EPBC Act referral

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

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Title of proposal — 2021/9021 - Parwan Protein Recovery Facility

Section 1

Summary of your proposed action

1.1 Project industry type — Commercial Development

1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities

The proposed action is the construction of a Protein Recovery Facility (PRF), which processes organic animal waste by-product (from meat processers/abattoirs) into tallow.

The PRF includes 5 factories, delivered in 3 stages. Stage 1 will deliver 1 factory and require $60m in capital investment, followed by a further $100-$120m for the subsequent 2 stages (4 factories). The Project Masterplan is included as Att 1_PRF Masterplan_Reeds Tp010_May 2019.

Stakeholders include Moorabool Shire (LGA), Regional Development Victoria (RDV), Invest Victoria, the Failli family, who own the subject land, and operate the local business (Westside Meats, in nearby Bacchus Marsh) that will be the PRF owner.

The PRF will be the catalyst project within the Parwan Agribusiness Precinct, as identified within the Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework in 2018. As a show of support for the Project, Moorabool and RDV contributed $3.7m towards gas infrastructure in Parwan.

In planning for this application, the proponent has undertaken significant planning, survey and site assessment works, to minimise the impacts on native vegetation and cultural heritage assets. The extent of disturbance has been carefully considered with construction methods and works areas restrained wherever possible.

The proposed action may impact on the environment through actions of vegetation clearing, excavation, and construction of an underground pipeline services corridor in Habitat Zone 2, and vegetation clearing, excavation, and construction of access roads in Habitat Zone 6. The services corridor will remove 0.071 ha of Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) and the new site entrance will remove of 0.1545 ha of NTGVVP (for information on vegetation clearing see Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Section 5, pp 16).

The technical lead consultant on the design of the civil engineering works is Reeds Consulting.

Lead ecological consultant is Nature Advisory.

The civil contractor on site to complete the works is Winslow.

The site location is shown in Att 14_Site-location 2021-08-25.

1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action?

See Appendix B

1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland)

The proposed action will occur at 3922 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road in Parwan, Victoria. The property is bordered by Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road to the west and Nerowie Road to the south. It is located approximately 6.5 km south of Bacchus Marsh and 40 km west of Melbourne.

The property supports red soils on a predominantly flat landscape, and is currently used as farmland. Large areas of the property have been ploughed; only scattered native trees remain in these areas.

Native vegetation within the property includes an extensive area (27.34 ha) of grassland in the east and a large (25.23 ha) swamp in the north. Two additional small patches of Lignum Swamp occur in the north-west of the property, along with a number of scattered trees. Treeless woodland is present on the adjacent roadsides, with grassland along the eastern portion of Nerowie Road.

The property occurs within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion and Port Phillip and Westernport catchment management area.

1.6 What is the size of the proposed action area development footprint (or work area) including disturbance footprint and avoidance footprint (if relevant)?

The total study area is 207.79 ha. Within this area, the proposed action will impact 12 ha through the construction of five factories and supporting infrastructure, as shown in Att 1_PRF Masterplan_Reeds Tp010_May 2019. The proposed action will result in the disturbance of 0.225 ha of a listed ecological community, Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. Some 25 ha of the same listed ecological community will be retained within a conservation reserve on the property, managed for conservation and protected in perpetuity.

Stage 1 PRF (Factories x1) – Approx 3ha
Stage 2 PRF (Factories x1) – Approx 4ha
Stage 3 PRF (Factories x3) – Approx 5ha

1.7 Proposed action location

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Address - 3922 Geelong Bacchus Marsh Rd, Parwan, VIC, 3340, Australia

1.8 Primary jurisdiction	Victoria

1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

☐ Yes ☑ No

1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?

☑ Yes ☐ No

1.10.1 Is there a local government area and council contact for the proposal?

☑ Yes ☐ No

1.10.1.0 Council contact officer details

1.10.1.1 Name of relevant council contact officer	Moorabool Planning & Economic Development Department
1.10.1.2 E-mail	info@moorabool.vic.gov.au
1.10.1.3 Telephone Number	0353667100

1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action	Start Date	20/10/2021
	End Date	31/10/2022

1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and state and/or local Government requirements

Planning and Environment Act 1987

The property occurs within the Moorabool local government area. It is currently zoned Industrial Zone 1, Farming Zone, Public Use Zone 1, Road Zone 1 and Road Zone 2.

A Permit has been granted under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for the Project (see Att 2_Moorabool Planning Permit 2019124, pp 1-9).

A permit will be sought under Clause 52.17 of the Moorabool Planning Scheme for removal of native vegetation. The requirements under Clause 52.17 are documented in Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Section 6, pp 18-19.

Water Act 1989

In accordance with Clauses 25-29 of the Moorabool Planning Permit (Att 2_Moorabool Planning Permit 2019124, Western Water, pp 4):

25. The proponent will consult with Western Water regarding the development of a sewerage and trade waste strategy.

26. The proponent will consult with Western Water regarding the use of Class C recycled water from the Parwan Recycled Water Plant to provide an alternative water supply.

27. The Project will not result in any increased stormwater flows into downstream properties to the satisfaction of Western Water.

28. Stormwater discharge from the site will be treated to the Best Practice water quality standards in accordance with the Drainage Authority requirements and to the satisfaction of Western Water.

29. No outfall drainage works will occur on Western Water's land resulting from the Project.

In accordance with Clauses 30-32 of the Moorabool Planning Permit (Att 2_Moorabool Planning Permit 2019124, Melbourne Water, pp 5):

30. Prior to the commencement of works, the proponent will enter into and comply with an agreement with Melbourne Water Corporation for the acceptance of surface and storm water from the Project Site directly or indirectly into Melbourne Water's drainage systems and waterways, the provision of drainage works and other matters in accordance with the statutory powers of Melbourne Water Corporation.

31. Prior to the development plans being endorsed and the commencement of works, an appropriate drainage strategy, specific to the Project, will be prepared and submitted to Melbourne Water and Moorabool Shire Council for review and approval. The proponent will arrange and fully fund the design and construction of all drainage works required to service the Project.

32. Pollution and sediment laden runoff will not be discharged directly or indirectly into Melbourne Water's drains or waterways. Prior to the commencement of works, a Site Management Plan detailing pollution and sediment control measures will be submitted to Melbourne Water for their records. Stormwater runoff from the Project will achieve State Environmental

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Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) objectives for environmental management of stormwater as set out in the 'Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines (CSIRO) 1999'.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

A Protected Flora Permit under the FFG Act will be sought from DELWP for the removal of a portion of the threatened ecological community Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland, as well as for the removal of the FFG-listed Fuzzy New-Holland Daisy, both of which occur within the road reserve of Nerowie Road. The requirements under the FFG Act are documented in Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Section 6.3, pp20.

Road Management Act, 2004

In accordance with Clause 33 of the Moorabool Planning Permit (Att 2_Moorabool Planning Permit 2019124, VicRoads, pp 5), before the use of the Project starts, swept path analysis for all relevant vehicles proposed to use the Geelong – Bacchus Marsh/Nerowie Roads intersection will be submitted to the Roads Corporation for assessment to determine any upgrade works required. Should upgrade work(s) be required, those works will be undertaken prior to the use of the Project commencing, to the satisfaction of and at no cost to the Roads Corporation. The proponent will enter into a works agreement with VicRoads, confirming design plans and works approvals processes, including determination of fees and the level of VicRoads' Service Obligations.

1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders

As a requirement of the Victorian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a community engagement program was completed at an onsite display suite. As part of the visioning and briefing strategy, Parwan & Co was established as the identity for the development, which has been referenced within the Community Engagement Report (Att 4_Community Engagement Report_Parwan and Co, pp 4-13).

In late 2019, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (see Att 5_CHMP_Benchmark Heritage Management_part1 and Att 5_CHMP_Benchmark Heritage Management_part2) was approved by the Wathaurrung, as the Registered Aboriginal Party. The management conditions within the CHMP provided for significant artefact salvage works, and nominated no go zones for assets of significance such as a ceremonial stone ring and local swampland. As part of the approval process, a traditional on site smoking ceremony was completed, as a 'welcome to country'.

1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project

Victoria

A native vegetation assessment was undertaken (Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25). The P&E and FFG Act were considered. The Project will impact 0.253 hectares of native vegetation in patches (Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Figure 2, pp 17 and Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Section 5.1.1, pp 16). This includes the removal of 0.145 hectares of FFG Act listed community Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland and Fuzzy New-Holland Daisies, Protected under the FFG Act.

Commonwealth

A review of Matters of National Environmental Significance was undertaken (MNES) (Att 6_MNES Report_Nature Advisory 18060_6.0). This determined that three MNES may be impacted the Project:

Clover Glycine – removal of 0.155 hectares of potential habitat;

Golden Sun Moth – removal of 0.155 hectares of potential habitat; and

NTGVVP – removal of 0.225 hectares.

1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?

☑ Yes ☐ No

1.15.1 Provide information about the larger action and details of any interdependency between the stages/components and the larger action

The proposed action involves developing a Protein Recovery Facility (PRF) within the south-eastern portion of a 205-hectare property at 3922 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road in Parwan, Victoria. The PRF will process organic animal waste by-product (from meat processers/abattoirs) into tallow (biofuel) and meat and bone meal. The PRF will be delivered in 3 key stages. The PRF will sit within a broader industrial precinct. The broader industrial precinct is envisaged to occupy much of the remaining property. There are currently no proposals or plans for the broader industrial precinct, and the timing of delivery of any other elements of the precinct remain uncertain / unknown. Other elements of the precinct will not need to impact any EPBC Act-listed matters, as they will use the infrastructure services corridor to the north and the road access to the south under assessment in this Referral.

1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?

☑ Yes ☐ No

1.16.1 Identify the nature/scope and location of the related action (Including under the relevant legislation)

The broader industrial precinct is envisaged to occupy much of the remaining 205-hectare property. There are currently no

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proposals or plans for the broader industrial precinct, and the timing of delivery of any other elements of the precinct remain uncertain / unknown. Other elements of the precinct will not need to impact any EPBC Act-listed matters as it will use the infrastructure services corridor to the north and the road access to the south under assessment in this Referral. A planning permit under Victorian legislation may be need for aspects of the related project (i.e possible scattered tree removal).

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Section 2

Matters of national environmental significance

2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed species or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

☑ Yes ☐ No

Species or threatened ecological community

Clover Glycine (Glycine latrobeana)

Impact

The Project is unlikely to lead to a long-term decrease in population size for Clover Glycine (Glycine latrobeana), as the Project Site is unlikely to support an important population of this species. The closest record for Clover Glycine is 5.2 km from the Project Site, and the impact areas are regularly slashed or have been ploughed, making the habitat sub-optimal. In addition, the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

The Project is unlikely to reduce the area of occupancy for Clover Glycine, as less than 1% of suitable habitat will be impacted, and the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

The Project will not fragment an existing population of Clover Glycine, as the Project Site is unlikely to support an important population of this species. The closest record for Clover Glycine is 5.2 km from the Project Site, and the impact areas are regularly slashed, making the habitat sub-optimal. In addition, the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

The Project Site does not support critical habitat for Clover Glycine, as the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

The Project will not disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population of Clover Glycine as the Project Site is unlikely to support an important population of this species. The closest record for Clover Glycine is 5.2 km from the Project Site, and the impact areas are regularly slashed, making the habitat sub-optimal. In addition, the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

Project of the site will not adversely affect habitat critical to Clover Glycine, as the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

Construction mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure Project of the site does not facilitate the spread of invasive species, including undertaking weed monitoring and control.

The Project is unlikely to introduce disease that may cause the species to decline given the nature of the work.

The Project is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of this species, as the closest record for Clover Glycine is 5.2 km from

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the Project Site. In addition, the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of suitable habitat that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

Species or threatened ecological community

Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana)

Impact

The Project is unlikely to lead to a long-term decrease in population size for Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana), as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

The Project is unlikely to reduce the area of occupancy for Golden Sun Moth, as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

The Project will not fragment an existing population of Golden Sun Moth, as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

The Project will not adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of Golden Sun Moth, as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

The Project will not disrupt the breeding cycle of Golden Sun Moth, as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

The Project will not adversely affect critical habitat for Golden Sun Moth, as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

Construction mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure Project of the site does not facilitate the spread of invasive species, including undertaking weed monitoring and control.

The Project is unlikely to introduce disease that may cause the species to decline given the nature of the work and implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan for the Project.

The Project is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of Golden Sun Moth, as the extent of habitat being removed is only 0.155 ha and consists of sub-optimal habitat.

Species or threatened ecological community

Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP)

Impact

Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) occurs within the proposed Project footprint, within Habitat Zones 2 and 6. A total of 0.225 ha of NTGVVP will be removed from the Project Site, less than 1% of that recorded on site. The project will result in a slight reduction in the extent of NTGVVP at this location; however, previous communication with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) has indicated that they do not consider impacts to small patches NTGVVP to be a significant impact. It is therefore considered that the extent of the community will not be significantly reduced.

Given the narrow impact areas, and the large area of NTGVVP to be retained in the east of the site, it is considered that the NTGVVP within the Project Site will not be functionally fragmented.

Project of the site will not adversely affect habitat critical to NTGVVP, as the total area to be impacted is only 0.225 hectares and consists of areas of NTGVVP in the Project Site that are regularly slashed (and therefore do not support the greatest species diversity). Furthermore, the project will involve the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of NTGVVP that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve, which will contribute to the survival of the ecological community.

Abiotic factors necessary for the community's survival (i.e. in areas away from the Project Site) will not be impacted by the Project of the site, as construction mitigation measures (such as sediment fencing, stormwater management and dust suppression) will be put in place to protect abiotic factors beyond the Project area.

There will be no loss of species from the remaining areas of the community as a consequence of the proposed works.

Construction mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure Project of the site does not facilitate the spread of invasive species or pollutants, including undertaking weed monitoring and control and sediment fencing.

The areas where the works are proposed are not an considered an important element in the recovery of the community given their small size, regular slashing, and the protection and management of the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 within the site, some 25 hectares of NTGVVP that will be protected in perpetuity in a conservation reserve.

2.4.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

☐ Yes ☑ No

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2.5 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed migratory species or their habitat?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.7 Is the proposed action likely to be taken on or near Commonwealth land?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.9 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on a water resource from coal seam gas or large coal mining development?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by a Commonwealth agency?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage place overseas?

☐ Yes ☑ No

2.13 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct or indirect impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth marine area?

☐ Yes ☑ No

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Section 3

Description of the project area

3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area

The flora and fauna of the Project Site are documented in Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Section 4.3.1, pp 15 and Att 6_MNES Report_Nature Advisory 18060_6.0, Section 3.5, pp 7-10.

79 plant species have been recorded within the Project Site. Of these, 43 (54%) were indigenous and 36 (46%) were introduced or non-indigenous native in origin.

3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows)

Att 7_Integrated Water Mgmt Plan_Alluvium, Section 1.3, pp 7 identifies that the main geology within and near the project site is the Neogene and Quaternary alkali basalts from the Newer Volcanic Group on the north of the project site and Neogene/Quaternary gravel and sand on the south of project site.

Shallow aquifer conditions within and near the project site has local depths to water table of <5 m. There are no State Observation Bore Network bores near the site that enable refinement or temporal investigation of groundwater levels. It is possible however that seasonal fluctuations in the groundwater table could intersect the base of an artificial storage excavated a few metres below the existing surface.

A notable natural feature of the site is the 26-hectare surface depression and wetland known as Bingham's Swamp. This area is dependent on intermittent inundation for survival and recruitment of dominant flora species.

It is assumed that the majority of the catchment inflows from the area west of Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road are captured in farm dams or overtop into the road swale drain heading north. Two small culverts were observed that may allow discharge from the west into the site, but these appeared to be at a higher elevation than the north-south swale drain. There is an external catchment to the south-east (south of Neowerie Road) which can enter the project site via overland flows or through a culvert at an existing low point. West of this catchment, a ridgeline diverts overland flows toward another surface depression with significant storage.

3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area

Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Section 4.1, page 10 identifies that the project site supports red soils on a predominantly flat landscape. Most of the Project Site has been heavily ploughed — the only vegetation remaining in this area was limited to scattered native paddock trees, namely Grey Box and Buloke. Native vegetation within the Project Site includes an extensive area (27.34 ha) of native grassland in the east and a large (25.23 ha) swamp dominated by a healthy canopy of River Red-gum trees in the north. This swamp is part of the broader Binghams Swamp, the remainder occurring in the adjacent property to the north. The area of native grassland within the property varied in quality, though the majority of this vegetation was characterised by a high diversity and cover of grasses, such as Spear Grass, Rough Spear-grass, Wallaby Grass, Dark Nine-awn Grass, Weeping Grass, Red-leg Grass, Windmill Grass and Rigid Panic, and a low cover of herbs. Areas of embedded rock were observed throughout much of the eastern half of this patch. This grassland area may provide suitable habitat for grassland specialist fauna.

The north-western portion of Habitat Zone 2 was not present at the time of the initial surveys in 2014 and 2018 with that area having been subject to ploughing. However, it had regrown by 2021 and was, like the rest of the patch, dominated by spear grass.

Binghams Swamp was dry at the time of the March 2018 field inspection and, aside from a dam in the western portion of the swamp, dry at the time of the most recent inspection (March 2021). The swamp comprised an extensive canopy of River Red-gum, many of which were large trees with hollows suitable to support various fauna. Tangled Lignum dominated the understorey. However, the high threat weed Serrated Tussock was also present.

While the structure of the vegetation in the grassland and swamp patches was largely intact, it was evident that both these areas have a history of grazing due to the low diversity of flora species observed. Sheep and goats were seen grazing in Binghams Swamp at the time of the field inspection. Several rabbits were also recorded in the area.

Two additional small patches of Lignum Swamp occurred in the north-western corner of the Project Site, along with a number of scattered trees (Grey Box and River Red-gum).

Treeless woodland was present along the adjacent roadsides (Geelong-Bacchus Marsh and Nerowie Road). Native grassland was also present along the eastern portion of Nerowie Road.

3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area

None that are not covered above

3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area

Evidence on site, including floristic composition and soil characteristics, suggested that Low-Rainfall Plains Grassland (Ecological Vegetation Classes 132_63), Lignum Swamp (Ecological Vegetation Class 104) and Plains Woodland (Ecological Vegetation Class 803) were present within the Project Site (Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Figure 1, pp 14). The bioregional conservation status of all three Ecological Vegetation Classes is Endangered within the

Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion.

A total of 17 patches (referred to as habitat zones) comprising the abovementioned Ecological Vegetation Classes were identified in the Project Site (Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Figure 1, pp 14). This totalled an area of 61.230 hectares of native vegetation in patches and included 69 large trees.

3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area

Volcanic lava flows have produced an undulating landscape that guided waterways in the region, and formed some shallow lakes and swamps. The project site is predominantly flat, with a large surface depression and wetland known as Bingham's Swamp.

3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area

The size, Condition Score and number of large trees present for each Habitat Zone is included in the Native Vegetation Assessment (Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25, Table 2, pp 13). The highest condition score was 71 out of 100, and the lowest was 23 out of 100.

3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project

None identified

3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan (Att 5_CHMP_Benchmark Heritage Management_part1, Section 8.0, pp 152-179) identifies two Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Places (ACHP): Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) 7722-1212 (Binghams Swamp Cultural Landscape) and VAHR 7722- 1205 (Parwan South Road, Parwan LDAD1). VAHR 7722-1212 (Binghams Swamp Cultural Landscape) incorporated former ACHPs; VAHR 7722-0105 (Cummins Farm Swamp 1), VAHR 7722-0106 (Cummins Farm Swamp 2) and VAHR 7722-1187 (Geelong Bacchus Marsh Road Section 3 Artefact Scatter 1).

ACHP 7722-1205 (Parwan South Road, Parwan LDAD1) comprises of thirteen surface stone artefacts located in a disturbed surface context along the road reserve of Parwan South Road. The stone artefacts were located on the surface of the road reserve and considered disturbed due to vegetation clearance and agricultural activity.

VAHR 7722-1212 (Binghams Swamp Cultural Landscape) comprises the majority of the Activity Area and consists of three components:

- A surface and sub-surface artefact scatter of stone artefacts;
- An Aboriginal stone ring; and
- An earth feature comprising an earth ring within the above stone ring.

The artefact scatter is assessed as having moderate scientific value, because in total the ACHP comprises of 2927 stone artefacts located in a disturbed and undisturbed sub-surface context in silty soils at a depth of between 0-300mm.

The stone ring is 24x20m and comprises a circular ring of 130 partially collapsed basalt rocks. An earth ring is located within the stone arrangement. The earth ring comprises an eroded irregular mound. Aboriginal stone arrangements are a form of rock art constructed by Aboriginal people. Typically, they consist of stones, each of which may be about 30cm in size, laid out in a pattern extending over several metres or tens of metres. Notable examples have been made by many different Australian Aboriginal cultures, and in many cases are thought to be associated with spiritual ceremonies. The rings are assessed as having high scientific value, because both represent intact and very rare examples of ceremonial rings in Victoria.

3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area

The property at 3922 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road is freehold land. The adjacent road reserves are crown land.

3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area

The Project Site is currently used as farmland.

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Section 4

Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action

The following design measures have been implemented to reduce the impact to NTGVVP and habitat for listed species:

Work zone for section AA was reduced from 11m wide to 5m wide

Nerowie Road layout amendments include

- Shifted road south
- Shorten turning lane lengths by 30m each
- Reduce turning lane widths from 3.5m to 3.2m
- Reduce shoulder width from 1.5m to 0.5m
- Shift table drain from edge of batter to adjacent title boundary

Nerowie Road vertical alignment amendments include:

- Lower Nerowie Road to minimise batters / slopes
- Maintain internal Road A vertical alignment to accommodate future road works

4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved

Some 25 hectares of undisturbed habitat comprising the remainder of Habitat Zone 2 will be retained within a conservation reserve on the property, managed for conservation and protected in perpetuity.

Areas impacted by the proposed action include sub-optimal habitat for Clover Glycine (Glycine latrobeana). Management involving construction mitigation measures, weed control and monitoring, will protect the conservation reserve where suitable habitat for Clover Glycine is present.

The large area of Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) to be retained in the east of the site will contribute to the survival of the ecological community. Construction mitigation measures including sediment fencing, stormwater management and dust suppression will be put in place to protect the conservation reserve.

The proposed action is unlikely to lead to a long-term decrease in population size for Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana) as only a small area of sub-optimal habitat is to be removed and the remainder of Habitat Zone 6 is to be retained.

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Section 5

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

5.1 You indicated the below ticked items to be of significant impact and therefore you consider the action to be a controlled action

- ☐ World Heritage properties
- ☐ National Heritage places
- ☐ Wetlands of international importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)
- ☐ Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community
- ☐ Listed migratory species
- ☐ Marine environment outside Commonwealth marine areas
- ☐ Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land
- ☐ Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- ☐ A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development
- ☐ Protection of the environment from nuclear actions
- ☐ Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions
- ☐ Commonwealth Heritage places overseas
- ☐ Commonwealth marine areas

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action

The Project Site supports one threatened ecological community –

Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains (NTGVVP) (Critically Endangered).

The project will result in the removal of 0.225 ha of this NTGVVP from the Project Site (710 sqm from Habitat Zone 2 for a services corridor, and 1545 sqm from Habitat Zone 6 for the site entrance from Nerowie Road). The impacted portion of Habitat Zone 2 is vegetation less than 3 years old that has regrown after ploughing. These impact areas constitute less than 1% of the NTGVVP on site. In addition, some 25 ha of NTGVVP (the remainder of Habitat Zone 2) will be protected and managed in perpetuity in a conservation reserve. Given the extent of the removal and the area of NTGVVP to be protected and managed, it is considered that the removal of NTGVVP from the Project Site would not constitute a significant impact.

The following listed flora species could potentially to occur on the site and as no spring flora surveys have been conducted it is considered to be present and impacted:

Clover Glycine (Vulnerable)

The works will result in the removal of 1545 sqm of potential habitat for this species from Habitat Zone 6 for the site entrance from Nerowie Road. Clover Glycine is unlikely to occur in Habitat Zone 2 due to the history of ploughing in the portion of that habitat zone proposed to be impacted.

A total of 27 hectares of suitable habitat for this species will be retained, protected and managed within the site (being the remainder of Habitat Zone 2). Given the above, it is considered highly unlikely that the removal of grassland habitat from Habitat Zone 6 would constitute a significant impact on Clover Glycine.

The following listed fauna species could potentially to occur on the site and as no targeted surveys have been conducted it is considered to be present and impacted:

Golden Sun Moth (Critically Endangered)

The works will result in the removal of 1545 sqm of potential habitat for this species from Habitat Zone 6 for the site entrance from Nerowie Road. Golden Sun Moth is unlikely to occur in Habitat Zone 2 due to the history of ploughing in the portion of that habitat zone proposed to be impacted.

Given the small area of habitat to be removed, and the retention of the remainder of Habitat Zone 6, it is considered unlikely that Golden Sun Moth would be significantly impacted on by the Project.

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 6

Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Explain in further detail

Yes, Parwan Pty Ltd. c/o Honed Property is understood to have a satisfactory record of responsible environment management.

Parwan Pty Ltd is the Parwan landholding entity, however the same family own Westside Meats, a meat processing facility based 5kms away in Bacchus Marsh. In aggregate, the family owns approximately 1500ha of farming land in Parwan.

Their Parwan land is primarily used to hold livestock (cattle and lamb). The family maintain very stringent farm management practices, including irrigation of recycled Class C water from the adjacent Bacchus Marsh Treatment Plant, owned by the water authority.

6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application

No breaches of environmental laws.

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) works licence was approved in 2020 for the Project, including onsite wastewater treatment facility.

6.3 If it is a corporation undertaking the action will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and framework?

☐ Yes ☑ No

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

☐ Yes ☑ No

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 7

Information sources

Reference source

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) 2015, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List: Characteristics of Threatened Communities, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Axiom Tree Management Pty Ltd 2014, Arboricultural Assessment: 3922 Geelong- Bacchus Marsh Road Parwan, consultant report prepared for Urban Design and Management.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2021a, NatureKit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, viewed 24th March 2021, https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2021b, MapShareVic, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, viewed 24th March 2021, https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/maps/maps-and-services/interactive-maps.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2021c, Native Vegetation Information Management system, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, viewed 24th March 2021, https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Reference source

DELWP 2021d, Victorian Biodiversity Atlas 3.2.8, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne, Victoria, viewed 14th July 2021, https://vba.dse.vic.gov.au.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) 2021b, EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool, Department of the Environment and Energy, Canberra, viewed 14th July 2021, https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021b, Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, accessed 2021, http://www.environment.gov.au/sprat.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) 2009, Background Paper to EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.12 – Significant Impact Guidelines for the Critically Endangered Golden Sun Moth (Synemon plana), Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) 2013, Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant impact guidelines 1.1, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Reference source

Richter A, Osborne W, Hnatuik S & Rowell A 2013, 'Moths in fragments: insights into the biology and ecology of the Australian endangered golden sun moth Synemon plana (Lepidoptera: Castniidae) in natural temperate and exotic grassland remnants', Journal of Insect Conservation,17: 1093–1104

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) 2008c, Commonwealth Listing Advice on Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2017a, Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2017b, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 - Protected Flora List, June 2017, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2018a, Assessor's Handbook – Applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation (Version 1.1, dated October 2018), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

DELWP 2018b, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List, April 2018, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) 2004a, Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) Benchmarks by Bioregion, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) 2004b, Native Vegetation: sustaining a living landscape, Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – guidelines for applying the Habitat Hectare scoring method (Version 1.3), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Reference source

Parkes D, Newell G, & Cheal D 2003, 'Assessing the Quality of Native Vegetation: The 'habitat hectares' approach', Ecological Management and Restoration 4:29–38.

Reliability

High

Uncertainties

N/A

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 8

Proposed alternatives

Do you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action?

Yes ☑ No

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Section 9

Person proposing the action

9.1.1 Is the person proposing the action an organisation or business?

☑ Yes ☐ No

Organisation

Organisation name (as registered for ABN/ACN)	L. & G. MEATS PTY. LTD.
Business name	
ABN	98005827761
ACN	
Business address	6 Woolpack Road, Bacchus Marsh, 3340, VIC, Australia
Postal address	
Main Phone number	0408829104
Fax	
Primary email address	joe@westsidemeats.com.au
Secondary email address	

9.1.2 I qualify for exemption from fees under Regulation 5.23(1)(ii) of the EPBC Regulations because I am:

☐ Small business
☑ Not applicable

9.1.2.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations

☐ Yes ☑ No

9.1.3 Contact (for an organisation - the contact details of the person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation)

First name	Joe
Last name	Failli
Job title	Director
Phone	0408829104
Mobile	
Fax	
Email	joe@westsidemeats.com.au
Primary address	6 Woolpack Road, Bacchus Marsh, 3340, VIC, Australia
Address	

Declaration: Person proposing the action (To be signed by the person at 9.1.3)

I, Joe Failli, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature: ..... Date: 16/9/2021

I, Joe Failli, the person proposing the action, consent to the designation of Cameron Jones as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature: ..... Date: 16/9/2021

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Proposed designated proponent

9.2.1 Is the proposed designated proponent an organisation or business?

☐ Yes ☑ No

9.2.2 Contact (for an organisation - the contact details of the person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation)

First name	Cameron
Last name	Jones
Job title	Director
Phone	0402085532
Mobile	
Fax	
Email	cameron@honedproperty.com.au
Primary address	10 Vincent Street, Glen Iris, 3146, VIC, Australia
Address	

Declaration: Proposed Designated Proponent

I, Cameron Jones **,the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.**

Signature: ..... **Date:** 16/9/2021

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Referring party (person preparing the information)

9.3.1 Is the referring party an organisation or a business?

☑ Yes ☐ No

Organisation

Organisation name (as registered for ABN/ACN)	NATURE ADVISORY PTY LTD
Business name	
ABN	12095541334
ACN	
Business address	5/61-63 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East, 3123, VIC, Australia
Postal address	
Main Phone number	0439 910 326
Fax	
Primary email address	alan@natureadvisory.com.au
Secondary email address	

9.3.2 Contact (for an organisation - the contact details of the person authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation)

First name	Alan
Last name	Brennan
Job title	Director
Phone	0439 910 326
Mobile	
Fax	
Email	alan@natureadvisory.com.au
Primary address	5/61-63 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East, 3123, VIC, Australia
Address	

Declaration: Referring party (person preparing the information)

I, Alan Brennan **, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.**

Signature: Alan Brennan **Date:** 16/09/2021

Note: PDF may contain fields not relevant to your application. These fields will appear blank or unticked. Please disregard these fields.

Appendix A

Attachment

Document Type	File Name
action_area_images	Att 10_FIG1 site location.pdf
action_area_images	Att 1_PRF Masterplan_Reeds TP010_May 2019.pdf
action_area_images	Att 11_FIG2 MNES impacts.pdf
action_area_images	Att 12_FIG3 Native vegetation.pdf
action_area_images	* Att 13_Site_location.kmz
action_area_images	Att 13_Site_location 2021-08-25.pdf
action_area_images	Att 14_Site-location 2021-08-25.pdf
localgov_approval_consent	Att 2_Moorabool Planning Permit 2019124.pdf
public_consultation_reports	Att 4_Community Engagement Report_Parwan and Co.pdf
public_consultation_reports	***Att 5_CHMP_Benchmark Heritage Management_part1.pdf
public_consultation_reports	***Att 5_CHMP_Benchmark Heritage Management_part2.pdf
supporting_tech_reports	Att 6_MNES Report_Nature Advisory 18060_6.0.pdf
flora_fauna_investigation	** Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2.pdf
flora_fauna_investigation	Att 3_Native Vegetation_Nature Advisory 18060_4.2 V2-2021-08-25.pdf
hydro_investigation_files	Att 7_Integrated Water Mgmt Plan_Alluvium.pdf
hydro_investigation_files	Att 8_ IWMP Addendum_Reeds_part1.pdf
hydro_investigation_files	Att 8_ IWMP Addendum_Reeds_part2.pdf
hydro_investigation_files	Att 8_ IWMP Addendum_Reeds_part3.pdf
hydro_investigation_files	Att 8_ IWMP Addendum_Reeds_part4.pdf
hydro_investigation_files	Att 8_ IWMP Addendum_Reeds_part5.pdf
trust-deed	***Honed Property Trust Deed.pdf

Appendix B

Coordinates

Area 1
-37.72835787087,144.43595688035
-37.728222100197,144.47492401292
-37.75767850208,144.47509567429
-37.75767850208,144.43372528245
-37.72835787087,144.43595688035

* PROVIDED AS PDF - Att 13_Site_location 2021-08-25
** NOT PUBLISHED - SUPERSEDED
*** NOT PUBLISHED - SENSITIVE