Appendix 2

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Ecological Assessment

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Prepared for
Voyager Renewables Pty Ltd
ABN: 79 670 848 692

AECOM

Ecological Assessment Report

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Hazelwood East Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

18-Jun-2026

Ecological Assessment Report

Hazelwood East Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Client: Voyager Renewables Pty Ltd

ABN: 79 670 848 692

Prepared by

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Executive Summary

Voyager Renewables Pty Ltd (Voyager) is proposing to develop, construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of approximately 500 MW/ 2,000 MWh capacity, at 545 Tramway Road, Hazelwood North. The Hazelwood East BESS (the Project) would connect to Hazelwood Terminal Station on the adjacent site and would comprise a BESS to store excess energy from the grid during periods of low demand, releasing it back to the grid during high demand periods.

The purpose of this report is to identify ecological values present on the site and assess the potential ecological impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project to inform the preparation of the planning permit required for the Project.

The Site Boundary is approx. 140 hectares and includes the following (shown in Figure 1, Appendix A):

- The private property at 545 Tramway Road (Lot 1 TP547597)
- The proposed 500kV underground cable and sections of the Hazelwood Terminal Station property
- Adjacent road reserves of Tramway Road

Key findings

Features of the Site Boundary

- The private property primarily consists of agricultural land with a dwelling, a large dam in the western section and a small dam in the eastern section. Bennetts Creek runs through the western section of the site.
- The Hazelwood Terminal Station contains regularly mown lawns with areas of planted trees and shrubs for screening and amenity around the existing station buildings and infrastructure.
- There are overhead transmission lines running through the Site Boundary, including transmission towers in the grazing land.

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Native Vegetation

- The Site Boundary has been historically cleared for agricultural land use and the terminal station, such that there is no vegetation resembling woodland or forest. The Swamp Scrub is no longer present in most of the creek and what remains is severely disturbed with little or no scrub canopy.
- Native vegetation is present in the form of 14 habitat zones totalling an area of 0.307 ha (all small in size and scoring poorly against the EVC benchmarks due to severe disturbance and modified conditions) and 1 large scattered tree.
- In addition, the Current Wetlands Map from DEECA (2025e) identified three (3) mapped wetlands within the dams in the Site Boundary, namely, wetland 478358, wetland 478362 and wetland 478357. These mapped wetlands also constitute native vegetation.

Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs)

- No TECs were found to be present in the Site Boundary.

Threatened flora and fauna species

- A total of 5 threatened flora species were identified in the Site Boundary, however, only as planted specimens:
  - One individual of Strzelecki Gum *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* (EPBC Act: Vulnerable, FFG Act: Critically Endangered) – planted
  - Giant Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris* (FFG Act: Endangered) – planted
  - Sticky Wattle *Acacia howittii* (FFG Act: Vulnerable) – planted
  - Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata* (FFG Act: Vulnerable) – planted
  - Southern Blue-gum *Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus* (FFG Act: Endangered) – planted

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- Other than the planted specimens above, no other threatened flora or threatened fauna species are considered likely to potentially occur in the Site Boundary (either considered 'unlikely to occur' or having a 'low' likelihood of occurrence).

Locally significant fauna

- The Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* is not listed as threatened in Victoria and only the combined populations of New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act. However, the 'Strzelecki/South Gippsland Koala' population is of particular importance for conservation in the Latrobe LGA. Therefore, the potential habitat values for the 'Strzelecki' Koala have been considered. It was assessed that the Koala has an overall 'low' likelihood of occurrence in the Site Boundary.

Impacts and legislative implications

The Site Boundary is largely degraded due to historical use for agriculture and development of infrastructure such as the Hazelwood terminal station and existing transmission lines. Based on the desktop and field assessments conducted, it was determined that no TECs are present and that no threatened flora or fauna are likely to occur in the Site Boundary. As such, there are no implications under the EPBC Act, EE Act, FFG Act or other relevant legislation.

The Project layout may require the removal of native vegetation, specifically, DEECA mapped wetland 478362 located at the eastern side of the Site Boundary. Voyager has designed the current indicative layout of the Project to avoid direct impact on the wetland, however it is located directly adjacent to the Project footprint and therefore has the potential to be disturbed by construction works.

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If impacted, the removal of wetland 478362 equates to a total of **0.09 ha** of native vegetation removal. This would need to be offset in accordance with the Guidelines (DEECA, 2025). All offsets must be secured prior to the removal of native vegetation.

The offset requirements for the native vegetation removal would be as follows:

- 0.018 general habitat units which must include the following requirements:
  - Minimum strategic biodiversity value of 0.272
  - Occur within the West Gippsland CMA boundary or the Latrobe City Council

An online search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register shows that the offset above is currently available for purchase from a native vegetation credit owner.

The Project is proposed to include construction of an access road crossing over Bennett Creek. With appropriate management, impacts such as those associated with erosion and sedimentation from the construction works are expected to be temporary and minor. As the creek is ephemeral and is severely altered and degraded from historical grazing activities, no significant impacts on aquatic ecology are expected from the works.

The construction of the bridge is likely to require a "Works on Waterways" permit under the Victorian *Water Act 1989*. Confirmation of whether this permit is required should be sought from the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Recommended mitigation

Standard construction mitigation measures will help to further avoid or mitigate impacts arising from the construction works, e.g. erosion and sediment control, no-go zones and tree protection zones. It is recommended these mitigation measures are outlined in an environmental management plan prepared prior to construction.

While not specifically required under current legislative or approval triggers for the Project, the environmental management plan should also consider measures to revegetate the riparian areas along Bennetts Creek with locally indigenous flora species to improve habitat quality along the creek, stabilize creek banks and enhance the aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity in the Site Boundary.

Abbreviations and glossary of terms

Table 1 Abbreviations and Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Definition
ALA	Atlas of Living Australia
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (federal)
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (state)
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EE Act	*Environment Effects Act 1978*
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
FFG Act	*Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HZ	Habitat Zone
MNES	Matter of National Environmental Significance
P&E Act	*Planning and Environment Act 1987*
PMST	Protected Matters Search Tool
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
VQA	Vegetation Quality Assessment
VBA	Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance

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1.0 Introduction

Voyager Renewables Pty Ltd (Voyager) is proposing to develop, construct and operate the Hazelwood East Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in response to significant changes in Australia's energy market and policy settings, including the rapid growth of variable renewable energy generation and the progressive retirement of coal-fired power stations. Large-scale battery storage presents an opportunity to enhance grid flexibility and reliability by enabling renewable energy to be stored and dispatched when it is most needed, supporting the ongoing transition of Victoria's energy system.

Hazelwood East is strategically located within the Latrobe Valley, a region with established electricity infrastructure and a long history of energy generation. The proposed Project would leverage existing transmission capacity associated with the former Hazelwood Power Station, reducing the need for new transmission lines. This development approach minimises potential environmental impacts and supports the continued evolution of the Latrobe Valley as a key energy precinct.

Voyager's objective for the Project is to provide large-scale energy storage that supports grid stability during periods of peak demand. The facility would store excess electricity generated from renewable sources, such as wind and solar, and dispatch this energy when demand exceeds supply or when generation is constrained. In doing so, the Project would contribute to the reliability of Victoria's energy grid and support local economic outcomes through construction employment and supplier engagement, while continuing the area's legacy as a critical contributor to Victoria's electricity supply.

The purpose of this report is to identify ecological values present on the site and assess the potential ecological impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project to inform the preparation of the planning permit required for the Project.

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2.0 Project Description

2.1 Project overview

Voyager Renewables Pty Ltd (Voyager) is proposing to develop, construct and operate a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of approximately 500 MW/ 2,000 MWh capacity, at 545 Tramway Road, Hazelwood North. The Hazelwood East BESS (the Project) would connect to Hazelwood Terminal Station on the adjacent site and would comprise a BESS to store excess energy from the grid during periods of low demand, releasing it back to the grid during high demand periods.

The project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of a BESS with a 500 MW maximum power output capacity with 4-hour duration (i.e. 2,000 MWh) and associated infrastructure.

The BESS will consist of:

- Approximately 432 containerised battery units and approximately 144 inverters and two main power transformers to step up from 33 kV to 500kV
- 33kV underground cable connection from the battery units to the project collector substation
- A project collector substation comprising 33 kV switchgear, main power transformers, protection and control systems, control rooms and switchrooms, 500 kV high-voltage switchgear (including switchyard) and associated harmonic filtering equipment
- 500 kV underground cable connection from the electrical substation to the Hazelwood Terminal Station (Point of Connection), including underground cables crossing Tramway Road.
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) compound including O&M building, amenities, car parking sufficient for employees and contractors during operation
- Stormwater management infrastructure, firewater management devices including water tanks and hydrants, internal access tracks and acoustic barriers.
- Upgrades to existing, and construction of new access track and crossover from Tramway Road.

Other ancillary infrastructure including boundary security fencing, lighting and landscaping.

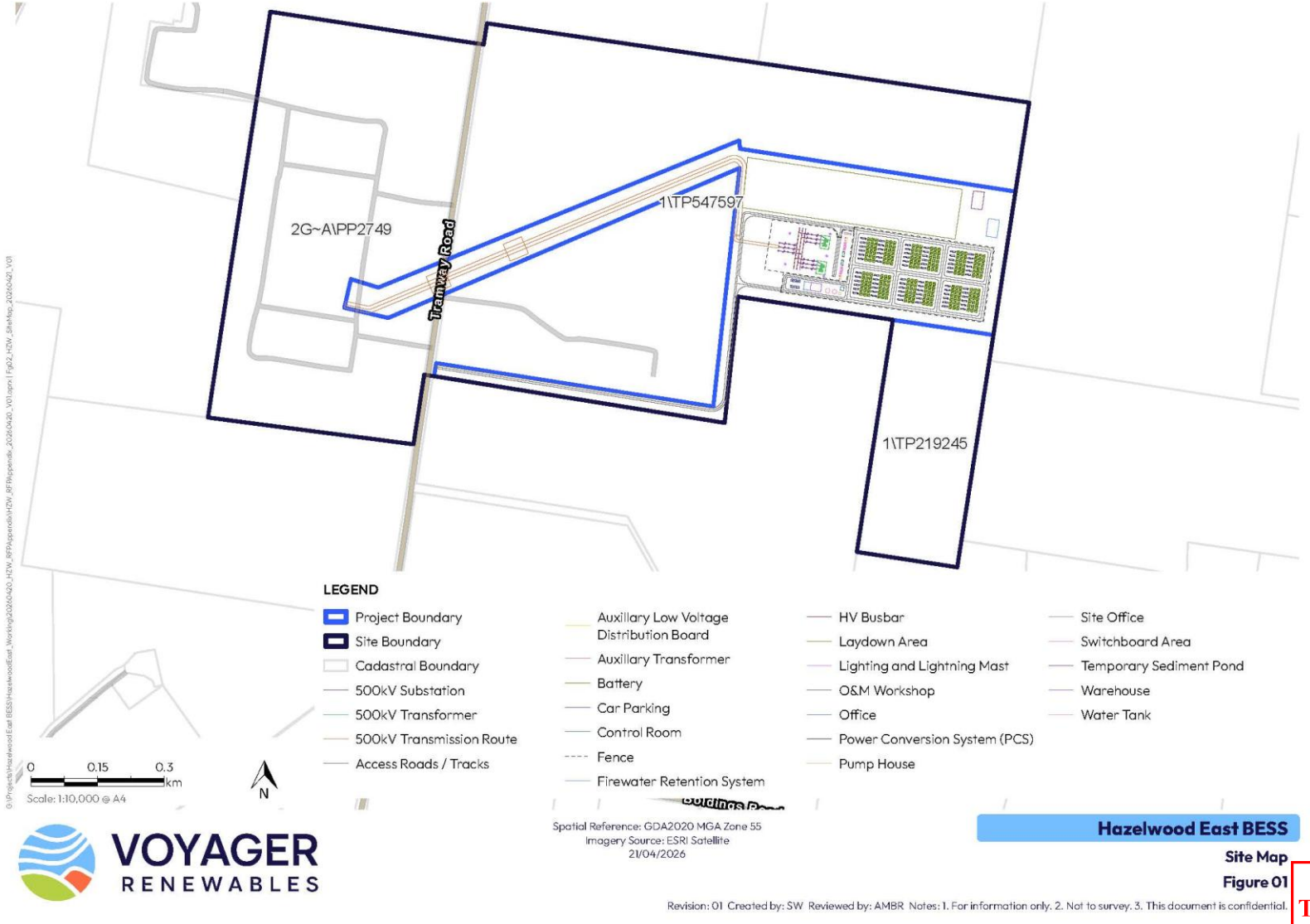
2.2 Site context

The BESS site is approximately 38 hectares within the property at 545 Tramway Road, which is primarily used for grazing within the Farming Zone (FZ). It is located 4.2 kilometres south of Morwell and 1.5 kilometres north of Churchill, within the City of Latrobe local government area.

The Site Boundary is approximately 140 hectares, including the entire property at 545 Tramway Road and the Hazelwood Terminal Station.

Surrounding areas include Jeeralang Power Station and Wooreen BESS to the west and farmland with rural properties to the north, east and south.

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Inset 1. Site boundary and indicative site layout

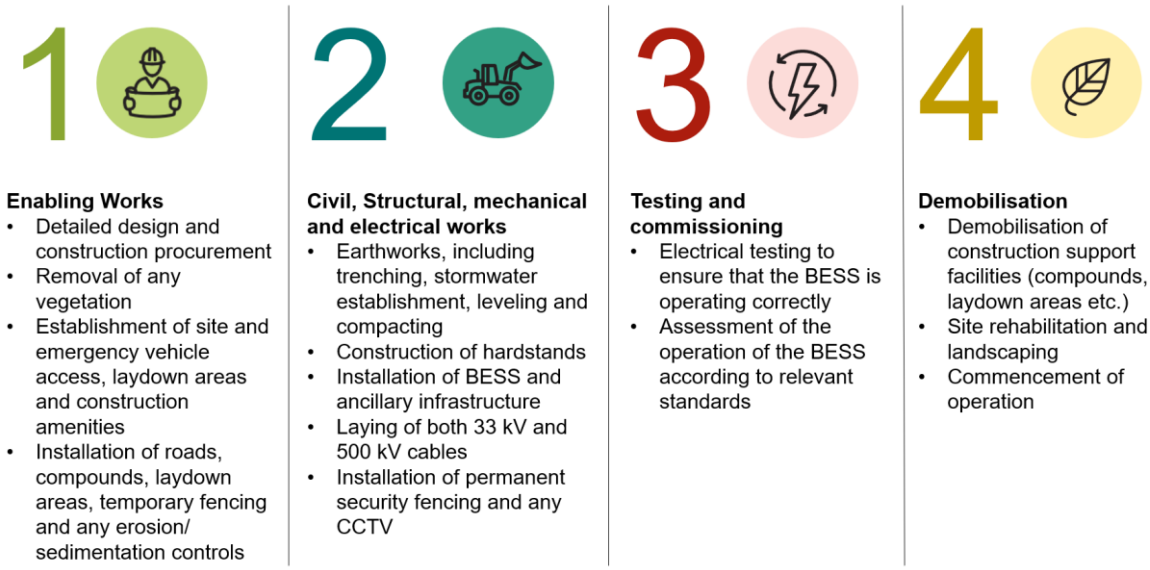
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2.3 Project construction

The Project will move through various phases during construction. Inset 2 below highlights what these different phases would be and the key activities within each phase.



Inset 2. Phases of Project construction

2.4 Operation

The operational life of the BESS is indicatively estimated at 40 years, contingent on component replacement and ongoing asset management. The Project would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week as an unmanned facility. The BESS would be managed remotely and staffed by up to two (2) full time equivalent staff as well as ad hoc contractors, as required during both planned and unplanned maintenance periods. It would be anticipated no more than 10 people would be on site an anytime.

During operation, key activities would include:

- Environmental monitoring in accordance with the conditions of approvals and management plans.
- Service and repair of any onsite infrastructure.
- Maintenance of internal access tracks, drainage and culverts, fencing/gate and other civil works.
- Maintenance of BESS, electrical reticulation system, substation and control systems.

2.5 Decommissioning

The operational life of the BESS is indicatively estimated at 40 years, after which time the project would commence decommissioning. During decommissioning above ground components would be removed and recycled where possible, and land rehabilitated. The battery units would either be disposed of, repurposed or recycled at a licensed disposal facility. The decommissioning timeframe is expected to be approximately 12 months post operation phase.

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3.0 Methods

The methods used for this study are described below. The key steps included:

- Identification of Site Boundary
- Desktop review
- Field assessment
- Likelihood of occurrence assessment
- Assessment of impacts and review of legislative implications

3.1 Site Boundary

The Site Boundary was identified to include the Project boundary which includes the indicative Project layout. The Site Boundary contains the following as shown in Figure 1, Appendix A:

- The private property at 545 Tramway Road (Lot 1 TP547597) – which will host most of the proposed Project infrastructure
- The sections of the Hazelwood Terminal Station property necessary to connect to the BESS
- Adjacent road reserves of Tramway Road.

Database searches of the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) and the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) were undertaken with a 10 km buffer applied to the Site Boundary.

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3.2 Desktop review

AECOM prepared the following previous report, which is relevant to the Site Boundary and was used to inform the current ecological assessment:

- AECOM (2024) *Proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems Hazelwood – Rapid Constraints Assessment.* Report prepared for Ironbark Energy Storage Pty Ltd.

Databases searches were undertaken for records of significant species and ecological communities that are known or modelled to occur within the Site Boundary and surrounding landscape, and for other general environmental information:

- EPBC Act PMST database administered by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to identity Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) that may occur. The output from the PMST search is provided as Appendix B. Accessed January 2026 and incorporated a buffer of 10 km from the Site Boundary.
- Online tools administered by the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) including:
  - VBA database for records of threatened flora and fauna species listed under the EPBC Act and/or the FFG Act within a buffer of 10 km from the Site Boundary (VBA, 2026).
  - NatureKit for information on Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), Bioregions, Local Government Areas, Catchment Management Authority boundaries, and the maps that are used in the native vegetation removal regulations (native vegetation location map, native vegetation condition map, habitat value map and habitat importance maps for Victoria's rare or threatened species) (DEECA, 2025c).
  - Mapshare Vic for location of mapped wetlands (DEECA, 2025e).
  - Native Vegetation Regulation Map (NVR Map) online tool for information related to native vegetation removal regulations (DEECA, 2025d).
  - EVC Benchmarks to use in assessing native vegetation quality using the Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) method (DELWP, 2021).

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- Other sources of information used in this assessment included:
  - Historical to current, high-resolution satellite imagery (Nearmap, 2025).

3.3 Field assessment

Field assessments were conducted by two AECOM staff who are DEECA accredited Vegetation Quality Assessors (Caroline Tan and Amy Hunter) on 30th January 2026 and 9th April 2026.

These surveys were designed to ground-truth the outcomes of desktop analyses and habitat modelling, and to document ecological features of the Site Boundary.

The field assessments involved:

- Mapping patches of native vegetation and assessing their condition through a VQA
- Assess the existence of *Current mapped wetlands* as mapped by DEECA
- Identification of potential suitable habitat for threatened species

Further details on survey design and specific methodologies are provided in the following subsections.

3.3.1 Native vegetation

Native vegetation within the Site Boundary was mapped and assessed according to the prescriptions of Victoria's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025). Under the Guidelines, native vegetation is classified in types known as EVCs and is considered to be either a patch or scattered tree.

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A VQA was completed for any patches of native vegetation identified. The VQA was undertaken using the Habitat Hectares method as described in the *Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – guidelines for applying the habitat hectare scoring method* (DSE, 2004). Individual patches are termed Habitat Zones (HZ) in accordance with DEECA terminology.

The total extent of native vegetation was calculated for patches (including mapped wetlands if relevant) in hectares (DEECA, 2025a).

The location of patches was mapped using an iPhone SE which has a spatial accuracy of approximately ± 5 metres depending on access to satellites.

Any standing dead trees were also recorded in accordance with the Guidelines (i.e. any standing dead tree with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of 40 cm or more).

3.3.2 Current mapped wetlands

Any mapped wetlands identified in the *Current wetlands map* by DEECA (2025e) during the desktop assessment were assessed in the field to determine their presence and condition.

The *Current wetlands map* is used to identify wetlands which can be difficult to identify on site due to their dynamic nature. Wetlands and their associated vegetation may appear and disappear depending on wetting and drying, so wetlands are displayed as modelled features rather than relying on what is seen on ground.

The map has been generated by DEECA using a combination of aerial photo interpretation and field validation. Areas mapped as wetlands by DEECA (2026b) are regarded as a patch of native vegetation and are included in Location 2 of the Location risk map in the Native Vegetation Removal Report when calculating offsets for native vegetation removal (DEECA, 2026d). These wetlands are not assigned an EVC by DEECA (2026b).

3.3.3 Threatened species preferred habitat assessments

An assessment of the habitat of the Site Boundary and its potential to support threatened flora and/or fauna species was also undertaken. The assessment focussed on those species with previous records within the Site Boundary, with previous records within 10 km of the Site Boundary on the VBA or that have been predicted to occur on the PMST. The outcomes of the habitat assessment informed the assessment of likelihood of threatened and/migratory species occurring in the Site Boundary (see Section 2.3 below).

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Common and scientific names of plants and animals (reptiles, birds, mammals, amphibians and fish) used in this report follow the VBA.

3.4 Likelihood of occurrence assessment

Potential threatened species and communities listed under the EPBC Act and the FFG Act were searched within a 10 km radius. Historical records of threatened species and communities were identified through searches of the VBA database, as well as potentially occurring threatened species and communities based on habitat modelling by the PMST. The resultant list of species and communities that could occur across the landscape formed the basis for the likelihood of occurrence assessment.

The resultant list of potentially occurring threatened species was created based on searches of the VBA and PMST conducted in January 2026.

The likelihood of occurrence approach refined the desktop-generated list using site-specific and species-specific habitat information. Desktop sources are indicative only as there are multiple factors that are considered when assigning likelihood rankings, particularly the presence of preferred habitat and connectivity to known or suspected populations. Very recent records (i.e. <5 years) are a good indication of presence, but lack of records does not equate to absence. The likelihood rankings are therefore conservative.

Listed threatened and migratory species were assessed for their likelihood to inhabit the Site Boundary based on the presence of their habitat and the likelihood criteria outlined in Table 2. A comparable assessment of the potential presence of threatened ecological communities (TECs) in the Site Boundary was also undertaken.

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This process was used to short-list species that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed works and therefore, prioritise field survey effort.

Table 2 Likelihood of occurrence categories and definitions

Likelihood	Description
Unlikely	No preferred habitat and/or Site Boundary is outside the species' known range. Species unlikely to be present at any time or during any season.
Low	Some suitable habitat is present in the Site Boundary, but the habitat is substantially degraded / in poor condition. In the case of fauna, species may infrequently or opportunistically visit the habitat for foraging but will not roost, breed or otherwise depend on the habitat for their survival. Migratory and aerial foraging birds may overfly the Site Boundary.
Medium	Suitable habitat is present in the Site Boundary but is somewhat modified, which reduces the likelihood of the species being present or persisting in the habitat. In the case of fauna, the habitat may be used regularly (at least seasonally) but is not likely to represent habitat critical for survival (core habitat).
High	Species' preferred habitat is present in good condition and/or species is known to occur based on past records or targeted survey. Habitat is likely to support a population of the species. In the case of fauna, the Site Boundary supports breeding, roosting or regular foraging habitat. Recently recorded on site according to VBA/ALA or other source.
Known	Seen or heard on site during field assessment

3.5 Assessment of impacts and legislative implications

The key steps conducted to assess the impacts and implications in relation to both Commonwealth and Victorian legislation were:

- Potential impacts of the Project on ecological values for each phase of the Project were reviewed, including consideration of the extent, magnitude and duration of impacts;
- Mitigation measures were identified with consideration of avoidance and minimisation measures;
- Residual impacts were assessed with consideration of the implications under each relevant legislation. Requirements for referral under key legislation were also considered.

3.6 Assumptions and limitations

The findings of this report are subject to the following assumptions and limitations:

- Mapping was conducted using hand-held units (iPhone SE) and aerial photo interpretation. Spatial data was corrected to a georeferenced aerial image of the site to improve the accuracy of the mapped features such as patches of native vegetation. It is not recommended that these points be relied on for detailed design purposes requiring sub-metre accuracy.
- The native vegetation mapping was undertaken outside of the ideal identification period (i.e. spring) for most flora species. Where species could not be identified to species level, they have been recorded to genus.
- The spatial analysis of biodiversity attributes is complex and has significant limitations when it is driven by historical record data such as the VBA. The timing of surveys and incidental observations may not correspond with ideal sampling periods; there may be limited survey effort in the area if it is extensively private land; and some species have naturally low detectability rates. The validity of records accepted by the VBA has not been assessed as part of this report.
- The advice relating to biodiversity legislation and policy does not constitute legal advice.
- This assessment assumes there would be no impacts on native vegetation outside of the Site Boundary shown in Figure 1, Appendix A.
- The list of flora and fauna species recorded during fieldwork for this project (Appendix e) is not considered to be exhaustive, as limitations such as survey timing or naturally low detectability rates may have resulted in some species remaining undetected.
- Plants were identified to species level wherever possible, however, some plants that were planted specimens were recorded to genus level.
- Individual native plants were only mapped if they met the definition of a patch or a Scattered Tree, or are a threatened species.
- This assessment includes terrestrial vascular plant species (ferns, conifers and flowering plants) and terrestrial vertebrate fauna (mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs). Non-vascular flora (e.g. mosses, liverworts, lichens), fungi and terrestrial invertebrates have not been considered as part of this assessment, except where listed threatened species are known or suspected to occur, or where bryophytes comprise part of an EVC benchmark. Fish and aquatic invertebrates were not recorded, but were considered as part of this assessment.

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4.0 Existing Conditions

4.1.1 Site summary

The Site Boundary is approx. 140 hectares and lies in the Gippsland Plain bioregion.

The private grazing land at 545 Tramway Road is immediately surrounded by similar rural properties used for pasture, with the Hazelwood Terminal Station on the western side of Tramway Road. Both properties have been historically cleared of the original vegetation. The grazing land was evidently sown with introduced pasture grasses. The terminal station land was levelled and the areas that do not have existing built infrastructure were either revegetated for screening and amenity or planted for lawns. Exotic grassy weeds have colonised and dominated the remaining open areas.

Major features in the wider landscape also include the Hazelwood Coal Mine, Hazelwood Cooling Pond, Jeeralang Power Station and Wooreen BESS to the west, with remnant forest and plantations approx. 4 to 5 km to the east and south.

4.1.1.1 Grazing land

The private grazing land contains open pasture, a dwelling, a large dam in the western section and a small dam in the southeastern section. Bennetts Creek runs through the western section. The creek is connected outside the Site Boundary to Waterhole Creek, which is in turn connected to the Latrobe River. There are also overhead transmission lines running through the Site Boundary.

The grazing land is generally flat and comprises introduced grasses including Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Prairie Grass *Bromus catharticus* and Barley grasses *Hordeum* spp.

Almost all of the trees on the grazing land, with the exception of one, still had evidence of planting and are sometimes in windrows. Only two tree species are appropriate to the modelled EVCs and geology of the area, namely, Strzelecki Gum and Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus ovata*. The other tree species do not naturally occur in the region, such as Monterrey Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa*, *Eucalyptus botryoides* Southern Mahogany and Southern Blue-gum *Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus*.



Photo 1. Photo of the grazing land in the Site Boundary, taken during the field assessment

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Photo 2. Typical state of the creek within the grazing land, taken during the field assessment

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Comparison of the earliest available aerial imagery from Nearmap and Google Earth with recent imagery indicates that the grazing land in the Site Boundary has remained in its current state for more than 15 years (Image 1 and 2 below).



Image 1. Aerial imagery of the Site Boundary from Nearmap, dated October 2012



Image 2. Aerial imagery of the Site Boundary from Google Earth, dated October 2010

There is a dwelling near the centre of the grazing property with a small garden including planted trees. This area does not constitute native vegetation or contain other ecological values of note.

4.1.1.2 Hazelwood Terminal Station

The proposed 500kV underground cable will cross under Tramway Road from the BESS on the grazing land to the Hazelwood Terminal Station (approx. 5 ha). This area comprises open grassland that are usually dominated by exotic grasses, with patches of planted trees and shrubs.

The grasslands at the frontage (eastern section) of the station consist primarily of regularly mown, single-species lawns for amenity. The vegetation at the western and southern sections of the station are not maintained but still reduced to open areas of dense exotic grass, primarily Paspalum *Paspalum dilatatum*. The grasslands at the northern section contain a mixture of indigenous and non-indigenous groundcover plants, generally dominated by grassy weeds like Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*, as well as herbaceous weeds like Buck's-horn Plantain *Plantago coronopus* and Common Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*. However, there are

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scattered occurrences of indigenous grasses like Wallaby Grasses *Rytidosperma spp.*, Spear Grasses *Austrostipa spp*., Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* and Windmill-grass *Chloris truncata*.

The planted patches of trees and shrubs contain a mixture of indigenous and non-indigenous flora species, with the canopy comprising planted *Eucalyptus* trees. Visual evidence of planting/revegetation include tree guards and the arrangement of trees planted in linear swales. Some of the indigenous species include Swamp Gum, Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora*, Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. viminalis*, Gold Dust Wattle *Acacia acinacea*, Sallow Wattle *Acacia longifolia subsp. longifolia* and Snowy Daisy-bush *Olearia lirata*. However, many of the tree and shrub species planted are outside their natural distribution though known to be widely used in landscaping (e.g. Southern Mahogany, Southern Blue-gum, Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata*, Ovens Wattle *Acacia pravissima* and Prickly Paperbark *Melaleuca styphelioides*). The Giant Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris* is the dominant shrub species present but this area is outside its natural distribution.

All of these planted patches have become infested with weed shrubs including Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*, Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana,* Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and African Boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum.* The ground layer lacks indigenous flora, other than sparsely scattered Common Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma caespitosum* and Spear Grasses, with the dominant grasses being exotic species like Sweet Vernal-grass and Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*. The planted patches at the northern section of the station have scattered infestations of Pampas Grass *Cortaderia selloana*.

It appears that the plantings were primarily for amenity and screening purposes rather than for a biodiversity purpose (although it has some biodiversity benefits). These patches were created as fragmented areas, instead of a single larger patch or connected as part of a corridor, which would have been much more suitable for supporting biodiversity. The mixture of indigenous and non-indigenous species selected does not show intention to align with the local ecology. Maintenance appears limited to mowing the grassland around the revegetation, with no visible evidence of weed control.

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There is a small, artificial wetland at the northeastern section of the station, adjacent to a planted patch of Eucalypts, Sallow Wattle, Cypress Pine *Callitris sp*., Giant Honey-myrtle and Blackberry, with several clumps of Spiny-headed Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia* planted next to the wetland. This wetland features a partially rocky bed and bank lining, ephemerally fed by a shallow drainage line to the south that collects runoff from the surroundings. The vegetation in the wetland is dominated by aquatic weeds including the Salt-water Couch *Paspalum vaginatum*, Drain Flat-sedge *Cyperus eragrostis* and Aster weed *Symphyotrichum subulatum*. Indigenous wetland flora is limited to a small area (approx. 4 m²) of *Juncus spp.* and a small area (approx. 1 m²) of Common Spike-sedge *Eleocharis acuta*.



Photo 3. Representative photo of open grasslands around the terminal station

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Photo 4. Representative photo of scattered Kangaroo Grass amongst introduced grasses (at this location, this formed a habitat zone of native vegetation as Kangaroo Grass was >25% of the perennial grass present)



Photo 5. Representative photo of planted patches of trees and shrubs with mixed species

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Photo 6. Small man-made wetland dominated by the mat-forming, exotic Salt-water Couch

4.1.1.3 Tramway Road Reserve

The road reserve directly adjacent to the private grazing land contains dense grassy and herbaceous weeds, reflecting the weeds in the grazing area. The road reserve directly adjacent to the terminal station contains the same areas of planted trees and shrubs as those within the station property.

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4.1.2 Native Vegetation

4.1.2.1 Patches

The pre-1750 EVC modelling indicates that the Site Boundary historically consisted of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) and Plains Grassy Forest (EVC 151), as well as Swamp Scrub (EVC 53) associated with Bennetts Creek.

The field assessment recorded 14 habitat zones of native vegetation in the grazing land and the Hazelwood Terminal Station, totalling an area of 0.307 ha.

These habitat zones are extremely modified forms of the modelled pre-1750 EVCs. The Site Boundary has been historically cleared for agricultural land use, the terminal station and Tramway Road, such that there is no vegetation resembling woodland or forest. The Swamp Scrub is no longer present in most of the creek and what remains is severely disturbed with little or no scrub canopy. All of these habitat zones scored poorly with the Habitat Scores ranging from 10 to 33 out of 100 (as shown in Table 3).

The lowest scores occur for habitat zones in the terminal station, where the original vegetation has been cleared and some native grasses have re-occurred in areas of modified open grassland. These habitat zones contain few native species and there are no large tree, canopy, log and recruitment components compared to the EVC Benchmark for the pre-1750 EVCs of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) and Plains Grassy Forest (EVC 151). Due to their small patch sizes and the nature of the surrounding cleared lands, their landscape context scores are also poor.

The mapped areas of the habitat zones are shown on Figure 1, Appendix A, and the benchmarks for the relevant EVCs are provided in Appendix D. Details including descriptions and photos for the habitat zones are provided in Appendix E.

Table 3 Habitat Scores and Habitat Hectare Scores

HZ Name	Area (ha)	Habitat Score (out of 100)	Habitat Hectares
1	0.032	25	0.008
2	0.013	17	0.002

HZ Name	Area (ha)	Habitat Score (out of 100)	Habitat Hectares
3	0.035	17	0.006
4	0.012	10	0.001
5	0.034	10	0.003
6	0.038	10	0.004
7	0.028	14	0.004
8	0.015	14	0.002
9	0.006	14	0.001
10	0.015	26	0.004
11	0.014	16	0.002
12	0.027	26	0.007
13	0.030	33	0.010
14	0.005	17	0.001
-	**0.307**	-	-

4.1.2.2 Scattered Trees

The field assessment identified the following scattered tree in the Site Boundary:

- Tree 1: Large scattered tree – Swamp Gum, 77 cm DBH, located along Bennetts Creek near the southern boundary of the Site Boundary.

The location of this tree is shown on Figure 2, Appendix A.

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Photo 7. Large scattered tree, Swamp Gum.

4.1.2.3 Mapped Wetlands

The Current Wetlands Map from DEECA (2025e) identified three (3) mapped wetlands in the Site Boundary. These mapped wetlands also constitute native vegetation, unless approved by DEECA to be excluded.

Wetland 478358 is 0.4205 ha in size and mapped over a farm dam located near Bennetts Creek in the western section of the Site Boundary. Aerial imagery from Nearmap indicates that the dam can be fully or partially inundated with standing water in the deeper northern part (as can be seen in Image 3 and this was the case at the time of survey). The dam is completely devoid of emergent or fringing wetland vegetation, with 2 planted trees on the edge, and severely pugged by livestock access.

Wetland 478362 is 0.0902 ha in size and mapped over a farm dam located in the eastern section of the Site Boundary. Past aerial imagery from Nearmap indicates that this dam is often inundated but sometimes dries out – drying out is apparent during (from most recent) April 2025, January 2021, January 2020, April 2019, throughout 2018 and in January 2016. At the time of survey, the dam was completely dried out. The dam is completely devoid of emergent or fringing wetland vegetation, and severely pugged by livestock access.

Wetland 478357 is 0.0631 ha in size and mapped over a man-made wetland located near the western boundary of the terminal station. This wetland has been described in Section 4.1.1.2. It is fed by surface runoff and is dominated by invasive exotic plants with a very limited amount of native wetland flora. At the time of survey, the wetland contained a low level of water.

The mapped wetlands in the Site Boundary are shown on Figure 1, Appendix A.

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Photo 8. Wetland 478358, photo on left and DEECA mapping in pink on right

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Photo 9. Wetland 478362, photo on left and DEECA mapping in grey on right

4.1.3 Threatened Ecological Communities

No EPBC or FFG-listed TECs were identified within the Site Boundary.

4.1.4 Flora

The flora recorded within the Site Boundary reflect the historical clearing of the whole site, absence of remnant vegetation and ongoing land uses for grazing, roads and the terminal station.

A total of 98 flora species were identified in the Site Boundary, including 25 indigenous species and 73 species that were either non-indigenous or planted or both. A flora species list is provided in Appendix C.

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4.1.4.1 Threatened Flora

Searches of the VBA database and the PMST during the desktop assessment indicated that the search region (10 km buffer) contained records or modelled potential presence of 42 threatened flora species listed under the EPBC Act and/or FFG Act.

The field assessment identified 5 threatened flora species within the Site Boundary, however, all were planted:

- Giant Honey-myrtle *Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris* (FFG Act: Endangered) – multiple planted individuals in the planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station. This species is commonly cultivated for landscaping outside its natural range.
- Sticky Wattle *Acacia howittii* (FFG Act: Vulnerable) – planted individual in the planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station. This species is commonly cultivated for landscaping outside its natural range.
- Southern Blue-gum *Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus* (FFG Act: Endangered) – multiple planted individuals in both the grazing land and the planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station. This species is commonly cultivated for landscaping outside its natural range.
- Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata* (FFG Act: Vulnerable) – planted individual in the planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station. This species is commonly cultivated for landscaping outside its natural range.
- Strzelecki Gum *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* (EPBC Act: Vulnerable, FFG Act: Critically Endangered) – 1 planted individual located along Bennetts Creek as shown in Figure 2, Appendix A. This planted specimen still has the tree fencing remaining around the trunk (see Photo 7 below). The exact DBH could not be measured due to the fencing and was estimated to be approx. 75 cm.

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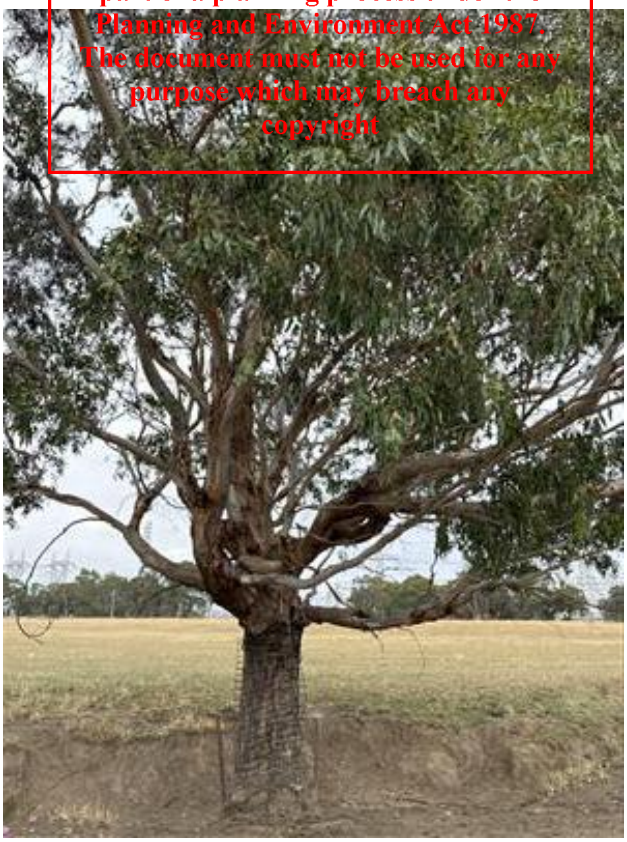


Photo 10. Single planted specimen of Strzelecki Gum in the Site Boundary

The likelihood of occurrence in the Site Boundary for threatened flora species is addressed in Appendix F. This analysis indicates that no threatened flora species are considered likely to occur (unless planted).

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4.1.4.2 Protected Flora

The field assessment did not identify any flora species that are 'generally protected flora' within the Site Boundary, as defined under the FFG Act (as amended 2021).

The field assessment identified eight 'restricted use protected flora' during the field survey (seven *Acacia* species that are indigenous to the region and Snow Daisy-bush *Olearia lirata* as listed in Appendix C), however they are planted specimens within private land at the Hazelwood Terminal Station.

4.1.5 Fauna

A total of 7 fauna species were incidentally observed and recorded at the Site Boundary during the field assessment, including six (6) indigenous species (5 birds and 1 butterfly) and one (1) non-indigenous species (rabbit). A fauna species list is provided in Appendix C.

4.1.5.1 Fauna Habitats

The Site Boundary contains the following fauna habitat types:

- Open grassland with scattered trees
- Aquatic habitat in Bennetts Creek and farm dams
- Planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station

4.1.5.1.1 Open grassland

Open grassland is the largest habitat type and covers most of the Site Boundary, including the pasture in the private grazing land, the road reserves of Tramway Road and regularly mown lawns at the terminal station.

The field assessment observed that all of the open grasslands lacked rocky outcrops, bush rocks, logs, coarse woody debris and leaf litter (except for leaf litter directly underneath trees).

All of the grassland areas, more so the pasture rather than mown lawn, would provide habitat for common and more mobile wildlife that are generally better adapted to anthropogenically disturbed areas. Examples include common 'meadow' birds like Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* and Australian Raven *Corvus coronoides*, and common reptiles like snakes and skinks.

The open grasslands would also be part of the hunting grounds for local raptor species. A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles *Aquila audax* overflew the Site Boundary during the survey in January 2026. The large trees and transmission line towers in the Site Boundary were visually checked for eagle nests and none were observed.

The very low number of scattered trees and lack of shrubby vegetation in the grazing land would result in a lack of fauna that rely on trees and shrubs for shelter, thereby excluding many bird species and arboreal animals like possums. However, more adaptable bird species can still occupy Bennetts Creek given the presence of scattered shrubs (indigenous Swamp Paperbark and exotic shrubs being Blackberry, Cherry or Plum Trees *Prunus* spp. and Ash Trees *Fraxinus* spp.). Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus* was observed in the creek.

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* was observed in the pasture during the survey.

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Photo 11. Open grassland habitat in the Site Boundary

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4.1.5.1.2 Aquatic habitat

Bennetts Creek passes through the western section of the Site Boundary and this part of the creek is severely altered and degraded over a long period of grazing. At the time of survey, the creek was completely dried out. Most of the creek does not contain any native vegetation, with unvegetated and eroded banks. The northern part of the creek, above a man-made crossing for vehicles, has wetter conditions and fenced from livestock access. However, this section is usually choked with weeds, such as Cocksfoot, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*. There are also clusters of exotic Ash Trees.

It is possible that aquatic fauna occurring in the creek (when there is water) can include freshwater fish, eels and frogs. Previous records of aquatic fauna in neighbouring properties include very common species like Southern Shortfin Eel *Anguilla australis*, Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peronii* and Spotted Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*.

Previous records show exotic fish species in the area, particularly Eastern Gambusia *Gambusia holbrooki* and European Carp *Cyprinus carpio*. This can affect the presence of many native aquatic fauna. The threatened Dwarf Galaxias *Galaxiella pusilla* is highly susceptible to predation by Eastern Gambusia, and habitat degradation by introduced carp (DSE 2010). The threatened Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis* is also impacted by Eastern Gambusia and introduced carp (DEWHA 2009).

The creek and dams could provide marginal habitat for generalist waterbirds that are adapted to very degraded waterbodies, which occur transiently and would not rely on the Site Boundary as habitat. Consistent with this, the only wetland-associated bird observed during the survey was a pair of White-faced Heron *Ardea novaehollandiae* near the creek; this species commonly utilises drains, roadside ditches and dams. The creek and the farm dams would not provide important or limiting habitat for threatened or migratory bird species.

The small, man-made wetland in the northwestern section of the Hazelwood Terminal Station would not contain habitat for native wetland fauna.

No aquatic fauna, including frogs, were seen or heard at the creek and the dams in the grazing land, or at the terminal station.

There are many other waterways containing better quality habitat for aquatic fauna in the surrounding landscape, with the major waterways within 10 km including the Latrobe River, Morwell River, Waterhole Creek and Traralgon Creek. Large waterbodies in the surrounding landscape include the Hazelwood Cooling Pond, water storage at Clarkes Road, A.P.M Aeration Pond and sewerage treatment plant at the Yallourn mine.



Photo 12. Majority of Bennetts Creek habitat – unvegetated except for adjacent pasture



Photo 13. Bennetts Creek habitat that is choked by weeds like exotic grass and Ash Trees

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Photo 14. Parts of Bennetts Creek habitat that contain Common Reed and Swamp Paperbark

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4.1.5.1.3 Planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station

The Hazelwood terminal station and the adjacent road reserve contain several areas of revegetation works. These areas have been described with photos provided in Section 4.1.1.2. They contain the highest level of structural diversity of all vegetation in the Site Boundary, given the arrangement of canopy trees, mid-storey to understorey shrubs and ground covers. However, many of the plant species are non-indigenous and the ground cover is dominated by exotic grasses.

These areas do not contain rocky outcrops or bush rocks. However, there are small logs, coarse woody debris like fallen branches and native-dominated leaf litter. The larger patches at the northern section contain fallen trees. These patches were not systematically searched for tree hollows but it was noted that the trees are not at the old growth stage (although some have grown to large size). There are a few widely scattered small to medium sized dead trees that appeared to have small cavities.

All of the areas of plantings/revegetation would provide habitat for common, generalist fauna that are generally better adapted to anthropogenically disturbed areas. Local native fauna that may use these areas include possums, honeyeaters, lorikeets, rosellas, skinks and snakes. A family group of Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* was observed in one of the patches in the northern section of the station. This type of disturbed habitat also usually supports non-native fauna like Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* and Blackbird *Turdus merula*, although the patches with a high density of shrubs help provide shelter from these aggressive non-native birds for the native birds.

4.1.5.2 Fencing Around Terminal Station

The mesh security fencing around the Hazelwood Terminal Station would exclude medium to large ground-dwelling fauna from entering the property, such as Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* (which is discussed further in Section 4.1.7 below), Common Wombat *Vombatus ursinus* and Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor*.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo *Macropus giganteus* would also be prevented from moving into or around the station, although it is common for Kangaroo to leap over barriers including tall fencing. A mob of Kangaroos comprising individuals of varying age classes was observed in the northern section of the site during the field assessment, in the planted vegetation and open exotic grassland.

4.1.6 Threatened Fauna

Searches of the VBA database and the PMST during the desktop assessment indicated that the search region contained records or potential presence of a total of 64 threatened and/or migratory fauna species listed under the EPBC Act and/or FFG Act.

The likelihood of occurrence in the Site Boundary for threatened and/or migratory fauna species is addressed in Appendix G. This analysis indicates that there are no threatened and/or migratory fauna species that are likely to occur in the Site Boundary. Wetland birds and raptors are addressed specifically below.

Wetland birds

Many potential bird species are associated with coastal or inland wetlands. There is aquatic habitat in the Site Boundary, namely, Bennetts Creek and the farm dams. However, wetland habitat quality for wetland birds was considered to be very low to non-existent, given there were only small areas of dense Common Reed in the creek. The surrounding vegetation is weeds and not wetland vegetation types, with a lack of sedges and rushes. Most of the creek is not vegetated at all – the survey found most of the creek to be bare and eroded banks. The dams are in severely degraded condition and devoid of wetland vegetation. Therefore, most wetland birds were considered unlikely to occur or having a low likelihood of occurrence.

Raptors

Forest-dependent raptors would not use the Site Boundary, even unlikely to occur in the planted treed vegetation in the terminal station which are small and highly fragmented. Raptors in the area may use the open grazing land as part of their hunting grounds (as previously mentioned, Wedge-tailed Eagles were observed above the Site Boundary), however they would not be reliant on the grazing land in the Site Boundary, which is located within a large area of similar grazing lands. Overall, the presence of threatened raptor species occurring in the Site Boundary is considered to be infrequent and low.

The large and mostly planted Eucalypt trees along Bennetts Creek could potentially be used for perching, roosting and possibly nesting by local birds including raptors (no nests were observed during the field survey). It is our understanding that the Project will avoid impacts to the creek.

Transmission line towers are also known to sometimes be used for nesting; the towers in the Site Boundary were checked for raptor nests during the field survey and none were found.

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4.1.7 Locally Significant Fauna

The Koala is not listed as threatened in Victoria and only the combined populations of New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory are listed as threatened under the EPBC Act. However, the 'Strzelecki/South Gippsland Koala' population is of particular importance for conservation in the Latrobe LGA, as established in the Latrobe City's Rural Land Use Strategy (Latrobe City Council 2019).

There are multiple VBA records of Koala within 10 km of the Site Boundary from 1965 to January 2026. Targeted survey is not triggered under the EPBC Act and FFG Act but potential habitat values for the 'Strzelecki' Koala warrant consideration.

The Koala relies on *Eucalyptus* trees for shelter and foraging, and therefore would not use the grazing land as suitable habitat. It is acknowledged that individual 'paddock trees' in an otherwise open landscape can act as a stepping stone for dispersal, especially large trees, and there are some trees located along Bennetts Creek. The creek has more *Eucalyptus* tree cover upstream and downstream of the Site Boundary. However, the trees within the Site Boundary are very widely isolated, with the creek providing either no vegetation cover at all or containing dense weeds and unsuitable shrubs. Overall, the section of creek inside the Site Boundary is considered to be unsuitable for use as a Koala dispersal corridor.

Koala cannot enter the planted vegetation in the terminal station due to the security fencing around the entire property. They may disperse through the adjacent road reserve of Tramway Road using the clusters of planted vegetation, but would not inhabit the roadside.

Therefore, it is considered that the Koala has an overall 'low' likelihood of occurrence in the Site Boundary.

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5.0 Potential impacts and legislative Implications

This section provides an evaluation of the potential impacts of the Project against relevant statutory and regulatory approval requirements, based on existing information about the ecological values of the Site Boundary and the Project layout provided by Voyager Renewables (Figure 2, Appendix A).

The indicative disturbance area in Figure 2 is 25.82 ha as shown in Figure 2, Appendix A.

If there will be any construction impacts outside of the current indicative disturbance area (e.g. additional laydown areas) within any mapped areas of native vegetation or additional DEECA wetlands, a review of this impact assessment would be required.

5.1 Commonwealth

5.1.1 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

The EPBC Act protects threatened species and ecological communities that are listed as MNES. If there is likely to be a significant impact on any threatened species and ecological communities that are MNES, a Referral under the EPBC Act is required. The Minister for the Environment would then decide whether the project is a controlled action or an uncontrolled action; if the project is determined to be a controlled action, it cannot be undertaken without the approval of the Minister. Approval would depend on further assessment under the EPBC Act.

Implications for the Site Boundary

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There is one (1) EPBC Act listed flora species known within the Site Boundary:

- One individual of Strzelecki Gum *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* (EPBC Act: Vulnerable, FFG Act: Critically Endangered). This individual is a planted, isolated specimen.

Removal of this individual will not trigger any of the criteria for a significant impact on an EPBC Act listed 'Vulnerable' species under the *Matters of National Environmental Significance – Significant impact guidelines 1.1* (DoE 2013).

Based on the current Project layout, the Project will not impact on the Strzelecki Gum. Although it is located within the project's indicative disturbance area, the underground cable alignment is sited outside the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) of the Strzelecki Gum (as shown in Figure 2, Appendix A). The TPZ area is a 9 m radius around the Strzelecki Gum based on its DBH and is a no-go zone for the Project. The civil works have been planned to avoid impacting on this tree.

No EPBC-listed species are considered to potentially occur in the Site Boundary (either considered 'unlikely to occur' or having a 'low' likelihood of occurrence in the likelihood of occurrence assessments provided in Appendix G and Appendix H). No EPBC-listed TECs are present on the site (as stated in Section 4.1.3). As such, there are no implications for the Project under the EPBC Act and a referral under the EPBC Act is not required.

No targeted surveys for EPBC-listed species are required, as these species are considered to be unlikely or to have a low likelihood of occurrence within the Site Boundary.

5.1.2 Weeds of National Significance

Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) are species that are recognised as a current and future threat requiring coordinated management and involving landowners at all levels. There are currently 32 species that are classified as WoNS. Landowners are responsible for managing WoNS on their land.

Implications for the Site Boundary

A total of three (3) weeds that are a WoNS were identified in the Site Boundary, namely, African Box-thorn, Blackberry and Gorse. All of them were present in the areas of planted vegetation at the Hazelwood terminal station.

All effort should be made to reduce the spread of these weeds and other weeds into and out of the Site Boundary during Project activities through good vehicle, equipment and personnel hygiene practices.

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5.2 Victorian

5.2.1 Environment Effects Act 1978

If referral criteria under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act) is triggered, a Referral to the Minister for Planning would be required to determine if an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is warranted. The criteria for requiring an EES referral are outlined in the *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects* (DTP, 2023). The individual and combined criteria relevant to flora and fauna are listed below.

Individual referral criteria (triggering one or more will warrant Referral):

- Potential removal, destruction or lopping of 10 hectares or more of native vegetation, that consists of, or comprises a combination of:
  - an ecological vegetation class (EVC) classified as endangered; or
  - an EVC that is classified as vulnerable (with a condition score of 0.5 or more) or rare (with a condition score of 0.6 or more); and
  - that is not authorised for removal under an approved forest management plan or fire protection plan.
- Potential clearing of an area determined as 'critical habitat' under the FFG Act.
- 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.
- 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*.
- Potential for extensive or major effects on the use and environmental values of water resources due to changes in water quality, water availability, stream flows, water system function, or regional groundwater levels, or the health or biodiversity of aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems, over the long term.

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Combined referral criteria (triggering a combination of two or more will warrant Referral):

- 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.
- Matters listed under the FFG Act:
  - 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.
- Potential for extensive or major effects on landscape values of regional importance, especially:
  - Where recognised by a planning scheme overlay;
  - Declared as a distinctive area and landscape under the P&E Act; or
  - Within or adjoining land reserved under the *National Parks Act 1975*.

Implications for the Site Boundary

Given the ecological values in the Site Boundary, the potential impacts of the Project would not trigger any of the above criteria warranting a referral under the EE Act.

5.2.2 Planning and Environment Act 1987

The P&E Act establishes the framework for the use, development and protection of land in Victoria. The P&E Act provides for the preparation of standard provisions for planning schemes that are administered by local government.

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With regards to ecological values, all Victorian planning schemes contain standard provisions requiring a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation (collectively referred to as 'remove native vegetation') unless an exemption to Clause 52.16 or Clause 52.17 applies (DEECA, 2025).

Native Vegetation Removal Regulations

Clause 52.17 of the Latrobe City planning scheme enacts the Guidelines for native vegetation removal. The Guidelines provide instructions on how an application for a permit to remove native vegetation is to be assessed under the P&E Act. This includes requirements to undertake a site assessment, the assessment method, and specific conditions that may form part of a granted permit, such as offsetting.

In addition to the above, under the Guidelines, if native vegetation has been planted or grown with public funding for the primary purposes of enhancing biodiversity or protection of land, the funding agency or its successor must provide written agreement to remove the native vegetation.

Native Vegetation Removal Exemptions

Table 52.17-7 under Clause 52.17 of the Latrobe Planning Scheme describes the 'planted vegetation' exemption to requiring a planning permit for native vegetation removal, which applies to the planted vegetation within Site Boundary (mapped in Figure 2, Appendix A). The relevant text in Section 2.22 of the *Exemptions from requiring a planning permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (DELWP 2017) is as follows:

The purpose of this exemption is to not require a permit for the removal of native vegetation which has either been planted (e.g. planting a seedling or an established plant) or grown from direct seeding (e.g. placing a seed in the ground in any manner).

This exemption does not apply to native vegetation planted or grown with public funding for the primary purposes of enhancing biodiversity or protection of land, unless the funding agency (or its successor) provides written agreement to the landholder to remove the native vegetation.

Biodiversity purposes include improving rare and threatened species habitat, improving the condition or extent of native vegetation or improving the functioning of an ecosystem and its delivery of ecosystem services. It does not include planting that may have biodiversity benefits, but that the main purpose of the planting was amenity, such as along a road.

Land protection purposes include managing salinity and erosion, or improving the quality of land or water resources. It does not include planting that may have an erosion management function, but that the main purpose of the planting was amenity, such as along a road.

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It is our understanding that the patches of revegetation works at the Hazelwood Terminal Station were not undertaken using public funding for the primary purposes of enhancing biodiversity or protection of land. Field observations of these patches are consistent with this, as described in Section 4.1.1.2.

In addition, there are scattered planted trees along the creek and windrows in the grazing land, which would fall within the exemption. The scattered trees along the creek were clearly planted given the old tree fencing kits still remain around the trunks and the species were mostly non-indigenous to the area.

Removal of the above planting vegetation would not require a permit.

DEECA Current Mapped Wetlands

The Guidelines provide that DEECA current mapped wetlands constitute patches of native vegetation, using the modelled condition score. The *Native Vegetation Newsletter 5* (DEECA, 2021) describes the situations when a mapped wetland may be excluded from the assessment process, however, none would apply to the mapped wetlands in the Site Boundary.

Implications for the Site Boundary

The following native vegetation is present in the Site Boundary:

- 0.307 ha of native vegetation in patches including two (2) large trees in a patch
- 1 large scattered tree
- DEECA mapped wetlands 478358, 478362 and 478357

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The current Project layout has avoided direct impact on all mapped native vegetation and DEECA mapped wetlands. The current layout shows the proposed infrastructure footprint is sited adjacent to wetland 478362 and therefore has the potential to be disturbed by construction works.

This wetland was observed during the site assessment to have low ecological integrity remaining, with no native flora present at all and in the context of severely disturbed grazing land. It is recognised that DEECA has mapped this area as a wetland feature in the landscape and more adaptable wetland flora species could occur transiently during wet seasons.

Given the potential for impact on this wetland, a Native Vegetation Removal Report for impacts to wetland 478362 is provided in Appendix I. Impact on this wetland would equate to a total of 0.09 ha of native vegetation removal within the Location 1 category.

If impacts to the wetland are unable to be avoided, the native vegetation removal will need to be offset in accordance with the Guidelines (DEECA, 2025). All offsets must be secured prior to the removal of native vegetation. The biodiversity offset requirements would be calculated through use of DEECA's Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) map tool.

The offset requirements for the native vegetation removal would be as follows:

- 0.018 general habitat units which must include the following requirements:
  - Minimum strategic biodiversity value of 0.2728
  - Occur within the West Gippsland CMA boundary or the Latrobe City Council

An online search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register shows that the offset above is currently available for purchase from a native vegetation credit owner (see Appendix J).

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Avoid and Minimise Statement

In accordance with the Guidelines, all applications to remove native vegetation must provide an avoid and minimise statement which details any efforts undertaken to avoid the removal of, and minimise the impacts on biodiversity and other values of native vegetation, and how these efforts focused on areas of native vegetation that have the most value.

Accordingly, efforts to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation in the current application are presented as follows:

- The Project has undergone multiple iterations of the design layout based on environmental assessments, including ecology. As such, the current indicative layout achieves total avoidance of native vegetation mapped by AECOM ecologists within the Site Boundary. This included a large scattered tree and multiple patches of native vegetation (low quality) located in the western section of the site.
- The Project will mostly avoid direct impacts to Bennetts Creek by placing the BESS in the eastern area within the Site Boundary and cabling underground. However, provision of access / emergency vehicle access to the site requires unavoidable impact to Bennett's Creek. Note the site access road crossing location avoids the native vegetation mapped along the creek.
- The Project also avoids impacts to DEECA Mapped Wetland 478358 and a planted Strzelecki Gum, which is considering the species is a threatened species in its natural range.
- However, the DEECA Mapped Wetland 478362 is situated very close to the indicative footprint of the Project and may be impacted by Project works. As such, the conservative approach is being taken and the wetland is currently considered to be impacted.
- The quality of the native vegetation in the wetland was considered when planning the Project. Field assessment by DEECA accredited assessors did not find any native flora within this mapped wetland area and the bare ground was severely pugged by livestock. This wetland is mapped over a used farm dam that periodically dries out. These findings are provided in Section 4.1.2.3 of the report, including a site photo as Photo 9.
- The DEECA Current Wetlands dataset noted that this wetland is located in a farm dam, is fed by surface water, is periodically inundated and contains 'no emergent vegetation'. The mapped polygon is 0.09 hectares in size.

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5.2.3 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

The FFG Act is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities for the management of potentially threatening processes. Under this Act, a permit is required from DEECA to take (kill, injure, disturb or collect) threatened or protected flora species (including those associated with a listed ecological community) from public land.

Additionally, consideration of impacts to threatened flora and fauna is a requirement of any permit application under the Victorian Planning Scheme. This is covered in general terms when submitting a permit via the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

A permit from DEECA is required to 'take' generally protected flora from public land for any reason. A permit from DEECA is also required to 'take' restricted use protected flora for commercial or personal use from public land.

A permit is not required under the FFG Act for private land, unless listed species are present and the land is declared 'critical habitat' for the species. The FFG Act only applies to private land regarding commercial collection of grasstrees, tree-ferns and sphagnum moss.

Implications for the Site Boundary

No FFG-listed species are considered to potentially occur in the Site Boundary (either considered 'unlikely to occur' or having a 'low' likelihood of occurrence in the likelihood of occurrence assessments provided in Appendix G and Appendix H), as well as no FFG-listed TECs being present (as stated in Section 4.1.3). As such, there are no implications for the Project under the FFG Act.

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No targeted surveys for FFG-listed species are required, as these species are considered to be unlikely or to have a low likelihood of occurrence within the Site Boundary.

No 'declared protected flora' was identified on public land within the Site Boundary, including the road reserves of Tramway Road. As such, a Protected Flora Licence or Permit under the FFG Act would not be triggered by project activities in the Site Boundary.

5.2.4 Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) is the principal legislation relating to the management of pest plants (weeds) and animals in Victoria. Several weed and pest animal species listed under the CaLP Act are also listed as threatening processes under the EPBC Act and FFG Act.

Weeds

Invasive plants (weeds) can compete with and displace native flora, which alters vegetation communities and affects habitat suitability for native fauna. Weed categories and their respective management requirements under the CaLP Act are summarised in Table 4. Weed categories and management obligations are based on DEECA's current (2025) advisory lists and CaLP Act definitions

Table 4 CaLP Act Declared Noxious Weed Management requirements

Weed Category	Enforceable Management Requirement
State prohibited weeds (SP)	These include weeds that either do not occur in Victoria but are a significant threat if they do invade, or are weeds that are present and pose a serious threat but are expected to be eradicated, as infestations are generally small. The Victorian Government is responsible for the eradication of these weeds and may direct land owners to prevent growth and spread.
Regionally prohibited weeds (P)	Regionally prohibited weeds are not widely distributed in a region but are capable of spreading further. It is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from a region and they must be managed with that goal. Land owners, including public authorities responsible for crown land management, must take all reasonable steps to eradicate Regionally prohibited weeds on their land.

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Weed Category	Enforceable Management Requirement
Regionally controlled weeds (C)	These invasive weeds are usually widespread in a region. To prevent their spread, ongoing control measures are required. Land owners have the responsibility to take all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of Regionally controlled weeds on their land.
Restricted weeds (R)	This category includes weeds that pose an unacceptable risk of spreading in this State and are a serious threat to another State or Territory of Australia. Trade in these weeds and their propagules, either as plants, seeds or contaminants in other materials, is prohibited.

Introduced pest species pose a significant threat to biodiversity and landscape condition. Predators such as the Red Fox and feral Cat *Felis catus* prey directly on native fauna, while herbivores such as Rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* contribute to soil erosion, loss of vegetation cover and long-term degradation of native habitats.

Under the CaLP Act, pest animals are categorised according to their threat and potential for establishment in the wild. The categories include:

- Prohibited pest animals
- Controlled pest animals
- Regulated pest animals
- Established pest animals

It is an offence in Victoria to import, keep, sell or release any declared pest animal without a valid permit. Several species listed under the CaLP Act are also recognised as threatening processes under the EPBC Act and FFG Act, reflecting their broader conservation impacts.

Implications for the Site Boundary

The field assessment recorded the following CaLP-listed weed species, which are all under the 'regionally controlled weeds' category in the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority region:

- African Box-thorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)
- African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*)
- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)
- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
- Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

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It is very likely that Red Fox and feral Cat occur in the Site Boundary. European Rabbit was directly observed in the grazing land during the survey.

Under the CaLP Act, EA has a statutory responsibility to avoid causing or contributing to land degradation. This includes:

- Taking reasonable steps to conserve soil and protect water resources
- Eradicating regionally prohibited weeds
- Preventing the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds
- Eradicating, or where this is not possible, controlling established pest animals

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In practice, this will require ensuring construction and operational activities do not exacerbate pest issues. Measures include preventing the creation of pest harbour (e.g. unmanaged waste, vegetation piles, disturbed earthworks), controlling existing infestations, and complying with any directions issued by Agriculture Victoria.

Other invasive animals such as feral cats are recognised as major threats in Victoria, but as they are not currently declared under the CaLP Act, their management is governed through other legislation and policy frameworks.

5.2.5 Wildlife Act 1975

The *Wildlife Act 1975* (Wildlife Act) forms the procedural, administrative and operational basis for the protection and conservation of native wildlife within Victoria. Under the Wildlife Act, it is an offence to wilfully damage, disturb or destroy wildlife habitat, disturb protected wildlife or take or destroy take or destroy threatened or protected wildlife (including listed fish) without authorisation.

With the exception of pest animals declared under the CaLP Act or wildlife declared to be unprotected wildlife, all fauna species native to Victoria are listed as protected under the Wildlife Act. Threatened wildlife means protected wildlife that are listed under the FFG Act.

Implications for the Site Boundary

While there is limited native vegetation within the Site Boundary and the majority of the Site Boundary is highly disturbed from agriculture, some habitat features within the Site Boundary may be occupied by native fauna, most notably any tree hollows in trees (including planted trees), which may be used for roosting and nesting by local wildlife. Reptiles may be present in the small logs and woody debris in the planting/revegetation areas at the terminal station.

Although translocation of non-threatened and threatened wildlife is generally not supported by DEECA, salvage and relocation of individuals from the construction area to adjacent habitat may be required by DEECA. If so, then a suitably qualified wildlife handler holding a relevant and current management authorisation under the Wildlife Act would need to be engaged prior to construction to salvage any wildlife encountered during the construction program.

There would be risk of injury or mortality to wildlife if a collision with a Project vehicle were to occur. This risk would be highest during construction when there are greater traffic movements for the Project. During operations there would be minimal traffic movements as the site would be unmanned – with vehicle use primarily for maintenance activities as required. Speed limits on site access roads will assist in ensuring risks are minimised. Driving at dusk or at night should be minimised to reduce the risk of wildlife collisions.

The Project is expected to result in some noise and lighting emissions during both construction and operations that could potentially result in indirect impacts on local fauna. Standard mitigation measures should be included in the environmental management plan to minimise noise and lighting impacts on fauna. For example, this may include adherence to *AS/NZS 4282:2023 - Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.* Given the generally low quality of fauna habitat within the Site Boundary, noise and lighting impacts on fauna are expected to be minor with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

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5.2.6 *Fisheries Act 1995*

The *Fisheries Act 1995* provides legislative protection for fish, fish habitat and aquatic ecological processes in Victoria. One of the primary objectives of the Act is to protect and conserve fisheries resources, habitats and ecosystems, including the maintenance of aquatic ecological processes and genetic diversity.

Under the Act, a person must not, except as permitted, create an obstruction across or within a bay, inlet, river or creek, or across or around an intertidal flat, where:

(a) fish will or could be blocked and left stranded;

(b) immature fish will or could be destroyed; or

(c) the free passage of fish will or could be obstructed.

The Act is therefore relevant where works have the potential to disturb aquatic habitat, alter hydrological connectivity, increase sediment mobilisation, or otherwise affect fish passage within estuarine or tidal environments.

Implications for the Site Boundary

A bridge is proposed to be constructed over Bennetts Creek. Although the works are not intended to create new barriers, temporary disturbance or localised alteration of micro-habitat may occur. Care must therefore be taken to ensure that works do not obstruct fish movement, strand fish within isolated pools, or result in avoidable mortality of juvenile fish.

Although the creek is ephemeral and in severely disturbed condition, it may provide an opportunistic movement pathway for aquatic fauna during wet seasons. Temporary works to construct the bridge have the potential to impede these pathways if not appropriately designed or timed.

With implementation of standard measures such as timing works to avoid wet periods, sediment controls, and supervision by an ecologist where required, compliance with the objectives of the Act would be achieved and impacts to fish and fish habitat are expected to be temporary and localised.

5.2.7 *Water Act 1989*

The *Water Act 1989* provides the legislative framework for managing and protecting Victoria's waterways and for authorising certain works and activities that may affect the bed, banks and functioning of waterways. Works and activities undertaken in or over waterways are generally authorised by the relevant waterway manager, to manage environmental risks and adverse impacts on waterways.

Designated waterways are shown as blue lines on the MapshareVic Website.

In Victoria, "Works on Waterways" approvals are commonly administered through CMA permitting frameworks made under the Act and associated Waterways Protection by-laws.

Implications for the Site Boundary

Bennetts Creek is shown as a designated waterway on MapshareVic.

As the construction of the bridge will involve activities in, under, on or over the bed as well as the banks of the creek, a "Works on Waterways" permit is likely to be required. Confirmation of whether this permit is required should be sought from the West Gippsland CMA.

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6.0 Management and mitigation

The detailed design of the Project should further consider opportunities for avoidance of impacts on DEECA mapped wetland 478362. If impacts are unable to be avoided, the associated native vegetation removal would need to be offset in accordance with the Guidelines.

Prior to construction, an environmental management plan should be prepared. It is recommended that this plan includes measures for:

- No-go zones and tree protection zones
- Pre-clearance checks for fauna in planted vegetation requiring removal
- Erosion and sediment control
- Minimisation of works in riparian areas
- Weed and pest animal control
- Requirements for staff inductions to cover ecology values and mitigations
- Measures to minimise lighting impacts (e.g. through alignment with *AS/NZS 4282:2023 - Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting*)

The environmental management plan should also consider measures to revegetate the riparian areas along Bennetts Creek with locally indigenous flora species to improve habitat quality along the creek, stabilize creek banks and enhance the aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity in the Site Boundary (subject to consultation with landowners).

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7.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

The Site Boundary is largely degraded due to historical use for agriculture and development of infrastructure such as the Hazelwood Terminal Station and existing transmission lines. Based on the desktop and field assessments conducted, it was determined that no threatened flora or ecological communities are likely to occur in the Site Boundary, and that no threatened fauna species are likely to occur regularly or be reliant on habitats in the Project area. As such, the ecological impacts of the Project do not have implications for the Project under the EPBC Act, EE Act, FFG Act or other legislation relevant to this study.

The current Project layout has avoided direct impact on all mapped native vegetation and DEECA mapped wetlands. Nonetheless, due to its location directly adjacent to the Project footprint, there is the potential for impact on for DEECA mapped wetland 478362. If impacts to wetland 478362 are unable to be avoided, the impact would equate to the removal of 0.09 ha of native vegetation, which would require a planning permit and offsets in accordance with the Guidelines. An online search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register shows that the offset above is currently available for purchase from a native vegetation credit owner.

Some planted vegetation at the site (such as at the Hazelwood Terminal Station) will need to be removed however this removal will not trigger the need for a permit or referral. Furthermore, impacts associated with the underground cable crossing Bennetts Creek are expected to be mitigated via using the construction method of HDD.

The Project will result in minor impact to the riparian environment of Bennetts Creek via construction of the access road crossing over the creek. With appropriate management, impacts on the creek, such as those associated with erosion and sedimentation from the construction works, are expected to be temporary and minor.

No EPBC or FFG-listed species are considered to have a high or moderate likelihood of occurrence, including along the section of Bennetts Creek that is within the Site Boundary. In addition, considering the ephemeral nature of the creek and its severely modified condition resulting from historical grazing activities, the works are not expected to result in any significant impacts on aquatic ecological values with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

An environmental management plan should be prepared and a “Works on Waterways” permit (if applicable) should be sought prior to construction. It is also recommended that the Project consider incorporating revegetation of Bennetts Creek with locally indigenous flora species.

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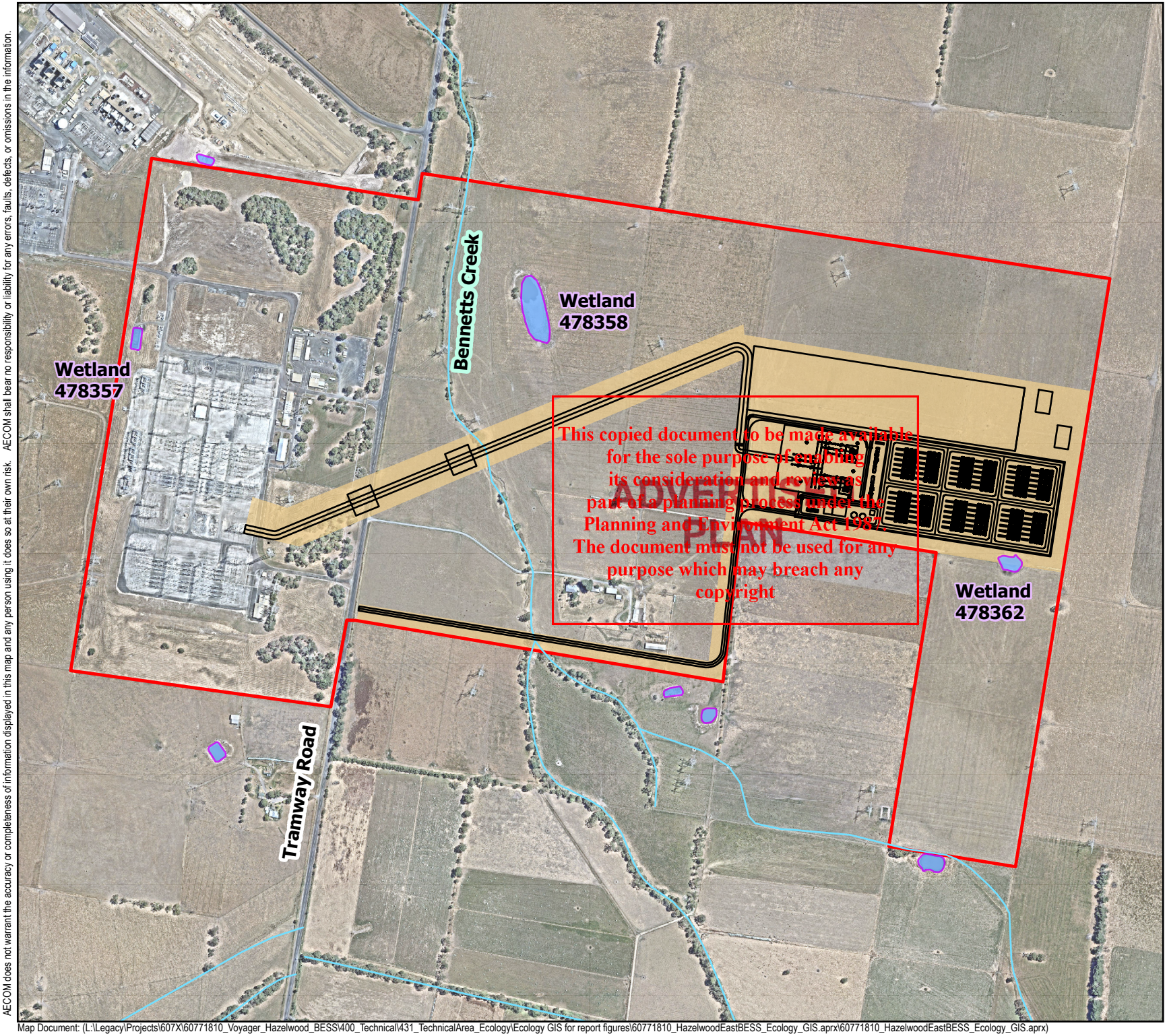
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Appendix A

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Figures

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LAST MODIFIED CT 06 MAY 2026

AECOM

DATUM GDA 2020,
PROJECTION MGA ZONE 55

N

0 100 200 300 400 500
Meters
(when printed at A4)

- Site Boundary
- Indicative Project Layout
- Indicative Disturbance Area
- Watercourses
- DEECA Current Mapped Wetland

Data sources:
Aerial imagery supplied by Nearmap (May, 2017)

Study Area and Project Layout

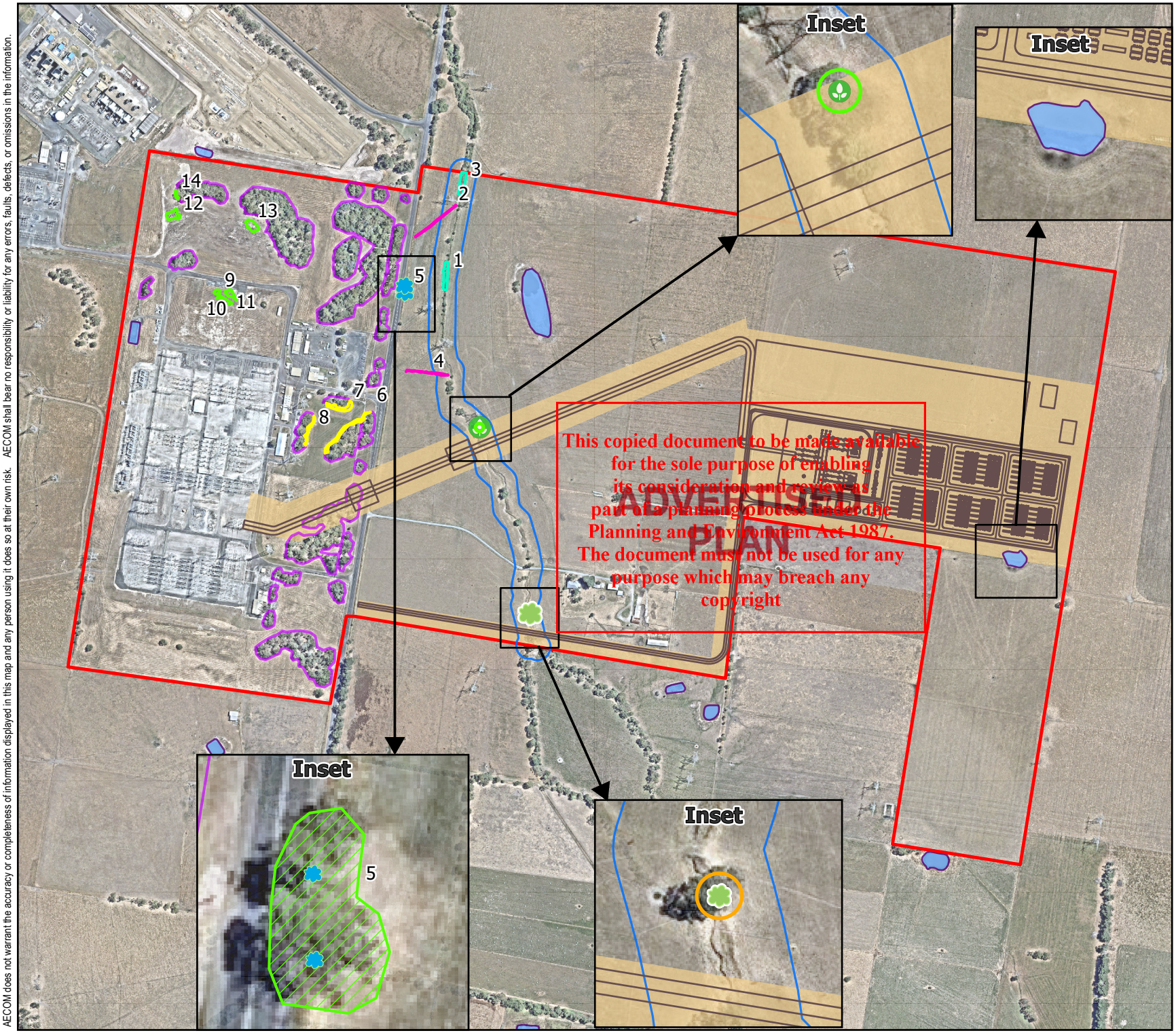
Voyager Renewables

Hazelwood East BESS - Ecological Assessment Report

Figure
1

Map Document: (L:\Legacy\Projects\607X\60771810_Voyager_Hazelwood_BESS\400_Technical\431_TechnicalArea_Ecology\Ecology GIS for report figures\60771810_HazelwoodEastBESS_Ecology_GIS.aprx\60771810_HazelwoodEastBESS_Ecology_GIS.aprx)

A4 size



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PROJECT ID 60767421
CREATED BY CT
LAST MODIFIED CT 25 MAY 2026

AECOM

DATUM GDA 2020,
PROJECTION MGA ZONE 55

N

0 100 200 300 400 500
Meters
(when printed at A4)

- Site Boundary
- Indicative Project Layout
- Indicative Disturbance Area
- 30m Setback From Creek
- Clusters of Planted Trees and Shrubs
- DEECA Current Mapped Wetland
- Plains Grassy Forest (151)
- Plains Grassy Wetland (125)
- Plains Grassy Woodland (55)
- Swamp Scrub (53)
- Large Scattered Tree
- Large Tree in Patch
- Large Scattered Tree TPZ
- Planted Strzelecki Gum
- Strezelecki Gum TPZ
- 1 Habitat Zone ID

Data sources:
Aerial imagery supplied by Nearmap (May, 2017)

Ecological Features in the Study Area

Voyager Renewables

Hazelwood East BESS - Ecological Assessment Report

Figure 2

AECOM does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information displayed in this map and any person using it does so at their own risk. AECOM shall bear no responsibility or liability for any errors, faults, defects, or omissions in the information.

Map Document: (L:\Legacy\Projects\607X\60771810_Voyager_Hazelwood_BESS\400_Technical\431_TechnicalArea_Ecology\Ecology GIS for report figures\60771810_HazelwoodEastBESS_Ecology_GIS.aprx\60771810_HazelwoodEastBESS_Ecology_GIS.aprx)

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Appendix B

PMST Search Result

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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: 13-Jan-2026

Summary

Details

- Matters of NES
- Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act
- Extra Information

Caveat

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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:	44
Listed Migratory Species:	11

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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:	9
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	21
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:	4
Regional Forest Agreements:	1
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
EPBC Act Referrals:	24
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	40 - 50km 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
Callocephalon fimbriatum Gang-gang Cockatoo [768]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo [67036]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Climacteris picumnus victoriae Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) [67062]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Falco hypoleucos Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Grantiella picta Painted Honeyeater [470]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Melanodryas cucullata cucullata South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) [67093]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Numenius madagascariensis Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
[Pycnoptilus floccosus](#) Pilotbird [525]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
[Rostratula australis](#) Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Stagonopleura guttata](#) Diamond Firetail [59398]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
[Tringa nebularia](#) Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
FISH			
[Galaxiella pusilla](#) Eastern Dwarf Galaxias, Dwarf Galaxias [56790]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
[Prototroctes maraena](#) Australian Grayling [26179]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
FROG			
[Litoria raniformis](#) Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog [1828]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Uperoleia martini](#) Martin's Toadlet [1873]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
MAMMAL			
[Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (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
[Isoodon obesulus obesulus](#) Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern), Southern Brown Bandicoot (south-eastern) [68050]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Mastacomys fuscus mordicus](#) Broad-toothed Rat (mainland), Tooarrana [87617]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Petauroides volans Greater Glider (southern and central) [254]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Petaurus australis australis Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) [87600]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Potorous tridactylus trisulcatus Long-nosed Potoroo (southern mainland) [86367]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Pseudomys novaehollandiae New Holland Mouse, Pookila [96]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Pteropus poliocephalus Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour may occur within area	In feature area
PLANT			
Amphibromus fluitans River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass [19215]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Caladenia tessellata Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, Daddy Long-legs [2119]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Dianella amoena Matted Flax-lily [64886]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Eucalyptus strzeleckii Strzelecki Gum [55400]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Glycine latrobeana Clover Glycine, Purple Clover [13910]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Pomaderris vacciniifolia Round-leaf Pomaderris [4256]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Prasophyllum spicatum Dense Leek-orchid [55146]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Pterostylis chlorogramma Green-striped Greenhood [56510]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
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 known 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
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Wetlands Species			

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Actitis hypoleucos			
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely 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
Calidris melanotos			
Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Gallinago hardwickii			
Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Numenius madagascariensis			
Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Pandion haliaetus			
Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Tringa nebularia			
Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

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Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Commonwealth Lands [Resource Information]

The Commonwealth area listed below may indicate the presence of Commonwealth land in this vicinity. Due to the unreliability of the data source, all proposals should be checked as to whether it impacts on a Commonwealth area, before making a definitive decision. Contact the State or Territory government land department for further information.

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Australian Postal Corporation		
Lot 1 LP15585 [AGPR7067]	VIC	In buffer area only
Lot 1 LP30034 [AGPR7206]	VIC	In buffer area only
Lot 2 LP15585 [AGPR7422]	VIC	In buffer area only

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Lot 3 LP15585 [AGPR7423]	VIC	In buffer area only
Lot 4 LP15585 [AGPR7424]	VIC	In buffer area only
Lot 5 LP15585 [AGPR7425]	VIC	In buffer area only
Lot 6 LP15585 [AGPR7426]	VIC	In buffer area only
Department of Defence		
AAFC 424 Squadron - Morwell [DD_0931]	VIC	In buffer area only
AAFC 424 Squadron - Morwell [DD_3339]	VIC	In buffer area only

Listed Marine Species

[Resource Information]

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Bird			
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Bubulcus ibis as Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [66521]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine 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 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

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known 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 known 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
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Numenius madagascariensis Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew [847]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

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Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Pandion haliaetus Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
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

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Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves [Resource Information]

Protected Area Name	Reserve Type	State	Buffer Status
Morwell	National Park	VIC	In buffer area only
Traralgon South F.F.R.	Nature Conservation Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Traralgon South F.R	Nature Conservation Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Yinnar B.R	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only

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	Victoria	In feature area

EPBC Act Referrals [Resource Information]

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status

Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission 2GW Project	2024/09980		Assessment	In buffer area only
Gippsland Renewable Energy Zone Project	2022/09346		Assessment	In feature area
Greater Gippsland Offshore Wind Project	2022/09379		Assessment	In feature area
Hazelwood Mine Rehabilitation Project	2022/09239		Assessment	In buffer area only
Seadragon Offshore Wind Farm	2022/9163		Completed	In feature area
Yallourn Coal Field Re-alignment Project	2008/4454		Post-Approval	In buffer area only
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
West Mine Development	2002/903	Controlled Action	Post-Approval	In buffer area only
Yallourn Combined Cycle Gas Trubine (CCGT) Power Station	2010/5516	Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
Not controlled action				
Hazelwood Westfield Mine Development	2000/49	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
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
Line of Sight Clearing on the Eastern Corridor, Regional Fast Rail	2010/5481	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
Proposed development of Dalkeith Heights	2007/3825	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only
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

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Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Not controlled action				
Yallourn Pipeline Project	2006/3004	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
Referral decision				
Delburn Wind Farm, Vic	2020/8612	Referral Decision	Completed	In buffer area only
Yallourn Coal Field Re-alignment Project	2008/4245	Referral Decision	Completed	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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-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
-Australian Museum
-South Australian Museum
-Queensland Museum
-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums
-Queensland Herbarium
-National Herbarium of NSW
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-Australian Government National Environmental Science Program
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-Reef Life Survey Australia
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-Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania
-Other groups and individuals

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Appendix C

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Observed Species

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Table E1 Flora species recorded in the Site Boundary during the field assessment

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	WONS	CALP Status
Acacia acinacea	Gold Dust Wattle			
Acacia baileyana	Cootamundra Wattle	#		
Acacia howittii	Sticky Wattle	# *		
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle	*		
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood			
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle	*		
Acacia pravissima	Ovens Wattle	*		
Acacia longifolia subsp. longifolia	Coast Wattle			
Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae	Coast Wattle	*		
Acacia stricta	Hop Wattle			
Acacia suaveolens	Sweet Wattle	*		
Acacia verticillata	Prickly Moses	*		
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee			
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping Sheoak			
Amyema pendula	Drooping Mistletoe			
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	#		
Austrostipa sp.	Spear Grass			
Avena spp.	Wild Oat	#		
Banksia cunninghamii	Hairpin Banksia	*		
Briza maxima	Large Quaking-grass	#		
Bromus catharticus	Prairie Grass	#		
Bromus diandrus	Great Brome	#		
Callitris spp.	Cypress Pine			
Callistemon spp.	Bottlebrush	*		
Cenchrus clandestinus	Kikuyu	#		
Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	#		
Chenopodium album	Fat Hen	#		
Chenopodium spp.	Goosefoot	#		
Chloris truncata	Windmill-grass			
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	#		C
Conium maculatum	Hemlock	#		C
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum	# *		
Cortaderia spp.	Pampas Grass	#		
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	#		C
Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterrey Cypress	*		
Cynodon dactylon	Couch Grass	#		
Cyperus eragrostis	Drain Flat-sedge	#		

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	WONS	CALP Status
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot	#		
Ehrharta erecta var. erecta	Panic Veldt-grass	#		
Eleocharis acuta	Common Spike-sedge			
Eragrostis curvula	African Love Grass			C
Eucalyptus botryoides	Southern Mahogany	# *		
Eucalyptus globulus	Southern Blue-gum	# *		
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box			
Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum			
Eucalyptus spp.		*		
Eucalyptus strzeleckii	Strzelecki Gum	*		
Eucalyptus viminalis	Manna Gum	*		
Fraxinus spp.	Ash	#		
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak	*		
Hakea sp.		*		
Helminthotheca echioides	Ox-tongue	#		
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	#		
Hypochaeris radicata	Flatweed	#		
Hordeum spp.	Barley Grass	#		
Juncus sp.	Rush			
Lactuca serriola	Prickly Lettuce	#		
Lepidium africanum	Common Peppercress	#		
Leptospermum continentale	Prickly Tea-tree			
Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass	#		
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-head Mat-rush			
Lycium ferocissimum	African Boxthorn	#	Yes	C
Malva parviflora	Small-flowered Mallow	#		
Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris	Giant Honey-myrtle	# *		
Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark			
Melaleuca linariifolia	Flax-leaf Paperbark	# *		
Melaleuca nesophila	Showy Honey-myrtle	# *		
Melaleuca styphelioides	Prickly-leaved Paperbark	# *		
Olearia lirata	Snow Daisy-bush			
Oxalis perennans	Grassland Wood-sorrel			
Paspalum dilatatum	Paspalum Grass	#		
Paspalum virgatum	Sword Grass	#		
Persicaria decipiens	Slender Knotweed			

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	WONS	CALP Status
Phragmites australis	Common Reed			
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain	#		
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort	#		
Polygonum aviculare s.l.	Prostrate Knotweed	#		
Portulaca oleracea	Common Purslane			
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	#		
Prunus spp.	Prunus	# *		
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	#		
Raphanus raphanistrum	Wild Radish	#		
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Blackberry	#	Yes	C
Rumex brownii	Slender Dock	#		
Rumex conglomeratus	Clustered Dock	#		
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	#		
Rytidosperma caespitosum	Common Wallaby-grass			
Rytidosperma sp.	Wallaby Grass			
Senecio quadridentatus	Cotton Fireweed	#		
Sonchus asper	Rough Sow-thistle	#		
Sonchus oleraceus	Common Sow-thistle	#		
Symphyotrichum subulatum	Asterweed	#		
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	#		
Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass			
Trifolium repens	White Clover	#		
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	#	Yes	C
Urtica urens	Small Nettle	#		
Vulpia spp.	Rat's-tail Fescue	#		

WONS: Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)

CALP Status (West Gippsland region): Regionally Prohibited Weeds (P), Regionally Controlled Weeds (C), or Restricted Weeds (R)

Denotes non-indigenous weed species

* Denotes planted species

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Table E2 Fauna species recorded in the Site Boundary during the field assessment

Taxa	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
Birds	Australian Magpie	*Gymnorhina tibicen*	
Birds	Superb Fairywren	*Malurus cyaneus*	
Birds	Wedge-tailed Eagle	*Aquila audax*	
Birds	White-faced Heron	*Egretta novaehollandiae*	
Birds	Willy Wagtail	*Rhipidura leucophrys*	
Insects	Painted Lady Butterfly	*Vanessa kershawi*	
Mammals	European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	#

Denotes pest animal species

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Appendix D

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EVC Benchmarks

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Department of Sustainability and Environment

EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain 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 EVC is dominated by Swamp Paperbark *Melaleuca ericifolia* (or sometimes Woolly Tea-tree *Leptospermum lanigerum*) which often forms a dense thicket, out-competing other species. Occasional emergent eucalypts may be present. 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.

Canopy Cover:

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
50%	*Leptospermum lanigerum*	Woolly Tea-tree
	Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark

Understorey:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Medium Shrub	2	10%	MS
Small Shrub	2	1%	SS
Large Herb	2	5%	LH
Medium Herb	3	15%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	5%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	3	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	na	20%	BL

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

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EVC 53: Swamp Scrub - Gippsland Plain bioregion

Recruitment:
Continuous

Organic Litter:
40 % cover

Weediness:

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

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Department of Sustainability and Environment

EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain bioregion

EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland

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		5%	IT
Understorey Tree or Large Shrub	1	5%	T
Medium Shrub	2	10%	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	3	5%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	5%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	1	10%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	9	35%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	2	10%	MNG
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL

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LF Code	Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
T	*Allocasuarina littoralis*	Black Sheoak
T	*Acacia mearnsii*	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

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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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EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain bioregion

EVC 125: Plains Grassy Wetland

Description:
This EVC is usually treeless, but in some instances can include sparse River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* or Swamp Gum *Eucalyptus ovata*. A sparse shrub component may also be present. The characteristic ground cover is dominated by grasses and small sedges and herbs. The vegetation is typically species-rich on the outer verges but is usually species-poor in the wetter central areas.

Life forms:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
Large Herb	3	10%	LH
Medium Herb	10	20%	MH
Small or Prostrate Herb	2	10%	SH
Large Tufted Graminoid	2	5%	LTG
Large Non-tufted Graminoid	2	10%	LNG
Medium to Small Tufted Graminoid	10	20%	MTG
Medium to Tiny Non-tufted Graminoid	4	10%	MNG
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL
Total understorey projective foliage cover		**95%**	

LF Code		Species typical of at least part of EVC range	Common Name
LH	v	*Craspedia paludicola*	Swamp Billy-buttons
LH		*Villarsia reniformis*	Running Marsh-flower
MH		*Myriophyllum crispatum*	Upright Water-milfoil
MH		*Lythrum hyssopifolia*	Small Loosestrife
MH		*Centella cordifolia*	Centella
SH		*Neopaxia australasica*	White Purslane
SH		*Myriophyllum integrifolium*	Tiny Water-milfoil
LTG		*Amphibromus nervosus*	Common Swamp Wallaby-grass
LNG		*Baumea arthrophylla*	Fine Twig-sedge
MTG		*Schoenus tesquorum*	Soft Bog-sedge
MTG		*Triglochin alcockiae*	Southern Water-ribbons
MTG		*Notodanthonia semiannularis*	Wetland Wallaby-grass
MTG		*Austrodanthonia duttoniana*	Brown-back Wallaby-grass
MNG		*Eleocharis acuta*	Common Spike-sedge
MNG		*Hemarthria uncinata* var. *uncinata*	Mat Grass
MNG	k	*Eleocharis macbarronii*	Grey Spike-sedge
MNG		*Triglochin striatum*	Streaked Arrowgrass

Recruitment:
Episodic/Flood. Desirable period between disturbances is 5 years.

Organic Litter:
10% cover

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Logs:

5 m/0.1 ha.(where trees are overhanging the wetland)

Weediness:

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	*Rumex conglomeratus*	Clustered Dock	high	high
LH	*Plantago lanceolata*	Ribwort	high	low
MH	*Leontodon taraxacoides* ssp. *taraxacoides*	Hairy Hawkbit	high	low
MH	*Lotus corniculatus*	Bird's-foot Trefoil	high	high
MH	*Mentha pulegium*	Pennyroyal	high	high
MH	*Centaurium erythraea*	Common Centaury	high	low
MH	*Plantago coronopus*	Buck's-horn Plantain	high	high
MH	*Hypochoeris radicata*	Cat's Ear	high	low
MH	*Anagallis arvensis*	Pimpernel	high	low
SH	*Trifolium repens* var. *repens*	White Clover	high	high
LTG	*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*	Bulbil Watsonia	high	high
LNG	*Holcus lanatus*	Yorkshire Fog	high	high
MTG	*Paspalum dilatatum*	Paspalum	high	high
MTG	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	Sweet Vernal-grass	high	high
MTG	*Gladiolus undulatus*	Wild Gladiolus	high	low
MTG	*Juncus articulatus*	Jointed Rush	high	high
MTG	*Lolium perenne*	Perennial Rye-grass	high	high
MTG	*Briza minor*	Lesser Quaking-grass	high	low
MTG	*Agrostis capillaris* s.l.	Brown-top Bent	high	high
MNG	*Paspalum distichum*	Water Couch	high	high
TTG	*Cyperus tenellus*	Tiny Flat-sedge	high	low
SNG	*Sisyrinchium iridifolium*	Blue Pigroot	high	high

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Department of Sustainability and Environment

EVC/Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment

Gippsland Plain bioregion

EVC 151: Plains Grassy Forest

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 clays.

Large trees:

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

Tree Canopy Cover:

%cover	Character Species	Common Name
30%	*Eucalyptus muelleriana*	Yellow Stringybark
	Eucalyptus bridgesiana s.l.	But But
	Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Red Box
	Eucalyptus macrorhyncha	Red Stringybark

Understorey:

Life form	#Spp	%Cover	LF code
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 Small Non-tufted Graminoid	2	1%	MNG
Ground Fern	2	10%	GF
Bryophytes/Lichens	na	10%	BL

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

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Recruitment:
Continuous

Organic Litter:
20 % cover

Logs:
20 m/0.1 ha.

Weediness:

LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	*Centaurium tenuiflorum*	Slender Centaury	high	low
MH	*Hypochoeris radicata*	Cat's Ear	high	low
MH	*Centaurium erythraea*	Common Centaury	high	low

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Appendix E

Habitat Zones

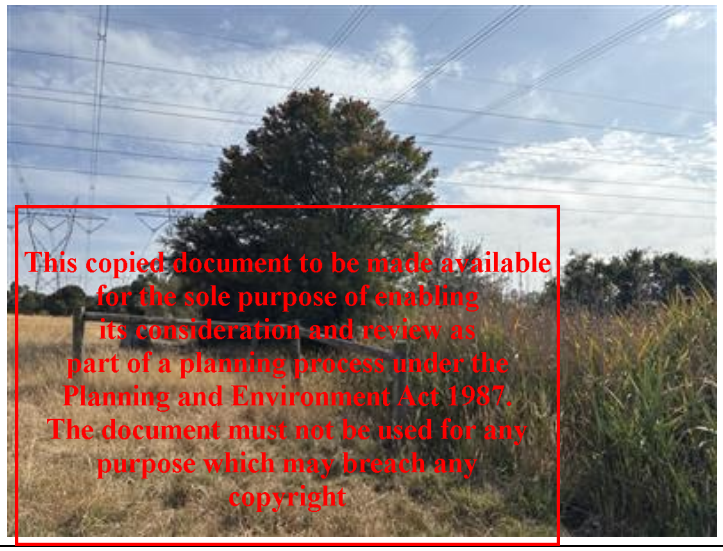
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Table C2. Habitat Zone Descriptions and Photos

HZ Name	Benchmark EVC	Description
1	Swamp Scrub (EVC 55)	Located in an approx. 50 metre-long section of Bennetts Creek in the grazing land. Highly modified from historical clearing and grazing. Surrounded by introduced pasture and currently fenced from livestock access, which has allowed for wetland-associated vegetation to occur. Contains a dense stand of Common Reed and a few clusters of scrub canopy from Swamp Paperbark, with weeds interspersed. Sparse indigenous herbs include Slender Knotweed *Persicaria decipiens* and Cottony Fireweed *Senecio quadridentatus*. Main weeds include Cocksfoot and Sweet Vernal, with woody weeds including Cherry or Plum Trees and Ash Trees.  This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright
2 and 4	Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125)	Located in shallow, approx. 70 to 90 metre-long linear depressions in the northwestern section of the grazing land. Highly modified from historical clearing and ongoing cattle grazing. Surrounded by introduced pasture. These habitat zones contain native Rush *Juncus* spp. and introduced grasses like *Bromus catharticus* Prairie Grass, with significant areas of bare ground. Small areas of Plains Grassy Wetland can frequently occur within Plains Grassy Woodland ecosystems. 

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HZ Name	Benchmark EVC	Description
3	Swamp Scrub (EVC 55)	Same site context and historical disturbance as Habitat Zone 1. Located in an approx. 40 metre-long section of Bennetts Creek in the grazing land. Highly modified from historical clearing and grazing. Surrounded by introduced pasture and currently fenced from livestock access, which has allowed for wetland-associated vegetation to occur. Contains a dense stand of Common Reed with grassy and herbaceous weeds interspersed. There is no woody vegetation providing scrub canopy in this habitat zone. This habitat zone extends within the rest of the creek that continues north of the boundary of the Site Boundary (which has woody vegetation cover as shown in the photo below), however, this assessment is limited to the Site Boundary.  This copied document to be made available for the sole purpose of enabling its consideration and review as part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The document must not be used for any purpose which may breach any copyright
5	Plains Grassy Forest (EVC 151)	Located in the public road reserve of Tramway Road, along the western boundary of the grazing land. Highly modified from historical clearing and surrounded by non-native vegetation that is densely dominated by exotic grasses and herbs. Canopy present from 2 large trees, which are Swamp Gum. Only 2 indigenous species present in the understorey, namely Spiny-headed Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia* and a few tussocks of Spear Grass. High-threat weeds include Hemlock *Conium maculatum*, Cocksfoot and Sweet Vernal Grass. 

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HZ Name	Benchmark EVC	Description
6, 7 and 8	Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55)	Scattered tussocks of Common Wallaby Grass *Rytidosperma caespitosum* were present in these habitat zones near planted vegetation, meeting at least 25% of the total perennial understorey plant cover. The rest of the habitat zones contains grassy weeds and bare ground.  Approx. 15 cm x 11 cm x 1.2 cm book for scale.
9, 10 and 11	Plains Grassy Forest (EVC 151)	Scattered tussocks of Kangaroo Grass were present in these habitat zones, in the context of a highly modified and weed invaded area of ~~mixed open grasses (predominantly exotic like~~ Paspalum), meeting at least 25% of the total perennial understorey plant cover. A low cover of bryophytes was also present at the time of survey. The rest of the habitat zones contain weeds and bare ground. 

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HZ Name	Benchmark EVC	Description
12, 3 and 14	Plains Grassy Forest (EVC 151)	Scattered tussocks of Common Wallaby Grass were present in these habitat zones near planted vegetation, in the context of a highly modified and weed invaded area of mixed open grasses (predominantly exotic speciessuch as Sweet Vernal Grass), meeting at least 25% of the total perennial understorey plant cover. A low cover of brvophytes was also present at the time of survey. The rest of the habitat zones contains weeds and bare ground. 

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Appendix F

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VQA Trees

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Tree No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	DBH (cm)	TPZ (m)	Habitat Category	Notes
1	Swamp Gum	*Eucalyptus ovata*	77	9.2	Large Scattered Tree	Located along Bennetts Creek
2	Swamp Gum	*Eucalyptus ovata*	88	10.6	Large tree in a patch	Located in Habitat Zone 5
3	Swamp Gum	*Eucalyptus ovata*	72	8.6	Large tree in a patch	Located in Habitat Zone 5

For trees with multiple stems above 1.3 m, the DBH of the largest stem is provided.

TPZ: Tree Protection Zone

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Appendix G

Likelihood of occurrence assessment for threatened flora species

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Table F1 Likelihood of occurrence for potential threatened flora

Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Acacia howittii	Sticky Wattle		Vulnerable	VBA 2, 2019	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable moist forest habitat. Note widely cultivated and naturalising in some areas.
Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass	VU		PMST / VBA 1, 1996	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Considered at desktop stage as possibly occurring around the creek, dams and swampy areas. However, on ground conditions show Site Boundary unlikely to have habitat. Creek densely infested by weeds and dams in such degraded condition that no native flora occurred. No swamp sites providing other suitable habitat. 1 previous record within 10 km from 30 years ago.
Billardiera scandens s.s.	Velvet Apple-berry			VBA 1, 2012	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable dry open-forest and woodland habitat.
Brachyscome salkiniae	Elegant Daisy		Vulnerable	VBA 2, 1967	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - occurs in forests and woodland on sandy or loamy soil, often on river banks and flats. No recent records within 10 km.
Caladenia aurantiaca	Orange-tip Finger-orchid		Endangered	VBA 7, 2003	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - grows in damp coastal to near-coastal heaths or heathy woodlands on well-drained sandy soils.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Caladenia orientalis	Eastern Spider-orchid	EN	Endangered	VBA 1, 1981	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - occurs in coastal heathlands and heathy woodlands on well-drained sandy soil. No recent records (within 30 years) within 10 km.
Caladenia tessellata	Thick-lip Spider-orchid	VU		PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - confined to eastern Victoria from near-coastal heathy woodlands to open forests on well-drained sandy soils.
Caladenia vulgaris	Slender Pink-fingers		Vulnerable	VBA 1, 1995	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - occurs in heathland and coastal scrub on moisture-retentive sandy soils.
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum		Vulnerable	VBA 2, 2021	**Known to occur, planted specimens only** Identified in the Site Boundary as planted specimens only. The Site Boundary is outside of the natural range of the species.
Craspedia canens	Grey Billy-buttons		Critically Endangered	VBA 105, 2024	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Known only from grassland (often bordering swamps) at low altitude between c. Cranbourne and Traralgon. Past records within 10 km, however no suitable habitat on site from severe weed degradation and prolonged grazing pressure.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Cyathea cunninghamii	Slender Tree-fern		Critically Endangered	VBA 1, 1997	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - confined to deep gullies in wet forests
Cymbonotus lawsonianus	Bear's-ear		Endangered	VBA 7, 2003	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - scattered in woodland communities across northern Victoria from the 'Upper Murray' (precise locality unknown) to the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and south to the Little Desert, with a few eastern collections from dryish areas south of the Great Dividing Range.
Deparia petersenii subsp. congrua	Japanese Lady-fern		Endangered	VBA 1, 1989	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - occurs on river flats and shaded rock faces in wet sclerophyll and warm-temperate rainforest.
Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily	EN	Critically Endangered	PMST / VBA 25, 2023	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Past records within 10 km, however no suitable habitat on site from severe weed degradation and prolonged grazing pressure.
Dianella longifolia var. grandis s.l.	Glaucous Flax-lily			VBA 1, 1992	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable lowland plains grassland, grassy woodland or rocky outcrop habitat.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Erigeron conyzoides	Daisy Fleabane		Endangered	VBA 1, 2019	**Unlikely to occur** Confined to rocky alpine sites in Victoria (e.g. Mt Howitt area, Mt Hotham, Bogong High Plains, Mt Cobberas no. 2) [nearby record may have been error]
Eucalyptus arenicola	Gippsland Lakes Peppermint		Endangered	VBA 1, 1991	**Unlikely to occur, unless planted in the areas of planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station for screening and amenity** Site Boundary has had broadscale clearing of treed vegetation.
Eucalyptus crenulata	Buxton Gum	EN	Endangered	VBA 1, 2006	**Unlikely to occur, unless planted in the areas of planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station for screening and amenity** Site Boundary has had broadscale clearing of treed vegetation.
Eucalyptus fulgens	Green Scentbark		Endangered	VBA 9, 2008	**Unlikely to occur, unless planted in the areas of planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station for screening and amenity** Site Boundary has had broadscale clearing of treed vegetation.
Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus	Southern Blue-gum		Endangered	VBA 2, 2024	**Known to occur, planted specimens only** Identified in the Site Boundary as planted specimens only. The Site Boundary is outside of the natural range of the species.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Eucalyptus kitsoniana	Bog Gum		Critically Endangered	VBA 4, 2023	**Unlikely to occur, unless planted in the areas of planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station for screening and amenity** Site Boundary has had broadscale clearing of treed vegetation.
Eucalyptus strzeleckii	Strzelecki Gum	VU	Critically Endangered	PMST / VBA 1373, 2024	**Known to occur, planted specimen only** A single planted specimen was identified along the creek. No saplings were observed.
Eucalyptus yarraensis	Yarra Gum		Critically Endangered	VBA 12, 2023	**Unlikely to occur, unless planted in the areas of planted vegetation at the Hazelwood Terminal Station for screening and amenity** Site Boundary has had broadscale clearing of treed vegetation.
Fissidens dealbatus	Nerveless Pocket-moss		Endangered	VBA 2, 1974	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable cool temperate rainforest habitat on site, or any moist protected sites.
Geranium solanderi s.l.	Austral Crane's-bill			VBA 1, 2006	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - usually in sheltered sites in grassy woodlands, often along drainage lines or in seepage areas.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine	VU	Vulnerable	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable native grassland and grassy woodland habitat. Some roadside populations exist but there are no records within 10 km.
Grevillea chrysophaea	Golden Grevillea		Vulnerable	VBA 6, 2003	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - occurs in eucalypt woodland or heath in silty sand to sandy loam.
Lachnagrostis semibarbata var. semibarbata	Purple Blown-grass		Endangered	VBA 1, 2000	**Low likelihood of occurrence** One past record within 10 km, however no suitable habitat on site from severe weed degradation and prolonged grazing pressure.
Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris	Giant Honey-myrtle		Endangered	VBA 5, 2024	**Known to occur, planted specimens only** Outside natural range. Individuals in this area either planted or progeny from cultivated stock at the Hazelwood Terminal Station.
Platysace ericoides	Heath Platysace		Endangered	VBA 2, 2003	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - confined to the coastal plain and foothills mostly between Moe and Orbost, usually occurring in dryish forest, often with shallow, rocky soils.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Pomaderris vacciniifolia	Round-leaf Pomaderris	CR	Critically Endangered	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - largely confined to moist forest and scrubs in the upper catchment of the Yarra, Plenty and Yea Rivers
Prasophyllum spicatum	Dense Leek-orchid	VU	Critically Endangered	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable coastal heath and sandhills habitat.
Pterostylis chlorogramma	Green-striped Greenhood	VU	Endangered	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat - grows in moist areas of heathy and shrubby forest, on well-drained soils.
Pterostylis fischii	Fisch's Greenhood		Endangered	VBA 4, 2003	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable open forest or woodland habitat with native grasses and low shrubs. Recent records (2003) are located in or beside a tree plantation east of the Site Boundary.
Pterostylis X ingens	Sharp Greenhood		Vulnerable	VBA 2, 1967	**Unlikely to occur** Occurs in moist areas around swamps and stream banks on heavy soils. No recent records - only 2 records within 10 km from 1967.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Senecio psilocarpus	Swamp Fireweed	VU		PMST	**Low likelihood of occurrence** No records within 10 km and lack of suitable habitat due to severe and ense weed degradation and prolonged grazing pressure.
Thelymitra epipactoides	Metallic Sun-orchid	EN	Endangered	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of suitable coastal heathland, grassland and woodland habitat. Pasture land too highly disturbed/modified. No records within 10 km.
Thesium australe	Austral Toad-flax	VU	Endangered	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** All recent collections are from highland areas in the vicinity of Wulgulmerang and it is believed to have become extinct across most of its Australian range. Grows in grasslands, woodlands and herbfields, usually in damp situations. No records within 10 km.
Tmesipteris elongata	Slender Fork-fern		Critically Endangered	VBA 4, 1983	**Unlikely to occur** Known from few scattered localities in Victoria (Otway and Strzelecki Ranges, upper Tyers River, Wilsons Promontory) and rare. Epiphytic on Dicksonia antarctica - no suitable habitat.
Tmesipteris ovata	Oval Fork-fern		Endangered	VBA 3, 1983	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable wet forest habitat.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	EPBC	FFG	Record (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Xerochrysum palustre	Swamp Everlasting	VU	Critically Endangered	PMST	**Low likelihood of occurrence** No records within 10 km. All records in Victoria are west of the Great Dividing Range with 2 records at Shelley in northeastern VIC.

EPBC: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act - VU Vulnerable, EN Endangered, CR Critically Endangered, EX Extinct

FFG: Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act - vu Vulnerable, en Endangered, cr Critically Endangered, th Threatened

Sources: VBA Victorian Biodiversity Atlas , PMST Protected Matters Search Tool

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Appendix H

Likelihood of occurrence assessment for threatened and migratory fauna species

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Table G1 Likelihood of occurrence for potential threatened and/or migratory fauna

Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Mammals							
Mastacomys fuscus mordicus	Broad-toothed Rat	EN	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat (Wet sedges and grasslands in forested areas).
Petauroides volans	Greater Glider	EN	Endangered			PMST / VBA 8, 2017	**Unlikely to occur** Planted treed vegetation at the terminal station highly fragmented and mainly species non-indigenous to the area, unlikely to provide suitable habitat.
Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox	VU	Vulnerable			PMST / VBA 2, 1981	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km in the past 30 years. Some suitable habitat for foraging is present in the form of planted Eucalypt trees, however vegetation in the Site Boundary highly fragmented and modified.
Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala					VBA 104, 2021	**Low likelihood of occurrence** The Koala relies on Eucalyptus trees for shelter and foraging, and

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							therefore would not use the grazing land as suitable habitat. It is acknowledged that individual 'paddock trees' in an otherwise open landscape can act as a stepping stone for dispersal, especially large trees, and there are some trees located along Bennetts Creek. The creek has more Eucalyptus tree cover upstream and downstream of the Site Boundary. However, the trees within the Site Boundary are very widely isolated, with the creek providing either no vegetation cover at all or containing dense weeds and unsuitable shrubs. Koala cannot enter the planted vegetation in the terminal station due to the fencing, and may pass through the area using the roadside trees, but would not inhabit the roadside.

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Potorous tridactylus trisulcatus	Long-nosed Potoroo	VU	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Pseudomys novaehollandiae	New Holland Mouse	VU	Endangered			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Ornithorhynchus anatinus	Platypus		Vulnerable			VBA 5, 2023	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat present in the creek.
Isoodon obesulus obesulus	Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern)	EN	Endangered			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Dasyurus maculatus maculatus	Spot-tailed Quoll	EN	Endangered			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider	VU	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Birds							

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern	EN	Critically Endangered			PMST / VBA 1, 2003	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation.
Spatula rhynchotis	Australasian Shoveler		Vulnerable			VBA 17, 2021	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two dense stands of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation.
Ixobrychus dubius	Australian Little Bittern		Endangered			VBA 2, 2000	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation.
Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe	EN	Critically Endangered		Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable wetland or inundated pasture habitat present.
Ninox connivens	Barking Owl		Critically Endangered			VBA 2, 2000	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Could overfly Site Boundary, which could possibly be part of hunting grounds, but would not rely on habitat in the Site Boundary given similar habitat is extensive in the surrounds. No nests seen in the trees in the Site Boundary.
Falco subniger	Black Falcon		Critically Endangered			VBA 4, 2003	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Could overfly Site Boundary, which could possibly be part of hunting grounds, but would not rely on habitat in the Site Boundary given similar habitat is extensive in the surrounds. No nests seen in the trees in the Site Boundary.

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Monarcha melanopsis	Black-faced Monarch			Mi	Ma	2024 PMST*	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present (rainforests, eucalypt woodlands, coastal scrub and damp gullies).
Oxyura australis	Blue-billed Duck		Vulnerable			VBA 19, 2021	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat (deep open water for this species of diving duck) present.
Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot	VU			Ma	PMST / VBA 12, 2018	**Low likelihood of occurrence** There are past records within 10km. Planted vegetation at the terminal station contains a variety of Eucalypt species, many not indigenous to the area - could possibly provide marginal foraging habitat but overall low likelihood of this. Could overfly Site Boundary.
Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern ssp.)	VU				PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Planted vegetation at the terminal station contains a variety of Eucalypt species, many not indigenous to the

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							area - could possibly provide marginal habitat but highly fragmented and overall low likelihood of this.
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian Tern		Vulnerable	Mi	Ma	VBA 4, 2017	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable coastal or inland wetland habitat present.
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	EN	Endangered	Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable coastal or inland wetland habitat present.
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper		Vulnerable	Mi	Ma	VBA 1, 2006	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable coastal or inland wetland habitat present.
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	CR	Critically Endangered	Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable coastal or inland wetland habitat present.

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail	VU	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Lack of suitable habitat (grassy eucalypt woodlands) present - treed vegetation on site is planted and highly fragmented.
Numenius madagascariensis	Eastern Curlew	CR	Critically Endangered	Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable coastal or inland wetland habitat present.
Ardea alba modesta	Eastern Great Egret		Vulnerable			VBA 6, 2022	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation. May occur transiently while dispersing through the landscape.
Pandion cristatus	Eastern Osprey			Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Unlikely to occur and would not rely

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							on the Site Boundary - may overfly only.
Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift			Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Aerial specialist that would not use the Site Boundary.
Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo	EN	Endangered			PMST / VBA 68, 2023	**Unlikely to occur** There are past records within 10km. Planted vegetation at the terminal station contains a variety of Eucalypt species, many not indigenous to the area - could possibly provide marginal foraging habitat but overall low likelihood of this. Could overfly Site Boundary.
Calyptorhynchus lathami	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	VU	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present (no mature stands or large specimens of she-oaks or pines for foraging or breeding habitat, only a few scattered semi-mature individuals of Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata*).

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon	VU	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Unlikely to occur and would not rely on the Site Boundary - may overfly only.
Accipiter novaehollandiae	Grey Goshawk		Endangered			VBA 3, 1999	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Could overfly Site Boundary, which could possibly be part of hunting grounds, but would not rely on habitat in the Site Boundary given similar habitat is extensive in the surrounds. No nests seen in the trees in the Site Boundary.
Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	Hooded Robin or South-eastern Hooded Robin	EN				PMST / VBA 1, 1999	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Occurs in lightly timbered woodland, mainly dominated by acacia and/or eucalypts. Planted vegetation at the terminal station contains a variety of Eucalypt and shrub species, many not indigenous to the area - could possibly provide marginal foraging habitat but overall low likelihood of this.

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe	VU		Mi	Ma	PMST / VBA 14, 2014	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation.
Lewinia pectoralis	Lewin's Rail		Vulnerable			VBA 4, 2023	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation. May occur transiently while dispersing through the landscape.
Hieraaetus morphnoides	Little Eagle		Vulnerable			VBA 13, 2004	**Low likelihood of occurrence** No past records within 10 km. Unlikely to occur and would not rely on the Site Boundary - may overfly only.

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret				Ma	VBA 7, 2018	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation. May occur transiently while dispersing through the landscape.
Biziura lobata	Musk Duck		Vulnerable		Ma	VBA 11, 2011	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation.
Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater	VU	Vulnerable			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper			Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur**

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Pycnoptilus floccosus	Pilotbird	VU				PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Ardea intermedia plumifera	Plumed Egret		Critically Endangered			VBA 4, 2018	**Unlikely to occur** Lack of wetland habitat present. Only two small areas of native reeds in the creek, which is otherwise choked with weeds and mostly not wetland vegetation with lack of sedges and rushes. Dams devoid of wetland vegetation.
Ninox strenua	Powerful Owl		Vulnerable			VBA 17, 2020	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Could overfly Site Boundary, which could possibly be part of hunting grounds, but would not rely on habitat in the Site Boundary given similar habitat is extensive in the surrounds. No nests seen in the trees in the Site Boundary.

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater	CR	Critically Endangered			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present (box ironbark open-forest and woodland areas).
Rhipidura rufifrons	Rufous Fantail			Mi	Ma	2024 PMST*	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present (tall forests, preferring wetter habitats such as heavily forested gullies).
Myiagra cyanoleuca	Satin Flycatcher			Mi	Ma	2024 PMST*	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Aerial specialist that would not use the Site Boundary.
Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	VU		Mi	Ma	PMST / VBA 1, 1978	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km in the last 30 years. No suitable coastal or inland wetland habitat present.
Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot	CR	Critically Endangered		Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. Furthermore, planted vegetation at the terminal station contains a

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							variety of Eucalypt species, many not indigenous to the area - would provide only marginal foraging habitat.
Haliaeetus leucogaster	White-bellied Sea-Eagle		Endangered		Ma	VBA 9, 2020	**Unlikely to occur** Unlikely to occur – inhabits coastal areas, large inland waterbodies and rivers.
Climacteris affinis	White-browed Treecreeper		Endangered			VBA 1, 2004	**Low likelihood of occurrence** 1 single record within 10 km. Planted vegetation at the terminal station contains a variety of Eucalypt species, many not indigenous to the area - could possibly provide marginal habitat but highly fragmented and overall low likelihood of this.
Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail	VU	Vulnerable	Mi	Ma	PMST / VBA 23, 2017	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Aerial specialist that would not use the Site Boundary.
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail			Mi	Ma	PMST	**Unlikely to occur**

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							No past records within 10 km. Suitable habitat present (open grassy flats near water) may be present but in a highly degraded and weed dominant form.
Fish							
Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling	VU	Endangered			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present in the creek.
Galaxiella pusilla	Dwarf Galaxias	EN	Endangered			PMST / VBA 9, 2023	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat present in the creek.
Nannoperca sp. 1	Flinders Pygmy Perch		Vulnerable			VBA 46, 2023	**Unlikely to occur** No suitable habitat present in the creek.
Invertebrates							
Engaeus rostrogaleatus	Strezelecki Burrowing Crayfish		Endangered			VBA 2, 1999	**Unlikely to occur** Occurs in heavy clay or clay loam soils along creek banks, flood beds and boggy seepage areas under

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							native vegetation, particularly ferny gullies. The creek was inspected for suitable habitat - no suitable habitat present.
Trapezites luteus luteus	Yellow Ochre Butterfly		Endangered			VBA 2, 1948	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km in the past 30 years. Can inhabit open grassland incluidng grazing land, however open grassland on site severely degraded from grazing and pasture grasses with absence of host plant Many-flowered Mat-rush *Lomandra multiflora*.
Reptiles							
Pseudemoia rawlinsoni	Glossy Grass Skink		Endangered			VBA 2, 2008	**Unlikely to occur** The creek was inspected for suitable habitat - no suitable habitat present.
Varanus varius	Lace Goanna or Lace Monitor		Endangered			VBA 17, 2016	**Low likelihood of occurrence** Some suitable timbered habitat is present in the form of planted Eucalypt trees at the terminal station, however the station is fully fenced

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							and this planted vegetation area is highly fragmented and modified, with many species being non-indigenous.
	Striped Legless Lizard					2024 PMST*	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present.
Delma impar		VU	Endangered				
						PMST / VBA 1, 2007	**Unlikely to occur** The creek was inspected for suitable habitat - no suitable habitat present.
Lissolepis coventryi	Swamp Skink	EN	Endangered				
Amphibians							
Litoria raniformis	Growling Grass Frog	VU	Vulnerable			PMST / VBA 5, 1973	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km in the past 30 years. Lack of suitable habitat. Unlikely to inhabit the monotypic stands of reeds in creek, which was otherwise choked with weeds at the northern section. No standing water, submergent or floating wetland plant species. Extremely marginal habitat for adult frogs. Central and southern section

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Common name	Scientific Name	EPBC	FFG	EPBC Migratory	EPBC Marine	Records (Year)	Likelihood of Occurrence
							have no vegetation cover at all - severely degraded by prolonged grazing.
Uperoleia martini	Martin's Toadlet	EN	Critically Endangered			PMST	**Unlikely to occur** No past records within 10 km. No suitable habitat present in/near the creek and the dams on site.

EPBC: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act - VU Vulnerable, EN Endangered, CR Critically Endangered, EX Extinct, Mi Migratory, Ma Marine

FFG: Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act - vu Vulnerable, en Endangered, cr Critically Endangered, th Threatened

Sources: VBA Victorian Biodiversity Atlas , PMST Protected Matters Search Tool

* Denotes that this species was not returned in the 2026 VBA and PMST searches , but was returned in the 2024 PMST Search by AECOM for the Site Boundary, therefore the species was conservatively included for consideration in this assessment.

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Appendix I

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Native Vegetation Removal Report

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Native Vegetation Removal Report

NVRR ID: 337_20260428_LSR

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: 28/04/2026

Local Government Area: LATROBE CITY

Shapefile name:
AECOM_VegLoss_GDA20_20260428_Patches.shp

Site assessor name: CT

Registered Aboriginal Party: Gunaikurnai

Coordinates: 146.44451, -38.28254

Address:
BOLDINGS ROAD HAZELWOOD NORTH 3840
545 TRAMWAY ROAD HAZELWOOD NORTH 3840

Regulator Notes

Removal polygons are located:

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Summary of native vegetation to be removed

Assessment pathway	**Basic Assessment Pathway**		
Location category	Location 1 The native vegetation extent map indicates that this area is not typically characterised as supporting native vegetation. It does not meet the criteria to be classified as Location Category 2 or 3. 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) *Includes endangered EVCs (ha): 0.09*	**0.09**	*Extent of past removal (ha)*	*0*
		Extent of proposed removal - Patches (ha)	*0.090*
		Extent of proposed removal - Scattered Trees (ha)	*0.000*
No. Large Trees proposed to be removed	**0**	*No. Large Patch Trees*	*0*
		No. Large Scattered Trees	*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]	**0.018 General Habitat Units**
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score [2]	0.2728
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.

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.

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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 defendable space is within the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO), and in accordance with the 'Exemption to create defendable 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**
478362-A	Patch	-	GipP0074	Endangered	no	0.200	-	0.090	0.090	0.341	0.018

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Appendix 2: Images of mapped native vegetation

1. Property in context



Proposed Removal
Past Removal
Partial Removal
Property Boundaries

N

200 m

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2. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation



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3. Location Risk Map



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4. Strategic Biodiversity Value Score Map



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5. Condition Score Map



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6. Endangered EVCs



Proposed Removal
Past Removal
Partial Removal
Endangered 1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes

N

35 m

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Native Vegetation Credit Register Search Result

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Report of available native vegetation credits

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

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

Date and time: 28/04/2026 05:42 **Report ID: 35313**

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)
0.018	0.2728	0	CMA: West Gippsland or LGA: Latrobe City

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Details of available native vegetation credits on 28 April 2026 05:42

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-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
VC_CFL-2320_02	0.174	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

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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)

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

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

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

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

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

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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 avaliable
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
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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For more information contact the 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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