

135 Austin Street Winchesea Proposed Sub-division Vegetation Assessment

A report to
Rodney Guye

Prepared by

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PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987
SURF COAST PLANNING SCHEME

This Development Plan complies with the requirements of Clause
43.04 of the Surf Coast Planning Scheme

Approval Number: PG19/0086
Date: 4/08/2021 Sheet No: 1 of 34

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

An area of approximately 13.5 hectares situated at 135 Austin Street Winchelsea is proposed to be disturbed for the construction of a sub-division. This report was commissioned by Rodney Guye to assess the quantity and significance of any native vegetation that might be present in the subject site.

Under Clause 52.17 of the Planning Scheme, the State has gazetted the Native Vegetation Removal Regulations (revised in December 2017). The Native Vegetation Removal Regulations 'introduce a risk based approach to assessing applications to remove native vegetation'. (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning [DELWP] website i).

Refer to Section 4.2 for further discussion.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this investigation are to:

- Describe the flora values of the land.
- Evaluate the conservation significance of the land.
- Assess any potential impacts of the proposed development.
- Assess the implications of relevant government policy and legislation (EPBC Act, Clause 52.17).

1.3 Study Area

The study area is a privately owned paddock of approximately 13.5 ha situated at 135 Austin Street Winchelsea. It has a history of grazing and appears to have been subjected to ploughing, rock removal and nutrient enrichment and dumping of foreign material in the south-eastern sector.

The study area is located within the Surfcoast Shire. The study area is within the Victorian Volcanic Plains bioregion (DELWP Website ii) and is located within the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority area.

The location of the study area is shown on Figure 1.

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Figure 2. 135 Austin Street Winchelsea. Proposed sub-division and location of existing native vegetation (4 trees).

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2 METHODS

2.1 Taxonomy

Scientific names for plants follow the Vicflora (RBG website i). Common names for plants follow the Flora of Victoria Vols 2-4 (Walsh and Entwisle 1994-1999).

2.2 Literature and Database Review

Relevant literature and databases, including data from the NVIM tool (DELWP website ii) and the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (EPBC websites i and ii) were reviewed.

2.3 Field Survey

The site was inspected on foot on the 12th of July 2010, the 18th of April 2013 and the 14th of May 2020. The entire site was traversed. Records were taken of all indigenous vascular plant and dominant exotic plant species. Observations were made of the existing habitat values. . The entire site was traversed. Records were taken of all native vascular plant species and dominant exotic vascular plant species. Vegetation communities were mapped.

2.4 Limitations

The assessment was conducted during early summer, winter and autumn, times of year that are suitable for the detection of most flora species likely to occur on site. The site was unslashed and ungrazed at the time of survey.

Due to the overwhelmingly degraded condition of the study area vegetation, the site inspection is considered sufficient to assess the ecological values of the site. The survey includes only vascular flora. Fauna surveys were not undertaken.

There are not considered to be any significant limitations to the finding of this study.

2.5 Defining Significance

A number of criteria are applied in order to assess the significance of flora species and vegetation communities. The definition of the criteria is detailed in Appendix 1.

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2.6 Defining and Assessing Vegetation

Native vegetation in Victoria has been defined by DELWP as belonging to two categories. These are:

Patch native vegetation

Patch of native vegetation is either:

- any area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native
- any area with three or more native canopy trees where the canopy foliage cover is overlapping.

Scattered Tree native vegetation

Scattered tree native vegetation is:

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

Habitat Hectares

Habitat hectare (Vegetation Quality Assessment) is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. The current condition of native vegetation is assessed against a benchmark for its Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). EVCs are classifications of native vegetation types. The benchmark for an EVC describes the attributes of the vegetation type in its mature natural state, which reflects the pre-settlement circumstances. The condition score of native vegetation at a site can be determined through undertaking a habitat hectare assessment.

The habitat hectares of native vegetation is calculated by multiplying the current condition of the vegetation (condition score) by the extent of native vegetation.

(DELWP website ii).

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3 RESULTS

3.1 Ecological Vegetation Class

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are the primary level of classification of vegetation communities within Victoria. An EVC contains one or more plant (floristic) community and represents a grouping of vegetation communities with broadly similar ecological attributes. Classification of EVCs in this report follows Oates and Taranto (2001).

The pre-1750 EVC mapping of the study area undertaken by DELWP (DELWP Website i) indicates that the study area was comprised of EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland. EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland is currently listed as ‘Endangered’ in the VVP bioregion (DELWP website ii).

The current study records no native vegetation that accords with EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland within the study area (Table 1).

Refer to Figure 3 for DELWP EVC mapping.



Figure 3. Distribution of EVCs pre-1750 (DELWP Website ii).

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3.2 Flora

A total of 2 indigenous plant species were recorded from the study area (refer to Table 1).

Table 1 Indigenous Plant Species

Botanical Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	L
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	L

Status L - Local Conservation Significance

A complete list of exotic species was not recorded, however the dominant exotic species were noted as follows (refer to Table 2).

Table 2 Dominant Exotic Species

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Acetosella vulgaris</i>	Sheep Sorrel
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Capeweed
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Couch Grass
<i>Dactylis glomeratus</i>	Cocksfoot
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Panic Veldt-grass
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Flatweed
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sour Sob
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu Grass
<i>Romulea</i> sp	Onion grass

3.3 Vegetation Condition

The vegetation of the study area consists of five types. They are described as follows.

- The majority of the site, which consists of one relatively consistent paddock and carries no indigenous vegetation.
- The southeastern sector of the site, which has been subjected to a cover of foreign fill and carries no indigenous vegetation.
- Exotic Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpus*) boundary tree plantations.
- The adjacent roadside reserves, which contain exotic weedy vegetation with no indigenous species.
- Four individual native trees which occur towards the central southern sector of the study area, these are comprised of mature trees with an entirely exotic understory.

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4 ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 *Significant Flora*

The two indigenous species recorded during this survey are considered to be of Local Conservation Significance (*refer to Table 1*).

4.2 *Significant Plant Communities*

EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland is *Endangered* within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion (*refer to 3.1*).

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5 LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

5.1 Commonwealth

5.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999) was established to 'promote the conservation of biodiversity by providing strong protection for listed species and communities in the Commonwealth and for protected areas, Ramsar sites, Commonwealth Reserves, conservation zones and World Heritage sites, etc'.

The EPBC Act applies to developments and associated activities that have the potential to significantly impact on matters protected under the Act. Under the Act, unless exempt, actions require approval from the Australian Government Minister for Environment and Heritage if they are likely to significantly impact on a 'matter of national environmental significance'. There are currently seven matters of national environmental significance (NES):

- World Heritage properties;
- National Heritage properties;
- nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities;
- listed migratory species;
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance;
- Commonwealth marine areas; and
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining).

Any person proposing to take an action that may, or will, have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance must refer the action to the Australian Government Minister for Environment and Water Resources for determination as to whether the action is a 'controlled action' or is not approved.

Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain and Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain are two ecological communities that are listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the EPBC Act (EPBC Website i). The study area carries areas of vegetation that is assessed to be part of the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain community.

5.1.2 Implications

Due to the degraded nature of the study area (i.e. less than 50% cover value) the site is classified as being of 'low condition' (EPBC website ii). It is therefore considered that there are no implications for the current proposal under the EPBC Act.

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5.2 Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations

Under Particular Provision (Native Vegetation Clause 52.17) the State has gazetted the Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations, updated in December 2017. The Regulations ‘introduce a risk based approach to assessing applications to remove native vegetation’ (DELWP website i).

The purpose of Clause 52.17 is to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. This is achieved by applying the following three step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017) the *Guidelines*:

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.
3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact if a permit is granted to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

To manage the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation to minimise land and water degradation. (DELWP Website i).

When native vegetation removal is permitted, an offset must be secured which achieves a no net loss outcome for biodiversity. To achieve this the offset makes a contribution to Victoria’s biodiversity that is equivalent to the contribution made by the native vegetation that was removed. The type and amount of offset required depends on the native vegetation being removed and the contribution it makes to Victoria’s biodiversity.

Implications for the current proposal are discussed as follows. Refer to Figure 4 for Location mapping (DELWP data).

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5.2.1 Implications

5.2.3 Patch Native Vegetation

Under the Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations, any areas of patch native vegetation that are proposed to be removed are subject to protection/and or recruitment offsets, depending upon the characteristics of the site.

No areas of patch (native vegetation) were recorded.

5.2.4 Scattered Tree Native Vegetation

Under the Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations, any scattered tree native vegetation that is proposed to be removed are subject to protection/and or recruitment offsets, depending upon the characteristics of the site.

Scattered trees, that is, mature native canopy trees that exist outside of a patch, are also assessed under the Regulations. Within the bioregion, EVC 55 has Eucalyptus spp as ‘canopy trees’. For practicality, a standard extent amount has been developed for scattered trees, based on the habitat hectare assessment method.

Four scattered trees (native vegetation) were recorded. Two (1 large and 1 small) of those trees are proposed to be removed. Refer to Plates 1-3.

Table 3 Native trees recorded this study

Number	Botanical Name	DBH cm	Age Class
1	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	67	Tree
2 (A)	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	114	Large Tree
3 (B)	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	63	Tree
4	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	101	Large Tree

5.2.5 Implications

The results show that the current native vegetation condition for the study area consists of two scattered trees (0.102 ha of native vegetation) that are proposed to be removed. Consequently, there are implications for the removal of vegetation under the Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations as a permit must be sought to remove this vegetation.

In keeping with the requirements of the Regulations, the DELWP Native Vegetation Information Management online tool (DELWP website v) has been utilized to generate a Native vegetation removal report (ID 365-2020052) and to calculate any vegetation offset requirements. An application to remove all the recorded native vegetation would be assessed as assessed to be an intermediate pathway application.

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Should a permit to remove the native vegetation recorded by this assessment be sought, the offset requirements would be for the generation of 0.024 general habitat units, plus 1 large tree, to be achieved within the Corangamite CMA or Surfcoast Council area, with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.296. (Appendix 3).

Figure 4 Location of native vegetation

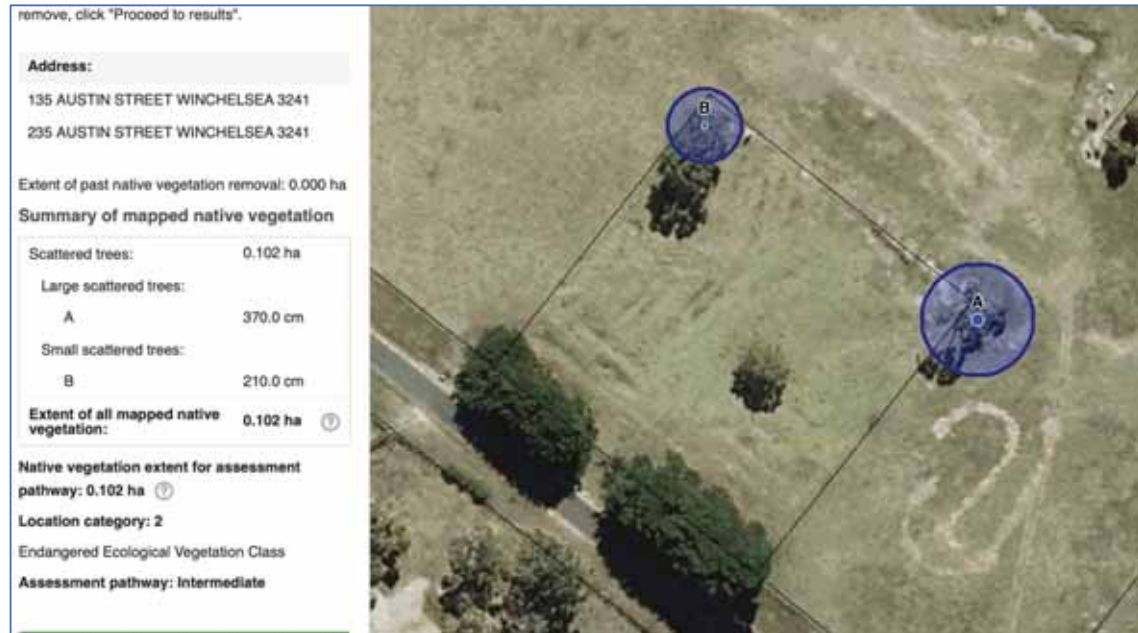


Figure 4. Location of native vegetation shown proposed to be removed (2 scattered trees, 1 large and 1 small) in blue.

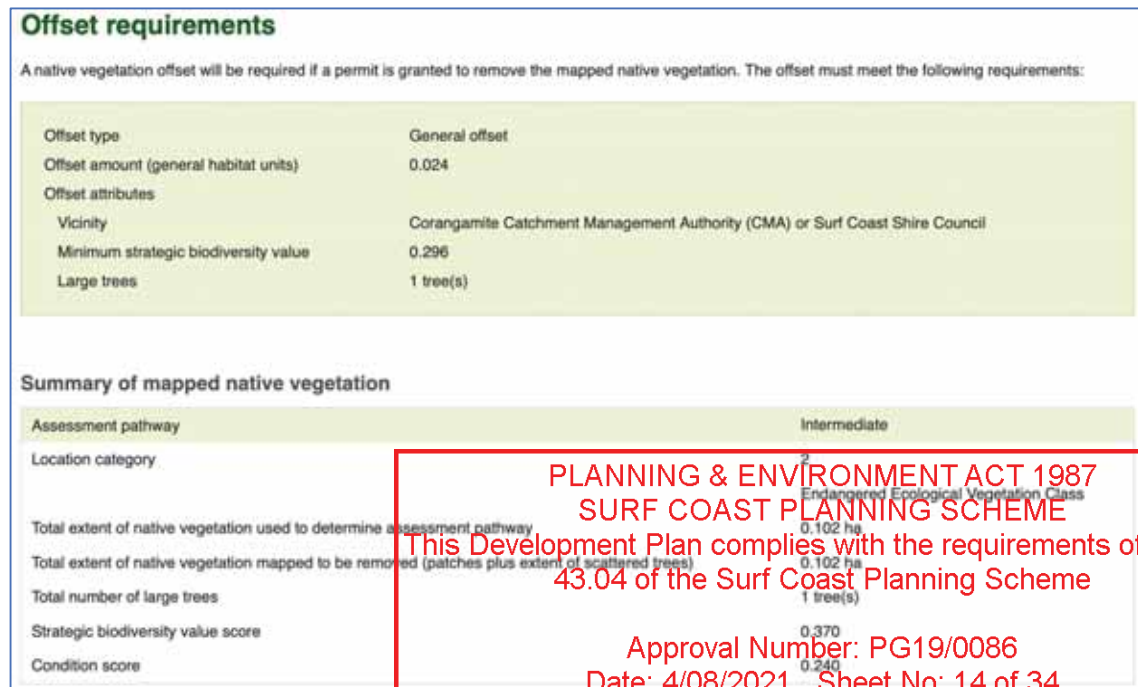


Figure 5. Summary of offset implications.

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Refer to Appendix 3 for the Native vegetation removal report. Refer to Plates 1-3 for photographs of the vegetation.



Figure 6. Distribution of vegetation according to 'Location'. Green equates to 'Location 1' (i.e. lowest risk), dark green equates to Location 2 (i.e. medium risk). (DELWP Website i). The study area is located within Locations 1 and 2. The proposal requires the removal of 'scattered tree' native vegetation.

5.2.6 Avoid and minimise

The application has sought to where possible to avoid and minimise the loss of native vegetation. The proposed Connector Road that connects Whitcombe Road to Austin Street provides that main access road through the subdivision and has been realigned to avoid removal of one large river redgum. In addition, a small linear reserve is proposed to ensure that there is no impact on the TPZ.

Also, the indicative design of the balance lot shows how a large river redgum will be retained and incorporated in the streetscape.

Consequently, the clearing of some native vegetation is not able to be avoided.

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5.2.7 Achieving Offsets

A search of the DELWP offset data base (DELWP website v) indicates that there is reasonable assurance that an appropriate 3rd party offset is available. Refer to Figure 7 and Appendix 4 (Report ID: 4208).

Offset requirements									
General habitat units (GHU)	0.032								
Minimum strategic biodiversity value (SBV) score	0.296								
Large trees	1								
Vicinity:									
Catchment Management Authority (CMA), or	Corangamite								
Municipal district	Surf Coast Shire								
Results									
The sites and credits listed below are currently available for purchase (14/05/2020 at 4:05 pm). Native vegetation credits are traded daily and may not still be available at a later stage. If you wish to purchase or secure these credits, contact the relevant broker without delay. Broker details are included in the PDF report you can download.									
These sites meet your requirements for general offsets									
Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)	
BBA-0114	0.893	186	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink	
BBA-0126	0.760	6	Corangamite	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR	
TFN-C0140	0.292	30	Corangamite	Greater Geelong City	Yes	Yes	No	TFN	
TFN-C1765	0.059	79	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink	
VC_CFL-3058_01	4.118	598	Corangamite	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR	
VC_TFN-C2058_01	8.515	141	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink	

Figure 7. Summary of offset availability.

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6 CONCLUSIONS

Description

The land at 135 Austin Street Winchelsea that is the subject of this report has been subjected to past disturbance and contains vegetation that is degraded and is comprised of four native trees and exotic plant species. Habitat values are negligible.

Implications

Two scattered trees (native vegetation) are proposed to be impacted upon.

No State, National or Regionally significant plant species were recorded within the area proposed to be impacted on.

The proposal is assessed to not have any implications under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

Referral to DELWP is required under the Native Vegetation Removal Regulations as the application is an intermediate pathway. Consequently, there are no implications for the current proposal under Clause 52.17.

Should a permit to remove the area of native vegetation recorded by this assessment be sought, the offset requirements would be for the generation of 0.024 general habitat units, plus 1 large tree, to be achieved within the Corangamite CMA or Surfcoast Council area, with a minimum strategic biodiversity score of 0.296.

Limitations

There are not considered to be any significant limitations to the findings of this study.

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Appendix 1 - ASSESSING CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

Conservation significance is assessed at a range of scales, including global, international, national, state, regional and local. Criteria used for determining the conservation significance of flora at national to local scales are presented below for botanical conservation significance.

Botanical Significance

National botanical significance applies to an area when it supports one or more of the following attributes:

a population of at least one nationally threatened plant species listed by Briggs and Leigh (1996) or plant species listed on the schedules to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

A nationally threatened ecological community listed on the schedules of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

State botanical significance applies to an area when it supports one or more of the following attributes:

A population of at least one plant species threatened in Victoria, as listed by Gullan et al. (1990), NRE (2000a) or more recently in the unpublished records of the Flora Information System (NRE), or on the schedules to the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

An ecological community considered threatened in Victoria through its listing on the schedules of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Regional botanical significance applies to an area that supports one or more of the following attributes:

Supports a population of one or more regionally depleted species defined in a valid regional assessment of biodiversity (eg. Regional Native Vegetation Plan, Environment Conservation Council Report or Comprehensive Regional Assessment documents).

An ecological vegetation class that is considered endangered or vulnerable in a particular bioregion (based on Conn 1993 and the Regional Native Vegetation Plan), in which case the area is of **High Regional** significance.

An ecological vegetation class that is considered depleted in a particular bioregion (based on Conn 1993 and the Regional Native Vegetation Plan), in which case it is of **Regional** significance.

Local botanical significance applies to all remnant native vegetation that does not meet the above criteria. In much of Victoria native vegetation has been so depleted by past clearing and disturbance that all remaining vegetation must be considered to be of at least local conservation significance.

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Appendix 2 Determining the Tree Protection Zone

Determining the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)

The radius of the TPZ is calculated for each tree by multiplying its DBH x 12. TPZ = DBH x 12 (Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of trees on development sites*)

Where

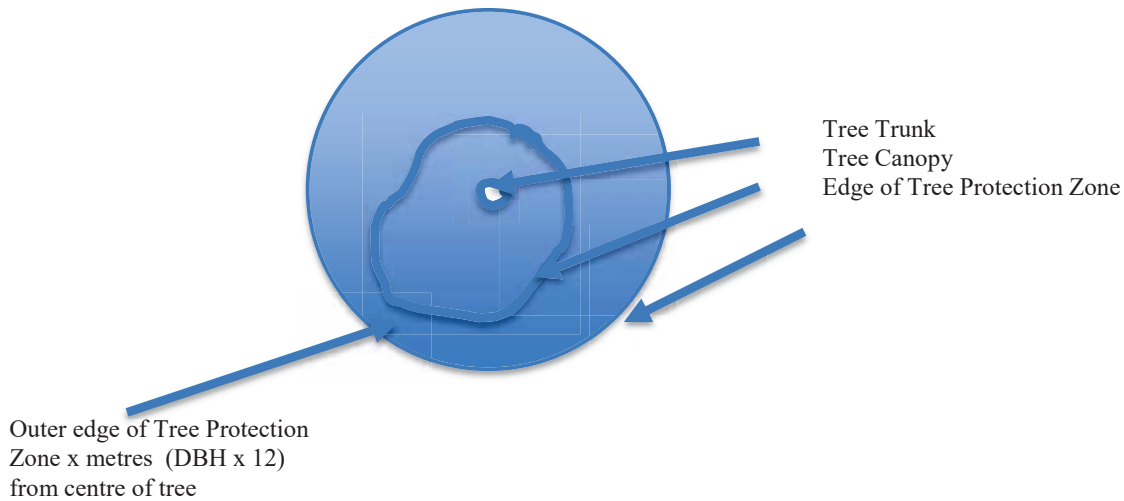
DBH = trunk diameter measured at 1.4 metres above ground.

Radius is measured from the centre of the stem at ground level.

A TPZ should not be less than 2 metres no greater than 15 metres (except where crown protection is required.). Some instances may require variations to the TPZ.

A tree is deemed to be impacted upon if greater than 10% of the TPZ area is to be disturbed.

Indicative Size of Tree Protection Zone



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Appendix 3 Native vegetation removal report

Native vegetation removal report	
<p>A report to support an application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation in the Intermediate Assessment Pathway using the modelled condition score</p> <p>This report provides information to support an application to remove native vegetation in accordance with the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i>. The report <u>is not</u> an assessment by DELWP or local council of the proposed native vegetation removal. Biodiversity information and offset requirements have been calculated using modelled condition scores contained in the <i>Native vegetation condition map</i>.</p> <p>Date and time: 21 May 2020 13:47 PM</p> <p>Lat./Long.: -38.2437929018489,144.001162392768</p> <p>Address: 135 AUSTIN STREET WINCHELSEA 3241 235 AUSTIN STREET WINCHELSEA 3241</p> <p>Native vegetation report ID: 365-20200521-009</p>	
Assessment pathway	
The assessment pathway and reason for the assessment pathway	
Assessment pathway	Intermediate Assessment Pathway
Extent of past plus proposed native vegetation removal	0.102 hectares
No. large trees	1 large tree(s)
Location category	Location 2 The native vegetation is in an area mapped as an Endangered Ecological Vegetation Class. Removal of less than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation will not have a significant impact on any habitat for a rare or threatened species.
Offset requirement	
The offset requirement that will apply if the native vegetation is approved to be removed	
Offset type	General offset
Offset amount	0.024 general habitat units
Offset attributes	
Vicinity	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) or Surf Coast Shire Council
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score	0.296
Large trees	1 large tree(s)

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Native vegetation removal report

Biodiversity information about the native vegetation

Description of any past native vegetation removal

Any native vegetation that was approved to be removed, or was removed without the required approvals, on the same property or on contiguous land in the same ownership, in the five year period before the application to remove native vegetation is lodged is detailed below.

Permit/PIN number	Extent of native vegetation (hectares)
None entered	0 hectares

Description of the native vegetation proposed to be removed

Extent of all mapped native vegetation	0.102 hectares
Condition score of all mapped native vegetation	0.240
Strategic biodiversity value score of all mapped native vegetation	0.370
Extent of patches native vegetation	0.000 hectares
Extent of scattered trees	0.102 hectares
No. large trees within patches	0 large tree(s)
No. large scattered trees	1 large tree(s)
No. small scattered trees	1 small tree(s)

Additional information about trees to be removed, shown in Figure 1

Tree ID	Tree circumference (cm)	Benchmark circumference (cm)	Scattered / Patch	Tree size
A	370	251	Scattered	Large
B	210	251	Scattered	Small

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Native vegetation removal report

Other information

Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must include all the below information. If an appropriate response has not been provided the application is not complete.

Photographs of the native vegetation to be removed

Recent, dated photographs of the native vegetation to be removed must be provided with the application. All photographs must be clear, show whether the vegetation is a patch of native vegetation or scattered trees, and identify any large trees. If the area of native vegetation to be removed is large, provide photos that are indicative of the native vegetation.

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

Topographical and land information

Description of the topographic and land information relating to the native vegetation to be removed, including any ridges, crests and hilltops, wetlands and waterways, slopes of more than 20 percent, drainage lines, low lying areas, saline discharge areas, and areas of existing erosion, as appropriate. This may be represented in a map or plan. **This is an application requirement and your application will be incomplete without it.**

flat land no drainage lines

Avoid and minimise statement

This statement describes what has been done to avoid the removal of, and minimise impacts on the biodiversity and other values of native vegetation. **This is an application requirement and your application will be incomplete without it.**

vegetation removal avoided as possible

Defendable space statement

Where the removal of native vegetation is to create defendable space, a written statement explaining why the removal of native vegetation is necessary. This statement must have regard to other available bushfire risk mitigation measures. This statement is not required if your application also includes an application under the Bushfire Management Overlay.

N/A

Offset statement

An offset statement that demonstrates that an offset is available and describes how the required offset will be secured. **This is an application requirement and your application will be incomplete without it.**

3rd party offset to be obtained

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Native vegetation removal report

Next steps

Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation must address all the application requirements specified in *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*. If you wish to remove the mapped native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council. This *Native vegetation removal report* must be submitted with your application and meets most of the application requirements. The following needs to be added as applicable.

Property Vegetation Plan

Landowners can manage native vegetation on their property in the longer term by developing a Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) and entering in to an agreement with DELWP.

If an approved PVP applies to the land, ensure the PVP is attached to the application.

Applications under Clause 52.16

An application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation is under Clause 52.16 if a Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (NVPP) applies to the land, and the proposed native vegetation removal is not in accordance with the relevant NVPP. If this is the case, a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the NVPP considerations must be provided.

If the application is under Clause 52.16, ensure a statement that explains how the proposal responds to the NVPP considerations is attached to the application.

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne.

For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186.

www.delwp.vic.gov.au

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

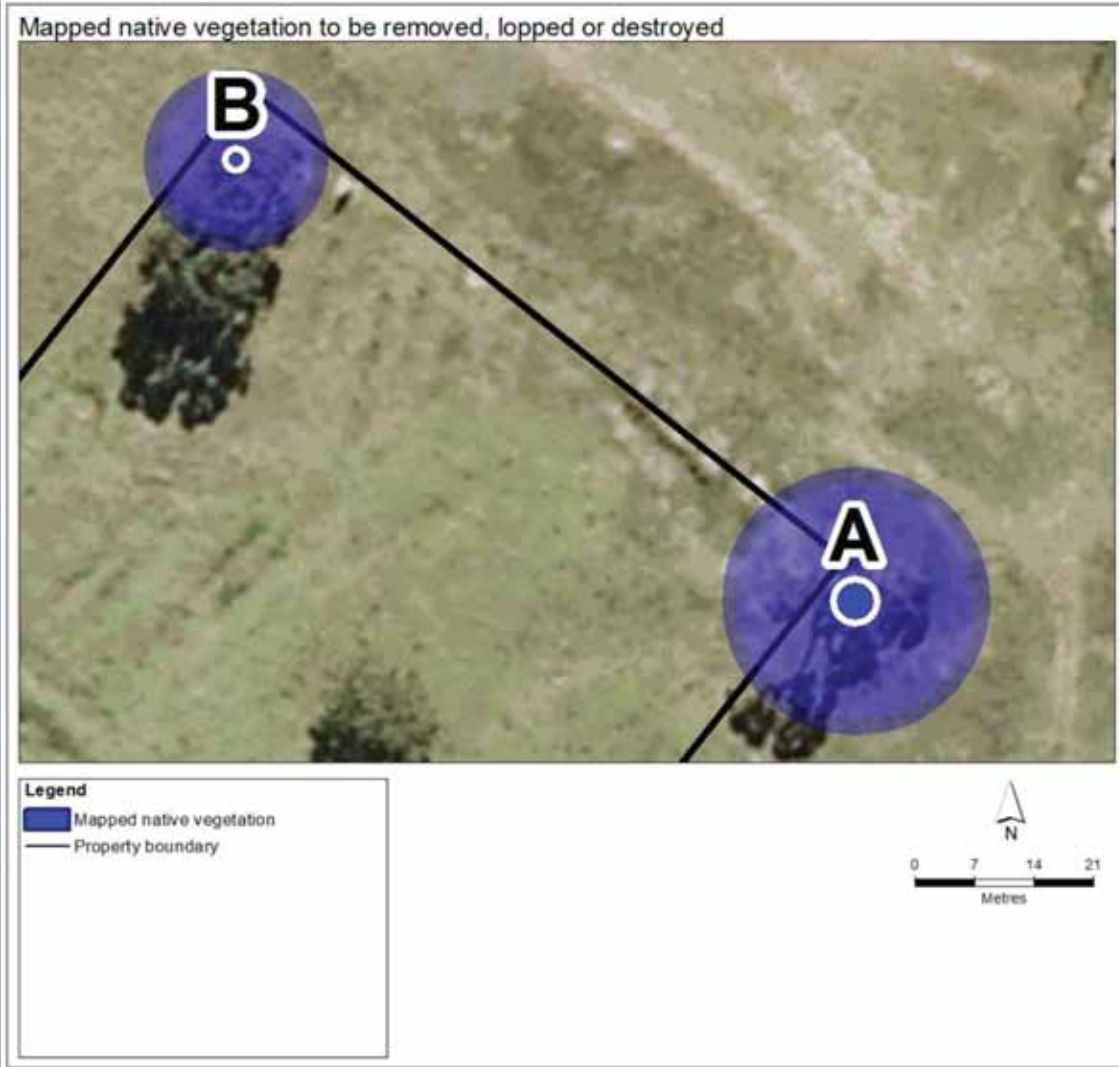
Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you must ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, legislation, awards or orders and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and the like that affect, are applicable or are necessary to undertake any action to remove, lop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

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Figure 1 – Map of native vegetation to be removed, destroyed or lopped

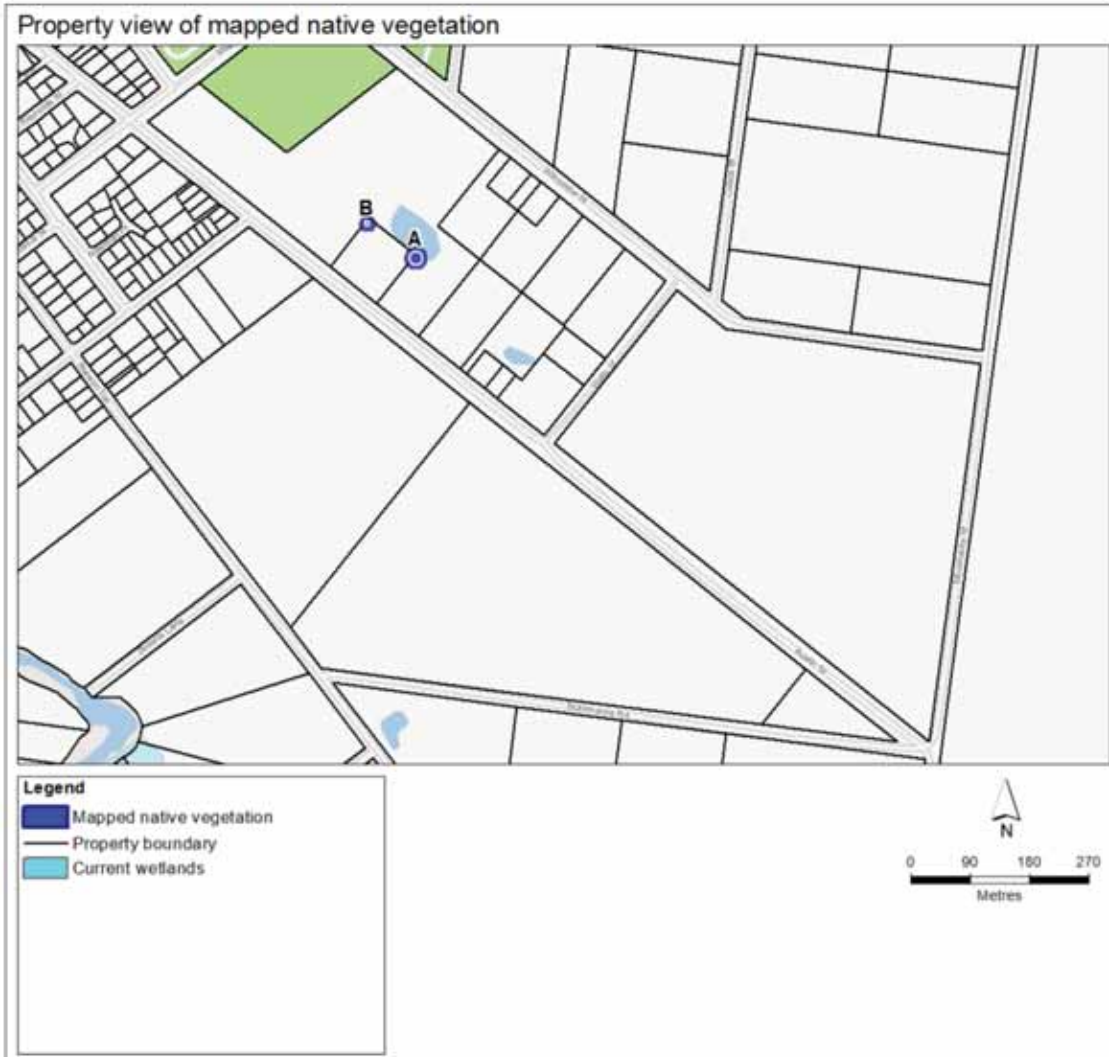


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Figure 2 – Map of property in context

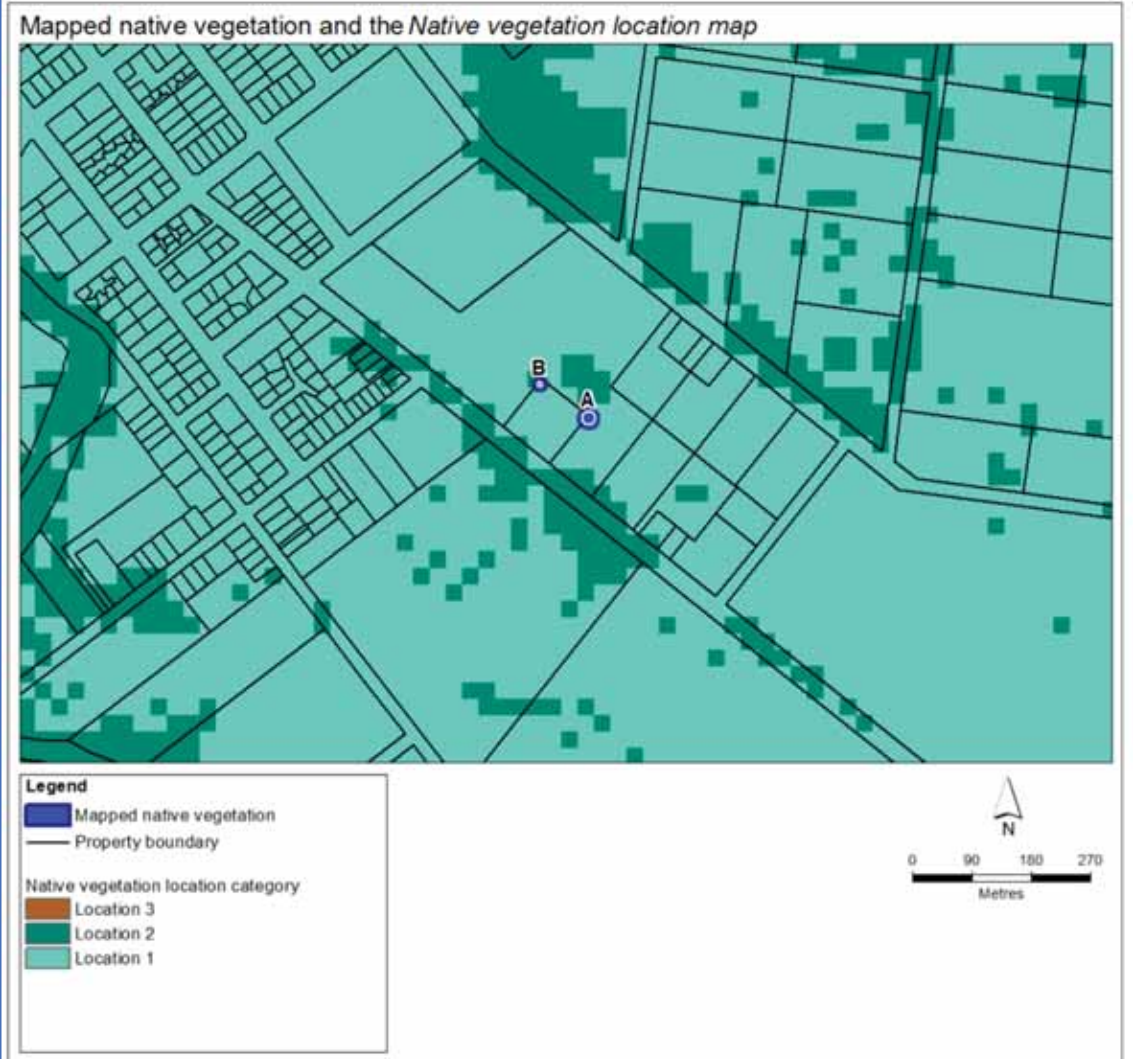


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Figure 3 – Biodiversity information maps



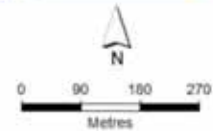
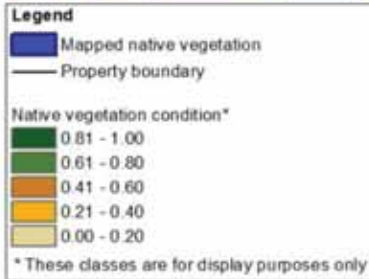
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Native vegetation removal report

Mapped native vegetation and the Native vegetation condition map



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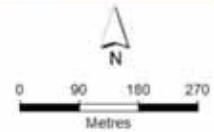
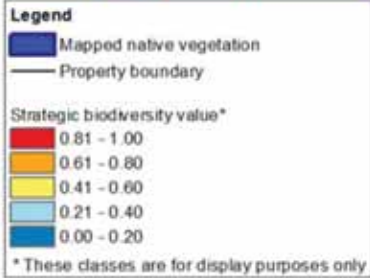
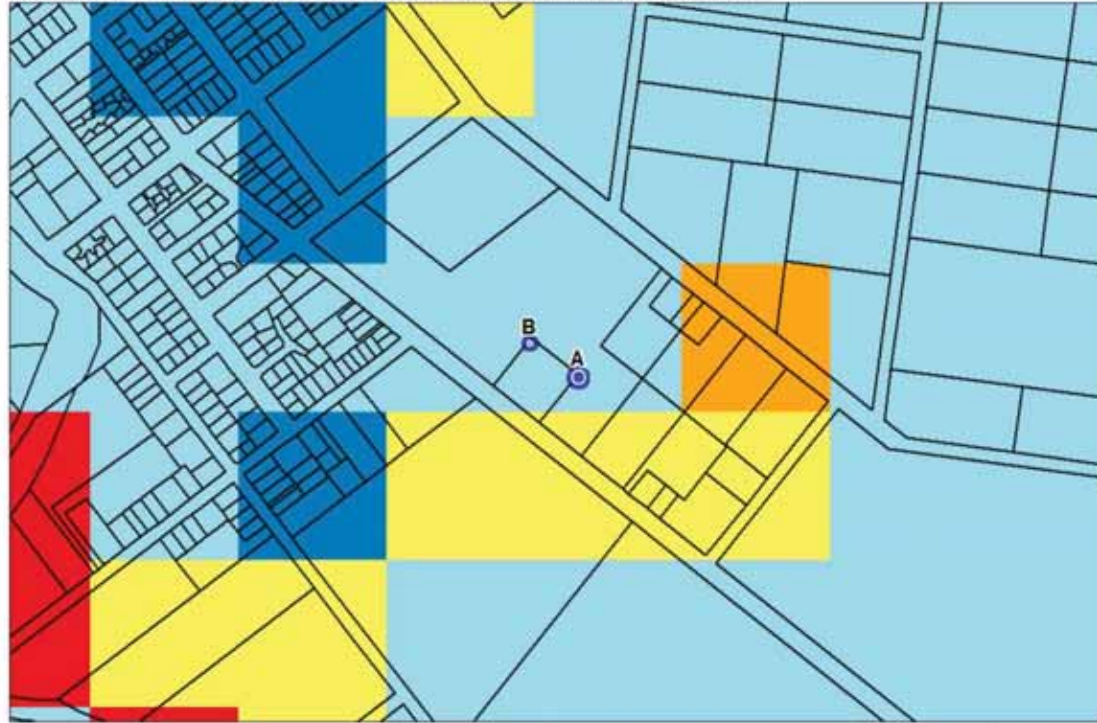
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Native vegetation removal report

Mapped native vegetation and the Strategic biodiversity value map



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Appendix 1 - Details of offset requirements

Native vegetation to be removed		
Extent of all mapped native vegetation (for calculating habitat hectares)	0.102	The area of land covered by a patch of native vegetation and/or a scattered tree, measured in hectares. Where the mapped native vegetation includes scattered trees, each tree is assigned a standard extent and converted to hectares. A small scattered tree is assigned a standard extent defined by a circle with a 10 metre radius and a large scattered tree a circle with a 15 metre radius. The extent of all mapped native vegetation is an input to calculating the habitat hectares.
Condition score*	0.240	The condition score of native vegetation is a site-based measure that describes how close native vegetation is to its mature natural state. The condition score is the weighted average condition score of the mapped native vegetation calculated using the <i>Native vegetation condition map</i> .
Habitat hectares	0.024	Habitat hectares is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. It is calculated by multiplying the extent of native vegetation by the condition score: Habitat hectares = extent x condition score
Strategic biodiversity value score	0.370	The strategic biodiversity value score represents the complementary contribution to Victoria's biodiversity of a location, relative to other locations across the state. This score is the weighted average strategic biodiversity value score of the mapped native vegetation calculated using the <i>Strategic biodiversity value map</i> .
General landscape factor	0.685	The general landscape factor is an adjusted strategic biodiversity value score. It has been adjusted to reduce the influence of landscape scale information on the general habitat score.
General habitat score	0.016	The general habitat score combines site-based and landscape scale information to obtain an overall measure of the biodiversity value of the native vegetation. The general habitat score is calculated as follows: General habitat score = habitat hectares x general landscape factor

* **Offset requirements for partial removal:** If your proposal is to remove parts of the native vegetation in a patch (for example only understorey plants) the condition score must be adjusted. This will require manual editing of the condition score and an update to the calculations that the native vegetation removal tool has provided: habitat hectares, general habitat score and offset amount.

Offset requirements

Offset type	General offset	A general offset is required when the removal of native vegetation does not have a significant impact on any habitat for rare or threatened species. All proposals in the Basic and Intermediate assessment pathways will only require a general offset.
Offset multiplier	1.5	This multiplier is used to address the risk that the predicted outcomes for gain will not be achieved, and therefore will not adequately compensate the biodiversity loss from the removal of native vegetation.
Offset amount (general habitat units)	0.024	The general habitat units are the amount of offset that must be secured if the application is approved. This offset requirement will be a condition to any permit or approval for the removal of native vegetation. General habitat units required = general habitat score x 1.5
Minimum strategic biodiversity value score	0.296	The offset site must have a strategic biodiversity value score of at least 80 per cent of the strategic biodiversity value score of the native vegetation to be removed. This is to ensure offsets are located in areas with a strategic biodiversity value that is comparable to the native vegetation to be removed.
Vicinity	Corangamite CMA or Surf Coast Shire Council	The offset site must be located within the same Catchment Management Authority boundary or municipal district as the native vegetation to be removed.
Large trees	1 large tree (s)	The offset site must protect at least one large tree for every large tree removed. A large tree is a native canopy tree with a Diameter at Breast Height greater than or equal to the large tree benchmark for the local Ecological Vegetation Class. A large tree can be either a large scattered tree or a large patch tree.

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Appendix 4 Report of available native vegetation credits



Report of available native vegetation credits

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

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

Date and time: 14/05/2020 04:05 **Report ID:** 4208

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)	
0.032	0.296	1	CMA	Corangamite
			or LGA	Surf Coast Shire

Details of available native vegetation credits on 14 May 2020 04:05

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0114	0.893	186	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
BBA-0126	0.760	6	Corangamite	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
TFN-C0140	0.292	30	Corangamite	Greater Geelong City	Yes	Yes	No	TFN
TFN-C1765	0.059	79	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3058_01	4.118	598	Corangamite	Moorabool Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
VC_TFN-C2058_01	8.515	141	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

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

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

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

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

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Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation

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

If you have approval to remove native vegetation

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

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Bass Coast SC	Bass Coast Shire Council	(03) 5671 2125	d.whittington@basscoast.vic.gov.au	www.basscoast.vic.gov.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not available
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
Nilumbik SC	Nilumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nilumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nilumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 5470 5232	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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For more information contact the DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

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Obtaining this publication does not guarantee that the credits shown will be available in the Native Vegetation Credit Register either now or at a later time when a purchase of native vegetation credits is planned.

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

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7 REFERENCES

Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of trees on development sites*

DELWP Website i.

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/90523/Key-Changes-Overview.pdf

DELWP Website ii.

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation>

DELWP Website iii.

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/biodiversity/victorian-biodiversity-atlas>

DELWP Website iv.

<https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au>

Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)

DPCD Website i.

<http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/schemes/gsurfcoast>

EPBC Website i.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/>

EPBC Website ii.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/ecological-communities-listing-approach-factsheet.pdf>

Oates, A. & Taranto, M. (2001): 'Vegetation mapping of the Port Phillip & Westernport region' Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, DNRE, Victoria.

Parkes, D., Newell, G. & Cheal, D. (2003): 'Assessing the quality of native vegetation: The habitat hectares approach. Parks, Flora & Fauna Division, DNRE, Victoria.

Royal Botanic Gardens Vicflora Website i. <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au>

Walsh, N G & Entwisle, T (1994-1999): 'Flora of Victoria Vol 2-4' Inkata Press, Melbourne.

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Plates 1-3 Site Photographs



Plate 1. Shows Trees 1 on the study area.



Plate 2. Shows tree 2 on the study area.



Plate 3. Shows Trees 3 and 4 on the study area.

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