

**BRAEMAR COLLEGE WOODEND,
ROMSEY ROAD WIDENING**

EPBC ACT REFERRAL

Braemar College



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Ecological Research & Management

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April 2016



Referral of proposed action

Project title: Braemar College, Woodend – Romsey Road widening

1 Summary of proposed action

1.1 Short description

The proposed action will comprise the widening of Romsey Road on the northern shoulder to provide a turning lane into the site for the proposed new Braemar College campus. The proposed action will require the removal of all vegetation located in the northern portion of the road reserve within the extent of works, as well as a small encroachment onto private grazing land to the north. The vegetation required to be removed is made up of predominantly introduced vegetation, with several small, isolated patches made up of remnant canopy eucalypt trees and wattle regrowth.

1.2 Latitude and longitude

| location point | Latitude | | | Longitude | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| | degrees | minutes | seconds | degrees | minutes | seconds |
| NW | 37 | 21 | 04.72 | 144 | 33 | 41.11 |
| NE | 37 | 21 | 06.88 | 144 | 34 | 00.41 |
| SE | 37 | 21 | 07.38 | 144 | 34 | 00.30 |
| SW | 37 | 21 | 05.08 | 144 | 33 | 41.04 |
| | | | | | | |

1.3 Locality and property description

Approximately three kilometres east-north-east of the township of Woodend.

1.4 Size of the development footprint or work area (hectares) 0.655 hectares

1.5 Street address of the site Northern side of Romsey Road roadside fronting properties at 241 and 299 Romsey Road, Woodend.

1.6 Lot description

Not applicable due to site comprising a public road reserve.

1.7 Local Government Area and Council contact (if known)

Macedon Ranges Shire Council:
Belinda Harrison (Statutory Town Planner) – (03) 5421 9631 / bharrison@mrsc.vic.gov.au

1.8 Time frame

The works will commence in December 2016 and be completed within six months. The campus will take its first students in September 2017, after which time it will remain operational for the foreseeable future.

1.9 Alternatives to proposed action

X

No, vehicle drop-off and pick-up arrangements are vital to the viable operation of a school campus and must be provided. Alternative locations are considered in 1.10 and following related sections.

| | | |
|------|--|--|
| | | Yes, you must also complete section 2.2 |
| 1.10 | Alternative time frames locations or activities | No |
| | X | Yes, you must also complete Section 2.3. For each alternative, location, time frame, or activity identified, you must also complete details in Sections 1.2-1.9, 2.4-2.7 and 3.3 (where relevant). |
| 1.11 | State assessment | No |
| | | Yes, you must also complete Section 2.5 |
| 1.12 | Component of larger action | No |
| | | Yes, you must also complete Section 2.7 |
| 1.13 | Related actions/proposals | No |
| | X | Yes, the proposed action comprises road upgrades required to address changed traffic conditions and related requirements for safe vehicle drop-off and pick-up of students resulting from the development of the proposed Braemar College Romsey Campus. |
| 1.14 | Australian Government funding | No |
| | | Yes, provide details: |
| 1.15 | Great Barrier Reef Marine Park | No |
| | | Yes, you must also complete Section 3.1 (h), 3.2 (e) |

2 Detailed description of proposed action

2.1 Description of proposed action

The proposed action involves the modification to 470 metres of the northern side of the Woodend – Romsey Road, east of Woodend. The modifications will involve works to add turning lanes to the existing narrow, two-lane 'C-grade' road to facilitate entry and exit of vehicles to the new Braemar College campus. The turning lanes are necessary to ensure that access and egress from the site are safe, including access and egress of students. The layout of the works is shown in Attachment B. This layout has been approved by VicRoads.

The works will involve the construction of sealed road surface and associated concrete kerbing and drainage.

2.2 Alternatives to taking the proposed action

There are no alternatives to providing for the safe drop-off and pick-up of students by vehicle at the new college from the existing road network on the campus boundary.

2.3 Alternative locations, time frames or activities that form part of the referred action

Two alternative locations have been considered for the road works. These are described below.

Approximately 500 metres east along the Woodend–Romsey Road an alternative location was investigated. This was less safe because of nearby bends in the road restricting the length of vision of cars on the road before and after the location of the works. In addition, this alternative involves the removal of more native vegetation than the current location.

Just north of the Woodend–Romsey Road on Boundary Road, on the western edge of the new college campus, works were contemplated. However, again, this would have involved the removal of a greater area of native vegetation.

As the Victorian planning provisions (Cl. 52.17) require proponents to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation and associated biodiversity, the final proposed location of the works was considered optimum compared to these two alternatives.

2.4 Context, planning framework and state/local government requirements

The proposed action will be assessed under Victoria's planning framework (under the Planning and Environment Act 1987) under Cl. 52.17 of the state section off the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme under the low risk pathway application assessment. As the proposed vegetation removal occurs on Crown Land, the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will be a recommending Referral Authority.

A permit will be required under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, to be issued by DELWP, for the removal of the four Black Gums in the works area, as the removal is occurring on public land.

2.5 Environmental impact assessments under Commonwealth, state or territory legislation

N/A

2.6 Public consultation (including with Indigenous stakeholders)

Public consultation will be required for this Referral (10 days) and for the planning permit application (30 days). No consultation with indigenous groups is required or proposed.

2.7 A staged development or component of a larger project

The proposed works are part of the proposal to develop a second campus for the Braemar College, a private school that has been operating in the Woodend area since 1976. The college campus is to be developed on farmland to the north of the Woodend–Romsey Road and east of Boundary Road. The proposed college will be constructed on existing cleared farmland that does not support any remnant native vegetation, apart from scattered groups of eucalypts, including some Black Gums. These will be retained and protected.

No other matters of national environmental significance occur on the campus site. Along the watercourse on the northern boundary of the campus a fenced area will be set aside to protect Black Gums on the campus, restore watercourse vegetation and provide for the planting of additional Black Gums such that after 10 years at least 30 maturing Black Gums will be added to the reserved area.

3 Description of environment & likely impacts

3.1 Matters of national environmental significance

3.1 (a) World Heritage Properties

Description

None

Nature and extent of likely impact

N/A

3.1 (b) National Heritage Places

Description

None

Nature and extent of likely impact

N/A

3.1 (c) Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar wetlands)

Description

The following wetlands of international importance were identified by the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool (DotE 2015b):

- Banrock station wetland complex (500 - 600km upstream)
- Gunbower forest (100 - 150km upstream)
- Hattah-Kulkyne lakes (300 - 400km upstream)
- NSW Central Murray state forests (100 - 150km upstream)
- Riverland (400 - 500km upstream)
- The Coorong, and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert wetland (400 - 500km upstream)

Nature and extent of likely impact





None of the above-listed wetlands will be impacted upon by the proposed action given: the minor extent and magnitude of impacts; the great distance between the site and the listed wetlands; and, the ephemeral and already significantly modified hydrology of the site.

3.1 (d) Listed threatened species and ecological communities

Description

Flora species

Four Black Gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*) trees—listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act—occur on the site. These trees were all mature and were measured to have a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of 48 to 97 centimetres. All showed significant signs of stress. The largest tree (Tree 3) was densely covered in Ivy and was particularly stressed as a result. Details of the Black Gum trees are provided in the table below.

| Tree No. | Common name | Scientific Name | DBH (cm) | Photo |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|---|
| 1 | Black Gum | <i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i> | 53 |  |
| 2 | Black Gum | <i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i> | 48 |  |
| 3 | Black Gum | <i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i> | 97 |  |
| 4 | Black Gum | <i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i> | 92.5 |  |

The approved conservation advice for this species (DotE 2015a; DSE 1997) indicates that the Woodend sub-population of this species is considered an important population owing to its disjunct distribution.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas records (VBA 2016) and the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (Department of the Environment 2015) indicated that within the search region there were records of, or there occurred potential suitable habitat for, an additional 12 flora species listed under the EPBC Act. A consideration of the likelihood of occurrence of these species within the study area concluded that habitat for these species was either not present or was so highly degraded that these species were not likely to occur here (Attachment C).

Ecological communities

The following listed ecological communities were found to be absent from the site (see explanations below) (Attachment C):

- **Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain** - The bioregion, landform and floral assemblage of the vegetation recorded within the study area did not align with the description of this community.
- **Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia** - The floral assemblage of the vegetation recorded within the study area did not align with the description of this community.
- **Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain** - The bioregion, landform and floral assemblage of the vegetation recorded within the study area did not align with the description of this community.
- **White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland** - The floral assemblage of the vegetation recorded within the study area did not align with the description of this community.

Fauna

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas records (VBA 2016) and the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (Department of the Environment 2015) indicated that within the search region there were records of, or there occurred potential suitable habitat for, one fauna species listed under the EPBC Act – Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*).

No suitable habitat occurred in the study area for the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). This species is therefore considered unlikely to occur in the study area (Attachment C).

Nature and extent of likely impact

All four Black Gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*) trees are proposed to be removed. The table below provides an evaluation of the proposed action against the Commonwealth's EPBC Act Guidelines on Significance (DotE 2013) criteria. Information on the Woodend population in this evaluation is drawn from the Department of the Environment's *Conservation Advice – Eucalyptus aggregata – Black Gum* (DotE 2015a).

| Criterion | Evaluation |
|---|--|
| Lead to a long-term decrease in the size of an important population of a species | Although the Woodend population is considered to be an important population (DotE 2015a), the four individuals occur in a highly modified location where recruitment is significantly inhibited by the presence of the adjacent roadway and management of adjacent private land for agriculture. Given the inhibition of recruitment, these trees are not able to contribute to the long-term survival of the Woodend population of about 9,000 individuals. The removal of these four trees is therefore not considered to prejudice the long-term survival of this important population. |
| Reduce the area of occupancy of an important population | The removal of this small number of individuals from this section of road reserve is not considered to reduce the overall area of occupancy of the Woodend population. There are many other groups and individuals elsewhere in the Woodend region, mostly occurring on private land. |
| Fragment an existing important population into two or more populations | The four trees concerned represent a small, isolated occurrence of the species and their removal would not be considered to fragment the existing Woodend population of the Black Gum. |
| Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species | The proposed works will result in the removal of isolated and fragmented roadside vegetation with a highly modified understorey. This vegetation provides habitat for only four individuals with limited opportunity for recruitment. This habitat is therefore not considered critical to the survival of the species in view of the number of the species present in the surrounding Woodend region. |
| Disrupt the breeding cycle of an important population | The removal of four trees with limited opportunity for recruitment out of a population of about 9,000 is not considered to disrupt the breeding cycle of the Woodend population of this species. |
| Modify, destroy, remove or isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline | The removal of a limited area of roadside habitat for four trees is not considered to lead to a significant decline in the Black Gum population in the Woodend area given its isolated and highly modified nature. |
| Result in invasive species that are harmful to a vulnerable species becoming established in the vulnerable species' habitat | As works will be undertaken along the road in accordance with best practice environmental management measures, invasive species will not be allowed to invade and establish. The site of proposed works is isolated and far removed from any significant stands of the species in the Woodend area. |
| Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline | As works will be undertaken along the road in accordance with best practice environmental management measures, normal construction equipment hygiene procedures will be implemented, preventing the introduction of plant diseases that could threaten the remaining population. The site of proposed works is isolated and far removed from any significant stands of the species in the Woodend area. |
| Interfere substantially with the recovery of the species | The removal of this section of roadside vegetation and the loss of four trees is not considered to interfere with the recovery of the species, given that the inhibition of recruitment by adjacent land uses means that these trees are not able to contribute to the recovery of the species. Recovery actions are best undertaken on areas that can be managed with a conservation objective, such as the proposed protection area within the college campus along Five Mile Creek. |

The foregoing evaluation of the proposed action against the EPBC Act Guidelines on significance indicates that the removal of four Black Gum trees will not have a significant impact on the important Woodend population of the Black Gum.

3.1 (e) Listed migratory species

Description

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas records (VBA 2016) and the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (Department of the Environment 2015) indicated that within the search region there were records of, or there occurred potential suitable habitat for, three migratory species listed under the EPBC Act – Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*) and White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*).

No suitable habitat occurred in the study area for Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) or Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*). These species are therefore unlikely to occur in the study area (Attachment C).

The White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) has the potential to occur onsite (Attachment C).

Nature and extent of likely impact

There will be no impact on listed migratory waterbirds.

While the White-throated Needletail (*Hirundapus caudacutus*) has the potential to occur as a fly-over species, it occurs in a wide variety of habitats including open woodland and farmland. Due to the aerial nature and high mobility of the species, any removal of treed habitat within the study area is unlikely to significantly impact the species (Attachment C). The minor extent of habitat removal will have a negligible impact on overall habitat availability for this species.

3.1 (f) Commonwealth marine area

Description

None

Nature and extent of likely impact

N/A

3.1 (g) Commonwealth land

Description

The Australian Counter-Disaster College (Australian Emergency Management Institute), Mt Macedon is located nearly six kilometres south-south-east of the study area, on the opposite side of Mt Macedon.

Nature and extent of likely impact

No part of the environment within the above Commonwealth Land, including ecosystems, communities, people, resources, qualities, character, and heritage nor social, economic and cultural aspects) will be impacted by the proposed action due to its distance and disconnection from the site as well as the minor extent and magnitude of activities/works.

3.1 (h) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Description

Not present or nearby.

Nature and extent of likely impact

No impacts.

3.1 (i) A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development

Description

N/A

Nature and extent of likely impact

N/A

3.2 Nuclear actions, actions taken by the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth agency), actions taken in a Commonwealth marine area, actions taken on Commonwealth land, or actions taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 3.2 (a) | Is the proposed action a nuclear action? | X | No |
| | | | Yes (provide details below) |

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 3.2 (b) | Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency? | X | No |
| | | | Yes (provide details below) |

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment

| | | | |
|---------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 3.2 (c) | Is the proposed action to be taken in a Commonwealth marine area? | X | No |
| | | | Yes (provide details below) |

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(f))

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 3.2 (d) | Is the proposed action to be taken on Commonwealth land? | X | No |
| | | | Yes (provide details below) |

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(g))

| | | | |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 3.2 (e) | Is the proposed action to be taken in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park? | X | No |
| | | | Yes (provide details below) |

If yes, nature & extent of likely impact on the whole environment (in addition to 3.1(h))

3.3 Other important features of the environment

3.3 (a) Flora and fauna

A total of 37 plant species have been recorded on site. Of these, 16 (43%) were indigenous and 21 (57%) were introduced or non-indigenous native in origin. A total of 16 fauna species have been recorded by calls, scats and observation. This has included 13 bird (two introduced) and three mammals (one introduced). No EPBC Act listed rare or threatened species have been recorded, except for the aforementioned Black Gums. This includes any rare or threatened species listed under Victorian legislation (Attachment C).

3.3 (b) Hydrology, including water flows

Two drainage lines – unnamed tributaries of Five Mile Creek – cross the study area, passing beneath the Romsey Road via culverts. Both drainage lines were dry at the time of the survey (Attachment C) but are likely to support ephemeral flows. Disconnected low-lying parts of the site are subject to ephemeral, shallow inundation.

3.3 (c) Soil and Vegetation characteristics

The site supports mottled duplex soils, including fairly deep, fertile, clay-loam Quaternary basalt topsoils. Some small, scattered, embedded boulders also occurred. The study area lies within the Central Victorian Uplands bioregion (based upon Victorian classification). The surrounding private land has been extensively modified for agriculture, including the removal of most of the remnant indigenous vegetation that once existed.

3.3 (d) Outstanding natural features

None

3.3 (e) Remnant native vegetation

Nine small, isolated remnant patches of Herb-rich Foothill Forest (EVC 23) and Swampy Riparian Woodland (EVC 83), totalling 0.344 hectares occur in the study area, 0.156 hectares of which is proposed for removal (Attachment C). Two of these remnant patches (identified as Habitat Zones E and F) contain the aforementioned Black Gums. See Figure 2 in Attachment C.

3.3 (f) Gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area)

The site supports a relatively flat landscape (less than 10% grade), with a gentle rise in the east of the site associated with the foothills of the Macedon Ranges.

3.3 (g) Current state of the environment

Vegetation in the study area consisted primarily of a hedge and recruiting seedlings comprising the noxious weed Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with a ground layer of exotic pasture grasses extending into adjacent private land. Several small patches of much degraded native vegetation were recorded within the road reserve, consisting of stands of eucalypts and wattles with only scattered native herbs and grasses in an understorey dominated by exotic species. The canopies of some trees within these patches were partially overhanging adjacent private land (Attachment C).

Overall there was poor connectivity between remnant patches within the study area and with roadside treed vegetation elsewhere in this road reserve.

3.3 (h) Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values

None present or adjacent to the impact area

3.3 (i) Indigenous heritage values

None known

3.3 (j) Other important or unique values of the environment

Land surrounding the site predominantly supported agriculture, with nearby significant habitat areas including the Mt Macedon Regional Park 1.5 kilometres to the south-east and Hanging Rock reserve just over 3 kilometres to the north-east. The study area does not represent an important link or corridor between significant habitat areas such as those mentioned above.

3.3 (k) Tenure of the action area (eg freehold, leasehold)

Crown Land

3.3 (l) Existing land/marine uses of area

Road reserve, including vegetated roadside, where transport is the predominant land use

3.3 (m) Any proposed land/marine uses of area

None

4 Environmental outcomes

The existing population of Black Gum will be reduced by four plants as a result of the proposed action. No other individuals of populations will be impacted upon in any way. Baseline data is provided in the flora and fauna assessment undertaken for the project (Attachment C). Based on the analysis in Section 3, this removal does not represent a significant impact on the important population of over 9,000 Black Gums in the Woodend region.

5 Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

It is not possible to avoid the removal of the four Black Gums. Alternatives considered in Section 2.3 would have a greater overall environmental impact and would not comply with the Victorian Planning Provisions, in particular Cl. 52.17 that requires that impacts from actions on native vegetation and associated biodiversity be avoided and minimised.

6 Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

6.1 Do you THINK your proposed action is a controlled action?

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> X | No, complete section 6.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, complete section 6.3 |

6.2 Proposed action IS NOT a controlled action.

Although the proposed action will remove four mature Black Gums, this is not considered to represent a significant impact on the important Woodend population of this species given that these trees are not considered to contribute substantially to the long-term viability of this important population.

This consideration is based on the fact that the trees are currently isolated from other stands of Black Gum in the region by Romsey Road and surrounding farmland, and their location on a narrow road reserve infested with Hawthorn does not provide an opportunity for recruitment and medium to long-term survival/viability for these stands of trees.

Furthermore, past alteration of the site's hydrology (i.e. obstruction and redirection of surface water flows brought about by past development of the Woodend–Romsey Road using culverts and table drains) is considered to have reduced the ability of the site to provide suitable conditions for recruitment of this tree.

6.3 Proposed action IS a controlled action

Matters likely to be impacted

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | World Heritage values (sections 12 and 15A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | National Heritage places (sections 15B and 15C) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 and 17B) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protection of the environment from nuclear actions (sections 21 and 22A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commonwealth marine environment (sections 23 and 24A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (sections 24B and 24C) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D and 24E) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land (sections 26 and 27A) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions (section 28) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commonwealth Heritage places overseas (sections 27B and 27C) |

7 Environmental record of the responsible party

| | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| <p>7.1 Does the party taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management?</p> <p>Braemar College has instituted a long term program of care of extensive native vegetation on site of an existing Woodend campus, including weed control. It is in partnership with the local Landcare group to enhance environmental values of new campus.</p> | X | |
| <p>7.2 Has either (a) the party proposing to take the action, or (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action, the person making the application - ever been subject to any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources?</p> <p>No.</p> | | X |
| <p>7.3 If the party taking the action is a corporation, will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?</p> <p>The college Vision Statement includes an emphasis on enhancing and preserving a sustainable environment. Curriculum includes outdoors-based program designed to enhance student's understanding and appreciation of the environment.</p> | X | |
| <p>7.4 Has the party taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?</p> | | X |

8 Information sources and attachments

8.1 References

Australian Government Department of the Environment (DotE) 2013, *Matters of national environmental significance - Significant impact guidelines 1.1. - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, DotE, Canberra.

Department of the Environment (DotE) 2015a, *Conservation Advice – Eucalyptus aggregata – Black Gum*, Threatened species scientific committee EPBC Act, Canberra.

Department of the Environment (DotE) 2015b, *EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool*. Department of the Environment, Canberra, viewed 22nd February 2016, <http://www.environment.gov.au/>

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, © The State of Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (published February, 2016)

8.2 Reliability and date of information

Data and information presented in this Referral was collected on 25th February 2016 by a suitably qualified botanist (Elinor Ebsworth of BL&A) and a suitably qualified Zoologist (Jackson Clerke of BL&A). Details of the relevant assessment, including methods and limitations of the investigation are documented in the attached flora and fauna assessment (Attachment C). There were no limitations to the investigation which would have a significant bearing of the data and information provided for the purposes of this Referral.

8.3 Attachments

| | | ✓ attached | Title of attachment(s) |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| You must attach | figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the project locality (section 1) | ✓ | Attachment B: Proposed works and Black Gum locations Attached separately: Referral area geodatabase file in GDA94 |
| | GIS file delineating the boundary of the referral area (section 1) | | |
| | figures, maps or aerial photographs showing the location of the project in respect to any matters of national environmental significance or important features of the environments (section 3) | ✓ | Attachment A: Extent of proposed road widening works Attachment B: Proposed works and Black Gum locations |
| If relevant, attach | copies of any flora and fauna investigations and surveys (section 3) | ✓ | Attachment C: Braemar College Woodend, Romsey Road Widening: Flora and Fauna Assessment |
| | technical reports relevant to the assessment of impacts on protected matters that support the arguments and conclusions in the referral (section 3 and 4) | ✓ | Attachment C: Braemar College Woodend, Romsey Road Widening: Flora and Fauna Assessment |
| | Protected Matters Search Tool results | ✓ | Attachment D: PMST_TEO6IU |
| | | | |

9 Contacts, signatures and declarations

Project title: Braemar College, Woodend – Romsey Road widening

9.1 Person proposing to take action

- 1. Name and Title: Russell Deer / Principal
- 2. Organisation: Braemar College
- 3. EPBC Referral Number: N/A
- 4: ACN / ABN: 11 005 151 771
- 5. Postal address: Mt Macedon Road Woodend VIC 3442
- 6. Telephone: 03 5427 2500
- 7. Email: r.deer@braemar.vic.edu.au
- 8. Name of proposed proponent (if not the same person at item 1 above):
- 9. ACN/ABN of proposed proponent (if not the same person named at item 1 above):

Declaration

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

Signature



Date

07/04/2016

9.2 Person preparing the referral information (if different from 8.1)

Name Mal Wright
Title Senior Ecologist
Organisation Brett Lane & Associates Pty Ltd
ACN / ABN (if applicable) 12 095 541 334
Postal address P O Box 337, Camberwell, Vic. 3124
Telephone (03) 9815 2111
Email mwright@ecologicalresearch.com.au

Declaration I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this form is complete, current and correct.
I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

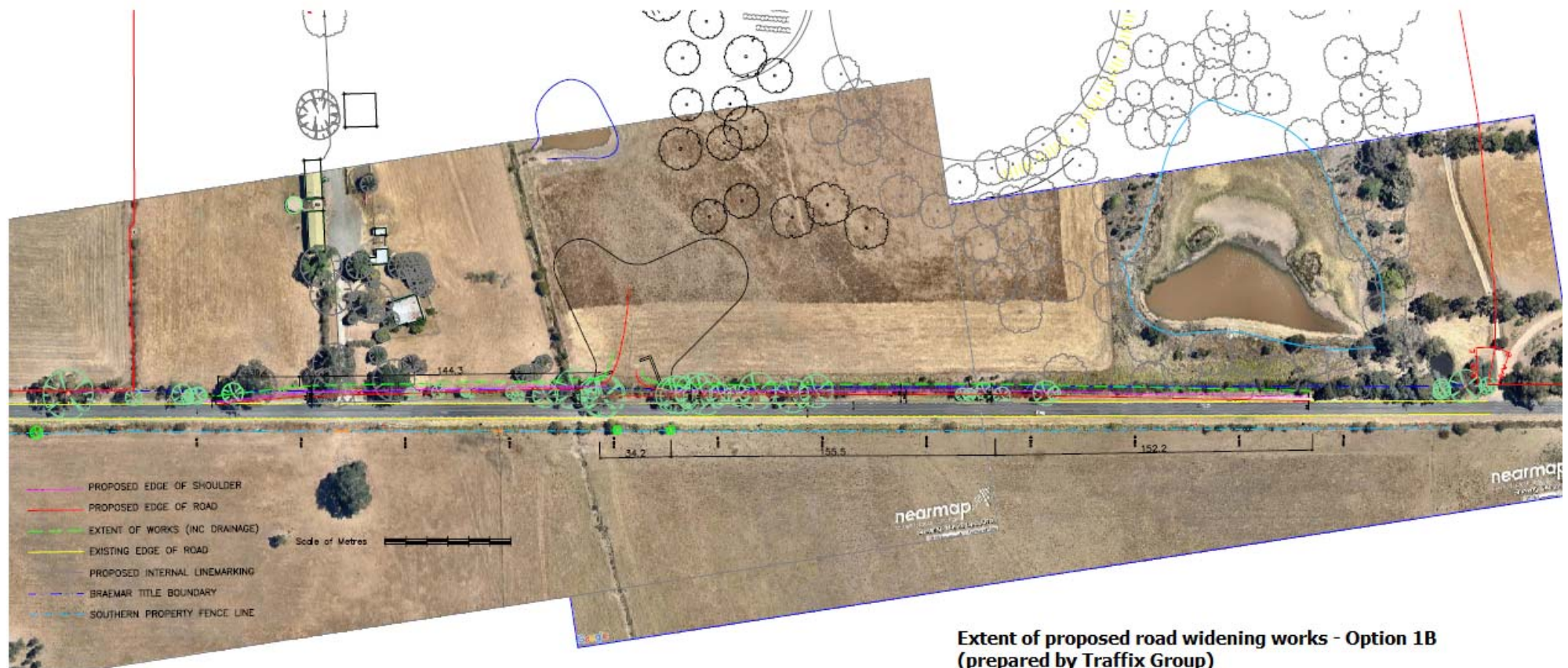
Signature



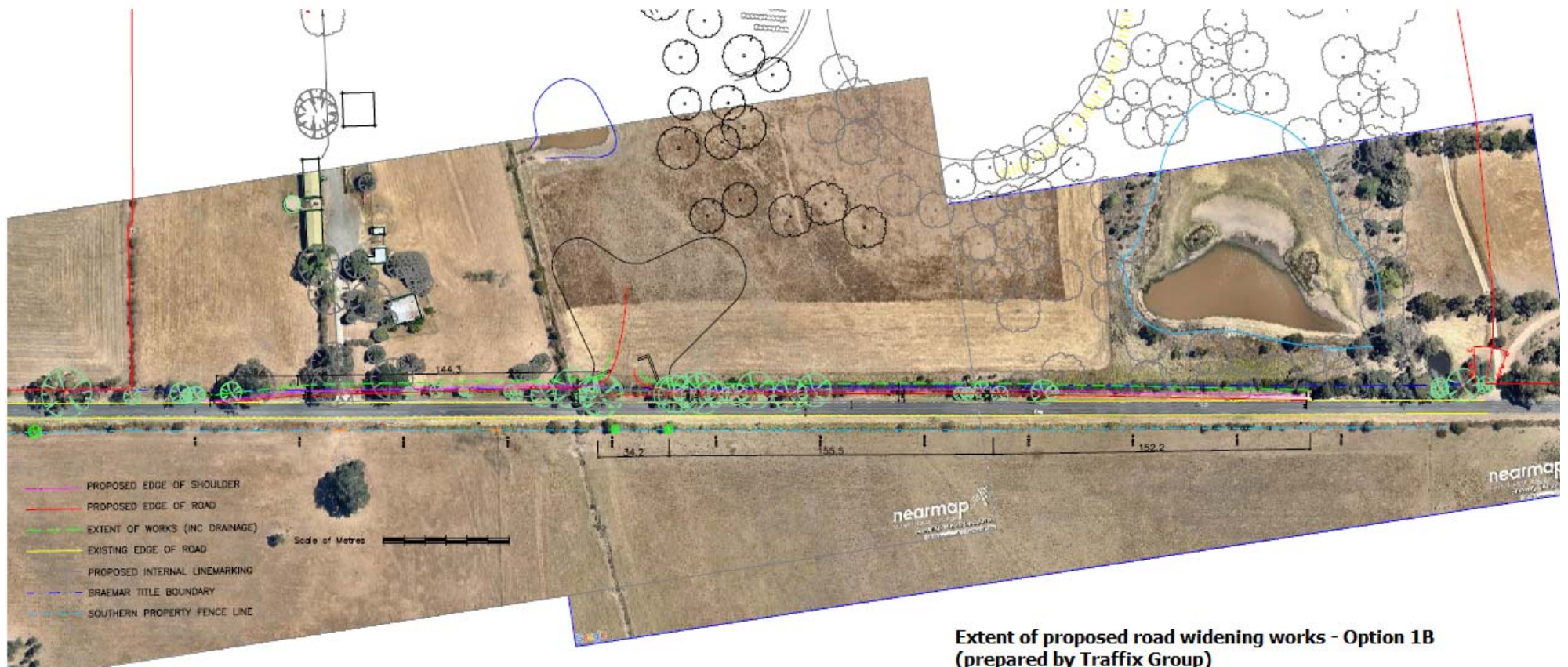
Date

11/04/16

Extent of proposed road widening works



**Extent of proposed road widening works - Option 1B
(prepared by Traffix Group)**



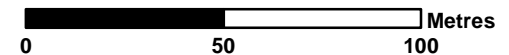
**Extent of proposed road widening works - Option 1B
(prepared by Traffix Group)**

Extent of proposed works and Black Gum locations



Legend

- Cadastral boundaries
- Extent of works
- Black Gums



Extent of proposed works and Black Gum locations

Project: Braemar College Romsey Road widening

Client: Braemar College

Project No.: 16015

Date: 11/04/2016

Created By: N. May / E. Ebsworth



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**Braemar College Woodend, Romsey Road Widening – Flora and Fauna Assessment
BL&A Report No. 16015 (1.0)**

Protected Matters Search Tool results (PMST_TEO6IU)



EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

Information is available about [Environment Assessments](#) and the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details.

Report created: 22/02/16 10:50:07

[Summary](#)

[Details](#)

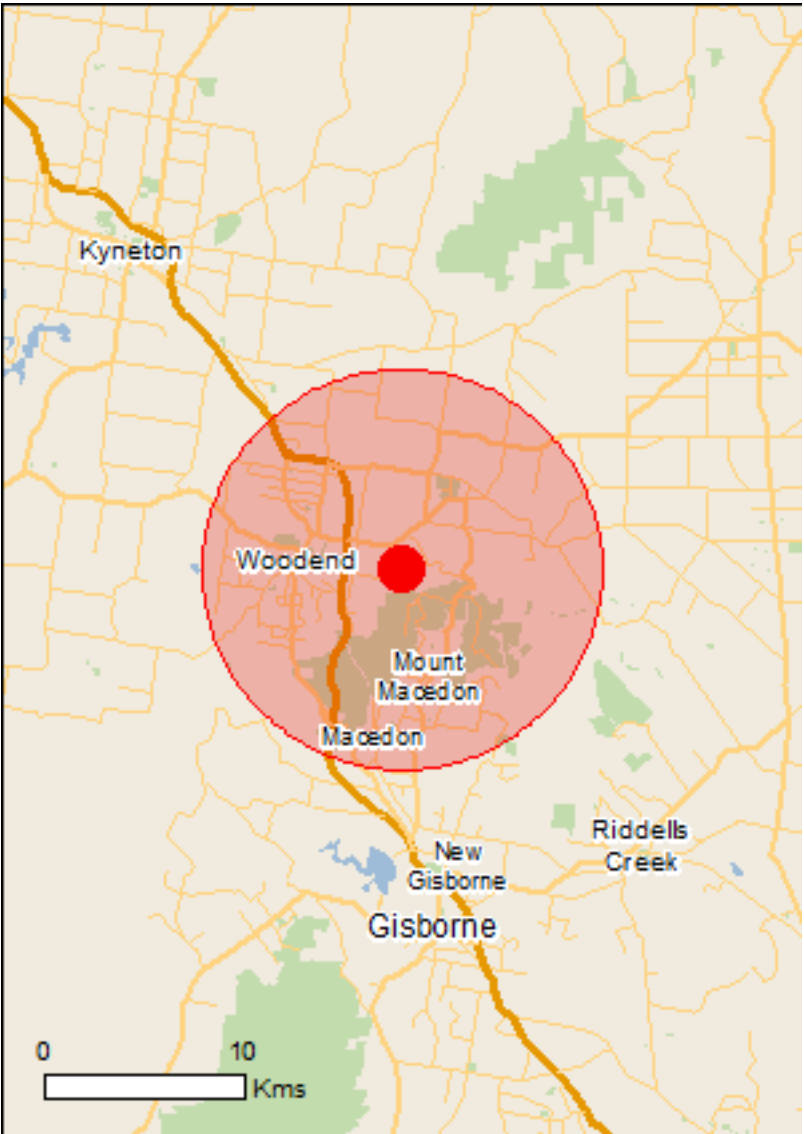
[Matters of NES](#)

[Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act](#)

[Extra Information](#)

[Caveat](#)

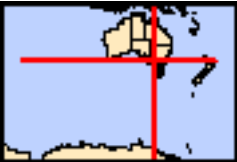
[Acknowledgements](#)



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[Coordinates](#)

[Buffer: 10.0Km](#)



Summary

Matters of National Environmental Significance

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

| | |
|---|------|
| World Heritage Properties: | None |
| National Heritage Places: | None |
| Wetlands of International Importance: | 6 |
| Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: | None |
| Commonwealth Marine Area: | None |
| Listed Threatened Ecological Communities: | 4 |
| Listed Threatened Species: | 25 |
| Listed Migratory Species: | 12 |

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage>

A [permit](#) may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

| | |
|--|------|
| Commonwealth Land: | 2 |
| Commonwealth Heritage Places: | None |
| Listed Marine Species: | 15 |
| Whales and Other Cetaceans: | None |
| Critical Habitats: | None |
| Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial: | None |
| Commonwealth Reserves Marine: | None |

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have nominated.

| | |
|--|------|
| State and Territory Reserves: | 4 |
| Regional Forest Agreements: | 1 |
| Invasive Species: | 36 |
| Nationally Important Wetlands: | None |
| Key Ecological Features (Marine) | None |

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

| Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) | | [Resource Information] |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Name | Proximity | |
| Banrock station wetland complex | 500 - 600km upstream | |
| Gunbower forest | 100 - 150km upstream | |
| Hattah-kulkyne lakes | 300 - 400km upstream | |
| Nsw central murray state forests | 100 - 150km upstream | |
| Riverland | 400 - 500km upstream | |
| The coorong, and lakes alexandrina and albert wetland | 400 - 500km upstream | |

| Listed Threatened Ecological Communities | [Resource Information] |
|--|--------------------------|
|--|--------------------------|

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

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain | Critically Endangered | Community known to occur within area |
| Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia | Endangered | Community may occur within area |
| Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain | Critically Endangered | Community may occur within area |
| White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland | Critically Endangered | Community likely to occur within area |

| Listed Threatened Species | [Resource Information] |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Birds | | |
| Botaurus poiciloptilus Australasian Bittern [1001] | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Grantiella picta Painted Honeyeater [470] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744] | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Pedionomus torquatus Plains-wanderer [906] | Critically Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Rostratula australis Australian Painted Snipe [77037] | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area |

| Fish |
|------|
|------|

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| Galaxiella pusilla Eastern Dwarf Galaxias, Dwarf Galaxias [56790] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Maccullochella peelii Murray Cod [66633] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within |

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| | | area |
| Macquaria australasica Macquarie Perch [66632] | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Frogs | | |
| Litoria raniformis Growling Grass Frog, Southern Bell Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog [1828] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat known to occur within area |
| Insects | | |
| Synemon plana Golden Sun Moth [25234] | Critically Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Mammals | | |
| Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population) Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) [75184] | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Pseudomys fumeus Konoom, Smoky Mouse [88] | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Pteropus poliocephalus Grey-headed Flying-fox [186] | Vulnerable | Foraging, feeding or related behaviour may occur within area |
| Plants | | |
| Caladenia tensa Greencomb Spider-orchid, Rigid Spider-orchid [24390] | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Caladenia versicolor Candy Spider-orchid [24392] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Dianella amoena Matted Flax-lily [64886] | Endangered | Species or species habitat known to occur within area |
| Eucalyptus aggregata Black Gum [20890] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat known to occur within area |
| Glycine latrobeana Clover Glycine, Purple Clover [13910] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Lepidium hyssopifolium Basalt Pepper-cress, Peppercress, Rubble Pepper-cress, Pepperweed [16542] | Endangered | Species or species habitat known to occur within area |
| Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor Hoary Sunray, Grassland Paper-daisy [56204] | Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea [21980] | Critically Endangered | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Prasophyllum frenchii Maroon Leek-orchid, Slaty Leek-orchid, Stout Leek-orchid, French's Leek-orchid, Swamp Leek-orchid [9704] | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Senecio psilocarpus Swamp Fireweed, Smooth-fruited Groundsel [64976] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Thelymitra matthewsii Spiral Sun-orchid [4168] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area |

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|--|------------|--|
| Reptiles | | |
| Delma impar | | |
| Striped Legless Lizard [1649] | Vulnerable | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Listed Migratory Species | | |
| * Species is listed under a different scientific name on the EPBC Act - Threatened Species list. | | |
| [Resource Information] | | |
| Name | Threatened | Type of Presence |
| Migratory Marine Birds | | |
| Apus pacificus | | |
| Fork-tailed Swift [678] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Migratory Terrestrial Species | | |
| Hirundapus caudacutus | | |
| White-throated Needletail [682] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Merops ornatus | | |
| Rainbow Bee-eater [670] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Monarcha melanopsis | | |
| Black-faced Monarch [609] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Motacilla flava | | |
| Yellow Wagtail [644] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Myiagra cyanoleuca | | |
| Satin Flycatcher [612] | | Breeding known to occur within area |
| Rhipidura rufifrons | | |
| Rufous Fantail [592] | | Species or species habitat known to occur within area |
| Migratory Wetlands Species | | |
| Ardea alba | | |
| Great Egret, White Egret [59541] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Ardea ibis | | |
| Cattle Egret [59542] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Gallinago hardwickii | | |
| Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Pandion haliaetus | | |
| Osprey [952] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Tringa nebularia | | |
| Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Commonwealth Land

[Resource Information]

The Commonwealth area listed below may indicate the presence of Commonwealth land in this vicinity. Due to the unreliability of the data source, all proposals should be checked as to whether it impacts on a Commonwealth area, before making a definitive decision. Contact the State or Territory government land department for further information.

| Name |
|--|
| Commonwealth Land - Defence - C/DISASTER COLLEGE-MT MACEDON |

Listed Marine Species

[Resource Information]

* Species is listed under a different scientific name on the EPBC Act - Threatened Species list.

| Name | Threatened | Type of Presence |
|-------|------------|------------------|
| Birds | | |

| | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Ardea alba Great Egret, White Egret [59541] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [59542] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Gallinago hardwickii Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Hirundapus caudacutus White-throated Needletail [682] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot [744] | Endangered | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Monarcha melanopsis Black-faced Monarch [609] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Myiagra cyanoleuca Satin Flycatcher [612] | | Breeding known to occur within area |
| Pandion haliaetus Osprey [952] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Rhipidura rufifrons Rufous Fantail [592] | | Species or species habitat known to occur within area |
| Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Painted Snipe [889] | Endangered* | Species or species habitat may occur within area |

| Name | Threatened | Type of Presence |
|---|------------|--|
| Tringa nebularia Common Greenshank, Greenshank [832] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |

Extra Information

| State and Territory Reserves | [Resource Information] |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name | State |
| Macedon F.R | VIC |
| Tunnel Creek N.F.R | VIC |
| Woodend I13 B.R | VIC |
| Woodend I95 B.R | VIC |

| Regional Forest Agreements | [Resource Information] |
|----------------------------|--|
|----------------------------|--|

Note that all areas with completed RFAs have been included.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Name | State |
| West Victoria RFA | Victoria |

| Invasive Species | [Resource Information] |
|------------------|--|
|------------------|--|

Weeds reported here are the 20 species of national significance (WoNS), along with other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity. The following feral animals are reported: Goat, Red Fox, Cat, Rabbit, Pig, Water Buffalo and Cane Toad. Maps from Landscape Health Project, National Land and Water Resouces Audit, 2001.

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|--|--------|--|
| Birds | | |
| Acridotheres tristis Common Myna, Indian Myna [387] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Alauda arvensis Skylark [656] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Anas platyrhynchos Mallard [974] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Carduelis carduelis European Goldfinch [403] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Carduelis chloris European Greenfinch [404] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Columba livia Rock Pigeon, Rock Dove, Domestic Pigeon [803] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Passer domesticus House Sparrow [405] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Passer montanus Eurasian Tree Sparrow [406] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|---|--------|--|
| Pycnonotus jocosus Red-whiskered Bulbul [631] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Streptopelia chinensis Spotted Turtle-Dove [780] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Sturnus vulgaris Common Starling [389] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Turdus merula Common Blackbird, Eurasian Blackbird [596] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Turdus philomelos Song Thrush [597] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Mammals | | |
| Bos taurus Domestic Cattle [16] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Canis lupus familiaris Domestic Dog [82654] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Capra hircus Goat [2] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Felis catus Cat, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Lepus capensis Brown Hare [127] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Mus musculus House Mouse [120] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Oryctolagus cuniculus Rabbit, European Rabbit [128] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Rattus norvegicus Brown Rat, Norway Rat [83] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Rattus rattus Black Rat, Ship Rat [84] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Vulpes vulpes Red Fox, Fox [18] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Plants | | |
| Asparagus asparagoides Bridal Creeper, Bridal Veil Creeper, Smilax, Florist's Smilax, Smilax Asparagus [22473] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Cenchrus ciliaris Buffel-grass, Black Buffel-grass [20213] | | Species or species habitat may occur within area |
| Chrysanthemoides monilifera Bitou Bush, Boneseed [18983] | | Species or species habitat may occur within |

| Name | Status | Type of Presence |
|---|--------|--|
| Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera Boneseed [16905] | | area Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Cytisus scoparius Broom, English Broom, Scotch Broom, Common Broom, Scottish Broom, Spanish Broom [5934] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Genista linifolia Flax-leaved Broom, Mediterranean Broom, Flax Broom [2800] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Genista monspessulana Montpellier Broom, Cape Broom, Canary Broom, Common Broom, French Broom, Soft Broom [20126] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Lycium ferocissimum African Boxthorn, Boxthorn [19235] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Nassella neesiana Chilean Needle grass [67699] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Nassella trichotoma Serrated Tussock, Yass River Tussock, Yass Tussock, Nassella Tussock (NZ) [18884] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Rubus fruticosus aggregate Blackberry, European Blackberry [68406] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Salix spp. except S.babylonica, S.x calodendron & S.x reichardtii Willows except Weeping Willow, Pussy Willow and Sterile Pussy Willow [68497] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |
| Ulex europaeus Gorse, Furze [7693] | | Species or species habitat likely to occur within area |

Caveat

The information presented in this report has been provided by a range of data sources as acknowledged at the end of the report.

This report is designed to assist in identifying the locations of places which may be relevant in determining obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It holds mapped locations of World and National Heritage properties, Wetlands of International and National Importance, Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves, listed threatened, migratory and marine species and listed threatened ecological communities. Mapping of Commonwealth land is not complete at this stage. Maps have been collated from a range of sources at various resolutions.

Not all species listed under the EPBC Act have been mapped (see below) and therefore a report is a general guide only. Where available data supports mapping, the type of presence that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. People using this information in making a referral may need to consider the qualifications below and may need to seek and consider other information sources.

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

For species where the distributions are well known, maps are digitised from sources such as recovery plans and detailed habitat studies. Where appropriate, core breeding, foraging and roosting areas are indicated under 'type of presence'. For species whose distributions are less well known, point locations are collated from government wildlife authorities, museums, and non-government organisations; bioclimatic distribution models are generated and these validated by experts. In some cases, the distribution maps are based solely on expert knowledge.

Only selected species covered by the following provisions of the EPBC Act have been mapped:

- migratory and
- marine

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in reports produced from this database:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered as vagrants
- some species and ecological communities that have only recently been listed
- some terrestrial species that overfly the Commonwealth marine area
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in small numbers

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

- non-threatened seabirds which have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

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

Coordinates

-37.36111 144.57572

Acknowledgements

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

- [-Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales](#)
- [-Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria](#)
- [-Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania](#)
- [-Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia](#)
- [-Parks and Wildlife Commission NT, Northern Territory Government](#)
- [-Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland](#)
- [-Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia](#)
- [-Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT](#)
- [-Birdlife Australia](#)
- [-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme](#)
- [-Australian National Wildlife Collection](#)
- Natural history museums of Australia
- [-Museum Victoria](#)
- [-Australian Museum](#)
- [-South Australian Museum](#)
- [-Queensland Museum](#)
- [-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums](#)
- [-Queensland Herbarium](#)
- [-National Herbarium of NSW](#)
- [-Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria](#)
- [-Tasmanian Herbarium](#)
- [-State Herbarium of South Australia](#)
- [-Northern Territory Herbarium](#)
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- [-Australian National Herbarium, Atherton and Canberra](#)
- [-University of New England](#)
- [-Ocean Biogeographic Information System](#)
- [-Australian Government, Department of Defence](#)
- [Forestry Corporation, NSW](#)
- [-Geoscience Australia](#)
- [-CSIRO](#)
- Other groups and individuals

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

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