughout both zones including sweet vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and wild oat (*Avena fatua*) while high threat weeds including African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) and mature and emerging crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) are present within both zones.

Figures 4 and 5 provide examples of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 1 and 2.



Figure 4: Example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 1



Figure 5: Example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 2

Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zone 3

This zone is situated along the western boundary, adjacent to the Tramway roadside reserve and measures approximately 230m in length.

The vegetation quality assessments assigned a score of 27 points out of 100 (0.27) to the zone indicative of its relatively poor state. The zone is characterised by a eucalypt canopy, with species including yellow box and blue gum, while the mid-storey holds an array of shrubs and small trees such as burgan, sheoak and recruiting blackwood and black wattle (*Acacia meansii*).

The ground story is dominated by encroaching pasture grasses including Toowoomba canary-grass (*Phalaris aquatica*) and cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Small occurrences of high threat environmental weeds such as blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg.), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) are scattered throughout the zone.

Figure 6 provides an example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 3.



Figure 6: Example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 3

Swamp Scrub – Habitat Zone 4

This zone is situated along the western boundary adjacent to the Tramway roadside reserve.

The vegetation quality assessment assigned a score of 27 points out of 100 (0.27) to the zone, indicative of its relatively poor state. This zone is characterised by a spare eucalypt canopy above a mid-storey of recruiting shrubs and small trees such as sheoak, burghan, swamp paperbark and sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*).

The ground storey is dominated by common pasture grasses including sweet vernal grass, Toowoomba canary grass and cocksfoot, while high threat weeds including patches of blackberry and St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) are scattered across the zone.

Figure 7 provides an example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 4.

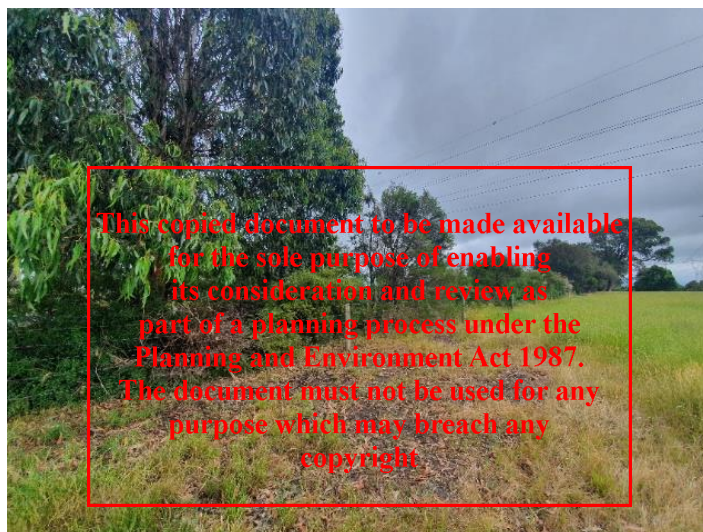


Figure 7: Example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 4

Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zone 5 and 6

These zones are located within the central region of the study area and exhibit similar characteristics.

The vegetation quality assessment assigned scores of 21 and 23 points out of 100 (0.21 and 0.23) to the zones, indicative of their relatively poor state. The zones are characterised by a eucalypt canopy of densely planted locally indigenous species including Strzelecki gum, blue gum and narrow-leaved peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) above a mid-storey of shrubs and small trees such as Blackwood, She oak, sweet bursaria and hazel pomaderris.

The ground storey is dominated by common pasture grasses including sweet vernal grass, cocksfoot, wild oat, and Yorkshire Fog while small occurrences high threat weeds of blackberry and hawthorn are scattered across the zone.

Figures 8 and 9 provide examples of vegetation typical to Habitat Zones 5 and 6.



Figure 8: Example of Habitat Zone 5



Figure 9: Example of Habitat Zone 6

Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zones 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

These zones are located within the northern easement of the Hazelwood Terminal Station and exhibit similar characteristics.

The vegetation quality assessment assigned scores ranging from 27 to 53 points out of 100 (0.27 to 0.53) to the zones, indicative of their relatively intact state. The zones are characterised by a eucalypt canopy of planted locally indigenous species including Gippsland red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis* subsp. *mediana*), yellow box and manna gum above a dense mid-storey of shrubs and small trees such as blackwood, silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), sallow wattle (*Acacia longifolia*), narrow-leaf wattle (*Acacia mucronata* subsp. *longifolia*), cherry ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) and giant honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca armillaris* subsp. *armillaris*).

The ground storey holds native grasses including wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma* spp.), kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) and spear grass (*Austrostipa* spp.) intermixed with native herbs and graminoids such as cotton fireweed (*Senecio quadridentatus*), Austral rush (*Juncus australis*) and thatch saw-sedge (*Gahnia radula*).

Small occurrences of high threat weeds such as blackberry, hawthorn and spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) are scattered across the zones. While common exotic pasture grasses are encroaching from the surrounding open grassed areas.

Figures 10 -14 provide examples of vegetation typical to Habitat Zones 7, 8 9, 10 and 11.

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Figure 10: Example of Habitat Zone 7



Figure 11: Example of Habitat Zone 8



Figure 12: Example of Habitat Zone 9



Figure 13: Example of Habitat Zone 10

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Figure 14: Example of Habitat Zone 11



Figure 15: Example of Habitat Zone 12

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Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zones 12, 13 and 18

These zones are located along the northeastern boundary of the Hazelwood Terminal Station and exhibit similar characteristics.

The vegetation quality assessment assigned scores of 17 points out of 100 (0.17) to habitat zone 6, 29 points out of 100 (0.29) to habitat zone 7 and 22 point out of 100 (0.22) to habitat zone 18. The zones are characterised by a mid-storey of giant honey-myrtle, narrow-leaf wattle, blackwood, kunzea species and immature eucalypts over a ground storey of native kangaroo grass, spear grass and common exotic pasture grasses such as panic veldt-grass (*Ehrharta erecta*) and cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Small occurrences of the high threat weed blackberry, are scattered across the zones.

Figures 15, 16 and 17 provide examples of vegetation typical to Habitat Zones 12, 13 and 18.

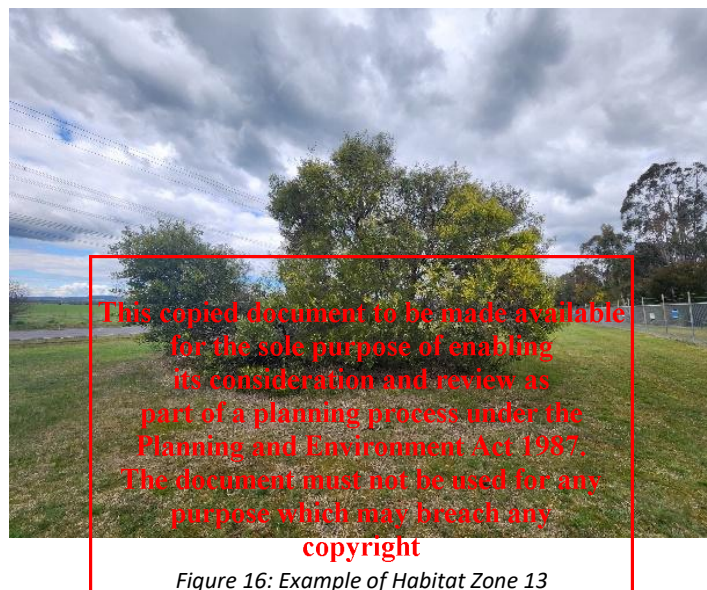


Figure 16: Example of Habitat Zone 13



Figure 17: Example of Habitat Zone 18

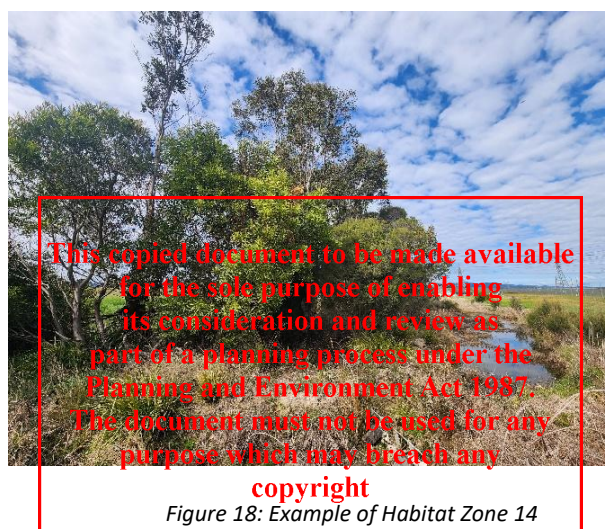
Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zones 14

This zone is located along the western boundary of the Hazelwood Terminal Station. The vegetation quality assessment assigned a score of 33 points out of 100 (0.33) to the zone, indicative of its relatively intact state.

This zone holds a mid-storey layer of swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*), Kunzea species, sallow wattle intermixed with a low cover of immature Gippsland red gum. The ground layer is dominated by sedges and rushes including spiny-headed mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), austral rush and Carex species.

Scattered exotic pasture grasses are present alongside other common weeds such as creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and drain flat-sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*).

Figure 18 provides an example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 14.



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Figure 18: Example of Habitat Zone 14

Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zone 15, 16 and 17.

These zones are located along the Tramway Roadside easement and all exhibit similar characteristics.

The vegetation quality assessment assigned scores ranging from 26 to 43 points out of 100 (0.26 to 0.43) to the zones, indicative of their relatively intact state.

The zones are characterised by a planted locally native and Victorian and Australian eucalypt canopy, with species including swamp gum, manna gum, yellow box intermixed with southern mahogany, sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) and red ironbark (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*). The midstory has species such as silver wattles, swamp paperbark and giant honey-myrtle over a ground layer retaining sparse patches of native spear grass and wallaby grass.

The ground storey is dominated by exotic pasture grasses including panic veldt-grass, kikuyu and cocksfoot intermixed with common broadleaf species such as cape weed (*Arctotheca calendula*) and cat's ear (*Hypochaeris spp.*).

Figures 19, 20 and 21 provide examples of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 15, 16 and 17.



Figure 19: Example of Habitat Zone 15

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Figure 21: Example of Habitat Zone 17



Figure 20: Example of Habitat Zone 16

Swamp Scrub – Habitat Zones 19

This zone is located along the Tramway Road reserve. The vegetation quality assessment assigned a score of 21 points out of 100 (0.21) to the zone, indicative of its relatively modified state.

This zone is a cluster of mature and emerging blackwood's over a ground layer dominated by exotic pasture grasses including kikuyu and cocksfoot. High threat weeds are present which include blackberry and African boxthorn alongside broadleaf species such as cape weed.

Figure 22 provides an example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 19.

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Figure 22: Example of Habitat Zone 19

Swamp Scrub – Habitat Zones 20

This zone is located along the Tramway Road reserve. The vegetation quality assessment assigned a score of 27 points out of 100 (0.27) to the zone, indicative of its relatively intact state.

This zone is dominated by clusters of sedges and rushes including austral rush, thatch saw-sedge, carex species and knobby club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*) intermixed with native herbs and scramblers such as cotton fireweed, annual fireweed bidgee-widgee (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*) and small-leaf bramble (*Rubus parvifolius*).

Encroaching pasture grasses are present including kikuyu, paspalum and rye grass intermixed with the occasional aster-weed (*Symphyotrichum subulatum*).

Figure 23 provides an example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 20.



Figure 23: Example of Habitat Zone 20

Plains Grassy Forest – Habitat Zones 21

This zone is located along the Tramway Road reserve. The vegetation quality assessment assigned a score of 30 points out of 100 (0.30) to the zone, indicative of its relatively intact state.

This zone holds a canopy of mature yellow box over a ground layer dominated by native grasses including kangaroo grass and spear grass intermixed with thatch saw-sedge and spiny-headed mat-rush and the occasional patch of small-leaf bramble.

Exotic pasture grasses are present throughout the site with common species such as cocksfoot and paspalum alongside the occasional broadleaf species such as ribwort (*Plantago lanceolata*).

Figure 24 provides an example of vegetation typical to Habitat Zone 21.



Figure 24: Example of Habitat Zone 21

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Table 4: Results of Vegetation Quality Assessments for all Native Patches

			Habitat Zone 1	Habitat Zone 2	Habitat Zone 3	Habitat Zone 4	Habitat Zone 5	Habitat Zone 6	Habitat Zone 7
Bioregion - Gippsland Plains			Swamp Scrub	Swamp Scrub	Plains Grassy Forest	Swamp Scrub	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest
EVC Name (initials)			SS	SS	PGF	SS	PGF	PGF	PGF
EVC Number			53	53	151	53	151	151	151
Bioregional Conservation Status			Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Endangered	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Max Score			100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Site Condition	Large Old Trees	10	-	-	0	-	0	0	2
	Canopy Cover	5	0	0	0	0	4	4	4
	Understorey	25	10	15	6	5	5	5	5
	Lack of Weeds	15	6	6	6	2	6	6	6
	Recruitment	10	6	6	6	10	1	3	5
	Organic Matter	5	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
	Logs	5	-	-	2	-	0	0	0
	Total Site Score	75	25	30	25	20	19	21	25
	Site score out of?	eg 55	60	60	75	60	75	75	75
	Adjusted Site Score		31	38	25	25	19	21	25
Landscape value	Patch Size	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Distance to Core	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Habitat points out of 100		100	33	40	27	27	21	23	27
Habitat Score (hab points/100)			0.33	0.40	0.27	0.27	0.21	0.23	0.27
Total area of the Zone (ha)			0.0684	0.3903	0.1700	0.0702	0.0734	0.2345	0.1038
Total HHA in the zone			0.0231	0.1560	0.0459	0.0189	0.0154	0.0539	0.0280
Catchment			West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA)						

Table 5: Results of Vegetation Quality Assessments for all Native Patches

			Habitat Zone 8	Habitat Zone 9	Habitat Zone 10	Habitat Zone 11	Habitat Zone 12	Habitat Zone 13	Habitat Zone 14
Bioregion - Gippsland Plains			Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest
EVC Name (initials)			PGF	PGF	PGF	PGF	PGF	PGF	PGF
EVC Number			151	151	151	151	151	151	151
Bioregional Conservation Status			Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Max Score			100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Site Condition	Large Old Trees	10	7	3	3	2	0	0	0
	Canopy Cover	5	4	4	2	4	2	0	0
	Understorey	25	15	15	5	15	15	5	15
	Lack of Weeds	15	9	9	6	6	0	2	6
	Recruitment	10	10	10	5	10	5	5	5
	Organic Matter	5	3	3	3	5	5	3	5
	Logs	5	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Total Site Score	75	51	44	24	45	27	15	31
	Site score out of?	eg 55	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
	Adjusted Site Score		51	44	24	45	27	15	31
Landscape value	Patch Size	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	10	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
	Distance to Core	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Habitat points out of 100		100	53	47	27	48	29	17	33
Habitat Score (hab points/100)			0.53	0.47	0.27	0.48	0.29	0.17	0.33
Total area of the Zone (ha)			0.2304	0.8462	0.2352	1.1166	0.0443	0.0377	0.0534
Total HHA in the zone			0.1221	0.3977	0.0635	0.5360	0.0129	0.0064	0.0176
Catchment			West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA)						

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Table 6: Results of Vegetation Quality Assessments for all Native Patches

			Habitat Zone 15	Habitat Zone 16	Habitat Zone 17	Habitat Zone 18	Habitat Zone 19	Habitat Zone 20	Habitat Zone 21
Bioregion - Gippsland Plains			Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Plains Grassy Forest	Swamp Scrub	Swamp Scrub	Plains Grassy Forest
EVC Name (initials)			PGF	PGF	PGF	PGF	SS	SS	PGF
EVC Number			151	151	151	151	53	53	151
Bioregional Conservation Status			Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable
Max Score			100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Site Condition	Large Old Trees	10	2	5	7	0	-	-	2
	Canopy Cover	5	4	2	4	0	0	0	4
	Understorey	25	5	5	15	5	5	10	5
	Lack of Weeds	15	6	6	6	2	2	6	6
	Recruitment	10	3	3	5	5	5	0	5
	Organic Matter	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	5
	Logs	5	0	0	0	-	-	-	0
	Total Site Score	75	25	24	40	19	15	19	27
	Site score out of?	eg 55	75	75	75	75	60	60	75
Adjusted Site Score			25	24	40	19	19	24	27
Landscape	Patch Size	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	10	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
	Distance to Core	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Habitat points out of 100		100	27	26	43	22	21	27	30
Habitat Score (hab points/100)			0.27	0.26	0.43	0.22	0.21	0.27	0.30
Total area of the Zone (ha)			0.0497	0.0821	0.2058	0.0101	0.0120	0.0191	0.0286
Total HHA in the zone			0.0134	0.0214	0.0885	0.0022	0.0025	0.0051	0.0086
Catchment			West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA)						

3.2.3 Canopy Trees

All scattered and canopy trees (excluding those planted individuals contained within habitat zones 5 & 6) were recorded across the study area. *Table 7* provides details on each tree and their locations are shown in *Map 1*.

Table 7: Canopy Trees Recorded

Tree ID No.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	DBH (cm)	Size Category	Origin
1	<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	Unknown (dead)	Scattered - Planted	81	Large	Victorian Native
2	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	Scattered - Planted	98	Large	Victorian Native
3	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	Scattered - Planted	96	Large	Victorian Native
4	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	Scattered - Planted	106	Large	Victorian Native
5	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	68	Small	Locally Indigenous
6	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	86	Large	Locally Indigenous
7	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	55	Small	Locally Indigenous
8	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	105	Large	Locally Indigenous
9	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	114	Large	Locally Indigenous
10	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	86	Large	Locally Indigenous
11	<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	Unknown (dead)	Patch - Planted	78	Large	Locally Indigenous
12	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	73	Large	Locally Indigenous
13	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	75	Large	Locally Indigenous
14	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Patch - Planted	78	Large	Locally Indigenous
15	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	75	Large	Locally Indigenous
16	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	95	Large	Locally Indigenous
17	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	86	Large	Locally Indigenous
18	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	78	Large	Locally Indigenous
19	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	Patch - Planted	98	Large	Locally Indigenous
20	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Patch - Planted	108	Large	Locally Indigenous
21	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	78	Large	Locally Indigenous
22	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Red Box	Patch - Planted	88	Large	Locally Indigenous
23	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red Gum	Patch - Planted	75	Large	Locally Indigenous
24	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	Patch - Planted	72	Large	Locally Indigenous
25	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	Patch - Planted	72	Large	Locally Indigenous
26	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	Scattered	49	Small	Locally Indigenous
27	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	Scattered	90	Large	Locally Indigenous
28	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaf Black Peppermint	Patch - Planted	73	Large	Australian Native
29	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum	Patch - Planted	78	Large	Australian Native
30	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum	Patch - Planted	84	Large	Australian Native
31	<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Southern Mahogany	Patch - Planted	75	Large	Australian Native
32	<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Southern Mahogany	Patch - Planted	88	Large	Australian Native
33	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Patch	84	Large	Locally Indigenous
34	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Patch	74	Large	Locally Indigenous

3.2.4 Significant Vegetation Communities

All native vegetation found within the study area belongs to EVC 53: *Swamp Scrub* and EVC 151: *Plains Grassy Forest*. These EVC's are not synonymous with any threatened ecological communities that are listed under either the EPBC Act or FFG Act. No native vegetation was assessed on site as being covered by EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland*.

3.3 Flora Species

3.3.1 Flora Species Recorded

A total of 115 vascular plants were identified within the study area during the survey undertaken on the 26th of November 2024 and the 2nd September 2025. Of these, 62 species are taxa native to Victoria. *Appendix 7* provides the results of the flora survey.

3.3.2 Significant Flora Species

Survey of the study area identified one (1) locally indigenous threatened flora species on site:

- Strzelecki gum listed on the FFG Act Threatened List as Critically Endangered and Vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

Approximately forty (40) planted individuals were recorded, all within habitat zones 5 & 6. These trees were inspected and diagnostics to identify whether the trees were Strzelecki Gum or swamp gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) were completed including assessing for glaucous growth tips, observing habitat (form) of the trees, noting leaf and bark characteristics.

Map 1 shows the location of the planted rows retaining the Strzelecki Gums.

Following the additional survey completed in September 2025, a further three (3) threatened flora species were identified. However, these species are not indigenous to the local area and are commonly planted specimens located outside of their natural range:

- Sticky wattle (*Acacia howittii*) listed on the FFG Act Threatened List as Vulnerable.
- Spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*) listed on the FFG Act Threatened List as Vulnerable.
- Giant honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris*) listed on the FFG Act Threatened List as Endangered.

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Figure 10: Example of glaucous growth of planted Strzelecki gum trees.

Appendix 4 provides a summary of the assessment of likelihood of presence for all threatened flora species found in both the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search tool and the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas within five kilometres of the study area.

In summary, the field survey and likelihood assessment found:

- Strzelecki gum listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Critically Endangered under Victoria's FFG Act was **Present** on site.
- All other threatened flora species identified in the database searches were found to be unlikely to occur within the study area due to a lack of suitable habitat and the highly disturbed condition of most of the site.

3.4 Fauna Species

3.4.1 Fauna Species Recorded

A total of 13 fauna species were recorded within the study area during the site assessment. *Appendix 9* lists all fauna observed opportunistically on site. Fauna species observed included nine native bird species, one native amphibian, one native mammal and two exotic mammal species.

3.4.2 Significant Fauna Species

A description of the range of vegetation types and potential habitats for threatened fauna species that are found within the study area are described in *Section 3.5*.

Initial assessments carried out by ID Ecological Management in November 2024 determined that glossy grass skink (*Pseudemoia rawlinsonii*) and swamp skink (*Lissolepis coventryi*) were considered to

have the potential to occur on site. Wildlife and Ecology undertook targeted surveys (Wildlife and Ecology, 2026) and made the following key determinations:

- Glossy grass skink listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and Endangered on the FFG Act Threatened List was found to be 'present' on site. *Maps 1a* and *1b* shows the location of all individuals recorded.
- Swamp skink listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and Endangered on the FFG Act Threatened List has an 'unlikely' likelihood of occurring on site.

Initial assessments carried out by ID Ecological Management in November 2024 determined that dwarf galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*) and Flinders pygmy perch (*Nannoperca* sp. 1), to be considered possibly occurring on site. Aquatica Environmental undertook targeted surveys (Aquatica Environmental, 2025) and made the following key determinations:

- Dwarf galaxias listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and Endangered on the FFG Act Threatened List, was determined to have an 'unlikely' likelihood of occurrence.
- Flinders pygmy perch listed as Vulnerable on the FFG Act Threatened List, was found present immediately upstream and there for determined to be 'present' on site due to seasonal occurrence is likely when flows connect to upstream habitats.

Appendix 6 provides a summary of the assessment of likelihood of presence for all threatened fauna species found in both the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool and the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas within 5km of the study area.

In summary, this likelihood assessment determined that all other threatened fauna species than those listed above identified in the database searches were unlikely to occur within the study area.

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3.5 Habitat Values

Scattered Canopy Trees

Scattered trees are characterised by a cluster of locally indigenous canopy eucalypts, some bearing hollows that are likely to be utilised for nesting and roosting by relatively common bird species such as Australian magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) which were observed onsite. These trees may also be utilized as a stopover point or stepping stones for relatively common birds such as new Holland honeyeater (*Phylidonyris novaehollandia*) and Australian raven (*Corvus coronoides*) in their movements through the wider landscape. However, they are unlikely to form part of an important habitat for any threatened species.

A small number of planted Exotic trees are scattered across the study area and provide a similar function as a small stepping-stone of habitat likely to be utilised by mobile birds moving through the landscape such as red wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).

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Figure 11: Example of scattered canopy tree (Tree ID No's. 7 and 8)

Open Degraded Grass

This highly modified habitat type is found across the majority of the study and as per DEECA's pre-1750 EVC modelling EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland* is shown covering the northeastern reaches of the study area, which incorporates a large area of open degraded grass.

It offers negligible habitat value and is unlikely to support any fauna other than being occasionally visited by relatively common native birds such as and reviews wallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) observed throughout the open paddocks. Small native birds may utilize the ground for foraging, while one exotic mammal red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was observed within the open area and may utilize this habitat for hunting.

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Figure 12: Example of degraded open pasture

Waterways / Aquatic Habitat

Bennetts Creek runs through the southwest corner of the study area, covering a length of approximately 250m. In the southern part of the creek line, the watercourse diverges into a smaller channel heading towards the southwestern boundary and a low-lying depression retaining minimal

native sedges and rushes is located east of the creek. There is presently no cattle access to the creek due to fencing and significant revegetation has taken place along the margins of the creek within this fenced off section.

The watercourse and adjoining drainage channels provide habitat for common amphibian species such as common froglet (*Crinia signifera*) heard calling throughout the site and the dense understorey vegetation along the creek margins also provides foraging and nesting opportunities for common passerine birds such as thornbills (*Acanthiza* spp.), superb fairy-wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) and willie wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) observed throughout the creek line.

This habitat also supports populations of burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus* sp.), with burrows and chimneys observed in high abundance throughout the Bennetts creek line.

This habitat supports the threatened fish species Flinders pygmy perch which is known to occur in the Bennetts Creek catchment and has been recorded upstream of the site (Aquatika Environmental, 2025). While the habitat is structurally suitable for dwarf galaxias, its presence is unlikely with no recent detection of the species in the catchment and no VBA records within the local area. Both species are found in small systems with low flow rates containing aquatic vegetation.

This habitat supports populations of the threatened reptile species glossy grass skink who prefer swampy, densely vegetated areas (Wildlife and Ecology, 2026).



Figure 13: Example of native riparian vegetation, *Phragmites australis* covering the creek line

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Figure 14: Example of the low-lying depression

3.6 Further Survey Recommendations

Targeted survey and/or expert species advice regarding the habitat suitability of the watercourse and drainage channels/low lying depressions for the potential presence of threatened fauna species determined the following:

- Glossy grass skink and Flinders pygmy perch known to be **Present** on site.
- Swamp skink and dwarf galaxias were found not to occur on site.

Specific mitigation measures to minimise impacts from the construction and use of the site must be developed and incorporated into the project's design to protect Flinders pygmy perch and glossy grass skink are further discussed in the accompanying targeted survey reports (Aquatika Environmental, 2025) (Wildlife and Ecology, 2026) and in *Section 5.1.2*.

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4 Policy and Legislative Implications

4.1 Commonwealth – Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The EPBC Act establishes a Commonwealth process for assessment of proposed actions that are likely to have a significant impact on MNES or on Commonwealth land. Such an action (i.e. project, development, undertaking, activity, or series of activities), unless otherwise exempt, requires approval from the Commonwealth Environment Minister if it is considered likely to have an impact on any MNES. A referral under the EPBC Act is required if a proposed action is likely to have a 'significant impact' on any of the following MNES:

- World Heritage properties;
- National heritage places;
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance;
- Threatened species and ecological communities;
- Migratory and marine species;
- Commonwealth marine area;
- Nuclear actions (including uranium mining);
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; and
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

4.1.1 Implications (Significant Impact Criteria)

All MNES identified through database interrogation using the Protected Matters Search Tool (DCCEEW, 2024) are listed in *Table 8*.

Table 8 summarises the assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for all MNES, with additional detail and comments for threatened species identified in data base searches provided in *Appendix 4* and *Appendix 6*.

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Table 8 – Summary of the assessment of likelihood of occurrence for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)

Matter of National Environmental Significance	Likelihood of Occurrence	Comments
Flora		
River Swamp Wallaby-grass	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Thick-lipped Spider-orchid	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Matted Flax-lily	Low	Not recorded during site assessments. No further consideration recommended
Strzelecki Gum	Present	See below recommendations and Significant Impact Assessment (SIA) table
Clover Glycine	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Dense Leek-orchid	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Green-striped Greenhood	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Swamp Fireweed	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Metallic Sun-orchid	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Austral Toadflax	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Swamp Everlasting	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Fauna		
Common Sandpiper	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Regent Honeyeater	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Fork-tailed Swift	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Cattle Egret	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Australasian Bittern	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Curlew Sandpiper	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Gang-gang Cockatoo	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Glossy Black Cockatoo	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Brown Treecreeper	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Grey Falcon	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Latham's Snipe	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Painted Honeyeater	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Low	No further consideration recommended.
White-throated Needletail	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Swift Parrot	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Hooded Robin	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Rainbow Bee-eater	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Black-faced Monarch	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Yellow Wagtail	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Satin Flycatcher	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Blue-winged Parrot	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Osprey	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Pilot Bird	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Rufous Fantail	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Australian Painted Snipe	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Diamond Firetail	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Common Greenshank	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Swamp Skink	Unlikely	Targeted surveys undertaken by Ecology and Wildlife deemed the species unlikely to be present

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Matter of National Environmental Significance	Likelihood of Occurrence	Comments
		on site (Wildlife and Ecology, 2026). No further consideration required
Growling Grass Frog	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Martin's Toadlet	Low	No further consideration recommended.
Spotted-tail Quoll	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Southern Brown Bandicoot	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Broad-toothed Rat	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Greater Glider	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Yellow-bellied Glider	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
New Holland Mouse	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Grey-headed Flying Fox	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Dwarf Galaxias	Unlikely	Targeted surveys undertaken by Aquatica Environmental deemed the species unlikely to be present on site (Aquatica Environmental, 2025). No further consideration required
Australian Grayling	Unlikely	No further consideration recommended.
Wetlands of International Importance		
Gippsland Lakes	Not present within or adjacent to study area	No further consideration recommended.

Three (3) Matters of National Environmental Significance (items listed under the EPBC Act 1999) warrant further consideration:

Strzelecki Gum

- Approximately forty (40) ~~Strzelecki gum (Eucalyptus strzeleckii)~~ were found to be present within the study area and determined to all be planted individuals.
- The current footprint directly impacts on all individuals identified within Habitat Zone 6 (approximately 32). Table 9 provides an assessment of the potential impact to Strzelecki gum as a Vulnerable species under the EPBC Act against the Significant Impact Guidelines (the Guidelines) and identifies mitigation measures to reduce any impacts.
- In summary the Significant Impact Assessment determined that the potential impact to Strzelecki gum from this project is unlikely to be significant.
- No recommendations for an EPBC Act referral and no further consideration for this species recommended.

Swamp Skink

- Initially identified as a 'moderate' likelihood of occurrence, with the riparian area of Bennetts Creek providing potential habitat.
- Direct impacts (e.g. from clearance) and indirect impacts (e.g. from sedimentation) to the riparian section of Bennetts Creek and drainage lines contained within the study area should be avoided.
- A targeted survey for swamp skink was completed to determine habitat suitability, presence/absence and to provide additional mitigation measures to minimise any impacts on

this species from the proposed land use and development. The survey determined that swamp skink is unlikely to be present (Wildlife and Ecology, 2026).

- No further consideration for this species.

Dwarf Galaxias

- Initially identified as a 'moderate' likelihood of occurrence, with the waterbodies and drainage lines providing potential habitat.
- Direct impacts (e.g. from clearance) and indirect impacts (e.g. from sedimentation) to the waterbodies and drainage lines contained within the study area should be avoided.
- A targeted survey/expert species advice for dwarf galaxias was completed to determine habitat suitability, presence/absence and to provide additional mitigation measures to minimise any impacts on this species from the proposed land use and development.
- The survey determined that dwarf galaxias is unlikely to be present (Aquatika Environmental, 2025).
- No further consideration for this species.

There are no additional MNES than those identified above that warrant further consideration under the proposal. In summary:

- No threatened ecological communities were found to occur within the study area during the site inspection;
- All other flora identified in database searches, within a 5km radius, that are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act are considered unlikely to occur within the study area; and
- All other fauna species identified in the database searches, within a 5km radius, that are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act were found to have a low likelihood of occurrence or were unlikely to occur or be reliant on habitat within the study area.

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Table 9 - Significant Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures for *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* (Strzelecki Gum)

Impact Criteria	Risk without mitigation measures	Impact without mitigation measures	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Risk with mitigation measures	Impacts with mitigation measures
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population	The Strzelecki Gum proposed to be removed do not constitute a significant population as identified in the Recovery Plan, nor a population that is required for the species long term survival and recovery.	NOT SIGNIFICANT	Consult with WGCMA and revegetate available areas along waterway post construction with Strzelecki Gum plants to replace lost individuals.	Low	NOT SIGNIFICANT
Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population	The Strzelecki Gum proposed to be removed do not constitute a significant population as identified in the Recovery Plan, nor a population that is required for the species long term survival and recovery.		Consult with WGCMA and revegetate available areas along waterway post construction with Strzelecki Gum plants to replace lost individuals.	Low	
Fragment an existing important population into two or more populations	The Strzelecki Gum proposed to be removed do not constitute a significant population and do not connect two or more populations.		Consult with WGCMA and revegetate available areas along waterway post construction with Strzelecki Gum plants to replace lost individuals.	Low	
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species	The current plantings are situated as planted windrows on upper slopes of the site. The lower riparian zone represents an area of suitable habitat for the species. Further planting of the species will enhance the riparian zone, but it does not represent an area of critical habitat for the species.		Consult with WGCMA and revegetate available areas along waterway post construction with Strzelecki Gum plants to replace lost individuals.	Low	
Disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population	The project will not result in alterations or disruptions to the breeding cycle of an important population of Strzelecki Gum.		No further mitigation measures required for the management of this impact.	Low	

Impact Criteria	Risk without mitigation measures	Impact without mitigation measures	Mitigation Measure(s)	Residual Risk with mitigation measures	Impacts with mitigation measures
Modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	An approximate area of 0.23 ha will potentially be impacted that has been planted with Strzelecki Gum in the past 15-25 years. Under a worst case scenario, the impact is very unlikely to cause the species to decline.	NOT SIGNIFICANT	<i>No further mitigation measures required for the management of this impact.</i>	Low	NOT SIGNIFICANT
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat	The disturbances associated with the proposal are unlikely to result in the further establishment of invasive species either weeds or pest animals, given the high coverage of exotic species already contained within the site.		<i>No further mitigation measures required for the management of this impact.</i>	Low	
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline	There is no evidence to suggest that planned works would represent an increased risk of introduction of disease that may cause the community to decline.		<i>No further mitigation measures required for the management of this impact.</i>	Low	
Interfere substantially with the recovery of the species	It is not considered that the impact on Strzelecki Gums at this site would substantially interfere with the recovery of the species, given the number and extent of Strzelecki Gum found within the wider region.		<i>No further mitigation measures required for the management of this impact.</i>	Low	

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4.2 State – Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) and the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee (Amendment) Act 2019* (FFG Act) is the primary State legislation for the protection of native plants, native animals and ecological communities on public land and waters in Victoria. Species and ecological communities can be listed as threatened under the Act based on assessments by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee. Threatening processes may also be listed.

Under the FFG Act a permit is required from the DEECA to ‘take’ ‘protected’ flora species, ‘listed communities’ or ‘threatened species’ from public land. Removal of any protected flora taxa, listed flora species or listed communities may not be undertaken until this permit has been issued (DEECA, 2024e).

The FFG Act now defines three types of ‘take’, these include ‘incidental take’, ‘take for sale’ and ‘take for personal use’. Two types of categories for protected flora have also been defined ‘generally protected flora’ and ‘restricted use protected flora’. ‘Generally protected flora’ require a permit under any situation while ‘restricted use protected flora’ don’t need a permit for ‘incidental take’ (DEECA, 2024e).

The FFG Act also provides specific protection of fish passage by noting that the ‘*prevention of passage of aquatic biota as a result of the presence of instream structures*’ is a potentially threatening process and that ‘*there should be no further preventable decline in the viability of any rare species*’.

4.2.1 Implications

Removal of any protected flora under the project would meet the definition of ‘incidental take’. No FFG Act protected flora or habitat for FFG Act protected fauna exists on the public road reserve that interfaces with the site. No further actions are triggered for this part of the proposal.

A population of FFG Act listed glossy grass skink has been identified within the study area:

- The design for the Gippsland BESS must consider the findings of the targeted survey. The species habitat should be protected and enhanced, with proposed works located outside of these areas, including the accessway and construction footprint.
- Any refining of the existing design to accommodate the protection of GGS populations must be in consultation with ecologists that have experience with this species.
- A Fauna Conservation Management Plan should be developed to mitigate impacts, including additional habitat assessments and fauna salvage protocols.
(Wildlife and Ecology, 2026).

Flinders pygmy perch was not detected within the project area during the targeted survey; however, seasonal occurrence is likely when flows connect to upstream habitats as species was confirmed as present immediately upstream (Aquatica Environmental, 2025). Therefore, the species is determined to be present on site.

- Retain and maintain the existing fenced buffer around Bennetts Creek and avoid direct disturbance wherever practicable.
- Implement all mitigation and monitoring measures described in Section 5 through the project’s CEMP, with emphasis on sediment and erosion control, pollution prevention, and protection of riparian vegetation.

- With these measures in place, the residual risk to aquatic ecological values is considered low, and the project can proceed without significant adverse effects on Bennetts Creek or its associated aquatic fauna.
(Aquatica Environmental, 2025).

4.3 State – Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

In accordance with Section 20 of the CaLP Act, landholders and managers have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to:

- Avoid causing or contributing to land degradation which causes or may cause damage to land of another land owner;
- Eradicate regionally prohibited weeds;
- Prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds on their land; and
- Prevent the spread of, and as far as possible, eradicate established pest animals.

4.3.1 Implications

Seven weeds declared noxious under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act) were identified on site (*Table 10*). Five of these weeds are categorised within the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority region as 'Regionally Controlled' and two as 'Restricted' (Agriculture Victoria, 2024).

Table 10: Declared noxious weeds identified on site under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

Scientific Name	Common Name	Classification
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Regionally controlled
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	Regionally controlled
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Regionally controlled
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Restricted
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Montpellier Broom	Regionally controlled
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's Wort	Regionally controlled
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African Box-thorn	Regionally controlled
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg	Blackberry	Regionally controlled
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	Restricted

To prevent the spread of noxious weeds listed in *Table 10*, the contractor engaged to carry any works on site must be made aware if the presence of these weed species. Appropriate site weed hygiene practices should be employed to limit the spread of any existing noxious weeds within the construction area. Similarly, vehicle hygiene practice must be employed to prevent the import or export of any noxious weeds to or from any construction areas.

4.4 Water Act 1987

Catchment Management Authorities have statutory responsibilities under Section 67 of the Water Act to monitor, manage, enforce, and administer control over all works which may impact upon

designated waterways to ensure works undertaken do not adversely affect the health of those waterways.

A permit is required to undertake works on a designated waterway and can include activities such as:

- Crossings – bridges, fords, culverts;
- Deviations – waterway realignments;
- Extractions – sand, silt or gravel;
- Stabilisation – bank protection, retaining structures;
- Vegetation – fallen timber and vegetation removal, revegetation projects;
- Works – stormwater outlets, service crossings; and
- Other – jetty, river mouth opening, boardwalks.

4.4.1 Implications

Under the Act approval must be sought from the local Catchment Management Authority and a 'Works on Waterways' (WoW) permit is required to 'construct, alter, operate, remove, or decommission':

- any works on a waterway; or
- a bore.

The *Overall Site Plan* (Appendix 1) shows the proposed construction impact zone and cable connection which cross Bennetts Creek at a width of between 4-6 metres. Consultation with the WGCMA is recommended to determine any approval requirements.

4.5 State – Wildlife Act 1975

The Wildlife Act 1975 provides the primary legislation for the protection and management of wildlife, the purposes of this Act are:

- To establish procedures in order to promote the protection and conservation of wildlife, the prevention of taxa of wildlife from becoming extinct and the sustainable use of and access to wildlife; and
- To prohibit and regulate the conduct of persons engaged in activities concerning or related to wildlife.

4.5.1 Implications

Persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate any native fauna species during proposed construction works must have a permit under this Act to undertake such actions and ensure any actions to manage wildlife must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Act or at the direction of DEECA.

Under the *Wildlife Act 1975* Wildlife Management Authorisation permits, threatened species can only be relocated to a maximum of 100m from the point of capture. If this is not possible, then translocation plans need to be lodged to and approved by DEECA before any threatened animals can be moved.

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4.6 State – Environmental Effects Act 1978

In Victoria, environmental impact assessments of proposed development projects are conducted through the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act). The Minister for Planning (the Minister) administers the EES process through the *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects* (Ministerial Guidelines), whilst DEECA manages this process (Victorian Auditor Generals Report, 2017).

A proponent should ask the Minister administering the Act whether an EES is required for projects or amended projects that could have a significant effect on the environment. If the Minister decides that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required, the project proponent is responsible for preparing the EES and undertaking the necessary investigations (Victorian Government, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2023).

Referral criteria is based on either individual potential environmental effects or a combination of potential environmental effects.

4.6.1 Implications

Assessment of referral requirements for relevant criteria are outlined below.

Individual Potential Environmental Effects

Potential clearing of 10 ha or more of native vegetation from an area that is of an EVC identified as endangered or an EVC that is classified as plummable (with a condition score of 0.5 or more) or rare (with a condition score of 0.6 or more).

- Overall, 0.005 hectares of native vegetation may be determined to be impacted under the current proposal from an EVC identified as endangered. Removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this location will not have a significant impact on habitat for rare or threatened species.
- This amount is significantly under the referral threshold and therefore, no referral is required under this criterion.

Potential for loss of a significant proportion (e.g. 1 percent or greater) of known remaining habitat or population of a threatened species within Victoria.

- Approximately 40 Strzelecki Gum were found present on site, however all individuals were identified as planted specimens with confirmation from the landowner.
- Targeted surveys identified glossy grass skink and Flinders pygmy perch on site.
- Using DEECA's threatened species habitat modelling as a guide, no species specific offsets have been identified, with less than 0.05% of any modelled habitat impacted.
- No EES referral is likely to be required under this criterion.

Potential for long-term change to the ecological character of a wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention or in A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia

- Not applicable.

A combination of potential environmental effects

Potential removal, destruction or lopping of 10 hectares or more of native vegetation, unless it is authorised for removal under an approved forest management plan or fire protection plan.

- Overall, a total 0.005 ha of native vegetation from *Swamp Scrub EVC* is proposed to be impacted by the project.

Matters listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988:

- *potential loss of a significant area of a listed ecological community; or*
- *potential loss of a genetically important population of an endangered or threatened species (listed or nominated for listing), including from loss or fragmentation of habitats; or*
- *potentially significant effects on habitat values of a wetland supporting migratory bird species.*
- 0.018 ha of Swamp Scrub and Plains Grassy Forest EVCs, which are not synonymous with any FFG listed communities.
- DEECA's threatened species modelling did not assign any species specific offsets to the native vegetation removal.
- No wetlands supporting migratory bird species habitat will be significantly impacted from the project.

Potential for extensive or major effects on landscape values of regional importance, especially:

- *where recognised by a planning scheme overlay;*
- *declared as a distinct or special landscape under the Planning and Environment Act 1987;*
- *within or adjoining land reserved under the National Parks Act 1975.*
- Not applicable.

In view of the above, a combination of biodiversity related environmental effects is unlikely to warrant a referral.

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4.7 State – Planning and Environment Act 1987

4.7.1 Planning Overlays

The study area is covered by the State Resource Overlay – Schedule 1 under the Latrobe Planning Scheme. There are no direct implications under this overlay that would relate to any vegetation or habitat removal likely to occur under the project.

4.7.2 Clauses

Clause 52.17 -Native Vegetation

Under *Clause 52.17* of the Latrobe Planning Scheme, a planning permit is required to clear or disturb native vegetation within the study area. Native vegetation will be impacted and or require removal under the proposal and as such, application of the '*Guidelines*' to obtain a planning permit for the works is necessary. The information provided within this report and summarised specifically within *Section 5* is considered to satisfy the information requirements of the Guidelines.

Clause 52.17-7 identifies exemptions from requiring a planning permit to remove native vegetation for certain uses, activities or development. In particular the planted vegetation exemption is applicable to some of the study area.

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 unless the removal, destruction or lopping of the native vegetation is in accordance with written permission of the agency (or its successor) that provided the funding.

Revegetation activities have historically been undertaken on the property to provide protection from livestock:

“Fenced trees on Tramway Road property were planted and fenced approximately 25 years ago as protection for livestock. They were staggered across the paddock to give maximum wind protection.” (K. Boulton pers. comm 16/12/2024).

It is considered that these plantings would meet the planted vegetation exemption and whilst they have been included and identified in this assessment, do not require offsets for their removal. This includes habitat zones 5 & 6 and Tree ID's 1 – 4.

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5 Victoria's Native Vegetation Removal Regulations

The purpose of the Guidelines is to set out and describe the application of Victoria's statewide policy in relation to assessing and compensating for the removal of native vegetation. The Guidelines implement Clause 12.01-2S (Biodiversity) of the Planning Provisions objective 'To ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DEECA, 2017).

The Guidelines also detail the three-step approach of Avoid, Minimise and Offset as a key component of the policy. This approach aims to ensure that the removal of native vegetation is restricted to only what is reasonably necessary, and that biodiversity is appropriately compensated for any removal approved.

A combination of site-based and landscape information is used to calculate the biodiversity value (being a general or species habitat score) of native vegetation to be removed. This is calculated by the extent and condition score, combined to determine the site-based measure of biodiversity value.

The assessment pathway for an application to remove native vegetation reflects its potential impact on biodiversity and is determined by combining the location and extent of the native vegetation proposed to be removed, in accordance with Table 3 of the Guidelines.

The pathways are:

- Basic** - limited impacts on biodiversity.
- Intermediate** - could impact on large trees, endangered EVC's, and sensitive wetlands and coastal areas.
- Detailed** - could impact on large trees, endangered EVC's, sensitive wetlands and coastal area and could significantly impact on habitat for rare or threatened species. (DEECA, 2017)

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5.1 Avoiding and minimising Impacts on Native Vegetation

The principles of avoidance and minimisation can be achieved in a Project by avoiding the removal of native vegetation via locating or designing the project works so that native vegetation is not removed. Minimising losses to native vegetation can be achieved via minimising the design construction footprint, restricting project works to areas of native vegetation that have the least biodiversity or other values or managing the works to minimise impacts on surrounding vegetation (DEECA, 2017).

5.1.1 Strategic Planning

The site is covered by a Farming Zone – Schedule 1 and a State Resource Overlay which pertains to Gippsland brown coalfields as a resource of significance. The overlay does not designate any native vegetation that must be retained.

5.1.2 Site Level Planning

A proposed design was provided by Accent Environmental in July 2026 – *Appendix 1 (Gippsland BESS - Overall Site Plan 24/07/2026)* The plan displays the location of the construction impact zone, site access point, substation and proposed connector path. The site access design provided by Access

Environmental in July 2026, highlights access from the western verge roadside into the site, including new edge of seal, turn in lane and tie into the internal road network.

Under the current design the following avoid and minimisation of impacts to native vegetation has been achieved:

- The main development area (batteries and sub-station) have been located within an area previously cleared, containing non-native or planted vegetation.
- Entirety of habitat zones 1, 2 and 5 are not impacted.
- All scattered trees (whether planted or remnant) are not impacted under the proposal.
- Access to the site will be off Tramway Road through a new crossover which impacts on minimal native vegetation (habitat zone 3). Under the current site access design only 0.013ha of native vegetation is assessed as lost at the entrance location.
- Proposed cable connection will cross Bennetts Creek within a clearing and only impact upon a small section of habitat zone 4 of up to 5 metres.
- There is complete avoidance of direct/indirect impacts to Bennetts creek riparian vegetation as it will retain its current alignment and the proposed connector cable into the Hazelwood Terminal Station is planned to be under bored or trenched at the southern end of the property. This will ensure that no adverse effects to the creek line and all associated aquatic fauna, including burrowing crayfish will not be impacted.

Planted Strzelecki Gums identified on site within habitat zone 6 are retained and not impacted under the design, however all planted Strzelecki gums within habitat zone 6 are unavoidably impacted. The necessary size of the footprint to house the batteries, locate the footprint outside of flood prone land and meet the projects storage requirements makes complete avoidance unavoidable.

Section 5.3 details the determination of losses to native vegetation under the current design proposal and Map 2 shows the location of these native vegetation losses.

The Wildlife and Ecology glossy grass skink key determination and mitigation measures include:

- *A very high level of consideration for these sites and their GGS populations needs to be given when preparing future designs for the Gippsland BESS. Preferably these known populations and sites need to be protected and enhanced, with proposed works moved outside of these areas, including the accessway and construction footprint.*
- *If the Gippsland BESS designs and proposed works cannot be adjusted to take into account this threatened reptile species then fauna mitigation measures must be implemented, including fauna salvaging during initial earthworks and the creation of habitat in other areas outside of the impact zones. It must be noted that under the Wildlife Act 1975 Wildlife Management Authorisation permits, threatened species can only be relocated to a maximum of 100m from the point of capture. If this is not possible, then translocation plans need to be lodged to and approved by DEECA before any threatened animals can be moved’.*
(Wildlife and Ecology, 2026).

The Aquatica Environmental mitigation measures for Flinders pygmy perch include:

- *Retain and maintain the existing fenced buffer around Bennetts Creek and avoid direct disturbance wherever practicable.*
- *Engage a suitably qualified and licensed aquatic ecologist to:*
 - *Undertake pre-clearance salvage of aquatic fauna if any works are required within or adjacent to the drainage line; and*
 - *Be available on call during construction to assist with fauna relocation or incidental encounters.*
- *Implement all mitigation and monitoring measures described in Section 5 through the project's CEMP, with emphasis on sediment and erosion control, pollution prevention, and protection of riparian vegetation.*
- *With these measures in place, the residual risk to aquatic ecological values is considered low, and the project can proceed without significant adverse effects on Bennetts Creek or its associated aquatic fauna.*

(Aquatica Environmental, 2025).

The assessed losses to native vegetation will be appropriately offset by the proponent in line with the Guideline (DEECA, 2017). The purchase of a registered credit extract will ensure that the overarching native vegetation policy of 'no net loss' is achieved.

5.2 Construction

A number of measures are proposed to minimise construction impacts on ecological values. These include the following:

No-go Zone Fencing / Limit of Works

- Prior to the commencement of any works,
 - The construction zone footprint and limit of works must be clearly defined on construction plans and should be physically delineated with fencing; and
 - Native vegetation outside of the limit of works must be protected by the establishment of No-Go zones, with fencing and exclusion areas identified as part of contract conditions.
- All works and construction activities associated with the project (i.e. stock sites, temporary storage areas, parking areas, turn around points...etc.) should be located within degraded areas not containing native vegetation; and
- The fencing should be constructed of supported para-webbing or rope bunting and include signage identifying the area as 'No-Go Zone - No Unauthorised Access'. The No-Go zone fence is to be erected prior to the commencement of construction works and to be retained in place for the duration of construction activities, and then removed.

Vehicle Hygiene / Weed Management

- Vehicle / plant hygiene protocols should be implemented to prevent the importation and the spread of declared weeds, environmental weeds, pests and diseases (pathogens) within the construction works area and offsite.

Sedimentation / Erosion

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Erosion and sediment controls should include but not be limited to:

- Installation and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation controls established in accordance with EPA best practice guidelines for the treatment of sediment laden run-off resulting from construction activities. Sediment controls must be maintained in good order throughout the project and all materials removed from site at the completion of works;
- Adequately control and route runoff within the construction site to the appropriate sedimentation controls.
- Appropriate control structures within the 'limits of works' should also be established.
- Minimising the amount of exposed erodible surfaces during construction - i.e. through the staging of works and progressive reinstatement of earthworks; and
- Prompt covering of exposed surfaces (including batters and stockpiles) that would otherwise remain bare for more than 28 days - cover may include mulch, erosion control mat or seeding with sterile grass.

Wildlife Management

- A Fauna Conservation Management Plan should be developed to mitigate impacts, including additional habitat assessments and fauna salvage protocols.
- Recommendations within the targeted survey reports (Aquatica Environmental, 2025) (Wildlife and Ecology, 2026) are to be implemented during construction, including salvage and translocation if required.

5.3 Topographic Information

The following provides topography and land information specific to the native vegetation proposed to be removed (DEECA, 2017).

1. Role of native vegetation in protecting water quality, waterways and riparian ecosystems particularly within 30m of a wetland, waterway or special catchment
 - Approximately 250m of Bennetts Creek runs through the southwest corner of the study area, which is dominated by native riparian vegetation and the margins are covered in a dense mid-storey of native trees and shrubs. Only a small 4-6 metre width impact is proposed to clear vegetation along this waterway.
2. Preventing land degradation including soil erosion and instability, particularly where slopes are greater than 20%, land subject to slippage or soil erosion, harsh environments - alpine, coastal.
 - The land slopes down to the watercourse from the northeast at a gradient of no greater than 10%.
 - The current design shows the proposed cable connection crossing Bennetts Creek at a width of approximately 4-6 meters.
3. Preventing adverse effects on groundwater quality, saline discharge, recharge area.
 - Not applicable, the site does not provide for these functions.
4. Need to preserve identified landscape values.
 - 0.018 hectares of native vegetation will be lost but this is unlikely to contribute to a significant decline in the landscape values of the surrounding area.

5. Is native vegetation protected under Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?

- No

5.4 Determination of Losses to Native Vegetation

Updated digital files of the design plan which highlighted the construction footprint including proposed cable and access/entry point, was provided by Accent Environmental in July 2026 'Gippsland BESS – Overall Site Plan' 24/07/2026.

A digital file of the site access off Tramway Road which highlighted the western verge roadside access into the site, was provided by Accent Environmental in July 2026 'Site Access Design – 24/07/2026'.

The construction footprint was overlaid on the DGPS mapped native vegetation layers and using the GIS program a process of determining native vegetation impacts was carried out using the methodology described in Section 2.5.

In total 0.018 ha of native vegetation is deemed lost under the current proposal. Habitat zone and Scattered tree loss determination under the current design are provided in *Tables 9 and 10* below, but exclude vegetation retained within planted windrows (including planted Strzelecki gum). *Map 2 to 2d* display the location and extent of all remnant native vegetation deemed lost.

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Table 9 – Breakdown of Native Vegetation Patch Losses

Native Vegetation Type	Type of Loss	Area (ha)	ID No.	Large Trees	Clause 52.17 Planning Requirement
Native Patch (Habitat Zone)	Direct/Consequential	0.013	3	-	Offsets Required
Native Patch (Habitat Zone)	Direct/Consequential	0.005	4	-	Offsets Required
Native Patch (Habitat Zone)	Direct/Consequential	0.2345	6	-	Planted – No offsets required
Large Patch Trees	-	-	-	-	-
Total Requiring Offsets		0.018 ha			

Table 10– Canopy and tree impacts

Tree ID No.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Type	DBH (cm)	Comments	Planning Requirements
1	<i>Eucalyptus sp.</i>	Unknown (dead)	Scattered (planted)	81	Retained	N/A
2	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	Scattered (planted)	98	Retained	N/A
3	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	Scattered (planted)	96	Retained	N/A
4	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum	Scattered (planted)	106	Retained	N/A
5	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	68	Retained	N/A
6	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	86	Retained	N/A
7	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	55	Retained	N/A
8	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Scattered	105	Retained	N/A

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5.5 Offset requirements- Native Vegetation Removal Report

A clearing shapefile was used to process an NVR report (*Appendix 10*). The report identified that the following offset requirements would apply to the proposal, at this preliminary stage:

- The proposal falls under the 'Intermediate Assessment Pathway';
- Offset requirements amount to 0.005 General Habitat Units (GHUs) with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.3124 and no large trees;
- No specific offsets apply; and
- Offsets must be located within the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) boundary or within the Latrobe City Council municipality.

Previous Clearing

Confirmation with the proponent has been undertaken to ensure that no other native vegetation has been approved to be removed or was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on a continuous land in the same client ownership in the past 5 years.

Offset Statement

In accordance with the DEECA's Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation an offset statement must be provided that shows evidence that an offset that meets the offset requirements for the native vegetation to be removed has been identified and can be secured.

When the final design is prepared the offset requirements will be purchased through a third-party offset via an allocated credit register extract from a credit provider. *Appendix 11* provides evidence that sufficient offsets are presently available for the offset requirements that have been calculated at this preliminary stage.

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6 Conclusion and Avoidance and Minimisation Recommendations

Study Area- Ecological Values

Flora

The site is largely cleared and dominated by exotic pasture vegetation. Native patches, comprising mainly native aquatic, semi-aquatic and largely mid-storey trees and shrubs, cover approximately 5% of the site. Other native vegetation found on the site includes a cluster of scattered canopy trees and planted Victorian natives.

Approximately 40 large canopy trees were all positively identified as Strzelecki Gum listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, within the study area, all planted within revegetation windrows.

Fauna

No threatened fauna species were identified during the initial site assessment.

A targeted survey for glossy grass skink and Flinders pygmy perch found the species present within the study site. Integration of recommendations from the targeted surveys into the design is recommended. Targeted surveys for swamp skink and dwarf galaxias did not record them within the project footprint. The likelihood of occurrence assessment found swamp skink and dwarf galaxias to be unlikely to be present.

Legislation / Policy Considerations

EPBC Act- Matters of National Environmental Significance

There are three Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), that warrant further consideration through either targeted survey or species expert advice and significant impact assessments:

- Strzelecki Gum was recorded on site, under the current proposal all planted individuals are impacted by the design. A Significant Impact Assessment was completed which determined that the potential impact to Strzelecki gum from this project is unlikely to be significant.
- Targeted survey for swamp skink and dwarf galaxias determined these species unlikely to be present on site.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

- No FFG Act protected flora or habitat for FFG Act protected fauna exists on the public road reserve that interfaces with the site.
- A population of glossy grass skink was found to be present on site. The species habitat should be protected and enhanced, with proposed works located outside of these areas, including the accessway and construction footprint. Any refining of the existing design to accommodate the protection of GGS populations must be in consultation with ecologists that have experience with this species. A Fauna Conservation Management Plan should be developed to mitigate impacts, including additional habitat assessments and fauna salvage protocols.

- Flinders pygmy perch was found to be present on site. The project should retain and maintain the existing fenced buffer around Bennetts Creek and avoid direct disturbance wherever practicable. Mitigation and monitoring measures must be included in the projects CEMP, with emphasis on sediment and erosion control, pollution prevention, and protection of riparian vegetation.

Native Vegetation Removal

The native vegetation removal report identified an offset figure of 0.005 General Habitat Units (GHUs) with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.3124 and no large trees requiring removal under the current design. A planning permit for vegetation removal will be required.

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Glossary

Avoid	Avoiding removing any native vegetation when undertaking a use or development. This can be either by not permitting or not going ahead with the use or development or locating it elsewhere so that removing native vegetation is not required.
Biodiversity	The variety of all life forms, the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part.
Bioregion	Biogeographic areas that capture the patterns of ecological characteristics in the landscape or seascape, providing a natural framework for recognizing and responding to biodiversity values.
Bioregional Conservation Status (BCS of an EVC)	A state-wide classification of the degree of depletion in the extent and/or quality of an Ecological Conservation Class (EVC) within a bioregion in comparison to the State's estimation of its pre-1750 extent and condition.
Canopy Tree	A tree, greater than five meters in height, that is normally found in the upper layer of a vegetation type. A tree, greater than five meters in height, that is normally found in the upper layer of a vegetation type.
Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)	The diameter of the trunk of a tree measured over bark at 1.3m above ground level.
Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC)	A type of native vegetation classification that is described through a combination of its floristic, life form and ecological characteristics, and through an inferred fidelity to particular environmental attributes. Each EVC includes a collection of floristic communities (i.e. lower level in the classification that is based solely on groups of the same species) that occur across a biogeographic range and although differing in species, have similar habitat and ecological processes operating.
EVC Benchmark	A standard vegetation quality reference point relevant to the vegetation type that is applied in habitat hectare assessments. Represents the average characteristics of a mature and apparently long-undisturbed state of the same vegetation type.
General offset	An offset that is required when a proposal to remove native vegetation is not deemed, by application of the specific-general offset test, to have a significant impact on habitat for any rare or threatened species.
Habitat Hectares	Combined measure of condition and extent of native vegetation. This measure is obtained by multiplying the site's condition score (measured between 0 and 1) with the area of the site (in hectares).
Habitat Score	The score assigned to a habitat zone that indicates the quality of the vegetation relative to the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) benchmark – sum of the site condition score and landscape context score usually expressed as a percentage or on a scale of zero to 1.
Habitat Zone	A discrete area of native vegetation consisting of a single vegetation type (EVC) with an assumed similar quality. This is the base spatial unit for conducting a habitat hectare assessment.
High Threat Weed	Introduced plant species (including non-indigenous 'natives') with the ability to out-compete and substantially reduce one or more indigenous life forms in the longer term, assuming on-going current site characteristics and disturbance regime.
Large Tree (LT)	A tree with a Diameter at Breast Height equal to or greater than the large tree diameter as specified in the relevant EVC benchmark.

Loss	Loss in the contribution to Victoria's biodiversity when native vegetation is fully or partially removed, as measured in biodiversity equivalence scores or units.
Minimise	Locating, designing or managing a use or development to reduce the impacts on biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation.
Native vegetation	Native vegetation is defined in the Victoria Planning Provisions as 'plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses'.
Native vegetation condition	A site-based measure of how close native vegetation is to its mature natural state, as represented by a benchmark reflecting pre-settlement circumstances.
No net loss	An outcome where a particular gain in the contribution to Victoria's biodiversity is equivalent to an associated loss in the contribution to Victoria's biodiversity from permitted clearing.
Offset	Protection and management (including revegetation) of native vegetation at a site to generate a gain in the contribution that native vegetation makes to Victoria's biodiversity. An offset is used to compensate for the loss to Victoria's biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation.
Permitted clearing	Removal of native vegetation for which a planning permit has been granted to remove native vegetation.
Protection (of a tree)	An area with twice the canopy diameter of the tree(s) fenced and protected from adverse impacts: grazing, burning and soil disturbance not permitted, fallen timber retained, weeds controlled, and other intervention and/or management if necessary to ensure adequate natural regeneration or planting can occur.
Scattered Trees	An indigenous canopy tree that does not form part of a remnant patch of native vegetation (see definition of remnant patch of native vegetation).
Small Tree (ST)	A tree with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) equal to or greater than 0.25 of the large tree diameter in the relevant EVC benchmark but less than the DBH for a medium old tree.
Strategic biodiversity score	A score that quantifies the relative value of a location in the landscape with regard to its condition, extent, connectivity and the support function it plays for species.
Understorey	The lower layers of vegetation, including the shrub layer, grass layer and ground layer. The understorey may comprise native and non-native species.
Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA)	The Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) otherwise known as the habitat hectare assessment method is the standard approach of assessing vegetation quality in Victoria. Consistency in the application of the method by assessors is essential to support the delivery of Victoria's native vegetation removal regulations.

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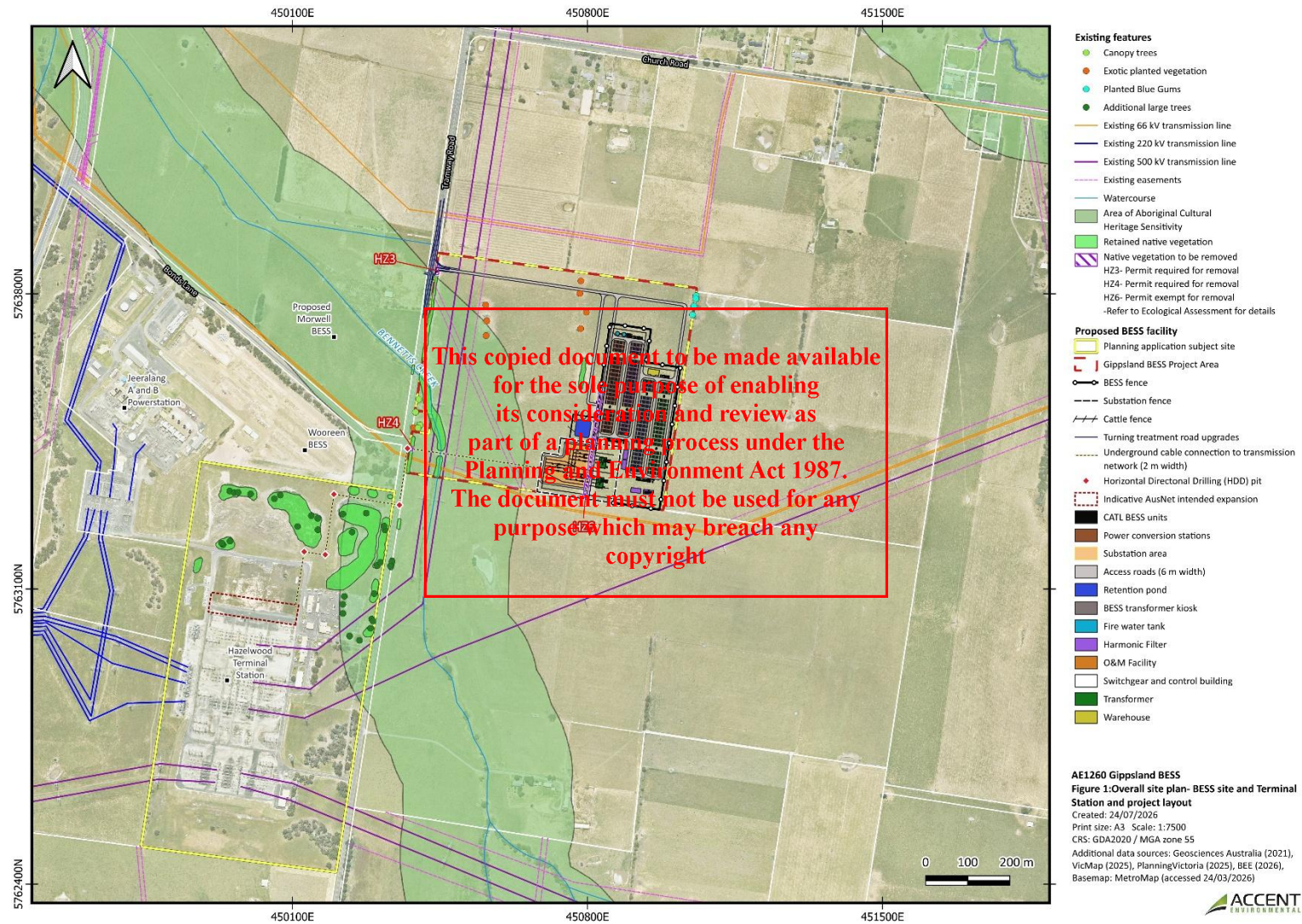
Appendices

Appendices commence on the next page.

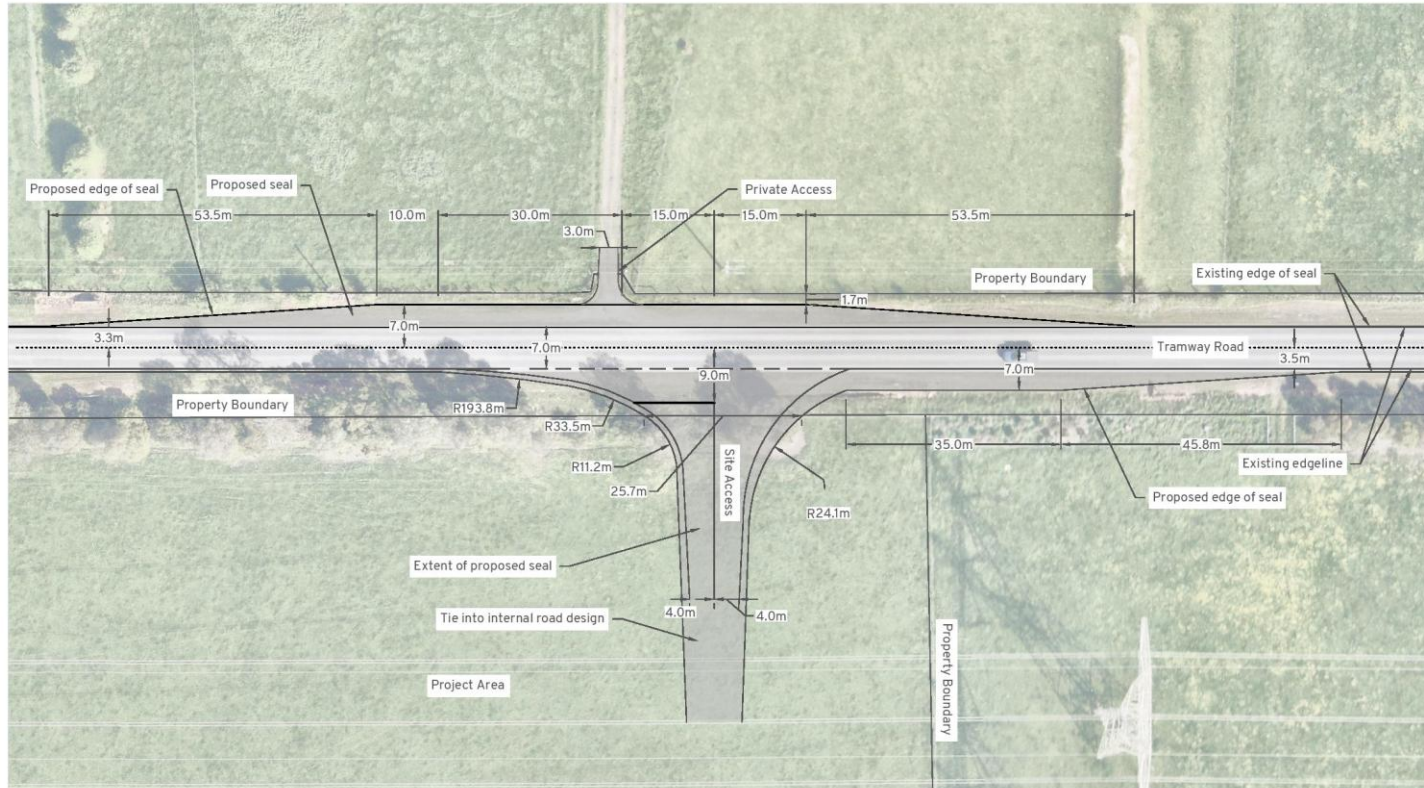
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Appendix 1: AE1260 Gippsland BESS – Overall Site Plan – BESS site and Terminal Station and Project Layout (24/07/2026)



Appendix 1a: Site Access Design – 27/07/2026



The following design details have been taken from Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A

Rural Right-turn Treatment (BAR) - Part 4A Section 7.2.1.

- 1: Design speed of 110km/h.
- 2: Nominal lane width of 3.5m.
- 3: Formation/carriageway widening is 3.5m, total width (C) is 7m.
- 4: Taper length calculates to 53.5m.

Rural Left-turn Treatment (BAL) - Part 4A Section 8.2.1.

- 1: Design speed of 110km/h.
- 2: Nominal lane width of 3.5m.
- 3: Formation/carriageway widening is 3.0m, total width (C) is 7m.
- 4: Taper length calculates to 45.8m.
- 5: Minimum length of parallel widened shoulder used from Table 8.1 is 35m.



Gippsland BESS
Tramway Road, Hazelwood North
Site Access Design

DRAWN: SE
DATE: 24/07/2026
DWG NO: 1433 503B
SCALE at A3: 1:600



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Appendix 2: Results of VBA 5 kilometre radius search for threatened flora species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status / Origin	Total Count	Last Record
<i>Acacia howittii</i>	Sticky Wattle	vu #	1	4/03/2009
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum	vu #	2	9/09/2021
<i>Craspedia canens</i>	Grey Billy-buttons	cr	33	17/10/2023
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily	EN cr	2	22/12/2004
<i>Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus</i>	Southern Blue-gum	en #	1	3/08/2021
<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>	Bog Gum	cr	1	9/09/2021
<i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>	Strzelecki Gum	VU cr	3	8/06/2023
<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>	Yarra Gum	cr	2	9/09/2021
<i>Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris</i>	Giant Honey-myrtle	en #	2	9/09/2021

Key to Conservation Status and Origin

Taxon Origin	
#	Native species that may be considered alien in some circumstances
*	Exotic species
Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	
VU	Listed as Nationally Vulnerable
EN	Listed as Nationally Endangered
EX	Listed as Nationally Extinct
CR	Listed as Nationally Critically Endangered
Victorian FFG Act 1988 Listing (DELWP 2022)	
x	Presumed Extinct in Victoria
cr	Listed as Critically Endangered in Victoria
en	Listed as Endangered in Victoria
vu	Listed as Vulnerable in Victoria

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Appendix 3: Results of EPBC Act Protected Matters 5 kilometre radius search



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 21-Nov-2024

[Summary](#)

[Details](#)

[Matters of NES](#)

[Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act](#)

[Extra Information](#)

[Caveat](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

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Summary

Matters of National Environment Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the [Administrative Guidelines on Significance](#).

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar):	1
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	1
Listed Threatened Species:	42
Listed Migratory Species:	10

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage>

A [permit](#) may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Lands:	None
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	20
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None
Habitat Critical to the Survival of Marine Turtles:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have

State and Territory Reserves:	None
Regional Forest Agreements:	1
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
EPBC Act Referrals:	14
Key Ecological Features (Marine):	None
Biologically Important Areas:	None
Bioregional Assessments:	1
Geological and Bioregional Assessments:	None

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Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Wetlands) [\[Resource Information \]](#)

Ramsar Site Name	Proximity	Buffer Status
Gippsland lakes	50 - 100km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities [\[Resource Information \]](#)

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Status of Vulnerable, Disallowed and Ineligible are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Community Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Gippsland Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana) Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland	Critically Endangered	Community likely to occur within area	In feature area

Listed Threatened Species [\[Resource Information \]](#)

Status of Conservation Dependent and Extinct are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Number is the current name ID.

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
BIRD			
Anthochaera phrygia Regent Honeyeater [82338]	Critically Endangered	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	In feature area
Botaurus poiciloptilus Australasian Bittern [1001]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
<u>Callocephalon fimbriatum</u> Gang-gang Cockatoo [768]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Calyptrorhynchus lathamii lathamii</u> South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo [67036]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</u> Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) [67062]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Falco hypoleucos</u> Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Gallinago hardwickii</u> Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Grantiella picta</u> Painted Honeyeater [470]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Hirundapus caudacutus</u> White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Lathamus discolor</u> Swift Parrot [744]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</u> South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) [67093]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Neophema chrysostoma</u> Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Pycnoptilus floccosus</u> Pilotbird [525]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
<u>Rostratula australis</u> Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Stagonopleura guttata</u> Diamond Firetail [59398]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Tringa nebularia</u> Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
FISH			
<u>Galaxiella pusilla</u> Eastern Dwarf Galaxias, Dwarf Galaxias [56790]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Prototroctes maraena</u> Australian Grayling [26179]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
FROG			
<u>Litoria raniformis</u> Southern Bell Frog., Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog [1826]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Uperoleia martini</u> Martin's Toadlet [1873]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
MAMMAL			
<u>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</u> (SE mainland population) Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) [75184]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Isodon obesulus obesulus</u> Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern), Southern Brown Bandicoot (south-eastern) [68050]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Mastacomys fuscus mordicus</u> Broad-toothed Rat (mainland), Tooarrana [87617]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
<u>Petauroides volans</u> Greater Glider (southern and central) [254]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
<u>Petaurus australis australis</u> Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) [87600]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Potorous tridactylus trisulcatus</u> Long-nosed Potoroo (southern mainland) [86367]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</u> New Holland Mouse, Pookila [96]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
<u>Pteropus poliocephalus</u> Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour may occur within area	In feature area
PLANT			
<u>Amphibromus fluitans</u> River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass [19215]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Caladenia tessellata</u> Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, Daddy Long-legs [2119]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Dianella amoena</u> Matted Flax-lily [64886]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</u> Strzelecki Gum [55400]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Glycine latrobeana</u> Clover Glycine, Purple Clover [13910]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Prasophyllum spicatum</u> Dense Leek-orchid [55146]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Pterostylis chlorogramma</u> Green-striped Greenhood [56510]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Senecio psilocarpus Swamp Fireweed, Smooth-fruited Groundsel [64976]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Thelymitra epipactoides Metallic Sun-orchid [11896]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Thesium australe Austral Toadflax, Toadflax [15202]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Xerochrysum palustre Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Paper Daisy [76215]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

REPTILE

Lissolepis coventryi Swamp Skink, Eastern Mourning Skink [84053]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
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Listed Migratory Species [Resource Information]

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Migratory Marine Birds Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Migratory Terrestrial Species

Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
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[Motacilla flava](#)

Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
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Migratory Wetlands Species

Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
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[Calidris acuminata](#)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
<u>Calidris ferruginea</u> Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Calidris melanotos</u> Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
<u>Gallinago hardwickii</u> Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Pandion haliaetus</u> Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In buffer area only
<u>Tringa nebularia</u> Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Listed Marine Species			[Resource Information]
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Bird			
<u>Actitis hypoleucos</u> Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
<u>Apus pacificus</u> Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
<u>Bubulcus ibis as Ardea ibis</u> Cattle Egret [66521]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
<u>Calidris acuminata</u> Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Monarcha melanopsis Black-faced Monarch [609]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin Flycatcher [612]		Breeding known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Pandion haliaetus Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In buffer area only
Rhipidura rufifrons Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Rostratula australis as Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Sterna striata White-fronted Tern [799]		Migration route may occur within area	In feature area
Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In buffer area only

Extra Information

Regional Forest Agreements [\[Resource Information \]](#)

Note that all areas with completed RFAs have been included. Please see the associated resource information for specific caveats and use limitations associated with RFA boundary information.

RFA Name	State	Buffer Status
Gippsland RFA	Victoria	In feature area

EPBC Act Referrals [\[Resource Information \]](#)

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone Project	2022/09346		Assessment	In feature area
Greater Gippsland Offshore Wind Project	2022/09379		Assessment	In feature area

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Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Hazelwood Mine Rehabilitation Project	2022/09239		Assessment	In buffer area only
Seadragon Offshore Wind Farm	2022/9163		Completed	In feature area
Controlled action				
Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm Project	2020/8650	Controlled Action	Guidelines Issued	In feature area
Thomson River Mercury Recovery Project	2010/5734	Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
Not controlled action				
Improving rabbit biocontrol: releasing another strain of RHDV, sthrn two thirds of Australia	2015/7522	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
INDIGO Central Submarine Telecommunications Cable	2017/8127	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
Rebuild of Existing Bleached Pulp Facilities at Maryvale Mill	2005/2234	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
Regional Fast Rail Project - Latrobe Valley Country Works Package	2002/654	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
Yallourn Coal Field Development	2001/297	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
Not controlled action (particular manner)				
Gippsland Rail Line Upgrade - Longwarry East to Traralgon	2019/8564	Not Controlled Action (Particular Manner)	Post-Approval	In buffer area only
INDIGO Marine Cable Route Survey (INDIGO)	2017/7996	Not Controlled Action (Particular Manner)	Post-Approval	In feature area
Regional Fibre Optic Project (RFOP)	2003/916	Not Controlled Action (Particular Manner)	Post-Approval	In buffer area only
Bioregional Assessments			[Resource Information]	
SubRegion	BioRegion	Website	Buffer Status	
Gippsland	Gippsland Basin	BA website	In feature area	

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Caveat

1 PURPOSE

This report is designed to assist in identifying the location of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) which may be relevant in determining obligations and requirements under the EPBC Act.

The report contains the mapped locations of:

- World and National Heritage properties;
- Wetlands of International and National Importance;
- Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves;
- distribution of listed threatened, migratory and marine species;
- listed threatened ecological communities; and
- other information that may be useful as an indicator of potential habitat value.

2 DISCLAIMER

This report is not intended to be exhaustive and should only be relied upon as a general guide as mapped data is not available for all species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act (see below). Persons seeking to use the information contained in this report to inform the referral of a proposed action under the EPBC Act should consider the limitations noted below and whether additional information is required to determine the existence and location of MNES and other protected matters.

Where data is available to inform the mapping of protected species, the presence type (e.g. known, likely or may occur) that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. It is the responsibility of any person using or relying on the information in this report to ensure that it is suitable for the circumstances of any proposed use. The Commonwealth cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any use of the report or any part thereof. To the maximum extent allowed under governing law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on the contents of this report.

3 DATA SOURCES

Threatened ecological communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are generated based on information contained in recovery plans, State vegetation maps and remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been discerned through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, distributions are inferred from either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc.) together with point locations and described habitat; or modelled (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where little information is available for a species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc.).

In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More detailed distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions when time permits.

4 LIMITATIONS

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in this report:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered vagrants;
- some recently listed species and ecological communities;
- some listed migratory and listed marine species, which are not listed as threatened species; and
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in Australia in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- listed migratory and/or listed marine seabirds, which are not listed as threatened, have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites; and
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

The breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Refer to the metadata for the feature group (using the Resource Information link) for the currency of the information.

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Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

- [Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales](#)
- [Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria](#)
- [Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania](#)
- [Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia](#)
- [Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory](#)
- [Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland](#)
- [Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia](#)
- [Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT](#)
- [Birdlife Australia](#)
- [Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [Australian National Wildlife Collection](#)
- Natural history museums of Australia
- [Museum Victoria](#)
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- [Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
- [Queensland Herbarium](#)
- [National Herbarium of NSW](#)
- [Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria](#)
- [Tasmanian Herbarium](#)
- [State Herbarium of South Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory Herbarium](#)
- [Western Australian Herbarium](#)
- [Australian National Herbarium, Canberra](#)
- [University of New England](#)
- [Ocean Biogeographic Information System](#)
- [Australian Government, Department of Defence Forestry Corporation, NSW](#)
- [Geoscience Australia](#)
- [CSIRO](#)
- [Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns](#)
- [eBird Australia](#)
- [Australian Government – Australian Antarctic Data Centre](#)
- [Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory](#)
- [Australian Government National Environmental Science Program](#)
- [Australian Institute of Marine Science](#)
- [Reef Life Survey Australia](#)
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- [Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania](#)
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- Other groups and individuals

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The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

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Appendix 4: Summary of the assessment of likelihood of presence for threatened flora species

Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Taxon Origin	Conservation Status	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
Wetlands of National Importance									
Gippsland Lakes						50-100km upstream from Ramsar site	PMST		Not present on site
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities									
Gippsland Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> subsp. <i>mediana</i>) Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland			CR				PMST		Community not present on site
Flora									
<i>Acacia howittii</i>	Sticky Wattle	#	vu			In its natural habitat this plant is restricted to a portion of the southern Gippsland Hills, specifically the area around the Valley in Victoria. It appears to be very hardy in a wide range of soils. (ANBG 2024)	VBA	Unlikely	Site is outside of species natural range.
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass		VU			Natural and man-made water-bodies, including swamps, lagoons, billabongs and forests on well-drained sandy soils (RBG 2024).	PMST	Low	Aspects of suitable habitat present. Not observed on site during assessment
<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	Thick-lipped Spider-orchid		VU			Apparently confined to eastern Victoria from near-coastal heathy woodlands to open forests on well-drained sandy soils (RBG 2024)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum	#	vu		9/09/2021	Only known in Victoria from the Mottle Range, south of Buchan (RBG 2024a)	VBA	Unlikely	Site is outside of species natural range.
<i>Craspedia canens</i>	Grey Billy-buttons		cr	4	17/10/2023	Known in Victoria only from grassland (often bordering swamps) at low altitude between Cranbourne and Traralgon (RBG 2024b).	VBA	Low	There is no suitable habitat in the form of damp remnant grassland found on site. Not observed on site during assessment
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily		EN cr	2	22/12/2004	Grassland and grassy woodland habitats, on well drained to seasonally wet fertile sandy loams to heavy cracking clay soils derived from Silurian or Tertiary sediments, or from volcanic geology (DCCEW 2024a).	PMST / VBA	Low	No remnant grassland patches exist, species not observed along fence lines or under planted trees excluded from grazing.
<i>Erigeron conyzoides</i>	Daisy Fleabane		en		3/09/2019	Confined to rocky alpine sites in Victoria (RBG 2024c)	VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site

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Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Taxon Origin	Conservation Status	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>globulus</i>	Southern Blue-gum	#	en		3/08/2021	Tall, open forest on a wide range of soils (RBG 2024d).	VBA	Unlikely	Site is outside of species natural range.
<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>	Bog Gum		cr		9/09/2021	Victorian endemic. Occurring on coastal lowlands from Yarram west to Cape Otway and Mt. Richmond near Portland. It also occurs on top of Mt. Oberon (Wilson's Promontory) and on nearby Snake Is. (RBG 2024e)	VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>	Strzelecki Gum		VU cr	82	8/06/2023	Eucalyptus strzeleckii is a large forest tree component of Herb-rich Foothill Forest and Gippsland Plains Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Classes (John Davies, DPI, pers. comm) of the Strzelecki Ranges. It also occurs on flatter terrain at the edges of the Strzelecki Ranges, where it is largely restricted to the banks of watercourses or on river flats where soils are seasonally waterlogged (DCCEEW 2024b). Heavy clay soils on river flats and flood plains, tolerates some inundation. Frost resistant. (John Davies, pers. comm) (RBG 2024).	PMST / VBA	Present	Species was recorded on site. Planted specimens within windrows and regeneration plots- approximately 40 trees
<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>	Yarra Gum		cr		9/09/2021	Occurs in heath and grassy woodland habitats, less often in dry forests, and only rarely in heathland. Populations occur from sea level to c. 1,200 m altitude on a range of soil types including alluvial soils, and those derived from sandstones, mudstones, granite and basalt. Soils are usually clay, but may also have high loam content (DCCEEW 2024c).	VBA	Unlikely	Areas that once may have supported species are now cleared grazing land. Not observed on site during assessment
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine		VU				PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> subsp. <i>armillaris</i>	Giant Honey-myrtle	#	en		9/09/2021	Mainly confined to near-coastal sandy heaths, scrubs slightly raised above saltmarsh, riparian scrubs, rocky coastlines and foothill outcrops eastwards from about Marlo. Occurrences to the west are naturalized from cultivated stock. (RBG 2024f)	VBA	Unlikely	Site is outside of species natural range. Commonly used in amenity plantings.
<i>Prasophyllum spicatum</i>	Dense Leek-orchid		VU			Grows in coastal heath and sandhills. Localised across southern Victoria in coastal heathland and near-coastal heathy forest on sandy soils (RBG 2024g)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site

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Taxon Name	Taxon Common Name	Taxon Origin	Conservation Status	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	Green-striped Greenhood		VU			Grows in moist areas of heathy and shrubby forest on well-drained soils (RBG 2024h)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Senecio psilocarpus</i>	Swamp Fireweed		VU			Occurs on high quality herb-rich wetlands on plains. During winter such sites can be inundated with up to 60cm or more of water but are almost dry in summer. A tree canopy is absent from most sites or rarley, River Red Gum is the overstory species in a woodland formation. (DCCEEW 2024d)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Thelymitra epipactoides</i>	Metallic Sun-orchid		EN			Primarily in mesic coastal heathlands, grasslands and woodlands, but also in drier inland heathlands, open forests and woodlands. (DCCEEW 2024e)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax		VU			Austral toadflax is a perennial herb with roots of a range of grass species notably Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>). It occurs in subtropical, temperate and subalpine grass reserves under a range of altitudes. It occurs in shrubland, grassland or woodland, often on damp sites (DCCEEW 2024f)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat on site
<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>	Swamp Everlasting		VU			Swamp Everlasting grows in wetlands including sedge-swamps and shallow open water marshes, often on heavy black clay soils. (DCCEEW 2024g)	PMST	Low	Aspects of suitable habitat present. Not observed on site during assessment

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References

SPECIES	TAG	Title	Detail
<i>Acacia howittii</i>	ANBG 2024	Acacia Howittii	http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp10/acacia-howittii.html
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	DCCEEW 2024	Amnphibromus fluitans- River Swamp Wallaby-grass	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/19215-conservation-advice.pdf
<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>	RBG 2024	Thick-lipped Spider-orchid	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/bca2495d-3325-4c1b-b2c3-782566fb6bce
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	RBG 2024a	Spotted Gum	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/a80bb5c8-e18f-4db0-b36e-36344cc3ffb5

SPECIES	TAG	Title	Detail
<i>Craspedia canens</i>	RBG 2024b	Craspedia canens	http://data.rbg.vic.gov.au/vicflora/flora/taxon/5f491eed-c364-4a50-81c2-6e714fe74198
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	DCCEEW 2024a	National Recovery Plan for the Matted Flax-lily <i>Dianella amoena</i>	Oberon Carter
<i>Erigeron conyzoides</i>	RBG 2024c	Daisy Fleabane	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/eaeba0a9-78d2-417c-a5cd-eb21589372ea
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>Globulus</i>	RBG 2024d	Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus	http://data.rbg.vic.gov.au/vicflora/flora/taxon/31b2d5b0-23f9-47a6-bb36-0a7bab28e659
<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>	RBG 2024e	Bog Gum	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/e9aa87a9-41f4-4287-8404-0befbe488a73
<i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>	DCCEEW 2024b	National Recovery Plan for the Strzelecki Gum <i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>	Oberon Carter
<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>	SoYR 2024	Eucalyptus yarraensis	http://fe.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Trees_Vegetation/Yarra_Ranges_Plant_Directory/Yarra_Ranges_Local_Plant_Directory/Upper_Storey/Trees_5m/Eucalyptus_yarraensis
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	DCCEEW 2024c	National Recovery Plan for the Clover Glycine <i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Oberon Carter and Geoff Sutter
<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> subsp. <i>armillaris</i>	RBG 2024f	Giant Honey-myrtle	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/ae04d1d-f4a0-4714-9ece-08e5b6401e33
<i>Prasophyllum spicatum</i>	RBG 2024g	Dense Leek-orchid	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/85788803-5305-482d-8092-0c8da8f9f89b
<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>	RBG 2024h	Green-striped Greenhood	https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/c78519e2-4099-4eb7-8007-35dde25e13e6
<i>Senecio psilocarpus</i>	DCCEEW 2024d	Swamp Fireweed	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/64976-conservation-advice.pdf
<i>Thelymitra epipactoides</i>	DCCEEW 2024e	RECOVERY PLAN FOR TWENTY-FIVE THREATENED ORCHID TAXA OF VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES 2003 - 2007	Fiona Coates , Jeff Jeanes ² and Andrew Pritchard ³
<i>Thesium Toadflax</i>	DCCEEW 2024f	Austral Toadflax	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=15202
<i>Xerochrysum palustre</i>	DCCEEW 2024g	Swamp Everlasting	https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=76215

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Key to Likely Occurrence

Likelihood	Comments
Present	Species has been confirmed as present on site during field work
High	Suitable habitat present on site
	Likely to be a resident population/s in the local area*
	Previously recorded on site
	Numerous records within the local area within the past 5 years
Moderate	Aspects of habitat present but may be modified
	Species may be resident in the local area or it forms part of the species' range
	May seasonally or opportunistically use resources within the local area
	Less than 10 year old records within local area
Low	Limited aspects of habitat present or habitat highly modified
	Species may occur rarely or as an opportunistic visitor in the area
	Few records within the local area within the past 25 years
Unlikely	No suitable habitat present
	Site is located outside of species natural range
	Considered locally extinct
	No records of the species within the local area in the last 25 years

* Local area = within a 5km range of the site.

Conservation Status Key

Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	
VU	Listed as Nationally Vulnerable
EN	Listed as Nationally Endangered
EX	Listed as Nationally Extinct
CR	Listed as Nationally Critically Endangered
Victorian FFG Act 1988 Listing (DEECA 2024)	
x	Presumed Extinct in Victoria
cr	Listed as Critically Endangered in Victoria
en	Listed as Endangered in Victoria
vu	Listed as Vulnerable in Victoria

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Appendix 5: Results of VBA 5 kilometre radius search for fauna species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status / Origin	Total Count	Last Record
<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	vu	3	22/06/2019
<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Plumed Egret	cr	4	18/03/2018
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck	vu	3	1/03/1979
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	VU	1	1/12/1978
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	EN en	17	18/04/2000
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	en	5	17/09/2018
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	VU	6	1/09/1980
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	en	3	1/09/2020
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	vu	4	1/03/1981
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	VU vu	13	2/03/1981
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	vu	3	3/12/2017
<i>Lewinia pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	vu	1	22/12/2010
<i>Nannoperca sp. 1</i>	Flinders Pygmy Perch	vu	6	30/01/2023
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot	VU	5	1/03/1980
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	vu	1	11/07/1981
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	vu	8	1/06/1979
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Southern Greater Glider	EN en	1	6/09/1915
<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>	Glossy Grass Skink	en	1	29/11/1992
<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Australasian Shoveler	vu	3	13/06/1987

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Origin	
*	Exotic species
#	Native but some stands may be alien
Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	
VU	Listed as Nationally Vulnerable
EN	Listed as Nationally Endangered
EX	Listed as Nationally Extinct
CR	Listed as Nationally Critically Endangered
Victorian FFG Act 1988 Listing (DEECA 2024)	
x	Presumed Extinct in Victoria
cr	Listed as Critically Endangered in Victoria
en	Listed as Endangered in Victoria
vu	Listed as Vulnerable in Victoria
cd	Conservation Dependant in Victoria

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Appendix 6: Summary of the assessment of likelihood of presence for threatened fauna species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
Birds										
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper		✓	CAMBA JAMBA ROKAMBA BONN			Found in coastal or inland wetlands, both saline or fresh. It is found mainly on muddy edges or rocky shores (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	CR		This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright			Occur mainly in dry box ironbark open-forest and woodland areas. feeding on the honey from eucalypts such as the Mugga Ironbark, White Box and Yellow Box, and Blakeley's Red Gum on which they are reliant (DCCEEW 2024).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift		✓				They mostly occur over dry or open habitats including riparian woodland and tea-tree swamps, low scrub, heathland or saltmarsh. They are also found at treeless grassland and sandplains covered with spinifex, open farmland and inland and coastal sand-dunes (DCCEEW 2024a)	PMST	Unlikely	Largely aerial species, may occasionally fly over site
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	vu			3	22/06/2019	The Eastern Great Egret has been reported in a wide range of wetland habitats (for example inland and coastal, freshwater and saline, permanent and ephemeral, open and vegetated, large and small, natural and artificial (DCCEEW 2024b)	VBA	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	Cattle Egret		✓				occurs in tropical and temperate grasslands, wooded lands and terrestrial wetlands. It has occasionally been seen in arid and semi-arid regions however this is extremely rare. High numbers have been observed in moist,	PMST	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
							low-lying poorly drained pastures with an abundance of high grass; it avoids low grass pastures. (DCCEEW 2024c)			
<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	cr				18/03/2018	They inhabit mudflats, saltworks and shallow margins of tidal estuaries and inland rivers and lakes (DEECA 2024).	VBA	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck	vu				1/03/1979	Found in deep freshwater lagoons, with dense reed beds (Birdlife 2024).	VBA	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	EN					Frequents reedbeds, and other emergent wetlands in water such as cumbungi, lignum and sedges. The nest is a shallow structure of dry or green reeds, within a clump of reeds in water or a swamp (SA-MDB 2024).	PMST	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	VU	✓			1/03/1979	Prefers mudflats and edges of shallow fresh or brackish wetlands, with inundated or emergent sedges, grass, saltmarsh or other low vegetation. This includes lagoons, swamps, lakes and pools near the coast, and dams, waterholes, soaks, bore drains and bore swamps, saltpans and hypersaline salt lakes inland. (DCCEEW 2024d)	PMST / VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Calidris ferrunginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	CR	✓				intertidal mudflats of estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, as well as beaches, rocky shores and around lakes, dams and floodwaters (Birdlife 2024a)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper		✓	BONN JAMBA ROKAMBA			Found in coastal or near coastal habitat but occasionally found further inland. It prefers wetlands that have open fringing mudflats and low, emergent or fringing vegetation, such as grass or samphire (DCCEEW 2024e)	PMST	Unlikely	Aspects of habitat present.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	EN en				18/04/2000	Gang-gang Cockatoos primarily occur within the temperate eucalypt forests and woodlands of mainland south-east Australia (Menkhorst et al. 2017). The species is an altitudinal migrant. (DCCEEW 2024f)	PMST / VBA	Low	Limited overstorey vegetation found within the site. Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor.
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	Glossy Black Cockatoo	VU					Highly dependent on the distribution of <i>Allocasuarina</i> species and is found in woodland dominated by <i>Allocasuarina</i> and in open forests where it forms a substantial middle layer. Often confined to remnant <i>Allocasuarina</i> patches surrounded by cleared farmlands (AoLA 2024).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown Treecreeper	VU					Found in the drier open forests and woodlands of the inland slopes and plains of the Great Dividing Range. Stays in the same area all year round. Fallen timber is an important habitat component for foraging; also recorded, though less commonly, in similar woodland habitats on the coastal ranges and plains (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	en			2	17/09/2018	Frequents tidal mudflats, saltwater and freshwater wetlands, and mangroves (Day and Simpson 2010).	VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	VU					Found in shrubland, grassland and wooded watercourses of arid and semi-arid regions, although it is occasionally found in open woodlands near the coast. Also occurs near wetlands where surface water attracts prey (NSW- OoEH 2024).	PMST	Unlikely	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	VU	✓	CAMBA JAMBA ROKAMBA BONN		1/09/1980	Found in small groups or singly in freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover. They are found in any vegetation around wetlands, in sedges, grasses, lignum, reeds and rushes and also in saltmarsh and creek edges on migration. They also use crops and pasture (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST / VBA	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	VU					Found in dry open forests and woodlands, and is strongly associated with mistletoe. It may also be found along rivers, on plains with scattered trees and on farmland with remnant vegetation. It has been seen in urban parks and gardens where large eucalypts are available (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	en	✓	CAMBA	2	1/09/2020	Usually seen high in a tree, or soaring over highways and adjacent land. The nest can be located in a tree up to 30m above the ground but may also be placed on the ground or on rocks (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST / VBA	Low	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.
<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	vu				1/03/1981	Found in most open forest, woodland and scrub types and open agricultural country (Day and Simpson 2010)	VBA	Low	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	VU vu	✓	CAMBA JAMBA ROKAMBA		2/03/1981	In Australia, the White-throated Needletail is almost exclusively aerial, from heights of less than 1 m up to more than 1000 m above the ground. (DCCEEW 2024g).	PMST / VBA	Unlikely	Largely aerial species, may occasionally fly over site
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern	vu		CAMBA JAMBA	1	3/12/2017	Usually found near the coast, in extensive wetlands, on coastal and interior beaches and sheltered estuaries. Lives equally well in fresh water and saline environments (Day and Simpson 2010).	VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	CR	✓				Found in dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands, suburban parks and gardens and flowering fruit trees (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST	Low	Limited overstorey vegetation found within the site. Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor.
<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	vu			1	22/12/2010	Lewin's Rails inhabit permanent to ephemeral, fresh to saline wetlands that have dense emergent or fringing vegetation. They also use artificial habitats with similar structural features (SA-DEH 2024).	VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	EN					Home range 10 ha. Found in lightly timbered woodland, mainly dominated by acacia and/or eucalypts. Requires structurally diverse habitats featuring mature eucalypts, saplings, some small shrubs and a ground layer of moderately tall native grasses (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Rainbow Bee-eater		✓	JAMBA			Occurs mainly in open forests and woodlands, shrublands, and in various cleared or semi-cleared habitats, including farmland and areas of human habitation (DCCEEW 2024h).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Black-faced Monarch		✓				Mainly occurs in rainforest ecosystems, including semi-deciduous vine-thickets, complex notophyll vine-forest, tropical (mesophyll) rainforest, subtropical (notophyll) rainforest, mesophyll (broadleaf) thicket/shrubland, warm temperate rainforest (DCCEEW 2024i)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail		✓				Occurs in mainly salt works, paddocks, marshes, grassy wetlands (Day and Simpson 2010)	PMST	Unlikely	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Satin Flycatcher		✓				Occurs mainly in wetter, denser forests often at high elevations (Day and Simpson 2010)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot	VU	✓			1/03/1980	Blue-winged parrots inhabit a range of habitats from coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas, through to semi-arid zones. The species can also be seen in altered environments such as airfields, golf-courses and paddocks. Pairs or small parties of blue-winged parrots forage mainly near or on the ground for a wide range of native and introduced grasses, herbs and shrubs (DEECA 2024)	PMST / VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	vu				11/07/1981	Home range of 400-1450 ha. Found in open forests and woodlands, especially along watercourses. Will sometimes be found in open areas near forests such as farmland, parks and suburban areas, as well as in remnant bushland patches. Needs old growth trees to nest (Day and Simpson 2010).	VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	vu					Found mainly in deep freshwater marshes with dense vegetation. More open water in non-breeding season (Day and Simpson 2010)	VBA	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey		✓			1/06/1979	Mainly occurs in mangroves, rivers and estuaries, inshore seas, coastal islands (Day and Simpson 2010)	PMST / VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	Pilot Bird	VU					Pilotbirds are strictly terrestrial, living on the ground in dense forests with heavy undergrowth (Higgins & Peter 2002). Largely sedentary, they are typically seen hopping briskly over the	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
							forest floor and foraging on damp ground or among leaf-litter (DCCEEW 2024j)			
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous Fantail		✓	BONN			Mainly inhabits wet sclerophyll forests, often in gullies dominated by eucalypts, usually with a dense shrubby understorey often including ferns. (DCCEEW 2024k)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	EN	✓	CAMBA			Inhabits inland and coastal shallow freshwater wetlands, occurring in both ephemeral and permanent wetlands, particularly where there is grass. Individuals have been spotted in artificial dams, sewage ponds and waterlogged grasslands (DCCEEW 2024l).	PMST	Unlikely	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.
<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Australasian Shoveler	vu			6	13/06/1987	All kinds of wetlands, preferring large undisturbed heavily vegetated freshwater swamps. It is also found on open waters and occasionally along the coast. Nests are built on the ground in dense vegetation, sometimes on a stump or hollow of a tree that is standing in water (Day and Simpson 2010).	VBA	Unlikely	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	VU					Found in open grassy woodland, heath and farmland or grassland with scattered trees (Day and Simpson 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	Unlikely to be more than a very occasional visitor to site.
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank	EN	✓	CAMBA JAMBA ROKAMBA BONN			The Common Greenshank is found in a wide variety of inland wetlands and sheltered coastal habitats of varying salinity. It occurs in sheltered coastal habitats, typically with large mudflats and saltmarsh, mangroves or seagrass. (DCCEEW 2024m)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
Amphibians and Reptiles										
<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>	Swamp Skink	EN en					The Swamp Skink is widely distributed across southern Victoria. It is most commonly found in swampy habitats near the coast, but has also been recorded from the Grampians. (MV 2024)	PMST	Unlikely	Targeted surveys undertaken by Wildlife and Ecology did not record the species as being present on site.
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	VU vu					Need still or slow moving water with emergent vegetation around the edges and mats of floating and submerged plants (DEECA 2024a).	PMST	Low	Aspects of habitat present. No records in the local area in the past 25 years.
<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>	Glossy Grass Skink	en				29/11/1992	Lives amongst dense vegetation, usually close to water. Also found where dry sclerophyll forest meets wet heathland subject to frequent flooding. Shelters in dense vegetation and in rotting logs (ParksVic 2024).	VBA	Present	Targeted surveys undertaken by Wildlife and Ecology recorded the species present on site
<i>Uperoleia martini</i>	Martin's Toadlet	EN					2011-2012. It has been recorded from dry forest, woodlands, shrublands, grasslands and disturbed areas. It is usually found near still water (Anstis 2002), but can be found in dry depressions that later flood (DEECA 2024b)	PMST	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. No records in the local area in the past 25 years.
Mammals										
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll	EN					Home range 100 to 200 ha. Trees with hollows, hollow logs on the ground, rocky outcrops, caves or rock crevices (Menkhorst, Knight 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot	EN					Home range 1 to 6 ha. Eucalypt woodlands and forests that have a dense shrubby understorey. Bandicoots often inhabit blackberry thickets (Menkhorst, Knight 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Mastacomys fuscus mordicus</i>	Broad-toothed Rat	EN					Occur in a wide range of environments from alpine herbfields to coastal tussock grassland (Menkhorst, Knight 2010)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Platypus	vu				29/11/2021	They feed in both slow-moving and rapid (riffle) parts of streams, but show preference to coarser bottom substrates, particularly cobbles and gravel. When not foraging, the Platypus spends most of the time in its burrow in the bank of the river, creek or a pond. At times, they use rocky crevices and stream debris as shelters, or they burrow under the roots of vegetation near the stream. Hence, the ideal habitat for the species includes a river or a stream with earth banks and native vegetation that provides shading of the stream and cover near the bank (AM 2024)	VBA	Low	Site is not optimal habitat. Possible occasional visitor if present in connected catchment.
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider	EN en				6/09/1915	The greater glider is an arboreal nocturnal marsupial, largely restricted to eucalypt forests and woodlands. It is primarily folivorous, with a diet mostly comprising eucalypt leaves, and occasionally flowers. It is typically found in highest abundance in taller, montane, moist eucalypt forests with relatively old trees and abundant hollows (Menkhorst, Knight 2010).	PMST / VBA	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	VU					The yellow-bellied glider (south-eastern) occurs in eucalypt-dominated woodlands and forests, including both wet and dry sclerophyll forests (Kavanagh et al. 1995; Rees et al. 2007). Abundance is highly dependent on habitat suitability, which is in turn determined by forest age and floristics (DCCEW 2024n)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Conservation Status	EPBC Act Listed Migratory or Marine Species	Treaty	Count of Sightings	Date of Last Record	Preferred Habitat Notes	Database Source	Likelihood of occurrence	Comments
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse	VU					Across the species' range the New Holland Mouse is known to inhabit open heathlands, open woodlands with a heathland understorey and vegetated sand dunes (DCCEEW 2024o)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	VU					Roosting camps are generally located within 20 km of a regular food source and are commonly found in gullies, close to water, in vegetation with a dense canopy (Menkhorst, Knight 2010).	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site
Fish										
<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	Dwarf Galaxias	EN en					Dwarf Galaxias has broad habitat requirements and occurs in slow flowing and still, shallow, permanent and temporary fresh water habitats such as swamps, drains and the backwaters of creeks, often (but not always) containing dense aquatic macrophytes and emergent plants (DCCEEW 2024p)	PMST	Unlikely	Targeted surveys undertaken by Aquatica Environmental did not recorded the species as being present on site
<i>Nannonperca sp. 1</i>	Flinders Pygmy Perch	vu			211	30/01/2023	Often found in small systems with a low flow rate and quiet vegetated areas in streams, billabongs, lakes and even irrigation channels. Not usually found in open water, prefers covered habitats. Often seems to form loose aggregations (nativefish 2024)	VBA	Present	Targeted surveys undertaken by Aquatica Environmental recorded the species present on site
<i>Prototroctes mareana</i>	Australian Grayling	VU					Inhabit cool, clear, freshwater streams with gravel substrate and areas alternating between pools and riffle zones. The species has been found over 100 km upstream from the sea (DCCEEW 2024q)	PMST	Unlikely	No suitable habitat present on site

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References

SPECIES	TAG	Title	Detail
Birds			
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	DCCEEW 2024	Regent Honeyeater	https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/factsheet-regent-honeyeater-xanthomyza-phrygia
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	DCCEEW 2024a	Fork-tailed Swift	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=678
<i>Ardea alba</i>	DCCEEW 2024b	Great Egret	https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=82410
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	DCCEEW 2024c	Cattle Egret	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=59542
<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	DEECA 2024	Action Statement No 120	http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/251185/Great_Egret_Ardea-alba.pdf
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Birdlife 2024	Musk Duck	http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=363
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	SA-MDB 2024	Australasian Bittern	http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/mdnrm/fieldguide/taxon.htm?id=29026
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	DCCEEW 2024d	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=874
<i>Calidris ferrunginea</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	DCCEEW 2024e	Pectoral Sandpiper	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=858
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	DCCEEW 2024f	Gang-gang Cockatoo	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/768-conservation-advice-02032022.pdf
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	AoLA 2024	Glossy Black Cockatoo	http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/tbbilla/fieldguide/taxon.htm?id=10480
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	NSW- OoEH 2024	Grey Falcon	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10330
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	DCCEEW 2024g	White-throated Needletail	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=682
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	SA-DEH 2024	Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis	Threatened Species Profile- South Australia- Department for Environment and Heritage
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	DCCEEW 2024h	Rainbow Bee-eater	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=670
<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	DCCEEW 2024i	Black-faced Monarch	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=609

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SPECIES	TAG	Title	Detail
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	DCCEEW 2024j	Orange-bellied Parrot	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=747
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	DCCEEW 2024k	Pilotbird	http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/525-conservation-advice-02032022.pdf
<i>Rhipidua rufifrons</i>	DCCEEW 2024l	Rufous Fantail	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=592
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	DCCEEW 2024m	Australian Painted Snipe	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=77037
<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Birdlife 2024a	Australasian Shoveler	http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/22680243
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Day and Simpson 2010	Field Guide to the Birds of Australia	
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	DCCEEW 2024n	Common Greenshank	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=832
Amphibians & Reptiles			
<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>	MV 2024	Swamp Skink	https://museum.victoria.com.au/discoverycentre/infosheets/lizards-found-in-victoria/swamp-skink/
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	DEECA 2024a	Growing Grass Frog	http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/103408/GGF_fact_sheet.pdf
<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>	ParksTas 2024	Glossy Grass Skink	http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=5471
<i>Uperoleia martini</i>	DEECA 2024b	Martins Toadlet	http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/33081/Martins-Toadlet-Uperoleia-martini.pdf
Mammals			
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Menkhorst, Knight 2010	A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Third Edition, 2010. Oxford University Press.	
<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Menkhorst, Knight 2010	A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Third Edition, 2010. Oxford University Press.	
<i>Mastacomys fuscus mordicus</i>	Menkhorst, Knight 2010	A field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Third Edition, 2010. Oxford University Press.	
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	AM 2024	Platypus	https://australian.museum/learn/animals/mammals/platypus/
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Menkhorst, Knight 2010	A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Third Edition, 2010. Oxford University Press.	
<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	DCCEEW 2024o	Yellow-bellied Glider	https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/87600-conservation-advice-02032022.pdf
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	DCCEEW 2024p	New Holland Mouse	https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=96
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Menkhorst, Knight 2010	A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Third Edition, 2010. Oxford University Press.	
Fish			

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SPECIES	TAG	Title	Detail
<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	DCCEEW 2024q	Dwarf Galaxias	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=56790
<i>Nannonperca sp. 1</i>	Nativefish 2024	Southern Pygmy Perch	http://www.nativefish.asn.au/southern-pygmy-perch.html
<i>Prototroctes mareana</i>	DCCEEW 2024r	Australian Grayling	http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=26179

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Key to Likely Occurrence

Likelihood	Comments
Present	Species has been confirmed as present on site during field work
High	Suitable habitat present on site
	Likely to be a resident population/s in the local area*
	Previously recorded on site
	Numerous records within the local area within the past 5 years
Moderate	Aspects of habitat present but may be modified
	Species may be resident in the local area or it forms part of the species' range
	May seasonally or opportunistically use resources within the local area
	Less than 10 year old records within local area
Low	Limited aspects of habitat present or habitat highly modified
	Species may occur rarely or as an opportunistic visitor in the area
	Few records within the local area within the past 25 years
Unlikely	No suitable habitat present
	Site is located outside of species natural range
	Considered locally extinct
	No records of the species within the local area in the last 25 years

* Local area = within a 5km range of the site.

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Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	
VU	Listed as Nationally Vulnerable
EN	Listed as Nationally Endangered
EX	Listed as Nationally Extinct
CR	Listed as Nationally Critically Endangered
Victorian FFG Act 1988 Listing (DELWP 2022)	
x	Presumed Extinct in Victoria
cr	Listed as Critically Endangered in Victoria
en	Listed as Endangered in Victoria
vu	Listed as Vulnerable in Victoria
cd	Conservation Dependant in Victoria
Bilateral migratory bird agreements	
JAMBA	Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA)
CAMBA	China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA)
ROKAMBA	Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA)
BONN	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

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Appendix 7: Flora survey results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	CaLP	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patch	Degraded
<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle	*				+	
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	Native				+	
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow-wattle	#				+	
<i>Acacia howittii</i>	Sticky Wattle	#		Vulnerable		+	
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sallow Wattle	#				+	
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle	Native				+	
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Native				+	+
<i>Acacia mucronata subsp. longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf Wattle	Native				+	+
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	Native				+	
<i>Acaena echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr	Native				+	+
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee	Native				+	+
<i>Acetosella vulgaris</i>	Sheep Sorrel	*					+
<i>Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis</i>	Agapanthus	*				+	+
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Brown-top Bent	*					+
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black Sheoak	Native				+	+
<i>Amyema pendula</i>	Drooping Mistletoe	Native				+	
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	*				+	+
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape Weed	*				+	+
<i>Austrostipa spp.</i>	Spear Grass	Native				+	
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild Oat	*				+	+
<i>Banksia spp.</i>	Banksia	Native					+
<i>Brassica fruticulosa</i>	Twiggy Turnip	*					+
<i>Briza minor</i>	Lesser Quaking-grass	*				+	
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	Native				+	+
<i>Callistemon spp.</i>	Bottlebrush	Native				+	+
<i>Carex spp.</i>	Sedge	Native					+
<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>	Kikuyu	*				+	+
<i>Cerastium vulgare</i>	Common Mouse-ear Chickweed	*					+

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	CaLP	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patch	Degraded
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	Windmill Grass	Native					+
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	*	X			+	+
<i>Clematis microphylla s.l.</i>	Small-leaved Clematis	Native				+	
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	*	X				+
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Common Bindweed	*				+	
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum	#		Vulnerable		+	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	*	X			+	+
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Drain Flat-sedge	*					+
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	*				+	+
<i>Dodonaea spp.</i>	Hop Bush	Native				+	+
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Panic Veldt-grass	*				+	+
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Nodding Saltbush	Native				+	
<i>Epilobium spp.</i>	Willow Herb	Native					+
<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	Tall Fleabane	*				+	+
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Southern Mahogany	#				+	
<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum	#				+	
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Southern Blue-gum	#				+	+
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	Native				+	
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaf Black Peppermint	#				+	
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate Stringybark	Native				+	
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	Native				+	
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Red Box	Native				+	
<i>Eucalyptus radiata s.l.</i>	Narrow-leaf Peppermint	Native					+
<i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>	Strzelecki Gum	Native		Critically Endangered	Vulnerable		+
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana</i>	Gippsland Red-gum	Native				+	
<i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i>	Red Ironbark	Native				+	
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	Native				+	
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart	Native				+	
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-sedge	Native				+	+
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	*	X				+

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	CaLP	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patch	Degraded
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash	*					+
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Fumitory	*					+
<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Thatch Saw-sedge	Native				+	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	*				+	+
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Montpellier Broom	*	X				+
<i>Geranium spp.</i>	Crane's Bill	Native				+	+
<i>Gynatrix pulchella s.l.</i>	Hemp Bush	Native				+	
<i>Hakea spp.</i>	Hakea	Native				+	+
<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>	Monterey Cypress	*				+	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	*				+	+
<i>Hypericum perforatum subsp. veronense</i>	St John's Wort	*	X			+	+
<i>Hypochaeris spp.</i>	Cat's Ear	*				+	+
<i>Indigofera australis subsp. australis</i>	Austral Indigo	Native					+
<i>Juncus australis</i>	Austral Rush	Native					+
<i>Juncus procerus</i>	Tall Rush	Native				+	
<i>Kunzea spp.</i>	Kunzea	Native				+	+
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce					+	
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	Variable Sword-sedge	Native					+
<i>Lolium spp.</i>	Rye Grass	*				+	+
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	Native				+	
<i>Lotus creticus</i>	Lotus	*					+
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African Box-thorn	*	X			+	
<i>Lycopus australis</i>	Australian Gipsywort	Native				+	
<i>Lysimachia arvensis var. arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	*					+
<i>Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris</i>	Giant Honey-myrtle	#		Endangered		+	
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark	#				+	
<i>Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass	Native				+	
<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	Red-flower Mallow	*					+
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-bush	Native				+	
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel	Native				+	+

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	CaLP	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patch	Degraded
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Paspalum	*					+
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Toowoomba Canary-grass	*				+	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Native				+	+
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata Pine	*					+
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	#				+	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	*				+	+
<i>Polygonum arenastrum</i>	Wireweed	*					+
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris	Native				+	+
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry Plum	*				+	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	*				+	+
<i>Romulea rosea</i>	Onion Grass	*				+	+
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg.	Blackberry	*	X			+	+
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Small-leaf Bramble	Native				+	+
<i>Rumex</i> spp. (naturalised)	Dock (naturalised)	*				+	+
<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	Wallaby Grass	Native				+	
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	*	X			+	
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Pepper Tree	*					+
<i>Senecio glomeratus</i>	Annual Fireweed	Native				+	
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	Cotton Fireweed	Native				+	+
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple	Native				+	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> s.l.	Black Nightshade	*				+	+
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sow-thistle	*				+	+
<i>Symphyotrichum subulatum</i>	Aster-weed	*				+	
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	Native				+	+
<i>Trifolium repens</i> var. <i>repens</i>	White Clover	*					+
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> s.l.	Purple-top Verbena	*					+
<i>Vicia</i> spp.	Vetch	*					+

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Origin and Conservation Status Key

Origin	
Native	Species is native to Victoria
*	Exotic species
#	Native but some stands may be alien
Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	
VU	Listed as Nationally Vulnerable
EN	Listed as Nationally Endangered
EX	Listed as Nationally Extinct
CR	Listed as Nationally Critically Endangered
Victorian FFG Act 1988 Listing (DELWP 2022)	
x	Presumed Extinct in Victoria
cr	Listed as Critically Endangered in Victoria
en	Listed as Endangered in Victoria
vu	Listed as Vulnerable in Victoria
Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP) 1994	
x	Declared Noxious Weed

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Appendix 8: Ecological Vegetation Class Benchmarks

Department of Sustainability and Environment

EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment
Strzelecki Ranges bioregion

EVC 53: Swamp Scrub

Description:
Closed scrub to 8 m tall at low elevations on alluvial deposits along streams or on poorly drained sites with higher nutrient availability. The vegetation characteristically lacks a eucalypt overstorey and is dominated by Swamp Paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia* which often forms a dense thicket, out-competing other species. Where light penetrates to ground level, a moss/lichen/liverwort or herbaceous ground cover is often present. Dry variants have a grassy/herbaceous ground layer.

Tree Canopy Cover:
70%
Character Species
Melaleuca ericifolia
Common Name
Swamp Paperbark

Life forms:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Medium Shrub	2	10%	SS
Small Shrub	2	1%	SS
Large Herb	2	1%	LH
Medium Herb	3	15%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	1	10%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	10%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	2	5%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	15%	MNG
Ground Fern	1	5%	GF
Scrambler or Climber	1	1%	SC
Bryophytes/Lichens	1	1%	BL

LF Code **Species typical of at least part of EVC range** **Common Name**

MS	<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant-bush
MS	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
LH	<i>Lycopus australis</i>	Australian Gipsywort
LH	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
LH	<i>Persicaria praetermissa</i>	Spotted Knotweed
MH	<i>Hydrocotyle pterocarpa</i>	Wing Pennywort
MH	<i>Stellaria angustifolia</i>	Swamp Starwort
MH	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	Angled Lobelia
SH	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Swamp Crassula
LTG	<i>Juncus procerus</i>	Tall Rush
LTG	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock-grass
LNG	<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Thatch Saw-sedge
LNG	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
LNG	<i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> s.l.	Soft Twig-rush
MTG	<i>Triglochin procerum</i> s.l.	Water Ribbons
MTG	<i>Juncus gregiflorus</i>	Green Rush
MNG	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Common Spike-sedge
GF	<i>Blechnum cartilagineum</i>	Gristle Fern
SC	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Large Bindweed

Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark



Victoria
The Place To Be

EVC 53: Swamp Scrub - Strzelecki Ranges bioregion

Recruitment:
Continuous

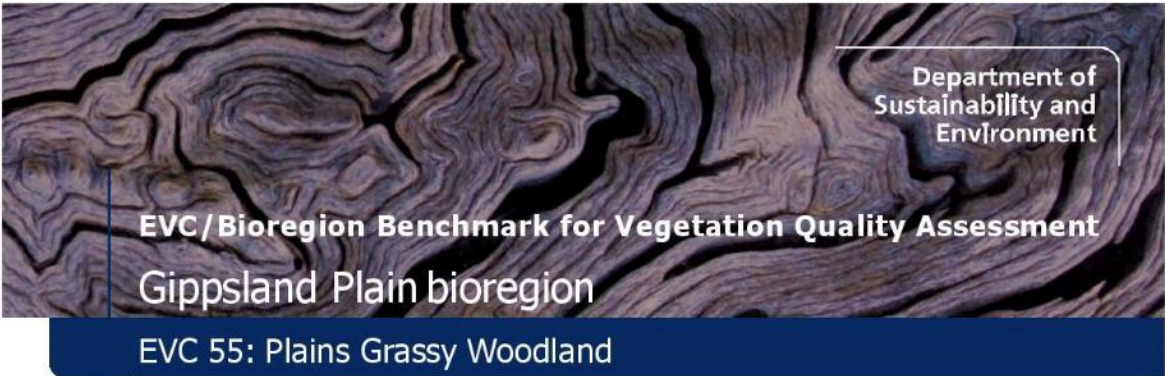
Organic Litter:
40 % cover

Weediness:		Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LF Code					
MH		Hypochoeris radicata	Cat's Ear	low	low
LNG		Hokus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	high	high

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Description:

An open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall occurring on a number of geologies and soil types. Occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey consists of a few sparse shrubs over a species-rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer.

Large trees:

Species	DBH(cm)	#/ha
Eucalyptus spp.	80 cm	10 / ha

Tree Canopy Cover:

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
20%	Eucalyptus tereticornis ssp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum
	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red-gum

Understorey:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Immature Canopy Tree	1	5%	TL
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	1	5%	TL
Medium Shrub	2	1%	MS
Small Shrub	1	1%	SS
Prostrate Shrub	1	1%	PS
Large Herb	1	5%	LH
Medium Herb	10	20%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	5%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	5%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	5%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	9	25%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	10%	MNG
Bryophytes/Lichens		10%	BL

LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
T	Allocasuarina littoralis	Black Sheoak
T	Acacia meamsii	Black Wattle
T	Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood
MS	Kunzea ericoides	Burgan
SS	Pimelea humilis	Common Rice-flower
PS	Bossiaea prostrata	Creeping Bossiaea
MH	Hypericum gramineum	Small St John's Wort
MH	Oxalis perennans	Grassland Wood-sorrel
SH	Dichondra repens	Kidney-weed
SH	Poranthera microphylla	Small Poranthera
LTG	Austrostipa rudis	Veined Spear-grass
LNG	Gahnia radula	Thatch Saw-sedge
MTG	Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass
MTG	Carex breviculmis	Common Grass-sedge
MTG	Lomandra filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush
MTG	Schoenus apogon	Common Bog-sedge
MNG	Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides	Weeping Grass

Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark



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EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland - Gippsland Plain bioregion

Recruitment:
Continuous

Organic Litter:
10 % cover

Logs:
10 m/0.1 ha.

Weediness:				
LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort	high	low
MH	Hypochoeris radicata	Cat's Ear	high	low
MH	Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	high	low
LNG	Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	high	high
MTG	Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	high	high
MNG	Romulea rosea	Onion Grass	high	low
MNG	Briza maxima	Large Quaking-grass	high	low
MNG	Briza minor	Lesser Quaking-grass	high	low

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Description:
Open forest to 20 m tall often above a heathy shrub layer and a diverse grassy, sedgy and herbaceous ground layer. Occurs on lowland plains and old river terraces made up of gravelly sandy days.

Large trees:	DBH(cm)	#/ha
Species		
Eucalyptus spp.	70 cm	20 / ha

Tree Canopy Cover:	Character Species	Common Name
%cover		
30%	Eucalyptus muelleriana	Yellow Stringybark
	Eucalyptus bridgesiana s.l.	But But
	Eucalyptus polyanthemus	Red Box
	Eucalyptus macrohyncha	Red Stringybark

Understorey:	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Life form			
Immature Canopy Tree		5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	3	15%	T
Medium Shrub	6	20%	MS
Small Shrub	3	5%	SS
Prostrate Shrub	2	5%	PS
Large Herb	3	5%	LH
Medium Herb	6	10%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	5%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	5%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	4	15%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	1%	MNG
Ground Fern	2	10%	GF
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL

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Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark



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EVC 151: Plains Grassy Forest - Gippsland Plain bioregion

LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
T	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black Sheoak
T	<i>Acacia meamsii</i>	Black Wattle
T	<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood
T	<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart
MS	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
MS	<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
MS	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan
MS	<i>Melaleuca parvistaminea</i>	Rough-barked Honey-myrtle
SS	<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower
SS	<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Erect Guinea-flower
SS	<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Common Flat-pea
SS	<i>Phyllanthus hirtellus</i>	Thyme Spurge
PS	<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots
PS	<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea
PS	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath
LH	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	Yellow Rush-lily
LH	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i> s.l.	Sprawling Bluebell
MH	<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	Small Poranthera
MH	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort
MH	<i>Hydrocotyle hirta</i>	Hairy Pennywort
MH	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Common Raspwort
SH	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed
SH	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> s.l.	Yellow Wood-sorrel
SH	<i>Oxperularia varia</i>	Variable Stinkweed
LTG	<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i> ssp. <i>lutea</i>	Small Grass-tree
LTG	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
LNG	<i>Gahnia radula</i>	Thatch Saw-sedge
MTG	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
MTG	<i>Poa australis</i> ssp. <i>capillaris</i>	Woolly Grass
MTG	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
MTG	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	Variable Sword-sedge
MNG	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
MNG	<i>Entolasia marginata</i>	Bordered Panic
GF	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Woods Bracken

Recruitment:
Continuous

Organic Litter:
20 % cover

Logs:
20 m/0.1 ha.

Weediness:

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	<i>Centaurium tenuiflorum</i>	Slender Centaury	high	low
MH	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear	high	low
MH	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	high	low

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Appendix 9: Fauna survey results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Treaties	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status
<i>Acanthiza spp.</i>	Thornbills	Native			
<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Red Wattlebird	Native			
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Australian Raven	Native			
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Common Froglet	Native			
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	Native			
<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow	Native			
<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Native			
<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Superb Fairy-wren	Native			
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	European Rabbit	*			
<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Honeyeater	Native			
<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Willie Wagtail	Native			
<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>	Straw-necked Ibis	Native			
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Red Fox	*			

Origin and Conservation Status Key

Origin	
*	Exotic species
#	Native but some stands may be alien
Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999	
VU	Listed as Nationally Vulnerable
EN	Listed as Nationally Endangered
EX	Listed as Nationally Extinct
CR	Listed as Nationally Critically Endangered
Victorian FFG Act 1988 Listing (DELWP 2022)	
x	Presumed Extinct in Victoria
cr	Listed as Critically Endangered in Victoria
en	Listed as Endangered in Victoria
vu	Listed as Vulnerable in Victoria
cd	Conservation Dependant in Victoria

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Appendix 10: Native Vegetation Removal Report



Native Vegetation Removal Report

NVRR ID: 337_20260408_5PP

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

Report details

Date created: 08/04/2026
Local Government Area: LATROBE CITY
Shapefile name:
NVRMap_Removal_Template_Patches.shp
Site assessor name: Antares_Fuhrmann
Registered Aboriginal Party: Gunaikurnai
Coordinates: 146.43348, -38.27193
Address: TRAMWAY ROAD HAZELWOOD NORTH 3840

Regulator Notes

Removal polygons are located:

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Summary of native vegetation to be removed

Assessment pathway	Intermediate Assessment Pathway		
Location category	Location 2 The native vegetation extent map indicates that this area is typically characterised as supporting native vegetation. Additionally, it is modelled as encompassing an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class, sensitive wetland or sensitive coastal area. The removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this area will not require a Species Offset.		
Total extent including past and proposed removal (ha) <i>Includes endangered EVCs (ha): 0.005</i>	0.018	<i>Extent of past removal (ha)</i>	0
		<i>Extent of proposed removal - Patches (ha)</i>	0.018
		<i>Extent of proposed removal - Scattered Trees (ha)</i>	0.000
No. Large Trees proposed to be removed	0	<i>No. Large Patch Trees</i>	0
		<i>No. Large Scattered Trees</i>	0
No. Small Scattered Trees	0		

Offset requirements if approval is granted

Any approval granted will include a condition to secure an offset, before the removal of native vegetation, that meets the following requirements:

General Offset amount ¹	0.005 General Habitat Units
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score ²	0.3124
Large Trees	0
Vicinity	West Gippsland CMA or LATROBE CITY LGA

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

The availability of third-party offset credits can be checked using the Native Vegetation Credit Register (NVCR) Search Tool - <https://nvcr.delwp.vic.gov.au>

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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 value score is 80 per cent of the weighted average score across habitat zones where a General Offset is required.
 3. The Species Offset amount(s) required is the sum of all Species Habitat Units in Appendix 1.

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Application requirements

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.

Application Requirement 1 - Native vegetation removal information

If the native vegetation removal is mapped correctly, the information presented in this Native Vegetation Removal Report addresses Application Requirement 1.

Application Requirement 2 - Topographical and land information

This statement describes the topographical and land features in the vicinity of the proposed works, including the location and extent of any ridges, hilltops, wetlands and waterways, slopes of more than 20% gradient, low-lying areas, saline discharge areas or areas of erosion.

Application Requirement 3 - Photographs of the native vegetation to be removed

Application Requirement 3 is not addressed in this Native Vegetation Removal Report. All applications must include recent, timestamped photos of each Patch, Large Patch Tree and Scattered Tree which has been mapped in this report.

Application Requirement 4 - Past removal

If past removal has been considered correctly, the information presented in this Native Vegetation Removal Report addresses Application Requirement 4.

Application Requirement 5 - Avoid and minimise statement

This statement describes what has been done to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation and associated biodiversity values.

Application Requirement 6 - Property Vegetation Plan

This requirement only applies if an approved Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) applies to the property

Does a PVP apply to the proposal?

Application Requirement 7 - Defendable space statement

Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defendable space, this statement:

- Describes the bushfire threat; and

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- Describes how other bushfire risk mitigation measures were considered to reduce the amount of native vegetation proposed for removal (this can also be part of the avoid and minimise statement).

This statement is not required if, If the proposed defensible space is within the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO), and in accordance with the 'Exemption to create defensible space for a dwelling under Clause 44.06 of local planning schemes' in Clause 52.12-5.

Application Requirement 8 - Native Vegetation Precinct Plan

This requirement is only applicable if you are removing native vegetation from within an area covered by Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (NVPP), and the proposed removal is not identified as 'to be removed' within the NVPP.

Does an NVPP apply to the proposal?

Application Requirement 9 - Offset statement

This statement demonstrates that an offset is available and describes how the required offset will be secured. The Applicant's Guide provides information relating to this requirement.

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Next steps

Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must address all the application requirements specified in the Guidelines. If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you are required to apply for approval from the responsible authority (e.g. local Council). This Native vegetation removal report must be submitted with your application and meets most of the application requirements. The following requirements need to be addressed, as applicable.

Application Requirement 3 - 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, Patch Tree or Scattered Tree, 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.

Application Requirement 6 - Property Vegetation Plan

If a PVP is applicable, it must be provided with the application.

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Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

General Habitat Units for each zone (Patch, Scattered Tree or Patch Tree) are calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines

General Habitat Units = extent without overlap x condition score x general landscape factor x 1.5, where the general landscape factor = 0.5 + (strategic biodiversity value score/2)

The General Offset amount required is the sum of all General Habitat Units per zone.

Native vegetation to be removed

Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant							Information calculated by NVR Map				
Zone	Type	DBH (cm)	EVC code	Bioregional conservation status	Partial Removal	Condition score	Large Tree(s)	Polygon extent (ha)	Extent without overlap (ha)	SBV score	General Habitat Units
1-a	Patch	-	GipP0053	Endangered	no	0.270	-	0.005	0.005	0.418	0.001
2-b	Patch	-	GipP0151	Vulnerable	no	0.270	-	0.013	0.013	0.380	0.004

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Appendix 2: Images of mapped native vegetation

1. Property in context



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2. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation



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3. Location Risk Map

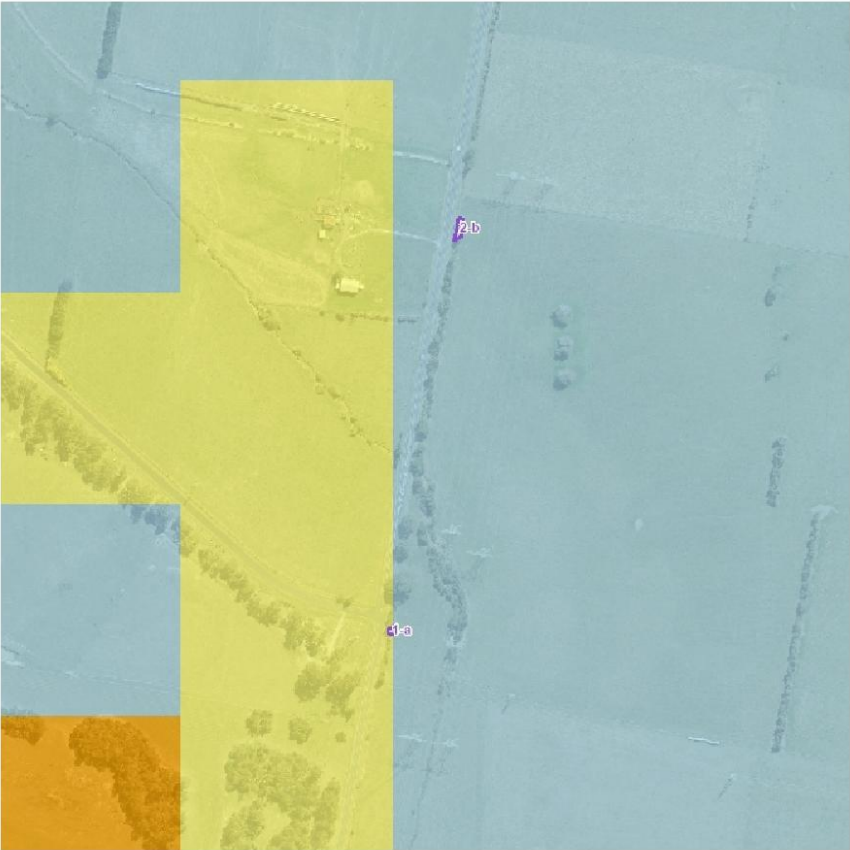


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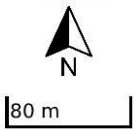
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4. Strategic Biodiversity Value Score Map



- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Proposed Removal | 0.81 - 1.00 |
| Past Removal | 0.61 - 0.80 |
| Partial Removal | 0.41 - 0.60 |
| | 0.21 - 0.40 |
| | 0.00 - 0.20 |



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5. Condition Score Map



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6. Endangered EVCs



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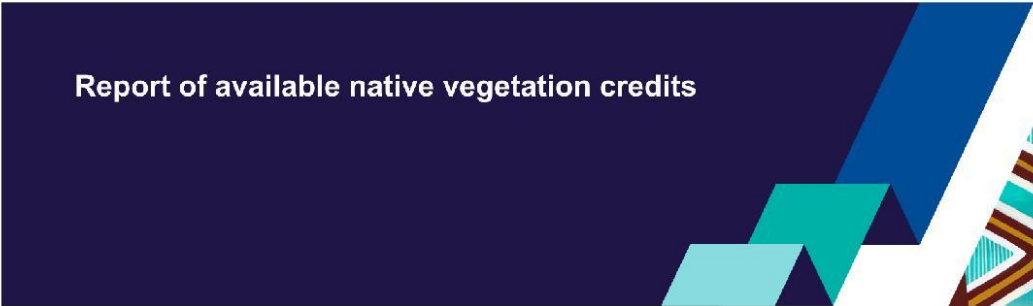
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Appendix 11: Availability of Native Vegetation Credits



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: 08/04/2026 08:22 Report ID: 34937

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large riparian	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)
0.005	0.3124	0	West Gippsland or LGA Latrobe City

Details of available native vegetation credits on 08 April 2026 08:22

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0115	2.313	0	West Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
BBA-0119	2.741	73	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-0138	12.119	419	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric
BBA-1041	0.146	148	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-1146	0.009	8	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos
BBA-2348	3.442	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2757	0.436	0	West Gippsland	Bass Coast Shire	No	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
BBA-2810	7.758	613	West Gippsland	Latrobe City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2833	5.401	20	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos
BBA-2849	2.645	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
BBA-2850	5.888	0	West Gippsland	Latrobe City	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
BBA-2855	0.549	1	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2875	32.787	1032	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco
TFN-C1442	2.726	58	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
TFN-C1692	0.164	222	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

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VC_CFL-2320_02	0.174	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3696_01	0.330	183	West Gippsland	Bass Coast Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ethos, VegLink
VC_CFL-3797_01	6.353	883	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ecocentric, 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)
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There are no potential sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements.

LT - Large Trees

CMA - Catchment Management Authority

LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority

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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
Fully traded				
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@deeca.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
IDES	ID Ecological Management	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nilumbik SC	Nilumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nilumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nilumbik.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 DEECA 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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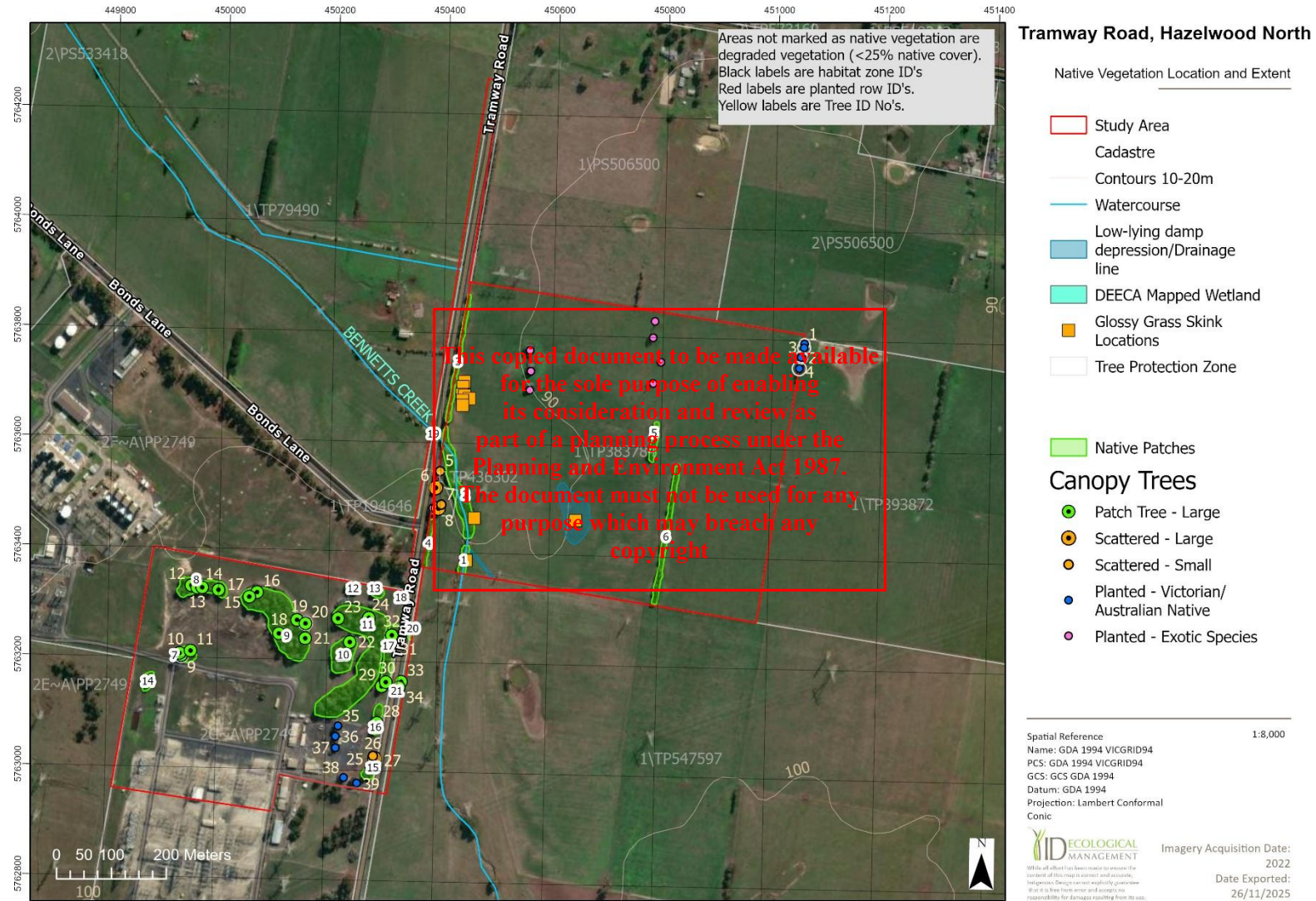
Maps

Maps commence on the next page.

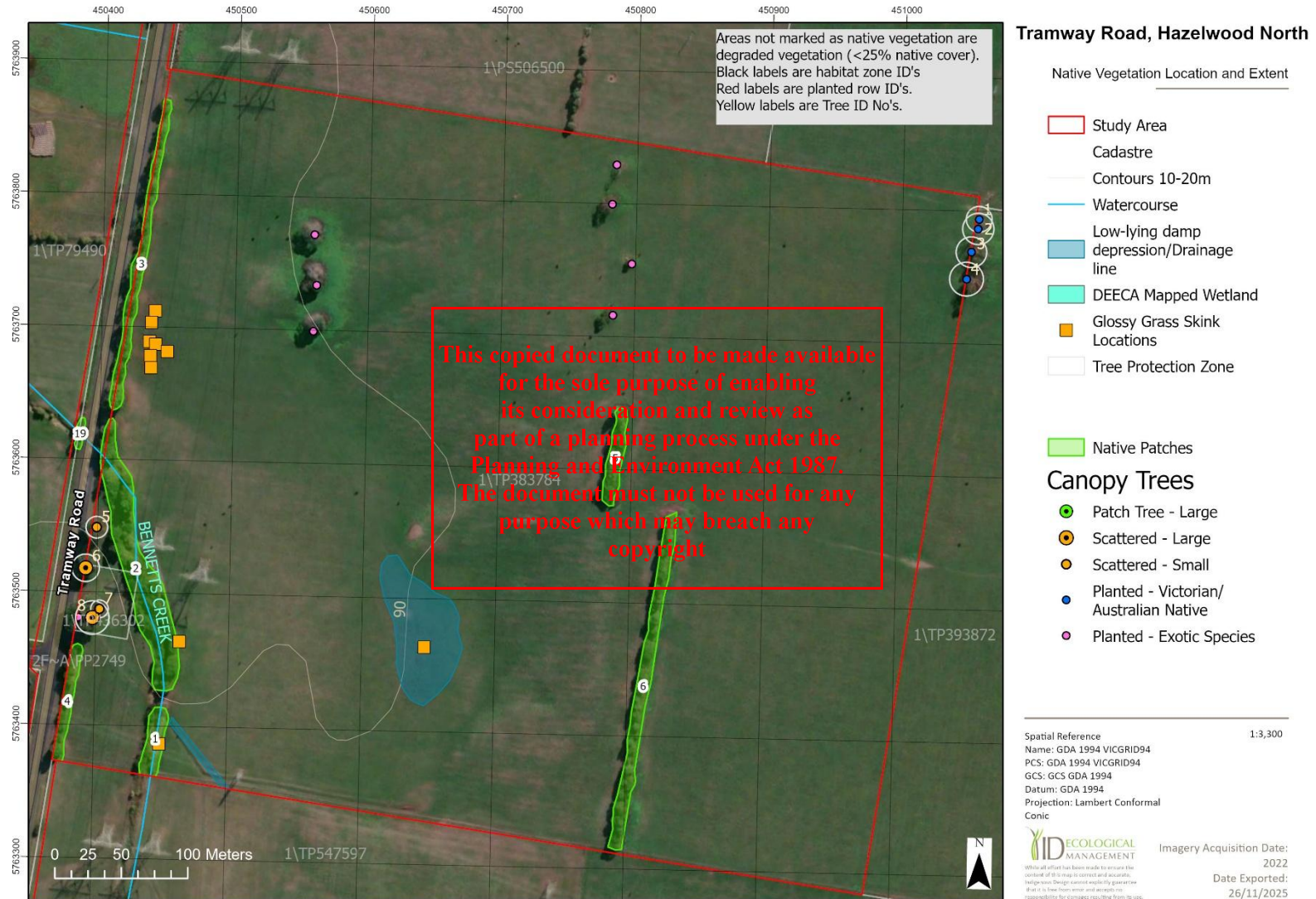
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Map 1a- Native Vegetation Location and Ecological Values



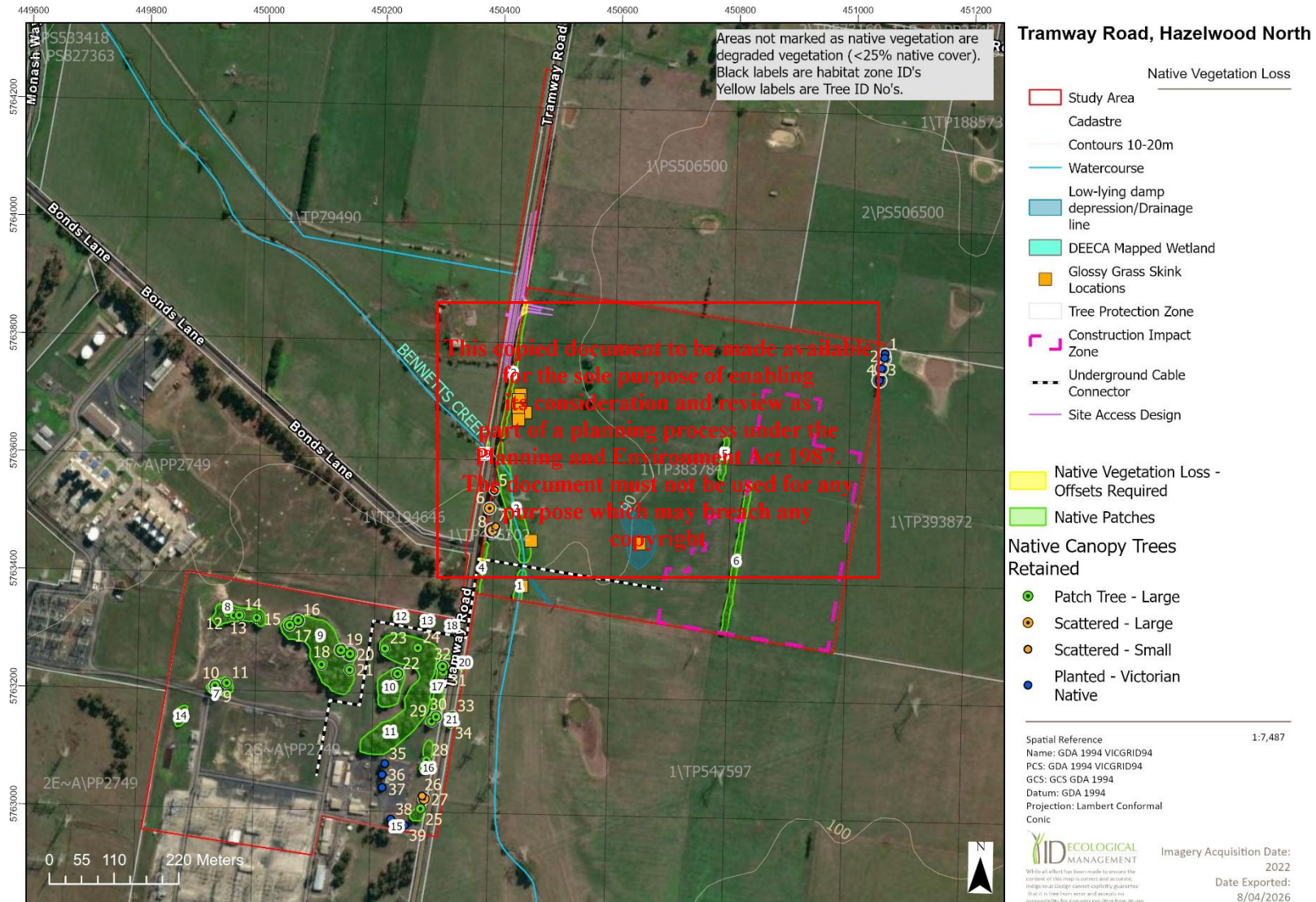
Map 1b– Native Vegetation and Ecological Values



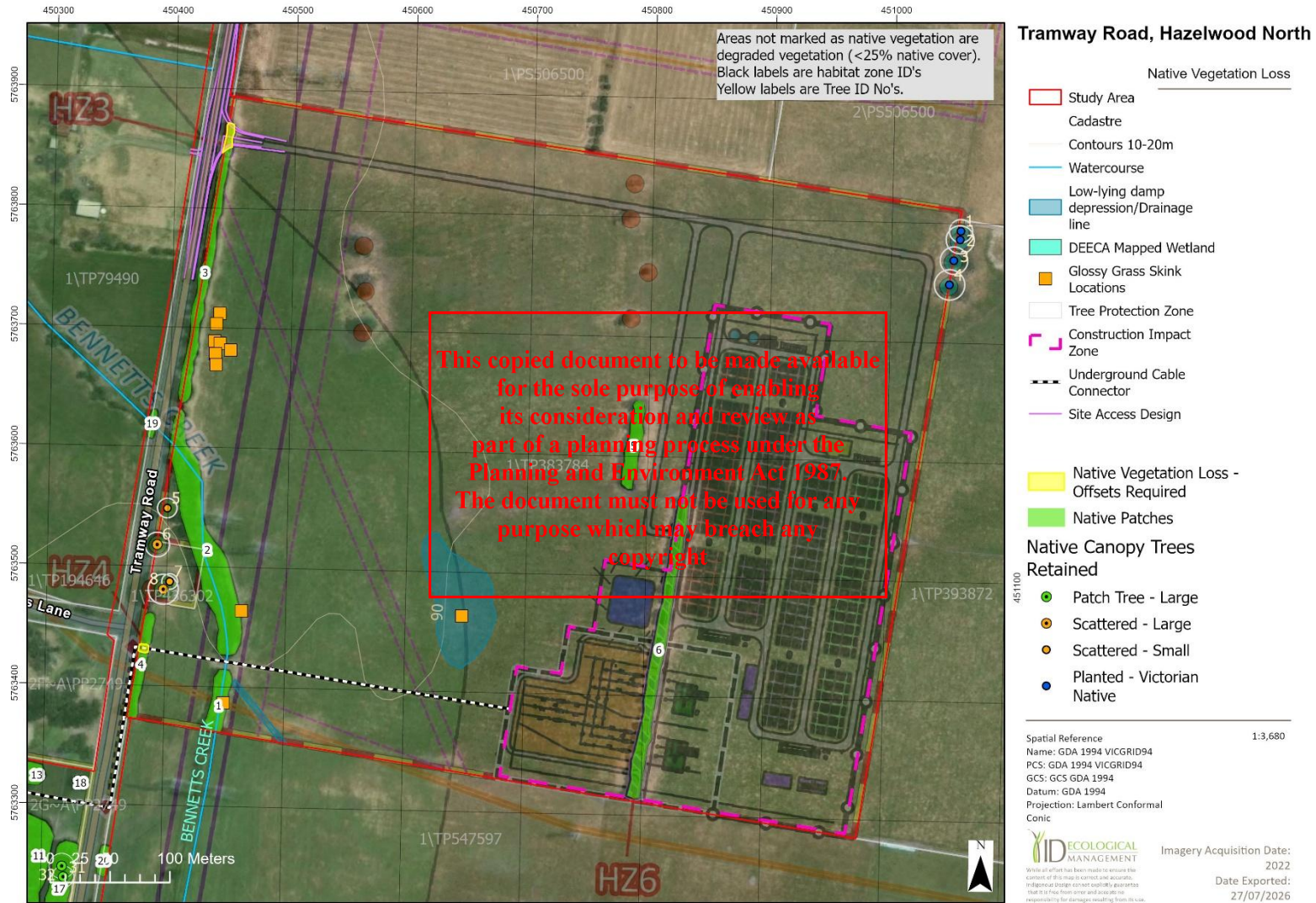
Map 1c- Native Vegetation and Ecological Values



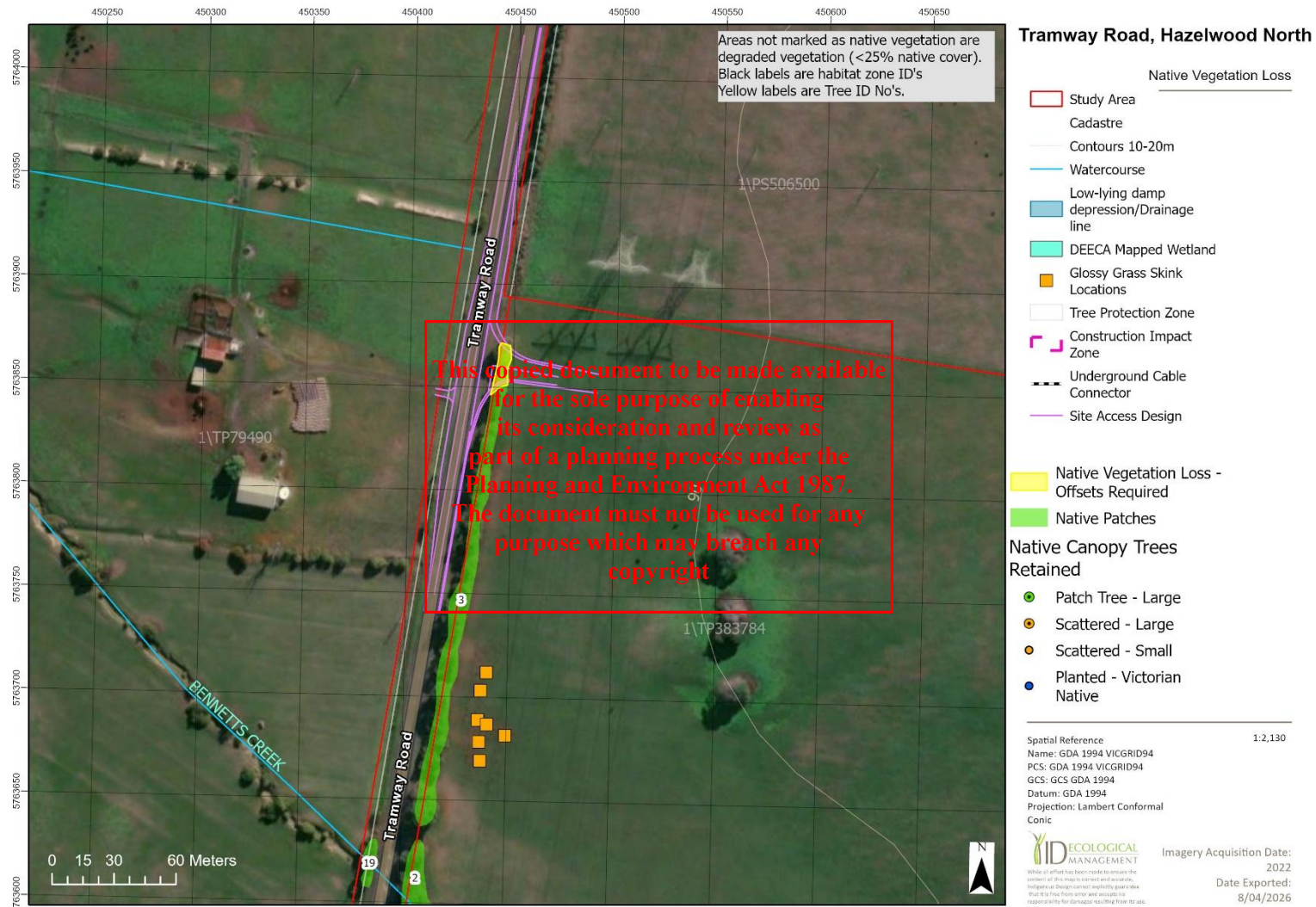
Map 2a- Native Vegetation Loss



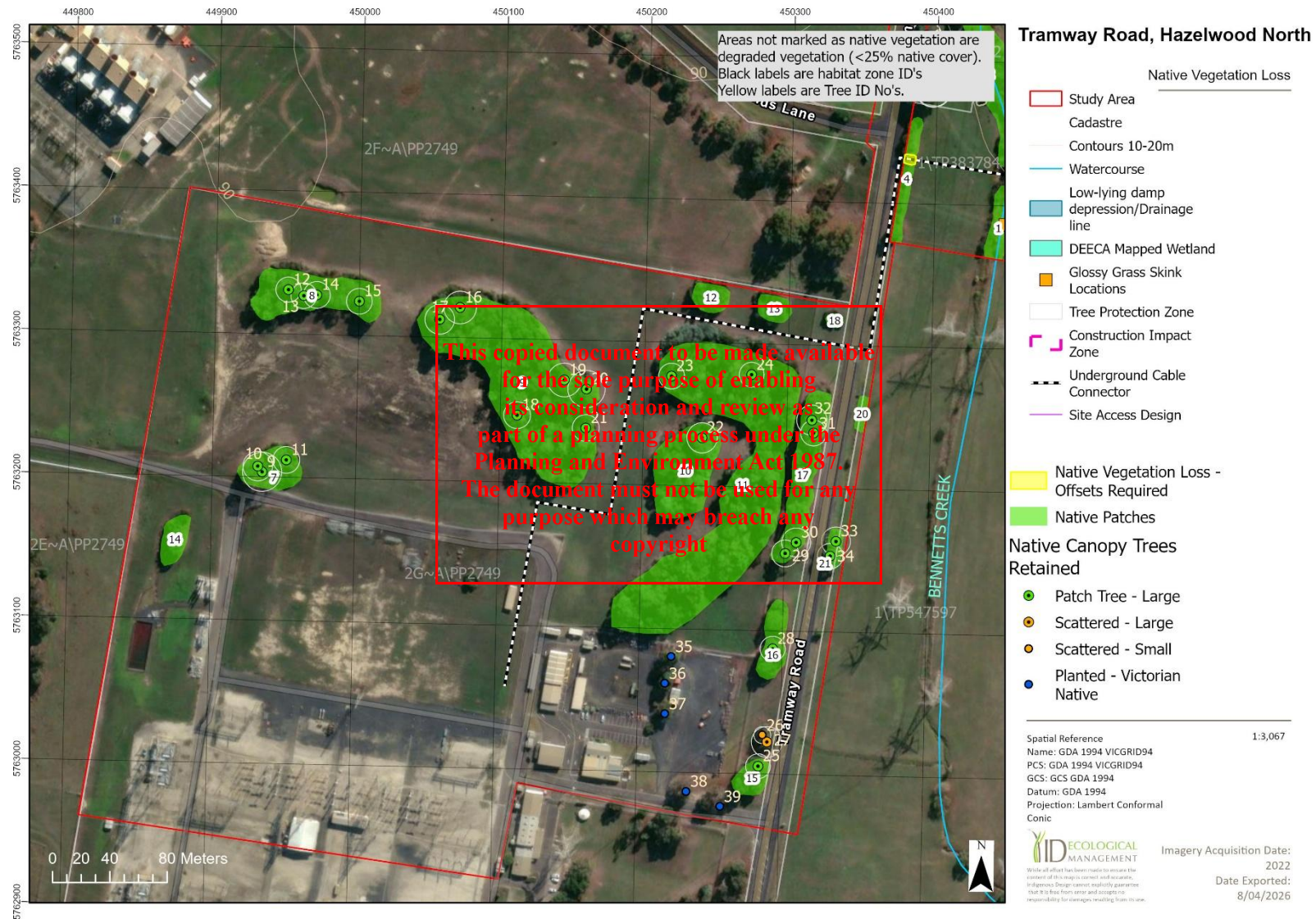
Map 2b- Native Vegetation Loss - Focused



Map 2c- Native Vegetation Loss - Focused



Map 2d- Native Vegetation Loss - Focused



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