

# Melbourne Strategic Assessment

Progress Report: 2015-16



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# Executive Summary

This report outlines the progress in implementing commitments made by the Victorian Government as part of the Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) Program, outlined in 'Delivering Melbourne's newest sustainable communities: Program Report' (Victorian Government, 2009).

The purpose of the Progress Report is to:

- Report publicly on compliance with the endorsed MSA Program and the conditions of the Commonwealth approvals regulating urban development in Melbourne's growth corridors
- Ensure transparency and accountability in implementing the MSA Program
- Consolidate the separate reporting requirements of the Program Report.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Program Report and Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the MSA (MRF). It reports on the program outputs and the Key Performance Indicators associated with each program output detailed in the MRF.

Program outcomes will be reported in 2019.

This is the second Progress Report for the MSA Program since the MRF was approved by the Commonwealth Government in May 2015. The 2015-16 financial year is the second reporting period since the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment granted approvals for urban development in all of Melbourne's growth corridors. This report includes reporting on the implementation of program outputs for the 2015-16 reporting period.

## Program outputs

The report describes progress against the following program outputs:

- Urban and infrastructure development proceeds in accordance with the Commonwealth approvals
- Program cost recovery and expenditure is transparent and efficient
- A 15,000 hectare grassland reserve is established and managed
- A network of conservation areas within the Urban Growth Boundary is protected and managed for matters of national environmental significance species and vegetation communities
- A 1,200 hectare Grassy Eucalypt Woodland reserve is protected and managed
- 80 per cent of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland is protected within the Urban Growth Boundary
- 80 per cent of high priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth, Spiny Rice-flower and Matted Flax-lily is protected and managed
- Important landscape and habitat areas for Southern Brown Bandicoot are protected and managed.

## Independent monitor

In accordance with the Program Report, an independent auditor reviewed stage 2 of the MSA Program in 2014 to check compliance and provide assurance to the Commonwealth Government that the Victorian Government is effectively implementing the endorsed program. The results of the independent audit were reported in the 2014-15 progress report (DELWP 2016b).

Stage 2 of the MSA Program will be audited again in 2018-19.

## Summary of financial performance

Since commencement of the MSA, the program has received approx. \$58.2 million in revenue and expended approx. \$33.2 million on program implementation activities. These activities have focused on the acquisition

of land for the Western Grassland Reserves (1,203 ha acquired to date) and development of an online system that estimates habitat compensation obligations for land parcels in the growth corridors.

# 1 Introduction

The Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) evaluates the impacts of the Victorian Government's urban development program for Melbourne on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and establishes conservation measures to mitigate these impacts.

- Melbourne's urban development program provides for:
- Urban development in four growth corridors within the expanded 2010 Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
- Urban development in 28 existing precincts within the 2005 UGB
- Development of the Regional Rail Link Corridor between West of Werribee and Deer Park (section 2)
- Development of the Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor/E6 Road Reservation.

The MSA was conducted under the strategic assessment provisions (Part 10) of the EPBC Act.

As part of the MSA, the Victorian Government made commitments to the Commonwealth Government in relation to conservation measures (program outputs) and program outcomes required to protect MNES. These commitments are outlined in the Program Report. The Commonwealth Environment Minister endorsed the program, as set out in the Program Report, in February 2010.

Since this time, the Commonwealth Minister has granted four approvals for urban development under Part 10 of the EPBC Act for the area covered by the MSA. These approvals are for:

- Development and operation of the Regional Rail Link (West of Werribee to Deer Park) (June 2010)
- Urban development in the existing 28 urban precincts within the 2005 UGB (July 2010)
- Urban development in the western, north-western and northern growth corridors (September 2013)
- Urban development in the south-eastern growth corridor (September 2014).

The Commonwealth approval for the existing 28 urban precincts requires that urban development proceeds in accordance with prescriptions for nine MNES.

The prescriptions specify requirements for the protection of MNES that must be followed during the planning of urban precincts, including requirements to protect areas of high biodiversity value for MNES and offset the removal of habitat for MNES.

The Commonwealth approvals for the growth corridors requires that urban development proceeds in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (BCS) and sub-regional species strategies for the Golden Sun Moth, Growling Grass Frog and Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The BCS is the overarching strategy for the protection of MNES in the four growth corridors. The Commonwealth Government has agreed that the BCS fulfils the prescriptions in 16 of the existing 28 urban precincts, as well as in part of the former Greenvale South (R3) precinct now known as Greenvale West. As such, there is no requirement to apply the prescriptions at the planning phase in these areas if the BCS requirements are met.

The conservation measures in the BCS include the protection and management of 36 conservation areas containing areas of high biodiversity value for MNES, requirements to offset the removal of habitat through habitat compensation obligations, and salvage and translocation requirements.

## 1.1 Reporting requirements under the program

The Program Report requires the Victorian Government to monitor and report on the implementation of the MSA Program. Section 11 of the Program Report sets out the monitoring and reporting requirements for each of the four stages of the implementation of the program: the approval stage; the process implementation stage; the construction and works stage; and the operation stage. The Victorian Government is required to submit regular reports to the Commonwealth Government or release reports publicly on various



implementation activities, including in relation to the gazettal of planning scheme amendments, the removal and offset of native vegetation, and compliance activities.

The Program Report requires the government to prepare a monitoring and reporting framework for the MSA Program. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has prepared a MRF (DELWP, 2015b) that meets the requirements for monitoring and reporting in the Program Report.

The MRF sets out how the Victorian Government will monitor and report on activities, processes, program outputs and program outcomes established to deliver and implement the MSA Program. It establishes Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to enable the implementation of program outputs and program outcomes to be measured. Reporting on the implementation of program outputs is undertaken annually, while reporting on program outcomes is undertaken five-yearly.

## 1.2 Purpose of the 2015-16 Progress Report

The purpose of the 2015-16 Progress Report is to:

- Report publicly on compliance with the endorsed MSA Program and the conditions of the Commonwealth approvals regulating urban development in the MSA Program area
- Ensure transparency and accountability in implementing the MSA Program
- Consolidate the separate reporting requirements of the Program Report.

The Progress Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Program Report and MRF. It reports on the program outputs and the KPIs associated with each program output detailed in the MRF. Progress on the program outcomes will be reported in the 2018-19 Progress Report.

This is the second Progress Report for the MSA Program since the MRF was approved by the Commonwealth Government in May 2015. This is also the second reporting period since the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment granted approvals for urban development in all of Melbourne's growth corridors. This report includes reporting on the implementation of program outputs for the 2015-16 reporting period as well as overall progress to date since the endorsement of the MSA Program in 2010.

The report has been prepared by DELWP on behalf of the government agencies responsible for implementing the MSA Program, including the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).

## 1.3 Glossary

**BCS area** – The area covered by the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (BCS) is described on page 4 of the BCS. This is a subset of the area covered by the MSA and comprises:

- The four growth corridors in the expanded 2010 UGB
- 16 of the existing 28 urban precincts in the 2005 UGB
- The Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor/E6 Road Reservation.

**Commonwealth approvals** – Four approvals were granted by the Commonwealth Environment Minister under Part 10 of the EPBC Act for infrastructure and urban development within the area covered by the MSA Program. The approvals regulate:

- Development and operation of the Regional Rail Link (West of Werribee to Deer Park) (June 2010)
- Urban development in the existing 28 urban precincts within the 2005 UGB (July 2010)
- Urban development in the western, north-western and northern growth corridors (September 2013)
- Urban development in the south-eastern growth corridor (September 2014).



The approvals have effect until 31 December 2060. The approvals exclude development in the northern growth corridor within the boundary of Hearn's Swamp and on properties 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 in the Diggers Rest Precinct Structure Plan (Growth Areas Authority, 2012).

**DELWP Standard Outputs** – Standards developed under DELWP's Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting (MER) Framework to describe the information requirements for reporting on the delivery of environmental goods or services, in this instance land management. This includes structural works, environmental works and management services.

**Habitat Compensation Layer** – A geographic dataset layer administered by DELWP to calculate the habitat compensation fees required to be paid to DELWP for the removal or deemed removal of native vegetation and habitat for MNES in the BCS area. The layer is based on the time-stamping dataset, threatened species habitat mapping undertaken for the sub-regional species strategies and assumptions about threatened species habitat described in the BCS.

**Matters of national environmental significance** – Matters listed under Part 3 of the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

**Matters of State significance** – Threatened species and ecological communities listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) and DELWP's Rare and Threatened Species Advisory Lists.

**Prescriptions** – Prescriptions specify requirements for protection of matters of national environmental significance that must be followed in preparing precinct structure plans and in undertaking individual developments. The Commonwealth Environment Minister has approved the following prescriptions:

- Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
- Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
- Golden Sun Moth
- Striped Legless Lizard
- Southern Brown Bandicoot
- Growling Grass Frog
- Matted Flax-lily
- Spiny Rice-flower
- Migratory species.

**Time-stamping dataset** – The time-stamping project captured and 'time stamped' native vegetation information to establish a dataset showing the type, extent and condition of all native vegetation in the BCS area. The data was used together with threatened species habitat mapping undertaken for the Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Growling Grass Frog and assumptions about threatened species habitat described in the BCS to create the Habitat Compensation Layer.

## 1.4 Acronyms

BCS – Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors

CACP – Conservation Area Concept Plan

CIP – Conservation Interface Plan

CHMP – Cultural Heritage Management Plan

DELWP – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (formerly DEPI)

DEPI – Department of Environment and Primary Industries (formerly DSE)

DoE – Commonwealth Department of the Environment

DEDJTR – Department Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources  
DSE – Department of Sustainability and Environment  
EMP – Environmental Management Plan  
EPBC – *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*  
EVC – Ecological Vegetation Class  
FFG – *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*  
GCP – Growth Corridor Plans  
GEW – Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain  
GGF – Growling Grass Frog  
GSM – Golden Sun Moth  
IWMP – Integrated Water Management Plan  
KPI – Key Performance Indicator  
MFL – Matted Flax-lily  
MPA – Metropolitan Planning Authority  
MRF – Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Melbourne Strategic Assessment  
MNES – Matters of national environmental significance  
MSA – Melbourne Strategic Assessment  
NTG – Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain  
NVPP – Native Vegetation Precinct Plan  
PSP – Precinct Structure Plan  
SBB – Southern Brown Bandicoot  
SRF – Spiny Rice-flower  
UGB – Urban Growth Boundary  
WICA – Works in Conservation Area  
WGR – Western Grassland Reserve

## 2 Independent Monitor

In accordance with the Program Report, the Victorian Government will engage auditors in two phases during the first 10 years of the implementation of the program. The role of the auditors is to:

- Audit compliance of the implementation of stages 2 and 3 with the endorsed Program
- Provide reasonable assurance to the Commonwealth Government that the Program is being implemented in accordance with the Program Report.

In stage 2, an auditor will be engaged to review the establishment of the planning mechanisms and processes to implement the program, such as Growth Corridor Plans, Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs), and conservation strategies, against the requirements of the Program Report.

Stage two of the program was independently audited in 2014-15 and will be audited once more in 2018-19. The results of the 2014-15 audit were reported to the public in the 2014-15 Progress Report (DELWP 2016b).

In stage 3, an auditor will be engaged to review the construction of urban areas and transport infrastructure to implement the program against the requirements of the planning mechanisms and processes established in stage 2 and program approvals granted in stage 1.

Stage 3 of the program will be audited in 2018-19 and 2023-24.

# 3 Urban and infrastructure development proceeds in accordance with the Commonwealth approvals

## 3.1 Introduction

The Victorian Government is implementing the MSA Program, including the Commonwealth approvals and the requirements of the Program Report and BCS, through a range of mechanisms and processes, including planning processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act).

This section reports on the implementation of these planning mechanisms and processes.

The key mechanisms and processes are:

- **Planning scheme amendments** – Planning schemes are amended under the P&E Act after the preparation of PSPs to give effect to the Commonwealth approvals and requirements of the Program Report and BCS within each precinct.
- **Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs)** – PSPs are prepared for each precinct and set out the future structure of a suburb, including the location of housing, activity centres, community facilities, transport networks, open space and conservation areas. PSPs include conservation requirements to give effect to the Commonwealth approvals and requirements of the Program Report. Development in a precinct must be generally in accordance with the PSP.
- **Native Vegetation Plan (NVP)** – A NVP is a plan relating to the native vegetation within a defined precinct area that is prepared under Victoria's Planning Provisions (VPPs) and incorporated into the relevant planning scheme. NVPs specify the native vegetation that must be retained and the native vegetation that may be removed within a precinct, and form part of the relevant PSP.

The term NVP in this document includes Native Vegetation Precinct Plans (NVPPs) and Native Vegetation Retention and Removal Plans (NVRPPs), which apply to precincts that were gazetted before and after the introduction of the BCS, respectively.

- **Conservation Area Concept Plans (CACPs)** – CACPs are maps prepared for each conservation area and shown in PSPs that set out the land-uses suitable within each conservation area and specify broad conservation requirements and constraints. The term 'CACP' in this document also includes Conservation Management Plans prepared for some precincts as a requirement of the prescriptions.
- **Conservation Interface Plans (CIPs)** – CIPs are plans to show the layout of the interface area, or buffer, that must be established around conservation areas in accordance with the requirements for buffers specified in the BCS. CIPs form part of a PSP.
- **Planning permits** – A planning permit is a legal document that gives permission for a use or development on a particular land parcel under a planning scheme. Where relevant, planning permits include conditions that reflect the requirements of the Commonwealth approvals and BCS.
- **Integrated Water Management (IWM)** – IWM planning aims to ensure precincts are developed in accordance with best practice urban water management principles and methods and impacts on MNES, including Ramsar wetlands, are avoided and minimised. IWM plans are prepared as separate plans as part of the PSP process or are incorporated into various section of each PSP and are implemented by Melbourne Water through drainage schemes and planning processes.
- **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)** – An EMP has been prepared by the Regional Rail Link Authority for the Regional Rail Link (section 2 west of Werribee to Deer Park) to ensure impacts on native vegetation and MNES are avoided, minimised and mitigated. The EMP was prepared in accordance with the conditions of the referral for the project under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. DELWP may also require proponents to prepare EMPs for proposed uses or development within conservation areas.

- **Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs)** – CHMPs are required for certain activities including subdivisions of three or more lots in culturally sensitive areas in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. CHMPs provide for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Development not in a culturally sensitive area does not require a CHMP.
- **Work plans** – Work plans are prepared for any quarries and mines within the MSA area, which include plans for managing the impacts of the quarry on native vegetation and MNES. Work plans must be consistent with the requirements of the BCS or prescriptions.
- **Adjustments to conservation area boundaries** – The Commonwealth approvals require that agreement be obtained from the Commonwealth Environment Minister for proposed adjustments to conservation area boundaries in certain circumstances. DELWP has administrative responsibility for considering endorsement of proposed adjustments that require the agreement of the Commonwealth Minister. Where a proposed adjustment does not require the agreement of the Commonwealth, the proposal requires the agreement of DELWP.
- **Development or works in conservation area** – The Commonwealth approvals require that agreement be obtained from the Commonwealth Environment Minister for proposed development or works in conservation areas that results in a ‘net loss of habitat’ for ecological communities or species listed under the EPBC Act. DELWP has administrative responsibility for considering endorsement of proposals that require the agreement of the Commonwealth Minister. Where the proposed development or works does not require the agreement of the Commonwealth Minister, the proposal will require the agreement of DELWP.

The methodology for collecting and analysing the data in the tables below is set out in the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP, 2015c).

## 3.2 Progress so far

The highlights for the MSA Program to 30 June 2016 are:

- 39 PSPs were gazetted
- 34 NVPs were approved and incorporated in gazetted PSPs
- 209 ha of native vegetation was identified for retention in gazetted PSPs within the BCS area
- The following habitat for MNES was identified for retention in gazetted PSPs in the BCS area:
  - 149.0 ha of Golden Sun Moth (native and non-native) habitat
  - 630.9 ha of Growling Grass Frog habitat
  - 91.4 ha of Matted Flax-lily habitat
  - 17.4 ha of Spiny Rice-flower habitat.

## 3.3 Progress against key performance indicators

### 3.3.1 Planning scheme amendments

A total of 3 planning scheme amendments were gazetted in 2015-16 to implement the MSA Program making a total of 41 planning scheme amendments gazetted since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016, covering 39 precincts.

In determining the per cent of planning scheme amendments gazetted in the reporting period that are consistent with the Commonwealth approvals (see Table 1); DELWP reviewed the PSPs and Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) schedules introduced by the amendments in relation to:

- Incorporation of a CACP (or an equivalent CMP) in the PSP, where conservation areas occur in the precinct
- Incorporation of a Conservation Interface Plan (CIP) in the PSP
- Requirements to secure conservation areas, as specified in the BCS, where conservation areas occur in the precinct
- Requirements to undertake salvage and translocation, as specified in the BCS.

**Table 1: Planning scheme amendments**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of gazetted planning scheme amendments to introduce a Precinct Structure Plan	3	41
Number of gazetted planning scheme amendments to introduce a Precinct Structure Plan consistent with the Commonwealth approvals	3	38 <sup>^</sup>
Per cent of gazetted planning scheme amendments to introduce a Precinct Structure Plan consistent with the Commonwealth approvals	100%	Not reported*

<sup>^</sup> The three gazetted planning scheme amendments inconsistent with the Commonwealth approvals were gazetted prior to 2015-16. These inconsistencies became apparent to DELWP after the current reporting period, which is why they had not been reported in the 2014-15 progress report.

\* This Progress Report has not reported on the per cent of planning scheme amendments gazetted since commencement of the MSA Program that are consistent with the Commonwealth approvals as 12 of these amendments were gazetted prior to the finalisation and approval of the BCS.

The number of planning scheme amendments to introduce a PSP may be greater than the number of PSPs gazetted as a result of some precincts being located across more than one council area. As such, the planning scheme for each council would require amendment for a single precinct.

Since this reporting period it has become apparent three PSPs had previously been gazetted that did not accurately reflect the boundaries of the BCS conservation areas:

- Merrifield West
- Riverdale
- Black Forest Rd South.

The inconsistencies within the Merrifield West and Riverdale PSPs have since been resolved. DELWP is continuing to work with the VPA, Councils and landowners to resolve the conservation area boundary inconsistencies within the Black Forest Road South PSP and will seek the appropriate amendments.

### 3.3.2 Planning permits

This Progress Report has not reported on the following KPIs in the MRF:

- Per cent of permits with conditions consistent with the Commonwealth approvals
- Number of non-compliances with permit conditions associated with the Commonwealth approvals.

Reporting for these KPIs will commence in 2016-17 Progress Report.

Reporting on the KPIs for compliance with NVPs and illegal removal of native vegetation (see Tables 3 and 7) utilised information from existing DELWP and Council records that had been collected for other purposes.

For future Progress Reports, data to enable reporting on these KPIs will be collected in accordance with the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP, 2015c).

### 3.3.3 Precinct Structure Plans

A total of 3 PSPs were gazetted in the reporting period to implement the MSA Program with a total of 39 PSPs gazetted since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016. The 39 gazetted PSPs cover approximately 33.4 per cent of the MSA Program area.

A complete list of the 39 PSPs gazetted since commencement of the MSA Program is provided in Appendix A. The PSPs gazetted in the 2015-16 reporting period were:

- Black Forest Road North
- English Street
- Paynes Road.

**Table 2: Precinct Structure Plans**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of Precinct Structure Plans gazetted	3	39
Per cent of program area with gazetted Precinct Structure Plans	1.4%	33.4%
<b>Native vegetation and potential habitat for MNES identified in gazetted PSPs to be retained in conservation areas</b>		
Habitat for MNES*		
Golden Sun Moth <sup>^</sup>	-	149.0 ha
Growling Grass Frog	34.3 ha	630.9 ha
Matted Flax-lily	3.8 ha	91.4 ha
Spiny Rice-flower	-	17.4 ha
MNES communities		
Natural Temperate Grassland	-	17.4 ha
Grassy Eucalypt Woodland	-	85.9 ha
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands	-	17.4 ha
Other native vegetation	2.6 ha	88.3 ha
<b>Total native vegetation</b>	<b>2.6 ha</b>	<b>209 ha</b>
<b>Hectares of land available for urban development in gazetted PSPs</b>		
	800.6	13,028.3 ha

\* These figures are not additive as habitat for some MNES overlaps. For example, Golden Sun Moth and Spiny Rice-flower habitat may occur on the same patch of native vegetation.

<sup>^</sup> Golden Sun Moth habitat includes native habitat (which occurs in native vegetation) and non-native habitat (which occurs in non-native vegetation).

### 3.3.4 Native Vegetation Plans

Two NVPs were approved as part of PSPs in the reporting period bringing the total approved NVPs to 34 since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016. A NVP was not prepared for Black Forest Road North PSP, which was gazetted in the reporting period. All of the native vegetation (35.5 ha of Plains Grassland and 6.6 ha of Aquatic Herbland) in the Black Forest Road North precinct occurs outside of any



conservation area and will be removed during the development of the precinct, with the exception of retaining several scattered Yellow Gum trees which are identified on the future urban structure plan and incorporated into future open space.

NVPs have not been prepared as part of five PSPs since commencement of the MSA Program, inclusive of Black Forest North PSP. Details of these are provided in previous progress reports.

There are no known cases of non-compliances with NVPs in the reporting period and two known cases since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016, the details of which have been reported in previous progress reports.

**Table 3: Native Vegetation Plans**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of gazetted precincts with Native Vegetation Plans	2	34
Per cent of gazetted precincts with Native Vegetation Plans	66.6%	87.2%
Number of non-compliances with Native Vegetation Plans	-	2 <sup>^</sup>

<sup>^</sup> Information used to report on the number of non-compliances with NVPs (or equivalent plans) were collated from existing DELWP and Council records and may be incomplete.

### 3.3.5 Conservation Area Concept Plans

CACPs set out land-uses suitable within each conservation area and broad conservation requirements and constraints. Detailed management actions (e.g. ongoing fire and weed control) are set out in land management plans prepared by the land manager.

One CACP was approved, as part of the English Street PSP, in the reporting period with a total of 22 CACPs (or equivalent plans) approved as part of PSPs since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016.

**Table 4: Conservation Area Concept Plans**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of Conservation Area Concept Plans (or equivalent plans) approved as part of Precinct Structure Plans	1	22
Per cent of conservation areas in gazetted precincts with Conservation Area Concept Plans (or equivalent plans)	100%	86%

### 3.3.6 Adjustments to conservation area boundaries

A total of three adjustments to conservation area boundaries were approved in the reporting period making a total of eleven adjustments approved since the commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016 in accordance with the Commonwealth approvals (Appendix B).

One of the adjustments to conservation area boundaries in the reporting period required the approval of the Commonwealth Environment Minister under condition 3 of the Commonwealth approvals.

The remaining two adjustments to conservation area boundaries in the reporting period did not require the approval of the Commonwealth Environment Minister under conditions 3 or 4 of the Commonwealth approvals. In approving the proposed adjustments, DELWP considered the criteria in the *Guidance Note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors* (working document) (DELWP, 2015a), which are consistent with the Commonwealth approvals and BCS.

Conservation area boundary adjustments approved by the Commonwealth Environment Minister were made to the following:

- Conservation Area 15: 'Western Growth Corridor (north): Growling Grass Frog Corridors'

Removal of 1.626 ha of Growling Grass Frog conservation area along Kororoit Creek, Rockbank and adjacent to the Outer Metropolitan Ring Road. Addition of 1.635 ha directly north of the area removed. There is a net gain of 0.009 ha of land to the conservation area.
- Conservation Area 15: 'Western Growth Corridor (north): Growling Grass Frog Corridors'

Removal of 0.296 ha of Growling Grass Frog conservation area along Kororoit Creek, Rockbank. Addition of 0.523 ha directly south-west of the area removed. There is a net gain of 0.227 ha of land to the conservation area.
- Conservation Area 20: 'Racecourse Rd, Sunbury'

Removal of 16 ha of land comprising of low biodiversity values for MNES, including 15.5 hectares of non-native vegetation, 0.5 ha of low quality woodland (that does not represent the Commonwealth listed ecological community Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain) and two scattered trees. This boundary change forms part of a broader review of the boundaries of 'open space' conservation areas. The aim of the review is to determine the appropriateness of these boundaries in protecting MNES and other areas of high biodiversity value on the basis of ecological surveys, as the boundaries of many 'open space' conservation areas were determined on the basis of modelled information.

**Table 5: Adjustments to conservation area boundaries**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of approved adjustments to conservation area boundaries	3	11
Number of adjustments to conservation area boundaries requiring Commonwealth approval	1	4
<b>Net land added to or removed from conservation areas as a result of approved adjustments to conservation area boundaries, by conservation area type:</b>		
Nature conservation	-	- 0.05 ha
Growling Grass Frog conservation, flood plain and open space	-16.06	- 29.99 ha

### 3.3.7 Approved development or works in conservation areas

A total of 15 proposals for development or works in conservation areas were approved in the reporting period with a total of 27 proposals approved since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016 in accordance with condition 2 of the Commonwealth approvals. Habitat compensation fees were paid over the area of the development or works.

In approving the proposals, DELWP considered the criteria in the working document *Guidance Note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors* (working document) (DELWP, 2015a).

**Table 6: Approved development or works in conservation areas**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of approved development or works in conservation areas	15	27
<b>Hectares of native vegetation and habitat for MNES affected by development or works, by conservation area type:</b>		
Native vegetation	0.6 ha	1.5 ha
<b>Habitat for MNES<sup>*</sup></b>		
Spiny Rice-flower	0.2 ha	0.5 ha
Matter Flax-lily	0.5 ha	1.0 ha
Golden Sun Moth	1.0 ha	10.9 ha
Growling Grass Frog	11.5 ha	26.1 ha

\* These figures are not additive as habitat for some MNES overlaps. For example, Golden Sun Moth and Spiny Rice-flower habitat may occur on the same patch of native vegetation.

### 3.3.8 Illegal removal of native vegetation

There were no known cases of illegal removal of native vegetation within conservation areas in the reporting period however there have been four cases of illegal removal of native vegetation (3 of which were outside conservation areas) since commencement of the MSA Program to 30 June 2016. These have been reported in the 2014-15 Progress Report (DELWP 2016b).

**Table 7: Illegal removal of native vegetation**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement <sup>^</sup>
Number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation outside conservation areas	-	3
Number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation within conservation areas	-	1
<b>Hectares of native vegetation and habitat for MNES affected by illegal removal of native vegetation within conservation areas, by conservation area type</b>		
Nature conservation	-	4.0 ha

<sup>^</sup> Information used to report on the number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation was collated from existing DELWP and Council records and may be incomplete.

### 3.3.9 Water management

A total of 3 Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMPs) were approved in the reporting period bringing the total IWMPs approved since commencement of the MSA Program to June 2016 to 16.

Initially under the MSA Program, IWMPs were the primary mechanism for ensuring best practice urban water management in the development of precincts. IWMPs were prepared for each precinct at the precinct structure planning stage. Integrated water management planning has now been progressed to be part of the whole of water cycle planning in PSPs.

While IWMPs are part of some PSPs, integrated water management planning is now incorporated into various parts of each PSP and are implemented by Melbourne Water through drainage schemes and river health planning.

**Table 8: Water management**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of Integrated Water Management Plans approved for gazetted precincts	3	16

**3.3.10 Transport projects**

Two transport projects are part of the MSA Program – the Regional Rail Link (section 2 – West of Werribee to Deer Park) and Outer Metropolitan Ring/E6 Transport Corridor. To date, approval has only been sought and granted for the Regional Rail Link (section 2).

Construction of the Regional Rail Link (section 2) was completed in August 2014. There were no known non-compliances with the approved EIMP affecting matters of national environmental significance (RRLA, 2015).

**3.3.11 Cultural heritage**

Forty-two Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) within gazetted PSPs were approved in the reporting period and a total of 143 CHMPs were approved since commencement of the MSA Program to June 2015.

Initially under the MSA Program, CHMPs were prepared for each precinct at the precinct structure planning stage to protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the whole precinct. This process was discontinued in 2013 due to the difficulty in obtaining precinct wide property access. CHMPs continue to be required for subdivisions of three or more lots in culturally sensitive areas in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and are now prepared only for culturally sensitive areas. Development that is not in a culturally sensitive area does not require a CHMP. This means multiple CHMPs may be prepared and approved within a given PSP.

**Table 9: Cultural heritage**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Number of Cultural Heritage Management Plans approved for gazetted precincts	42	143

**3.3.12 Quarries and mines**

Since endorsement of the MSA Program in 2010 up to 30 June 2016, no new work plans were approved for quarries or mines. Approval was granted for the variation of one existing work plan in April 2010. This variation did not affect any native vegetation or habitat for MNES.

**Table 10: Quarries and mines**

	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Per cent of approved work plans consistent with the prescriptions or BCS	-	-
Number of non-compliances with approved work plans affecting MNES	-	-

# 4 Program cost recovery is transparent and efficient

## 4.1 Introduction

The MSA is being delivered on the basis of full cost recovery through payment of habitat compensation fees by proponents undertaking buildings and works in the MSA program area.

Habitat compensation fees are used to implement the conservation measures outlined in the Program Report, including acquisition of the WGR. Fees are paid to DELWP, and these are held in a trust account administered by DELWP.

## 4.2 Progress so far

Revenue received under the MSA Program remains slower than originally anticipated at the commencement of the program. However, there has been a relative increase in revenue received by DELWP this reporting period compared to previous years, as a result of an increase in habitat compensation fees collected during 2015-16.

Details of revenue and expenditure to date is shown in Table 11, and for each habitat compensation fee type in Table 12.

There is a total revenue of \$58,206,406.70 up until 30 June 2016, of which \$46,013,271.63 (79 per cent) was received through payment of habitat compensation fees. The expenditure up to 30 June 2016 was \$33,163,020.34, of which \$24,220,030.54 (73 per cent) was on land acquisition and associated costs.

Program delivery continued to focus on the maintenance and improvement of the online tool in DELWP's Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM) system (<https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/BCS>) to enable landowners in the BCS area to estimate their habitat compensation obligations.

A summary of progress for habitat compensation obligations in the BCS area and offsets in the 12 precincts is provided in Table 13.

**Table 11: Program revenue and expenditure to 30 June 2016**

Revenue	Prior to 30 June 2015	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Trust	\$30,101,294.97	\$15,911,976.66	\$46,013,271.63
State Appropriation Funding	\$12,199,999.94	\$0.00	\$12,199,999.94
Adjustment to reconcile accounts from previous years	-\$6,864.87	\$0.00	-\$6,864.87
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,294,430.04</b>	<b>\$15,911,976.66</b>	<b>\$58,206,406.70</b>

Expenditure	Prior to 30 June 2015	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Land acquisition	\$23,082,512.68	\$1,137,517.86	\$24,220,030.54
Land management	\$533,285.79	\$585,528.00	\$1,118,813.79
Habitat construction	\$12,487.59	\$0,000,000.00	\$12,487.59
Ecological monitoring	\$955,534.95	\$747,876.02	\$1,703,410.97
Program delivery	\$4,271,245.34	\$1,837,032.11	\$6,108,277.45
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$28,855,066.35</b>	<b>\$4,307,953.99</b>	<b>\$33,163,020.34</b>

**Table 12: Program revenue and expenditure for each habitat compensation fee type**

Revenue	Native Vegetation and Scattered Trees	Golden Sun Moth	Spiny Rice-flower	Matted Flax-lily	Growling Grass Frog	Southern Brown Bandicoot	Growling Grass Frog Officer PSP	Growling Grass Frog Clyde North PSP	Total
Trust revenue	\$8,310,991.20	\$3,278,895.10	\$408,541.20	\$322,769.48	\$1,999,574.41	\$768,619.56	\$227,173.26	\$595,412.45	\$15,911,976.66
State Appropriation Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenue for 2015-16</b>	\$8,310,991.20	\$3,278,895.10	\$408,541.20	\$322,769.48	\$1,999,574.41	\$768,619.56	\$227,173.26	\$595,412.45	\$15,911,976.66
<b>Total Revenue since commencement</b>	<b>\$40,372,067.61</b>	<b>\$11,296,699.52</b>	<b>\$892,701.57</b>	<b>\$593,626.86</b>	<b>\$3,087,209.59</b>	<b>\$1,141,515.84</b>	<b>\$227,173.26</b>	<b>\$595,412.45</b>	<b>\$58,206,406.70</b>

Expenditure	Native Vegetation and Scattered Trees	Golden Sun Moth	Spiny Rice-flower	Matted Flax-lily	Growling Grass Frog	Southern Brown Bandicoot	Growling Grass Frog Officer PSP	Growling Grass Frog Clyde North PSP	Total since MSA commencement
Land acquisition	\$863,748.94	\$239,673.57	\$34,095.35	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,220,030.54
Land management	\$441,256.00	\$126,854.00	\$17,418.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,118,813.79
Habitat construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,487.60
Ecological monitoring	\$431,885.68	\$101,045.53	\$47,266.86	\$9,967.90	\$127,067.09	\$30,642.96	\$0	\$0	\$1,703,410.97
Program delivery	\$1,307,097.30	\$177,371.44	\$48,579.44	\$20,335.58	\$187,619.23	\$96,029.12	\$0	\$0	\$6,108,277.45
<b>Total expenditure for 2015-16</b>	<b>\$3,043,987.92</b>	<b>\$644,944.54</b>	<b>\$147,359.65</b>	<b>\$30,303.48</b>	<b>\$314,686.32</b>	<b>\$126,672.08</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Total expenditure since commencement</b>	<b>\$24,219,219.14</b>	<b>\$6,441,615.99</b>	<b>\$997,144.77</b>	<b>\$94,471.96</b>	<b>\$1,009,770.67</b>	<b>\$400,797.81</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$33,163,020.34</b>



**Table 13: Habitat compensation – progress to date**

<b>Regional Rail Link corridor (section 2) and 12 precincts approved prior to 1 March 2012</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Total since MSA commencement</b>
Number of habitat hectares provided as offset	1.39	114.69
Number of hectares of GSM habitat with offset met	18.91	116.81
Number of hectares of GGF habitat with offset met	108.07	132.07
Number of staged obligations agreements	0.0 <sup>^</sup>	3
<b>Area covered by Biodiversity Conservation Strategy</b>		
Hectares of land with habitat compensation obligations met	879.53	1,306.73
Number of staged obligations agreements	52	73
<b>Other Areas</b>		
Hectares provided as offset to development within the Melbourne Urban Development Policy Area	3.68	8.68
Hectares provided as offset from changes to Conservation Area boundaries	0.0	0.0

<sup>^</sup> Staged obligations agreements are no longer prepared for development in the Regional Rail Corridor (section 2) and 12 precincts approved prior to 1 March 2012.

# 5 A 15,000 hectare grassland reserve is established and managed

## 5.1 Introduction

The Victorian Government has committed to reserving 15,000 hectares of land west of Melbourne as part of the MSA Program to protect the critically endangered ecological community *Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain* (Natural Temperate Grassland) and threatened species, and to mitigate the impacts of urban development in the growth corridors on MNES.

The Western Grassland Reserves (WGR) will cover two areas of land outside the UGB located south-east of Melton and west of Werribee (see Figure 1).

This section reports on the implementation of the establishment and management of the WGR.

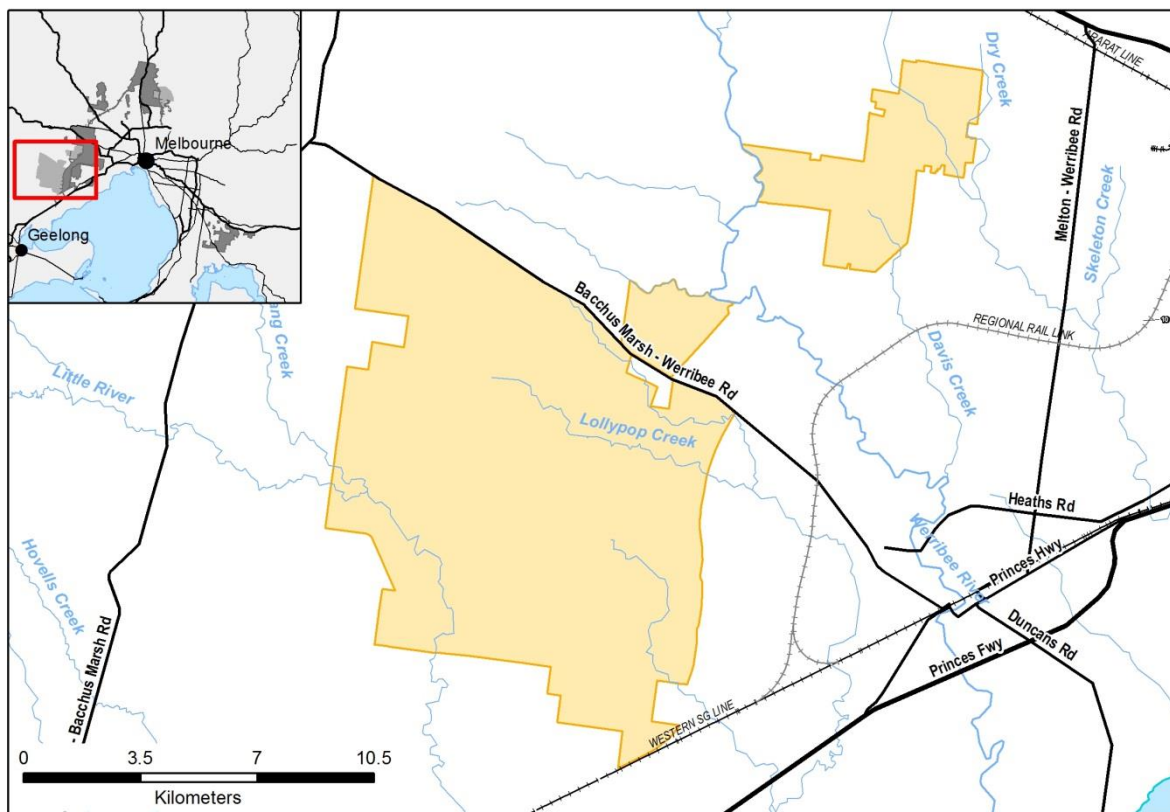


Figure 1: Location of Western Grassland Reserves

The WGR will protect the largest remaining concentration of volcanic plains grasslands in Australia and a range of other habitat types, including ephemeral wetlands, waterways, Red Gum swamps, rocky knolls and open grassy woodlands. The reserves will increase the extent of protection of Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain from two per cent to 20 per cent. The WGR also provides habitat for a large number of State and Commonwealth listed threatened and rare species.

Land in the WGR is subject to a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) and the reserves will be established by acquisition of properties subject to the PAO in accordance with the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*. The Minister responsible for administering Part 2 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* is the acquiring authority and will seek to negotiate voluntary sale agreements with landowners affected by the PAO. The acquisition process for the WGR is expected to take a number of years.

DELWP has prepared the document *Land Protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* (DEPI, 2014a), which sets out the prioritisation approach for land acquisition in the WGR. Multiple criteria are used to determine high priority land for acquisition in the WGR, including ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act, EVCs and management risks.

DELWP has established an interim management program for the WGR to support landholders in maintaining the values of the WGR during its establishment. Under this program, DELWP delivered two projects to support interim management in the WGR during the reporting period, which were made available to all landowners in the WGR:

- **A weed control grants program.** Under this program, DELWP supported landowners and lessees in the WGR to control noxious weeds on their property. The grant program fully or partially funded a number of weed control activities which could be carried out by eligible landowners and lessees directly or by engaging a licensed/ accredited contractor. Grant Applications Forms were submitted to DELWP by interested landowners and evaluated against a set of criteria prior to any weed control works commencing.
- **BushTender auction.** BushTender is an auction process for improving native vegetation on private land. Under the approach, landholders competitively tendered to improve the quality or extent of their native vegetation. The benefit offered by each tender was assessed according to a range of biodiversity outcomes. Successful tenders were those that offered the best environmental value for money, with successful landholders receiving periodic payments for management activities conducted under agreements entered into with DELWP.

Councils continue to provide land management support services to landowners in the WGR. Melton City Council provides an Environmental Enhancement Program that encourages rural landholders to work in conjunction with Council to facilitate sustainable land management. The program targets land degradation processes with particular emphasis on noxious and environmental weeds, pest animals and soil erosion and offers rate rebates for eligible landholders. Wyndham City provides funding to eligible landowners under the Land Protection Grant Scheme which focuses on protecting indigenous vegetation, revegetation and weed control activities.

The parts of the WGR that have been purchased are managed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. Management is guided by land management guidelines prepared by DELWP for each acquired land parcel. The guidelines are informed by surveys and inventory reports of each land parcel that document the location of biodiversity values and land management risks and opportunities.

The methodology for collecting and analysing the data in the tables below is set out in the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP 2015c).

## 5.2 Progress so far

The highlights for this commitment to 30 June 2016 are:

- 1,203 ha of land has been secured, representing 8.0% of the WGR
- The following land management activities have been undertaken to date:
  - Construction of 7,258 metres of fencing for pest animal and stock management
  - Ecological burn regime established and implemented for 400 hectares of land
  - Ecological grazing regime established and implemented for 685 hectares of land
  - Weed control implemented over 1,093 hectares of land

## 5.3 Progress against key selection criteria

**Table 14: Land purchased in the Western Grassland Reserve**

	2015-16	Total	Per cent of total WGR area
Land secured	-	1,203.0 ha <sup>^</sup>	8.0%

<sup>^</sup> This value was previously derived from GIS analysis. The value has been corrected to reflect the appropriate information source to be used to report on the number of hectares purchased in the WGR (land purchase documentation) and has resulted in a perceived reduction of 5.98 hectares.

### 5.3.1 Native vegetation secured in Western Grassland Reserves

No land was secured in the WGR in the reporting period.

Land secured prior to 2015-16 includes six Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) totalling 981.6 hectares of native vegetation. Two ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act: *Natural Temperate Grassland* (933.0 ha) and the critically endangered *Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plain* (23.2 ha) comprise 97 per cent of the native vegetation secured in the WGR since commencement of the MSA program.

Table 15: Land purchased in the Western Grassland Reserve		
Natural Temperate Grassland	-	933.0 ha
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland	-	23.2 ha

**Table 16: Vegetation communities secured in the Western Grassland Reserve**

EVC Number	Ecological Vegetation Class	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
125	Plains Grassy Wetland	-	25.6 ha
132	Plains Grassland	-	902.9 ha
641	Riparian Woodland	-	< 1 ha
649	Stony Knoll Shrubland	-	37.7 ha
654	Creepline Tussock Grassland	-	13.9 ha
821	Tall Marsh	-	< 1 ha
895	Escarpment Shrubland	-	< 1 ha

### 5.3.2 Interim management of land in Western Grassland Reserves

Five landowners participated in DELWP's interim management program for the WGR in the reporting period, covering five parcels of land, and an additional 35 landowners covering 51 land parcels accessed land management support services provided by local councils in the same period.

DELWP supported landowners to control noxious weeds over a total of 148 hectares of their land through the weed control grant program (2 parcels, 60 ha) and BushTender agreements (3 parcels, 88 ha). DELWP established ten BushTender agreements with three landowners in 2012, which continue until 2017. The total area under the BushTender agreements is 88 hectares. The management commitments under the agreements include grazing exclusion, weed control, ecological burning, pest control and fencing maintenance.

**Table 17: Interim management of land in the Western Grassland Reserve**

		2015-16	Total since MSA commencement (where additive)
Number of parcels under interim management		65	-
Number of landowners participating in interim management program		46	-
<b>Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken</b>			
Fence	Meters of fence maintained	-	500 m
	Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing	-	60.0 ha
Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained	519.5 <sup>^</sup>	3,111.5 ha
Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled	60.0 ha	120.0 ha
Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established	-	88.0 ha
Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established	-	12.0 ha

<sup>^</sup> Amount does not include weed control conducted under Melton Council's Environmental Enhancement Program.

### 5.3.3 Management of land in Western Grassland Reserves

A total of 3,500 m of fence was established on land within the WGR in the reporting period, creating 27.5 ha of stock exclusion. An additional 2,200 m of fence was removed and 1,500 m of fence was maintained on land that had been secured for the WGR in the previous reporting period.

A total of 1,128.1 ha of weed control has been undertaken on land acquired in the WGR since commencement of the program to 30 June 2016, with weed control undertaken on 125.6 ha during the reporting period.

The 685.5 ha of grazing regime and 251.5 ha of fire regime established in the WGR was maintained during the reporting period. No additional grazing or fire regime was established.

**Table 18: Management of land in the Western Grassland Reserve**

Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		Units delivered 2015-16	Total units delivered since MSA commencement (where additive)
Fence	Meters of fence installed	3,508.4 m	7,258.4 m
	Meters of fence maintained	1,500 m	1,500 m
	Meters of fence removed	2,121.3 m	2,121.3 m
	Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing	22.3 ha	22.3 ha
Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained	46.3 ha	1,093.1
Grazing	Hectares of grazing management regime established	-	685.5 ha

regime			
	Hectares of grazing management regime maintained	148.8	610.9 <sup>^</sup>
Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established	158.5	410.0 ha
	Hectares of fire regime maintained	-	200.0 <sup>~</sup>

<sup>^</sup>These values were previously derived from the total area of fire and grazing regimes established. These values have been corrected to reflect the appropriate information source to be used to report on the number of hectares of fire and grazing regime maintained in the WGR (actual areas burned or grazed, to account for mosaic fire or grazing regimes) and has resulted in a perceived reduction of 51.5 hectares and 74.6 hectares respectively.

# 6 A network of conservation areas within the Urban Growth Boundary is protected and managed for matters of national environmental significance species and vegetation communities

## 6.1 Introduction

The BCS identifies 36 conservation areas in the growth corridors within the 2010 UGB that will be protected and managed for conservation. These conservation areas protect the most important habitat for ecological communities and populations of MNES and state significance in the growth corridors, including Natural Temperate Grassland, Grassy Eucalypt Woodland, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands, Growling Grass Frog, Golden Sun Moth, Spiny Rice-flower and Matted Flax-lily.

Additional reserves to be protected and managed for conservation of MNES and state significance have been identified in 12 of the existing 28 precincts within the 2005 UGB as a result of the implementation of the prescriptions for MNES (see section 3.4.2).

The 36 conservation areas in the BCS are classified into five main categories:

- *Nature conservation.* These areas will be protected and managed primarily for conservation of a range of biodiversity values, including native vegetation and MNES.
- *Growling Grass Frog conservation, floodplain and open space.* These areas will be protected and managed primarily for the Growling Grass Frog, but will also include areas managed for passive recreation, water management and other suitable land-uses.
- *Regional parks.* These areas will be protected and managed as regional parks, with specific management regimes in place for areas containing MNES.
- *Existing public land.* These areas will be protected and managed for conservation of a range of biodiversity values, including native vegetation and MNES, under existing arrangements.
- *Open space.* These areas will be protected and managed for conservation, but will also include areas managed for passive recreation, water management and other suitable land-uses, with specific management regimes in place for areas containing MNES.

This section reports on the establishment and management of the 36 conservation areas identified in the BCS, as well as the Truganina South Conservation Reserve established in one of the 12 precincts. The status of other conservation areas in the 12 precincts will be included in future reporting.

Conservation areas will be secured for conservation over time as PSPs are prepared and urban development proceeds in the growth corridors, through the following mechanisms:

- Voluntary acquisition by the Crown and reservation under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, or
- On-title management agreements under section 69 of the *Conservation Forests and Land Act 1987*, or
- Vesting of the land in a public authority.

The management of conservation areas will generally be undertaken by public land managers. Private landowners will manage these areas where the land is not vested in a public authority or voluntarily acquired by the Crown. The land management requirements for conservation areas will be set out in management plans and/or on-title management agreements prepared by the land manager in consultation with DELWP. This will occur once relevant land managers have been identified and the conservation areas have been secured for conservation.

The form of management arrangement for conservation areas will depend on the land security arrangements and the type of land manager. For nature conservation areas, management plans will be guided by land management guidelines that will be prepared by DELWP for each acquired land parcel. The guidelines will be informed by surveys and inventory reports of each land parcel that document the location of biodiversity values and land management risks and opportunities.



The methodology for collecting and analysing the data in the tables below is set out in the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP, 2015c).

## 6.2 Progress so far

The highlights for this commitment to 30 June 2016 are:

- 82.6 ha of land in conservation areas secured for conservation
- 13.7 ha of Natural Temperate Grassland secured in conservation areas.

## 6.3 Progress against key performance indicators

### 6.3.1 Land secured in conservation areas

Land secured for conservation in the 2015-16 reporting period includes 3.8 ha within the Truganina South Nature Conservation Reserve (NCR), which is being established as part of the prescriptions for GSM. This land was secured in the middle of the 2016-17 financial year. Vegetation and fauna inventory surveys for the Truganina South NCR will commence in spring 2017.

Land secured for conservation prior to 2015-16 totals 78.8 ha, which includes 10.3 ha of Truganina South Nature Conservation Reserve (NCR), which is being established as part of the prescriptions for GSM, and 68.5 ha of Conservation Area 26.

**Table 19: Land secured in conservation areas**

Conservation area	Total size of conservation area	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement	Per cent secured
Truganina South NCR	38.1 ha	3.8 <sup>~</sup>	14.1 ha <sup>~</sup>	37.5%
Conservation Area 26	110.1 ha <sup>^</sup>	-	68.5 ha	61.3% <sup>^</sup>

<sup>^</sup>The Commonwealth Government approved an adjustment to the boundary of Conservation Area 26 in July 2016, which resulted in a reduction of the total size of the conservation area, which consequentially has increased the percentage of Conservation Area 26 that has been secured from 61.3% to 62.2%.

<sup>~</sup>The 3.8 ha of land secured within the Truganina South NCR during 2015-16 was inaccurately reported as being secured during 2014-15 within the 2014-15 Progress Report. These values have been corrected to reflect the appropriate information source to be used to report on land security information.

### 6.3.2 Native vegetation and key populations secured in conservation areas

Native vegetation and key populations secured in conservation areas in the 2015-16 reporting period includes 3.6 ha of native vegetation, EVC 132\_61 *Heavier Soils Plains Grassland*, all of which is equivalent to the EPBC-listed ecological community NTG.

Native vegetation and key populations secured prior to 2015-16 includes a total of 10.0 ha of native vegetation within the Truganina South NCR, EVC 132\_61 *Heavier Soils Plains Grassland*, all of which is also equivalent to NTG. The land secured in Conservation Area 26 includes the EPBC-listed ecological community *Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (GEW)* and was secured in 2014-15 through an on-title management agreement. Accurate values of GEW and key populations secured on this land will be determined and reported once inventory surveys have been conducted.

**Table 20: Vegetation communities and key populations secured in conservation areas**

EPBC-listed community	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Natural Temperate Grassland	3.6	13.7 ha
Grassy Eucalypt Woodland	-	Yet to be determined <sup>^</sup>

EVC Number	Ecological Vegetation Class	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
132	Plains Grassland	-	13.7 ha

<sup>^</sup> Land secured in Conservation Area 26 includes EPBC-listed ecological community Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (GEW) and was secured in 2014-15. Accurate values of GEW and key populations secured on this land will be determined and reported once inventory surveys have been conducted.

### 6.3.3 Land security and management arrangements for conservation areas

Land secured in the Truganina South NCR during the 2015-16 reporting period was secured through voluntary transfer to the Crown for reservation under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1987*.

Land secured prior to 2015-16 was also secured through voluntary transfer to the Crown for reservation under the CLR Act (Truganina South NCR), as well as through on-title agreements (Conservation Area 26).

**Table 21: Land security and management arrangements for conservation areas**

Conservation area	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
<b>Land secured through voluntary transfer to the Crown</b>		
Truganina South NCR	3.8	14.1 ha
<b>Land secured through vesting in a public authority and on-title agreement with management plan</b>		
-	-	-
<b>Land secured through on-title agreement with management plan</b>		
-	-	-
<b>Land secured through on-title agreement</b>		
Conservation Area 26	-	68.5 ha

### 6.3.4 Management undertaken in secured conservation areas with a management plan

Management undertaken in secured conservation areas with a management plan in the 2015-16 reporting period included:

- Establishment of a 777-metre non-permanent (slash) firebreak to manage biomass along a portion of the boundary of Truganina South NCR
- Maintenance of a previously established 1,772-metre non-permanent (slash) firebreak to manage biomass along another portion of the boundary of Truganina South NCR.

Management undertaken prior to 2015-16 includes the establishment and prior maintenance of the initial 1,772-metre non-permanent (slash) firebreaks to manage biomass along the boundary of the Truganina South NCR.

**Table 22: Vegetation communities and key populations secured in conservation areas**

Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement (where additive)
Meters of firebreak installed	777 m	2,549 m
Meters of firebreak maintained	2,549 m	2,549 m

# 7 A 1,200 hectare Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Reserve is protected and managed

## 7.1 Introduction

The Victorian Government has committed to reserving at least 1,200 ha of land north-east of Melbourne as part of the MSA Program to protect Grassy Eucalypt Woodland (GEW) and mitigate the impacts of urban development in the growth corridors on this ecological community.

The boundaries of an investigation area within which the GEW Reserve will be located are identified in the BCS (see Figure 2).

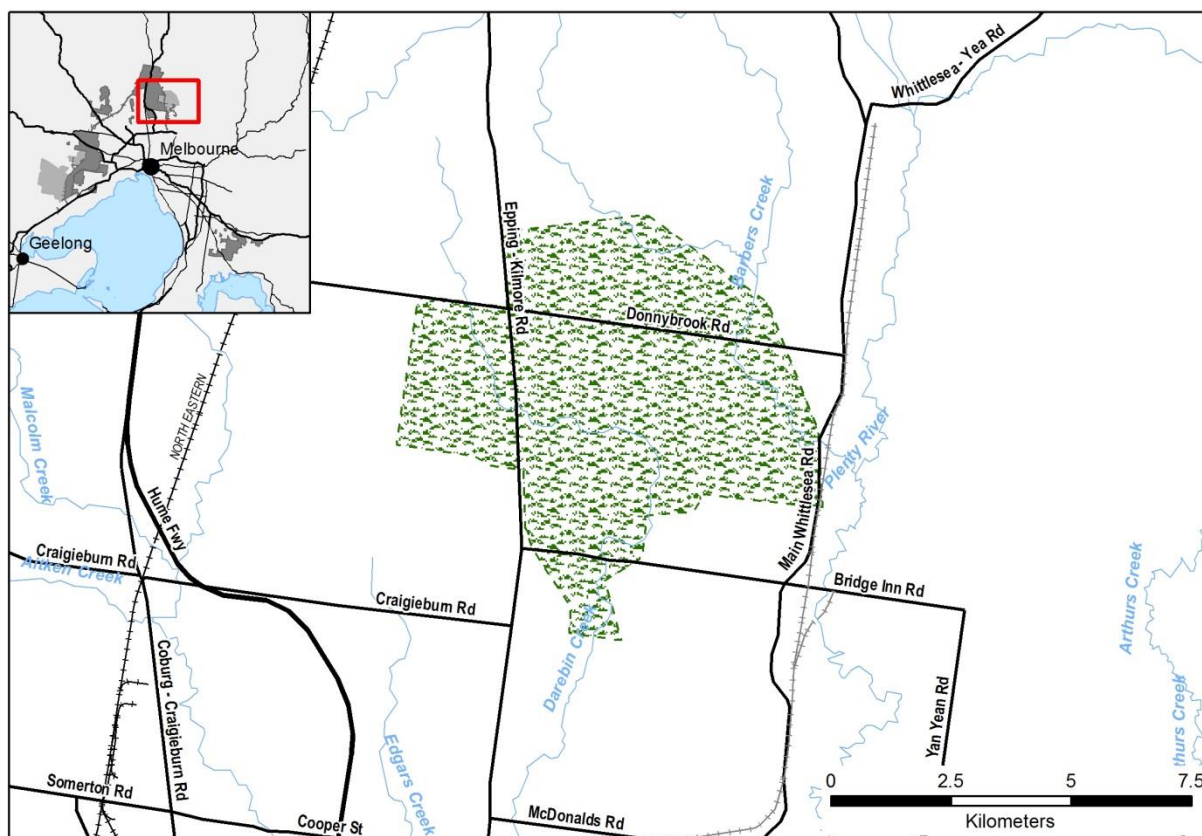


Figure 2: Investigation area for Grassy Eucalypt Woodland reserve

Land in the GEW Reserve will be secured for conservation through voluntary negotiation with landowners, including through voluntary purchase by the Crown and reservation under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* or on-title management agreements under section 69 of the *Conservation Forests and Land Act 1987*. The final boundary of the GEW Reserve will depend on the voluntary negotiation process, with each new land parcel secured influencing the future priorities for securing land parcels for the reserve and the final shape of the reserve.

A reserve management plan will be prepared for the parts of the GEW Reserve secured through voluntary purchase by the Crown. The management of the GEW Reserve will be guided by land management guidelines that will be prepared by DELWP for each acquired land parcel. The guidelines will be informed by surveys and inventory reports of each land parcel that document the location of biodiversity values and land management risks and opportunities.

## 7.2 Progress so far

Reporting against this program output will commence after the first land parcel in the GEW Reserve is secured for conservation through voluntary acquisition or on-title management agreements. To date no land within the GEW Reserve has been secured.

In accordance with the cost recovery approach under the MSA Program, securing the GEW Reserve is reliant on the payment of habitat compensation fees from landowners as development progresses in the growth corridors.

The timing for purchasing the GEW Reserve will be determined in accordance with the *Land Protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* (DEPI, 2014a), which outlines the process for prioritising land security in the reserves established under the MSA Program.

# 8 Eighty per cent of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland is protected within the Urban Growth Boundary

## 8.1 Introduction

As part of the MSA Program, the Victorian Government is required to protect 80 per cent of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland (GEW) occurring within the growth corridors that meets the definition of the ecological community as listed under the EPBC Act.

GEW is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.

DELWP has estimated that 368 hectares of land in the growth corridors is 'highly likely' to contain GEW (DEPI, 2013a). Of this habitat, 294 hectares must be protected to meet the 80 per cent target. Land that may contribute to the 80 per cent target includes:

- Conservation areas identified in the BCS
- New and existing reserves within Melbourne's growth corridors not identified in the BCS or required under the prescriptions
- Land secured as part of the GEW Reserve that is additional to the 1,200 hectares of land the Victorian Government committed to protecting for the reserve, in accordance with the BCS.

## 8.2 Progress so far

The first land parcels containing GEW were secured in the growth areas through on-title management agreements under section 69 of the *Conservation Forests and Land Act 1987* prior to the reporting period.

This land was secured in Conservation Area 26 at the end of 2014-15. Accurate values for total area of GEW secured will be determined and reported once inventory surveys have been conducted.

## 9 Eighty per cent of highest priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth protected and managed

### 9.1 Introduction

As part of the MSA Program, the Victorian Government is required to protect 80 per cent of high priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth (GSM) within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion.

GSM is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and threatened under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act).

'High priority habitat' for GSM is defined as 'high persistence habitat' (as determined in DSE, 2009) where the presence of the species has been confirmed.

The total area of high priority habitat for GSM within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion is 12,328 hectares (DEPI, 2013d). Of this habitat, 9,862 hectares must be protected to meet the 80 per cent target. Land that may contribute to the 80 per cent target includes:

- WGR (expected to protect 8,100 hectares of high priority habitat)
- GEW Reserve
- Conservation areas identified in the BCS (expected to protect 410 hectares of high priority habitat)
- Additional habitat to be protected outside the UGB, as specified in the BCS
- New and existing areas protected within or outside the MSA Program area, not identified in the BCS or required under the prescriptions

Existing reserves that are not part of the MSA, such as national parks, council reserves and offset sites, currently protect 677 hectares of high priority habitat for GSM (DEPI, 2013d).

As identified in the BCS, it is expected that an additional 680 hectares of high priority habitat will require protection outside the UGB to meet the 80 per cent target.

The methodology for collecting and analysing the data in the tables below is set out in the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP, 2015c).

### 9.2 Progress so far

A total of 4 hectares of high priority habitat for GSM was secured in the 2015-16 reporting period. This area was secured in Truganina South NCR.

The total area of high priority habitat for GSM within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion that has been secured to date is 1,666 ha or 13.5%.

## 9.3 Progress against key performance indicators

### 9.3.1 High priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth protected

A total of 4 hectares of high priority habitat for GSM was secured in the 2015-16 reporting period. This area was secured in Truganina South NCR.

To date, a total of 1,666 hectares of high priority habitat has been secured for GSM within the Victorian Volcanic Plain that contributes towards the 80 per cent target for GSM. This comprises land in the WGR and Truganina South NCR, as well as existing reserves and private land that are not part of the MSA Program in accordance with the approach agreed to by the Commonwealth Government (DEPI, 2013d).

**Table 23: High priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth protected**

Key Performance Indicator	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Total hectares protected	4 ha	1,666 ha
Total per cent protected	-	13.5%



# 10 Eighty per cent of highest priority habitats for Spiny Rice-flower protected and managed

## 10.1 Introduction

As part of the MSA Program, the Victorian Government is required to protect 80 per cent of high priority habitat for Spiny Rice-flower (SRF) within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion.

SRF is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and threatened under the Victorian FFG Act.

'High priority habitat' for SRF is defined as 'high persistence habitat' (as determined in DSE, 2009) where the presence of the species has been confirmed.

The total area of high priority habitat for SRF within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion is 1,422 hectares (DEPI, 2013e). Of this habitat, 1,138 hectares must be protected to meet the 80 per cent target. Land that may contribute to the 80 per cent target includes:

- WGR (expected to protect 314 hectares of high priority habitat)
- Conservation areas identified in the BCS (expected to protect 216 hectares of high priority habitat)
- Additional habitat to be protected outside the UGB, as specified in the BCS
- New and existing areas protected within or outside the MSA Program area, not identified in the BCS or required under the prescriptions.

Existing reserves that are not part of the MSA, such as national parks, council reserves and offset sites, currently protect 69 hectares of high priority habitat for SRF (DEPI, 2013e).

As identified in the BCS, it is expected that an additional 394 hectares of high priority habitat will require protection outside the UGB to meet the 80 per cent target.

The methodology for collecting and analysing the data in the tables below is set out in the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP, 2015c).

## 10.2 Progress so far

No additional land containing SRF high priority habitat was secured in the reporting period.

The total area of high priority habitat within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion that has been secured to date is 72 ha or 5%.

## 10.3 Progress against key performance indicators

### 10.3.1 High priority habitat for Spiny Rice-flower protected

No high priority habitat for SRF was secured in the 2015-16 reporting period.

To date, a total of 72 hectares of high priority habitat has been secured for SRF within the Victorian Volcanic Plain that contributes towards the 80 per cent target for SRF. This comprises land in the WGR, as well as existing reserves and private land that are not part of the MSA Program in accordance with the approach agreed to by the Commonwealth Government (DEPI, 2013e).

**Table 24: High priority habitat for Spiny Rice-flower protected**

Key Performance Indicator	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement
Total hectares protected	0 ha	72 ha
Total per cent protected	-	5%

# 11 Eighty per cent of highest priority habitats for Matted Flax-lily protected and managed

## 11.1 Introduction

As part of the MSA Program, the Victorian Government is required to protect 80 per cent of high priority habitat for Matted Flax-lily (MFL) within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion.

MFL is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and threatened under the Victorian FFG Act.

'High priority habitat' for MFL is defined as 'high persistence habitat' (as determined in DSE, 2009) that is confirmed to contain the species. The total area of high priority habitat for MFL within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion is 901 hectares (DEPI, 2013e). Of this habitat, 721 hectares must be protected to meet the 80 per cent target. Land that may contribute to the 80 per cent target includes:

- GEW Reserve
- Conservation areas identified in the BCS (expected to protect 187 hectares of high priority habitat)
- Additional habitat to be protected outside the UGB, as specified in the BCS
- New and existing areas protected within or outside the MSA Program area, not identified in the BCS or required under the prescriptions.

Existing reserves that are not part of the MSA, such as national parks, council reserves and offset sites, currently protect three hectares of high priority habitat for MFL (DEPI, 2013e).

As identified in the BCS, it is expected that an additional 529 hectares of high priority habitat will require protection outside the UGB to meet the 80 per cent target.

The methodology for collecting and analysing the data in the tables below is set out in the *Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs* (DELWP, 2015c).

## 11.2 Progress so far

No additional land containing MFL high priority habitat was secured in the reporting period.

The total amount of high priority habitat for MFL that has been secured within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion is 3 ha or 1%.

## 11.3 Progress against key performance indicators

### 11.3.1 High priority habitat for Matted Flax-lily protected

No high priority habitat for MFL was secured in the reporting period.

A total of three hectares of high priority habitat for MFL has been secured within the Victorian Volcanic Plain. This comprises land in existing reserves that are not part of the MSA Program in accordance with the approach agreed by the Commonwealth Government (DEPI, 2013e).

**Table 25: High priority habitat for Matted Flax-lily protected**

Key Performance Indicator	2015-16	Total since MSA commencement <sup>^</sup>
Total hectares protected	-	3 ha
Total per cent protected	-	1%

<sup>^</sup> Land secured in conservation area 26 in the 2014-15 reporting period contains high persistence habitat for MFL. This land was secured at the end of 2014-15 and surveys to confirm presence of MFL on this land are yet to be conducted on this land.

# 12 Important landscape and habitat areas for Southern Brown Bandicoot are managed

## 12.1 Introduction

The Victorian Government will implement a range of conservation measures to protect Southern Brown Bandicoot in south-eastern Melbourne in accordance with the Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot and associated supplement (DEPI, 2014b, 2014c).

Conservation measures will be implemented within a management area of 60,000 hectares primarily outside the UGB. The measures include:

- A co-ordinated predator control program.
- Voluntary incentive programs to deliver on-ground works on private and public lands such as fox baiting, habitat restoration and enhanced security for the species.
- The enhancement of habitat in open space and drainage reserves in the Botanic Ridge and Devon Meadows precincts to enhance connectivity within the UGB.

## 12.2 Progress so far

The Commonwealth Environment Minister approved the *Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot* (DEPI, 2014b) in August 2014. DELWP is implementing the strategy in line with the *Implementation Plan for the Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot* (DELWP 2016a).

The Commonwealth Environment Minister approved the *Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot* (DEPI, 2014b) in August 2014. DELWP is implementing the strategy in accordance with the *Implementation Plan for the Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot* (DELWP 2016). Reporting on progress will commence in the 2018-19 reporting period following commencement of on-ground monitoring.

## 13 References

- DELWP (2016a) Implementation Plan for the Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne
- DELWP (2016b) Melbourne Strategic Assessment Progress Report: 2014-15, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne
- DELWP (2015a) Guidance note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne
- DELWP (2015b) Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Melbourne Strategic Assessment, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne
- DELWP (2015c) Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs: Melbourne Strategic Assessment, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne
- DELWP (2015d) Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outcomes: Melbourne Strategic Assessment, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2014a) Land Protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2014b) Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2014c) Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Southern Brown Bandicoot Supplement: Habitat Connectivity Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2013a) Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2013b) 'The impact of Melbourne's growth on Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains'
- DEPI (2013c) Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Growling Grass Frog, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2013d) Spatial definition of habitat for Golden Sun Moth across the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DEPI (2013e) Spatial definition of habitat for Spiny Rice-flower and Matted Flax-lily across the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne
- DSE (2013) Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria, Department of Environment and Sustainability, East Melbourne
- DSE (2009) Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities, Strategic Impact Assessment Report. Department of Environment and Sustainability, East Melbourne
- DSE, (2005) Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria, Department of Environment and Sustainability, East Melbourne
- GAA (2013a) Growth Corridor Plans, Growth Areas Authority, Melbourne
- GAA (2013b) Ballan Road Precinct Structure Plan, Growth Areas Authority, Melbourne

GAA (2013c) Riverdale Precinct Structure Plan, Growth Areas Authority, Melbourne

GAA (2012) Diggers Rest Precinct Structure Plan, Growth Areas Authority, Melbourne

KBR/ARUP (2012) RRL Authority, Section 2 Environmental Management Plan, Revision 0

MPA (2014) Clyde Creek Precinct Structure Plan, Metropolitan Planning Authority, Melbourne

RRLA (2012) Section 2 Environmental Management Plan, Revision 0

RRLA (2015) Regional Rail Link Deer Park – West Werribee Junction Combined Annual Environmental Project Report, July 2012 – August 2014

Victorian Government (2009) Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities – Program Report. Department of Planning and Community Development, East Melbourne.

## Appendix A PSPs gazetted under the MSA Program during 2015/16

Table 26: PSPs gazetted under the MSA Program as at 30 June 2016.

PSP Number	PSP name	Gazetted	Planning scheme amendment	Within BCS area
43	Alfred Road	Aug-13	Wyndham C159	Yes
40	Ballan Road	Jul-14	Wyndham 171	Yes
9	Berwick Waterways	Nov-14	Casey C188	Yes
42.1	Black Forest Road North	Feb-16	Wyndham C170	Yes
42.2	Black Forest Road South	Aug-13	Wyndham C169	Yes
10	Botanic Ridge	Feb-13	Casey C133	Yes
3	Cardinia Road Employment Area	Oct-10	Cardinia C130	No
1057.1	Casey Fields South Residential	Nov-14	Casey C186	Yes
1054	Clyde Creek	Nov-14	Casey C186	Yes
13	Clyde North	Nov-11	Casey C153	Part
19	Craigieburn (R2)	Oct-10	Hume C120	No
14	Cranbourne East	May-10	Casey C119	No
16	Cranbourne North (Stage 2)	Aug-11	Casey C125	No
1073	Diggers Rest	Jun-12	Melton C121	Yes
39	East Werribee Employment Precinct	Oct-13	Wyndham C179	Yes
25.2	English Street	Feb-16	Whittlesea C183	Yes
21	Greenvale Central	Dec-13	Hume C154 (pt1)	Yes
22	Greenvale North (R1)	Jan-11	Hume C119	No
23	Greenvale West (R3)	Jan-11	Hume C121	No
1066	Lockerbie	Jun-12	Hume C161 Mitchell C81 Whittlesea C161	Yes
1098	Lockerbie North	Jun-12	Mitchell C82 Whittlesea C162	Yes
41	Manor Lakes	Jun-12	Wyndham C154	Yes
27	Melton North	Jul-10	Melton C83	No
1064	Merrifield West	Jun-12	Hume C162	Yes
4	Officer	Dec-11	Cardinia C149	No
31.2	Paynes Road	Mar-16	Melton C161	No
39.1	Point Cook West	Nov-12	Wyndham C163	Yes
1091	Riverdale	Nov-14	Wyndham C176	Yes
1079	Rockbank North	Jun-12	Melton C120	Yes



1089	Tarneit North	Nov-14	Wyndham C188	Yes
30	Taylors Hill West	Jul-10	Melton C82	No
1053	Thompson Road	Nov-14	Casey C185	Yes
31	Toolern	Oct-10	Melton C84 (pt1)	No
1097	Toolern Park	Oct-14	Melton C122	Yes
1090	Truganina	Nov-14	Wyndham C175	Yes
37	Truganina Employment Area	Dec-09	Wyndham C124	Yes
38	Truganina South	Jul-11	Wyndham C123	No
1092	Westbrook	Jul-14	Wyndham C172	Yes
21.1	Woodlands	Oct-14	Hume C154 (pt2)	Yes

# Appendix B Approved boundary adjustments to conservation areas

Approved boundary adjustments to conservation areas during the 2015-16 reporting period.

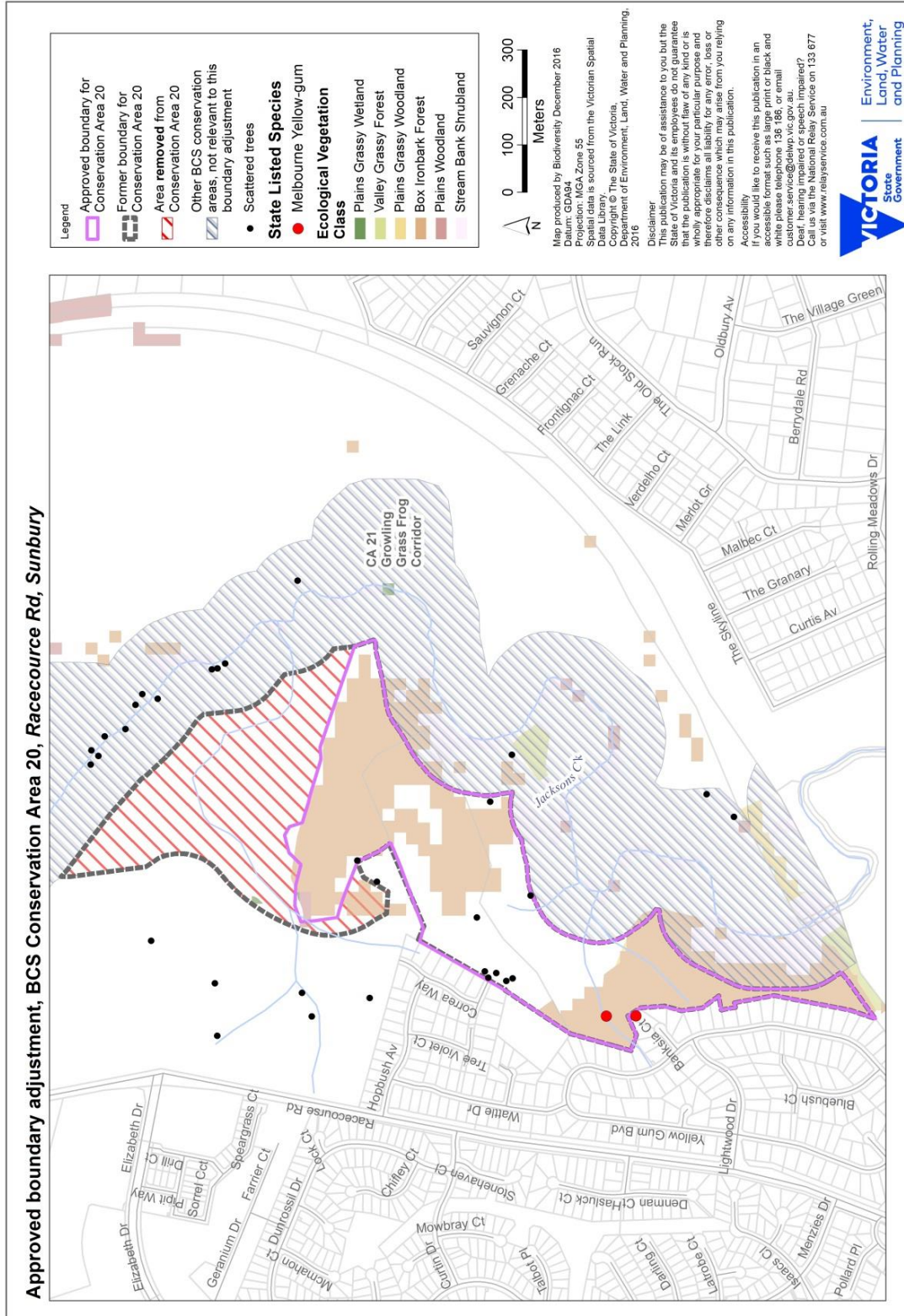
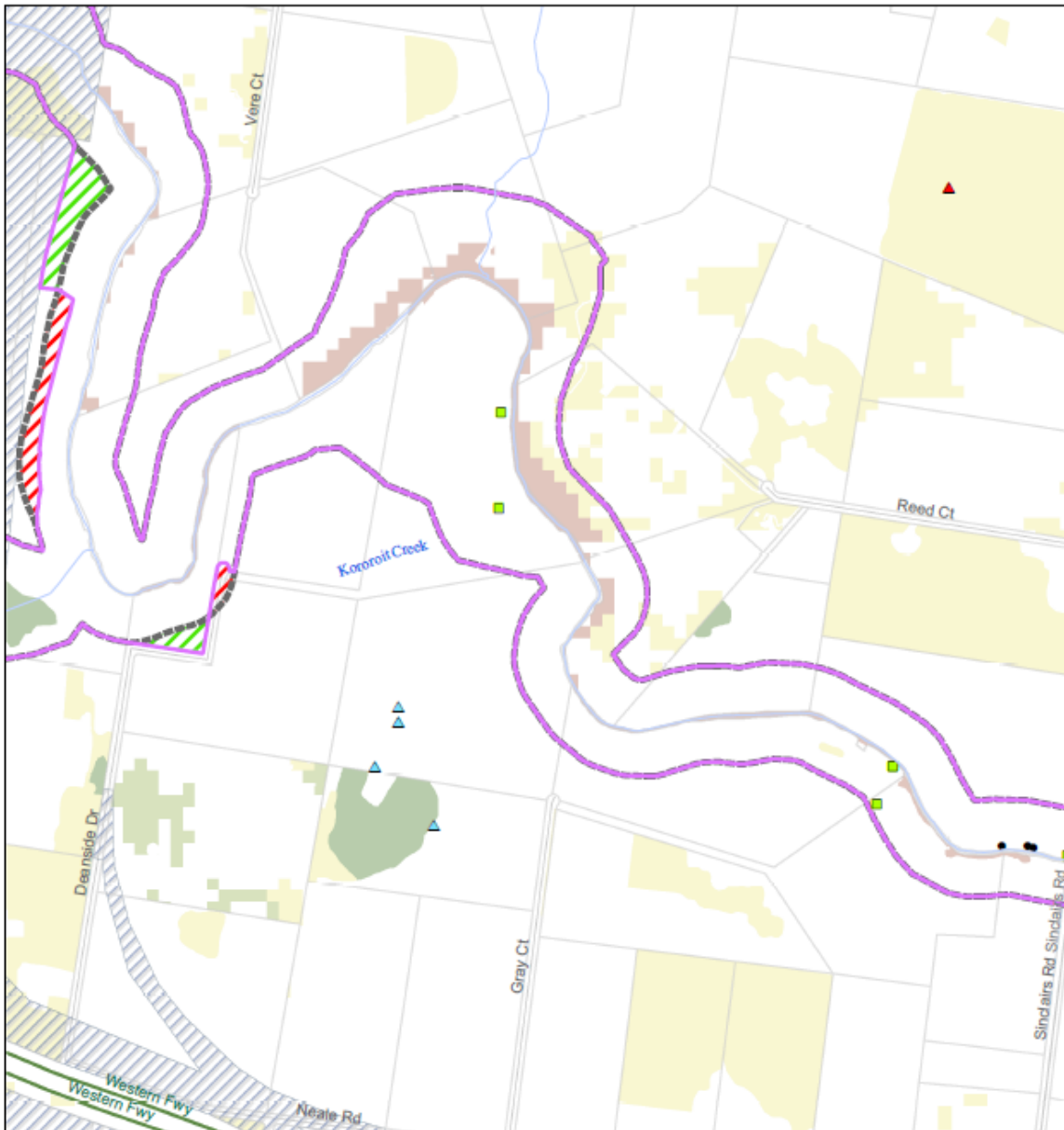


Figure X: Approved boundary adjustment to Conservation Area 20

**Approved boundary adjustment, BCS Conservation Area 15,  
GGF Corridors - Western Growth Corridor (south)**



Map produced by Biodiversity January 2017  
 Datum: GDAS4  
 Projection: MGA Zone 55  
 Spatial data is sourced from the Victorian Spatial Data Library.  
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- Legend**
- Approved boundary for Conservation Area 15
  - Former boundary for Conservation Area 15
  - Area removed from Conservation Area 15
  - Area added to Conservation Area 15
  - Outer Metropolitan Ring Road
  - Scattered trees

- Ecological Vegetation Class**
- Lignum Swamp
  - Plains Grassy Wetland
  - Plains Grassland
  - Aquatic Hermland
  - Creekline Tussock
  - Creekline Grassy Woodland
  - Escarpment Shrubland
- National Listed Species**
- Growth Grass Frog
- State Listed Species**
- Spiny Rice-flower
  - Arching Flax-lily

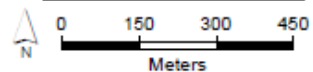


Figure X: Map showing the two approved boundary adjustments to Conservation Area 15: 'Western Growth Corridor (north)'; Growth Grass Frog Corridors – located at 101-105 Deanside Dr, Deanside and 106A Deanside Dr, Deanside.

