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Goorambat East BESS

Ecological Assessment Report

PREPARED FOR



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0798824



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

	Description
AEMO	The Australian Energy Market Operator
BCS	Bioregional Conservation Status
CaLP Act	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> (Victoria)
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Commonwealth)
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (Victoria)
DSH	Diameter at Standard Height
EE Act	<i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i> (Victoria)
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)
ERM	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
FFG Act	<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Victoria)
GHU	General Habitat Unit
the Guidelines	<i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DEECA 2025)
HZ	Habitat Zone
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NRZ	Notional Root Zone
NVR Report	Native Vegetation Removal Report (DEECA)
P&E Act	<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Victoria)
PMST	Protected Matters Search Tool
SBV	Strategic Biodiversity Value
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
VBA	Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
VQA	Vegetation Quality Assessment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) was engaged by International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd (the Proponent), which is a subsidiary of ENGIE S.A., to undertake an ecological assessment of the Goorambat East Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the Project), to determine potential impacts to flora and fauna and identify the associated regulatory implications, under both State and Commonwealth legislation.

The Study Area covers an area of approximately 30.8 hectares (ha) and is located on Lots 1 and 2 on Plan of Subdivision 927303N, at 379 Goorambat-Chesney Road, Goorambat, in northern Victoria. It is located wholly within Benalla Rural City Council in the Victorian Riverina bioregion.

The Study Area was found to comprise highly modified agricultural land used for sheep grazing and cropping prior to the commencement of construction works for the associated solar farm, which were still underway at the time of this assessment. It was dominated by introduced grasses and commonly associated agricultural weeds. Other vegetation included planted windbreaks of mixed *Eucalyptus* spp. Native vegetation was restricted to highly disturbed and fragmented remnant patches of woodland and derived grassland and scattered trees. This vegetation may provide habitat for resident fauna but is unlikely to support threatened species. Farm dams within the Study Area, one of which will be impacted by the Project, may also provide fauna habitat but are of poor condition and unlikely to support important habitat features.

Implications under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

The Project will result in removal of native vegetation and will require a permit for removal under Clause 52.17 *Native Vegetation* of the Benalla Planning Scheme. The removal of planted native vegetation (non-remnant) is exempt from these provisions and does not require a permit.

Impacts to native vegetation

The Project will result in the removal of **0.211 ha** of native vegetation comprising:

- **0.085 ha** of native vegetation in patches, including **4 Large Patch Trees**, and
- **0.125 ha** of native vegetation in the form of **3 Scattered Trees (1 Large Scattered Tree and 2 Small Scattered Trees)**.

Because the proposed removal of native vegetation is **< 0.5 ha** and in **Location 2**, the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025) stipulate that the assessment under Clause 52.17 must be via the **Intermediate Assessment Pathway**.

Offsets

The required offsets associated with this removal must:

- Equate to **0.049 General Habitat Units**;
- Be located in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority or Benalla Rural City Council;
- Have a minimum **Strategic Biodiversity Value** of **0.3378**; and

- Include protection of at least **5** large trees.

Implications under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

There are no implications under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for the removal of Threatened Ecological Communities or impacts to listed threatened or migratory species.

Implications under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*

There are no implications under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* for impacts to threatened species or listed ecological communities.

Recommendations

- A permit under Clause 52.17 of the Benalla Planning Scheme is required for the removal of native vegetation associated with the Project;
- Ensure the protection of retained native vegetation and fauna habitat through the development of a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP);
- Pre-clearance surveys and translocation of any wildlife by suitably qualified ecologist prior to any removal of trees; and
- Where the removal of trees also results in the removal of nest boxes, additional nest boxes must be installed within suitable locations within the Study Area. Removal of nest boxes and the translocation of any wildlife must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) was engaged by International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd (the Proponent), which is a subsidiary of ENGIE S.A., to undertake an ecology assessment at the site of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Goorambat, to determine potential impacts to flora and fauna, and identify the associated implications under both State and Commonwealth biodiversity legislation.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1.1 THE PROPONENT

International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd (the Proponent), which is a subsidiary of ENGIE S.A., is proposing to develop the Goorambat East BESS (the Project) in the Benalla Rural City municipality, Victoria.

1.1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is a proposed battery energy storage facility of up to 200 MW and up to 6 hours duration (up to ~1200 MWh), co-located with the 250 MW Goorambat East Solar Farm (GESF) located in Goorambat approximately 12 km north of Benalla, Victoria. The Project will provide fast-response storage to support network reliability, integrate renewable generation and reduce curtailment by storing excess energy and discharging during peak demand. Some enabling infrastructure from GESF will be used but is not part of this application.

Key proposed infrastructure and components (indicative):

- Modular lithium-ion (LFP) battery enclosures within fenced compounds;
- Power conversion systems (inverters/PCS) and MV step-up transformers;
- 33 kV internal collector network (mostly underground) to a BESS 33 kV switchroom and control building;
- Fire safety systems (hydrants, water supply tanks and fire-breaks) designed in consultation with the CFA and to relevant Australian/International standards;
- Security fencing, CCTV, low-spill lighting compliant with AS 4282;
- Internal access tracks, laydown areas, temporary construction compounds and stormwater/drainage controls;
- Operational and maintenance facility, car parking, and business identification signage, and
- Landscape mitigation measures (native vegetation plantings, visual screening).

The Project will be located on land acquired as part of the GESF development. All necessary land tenure arrangements for construction, operation, and decommissioning are in place.

1.1.3 STUDY AREA, SITING AND LAND TENURE

The Study Area for this investigation included the broader GESF landholding ~1.3 km south of Goorambat, which is predominantly cleared agricultural land with existing site access and electrical infrastructure. The indicative development footprint avoids waterways and areas of higher environmental sensitivity identified through prior GESF assessments. Land required for the Project is owned/controlled by the Proponent as part of the GESF land acquisition.

- **Access & roads:** Primary construction and operational access will be from Goorambat–Chesney Road. Access design will be confirmed in consultation with Benalla Rural City Council and Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) where the interface with Transport Zone 3 (TRZ3) applies. Existing internal solar-farm tracks will be re-used where practicable, with minor extensions; and
- **Zoning & overlays:** The site is within the Farming Zone (FZ) under the Benalla Planning Scheme. A small Floodway Overlay (FO) occurs on the western portion of the broader GESF land; the Project footprint is sited to avoid FO-affected land. If any waterway works are required, engagement with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will occur for permits (e.g., Works on Waterways).

1.1.4 PROJECT JUSTIFICATION AND SITE SELECTION

Co-locating a BESS within the GESF estate minimises new disturbance by leveraging existing access, stakeholder relationships and proximity to the grid, while placing storage where it is operationally most effective to reduce curtailment and support system strength in the Central North Victoria Renewable Energy Zone. The site balances setback to nearby dwellings, screening opportunities, flood avoidance, and constructability.

1.1.5 GRID CONNECTION

The Project will connect to the Goorambat East Terminal Station (GETS) (constructed for GESF) via an AC-coupled 33 kV interface. The concept envisages a new/augmented 33 kV connection from the BESS collector to GETS, progressing the standard National Electricity Rules connection pathways (5.3.4 for the BESS and 5.3.9 to adjust the existing solar farm POC where applicable). Detailed connection strategy will be confirmed with AEMO, AusNet, and VicGrid.

1.1.6 CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

Construction will be staged and will predominantly use existing GESF laydown and internal tracks, with temporary compounds and site offices. Typical construction activities include minor earthworks, drainage, installation of foundations/pads, delivery and craning of battery containers, cable trenching, and commissioning. The BESS will operate 24/7 under supervisory control, with periodic maintenance visits.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this report is to determine the biodiversity values present in the Study Area and address the implications for the proposed development with respect to relevant Commonwealth, State, and local environmental legislation and permitting requirements.

Specifically, the objectives of this investigation were to:

- Review existing information on biodiversity values relating to the Study Area, including the:
 - *Flora and Fauna Assessment Report, Goorambat East Solar Farm* (AECOM, 2019), and
 - *Addendum Flora and Fauna Assessment – Native vegetation review, Goorambat East Solar Farm* (NGH, 2024)

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- Determine the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) and extent of native vegetation in the Study Area including patches and scattered trees;
- Determine the type, quality, and extent of fauna habitat present and connectivity within the broader landscape;
- Provide an inventory of flora and fauna recorded during the field survey;
- Assess the likelihood of occurrence of threatened flora, fauna, and ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act and the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) within the Study Area;
- Determine the implications for the proposed development under Clause 52.17 of the Benalla Planning Scheme;
- Identify opportunities to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity values resulting from the proposed use of the site including through provision of constraints mapping;
- Identification of potential requirement for referral of the Project under the EBPC Act; and
- Provide a summary of recommendations and next steps, including details of any targeted surveys required for threatened and/or protected flora, fauna, and ecological communities.

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2. METHODS

Surveys were conducted by ERM ecologists on 15 December 2025. Flora and fauna habitat assessments were undertaken throughout the Study Area. Vegetation was identified and categorised as native or non-native in accordance with the planning scheme, while native vegetation was assessed as per the Guidelines including the habitat hectare method (Vegetation Quality Assessment) for patches and measuring Diameter at Standard Height (DSH) for scattered trees. Qualitative habitat assessments were undertaken opportunistically and involved evaluation of habitat quality and macro/micro features necessary to support general biodiversity as well as specific target species. Survey techniques were non-invasive and aimed to provide a high-level assessment of the type and condition of potential fauna habitat present and identify areas of priority for further assessment.

The parameters measured during the habitat assessments included:

- Context regarding landscape features (connectivity, proximity to water);
- Terrestrial flora species present including canopy, shrub, and ground-layer height and size class;
- Condition (presence of weeds, evidence of disturbance, invasive fauna species);
- Breeding and roosting habitat features (hollow bearing trees, nests);
- Foraging sources (flowering tree species, termite mounds);
- Microhabitat presence (woody debris, leaf litter, decorticated bark, bare ground, soil cracks, surface rock, and rocky outcrops);
- Wetland and/or waterway presence (presence of aquatic vegetation, water depth, and condition);
- Signs of threatened species; and
- Signs of invasive species (sightings, rabbit warrens, fox dens, tracks, and scats).

Aural and visual records of fauna encountered were taken incidentally throughout the Study Area. While not comprehensive, these fauna observations provide insight into species utilisation, including that of listed matter, and potential direct/indirect impacts of the Project.

2.1 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

The following previous ecological investigations undertaken in the Study Area were reviewed:

- *Flora and Fauna Assessment Report, Goorambat East Solar Farm* (AECOM, 2019), and
- *Addendum Flora and Fauna Assessment – Native vegetation review, Goorambat East Solar Farm* (NGH, 2024).

These extensive previous studies included multiple site assessments of the Study Area and a comprehensive basis on which the updated data in the current investigation was built and informed survey effort requirements.

A desktop assessment of ecological values known, likely or predicted to be present within the Study Area was undertaken using the government databases and spatial datasets outlined in Table 2-1 below. These were examined to review the known or modelled biodiversity values associated with the Study Area and a buffer area of 10 km, collectively referred to as the 'Locality'.

TABLE 2-1 DATABASE DESKTOP SEARCHES

Data Source	Description
<i>EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool*</i>	The <i>EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool</i> (PMST) (DCCEEW n.d.) provides predictive results on the occurrence of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) based on mapping of known and potential species distribution, habitat, Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) and wetlands. For assessments of large projects, areas with connectivity or habitat linkages to regions of high biodiversity, or potentially poorly studied areas, a standard buffer of 10 km is applied to the Study Area to capture a more comprehensive predictive dataset.
<i>Victorian Biodiversity Atlas</i>	The VBA database, maintained by the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) provides flora and fauna species records. A standard search area expanded to include records within 10 km of the Study Area was applied to allow for consideration of potentially limited past survey effort in the region, greater habitat variation, and to account for movement of fauna species within the landscape.
<i>NatureKit</i>	<i>NatureKit</i> is an online mapping and data exploration tool for biodiversity data integration and decision support.

* The resultant *EPBC Act Protected Matters Report* is provided in Appendix E.

2.2 LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE

A likelihood of occurrence assessment was undertaken which was informed by desktop sources and subsequently updated in line with field survey findings.

Desktop sources were used to identify threatened flora, fauna, and Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and/or FFG Act which have been recorded previously or are predicted to occur within an approximately 10 km buffer of the boundary of the Study Area.

Habitat and distribution information for MNES is sourced from the *Species Profile and Threats Database* (DCCEEW 2025c) and/or Conservation Advice where available, supplemented by the other primary sources (e.g. published literature). Species records were sourced from the *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas* (VBA) and the *Protected Matters Search Tool* (PMST) maintained and made publicly available by the Victorian and Commonwealth environment departments respectively.

Species and communities for which presence cannot be discounted are categorised as having the potential to occur.

Determinations were based on the criteria outlined in the matrix below (Table 2-2).

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TABLE 2-2 LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE CRITERIA

	Preferred habitat exists	General habitat exists ²	Habitat does not exist ³
Records ¹ within the Study Area	Known	Known	Known
Records within the Locality ⁴	Likely	Potential	Unlikely
No records within the Locality, but the Study Area is within known distribution	Potential	Potential	Unlikely
No records in the Locality, and the Study Area is outside of distribution	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

1. Records considered are those from the last 30 years.

2. Habitat may be considered general, but not preferred because: some desired habitat features may be present, but not all; habitat may have poor connectivity; or habitat may be known to be disturbed.

3. Based on sources reviewed and/or field survey results.

4. 'Locality' refers to a 10 km buffer around the Study Area and is inclusive of the Study Area.

2.3 IMPACTS TO NATIVE VEGETATION

Impacts to native vegetation and the associated offset requirements were calculated in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025), herein referred to as 'the Guidelines', using the native vegetation removal tool NVR Map (DEECA 2026).

2.4 ASSESSMENT PATHWAY

Determination of the assessment pathway for a permit application to remove native vegetation under Clause 52.17 of the Benalla Planning Scheme followed the matrix presented in Table 2-3 below, in accordance with the Guidelines.

TABLE 2-3 ASSESSMENT PATHWAY THRESHOLDS

	Location category*		
Native vegetation to be removed	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3
< 0.5 ha and no Large Trees	Basic	Intermediate	Detailed
< 0.5 ha and at least one Large Tree	Intermediate	Intermediate	Detailed
≥ 0.5 ha	Detailed	Detailed	Detailed

* The Location category is determined according to DEECA's *Location risk map* which anticipates risk to biodiversity where native vegetation is to be removed. Location 3 incorporates potential habitat for threatened species. Location 2 includes EVCs with a Bioregional Conservation Status (BCS) of Endangered and sensitive wetlands and coastal areas. All other parts of Victoria are classified as Location 1, having the lowest risk. If impacts to native vegetation involve more than one Location category, the highest value applies.

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2.5 LIMITATIONS

The timing of the survey (i.e., summer) coincided with conditions that may limit the detection of some species, including some threatened flora, such as those that are only seasonally present above-ground (including many orchids) or for which detection or identification relies on the presence of particular characteristics such as flowers or fruits. However, due to historical clearing, and the current agricultural land for sheep grazing and cropping as well as construction of a solar energy facility, it was considered likely that only common, robust species able to withstand these conditions were likely to remain and most non-perennial species present would be introduced. Additionally, as the site was surveyed by both AECOM and NGH in November 2018 (spring) and August 2024 (winter), it is considered that the field data, especially with respect to presence and extent of native vegetation in the Study Area and potential for threatened species, is comprehensively known.

Patches of native vegetation and scattered trees previously assessed by AECOM (2019) and NGH (2024) that were beyond the development footprint will not be impacted and were not reassessed. Any future changes to the development footprint that result in impacts to these patches or scattered trees will require an updated assessment of vegetation condition.

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3. RESULTS

3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Study Area was located within the Victorian Riverina bioregion and within approximately 1 km of the intersection with the Northern Inland Slopes bioregion. The Study Area falls within the Goulburn Broken CMA and the Benalla Local Government Area (LGA). It is entirely within the Farming Zone (FZ) under the Benalla Planning Scheme.

The Study Area was highly modified, with private land consisting of open grassy paddocks formerly used for grazing and cropping, now dominated by solar panel arrays, access tracks and other associated infrastructure. The majority of the Study Area was dominated by pasture species and commonly associated weeds.

Native vegetation was limited and of poor quality in the Study Area. Vegetation was present as either isolated Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) or highly disturbed patches of Plains Woodland (Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) 803) dominated by Grey Box.

Planted trees were present in the form of a single hedgerow in the east of the Study Area. This hedgerow was comprised of mixed *Eucalyptus* species including Large-fruited Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *megalocarpa*) and Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*).

The landscape is predominantly flat with minor undulations. The Study Area is typical of landscapes dominating the broader region with extensive past clearing.

3.2 NATIVE VEGETATION

There were 36 flora species recorded during the field survey. This comprised 15 native species (42%) and 21 introduced species (58%). The full list of species is provided in Appendix A.

3.2.1 PATCHES

A total of 0.809 ha of native vegetation was recorded from the Study Area; all representative of EVC 803 Plains Woodland. This included 0.251 ha comprising 6 patches within or in proximity to the development footprint, four of which were previously recorded AECOM (2019) and re-assessed, while the remaining two (Habitat Zone aa and ab) were newly recorded.

The remaining 0.558 ha recorded by AECOM (2019) was not reassessed in this investigation because the patches were outside the proposed development footprint.

The locations of these patches and those previously mapped by AECOM (2019) that were not reassessed are shown in Figure 3-1. Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 below provide a description and summary of the six patches recorded herein.

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TABLE 3-1 DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT ZONES

Habitat Zone	EVC	Description
aa, ab	803 Plains Woodland	These small Habitat Zones were heavily disturbed and comprised patches of Wallaby Grass (<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp) with a sparse cover of Common Grass-sedge (<i>Carex breviculmis</i>) as the only other native species present. Canopy and shrub layers were absent, and the only forbs present were introduced pastoral weeds. The Habitat Zones were located adjacent to a planted windbreak of mixed eucalypts.
b	803 Plains Woodland	This Habitat Zone, located in the south of the Study Area, was delineated by the connected canopies of three Large Patch Trees. The canopy featured Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) and Yellow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>). A shrub layer was absent from this Habitat Zone. The ground layer was almost entirely dominated by exotic pastoral weeds including Perennial Rye-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), Great Brome (<i>Bromus diandrus</i>), and Common Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium africanum</i>). Native understory cover was sparse with only two native species recorded, Windmill-grass (<i>Chloris truncata</i>) and Short-stemmed Sedge (<i>Carex breviculmis</i>).
c	803 Plains Woodland	This Habitat Zone, also located in the south of the Study Area, largely comprised immature Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) individuals across different life form categories. The native understory consisted of Rigid Panic (<i>Walwhalleya proluta</i>), Finger Rush (<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>), and Common Grass-sedge (<i>Carex breviculmis</i>). Weed cover was high and included high threat weeds such as Paspalum (<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>), Desert Ash (<i>Fraxinus angustifolium</i>) and Toowoomba Canary-grass (<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>).
d	803 Plains Woodland	This Habitat Zone, located along Goorambat-Chesney Road, is adjacent to an artificial dam and features a single Large Patch Tree. Immature Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) were also present across various growth stages and were the only species present in the shrub layer. Native grasses including Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) and Common Wheat-grass (<i>Anthosachne scabra</i>) dominated the groundcover which also featured a rush (<i>Lomandra</i> spp.) and Finger Rush (<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>).
e	803 Plains Woodland	This Habitat Zone, located in the east of the Study Area, was comprised of the connected canopies of four Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) representing Large Patch Trees. No other native species were present and the understory was dominated by pastoral weeds such as Great Brome (<i>Bromus diandrus</i>), Perennial Rye-grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), Common Peppergrass (<i>Lepidium africanum</i>), and Oat (<i>Avena sativa</i>).

TABLE 3-2 HABITAT ZONE DETAILS

Habitat Zone	EVC	BCS	Condition score	Area (ha)	Number of Large Patch Trees
aa	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	0.17	0.008	0
ab	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	0.17	0.014	0
b	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	0.23	0.068	3

Habitat Zone	EVC	BCS	Condition score	Area (ha)	Number of Large Patch Trees
c	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	0.32	0.020	0
d	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	0.42	0.078	1
e	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	0.27	0.063	4
AECOM 2019*	EVC 803 Plains Woodland	Endangered	Not available	0.558	Not available
Total				0.809	8

* = Total patches of native vegetation recorded by AECOM not re-assessed.

3.2.2 SCATTERED TREES

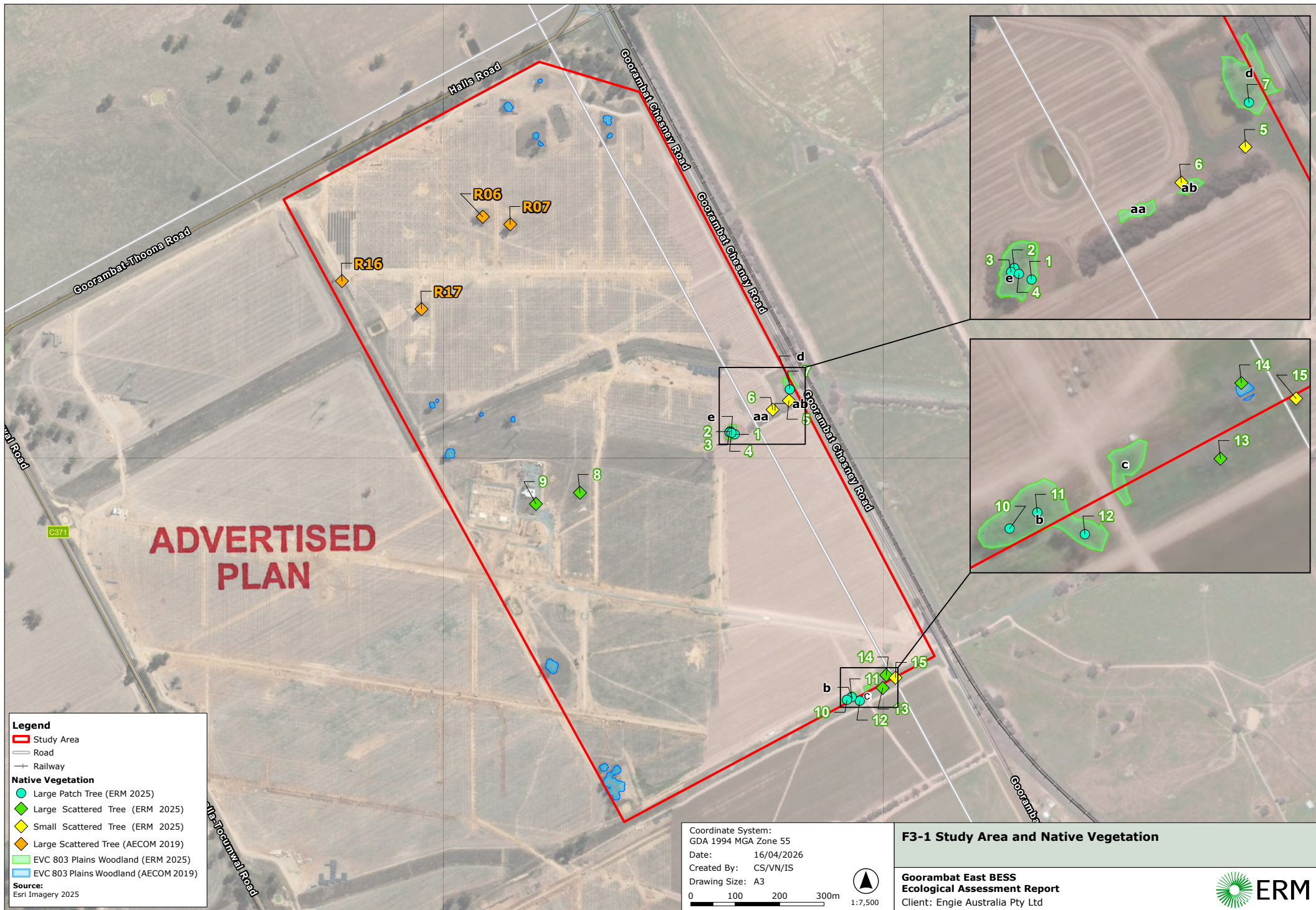
Scattered Trees recorded from the Study Area comprised:

- Eight Large Scattered Trees, and
- Three Small Scattered Trees.

Species represented included Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) and juvenile *Eucalyptus* sp. unable to be identified. Details of the trees are provided in Appendix C and their locations shown in Figure 3-1.

Four of these, all Large Scattered Trees, were recorded by AECOM (2019). These are also shown in Figure 3-1 and were mostly located in the west of the Study Area and not within proximity to the development footprint; therefore, these were not re-assessed in this investigation.

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Legend

Study Area

Road

Railway

Native Vegetation

- Large Patch Tree (ERM 2025)
- Large Scattered Tree (ERM 2025)
- Small Scattered Tree (ERM 2025)
- Large Scattered Tree (AECOM 2019)
- EVC 803 Plains Woodland (ERM 2025)
- EVC 803 Plains Woodland (AECOM 2019)

Source:
Esri Imagery 2025

Coordinate System:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Date: 16/04/2026

Created By: CS/VN/IS

Drawing Size: A3

0 100 200 300m

1:7,500

F3-1 Study Area and Native Vegetation

**Goorambat East BESS
Ecological Assessment Report**

Client: Engie Australia Pty Ltd

ERM

3.3 FAUNA

There were five species of native fauna recorded in the Study Area. All were native birds considered common for the region:

- Red-rumped Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*);
- Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*);
- Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*);
- White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*); and
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*).

The Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) is nomadic, and presence is likely to be seasonal and dependent on the availability of water. The remaining species are cosmopolitan and are able to persist in heavily modified environments. Aside from the Yellow-billed Spoonbill, native species were not confined to habitat features and were observed throughout the site, including among solar panel arrays.

Common Starling (*Turdus vulgaris*) was the only introduced fauna species observed within the Study Area. The species is widespread throughout disturbed agricultural land and likely to forage throughout the Study Area. While no others were observed it is also likely that other introduced fauna species are present or will utilise the Study Area.

A full list of fauna species observed is provided in Appendix D.

3.3.1 FAUNA HABITAT

The Study Area was found to possess largely poor-quality habitat for native fauna. The following broad habitat types were categorised according to distinguishing characteristics of fauna resources for each:

- Wooded Vegetation;
- Grassland;
- Aquatic Habitat; and
- Artificial Habitat.

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Wooded vegetation

Wooded vegetation is largely absent from the Study Area and, where present, is largely reduced to planted wind breaks of various *Eucalyptus* species or small clusters of remnant Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*). Woodland patches were of poor quality and lacked the native shrub understory that is characteristic of the vegetation community. Ground cover was often dominated by exotic pastoral weeds, such as Perennial Rye-Grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Great Brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and is likely to provide poor quality habitat for native fauna. One Habitat Zone (HZ d) was found to support a native groundcover of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*), Common Wheat-grass (*Anthosachne scabra*), and *Lomandra* sp. which may provide greater foraging opportunities for terrestrial fauna. Log cover was sparse and, due to the weed cover, unlikely to be accessible or to provide suitable refugia. Due to the small size of woodland habitats and their relative isolation from contiguous vegetation it is highly unlikely that these areas would be suitable for native fauna besides birds and microbats.

PHOTO 1 WOODLAND VEGETATION RECORDED IN THE STUDY AREA



Representative wooded vegetation present within the Study Area. Left: Habitat Zone b featuring a canopy of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) and Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and an understory dominated by pastoral weeds. Right: Habitat Zone d featuring a canopy of a single Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) and a mixed native and introduced understory.

The windbreak likely provides minor foraging, roosting and dispersal habitat to resident fauna, however, is unlikely to be an important determinant of species diversity and abundance. Planted species used as wind breaks included Large-fruited Yellow-gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *megalocarpa*), and Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*) and were seen to support resident insectivorous birds. Trees were too young to support tree hollows and no stick nests were observed.

One stick nest, suitable in size and location for a raptor, was recorded in one of the scattered trees (Tree No. 9) however there were no signs of recent use.

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PHOTO 2 WINDBREAK OF PLANTED EUCALYPTS IN THE STUDY AREA



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Planted mixed *Eucalyptus* spp. form the planted wind break previously assessed as native vegetation. Ground layer entirely dominated by introduced pastoral weeds and was found not to qualify as native vegetation.

Grassland

Grasslands within the Study Area are mostly non-native and are a product of historic agricultural land use practices. Grasslands were almost entirely dominated by Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), with Toowoomba Canary-grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), and Great Brome (*Bromus diandrus*) also present. Following construction activities, grasslands occur predominantly beneath the solar farm arrays and are subject to continuous management practices, such as regular mowing, spraying, and pasture improvement that are likely to restrict the establishment of native species. This will likely be exacerbated upon the return of livestock, namely sheep, following the completion of construction activities.

PHOTO 3 TYPICAL GRASSLAND HABITAT WITHIN THE STUDY AREA



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Grasslands were represented in the Study Area by modified pasture, dominated by Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and subject to ongoing pastoral management.

Although dominated by introduced species, these grasslands do have the potential to support resident native fauna. This is likely limited to those species already able to persist in disturbed agricultural landscape, such as the Australasian Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) and Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhyna tibicen*).

Aquatic habitat

The Study Area is highly modified and aquatic habitat is limited to several artificial dams that may have importance for fauna within the landscape.

Artificial dams, as defined by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), are typically surrounded by cleared land with little to no wetland vegetation. Dams were likely important livestock watering points prior to construction activities and are expected

to be permanently inundated. Emergent vegetation is absent and fringing vegetation is largely restricted to pastoral weeds within proximity of the water's edge. Incidental individuals of *Typha* spp. and *Juncus* spp. are present along banks, however, they do not provide sufficient cover to warrant further assessment. Dams are unlikely to provide important habitat for threatened amphibians, however, they may be utilised by generalist species such as the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) and Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*). Nomadic waterbirds and waterfowl are likely to utilise these dams temporarily for feeding and roosting, however dams are unlikely to support important breeding habitat. A single Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) was observed utilising these dams.

PHOTO 4 CONSTRUCTED WETLAND IN THE STUDY AREA



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One of the artificial dams in the east the Study Area and typical of those present, comprising seasonal fringing vegetation of introduced grasses and little to no wetland vegetation. That shown here is within the development footprint and will be drained and filled as part of the Project construction.

Artificial habitat

Newly constructed transmission line towers have the potential to provide additional breeding habitat for raptors, particularly the Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*), as well as large passerines (birds belonging to the Order Passeriformes) such as the Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*). No observations of breeding attempts had been made at the time of survey however this may be in part a reflection of the ongoing disturbance associated with the construction activities on the solar farm.

3.3.2 SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

The surrounding landscape can be characterised by highly disturbed agricultural land with a land use history of both cropping and grazing. Native vegetation is restricted to linear roadside verges and isolated patches of native woodlands and derived grasslands that are likely to be of poor quality and connectivity as a result of agricultural pressures. Isolated paddock trees are also present throughout the landscape and are likely remnant old growth individuals that support tree hollows, provide breeding habitat for avifauna and facilitate species movement. The Study Area can be largely considered consistent with this disturbed agricultural landscape with any future disturbances unlikely to materially impact the quality or connectivity of the surrounding landscape.

The broader landscape contains a matrix of nature reserves and remnant woodland vegetation that are likely to support native fauna and facilitate broader movement. Perhaps the most significant to the Study Area is an approximately 80 ha patch of box ironbark woodland approximately 2.5 km north-east. While resident fauna interacting with the Study Area are likely to utilise these habitat features, any impacts to the Study Area resulting from the Project will likely have a negligible impact on these areas of high-quality habitat.

Pathways for connectivity throughout the landscape are predominantly via linear roadside vegetation.

3.4 EPBC ACT

No flora, fauna or TECs listed under the EPBC Act were recorded during the field survey, nor were any recorded by AECOM (2019) or NGH (2024).

3.4.1 FLORA

The likelihood of occurrence analysis for threatened flora presented in Appendix F determined that no flora species listed under the EPBC Act had the potential to be present in the Study Area.

3.4.2 FAUNA

The likelihood of occurrence analysis for threatened and migratory fauna is provided in Appendix G and summarised in Table 3-3 below. It was determined that the following four species had at least the potential to occur in the Study Area:

- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*);
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonoplaura guttata*);
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus disolor*), and
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).

TABLE 3-3 LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE SUMMARY OF FAUNA LISTED UNDER THE EPBC ACT

Species	Common name	Listing status	Habitat values within the Study Area	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	Vulnerable, Migratory	The species is known to be almost exclusively aerial and so while the entire Study Area can be considered foraging habitat this is restricted to flyovers only.	Potential to occur
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	Critically Endangered	Remnant scattered trees and woodland patches may provide incidental foraging habitat when in flower. Due to the highly disturbed nature of the Study Area the habitat value is expected to be low.	Potential to occur
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot	Vulnerable	Potential habitat is likely restricted to within proximity of remnant scattered trees and woodlands however foraging may occur within modified pastures.	Potential to occur
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	Vulnerable	Potential foraging habitat may occur throughout the Study Area but is considered more likely within proximity to remnant scattered trees or woodland patches.	Potential to occur

3.4.3 THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Based on the PMST results, four TECs have values known or modelled to occur in the Study Area. Analysis of the likelihood of these communities being present is provided in Table 3-4. No TECs are considered to have the potential to occur in the Study Area.

TABLE 3-4 PMST SEARCH RESULTS FOR THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Community name	Listing status	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions</i>	Endangered	Buloke (<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>) was not present within the Study Area with only Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) present in the canopy. Native grasses were present in the understorey, however, patches were small and with a high proportion of introduced species and unlikely to meet the diagnostic criteria. Unlikely to occur
<i>Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia</i>	Endangered	Small, highly modified patches not meeting the patch size condition threshold of at least 0.5 ha. Unlikely to occur

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Community name	Listing status	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains</i>	Critically Endangered	Highly modified, small patches that do not correspond with associated EVCs. Unlikely to occur
<i>White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland</i>	Critically Endangered	Highly modified, small patches not meeting condition threshold of having a predominantly native ground layer comprised of 12 or more native understory species. Unlikely to occur

3.5 FFG ACT

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3.5.1 LISTED FLORA

The likelihood of occurrence analysis for threatened flora presented in Appendix F determined that no flora species listed under the FFG Act were considered to have the potential to be present in the Study Area. No flora listed under the FFG Act were recorded during the field survey, nor were any recorded from the Study Area by AECOM (2019) or NGH (2024).

3.5.2 PROTECTED FLORA

No flora species individually Protected under the FFG Act were recorded from the Study Area, however, all native species within a listed ecological community are Protected under the FFG Act. These are discussed in Section 3.5.4 below.

3.5.3 FAUNA

No fauna species listed under the FFG Act were observed within the Study Area during the field survey, nor were they recorded by AECOM (2019) or NGH (2024).

The likelihood of occurrence analysis for fauna (Appendix G) identified 10 species considered to have at least the potential to be present in the Study Area. These results are summarised in Table 3-5, and comprised eight birds and two reptiles. Four of these corresponded with those also listed under the EPBC Act.

TABLE 3-5 LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE SUMMARY OF FAUNA LISTED UNDER THE FFG ACT

Species	Common name	FFG Act	Habitat values within the Study Area	Likelihood of occurrence
Birds				
<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	Vulnerable	Potential habitat is likely restricted to the artificial dams within the Study Area, however, foraging in modified pasture may also occur.	Potential to occur
<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Plumed Egret	Critically Endangered	Potential habitat is likely restricted to the artificial dams within the Study Area, however,	Potential to occur

Species	Common name	FFG Act	Habitat values within the Study Area	Likelihood of occurrence
			foraging in modified pasture may also occur.	
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	Critically Endangered	Remnant scattered trees and retained woodland patches may provide suitable breeding habitat. Foraging may also occur throughout the Study Area.	Potential to occur
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Endangered	Remnant scattered trees may provide suitable breeding habitat with one large stick nest suitable for the species observed. Foraging may occur, however, is likely to be incidental due to the absence of suitable waterbodies within the Study Area.	Potential to occur
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needle-tail	Vulnerable	The species is known to be almost exclusively aerial and so while the entire Study Area can be considered foraging habitat this is restricted to flyovers only.	Potential to occur
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	Critically Endangered	Remnant scattered trees and woodland patches may provide incidental foraging habitat when in flower. Due to the highly disturbed nature of the Study Area the habitat value is expected to be low.	Potential to occur
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot	Vulnerable	Potential habitat is likely restricted to within proximity of remnant scattered trees and woodlands however foraging may occur within modified pastures.	Potential to occur
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	Vulnerable	Potential foraging habitat may occur throughout the Study Area but is considered more likely within proximity to remnant scattered trees or woodland patches.	Potential to occur
Reptiles				
<i>Morelia spilota metcalfei</i>	Carpet Python	Endangered	Potential foraging habitat is expected to be throughout the Study Area, with presence likely dependent on the availability of prey items.	Potential to occur
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace Monitor	Endangered	Potential foraging habitat is expected to be throughout the Study Area, with presence likely dependent on the availability of prey items.	Potential to occur

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CLIENT: International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of ENGIE S.A.)

PROJECT NO: 0798824

DATE: 5 June 2026

VERSION: Final

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3.5.4 LISTED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

One ecological community listed under the FFG Act was identified within the desktop assessment as potentially occurring within the Study Area based on modelling by DEECA. As determined in Table 3-6 below, this community is considered to be present in the Study Area, specifically wherever patches of native vegetation were recorded.

TABLE 3-6 ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES LISTED UNDER THE FFG ACT

Ecological community	Description	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Grey Box – Buloke Grassy Woodland Community</i>	This ecological community is modelled to occur within the locality of the Study Area. It is associated with EVC 803 Plains Woodland which was recorded in the Study Area. Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) was found to be the structurally dominant canopy species however no Buloke (<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>) were present. While the understory was largely highly disturbed, diagnostic species were observed including Wallaby Grass (<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.), Common Wheat-grass (<i>Anthosachne scabra</i>), and Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>).	Known to occur

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4. CONCLUSION AND REGULATORY IMPLICATIONS

The Project design is preliminary and subject to detailed design. As such, this assessment has been conducted based on the indicative development footprint as shown in Figure 4-1. Future detailed design that does not result in new and additional impacts will not require further assessment.

4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

4.1.1 CLAUSE 52.17 NATIVE VEGETATION

The only native vegetation present and to be potentially impacted by the proposal are small and heavily disturbed patches of EVC 803 Plains Woodland, several Large Scattered Trees and 2 Small Scattered Trees. A windbreak of mixed species including Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *megalocarpa*), and Red Ironbark (*E. tricarpa*) has the potential to be impacted however as this vegetation is planted, it is exempt from the requirements under Clause 52.17 of the Benalla Planning Scheme. All other vegetation likely to be impacted is not classified as native vegetation under the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction, or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025) (the Guidelines) nor the Benalla Planning Scheme. A checklist of the requirements for a permit application to remove native vegetation under the Guidelines, and where in this report the associated information can be found, is provided in Appendix K.

4.1.1.1 AVOID AND MINIMISE STATEMENT

Following thorough scoping, the Proponent has indicated that no further options exist to avoid and minimise impacts without compromising the objectives of the Project. Current infrastructure siting has been designed to make use of areas previously cleared under existing permits. The substation has been located strategically to take advantage of cleared scattered trees while the underground cable pathway takes advantage of the existing transmission line corridor. Numerous iterations of the Project siting were considered to determine the location within the Study Area that would have the least impact on native vegetation, particularly higher-value scattered trees. The laydown infrastructure has been situated in the adjoining easement and avoids the Notional Root Zone (NRZ) of nearby trees in patch vegetation and scattered trees, except for Tree No. 14 for which the maximum incursion of the development footprint is 9% and therefore less than the 10% trigger for a deemed loss under the Guidelines.

While native vegetation is proposed to be impacted by the Project, care has been made to ensure the avoidance of those patches that contain the highest quality. Of the 0.809 ha of native vegetation present within the Study Area, 0.558 ha were assessed previously (AECOM, 2019) and were not reassessed as they occurred beyond the indicative development footprint. The 0.085 ha of native vegetation in patches due to be cleared constitutes only 11% of native vegetation patches present. The Habitat Zones affected are HZ aa, HZ ab, and HZ e, which had very low condition scores of 0.17, 0.17, and 0.27 respectively, and are considered likely to degrade further due to their small size and fragmented nature, the ongoing land use for agriculture including sheep grazing and cropping and the prevalence of invasive introduced species in proximity. Of the 8 Large Scattered Trees present within the Study Area (including ERM and AECOM data) 7 will be retained, while the 2 Small Scattered Trees proposed for removal are both of indeterminate origin. Impacted trees were not found to provide critical

habitat to fauna and their removal is expected to have a negligible impact on habitat quality, availability, and connectivity in the landscape.

4.1.1.2 IMPACTS TO NATIVE VEGETATION

Impacts to native vegetation were calculated based on the indicative development footprint shown in Figure 4-1. An NVR Report is provided in Appendix I.

Figure 4-1 shows that the proposal will result in the removal of **0.211 ha** of native vegetation comprising:

- **0.085 ha** of native vegetation in patches, including **4 Large Patch Trees**, and
- **0.125 ha** of native vegetation in the form of **3 Scattered Trees (1 Large Scattered Tree and 2 Small Scattered Trees)**.

All native vegetation impacted is representative of EVC 803 Plains Woodland, which in the Victorian Riverina bioregion has a BCS of Endangered.

Because the proposed removal of native vegetation is **< 0.5 ha** and in **Location 2**, the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025) stipulate that the assessment under Clause 52.17 must be via the **Intermediate Assessment Pathway** (as per the assessment matrix in Table 2-3).

4.1.1.3 OFFSETS

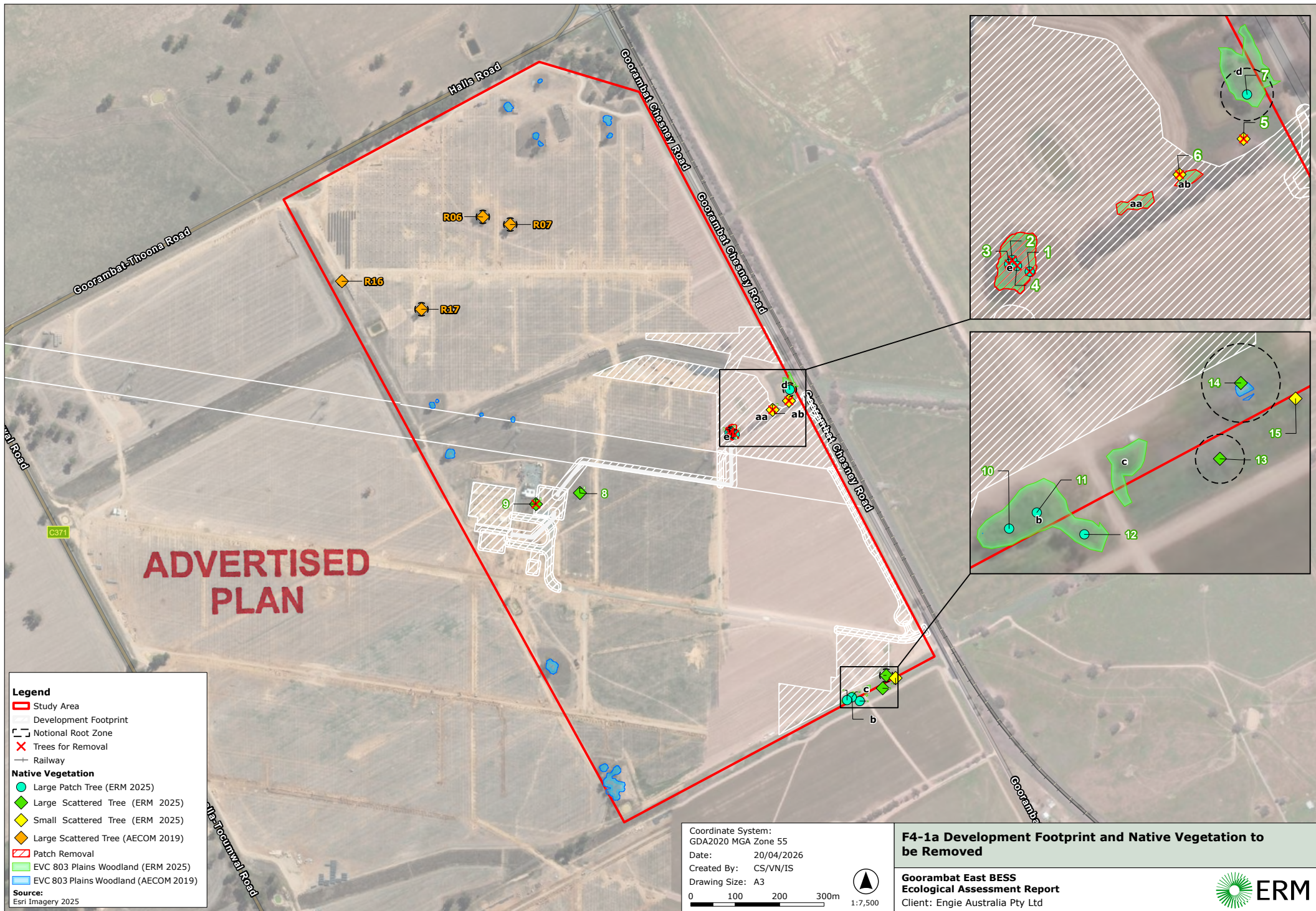
The required offsets associated with this removal must:

- equate to **0.049 General Habitat Units**;
- be located in the Goulburn Broken CMA or Benalla Rural City Council areas;
- have a minimum **Strategic Biodiversity Value** of **0.3378**, and
- include protection of at least **5** large trees.

4.1.1.4 OFFSET STATEMENT

Offsets will be secured via purchase from a third-party provider. Evidence that the required offsets can be secured is provided in the Native Vegetation Credit Register Search results in Appendix J.

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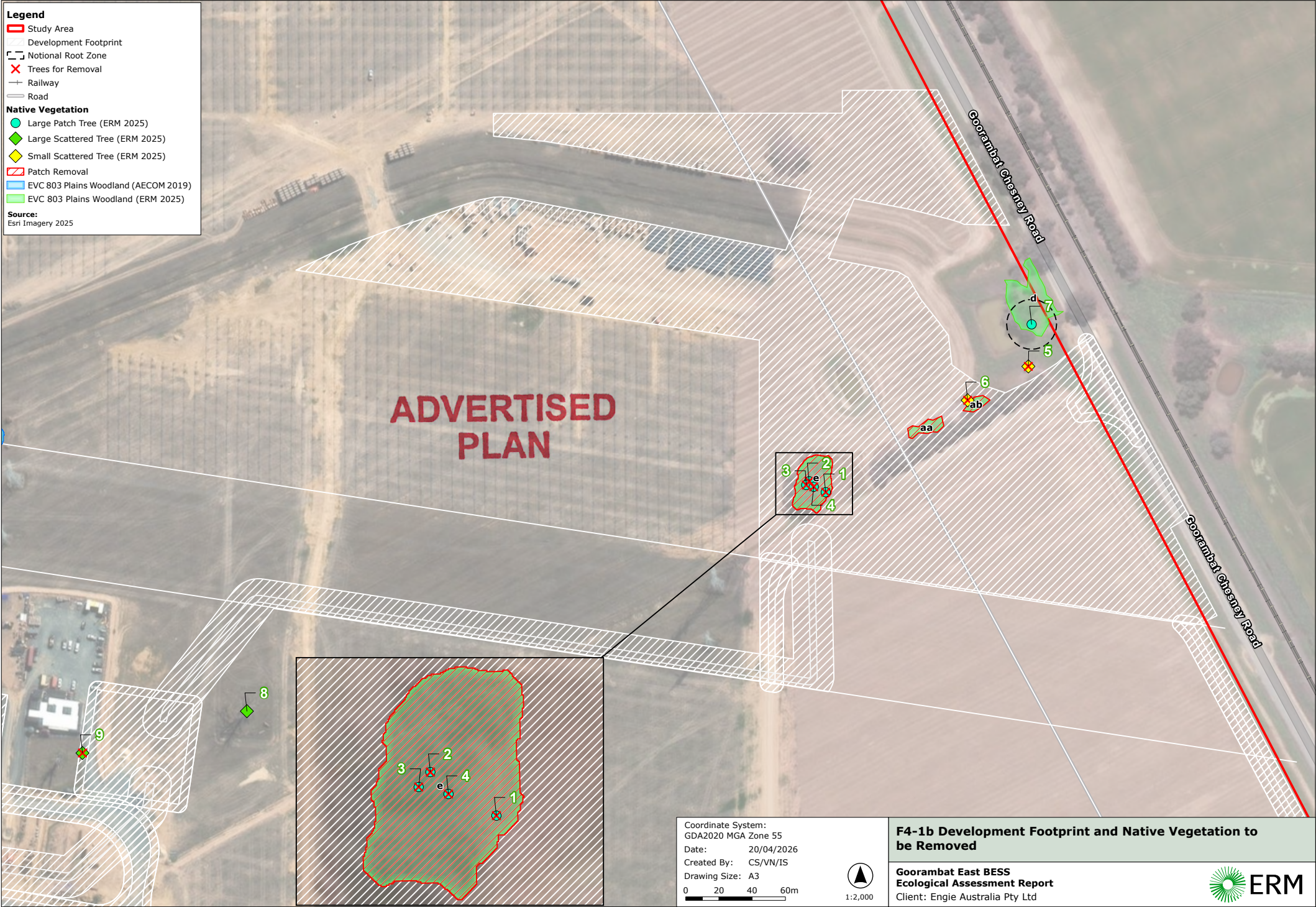
Legend

- Study Area
- Development Footprint
- Notional Root Zone
- Trees for Removal
- Railway
- Road

Native Vegetation

- Large Patch Tree (ERM 2025)
- Large Scattered Tree (ERM 2025)
- Small Scattered Tree (ERM 2025)
- Patch Removal
- EVC 803 Plains Woodland (AECOM 2019)
- EVC 803 Plains Woodland (ERM 2025)

Source:
Esri Imagery 2025



ADVERTISED PLAN

Legend

- Study Area
- Development Footprint
- Notional Root Zone
- Railway
- Road

Native Vegetation

- Large Patch Tree (ERM 2025)
- Large Scattered Tree (ERM 2025)
- Small Scattered Tree (ERM 2025)
- EVC 803 Plains Woodland (AECOM 2019)
- EVC 803 Plains Woodland (ERM 2025)
- Area for temporary laydown & construction compounds

Source:
Esri Imagery 2025

Coordinate System:
GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Date: 20/04/2026
Created By: CS/VN/IS
Drawing Size: A3

0 20 40 60m 1:1,500

F4-1c Development Footprint and Native Vegetation to be Removed

**Goorambat East BESS
Ecological Assessment Report**
Client: Engie Australia Pty Ltd



4.2 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

Provided the development footprint does not directly impact the biodiversity values identified in the Study Area and mitigation measures indicated below (see Section 5) are implemented throughout the construction and post-construction phases, significant impacts to MNES are considered unlikely. A self-assessment of the potential impacts to MNES (ERM 2026) found no potentially significant impacts were likely to result from the Project.

4.2.1 FLORA

No species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act were considered to have the potential to occur in the Study Area.

4.2.2 FAUNA

No species listed as threatened or migratory under the EPBC Act are considered likely to occur within the Study Area, and only the following four were considered to have the potential to occur:

- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*);
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*);
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*); and
- White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).

No important local habitat for these species is present and visitations, if they occur, are likely to be limited to intermittent foraging events or fly-overs. The potential loss of a small area of isolated, poor-quality habitat is not expected to result in a significant impact.

4.2.3 THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

No threatened ecological communities are present within the Study Area.

4.3 ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978

The *Ministerial Guidelines for Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978* (DTP 2023) outlines the triggers for referral of a project to the Victorian Minister for Planning who determines if an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required. An assessment of the Project against criteria relevant to flora and fauna is provided in Table 4-1 and Table 4-2 below, which indicates that a referral under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* is not necessary.

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TABLE 4-1 ASSESSMENT AGAINST RELEVANT INDIVIDUAL BIODIVERSITY REFERRAL CRITERIA OF THE EE ACT

Referral criteria	Criteria met	Comments
Potential removal, destruction or lopping of 10 ha or more of native vegetation that consists of or comprises a combination of: - 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.	No	Long used for agriculture (livestock grazing and cropping) the Study Area is composed almost entirely of non-native vegetation. While areas of native vegetation that are proposed to be cleared were determined to represent an Endangered EVC, the total area of impacted native vegetation is 0.211 ha – well below the threshold.
Potential clearing of an area determined as 'critical habitat' under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> .	No	No areas determined as critical habitat under the FFG Act are present within the Study Area.
Potential for loss of a significant proportion (e.g. 1% or greater) of known remaining habitat or population of a threatened species within Victoria.	No	Impacts to native vegetation do not constitute a significant proportion of known remaining habitat for a threatened species.
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' (DCCEEW 2005).	No	No Ramsar sites or nationally important wetlands are in proximity to the Study Area.
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.	Unlikely	Although the Project will result in the draining and filling of one small farm dam, this aquatic habitat is of low quality and little value to native species due to the absence of wetland vegetation within and lack of fringing vegetation other than introduced annual grasses and common weeds and history as a waterhole for sheep grazing. Water quality of this dam is also likely poor as a result of agricultural practices. Other impacts to aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems are unlikely to occur with relevant Project controls in place throughout development.

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TABLE 4-2 ASSESSMENT AGAINST RELEVANT COMBINED BIODIVERSITY REFERRAL CRITERIA OF THE EE ACT

Referral criteria	Criteria met	Comments
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.	No	The Study Area almost entirely comprises non-native vegetation. While areas of native vegetation that are proposed to be cleared have been found to be classified as an Endangered EVC, 0.211 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared.
Matters listed under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>: - 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.	No	0.085 ha of an ecological community listed under the FFG Act, the <i>Grey Box – Buloke Grassy Woodland Community</i> will be impacted by the Project. This community is present as patches of EVC 803 Plains Woodland in poor condition and its removal will not constitute a significant loss to this community. Due to the poor quality, and high fragmentation of habitat within the Study Area, it is unlikely that the potential loss of habitat will further fragment a genetically important population of an endangered or threatened species. As with threatened ecological communities, the design phase of the Project is expected to avoid any significant direct impacts to threatened species listed under the FFG Act, while indirect impacts will be mitigated through appropriate construction management actions. As the current mapped wetlands have been determined to no longer be functional, no significant impacts on wetlands that support migratory bird species are expected to occur because of the Project. Potential impacts resulting from proximity to and connectivity with the Ramsar Wetlands are likely to be readily mitigated with appropriate construction management practices.
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 <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>; or - within or adjoining land reserved under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i>	No	No Significant Landscape Overlays apply across the Study Area. No land reserved under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i> is within or adjoining the Study Area.
Potential for extensive or major effects to the environment due to changes in land stability, disturbance of acid sulphate soils or project induced soil erosion over the short or long term.	Unlikely	Any impacts to soil, land stability and from disturbance of acid sulphate soils, if they occur, are likely to be readily mitigated with appropriate construction management measures in place.

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4.4 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 the FFG Act, a permit is required from DEECA to take (kill, injure, disturb, or collect) threatened or protected flora species from public land.

4.4.1 FLORA

A Protected Flora Permit is required to be obtained from DEECA for any flora species listed as threatened or protected under the FFG Act impacted by the Project where they occur on public land. Such a permit can only be obtained once a Planning Permit quantifying the approved removal is obtained.

Listed threatened or protected flora species were not recorded from within the Study Area.

4.4.2 FAUNA

To avoid impacts on threatened species listed under the FFG Act, as with the indicative development footprint, final infrastructure layout design should continue to prioritise the avoidance of areas identified as suitable habitat (i.e., aquatic habitats and remnant Large Scattered Trees). While some species may utilise the planted trees within the wind break adjacent to Goorambat-Chesney Road, removal of this low-quality habitat is unlikely to have any significant impact on any listed fauna.

4.4.3 LISTED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

The Project will result in the loss of 0.085 ha of native vegetation assessed as EVC 803 Plains Woodland and associated with the Listed Ecological Community *Grey Box – Buloke Grassy Woodland Community*. This vegetation is considered very poor quality and is located on private land and so its removal does not result in any implications under the FFG Act.

4.5 CATCHMENT AND LAND PROTECTION ACT 1994

Under the CaLP Act, all landowners are legally required to manage declared noxious weeds and pest animals on their land. This means landowners must take all reasonable steps to:

- eradicate regionally or State Prohibited weeds;
- prevent the growth and spread of regionally or State Controlled weeds; and
- prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals on their land.

Trade in Restricted weeds (either as plants, seeds, or contaminants in other material) is prohibited.

No Prohibited weeds were recorded from the Study Area.

The following regionally Controlled weed was recorded from the Study Area:

- St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

Pest animals recorded from the Study Area were:

- Common Starling (*Turdus vulgaris*).

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While no signs of utilisation were observed within the Study Area, it is considered likely that the European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) will utilise the Study Area and broader landscape for foraging and dispersal.

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5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been made with consideration to obligations under local government, Victorian, and Commonwealth regulations in relation to biodiversity impacts:

- A permit under Clause 52.17 of the Benalla Planning Scheme is required for the removal of native vegetation associated with the Project;
- There are no implications for the Project under the EPBC Act;
- Although native vegetation representing an ecological community listed under the FFG Act is proposed for removal, a Protected Flora Permit is not required because the vegetation is on private land;
- Protection of retained native vegetation and fauna habitat as part of a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP);
- Preclearance surveys and translocation of any wildlife by suitably qualified ecologist prior to any removal of trees or draining/filling of dams within the development footprint; and
- Where the removal of trees also results in the removal of nest boxes, additional nest boxes must be installed within suitable locations within the Study Area. Removal of nest boxes and the translocation of any wildlife must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist.

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APPENDIX A FLORA SPECIES RECORDED IN THE STUDY AREA

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Species	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Protected	CaLP Act
<i>Anthosachne scabra</i>	Common Wheat-grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena barbata</i> *	Bearded Oat	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena sativa</i> *	Oat	-	-	-	-
<i>Briza minor</i> *	Lesser Quaking-grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	Great Brome	-	-	-	-
<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	Common Grass-sedge	-	-	-	-
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	Windmill Grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	Spear Thistle	-	-	-	R
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i> *	Drain Flat-sedge	-	-	-	-
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> *	Flaxleaf Fleabane	-	-	-	-
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	-	-	-	-
<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	-	-	-	-
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> *	Tall Fescue	-	-	-	-
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> *	Desert Ash	-	-	-	-
<i>Holcus lanatus</i> *	Yorkshire Fog	-	-	-	-
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> *	St John's Wort	-	-	-	C
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> *	Flatweed	-	-	-	-
<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	Finger Rush	-	-	-	-
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	Prickly Lettuce	-	-	-	-
<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey Cudweed	-	-	-	-
<i>Lepidium africanum</i> *	Common Peppercress	-	-	-	-
<i>Lolium perenne</i> *	Perennial Rye-grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Lomandra</i> sp.	Mat Rush	-	-	-	-
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel	-	-	-	-
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> *	Paspalum	-	-	-	-
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i> *	Toowoomba Canary-grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *	Ribwort	-	-	-	-



Species	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Protected	CaLP Act
<i>Romulea rosea</i> *	Onion Grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	Curled Dock	-	-	-	-
<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	Common Wallaby-grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp. 1	Wallaby Grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp. 2	Wallaby Grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	Common Sow-thistle	-	-	-	-
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> spp. agg.*	Garden Dandelion	-	-	-	-
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	-	-	-	-
<i>Walwhalleya proluta</i>	Rigid Panic	-	-	-	-

* Introduced.

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APPENDIX B VEGETATION QUALITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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Habitat Zone		aa	ab	b	c	d	e
Area (ha)		0.014	0.008	0.068	0.020	0.078	0.063
EVC		803 Plains Woodland		803 Plains Woodland	803 Plains Woodland	803 Plains Woodland	803 Plains Woodland
Bioregion		Victorian Riverina		Victorian Riverina	Victorian Riverina	Victorian Riverina	Victorian Riverina
Assessor		Rob Ashworth		Rob Ashworth	Rob Ashworth	Rob Ashworth	Rob Ashworth
Date		15/12/2025		15/12/2025	15/12/2025	15/12/2025	15/12/2025
Site Condition	Large Trees	0		9	0	7	9
	Tree Canopy Cover	0		2	0	2	2
	Lack of Weeds	6		2	2	2	2
	Understorey	5		5	15	15	5
	Recruitment	0		0	5	5	0
	Organic Litter	3		2	2	3	2
	Logs	0		0	5	5	4
Modifier		1		1	1	1	1
Site Condition Score		14		20	29	39	24
Landscape Condition	Patch Size	1		1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	1		1	1	1	1
	Distance to Core Area	1		1	1	1	1
Landscape Context Score		3		3	3	3	3
VQA Score		17		23	32	42	27
Condition Score		0.17		0.23	0.32	0.42	0.27

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APPENDIX C SCATTERED TREES AND LARGE PATCH
TREES RECORDED IN THE STUDY AREA

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Tree Id	Species	Common name	DSH (cm)	Circumference (cm)	Category	Notes	Remove/retain
1	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	88	276.46	Large Patch Tree		Remove
2	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	157	493.23	Large Patch Tree		Remove
3	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	136	427.26	Large Patch Tree		Remove
4	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	75	235.62	Large Patch Tree	Dead	Remove
5	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Eucalypt	12	37.7	Small Scattered Tree		Remove
6	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Eucalypt	12	37.7	Small Scattered Tree		Remove
7	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	170.8	536.58	Large Patch Tree		Retain
8	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	172	540.35	Large Scattered Tree	Dead	Retain
9	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	90	282.74	Large Scattered Tree	Dead	Retain
10	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box	106.5	334.58	Large Patch Tree		Retain
11	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	111.3	349.66	Large Patch Tree		Retain
12	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	83	260.75	Large Patch Tree		Retain
13	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	78	254.04	Large Scattered Tree	Dead	Retain
14	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	129.4	406.52	Large Scattered Tree	Dead	Retain
15	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	25	78.54	Small Scattered Tree	0	Retain

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APPENDIX D FAUNA SPECIES RECORDED IN THE STUDY AREA

Scientific name	Common name	EPBC status*	FFG status*
<i>Platalea flavipes</i>	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	-	-
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> [†]	Common Starling	-	-
<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow	-	-
<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	Tree Martin	-	-
<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	White-winged Chough	-	-
<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	Red-rumped Parrot	-	-

* Conservation status under the EPBC Act (CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, Mi = Migratory) and FFG Act (CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable).

[†] = introduced.

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APPENDIX E EPBC ACT PROTECTED MATTERS REPORT

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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](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

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Summary

Matters of National Environment Significance

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

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar	7
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	4
Listed Threatened Species:	43
Listed Migratory Species:	9

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:	52
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	18
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:	14
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
EPBC Act Referrals:	8
Key Ecological Features (Marine):	None
Biologically Important Areas:	None
Bioregional Assessments:	None
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
Banrock station wetland complex	500 - 600km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Barmah forest	50 - 100km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Gunbower forest	100 - 150km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Hattah-kulkyne lakes	300 - 400km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Nsw central murray state forests	50 - 100km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
Riverland	500 - 600km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area
The coorong, and lakes alexandrina and albert wetland	500 - 600km upstream from Ramsar site	In feature area

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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
Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions	Endangered	Community known to occur within area	In feature area
Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	Endangered	Community likely to occur within area	In feature area
Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains	Critically Endangered	Community may occur within area	In feature area

Community Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived 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	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Aphelocephala leucopsis Southern Whiteface [529]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Botaurus poiciloptilus Australasian Bittern [1001]	Endangered	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 known to occur within area	In feature area
Callocephalon fimbriatum Gang-gang Cockatoo [768]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Climacteris picumnus victoriae Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) [67062]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to 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

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
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 known to occur within area	In feature area
Melanodryas cucullata cucullata South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) [67093]	Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Pedionomus torquatus Plains-wanderer [906]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Polytelis swainsonii Superb Parrot [738]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely 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
CRUSTACEAN			
Euastacus armatus Murray Crayfish [81537]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
FISH			
Galaxias rostratus Flathead Galaxias, Beaked Minnow, Flat-headed Galaxias, Flat-headed Jollytail, Flat-headed Minnow [84745]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Maccullochella macquariensis Trout Cod [26171]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Maccullochella peelii Murray Cod [66633]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In buffer area only
Macquaria australasica Macquarie Perch [66632]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
FROG			
Crinia sloanei Sloane's Froglet [59151]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Litoria raniformis Southern Bell Frog, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog [1828]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
INSECT			
Keyacris scurra Key's Matchstick Grasshopper [89739]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Synemon plana Golden Sun Moth [25234]	Vulnerable	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
Nyctophilus corbeni Corben's Long-eared Bat, South-eastern Long-eared Bat [83395]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Pteropus poliocephalus Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]	Vulnerable	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area	In feature area
PLANT			

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Amphibromus fluitans River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass [19215]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Brachyscome muelleroides Mueller Daisy [15572]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Caladenia concolor Crimson Spider-orchid, Maroon Spider-orchid [5505]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Lepidium monoplacoides Winged Pepper-cress [9190]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Myriophyllum porcatum Ridged Water-milfoil [19919]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea [21980]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only
Prasophyllum validum Sturdy Leek-orchid, Mount Remarkable Leek-orchid [10268]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	In feature area
Senecio macrocarpus Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel [16333]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Senecio psilocarpus Swamp Fireweed, Smooth-fruited Groundsel [64976]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Swainsona murrayana Slender Darling-pea, Slender Swainson, Murray Swainson-pea [6765]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Swainsona recta Small Purple-pea, Mountain Swainson-pea, Small Purple Pea [7580]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In buffer area only

REPTILE

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Aprasia parapulchella Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard [1665]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Delma impar Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard [1649]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

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

Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat may 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 known to 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

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Pandion haliaetus			
Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
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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
Department of Defence		
Benalla Sml Arms Ammunition Test Centre [DD_1575]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3518]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3410]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3411]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3412]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3413]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3414]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3415]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3416]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3608]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3417]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3609]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3524]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3527]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3526]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3520]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3607]	VIC	In buffer area only

Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3521]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3409]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3522]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR6004]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3408]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3407]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3528]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3529]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3421]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3418]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3519]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3419]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5985]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5984]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3523]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5986]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5981]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5980]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5983]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5982]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3611]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3612]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3610]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3426]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3427]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3424]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3425]	VIC	In buffer area only

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Commonwealth Land Name	State	Buffer Status
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3545]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3423]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3420]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5979]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR5978]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3422]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3517]	VIC	In buffer area only
Small Arms / Munitions Test Centre Benalla [AGPR3525]	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 may 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 known to 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

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Chalcites osculans as Chrysococcyx osculans Black-eared Cuckoo [83425]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
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 known 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
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]	ADVERTISED PLAN	Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin Flycatcher [612]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Neophema chrysostoma Blue-winged Parrot [726]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area overfly marine area	In feature area
Pandion haliaetus Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Rhipidura rufifrons Rufous Fantail [592]		Species or species habitat may occur within area overfly marine area	In buffer area only
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

Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves			[Resource Information]
Protected Area Name	Reserve Type	State	Buffer Status
Broken River K24 SS.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Broken River K25 SS.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Broken River K26 SS.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Bungeet H125 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Bungeet H126 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goomalibee B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goomalibee H81 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goomalibee H82 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goomalibee H83 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goomalibee N.C.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goorambat H124 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Goorambat H84 B.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only
Mount Meg N.C.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only

Protected Area Name	Reserve Type	State	Buffer Status
Winton Wetlands N.F.R.	Natural Features Reserve	VIC	In buffer area only

EPBC Act Referrals				[Resource Information]
Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Reintroduction of Growling Grass Frogs to Winton Wetlands	2022/09394		Completed	In buffer area only
Tungamah Pipeline Project	2005/2114		Completed	In feature area

Controlled action				
The Modified Operation of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District	2009/5123	Controlled Action	Post-Approval	In feature area

Not controlled action				
Improving rabbit biocontrol: releasing another strain of RHDV, sthrn two thirds of Australia	2015/7522	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
INDIGO Central Submarine Telecommunications Cable	2017/8127	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area
Lake Mokoan Decommissioning and Mid Murray Storage Project	2007/3342	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In feature area

Not controlled action (particular manner)				
APA GasNet Australia (Operations) Pty Ltd /Exploration (mineral, oil and gas - non-marine)/Between W	2014/7186	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

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Caveat

1 PURPOSE

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

The report contains the mapped locations of:

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

2 DISCLAIMER

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

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

3 DATA SOURCES

Threatened ecological communities

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

Threatened, migratory and marine species

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

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

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

4 LIMITATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Acknowledgements

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

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

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

Please feel free to provide feedback via the [Contact us](#) page.

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APPENDIX F THREATENED FLORA LIKELIHOOD OF
OCCURRENCE

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Scientific name	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Acacia decora</i>	Western Silver Wattle	-	Endangered	Widespread in Queensland and New South Wales, but in Victoria known only from around Dookie and Thoona (west of Wangaratta) and near Wodonga. Restricted to roadside and railway remnants of open woodland.	VBA	1	1/01/1990	The Study Area lies between the two known Victorian population but outside these. Past clearing and failure to be recorded from site surveys means that, being a distinctive shrub and the site small, the species is unlikely to be present. Unlikely to occur
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	Buloke	-	Critically Endangered	Widespread throughout norther Victoria usually growing in woodland in drier areas, often growing with Eucalyptus microcarpa, on non-calcareous soils.	VBA	4	4/04/1992	Although the Study Area is within the species' range and general habitat was present, was not recorded during field surveys and being distinctive is unlikely to have been overlooked. Unlikely to occur
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass	Vulnerable	-	River Swamp Wallaby-grass requires wetlands which are moderately fertile and have some bare ground with seasonally fluctuating water levels. Largely confined to permanent swamps, principally along the Murray River between Wodonga and Echuca, uncommon to rare in the south (e.g. Casterton, Moe, Yarram), probably due to historic drainage of wetlands. Sometimes forming loose turf-like colonies at the edge of receding waters and then spikelets tend to be smaller than typical. Flowers November–March.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and no habitat present in the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Aristida personata</i>	Purple Wire-grass	-	Critically Endangered	Rare, known from very few collections near Benalla and Ouyen, in dry grassland or open shrubland. Flowers May–August.	VBA	1	2/08/1995	The Study Area is outside the known distribution of this species and habitat not present. Unlikely to occur
<i>Brachyscome muelleroides</i>	Mueller Daisy	Vulnerable	Endangered	Extremely rare, in Victoria confined to floodplains of the Murray River and its tributaries, from Tocumwal east to the Ovens River. Flowers September–November.	PMST	0	N/A	The Study Area is outside the known distribution of this species and no habitat is present within. Unlikely to occur



Scientific name	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Caladenia concolor</i>	Crimson Spider-orchid	Vulnerable	Endangered	Sporadic and uncommon in dry open-forests, mostly of north-eastern Victoria, on ridges and slopes in well-drained shallow stony or skeletal soils. Flowers September–October.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and the Study Area was highly disturbed and did not support habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur
<i>Digitaria divaricatissima</i> var. <i>divaricatissima</i>	Umbrella Grass	-	Endangered	Rare in Victoria and collected in recent times only from Dimboola, Mildura, Charlton, Tocumwal, Mitiamo and Springhurst areas, and Mt Arapiles. Mostly on heavier soils prone to occasional flooding. Flowers November–June.	VBA	4	14/01/2010	Study Area is outside the known distribution of this species and habitat not present. Unlikely to occur
<i>Dipodium interaneum</i>	Yellow Hyacinth-orchid	-	Endangered	Very rare and restricted to dry open-forest or woodland in the north-east between Wangaratta and Wodonga, and near Wulgulmerang in the east. Flowers December–February.	VBA	6	20/01/2000	Study Area is outside the known distribution of this species and habitat was highly disturbed including through historical grazing and cropping. Unlikely to occur
<i>Diuris punctata</i> var. <i>punctata</i>	Purple Diuris	-	Endangered	Purple Diuris is endemic to south-eastern continental Australia. It has two grass-like leaves and up to ten purple or mauve flowers, often with darker, sometimes yellow marks. Formerly widespread and common in Victoria, occurring in the open forests, woodlands and grasslands of the fertile lowlands, now much reduced through clearing for agriculture and restricted to relatively few, isolated sites, but sometimes locally abundant.	VBA	16	9/10/2016	Study Area not in proximity to one of the known remaining populations and agricultural use of land and past clearing suggests unlikely to be present. Unlikely to occur
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> subsp. <i>sideroxylon</i>	Mugga	-	Endangered	In Victoria confined to the Chiltern area, northern Warby Range and south of Winton, while the other ironbark, <i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i> , with its 3-budded inflorescences and larger fruit is widespread. Frequently planted.	VBA	2	17/09/1993	Although the Study Area is within the species’ range and general habitat was present, the species was not recorded during field surveys and being large and distinctive is unlikely to have been overlooked. Unlikely to occur

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Scientific name	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Goodenia macbarronii</i>	Narrow Goodenia	-	Endangered	Rare in Victoria where apparently confined to forests and grassy areas between Wedderburn and Moyhu in the north-east and north to the Murray River, usually in damp sandy or silty soils. Sometimes recorded from seepage areas below farm dams. Flowers October–March.	VBA	2	28/04/1995	Although the Study Area is within the narrow distribution of this species, past and current land uses and condition of vegetation remaining suggest unlikely to be present. Not recorded during field surveys which occurred during the species' flowering period. Unlikely to occur
<i>Goodia medicaginea</i>	Western Golden-tip	-	Endangered	In Victoria occurs sporadically in the south-west (e.g. north of Portland, Mt Arapiles), at Long Forest west of Melbourne, in central Victoria near Eaglehawk and at Killawarra Forest, and near Suggan Buggan in the east. Favours drier sites than <i>Goodia lotifolia</i> . Flowers August–September.	VBA	1	1/01/2002	Study Area is outside the known distribution of this species, habitat is highly disturbed, and not recorded during field surveys. Unlikely to occur
<i>Lepidium monoplacoides</i>	Winged Peppergrass	Endangered	Endangered	Winged Pepper-grass occurs predominantly in mallee scrub in semi-arid areas. Sites are seasonally moist to water-logged with heavy, fertile soils and a mean annual rainfall of around 300 to 500 mm. The predominant vegetation is usually an open-woodland dominated by Buloke (<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>) and/or eucalypts, particularly Black Box (<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>). Flowers spring–summer.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, Study Area is outside the known distribution of the species, and no habitat present. Unlikely to occur
<i>Myriophyllum porcatum</i>	Ridged Water-milfoil	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered	Aquatic species that occurs in shallow, ephemeral wetlands (including lakes, swamps, rock pools in granite outcrops, waterholes in claypans) and highly modified habitats (including farm dams and drainage lines on private land).	PMST	0	N/A	Although the Study Area is within the known distribution of this species and a farm dam is present there are no nearby records, the dam has long been isolated the only aquatic vegetation observed in the field surveys was Cumbungi (<i>Typha</i> sp.). Unlikely to occur

Scientific name	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Pimelea spinescens</i> subsp. <i>spinescens</i>	Spiny Rice-flower	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Endemic in Victoria, Spiny Rice-flower occurs in grassland or open shrubland on basalt-derived soils, usually comprising black or grey clays. Plants from more northerly populations occur on red clay complexes, while plants from southern populations occur on heavy grey-black clay loams. Topography is generally flat but populations may occur on slight rises or in slightly wettish depressions. Vegetation is often dominated by <i>Themeda triandra</i>, with <i>Austrostipa</i> spp. or <i>Rytidosperma</i> spp. co-dominant. Associated species include <i>Acaena echinata</i>, <i>Calocephalus citreus</i>, <i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>, <i>Eryngium ovinum</i>, <i>Plantago varia</i>, <i>Ptilotus erubescens</i>, <i>Schoenus apogon</i> and <i>Goodenia paradoxa</i>. Mostly found west of Melbourne (to near Horsham) but extending as far north as Echuca. Flowers April–August.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and while habitat may once have been present the historical disturbance and current land use in the Study Area mean that the site is now unlikely to support this species, which was not recorded during the field surveys. Unlikely to occur
<i>Prasophyllum gilgai</i>	Gilgai Leek-orchid	-	Critically Endangered	Endemic to Victoria where found in gilgai formations in seasonally inundated <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> grassy woodland on heavy grey clay loam. Flowers October–November.	VBA	3	9/11/2003	Records in proximity to the Study area scarce and habitat not present within. Unlikely to occur



Scientific name	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Prasophyllum validum</i>	Sturdy Leek-orchid	Vulnerable	Endangered	The Sturdy Leek-orchid tends to grow in drier woodland habitats, generally with a low sparse understorey. In Victoria, it occurs in box and box-ironbark woodland with overstorey trees including <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>, <i>Eucalyptus albens</i>, <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>, <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> and <i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>, and an open grassy to sparsely shrubby understorey including <i>Themeda triandra</i>, <i>Rytidosperma pallidum</i>, <i>Arthropodium strictum</i>, <i>Acacia verniciflua</i>, <i>Bursaria spinosa</i>, <i>Grevillea alpina</i> and <i>Grevillea dryophylla</i>. Soils vary from heavy clays to sandy loams. Victorian specimens are now referred to a different, yet unnamed species (<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. aff. <i>validum</i>) and <i>Prasophyllum validum</i> is considered absent from the state. Apparently endemic to Victoria, <i>Prasophyllum</i> sp. aff. <i>validum</i> is scattered across northern, north-eastern (Chiltern area) and western open forest and woodland communities on stony and sandy soils. Flowers October - December	PMST, VBA	1	8/11/2000	Habitat in the Study Area is highly disturbed and not likely to support this species. Unlikely to occur
<i>Pultenaea platyphylla</i>	Flat-leaf Bush-pea	-	Endangered	Confined to dry forest on granite hills, particularly in the Warby Range and near Beechworth, with a disjunct occurrence near Maldon. Flowers September–November	VBA	4	21/03/1996	Habitat was not present in the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Senecio macrocarpus</i>	Large-headed Fireweed	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered	In Victoria largely confined to remnant Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) grasslands on loamy clay soils derived from basalt from near Melbourne west to Skipton area. Also known from auriferous ground near Stawell. Formerly recorded from near Horsham and Casterton, but apparently long extinct from these areas. Flowers August–October.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and the Study Area was highly disturbed and does not support habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur

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Scientific name	Common name	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Senecio psilocarpus</i>	Swamp Fireweed	Vulnerable	-	Swamp Fireweed is an erect, native, rhizomatous perennial herb. It is restricted in Victoria to a few herb-rich winter-wet swamps throughout the south of the state, west from Sale, growing on volcanic clays or peaty soils. This species occurs on high-quality herb-rich wetlands on plains. During winter such sites can be inundated with up to 60 cm or more of water, but are almost dry in summer. A tree canopy is absent from most sites, or rarely, River Red-gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) is the overstorey species in a woodland formation. The understorey is rich in grasses and sedges and miscellaneous aquatics. The more easterly populations grow in grey to black silty clay soils whereas the westerly populations grow on peatier soils. Flowers November-May.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and the Study Area was highly disturbed and does not support habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur
<i>Swainsona murrayana</i>	Slender Darling-pea	Vulnerable	Endangered	Extremely rare in northern and western Victoria, with an isolated southern recorded labelled 'Wannon River'. Usually found in seasonally inundated flats and around lakes. Flowers August-November.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and the Study Area was highly disturbed and does not support habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur
<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Mountain Swainson-pea	Endangered	Critically Endangered	An endangered species, previously recorded in Victoria from low hill country in north and north-east but known only from 1 recent (1995) collection near Glenrowan.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and the Study Area was highly disturbed and does not support habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur
<i>Tripogonella loliiformis</i>	Rye Beetle-grass	-	Endangered	An uncommon grass of scattered occurrence through drier areas of the state (e.g. Mt Arapiles, basalt plains just west of Melbourne, Strathbogie Ranges, Killawarra Forest near Wangaratta, Beechworth, Suggan Buggan). Usually occurring on shallow soils overlying rock. Flowers most of year, mainly Oct.–Mar.	VBA	1	24/03/2011	Habitat in the Study Area was highly disturbed and not likely to support this species. Unlikely to occur



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Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	Bird	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	The Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater has become a flagship species for conservation issues in the box-ironbark forest region of Victoria and New South Wales. They are found in eucalypt forests and woodlands, particularly in blossoming trees and mistletoe. It is also seen in orchards and urban gardens. The Regent Honeyeater has striking black and yellow plumage and is very distinctive from other honeyeaters.	VBA, PMST	4	29/01/2010	Records nearby, however habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Antigone rubicunda</i>	Brolga	Bird	-	Endangered	The Brolga inhabits large open wetlands, grassy plains, coastal mudflats and irrigated croplands and, less frequently, mangrove-studded creeks and estuaries. It is less common in arid and semi-arid regions but will occur close to water.	VBA	2	17/06/2008	Records within locality, however habitat is absent within the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	Bird	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	The Southern Whiteface is a small, sturdy, grey-brown bird with a stubby finch-like bill which inhabits dry, open forest and woodlands. This species prefers dry open forests and woodland and inland scrubs of mallee, mulga and saltbush are the preferred habitat of Southern Whiteface, especially areas with fallen timber or dead trees and stumps.	VBA, PMST	1	1/07/2000	One record nearby, however habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	Bird	-	Vulnerable	Great Egrets prefer shallow water, particularly when flowing, but may be seen on any watered area, including damp grasslands. Great Egrets can be seen alone or in small flocks, often with other egret species, and roost at night in groups.	VBA	1	20/02/2018	One record in proximity to the Study Area which supports general habitat. Potential to occur
<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Plumed Egret	Bird	-	Critically Endangered	Plumed Egret is mostly a denizen of the shallows of mainly inland terrestrial wetlands. It prefers freshwater swamps, billabongs, floodplains and wet grasslands with dense aquatic vegetation, and is only occasionally seen in estuarine or intertidal habitats. In Victoria, Plumed Egret occasionally visits coastal wetlands and is considered scarce in the state.	VBA	1	7/12/2019	One record in proximity to the Study Area which supports general but low-quality habitat. Potential to occur
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	Bird	Endangered	Critically Endangered	The Australasian Bittern frequents reedbeds and other areas, particularly those dominated by sedges, rushes, reeds or cutting grass. They are mainly found in freshwater environments but can also tolerate brackish estuaries (a combination of saltwater and freshwater), with lots of reeds and rushes. Australian ricefields provide an extensive area of habitat that is suitable for bitterns to live in, and as it is kept watered by irrigation, the conditions in ricefields are often more reliable than in natural wetlands.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records. Habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	Bird	-	Critically Endangered	The Bush Stone-curlew is a ground-dwelling bird found throughout grasslands, heathlands, and the bush and are sometimes found in cemeteries and golf courses. Bush Stone-curlews are ground-dwelling, nocturnal birds, doing all their feeding and other activities at night. When they are seen during the day, they are usually inactive, standing quietly in the shade with their eyes half-closed, or squatting on the ground where their cryptic plumage makes them difficult to see among the leaf litter.	VBA	12	10/09/2004	Numerous nearby records, however habitat is absent within the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bird	Vulnerable, Migratory	-	Sharp-tailed sandpipers occur within all states of Australia. They are found mostly in the south east and are widespread in both inland and coastal locations. The birds also occur in both freshwater and saline habitats.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records. Habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Bird	Critically Endangered, Migratory	Critically Endangered	The Curlew Sandpiper was once a common visitor during the Australian summer, congregating in large flocks, sometimes comprising thousands of birds, at sheltered intertidal mudflats and the muddy margins of terrestrial wetlands, however, population numbers have declined dramatically over the past few decades. It arrives in September and returns in April. Some birds, usually juveniles, overwinter in Australia.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records. Habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	The Gang-gang Cockatoo can be seen throughout many parts of south-eastern Australia. In the summer months, they are mostly found at higher elevations, where they breed in tree hollows in the moist eucalyptus forests of the mountainous Great Divide. After the breeding season has finished, and the days grow cooler and shorter, they undertake altitudinal movements, leaving the mountains and flying to lower elevations to spend the autumn and winter, where they often inhabit suburban gardens of lowland towns and cities.	VBA, PMST	1	1/06/2001	One record nearby, however habitat is currently absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown Treecreeper	Bird	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Unlike most other treecreepers, Brown Treecreeper spends just as much time foraging on the ground in eucalypt forests and woodlands as it does in trees. It hops over fallen branches and other debris where it gleans insects and other invertebrates from among the deep layers of leaf litter. However, when foraging in trees, this species spirals up the trunk in the characteristic manner of other treecreepers, gleaning insects from the surface or probing cracks and crevices in the bark. Brown Treecreepers are highly sociable birds, living and breeding communally. Inhabiting drier open forests and woodlands, the Brown Treecreeper stays in the same area all year round.	VBA, PMST	80	18/07/2021	Many records nearby, but there is no habitat within the Study Area. Unlikely to occur



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Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Sloane's Froglet	Amphibian	Endangered	Endangered	Sloane's froglet occurs in NSW and north central VIC. Recent studies suggest that it has declined significantly in its distribution due to habitat modification from human disturbance. This species is typically associated with periodically inundated areas in grassland, woodland and distributed habitats.	PMST	0	N/A	Habitat within the Study Area unsuitable and isolated from other potential habitat. No nearby records. Unlikely to occur
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll	Mammal	Endangered	Endangered	Spotted-tailed Quoll have been recorded across a range of habitat types, including rainforest, open forest, woodland, coastal heath and inland riparian forest, from the sub-alpine zone to the coastline. However, their ranged has contracted considerably since European settlement and is now found in eastern NSW, eastern Victoria, south-east and north-eastern Queensland, and Tasmania. Only in Tasmania is it still considered relatively common. They are mostly nocturnal, although will hunt during the day; spend most of the time on the ground, although also an excellent climber and will hunt possums and gliders in tree hollows and prey on roosting birds. Quolls use hollow-bearing trees, fallen logs, other animal burrows, small caves and rock outcrops as den sites.	VBA, PMST	1	28/04/1975	No recent, nearby records. Habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Emydura macquarii</i>	Murray River Turtle	Reptile	-	Critically Endangered	Murray River Turtle is a wide-ranging species that occurs throughout many of the rivers of the eastern half of Australia. In Victoria it is found in the Murray and major tributaries. There are multiple records around Melbourne, as a result of deliberate introductions in the past. Murray River Turtle occurs most often in main river channels and backwaters, and in oxbow lakes and ponds that are close to the river. It commonly emerges to bask on logs, but is not known to undertake large overland migrations between wetlands. Males can move in excess of 100 km per year and make use of flood waters to disperse.	VBA	240	15/03/2024	Many nearby records, however, the Study Area does not support any habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur
<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Murray Spiny Crayfish	Invertebrate	Vulnerable	Threatened	Murray Spiny Crayfish inhabits large and small streams in a variety of habitats including cleared pasture and dry wet sclerophyll forest at altitudes close to sea level to over 700 m. It prefers faster flowing cool water habitats of main river channels, with soft banks into which they can dig burrows. Where soft banks are not available, the species uses the interstitial spaces between boulders and cobbles on the river-bed for shelter.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and no habitat in the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	Bird	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Grey Falcon is usually restricted to shrubland, grassland and wooded watercourses of arid and semi-arid regions, although it is occasionally found in open woodlands near the coast. It may also occur near wetlands where surface water attracts prey. Like other falcons it utilises old nests of other birds of prey and ravens, usually high in a living eucalypt near water or a watercourse; peak laying season is in late winter and early spring.	PMST	0	N/A	No recent nearby records habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur

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Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	Bird	-	Critically Endangered	Black Falcon is widely, but sparsely, distributed in Victoria, mostly occurring in inland regions. It is assumed to be a single population that is continuous with a broader continental population, given that falcons are highly mobile, commonly travelling hundreds of kilometres. Black Falcon inhabits woodland, shrubland and grassland in the arid and semi-arid zones, especially wooded (eucalypt-dominated) watercourses. It also uses agricultural land with scattered remnant trees. The falcon is often associated with streams or wetlands, visiting them in search of prey. It uses standing dead trees as lookout posts. Specific aspects of habitat floristics or quality are probably more relevant to prey densities than to structural habitat selection by the falcon. For instance, in agricultural landscapes the falcon nests in healthy, bird-rich riparian woodland remnants. The breeding habitat and nest sites consist of vacant stick nests in the tallest living trees available, typically in emergent eucalypts in the lower parts of open, flat to undulating landscapes, such as riparian woodland and the lower slopes of valleys. Nest trees typically have dead or dead-topped tree(s) within ~100 m, used by the adults and fledglings as perches and food-transfer sites. In Victoria, Black Falcon sightings have been mainly associated with cleared, non-native vegetation, eucalypt woodlands, and mallee woodlands and shrublands.	VBA	3	6/07/2020	Nerby records and habitat within the Study Area may be suitable for foraging. Potential to occur
<i>Galaxias rostratus</i>	Flat-headed Galaxias	Fish	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Flat-headed Galaxias is only known from the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin system. The species once occurred in the middle reaches, usually below 150 m in altitude, of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray river catchments in New South Wales, and the Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Ovens, Loddon, Goulburn and Murray river catchments in Victoria. Flat-headed Galaxias inhabits a variety of habitats including billabongs, lakes, swamps and rivers, with a preference for still or slow flowing waters. It prefers schooling in midwater.	VBA, PMST	2	29/04/1990	Historical records nearby, however habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe	Bird	Vulnerable, Migratory	-	Latham's snipe is a non-breeding visitor to south-eastern Australia and is a passage migrant through northern Australia. They arrive in south-eastern Australia between August and January and depart by late February or early March. The species usually inhabits open, freshwater wetlands with low, dense vegetation. However, they can also occur in habitats with saline or brackish water, in modified or artificial habitats, and in habitats located close to humans or human activity. Smaller numbers inhabit drier habitats including open woodlands and high-altitude grasslands or herblands, but usually only those in proximity to surface water.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	Bird	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	The Painted Honeyeater is nomadic and occurs at low densities throughout its range. The greatest concentrations of the bird and almost all breeding occurs on the inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, Victoria and southern Queensland. During the winter it is more likely to be found in the north of its distribution. Inhabits Boree/ Weeping Myall (<i>Acacia pendula</i>), Brigalow (<i>A. harpophylla</i>) and Box-Gum Woodlands and Box-Ironbark Forests.	VBA, PMST	1	10/10/1990	No recent records nearby, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Bird	-	Endangered	White-bellied Sea-eagle is distributed around the Australian coastline, including Tasmania, and well inland along rivers and wetlands of the Murray Darling Basin. Habitats are characterised by the presence of large areas of open water including larger rivers, swamps, lakes, and the sea. Terrestrial habitats include coastal dunes, tidal flats, grassland, heathland, woodland, and forest (including rainforest). Typically occurs at sites near the sea or sea-shore, such as around bays and inlets, beaches, reefs, lagoons, estuaries and mangroves; and at, or in the vicinity of freshwater swamps, lakes, reservoirs, billabongs and saltmarsh.	VBA	2	20/04/2016	Paucity of nearby records but potential suitable habitat exists within the Study Area. Potential to occur
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	Bird	-	Vulnerable	The Little Eagle is found throughout the Australian mainland excepting the most densely forested parts of the Dividing Range escarpment. It occurs as a single population throughout NSW. The species occupies open eucalypt forest, woodland or open woodland. Sheoak or <i>Acacia</i> woodlands and riparian woodlands of interior NSW are also used.	VBA	10	1/09/2018	Numerous nearby records, however, woodland habitat within the Study Area is effectively absent. Unlikely to occur
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	Bird	Vulnerable, Migratory	Vulnerable	Non-breeding migrants to Australia, arriving from their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere in October each year and leaving between May and August. An aerial bird, and for a time it was commonly believed that they did not land while in Australia. It has now been observed that birds will roost in trees, and radio-tracking has since confirmed that this is a regular activity. Feeds on flying insects, such as termites, ants, beetles and flies. It catches the insects in flight in their wide beaks. Birds usually feed in rising thermal currents associated with storm fronts and bushfires and they are commonly seen moving with wind fronts.	VBA, PMST	2	1/02/2000	Nearby records General habitat exists within Study Area. Potential to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Keyacris scurra</i>	Key's Matchstick Grasshopper	Invertebrate	Endangered	Endangered	Key's Matchstick grasshopper was originally distributed from Victoria to Orange (NSW) across the wheat/sheep belt, typically recorded in native grasslands and grassy woodland. Its northern boundaries are poorly defined, with its Victorian distribution most notable in the Omeo district, and it has been found in remnant vegetation with sympathetic management including private land, cemeteries, along railway easements, travelling stock routes and more recently conservation reserves in the ACT. Disturbance appears to be an important determinant of site occupancy and it appears to be absent from sites that are disturbed during inappropriate times of the year (and interrupt the short non-overlapping lifecycle) or have been subjected to erratic management (e.g. periods of over and under grazing). Typically found in native grasslands and grassy woodlands but it has also been recorded in other vegetation associations usually containing a native grass understory (especially Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>)) and known food plants (particularly Asteraceae). Opportunistic sightings (as opposed to records from systematic surveys) have been reported in a wide range of vegetation types in south-east NSW, including wet sclerophyll forest, montane low forest, dry woodlands, heathland, and montane grasslands	PMST	0	N/A	No records nearby, habitat is absent within the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	Bird	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Swift Parrots are typically found in dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands but can also be found in suburban parks and gardens where suitable feed trees occur. In Tasmania, they are closely associated with flowering Blue-gum (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>) when actively breeding. Swift Parrots breed only in Tasmania before flying across Bass Strait to spend the cooler months foraging in dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands of the Australian mainland. While on the mainland, they are nomadic, spending weeks or months at some sites, and only a few hours at others depending on food availability. These parrots are almost always heard before they are seen, often bursting from the trees at-speed in full voice. They will come to the ground to drink, but seldomly to forage. They also roost communally, often returning to the same tree(s) each night for extended periods.	VBA, PMST	11	12/05/2020	Records nearby and general habitat exists within Study Area. Potential to occur
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	Amphibian	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Growling Grass Frog lives in south-eastern Australia and is most often found in and around clusters of permanent or temporary swamps and wetlands, which it can move between on rainy nights. It is one of the largest frog species in Australia, growing up to around 10 cm in length.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and habitat is absent within the Study Area. Unlikely to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	Trout Cod	Fish	Endangered	Endangered	The sole wild subpopulation of Trout Cod occurs in the Murray River, immediately downstream of Lake Mulwala, between Yarrawonga and Tocumwal. Subpopulations have been re-established in the upper Murray, lower Goulburn and lower Ovens rivers, Seven Creeks near Euroa, and Lake Sambell. Trout Cod is highly dependent on instream woody habitat. It generally inhabits woody instream areas in the middle to upper regions of permanent flowing rivers with suitable cover, in riffles, runs and pools, as well as larger main river channels. Trout Cod is more frequently found in cooler and fast-flowing water. Adults typically prefer deep holes with higher surface flows and suitable in-stream habitat such as wood, deep water, and steep banks, and smaller individuals prefer to shelter beneath and amongst boulders.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records and habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	Murray Cod	Fish	Vulnerable	Endangered	The Murray Cod is Australia's largest freshwater fish and inhabits the Murray-Darling basin, which extends through New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. Thousands of interconnected creeks and rivers flow through the basin. The cod lives in warm water habitats ranging from clear, rocky streams to slow-flowing turbid rivers and billabongs.	VBA, PMST	6	21/03/2024	Recent records within locality, however habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie Perch	Fish	Endangered	Endangered	In Victoria, extant populations are known to occur in the upper reaches of the Goulburn, Broken, Ovens and Mitta Mitta catchments in the Murray-Darling Basin. Translocated populations occur in the Wannon and Yarra rivers and possibly the Barwon River and Sevens Creek. Adult and sub-adult Macquarie perch are most active at dusk (crepuscular) and at night (nocturnal). During the daytime, individuals tend to stick to well-defined home.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	Bird	Endangered	Endangered	Hooded Robin prefers lightly wooded country, usually open eucalypt woodland, acacia scrub and mallee, often in or near clearings or open areas. This species requires structurally diverse habitats featuring mature eucalypts, saplings, some small shrubs and a ground layer of moderately tall native grasses. They live in territories that range from around 10 ha during the breeding season, to 30 ha in the non-breeding season.	VBA, PMST	41	5/10/2019	Numerous recent records, however, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Morelia spilota metcalfei</i>	Carpet Python	Reptile	-	Endangered	Inland Carpet Python inhabits two very different environments in the north of Victoria: River Red-gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) forests and associated Black Box (<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>) woodlands along the major watercourses, and rocky hills, often within woodlands of Blakely's Red-gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>). There are also some records from other vegetation types, such as mallee shrublands, <i>Callitris</i> woodlands, and freshwater swamps.	VBA	6	29/12/2009	Recent nearby records. General habitat exists within Study Area. Potential to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot	Bird	Vulnerable	-	The main populations of Blue-winged Parrots are in Tasmania and Victoria, particularly in southern Victoria and the midlands and eastern areas of Tasmania. They inhabit a range of habitats from coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas, right through to semi-arid zones. Throughout their range, they favour grasslands and grassy woodlands. They are often found near wetlands both near the coast and in semi-arid zones. Blue-winged Parrots can also be seen in altered environments such as airfields, golf courses and paddocks. Many aspects of the movements of the Blue-winged Parrot are poorly understood. There is a definite passage of Blue-winged Parrots to and from Tasmania after breeding each year, leaving in March to April and returning in August to October. Some birds, however, over-winter in Tasmania or on the Bass Strait islands.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records. However, general habitat exists within Study Area. Potential to occur
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	Bird	-	Vulnerable	The Turquoise Parrot lives on the edges of eucalypt woodland adjoining clearings, timbered ridges and creeks in farmland. They are usually observed in pairs or small, possibly family, groups and have also been reported in flocks of up to thirty individuals, feeding in the shade of a tree and spending most of the day on the ground searching for the seeds or grasses and herbaceous plants, or browsing on vegetable matter. Forages quietly and may be quite tolerant of disturbance. Nests in tree hollows, logs or posts, from August to December.	VBA	25	5/10/2019	Numerous nearby records and general habitat exists within the Study Area. Potential to occur
<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	South-eastern Long-eared Bat	Mammal	Vulnerable	Endangered	South-eastern Long-eared Bat inhabits a variety of vegetation types, including mallee, Bulloke (<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>) and box eucalypt dominated communities, but it is distinctly more common in box/ironbark/cypress-pine vegetation that occurs in a north-south belt along the western slopes and plains of NSW and southern Queensland. This species is a slow flying agile bat, utilising the understorey to hunt non-flying prey - especially caterpillars and beetles - and will even hunt on the ground. They roost in tree hollows, crevices, and under loose bark.	PMST	0	N/A	No records nearby, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Platypus	Mammal	-	Vulnerable	Platypuses are dependent on rivers, occurring in freshwater systems from tropical rainforest lowlands and plateaus of far northern Queensland to cold, high altitudes of Tasmania and the Australian Alps. They feed in both slow-moving and rapid (riffle) parts of streams, but show preference to coarser bottom substrates, particularly cobbles and gravel. When not foraging, the Platypus spends most of the time in its burrow in the bank of the river, creek or a pond. They are active all year round but particularly during twilight and in the evening.	VBA	4	8/08/2022	Recent nearby records but no habitat present within the Study Area. Unlikely to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer	Bird	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	The Plains-wanderer is a ground-dwelling grassland bird, which is cryptic and very difficult to observe during the day. Graziers have seen Plains-wanderers during the day when mustering sheep. The species can only be properly surveyed at night using spotlighting techniques. Plains-wanderers live in semi-arid, lowland native grasslands that typically occur on hard red-brown soils. Habitat structure appears to play a more important role than plant species composition. Preferred habitat of the Plains-wanderer typically comprises 50% bare ground, 10% fallen litter, and 40% herbs, forbs and grasses. Most of the grassland habitat of the Plains-wanderer is <5 cm high, but some vegetation up to a maximum of 30 cm is important for concealment, as long as grass tussocks are spaced 10-20 cm apart.	VBA, PMST	1	1/01/1974	Historical records within locality, however habitat is currently absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot	Bird	Vulnerable	Endangered	The Superb Parrot is found along timbered waterways and nearby well-watered woodlands, especially in River Red-gum along the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. They are usually seen in family parties or small flocks. They roost communally in trees. This species has dual habitat requirements. Though it usually nests in tree hollows in forests or woodlands of River Red-gum along inland rivers, it forages elsewhere, on the adjacent riverine plains dominated by Black Box trees, gathering in flocks to feed on seeds, which are mainly taken from the ground. Each day they fly regularly between their breeding and feeding habitats.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler	Bird	-	Vulnerable	Inhabits open Box-Gum Woodlands on the slopes, and Box-Cypress-pine and open Box Woodlands on alluvial plains. Woodlands on fertile soils in coastal regions. Territories range from one to fifty hectares (usually around ten hectares) and are defended all year. Territorial disputes with neighbouring groups are frequent and may last up to several hours, with much calling, chasing and occasional fighting.	VBA	3	1/01/2002	Several nearby records, however, habitat is absent from the Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	Mammal	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Occur in subtropical and temperate rainforests, tall sclerophyll forests and woodlands, heaths and swamps as well as urban gardens and cultivated fruit crops. Roosting camps are generally located within 20 km of a regular food source and are commonly found in gullies, close to water, in vegetation with a dense canopy. Feed on the nectar and pollen of native trees, in particular <i>Eucalyptus</i> , <i>Melaleuca</i> and <i>Banksia</i> , and fruits of rainforest trees and vines.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur

Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	Speckled Warbler	Bird	-	Endangered	The Speckled Warbler lives in a wide range of <i>Eucalyptus</i> -dominated communities that have a grassy understorey, often on rocky ridges or in gullies. Typical habitat would include scattered native tussock grasses, a sparse shrub layer, some eucalypt regrowth and an open canopy. Large, relatively undisturbed remnants are required for the species to persist in an area. Pairs are sedentary and occupy a breeding territory of about ten hectares, with a slightly larger home-range when not breeding.	VBA	11	11/02/2019	Nearby records, however, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Bird	Endangered	Critically Endangered	The Australian Painted Snipe inhabits many different types of shallow, brackish or freshwater terrestrial wetlands, especially temporary ones which have muddy margins and small, low-lying islands. Suitable wetlands usually support a mosaic of low, patchy vegetation, as well as lignum and canegrass. They usually spend much of the day loafing quietly beneath the cover of low shrubs or other vegetation; they become active around dusk and remain active throughout the night. The movements of the Painted Snipe are poorly known and it may be a migratory species. Sightings of individuals are erratic, and it is thought the species is likely to be nomadic in response to suitable conditions, such as floods.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	Bird	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Diamond Firetail inhabits grassy eucalypt woodlands, including box-gum woodlands and Snow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>) woodlands. It also occurs in open forest, mallee, natural temperate grassland, and in secondary grassland derived from other communities. Appears to be sedentary, though some populations move locally, especially those in the south.	VBA, PMST	39	5/10/2019	Numerous records nearby. General habitat exists within Study Area. Potential to occur
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth	Invertebrate	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Occurs in natural temperate grassland and grassy box-gum Woodlands in which groundlayer is dominated by Wallaby Grasses (<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.). Habitat may contain several Wallaby Grass species or may primarily support Spear Grasses (<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.) or Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>). Populations can also occur in disturbed grassland dominated by the introduced Chilean Needle-grass (<i>Nassella neesiana</i>). A minimum of 20% cover of suitable grasses is considered required.	PMST	0	N/A	No nearby records, habitat is absent within Study Area. Unlikely to occur



Scientific name	Common name	Class	EPBC Act	FFG Act	Notes	Source	No. of records	Last record	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace Monitor	Reptile	-	Endangered	Lace Monitor has a broad distribution along the eastern Australian seaboard, in forests and woodlands from Cape York Peninsula (Qld) to Gippsland (Victoria) in the south and westward into western NSW and parts of South Australia. In Victoria, its stronghold is the foothill and coastal forests of East Gippsland, with records also from many West and South Gippsland locations. It is also distributed throughout remnant woodlands north of the Great Dividing Range and along the Murray River floodplain, and west through the Wimmera. Lace Monitor is found mainly in treed habitats within the damp sclerophyll forest, dry sclerophyll forest, riparian forest, box-ironbark forest, River Red-gum and Black Box woodland ecosystems, along the mesic forested corridors of major watercourses through the semi-arid zone (such as the Murray River).	VBA	4	2/04/2005	Nearby records and low-quality, sparse habitat is present in the Study Area. Potential to occur
<i>Melanotaenia fluviatilis</i>	Murray-Darling Rainbowfish	Fish	-	Endangered	Murray-Darling Rainbowfish is widespread is relatively widespread in Victoria, north of the Great Dividing Range, in the Murray River, anabranches and billabongs from the South Australian border upstream to about Torrumbarry, in the lower Loddon, Campaspe and Goulburn Rivers. It is an Indo-Pacific species, requiring warm waters, and is on the southern extent of its range in Victoria. Murray-Darling Rainbowfish is generally found in the lowland reaches of the Murray River and tributaries, preferring slow-flowing rivers and creeks, but also inhabiting connected wetlands and billabongs. It is found in clear and turbid waters, in the open just below the water surface, or amongst aquatic vegetation and smaller timber debris near the banks.	VBA	13	21/03/2024	Recent records within locality, however the Study Area does not support habitat for this species. Unlikely to occur

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APPENDIX H PHOTOGRAPHS OF NATIVE VEGETATION PROPOSED FOR REMOVAL

All photographs taken on 15/12/2025



Habitat Zone ab, with aa adjacent and of equivalent composition and quality.



Habitat Zone e

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Tree 5 (self-sown *Eucalyptus* sp.). Tree 6 was the same species and of similar size.

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APPENDIX I NATIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL REPORT

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Native Vegetation Removal Report

NVRR ID: 381_20260402_RIV

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: 02/04/2026

Local Government Area: BENALLA RURAL CITY

Shapefile name:

patch_removal_dropped.shp
trees_for_removal_v2.shp

Site assessor name: Robert Ashworth

Registered Aboriginal Party: Yorta Yorta

Coordinates: 145.93074, -36.42625

Address:

GOORAMBAT-CHESNEY ROAD GOORAMBAT 3725
379 GOORAMBAT-CHESNEY ROAD GOORAMBAT 3725

Regulator Notes

Removal polygons are located:

- Within a DEECA Mapped Wetland area

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Summary of native vegetation to be removed

Assessment pathway	Intermediate Assessment Pathway		
Location category	Location 2 The native vegetation extent map indicates that this area is typically characterised as supporting native vegetation. Additionally, it is modelled as encompassing an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class, sensitive wetland or sensitive coastal area. The removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this area will not require a Species Offset.		
Total extent including past and proposed removal (ha) <i>Includes endangered EVCs (ha): 0.211</i>	0.211	Extent of past removal (ha)	0
		Extent of proposed removal - Patches (ha)	0.085
		Extent of proposed removal - Scattered Trees (ha)	0.125
No. Large Trees proposed to be removed	5	No. Large Patch Trees	4
		No. Large Scattered Trees	1
No. Small Scattered Trees	2		

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	0.049 General Habitat Units
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score ²	0.3378
Large Trees	5
Vicinity	Goulburn Broken CMA or BENALLA RURAL 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.

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

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

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

Application Requirement 8 - Native Vegetation Precinct Plan

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

Does an NVPP apply to the proposal?

Application Requirement 9 - Offset statement

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

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Next steps

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

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

Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed **must be provided** with the application. All photographs must be clear, show whether the vegetation is a Patch of native vegetation, Patch Tree or Scattered Tree, and identify any Large Trees. If the area of native vegetation to be removed is large, provide photos that are indicative of the native vegetation.

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

Application Requirement 6 - Property Vegetation Plan

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

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Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

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

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

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

Native vegetation to be removed

Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant							Information calculated by NVR Map				
Zone	Type	DBH (cm)	EVC code	Bioregional conservation status	Partial Removal	Condition score	Large Tree(s)	Polygon extent (ha)	Extent without overlap (ha)	SBV score	General Habitat Units
1-aa	Patch	-	VRiv0803	Endangered	no	0.170	-	0.014	0.014	0.537	0.003
1-ab	Patch	-	VRiv0803	Endangered	no	0.170	-	0.008	0.008	0.590	0.002
1-e	Patch	-	VRiv0803	Endangered	no	0.270	4	0.063	0.063	0.498	0.019
1-a	Scattered Tree	12	VRiv0803	Endangered	no	0.200	-	0.031	0.031	0.590	0.007
2-a	Scattered Tree	12	VRiv0803	Endangered	no	0.200	-	0.031	0.024	0.590	0.006
9-a	Scattered Tree	90	VRiv0803	Endangered	no	0.200	1	0.070	0.070	0.180	0.012

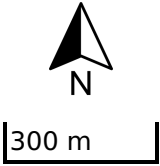
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Appendix 2: Images of mapped native vegetation

1. Property in context

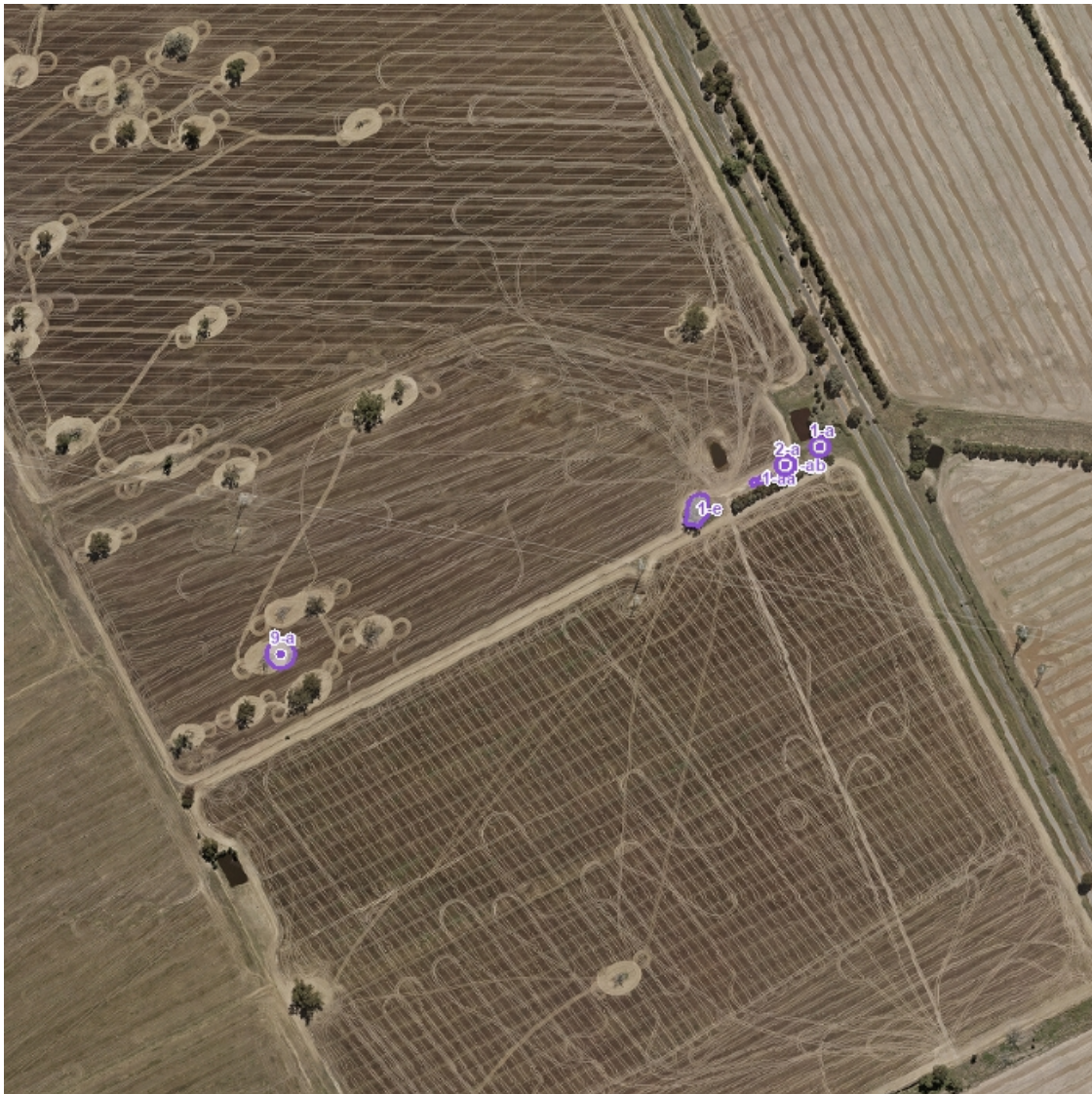


- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal
- Property Boundaries

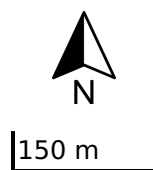


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2. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation

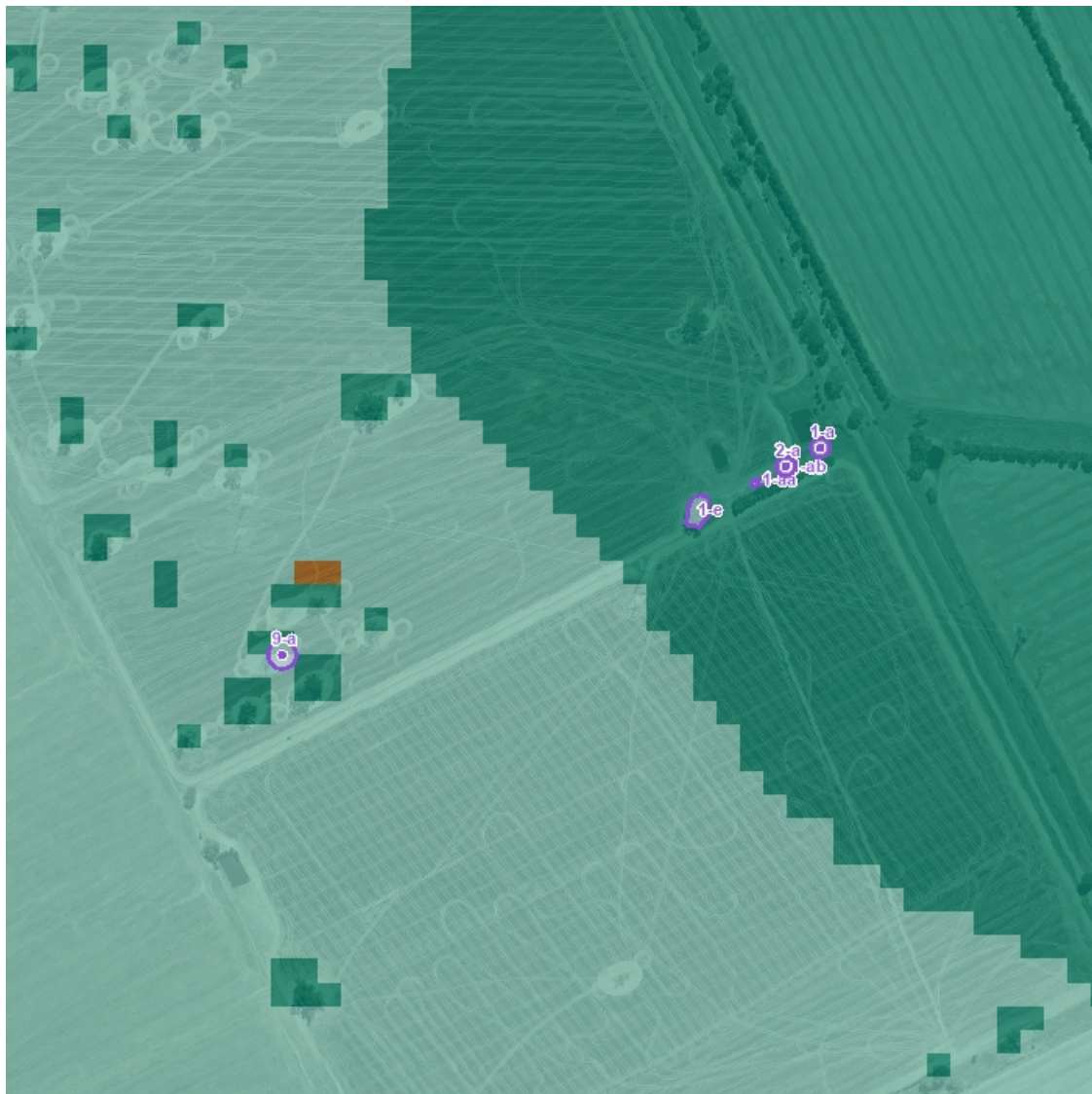


- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal



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3. Location Risk Map



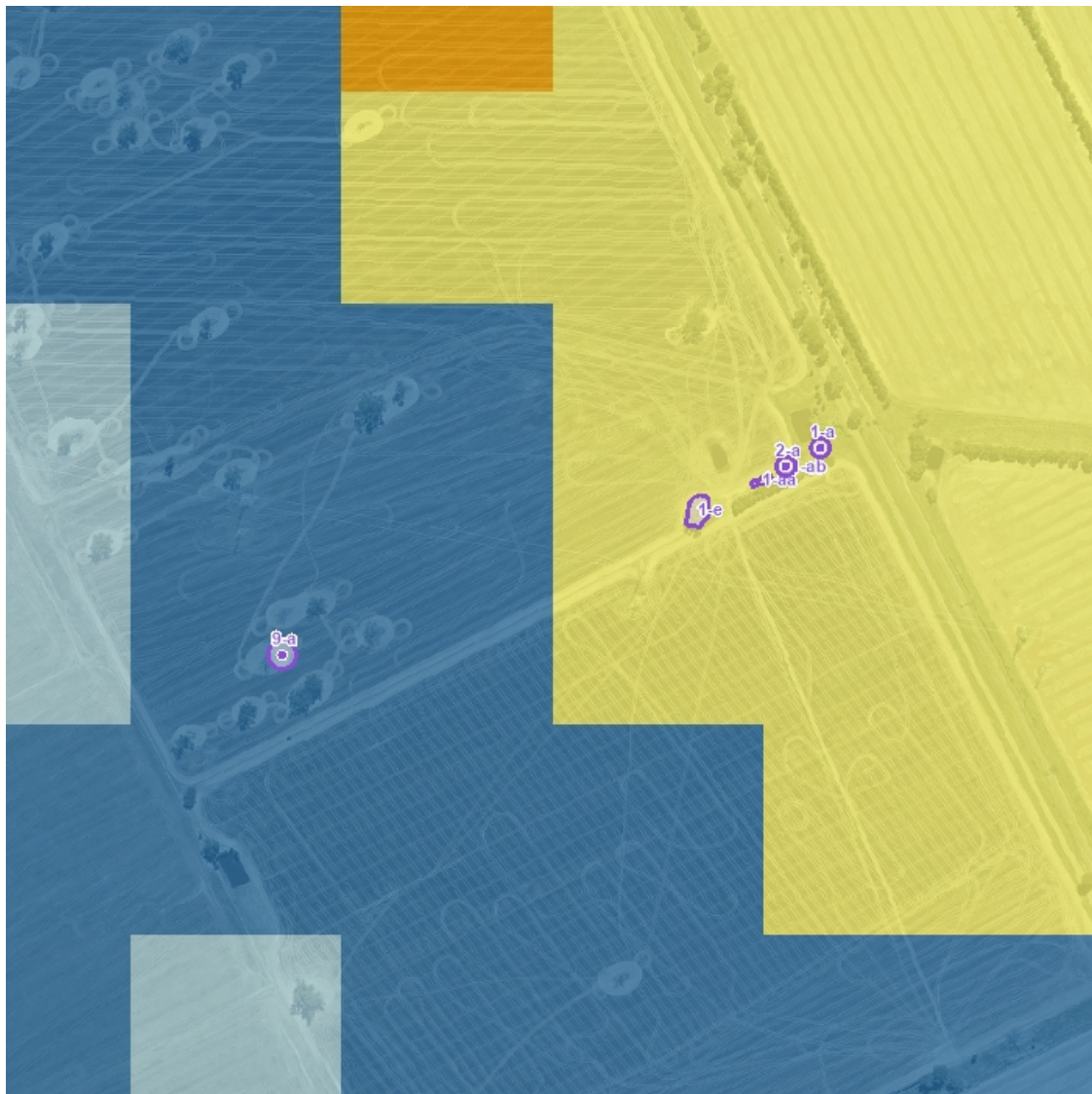
- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal

- Location 1
- Location 2
- Location 3



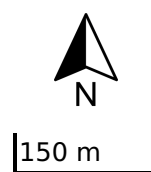
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4. Strategic Biodiversity Value Score Map



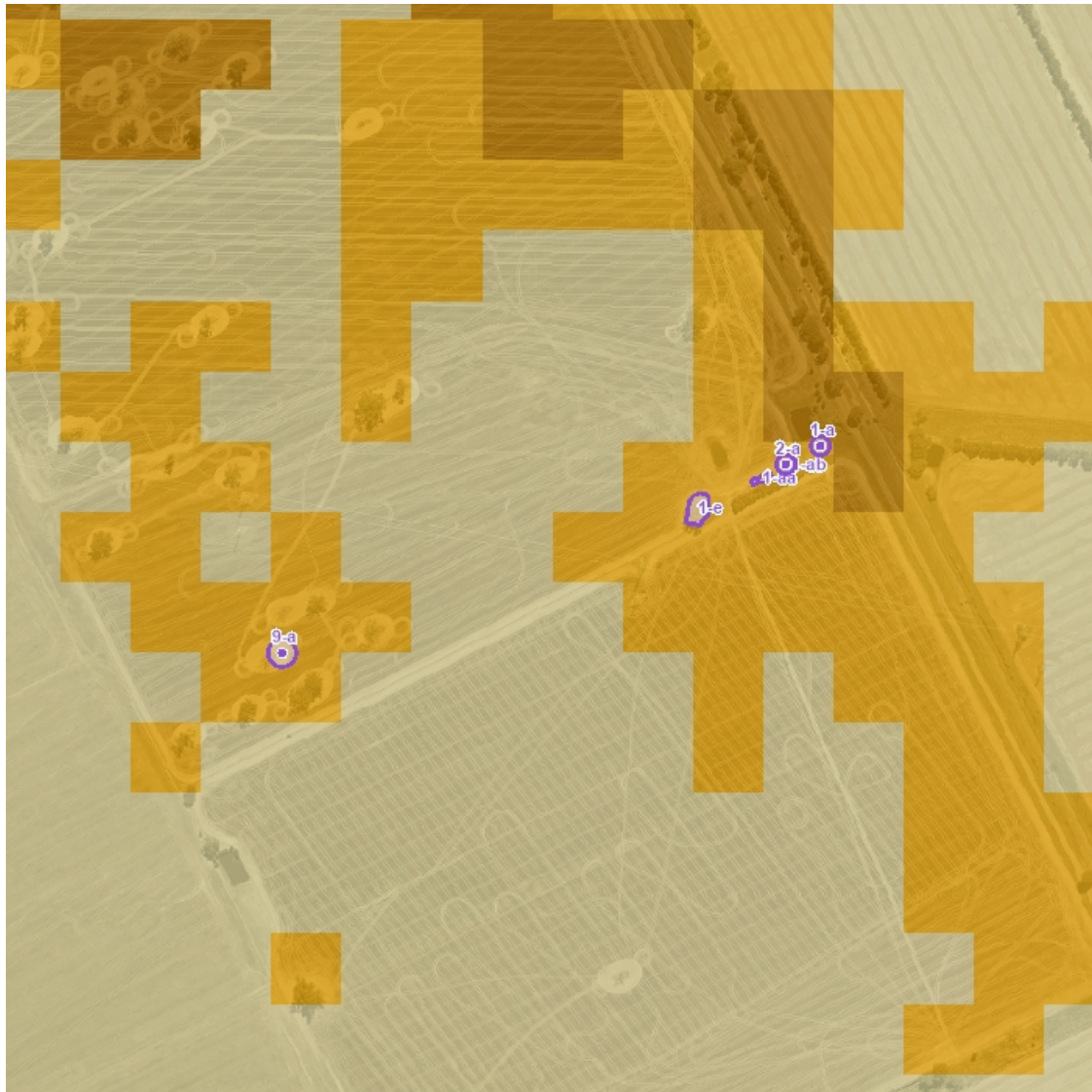
- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal

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



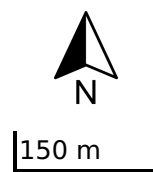
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5. Condition Score Map



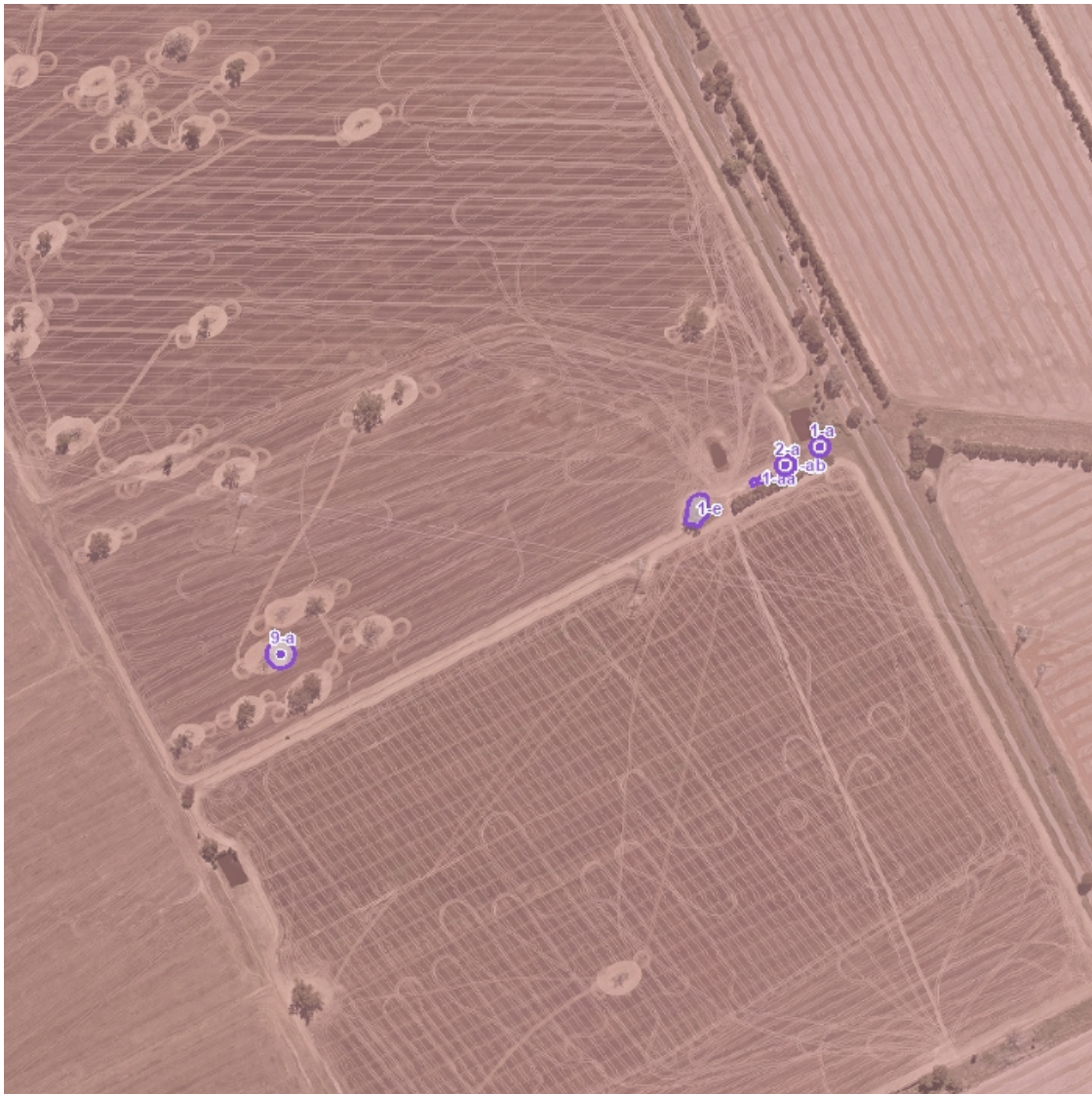
- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal

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



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6. Endangered EVCs



-  Proposed Removal
-  Past Removal
-  Partial Removal
-  Endangered 1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes



150 m

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APPENDIX J

NATIVE VEGETATION CREDIT REGISTER
SEARCH RESULTS

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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: 09/04/2026 08:47

Report ID: 34958

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)	
0.049	0.3378	5	CMA	Goulburn Broken
			or LGA	Benalla Rural City

Details of available native vegetation credits on 09 April 2026 08:47

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-1145	0.216	13	Goulburn Broken	Mitchell Shire	No	Yes	No	Ethos
BBA-2355	1.127	6	Goulburn Broken	Greater Shepparton City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3829_01	34.041	8	Goulburn Broken	Greater Bendigo City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

These sites meet your requirements using alternative arrangements for general offsets.

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

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

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

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3701_01	10.574	18	Goulburn Broken, North Central	Greater Bendigo City	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
VC_CFL-3747_01	11.546	332	Goulburn Broken	Mansfield Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR

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Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation

Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation

Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not available
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	ID Ecological Management	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
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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APPENDIX K

CHECKLIST OF PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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The following table summarises the application requirements for a permit to remove native vegetation under Clause 52.17 of the Benalla Planning Scheme.

Application requirement*	Location in report
1 Information about the native vegetation to be removed, including: The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway. This includes the location category of the native vegetation to be removed.	Quantification of the amount of vegetation to be removed and rationale for the determination of an Intermediate Assessment Pathway are provided in Section 4.1.1.2.
- A description of the native vegetation to be removed that includes: - whether it is a patch or a scattered tree (or both) - the extent (in ha) - the number and circumference (in cm measured at 1.3 m above ground level) of any large trees within a patch - the number and circumference (in cm measured at 1.3 m above ground level) of any scattered trees, and whether each tree is small or large - the strategic biodiversity value score - the condition score - if it includes endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes - if it includes sensitive wetland or coastal areas.	A description of the native vegetation proposed for removal is provided in Section 3.
- Maps showing the native vegetation and property in context and containing: - scale, north point and property boundaries - location of any patches of native vegetation and the number of large trees within the patch proposed to be removed - location of scattered trees proposed to be removed, including their size.	A map of native vegetation proposed to be removed is provided in Figure 4-1.
The offset requirement, determined in accordance with section 5 of the Guidelines, that will apply if the native vegetation is approved to be removed.	Offset requirements are provided in Section 1.1 and in the NVR Report in Appendix I.
2 Topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed, showing ridges, crests and hilltops, wetlands and waterways, slopes of more than 20 percent, drainage lines, low lying areas, saline discharge areas, and areas of existing erosion, as appropriate. This may be represented in a map or plan.	See Figure 4-1 and Section 4.1.1.2.
3 Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed.	Photographs of native vegetation to be removed are provided in Appendix H.
4 Details of any other native vegetation approved to be removed, or that was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership as the applicant, in the five-year period before the application for a permit is lodged.	Not applicable.

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Application requirement*		Location in report
5	An avoid and minimise statement. The statement describes any efforts to avoid the removal of, and minimise the impacts on, the biodiversity and other values of native vegetation, and how these efforts focused on areas of native vegetation that have the most value. The statement should include a description of the following: • Strategic level planning – any regional or landscape scale strategic planning process that the site has been subject to that avoided and minimised impacts on native vegetation across a region or landscape. • Site level planning – how the proposed use or development has been sited or designed to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation. • That no feasible opportunities exist to further avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation without undermining the key objectives of the proposal.	An Avoid and Minimise Statement is provided in Section 4.1.1.1.
6	A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan contained within an agreement made pursuant to Section 69 of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> that applies to the native vegetation to be removed.	Not applicable.
7	Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defensible space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary. This statement must have regard to other available bushfire risk mitigation measures. This statement is not required when the creation of defensible space is in conjunction with an application under the Bushfire Management Overlay.	Not applicable.
8	If the application is under Clause 52.16, a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan considerations at decision guideline 8.	Not applicable.
9	An offset statement providing evidence that an offset that meets the offset requirements for the native vegetation to be removed has been identified and can be secured in accordance with the Guidelines. A suitable statement includes evidence that the required offset: • is available to purchase from a third party, or • will be established as a new offset and has the agreement of the proposed offset provider, or • can be met by a first party offset.	Offsets in accordance with the Guidelines will be secured via purchase from third-party provider. Evidence that such offsets are readily available is shown in the search results from the Native Vegetation Credit Register in Appendix J.

* Taken from the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DEECA 2025).

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ERM HAS OVER 160 OFFICES ACROSS THE FOLLOWING
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WORLDWIDE

Argentina	The Netherlands
Australia	New Zealand
Belgium	Peru
Brazil	Poland
Canada	Portugal
China	Romania
Colombia	Senegal
France	Singapore
Germany	South Africa
Ghana	South Korea
Guyana	Spain
Hong Kong	Switzerland
India	Taiwan
Indonesia	Tanzania
Ireland	Thailand
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