

Native Vegetation Report: Detailed Assessment

for

**Proposed Wodonga Creek
Activation Project,
Wodonga, VIC 3690**

Prepared for

Woodward Civil

Version 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Development Background

Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd (Red-Gum) was commissioned by Woodward Civil in 2024 to undertake a detailed flora and fauna assessment of the land proposed to be included within the Wodonga Creek Activation Project, between Sumsion Gardens and the rail trail immediately east of Diamond Park in Wodonga, Victoria ('the project'). The project proposes the construction of approximately 1.1 kilometres of new concrete path (as well as some additional paths and facilities in the Diamond Park area) for the purposes of opening up a currently under-utilised section of Wodonga Creek, with the aim of improving the recreational opportunities for residents of Albury-Wodonga. The proposed maximum width of the new trail is a 2.5 metre wide concrete path, with the total impact zone, factoring in construction and works traffic, to consist of a three metre wide linear alignment (the path centreline buffered by 1.5 metres each side).

The development also involves facilitating better river access (including access sites and terraced lawns), construction of picnic benches, car parks, playgrounds and other recreational facilities (most of which are in Diamond Park). There are several existing dirt roads which are proposed to be widened and sealed, and a number of existing concrete bike paths will be utilised, in addition to the creation of new paths, which will create a loop trail along the northern banks of Wodonga creek, then up onto the rail trail in the eastern part of the project area, off the trail in the far south-east corner near the North East Water site, and heads back along existing paths running along the southern banks of Wodonga Creek, linking up to the trail at the southern side of the swing bridge on Wodonga Creek.

The construction activities will require some excavation, and some vehicles and machinery will be in regular operation, including concrete trucks and machinery involved with surfacing the dirt roads. Topsoil will be stockpiled, with all other extracted materials to be exported off site, with the topsoil then used to rehabilitate the construction areas during the rehabilitation stage. A raised boardwalk is proposed for the eastern trail termination point where the trail merges with the raised existing rail trail, to help reduce impacts to vegetation and to achieve the gradual grade increase to reach the height of the rail trail. This is a low impact ramp construction technique that will have minimal vegetation impacts.

Following review of the final plans (and after consultation with the client), the construction footprint and associated losses were deduced acknowledging the following key points:

- The majority of the new development is occurring within an existing (and historically) disturbed riparian corridor, starting just south of the Hume Freeway on the corner of Reuss Road, and following formal and informal paths and tracks along the frontage of Wodonga Creek, past the Black Duck premises, under Lincoln Causeway, through Diamond Park, and linking up onto the former railway before looping back south to link up with the existing shared footpath just south of the entrance to the North East Water facility, just north of the Hume Freeway/Bandiana Link Road roundabout.
- The proposed development will involve a degree of soil disturbance to both surface and shallow buried land surfaces to varying depths, likely from 0.1 to 0.2 metres for general path work areas (2.5m width) and to 0.5 metres for areas where surface levelling and infrastructure installations (such as picnic benches, bollards, fences, ramps and handrails) are required.
- Import of clean construction fill (if required) and road surfacing materials for the paths and road surfacing (from licensed quarries or locations approved to provide such materials).
- Path alignments will be shaped, prepared and formed with concrete, except in locations where ramps are being installed.

- Minor drainage construction along the new pathways to ensure existing drainage flows are not impeded by the installation of the footpath.
- Creation of a parkland/playground and associated facilities in the current Diamond Park reserve (south of the motocross track), with the latter including picnic facilities, water play area (with drainage into Wodonga Creek), coffee van and seating, upgraded toilet facilities, play equipment and soft fall areas.
- Upgrade of current Diamond Park reserve roads and installation of carparks.
- Two creek access areas on the northern foreshore of Wodonga Creek, one near the pedestrian swing bridge (north side) and one near the miniature trains area, including a lawned terraced area (utilising existing sloped landform) that will be to accessible standards.
- Rehabilitation (EVC-appropriate plantings for environmental values and aesthetics) and installation of grass areas and garden beds and plantings in the reserve areas (Stock Route Reserve South and Diamond Park).
- Installation of bollards, rocks and /or log barriers at select locations to maintain separation between vehicles and path users.
- Installation of appropriate fencing (along boundary of Black Duck private land) to control unauthorised access onto private property, and a low fence along the southern border of Diamond Park play area, to restrict entry into the creek area by children.
- Road surfacing works and improved intersection for the access road off Lincoln Causeway (Wright Road), sealing of current dirt roads in Diamond Park, and relocation of road to west side of toilet facility.
- Potential installation of underground and above ground services and utilities, and all associated earth works involved with the project as per works described above.
- All native vegetation present in proposed impact areas is considered to be lost vegetation, which factors in the development impacts and the likely future uses/impacts associated with the ongoing operation of the infrastructure, where applicable. Losses also factor in deemed losses, where tree TPZ impacts are excessive.
- Where tree TPZ areas are intersected by works impact areas, including construction traffic, arborist tree assessment has determined where these trees are to be retained, or considered lost due to excessive TPZ impact (**Appendix 12**).
- Despite this, all efforts are to be made to retain vegetation in these areas, and especially trees wherever possible, even when trees are considered lost for offsetting purposes.

In summary, due to the type of development (i.e. minor excavation and various infrastructure installations), where works are proposed within the development site, the majority of the remnant native vegetation present in impact areas will be considered 'lost' or otherwise 'disturbed'. Efforts have been made to retain native vegetation via redesigns to realign paths/facilities away from trees and vegetation. Where trees have their TPZ area encroached upon, they have been assessed by a qualified arborist to determine their survivability.

1.2 Scope of the Assessment

Red-Gum has assumed that all impacts associated with the works are as shown on designs (Revision F – 18/12/2025) and confined to the development boundary and associated impact areas along the surrounding pathways and roads, as shown in **Map 1a-c** and **Appendix 8**. This assessment herein is a Native Vegetation Report (NVR) which deals with the requirements for an assessment in the detailed assessment pathway. The report is informed by fieldwork which was undertaken over five site visits between 24 October 2024 and 6 February 2026, with the bulk of the tree mapping and vegetation assessment occurring on 25 October 2024 (initial vegetation mapping) and 16 January 2026, and the final habitat hectare assessments being conducted post the arborist assessment on 6 February 2026 (final vegetation mapping based on final designs and arborist report).

This report also utilises fieldwork and studies that were completed as part of a desk-top assessment and site assessments conducted for a Biodiversity Preliminary Report, which was completed on 29 October 2024 and was designed to highlight environmental constraints for the original designs and recommended changes to avoid and minimise impacts to native vegetation and environmental and cultural values in subsequent development redesigns.

The scope of works for the NVR (this flora and fauna assessment) includes:

- Desktop review of known and/or predicted ecological values occurring within the study site and in the local area;
- Assessing and mapping ecological values and identify their quality and extent within the study site, including those just beyond the site which may experience indirect impacts;
- Identifying the presence and likelihood of occurrence of Victorian and Commonwealth listed threatened flora, fauna, and ecological communities within and adjoining the study site;
- Identifying the potential impacts to these ecological values, including implications under relevant legislation and policies across relevant jurisdictions;
- Providing recommendations for further design alterations (where applicable) and outlining appropriate measures to avoid, mitigate and offset residual potential impacts, and;
- Preparing a final report (this NVR) to document the results of the ecological assessments based on the final updated development designs.

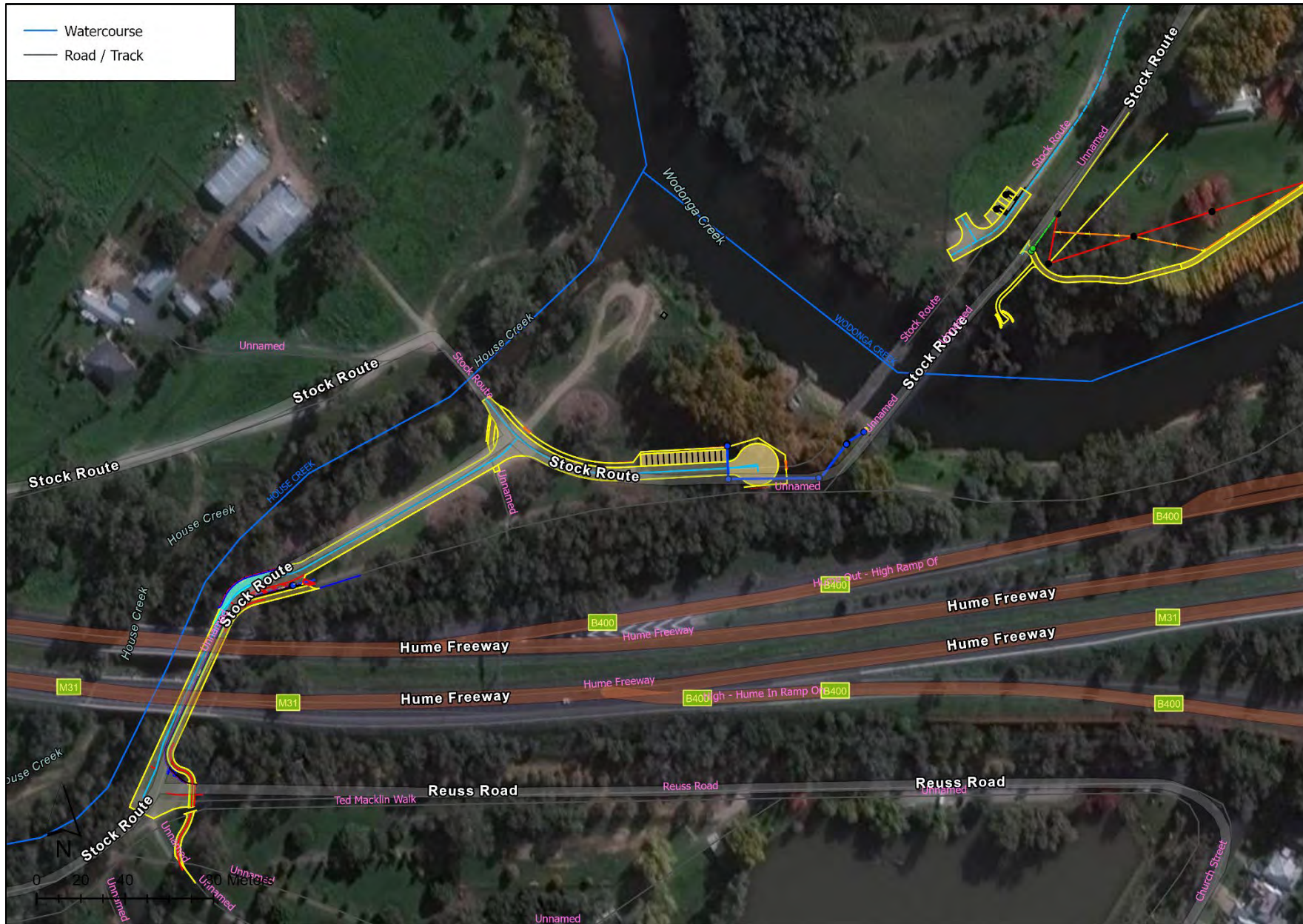
1.3 Location of the Study site

The study area occurs in the Victorian Riverina bioregion, which exists where the elevation drops and the landform flattens out to plains country. The site is within the City of Wodonga local government area (LGA) and North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) area.

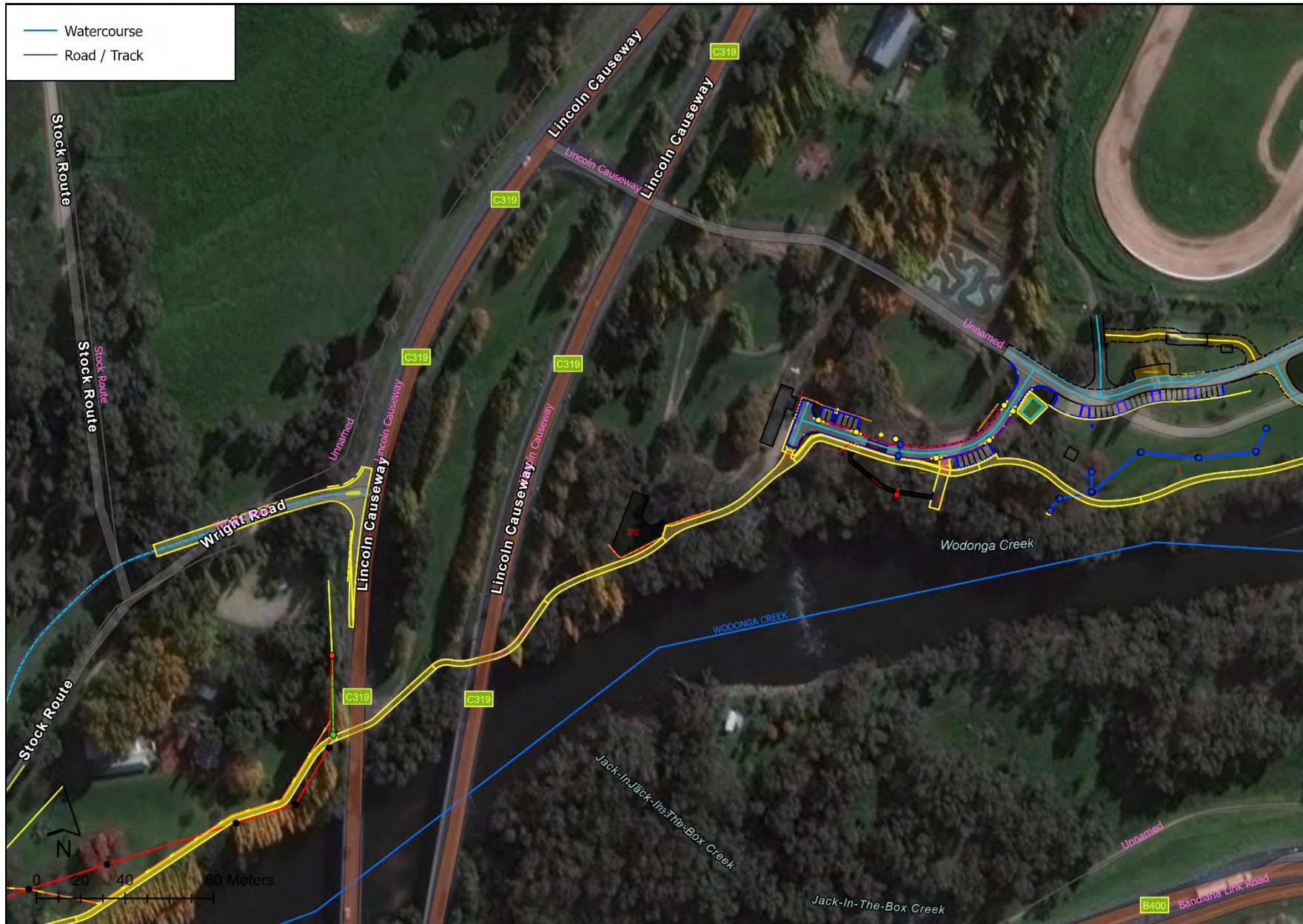
An indicative impact area for development was provided by Woodward Civil (design linework), as well as pdf design plans, both of which, along with the walk through assessment conducted on 24 October, informed the initial assessment's development of the intended impact areas. The proposed impact areas are fully accounted for by the assessment study area, which cover mostly Crown land, but also includes a small area of private land (Gypsy Gardens) which is being narrowly avoided by construction of the path to the south of the property boundary.

The assessment area considered for the purposes of this assessment was slightly larger than the development footprint, to ensure the entire area of remnant patch vegetation was included for assessment, and a small assessment was undertaken of an area outside the original study area, near the North East Water pump stations (proposed sealing of existing short gravel track). The study area has been split into three maps to allow appropriate scale (**Map 1a** to **Map 1c**). Essentially, all native vegetation within 15 metres of impact areas were included in the assessment, to ensure tree TPZs are appropriately assessed for nearby works impacts.

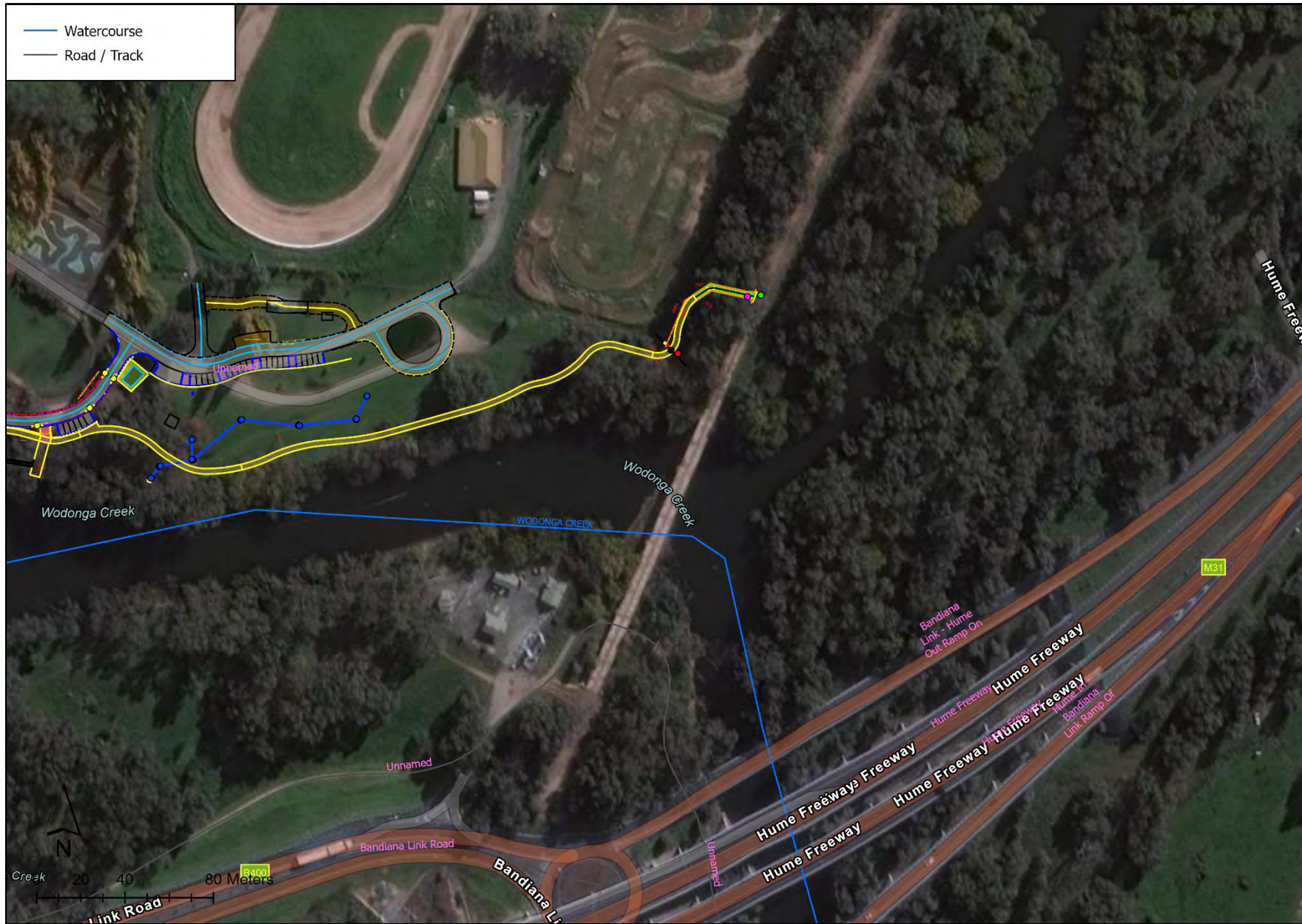
After considered redesign, the development now avoids natural values and follows existing disturbed areas, the only values within the main development alignment (impact footprint) are revegetation areas (which are exempt), several scattered trees, and several patches of low quality riparian woodland which are effectively limited to clusters of canopy species with a predominantly or exclusively exotic-dominated understorey. Beyond the impact area boundaries, some native vegetation values exist in the vicinity of proposed works in several areas of the surrounding road reserves and creek frontage areas, with the highest values being where there are scattered or patches of large River Red-gums persisting, some of which are hollow-bearing (being retained).



Map 1a: Study Site and site features for the proposed development – west section, Wodonga (Victoria).



Map 1b: Study Site and site features for the proposed development – central section, Wodonga (Victoria).



Map 1c: Study Site and site features for the proposed development – east section, Wodonga (Victoria).

2 Methods

2.1 Database Review

As part of due diligence, a review of relevant Victorian and Commonwealth Government biodiversity databases was undertaken in 2024 for the initial assessment, and was updated with new searches results and analysis for the 2026 final assessment and report were completed in January 2026. Information about flora and fauna located within five (5) kilometres of the study site was downloaded from the databases and assessed. The relevant records and provisions from the following databases were reviewed:

- The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to the study site, including wetlands, threatened ecological communities/species and migratory species (DCCEEW 2025a).
- DEECA's NatureKit mapping for Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) (extant and pre-1750s), location risk mapping, Habitat Importance Maps and flora and fauna species recorded within 5km of the study site.
- DEECA's Native Vegetation Regulation Map (NVR Map) for biodiversity information relevant to the study site including integrating development designs with modelled bioregions, EVCs, and threatened species and communities data.
- DEECA's MapshareVic Interactive Mapper and the Victorian Department of Planning and Transport Planning Schemes Online and Planning Maps Online for local government areas planning zones, overlays and schedules.

2.2 Definitions of Significance

Threatened species and communities are declared under the Commonwealth's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act). The significance of a species or ecological community is determined by its listing status under the EPBC Act and FFG Act. Lists of significant species generated from the database searches and recorded on site are provided in **Appendix 1B** (flora) and **Appendix 2B** (fauna), and where present or deemed to have potential to be present, the significant species have been evaluated to determine their likelihood of occurrence based on the process outlined below. The habitat value for species listed on the FFG Act is calculated by the Habitat Importance Modelling produced by DEECA via the NVR Map (see **Appendix 6**).

2.3 Evaluating the Likelihood of Occurrence of Threatened Species

The likelihood of occurrence indicates the potential for threatened species or ecological communities to be present or to occur regularly within (or immediately adjacent to) the study site. It is based on expert opinion, information in relevant biodiversity databases and reports, and an assessment of the habitats present on site, including targeted surveys, where relevant. The likelihood of occurrence is ranked as: No, Low, Medium, High, or Recorded. The justification for the ranking for each species or community is provided in **Appendix 1B** and **Appendix 2B**. Species or communities that have a 'Medium' likelihood of occurrence or higher, are given further consideration in this report. The need for further targeted survey for these species is also considered.

2.4 Site Assessment

The biodiversity assessment of the of the development area was undertaken over three main site visits, on 25 October 2024, 16 January 2026 and 6 February 2026, as well as an initial scoping inspection with the project designer of the site on 24 October 2024. Surveys were completed by a qualified ecologist, Stuart Mendham (project lead) from Red-Gum Environmental Consulting. A detailed ecological assessment was conducted which involved:

- Habitat Hectares assessments in accordance with current DEECA methodology and the *Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual* (DSE 2004). Data was collected in accordance with the DEECA *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (The Guidelines; DELWP 2017) and included mapping of:
 - Remnant patches of native vegetation;
 - Scattered trees and large trees within patches (where relevant) within the impact footprint (*Assessor's handbook Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation*, DELWP 2017);
- Identifying the presence or likelihood of occurrence (presence of suitable habitat) of species and ecological communities listed under the FFG Act and EPBC Act;
- Recording the number of specimens of FFG Act-listed protected flora recorded within the study site; and
- Recording all native and exotic flora and fauna species encountered during the site assessments.

Data from the site assessments was used to inform the analysis and outcomes of this report. Data was collected using a hand-held GPS unit and Avenza mapping software. The accuracy of the mapping is generally to within +/- 5 metres and is deemed to be sufficient for the purposes of the assessment. Where data accuracy is suspect, minor corrections may be made using the latest aerial photography available for the study site. The report mapping was developed using ArcGIS software. However in this case, tree mapping was also conducted by drone (by Woodward Civil) to improve the accuracy of tree mapping. Species nomenclature for flora follows the National Herbarium of Victoria. A variety of survey methods were employed during the field assessment stage, however, the nature of the proposal, the habitats on site (general lack of) and construction methodology meant that some investigations were not warranted. **Table 1** provides a summary of methodologies used, those that were not and the reasons for both.

Table 1: Field assessment methods employed for fauna

Intended Target	Methodology
Diurnal Birds	Area search, where the observers walked the site in its entirety on three occasions. Recording bird calls and all birds seen on and in the immediate vicinity of the site.
	Point Count method, where observations were made from 3 points (southern, central and northern locations) for 20 minutes each, on two occasions.
Nocturnal Birds	Day habitat search. Search suitable treed habitat for scats, pellets, prey items and suitable hollows.
	Tree watching for 30 mins prior to sunset and 60 mins following sunset of those trees proposed for removal (trees greater than large tree size). Not undertaken due to lack of large tree removals, and the absence of hollows in vegetation being lost. Only six trees to be removed, none of which are large or hollow-bearing.
Flying Mammals	Spotlighting on foot. Not undertaken due to proximity to major transport corridor (safety risks) and due to lack of impacts occurring for connected viable habitat on site, including no hollow tree losses. No impacts expected for connected hollow trees and other important habitat.
	Stag-watching. Observing potential roost hollows for 30mins prior to sunset and 60mins following sunset. Not undertaken due to lack of stags/hollow trees being impacted. Only six trees to be removed, none of which are large or hollow-bearing.

Intended Target	Methodology
Non-Flying Mammals	Search for scats and signs - 30 minutes searching relevant habitat, including trees for scratch marks. Tree watching for 30mins prior to sunset and 60mins following sunset of those trees proposed for removal that are deemed habitat trees. Tree watching not completed due to lack of hollows and no hollow tree losses.
Frogs	Listening to calls during the day (including early and late in day) in impacted small drains/channels and nearby wetlands and creeks, where they may occur. Dusk surveys not completed due to absence of impacts to frog habitat (development having no direct or indirect impact on frog habitat).
Reptiles	Search of rocky areas and areas that contain ground timber and other suitable reptile habitat. No rocky habitat is intersected by the proposed development. Limited (no) suitable reptile habitat for searches to be conducted. No reptiles observed.
Aquatic species	No searches were conducted for aquatic species as part of this assessment due to lack of aquatic habitat being intersected by the development. Impact avoidance and mitigation measures are to be included in the CEMP to help ensure no indirect impacts are caused to nearby aquatic environments of Wodonga Creek.

2.5 Report Limitations

The assessment of the study site was undertaken on multiple dates with the main vegetation assessments conducted on 25 October 2024 (to inform the preliminary ecological assessment report), 16 January 2026 and on 6 February 2026 (for this report). The main surveys were undertaken during mid-spring and late summer, which are optimal times of year for conducting surveys in north-east Victoria. An incidental species list of flora and fauna encountered during the surveys has been provided (**Appendix 1A** and **1B**). Given the study site's linear nature and relatively small scale, and its heavily cleared and historically grazed/disturbed condition, it is likely that the majority if not all of species present were captured during the numerous assessments, and all potential fauna habitat on the site was captured in good detail. However, while the flora and fauna lists are considered to be very comprehensive species lists, like most assessments they must be considered a snapshot in time (across the multiple survey periods) for the proposed development.

2.6 Review of Legislation and Policy

The implications for the development were assessed in relation to key biodiversity legislation and policy including:

- Matters listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), associated policy statements, significant impacts guidelines, listing advice and key threatening processes;
- Threatened taxa, communities and threatening processes listed under Section 10 of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act);
- Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation (DELWP 2017);
- Native Vegetation Management Plans prepared by Catchment Management Authorities;
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (specifically Clauses 12.01-2, 52.17 and 66.02) and overlays in the Wodonga Planning Scheme;
- Noxious weeds and pest animals lists under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act);
- *Fisheries Act 1995* (where relevant);
- *Water Act 1989* (where relevant); and
- *Environment Protection Act 1971: State Environmental Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003* (where relevant).

3 Results

Species recorded during the flora and fauna assessments are listed in **Appendix 1A** (flora) and **Appendix 2A** (fauna). Unless of particular significance, these common species are not discussed further. Those species recorded (state and national databases or via site surveys) or predicted (modelled) to occur in the local area are also provided in **Appendix 1B** (flora) and **Appendix 2B** (fauna), along with an assessment of the likelihood of the species occurring within the study site. A total of 122 flora species were identified during the assessment, with three fauna and 87 flora being introduced (exotic) species, and 8 were native planted species (exempt). There were zero (0) flora species that were protected species under the FFG Act. A total of 39 fauna species were identified, with three being introduced species. A species likelihood of occurrence assessment was completed (**Appendix 1B** and **2B**) and species and communities that had a likelihood category of 'Medium', 'High' or 'Recorded', are considered further in this report.

3.1 Vegetation and Habitat

The study site encompasses approximately 1.4 kilometres of public land between Sumsion Gardens and along Wodonga Creek, ending with a small section of dirt track (being sealed) at the entrance to the North-east Water treatment facility on Wodonga Creek. There are also minor works proposed for Wright Road, which comes off the Lincoln Causeway. The actual footprint (impact area) for the development varies depending on the types of works being undertaken, ranging from a 2.5 metre-wide (3 metre impact width) footpath (the majority of the development area), a low impact boardwalk style ramp (minimal impacts), to more significant impacts in the Diamond Park area for the construction of carparks, road resealing, and BBQ/playground facilities. The project alignment and its impact areas generally contain very few to no native species in the ground layer, however there are several patches that contain occasional native groundcover species albeit at low densities and low diversity levels. Despite this, with the presence of connected canopy over much of the alignment within the main development footprint, numerous areas meet the requirements of a 'patch' under the Guidelines, even when only River Red-gum exist in an area.

There are two different EVCs present on site, and the patches of these EVCs occur across a single bioregion, the Victorian Riverina (VicRiv) bioregion. As there is a significant level of disturbance across the site, and a general lack of species diversity except for several small patches that contain some ground cover species, with the absence of most key indicator species the delineation of EVCs on site has been aligned with the EVC modelling (1750 EVCs). The native vegetation, where patches occur throughout the study site, is representative of mostly highly degraded (as per modelled locations according to DEECA 1750 EVC mapping) Riverine Grassy Woodland (EVC 295) south of Wodonga Creek, and Riverine Swampy Woodland (EVC 815) north of Wodonga Creek (see **Map 1**), with slightly higher quality patches along the northern banks of Wodonga Creek. These features are described further in **Table 2**.

The patches of native vegetation present are relatively thin and disturbed and are providing generally low levels of habitat value (**Map 2**), with the exception of areas with large hollow-bearing trees, which have obvious importance for numerous fauna. There are also three scattered trees located throughout the development's impact areas, only one of which meets the definition of 'large tree', that being defined as a canopy species with a diameter at breast height (dbh) of 70 centimetres or greater. This large tree is the only scattered tree with some hollows being impacted, located in the northern part of Diamond Park. This tree is considered lost, but importantly is to be retained and protected from excessive works impacts. Beyond this, the six (6) lost trees (patch trees) being removed are all small and medium trees (18, 30, 42, 46, 49 and 64 cm dbh), and none of these contain hollows.

Representative photos of the Habitat Zones that were assessed as part of the assessment are provided in **Appendix 4**, showing all native patches that were present and assessed as part of the VQA assessment. Photos of lost vegetation are provided in **Appendix 5**. Within this appendix, stars are added to the photos to indicate any removed trees (red star) or deemed lost trees (orange star) on the photos, to help align with the colour theme used for project tree mapping, and important habitat trees are given a green star where they are nearby to works areas.

Much of the study site has been degraded to a significant extent by a variety of disturbance mechanisms, including by historic clearing, grazing, weed invasion, unnatural water regimes, recreational disturbance and other historical disturbances (i.e. changed fire and flood regimes) associated with ongoing human influence. The study site now supports predominantly exotic species, with limited native vegetation that is of quality habitat value for native flora and fauna, with the exception of canopy species, which included numerous large trees as well as areas of young regenerating River Red-gums.

There are no dams or waterways located in the impacted areas for the development, with the exception of a small drain that will flow into Wodonga Creek near the proposed playground area, which will have very small levels of impacts to the creek bank, and minor impacts for creek access areas. Given the nature of the creek activation project, there are waterways nearby much of the development, including Sumsion Gardens lake, House Creek, and Wodonga Creek. None of these areas are to be significantly disturbed from the development, with most waterway areas being avoided entirely. There are no wetlands or dams being intersected on site, therefore there are very limited habitats available for frogs and waterbirds in areas being impacted. The alignment was chosen for development because it has significant existing levels of disturbance, and the impacts have been scaled back in latest designs to reduce development areas in the immediate vicinity of Wodonga Creek, and in doing so, the environmental impacts from the development are being significantly reduced, compared to developing a more heavily vegetated or waterfront area.

There are many remnant medium and large trees within proximity to the impact areas which are being protected from development via actions in the project's CEMP. The remaining mapped trees and vegetation patches (see **Map 8** for all trees occurring within 15 metres of any development impacts) that are being impacted have been assessed by a qualified arborist to determine which trees are to be removed, which are deemed lost due to TPZ impacts (but retained) and how many trees are being retained and protected due to absence of significant impacts or habitat importance. Six (6) trees will be removed and 32 trees will be deemed lost (but retained) as a result of the planned construction activities. Of these, three are scattered trees and 35 are patch trees.

Table 2 Summary of vegetation and habitat types within the study site.

Vegetation or Habitat Type	Description	Location	Significant Values
Riverine Grassy Woodland (EVC 295)	<p>This EVC is described formally as red-gum woodland to 20 metres tall, which occurs on the floodplain of major rivers, in a slightly elevated position where floods are infrequent, with a ground layer that is dominated by grasses or grass-like species, with occasional tall shrubs.</p> <p>In this instance, all of the patches of mapped EVC 295 are highly disturbed and retain little of their original diversity or structure.</p>	Habitat Zones 1a, 2a, 3a and 3b.	The study site contains little to no significant ground timber or other woody debris. There are several canopy trees in all zones, including large trees, which provide some habitat for arboreal species. There are no quality hollows present in the impacted area.

Vegetation or Habitat Type	Description	Location	Significant Values
	<p>Delineation between EVCs was not possible due to significant disturbance levels, and EVC modelled data was used to define EVC boundaries, where low quality patches occurred. The low quality patches consist of clumps of a River Red-gum (<i>E. camaldulensis</i>) overstorey, with very occasional (or no) native understorey, and where present consisted of Silky Blue-grass (<i>Dichantheum sericeum</i>), Tall Sedge (<i>Carex appressa</i>), and young Kurrajong (<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>). The remaining areas were either heavy leaf litter or thick cover of exotic pasture grasses and herbaceous weed species.</p>		<p>There are no mature native shrubs and some weedy shrubs, which provide only limited habitat. There is generally limited habitat available on site for the listed flora and fauna in Appendix 1B and 2B, with the exception of the larger trees which may provide some nesting habitat. One large tree is deemed lost from zone 1a, but is to be retained on site.</p>
<p>Riverine Swampy Woodland (EVC 815)</p>	<p>This EVC is formally described as a eucalypt woodland to 15 metres tall, occurring above a grassy to sedgy herbaceous ground layer, with species that prefer periodic inundation. The understorey usually has an absent or very sparse shrub layer over a low diversity grassy and herbaceous ground layer.</p> <p>In this instance, nearly all the patches of mapped EVC 815 are highly disturbed and retain little of their original diversity or structure. The patches consist of areas of River Red-gum overstorey, with little to no native species remaining in the under storey, and heavy exotic loads throughout. Where present, natives in the understorey contained occasional Silver Wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>), Rushes (<i>Juncus</i> spp.), Tall Sedge (<i>Carex appressa</i>), and less commonly scattered Lightwood (<i>Acacia implexa</i>), River Bottlebrush (<i>Melaleuca</i> sp.), Lesser Joyweed (<i>Alternanthera denticulata</i>), Knotweed (<i>Persicaria</i> spp.), Centella (<i>Centella cordifolia</i>), Rigid Panic (<i>Walwhalleya proluta</i>), Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>), Blown Grass (<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>), and Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum</i> sp.). Despite the diversity described above, the vast majority of cover in project areas is thick cover of exotic grass species and herbaceous and woody weeds.</p>	<p>Habitat Zones 4a, 4b, 5a, 6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 9a, 9b, 9c, 10a.</p>	<p>Areas of this EVC are generally low to very low quality patches through the main development area, and contain limited habitat values due to significant historical and ongoing disturbances. There are small areas of slightly higher habitat value on the northern side of Wodonga Creek but the majority of habitat value is the large hollow-bearing trees in the general vicinity of the works areas. There are no dams or wetland areas, and there is very little habitat (woody debris) on the ground for fauna due to agricultural history, wood collection, flood flows and impacts associated with reserve maintenance.</p>

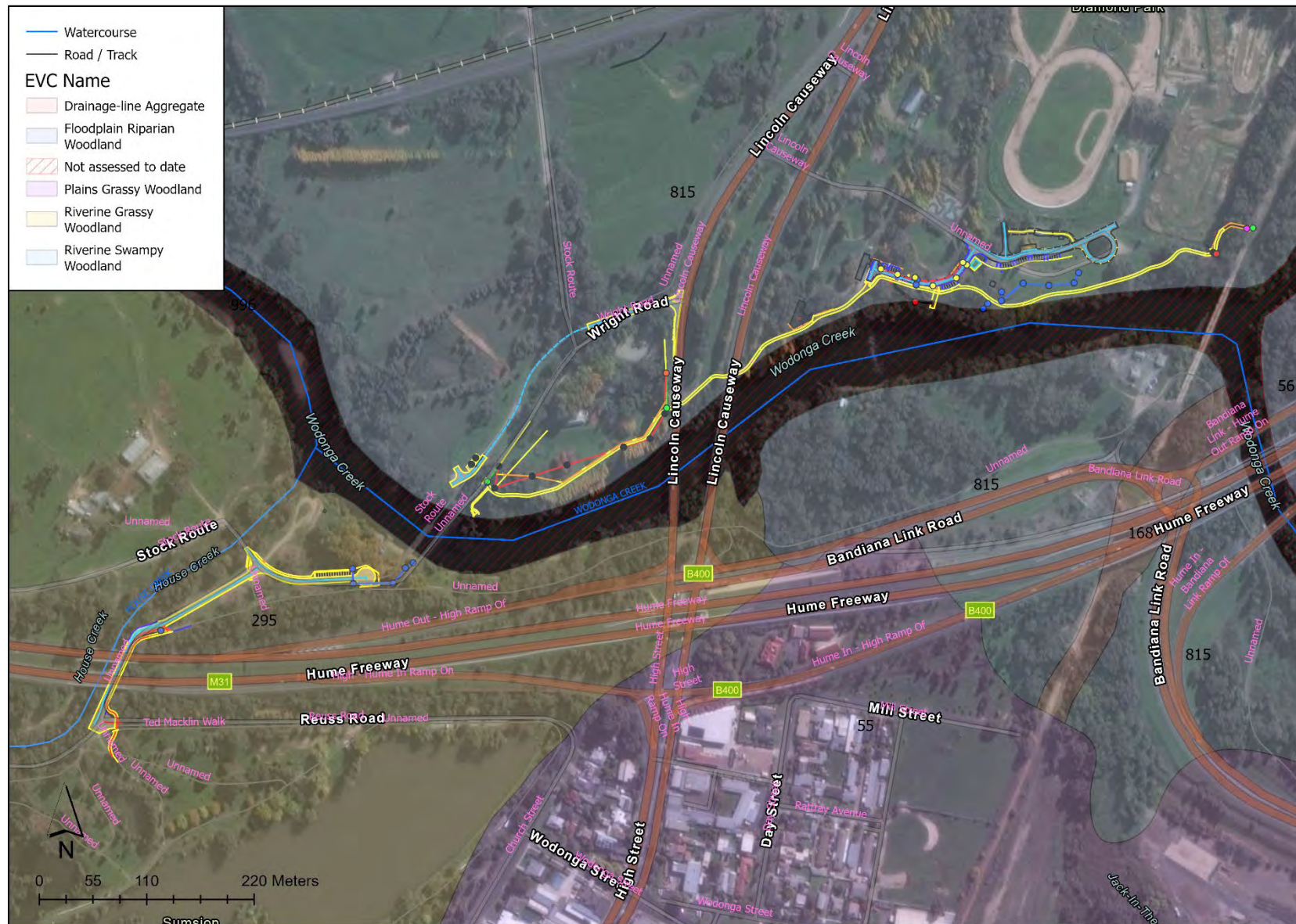
3.2 Landscape Value

At the broader landscape scale, the area is moderately to heavily cleared and modified by past agriculture, and more recently by urban development and recreation uses. Despite this, there remains a moderately connected canopy along the local watercourses, which extend into the broader connectivity values associated with the Murray River riparian corridor to the north. South of the development area, limited connectivity remains due to urban development, with the exception of some limited habitat along the banks of House Creek.

There are few high quality core bushland areas in the broader vicinity, with the exception of Nail Can Hill range, which is approximately 5 kilometres north of the site, and is moderately connected through riparian vegetation to the north, but poorly connected via the remaining link along Roper Street, Albury. In general, the remnant vegetation associated with the Murray River floodplain is also highly degraded, often limited to canopy species, except where conservation activities have planted understorey plants in recent years. This floodplain area is generally not regarded as a core bushland area given its general lack of certain strata.

No dams or wetlands are being directly intersected by the development's impact area. There are some small impacts planned for the banks of Wodonga Creek, consisting of a small drain pipe near the Diamond Park playground to drain the water play area, and the two waterfront access areas, one near the pedestrian swing bridge, and one near the miniature trains area. Two large creeks occur on site in the immediate vicinity, one of which (Wodonga Creek) is a significant anabranch of the Murray River. The development site is generally flat, and there is little to no significant (preferred) habitat for frogs on site or in land adjacent to the development, with habitat limited to non-preferred flowing waters of the two major creeks. Although the creeks may be habitat at certain times of the year for some frogs, they are not considered important habitat areas.

There are no rock outcrops or significant ground timber and there is little reptile habitat as a result. With most trees to be retained, even when considered lost due to TPZ impacts, and with the general absence of other important habitat values, the development is not expected to have a significant impact on the natural values, or the habitat connectivity values in operation on or within the immediate vicinity of the study site. Despite this, the project CEMP will include additional controls to ensure the project's environmental impacts are reduced to the greatest extent possible.



Map 2: 1750 Modelled Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) of the study site (the site contains areas of EVCs 295 and 815).

3.3 Significant Species and Ecological Communities

3.3.1 EPBC Act and FFG Act listed species

Lists of EPBC Act and FFG Act listed threatened ecological communities (TECs) and threatened species recorded or predicted to occur within 5 kilometres of the study site are provided in **Appendix 1B** (flora) and **Appendix 2B** (fauna). An assessment of the likelihood of these species occurring in the study site and an indication of where within the site (i.e. those habitats or features of relevance to the species) are included, where applicable.

These communities and species are mapped in **Map 3**, **Map 4** and **Map 5**. Note that the modelled TEC layer is not accurate, and shows numerous areas of TEC (such as Northern Plains Grassland TEC) nearby which are not actually present. A summary of those species recorded with a 'Medium' or higher likelihood of occurring in the study site is provided in **Table 3** and are discussed further in this report.

Table 3: Summary of listed threatened species (EPBC Act and FFG Act) with a Medium or higher likelihood of occurring in the study site.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	vu	VU	Arid and semi-arid acacia and eucalypt woodland and shrubland. Prefers relatively undisturbed open woodland and shrubland with grassy and shrubby understorey, including herbaceous species with low tree densities and numerous tree hollows.	Medium	Numerous local records. Not preferred higher quality habitat, but the species is likely to move through the area on occasion or regularly.
<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	vu	-	Prefers shallow water, particularly when flowing but can be found in any watered area. Largest breeding colonies and greatest concentrations confined within the near-coastal regions of the top end of the Northern Territory.	Present	Known from nearby records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Plumed Egret	ce	-	Shallow waters within freshwater and brackish wetlands, as well as wet paddocks, often in flocks with other egrets.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck	vu	-	Deep water wetlands, river systems, and coastal waters of temperate regions with dense vegetation cover.	Present	Known from local records and has the potential to be present on occasion.
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper	-	MI	Coastal lagoons, estuaries, bays, swamps, lakes and inundated grasslands.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh.
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	en	EN	Found in tall mountain forests and woodlands, with dense shrubby understoreys in summer. In winter, will move to lower altitudes into drier, more open forests and woodlands.	Present	Known from local records and has the potential to be present on occasion or regularly.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	en	-	Saltwater and freshwater wetlands, mangroves and tidal mudflats.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	ce	-	Tree-lined watercourses and in isolated woodlands in arid and semi-arid areas.	Medium	Numerous records from the region and may be present along the riparian corridor on occasion.
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	vu	VU/MI	Inhabits freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover.	Present	Recorded from Sumsion Gardens. May frequent the site on occasion.
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	en	-	Found in grassy eucalypt woodlands, including Box-Gum Woodlands and Snow Gum Woodlands. Found in a wide range of habitats but nearly always within proximity to water sources.	High	Preferred habitat present and the species is likely to hunt regularly along the riparian area and may nest in large gums.
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	vu	VU/MI	Species appears to primarily roost aerially, it has been recorded roosting in trees in forests and woodlands, both among dense foliage in the canopy or in hollows. Feed, drink and rest on the wing in large groups. May rest at night in forested country.	Medium	Numerous local records. May be present in the study area on occasion.
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	ce	CE	Occurs in a broad range of forest and woodland habitats dominated by winter flowering Eucalypts, and sometimes urban areas with abundant large trees.	Medium	Numerous local records and is likely to move through the riparian corridor on occasion.
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	en	EN	Prefers lightly wooded, open landscapes, usually Eucalypt woodlands, Acacia scrub and mallee formations, often found in or near clearings in these landscapes.	Medium	Regularly recorded in the local area and there is suitable habitat present.
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	ce	-	Woodland and open forest, with large home ranges that includes fragmented remnants and partially cleared farmland. Tends to occupy larger core areas of higher quality bushland.	Medium	Numerous local records and with the species having a very large territory, it is likely to hunt in the area on occasion and may occasionally nest in large tree hollows.
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	vu	-	Deep water, large permanent wetlands and swamps. Dense aquatic vegetation.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot	en	VU	Mainly inhabits River Red-Gum forests and Box-gum woodlands. Occurs (nests) in large River Red-gum forests along the Murray River and its nearby major river tributaries, but main foraging habitat is Mallee woodland within 20 km of riverine nesting habitat.	Medium	Occasional local records. Suitable habitat present, although is generally known from areas further west.
<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	Speckled Warbler	en	-	Occurs in a broad range of eucalypt dominated environments with a grassy understorey, often on rocky ridges or in gullies.	High	Many local records and is likely to move through the area, or may be resident.
<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Australasian Shoveler	vu	-	Prefers heavily vegetated swamps, periodically inundated and flooded areas.	Present	Several local records nearby. Likely to inhabit the area on occasion.
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	vu	VU	Forests, woodlands and grasslands. Grasslands and grassy woodlands including box-gum woodlands and Snow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>) woodlands.	Medium	Many local records and the species is likely to frequent the study area on occasion or regularly.
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	en	-	Prefer permanent freshwater wetlands, swamps and creeks with dense vegetation, ideally containing heavy growth of Cumbungi, Lignum or Tea-tree.	Medium	Known from a record in Sumsion Gardens. May be present on occasion.
<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Murray Spiny Crayfish	Th	VU	Permanent rivers and large streams with moderately fast-flowing waters.	Present	Known to be present in the major local waterbodies.
<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Silver Perch	en	EN	Generally prefer fast flowing waters like rapids and cascades, and more open sections of water. Overbank flooding is an important part of the breeding cycle.	High	Increasingly rare, but there are local records from the major waterbodies. Cascades in Wodonga Creek is preferred habitat.
<i>Galaxias rostratus</i>	Flathead Galaxias	vu	CE	Still or slow-moving waters such as wetlands, billabongs, swamps, large creeks and any slow flowing waters.	Present	Known from local rivers and creeks.
<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	Trout Cod	en	EN	Prefer rapidly flowing waterways with rocky or gravel beds, containing deep pools and abundant in-stream woody debris such as logs and trees.	Present	Rare, but known to be present in local rivers.
<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	Murray Cod	en	VU	Occurs in a range of aquatic habitats from clear shallow rocky streams to deeper, turbid slow moving rivers and billabongs.	Present	Known to occur in local rivers.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Nannoperca australis</i> Murray-Darling Basin lineage	Southern Pygmy Perch	vu	VU	Small aquatic systems, low flow rate, billabongs, streams and lakes.	High	Local records present. Likely to be under-reported in the area.
<i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Sloane's Froglet	en	EN	A cryptic species, commonly associated with waterways and periodically inundated areas in grasslands, woodlands and also occurs in moderately disturbed habitats within its known range.	Medium	Local area is a national hotspot for species. Likely to be present in some dams and wetlands.
<i>Limnodynastes interioris</i>	Giant Bullfrog	en	-	Spends the majority of its time underground, Habitat is close to freshwater floodplains, marshes, swamps	Medium	Suitable habitat present and known from numerous records in the local area.
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Platypus	vu	-	Rivers, streams and lakes of eastern Australia. Major permanent river systems.	Recorded*	Has been recorded immediately opposite Diamond Park by the Red-Gum ecologist.
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	vu	-	Mature and old-growth Eucalypt woodlands and riparian forests with a shrub or Acacia understorey, abundant tree hollows required.	High	Many local records. Suitable habitat present and is likely to be moving through the area or may be resident in hollow trees within the study area.
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	-	EN	Eucalypt forests and woodlands that contain some of their ~70 preferred Eucalyptus species. Connectivity of habitat important.	High	Numerous local records. May move through the riparian corridor on occasion.
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	vu	VU	Requires foraging resources and roosting sites. Has wider ranging habitat, tending to prefer dense vegetation on waterways for roosting.	High	Known to roost just north on the edge of the Murray. Known to roost at junction of Murray and Wodonga Creek branch, just east of study area.
<i>Chelodina expansa</i>	Broad-shelled Turtle	en	-	Large, slow-flowing rivers, wetlands, billabongs and lagoons. It prefers permanent, deep freshwater systems and abundant aquatic vegetation and woody debris.	Present	Numerous records from Sumsion Gardens and likely to be present throughout Wodonga Creek.
<i>Emydura macquarii</i>	Murray River Turtle	ce	-	Found in open water, including lagoons and the main river channels.	Present	Numerous records from Sumsion Gardens and likely to be present in Wodonga Creek.

* Recorded by project ecologist on an earlier occasions in Wodonga Creek at Diamond Park and pedestrian swing bridge locations

3.3.2 FFG Act Listed Species Habitat Importance Assessment

Under the Guidelines, state-wide Habitat Importance Maps (HIM) form the basis for determining the impact of potential native vegetation removal on rare and threatened species listed under the FFG Act (DELWP 2017). There were no FFG Act listed flora or fauna species being impacted beyond their impact threshold to the extent that species offsets would be required, as listed in the DEECA Native Vegetation Removal Report in **Appendix 6**. In fact, very little to no quantifiable impacts were being incurred for the habitat of any of the threatened species listed in the NVR. With effectively none of the modelled habitat value for the species being affected by the development, this is indicative of the appropriate site selection for the development, as well as effective avoidance actions and the resulting low environmental impacts being incurred by this development.

3.3.3 Significant Ecological Communities

The threatened ecological communities (TEC) listed under the EPBC Act and FFG Act considered as having a 'Medium' or higher likelihood of occurring within 5 kilometres of the study site are listed in **Table 4**. See also **Appendix 1B** for the full list of threatened communities that were considered by the likelihood of occurrence assessment. The only two TECs considered present/potentially present is the Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community (Bird TEC), and Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin TEC (Fish TEC).

There are other potential TECs mapped on the FFG Act TEC spatial data, however many of the mapped areas of TEC are not present in many if not all of these sites (see **Map 5**). For instance, there are numerous mapped patches of Natural Plains Grasslands TEC in the general vicinity of the development (south of the Hume Freeway), however the majority, if not all of these areas no longer contain the key indicator species required to be considered part of this community. There are also some areas of Grey Box Grassy Woodland TEC mapped locally, however, these areas are not representative of this TEC as Grey Box are not present in the local area, and occur much further west on the flatter plains country.

For the Bird TEC, this is considered present as there are several birds from this TEC present, along with some suitable albeit mostly low quality woodland habitat in the study site. Despite this, it is unlikely that the low quality patches and the three scattered trees being impacted provide significant habitat for any TEC species, and there are much more suitable areas such as nearby diverse roadsides and bush reserves (such as Nail Can Hill) where higher quality vegetation and more connected larger hollow-bearing trees are present. Given the general absence of high quality habitat on the development site, and with most of the remnant habitat being avoided or retained, it is unlikely that there will be any measurable impacts on this TEC or the individual species which make up the TEC, and any impacts incurred would not be considered significant.

The Fish TEC is mapped as adjoining the site, within the lower reaches of House Creek and along Wodonga Creek. This community is not being impacted except for small waterfront works areas and a small drain outlet that will flow into Wodonga Creek in the vicinity of the proposed playground, but these will impact the banks and not involve impacts to the aquatic habitat of the creek. Indirect impacts (pollution, erosion and sedimentation) to the TEC areas are to be controlled via actions in the project CEMP. As such, the suite of aquatic species associated with this Fish TEC are not considered to be at risk from this development, and are certainly not expected to be significantly impacted by the proposed works and associated development or ongoing operations of the recreational facilities involved. Despite this, liaison with Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) is recommended to ensure their needs are satisfied.

Table 4: Summary of listed EPBC Act and FFG Act threatened ecological communities with a Medium or higher likelihood of occurring in the study site.

Threatened Ecological Community Name	Listing Status	Areas of value within the study site
Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community	FFG TEC	TEC is known from dry forests and woodlands in the region. The study site contains some suitable habitat for some of the TEC species which may frequent the site, but high quality habitats are unlikely to be present and species are more likely to be resident in larger bushland areas to the north (Murray River and Nail Can Hill). Nevertheless, this TEC is considered present, but impacts are limited and much of which is being retained and protected. Given the small number of trees being lost which are not considered of high value or of major importance to the species in the TEC, their removal and the impacts from development are not likely to create a significant impact to the suite of species associated with this TEC. See further below.
Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin TEC	FFG TEC	This TEC is known from the region and occurs or potentially occurs in the main connected waterways of the local area, however it is not mapped on the state's TEC modelled data (see Map 5). However, there are no direct impacts of any significance being made to the waterways which do or may contain the suite of species associated with the TEC, and indirect impacts are to be managed via controls in the project CEMP. Liaison with VFA recommended.

3.3.4 Risk Assessment for Significant Species and Ecological Communities

The likelihood assessment determined that thirty-three threatened species and two TECs have a 'Medium' or higher likelihood of being present on or adjacent to the study area on occasion or regularly. Both TECs are listed under the FFG Act, and the thirty-three threatened species are listed under one or both the FFG Act and the EPBC Act, therefore the risks associated with these species from the development impacts have been considered further via a risk assessment below (for FFG Act listed entities) and via the Significant Impact Criteria (SIC) assessments (for EPBC Act listed entities) which are available in **Appendix 3**.

The two FFG Act TECs which are considered potentially present on or adjacent to the study site are discussed further below. No EPBC listed TECs are considered likely to be present. The threatened flora and fauna species which are only listed under the FFG Act are risk-assessed in the section below, however woodland birds, threatened fish, threatened frogs and wetland birds (which all share similar habitats) have been assessed collectively under the SIC assessment, including some species which are FFG Act listed. Hence the section below only deals with FFG Act listed threatened species which do not fit into these fauna categories. Where species are listed under both acts, or only the EPBC Act, these are assessed via a SIC assessment in **Appendix 3**.

Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community TEC – FFG Act threatened

As described in **Table 4**, this TEC is considered present on and adjoining the study site, with the most valuable areas being the large and very large trees in the vicinity, many of which are hollow-bearing. After redesign efforts, no large or very large trees are being directly removed, and although some are considered lost due to TPZ impacts, no large trees or hollow-bearing trees are being removed as part of the development, and those near the development are to be retained and protected from excessive impacts. With large and hollow trees being avoided for the most part and being protected, efforts have been made to protect the best quality parts of this TEC. Aside from the loss (removal) of six small to medium trees, very few other important habitat values are present throughout the entire alignment, meaning the project's impacts to low quality and marginal habitat are highly unlikely to cause a significant impact to this TEC.

Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin TEC – FFG Act threatened

As described in **Table 4**, this TEC is considered present in the two large creeks adjoining parts of the study site, with the most valuable areas being the higher quality waterway along Wodonga Creek, with strong connectivity to Murray River both upstream and downstream of the Wodonga Creek project site. After original designs were revisited, efforts were made to minimise impacts to these waterways by removing the original proposed high impact creek interfaces, which were originally flagged as recreational beach front style areas with higher impact terraced designs involving some excavation and land forming works. Minimal impacts are now being made in these creek bank areas, utilising the natural landform.

With lower impact changes being made to the creek banks in the vicinity of the miniature trains area, keeping the area more natural, while minimising the extent and nature of any excavations in these areas, impacts will be minimal. There is a small drainage outflow to be installed in the bank of Wodonga Creek in the vicinity of the new playground (water park outflow), however this involves minimal excavation and a very small impact area which, although is causing deemed loss of several nearby trees, the pipe is not directly impacting the waterbody of Wodonga Creek.

After the efforts being made to change designs with the aim of protecting the parts of this TEC, along with the pollution, and erosion and sediment controls to manage any potential indirect impacts on the nearby waterways, the impacts to the waterways of the TEC are expected to be minimal. The impacts associated with the low impact works on the banks near the Diamond Park area and pedestrian swing bridge, involve impacts that are occurring in terrestrial habitat areas only (above the typical high water mark), and are highly unlikely to cause a significant impact to this aquatic TEC.

Platypus - *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* (vulnerable under FFG Act)

Despite not being seen during dawn surveys, Platypus are known to be present in Wodonga Creek in the immediate vicinity of the Diamond Park development area and swing bridge, having been spotted by Stuart Mendham, Red-Gum Ecologist on two occasions in the last ten years. Notwithstanding the banks of the creek in the vicinity of the proposed waterway access area not being preferred habitat for Platypus burrows, it is recommended that thorough checks for burrows be undertaken in these areas immediately prior to any works involving ground disturbance taking place. With these measures in place, as well as no direct waterway impacts being made and with controls in the CEMP to limit potential indirect impacts to the nearby waterways, the development is high unlikely to have a significant impact upon Platypus in the local area.

Squirrel Glider - *Petaurus norfolcensis* (vulnerable under FFG Act)

There are many Squirrel Glider records from the local area, including from numerous areas along the Murray River riparian corridor, and several through the creeks and reserves in the Wodonga area. Given the presence of large and very large old trees with abundant hollows within and near the project alignment, most of which are connected to a moderate to good extent with areas that are known to have these gliders, it is possible to likely that Squirrel Gliders are residing in the local area. However, the project is not removing any hollow-bearing trees, and any large trees which are deemed lost (few of which have hollows), are to be retained on site with impacts to be minimised to the greatest extent possible. With absence of impacts to hollow-bearing tree habitat, and with actions in the CEMP to control indirect impacts from the development (including no night works), there is little likelihood of a significant impact occurring for Squirrel Glider.

Broad-shelled Turtle - *Chelodina expansa* (endangered under FFG Act)

There are numerous records of Broad-shelled Turtle from the lake at Sumsion Gardens, and several from local creeks and rivers. It is likely that this species is present in the two large creeks on occasion or regularly, given the highly suitable habitat. The species lays eggs in spring to early summer, normally within 200 metres of waterways, in sandy or loam soil rises on or above riverbanks, in areas that are well-drained and above normal flood levels. It must be noted that eggs are usually laid from October to December, however egg incubation can take 9-12 months, so potential for eggs to be present can remain year-round.

Given the disturbance levels present in the alignment areas, it is unlikely that the species would lay its eggs in any of the proposed impact areas. However out of caution, visual checks of impacts areas must be undertaken prior to works being started, to ensure no turtle nests/eggs are present. If present or suspected, contact must be made with an ecologist to confirm the sighting, and to seek guidance from DEECA regarding required actions prior to works restarting in that area. This, along with actions in the project CEMP to limit indirect impacts to local waterways, means there is very little likelihood of the development significantly impacting this species.

Murray River Turtle - *Emydura macquarii* (critically endangered under FFG Act)

There are significant numbers of records of Murray River Turtle from the lake at Sumsion Gardens, and several from local creeks and rivers, including from the southern banks of Wodonga Creek in the vicinity of works. It is likely that this species is present in the two large creeks on occasion or regularly, given the highly suitable habitat. The species lays eggs in spring to early summer, normally within a few hundred metres of waterways, in sandy or loam soil rises on or above riverbanks, in areas that are well-drained and above normal flood levels, and open for sunlight to aid incubation. It must be noted that eggs are usually laid from October to January, however egg incubation can take up to three months, so potential for eggs to be present can remain for much of the year. Given the disturbance levels present in the alignment areas, it is unlikely that the species would lay its eggs in any of the proposed impact areas. However out of caution, visual checks of impacts areas must be undertaken prior to works being started, to ensure no turtle nests/eggs are present. If present or suspected, contact must be made with an ecologist to confirm the sighting, and to seek guidance from DEECA regarding required actions prior to works restarting in that area. This, along with actions in the project CEMP to limit indirect impacts to local waterways, means there is very little likelihood of the development significantly impacting this species.

3.4 Other Ecological Values

There were no additional ecological features noted during the multiple days of fieldwork.

3.5 Further Survey Recommendations

The flora and fauna survey which was conducted over numerous site visits (more than is normal for most small linear impact assessments) is considered very comprehensive and sufficient to ascertain good detail about the environmental values across the study site. There are few viable habitats in the proposed impact areas of the site that would be of notable value to fauna, and marginal or low quality habitat in most areas adjoining the proposed alignment areas, with the large hollow trees and waterways being of greatest value. Efforts have been made to reduce impacts to large trees and waterway habitat by scaling back proposed impacts to the creek interfaces (less intrusive construction techniques), and via realignment/relocation of some facilities away from trees, such as the proposed carpark areas in the Diamond Park area.

With the absence of any other significant areas of habitat, and with the impact minimisation measures recommended in this report, no other impact minimisation or avoidance measures need to be adopted, other than the standard controls to be implemented via the project CEMP.

With the limited site values and impact reduction measures in mind, the likelihood of the development significantly impacting threatened species is low. As a result, no further surveys are recommended. Through the project CEMP, measures are to be put in place to ensure there are procedures and reporting requirements to handle any situations that arise where a suspected threatened species or community (or other value) is encountered during the construction.



Map 3: Threatened flora within a 5 kilometre radius of the study site (NatureKit DECA 2026)



Map 4: Threatened fauna within a 5 kilometre radius of the study site (NatureKit DEECA 2026).



Map 5: Threatened communities (modelled) within a 5 kilometre radius of the study site (Data Victoria / DECA 2026).

4 Biodiversity Legislation and Government Policy

This section provides an assessment of the recreational trail development in relation to key biodiversity legislation and government policy. This section does not intend to describe the legislation and policy in detail. Where appropriate, directions are given to find further information.

4.1 Commonwealth

4.1.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The EPBC Act applies to developments and associated activities that have the potential to significantly impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the Act. An assessment of impacts and recommendations for the MNES relevant to the development are available in **Appendix 1B** and **2B**, and are summarised below in **Table 5**. The seventeen (17) EPBC Act listed species that have a Medium or higher likelihood of occurring in the study site are summarised in **Table 5** (and mapped in **Map 3** and **4**) and have been individually assessed against the appropriate EPBC Act Significant Impact Criteria (SIC) and associated guidelines, where relevant (DoE 2013) (**Appendix 3**). Other EPBC Act-listed entities are considered unlikely to occur within the study site due to absence of suitable habitat and/or lack of previous records within or in proximity to the study site.

Based on the proposed footprint of the recreational trail project and lack of any significant habitat at the site's impact areas, and with habitat that is nearby being protected for the most part, it considered highly unlikely that there will be significant impact to any EPBC Act listed flora and fauna species. Of the three potential EPBC Act listed threatened ecological communities within the impact footprint, none are present in the study site. Neither *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands* TEC, *Weeping Myall Woodlands* TEC or *Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia* TEC are considered present within the study area, after site assessments and according to EPBC Act listing criteria (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2006, 2010; Endangered Species Scientific Subcommittee 2000).

Table 5: Summary of development in relation to EPBC Act

Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES)	Development specifics	Assessment against significant impact criteria
Threatened species	Seventeen (17) EPBC Act species from the PMST search have a Medium or higher likelihood of occurring in the study site as per Appendix 1B and 2B likelihood assessments, and are summarised in Table 3 .	The SIC assessments in Appendix 3 determined that none of these species from the likelihood assessment are likely to be significantly impacted by the development. No referral required. No EPBC listed species were recorded during site assessments.
Threatened ecological communities (TEC)	Nil present	No EPBC Act listed TECs are considered as being present in the study area as there were no key indicator species present in impact areas.
Migratory species	Three (3) migratory species have been recorded or are predicted to occur in the 5km radius development search area (Appendix 2B).	The study area does include suitable habitat for the migratory species predicted to occur within the 5km radius of the study site, however these areas are not being impacted by works and there is no significant impact likely for any of these species. No referral required. See Appendix 2B and Appendix 3 for further details.

Matter of National Environmental Significance (MNES)	Development specifics	Assessment against significant impact criteria
Wetlands of international importance (RAMSAR sites)	No Ramsar Wetlands occur on site or within the vicinity of the study site.	No impact likely on any significant wetlands. The CEMP is to ensure erosion and sedimentation risks are adequately controlled for the life of the development. No referral required.

Following this assessment, the development is considered highly unlikely to significantly impact any EPBC Act listed species, threatened communities or significant wetlands, or other MNES. Referral to the Commonwealth Environment Minister is therefore not required. However, if the proponent wishes to seek Commonwealth approval of the development for transparency or legal clarity, they may submit the development proposal reports to the Minister to give them an opportunity for feedback and development approval.

The EPBC Act-listed threatening processes which are considered in operation (or may be in operation) within the study site are listed in **Table 6**. Where threats are operating or may be in operation, measures to help ameliorate the risks associated with the threat are outlined. The development is not expected to significantly contribute to any of the listed threatening processes.

Table 6: EPBC Act Threatening Processes and measures to ameliorate those in operation within the study site.

Threatening Process	Measures to ameliorate the risk
Aggressive exclusion of birds from potential woodland and forest habitat by over-abundant noisy miners (<i>Manorina melanoccephala</i>)	Noisy Miners were observed during field assessments, and are likely to be present in numbers that approach the point where they impact the habitat availability for other native species. However, the development does not significantly further fragment native vegetation in the study site or change ground cover levels in a way that would benefit this species to the extent that it would experience a significant population increase.
Competition and land degradation by rabbits	Rabbits are present in the study site, but in low numbers. The development is not likely to increase rabbit numbers or their associated impacts and if anything, rabbit numbers will likely be lower after the recreation areas are in operation, with more regular maintenance efforts taking place in some currently neglected areas.
Dieback caused by the root-rot fungus (<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>)	There were no obvious areas of dieback within the study site. There is limited susceptible native vegetation present in the study area, and where areas of native vegetation are present, minimal impacts are likely and measures will be put in place to limit risks of disease introductions in those areas. For instance, all machinery should arrive on site in a clean state, to reduce risks of spreading this disease. All efforts must be made to avoid bringing soil or gravel onto the site. If unavoidable, the source of gravel and soil used for construction needs to be verified as being <i>Phytophthora</i> -free. It is unlikely that fill needs to be transported onto the site, and use of local soil is recommended if it is required. If outside (non-local) soil must be transported into the study site, vehicles and equipment must arrive on site in a clean condition and any vehicles or equipment that may have been in a <i>Phytophthora</i> infected area must be appropriately decontaminated with a suitable decontaminant, such as Phytoclean or similar. With these measures in place, the development poses little threat regarding the introduction of this disease to the site.
Fire regimes that cause declines in biodiversity	Fire regimes in SE Australia are commonly vastly different to pre-European regimes. The study site has undergone significant changes due to numerous disturbance regimes, including changed fire regimes. There is now very limited native vegetation or areas of significant habitat present on the alignment, with much of the remaining habitat adjoining the impact areas to be protected from development impacts. Development of the site will not influence the fire regimes in operation on site. The CEMP will outline measures to limit the risk of fires resulting from construction processes and will have contingencies in place to manage any accidental fire incidents in a rapid and effective manner.

Threatening Process	Measures to ameliorate the risk
Infection of amphibians with Chytrid Fungus resulting in chytridiomycosis	There are no significant amphibian habitats areas of still permanent or semi-permanent water present on the alignment. As such, the disease is not known and unlikely to be present. Despite this, and given the proximity to two large creeks, equipment involved with construction of the retention basin should be thoroughly decontaminated (washed) prior to arriving on site to reduce the risk of introducing Chytrid Fungus.
Land clearance	Will not significantly contribute to land clearance as the site only includes the loss of six (6) small to medium sized trees, with all other deemed losses (from TPZ impacts) to be retained on site. None of the lost trees are hollow bearing. The majority of patches are of low quality with low plant diversity, with only 2-3 native species remaining on average, and exotic species heavily dominating. The remaining native species are not rare or significant, but are resilient natives owing to the nature of disturbance at the site. The project, with avoidance measures now adopted, will not significantly contribute to the land clearing threatening process.
Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants	Efforts are to be made to ensure no garden escapes or their propagules (seeds, fruits etc) are spread during construction works. Machinery and equipment being used for the development must arrive on site clean and propagule free. In the event machinery enters an infested area (of a high threat weed), the machinery must be thoroughly cleaned down prior to moving to another part of the study site. Agriculture Victoria (2026) can provide advice on appropriate clean-down methods depending on the weed species being dealt with.
Loss of climatic habitat caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases	It is likely that climatic influences are already occurring in the study site. The machinery used for construction is of a small scale and does not have an excessive carbon footprint. Concrete for paths do have a carbon footprint, however the relatively short linear nature of the works is not expected to require significant amounts of concrete, and concrete depths are to be kept to the minimal amount required to form a safe and stable path surface. The development CEMP will detail additional measures to help minimise greenhouse gas emissions that are involved with the construction process.
Novel biota and their impact on biodiversity	New species introductions are uncommon, however human movement and development projects have contributed over the years to significant change to receiving environments from intentional and accidental species introductions. The proposed infrastructure for the Diamond Park area is not expected to pose any risks in regard to introducing novel biota to the area. All revegetation and landscape plantings are to ideally be locally sourced indigenous natives, or non-invasive exotics where necessary (but not preferred). The CEMP will detail measures to ensure the likelihood of species introductions will be reduced during construction and rehabilitation efforts. Also see the weed management section above for further details on managing spread.
Predation by European Red Fox	Fox predation is a significant issue throughout SE Australia. The development will not influence the presence or abundance of foxes in the study site.
Predation by feral Cats	Feral cat predation is a significant issue throughout SE Australia. The development will not influence the presence or abundance of wild cats in the study site. The proponent, in cooperation with local council, should consider nominating the recreational areas as a cat-free zone.

4.2 State

4.2.1 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)

The FFG Act is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes (DEECA 2023). A total of fifty-five (55) FFG Act-listed species were mapped as occurring or potentially occurring in the 5 kilometre radius area. The likelihood assessment revealed that of the potential 55 species, thirty-two (32) fauna species was considered to have a 'Medium' or higher likelihood of occurring in the study site (summarised in **Table 3** with their likelihood assessments in **Appendix 1B** and **2B**) and mapped in **Map 3** and **Map 4**. There were no FFG Act listed flora or fauna species recorded in the development area during the assessment, although Platypus is known to be present from previous detections by the project ecologist (considered present). In terms of the terrestrial footprint of the development, it is unlikely that most fauna species would be present due to absence of quality habitat and significant disturbances, with the exception of hollow-dependant fauna, and a small chance of turtles passing through or nesting in the development footprint.

No other FFG Act-listed species were detected within the development footprint despite numerous surveys involving attempts to see or hear all the species summarised in **Table 3**, with the exception of the aquatic species (no aquatic assessment undertaken due to lack of aquatic impacts). Based on the proposed footprint of the development design which is now including avoidance measures, the lack of much significant or substantial habitat on site and the adjoining vegetation and habitat being protected for the most part, it is considered unlikely that there will be significant impact to any FFG Act-listed flora and fauna species. Two of the four (4) potential FFG-listed TECs are considered to occur or potentially occur within the study site, and are described in the likelihood assessment in **Appendix 1B** and in **Section 3.3.4**.

The Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community TEC is not considered to be at significant risk from this development, due to the losses being limited to six small to medium trees and all other deemed losses (nearby trees) to be retained on site. Impacts are occurring to low quality patches with none to very low diversity of native species in the groundcover, which are areas of low habitat value for species of the TEC. With the presence of much higher quality habitat (intact remnants and larger areas of bushland with hollow-bearing trees) occurring in the broader vicinity of the development (to the north), vegetation on site is unlikely to form significant habitat for the suite of species associated with the TEC.

The Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin TEC is considered present in the two major creeks which adjoin large parts of the development area, however these aquatic areas are experiencing no impacts, and only very low levels of impacts (one outflow pipe and low impact landscaping) are occurring within the creek bank, with these areas being protected from indirect impacts via actions in the project CEMP. Given the intentional siting of the development in an already highly disturbed parcel of public land, and with subsequent efforts to tailor designs to avoid as much aquatic habitat as possible, the project is unlikely to be significantly impacting this TEC at the local and regional scales.

4.2.2 FFG Act Protected Flora Permits

Under the FFG Act, a permit is required from DEECA to 'take' protected flora species from public land. That is, works or other activities on public land, which may affect listed protected native plants, will require a *Protected Flora Permit* under the FFG Act. The development footprint is public land, therefore an FFG permit applies for any listed flora in those areas. Listed protected flora are available in **Table 7**.

Table 7: List of protected flora proposed for removal to be included in the application for a FFG Act Protected Flora Permit

Scientific Name / TEC	Common Name	FFG Permit
Nil	Nil	There are no protected flora on the proposed development footprint.

4.2.3 FFG Act Public Authority Duty

Section 4G of the FFG Act, the Public Authority Duty, now requires ministers and public authorities to consider the FFG Act when performing functions that might impact upon Victoria's biodiversity. Other matters to be considered include the Biodiversity Strategy, species action statements, management plans or critical habitat determinations. Impacts on biodiversity to be considered include long and short-term impacts, direct and indirect impacts, cumulative impacts, and the impacts of threatening processes. The development proponent is City of Wodonga, which is a public authority and therefore the FFG Act Public Authority Duty does apply to this development. City of Wodonga must scrutinise the findings of this report and make a corporate decision as to whether they consider the FFG Act and other biodiversity controls are adequately addressed by the proposed development, and must ensure that measures to minimise impacts to biodiversity (which are recommended in this report) are adopted, and project responsibilities and compliance with controls are recorded in accordance with a project CEMP.

4.2.4 FFG Act Threatening Processes

FFG Act Listed threatening processes which may be in operation within the study site are listed in **Table 8** and where threats are operating or may be in operation, measures to help ameliorate the risks associated with the threat and the proposed development are outlined.

Table 8: FFG Act Threatening Processes and measures to ameliorate those in operation (or may be in operation) within the study site.

Threatening Process	Measures to ameliorate the risk
Inappropriate fire regimes causing disruption to sustainable ecosystem processes and resultant loss of biodiversity	Fire regimes in SE Australia are commonly vastly different to pre-European regimes. The study site has undergone significant changes due to numerous disturbance regimes, including changed fire regimes. There is now limited native vegetation in the understorey or areas of significant habitat present on site. Development of the site will not influence the fire regimes in operation on site. The CEMP will outline measures to limit the risk of fires resulting from construction processes and will have contingencies in place to manage any accidental fire incidents in a rapid and effective manner.
Increase in sediment input into Victorian rivers and streams due to human activities	The impact area does not contain waterways or significant dams or other wet areas and with the construction being of a low impact nature, and with development controls to be implemented via the project CEMP, it will have minimal impacts for waterways in the broader area. Some small sedimentation impacts are expected as part of construction, given the nature of the construction activities. However, the CEMP will detail actions to ensure erosion and sedimentation associated with the proposed works are appropriately controlled and monitored.
Infection of amphibians with Chytrid Fungus, resulting in chytridiomycosis	There are no significant areas of still permanent or semi-permanent water (preferred frog habitat) present on site. As such, the disease is not known and unlikely to be present. Despite this, equipment involved with construction should be thoroughly decontaminated (washed) prior to arriving on site to reduce the risk of introducing Chytrid Fungus.
Invasion of native vegetation by Blackberry <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> L. agg	Blackberry is present at many locations within the study site and the development of a recreational path through these areas is not likely to contribute to the Blackberry problem in the area. In fact, greater access to Blackberry infestations is likely, which will make appropriate control of Blackberry and other high threat weeds easier for land managers.

Threatening Process	Measures to ameliorate the risk
Invasion of native vegetation by environmental weeds	There are several environmental and listed noxious weeds within the study site, including some Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). This report and the CEMP should outline measures to ensure the proposed construction works do not introduce new weed species or spread current weed species during construction works. High threat weeds and WONS should be controlled in the development footprint prior to works taking place, to reduce the chances of spread.
Loss of coarse woody debris from Victorian native forests and woodlands	Historically, woody debris levels have been reduced across the study site because of human activity, in particular firewood collection and inappropriate fire regimes, as well heavy clearing and flood wash. As a result, the study site has very little remaining ground timber, and the site is therefore not acting as important habitat and refuges for reptiles or other ground-dwelling fauna species.
Loss of hollow-bearing trees from Victorian native forests	Loss of hollow-bearing trees has occurred in the past. The site still contains numerous hollow-bearing trees of good value for native fauna due to the presence of significant hollows and its connection to other trees or valuable areas of habitat in the area/region. Efforts have been made to ensure no hollow-bearing trees are to be removed as part of the development. Some hollow-bearing trees are deemed lost due to TPZ impacts, but these trees are to be retained on site and protected from excessive TPZ impacts during construction. The development will not significantly contribute to this threatening process.
Loss of terrestrial climatic habitat caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases	It is likely that climatic influences are already occurring in the study site, although these are inherently difficult to identify and quantify. The most efficient machinery possible that is able to achieve the objectives is being utilised to complete the construction and hence will contribute some low levels of emissions to the atmosphere. Concrete is a known contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, therefore efforts are being made to use the least amount of concrete possible to achieve the project's objective. The development CEMP will detail measures to help minimise greenhouse gas emissions that are involved with the construction process.
Predation of native wildlife by the cat, <i>Felis catus</i>	Feral cat predation is a significant issue throughout SE Australia. The development will not influence the presence or abundance of wild cats in the study site. The proponent should consider nominating the development as a cat-free zone.
Predation of native wildlife by the introduced red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Fox predation is a significant issue throughout SE Australia. The development will not influence the presence or abundance of foxes in the study site.
Reduction in biodiversity resulting from Noisy Miner (<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>) populations in Victoria	Noisy Miners were observed during field assessments, and are at levels which are approaching the level where they are actively excluding other native birds from some areas/habitats. However, the development does not significantly further fragment native vegetation in the study site or change ground cover levels in a way that would benefit this species, and thus does not contribute to this threatened process.
Reduction in biomass and biodiversity of native vegetation through grazing by the rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Rabbits are present in the study site, but in low numbers. The development is not likely to increase rabbit numbers or their associated impacts. In fact, improved access along these public land areas means improved rabbit control will be more achievable for land managers.
The introduction and spread of the large earth bumblebee <i>Bombus terrestris</i> into Victorian terrestrial environments	The development is highly unlikely to be implicated in the introduction of this species into the local environment as part of the proposed works.
The spread of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> from infected sites into parks and reserves, including roadsides, under the control of a state or local government authority	There were no obvious areas of dieback within the study site. There is limited highly susceptible native vegetation present in the study area, therefore the development poses little threat regarding the introduction of this disease to the site. Despite this, all machinery should arrive on site in a clean state, to reduce risks of spreading this disease. Any machinery previously working in a known Phytophthora area are to be washed AND decontaminated with Phytoclean or a similar decontaminant.

Threatening Process	Measures to ameliorate the risk
Threats to native flora and fauna arising from the use by the feral honeybee <i>Apis mellifera</i> of nesting hollows and floral resources	The incursion of nesting hollows by feral honeybee populations is a common problem throughout SE Australia. Honeybees were not observed in tree hollows or hives during any of the site inspections. The development is highly unlikely to contribute to this threatening process.
Use of <i>Phytophthora</i>-infected gravel in construction of roads, bridges and reservoirs	All efforts must be made to avoid bringing soil or gravel onto the site. If unavoidable, the source of gravel and soil used for construction needs to be verified as being <i>Phytophthora</i> -free. It is unlikely that fill needs to be transported onto the site, and use of local soil is recommended if it is required. If outside (non-local) soil must be transported into the study site, vehicles and equipment must arrive on site in a clean condition and any vehicles or equipment that may have been in a <i>Phytophthora</i> infected area must be appropriately decontaminated with a suitable decontaminant, such as Phytoclean or similar.

4.2.5 Planning and Environment Act 1987

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act) governs the planning framework for the use, development, and protection of land in Victoria. The P&E Act provides procedures for the preparation and amendment of the Victoria Planning Provisions and planning schemes. The Act also provides avenues for the acquisition and compliance of permits under local planning schemes.

4.2.6 Land Tenure

The entire footprint of the development occurs within Crown land that is managed by the government agency land manager(s). However, there is waterfront land (within 30 metres of a named waterway) involved for the majority of the development, and a Works on Waterways (WoW) permit will be required to be sought from North East Catchment Management Authority, to permit the construction works on and near the banks of the two creeks (at minimum for the landscaping and stormwater pipe construction, but may also apply to other project works near the creek bank). It is also recommended that liaison with Victorian Fisheries Authority occurs, to ascertain if they have any additional requirements for works in the vicinity of threatened aquatic species or their habitats.

4.2.7 Planning Scheme Zones and Overlays

There are five planning zones across the study site as shown in **Map 6**:

1. **‘Public Park and Recreation Zone’ (PPRZ)**. This is the dominant zone and covers the southern part of the development footprint near Sumsion Gardens, and the part of the alignment that traverses Diamond Park between the Lincoln Causeway and the rail reserve in the far east. The main purpose of which according to State Government of Victoria (2026) is to:
 - Implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
 - To recognise areas for public recreation and open space
 - To protect and conserve areas of significance where appropriate
 - To provide commercial uses where appropriate.
2. **‘Road Zone – Category 1 (RDZ1)**. This ‘Transport Zone’ zone covers the major transport corridors associated with the Hume Freeway and the Lincoln Causeway. The main purpose of which according to State Government of Victoria (2026a) is to:
 - To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
 - To provide for an integrated and sustainable transport system.

- To identify transport land use and land required for transport services and facilities.
 - To provide for the use and development of land that complements, or is consistent with, the transport system or public land reservation.
 - To ensure the efficient and safe use of transport infrastructure and land comprising the transport system.
3. **‘Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)**. This zone covers the area of House and Wodonga Creeks and their banks, which occur west of the Lincoln Causeway. The main purpose of which according to State Government of Victoria (2026b) is to:
- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
 - To protect and conserve the natural environment and natural processes for their historic, scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values.
 - To provide facilities which assist in public education and interpretation of the natural environment with minimal degradation of the natural environment or natural processes.
 - To provide for appropriate resource based uses.
4. **‘Farming Zone (FZ)**. This zone covers the area either side of Wright Road, as well as a small portion of the gravel track which links the rail reserve to the existing path near the entrance to the NERWA water facility, in the far south-east part of the development area. The main purpose of which according to State Government of Victoria (2026c) is to:
- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
 - To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
 - To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
 - To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
 - To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
 - To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
 - To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.
5. **‘Public Use Zone – Transport (PUZ4)**. This zone is associated with the former rail reserve at the termination point of the recreation trail, east of Diamond Park. The main purpose of which according to State Government of Victoria (2026d) is to:
- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
 - To recognise public land use for public utility and community services and facilities.
 - To provide for associated uses that are consistent with the intent of the public land reservation or purpose.

None of the above planning zones have significant requirements for the native vegetation or biodiversity related matters/values on or near the study site. The majority of the study site is covered by one planning overlay (FO), as shown in **Map 7**, and there is one other overlay nearby (Heritage Overlay), but is not being impacted. The Floodway Overlay affects the development which may occur upon this land, with a planning permit application to be submitted before a planning permit can be granted for the completion of bicycle paths and trails, for fencing, for public toilets, and for disabled access ramps (**Map 7**). According to State Government of Victoria (2026e), the FO aims are:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To identify waterways, major flood paths, drainage depressions and high hazard areas which have the greatest risk and frequency of being affected by flooding.

- To ensure that any development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater, minimises flood damage and is compatible with flood hazard, local drainage conditions and the minimisation of soil erosion, sedimentation and silting.
- To reflect any declarations under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 if a declaration has been made.
- To protect water quality and waterways as natural resources by managing urban stormwater, protecting water supply catchment areas, and managing saline discharges to minimise the risks to the environmental quality of water and groundwater.
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

The FO covers nearly the entire study area, except for the area that intersects the Hume Freeway. Therefore, many of the proposed works are affected by this planning overlay and a planning permit application must be submitted before a planning permit is granted. Even though the site is dominated by exotic pasture species with fragmented and highly disturbed patches of native vegetation, a planning permit WILL be required to remove the native vegetation and a full loss assessment (this assessment) is required under s.52.17 'Native Vegetation'.

4.2.8 Planning Policy Framework

The development of land in Victoria is managed through the P&E Act and through the integrated planning schemes of local governments right across Victoria. In relation to developments that have impacts on native vegetation, such as this development, the 'Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation' (the Guidelines) set out and describe the application of Victoria's statewide policy on native vegetation removal. These Guidelines are incorporated into the Victorian Planning Provisions and are embedded within all planning schemes in the state.

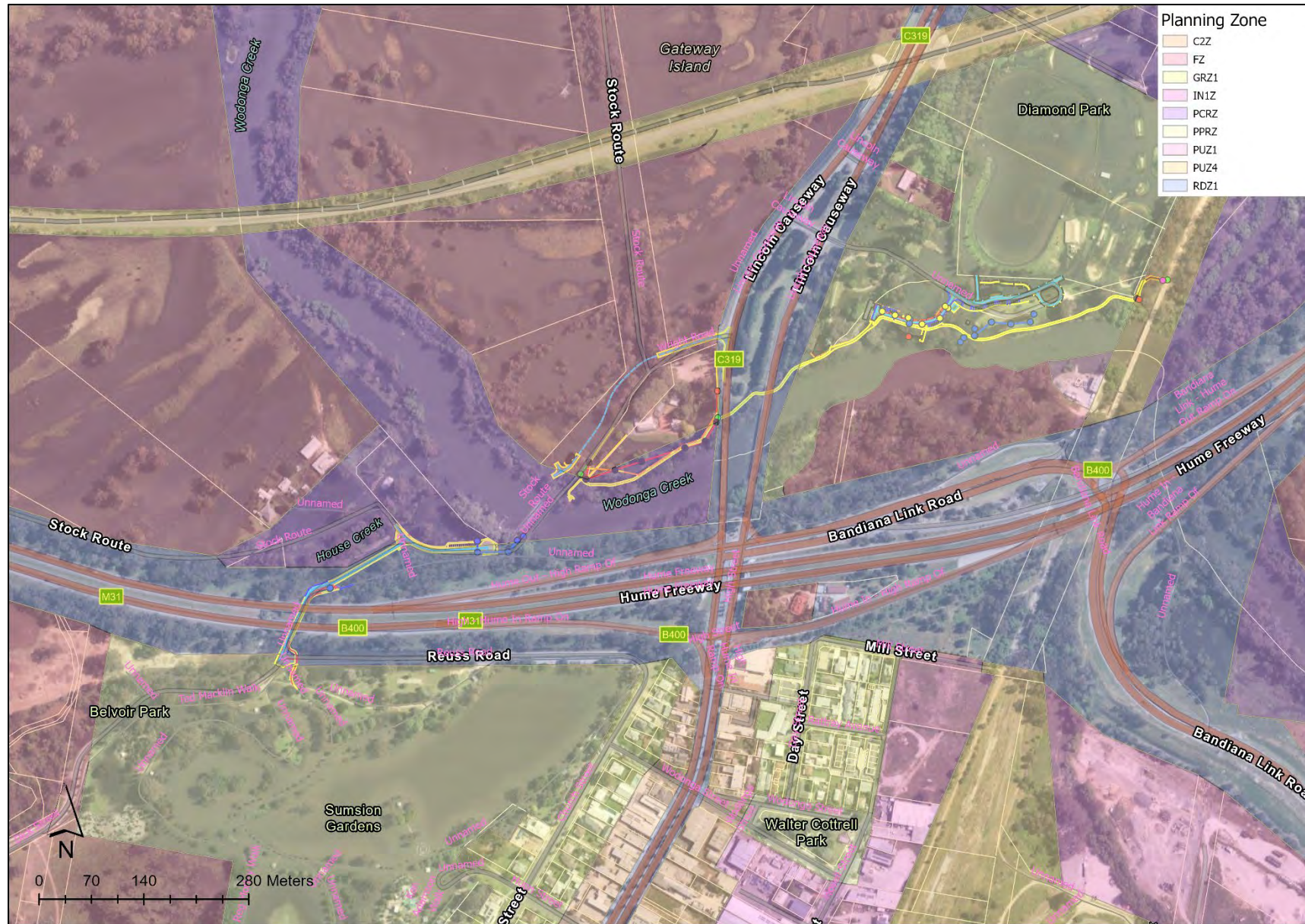
Under the Wodonga Planning Scheme (the Scheme), Clause 52.17 deals with native vegetation and requires a planning permit to allow the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. The Guidelines (see **Section 5**) are in place to provide the detail on protecting native vegetation and ensuring actions consider the avoidance and minimisation of impacts/losses, and offsetting of any losses to native vegetation. Where vegetation does not meet the definition of native vegetation under the Guidelines (patch or scattered trees), the Guidelines do not apply to that vegetation. However, a permit may still be required to remove, destroy or lop the native vegetation under the provisions of the Scheme. The need for a permit for removal of native vegetation can also be triggered by the presence of an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO). However, there are no ESOs in the study site, however the Floodway overlay is likely to require additional permit requirements in relation to that objectives and controls for that overlay. There are also a number of clauses in the Victorian Planning Policy Framework (PPF) which may apply to the development and have been specifically addressed in the sections below, including **Clause 13.04-2S: Erosion and landslip**, and **Clause 14.02-1S: Catchment Planning and Management**.

Clause 13.04-2S: Erosion and landslip

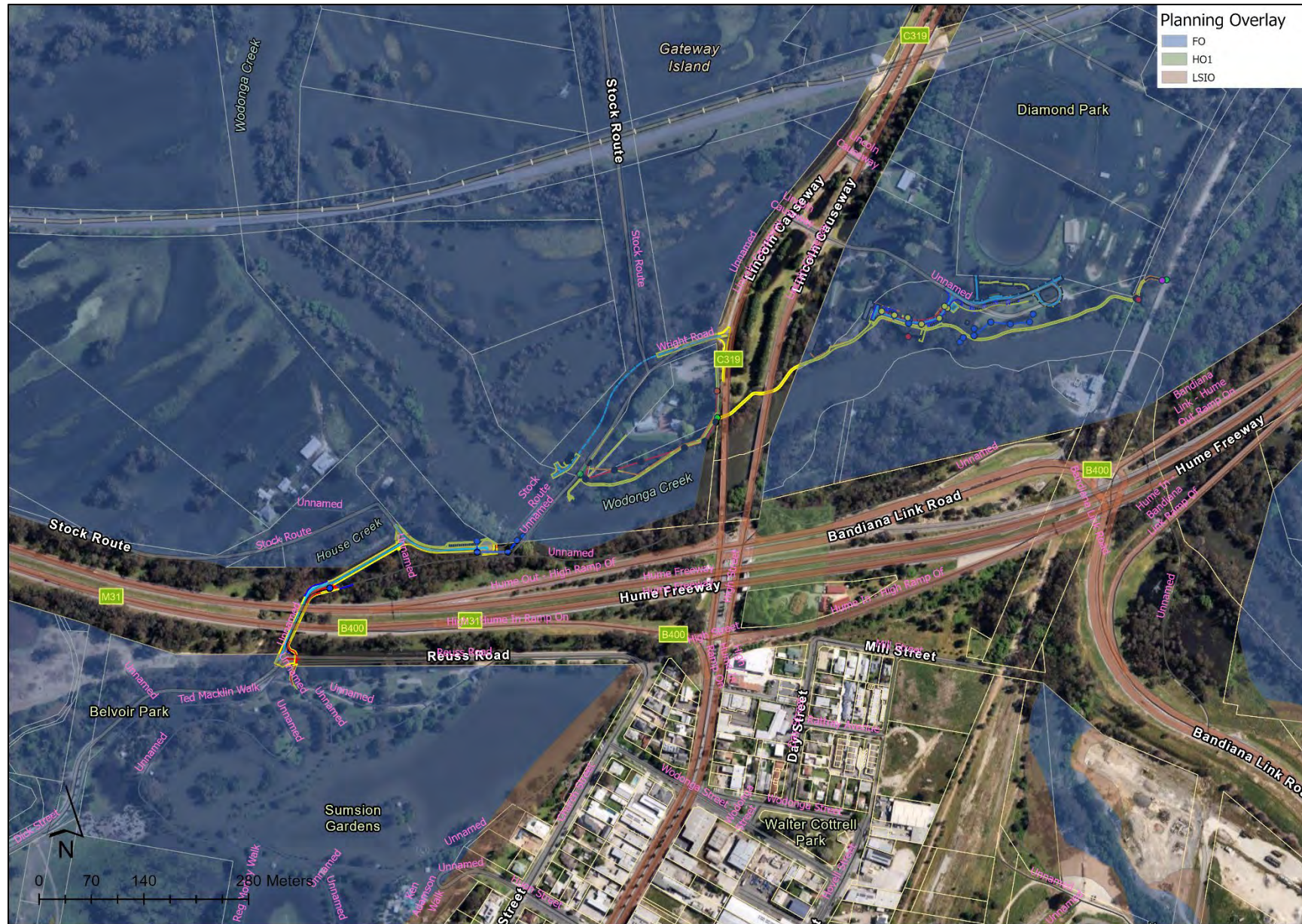
The objective of the SPP Clause 13.04-2S (Erosion and Landslip) is to protect areas of land that are prone to erosion issues, landslip or other soil related degradation issues. **Table 9** describes how strategies in the Clause have been addressed by the design of the recreation trail and associated development.

Clause 14.02-1S: Catchment Planning and Management

The objective of the SPP Clause 14.02-1S (Catchment Planning and Management) is to manage development in a manner to help protect and restore catchments, waterways, groundwater and the marine environment. **Table 10** described the efforts taken to address the requirements of this Clause during development planning.



Map 6: Study site planning zones (PPRZ, RDZ1, PCRZ, FZ and PUZ4).



Map 7: Study site planning overlays (Flood Overlay), Heritage Overlay to south but unaffected.

Table 9: Clause 13.04-2S and how the development addresses the requirements of the Clause

Clause 13.047-2S requirements	How the development addresses the SPP Clause requirements
Identify areas subject to erosion or instability in planning schemes and when considering the use and development of land.	The development does not intersect any areas that are particularly erosion or instability prone, or which are currently experiencing erosion or instability issues. There are permanent waterways (but no dams or wetlands) immediately adjacent parts of the development footprint. Measures are to be put in place via the development CEMP to address soil and erosion management to protect these areas.
Prevent inappropriate development in unstable areas or areas prone to erosion.	As above. The development is being placed on existing disturbed land. Protection of nearby creeks will be accounted for via erosion and sediment controls, with these requirements and measures to be incorporated in the CEMP. Where earth works are required as part of construction, drainage will be incorporated where necessary as to prevent any alteration to local drainage patterns.
Promote vegetation retention, planting and rehabilitation in areas prone to erosion and land instability.	Efforts have been made to site the development on suitable land with minimal native vegetation and in areas with no erosion or land instability issues. Bare areas after earthworks are to be appropriately protected from wind and water erosion, via planting with sterile grass and/or erosion prevention spray techniques. The CEMP will contain actions to address these risks.

Table 10: Clause 14.02-1S and how the development addresses the requirements of the Clause

Clause 14.02-1S requirements	How the development addresses the SPP Clause requirements
Ensure the continued availability of clean, high-quality drinking water by protecting water catchments and water supply facilities.	No permanent waterways or wetlands are being intersected by the development's impact footprint, with the exception of a very small outflow pipe in the vicinity of the playground which is above the creek high water mark, and minor works on the banks near the miniature trains facility. The measures to minimise impacts of works upon the nearby creeks and to minimise the effects of increased run-off, erosion or siltation during or after construction will be outlined in detail in the CEMP.
Consider the impacts of catchment management on downstream water quality and freshwater, coastal and marine environments.	As above. Works are to incorporate standard construction controls to help control flows and sedimentation issues coming from the entire site, with run-off drainage at set intervals to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation events, and adequate drainage to occur across pathways in natural drainage areas. There are no anticipated impacts to downstream water quality from the development. The effects and management of increased run-off, erosion or siltation during or after construction will be outlined in detail in the CEMP.
Retain natural drainage corridors with vegetated buffer zones at least 30 metres wide along each side of a waterway to: maintain the natural drainage function, stream habitat and wildlife corridors and landscape values; minimise erosion of stream banks and verges; reduce polluted surface runoff from adjacent land uses.	As above. No permanent waterways or wetlands are being significantly impacted by the development footprint. There are minor low points and natural drainage areas along the alignment that will be accounted for in the CEMP, where necessary, with drains or other works to prevent any alteration to broader landscape drainage. The CEMP will contain actions to ensure no pollution is contributed to the receiving environment during construction.

Clause 14.02-1S requirements	How the development addresses the SPP Clause requirements
Undertake measures to minimise the quantity and retard the flow of stormwater from developed areas.	The development includes a detailed CEMP which will include stormwater management controls to treat water that runs off from the development and retard its flow. These controls, along with the development being small impacts along a narrow development footprint, there are no significant stormwater implications arising from the development.
Require appropriate measures to filter sediment and wastes from stormwater prior to its discharge into waterways, including the preservation of floodplain or other land for wetlands and retention basins.	As above. The natural swales and drainage areas will have sediment controls installed during construction, and any major drains will have litter traps to reduce any pollutants or debris flowing from the site in significant rain events.
Ensure that development at or near waterways provide for the protection and enhancement of the environmental qualities of waterways and their instream uses.	As above. The development does not significantly interfere with any major waterbodies, and only has minor potential influence on several informal drainage areas. Designs include run-off drainage/controls at set intervals to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation events. There are no anticipated impacts to downstream water quality from the development. The effects and management of increased run-off, erosion or siltation during or after construction will be outlined in detail in the CEMP.
Require appropriate measures to restrict sediment discharges from construction sites.	As above. The development CEMP will contain actions to ensure erosion and sedimentation issues are adequately addressed during construction and rehabilitation, and that no significant levels of sediment will be discharged into the environment.
Ensure planning is coordinated with the activities of catchment management authorities.	There are no major works in the named waterways. However minor works are occurring for a pipe installation, and minor landscaping works are being completed in the interface (within the banks) of the Wodonga Creek in the vicinity of the miniature trains area. As a result, the proponent is required to liaise with the North East CMA to attain a WoW permit for the works.
Ensure that water quality infrastructure is designed to minimise risk of harm to surface waters and groundwater.	The water quality infrastructure associated with this development is adequately designed and engineered to safely capture and manage stormwater flows that are expected to be generated from the construction areas. Furthermore, soil and sediment barriers and other devices are to be used during construction, and will be monitored and serviced regularly to ensure they are operating to their optimal potential. Liaison is recommended between Council and Victorian Fisheries Authority, to ensure their requirements around protection of fish and fish habitat is incorporated into the CEMP's development controls.

4.2.9 Environmental Protection Act 2017

The purpose of the *Environmental Protection Act 2017* (EP Act) is to prevent and minimise the risks to the environment and human health from pollution sources and waste disposal. The development has been designed in a manner that avoids as much native vegetation as possible (due to appropriate site selection and re-designs) and utilises existing disturbed areas, with the aim of reducing the development's impact on the receiving environment. The development will have a CEMP in place, which will outline management actions that are to be undertaken to protect the local environment from impacts from development, such as noise pollution controls, dust controls, vibration controls, light pollution controls, spills and leak controls, no-go areas, and erosion and sedimentation controls.

4.2.10 Environment Effects Act 1978

The purpose of the *Environmental Effects Act 1978 (EE Act)* is to ensure any development with the potential to cause significant impacts to the environment are adequately assessed. It generally relates to larger developments and if applicable, the Act requires the proponent to submit an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) to the Minister for Planning, enabling the relevant authorities to adequately scrutinise the potential effects of the development prior to any development approvals being granted. The '*Ministerial Guidelines for the Assessment of Environmental Effects under the Environmental Effects Act 1978*' documents criteria to help a proponent determine whether an EES may be required for the development, and they include consideration of individual potential development impacts as well as combination (cumulative) impacts.

The proposed development has been assessed against the individual and combination potential effects criteria based on the level of proposed native vegetation removal and other expected direct and indirect impacts of the development, the bioregional conservation status of the EVCs being impacted, and impacts on EPBC Act and FFG Act listed species and communities. These assessments, despite observing the precautionary principle and ensuring impacts are over-estimated rather than under-estimated, indicate with high confidence that the development will not trigger a referral to the Minister for Planning for an EES determination. The EE Act referral criteria have been addressed in detail in **Table 11** and **Table 12** Below.

Table 11: EE Act Referral Criteria - Individual type effects

EE Act Referral Criteria	How the Criteria Applies to the Development
<p>Potential clearing of 10 ha or more of native vegetation from an area that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is of an Ecological Vegetation Class identified as endangered by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (in accordance with Appendix 2 of Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework); or • is, or is likely to be, of very high conservation significance (as defined in accordance with Appendix 3 of Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework); and • is not authorised under an approved Forest Management Plan or Fire Protection Plan 	<p>There are low levels of native vegetation on site, essentially limited to regenerating canopy and some large trees, with little native cover in the ground layer. There are small impacts being incurred in some patches of vegetation, however much of this is being retained despite being considered lost. Only six trees are to be removed, none of which are significant or large trees. The majority of vegetation present is of very low quality. At 0.7 hectares of mostly low quality patch vegetation losses, there is far less than 10 ha of native vegetation required to be cleared as part of the development.</p>
<p>Potential long-term loss of a significant proportion (e.g. 1 to 5 percent depending on the conservation status of the species) of known remaining habitat or population of a threatened species within Victoria</p>	<p>No moderate or significant impacts to threatened species are expected, with impacts expected to be low to negligible.</p>
<p>Potential long-term change to the ecological character of a wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention or in 'A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia'</p>	<p>The development does not affect any RAMSAR wetlands or wetlands on the national directory.</p>
<p>Potential extensive or major effects on the health or biodiversity of aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems, over the long term</p>	<p>The development will have minimal impact upon aquatic systems (with minor low impacts to the two nearby creeks) and avoidance and mitigation measures are being applied via this report and the CEMP, to reduce direct and indirect impacts to local waterways as much as possible.</p>

EE Act Referral Criteria	How the Criteria Applies to the Development
Potential extensive or major effects on the health, safety or well-being of a human community, due to emissions to air or water or chemical hazards or displacement of residences	There are no negative effects forecast for the health, safety or well-being of a community. Health and wellbeing levels are likely to improve in the local and broader community (provision of greenspaces, playgrounds, recreational paths and greater connection to nature and local waterways), as a result of this development.
Potential greenhouse gas emissions exceeding 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per annum, directly attributable to the operation of the facility.	There will be low levels of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the development, well under the trigger of 200,000 tonnes. The CEMP will include actions to ensure emissions are kept low from construction activities.

Table 12: EE Act Referral Criteria - Cumulative type effects

EE Act Referral Criteria	How the Criteria Applies to the Development
Potential clearing of 10 ha or more of native vegetation, unless authorised under an approved Forest Management Plan or Fire Protection Plan	See above. After further avoidance measures through redesigns, there is very little native vegetation of any significant value being removed, and significantly less than 10 hectares of native vegetation is required to be cleared as part of the development. Efforts are also being made to retain as much vegetation as possible, even if it has been deemed lost as part of this assessment.
Matters listed under the FFG Act 1988: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - potential loss of a significant area of a listed ecological community; or - potential loss of a genetically important population of an endangered or threatened species (listed or nominated for listing), including as a result of loss or fragmentation of habitats; or - potential loss of critical habitat; or - potential significant effects on habitat values of a wetland supporting migratory bird species 	<p>There will be minimal impacts to any FFG listed ecological communities (two low quality examples of TECs present/likely to be present), fauna habitats or threatened species as a result of this development. No flora protected under the FFG Act were found on site. Numerous threatened species that have a possibility of frequenting the site on occasion or regularly, but are not likely to experience any significant impacts from the development. Therefore, the development will not significantly impact FFG matters.</p> <p>There will be no impacts to the local wetlands as there are none present or nearby. There are measures in place via the CEMP to minimise impacts to adjoining drains and waterways in the local area. Therefore, the development will not significantly impact migratory species.</p> <p>The development does not impact any critical habitat.</p>
Potential extensive or major effects on landscape values of regional importance, especially where recognised by a planning scheme overlay or within or adjoining land reserved under the National Parks Act 1975	There are no expected impacts to landscape values as a result of the development. The development does not impact on a National Park.
Potential extensive or major effects on land stability, acid sulphate soils or highly erodible soils over the short or long term	There are minimal to no impacts expected for land stability, acid soils or erodible soils over the short or long term as a result of this development. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be administered via the development and implementation of the CEMP to further reduce any potential risks.

EE Act Referral Criteria	How the Criteria Applies to the Development
Potential extensive or major effects on beneficial uses of waterbodies over the long term due to changes in water quality, stream flows or regional groundwater levels	The development is unlikely to result in long-term changes to the hydrology of the local area. It will not negatively impact beneficial uses of nearby waterbodies, or significantly impact water quality, stream flows or groundwater levels.
Potential extensive or major effects on social or economic well-being due to direct or indirect displacement of non-residential land use activities	There will be no negative effects upon social or economic wellbeing due to displacement of non-residential land use activities. Social and economic wellbeing is likely to be positively affected by the development.
Potential for extensive displacement of residences or severance of residential access to community resources due to infrastructure development	The development will not displace or disconnect residents from community resources. The development will facilitate better community access and provide greater social and recreational opportunities for residents in the broader development area.

4.2.11 Water Act 1989

The purpose of the *Water Act 1989* (WA Act) is to provide a legal framework for the management of water resources in Victoria. Works within and in the vicinity of water bodies and designated (named) waterways are regulated under the Act by the local Catchment Management Authority (North East CMA). As the development does have potential to directly or indirectly affect named waterways, wetlands, rivers or their banks or the riparian vegetation on or within 30 metres of a named waterway, the development **does** require approval or a WoW permit from the North East CMA.

4.2.12 Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) provides a legal framework for the establishment of Catchment Management Authorities and lists declared noxious weeds and pest animals with a hierarchy of risk level and various landowner management responsibilities for controlling the pests, depending on their classification (Agriculture Victoria 2024). Declared noxious weeds found during the site assessments are listed in **Appendix 1A** and the pest animal species detected are listed in **Appendix 2A**.

The recommendations of this report include measures to limit the introduction of weeds into the study site during construction and maintenance and to prevent weeds entering or from leaving the site on construction machinery. It is recommended that high threat weed are controlled (physical removal preferred, where appropriate) prior to works being undertaken in infested areas. The development will also include a CEMP that will have more specific detail on how the risks associated with noxious weeds and pest animals will be controlled before, during and after construction.

4.2.13 Plant Biosecurity Act 2010

The *Plant Biosecurity Act 2010* (Biosecurity Act) is a legislative framework that is in place to manage the spread of declared pests under various legal Orders declared via the Act. There are no known pests or diseases in the study site that are listed in the Biosecurity Act.

Phytophthora cinnamomi (or Cinnamon Fungus) is another biosecurity risk which attacks plant root systems which act to cause tree decline and eventual death due to trees not having the capability to draw suitable water and nutrients. Patches of dead trees and shrubs can often indicate the presence of this disease and certain trees and shrubs, such as Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.), are particularly susceptible.

The disease is spread through the movement of infected plants and soil, and through movement of machinery that has worked in an infested area that has not been appropriately decontaminated. There is a risk that Cinnamon Fungus is present in the study site, or may be introduced to the study site on vehicles and machinery.

There is no cure for Phytophthora. While a Cinnamon Fungus sensitive species (Eucalyptus species) are located throughout the study site, but the majority are not being removed as part of construction, and with CEMP controls in place, the risks associated with this disease are low. Where patch vegetation is present efforts are being made to minimise impacts in these areas, much of it is being retained, and even where patches are considered lost due to TPZ encroachment or uncertain future uses, all efforts are being made to retain and protect these trees and patches from development impacts.

In an attempt to safeguard this retained vegetation from the introduction of Cinnamon Fungus (or another disease), the development must ensure adherence to decontaminating all machinery and equipment prior to arriving on site, via appropriately washing down machinery, which is best practice at preventing the introduction of this disease into the study site. Import of soil is to be minimised, and if required, is to be sourced from clean sites with no evidence of tree dieback.

5 Victoria's Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation.

The Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation (the Guidelines) were incorporated into the Victorian Planning Provisions and all planning schemes in Victoria in December 2017 (DELWP 2017). Under the Guidelines, all applications for a permit to remove native vegetation in Victoria must follow a three-step approach to achieving no net loss to biodiversity:

1. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation;
2. Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided; and
3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

In accordance with the Guidelines, an application to remove native vegetation must clearly demonstrate that no options exist to further avoid and minimise the impacts of native vegetation removal, that will not undermine the objectives of the proposed use or development (DELWP 2017).

5.1 Avoid and Minimise Statement

The following Avoid and Minimise Statement has been developed in accordance with the decision guidelines outlined in Table 2, page 17 of the *Assessor's Handbook for Applications to Remove, Destroy or Lop Native Vegetation* (DELWP 2017). The proposed development footprint has been selected carefully, ensuring there are very few fauna habitats or areas of significant native vegetation present at impact areas. The design process has facilitated a design that incorporates Red-Gum Environmental Consulting's initial feedback via the original ecological assessment, and now:

- Has minimised the proposed impacts to the creek banks in the vicinity of the pedestrian swing bridge and the miniature trains facility, retracting works back to just minor landscaping works to protect waterway values.
- Has relocated some of the proposed infrastructure (such as carparks) in Diamond Park to try to protect trees and their TPZ area, which has saved a number of trees from more significant impacts.
- Despite a number of trees and patch vegetation being deemed lost in the areas immediately adjacent to the proposed works, efforts are being made to retain as much of this vegetation as possible, and trees being retained will be signed and barriered (to protect SRZ zones) to ensure no accidental losses are caused during construction.
- With minor changes to path and infrastructure in final designs, only six (6) trees are to be directly removed (none of which are large or hollow-bearing), and of the remaining 32 trees deemed lost, all of these are to be retained despite contributing to the offset calculations.
- Proposes to enhance the reserve areas with appropriately selected and sourced local indigenous species that are suited to the planting locations, according to EVC type and micro-habitat requirements of selected native species.
- Will utilise appropriate native species (such as nectar producing eucalypts and wattles) for landscape plantings and street trees, where practicable.

The following strategies are to be implemented to minimise the impacts of the development (construction stages) on surrounding environments and any native vegetation:

- All personnel involved with any development on the site are to be ‘tool-boxed’ on the importance of minimising their impact on retained vegetation beyond the impact zone, adherence to the defined extent of works and any permit conditions. The tool-box talks are to include provisions such as avoiding work in the TPZs of trees, avoidance of all areas of native vegetation near the site, and processes to report any significant finds (biodiversity or cultural) during construction.
- The construction method and type of machinery selected to be used on the development is to be cognisant of the construction footprint and the loss zone is to be the main construction corridor always employed (vehicles to always remain in mapped and assessed impact/loss areas).
- Machinery to be used on the development shall be thoroughly cleaned before entering the site to remove all seeds of invasive weeds and non-natives that could invade the site, and to decontaminate any potential Cinnamon Fungus being harboured in soils or debris carried by machinery or equipment. Consideration is also to be given to diseases such as Cinnamon Fungus (*Phytophthora*) during works, which may be present already in the study site, and if suspected, must be dealt with appropriately to prevent spreading the disease (decontamination of machinery prior to leaving site).
- The site extent (boundaries) will be clearly defined (as will all retained sensitive ‘no-go’ zones) prior to the construction period commencing and will remain in place until works are completed and the site is adequately rehabilitated.
- The importation of soil will be minimised. If required, soil should be sourced locally from a reputable supplier to reduce the risks of introducing unwanted contaminants to the site. Soils removed from site must be deposited in an approved fill deposit location.
- Any noxious or serious environmental weeds within the loss area will be sprayed or mechanically removed (preferred) before works commence. Any sprays MUST be aquatic friendly and applied according to the label. Machines must be decontaminated upon leaving infested areas and prior to entering other areas (especially any higher value native bushland or waterways).
- Erosion and sedimentation controls must be placed downslope of construction areas in natural drainage areas, to limit sedimentation of adjoining waterways.

5.2 Proposed Native Vegetation Removal

The location of trees and the extent of native vegetation patches were mapped within the study site. Fieldwork determined that bioregion and EVC mapping was relatively accurate in the surrounding areas, and that due to lack of any substantial native species across most of the site, including key indicator species, allocation of EVCs for patches in cleared areas followed the EVC boundaries in the modelled 1750 EVC spatial data.

The condition of the native patches was assessed in relation to standard methods provided by the Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual (VQAM - DSE 2004 and amendments), Appendix 6 of the Assessors Handbook (DELWP 2018) and the relevant EVC benchmarks (DEECA 2023). The assessments were undertaken by an experienced accredited assessor from Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd (Stuart Mendham – VQA Assessor since 2010). The results of the assessment are mapped in **Map 8**, with representative photos of the areas where the proposed development is occurring available in **Appendix 4**, and photos of the lost native vegetation are available in **Appendix 5**.

The proposed removal of native vegetation was assessed in accordance with the latest development design (revision F), as approved and provided by the client (**Map 1** and **Appendix 8**). Proposed native vegetation removal is summarised below in **Table 13**. No past removal of native vegetation has occurred in the

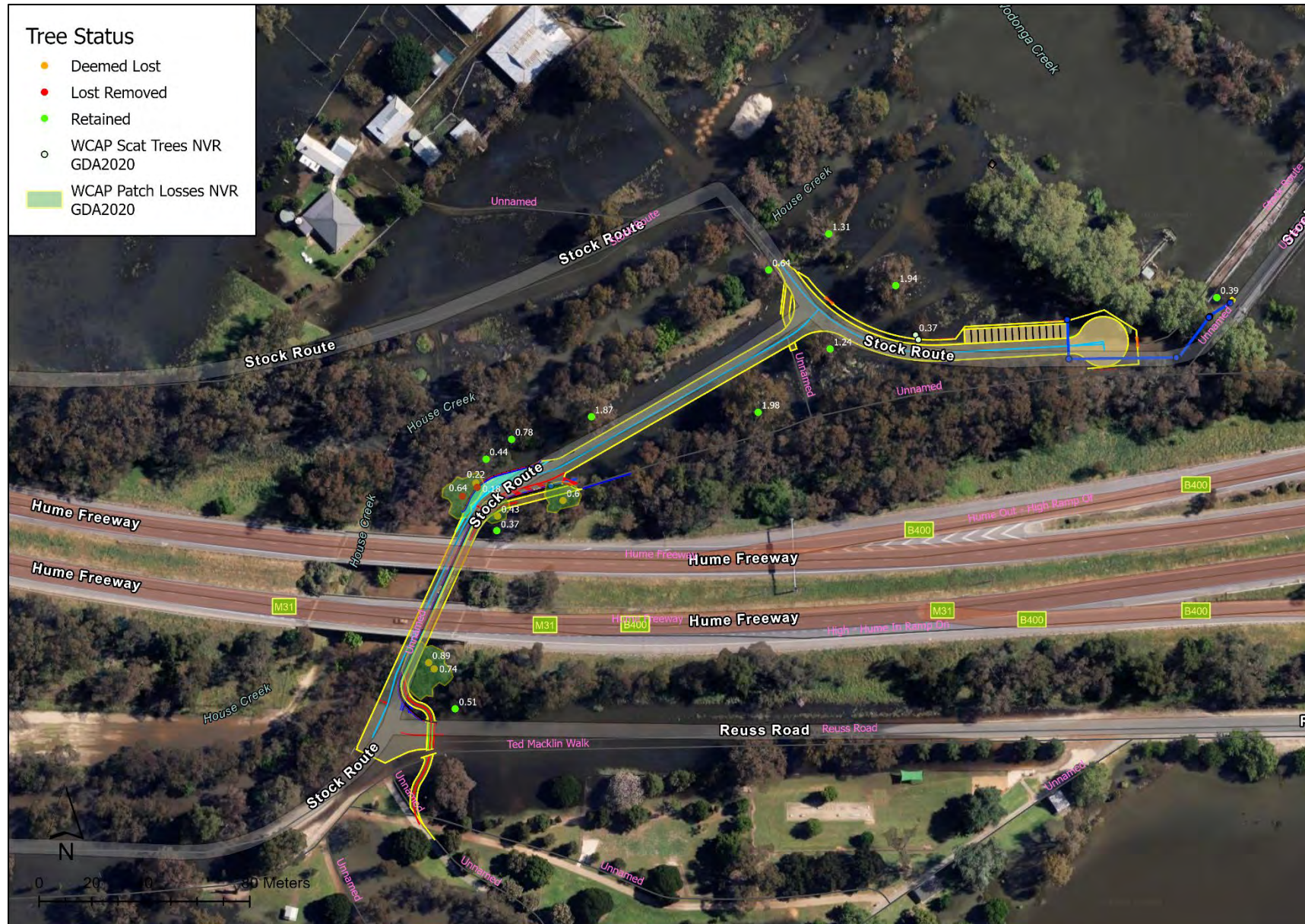
development footprint within the previous five-year period, and losses only include proposed losses associated with this development. All native vegetation beyond the impact zones (loss area) is being retained. Efforts are to be made to retain as much vegetation as possible, even where vegetation has been deemed lost as part of this assessment. Large trees to have signage and barriers established prior to works starting, to prevent accidental encroachment by works activities.

An NVR report (374_20260209_IJZ) for the development was provided by DEECA's online NVR Map on 9 February 2026, using the site condition scores from the native vegetation assessment (patch vegetation) and the locations of lost scattered trees, and it provides details of overall vegetation losses and offset requirements. This report is provided in **Appendix 6** and is summarised in the following sections. The final recreation project design proposes to remove a maximum of 0.7 hectares of mostly low quality native vegetation (includes vegetation being removed and vegetation that is deemed lost due to TPZ impacts), comprising of three (3) scattered trees (one of which is large), and patch vegetation consisting of predominantly or entirely overstorey only (including 15 large patch trees). However, much of this vegetation is being retained and protected despite being considered lost. Fifteen (15) large patch trees, one (1) large scattered tree and two (2) small scattered trees, are to be deemed lost, yet only six small to medium trees are being removed. Losses are outlined in **Map 8** and consist of vegetation (scattered trees and patches) from two EVCs in the Victorian Riverina (VRiv) bioregion, including low quality patch vegetation with a bioregional conservation status as follows:

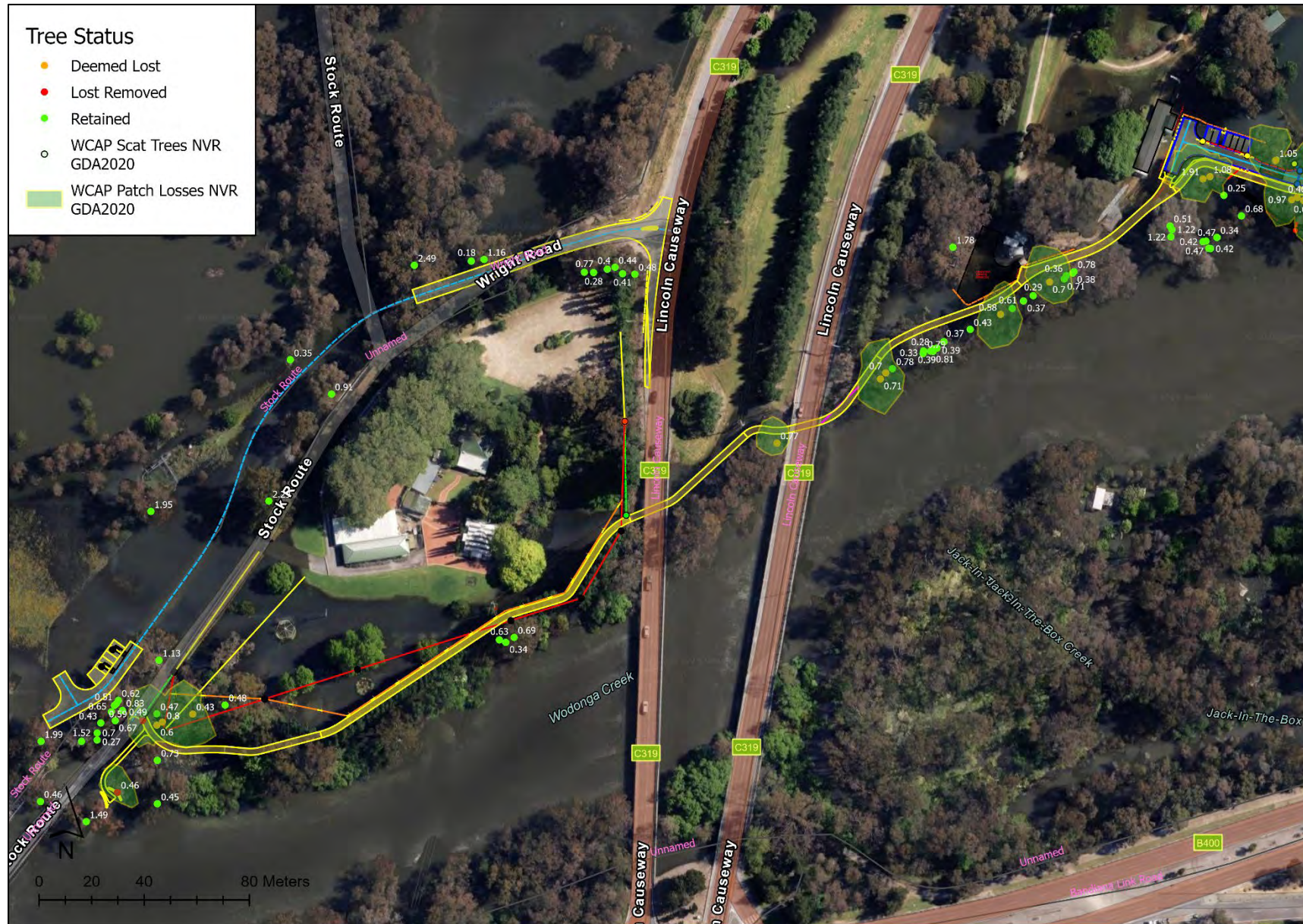
- **VRiv – Riverine Grassy Woodland** (EVC 295 – Vulnerable).
- **VRiv – Riverine Swampy Woodland** (EVC 815 – Vulnerable).

Table 13: Native vegetation removal details.

Proposed vegetation removal details	
Assessment pathway	Detailed
Extent of removal	0.7 ha
No. large trees to be removed (or deemed lost)	16
General offset amount	0.2690 general habitat units
Total number of large trees that offset must protect	16
Minimum strategic biodiversity score	0.4275



Map 8a: Proposed Losses - Southwest. See also NVR report in Appendix 6. See also Appendix 10.



Map 8b: Proposed Losses - Central. See also NVR report in Appendix 6.



Map 8c: Proposed Losses - East. See also the NVR report in Appendix 6.

5.2.1 Habitat Hectares

As per the Guidelines, areas of native vegetation that meet the definition are called a 'patch'. Within a patch, areas of relatively uniform quality for each EVC within the patches are termed 'habitat zones' (HZ). Where there are habitat zones of the same EVC on the same tenure, and undergoing the same management regime, but separated by roads or have other EVCs in between, these are given a separate habitat zone and VQA assessment. Where large habitat zones (>1 hectare) occur and have varying conditions across the zone, these are treated as one habitat zone UNLESS any of the different condition areas score 15 points higher or lower in the habitat hectare assessment method, in which case they would be broken up into two or more separate habitat zones (i.e. high quality zone and low quality zone of the same EVC). Condition was generally uniform (low quality) across all patches assessed, and the 15 point rule was not used to split any habitat zones.

Within the development site (including all impact areas for facility and path installations) there are a total of eighteen (18) NVR habitat zones (HZ) being impacted from ten habitat patches 1a to 10a (in **Appendix 6**) identified across the study site. Each patch was given its own site number, hence some habitat loss zones are numbered a, b or c, if there are multiple tree losses in one patch. VQA assessments were conducted by a qualified VQA assessor in each HZ, ensuring one assessment was conducted in a representative part of each EVC, and if EVCs were separated by another EVC, or within a different bioregion, then another VQA assessment was undertaken, as per the Guidelines. The results of the condition assessment are provided in **Table 14** and **14a**, with the number of habitat hectares listed for each habitat zone; all are to be fully removed as part of the development (but most consist of just canopy and few to no groundcover natives), and there are no partial removals occurring. Representative photos of the areas/vegetation proposed to be removed are provided in **Appendix 5**.

5.3 Assessment Pathway of Application

In Victoria, applications to impact or remove native vegetation are categorised into three assessment pathway categories: basic, intermediate or detailed. The category of the pathway is determined by the location of the site and extent of the native vegetation that is proposed to be impacted or removed. The location classification is divided into three categories and has been mapped across the entire state by DEECA's NatureKit interactive mapping system. The mapping system can be accessed here: ([NatureKit Victoria \(biodiversity.vic.gov.au\)](https://biodiversity.vic.gov.au)).

The second part of the calculation to determine the assessment pathway, is the extent of the vegetation proposed to be impacted/removed. This calculation considers the total area (hectares) of native vegetation proposed to be removed, which is made up of patch size and scattered tree areas which are turned into hectares, with both combining to give an overall loss size. The second part of this calculation is the assessment of whether any large trees are proposed to be removed, either as scattered trees or those occurring in patches.

The proposal will require the removal of slightly more than 0.5 hectares, including large trees (deemed losses only), therefore the application for removal of this native vegetation must meet the requirements of, and be assessed in, the **detailed assessment pathway**. The NVR in **Appendix 6** outlines the patch, scattered tree and large tree components of the native vegetation being lost.

Table 14: Habitat hectare results for the eighteen native vegetation habitat zones (1a to 10a) within the study site

Site ID		1	2	3	3	4	4	5	6	6	
Habitat Zone ID		a	a	a	b	a	b	a	a	b	
Bioregion		VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	
EVC #: Name		RGW 295	RGW 295	RGW 295	RGW 295	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	
VQA Component	Max Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	
Site Condition	Large Trees	10	10	0	0	0	7	7	8	8	8
	Canopy Cover	5	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5
	Lack of Weeds	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Understorey	25	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Recruitment	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	3	3
	Organic Matter	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	3	3	3
	Logs	5	0	2	3	3	2	2	0	0	0
	Total Site Score		26	20	20	20	29	29	31	24	24
Landscape Value	Patch Size	10	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	10	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
	Distance to Core	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Total Landscape Score		3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Habitat Score	100	29	24	24	24	33	33	35	28	28	
Habitat points = #/100	1	0.29	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.28	0.28	
Condition Score Applied (i.e. partial)		0.29	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.28	0.28	
Habitat Zone impacted (loss) area (ha)		0.027	0.017	0.008	0.012	0.015	0.063	0.014	0.035	0.030	
General Habitat Units (from NVR)		0.011	0.006	0.002	0.004	0.005	0.023	0.005	0.011	0.009	

Table 14a: Habitat hectare results for the native vegetation habitat zones within the study site continued

Site ID		6	7	7	7	8	9	9	9	10	
Habitat Zone ID		c	a	b	c	a	a	b	c	a	
Bioregion		VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	VRiv	
EVC #: Name		SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	SRW 815	
VQA Component	Max Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	
Site Condition	Large Trees	10	8	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	10
	Canopy Cover	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
	Lack of Weeds	15	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	7	0
	Understorey	25	5	15	15	15	5	5	5	5	5
	Recruitment	10	3	6	6	6	5	0	0	0	10
	Organic Matter	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Logs	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total Site Score		24	39	39	39	35	25	25	25	33
Landscape Value	Patch Size	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Neighbourhood	10	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Distance to Core	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Total Landscape Score		4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Habitat Score	100	28	42	42	42	38	28	28	28	36	
Habitat points = #/100	1	0.28	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.38	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.36	
Condition Score Applied (i.e. partial)		0.28	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.38	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.36	
Habitat Zone impacted (loss) area (ha)		0.030	0.037	0.203	0.066	0.013	0.011	0.004	0.004	0.006	
General Habitat Units (from NVR)		0.009	0.017	0.094	0.030	0.007	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.003	

5.4 Offset Requirements

To ensure a gain to Victoria's biodiversity that is equivalent to the loss resulting from the proposed removal of native vegetation, compensatory offsets are required. Losses and gains are measured in general and/or species habitat scores or units. The offset must also include at least one large tree for every large tree removed.

For a detailed assessment pathway application, the species-general offset test will determine if a general offset, species offset or combination of both is required. The results of the species-general offset test are provided in **Appendix 6** and summarised below in **Table 15**.

Table 15: Summary of the DEECA Native Vegetation Removal Report

Site Attribute	Outcome
Location category	1
Extent of native vegetation loss	0.07 hectares
Assessment pathway	Detailed (>.5 ha with LTs)
Strategic Biodiversity Value score	See Appendix 6
Modelled habitat for any threatened species	Modelled habitat for 42 species, however all registered 0.0000 to 0.0005 proportional impact % in the NVR.
Type of offset required	General
Offset amount (general habitat units)	0.2690 GHUs
Offset vicinity	North East CMA or Wodonga Council
Minimum Strategic Biodiversity Value score for offset	0.4275
Large tree requirements for offset	16 Large trees

5.5 Proposed Offset Strategy

The proponent intends to purchase the offset credits from the Victorian Native Vegetation Credit Register (NVCR) through a registered offset broker. A search of the Native Vegetation Credit Register (NVCR) has been completed and there are suitable general habitat unit offset options available for purchase (see **Appendix 7**). A quote was not yet sourced from Vegetation Link, but may be done so if requested to help inform the client about expected costs (**Appendix 11**). Once this NVR report is approved, purchase of the offsets will be arranged through Vegetation Link, and the client is aware that payment of the offset obligation must take place prior to any work starting on the development.

6 Key Ecological Values and Recommendations

This section identifies the key ecological features of the study site and provides a summary of the potential implications of the proposed development on these values, including recommendations to assist the proponent to design and implement the development construction processes to minimise impacts on biodiversity.

The primary measure to reduce impacts to biodiversity values within the study site is to avoid and minimise removal of native vegetation and terrestrial habitat. However, selection of the site was done in a manner to ensure an appropriate site was selected which contains very little and/or low quality native vegetation. Impacts to native vegetation have been avoided and minimised further to the greatest extent possible as part of redesigns, while still retaining features of the development that make it viable to undertake for the proponent, with numerous large trees and some small trees now being avoided and protected, particularly in the Diamond Park area. Furthermore, vegetation deemed lost for this assessment due to TPZ encroachment (32 trees) will also be retained, and construction impacts minimised to the greatest extent possible in their vicinity.

Works must be limited to those areas mapped as dedicated impact/loss areas. The results of this assessment should therefore be incorporated into the final development design documentation, by adding the flora and fauna mapping information into the planning maps and the CEMP, ensuring that all retained vegetation in the vicinity of the impact areas are appropriately protected (signage and barriers) from development impacts.

Final design plans and on-ground works are aiming to retain as much of the mapped vegetation and habitat values as possible, even if these values have already been considered 'lost' for the purposes of calculating vegetation impacts and offset obligations required for the development. All areas of native vegetation and sensitive habitats beyond those in the impact zones (construction areas) in this report are to be appropriately treated as no-go zones during construction, and are not to be encroached upon as the development progresses. Compliance with this requirement must be documented in the CEMP by the responsible person.

A summary of the potential development implications of the study site and recommendations to minimise ecological impacts during the construction phase of the development is provided below in **Table 16**.

Table 16: Summary of key ecological values, potential implications and recommendations to minimise impacts arising from the development.

Site feature	Implications of the proposed development	Recommendations
Native vegetation	<p>The permanent removal of a maximum of 0.07 hectares of mostly low to very low quality native vegetation.</p> <p>The application is being assessed via the detailed assessment pathway. NB: Impacts to native flora and fauna are all well below the specific offset threshold for the threatened species habitats modelled within the study site.</p>	<p>Impacts limited to a maximum of 0.7 hectares of native vegetation, most of which is canopy species and few to no understorey species. Avoid and minimise removal of native vegetation and terrestrial habitat in accordance with the Guidelines. Refer to Section 5.</p> <p>Source and implement appropriate general offsets for native vegetation losses as outlined in Section 5.4. Despite the native vegetation loss figures being accounted for and offset, all efforts should be made to retain as much native vegetation as possible during construction.</p> <p>All retained vegetation is to be avoided by the greatest extent possible, with native vegetation in these areas outside impact zones to be treated as no-go areas. All construction works and vehicles must be kept within dedicated parking or other impact areas (i.e. the main development footprint. Works must use the lightest weight and smallest construction machinery possible to perform the job safely and effectively. Absolutely no traffic, parking or laydown areas within retained native vegetation areas including in tree TPZ/SRZ.</p>
Trees and logs	<p>Impacts associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the recreation trail/facilities.</p>	<p>Strictly no excavation or other impacts within tree TPZs of retained trees. For trees nearby that are deemed lost, minimise TPZ impacts to greatest extent possible.</p> <p>Most areas contain little to no fallen timber on site. However, consider using the felled small trees as ground habitat in the nearby area.</p> <p>Visual checks should be conducted prior to felling of trees, to ensure there are no nests or fauna present in the works area. If found, an ecologist or wildlife handler must be present during felling to ensure that any fauna displaced or injured may be appropriately handled. If fauna are located, work must stop until the specimen can be safely relocated away from the work site.</p>

Site feature	Implications of the proposed development	Recommendations
Threatened Species	Impacts associated with the construction and ongoing operation of the recreation trail/facilities. With application of report recommendations and CEMP controls, impacts are not likely to be significant.	<p>Impacts to threatened species are expected to be very low to negligible. Observe tree felling requirements above.</p> <p>Visual inspection to take place of the entire alignment (except Diamond Park) to inspect for potential presence of turtles and turtle nests/eggs.</p> <p>Visual inspection to take place of the creek embankments (where pipe and landscape works are occurring) to inspect for potential presence of Platypus burrows.</p> <p>In the unlikely event that any threatened species are identified (or if suspected to be a threatened species), work is to stop within 200 metres of the detection and contact is to be made with DEECA or with Red-Gum Ecologists to seek further guidance and conclusive identification. Any confirmed records must be recorded with GPS, and photographs are to be taken where possible. If confirmed, records must be provided to DEECA to be added to their database, and liaison to occur to determine next steps prior to resumption of works in that area.</p>
Threatened ecological communities	Presence or potential presence of threatened ecological communities in the study site.	There were two FFG Act threatened ecological communities likely to be present, the Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community TEC and the Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin TEC. With impact minimisation measures limiting direct vegetation losses to six young trees and the avoidance of much of the adjoining vegetation and waterways via CEMP controls, the impacts to these communities will be low to negligible. No other threatened ecological communities were identified during site assessments. In the unlikely event that potential threatened ecological communities are identified during construction, works in that community must halt immediately and advice must be sought from Red-Gum Ecologists or DEECA.
Orchids and wildflowers	Presence of seasonally dormant species such as orchids.	Unlikely to be applicable to the highly disturbed site. The only areas with a low potential of containing orchids are the patches along the rail reserve (however, this too is unlikely). All site visits did not detect any orchids or other sensitive species, therefore their presence is considered highly unlikely.
Waterways/ aquatic environs	Impacts associated with the development. Works on named waterways or in the vicinity of named waterways (including fish and fish habitat). Waterway impacts in general.	<p>Minimal impacts to waterways or aquatic environs. Pipe works and landscape works to disturb the minimal amount of soil necessary, with tight controls in place. Erosion, sedimentation, and pollution controls must be detailed in a development CEMP to protect those located beyond the site.</p> <p>There are some minor works taking place on and near named waterways, therefore there are requirements for a Works on Waterways (WoW) permit for the development.</p> <p>With some low potential for risks to the aquatic habitats and threatened species/habitats therein, liaison with Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) is recommended, to give the VFA an opportunity to provide feedback about the works and to ensure any requirements (including potentially permits) are included in the final project construction processes.</p>

Site feature	Implications of the proposed development	Recommendations
Soils	Soil quality impacts throughout the impact zone.	CEMP to have a detailed erosion and sediment plan to ensure best practice measures are implemented to mitigate these risk factors for the local environment. No works to be conducted during rain events, to limit sedimentation. All construction takes place when the soil is relatively dry, to ensure any movement of plant occurs upon dry soil to minimise the impacts to site compaction and drainage, erosion and sedimentation, from the passage of these vehicles and equipment.
Pest plants	Introduction into or spread within the study site of declared or environmental weeds.	<p>The recommendations of this report include measures to control weeds prior to works starting in infested areas, and to control introduction of weeds into the study site during construction and to prevent weeds from leaving the site on construction machinery. The development will also include a CEMP that will have more specific detail on how the risks associated with noxious weeds will be controlled before, during and after construction.</p> <p>Efforts should be made to control the noxious and environmental weeds prior to the construction phase starting. Priority should be on listed noxious weeds, given their legal status. Some mechanical removal (grubbing) or spraying may be required. Note the importance of using techniques and chemicals approved for use near waterways. Mechanical techniques are preferred where possible.</p>
Pest animals	Introduction or creation of favourable conditions for pest animals in the study site.	As above. There are no pest animal implications expected to arise from the proposed development. If detected via monitoring, appropriate control efforts should be administered.
Diseases	Introduction into or spread within the study site of diseases.	All machinery must arrive on site clean and soil free. If machinery has recently been working in creeks, wetlands or other frog habitat, machinery must be hot-washed with detergent at minimum (or Phytoclean as best practice) to remove any potential Chytrid Fungus contamination. Develop hygiene controls for vehicle and machinery movement to minimise the spread of pathogens and weeds, and particularly diseases such as Cinnamon Fungus (<i>Phytophthora</i>), to be included in the CEMP.
Biodiversity	<p>Biodiversity within and adjoining the study site and the requirements of report recommendations.</p> <p>Public Authority Duty under FFG Act.</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations of this report should be reviewed by the proponent to ensure they are satisfied with the assessment of biodiversity impacts and the recommendations being put in place to minimise impacts to biodiversity that result from the recreation development. Any questions should be directed to Red-Gum to clarify any detail, as required. The CEMP must contain maps from this report and it must adhere to the report's recommendations. Strictly no impacts to be made beyond the mapped impact areas in this assessment.</p> <p>The Council, as a public authority, must consider the project's potential impacts (as described in this report) on protected flora, fauna and communities, and whether the impacts are of an acceptable nature and/or scale, when the benefits of the proposed development are considered. To help inform this decision, Red-Gum Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd is of the opinion that, provided the report recommendations and appropriate CEMP controls are put in place, there are low risks to biodiversity and threatened entities from this development proposal.</p>

6.1 Construction and Post-Construction Management

The development will have its own Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). An Erosion and Sediment Management Plan (ESMP) may also be developed and put in place to ensure site values, soils, nearby waterways and retained habitat and vegetation are protected from the direct and indirect impacts of construction. Alternatively, and especially due to the low risks of erosion from construction, the CEMP could incorporate these erosion and sediment protection measures in an appropriate section within its contents.

The CEMP is to include training and inductions for contractors and other people visiting the site, daily toolbox sessions on protecting retained values, installation of temporary fences and signage (if required), designated no-go areas, erosion and sedimentation control measures (provided with greater site-specific detail in the ESMP if employed, or the relevant CEMP section), and other impact measures including but not limited to:

- Site environmental inductions covering off on all the key components in this report and the actions to protect values adjoining the site such as large trees and other important features as per the CEMP.
- Pre-clearance protocols for felling of trees, including the required presence of an ecologist or qualified wildlife handler if nests or fauna are observed in trees to be removed.
- Processes to monitor trees and other habitat during construction and having systems in place (fauna salvage protocol) to address any inadvertent impacts to fauna during construction.
- Have protections in place including barriers and regular monitoring to ensure fauna are not trapped for extended periods in open trenches or other structures during construction.
- Have a system in place for unexpected finds during construction (including reporting to the appropriate authority) which relate to threatened species, European heritage, toxic substances, or Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Erosion and sediment controls, including maintenance and monitoring, and have systems in place to address where erosion or sedimentation is detected as a result of construction.
- Measures to minimise the risks associated with flood events, high winds, storms, or extreme heat events.
- Noise and air pollution controls and monitoring.
- Light pollution and excess vibration monitoring and controls.
- Waste and pollution monitoring and controls, including a protocol for rapid response to accidental spills.
- Hygiene protocols to address pest plants, animals and disease introductions to or from the study site as a result of construction.
- Fire management processes and response plans in the event of a wildfire entering the site or starting as a result of construction works.
- Rehabilitation processes to ensure all areas of earthworks are adequately rehabilitated or as per best practice development standards, including revegetation with locally sourced indigenous plants, if and where appropriate.
- A process for allocation of roles and responsibilities for actions within the CEMP and the dedicated monitoring and reporting of the implementation of CEMP actions.

7 References

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8 Appendices

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Appendix 1A: Flora Species Recorded in Study site

Notes to Tables.

EPBC Act:

CD – Conservation Dependent

CR - Critically Endangered

EN - Endangered

VU - Vulnerable

FFG Act:

ex - extinct

ex – in the wild

cr – critically endangered

en - endangered

vu - vulnerable

cd – conservation dependent

FFG Act Permits:

P = Protected Flora

PC = Protected Flora of a Listed Community

CALP Act - Noxious weed status:

SP - State prohibited species

RP - Regionally prohibited species

RC - Regionally controlled species

RR - Regionally restricted species

Other

PN – Planted native species (exempt from clearing regulations)

- Non-indigenous native species or native with weedy tendencies

*- Exotic species

WONS - Weed of National Significance

Table A1.1 Flora species recorded from the study site (2024-2026).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	FFG Act	CaLP Act
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	N		
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	N		
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	N		
<i>Acacia sp.</i>	Acacia	#P		
<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	Varnish Wattle	N		
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	*HTW		
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Brown-top Bent	*HTW		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	* HTW		C
<i>Allocasuarina cunninghamii</i>	River She-oak	P		
<i>Alternanthera denticulata</i>	Lesser Joyweed	N		
<i>Araucaria sp.</i>	Hoop Pine	#P		
<i>Arctotheca caledula</i>	Capeweed	*		
<i>Aster subulatus</i>	Aster Weed	*		
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild Oats	*		
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong	P		
<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	Prairie Grass	*HTW		
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Great Brome	*HTW		
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush	P		
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge	N		
<i>Carex tereticaulis</i>	Poongoort	N		
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Nettle Tree	*		
<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>	Kikuyu Grass	*HTW		
<i>Centella cordifolia</i>	Centella	N		
<i>Cerastium vulgare</i>	Mouse-ear Chickweed	*		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	*HTW		C
<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Spotted Gum	#P		
<i>Cotula bipinnata</i>	Ferny Cotula	*		
<i>Cupressus sp.</i>	Pencil-pine	*P		
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Couch Grass	#		
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Drain Flat-sedge	*		
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	*HTW		
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	Silky Blue-grass	N		
<i>Diplotaxis sp.</i>	Wild Rocket	*		
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	Barnyard Grass	*		
<i>Echium plangineum</i>	Paterson's Curse	*		C
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Panic Veldt-grass	*		
<i>Ehrharta longifolia</i>	Veldt Grass	*HTW		
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>	Flax-leaf Fleabane	*		
<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	Tall Fleabane	*HTW		
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red-gum	N		
<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i>	Long-leaf Box	P		
<i>Eucalyptus nicholli</i>	Narrow-leaf Peppermint	#P		
<i>Euclayptus albens</i>	White Box	P		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig Tree	* HTW		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	FFG Act	CaLP Act
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	*HTW		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia subsp. angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash	*HTW		
<i>Fumaria bastardii</i>	Bastard's Fumitory	*		
<i>Galanthus sp.</i>	Snow Drops	*		
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers	*		
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Cape Broom	*HTW		C
<i>Geranium sp.</i>	Geranium	*		
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginkobiloba	*P		
<i>Grevillea sp.</i>	Grevillea	#P		
<i>Grevillia robusta</i>	Silky-oak	#P		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	*HTW		
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Common Heliotrope	*		
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	*		
<i>Hordeum sp.</i>	Barley Grass	*		
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's Wort	*HTW		C
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	*		
<i>Juncus sp.</i>	Rush	N		
<i>Juncus sp.2</i>	Large Rush	N		
<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>	Blown Grass	N		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	*		
<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey Cudweed	N		
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree	N		
<i>Leptospermum sp.</i>	Tea-tree	#P		
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Broad-leaf Privet	*		
<i>Ligustrum sinsense</i>	Small-leaf Privet	*HTW		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	*HTW		
<i>Lolium sp.</i>	Rye Grass	*HTW		
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honey-suckle	*HTW		
<i>Macrozamia communis</i>	Burrowang	#P		
<i>Malva sp.</i>	Mallow	*		
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Burr Medic	*		
<i>Medicago sp.</i>	Medic	*		
<i>Melaleuca sp.</i>	Bottle-brush	P & N		
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White Cedar	*HTW		
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	*		
<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	Red-flowered Mallow	*		
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	*		
<i>Nicotinana benthamiana</i>	Wild Tobacco	*HTW		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sour-sob	*		R
<i>Oxalis sp.</i>	Sorrel	N		
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Paspalum	* HTW		
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Water Pepper	N		
<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>	Creeping Knotweed	N		
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Phalaris	*HTW		
<i>Photinia sp</i>	Photinia	*HTW		
<i>Phyla canescens</i>	Lippia	*HTW		

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	FFG Act	CaLP Act
<i>Phytolacca octanrda</i>	Inkweed	*HTW		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	*		
<i>Platanus sp.</i>	Plane Tree	*		
<i>Poa annua</i>	Winter-grass	*		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Wireweed	*		
<i>Populus sp.</i>	Poplar	*HTW		
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Plum Tree	*HTW		
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear	*P		
<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	Buttercup	*		
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Rose	*P HTW		
<i>Rosa sp.</i>	Climbing Rose	*P		
<i>Rubus fruticosus spp. agg.</i>	Blackberry	*HTW WONS		C
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock	*		
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow	*WONS		R
<i>Salix sp.</i>	Willow	*HTW WONS		R
<i>Senecio sp.</i>	Groundsell	N		
<i>Setaria sp.</i>	Pigeon Grass	*		
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Variegated Thistle	*HTW		C
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	*		
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	*		
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sow-thistle	*		
<i>Sorghum halapense</i>	Johnson Grass	*HTW		
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	*		
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	*		
<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	Clover	*		
<i>Verbascum virgatum</i>	Twiggy Mullein	*		
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Purple-top	*		
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	*		
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirrel-tail Fescue	*		
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's-tail Fescue	*		
<i>Walwhaleya proluta</i>	Rigid Panic	N		
<i>Wisteria sp.</i>	Wisteria-vine	*HTW		

*: exotic

HTW: High Threat Weed

P: Planted native (exempt)

#: Non-indigenous native (exempt)

WONS: Weed of National Significance

Prot: Protected flora under the FFG Act

C: Controlled weed under CaLP Act

R: Restricted weed under CaLP Act

Appendix 1B: Listed Flora Species and Communities

The following table includes the listed flora species that have potential to occur within the study site. The list of species is sourced from the Victorian Nature Kit and the Protected Matters Search Tool (accessed October 2024 and updated 22 January 2026).

Table A1.2 Listed flora species recorded/predicted to occur within 5 kilometres of the study site with likelihood of occurrence: No, Low, Medium, High or Recorded.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
Threatened Ecological Communities							
Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia			EN	PMST	NA	No	No indicator species present. Occurs much further west.
Weeping Myall Woodlands			EN	PMST	NA	No	No indicator species present. Occurs much further west.
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland			CE	PMST	NA	Unlikely	Trees exclusively River Red-gum. This TEC is in the area, but does not occur on the development alignment.
Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray-Darling Basin		Th			NA	Present	The TEC's suite of species are known to occur in Wodonga Creek.
Northern Plains Grassland Community		Th			NA	Unlikely	Tends to occur further west. There are effectively no native understory species in the alignment impact area.
Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community		Th			NA	Present	Many of the TEC's suite of woodland bird species are known to occur regularly in the project area.
Threatened Flora							
<i>Acacia homalophylla</i>	Yarran Wattle	ce		NatureKit	Grows in Belah (<i>Casuarina cristata</i>) communities usually in brown soils, in Bimble Box (<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i>) open woodland in red earths, and in various other soil and semi-arid vegetation types.	No	The key associated species do not occur in the local area. The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass		VU	NatureKit/PMST	Permanent swamps and wetlands, most often along the Murray River between Wodonga and Echuca, rarer in the south.	Unlikely	Some potential habitat exists near the alignment, and there is some potential for this species to be present. However, these areas are not experiencing any impacts from the development.
<i>Brachyscome gracilis subsp. gracilis</i>	Dookie Daisy	en		NatureKit	Flowers Sep-Nov. Rare in Victoria where it occurs in sandy to clay loams or shallow, rocky soils in open Eucalyptus woodland (e.g. near Benalla, Dookie, Warby Range, Beechworth and Mt Pilot).	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	Water Shield		ce	NatureKit	Perennial aquatic plant with floating, peltate leaves and rhizomatous stems. Bight green leaves and purple. Grows in shallow water of lakes, rivers, particularly with acidic water.	Unlikely	Only rarely recorded locally, with no recent records (the most recent around the 1990s). Highly visible species not seen during site assessments.
<i>Caladenia concolor</i>	Crimson Spider-orchid		VU	PMST	Regrowth woodland, granite ridge country with high diversity of other plants and orchids.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Cyperus leptocarpus</i>	Button Rush	en		NatureKit	In open damp places such as sandy streambanks and drying lake margins	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Daviesia genistifolia s.s.</i>	Broom Bitter-pea	en		NatureKit	Low, multistemmed shrub to 60cm high (rarely slender and open to 2m high). Orange-brown flowers from Aug-Oct.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Eriocaulon scariosum</i>	Common Pipewort	en		NatureKit	Data deficient. Wet areas such as wetlands, bogs, swamps, lakes, spring soaks and drainage areas with a preference for sandy substrates.	Unlikely	Most regional records very old, with only rare sightings in recent times (nearest is a 2004 record from McLean Park in Whitebox Rise). Has some potential, but habitat areas are not being impacted by works.
<i>Indigofera adesmiifolia</i>	Tick Indigo	en		NatureKit	In forests and woodlands in drier hill country	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor</i>	Hoary Sunray		EN	PMST	Grasslands or grassy woodland at lower altitudes (below 900 metres).	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Myriophyllum porcatum</i>	Ridged Water-milfoil		VU	PMST	Occurs in shallow, ephemeral wetlands (including lakes, swamps, rock pools in granite outcrops, waterholes in claypans).	Unlikely	No records from the region, with the nearest occurring north of Shepparton. Unlikely to be present.
<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>	Tarengo Leek Orchid		EN	PMST	Grassy open woodlands in association with River Tussock, Black Gum, and tea-trees.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Prasophyllum validum</i>	Sturdy Leek-orchid		VU	PMST	Dry woodland habitats, generally with a low sparse understorey.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Pultenaea foliolosa</i>	Small-leaf Bush-pea	en		NatureKit	Soft, spreading shrub 1-2m high. Usually occurs in dry, open-forst. Yello-worange and reddish-brown flowers from Oct to Nov.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Swainsona behriana</i>	Southern Swainson-pea	en		NatureKit	Grows on light or occassionally beavh soils in moist grassland and woodland.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Swainsona murrayana</i>	Slender Darling-pea		VU	PMST	A rare plant that prefers seasonally inundated soils on flats around lakes in .	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Mountain Swainson-pea	ce	EN	NatureKit/PMST	Grassy understorey of woodlands and open-forests dominated by Blakely's Red Gum, Yellow Box, Candlebark and Long-leaf box.	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.
<i>Swainsona reticulata</i>	Kneed Swainson-pea	en		NatureKit	Occurs on alluvial flats in grassland and grassy woodland	No	The alignment effectively contains only exotic species.

Appendix 2A: Fauna Species Recorded in Study site

Table A2.1 Vertebrate fauna recorded from the study site (impact areas and immediate surrounds).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	FFG Act	EPBC Act
<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	Eastern Spinebill	N		
<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>	King Parrot	N		
<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Pacific Black Duck	N		
<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Red Wattlebird	N		
<i>Cactua galerita</i>	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	N		
<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Australian Wood-duck	N		
<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	Grey Shrike-thrush	N		
<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	N		
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Australian Raven	N		
<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Common Eastern Froglet	N		
<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	Laughing Kookaburra	N		
<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>	Galah	N		
<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian Coot	N		
<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	Dusky Moorhen	N		
<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Western Gerygone	N		
<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>	White-throated Gerygone	N		
<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Magpie Lark	N		
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	N		
<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow	N		
<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Superb Fairy-wren	N		
<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	Noisy Miner	#		
<i>Menetia greyii</i>	Dwarf Skink	N		
<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>	Red-browed Finch	N		
<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	Crested Pigeon	N		
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Platypus*	N		
<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	Striated Pardalote	N		
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	*		
<i>Platycercus eximius</i>	Eastern Rosella	N		
<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Purple Swamp-hen	N		
<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	Red-rumped Parrot	N		
<i>Ptilotula penicillata</i>	White-plumed Honeyeater	N		
<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Willy Wagtail	N		
<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	White-browed Scrubwren	N		
<i>Strepera graculina</i>	Currawong	N		
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling	*		
<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>	Australian White Ibis	N		
<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	Sacred Kingfisher	N		
<i>Turdus merula</i>	European Blackbird	*		
<i>Vanellus miles</i>	Masked Lapwing	N		

*: exotic

#: native species which can be problematic in disturbed environments

Appendix 2B: Listed Fauna Species

The following table includes a list of the listed fauna species that have potential to occur within 5 kilometres of the study site. The list of species is sourced from the Victorian Nature Kit and the Protected Matters Search Tool (accessed January 2026).

Table A2.2 Listed fauna species recorded or predicted to occur within 10 kilometres of the study site with likelihood of occurrence (No, Low, Medium, High or Recorded) and justification.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
Birds							
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	vu	MI	NatureKit	Migrates to Australia over winter and prefers coastal and inland wetland habitats with mudflat margins, both saline and fresh.	Low	No preferred habitat in study area.
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	ce	CE	NatureKit/ PMST	Found in box-ironbark eucalypt associations. Flowering eucalyptus and mistletoe in forests and woodlands, with a preference for the box-ironbark forests and wet lowland coastal forests.	Low	No preferred habitat in study area. A rare visitor to the study area at best during its migration movements.
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	vu	VU	NatureKit/ PMST	Arid and semi-arid acacia and eucalypt woodland and shrubland. Prefers relatively undisturbed open woodland and shrubland with grassy and shrubby understorey, including herbaceous species with low tree densities and numerous tree hollows.	Medium	Numerous local records. Not preferred higher quality habitat, but the species is likely to move through the area on occasion or regularly.
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift		MI	PMST	Almost exclusively an airborne species, roosting on cliffs and rock walls. Arid areas, inland plains and coastal areas.	Low	Numerous local sightings. Study area does not constitute high quality or important terrestrial habitat for this species.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	vu		NatureKit	Prefers shallow water, particularly when flowing but can be found in any watered area. Largest breeding colonies and greatest concentrations confined within the near-coastal regions of the top end of the Northern Territory.	Present	Known from nearby records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>	Plumed Egret	ce		NatureKit	Shallow waters within freshwater and brackish wetlands, as well as wet paddocks, often in flocks with other egrets.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck	vu		NatureKit	Deep water wetlands, river systems, and coastal waters of temperate regions with dense vegetation cover.	Present	Known from local records and has the potential to be present on occasion.
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	ce	EN	NatureKit/ PMST	Permanent freshwater wetlands and marshes with tall, dense, fringing vegetation. Favours permanent and seasonal freshwater habitats.	Low	No preferred habitat in study area.
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	ce		NatureKit	Open forests and woodlands with a sparse grassy ground layer and fallen timber.	No	Likely to be locally extinct since the 1990s due to lost habitat and fox and cat predation. No preferred habitat present on alignment.
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	vu	VU/M I	NatureKit/ PMST	Shallow, grassy, vegetated fringes of inland freshwater wetlands and marshes. Also occurs on coasts on mudflats, mangroves, rocky shores and beaches. such as mudflats, estuaries, wetlands and sewage ponds.	Low	No preferred habitat in study area.
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper		CE/ MI	PMST	Occur on intertidal mudflats in sheltered coastal areas, such as estuaries, bays, inlets.	Low	No local records. No preferred habitat in study area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Pectoral Sandpiper		MI	PMST	Coastal lagoons, estuaries, bays, swamps, lakes and inundated grasslands.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	en	EN	NatureKit/ PMST	Found in tall mountain forests and woodlands, with dense shrubby understoreys	Present	Known from local records and has the potential to be present on occasion or regularly.
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper	vu	VU	NatureKit/ PMST	Prefers Eucalyptus woodlands and open forests, particularly those containing box species	Low	Local records tend to be from larger and higher quality bushland areas. At best is likely to be an infrequent visitor to the study area.
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	en		NatureKit	Saltwater and freshwater wetlands, mangroves and tidal mudflats.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon		VU	PMST	Prefers shrubland, grassland and tree-lined watercourses of arid and semi-arid regions.	No	Not preferred habitat. Very rarely recorded in the local area or region.
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon	ce		NatureKit	Tree-lined watercourses and in isolated woodlands in arid and semi-arid areas.	Medium	Numerous records from the region and may be present along the riparian corridor on occasion.
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	vu	VU/M I	NatureKit/ PMST	Inhabits freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover.	Present	Recorded from Sumsion Gardens. May frequent the site on occasion.
<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	Diamond Dove	vu		NatureKit	Inhabits freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover.	Low	Occasional local records, but preferred habitat not present in study area.
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater		VU	PMST	Prefers Boree/Weeping Myall, Brigalow and Box-Gum woodlands	Low	Preferred habitat not present. Very rarely recorded in local area. Low mistletoe numbers.
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	en		NatureKit	Found in grassy eucalypt woodlands, including Box-Gum Woodlands and Snow Gum	High	Preferred habitat present and the species is likely to hunt regularly along the riparian area and may nest in large gums.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	vu		NatureKit	Wide habitat range including wooded farmlands and dry woodlands and open forests, nesting in mature trees on hillsides in open woodland and along tree-lined watercourses.	Present	Preferred habitat present, numerous local records and the species is likely to hunt regularly along the riparian area and may nest in large gums.
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	vu	VU/MI	NatureKit/PMST	Species appears to primarily roost aerially, it has been recorded roosting in trees in forests and woodlands	Medium	Numerous local records. May be present in the study area on occasion.
<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>	Australian Little Bittern	en		NatureKit	Freshwater wetlands with dense emergent vegetation, reeds, sedges and inundated shrub thickets.	Low	Few records from the local region. A rare visitor to the study area at best.
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	ce	CE	NatureKit/PMST	Occurs in a broad range of forest and woodland habitats dominated by winter flowering Eucalypts	Medium	Numerous local records and is likely to move through the riparian corridor on occasion.
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	en	EN	NatureKit/PMST	Prefers lightly wooded, open landscapes, usually Eucalypt woodlands	Medium	Regularly recorded in the local area and there is suitable habitat present.
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail		MI	PMST	Damp habitats with low vegetation, favouring wet meadows, marshland, grassy and muddy lakeshores.	No	No records for a significant distance in all directions. No suitable habitat.
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Blue-winged Parrot		VU	PMST	Prefer grasslands and grassy woodlands with a particular preference for areas near wetlands.	Low	Rarely recorded locally. No native grasslands in the study area.
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	vu		NatureKit	Outskirts of eucalypt woodlands adjoining timbered ridges, clearings and farmland creeks.	Low	Rarely recorded in the local area, with regional records from better quality woodland areas. A rare visitor to the study area at best.
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	ce		NatureKit	Woodland and open forest, with large home ranges that	Medium	Numerous local records and with the species having a very large territory, it is likely to hunt in

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
					includes fragmented remnants and partially cleared farmland.		the area on occasion and may occasionally nest in large tree hollows.
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	vu		NatureKit	Deep water, large permanent wetlands and swamps. Dense aquatic vegetation.	Medium	Occasional local records, and may occasionally frequent creek and marsh areas.
<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer		CE	PMST	Inhabits sparse, treeless, lowland native grasslands. Increasingly rare species.	No	No records from the region. No suitable habitat.
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot		VU	PMST	Mainly inhabits River Red-Gum forests and Box-gum woodlands.	Medium	Occasional local records. Suitable habitat present, although is generally known from areas further west.
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler	vu		NatureKit	Inhabits open Box-Gum Woodlands on the slopes, and Box-Cypress-pine	Low	Rare records in the area, but are much more likely to occur further west.
<i>Pyrrholaemus sagittatus</i>	Speckled Warbler	en		NatureKit	Occurs in a broad range of eucalypt dominated environments with a grassy understorey	High	Many local records and is likely to move through the area, or may be resident.
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe		EN	PMST	Fringes of swamps, lakes, dams, ponds, estuaries, waterlogged grasslands/pastures and marsh	Low	Very few records from the region. More commonly recorded further west.
<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Australasian Shoveler	vu		NatureKit	Prefers heavily vegetated swamps, periodically inundated and flooded areas.	Present	Several local records nearby. Likely to inhabit the area on occasion.
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	vu	VU	NatureKit/ PMST	Forests, woodlands and grasslands. Grasslands and grassy woodlands	Medium	Many local records and the species is likely to frequent the study area on occasion or regularly.
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	en		NatureKit	Prefer permanent freshwater wetlands, swamps and creeks with dense vegetation, ideally containing heavy growth of Cumbungi, Lignum or Tea-tree.	Medium	Known from a record in Sumsion Gardens. May be present on occasion.
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood Sandpiper	en		NatureKit	Inland shallow freshwater wetlands, preferable those with emergent vegetation,	Low	Very rarely recorded in the local region. No preferred habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Common Greenshank		EN/M I	PMST	Coastal and inland sheltered wetlands, mudflats, river estuaries, lagoons, saltmarshes and inundated pastures.	Low	Very rarely recorded in the local region. No preferred habitat present.
Crustacea							
<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Murray Spiny Crayfish	Th	VU	NatureKit/ PMST	Permanent rivers and large streams with moderately fast-flowing waters.	Present	Known to be present in the major local waterbodies.
Fish							
<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Silver Perch	en	EN	PMST	Generally prefer fast flowing waters like rapids and cascades	High	Increasingly rare, but there are local records from the major waterbodies. Cascades in Wodonga Creek is preferred habitat.
<i>Craterocephalus fluviatilis</i>	Murray Hardyhead		EN	PMST	Prefers open water, shallow, slow flowing or still habitats, with sand or silt substrates.	No	No records from the broader region.
<i>Galaxias rostratus</i>	Flathead Galaxias	vu	CE	PMST	Still or slow-moving waters such as wetlands, billabongs, swamps, large creeks and any slow flowing waters.	Present	Known from local rivers and creeks.
<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	Trout Cod	en	EN	NatureKit/ PMST	Prefer rapidly flowing waterways with rocky or gravel beds, containing deep pools and abundant in-stream woody debris such as logs and trees.	Present	Rare, but known to be present in local rivers.
<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	Murray Cod	en	VU	NatureKit/ PMST	Occurs in a range of aquatic habitats from clear shallow rocky streams to deeper, turbid slow moving rivers and billabongs.	Present	Known to occur in local rivers.
<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie Perch		EN	PMST	Clear, deeper permanent waterbodies with abundant in-stream cover	Low	No recent local records. Tends to occur in less regulated river systems.
<i>Melanotaenia fluviatilis</i>	Murray-Darling Rainbowfish	en		NatureKit	Lowland rivers, creeks and streams including backwaters and billabongs	Low	Rarely recorded from region. Local records are very old. Occurs much further downstream.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Nannoperca australis</i> Murray-Darling Basin lineage	Southern Pygmy Perch		VU	PMST	Small aquatic systems, low flow rate, billabongs, streams and lakes.	High	Local records present. Likely to be under-reported in the area.
Frogs							
<i>Crinia sloanei</i>	Sloane's Froglet	en	EN	NatureKit/ PMST	A cryptic species, commonly associated with waterways and periodically inundated areas	Medium	Local area is a national hotspot for species. Likely to be present in some dams and wetlands.
<i>Limnodynastes interioris</i>	Giant Bullfrog	en		NatureKit	Spends the majority of its time underground, only emerging after rain to feed and lay eggs. Habitat is close to freshwater floodplains	Medium	Suitable habitat present and known from numerous records in the local area.
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog		VU	PMST	Still or slow-flowing water bodies such as lagoons, amongst emergent vegetation.	Low	Suitable habitat present, but likely to be locally extinct, with only one record this century in the region from 2003 from Nailcan Hill.
Insects							
<i>Keyacris scurra</i>	Key's Matchstick Grasshopper		EN	PMST	Native grasslands and grassy woodlands, with native grass understorey dominated by kangaroo grass.	No	No native grasslands present on or near the alignment.
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth		VU	PMST	Occurs in Natural Temperate Grasslands and grassy Box-Gum Woodlands in which ground layer is dominated by wallaby grasses <i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.	No	No native grasslands present on or near the alignment
<i>Thaumatoperla alpina</i>	Alpine Stonefly		EN	PMST	Endemic to Bogong High Plains are of VIC Alps. Restricted to high altitude	No	No suitable alpine stream habitat present.
Mammals							
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll		EN	PMST	Primarily forest-dependent species that occupies a wide range of habitat types	Low	No recent local records. Likely to be locally extinct.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i>	Corben's Long-eared Bat		VU	PMST	Occurs in a range of habitats including Mallee, Buloke and Box-gum dominated	Low	Rarely recorded from the broader region. Not preferred habitat. Unlikely to be present but cannot be ruled out.
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Platypus	vu		NatureKit	Rivers, streams and lakes of eastern Australia. Major permanent river systems.	Recorded	Has been recorded immediately opposite Diamond Park on numerous occasions by the Red-Gum ecologist.
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	vu		NatureKit	Mature and old-growth Eucalypt woodlands and riparian forests	High	Many local records. Suitable habitat present and is likely to be moving through the area or may be resident in hollow trees within the study area.
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>	Brush-tailed Phascogale	vu		NatureKit	Reside in large home ranges that contain open dry sclerophyl forest and woodland	Low	No recent local records. Tends to be in large core areas of bushland with better habitat values.
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT)</i>	Koala		EN	PMST	Eucalypt forests and woodlands that contain some of their ~70 preferred Eucalyptus species.	High	Numerous local records. May move through the riparian corridor on occasion.
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	vu	VU	NatureKit/PMST	Requires foraging resources and roosting sites. Has wider ranging habitat	High	Known to roost just north on the edge of the Murray. Known to roost at junction of Murray and Wodonga Creek branch, just east of study area. Likely to move through the area regularly.
Reptiles							
<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard		VU	PMST	Rocky areas and outcrops are an important habitat requirement, but species has been found from ant nests in shrubland without rocks	Low	Riparian areas are not preferred habitat.
<i>Chelodina expansa</i>	Broad-shelled Turtle	en		NatureKit	Large, slow-flowing rivers, wetlands, billabongs and lagoons.	Present	Numerous records from Sumsion Gardens and likely to be present throughout Wodonga Creek.
<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard		VU	PMST	Requires complex floristically diverse grass structures	No	No suitable grassland habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FFG Act	EPBC Act	Source	Habitat Preference	Likelihood	Justification
<i>Emydura macquarii</i>	Murray River Turtle	ce		NatureKit	Found in open water, including lagoons and the main river channel.	Present	Numerous records from Sumsion Gardens and likely to be present throughout Wodonga Creek.

Appendix 3: EPBC Act Significant Impact Assessments

A3.1 Woodland Birds (using the SIC Critically Endangered criteria)

Threatened woodland birds include Southern Whiteface, Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Black Falcon, White-bellied Sea-eagle, Little Eagle, White-throated Needle-tail, Swift Parrot, Hooded Robin, Barking Owl, Superb Parrot, Speckled Warbler and Diamond Firetail. Woodland bird species listed under the EPBC Act have been underlined. These species share similar habitats and have been considered collectively by this SIC assessment.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population.	Unlikely	The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated land. The areas of potential woodland bird habitat occur along much of the alignment, however only six trees are being removed directly. There are few native shrubs or groundcovers present, thus woodland bird habitat is limited to trees, including some large hollow-bearing trees. With the avoidance of the majority of trees, habitat impacts are expected to be very low.
Reduce the area of occupancy of the species.	Unlikely	As above. The project study area does contain some potential habitat for woodland bird species, however very little of the woodland species' preferred habitat is being lost or impacted by the development. The alignment follows highly degraded areas which no longer contain native grasses, shrubs or groundcover species. With the efforts that have been made to avoid the best areas of woodland bird habitat, and with the majority of trees are being avoided and retained within the development footprint, expected habitat impacts are minimal. Given the small scale of disturbance involved, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for any threatened woodland birds.
Fragment an existing population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is avoiding impacts to important (high quality) habitat areas, and through careful design has minimised large tree losses as much as possible. Impact areas have been designed to avoid higher quality vegetation by following existing disturbed areas (exotic dominated areas) for the majority of the impact areas through the development. Given the absence of significant impacts to areas of important habitat, protection of hollow-bearing trees and the loss of only immature or non-hollow trees, the impacts from the project will not fragment any populations of threatened woodland birds into two or more populations.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Unlikely	As above. The project is not significantly impacting on the preferred tree species of threatened woodland birds, with very small losses and efforts being made to avoid as many large trees as possible. Furthermore, of the large trees being deemed lost due to TPZ encroachment, the majority will be deemed lost but retained on site. The majority of trees being lost or deemed lost do not constitute important habitat. As such, the project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of the threatened woodland bird species.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.	Unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and very little impact is expected to occur for native vegetation in areas of higher quality habitat. However, the development is likely to generate some noise, vibration and dust issues. Therefore, it is recommended that the CEMP includes measures to control these impacts, to help safeguard potential breeding threatened woodland

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		birds during their spring breeding season. If suspect threatened woodland birds are seen on the Subject Land or in areas adjacent to the development, work must be stopped, and ecologists must be contacted to confirm the sighting. If found to be present, work must stop in the vicinity of the bird(s), until they move on, or in the event of fledglings in a nest, works must stop until fledglings leave the nest. Pre-clearance checks are also recommended prior to the removal of any large trees. With the controls to be put in place via the CEMP, the breeding cycle of woodland bird species should not be significantly disrupted by the project.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	Unlikely	As above. The project is not significantly impacting on trees and the Study Area contains few native shrubs or groundcover species, indicating that the habitats being impacted are not high quality or important habitats for woodland birds. Additionally, efforts have been made to avoid as many trees as possible in the areas of potential habitat, and trees being lost or deemed lost do not constitute important habitat, with many lost trees be retained within the development, where possible. As such, the project is therefore not expected to modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that threatened woodland bird species would be likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risks of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in place to ensure no pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully. It is unlikely that the development will result in invasive species becoming established and threatening the local woodland bird habitat.
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases that pose a threat to threatened woodland birds are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery, and the woodland bird species will not be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere with the recovery of the species.	Unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the receiving environment and only six trees are to be removed as part of the construction, all of which are not considered significantly important trees or species. The majority of vegetation impact in the development site is occurring to significantly disturbed understorey and the entire alignment contains limited native ground cover species (natives are virtually entirely absent). Threatened

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		woodland birds are not likely to be directly impacted by the development. Therefore, the development is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of local threatened woodland birds.
Summary of Woodland Birds Significant Impact Assessment		
<p>The project will have minimal direct or indirect impacts for threatened woodland birds or their potential habitat. The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated areas. Design processes have adopted avoid and minimise recommendations, ensuring impacts that are being made are being placed in areas with little to no remnant tree cover and in areas dominated by exotic groundcover where possible. The majority of remnant trees that are of importance for foraging are being retained across the site. Of the six trees being removed, none are significant nor are they the species' preferred winter-flowering species. Additionally, the CEMP will include further actions to reduce potential impacts, including pre-clearance checks for the removal of any mature trees, and measures are to be put in place for stop work orders if a suspected threatened woodland bird is observed on or in proximity to the project work areas. Therefore, with these efforts and measures being put in place, the development is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of any listed threatened woodland birds, nor will it be likely to have a significant impact on these species at the local, regional or national scales.</p>		

A3.2 Wetland Birds (Vulnerable/Migratory)

Threatened wetland birds include Eastern Great Egret, Plumed Egret, Musk Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, Little Egret, Latham's Snipe, Blue-billed Duck, Australasian Shoveller and Freckled Duck. These species share similar habitats and have been considered collectively by this SIC assessment. Wetland bird species listed under the EPBC Act have been underlined. These species share similar habitats and have been considered collectively by this SIC assessment.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population.	Unlikely	The potential habitat for threatened wetland birds is predominantly the nearby habitats of Sumsion Gardens (lake), House Creek and Wodonga Creek. Sumsion Gardens is a refuge but is not considered important habitat for these species, and this area is not undergoing any impacts. The two creeks are not considered preferred habitat, and are unlikely to be important areas for these wetland species. Furthermore, the creeks are undergoing very little impact, and no significant impact to areas of potential habitat is likely to result from the proposed works. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise may pose a disturbance risk to these species. However, breeding for these species is unlikely to take place in these lower quality/less preferred habitats, and thus breeding events will be unlikely to be disrupted by development. Nevertheless, efforts to identify any potential threatened wetland birds should be made during the development stages where works are in proximity to waterways. If suspect birds are seen on the Subject Land or in areas adjacent to the development, work must be stopped, and ecologists must be contacted to confirm the sighting. If found to be present, work must stop in the vicinity of the bird(s), until they move on from the site. With the efforts being made to tailor the designs to avoid large trees where possible, and to limit impacts to terrestrial areas (no significant works in waterways), the impacts on the wetland species in the area are expected to be low.
Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population.	Unlikely	As above. The development is impacting a very small amount of habitat, which is restricted to scattered trees, which are of a type that is mostly of limited value for wetland bird species. The majority of the native vegetation

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		within development area is being retained and protected, which is safeguarding the majority of wetland bird habitat present. Given the very small scale of disturbance involved with the linear works, the low tree losses being incurred, and the minimal impacts to wetland bird habitat being made, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for wetland birds.
Fragment an existing important population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting several mostly immature trees, and no intact patches of native vegetation are being significantly impacted by the development. Furthermore, the aquatic habitats near the alignment are not being impacted and are to be protected from indirect impacts via measures in the CEMP. As such, there is little risk of populations of threatened wetland birds being fragmented into two or more populations by the development works or the ongoing operation of the recreational trail/facilities.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Unlikely	As above. The project is impacting several trees (of limited habitat value for wetland birds), but no intact patches of native vegetation (higher quality habitat) are being significantly impacted by the development, with all patches being highly disturbed. Minimal impacts are occurring to the waterways, with strict controls to be in place. Furthermore, the development will be rehabilitated with biodiverse indigenous plantings, which will in effect provide additional feeding resources for local fauna species in the local area. The project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of wetland bird species.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population.	Highly unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and nearly all impacts are occurring on highly degraded land which contains very few native species except for some scattered trees and low diversity canopy areas, and very little impact is expected to occur for areas of suitable wetland bird habitat (local creeks). Furthermore, wetland birds are unlikely to breed in the flowing waterways in the vicinity, with their preference for wetlands which are absent, therefore there are little to no risks of the project disrupting the breeding cycle of wetland bird species.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	Unlikely	As above. The Subject Land contains some potential roosting and feeding habitat, especially along the banks of the major creeks. The project is , however, only impacting (removing) six trees (of generally limited habitat value), and no waterways are being significantly impacted by the development. Furthermore, the development will be revegetated in targeted areas with biodiverse indigenous plantings, which will in effect provide additional feeding resources for the fauna species in the local area. There will therefore be very little modification or removal of wetland bird habitat, and the small impacts expected are unlikely to decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that these species are likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in place to ensure no pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery and the wetland birds will not be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.	Unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the habitat values of the receiving environment and few trees are to be removed as part of the construction. The majority of vegetation impact is in areas which are already disturbed and limited to two or three disturbance resistant natives, or exotic species. Wetland birds are not likely to be directly impacted in a quantifiable way by the development. Additionally, the development is likely to facilitate better feeding opportunities for local fauna species, replacing biodiverse tree and shrub plantings into a generally shrub-deficient area. The development is therefore unlikely to interfere with the recovery of wetland bird species.
Summary of threatened wetland birds Significant Impact Assessment		
The potential habitat for threatened wetland birds is predominantly the nearby habitats of Sumsion Gardens (lake), House Creek and Wodonga Creek. Sumsion Gardens is a refuge but is not considered important habitat for these species, and this area is not undergoing any impacts. The two creeks are not considered preferred habitat, and although they may be frequented on occasion, they are unlikely to be important areas for these wetland species. Furthermore, the creeks are undergoing very little impact, and no significant impact to areas of potential habitat is likely to result from the proposed works. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise may pose a disturbance risk to these species. However, breeding for these species is unlikely to take place in these lower quality/less preferred habitats, and thus breeding events will be unlikely to be disrupted by development. Nevertheless, efforts to identify any potential threatened wetland birds should be made during the development stages where works are in proximity to waterways. If suspect birds are seen on the Subject Land or in areas adjacent to the development, work must be stopped, and ecologists must be contacted to confirm the sighting. If found to be present, work must stop in the vicinity of the bird(s), until they move on from the site. With the efforts being made to tailor the designs to avoid large trees where possible, and to limit impacts to terrestrial areas (no significant works in waterways), the impacts on the wetland species in the area are expected to be low. With absence of preferred habitat, minimal terrestrial habitat impacts, and with the controls in the CEMP to be implemented, a significant impact for threatened wetland birds is very unlikely.		

A3.3 Murray Spiny Crayfish (Vulnerable)

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population.	Highly unlikely	The potential habitat for the threatened Murray Spiny Crayfish is the House Creek and Wodonga Creek areas. These areas are experiencing very little direct impact (no expected impact below the typical waterline) and indirect impacts are to be controlled via development controls outlined in the project CEMP. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise is unlikely to pose a significant disturbance risk to these aquatic species. Furthermore, breeding for these species is unlikely to be impacted due to absence of waterway impacts, and thus breeding events will be unlikely to be disrupted by development. With the efforts being made to change the designs to avoid significant waterway impacts, and to limit impacts to terrestrial areas (no significant works in waterways), the impacts on the aquatic species in the area are expected to be low.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population.	Highly unlikely	As above. The development is impacting a very small amount of creek bank, which is restricted to landscape works with a low impact nature, and a pipe outlet, neither of which directly impact the aquatic habitat of this species. The majority of the native vegetation within development area is being retained and protected, which is safeguarding the species from indirect impacts to the aquatic habitat present. Given the very small scale of disturbance involved with the linear works, the low tree losses being incurred, and the minimal to no impacts to aquatic habitat being made, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for this species.
Fragment an existing important population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting terrestrial habitat only, and no intact (high quality) patches of native vegetation are being impacted by the development. Furthermore, the aquatic habitats near the alignment are not being impacted and are to be protected from indirect impacts via measures in the CEMP. As such, there is little risk of populations of threatened crayfish being fragmented into two or more populations by the development works or the ongoing operation of the recreational trail/facilities.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting several scattered trees (no aquatic species habitat value), and no intact patches of native vegetation (higher quality habitat) are being impacted by the development. Furthermore, the works areas will be rehabilitated with biodiverse indigenous plantings, which will in effect provide additional feeding resources for the fauna species in the local area. With the absence of direct aquatic impacts, and with controls in the CEMP to limit indirect impacts, the project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of the species.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population.	Highly unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and nearly all impacts are occurring on highly degraded land which contains very few native species except for some canopy trees and low diversity areas, and no impact is expected to occur for areas of more diverse native vegetation. Importantly, there are no expected impacts for aquatic areas, with only minor impacts occurring to creek banks/interfaces with strict controls in place via the project CEMP. With these factors in mind, there are no risks of the project disrupting the breeding cycle of the species.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	Highly unlikely	As above. The Subject Land contains some potential habitat, especially along the high flow areas of Wodonga Creek weir the rock weir is, however there are no impacts being made to aquatic environments. The project is impacting small areas of the creek bank, however the impacts are to be controlled and minimal, and are occurring above the typical water height in the creek. There will therefore be no modification or removal of crayfish habitat, and the indirect impacts will be controlled via actions in the CEMP, with any residual impacts expected to be highly unlikely to decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in	Highly unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in place to ensure no

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
the vulnerable species' habitat.		pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully.
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery and the Murray Spiny Crayfish will not be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.	Highly unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the terrestrial habitat values of the receiving environment and very little to no direct or indirect impacts are expected to occur for the aquatic environs as part of the construction or the ongoing operation of the recreational facilities. The species is not likely to be directly impacted in a quantifiable way by the development. Additionally, the development is likely to facilitate better vegetative buffering for the species, with rehabilitation and landscaping with biodiverse tree and shrub plantings into a generally shrub-deficient area. The development is therefore unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.

Summary of Murray Spiny Crayfish Significant Impact Assessment

The potential habitat for Murray Spiny Crayfish is limited to the aquatic environments within House and Wodonga Creeks, neither of which are being directly impacted by the development, and indirect impacts are to be managed through development controls in the CEMP. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise are unlikely to pose a disturbance risk to the species, but controls via the CEMP will ensure this is the case. Breeding for this species is exclusively undertaken in water, thus the absence of aquatic impacts means breeding will not be disrupted by development. With the efforts made to tailor the designs to minimise impacts occurring in the creek banks, and given the project is only removing a small number of low value trees in a terrestrial environment, with many adjoining trees being retained, the impacts on the species will be very low to negligible. The development is likely to facilitate better vegetative buffering for the species, with biodiverse tree and shrub plantings being used for rehabilitation and development landscaping, which is putting buffer species back into a generally shrub-deficient area. As a result of no aquatic habitat impacts, low terrestrial habitat impacts, and efforts to minimise potential indirect impacts through actions in the CEMP, it is unlikely that the development will significantly impact the Murray Spiny Crayfish.

A3.4 Threatened Fish (Critically Endangered and Endangered)

Threatened fish species include Silver Perch, Flathead Galaxias, Trout Cod, Murray Cod and Southern Pygmy Perch. These species share similar aquatic habitats and have been considered collectively by this SIC assessment. All of these fish species are listed under the EPBC Act.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population.	Highly unlikely	The potential habitat for the threatened fish species is the aquatic habitats of House Creek and Wodonga Creek. These areas are experiencing very little direct impact (no expected impact below the typical waterline) and indirect impacts are to be controlled via development controls outlined in the project CEMP. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise is unlikely to pose a significant disturbance risk to these aquatic species. Furthermore, breeding for these species is unlikely to be impacted due to absence of waterway impacts, and thus

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		breeding events will be unlikely to be disrupted by development. With the efforts being made to change the designs to avoid significant waterway impacts, and to limit impacts to terrestrial areas (no significant works in waterways), the impacts on the aquatic species in the area are expected to be low to negligible.
Reduce the area of occupancy of the species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The development is impacting a very small amount of creek bank, which is restricted to landscape works with a low impact nature, and a pipe outlet, neither of which directly impact the aquatic habitat of these fish species. The majority of the native vegetation within development area is being retained and protected, which is safeguarding the species from indirect impacts to the aquatic habitat present. Given the very small scale of disturbance involved with the linear works, the low tree losses being incurred, and the minimal to no impacts to aquatic habitat being made, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for this species.
Fragment an existing population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting terrestrial habitat only, and no intact (high quality) patches of native vegetation are being impacted by the development. Furthermore, the aquatic habitats near the alignment are not being impacted and are to be protected from indirect impacts via measures in the CEMP. As such, there is no risk of populations of threatened fish being fragmented into two or more populations by the development works or the ongoing operation of the recreational trail/facilities.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting several scattered trees (no aquatic species habitat value), and no intact patches of native vegetation (higher quality habitat) are being impacted by the development. Furthermore, the works areas will be rehabilitated with biodiverse indigenous plantings, which will in effect provide additional feeding resources for the fauna species in the local area, and will help buffer the creeks from overland flows. With the absence of direct aquatic impacts, and with controls in the CEMP to limit indirect impacts, the project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of these fish species.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.	Highly unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and nearly all impacts are occurring on highly degraded land which contains very few native species except for some canopy trees and low diversity areas, and no impact is expected to occur for areas of more diverse native vegetation. Importantly, there are no expected impacts for aquatic areas, with only minor impacts occurring to creek banks/interfaces with strict controls to be put in place via the project CEMP. With these factors in mind, there are no risks of the project disrupting the breeding cycle of the species.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species	Highly unlikely	As above. The broader Subject Land contains some potential aquatic habitat, however there are no impacts being made to aquatic environments. The project is impacting small areas of the creek bank, however the impacts are to be controlled and minimal, and are

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
is likely to decline		occurring above the typical water height in the creek. There will therefore be no modification or removal of fish habitat, and the indirect impacts will be controlled via actions in the CEMP, with any residual impacts expected to be highly unlikely to decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the fish species are likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat.	Highly unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in place to ensure no pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully. Council must use aquatic-friendly herbicides throughout the alignment, to reduce the impact on aquatic species (fish, frogs etc).
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery and the threatened fish will be unlikely to be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere with the recovery of the species.	Highly unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the terrestrial habitat values of the receiving environment and very little to no direct or indirect impacts are expected to occur for the aquatic environs as part of the construction or the ongoing operation of the recreational facilities. The fish species are not likely to be directly impacted in a quantifiable way by the development. Additionally, the development is likely to facilitate better vegetative buffering for these aquatic species, with rehabilitation and landscaping with biodiverse tree and shrub plantings into a generally shrub-deficient area. The development is therefore unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.

Summary of threatened fish Significant Impact Assessment

The potential habitat map threatened fish is limited to the aquatic environments within House and Wodonga Creeks, neither of which are being directly impacted by the development, and indirect impacts are to be managed through development controls in the CEMP. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise are unlikely to pose a disturbance risk to these species, but controls via the CEMP will ensure this is the case. Breeding for these species is exclusively undertaken in water, thus the absence of aquatic impacts means breeding will not be disrupted by development. With the efforts made to tailor the designs to minimise impacts occurring in the creek banks, and given the project is only removing a small number of low value trees in a terrestrial environment, with many adjoining trees being retained, the impacts on these species will be very low to negligible. The development is likely to facilitate better vegetative buffering for the aquatic habitats of these species, with biodiverse tree and shrub plantings being used for rehabilitation and development landscaping, which is putting buffer species back into a generally native ground-cover and shrub-deficient area. As a result of no aquatic habitat impacts, low terrestrial habitat impacts, and efforts to minimise potential indirect impacts through actions in the CEMP, it is unlikely that the development will significantly impact these threatened fish species.

A3.5 Threatened Frogs (Critically Endangered and Endangered)

Listed threatened frog species include Sloane's Froglet and Giant Bullfrog. These species share similar aquatic habitats and have been considered collectively by this SIC assessment. Only the Sloane's Froglet is listed under the EPBC Act, thus it will be the main focus of the assessment.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population.	Highly unlikely	There is no high quality frog habitat present along the alignment, with frog habitat limited to the major flowing creeks, which are not preferred habitats. The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated land. With the avoidance of the majority of trees, and with little to no impacts to the waterways and minimal impacts to the creek banks, habitat impacts are expected to be very low and highly unlikely to cause a decrease in population size for frog species.
Reduce the area of occupancy of the species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The development is impacting a very small amount of creek bank, which is restricted to landscape works with a low impact nature, and a pipe outlet, neither of which significantly impact the aquatic or semi-aquatic habitat of these frog species. The majority of the native vegetation within development area is being retained and protected, which is safeguarding the species from indirect impacts to the aquatic habitat present. Given the very small scale of disturbance involved with the linear works, the low tree losses being incurred, and the minimal to no impacts to aquatic habitat being made, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for these frog species.
Fragment an existing population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting terrestrial habitat only, and no intact (high quality) patches of native vegetation are being impacted by the development. Furthermore, the aquatic habitats near the alignment are not being impacted and are to be protected from indirect impacts via measures in the CEMP. As such, there is no risk of populations of threatened frogs being fragmented into two or more populations by the development works or the ongoing operation of the recreational trail/facilities.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is impacting several scattered trees (no aquatic species habitat value), and no intact patches of native vegetation (higher quality habitat) are being impacted by the development. Furthermore, the works areas will be rehabilitated with biodiverse indigenous plantings, which will in effect provide additional feeding resources for the fauna species in the local area, and will help buffer the creeks from overland flows. With the absence of direct aquatic impacts, and with controls in the CEMP to limit indirect impacts, the project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of these frog species.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.	Highly unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and nearly all impacts are occurring on highly degraded land which contains very few native species except for some canopy trees and low diversity areas, and no impact is expected to occur for areas of more diverse native vegetation. Importantly, there are no expected impacts for aquatic areas, with only minor impacts occurring to creek

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		banks/interfaces with strict controls to be put in place via the project CEMP. With these factors in mind, there are low risks of the project disrupting the breeding cycle of these species.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	Highly unlikely	As above. The broader Subject Land contains some potential aquatic habitat, however there are no impacts being made to aquatic environments. The project is impacting small areas of the creek bank, however the impacts are to be controlled and minimal, and are occurring above the typical water height in the creek. There will therefore be no modification or removal of important frog habitat, and the indirect impacts will be controlled via actions in the CEMP, with any residual impacts expected to be highly unlikely to decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the frog species are likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in place to ensure no pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully. Council must use aquatic-friendly herbicides throughout the alignment, to reduce the impact on aquatic species (fish, frogs etc).
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery and the threatened frogs will be unlikely to be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere with the recovery of the species.	Highly unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the terrestrial habitat values of the receiving environment and very little to no direct or indirect impacts are expected to occur for the aquatic environs as part of the construction or the ongoing operation of the recreational facilities. The frog species are not likely to be directly impacted in a quantifiable way by the development. Additionally, the development is likely to facilitate better vegetative buffering for these aquatic species, with rehabilitation and landscaping with biodiverse tree and shrub plantings into a generally shrub-deficient area. The development is therefore unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Summary of threatened frog Significant Impact Assessment		
<p>There is no high quality frog habitat present along the alignment, with frog habitat limited to the major flowing creeks, which are not preferred habitats. The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated land. With the avoidance of the majority of trees, and with little to no impacts to the waterways and minimal impacts to the creek banks, habitat impacts are expected to be very low and highly unlikely to cause a decrease in population size for frog species. The potential habitat, limited to the aquatic environments within House and Wodonga Creeks, are not being directly impacted by the development, and indirect impacts are to be managed through development controls in the CEMP. Impacts from dust, vibration and noise are unlikely to pose a disturbance risk to these species, but controls via the CEMP will ensure this is the case. Breeding for these species is exclusively undertaken in still or very slow-moving shallow pools of water, thus the absence of aquatic impacts means breeding will not be disrupted by development. With the efforts made to tailor the designs to minimise impacts occurring in the creek banks, and given the project is only removing a small number of low value trees in a terrestrial environment, with many adjoining trees being retained, the impacts on these species will be very low to negligible. The development is likely to facilitate better vegetative buffering for the aquatic habitats of these species, with biodiverse tree and shrub plantings being used for rehabilitation and development landscaping, which is putting buffer species back into a generally native ground-cover and shrub-deficient area. As a result of limited preferred frog habitat being present, and no aquatic habitat impacts, low terrestrial habitat impacts, and efforts to minimise potential indirect impacts through actions in the CEMP, it is unlikely that the development will significantly impact these threatened frog species.</p>		

A3.6 Koala (Endangered)

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of a population.	Highly unlikely	The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated land. The areas of potential woodland (Koala) habitat occur along much of the alignment, however only six trees are being removed directly, all of which are young trees of limited value. There are few native shrubs or groundcovers present, thus Koala habitat is limited to trees, including some large hollow-bearing trees. With the avoidance of the majority of trees, and trees being removed contributing to no significant fragmentation of the habitat present, Koala habitat impacts are expected to be very low.
Reduce the area of occupancy of the species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project study area does contain some potential habitat for Koala, however very little of the species' preferred habitat is being lost or significantly impacted by the development. The alignment follows highly degraded areas which no longer contain native grasses, and has few shrubs or groundcover species. With the efforts that have been made to avoid the best areas of habitat, and with the majority of trees being avoided and retained within the development footprint, expected habitat impacts are minimal. Given the small scale of disturbance involved, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for Koala.
Fragment an existing population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is avoiding impacts to important (high quality) habitat areas, and through careful design has minimised large tree losses as much as possible. Impact areas have been designed to avoid higher quality vegetation by following existing disturbed areas (exotic dominated areas) for most of the alignment. Given the absence of

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		significant impacts to areas of important habitat (mature trees), and with protection of all large trees and the loss of only immature trees, the impacts from the project will not fragment any populations of Koala into two or more populations.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is not significantly impacting on the tree species present along the alignment, with very small losses and efforts being made to avoid as many large trees as possible. Furthermore, of the large trees being deemed lost due to TPZ encroachment, all will be deemed lost but retained on site. The majority of trees being lost or deemed lost do not constitute high-value habitat. As such, the project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of the Koala.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.	Unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and very little impact is expected to occur for native vegetation, including no impacts to areas of higher quality habitat. However, the development is likely to generate some noise, vibration and dust issues. Therefore, it is recommended that the CEMP includes measures to control these impacts, to help safeguard potential breeding Koalas. If Koalas are seen on the Subject Land or in areas adjacent to the development, work must be stopped, and ecologists must be contacted to confirm the sighting if required. If found to be present, work must stop in the vicinity of the Koala(s), until they move on. Visual inspections by project managers are also recommended prior to the removal of any trees. With the controls to be put in place via the CEMP, the breeding cycle of Koalas should not be significantly disrupted by the project.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is not significantly impacting on trees and the Study Area contains limited native shrubs or groundcover species, indicating that the habitats being impacted are not high quality habitats for Koala. Additionally, efforts have been made to avoid as many trees as possible in the areas of potential habitat, and trees being removed do not constitute important habitat, with all deemed lost trees being retained within the development. As such, the project is therefore not expected to modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that Koala would be likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in the endangered or critically endangered species' habitat.	Highly unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risks of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in place to ensure no pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully. It is unlikely that the development will result in invasive species becoming established and threatening the local Koala habitat.

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Critically and Endangered species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases that pose a threat to Koala are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery, and the species will not be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere with the recovery of the species.	Highly unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the receiving environment and only six trees are to be removed as part of the construction, all of which are not considered significantly important trees for Koala. The majority of vegetation impact in the development site is occurring to significantly disturbed understorey and the entire alignment contains limited native ground cover species (natives are virtually absent in most locations). Given tree removal is limited to six immature trees, Koala are not likely to be directly impacted by the development. Therefore, the development is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.

Summary of Koala Significant Impact Assessment

The project will have minimal direct or indirect impacts for Koala or their potential habitat. The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated areas. Design processes have adopted avoid and minimise recommendations, ensuring impacts that are being made are being placed in areas with little to no remnant tree cover where possible, and in areas dominated by exotic groundcover where possible. The majority of remnant trees that are of importance for foraging are being retained across the site. Of the six trees being removed, none are significant feed trees (all are immature trees). Additionally, the CEMP will include further actions to reduce potential impacts, including pre-clearance checks for the removal of any trees, and measures are to be put in place for stop work orders if a Koala is observed on or in proximity to the project work areas. Therefore, with these efforts and measures being put in place, the development is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of Koala, nor will it be likely to have a significant impact on the species at the local, regional or national scales.

A3.7 Grey-headed Flying Fox (Vulnerable)

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population.	Highly unlikely	There is a bat breeding colony a short distance upstream of the development (predominantly Little Red Flying Foxes, but also occasionally Grey-headed Flying Foxes), however the development is highly unlikely to impact this distant colony due to the distance from works areas. The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated land. The areas of potential woodland habitat occur along much of the alignment, however only six trees are being removed directly. There are no native shrubs or groundcovers present, thus woodland habitat is limited to trees, including some large habitat trees. With the avoidance of the majority of trees, and the loss of only six immature gum trees, habitat impacts for this species are expected to be very low.
Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project study area does contain some potential habitat for flying fox species, however very little of the species' preferred feeding habitat is being lost or impacted by the development, and no known

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
		breeding habitat is being impacted. The alignment follows highly degraded areas which no longer contain native grasses, shrubs or groundcover species, reflecting the site's general poor condition. With the efforts that have been made to avoid the best areas of woodland habitat, and with the majority of trees being avoided and retained within the development footprint, expected habitat impacts are minimal. Given the small scale of disturbance involved, the project will therefore be unlikely to cause any reduction to the area of occupancy for Grey-headed Flying-fox.
Fragment an existing important population into two or more populations.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is avoiding impacts to important (high quality) habitat areas, and through careful design has avoided large tree losses as much as possible. Impact areas have been designed to avoid higher quality vegetation by following existing disturbed areas (exotic dominated areas) for the majority of the impact areas through the development. Given the absence of significant impacts to areas of important breeding or feeding habitat, protection of large hollow-bearing trees and the loss of only immature trees, the impacts from the project will not fragment any populations of flying fox into two or more populations.
Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species.	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is not significantly impacting on the preferred habitat of flying foxes, with very small losses only and efforts being made to avoid large trees. Furthermore, of the large trees being deemed lost due to TPZ encroachment, all will be deemed lost but retained on site. The remaining six trees being lost do not constitute important habitat. As such, the project is therefore not expected to affect any habitat that is critical to the survival of the species.
Disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population.	Unlikely	As above. The impacts of the project upon the receiving environment are low, and no impact is expected to occur for native vegetation in areas of higher quality habitat. However, the development is likely to generate some noise, vibration and dust issues. Therefore, it is recommended that the CEMP includes measures to control these impacts, to help safeguard potential breeding flying foxes in or in proximity to work areas. If suspect Grey-headed Flying Foxes are seen on the Subject Land or in areas adjacent to the development, work must be stopped, and ecologists must be contacted to confirm the sighting. If found to be present, work must stop in the vicinity of the bats, until they move on. Pre-clearance checks by the project manager are also recommended prior to the removal of any trees. With the controls to be put in place via the CEMP, the breeding cycle of the species should not be significantly disrupted by the project.
Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline	Highly unlikely	As above. The project is not significantly impacting on trees and the Study Area contains minimal native shrubs or groundcover species, indicating that the habitats being impacted are not high quality or important habitats for flying foxes. Additionally, efforts have been made to avoid as many trees as possible in the areas of potential habitat, and trees being lost do not constitute important habitat. As such, the project is therefore not expected to modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that species would be likely to decline.
Result in invasive species that are harmful to a critically endangered or endangered species becoming established in	Highly unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to reduce the risks of invasive species being introduced by project equipment or machinery, and monitoring will take place to ensure any accidental introductions are adequately eradicated from the project area. Controls will also be put in

EPBC Significant Impact Criteria (for Vulnerable species)	Significant impact likely?	Justification of decision
the vulnerable species' habitat.		place to ensure no pollutants are introduced or spilled during all stages of the project, and that ongoing maintenance of the area will utilise the lowest impact methods for pest control that are available to do the job successfully. It is unlikely that the development will result in invasive species becoming established and threatening the local bat habitat.
Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline.	Unlikely	Through a project CEMP, controls will be in place during construction, rehabilitation and maintenance phases to ensure all machinery and equipment arrives clean on site, and that any machinery or equipment previously working in a disease risk zone are appropriately decontaminated in a specific manner that will treat the disease being dealt with. Therefore, no diseases that pose a threat to flying foxes are likely to be introduced by project equipment or machinery, and the species will not be at risk of decline from introduced diseases.
Interfere substantially with the recovery of the species.	Highly unlikely	As the above sections have described, the project will have low levels of impact on the receiving environment and only six trees are to be removed as part of the construction, all of which are not considered significantly important trees. The majority of vegetation impact in the development site is occurring to significantly disturbed understorey and the entire alignment contains limited native ground cover species (natives are virtually absent). Grey-headed Flying Foxes are not likely to be directly impacted by the development. Therefore, the development is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.
Summary of Grey-headed Flying-fox Significant Impact Assessment		
The project will have minimal direct or indirect impacts for Grey-headed Flying-fox or their potential feeding or breeding habitat. The development is contributing to very low levels of impact to native vegetation on site, with most impacts occurring in exotic dominated areas. Design processes have adopted avoid and minimise recommendations, ensuring impacts that are being made are being placed in areas with little to no remnant tree cover and in areas dominated by exotic groundcover where possible. The majority of remnant trees (all large trees) that are of importance for foraging are being retained across the site. Of the six trees being removed, none are significant mature specimens. Additionally, the CEMP will include further actions to reduce potential impacts, including pre-clearance checks for the removal of any trees, and measures are to be put in place for stop work orders if a suspected Grey-headed Flying-fox is observed on or in proximity to the project work areas. Therefore, with these efforts and measures being put in place, the development is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species, nor will it be likely to have a significant impact on the species at the local, regional or national scales.		

Appendix 4: Site Photos



Photo 1: Zone 1 on corner of Stock Route and Reuss Road. Exotics dominate. Looking north-west from Reuss Road. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 2: Zone 2, along the edge of House Creek. Looking north-west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 3: Zone 3, along the edge of House Creek. Looking north-west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 4: Zone 4. Looking west, towards pedestrian swing bridge. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 5: Two large hollow habitat trees to be protected. Zone 4. Looking north-west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 6: Zone 5, in Lincoln Causeway median. Looking south towards Wodonga Creek. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 7: Zone 6 on the banks of Wodonga Creek. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 8: Zone 6 on the banks of Wodonga Creek, near rock weir. Looking west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 9: Zone 7 on the banks of Wodonga Creek, near miniature trains. Looking west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 10: Zone 8 near the banks of Wodonga Creek, near MX track. Looking west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 11: Zone 9 near the MX track. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 12: Zone 10 between MX track and rail reserve. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026

Appendix 5: Photos of Lost Vegetation



Photo 13: Tree 98 & 99 to be deemed lost, but retained. Patch 1a. Looking north-east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 14: Trees removed (tree 102 & 246) and deemed lost tree 245. Zone 2a. Looking north. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 15: Tree 100 to be deemed lost, but retained. Zone 3a. Looking south. Photo: Google Maps 2026



Photo 16: Tree deemed lost (tree 101). Zone 3b. Looking south. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 17: Scattered Tree 1 & 2 (NVR 11a & 12 a) deemed lost. Looking north-east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 18: Trees deemed lost (tree 222, 223 & 224) and removed 220. Zone 4a. Looking north. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 19: Proposed path to creek near swing bridge, with one tree (241) to be removed. Zone 4a. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026

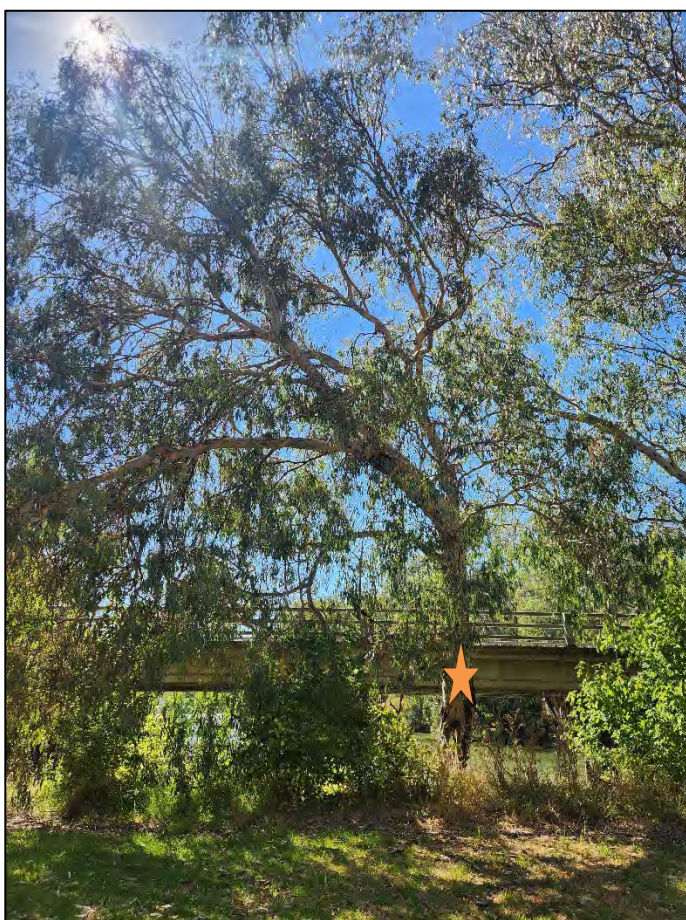


Photo 20: Tree 92 deemed lost, zone 5a. Looking east towards Lincoln Causeway southbound. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 21: Tree 90 and 91 deemed lost, zone 5a. Looking south-west towards Wodonga Creek. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 22: Tree 76 and 80 deemed lost, zone 6. Looking south-west along Wodonga Creek. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 23: Tree 54 and 55 deemed lost, zone 7, near miniature trains. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 24: Tree 53 deemed lost, zone 7, near miniature trains. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 25: Trees deemed lost (48, 50, 51 & 52) and removed (49), zone 7. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 26: Trees deemed lost (45, 63 & 64), zone 7, east of boat ramp. Looking west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 27: Tree 62 deemed lost (pipe works), zone 7, east of boat ramp. Looking west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 28: Scattered tree 3 (NVR 13a) deemed lost (retained), MX track western entry road. Looking north. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 29: Deemed lost tree 202 (carpark impacts), trains entry track. Looking north-west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026

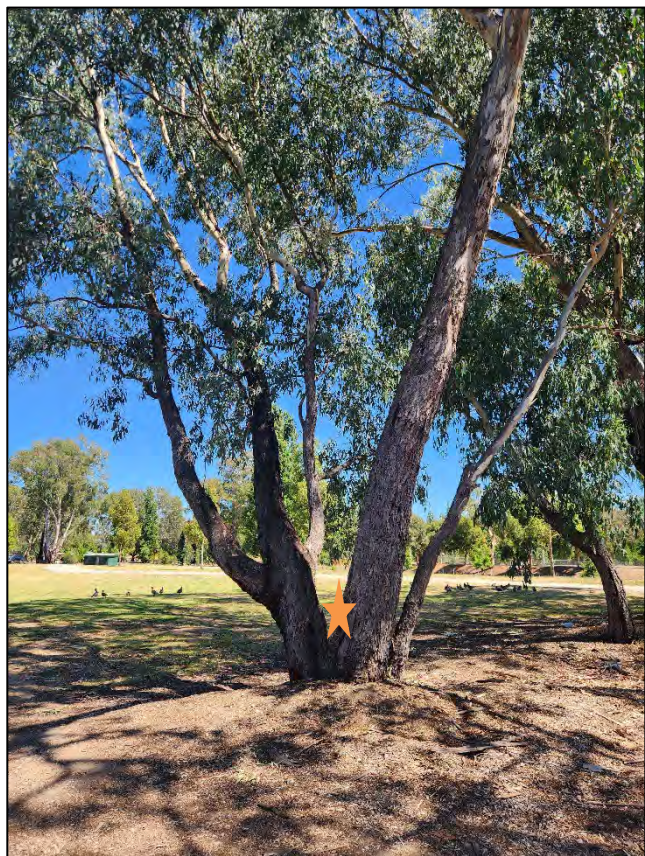


Photo 30: Deemed lost tree 31. Looking north-west. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 31: : Deemed lost tree 27. Looking east. Habitat tree for protection. Photo: S. Mendham 2026

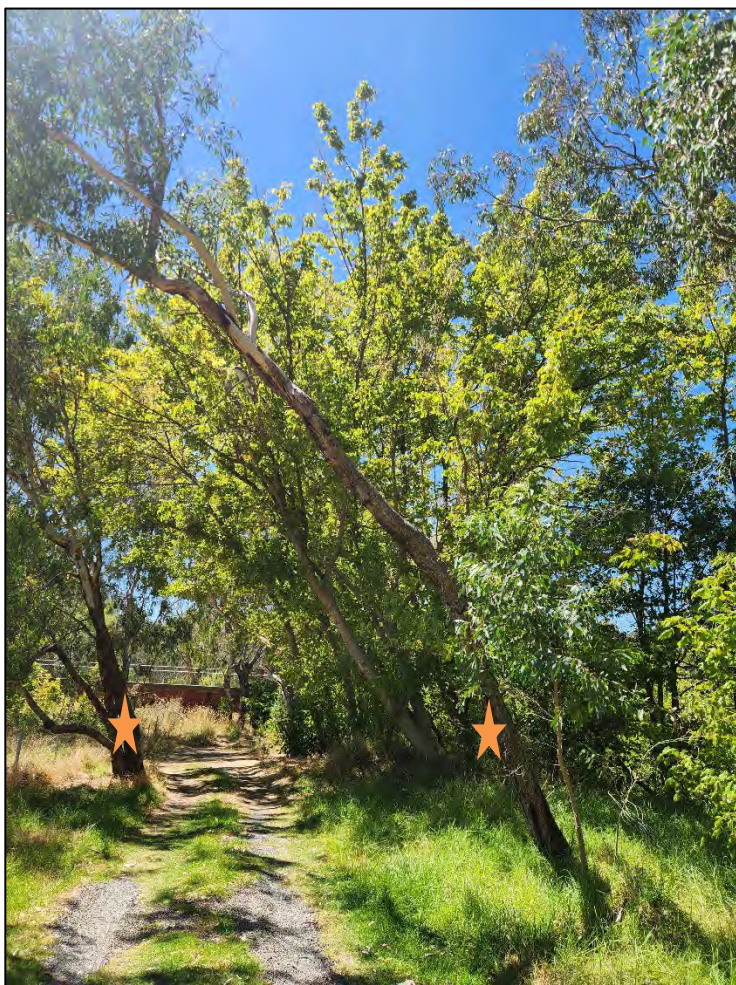



Photo 32: : Deemed lost tree 25 and 3. Looking east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026



Photo 33: Removed tree 22 and deemed lost tree 23. Looking north-east. Photo: S. Mendham 2026

Appendix 6: Native Vegetation Removal Report





Native Vegetation Removal Report

NVRR ID: 374_20260209_IJZ

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

Report details

<p>Date created: 09/02/2026</p> <p>Local Government Area: WODONGA CITY</p> <p>Shapefile name: WCAP_Trees_NVR_GDA2020.shp WCAP_Patches_NVR_GDA2020.shp</p> <p>Site assessor name: Stuart Mendham</p> <p>Registered Aboriginal Party:</p> <p>Coordinates: 146.89639, -36.10762</p> <p>Address: LINCOLN CAUSEWAY WODONGA 3690 STOCK ROUTE WODONGA 3690 LINCOLN CAUSEWAY GATEWAY ISLAND 3691 BRADFORD STREET WODONGA 3690 184 LINCOLN CAUSEWAY GATEWAY ISLAND 3691 9 WRIGHT ROAD GATEWAY ISLAND 3691 11 WRIGHT ROAD GATEWAY ISLAND 3691 WRIGHT ROAD GATEWAY ISLAND 3691</p>	<p>Regulator Notes</p> <p>Removal polygons are located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Crown Land
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Page 1

Summary of native vegetation to be removed

Assessment pathway	Detailed Assessment Pathway		
Location category	Location 1 The native vegetation extent map indicates that this area is not typically characterised as supporting native vegetation. It does not meet the criteria to be classified as Location Category 2 or 3. The removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation in this area will not require a Species Offset.		
Total extent including past and proposed removal (ha) <i>Includes endangered EVCs (ha): 0</i>	0.7	<i>Extent of past removal (ha)</i>	0
		<i>Extent of proposed removal - Patches (ha)</i>	0.594
		<i>Extent of proposed removal - Scattered Trees (ha)</i>	0.106
No. Large Trees proposed to be removed	16	<i>No. Large Patch Trees</i>	15
		<i>No. Large Scattered Trees</i>	1
No. Small Scattered Trees	2		

Offset requirements if approval is granted

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

General Offset amount ¹	0.2690 General Habitat Units
Vicinity	North East CMA or WODONGA CITY LGA
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score ²	0.4275
Large Trees [*]	16
*The total number of Large Trees that the offset must protect	16 Large Trees to be protected in either the General, Species or combination across all habitat units protected

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 with mapped habitat at the site

Appendix 3 includes the following figures

- Location map
- Strategic Biodiversity Value map
- Condition map
- Endangered EVCs map
- Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation
- Property in context
- Habitat Importance maps

1. The General Offset amount required is the sum of all General Habitat Units in Appendix 1.

2. Minimum strategic biodiversity value score is 80 per cent of the weighted average score across habitat zones where a General Offset is required.

3. The Species Offset amount(s) required is the sum of all Species Habitat Units in Appendix 1.



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 approval from the responsible authority. The responsible authority will refer your application to DEECA for assessment, as required. **This report is not a referral assessment by DEECA.**

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

Refer to 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 as applicable.
- A defensible space statement as applicable.
- A statement about the Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (NVPP) 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.



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 meets or exceeds the Species Offset threshold, a Species Offset is required. This test is completed for all species with mapped habitat at the site. Multiple Species Offsets will be required if the Species Offset threshold is exceeded for multiple species.

Where a zone requires Species Offset(s), the Species Habitat Units for each species in that zone are calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines: **Species Habitat Units = extent without overlap x condition score 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 are calculated by the following equation in accordance with the Guidelines: **General Habitat Units = extent without overlap x condition score x general landscape factor x 1.5, where the general landscape factor = 0.5 + (strategic biodiversity value score/2)**

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

Native vegetation to be removed

Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant							Information calculated by NVR Map						
Zone	Type	DBH (cm)	EVC code	Bioregional conservation status	Partial Removal	Condition score	Large Tree(s)	Polygon extent (ha)	Extent without overlap (ha)	SBV score	HI Score	Habitat Units	Offset Type
1-a	Patch	-	VRiv0295	Vulnerable	no	0.290	1	0.027	0.027	0.800	-	0.011	General
10-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.360	-	0.006	0.006	0.850	-	0.003	General
2-a	Patch	-	VRiv0295	Vulnerable	no	0.240	-	0.017	0.017	0.800	-	0.006	General
3-a	Patch	-	VRiv0295	Vulnerable	no	0.240	-	0.008	0.008	0.800	-	0.002	General



Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant							Information calculated by NVR Map						
Zone	Type	DBH (cm)	EVC code	Bioregional conservation status	Partial Removal	Condition score	Large Tree(s)	Polygon extent (ha)	Extent without overlap (ha)	SBV score	HI Score	Habitat Units	Offset Type
3-b	Patch	-	VRiv0295	Vulnerable	no	0.240	-	0.012	0.012	0.800	-	0.004	General
4-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.330	-	0.015	0.015	0.460	-	0.005	General
4-b	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.330	1	0.063	0.063	0.460	-	0.023	General
5-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.350	1	0.014	0.014	0.460	-	0.005	General
6-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.280	2	0.035	0.035	0.460	-	0.011	General
6-b	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.280	-	0.030	0.030	0.460	-	0.009	General
6-c	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.280	1	0.030	0.030	0.460	-	0.009	General
7-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.420	2	0.037	0.037	0.460	-	0.017	General
7-b	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.420	5	0.203	0.203	0.460	-	0.094	General
7-c	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.420	2	0.066	0.066	0.460	-	0.030	General
8-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.380	-	0.013	0.013	0.850	-	0.007	General
9-a	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.280	-	0.011	0.011	0.850	-	0.004	General
9-b	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.280	-	0.004	0.004	0.850	-	0.001	General
9-c	Patch	-	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.280	-	0.004	0.004	0.850	-	0.002	General
11-a	Scattered Tree	37	VRiv0295	Vulnerable	no	0.200	-	0.031	0.018	0.830	-	0.005	General

Information provided by or on behalf of the applicant							Information calculated by NVR Map						
Zone	Type	DBH (cm)	EVC code	Bioregional conservation status	Partial Removal	Condition score	Large Tree(s)	Polygon extent (ha)	Extent without overlap (ha)	SBV score	HI Score	Habitat Units	Offset Type
12-a	Scattered Tree	23	VRiv0295	Vulnerable	no	0.200	-	0.031	0.018	0.830	-	0.005	General
13-a	Scattered Tree	233	VRiv0815	Vulnerable	no	0.200	1	0.070	0.070	0.492	-	0.016	General

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

This table identifies all rare or threatened species with mapped habitat at the site and the proportional impact associated with the proposed native vegetation removal.

Species common name	Species scientific name	Taxon ID	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	Proportional impact (%)
Water Shield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	500487	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0005
Murray River Turtle	<i>Emydura macquarii</i>	5135	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0003
Silver Perch	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	528544	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0003
Murray-Darling Rainbowfish	<i>Melanotaenia fluviatilis</i>	4774	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0002
Superb Parrot	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	10277	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	11280	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Murray Cod	<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>	4871	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Broad-shelled Turtle	<i>Chelodina expansa</i>	5133	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Southern Pygmy Perch (Murray-Darling lineage)	<i>Nannoperca australis</i> (Murray-Darling lineage)	903231	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0001
Lewin's Rail	<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	10045	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

Species common name	Species scientific name	Taxon ID	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	Proportional impact (%)
Australian Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula australis</i>	10170	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Bush Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	10174	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Brolga	<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	10177	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>	10185	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	10186	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>	10187	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australian Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>	10195	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>	10212	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	10214	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>	10216	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	10217	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

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Species common name	Species scientific name	Taxon ID	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	Proportional impact (%)
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	10220	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	10226	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lopholictinia isura</i>	10230	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	10236	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>	10238	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens connivens</i>	10246	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>	10248	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	10309	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	10334	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Grey-crowned Babbler	<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	10443	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Painted Honeyeater	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	10598	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

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Species common name	Species scientific name	Taxon ID	Conservation status	Group	Habitat impacted	Proportional impact (%)
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	10603	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Squirrel Glider	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	11137	Vulnerable	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>	12283	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Buloke	<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	500678	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Two-colour Panic	<i>Panicum simile</i>	502408	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Dwarf Brooklime	<i>Gratiola pumilo</i>	503753	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Riverina Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine moirensis</i>	505032	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Forest Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine papillata</i>	505034	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Floodplain Fireweed	<i>Senecio campylocarpus</i>	507136	Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000
Common Bent-wing Bat (eastern ssp.)	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i>	61342	Critically Endangered	Dispersed	Habitat importance map	0.0000

Habitat Group

- Highly localised habitat means there is 2,000 hectares or less mapped habitat for the species.
- Dispersed habitat means there is more than 2,000 hectares of mapped habitat for the species.

Habitat Impacted

The Species General Offset test, as described in Section 5.3.1 of the Guidelines, is used to determine if proposed native vegetation removal will result in a proportionally significant impact on the habitat value of rare or threatened species. The test is applied where the native vegetation proposed for removal:

- Intersects the Habitat Importance Map for a rare or threatened species; or
- Intersects the 'top ranking' modelled habitat for a rare or threatened species with dispersed habitat, as identified in its Top Ranking Habitat Importance Map.

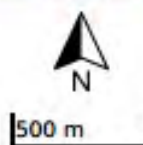
Top Ranking Maps consist of the 2,000 hectares of habitat with the highest Habitat Importance Scores for each dispersed species. The 'Habitat impacted' column identifies whether the Habitat Importance Map or its Top Ranking Map was used to determine the proportional impact for a species with dispersed habitat.

Appendix 3: Images of mapped native vegetation

1. Property in context



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



2. Aerial photograph showing mapped native vegetation



- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal



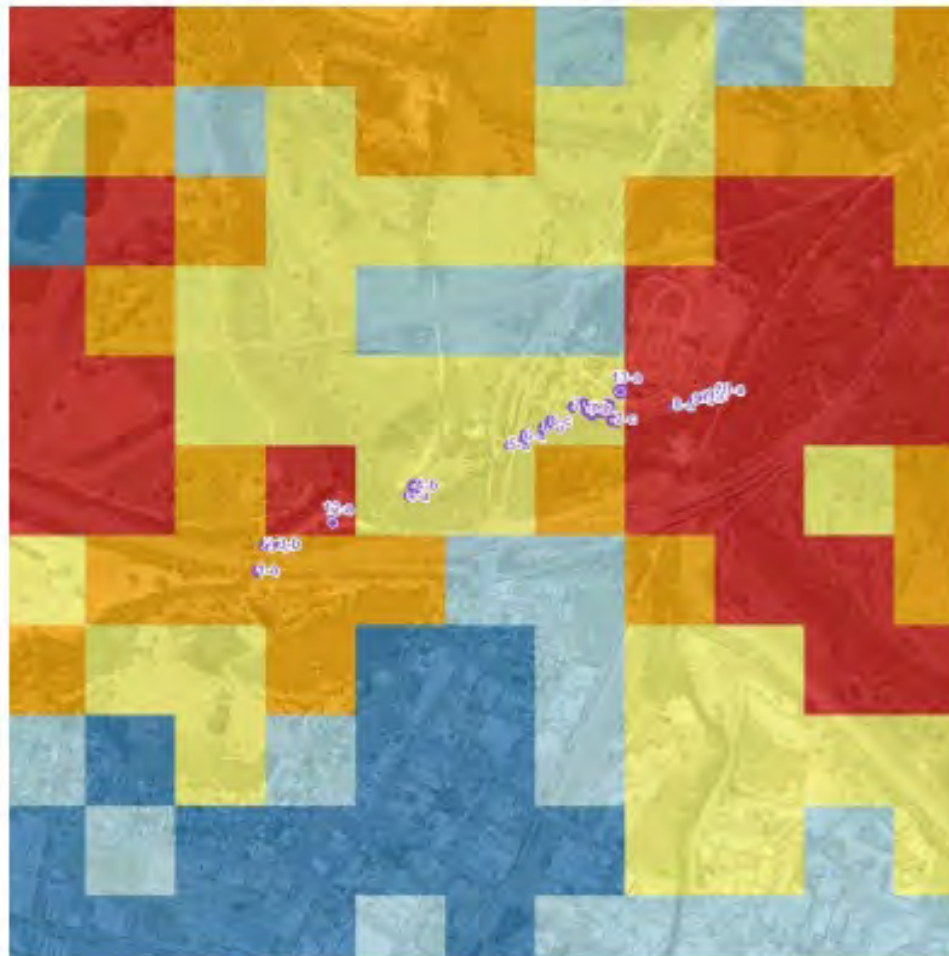
3. Location Risk Map



- Proposed Removal
- Past Removal
- Partial Removal
- Location 1
- Location 2
- Location 3



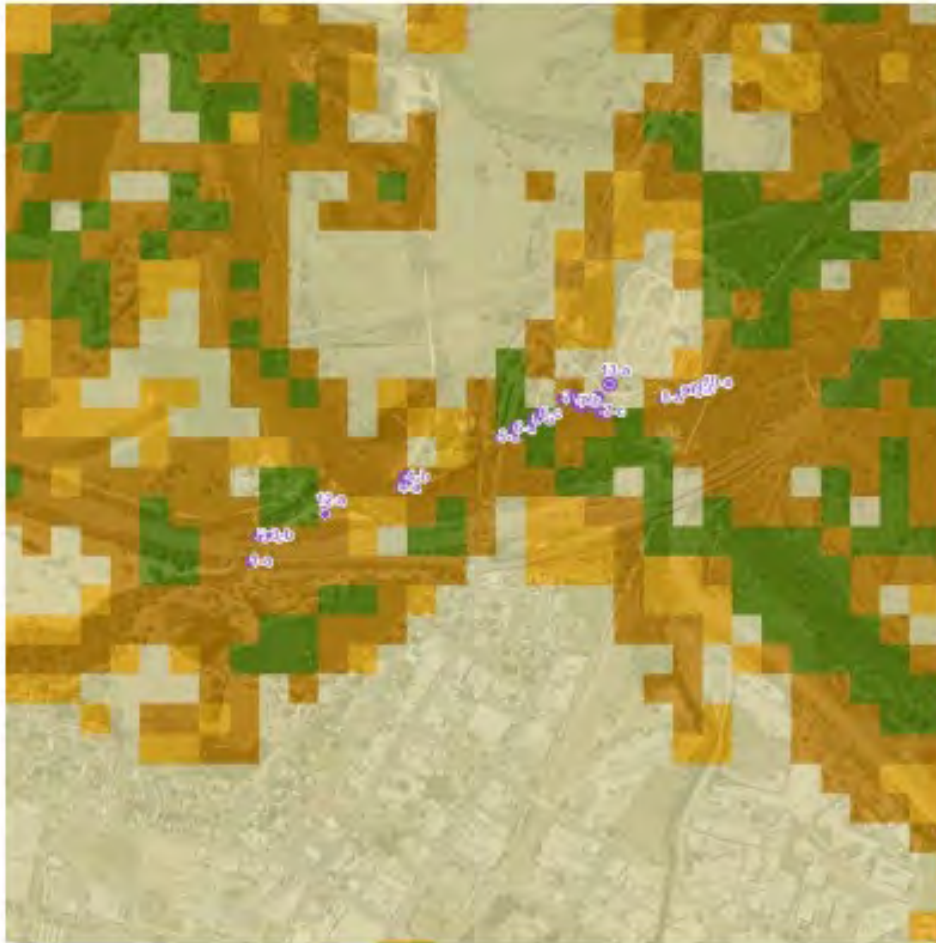
4. Strategic Biodiversity Value Score Map



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



5. Modelled Condition Score Map





6. Modelled Endangered EVCs

Not Applicable



7. Habitat Importance maps

Not Applicable

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Appendix 7: Evidence of Available Native Vegetation Credits (DEECA NVCR)

No quote to be sourced until project approval. See **Appendix 11** for proof of available offsets that meet the NVR requirements.

Appendix 8: Wodonga Creek Activation Plans (Revision F) (Source: Woodward Land & Civil 2025)



Contents

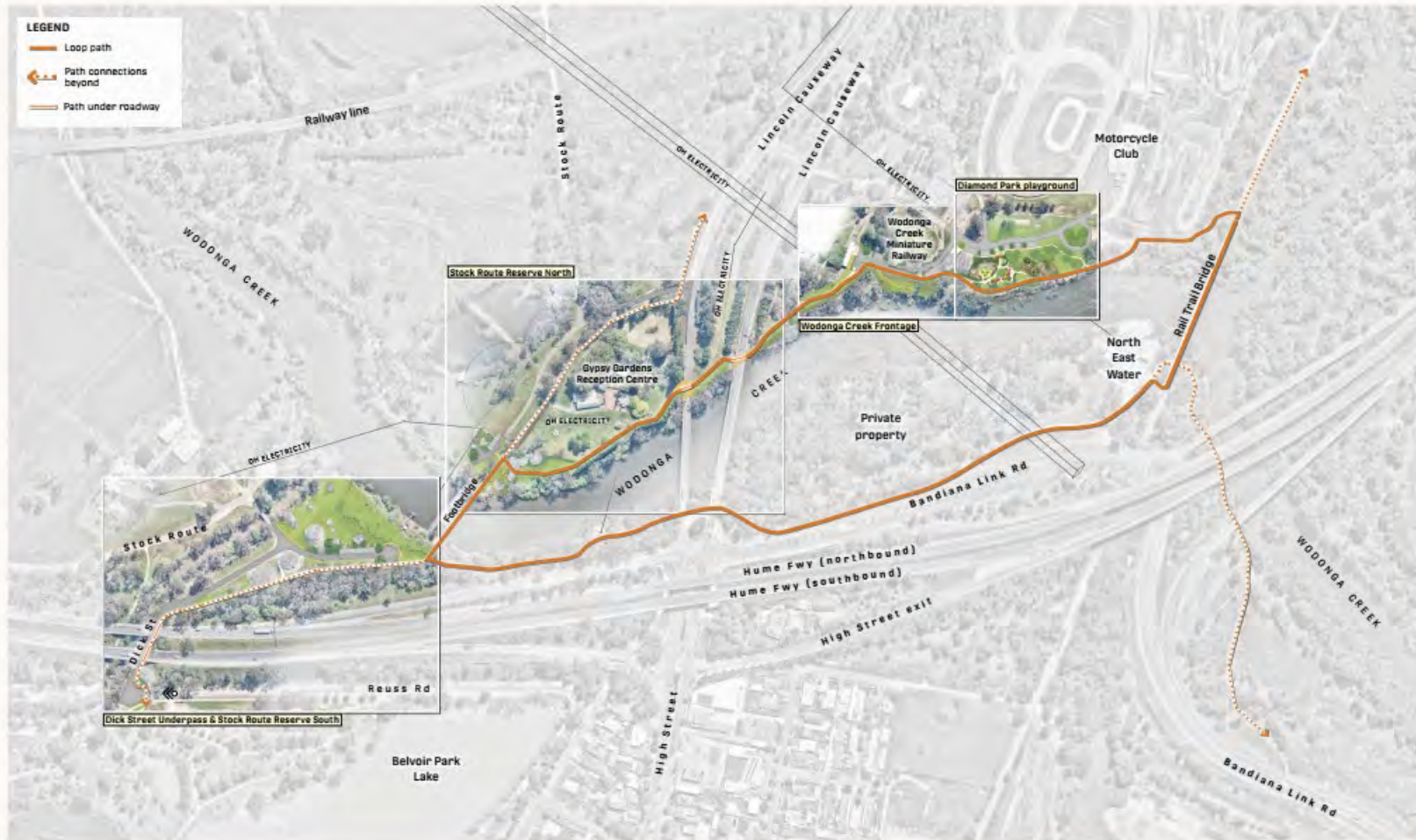
Overall Site Plan	3
Dick Street Underpass & Stock Route Reserve South	4
Stock Route Reserve North	5
Wodonga Creek Frontage	6
Diamond Park Playspace - Overall Plan	7
Diamond Park Playspace - 'The Hill' (Little Kid's Play)	8
Diamond Park Playspace - 'The Creek' (Waterplay)	9
Diamond Park Playspace - 'The Forest' (Adventure Play)	10

Project: Wodonga Creek Activation Project
Commissioned by: Wodonga City Council

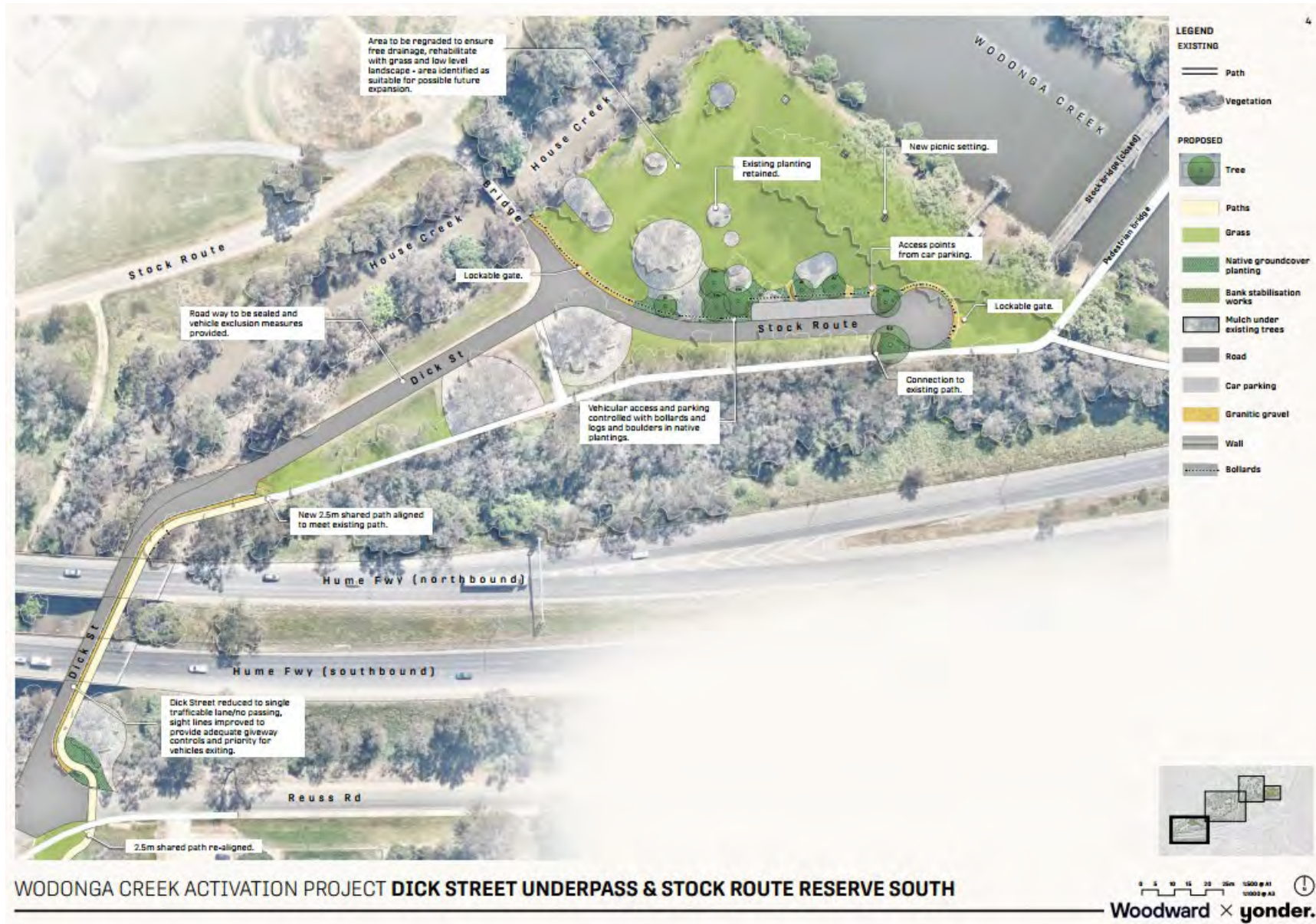
Prepared by: Yonder Landscape Architecture, PO Box 1198, Albury NSW 2640 Australia ABN 68 437 343 209

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STATUS	DATE	BY	CHECKED	VERSION
Preliminary issue	26/07/24			
Concept Plan for internal review	13/09/24	LL	TW/FS	B
Concept Plan	18/09/24	LL	TW/FS	C
Concept Plan update	22/11/24	LL	TW/FS	D
Concept Plan update	13/12/24	FS	TW/FS	E
Community engagement	18/12/25	FS	TW	F



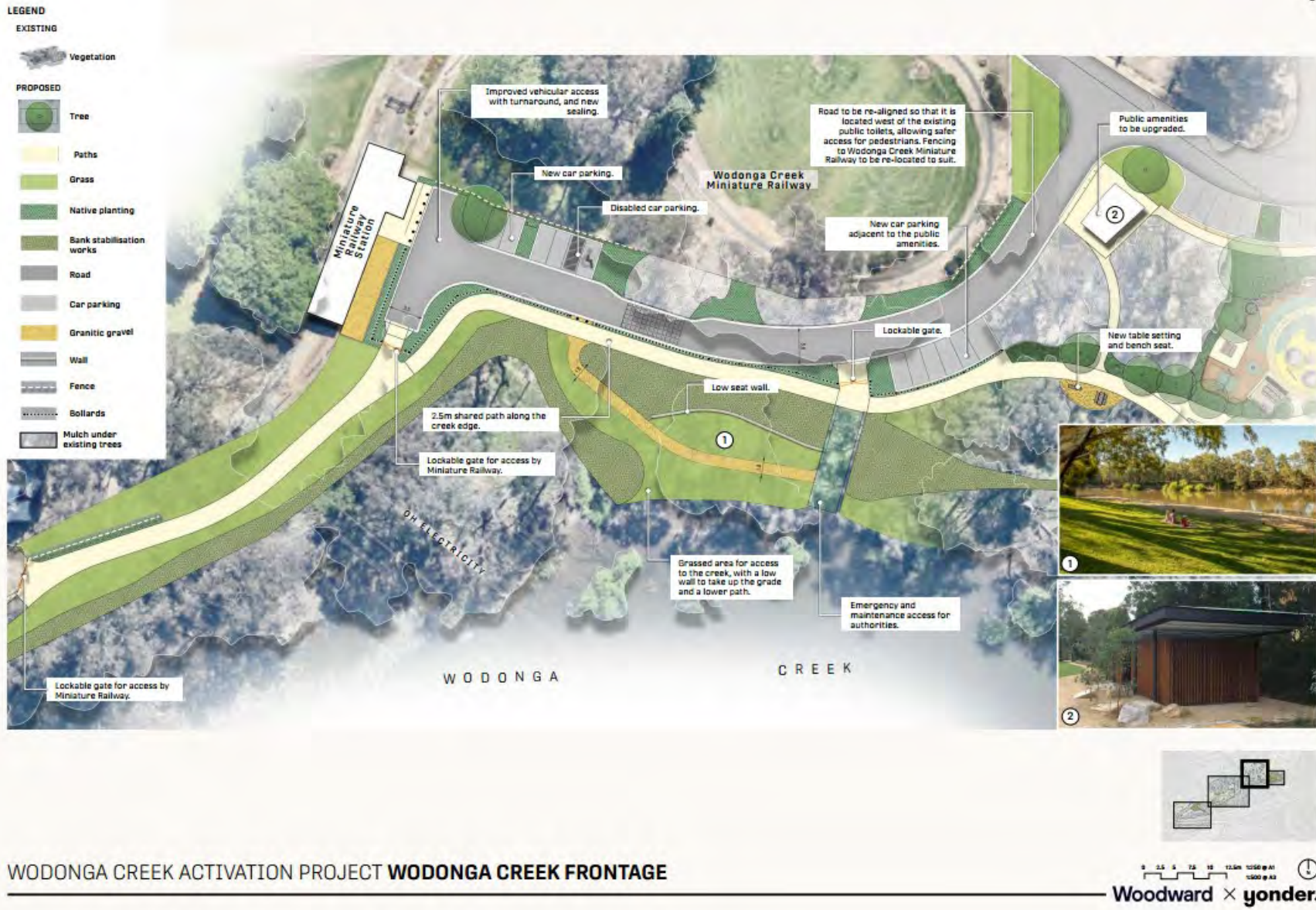
WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT **OVERALL SITE PLAN**



WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT **DICK STREET UNDERPASS & STOCK ROUTE RESERVE SOUTH**

Woodward x yonder.







LEGEND
PROPOSED

- Trees
- Garden beds
- Grass
- Organic softfall
- Sand
- Paths
- Feature paving
- Rubber softfall (with proposed contours)
- Low fence

1 TODDLER TWIN SWING

2 SMALL SPINNER

3 THONGAPHONE

4 GUMNUT CUBBY

5 DOUBLE ROCKER

6 CONCRETE SLIDE

7 SAND PULLEY

8 SAND TABLE

9 BALANCING LOG

10 BEASTIE

11 POTION MAKING STONE

12 MOUND PLAY

13 LONG TABLE

OH ELECTRICITY

Water station

Bike racks

Cafe style furniture

Seat

Seat

Bins

Existing table setting

Shelter with table and BBQ

Fence

Gate

Scale: 0 1 2 3 4m

Woodward x yonder.

Fenced younger children's play. Focus on sensory experiences, nature and discovery.

WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT **DIAMOND PARK PLAYSPACE 'THE HILL'** (LITTLE KID'S PLAY)



Focus on exploring water, how it moves and how we can control it.

WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT **DIAMOND PARK PLAYSPACE 'THE CREEK (WATERPLAY)**

0 1 2 3 4 5m 1:500 @ A1
 1:1000 @ A3
 Woodward x yonder.



- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED**
- Trees
 - Garden beds
 - Grass
 - Organic softfall
 - Rubber softfall
 - Paths
 - Feature paving



Older children's play. Focus on challenging and unique play experiences.

WODONGA CREEK ACTIVATION PROJECT DIAMOND PARK PLAYSPACE 'THE FOREST' (ADVENTURE PLAY)

0 1 2 3 4 5m 1000 11 1200 12
Woodward × yonder.

Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.3 - October 2004

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Recruitment **Score** 10

Category & Description			High diversity**	Low diversity**
No evidence of a recruitment 'cohort'*	within EVC not driven by episodic events		0	0
	within EVC driven by episodic events^	clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	0	0
		no clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	5	5
Evidence of at least one recruitment 'cohort' in at least one life-form	proportion of native woody species present that have adequate recruitment*	< 30%	3	1
		30 - 70%	6	3
		≥ 70%	5	5

* 'cohort' refers to a group of woody plants established in a single episode (can include suppressed canopy species individuals).

^ refer to EVC benchmark for clarification.

* treat multiple eucalypt canopy species as one species.

** high diversity defined as ≥ 50% of benchmark woody species diversity.

Organic Litter **Score** 3

Category & Description	Dominated by native organic litter	Dominated by non-native organic litter
< 10% of benchmark cover	0	0
< 50% or > 150% of benchmark cover	3	2
≥ 50% or ≤ 150% of benchmark cover	5	4

Species Recruitment

Woody species recorded in habitat zone	Adequate Recruitment (✓)
Eucalypt canopy (combined species)	✓
A dealbata	✓
A implexa	✓
number of woody spp. in EVC benchmark (55 and taller)	3

Logs **Score** 0

Category & Description	Large logs present*	Large logs absent*
< 10% of benchmark length	0	0
> 50% of benchmark length	3	2
≥ 50% of benchmark length	5	4

Large logs defined as those with diameter ≥ 0.5 of benchmark large tree dbh.

* present if large log length is ≥ 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

absent if large log length is < 25% of EVC benchmark log length.

'Landscape Context Score'

Patch Size **Score** 1

Category & Description	Score
< 2 ha	0
Between 2 and 5 ha	2
Between 5 and 10 ha	4
Between 10 and 20 ha	6
≥ 20 ha, but 'significantly disturbed'	8
≥ 20 ha, but not 'significantly disturbed'	10

* 'significantly disturbed' defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses eg. roading, coupes, grazing etc. - effectively most patches within fragmented landscapes.

Distance to Core Area **Score** 1

Distance	Core Area not significantly disturbed*	Core Area significantly disturbed*
> 5 km	0	0
1 to 5 km	2	1
< 1 km	4	3
contiguous	5	4

* defined as per RFA 'Old Growth' analyses.

Neighbourhood **Score** 2

Radius from site	% Native vegetation*	Weighting	Score
100 m	40	0.03	1.80
1 km	40	0.04	1.60
5 km	20	0.03	0.60
subtract 2 if the neighbourhood is 'significantly disturbed'			-2
Add Values and 'round-off'			2

* to nearest 20%.

Multiply % native vegetation x Weighting for each radius from the zone (eg. 40% x 0.03 = 1.2); then add values to obtain final Neighbourhood Value.

Final Habitat Score

Component	'Site Condition Score'							'Landscape Context Score'		Total	
	Large Trees	Tree Canopy Cover	Lack of Weeds	Understorey	Recruitment	Organic Litter	Logs	Patch Size	Neighbourhood		Distance to Core Area
Score	8	5	0	5	10	3	0	1	2	1	35

Vegetation Quality Field Assessment Sheet

Version 1.3 - October 2004

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Site Name/No. WCAP z7a-c Location Wod Creek Date 2/6/26
 Assessor(s) S Mendham Map Name/No. _____ AMG / MGA GDA2020 z55
 Tenure Public EVC 815 Bioregion VRiv

'Site Condition Score'

Large Trees Score 10

Category & Description	% Canopy Health*		
	> 70%	30-70%	< 30%
None present	0	0	0
> 0 to 20% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	3	2	1
> 20% to 40% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	4	3	2
> 40% to 70% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	6	5	4
> 70% to 100% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	8	7	6
≥ the benchmark number of large trees/ha	10	9	8

Large trees are defined by diameter at breast height (dbh)
 - see EVC benchmark.

* Estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (i.e. not missing due to tree death or decline, or mistletoe infestation).

Tree Canopy Cover Score 5

Category & Description	% Canopy Health*		
	> 70%	30-70%	< 30%
< 10% of benchmark cover	0	0	0
< 50% or > 150% of benchmark cover	3	2	1
≥ 50% or ≤ 150% of benchmark cover	6	4	3

Tree canopy is defined as those canopy tree species reaching ≥ 80% of mature height - see EVC benchmark description.

* Estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (i.e. not missing due to tree death or decline, or mistletoe infestation).

Lack of Weeds Score 0

Category & Description	'high threat' weeds*		
	None	≤ 50%	> 50%
> 50% cover of weeds	4	2	0
25 - 50% cover of weeds	7	6	4
5 - 25% cover of weeds	11	9	7
< 5% cover of weeds**	15	13	11

* proportion of weed cover due to 'high threat' weeds - see EVC benchmark for guide.

'High threat' weed species are defined as those introduced 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.

The EVC benchmark lists typical weed species for the EVC in the bioregion and provides an estimate of their 'invasiveness' and 'impact'. In general, those weed species considered to have a high impact are considered high threat regardless of their invasiveness.

** If total weed cover is negligible (<1%) and high threat weed species are present then score '13'.

Understorey Life forms

LF Code from EVC benchmark	# spp observed / Benchmark spp.	% cover observed / Benchmark % cover	Present (✓)	Modified (✓)
IT	1 / 1	5 / 5	✓	
LH	- / 2	- / -		
MH	2 / 3	3 / 10	✓	✓
SH	1 / 1	2 / 5	✓	
LTG	1 / 3	1 / 10	✓	✓
MTG	3 / 2	10 / 10	✓	
MNG	- / 3	- / 20		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		
	/	/		

Present
 For life forms with benchmark cover of < 10%, considered 'present' if
 • any specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10%, considered 'present' if
 • the life form occupies at least 10% of benchmark cover.

Modified
 (apply only where life form is 'present')
 For life forms with benchmark cover of < 10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:
 • < 50% of the benchmark species diversity; or
 • no reproductively-mature specimens are observed.

For life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10%, then considered substantially 'modified' if the life form has either:
 • < 50% of benchmark cover; or
 • < 50% of benchmark species diversity; or
 • ≥ 50% of benchmark cover due largely to immature canopy specimens but the cover of reproductively-mature specimens is < 10% of the benchmark cover.

Understorey Score 15

Category & Description	Score
All strata and Life forms effectively absent	0
Up to 50% of life forms present	5
≥ 50% to 90% of Life forms present	10
• of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified • of those present, < 50% substantially modified	18
≥ 90% of Life forms present	15
• of those present, ≥ 50% substantially modified • of those present, < 50% substantially modified	20
• of those present, none substantially modified	25



Appendix 11: Proof of Offset Availability (Current February 2026)

Report of available native vegetation credits

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

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

Date and time: 13/02/2026 04:22 **Report ID:** 34190

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)	
0.269	0.4275	16	CMA	North East
			or LGA	Wodonga City

Details of available native vegetation credits on 13 February 2026 04:22

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3074_01	13,193	2821	North East	Towong Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3789_01	11,959	932	North East	Towong Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Einos, VegLink

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

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements when applying the alternative arrangements as listed in section 11.2 of the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or logging of native vegetation.								

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

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
There are no potential sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements.								

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

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation

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

If you have approval to remove native vegetation

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

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abzeon	Abzeon Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeon.com.au	www.abzeon.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@biooffsets.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
ConservNVR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetsregister@dece.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
EcoCentric	EcoCentric Environmental Consulting	0410 584 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not available
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 6153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	ID Ecological Management	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nilumbik SC	Nilumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nilumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nilumbik.vic.gov.au
TPN	Trust for Nature	8651 5858	offsets@tn.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 388 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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If for more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetsregister@dece.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer

This publication may contain references to you and the State of Victoria and its employees and does not guarantee that the publication is without error or that the information is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and the State of Victoria will not be liable for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from any reliance on any information in this publication.

Following this publication does not guarantee that the credit values will be available in the Native Vegetation Credit Register either now or at a later time when a particular native vegetation credit is purchased.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you will ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, regulations, treaties, covenants and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and licences that affect any application or activity in or on the site or in relation to the site, except to the extent that you have any other obligation or liability to comply with the scope of Clauses 52, 53 or 53.5 of the Victorian Planning Provisions and Victorian Planning schemes.

Appendix 12: Arborist Report

High Country Arborist Reports
info@highcountryarboristreports.com.au
0406 450 457



Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Tree Protection Specifications

Wodonga Creek Activation Project
February 3, 2026 | Version 3.0

Client
Woodward Civil

Site
Wodonga Creek,
Wodonga, VIC, 3690

Author
Ben Keys
AQF-5 Consulting arborist



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1.0 Scope and report objectives

High Country Arborist Reports were engaged by Woodward Civil to prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Specification for 168 trees in the vicinity of the Wodonga Creek Activation Project site

This project aims to link existing access points and paths in the vicinity of Wodonga Creek and develop a new recreation area centrally to the site.

Path and road construction works have the potential to affect retained trees both directly through mechanical injury and indirectly in ways that are not evident immediately, but which can affect the health of the tree in the long term.

Trees within and adjacent to the designated site have been assessed to identify tree-related design constraints and assess potential building impacts to trees.

This Tree Protection Specification is prepared in accordance *AS4970-2025: Protection of Trees on Development Sites* and includes all measures required to protect the trees on site during all stages of the construction process.

The report provides the following information:

- Locate and number all trees to produce a tree location plan.
- Provide arboricultural assessment data that identifies each tree to species level and provides information including expected tree impacts from proposed levee plans.
- Provide where necessary, recommendations regarding the future management of trees suitable to retain and details of tree protection distances to assess potential construction impacts.
- Professional recommendations for works (if any), and/or mitigation or changes to construction techniques to allow any significant trees to be retained in accordance with *AS4970-2025: Protection of Trees on Development Sites*.

2.0 Report methodology

2.1 Data collection

Data collection was undertaken by Red-Gum staff, Woodward Civil staff and Ben Keys of High Country Arborist Reports during October 2025.

Tree data including digital imagery was captured onsite and is recorded within the report.

Tree assessment data fields include the following:

- Onsite Visual Tree Assessment (VTA)
- Genus/species
- Trunk diameter measured at 1.3 above ground level (DSH = Diameter at Standard Height)
- Expected impact on trees and structures (based on NRZ details)
- Recommendations for works or impact mitigation techniques to allow trees to be retained as per *AS4970-2009: Protection of Trees on Development Sites*.

2.2 Impact modelling

For the purposes of modelling tree impacts, a 0.3m buffer was applied to each side of the mixed-use path footprint.

A 1.0m buffer was similarly applied to each side of road works areas and carpark areas.

These modelled areas can be considered the 'limit of works' for this project.

Construction traffic will be limited to these build-corridors to prevent any related damage to nearby trees.

2.3 Documents relevant to this report

- *Australian Standard: Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS4970-2025*
- *Australian Standard: Pruning of Amenity Trees AS4373-2007*
- City of Wodonga council: *Native Vegetation Guidelines Clause 52.17*
- DEECA: *Assessor's handbook: Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation*
- Woodward Civil and Yonder: *Wodonga Creek Activation Project Concept Plans (13/12/24)*
- Woodward Civil: *Wodonga Creek Activation Preliminary Issue Drawings (17/10/24)*
- Red-Gum Environmental Consulting: *Preliminary Biodiversity Report (29/10/24)*

3.0 Construction methodology

3.1 Elements utilised on site

This project involves linking several existing gravel roads which are proposed to be sealed, with the addition of carparks in some areas.

Multiple existing concrete mixed-use paths will also be utilised – these will be linked to new concrete mixed-use paths, which will create a loop along the northern banks of Wodonga creek, then up onto the rail trail and back along existing paths running along the southern banks of the creek.

A raised boardwalk is proposed for the eastern termination point where the new path merges with the rail trail, to help reduce impacts to vegetation and to achieve the gradual grade increase to reach the height of the rail trail.

3.2 Construction techniques

3.2.1 Mixed-use path

- The proposed width of the new path will be 2.5m.
- Path will involve 125mm concrete bedded onto 100mm of FCR road base for a 225mm pavement depth. This will require maximum excavation of 125mm depth for path construction.

3.2.2 New sealed roads and carparks

- Bulk of this project involves formalising and sealing existing gravel roads/carparks.
- Sealing involves a 100mm FCR overlay onto the existing gravel, with seal on top.
- Carparks will be treated in the same manner. No excavation will be required.

3.2.3 Eastern boardwalk/ramp

- This will be constructed of prefabricated modules supported on pilings with concrete footings. Impact to nearby trees will be minimal (non-linear posthole impacts only).
- Some semi-permeable fill will be required to build up the ramped area where the path meets the ramp.

3.2.4 Site-wide guidelines

The construction activities listed above will require some minor, shallow excavation, plus the use of heavy machinery, including concrete trucks and asphalt machinery.

All vehicles will keep to existing road footprints or construction corridors.

Topsoil will be stockpiled, with all other extracted materials to be exported off site, with the topsoil then used to rehabilitate the construction areas during the rehabilitation stage.

4.0 Tree impacts discussion

4.1 Existing road impacts near retained trees

One of the main aims of this project is to link existing gravel roads and access points within the Wodonga Creek precinct. As such, the project will utilise and re-seal multiple existing compacted gravel roads and informal gravel carparking areas.

Many of these compacted gravel roads and carpark spaces currently exist in close proximity to large remnant native trees and have done so for many years. The bulk of these trees present in reasonable health and condition, despite having large areas of their Notional Root Zones (NRZs) covered by compacted gravel with limited permeability.

The proposal to seal these existing roads and formalise carparking is unlikely to have any negative effect on nearby trees, provided excavation is kept to a minimum during construction. Existing roots will remain unaffected beneath these newly-sealed roads.

While a fully impermeable (sealed) road surface does represent some loss of NRZ area for these retained trees, this end result is not dissimilar from the hard-packed gravel that already exists around the bases of these trees. We are therefore confident all encroached trees will remain viable.

4.2 Offset exemptions for trees with existing impacts

Under DEECA guidelines: *"Unless an arborist report indicates otherwise, a tree, or trees will be deemed lost if the encroachment (of compaction and excavation) into the NRZ is greater than 10 per cent or is inside the SRZ."* (DEECA Assessor's handbook).

In the case of this project, it is the opinion of the inspecting arborist that retained trees with existing road impacts need not be considered 'Lost assets' under Clause 52.17, even where their modelled NRZ encroachments (via road sealing works/carparks) are in excess of 10%.

These trees are already heavily impacted by existing roads and they currently remain viable. The idea that adding a layer of seal onto this existing gravel should automatically classify the trees as 'Lost assets' is unrealistic and would significantly increase the vegetation offset costs for this project.

Tree Protection measures detailed further in this report will ensure that no excavation deeper than 150mm is undertaken near retained trees as part of this road surfacing component.

Protecting these tree roots is the key to ensuring all retained trees remain viable into the future.

4.1 Offset exemptions for trees with NRZ impacts 10-20%

As noted above, shallow excavation in the vicinity of retained trees (site-scraper) is unlikely to damage significant tree roots, if kept to a maximum depth of 150mm or less

Minor shallow excavation such as this has little-to-no effect on critical root infrastructure below the soil and if undertaken carefully, will not affect the long-term health of retained trees.

The proposed mixed-use concrete path used for this project will be restricted to a maximum excavation depth of 125mm, thereby limiting its impact on nearby trees.

The narrow width of this impermeable path (2.5m) will permit water, nutrients and oxygen to continue to filter through to the critical root systems of retained trees on either side of the trail, ensuring their longevity in the long-term.

We do not expect path compaction to create any additional issues over time, given the trail will only be used by walkers and cyclists.

Given the above, it is the opinion of the inspecting arborist that retained trees with path NRZ encroachments in the range of 10-20% (moderate impacts under *AS:4970-2025*) need not be considered 'Lost assets' under Clause 52.17.

As noted above, strict Tree Protection measures will be implemented for path construction, and by protecting root infrastructure, all retained trees near the path will remain viable.

5.0 Executive summary

During October 2025, we inspected selected trees lining the Wodonga Creek Activation Project site. This area is a mix of native remnant vegetation and developed sites on either side of the Lincoln Causeway. This project involves the construction of sealed roads and carparks, plus mixed-use paths and recreation areas in close proximity to remnant native trees.

5.1 Tree Protection measures relevant to the project

- All staff and contractors to attend site briefings to discuss TPS conditions.
- Identify and flag trees to be removed.
- Conduct fauna survey prior to tree removals.
- Trees for removal shall be felled in such a way as to avoid damaging adjacent vegetation.
- Machinery shall be limited to moving within construction corridor only.
- Tree root impacts to be minimised. Excavation shall not exceed 125mm depth
- Install Tree Protection measures as specified

5.2 Findings

1. A total of 168 native trees were assessed on site for this report. All trees were remnant indigenous *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum), with the exception of one planted native (TT_115).
2. All trees likely to be impacted by the construction works and trees within 15m of the construction footprint were assessed for this report. Planted specimens (non-endemic species) were not assessed in most cases.
3. For the purposes of modelling tree impacts, a 0.3m buffer was applied to each edge of the mixed-use path footprint. A 1.0m buffer was similarly applied to road works areas and carpark areas.
4. Many trees in close proximity to the road and path construction areas have the potential to be impacted where their Notional Root Zone (NRZ) areas intersect with the construction buffer area. Under DEECA guidelines: *"Unless an arborist report indicates otherwise, a tree, or trees will be deemed lost if the encroachment (of compaction and excavation) into the NRZ is greater than 10 per cent or is inside the SRZ."* (DEECA Assessor's handbook).

5. While multiple trees do incur NRZ encroachments greater than 10%, many of these trees currently experience existing impact from gravel roads, particularly those trees surrounding the recreation area at the centre of site (south of speedway track and miniature railway).
6. As noted within "Tree impacts discussion," we propose that retained trees with existing road and/or carpark impacts need not be considered 'Lost assets' under Clause 52.17. New impacts to these trees are limited to sealing the road within this existing footprint – there will be no further encroachment into the tree NRZ areas. We remain confident these trees will remain viable into the future due to the lack of deep excavation that could impact structural roots.
7. There are also multiple trees on site where NRZ encroachments from the new mixed-use path are in the 10-20% range (moderate impacts under *AS4970-2025*). We further propose that path-side trees experiencing moderate NRZ impacts in the range of 10-20% need not be considered 'Lost assets' under Clause 52.17 – offsetting not required. These trees will also remain viable due to the lack of excavation deeper than 125mm that could impact roots.
8. Other trees on site with NRZ impacts greater than 20% will be offset as per City of Wodonga council *Native Vegetation Guidelines Clause 52.17*. These are designated "Lost but retained" in the Tree Data Table. Trees proposed for removal will also be offset. Total trees requiring offsets are 28 trees (22x Lost but retained and 6x Removals).
9. Despite any impacts listed above, the bulk of trees assessed for this report will be retained safely on site, even those trees designated as 'Lost assets'. Only six trees will be removed.
10. Table of Vegetation Offset outcomes (168 trees total):

Outcome	Tree volume
Retained - no impact	69
Retained - impact <10%	22
Not lost - impact 10-20%	24
Not lost - existing impact	25
Lost but retained	22
Lost and removed	6
TOTAL COUNT	168

6.0 Tree Protection Plan (TPP) details

1. To ensure the success of this project, it will be necessary to follow specific construction guidelines that safeguard retained trees in close proximity to the road sealing and path construction works. Staff and contractors shall be briefed on these TPP guidelines at pre-start stage.
2. All trees approved for removal shall be identified and marked to ensure that there is no confusion between trees being removed and retained. Any trees to be removed should be subject to a pre-clearing survey to detect any roosting or nesting fauna.
3. Trees to be removed shall be felled in such a way as to avoid falling into and damaging adjacent vegetation outside of the construction footprint. Where appropriate, this can include progressive removal (dismantling) as opposed to felling.
4. Heavy machinery shall use the existing roads and/or path footprints for access. If it is necessary to work outside of the road footprint, machinery shall be positioned outside of TPZ areas of adjacent trees and 'boom-in' for operations. A spotter should be used to avoid machinery impacts with retained trees.
5. No construction materials or equipment shall be stored within the NRZ areas of retained trees. All vehicles shall use road footprint or adjacent paths to avoid soil compaction.
6. Root impacts to retained trees shall be minimised so far as practicable. Path excavation near retained trees shall not exceed 120mm maximum depth. There shall be no excavation for road sealing works.
7. Tree protection fencing shall be installed as required. The TPZ isolation fence shall be installed around trees on all sides (where practical) and shall be 1.8m high with post size a minimum of 20mm, installed clear of roots. Shade cloth or similar is to be installed over the fencing. The TPZ fencing is to be secured to restrict access. Locations TBC.
8. Trees requiring pruning shall only be pruned by council-approved contractors, in accordance with *AS4373-2007*.
9. The correct implementation of the below Tree Protection Plan will prevent access, procedural or storage-related damage to the trunks, canopies, or roots of the trees present on this site

7.2 Tree modelling



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7.3 Protection Plan

Due to the large size of this site, we have not developed a scaled Tree Protection Plan.

If City of Wodonga council deem it necessary, we can create a Tree Protection Plan prior to the start of construction.

8.0 Tree Protection Specifications

8.1 Pre-Construction

8.1.1 Site induction

Construction manager and all contractors to meet on-site prior to site preparation to introduce the Tree Protection Specifications (TPS). The TPS induction shall be attended by all contractors.

8.1.2 Tree pruning

Any pruning requests shall be submitted to the determining authority, subsequently authorized, and only conducted by a qualified arborist (AQF-5 min) in accordance with *AS4373-2007, Pruning of Amenity Trees*. Construction manager and council staff to determine extent of branch pruning required to gain clearances for proposed work zones (once approval is gained).

8.1.3 Tree Protection

Erect tree protection fencing and ground protection and signage as indicated in the TPS and according to *AS4970-2025 Protection of Trees on Development Sites*. Once all tree protection measures are in place, construction manager shall inspect and sign off. Fencing TBC.

8.1.4 Protective fencing

Fencing shall be 1.8m high with post size a minimum of 20mm, installed clear of roots. Shade cloth or similar is to be installed over the fencing to prevent dust, particles, or other materials from entering the exclusion zone. The TPZ fencing is to be secured to restrict access.

Signs are to be erected on all sides of each TPZ fence. Signs are to read: **"Tree Protection Zone – No Access. Contact Project Manager for Tree Protection Specifications"**, or similar.

Existing perimeter fencing and other structures may be suitable as part of the protective fencing.

8.2 Construction

Construction manager to determine if any site inspections are required over the construction phase.

8.2.1 Root pruning

During excavation works, any roots encountered less than 60mm diameter can be cut at right angles and with sharp tools. Larger roots shall be left intact.

If Tree Protection Fencing or other tree protection measures are to be moved or altered, the construction manager shall first approve the alterations.

8.3 Post Construction and Landscape Construction Stage

8.3.1 Landscaping

Landscaping within the TPZ is to be completed in the final stage of construction once machinery has left the site. Tree protection fencing and additional protective measures may be removed at this stage. All soft landscaping to be completed at existing ground level, without cultivation or changes to soil levels.

8.4 TPS technical requirements

8.4.1 Protection of Trees On Development Sites: AS 4970-2025

This TPS has been prepared in accordance with *Australian Standard 4970-2025: Protection of Trees on Development Sites*. Where proposed works are within the vicinity of trees, this standard is used to determine acceptable distances of works from trees via the calculation of Notional Root Zones (NRZ) and the Structural Root Zone (SRZ).

A Notional Root Zone (NRZ) is calculated ($DSH \times 12$) to establish the acceptable proximity of works, equipment, and construction practices/procedures from an existing tree. Following this, the erection of isolation fencing, the tying of branches, tree protection measures or instalment of tree protection zone signage may be required. This ensures the tree is protected for the duration of the works. The proposed works shall not encroach within the NRZ unless this encroachment is less than 10% of the NRZ, is previously agreed upon and compensation of additional NRZ area (% of encroachment) is added to the NRZ.

Structural Root Zone (SRZ) refers to the structural roots within closer vicinity to the trunk which are required by the tree to remain upright. Encroachment into the SRZ of an existing tree is not permitted. Works conducted within the SRZ may destabilise the tree, requiring removal to avoid subsequent tree failure.

Note: The above is listed as a summary of the Australian Standard. The Consulting Arborist shall demonstrate why relevant trees will remain viable if encroachment of more than 10% is required, or if there is any SRZ impact.

8.4.2 Tree Protection Zone procedures

This section outlines the non-negotiable prohibitions beyond allowable encroachment into the NRZ:

- Machine excavations including trenching
- Excavation for silt fencing
- Cultivation
- Storage

-
- Preparation of chemicals including cement products
 - Parking of vehicles and plant
 - Refuelling
 - Dumping of waste
 - Wash down and cleaning of equipment
 - Placement of fill
 - Lighting of fires
 - Soil level changes
 - Temporary placement of utilities and/or signs
 - Physical damage to the tree
 - New requests due to unforeseen events and requirements for amendments to the TPMP

8.4.3 TPZ isolation fencing

The Tree Protection Zone indicates the minimum area required by the tree to remain healthy and vital. NRZ area is measured as a radius from the centre of the trunk and encompasses both below and above ground aspects. The TPZ isolation fence should be installed around trees on all sides.

Fencing shall be bunting, para-webbing, or barrier mesh for the retained trees, or similar. The TPZ fencing is to be secured to restrict access.

Signs are to be erected on all sides of each TPZ fence. Signs are to read: **Tree Protection Zone – No Access. Contact Project Manager for Tree Protection Specifications**", or similar.

8.5 TPZ signage examples



Tree Protection Zone fencing example. TPZ fencing should be installed around trees on all sides. As large an allocation as possible should be made for any fencing within a nature strip area.

TPZ = DBH x 12 where
 DBH = trunk diameter measured at 1.4m aboveground

Tree Protection Zone signage example. Signs are to be erected on all sides of each TPZ fence. Sign should be minimum A3 size.

TREE PROTECTION ZONE

NO ACCESS

Activities excluded from the TPZ include —

- (a) Excavation or disturbance of the soil, including scraping of the surface
- (b) Spreading or stockpiling of fill
- (c) Cultivation
- (d) Equipment and material storage
- (e) Preparation of chemicals, including preparation of cement products
- (f) Parking of vehicles and plant
- (g) Refuelling
- (h) Dumping of waste
- (i) Wash down and cleaning of equipment
- (j) Fires
- (k) Physical damage to the tree

Contact:
 Contact Project Manager for copy of the Tree Protection Specifications (TPS).

9.0 Report exclusions

This assessment/report does not include the following:

- Below ground inspection (includes: location, condition and/or integrity of roots; condition of inaccessible parts of trunk; property or asset conflicts and/or damage due to roots).
- Soil profile test (including degrees of compaction if any).
- Detailed aerial tree inspection observations/findings (Visual Tree Inspection was conducted from the ground).
- Abiotic disorder certainty (resulting from groundwater analysis, gas leak investigations, etc).
- Certainty of presence or identity of biotic agents (pests, pathogens). Where present, biotic agents must be sampled and sent for lab analysis – a process not included in this commission.
- Certainty of decay present (if any) within the tree (tree was inspected from the outside only, meaning the condition and integrity of the structural wood within the tree cannot be ascertained).

10.0 References

- Lonsdale, D., 2017. *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment*. 7th ed. Stokehouse: UK Arb. Association.
- Mattheck, C., 1996. *The Body Language Of Trees*. 7th ed. London: Stationery Office Books.
- Nicolle, D., 2016. *Eucalypts For Planting In Australia*. Adelaide: Lane Print and Post.
- Roberts, J., Jackson, N. & Smith, M., 2018. *Tree Roots In The Built Environment*. 3rd ed. Stokehouse: UK Arb. Association.
- Standards Australia, 2007. *AS-4373-2007: Pruning of Amenity Trees*, Sydney: Standards Australia.
- Standards Australia, 2025. *AS-4970-2025: Protection of Trees on Development Sites*, Sydney: Standards Australia.

11.0 Tree descriptors explained

Origin	<p>Native indigenous: Species that are endemic to local region.</p> <p>Native: Species that occur naturally in other states of Australia, outside of subject location.</p> <p>Exotic: species that occur naturally outside of Australia, i.e. species has been introduced.</p>
Useful Life Expectancy (ULE)	<p>50+ years: Structurally sound trees in locations that can accommodate future growth.</p> <p>20-50 years: Minimally-defective trees suitable for retention in the medium term.</p> <p>10-20 years: Defective/declining trees only suitable for retention in the short term.</p> <p>0-10 years: Trees likely to require imminent removal (declining and/or hazardous trees).</p>
Health ratings	<p>Good: Tree is generally free of pest and diseases; foliage cover is healthy/robust.</p> <p>Average: Tree is presenting symptoms of stress that may include tip dieback, crown thinning, defoliation or leaf discoloration. Condition may be reversible.</p> <p>Poor: Tree is presenting with significant crown dieback or thin foliage. Pathogens, insect borers, fungus or root disease may be present. Future tree removal likely.</p> <p>Dead: Tree is completely dead or at an irreparable state of health – non-functional crown (no green leaves), stem cambium dead, no evidence of fresh shoots and/or heavily declined. No chance of recovery.</p>
Structure ratings	<p>Good: Tree has no obvious, notable structural defects, or indicators of fungal decay.</p> <p>Average: Tree has structural weaknesses but is unlikely to fail at any major structural component and does not present symptoms of imminent failure.</p> <p>Poor: Tree has structural weakness that may be due to poor growth development, fungal decay, mechanical damage, or a combination of these. Signs of potential structural failure such as major limb defects may be present.</p>
Age classifications	<p>Juvenile: Young trees, generally less than 10 years old.</p> <p>Semi-mature: Trees which have reached approximately half of their expected size/lifespan.</p> <p>Maturing: Trees which have reached their expected size and are approximately two thirds of the way through their expected average lifespan.</p> <p>Over-mature: Trees which have over-matured within the surrounding landscape and now present in a poor state of health and/or structural decline.</p> <p>Dead: Trees with a non-functional crown or that are irreversibly dying.</p> <p>Stump re-growth: Trees which have been cut to a stump and allowed to regrow.</p>
Retention value	<p>High: Trees which positively contribute to the site or local environment due to their botanical, historical or local significance in combination with good characteristics of health and structure. High retention value trees should be considered for retention where possible.</p> <p>Medium: Trees offering some beneficial attributes that may enhance the site or local environment, but that are limited to some degree. Medium retention value trees should be considered for retention where possible, but not necessarily to the detriment of the design.</p> <p>Low: Trees that offer little in terms of site amenity for reasons of poor health and/or structural condition or species unsuitability (invasive or environmental weed species). Juvenile and semi-mature trees which could be readily replaced may also be placed in this category. Trees of low retention value should not be a constraint on future development.</p>

12.0 Terms and conditions

Prior to reading this report and subsequently following any advice, opinions or recommendations provided, you must hereby understand and agree to the following:

The contents of this report represent the professional opinion of the consultant. The consultancy fee for the preparation of this report is in no way contingent upon the consultant reporting a particular conclusion of fact, nor upon the occurrence of a subsequent event. This report has not been produced to support a particular motive, produce a desired value, or predict a desired occurrence. All findings are reported without bias towards certain parties or results.

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TREE ID	TREE SPECIES	ORIGIN	DSH (m)	NRZ (m radius)	NRZ TOTAL AREA (M2)	IMP ACTED NRZ (M2)	IMPACT %	OUTCOME	TYPE IMPACT	COMMENT
TT_1	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.42	5.04	79.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_2	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.7	15.00	707.0	113.0	16.0%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	Minor existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_3	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.32	3.84	46.3	12.4	26.8%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_4	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.21	2.52	20.0	2.9	14.5%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_5	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.45	5.40	91.6	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees next to existing rail trail
TT_6	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.48	5.76	104.2	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees next to existing rail trail
TT_7	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.3	3.60	40.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_8	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.53	6.36	127.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_9	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.34	4.08	52.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_10	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.59	7.08	157.5	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_11	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.82	9.84	304.2	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_12	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.86	10.32	334.6	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_13	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.24	2.88	26.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_14	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.19	2.28	16.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_15	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.64	7.68	185.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_16	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.18	2.16	14.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_17	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.67	8.04	203.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_18	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.55	6.60	136.9	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_19	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.29	3.48	38.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Minor impacts from fill operations
TT_20	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.21	2.52	20.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Minor impacts from fill operations
TT_21	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.31	3.72	43.5	1.7	3.8%	<10% Retained	2.5m concrete path	Minor impacts from fill operations
TT_21a	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.2	2.40	18.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Path/fill	Minor impacts from fill operations
TT_22	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.3	3.60	40.7	0.0	0.0%	Removal	Path/fill	To be removed
TT_23	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.16	2.00	12.6	3.0	23.9%	Lost but retained	Path + fill	Impacts from fill operations
TT_24	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.41	4.92	76.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_25	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.29	3.48	38.1	8.9	23.4%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_26	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.28	3.36	35.5	5.3	14.9%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_27	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.42	5.04	79.8	28.3	35.5%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_28	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.3	3.60	40.7	3.9	9.6%	<10% Retained	2.5m concrete path	

TREE ID	TREE SPECIES	ORIGIN	DISH (m)	HRZ (m radius)	HRZ TOTAL AREA (M2)	IMPACTED HRZ (M2)	IMPACT %	OUTCOME	TYPE IMPACT	COMMENT
TT_29	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.39	4.68	68.8	9.5	13.8%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_30	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.42	5.04	79.8	7.8	9.8%	<10% Retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_31	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.48	5.76	104.2	33.8	32.4%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_33	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.27	3.24	33.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees within existing carpark
TT_34	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.77	9.24	268.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees within existing carpark
TT_35	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.33	3.96	49.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees within existing carpark
TT_36	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.62	7.44	173.9	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees within existing carpark
TT_37	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.95	11.40	408.3	16.4	4.0%	<10% Retained	2.5m concrete path	Trees within existing carpark
TT_38	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.67	8.04	203.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Trees within existing carpark
TT_39	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.29	3.48	38.1	4.1	10.8%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_40	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.43	5.16	83.7	7.1	8.5%	<10% Retained	Nil	
TT_41	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.08	12.96	527.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_42	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.91	10.92	374.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_43	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.93	11.16	391.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_44	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.51	6.12	117.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_45	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.78	9.36	275.3	102.0	37.1%	Not lost existing impact	Path & carparks	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_46	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.05	12.60	498.8	49.4	9.9%	<10% Retained	Path & carparks	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_47	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.89	10.68	358.4	72.2	20.1%	Not lost	Path & carparks	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_48	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.99	11.88	443.4	150.1	33.8%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_49	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.42	5.04	79.8	70.0	87.7%	Removal	Poor structure	Removal
TT_50	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.69	8.28	215.4	65.0	30.2%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_51	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.46	5.52	95.7	28.4	29.7%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_52	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.97	11.64	425.7	178.7	42.0%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_53	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.05	12.60	498.8	186.3	37.3%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_54	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.08	12.96	527.7	176.8	33.5%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_55	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.91	15.00	707.0	263.3	37.2%	Not lost existing impact	Path and road	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_56	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.51	6.12	117.7	11.1	9.4%	<10% retained	Nil	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_57	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.22	14.64	673.4	72.1	10.7%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_58	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.69	8.28	215.4	47.4	22.0%	Not lost existing impact	2.5m concrete path	Tree located below path level on river bank

TREE ID	TREE SPECIES	ORIGIN	DSH (m)	NRZ (m radius)	NRZ TOTAL AREA (M2)	IMPACTED NRZ (M2)	IMPACT %	OUT COME	TYPE IMPACT	COMMENT
TT_59	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.44	5.28	87.6	37.2	42.5%	Not lost existing impact	2.5m concrete path	Tree located below path level on river bank
TT_60	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.61	7.32	168.4	63.1	37.5%	Not lost existing impact	2.5m concrete path	Tree located below path level on river bank
TT_61	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.47	5.64	99.9	14.1	14.1%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	Tree located below path level on river bank
TT_62	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.53	7.56	179.6	13.6	7.6%	Lost but retained	Pipeline	Deep impact via trenching/pipeline
TT_63	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.74	8.88	247.8	30.8	12.4%	Lost but retained	Pipeline	Deep impact via trenching/pipeline
TT_64	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.03	12.36	480.0	50.1	10.4%	Lost but retained	Pipeline	Deep impact via trenching/pipeline
TT_65	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.5	6.00	113.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_66	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.39	4.68	68.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_67	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.68	8.16	209.2	13.9	6.6%	<10% retained	Gravel path/beach	
TT_68	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.25	3.00	28.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_69	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.34	4.08	52.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_70	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.47	5.64	99.9	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_71	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.42	5.04	79.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_72	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.78	9.36	275.3	43.1	15.7%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_73	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.38	4.56	65.3	8.3	12.7%	Not lost	Nil	
TT_74	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.36	4.32	58.6	7.3	12.4%	Not lost	Nil	
TT_75	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.71	8.52	228.1	29.9	13.1%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_76	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.7	8.40	221.7	76.0	34.3%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_77	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.29	3.48	38.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_78	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.37	4.44	61.9	3.0	4.8%	<10% retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_79	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.61	7.32	168.4	47.0	27.9%	Not lost existing impact	2.5m concrete path	
TT_80	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.58	6.96	162.2	52.8	34.7%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_81	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.43	5.16	83.7	14.0	16.7%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_82	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.37	4.44	61.9	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_83	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.39	4.68	68.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_84	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.81	9.72	296.9	16.6	5.6%	<10% retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_85	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.39	4.68	68.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_86	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.28	3.36	35.5	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_87	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.79	9.48	282.4	40.3	14.3%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	

TREE ID	TREE SPECIES	ORIGIN	DSH (m)	NRZ (m radius)	NRZ TOTAL AREA (M2)	IMPACTED NRZ (M2)	IMPACT %	OUT COME	TYPE IMPACT	COMMENT
TT_88	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.33	3.96	49.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_89	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.78	9.36	275.3	38.1	13.8%	Not lost	Nil	
TT_90	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.7	8.40	221.7	97.3	43.9%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_91	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.71	8.52	228.1	117.1	51.3%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_92	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.77	9.24	268.3	105.6	39.4%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_93	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.13	13.56	577.7	180.3	31.2%	Not lost existing impact	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_94	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.35	4.20	55.4	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Existing sealed road impact
TT_95	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.91	10.92	374.7	18.6	5.0%	<10% retained	Road	Existing sealed road impact
TT_96	River Red Gum	Remnant native	2.49	15.00	707.0	135.6	19.2%	Not lost	Road	Existing sealed road impact
TT_97	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.16	13.92	608.8	254.8	41.9%	Not lost existing impact	Road	Existing sealed road impact
TT_98	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.89	10.68	358.4	56.5	15.8%	Lost but retained	Retaining wall/ rock batter	
TT_99	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.74	8.88	247.8	38.7	15.6%	Lost but retained	Retaining wall/ rock batter	
TT_100	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.43	5.16	83.7	35.0	41.8%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_101	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.6	7.20	162.9	50.1	30.8%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_102	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.64	7.68	185.3	60.4	32.6%	Removal	Road widening + kerb	Road widening + kerb
TT_103	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.44	5.28	87.6	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_104	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.87	15.00	707.0	180.0	25.5%	Not lost existing impact	Road	Existing road impact
TT_105	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.98	15.00	707.0	55.4	7.8%	<10% retained	Nil	
TT_106	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.24	14.88	695.7	418.0	60.1%	Not lost existing impact	Road	Existing road impact
TT_107	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.64	7.68	185.3	110.3	59.5%	Not lost existing impact	Road	Bridge impact - n/a
TT_108	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.94	15.00	707.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_109	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.62	7.44	173.9	80.5	46.3%	Not lost existing impact	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_110	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.51	6.12	117.7	45.0	38.2%	Not lost existing impact	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_112	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.83	9.96	311.7	7.9	2.5%	<10% retained	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_113	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.59	7.08	157.5	29.5	18.7%	Not lost existing impact	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_114	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.65	7.80	191.2	62.9	32.9%	Not lost existing impact	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_115	Planted native	Planted	0.67	8.04	203.1	9.5	4.7%	<10% retained	n/a	Planted Tree
TT_116	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.73	8.76	241.1	38.7	16.1%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_117	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.43	5.16	83.7	3.8	4.5%	<10% retained	Road and carparks	Existing road impact

TREE ID	TREE SPECIES	ORIGIN	DSH (m)	NRZ (m radius)	NRZ TOTAL AREA (M2)	IMP ACTED NRZ (M2)	IMP ACT %	OUTCOME	TYPE IMP ACT	COMMENT
TT_118	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.7	8.40	221.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Road and carparks	
TT_119	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.27	3.24	33.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Road and carparks	
TT_120	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.52	15.00	707.0	107.0	15.1%	Not lost	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_121	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.99	15.00	707.0	72.0	10.2%	Not lost	Road and carparks	Existing road impact
TT_200	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.81	9.72	296.9	10.6	3.6%	<10% retained	Road	Existing hardstand impact
TT_201	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.65	7.80	191.2	10.1	5.3%	<10% retained	Road	Existing hardstand impact
TT_202	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.42	15.00	707.0	172.0	24.3%	Not lost existing impact	Road	Existing hardstand impact
TT_203	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.87	10.44	342.5	61.8	18.0%	Not lost existing impact	Playground/ landscaping	Existing hardstand impact
TT_204	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.05	12.60	498.8	46.9	9.4%	Not lost existing impact	Playground/ landscaping	Existing hardstand impact
TT_205	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.42	15.00	707.0	105.9	15.0%	Not lost existing impact	Playground/ landscaping	Existing hardstand impact
TT_206	River Red Gum	Remnant native	2.33	15.00	707.0	245.0	34.7%	Lost but retained	Extended road and parking	Existing hardstand impact
TT_207	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.82	9.84	304.2	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Sealing nearby track
TT_208	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.2	2.40	18.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Sealing nearby track
TT_209	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.19	14.28	640.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Sealing nearby track
TT_210	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.45	5.40	91.6	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_211	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.49	15.00	707.0	100.2	14.2%	Not lost	end of footpath	termination of track
TT_212	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.48	5.76	104.2	9.0	8.6%	<10% retained	widened road	widened road
TT_213	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.41	4.92	76.1	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_214	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.44	5.28	87.6	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_215	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.4	4.80	72.4	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_216	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.28	3.36	35.5	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_217	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.77	9.24	268.3	25.1	9.4%	<10% retained	widened road	widened road
TT_218	River Red Gum	Remnant native	2.29	15.00	707.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Existing road impact
TT_219	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.95	15.00	707.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	ACH scar tree
TT_220	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.49	5.88	108.6	52.0	47.9%	Removal	2.5m concrete path	
TT_221	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.47	5.64	99.9	19.8	19.8%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_222	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.6	7.20	162.9	53.0	32.5%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_223	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.8	9.60	289.6	122.0	42.1%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_224	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.43	5.16	83.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	

TREE ID	TREE SPECIES	ORIGIN	DSH (m)	NRZ (m radius)	NRZ TOTAL AREA (M2)	IMP ACTED NRZ (M2)	IMP ACT %	OUTCOME	TYPE IMPACT	COMMENT
TT_225	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.48	5.76	104.2	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_226	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.46	5.52	95.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Existing road impact
TT_227	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.63	7.56	179.6	26.8	14.9%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_228	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.34	4.08	52.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_229	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.69	8.28	215.4	33.0	15.3%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	
TT_230	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.39	4.68	68.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Next to existing bridge
TT_231	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.37	4.44	61.9	23.0	37.1%	Lost but retained	2.5m concrete path	Existing road impact
TT_232	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.78	9.36	275.3	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_233	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.37	4.44	61.9	4.5	7.3%	<10% retained	Nil	
TT_234	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.51	6.12	117.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_235	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.31	15.00	707.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	Existing road impact
TT_236	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.22	14.64	673.4	62.0	9.2%	<10% retained	2.5m concrete path	Existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_237	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.47	5.64	99.9	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_238	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.42	5.04	79.8	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_239	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.28	3.36	35.5	0.0	0.0%	Retained	2.5m concrete path	
TT_240	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.7	15.00	707.0	0.0	18.00%	Not lost	2.5m concrete path	Minor existing impact from gravel carpark
TT_241	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.46	5.52	95.7	0.0	0.0%	Removal	Path termination	
TT_242	River Red Gum	Remnant native	1.78	15.00	707.0	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_243	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.64	7.68	185.3	17.0	9.2%	<10% retained	Boardwalk postholes	Tree adjacent to raised boardwalk. Minor impact
TT_244	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.18	2.16	14.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	
TT_245	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.22	2.64	21.9	5.7	26.0%	Lost but retained	Kerb and road	Road widening + kerb
TT_246	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.18	2.16	14.7	8.0	54.6%	Removal	Kerb and road	Road widening + kerb
TT_247	River Red Gum	Remnant native	0.18	2.16	14.7	0.0	0.0%	Retained	Nil	



