

Report for Millar Merrigan

Native Vegetation Assessment Report for

Rezoned Area at Traralgon-Maffra Road,

Traralgon



June 2024

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Executive Summary

Project Description

ID Ecological Management (ID Ecological) has been commissioned by Millar Merrigan to undertake an updated assessment of native vegetation and biodiversity values covering a recently rezoned section of a large residential development in Traralgon North. The site covers several large agricultural properties measuring approximately 64 hectares in total area.

This report addresses the information requirements that apply under the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP, 2017a) (the Guidelines). Additional consideration is also given to how the development responds to any relevant overarching State policies and plans.

Two previous assessment reports were prepared for the site by Ironbark Arboriculture in 2021 that included a flora survey and desktop fauna survey (informed by field observations). Additional to this report targeted fauna surveys and aquatic surveys are also being carried out over the same development area. Separate reports will be completed outlining the results of these targeted surveys.

Study Area- Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Values

The site has a history of grazing, approximately 95% of the site is covered by pasture and native vegetation covers only around 5% of the site.

The sites key native vegetation and biodiversity values comprise:

- A small tract of Plains Grassy Woodland vegetation containing 3 large trees;
- A small highly modified remnant of Plains Grassy Woodland that lacks any trees;
- A 0.4ha patch of wetland vegetation that is contained within a DEECA mapped wetland measuring approximately 0.9ha;
- A small patch of riparian vegetation situated on an upper branch of Loy Yang Creek;
- 7 large remnant scattered trees; and
- 3 small planted scattered trees.

Targeted fauna surveys were taken out concurrent to this report for both aquatic and terrestrial fauna. One threatened terrestrial fauna species was identified on the site; the FFG Act Listed *Pseudemoia rawlinsoni* (Glossy Grass Skink), with the small patch of riparian vegetation (Habitat Zone 4) providing habitat for the species. One aquatic fauna species was assessed as possibly present (occasional visitor): the FFG Act Listed *Nannoperca sp. 1* (Flinders Pygmy Perch).

Threatened Ecological Communities

The site does not host native vegetation that belongs to any EPBC Act or FFG Act protected communities.

<u>Flora</u>

The current survey (undertaken in Summer 2024) and prior survey of the site (undertaken in Spring 2021) did not record any threatened flora on site.

The Development Plan Overlay- Schedule 11 identifies *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* (Strzelecki Gum), *Dianella amoena* (Matted Flax-lily) and *Craspedia canens* (Grey Billy-buttons) as threatened flora species requiring more specific consideration. These three species were not recorded during the surveys and are considered highly unlikely to occur onsite due to a near total absence of suitable habitat.

<u>Fauna</u>

The current survey undertaken by IDEM and prior survey of the site in 2021 did not record any threatened fauna. As described above targeted fauna surveys were taken out concurrent to this report which recorded the FFG Act Listed Glossy Grass Skink next to the upper branch of Loy Yang Creek.

Legislation/Policy Implications

EPBC Act- Matters of National Environmental Significance

The site was not found to support any EPBC Act Listed flora species or communities. No further actions are considered necessary for the project to proceed in relation to native vegetation related matters covered by the EPBC Act.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

The vegetation proposed for removal is not located on public land, a protected flora permit is not required for the project to proceed.

One FFG listed species was found to be present on site.

Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation

Avoid Minimise

Changes to the design of the development and reduction of impacts to native vegetation and biodiversity include:

- The addition of an open space Reserve within the south east corner and deletion of residential lots from this location. The placement of the Reserve has ensured the retention of all 6 large scattered trees located within the current development site and ensured each trees TPZ is not impacted; and
- Targeted fauna surveys identified the presence of Glossy Grass Skink within the drainage line in the north east corner of the site. In response, the design was revised to ensure wetlands and sediment ponds in the northeast of the property was no larger than it needed to be and moved west, so the maximum extent of skink habitat could remain intact.

Native Vegetation Removal and Offsets

Native vegetation to be removed consists of a single DEECA mapped wetland that is located within the proposed residential area. The mapped wetland covers a man made dam measuring 0.9 ha in size that presently contains approximately 0.4 ha of native vegetation.

An NVR was obtained that identified the following offset requirements:

• The proposal falls under the Detailed Assessment Pathway;

- Offset requirements equate to 0.183 General Habitat Units (GHUs) with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.285 and (no large trees); and
- Offsets must be located within the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) boundary or within the boundaries of Latrobe City Council.

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037

Overall, the development proposal will initially have minimal impact on biodiversity at the site, regional or State scale. The creation of new wetlands will provide a long term net benefit to biodiversity at the site scale by significantly increasing the existing coverage of wetland habitats.

The net result of development of the site is broadly consistent with the goals and principles outlined in the policy document *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*.

West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan 2003

A commensurate offset will be obtained for the loss of the mapped wetland under the development that will equate to 'no net loss' for native vegetation removal at the site. It is expected that the creation of new wetlands will achieve a net gain in the coverage of native vegetation across the site from its current very limited level.

Overall, this makes the development proposal broadly consistent with the principles of the *West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan 2003*.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

ID Ecological Management (IDEM) has been commissioned by Millar Merrigan to undertake an updated assessment of native vegetation and biodiversity values covering a recently rezoned section of a large residential development in Traralgon North. The site covers several large agricultural properties measuring approximately 64 hectares in total area.

This report assesses the proposed residential development area and portions of land to the adjacent north where drainage reserves and open space are planned. *Appendix 1* provides the current Development Plan used in this assessment; *Baldwin Road Development Plan Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon 25950 DP1* (May 2024).

This report addresses the information requirements that apply under the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP, 2017a) (the Guidelines). Additional consideration is also given to how the development responds to any relevant overarching State policies and plans.

Additional to this report, targeted fauna surveys and aquatic surveys are also being carried out over the same development area. Separate reports will be completed outlining the results of these targeted surveys.

1.2 Scope

Native Vegetation Assessment

- Recording a complete flora list;
- Taking general photographs of the sites vegetation and any native vegetation patches (with locations recorded);
- Identification, mapping and completion of a habitat hectare assessment for any native vegetation patches (detailed assessment pathway only); and
- Map and record gps locations and diameter at breast height of all scattered and large trees in patches to accuracy of <1m (where practicable).

Targeted Flora Surveys

Undertake targeted surveys for the three flora species identified in the DPO and the Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland ecological community, including:

- Undertake a desktop review of relevant databases and literature to find any recorded information relating to the flora species / ecological community.
- Complete a survey for the target flora species, including:
 - Record any individuals of the target species found within the study area;
 - Visually assess the quality and quantity of habitat within the study area against the key habitat requirements for this species; and

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- Collect photographs of any individuals found.
- Collect specific information in regard to the presence /absence of the federally listed community including:
 - Species present;
 - % coverage of canopy trees and graminoids; and
 - Potential area of occupancy.

Reporting

Prepare a report that includes:

- Background;
- Description of survey methodology:
 - How detectability of the target flora species has been addressed;
 - Discussion/summary of results including:
 - List of flora species identified at the site;
 - Suitability of habitat for target species;
 - Target species presence / absence within the site, including data tables, photos, etc;
 - Maps providing locations of target species (if found) in relation to the development footprint; and
 - Discussion of legislative implication of survey results.
- If required, undertake an assessment against the flow chart contained within the Policy Statement *Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Associated Grassland*. A nationally threatened ecological community for any areas that have the potential to be the listed community.
- A detailed response to the information requirements under Clause 52.17 of the planning scheme and the DELWP's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (the Guidelines), including:
 - The risk based pathway of the application for a planning permit to remove native vegetation.
 - The location of native vegetation to be removed.
 - A description of the native vegetation to be removed, including the area of any remnant patches of native vegetation and/or the number of any scattered trees to be removed.
 - Maps or plans showing the native vegetation and property in context.
 - The offset requirements will apply if the native vegetation is approved to be removed.
 - Topographic information, highlighting ridges, crests and hilltops, streams and waterways, slopes of more than 20 percent, drainage lines, low lying areas, saline discharge areas, and areas of existing erosion.
 - Recent dated photographs of the native vegetation.
 - Details of any other native vegetation that was permitted to be removed on the same property with the same ownership, where the removal occurred in the previous five year period.
 - An avoid and minimise statement describing the efforts to avoid the removal of and minimise the impact on biodiversity.
 - If the detailed assessment pathway is triggered the report will also include the following:
 - A habitat hectare assessment of any patches of native vegetation;

- Location and dbh of all large and scattered trees; and
- Information about impacts on rare or threatened species habitat.
- An offset statement providing evidence that an offset for the native vegetation can be secured.
- Describe an assessment of any native vegetation to be removed having regard to the document; *Protecting Victoria's Environment Biodiversity 2037* (DELWP, 2017b), including how it is proposed to protect and manage any appropriate native vegetation.
- Consider any implications for the development under the *West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan 2003* (WGCMA, 2003)

1.3 Site Details

The study area (*Figure 1*) is approximately 64 hectares in total area. It is located approximately 3 kilometres north east from the Traralgon town centre, and approximately 145 kilometres southeast of Melbourne, Victoria. It is situated within the Latrobe City Council area, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) area and the Gippsland Plain Bioregion.

Cleared grazing land covers most of the site and this land use continues to the wider north, east and west of the site. Land use to the south of the site becomes increasingly residential moving towards the centre of Traralgon. At the time of assessment land to the immediate south of the site was in various stages of development to residential land.

The overall coverage of native vegetation over the site is very limited. Remnant trees are confined to the south east corner of the site and some patches of native understorey and wetland vegetation remain along drainage lines and depressions. Established windrow planting of various trees and exotic hedges remain along some fencelines in the west of the site.

The assessment site covers several properties, listed below:

- SPI 1\PS329021
- SPI 2\ PS835779
- SPI: 26F\PP3647
- SPI: G\PS907112
- SPI: H\PS826075

The site is subject to the following planning provisions: Clauses

Clause 52.17 - Native Vegetation

Planning Zones General Residential Zone – Schedule 3 (GRZ3) Farming Zone – Schedule 1 (FZ1)

Planning Overlays

Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 11 (DPO11) (DEECA, 2024a)

Additional Encumbrances

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) online map marks areas of 'cultural heritage sensitivity' in the northeast corner of the site. (Aboriginal Victoria, 2024). Any potential impacts of the proposal in relation to this matter must be considered under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006.



Figure 1: Study area

2 Description of Methods

2.1 Data and Literature Review

The DEECA's Naturekit (DEECA, 2024b) was used to gain the following information:

- An insight into the overall distribution of native vegetation on the site and the Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) to which any remnant vegetation may belong;
- The 'landscape context score' applicable to a particular habitat zone; and
- Guidance on the strategic biodiversity and habitat importance scores of vegetation located on-site.

The DEECA's Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) (DEECA, 2024c) was queried prior to the site visit to locate the nearest records of the three targeted flora species, Strzelecki Gum, Matted Flax-lily and Grey Billy Buttons and to determine if any taxa listed or protected under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act), or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* have been previously recorded at or close to the site.

The DEECA 's *Native Vegetation Regulation Map* (NVR) was accessed to identify the presence of any mapped current wetlands and the modelled condition scores of any native vegetation that might be found on site (DEECA, 2024d).

Prior to the site visit two prior assessment reports that covered the site, and an expanded area, were reviewed:

- Flora Survey for Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon (Ironbark Arboriculture, 2021a)
- Fauna Desktop Survey for Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon (Ironbark Arboriculture, 2021b)

2.2 Field Survey

A survey of the site was carried out on the 15th of January 2024. During these surveys, all flora present on the site was recorded and vegetation quality assessments were carried out using the methods described below.

The survey was completed by the following participants:

- Ben Imbery- B.A.Sc. (Env. Mgt.), DEECA accredited native vegetation assessor, 15 years' experience in environmental consultancy and flora and fauna assessments; and
- Antares Fuhrmann- B. Earth Science, DEECA accredited native vegetation assessor, 10 years' experience in environmental consultancy and flora and fauna assessments.

The survey included:

- Recording all flora present. Flora species were recorded following the species nomenclature requirements of the VBA;
- Visually assessing the quality and quantity of habitat within the study area against the key habitat requirements for the three target flora species;
- Recording any individuals of the target species found within the study area;

- Collect photographs of any individuals found.
- Collect specific information in regard to the presence /absence of the federally listed community including: Species present; % coverage of canopy trees and graminoids; and potential area of occupancy.
- Identification and recording of any flora and fauna including any other threatened, protected species / communities or habitat;
- Completing a fauna assessment that included the opportunistic observation of scats, footprints, diggings, burrows, tracks, incidental bird and other fauna observations and listening for frog and bird calls;
- Identifying and recording notes on any habitat features including vegetation type and structure, proximity to water, the presence of hollow bearing trees and stags, logs and other ground debris. The surrounding landscape was also observed, and notes taken regarding its habitat provision, intactness of native vegetation and connectivity with the study site; and
- Recording notes on specific issues such as noxious weed infestations and any evidence of pest animal disturbance including any active warrens or dens.

GPS mapping was completed using the ArcCollector application paired with a handheld Android device. An average recording accuracy of approximately +/- 4m was achieved.

The mapping included:

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

2.2.1 Vegetation Quality Assessment

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

A 'patch' of native vegetation is:

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

A 'scattered tree' is:

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

(DELWP, 2017a)

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

Patches were further categorised into EVCs and furthermore into habitat zones. These areas were GPS mapped and assessed using the habitat hectare method described by DSE (2004) in the *Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – Guidelines for applying the habitat hectares scoring method - Version 1.3.*

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

2.3 Assessment of Native Vegetation Impacts and Quantification of Losses

2.3.1 Large Trees in Patches and Scattered Trees

Under the Guidelines (DELWP, 2017a) large trees in patches are accounted for in the overall condition score of remnant patches and a count of the number of large trees within a patch marked as lost is provided to DEECA when processing offset requirements. Scattered trees are assigned a default area and condition score of 0.2 while an individual canopy tree deemed lost within a patch is assigned the quality score of the patch it is contained within.

2.3.2 Direct Impacts

Native patches or canopy trees contained within the Construction Impact Zone (CIZ), i.e. roadway or building envelope, are assessed as lost.

2.3.3 Tree Protection Zone Impacts- Indirect Losses

The DEECA defines a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) as 'an area around the trunk of the tree which has a radius of 12 × the diameter at breast height to a maximum of 15 metres but no less than 2 metres'. Unless an arborist report indicates otherwise, a tree, or trees will be deemed lost if the encroachment from construction (i.e. compaction and excavation) into the TPZ is greater than 10%, or is inside the Structural Root Zone (SRZ) (DELWP, 2018).

2.3.4 Consequential Losses

The DEECA also requires that 'consequential losses' be considered when determining losses to native vegetation under a subdivision proposal scenario. The DEECA 's *Assessors handbook- Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (DELWP, 2018) describes these considerations and the requirement to include:

- All native trees or patches within a newly created lot less than 0.4 ha in size as lost;
- All native trees or patches contained within 2 metres either side of any newly established internal property boundaries as 'lost'.

2.3.5 Limitations

The vegetation assessment was undertaken in January 2024. It is, therefore, possible that some annual, deciduous or dormant taxa may not have been visible. Additionally, some taxa have not been identified to specific or infraspecific rank due to the absence of flowering, or other material typically used for identification.

The opportunistic fauna survey carried out by IDEM consisted of recording incidental observations and did not involve a targeted fauna survey. Consequently, further species are likely to be recorded given further time and or the undertaking of more detailed survey.

3 Results

3.1 Database & Literature Review

Interrogation of the DEECA's *Victorian Biodiversity Atlas* (VBA) (DEECA, 2024c) found no recordings of any threatened species within the site. The closest records of threatened species to the site are located approximately 500 metres to the north east. These records are centred around the crossing of Loy Yang Creek with the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, and include the flowing species:

- Egretta garzetta (Little Egret) which is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act.
- *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (White-bellied Sea-Eagle) which is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act.
- *Eucalyptus strzeleckii* (Strzelecki Gum) which is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Critically Endangered on the FFG Act Threatened List.

There are two 'mapped current wetlands' located within the site:

- Wetland Number 86304 located near the centre of the site
- Wetland Number 86260 which partially extends into the north west of the site

3.2 Vegetation

3.2.1 Ecological Vegetation Classes

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

In its pre-1750's EVC modelling Naturekit (DEECA, 2024b) shows four EVC over the site:

- EVC 53: Swamp Scrub;
- EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland;
- EVC 56: Floodplain Riparian Woodland; and
- EVC 151: Plains Grassy Forest.

In the modelling EVC 151: *Plains Grassy Forest* covers the south west of the site, EVC 53: *Swamp Scrub* covers the east, and EVC 56: *Floodplain Riparian Woodland* covers the lower lying areas found at the northern edge of the site. A small section of EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland* also extends into the south eastern corner of the site.

Only a very small amount of remnant vegetation remains across the site. The presence of remnant *Eucalyptus tereticornis* subsp. *mediana* (Gippsland Red-gum) in the south east corner is indicative of the modelled EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland* at this location. The presence of native semi-aquatic vegetation in the north east corner is broadly indicative of the modelled EVC 56: *Floodplain Riparian Woodland* in this area. Remaining areas of the site are highly modified and the assignment of EVC defers to the DEECA modelling as shown in *Figure 2*.

Overall, the assignment of EVC was made after consideration of any floristics and life forms typical to the EVC, ecological characteristics and an inferred fidelity to particular environmental attributes identified in the benchmark. *Figure 2* shows the assigned distribution of EVC over the site, which is consistent with the DEECA modelling.

Table 1 provides the DEECA's Bioregional Conservational Status and the large tree benchmarks for each of the EVC found within the site. Full EVC benchmarks for each EVC are provided as *Appendix 4* (DEECA, 2024e).

Ecological Vegetation Class	Bioregional Conservation Status	Large Tree Benchmark		
EVC 53: Swamp Scrub*	Endangered	70cm +		
EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland	Endangered	80cm +		
EVC 56: Floodplain Riparian Woodland	Endangered	80cm +		
EVC 151: Plains Grassy Forest	Vulnerable	70cm +		
* Taken from most closely related treed EVC benchmark				





Figure 2: Distribution of assigned Ecological Vegetation Classes within the Study Area

3.2.2 Vegetation Description

The site is predominantly cleared agricultural land with open paddocks dominated by various exotic pasture grasses. The more common exotic pasture species include *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Ryegrass) and *Agrostis capillaris* (Brown-top Bent). Areas of disturbance along the southern edge of the site contain a greater variety of herbaceous weeds such as *Arctotheca calendula* (Capeweed), *Cichorium intybus* (Chicory) and *Sonchus* spp. (Sow Thistles). *Figure 3* provides an example of the open pasture, the dominant vegetation type across the site.

Planted windrows are found along some fencelines in the western part of the site, these include exotic trees like *Cupresses* spp. (Cypress) with one of the tree lines also containing some planted *Eucalyptus ovata* (Swamp Gum).

The overall coverage of native vegetation within the site is very limited and is estimated to be below 5%. A cluster of mostly large remnant trees are found in the south east corner of the site but very few other native understorey plants remain beneath these trees and the ground layer is dominated by exotic pasture. Existing and recently created wetlands contain a variable cover of native sedges and rushes around their margins and shallow marsh areas. The most intact native patch is found in the north east corner of the site where native semi aquatic/aquatic vegetation remains along the upper branch of Loy Yang Creek (*Figure 4*).



Figure 3: Cleared exotic pasture- the dominant vegetation type over the site

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Figure 4: Example of remnant native vegetation in north east of site

The most prevalent noxious weeds are *Cirsium vulgare* (Spear Thistle) and *Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg. (Blackberry), but overall noxious weed cover across the entire site would be less than 1%. Most noxious weeds, along with a variety of other larger broadleaf weeds, are found at the southern edge of the site which is at the interface of expanding residential development to the south.

3.2.3 Native Patches

The site assessment found that native patches covered approximately 3% of the study area with the remaining areas being dominated by exotic flora or consisting of disturbed open bare ground. Four native patch habitat zones were identified across three EVC's.

Maps 1a and *1b* show the distribution of each habitat zone and descriptions are provided below. The results of the habitat hectare assessment for each habitat zone are provided in *Table 2*.

		Habitat Zone 1	Habitat Zone 2	Habitat Zone 3	Habitat Zone 4	
Bioregion - Gippsland Plain		Plains Grassy Woodland	Plains Grassy Woodland	Swamp Scrub	Floodplain Riparian Woodland	
EVC N	ame (initials)		PGW	PGW	SS	FRW
EVC N	umber		151	151	53	56
Bioreg	gional Conservation Stat	us	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
		Max Score	100	100	100	100
	Large Old Trees	10	0	9	NA	0
	Canopy Cover	5	0	4	0	0
	Lack of Weeds	15	4	2	4	0
Sit	Understorey	25	5	5	5	10
e Cc	Recruitment	10	0	5	0	0
ondit	Organic Matter	5	5	5	3	2
ion	Logs	5	0	0	NA	0
	Total Site Score	75	14	30	12	12
	Site score out of?	eg 55	75	75	60	75
	Adjusted Site Score		14	30	15	12
Lar	Patch Size	10	1	1	1	1
ndsca /alue	Neighbourhood	10	0	0	0	0
ape e	Distance to Core	5	0	0	0	0
Habita	at points out of 100	100	15	31	16	13
Habitat Score (hab points/100)		0.15	0.31	0.16	0.13	
Total area of the Zone (ha)		0.0202	0.0540	0.3886	0.1227	
Total I	HHA in the zone		0.0603	0.0603	0.0155	0.0603
Catchment Management Authority				West Gipps	land (CMA)	

Table 2: Results of Vegetation Quality Assessments

The limited coverage of native vegetation and dominance of agricultural land within a 5 km radius of the site severely limits the each zones 'Landscape Values' scoring potential which accounts for 25% of the overall habitat score.

Plains Grassy Woodland – Habitat Zone 1 (0.0202ha)

This zone is a highly modified remnant formed by a cover of *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides* (Weeping Grass) that persists within agricultural land. The zone has very limited native diversity and habitat value.

Weed cover is moderate and comprises mainly of exotic pasture grasses such as *Paspalum dilatatum* (Paspalum) and *Dactylis glomerata* (Cocksfoot).

The zone received a poor overall habitat score of 15/100 points (0.15). The score is reflective of the zones significant modification and lack of any overstorey.

Native vegetation Assessment for Rezoned Area at Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon | June, 2024



Figure 5: Habitat Zone 1

Plains Grassy Woodland - Habitat Zone 2 (0.054ha)

This zone is formed by a connected canopy of Gippsland Red-gum trees that extends to include a small section of native groundstorey. The canopy trees are in generally good health and the zone holds three large trees. The understorey is highly modified containing few native species and the ground layer is dominated by exotic grasses, with *Cenchrus clandestinus* (Kikuyu) a dominant species.

The zone received a low-moderate overall habitat score of 30/100 points (0.30). The score was boosted by the presence of three large trees in what is a relatively small patch. The degraded condition of the understorey resulted in poor scores for all other site condition components.



Figure 6: Habitat Zone 2

Swamp Scrub – Habitat Zone 3 (0.3886)

This zone is a patch of wetland vegetation at the centre of the site that is contained within the DEECA mapped current wetland number 86304. The waterbody of the wetland is receding and aquatic plant life is being sustained by water being pumped from the southern development area.

Cattle access has caused pugging throughout the zone and silt smothers some plants, however the zone maintains a healthy diversity of native plants. Common native plants include *Juncus* spp. (Rushes), *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis* (Tall Club-sedge) and *Crassula helmsii* (Swamp Crassula). Weed cover is moderate and includes common semi-aquatic weeds like *Paspalum distichum* (Water Couch) and *Juncus articulatus* subsp. *articulatus* (Jointed Rush).

The zone received a poor overall habitat score of 16/100 points (0.16). The score is reflective of the zones significant modification and lack of any woody native plants



Figure 7: Habitat Zone 3

Swamp Scrub – Habitat Zone 4 (0.3886)

This zone is a strip of native aquatic vegetation centred along an upper branch of Loy Yang Creek. Native herbs including *Persicaria decipiens* (Slender Knotweed), *Ludwigia peploides* (Clove-strip) and *Alisma plantago-aquatica* (Water Plantain) surround small pools and exotic pasture grasses fringe the perimeter of the patch.

The zone received a poor overall habitat score of 13/100 points (0.13). The score is reflective of the zones significant modification and lack of any woody native plants.

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Figure 8: Habitat Zone 4

3.2.4 Victorian Native Trees

Appendix 5 lists all Victorian native canopy trees recorded on site and provides individual tree detail. 14 trees were recorded comprising of 11 remnant Gippsland Red Gum trees and 3 planted Swamp Gum trees. The ID numbers in Appendix 5 correspond with those depicted in Maps 1a and 1b.

Scattered Trees

10 trees were recorded that met the definition of a scattered tree; these are identified in Appendix 5.

Large Trees

10 trees were recorded that met the definition of a large tree; these are identified in *Appendix 5*. Nine of these trees had a DBH greater than 100cm. *Figure 19* shows an example of one of the large scattered canopy trees that are located in the south east corner of the site.

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Figure 9: Large scattered tree (tree ID no 6)

3.2.5 Constructed Wetlands

Maps 1a and *1b* show the locations of recently constructed wetlands found at the northern edge of the site. These presently consist of three separate waterbodies. The terrestrial margins of the two waterbodies in the north west corner of the site are generally dominated by exotic pasture grasses such as Paspalum and *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire Fog). The margins of the waterbody in the central north of the site was largely bare with scatterings of exotic pasture grasses.

The larger waterbody in the north west corner has a narrow strip of native sedges and rush at its water edge on one side and the smaller waterbody has a limited overall presence of native vegetation. Likely to have colonised naturally at the water margin, native plants that have established include *Eleocharis acuta* (Common Spike-sedge), Rushes and Slender Knotweed. Floating aquatic vegetation is yet to establish in any of the recently constructed wetlands.

Figure 10 shows the larger of the two wetland waterbodies found in the north west corner of the site and shows its current vegetation condition.

Native vegetation Assessment for Rezoned Area at Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon | June, 2024



Figure 10: North West located constructed wetland showing larger waterbody in foregroundwh

3.2.6 Planted Windrows

Planted windrows are found along some fencelines in the western part of the site, these include a mix of mostly exotic trees and some Australian and locally native trees. *Maps 1a* and *1b* show 6 'planted vegetation zones' labelled A-F. *Table 3* provides a description of the types of trees found within these windrows to provide clarity that they are not remnant native vegetation.

Planted Vegetation Zone ID	Description	
A	Exotic Cypress hedge.	
В	Exotic Cypress hedge.	
С	Exotic trees including Radiata Pine. Desert Ash and Australian native Eucalypts	
D	Australian native Eucalypts and exotic shrubs	
E	Exotic Cypress and 3 Locally native Swamp Gum	
F	Exotic Cypress hedge.	

Table 3: Planted	Windrow	Vegetation	Zones
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3.3 Flora Species

3.3.1 Flora Species Recorded

A total of 80 vascular plants were found to occur on site during site assessments. Of these, 24 are considered to be taxa native to Victoria. *Appendix 2* provides the results of the flora survey.

3.3.2 Significant Flora Species

No threatened flora species were recorded on site by IDEM in 2024. The prior survey of the site completed by Ironbark Environmental Arboriculture in 2021 also did not record any threatened flora.

The project brief included carrying out targeted surveys for three threatened flora species known to occur in the local area. Additional detail on these surveys is provided below

Matted Flax-lily

During the search for the Matted Flax Lily, drip lines of remnant canopy trees or areas containing remnants from the Plains Grassy Woodland EVC (Habitat Zones 1 & 2) were particularly targeted as the most likely areas for this species to occur, with two ecologists slowly traversing these areas on foot.

Two separate field surveys were undertaken which failed to detect Matted Flax-lily within the study area, which included the Ironbark assessment in 2021 (Ironbark Arboriculture, 2021a) and ID Ecological in January 2024. The survey timing and effort are considered appropriate to detect the species if it were present. No individuals from this species were detected.

The closest record of Matted Flax-lily is 0.3 km to the SE on the Gippsland Rail line and 0.4km to the NE on the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail. Both of these locations contain good quality native vegetation remnants.

Due to the sites extensive modification from its original native vegetation and lack of detection, Matted Flax-lily is considered to be unlikely present.



Figure 11 – <u>Dianella amoena (</u>Matted Flax-lily) on the Gippsland Rail line

Grey Billy-buttons

Two separate field surveys were undertaken which failed to detect Grey Billy-button within the study area, which included the Ironbark assessment in 2021 (Ironbark Arboriculture, 2021a) and ID Ecological in January 2024. Areas containing remnants from the Plains Grassy Woodland EVC (Habitat Zones 1 & 2) were traversed slowly on foot by two ecologists, experienced in the identification of the target species, looking in particular for old inflorescence. The survey timing and effort are considered appropriate to detect the species if it were present. No individuals from this species were detected.

The closest record of Billy Buttons is over 0.5km to the SW within the township of Traralgon, and further afield the largest concentration of the species is found on the Gippsland Rail Line, found within good quality native vegetation remnants.

Due to the sites extensive modification from its original native vegetation and lack of detection, it is considered to be unlikely present.



Figure 12 – Grey Billy Buttons found on the Gippsland Rail Line over 0.7 kilometre to the SE within a patch of high quality native grassland.

Strzelecki Gum

The flora surveys undertaken on site in 2021 (Ironbark Arboriculture, 2021a) and by IDEM in 2024 did not identify Strzelecki Gums within the study area. Planted Swamp Gum (the species from which Strzelecki Gum was separated), were identified (*Appendix 5*) within windrows found on fence lines in the western part of the site.

This species is not present within the study area.

Summary

Table 4 provides a determination on the likelihood of the species being present and a recommendation for further targeted surveying based on the current site assessment and evaluation of site conditions.

Species Conservation Status		Conservation Status	Likelihood of Presence Determination	Recommendation
Craspedia canens	Grey Billy- buttons	Critically Endangered (FFG Act)	Not recorded in 2021 (Spring) survey or current 2024 (Summer) survey. Habitat is highly modified across >95% of site and very little suitable habitat specific to the species exists (i.e. native grassland). Not likely to be present on site.	Species is highly unlikely to be present. Further targeted surveys are not considered necessary.
Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily	Critically Endangered (FFG Act) Endangered (EPBC Act)	Not recorded in 2021 (Spring) survey or current 2024 (Summer) survey. Habitat is highly modified across >95% of site. Not likely to be present on site	Species is highly unlikely to be present. Further targeted surveys are not considered necessary.
Eucalyptus strzeleckii	Strzelecki Gum	Critically Endangered (FFG Act) vulnerable (EPBC Act)	Not recorded in 2021 or current 2024 surveys. Not present on site.	No further recommendation.

Table 4: Determination of threatened flora presence

3.3.3 Significant Vegetation Communities

The Gippsland Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana) Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland community is known to occur on the nearby Gippsland Plains Rail Trail and is synonymous with EVC 55: Plains Grassy Woodland. The community is listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act.

The 2021 survey, completed during the most appropriate Spring survey period, determined that the community was not present on the site (Ironbark Arboriculture, 2021a). This current survey identified two patches of Plains Grassy Woodland vegetation (Habitat Zones 1 and 2). Both zones had very high levels of disturbance and very limited native species diversity (1-2 native grass species at the ground layer). Given the high perennial weed coverage and very low perennial native species diversity it is considered neither zone would meet the definitions of the community during a 2024 Spring survey.

An FFG Act listed ecological community, the *Forest Red Gum Grassy Woodland Community*, is synonymous with EVC 55: *Plains Grassy Woodland*. Legislative requirements are triggered where this community is impacted on public land.

3.4 Fauna Species

A total of 12 fauna species were recorded during an opportunist site survey. Of these, 9 are taxa native to Victoria. *Appendix 3* provides the results of the fauna survey.

Two targeted fauna surveys have been undertaken as part of this project for both aquatic and terrestrial fauna.

Targeted fauna surveys were undertaken in May 2024 to identify the presence of the federally listed *Lissolepis coventryi* (Swamp Skink). Whilst this species was not detected, the FFG Act listed *Pseudemoia rawlinsoni* (Glossy Grass Skink) was found within the riparian vegetation along the upper branch of Loy Yang Creek in the north east corner of the site. Two individuals were identified by TactEcol Consulting adjacent to Habitat Zone 4.

Targeted aquatic survey (Jenkin, 2024) did not detect any of the target species, being Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*), Dwarf Galaxias (*Galaxiella pusilla*), and Flinders Pygmy Perch (*Nannoperca* sp.1) on or immediately near the site. The survey did find there were aspects of suitable aquatic habitat for supporting Flinders Pygmy Perch but that the habitat would only be amenable dispersal and occasional visitation habitat (i.e. It cannot be completely excluded that individuals may occur as occasional visitors within the site). The results suggest that there are no direct aquatic ecology related policy or legislation implications for the project pertaining specifically to the targeted species. No further assessment or survey is deemed required relating to the target species (Jenkin, 2024).

4 Victorias Native Vegetation Removal Guidelines

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

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

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

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

Basic - limited impacts on biodiversity.

Intermediate - could impact on large trees, endangered EVC's, and sensitive wetlands and coastal areas.

Detailed - could impact on large trees, endangered EVC's, sensitive wetlands and coastal area and could significantly impact on habitat for rare or threatened species. (DELWP, 2017a)

Based on the criteria set out in Table 3 of the Guidelines this project has been assessed as a 'Detailed' assessment pathway project which has been confirmed by the NVR Report provided in *Appendix 6*. As such, this report provides information and assessment requirements detailed in Tables 4 & 5 of the Guidelines.

4.1 Avoiding and Minimising Impacts on Native Vegetation

4.1.1 Background

Avoiding the removal of native vegetation can be achieved by locating or designing so that native vegetation is not removed. Minimising of losses to native vegetation can be achieved by siting to minimise total losses, restrict to areas of native vegetation that have the least biodiversity or other values or managing the use or development to minimise impacts on surrounding vegetation (DELWP, 2017a).

An avoid and minimise statement is required to be provided with an application. The statement should describe any site level planning over the site, what site level planning has been done and that no

feasible opportunities exist to further avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation without undermining the key objectives of the proposal (DELWP, 2017a).

4.1.2 Strategic Level Planning

The residential development site to the south of this area of rezoning was subject to the endorsed 'Traralgon North Development Plan' under the Latrobe City planning scheme. Both the rezoning site and the land to the south have a similar history of grazing and any remnant vegetation was historically heavily cleared for agriculture.

The rezoning of most of this this site to Residential, provides support that the site is highly suitable as a location for the future residential expansion of Traralgon. The rezoning also provides evidence that the site has no known significant biodiversity values that would limit its large scale development. The schedule to the Development Plan Overlay flags several threatened species and communities that require specific consideration. This report clarifies the presence or non-presence of these threatened flora species or communities on the site.

4.1.3 Site Level Planning

An initial concept plan for the site was prepared in November 2021 which is shown below in *Figure 13*. Following the completion of the onsite native vegetation assessment spatial data was provide to Millar Merrigan who undertook design revisions to avoid native vegetation and biodiversity impacts to the greatest extent possible. An updated design was then provided (see *Appendix 1*).

The design changes and reduction of impacts to native vegetation and biodiversity at the site include:

- The addition of an open space Reserve within the south east corner and deletion of residential lots from this location. The placement of the Reserve has ensured the retention of all 6 large scattered trees located within the current development site and ensured each trees TPZ is not encroached upon by the proposed roadway nearby.
- Targeted fauna surveys carried out in 2024 identified the presence of the FFG Act listed Glossy Grass Skink within the riparian vegetation along the upper branch of Loy Yang Creek in the north east corner of the site. In response the design was revised to ensure the wetland in the northeast property was no larger than it needed to be and moved to be located as close to the western boundary as possible, in an attempt to co locate with the central wetland and avoid impacting on the identified habitat for the Skink. For various reasons this wetland needs to stay within the title boundary of the eastern property.

Native vegetation losses comprise of a single modelled wetland (DEECA Wetland No. 86304) that is located within the proposed residential area. Aerial photography of the site shows the wetland has historically been accessible to cattle and historically has shown minimal habitat value in the form of any aquatic or fringing vegetation.

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

Native vegetation Assessment for Rezoned Area at Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon | June, 2024



Figure 13: Concept Layout Plan (November 2021)

4.1.4 Construction

A number of measures are proposed to minimise construction impacts on ecological values, with further recommendations provided in the fauna targeted survey reports. These include the following:

No-go Zone Fencing / Limit of Works

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

Vehicle Hygiene / Weed Management

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

Sedimentation / Erosion

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

- Installation and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation controls established in accordance with EPA best practice guidelines for the treatment of sediment laden run-off resulting from construction activities. Sediment controls must be maintained in good order throughout the project and all materials removed from site at the completion of works;
- Adequately control and route runoff within the construction site to the appropriate sedimentation controls. Any controls installed should prevent any surface water run off;
- Appropriate control structures within the 'limits of works' should also be established where required to prevent surface water run-off from exiting construction works areas beyond the 'limit of works' or onto adjoining native vegetation to be retained / No Go Zones;
- Minimising the amount of exposed erodible surfaces during construction i.e. through the staging of works and progressive reinstatement of earthworks; and
- Prompt covering of exposed surfaces (including batters and stockpiles) that would otherwise remain bare for more than 28 days cover may include mulch, erosion control mat or seeding with sterile grass.

Wildlife Management

• Any wildlife encountered on the site, directly impacted or potentially displaced by construction works, will require a suitability qualified wildlife expert / zoologist with appropriate DEECA authorisations to be engaged to ensure the protection and management of this wildlife during construction works. Any displaced fauna should be salvaged and relocated at an appropriate time.

4.2 Previous Clearing

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

DEECA mapped 86331, Habitat Zone 2 and Tree ID numbers 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are shown in *Map 1b* are located on land parcels that are adjacent to the development site (subject to this report). DEECA mapped wetland 86331 is no longer present on-ground but is not on the same land or on continuous land in the same client ownership and it is assumed was dealt with as part of the southern subdivision project.

4.3 Land and Topographic Information

Table 5 below provides general topography and land information specific to the site and the development proposals impact to native vegetation and biodiversity values.

Item	Description
The role of native vegetation in protecting water quality and waterway and riparian ecosystems.	A section of native riparian vegetation exits in the north east corner of the site on an upper branch of Loy Yang Creek. The vegetation is not impacted by the development proposal.
Waterways, wetlands or special water supply catchments located within 30 metres of site.	An upper branch of Loy Yang Creek runs across the north east of the site. The site contains 3 recently constructed waterbodies/wetland areas that are retained within reserve areas. A significantly modified farm dam, identified as DEECA Wetland 86304, is proposed for removal at the centre of the site.
Ridges, crests or hilltops or slopes greater than 20%. Areas of existing erosion.	The site is uniformly flat. The average slope gradient rarely exceeds 2%.
Low-lying areas, saline discharge areas or groundwater recharge areas.	Historically grazed across its entirety, the site does not hold any significant low lying areas, saline discharge areas or groundwater discharge areas.
Landscape values	Land surrounding the site has been heavily cleared of its original native vegetation for agriculture, industrial or residential development. Native vegetation coverage is less than 10% within a 5km radius of the site. No (remnant) native tree removal is proposed on the site.

Table 5: Site Land and	l Topographic	Information
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4.4 Native Vegetation Losses

Maps 2a, 2b and *2c* overlay the current Development Plan (*Appendix 1*) on the mapped native vegetation at the site. Using the methodology described in *Section 2.3* a process of marking native vegetation impacts was carried out using the GIS program. *Table 6* summarises the native vegetation that is to be removed or retained under the development and *Maps 2a, 2b* and *2c* identify these impacts. The Photos section of this report provides photographic examples of the native vegetation to be removed.

ltem	Loss Determination	Offsetting Required under Clause 52.17
Habita Zone 1	Retained within proposed open space Reserve.	No
Habitat Zone 2	Outside of this development site. Located within southern subdivision site.	No
Habitat Zone 3	Located within development site. Marked for removal. Contained within Mapped Wetland No. 86304 which is entirely marked for removal. Assigned the higher DEECA modelled condition score of 0.2.	Yes

Table 6:	Summary	of Native	Vegetation	Impacts

Native vegetation Assessment for Rezoned Area at Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon | June, 2024

Item	Loss Determination	Offsetting Required under Clause 52.17
Habitat Zone 4	Outside of residential development area. Shown on plans as being within 'other areas' (farming land). Not impacted by any proposed basins or wetlands.	Νο
6 large Scattered Tree- Tree ID No's 1-6	Retained within proposed open space Reserve or Pipeline easement. No TPZ encroachment from adjacent development to any tree.	No
3 large trees in patches and 1 small Scattered Tree- Tree ID No's 7-11	Outside of this development site. Located within southern subdivision site.	No
Mapped Wetland No. 86304 0.8968 hectares	Within residential development area. Marked for removal- assigned DEECA modelled condition score of 0.20.	Yes
3 small Scattered Trees- Tree ID No's 12-14	Within residential development area- marked for removal	Exempt from permit requirements as 'Planted vegetation'.

4.5 Offsets Requirements

A clearing shapefile marking the extent of native vegetation losses was uploaded to the DEECA's Native Vegetation Removal tool website. DEECA processed and provided a Native Vegetation Removal (NVR) report (*Appendix 6*). The NVR identified the following offset requirements:

- The proposal falls under the Detailed Assessment Pathway;
- Offset requirements equate to 0.183 General Habitat Units (GHUs) with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.285 and (no large trees); and
- Offsets must be located within the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) boundary or within the boundaries of Latrobe City Council.

4.6 Offset Statement

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

Offsets will be purchased as a third party offset from a registered credit provider. *Appendix 7* provides evidence that sufficient native vegetation credits are freely available from several credit providers that meet the offset requirements outlined on page 2 of *Appendix 6*.
5 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 2019

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

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

A permit is required to handle/translocate all native fauna in Victoria including FFG Act listed threatened fauna. Approvals for handling and translocating fauna are issued under the *Wildlife Act 1979*.

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

5.1 Implications

One FFG Act protected flora species was recorded on the site in *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle). No Black Wattle plants are proposed for removal nor are any located on public land. The vegetation proposed for removal is not located on public land and is not representative of an FFG Act listed community. A protected flora permit is not required for the project to proceed.

The Glossy Grass Skink, an FFG Act listed fauna species, was recorded within the drainage line in the north east corner of the site. The location is in proximity to public land being the Traralgon-Maffra Road road reserve, however, impacts to this species and its habitat are avoided by the current development.

6 Other State Native Vegetation Policy Documents

6.1 Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037

Launched in 2017 *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* is a plan that presents a long-term vision for Victorias biodiversity. It is supported by two overarching goals; Victorians value nature and Victoria's natural environment is healthy (DELWP, 2017b).

Native vegetation to be removed consists of a single DEECA mapped wetland that is located within the proposed residential area. The mapped wetland covers a man made dam measuring 0.9 ha in size that presently contains approximately 0.4 ha of native vegetation.

Historical aerial photography shows the dam has been permanently accessible to cattle resulting in it providing minimal habitat value for amphibians or waterbirds.

The one location within the site found to support a threatened species (Glossy Grass Skink) has been appropriately avoided through the design process. The sites highest value assets from a native vegetation perspective are the large old Gippsland Red Gum trees found in the south east corner. All of these remnant trees are retained and the design has appropriately avoided any TPZ impacts to any of these trees.

Overall, the development proposal will have minimal impact on biodiversity at the site, regional or State scale. The creation of wetlands is likely to provide a long term net benefit to biodiversity at the site scale by introducing greater native plant coverage and diversity and creating better habitat for native amphibians and waterfowl.

6.2 West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan 2003

The West Gippsland Native Vegetation Plan 2003 (NVP) (WGCMA, 2003) was developed in 2003 as a framework that sets out direction and priorities for vegetation management across the West Gippsland Region.

Specifically, the implementation of the plan intends to achieve the (then current) State native vegetation policy goal of 'a reversal across the entire landscape of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a Net Gain'. The State native vegetation policy aim was revised in 2013 to no 'Net Loss'.

A commensurate offset will be obtained for the loss of the mapped wetland under the development that will equate to 'no net loss' for native vegetation removal at the site. It is expected that the planned and in progress wetlands and sediment ponds will be directed by permit requirements to establish and maintain a cover of native vegetation. It is expected this would achieve a net gain in the coverage of native vegetation across the site from its current very limited level. Overall, this makes the development proposal broadly consistent with the principles of the NVP.

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

Study Area- Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Values

The site has a history of grazing, approximately 95% of the site is covered by pasture and native vegetation covers only around 5% of the site.

The sites key native vegetation and biodiversity values comprise:

- A small tract of Plains Grassy Woodland vegetation containing 3 large trees;
- A small highly modified remnant of Plains Grassy Woodland that lacks any trees;
- A 0.4ha patch of wetland vegetation that is contained within a DEECA mapped wetland that measures approximately 0.9ha;
- A small patch of riparian vegetation situated on an upper branch of Loy Yang Creek;
- 7 large remnant scattered trees;
- 3 small planted scattered trees.

The site does not host native vegetation that belongs to any EPBC Act or FFG Act protected communities.

The Development Plan Overlay- Schedule 11 identifies Strzelecki Gum, Matted Flax-lily and Grey Billybuttons as three threatened flora species requiring more specific consideration. These three species have not been recorded during the current site survey (undertaken in Summer 2024) and prior survey of the site (undertaken in Spring 2021) and are considered highly unlikely to occur onsite due to a near total absence of suitable habitat.

The current survey undertaken by IDEM and prior survey of the site in 2021 did not record any threatened fauna. Targeted terrestrial and aquatic fauna surveys were undertaken concurrently to this report which recorded the FFG Act Listed Glossy Grass Skink next to the upper branch of Loy Yang Creek in the north east corner of the site, but did not detect any of the target aquatic species on or immediately near the site. The aquatic survey did find that it could not be completely excluded that Flinders Pygmy Perch individuals may occur as occasional visitors within the site.

Clause 52.17 Native Vegetation

The current development plan has been amended to reduce impacts to native vegetation and biodiversity include by:

- The addition of an open space Reserve within the south east corner and deletion of residential lots from this location. The placement of the Reserve has ensured the retention of all 6 large scattered trees located within the current development site and ensured each trees TPZ is not impacted;
- Revision to ensure wetlands and sediment ponds in the northeast property are no larger than required so the maximum extent of Glossy Grass Skink habitat could remain intact.

Native vegetation to be removed consists of a single DEECA mapped wetland that is located within the proposed residential area. The mapped wetland covers a man made dam measuring 0.9 ha in size

that presently contains approximately 0.4 ha of native vegetation. An NVR was obtained that identified the following offset requirements:

- The proposal falls under the Detailed Assessment Pathway;
- Offset requirements equate to 0.183 General Habitat Units (GHUs) with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.285 and (no large trees); and
- Offsets must be located within the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) boundary or within the boundaries of Latrobe City Council.

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Glossary

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

Minimise	Locating, designing or managing a use or development to reduce the
	impacts on biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation.
Native vegetation	Native vegetation is defined in the Victoria Planning Provisions as 'plants
	that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses'.
Native vegetation	A site-based measure of how close native vegetation is to its mature
condition	natural state, as represented by a benchmark reflecting pre-settlement
	circumstances.
No net loss	An outcome where a particular gain in the contribution to Victoria's
	biodiversity is equivalent to an associated loss in the contribution to
	Victoria's biodiversity from permitted clearing.
Offset	Protection and management (including revegetation) of native vegetation
	at a site to generate a gain in the contribution that native vegetation makes
	to Victoria's biodiversity. An offset is used to compensate for the loss to
-	Victoria's biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation.
Permitted clearing	Removal of native vegetation for which a planning permit has been
	granted to remove native vegetation.
Protection (of a tree)	An area with twice the canopy diameter of the tree(s) fenced and
	protected from adverse impacts: grazing, burning and soli disturbance not
	intervention and/or management if necessary to ensure adequate natural
	regeneration or planting can occur
Native Patch	Fither
Native Fater	An area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total
	nerennial understorey plant cover is native: or
	Any area with three of more native canony trees where the drin
	line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree.
	forming a continuous canopy; or
	• any mapped wetland included in the <i>Current wetlands map</i> ,
	available in DELWP systems and tools.
Scattered Trees	An indigenous canopy tree that does not form part of a remnant patch of
	native vegetation (see definition of remnant patch of native vegetation).
Security Gain	This is gain from actions to enhance security of the on-going management
	and protection of native vegetation at the offset site, either by entering
	into an on-title agreement (for example under Section 173 of the Planning
	and Environment Act 1987), or by locating the offset on land that has
	greater security than the clearing site, or by transferring private land to a
	secure public conservation reserve.
Small Tree (ST)	A tree with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) equal to or greater than 0.25
	of the large tree diameter in the relevant EVC benchmark but less than the
Strategic biodiversity	A score that quantifies the relative value of a location in the landscape with
score	regard to its condition, extent, connectivity and the support function it
score	nlavs for species
Understorev	The lower layers of vegetation, including the shrub layer, grass layer and
	ground layer. The understorey may comprise native and non-native
	species.
Vegetation Quality	The Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) otherwise known as the habitat
Assessment (VQA)	hectare assessment method is the standard approach of assessing
	vegetation quality in Victoria. Consistency in the application of the method
	by assessors is essential to support the delivery of Victoria's native

Photos



Photo 1 – <u>Mapped Wetland 86304 Marked for Removal- Habitat Zone 3 is contained within the mapped wetland</u>



Photo 2 – <u>Mapped Wetland 86304 Marked for Removal- Habitat Zone 3 is contained within the mapped wetland</u>

Appendices

Appendices commence on the next page.





Appendix 2: Flora survey results

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patches	Degraded Areas
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle	V	Р			+
Acetosella vulgaris	Sheep Sorrel	*				+
Agrostis capillaris	Brown-top Bent	*			+	+
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	*			+	
Alisma plantago-aquatica	Water Plantain	V			+	+
Amaranthus powellii	Powell's Amaranth	*				+
Arctotheca calendula	Cape Weed	*			+	+
Atriplex prostrata	Hastate Orache	*			+	+
Avena fatua	Wild Oat	*				+
Bolboschoenus fluviatilis	Tall Club-sedge	V			+	
Brassica fruticulosa	Twiggy Turnip	*				+
Bromus catharticus	Prairie Grass	*				+
Cenchrus clandestinus	Kikuyu	*	1	1		+
Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	*				+
Chenopodium album	Fat Hen	*				+
Chenopodium murale	Sowbane	*				+
Cichorium intybus	Chicory	*				+
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	*				+
Cotula coronopifolia	Water Buttons	*	1	1	+	
Crassula helmsii	Swamp Crassula	V			+	
Cupressus spp.	Cypress	*				+
Cynodon dactylon	Couch	*			+	+
Cyperus eragrostis	Drain Flat-sedge	*			+	+
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot	*			+	+
Dysphania pumilio	Clammy Goosefoot	٧				+
Echinochloa crus-galli	Barnyard Grass	*				+
Ehrharta longiflora	Annual Veldt-grass	*			+	+
Eleocharis acuta	Common Spike-sedge	V				+

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patches	Degraded Areas
Epilobium hirtigerum	Hairy Willow-herb	V			+	
Erigeron bonariensis	Flaxleaf Fleabane	*				+
Erodium botrys	Big Heron's-bill	*				+
Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum					+
Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	V			+	+
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel	*				+
Fraxinus angustifolia	Desert Ash	*				+
Gamochaeta americana	Spiked Cudweed	*			+	
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaf Crane's-bill	*				+
Helminthotheca echioides	Ox-tongue	*	-			+
Hordeum spp.	Barley Grass	*				+
Hypochaeris radicata	Flatweed	*			+	+
Juncus articulatus subsp. articulatus	Jointed Rush	*			+	+
Juncus australis	Austral Rush	v			+	+
Juncus planifolius	Broad-leaf Rush	V				+
Juncus procerus	Tall Rush	v				+
Juncus spp.	Rush	V				+
Lachnagrostis filiformis s.l.	Common Blown-grass	v			+	+
Lactuca serriola	Prickly Lettuce	*				+
Laphangium luteoalbum	Jersey Cudweed	v			+	
Lepidium africanum	Common Peppercress	*				+
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	*			+	+
Ludwigia peploides subsp. montevidensis	Clove-strip	V			+	
Lycium ferocissimum	African Box-thorn	*				+
Lysimachia arvensis var. arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel	*				+
Lythrum hyssopifolia	Small Loosestrife	v				+
Malva nicaeensis	Mallow of Nice	*				+
Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides	Weeping Grass	v			+	+
Modiola caroliniana	Red-flower Mallow	*				+
[®] Nassella sp.	Needle-grass	*			+	+

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status	Native Patches	Degraded Areas
Paspalum dilatatum	Paspalum	*			+	+
Paspalum distichum	Water Couch	*	2 2		+	+
Persicaria decipiens	Slender Knotweed	٧			+	+
Phalaris aquatica	Toowoomba Canary-grass	*	2		+	+
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort	*			+	+
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	*	5		+	+
Polygonum aviculare s.l.	Prostrate Knotweed	*				+
Rubus fruticosus spp. agg.	Blackberry	*			+	+
Rumex conglomeratus	Clustered Dock	*			+	+
Rumex pulcher subsp. pulcher	Fiddle Dock	*	2		+	
Rumex spp.	Dock	٧			+	+
Rytidosperma spp.	Wallaby Grass	V			+	
Salix fragilis	Crack Willow	*				+
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	River Club-sedge	V			+	
Solanum nigrum s.l.	Black Nightshade	*			+	+
Sonchus oleraceus	Common Sow-thistle	*			+	+
Sonchus spp.	Sow Thistle	٧				+
Symphyotrichum subulatum	Aster-weed	*	5			+
Trifolium fragiferum var. fragiferum	Strawberry Clover	*				+
Trifolium repens var. repens	White Clover	*			+	
Typha spp.	Bulrush	٧			+	+
Vulpia bromoides	Squirrel-tail Fescue	*			+	
*No seed available to confirm species. T	hought to possibly be Nassella	hyalina	– an invasive gras	s species uncomm	on in Gippsland	

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

Origin and Conservation Status Key

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Treaties	FFG Act Status	EPBC Act Status
Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Native			
Anthus australis	Australian Pipit	Native			
Chenonetta jubata	Australian Wood Duck	Native		-	
Circus approximans	Swamp Harrier	Native			
Cisticola exilis	Golden-headed Cisticola	Native			
Coturnix pectoralis	Stubble Quail	Native			
Falco berigora	Brown Falcon	Native			
Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	Native			
Oryctolagus cuniculus	European Rabbit	Introduced			
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	Introduced			
Trichoglossus molucannus	Rainbow Lorikeet	Native			
Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	Introduced			

Appendix 3: Fauna Survey

Key

	Bilateral migratory bird agreements
BONN	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
САМВА	China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA)
JAMBA	Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA)
ROKAMBA	Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA)
RA	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Α	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

Appendix 4: Ecological Vegetation Classes Benchmarks



Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark



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Description:

UESCRIPTION: An open eucalypt woolland to 20 m tall over a medium to tall shrub layer with a ground layer consisting of amphibious and aquatic herbs and sedges. Occurs along the banks and floodplains of the larger meandering rivers and major creeks, often in conjunction with one or more floodplain wetland communities. Elevation and rainfall are relatively low and soils are fertile alluviums subject to periodic flooding and inundation.

Eucalyptus	spp.	80 cm	15 / ha	
Tree Canop	y Cover:			
%cover	Character Species		Com	non Name
20%	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> ssp <i>Eucalyptus ovat</i> a	. mediana	River R Gippsla Swamp	ted-gum and Red Gum o Gum
Understore	y:			
Life form		#Sp	p %Cove	r LF code
Immature C	anopy Tree		5%	IT
Understorey	Tree or Large Shrub	2	10%	Т
Medium Shr	ub	5	15%	MS
Large Herb		7	15%	LH
Medium Her	ъ	5	10%	MH
Small or Pro	strate Herb	2	5%	SH
Large Tufte	d Graminoid	2	10%	LTG
Large Non-t	ufted Graminoid	1	10%	LNG
Medium to S	Small Tufted Graminoid	5	10%	MTG
Medium to	Finy Non-tufted Graminoid	2	10%	MNG
Scrambler o	r Climber	2	5%	SC
Bryophytes/	Lichens	na	10%	BL
LF Code	Species typical of at le	ast part of EVC ra	nge C	ommon Name
Т	Acacia implexa		Lig	ghtwood
Т	Acacia melanoxylon		Bla	ackwood
MS	Ozothamnus ferrugineus		Tr	ee Everlasting
MS	Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinos	a	Sv	veet Bursaria
MS	Hymenanthera dentata s.l.		Tr	ee Violet
LH	Urtica incisa		Sc	rub Nettle
LH	Persicaria subsessilis		Ha	airy Knotweed
LH	Senecio quadridenta tus		Co	ottony Fireweed
MH	Acaena novae-zelandiae		Bie	dgee-widgee
MH	Hydrocotyle hirta		Ha	airy Pennywort
MH	Stellaria pungens		Pr	ickly Starwort
MH	Veronica plebeia		Tr	ailing Speedwell
SH	Oxalis corniculata s.l.		Ye	llow Wood-sorrel
SH	Dichondra repens		Kie	dney-weed
LTG	Carex appressa		Ta	II Sedge
LTG	Poa labillardierei		Co	ommon Tussock-grass
LNG	Phragmites australis		Co	ommon Reed
MTG	Juncus amabilis		Ho	ollow Rush
MTG	Cyperus spp.		Fla	at-sedge
MNG	Microlaena stipoides var. sti	poides	W	eeping Grass
MNG	Eleocharis acuta		Co	ommon Spike-sedge
			1	D'



Ecological Vegetation Class bioregion benchmark

Organic Litter: 40 % cover Logs: 30 m/0.1 ha. Weediness: LF Code T Crat T Frac MS Sola. MS Prun MS Rubu LH Sonc LH Plan LH Rum LH Roni, LH Han LH Han LH Kari LH Aste MH Cart MH Cart MH Cart MH Cart	ical Weed Species aegus monogyna inus spp. num pseudocapsicum us cerasifera us fruticosus spp. agg. ex conglomeratus tago lanceolata ex crispus opa palustris initrotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Common Name Hawthom Ash Madeira Winter-cherry Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Cuded Dock	Invasive high high high high high high	Impact high high low high high
Logs: 30 m/0.1 ha. Weediness: LF Code Typ T Crat T Frax. MS Sola. MS Prun MS Rubu LH Rum LH Sonc LH Rum LH Rum LH Ron, LH Kann LH Kann LH Kann LH Kann LH Kata H Kata LH Kata Kata LH Kata LH Kata LH Kata Kata LH Kata LH Kata Kata LH Kata Kata LH Kata Kata LH Kata Kata Kata LH Kata Kata LH Kata Kat	ical Weed Species aegus monogyna inus spp. num pseudocapsicum us cerasifera us fruticous spp. agg. ex conglomeratus tago lanceolata ex crispus opa palustris initrotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Common Name Hawthom Ash Madeira Winter-cherry Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Cuded Dock	Invasive high high high high high high	Impact high high low high high
Weediness: LF Code Typ T Crat T Frax. MS Sola. MS Rub. LH Rum. LH Sonc. LH Rum. MH Aste. MH Carrow.	ical Weed Species aegus monogyna inus spp. num pseudocapsicum us cerasifera sus cerasifera us fruticous spp. agg. ex conglomeratus tago lanceolata ex crispus opa palustris initrotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Common Name Hawthom Ash Madeira Winter-cherry Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Cuded Dock	Invasive high high high high high high	Impact high high low high high
LF Code Typ T Crat T Frax MS Sola. MS Rub LH Rum LH Sonc LH Rom H Rom H Rom H Rom H Rom H Rom H Rom MH Rom MH Tara	ical Weed Species aegus monogyna inus spp. num pseudocapsicum us cerasifera us fruticosus spp. agg. tayo lanceolata tayo lanceolata tev crispus opa palustris nintrotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Common Name Hawthom Ash Madeira Winter-cherry Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Cuded Dock	Invasive high high high high high high	Impact high high low high high
T Crat T Frax MS Sola. MS Prun MS Rubu LH Rum LH Sonc LH Ram LH Ram LH Ram LH Ram LH Asta MH Cart MH Can MH Leor MH Tara	aegus monogyna inus spp. num pseudocapsicum us cerasifera us fruticous spp. agg. ex conglomeratus tago lanceolata ex crispus oga palustris initrotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Hawthom Ash Madeira Winter-cherry Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Cuded Dock	high high high high high high	high high low high high
MS Sola. MS Prun MS Prun LH Rum LH Sonce LH Ram LH Ram LH Ram LH Halt LH Aste MH Cart MH Leon MH Leon	nns spp. num pseudocapsicum us cerasifera us futicosus spp. agg. ex conglomeratus thus oleraceus tago lanceolata ex crispus opa palustris ninthotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Aen Madeira Winter-cherry Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Curded Dock	high high high high	low high high
MS Prun MS Prun LH Run LH Sonc LH Plan LH Run LH Ron LH Ron LH Verb LH Aste MH Ceor	nan pseudocapaciam us crasifera us fruticosus spp. agg. exe conglomeratus chus oleraceus tago lanceolata exe crispus opa palustris inithotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Cherry Plum Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort	high high high	high high
MS Rub LH Rur LH Sonc LH Plan LH Rari LH Rori LH Heln LH Verb LH Aste MH Ranc MH Leor MH Tara	us fruticosus spp. agg. ex: conglomeratus tago lanceolata ex: crispus opa palustris initrotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Blackberry Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort	high high	hiah
LH Run; LH Sonx LH Plan LH Run; LH Ron; LH Heln LH Verb LH Aste MH Leon MH Leon	ex conglomeratus thus oleraceus tago lanceolata ex crispus opa palustris ninho theca echioides eena bonariensis s.l.	Clustered Dock Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Cuded Dock	high	
LH Sonx LH Plan LH Rum, LH Rori, LH Heln LH Verb LH Aste MH Ranu MH Leor MH Tara	chus oleraceus tago lanceolata ex crispus opa palustris rinthotheca echioides ena bonariensis s.l.	Common Sow-thistle Ribwort Curled Dock		low
LH Plan LH Rurr LH Rorij LH Heln LH Verb LH Aste MH Ranu MH Leor	tago lanceolata lex crispus opa palustris ninthotheca echioides rena bonariensis s.l.	Ribwort Curled Dock	high	low
LH Rum LH Ron LH Hein LH Verb LH Aste MH Ranu MH Leon MH Tara	lex crispus opa palustris ninthotheca echioides nena bonariensis s.l.	(unlock	high	low
LH Kon, LH Heln LH Verb LH Aste MH Rand MH Leon MH Tara	opa palustris ninthotheca echioides xena bonariensis s.l.	March Vall	high	low
LH Vert LH Aste MH Ranu MH Leon MH Tara	ena bonariensis s.l.	Ox-topque	high	low
LH Aste MH Ranu MH Leon MH Tara		Purple-top Verhena	hiah	high
MH Rand MH Leon MH Tara	r subulatus	Aster-weed	high	low
MH Leon MH Tara	unculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	high	high
MH Tara	ntodon taraxacoides ssp. taraxacoides	Hairy Hawkbit	high	low
inin iaia	xacum officinale spp. agg.	Garden Dandelion	high	low
MH Hype	ochoeris radicata	Cat's Ear	high	low
SH Info	nium repens var. repens liola caroliniana	vvnite Clover Red-flower Mallow	nign high	IOW IOW
ING Hole	us lanatus	Yorkshire For	high	high
MTG Bron	nus catharticus	Prairie Grass	high	low
MTG Ehrh	<i>arta erecta</i> var. <i>erecta</i>	Panic Veldt-grass	high	high
MTG Cype	erus eragrostis	Drain Flat-sedge	high	high
MTG Pasp	palum dilatatum	Paspalum	high	high
MTG Loliu	im perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	high	low
MIG Agro	stis capillaris s.i.	Brown-top Bent Water Couch	high	nigh
SC Gali	um anarine	Cleavers	high	low
SC Trac	lescantia fluminensis	Wandering Jew	high	high



Description:

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

Species Eucalyptus sp	р.	DBH(cm) 70 cm	# /ha 20 / h	a	
Tree Canopy	Cover:				
%cover 30%	Character Species Eucalyptus muelleriana Eucalyptus bridgesiana s.l. Eucalyptus polyanthemos Eucalyptus macrorhyncha			Commo Yellow Sti But But Red Box Red String	n Na ringyb
Understeren					
life form		#5		0/Cover	LE
Immature Car	nopy Tree	#51	P	5%	IT
Understorey 1	Tree or Large Shrub	3		15%	T
Medium Shrul	þ	6		20%	MS
Small Shrub		3		5%	SS
Prostrate Shru	dı	2		5%	PS
Large Herb Medium Herb		3		5%	
Small or Prost	rate Herb	2		5%	SH
Large Tufted	Graminoid	2		10%	LTO
Large Non-tuf	ted Graminoid	1		5%	LN
Medium to Sn	nall Tufted Graminoid	4		15%	MT
Medium to Tir	ny Non-tufted Graminoid	2		1%	MN
Ground Fern	ahana	2		10%	GF



LF Code	Species typical of at least pa	art of EVC range	Common Name	
Т	Allocasuarina littoralis	1997) 1999 - 1997 - 1997) - 1997) 1997) 1997 - 1997) 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997) 1997 - 1997 - 1997	Black Sheoak	
т	Acacia meamsii		Black Wattle	
Ţ	Acacia implexa		Lightwood	
I	Exocarpos cupressiformis		Cherry Ballart	
MS	Banksia marginata		Silver Banksia	
MS	Kunzea ericoides		Burgan	
MS	Melaleuca parvistaminea		Rough-barked Honey-m	yrtle
SS	Pimelea humilis		Common Rice-flower	
SS	Hibbertia riparia		Erect Guinea-flower	
55	Platylobium obtusangulum		Common Flat-pea	
55 DC	Acrotricho corrulata		Honov-potr	
PS	Bossiaea prostrata		Creeping Bossiaea	
PS	Astroloma humifusum		Cranberry Heath	
LH	Tricoryne elatior		Yellow Rush-lily	
LH	Wahlenbergia gracilis s.l.		Sprawling Bluebell	
мн	Poranthera microphylla		Small Poranthera	
MH	Hypencum gramineum		Small St John's Wort	
MH	Gonocarnus tetradynus		Common Raspwort	
SH	Dichondra repens		Kidney-weed	
SH	Oxalis corniculata s.l.		Yellow Wood-sorrel	
SH	Opercularia varia		Variable Stinkweed	
LTG	Xanthorrhoea minor ssp. lutea		Small Grass-tree	
	Cohnia radula		Spiny-neaded Mat-rush	
MTG	Themeda triandra		Kangaroo Grass	
MTG	Poa australis spp. agg.		Tussock Grass	
MTG	Lomandra filiformis		Wattle Mat-rush	
MTG	Lepidosperma laterale		Variable Sword-sedge	
MNG	Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides		Weeping Grass	
GE	Entolasia marginata Pteridium esculentum		Austral Bracken	
Continuous Organic Litte 20 % cover	r:			
logs				
20 m/0.1 ha.				
Weediness:				
LF Code	Typical Weed Species	Common Name	Invasive	Impact
LH	Centaurium tenuiflorum	Slender Centaury	high	low
MH	Hypochoeris radicata	Cat's Ear	high	low
МН	Centaurium erythraea	Common Centaury	nigh	low
LF Code LH MH MH	Typical Weed Species Centaurium tenuiflorum Hypochoeris radicata Centaurium erythraea	Common Name Slender Centaury Cat's Ear Common Centaury	Invasive high high high	Impact low low low
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Published by the Victo	ian Government Department of Sustainability and	J Environment April 2004		
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Appendix 5: Canopy Tree recordings

ID No.	Botanical Name	Common Name	Diameter at Breast Height	Origin	Size Category	Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) distance	Comments
1	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	105	Locally Indigenous	Large	12.6	0
2	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	108	Locally Indigenous	Large	13.0	0
3	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	130	Locally Indigenous	Large	15.0	0
4	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	160	Locally Indigenous	Large	15.0	Numerous hollows.
5	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	172	Locally Indigenous	Large	15.0	0
6	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	151	Locally Indigenous	Large	15.0	Numerous hollows.
7	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	75	Locally Indigenous	Small	9.0	Tree is horizontal.
8	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	83	Locally Indigenous	Large	10.0	0
9	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	112	Locally Indigenous	Large	13.4	0
10	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	120	Locally Indigenous	Large	14.4	0
11	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana	Gippsland Red-gum	158	Locally Indigenous	Large	15.0	0
12	Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum	22	Locally Indigenous	Small	2.6	Planted in row.
13	Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum	42	Locally Indigenous	Small	5.0	Planted in row.
14	Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum	34	Locally Indigenous	Small	4.1	Planted in row.

Appendix 6: Native Vegetation Removal report



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 report **is not an assessment by DELWP** 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.

Date of issue: Time of issue:	18/06/2024 3:14 pm		Report ID: IDE_2024_031
Project ID		23229MM_CLEARINGv1	

Assessment pathway

Assessment pathway	Detailed Assessment Pathway						
Extent including past and proposed	0.897 ha						
Extent of past removal	0.000 ha						
Extent of proposed removal	0.897 ha						
No. Large trees proposed to be removed	0						
Location category of proposed removal	Location 2 The native vegetation is in an area mapped as an endangered Ecological Vegetation Class (as per the statewide EVC map). Removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this location will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species.						

1. Location map





Native vegetation removal report

Offset requirements if a permit is granted

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

General offset amount ¹	0.183 general habitat units					
Vicinity	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or Latrobe City Council					
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score ²	0.285					
Large trees	0 large trees					

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

Appendix 1 includes information about the native vegetation to be removed

Appendix 2 includes information about the rare or threatened species mapped at the site.

Appendix 3 includes maps showing native vegetation to be removed and extracts of relevant species habitat importance maps

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

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



Native vegetation removal report

Next steps

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

If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council. Council will refer your application to DELWP for assessment, as required. This report is not a referral assessment by DELWP.

This Native vegetation removal report must be submitted with your application for a permit to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

Refer to the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native* vegetation (the Guidelines) for a full list of application requirements. This report provides information that meets the following application requirements:

- The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway
- A description of the native vegetation to be removed (partly met)
- Maps showing the native vegetation and property (partly met)
- Information about the impacts on rare or threatened species.
- The offset requirements determined in accordance with section 5 of the Guidelines that apply if approval is granted to remove native vegetation.

Additional application requirements must be met including:

- Topographical and land information
- Recent dated photographs
- Details of past native vegetation removal
- An avoid and minimise statement
- A copy of any Property Vegetation Plan that applies
- A defendable space statement as applicable
- A statement about the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan as applicable
- A site assessment report including a habitat hectare assessment of any patches of native vegetation and details of trees
- An offset statement that explains that an offset has been identified and how it will be secured.

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\sc b}}$ The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Melbourne 2024

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Obtaining this publication does not guarantee that an application will meet the requirements of Clauses 52.16 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and Victorian planning schemes or that a permit to remove native vegetation will be granted.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you must ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, legislation, awards or orders and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and the like that affect, are applicable or are necessary to undertake any action to remove, lop or destroy or otherwise deal with any native vegetation or that apply to matters within the scope of Clauses 52.16 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and Victorian planning schemes.

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Appendix 1: Description of native vegetation to be removed

The species-general offset test was applied to your proposal. This test determines if the proposed removal of native vegetation has a proportional impact on any rare or threatened species habitats above the species offset threshold. The threshold is set at 0.005 per cent of the mapped habitat value for a species. When the proportional impact is above the species offset threshold is the size (williple species) and the size (williple species) and the size (williple species). The threshold is set at 0.005 per cent of the species offset threshold is set at 0.005 per cent of the species offset threshold is second by the species offset threshold is second by the size (williple species). Where a cone requires species offset(s), the species habitat units for each species in that cone is calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines:

where a zone requires species onset(s), the species matrix units for each species in that zone is calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guideline Species habitat units = extent x condition x species landscape factor x 2, where the species landscape factor = 0.5 + (habitat importance score/2)

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

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

General habitat units – extent x condition 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 in a GIS file							Information calculated by EnSym				
Zone	Туре	BioEVC	BioEVC conservation status	Large tree(s)	Partial removal	Condition score	Polygon Extent	Extent without overlap	SBV score	HI score	Habitat units	Offset type
5-A	Patch	gipp0053	Endangered	0	no	0.200	0.897	0.897	0.357		0.183	General

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

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

Species common name	Species scientific name	Species number	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	% habitat value affected
Growling Grass Frog	Litoria raniformis	13207	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australian Little Bittern	Ixobrychus dubius	10195	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Woolly Waterlily	Philydrum Ianuginosum	502494	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Lacey River Buttercup	Ranunculus amplus	505019	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	10186	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Glossy Grass Skink	Pseudemoia rawlinsoni	12683	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Annual Fireweed	Senecio glomeratus subsp. longifructus	507144	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Eastern Great Egret	Ardea modesta	10187	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Baillon's Crake	Porzana pusilla palustris	10050	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australasian Bittern	Botaurus poiciloptilus	10197	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Hardhead	Aythya australis	10215	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Grey Billy-buttons	Craspedia canens	504643	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Lewin's Rail	Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis	10045	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Rough-grain Love-grass	Eragrostis trachycarpa	501197	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australasian Shoveler	Anas rhynchotis	10212	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis	10216	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Veined Spear-grass	Austrostipa rudis subsp. australis	504940	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata	10217	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Veiled Fringe-sedge	Fimbristylis velata	501369	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

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Maroon Leek-orchid	Prasophyllum frenchii	502709	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Forest Bitter-cress	Cardamine papillata	505034	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Wa∨y Swamp Wallaby- grass	Amphibromus sinuatus	503625	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	505084	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Leafy Twig-sedge	Cladium procerum	500786	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Fringed Helmet-orchid	Corybas fimbriatus	500839	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Purple Blown-grass	Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. punicea	504206	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	501326	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Pale Swamp Everlasting	Coronidium gunnianum	504655	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Purple Blown-grass	Lachnagrostis punicea subsp. filifolia	504222	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Purple Diuris	Diuris punctata	501084	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Small Scurf-pea	Cullen parvum	502773	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Black Falcon	Falco subniger	10238	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Silky Kidney-weed	Dichondra sp. 1	505786	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Dwarf Milkwort	Polygala japonica	502623	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
One-flower Early Nancy	Wurmbea uniflora	503583	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
White-throated Needletail	Hirundapus caudacutus	10334	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Slender Pink-fingers	Caladenia vulgaris	504449	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Golden Pomaderris	Pomaderris aurea	502651	Rare	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

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

 Habitat impacted

 • Habitat importance maps are the maps defined in the Guidelines that include all the mapped habitat for a rare or threatened species

 • Top ranking maps are the maps defined in the Guidelines that depict the important areas of a dispersed species habitat, developed from the highest habitat importance scores in dispersed species habitat maps and selected VBA records

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Selected VBA record is an area in Victoria that represents a large population, roosting or breeding site etc.

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Appendix 3 – Images of mapped native vegetation 2. Strategic biodiversity values map

3. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation



4. Map of the property in context



Yellow boundaries denote areas of proposed native vegetation removal.

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Appendix 7: Native Vegetation Credit Register Search Results



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: 19/06/2024 08:06

Report ID: 24917

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (0	Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)
0.183 0.285		0	CMA	West Gippsland
			or LGA	Latrobe City

Details of available native vegetation credits on 19 June 2024 08:06

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	СМА	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0115	2.914	0	West Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
BBA-0119	3.052	73	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-0138	24.007	1605	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric
BBA-0759	18.868	659	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-1041	0.432	182	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-1041	0.317	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	Yes	VegLink
BBA-2348	3.442	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2623	23.877	873	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2751	10.307	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2757	0.436	0	West Gippsland	Bass Coast Shire	No	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
BBA-2810	7.758	613	West Gippsland	Latrobe City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2833	5.401	20	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos
BBA-2839	0.929	14	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2845	27.537	1068	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
BBA-2849	2.678	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2850	5.888	0	West Gippsland	Latrobe City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

BBA-2855	1.962	1	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-2875	32.836	1037	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco
TFN-C0977	2.959	54	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
TFN-C1442	2.726	58	West Gippsland	Baw Baw Shire	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
TFN-C1692	0.296	272	West Gippsland	South Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
TFN-C1734	0.384	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
TFN-C1893	0.366	38	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink
VC_CFL- 2320_02	0.263	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL- 3696_01	1.564	257	West Gippsland	Bass Coast Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ethos, VegLink
VC_CFL- 3717_01	35.916	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
VC_TFN- C2078_01	0.871	61	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

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

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

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	СМА	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL- 3797_01	32.066	1882	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, VegLink

LT - Large Trees

CMA - Catchment Management Authority

LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation

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

If you have approval to remove native vegetation

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

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@d elwp.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/nativ e-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
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.vi c.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

 $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\sc l}}$ The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2024



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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.

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Maps

Maps commence on the next page.



Map 1a: Native vegetation extent

461000 461200 461400 461600 461800 462000 Traralgon-Maffra Rd Traralgon N 86246400 Mete Native Vegetation Boola Boola State Forest 5775400 Paralgon Morwell C482 10 Kilometres TRARALGON TRARALGON Site Native Patch Habitat Zones EAST Cadastre Victorian Native 10-20 m contour Trees Waterway • Large Structure Small Constructed Wetland Connector or dra River Stream Planted Vegetation Zones DEECA Mapped wetland Locality Spatial Reference 1:5,000 Name: GDA 1994 VICGRID94 PCS: GDA 1994 VICGRID94 GCS: GCS GDA 1994 Datum: GDA 1994 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic nagery Acquisition Date: Note: Areas not marked as native patches are d White labels are Habitat Zone & Wetland ID Nos de 2022 7746 Date Exported: Black labels are Tree ID Nos. 21/06/2024

Map 1b: Native vegetation extent

ID Ecological Management



Map 2a: Native vegetation losses


Map 2b: Native vegetation losses

461550 461600 461650 461700 461750 461800 461850 461900 Traralgon-Maffra Rd Traralgon N 50 Mete 37.5 Native Vegetation Losses TRARALGON TRARALGON Native Patch Habitat Zones Site EAST Cadastre Victorian Native 10-20 m contours Trees Waterway Structure Large Connector or drain Small Tree TPZs -River Constructed Wetland Stream DEECA Mapped Current Planted Vegetation Native Veg Losses OWIN 1:2,000 Spatial Reference Name: GDA 1994 VICGRID94 PCS: GDA 1994 VICGRID94 GCS: GCS GDA 1994 Datum: GDA 1994 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic Imagery Acquisition Date: Areas not marked as native patches are degraded or non-native vegetation 2022 ote labels are Habitat Zone & Wetland ID Nos Date Exported: White llack labels are Tree ID Nos 13/06/2024

Map 2c: Native vegetation losses (focus south east)

Native vegetation Assessment for Rezoned Area at Traralgon-Maffra Road, Traralgon | June, 2024



ID ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT 95 Tramway Road, Morwell

Melbourne | Morwell | Wonthaggi



IMS-QT-02-V1.1