

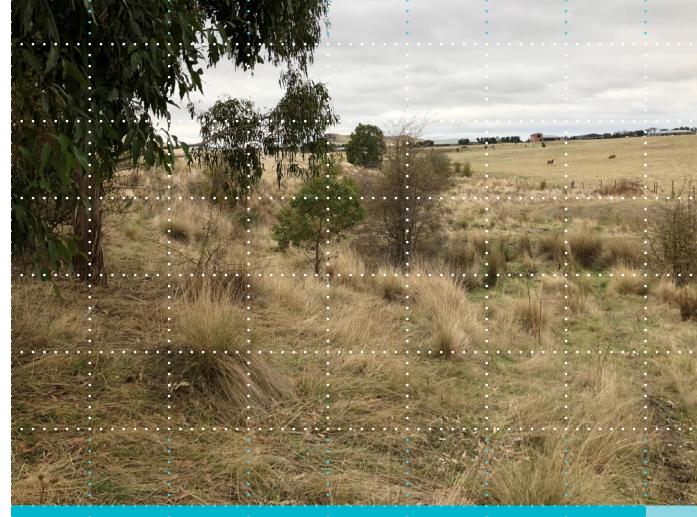
Final Report

Existing Conditions Report 128 – 168 Bennett Road, Gisborne

Prepared for

G2 Urban Planning

November 2021



Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd

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Table 1. Development Plan Overlay (DPO18) requirements.

Requirement	Summary of response
	Native vegetation adjacent to the creek line will be retained and stock excluded. Native vegetation in the study area is representative of four EVCs characteristic of the Victorian Volcanic Plains: Plains Grassland Heavier-soils (EVC 132_61), Plains Sedgy Wetland (EVC 647), Tall Marsh (EVC 821) and Stony Knoll Shrubland (EVC 649). The presence of these EVCs is generally consistent with the modelled pre- 1750s native vegetation mapping (DELWP 2017b).
Identification of any existing native or significant vegetation on the site	The remainder of the study area comprises introduced and planted vegetation, present as stands of non-Victorian eucalypt species, pasture and Victorian Eucalypts. (Section 3.1).
	At the time of the planning permit application (Clause 52.17), targeted surveys are recommended for Matted Flax-lily (May – August), Swamp Everlasting (November – March) and Swamp Fireweed (November – March) adjacent to the creek line/drainage line.
	Despite current land uses, the study area contains patches of native vegetation, scattered trees and some introduced vegetation that is of value to fauna. Patches of Plains Grassland and remnant riparian vegetation along the creek line may provide potential habitat for significant species.
Identification of any significant fauna and associated habitat	At the time of the planning permit application (Clause 52.17), targeted surveys are recommended for Golden Sun Moth across the whole study area during the summer flying season (late November – early January) (DEWHa 2009).
	Targeted surveys are recommended for Growling Grass Frog along the creek line during the species' breeding season (November – March) (DEWHA 2009).
	The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) establishes a Commonwealth process for the assessment of proposed actions likely to have a significant impact on any matters of National Environment Significance (NES).
	The study area is located within the Macedon Ranges municipality and is zoned Rural Living Zone 2 (RLZ2). Development Plan Overlay (DPO18) applies to the land proposed for subdivision.
Identification of the relevant legislative requirements for flora and fauna	A Planning Permit from Macedon Ranges Council will be required to remove, destroy or lop any native vegetation on site. A Planning Permit will be assessed in accordance with the 'The Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation' (Guidelines) and Clause 52.17 of the Whittlesea Planning Scheme.
	Any persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate native fauna during construction must hold a current Management Authorisation under the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> , issued by DELWP.
	Weeds listed as noxious under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> (CaLP Act) (Artichoke Thistle, Fennel, Paterson's Curse, African Box-thorn, Blackberry, Chilean Needle-grass and Serrated Tussock) were recorded during the assessment. Weeds should be managed in accordance with the Act.
	See Section 4 for further detail on how legislative requirements will be met.
Identification of existing vegetation to be retained as per DPO18 requirements	Native vegetation up to 30 metres either side of the creek line (or drainage line) will be retained and stock excluded. Dwellings will be set back from drainage line by at least 20 metres. Trees within the road reserve, including revegetation, will be retained where possible (Appendix 1)



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd conducted and produced an Existing Conditions Report in February 2020, at the Bennett Road Precinct, to satisfy the requirements for a Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 18 (DPO18) according to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

Following the assessment detailed in the 2020 report, Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd undertook targeted surveys for significant flora and fauna species that had potential to occur in the study area based on the availability of suitable habitat (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2021). The surveys indicated that there were no Matted Flax-lily, Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Fireweed, Growling Grass Frog or Golden Sun Moth in the Development Plan area.

This November 2021 version of the Existing Conditions Report, updates the discussion about significant flora, fauna and ecological communities, references the results of the targeted surveys, which are documented in (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2021), and references a 2021 Development Plan.

1.2 Objectives

The objective of this assessment is to support the submission of a Development Plan, according to DPO18, which outlines the overall requirements for the proposed subdivision of 50 Lots (two hectares per Lot) to proceed.

The existing conditions assessment involved identifying the extent and type of remnant native vegetation present within the study area in accordance with Victoria's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (DELWP 2017). It also determined the likely presence of significant flora and fauna species and/or ecological communities protected under Commonwealth and State legislation and policy.

This report presents the results of the existing conditions report and discusses the potential ecological and legislative implications associated with the proposed subdivision. The report also provides recommendations to address or reduce impacts and, where necessary, highlights components that require further investigation.

1.3 Study Area

The study area is at the Bennett Road Precinct, located approximately six kilometres south of Gisborne and approximately 53 kilometres north-west of Melbourne's CBD (Figure 1). The site covers approximately 130 hectares and is bound by McGregor Road to the north, private property to the south, Coney Court to the east and the Calder Freeway to the west.

The study area is mostly undulating cleared agricultural land with introduced grasses, planted windrows of trees and some patches of native vegetation to the south of the study area trees. Patches of native vegetation, characteristic of Plains Sedgy Wetland and Tall Marsh Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are present along the creek line (Figures 2b, 2c). Patches of native vegetation (characteristic of Stony Knoll shrubland EVC) occurs in the south-east of the study area, but this has been grazed by livestock and the patches are highly degraded (Figure 2b). One continuous patch of native vegetation (characteristic of Plains Grassland EVC), is present adjacent to a driveway planted with windrow trees, in the south of the study area (Figure 2a).



According to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM) Tool (DELWP 2018a), the study area occurs within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. It is located within the jurisdiction of the Port Philip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and the Macedon Ranges Shire municipality.

1.4 The Development Plan and Subdivision Concept Plan

The Development Plan prepared by Terraco Pty Ltd (2021) outlines the overall site characteristics and proposed road network to facilitate the consideration of a future subdivision application for 2-hectare residential allotments (Appendix 1.1; Appendix 1.2).

The Development Plan addresses the DPO18 requirement (Section 3.0) to identify measures for the preservation of remnant vegetation along drainage lines from the creek line to protect and manage waterway corridors. The Subdivision Concept Plan (2021) details the proposed subdivision including building envelopes within the study area.

While currently not incorporated into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, the Biodiversity Strategy (2018) recommends the following urban biodiversity actions and local planning policies:

- Seek opportunities to transfer waterways and buffer areas to public ownership;
- Promote the use of native street trees in new subdivisions, and;
- Emphasise the importance of remnant native vegetation and their role in maintaining connected habitat for native flora and fauna.



2 METHODS

2.1 Desktop Assessment

Relevant literature, online-resources and numerous databases were reviewed to provide an assessment of flora and fauna values associated with the study area. The following information sources were reviewed:

- The Commonwealth Department of **the Environment and Energy (DoEE**E) Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) for matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (DoEE 2019) (Not updated as apart from those species already searched for during targeted surveys, no additional matters are considered relevant);
- The Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM) Tool (DELWP 2019b) for modelled biodiversity data;
- DELWPs VicPlan Online to ascertain current zoning and environmental overlays (DELWP 2019d);
- DELWP's NatureKit mapping tool modelled mapping of 2005 extant and pre-1750's native vegetation and Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) (DELWP 2019c);
- Victorian Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation (the Guidelines) (DELWP 2017b),
- The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (DELWP 2018a) for previously documented flora and fauna records within the project locality, and;
- Aerial photography of the study area.

2.2 Field Assessments

3.2.1 Biodiversity Assessment

A field assessment was undertaken on 17 and 21 May 2018 to obtain information on flora and fauna values within the study area. The study area was walked, with all observed vascular flora and fauna species recorded, any significant records mapped and the overall condition of vegetation and habitats noted. EVCs were determined with reference to DELWP pre-1750 and extant EVC mapping and their published descriptions (DELWP 2019c).

3.3 The Guidelines

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Clause 52.17 of the Planning Schemes requires a planning permit from the relevant local Council to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. The assessment process for the clearing of vegetation follows the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Guidelines) (DELWP 2017b). The *Assessor's handbook – applications to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation* (Assessor's handbook) (DELWP 2017c) provides clarification regarding the application of the Guidelines.



3.3.1 Assessment Pathway

Guidelines manage the impacts on biodiversity from native vegetation removal (DELWP 2017b). The assessment pathway for an application to remove native vegetation reflects its potential impact on biodiversity and is determined from the location and extent of the native vegetation to be removed. The location risk categories (1, 2 or 3) has been determined for all areas in Victoria and is available on DELWP's NVIM Tool (DELWP 2019b). Determination of assessment pathway is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Assessment pathways for applications to remove native vegetation (DELWP 2017a)

	Extent	Location					
	Extent	1	2	3			
	< 0.5 hectares, and not including any large trees	Basic	Intermediate	Detailed			
Native Vegetation	Less than 0.5 hectares, and including one or more large trees	Intermediate	Intermediate	Detailed			
	0.5 hectares or more	Detailed	Detailed	Detailed			

Notes: For the purpose of determining the assessment pathway of an application to remove native vegetation the extent includes any other native vegetation that was permitted to be removed on the same contiguous parcel of land with the same ownership as the native vegetation to be removed, where the removal occurred in the five year period before an application to remove native vegetation is lodged.

2.2.1 Vegetation Assessment

Native vegetation (as defined in Table 2) is assessed using two key parameters: extent (in hectares) and condition. Extent is determined through a field assessment. The condition score for Detailed Assessment pathways must be assessed through a habitat hectare1 assessment conducted by a qualified ecologist. The condition score for Basic Assessment pathways may be based on either modelled data available on the NVIM Tool (DELWP 2019b), or through a habitat hectare assessment.

Table 2. Determination of remnant native vegetation (DELWP 2017b)

Category	Definition	Extent	Condition
Remnant patch of native vegetation	An area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native. OR An area with three or more native canopy trees where the drip line of each tree touches the drip line of at least one other tree, forming a continuous canopy.	Measured in hectares. Based on hectare area of the remnant patch.	Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual (DSE 2004).

¹ A 'habitat hectare' is a unit of measurement which combines the condition and extent of native vegetation.



Category	Definition	Extent	Condition
Scattered tree	A native canopy tree that does not form part of a remnant patch.	Measured in hectares. A small tree is assigned an extent of 0.031 hectares (10m radius). A large tree is assigned an extent of 0.071 hectares (15m radius).	Scattered trees are assigned a default condition score of 0.2.

Notes: Native vegetation is defined in the Victoria Planning Provisions as 'plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses'.

2.2.2 Offsets

Offsets are required to compensate for the permitted removal of native vegetation. The offset requirements for Basic and Intermediate Assessment pathway applications are calculated using the NVIM Tool and the resulting Native Vegetation Removal Report will be provided as a separate report/s to accompany the planning permit application.

2.3 Assessment Qualifications and Limitations

The site assessment was undertaken during a sub-optimal season for the identification of flora and fauna species (autumn). This meant that the assessment undertaken only captured species present at the time of surveys and is not a complete representation of species diversity or extent.

Targeted flora or fauna surveys were not undertaken, as the purpose of this existing conditions assessment was to ascertain whether significant species are likely to occur based on native vegetation and habitat values at the site. If significant flora and fauna are considered by an ecologist to have a moderate – high likelihood of occurring at the site, then targeted surveys are recommended.

This assessment is considered sufficient for the purpose of the Development Plan approval, which is to provide an overview of the existing flora and fauna present in the study area and satisfy the DPO18 requirements under the Macedon Ranges planning scheme. It is appropriate that a detailed assessment, including habitat hectares and targeted surveys, are undertaken at the time of subdivision as part of a planning permit application.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Vegetation Condition

The majority of the study area comprises introduced and planted vegetation in the form of crops, pasture, windrows and ornamental plantings. However, there are some small areas of native vegetation scattered within the study area.

3.1.1 Remnant Patches

Remnant native vegetation in the study area is representative of four Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) of the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion (Figure 2): Plains Grassland Heavier-soils (EVC 132_61), Plains Sedgy Wetland (EVC 647), Tall Marsh (EVC 821) and Stony Knoll Shrubland (EVC 649). The presence of these EVCs is generally consistent with the modelled pre-1750s native vegetation mapping (DELWP 2017b). The remainder of the study area comprises introduced and planted vegetation in the form of crops, pasture, windrows and ornamental plantings. Specific details relating to observed EVCs are provided below.

3.1.1.1 Plains Grassland

Heavier-soils Plains Grassland, associated with at least 500 mm of annual rainfall, is located beneath windrows and ornamental planting to the north of the study area (Figure 2). It has a bioregional conservation status of Endangered. The habitat zone has 40% cover of indigenous perennial grasses, in particular Spear Grass *Austrostipa* spp and Common Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma caespitosum* (Plate 1). There is low diversity within patches, with an absence of native herb diversity (Plate 2).



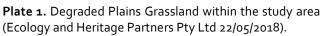




Plate 2. Plains Grassland within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 22/05/2018).

Stony Knoll Shrubland

Stony Knoll Shrubland would have historically been spread widely across ridges within the study area. It has a Vulnerable bioregional conservation status. Historic clearing for pasture has limited its distribution to small patches which are of poor condition, where the cover of native grasses and sedges only reaches 25-30%.



The extant patches are characterised by the presence of Tall Rush *Juncus procerus*, and Slender Wallaby-grass *Rytidosperma racemosum* var. *racemosum* (Plate 3). Patch herb diversity is low/non-existent, most likely as a consequence of grazing by domestic livestock. The bryophyte and lichen life form component cover is high (20%) and diverse with >5 species present (Plate 4).



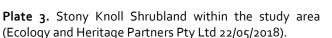




Plate 4. Stony Knoll Shrubland within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 17/05/2018).

Plains Sedgy Wetland

The creek running through the south/ south-east of the study area contains native vegetation with the highest diversity and condition. Plains Sedgy Wetland is patchy along the creek alignment, ranging from moderate to low condition (Plate 5). The southern half of the creek is dominated by Common Tussock Grass *Poa labillardierei* along the slopes of the creek line (Plate 6), with a diversity of sedges and herbs being present in wetter areas. Common species in these areas include: Bidgee-widgee *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, Tall Rush *Juncus procerus*, Swamp Crane's-bill *Geranium spp.*, and Kidney-weed *Dichondra repens* (Plate 7).

Weed species, including Spiny Rush *Juncus acutus,* Toowoomba Canary-grass *Phalaris aquatica,* Large Quaking-grass *Briza maxima,* Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerate,* Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma* and Soursob *Oxalis pes-caprae* were commonly found throughout many of the remnant patches.





Plate 5. Patchy Plains Sedgy Wetland within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 17/05/2018).



Plate 6. Plains Sedgy Wetland dominated by Tussock Grass within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 21/05/2018).



Plate 7. High diversity Plains Sedgy Wetland within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 17/05/2018).

Tall Marsh

Tall Marsh is restricted to the artificial dam located to the south of the study area (Figure 2). It has a bioregional conservation status of Least Concern. The inflow drain is densely populated with sedges (Plate 8), with emergent vegetation occurring in the centre and perimeter of the dam (Plate 9). Condition of this vegetation is high owing to the diversity of life forms, and lack of weeds. Emergent vegetation includes Common Spike-sedge *Eleocharis acuta*, Common Reed *Phragmites australis* and Narrow-leaf Cumbungi *Typha domingensis*.

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Plate 8. Tall Marsh native vegetation surrounding and emerging from dam (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 17/05/2018).



Plate 9. Tall Marsh lining and emerging from dam (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 17/05/2018).

3.1.2 Introduced and Planted Vegetation

Introduced Vegetation

Areas not supporting remnant native vegetation have a high cover (>80%) of exotic grass species, many of which have been direct-seeded for use as pasture (Plate 10). Scattered planted native grasses are generally present in these areas, however they do not have the required 25% cover to be considered a remnant patch under the Guidelines. Removal of embedded rock has also been undertaken to facilitate the direct seeding of pasture grasses in some locations.

Disturbed areas were dominated by environmental weeds such as Toowoomba Canary-grass, Rye-grass *Lolium* spp., Meadow Fox-tail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Galenia *Galenia pubescens var. pubescens*, Ribwort *Plantago lanceolata*, Couch *Cynodon dactylon var. dactylon* and Wild Oat *Avena fatua*.

Noxious weeds are present throughout the study area, with scattered occurrences of Artichoke Thistle *Cynara cardunculus*, Spiny Rush *Juncus acutus subsp. acutus*, and Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, along with the Weeds of National Significance (WONS), African Boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum* and Serrated Tussock.

Planted Vegetation

Planted vegetation in the study area consists of exotic and non-indigenous tree species, most commonly Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* and Pine *Pinus* spp. (Plate 10), which are planted in windrows around dwellings, sheds and laneways. A variety of ornamental shrubs have also been planted around sheds and dwellings.





Plate 10. Planted vegetation within the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 21/05/2018).

3.2 Fauna Habitat

Planted native vegetation is likely to provide habitat for mobile fauna species, in the form of vantage points and nesting/ roosting areas for birds and small mammals (bats, gliders). Planted eucalypts may also provide stepping-stones for mobile species, including reptiles, small mammals and birds moving through the study area, enhancing landscape connectivity for native fauna.

The patches of Plains Grassland are characterised by native Wallaby Grass *Rytidosperma* spp. and Spear Grass *Austrostipa* spp., which are known to provide habitat for the nationally significant Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana*. Golden Sun Moth, if present within the study area, are most likely to occur in association with native vegetation, identified to the south/ south-east of the study area, near the creek line (Figure 2b and c).

The entire reach of creek line that intersects the study area, in association with identified native vegetation (Figure 2b and c), provides potential suitable habitat for the nationally significant Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*.

The Stony Knolls, characteristic of Stony Knoll Shrubland EVC (Plates 3, 4), are highly degraded and are unlikely to provide habitat for significant species. Considering that Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* were not recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area, targeted surveys are not considered necessary.

3.3 The Guidelines

A planning permit will be required if any clearing of native vegetation is undertaken.

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Clause 52.17 of the Planning Schemes requires a planning permit from the relevant local Council to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. The assessment process for the clearing of vegetation follows the Guidelines (DELWP 2017b).

Based on the NVIM Tool (2019b), the study area is assessable under the Guidelines (DELWP 2017b) and is within Locations 1 and 2. As the Site Concept Plan for the proposed subdivision is not available at this stage, the assessment pathway (Basic/Intermediate/Detailed), based on the location and extent of native vegetation



to be cleared cannot be determined. This assessment pathway will determine the permit application requirements to remove native vegetation under the Guidelines (DELWP 2017b).

3.4 Significance Assessment

At the Development Plan stage, targeted surveys for significant species (EPBC Act 1999) are not required. The national and state legislative requirements must be addressed as part of the planning permit application, prior to any development proceeding (Section 4).

Targeted surveys are required to determine if any significant flora or fauna listed under the EPBC Act 1999 occur in the study area. If any matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) are likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed subdivision, then an EPBC Act referral is required (Section 4.1 and Section 5).

3.4.1 Flora

The VBA contains records of several National and State significant flora species within 10 kilometres of the study area (DELWP 2018a), including EPBC Act listed Matted Flax-lily *Dianella amonea*, Swamp Everlasting *Xerochrysum palustre* and Swamp Fireweed *Senecio psilocarpus* (Appendix 2.1). Recent records of Matted Flax-lily *Dianella amoena* (2016 record) were found within a five kilometre search radius, including along the Gisborne railway line and, most recently, within a few kilometres east of the study area in the Dalrymple Road Reserve (Figure 3). Swamp Everlasting *Xerochrysum palustre* and Swamp Fireweed *Senecio psilocarpus* were also found within five kilometres of the study area (2016 records), however all were found within the Gisborne Flora Reserve (Figure 3).

Due to the highly modified nature of the study area and current grazing history, the presence of Matted Flaxlily, Swamp Everlasting and Swamp Fireweed is considered unlikely across the entire study area. However, given the proximity of previous records within 5 kilometres of the study area, targeted surveys are recommended for Matted Flax-lily, Swamp Everlasting and Swamp Fireweed adjacent to the creek line in association with identified native vegetation patches (Figure 2b and 2c).

3.4.2 Fauna

The VBA contains records of a range of National, State and regionally significant fauna species within 10 kilometres of the study area (DELWP 2018a), including EPBC Act listed Growling Grass Frog, Golden Sun Moth and Australasian Bittern *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Appendix 3.1). Of these species, only Growling Grass Frog (2000 record) and Golden Sun Moth (2006 record) are considered moderately likely to use the study area, based on land use history and available habitat.

Growling Grass Frog has a moderate likelihood of occurring in the south/ south-east of the study area, based on suitable available habitat, given their ability to persist in relatively disturbed aquatic environments including farm dams (Pyke 2002).

Golden Sun Moth has a moderate likelihood of occurring to the south/ south-east of the study area where small patches of native vegetation, including surrounding stony knolls, were identified (Figure 2a and 2b). Remnant native vegetation may provide limited food sources for Golden Sun Moth within the study area (Wallaby Grass and Spear Grass), however the diversity of grasses can be better quantified during the spring-summer seasons when grasses are in seed.

Other nationally significant fauna are considered unlikely to occur within the study area due to the lack of suitable habitat and the disturbed nature of the site. Australasian Bittern (2016 record) was recently recorded



within five kilometres of the study area. However, this species is very cryptic in nature and due to the limited vegetation cover (typically dense beds of reeds and rushes) available at the site, the species is considered unlikely to occur. Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* (2001 record) and Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata* (2005 record) are significant bird species that were recorded within a 10-kilometre radius but are considered unlikely to occur in the study area due to the lack of scattered large native trees and understorey habitat. Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* is an EPBC Act listed species known to occur on areas of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, but were not previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area and so are considered unlikely to occur on-site.

It is possible that other significant migratory bird species, may visit the study area occasionally or opportunistically whilst en-route to more suitable sites, however it is unlikely that they would reside within the study area.

3.4.3 Communities

Five nationally listed threatened ecological communities may occur within 10 kilometres of the study area based on the PMST (DoEE 2015) Report created, 16/05/18:

- Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (Critically Endangered);
- Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (Endangered);
- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains (Critically Endangered);
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains (Critically Endangered); and,
- White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (Critically Endangered).

However, vegetation surveyed within the study area did not meet the condition thresholds that define any national or State-significant communities.



4 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) establishes a Commonwealth process for the assessment of proposed actions likely to have a significant impact on any matters of National Environment Significance (NES).

Targeted surveys conducted for significant flora and fauna species in late 2020 (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2021) did not detect Matted Flax-lily, Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Fireweed, Golden Sun Moth or Growling Grass Frog within the study area, As a result, an EPBC Referral is not required.

4.2 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Victoria)

The FFG Act is the primary legislation dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of native flora and fauna in Victoria. Proponents are required to apply for an FFG Act Permit to 'take' listed and/or protected flora species, listed vegetation communities and listed fish species in areas of public land (i.e. within road reserves, drainage lines and public reserves). An FFG Act permit is generally not required for removal of species or communities on private land, or for the removal of habitat for a listed terrestrial fauna species.

The information presented in this report reflects the data available prior to The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019 (the Amendment Act), which came into effect on June 1st 2020, and included an updated and consolidated threatened species. As a result, the significant species data presented in Appendix 2.1 and Appendix 2.3 has been cross-referenced with the latest FFG Act threatened species list (August 2021) in order to ensure that they adequately capture any changes to recently listed species. Based upon the cross-referencing, apart from those species already searched for during targeted surveys, there are no additional species considered relevant.

One species present in the study area is protected under the FFG Act due its membership of a protected group, the Wattles (*Acacia*): Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii*.

There is suitable habitat within the study area for several species listed or protected under the FFG Act. However, as the study area is privately owned, a permit under the FFG Act is not required.

4.3 *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Victoria)

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* outlines the legislative framework for planning in Victoria and for the development and administration of planning schemes. All planning schemes contain native vegetation provisions at Clause 52.17 which require a planning permit from the relevant local Council to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation on a site of more than 0.4 hectares, unless an exemption under clause 52.17-7 of the Victorian Planning Schemes applies or a subdivision is proposed with lots less than 0.4 hectares². Local planning schemes may contain other provisions in relation to the removal of native vegetation (Section 4.3.1).

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² In accordance with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal's (VCAT) decision Villawood v Greater Bendigo CC (2005) VCAT 2703 (20 December 2005) all native vegetation is considered lost where proposed lots are less than 0.4 hectares in area and must be offset at the time of subdivision.



4.3.1 Local Planning Schemes

The study area is located within the Macedon Ranges Shire Council municipality and is zoned Rural Living Zone – Schedule 2 (RLZ2). The following overlays apply:

- Development Plan Overlay Schedule 18 (DPO18) of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme
 - The Development Plan requires a buffer up to 30 metres either side of the creek/drainage line, that is maintained for the purpose of protecting native vegetation and excluding stock.

4.3.2 Relevant Exemptions

Native planted vegetation in the study area is exempt from planning permit requirements under Clause 52.17-7 (Table of Exemptions) as it is planted on private land for amenity purposes (DELWP 2018f). In the study area, this includes the planted River Red Gums, Yellow Box and Red Box.

4.3.3 The Guidelines

The State Planning Policy Framework and the decision guidelines at Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) and Clause 12.01 require Planning and Responsible Authorities to have regard for '*The Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*' (Guidelines) (DELWP 2017h).

4.3.4 Implications

A Planning Permit from Macedon Ranges Shire is required to remove, destroy or lop any native vegetation.

4.4 *Wildlife Act 1975* and Wildlife Regulations 2013 (Victoria)

The *Wildlife Act 1975* (and associated Wildlife Regulations 2013) is the primary legislation in Victoria providing for protection and management of wildlife. Authorisation for habitat removal may be obtained under the *Wildlife Act 1975* through a licence granted under the *Forests Act 1958*, or under any other Act such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Any persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate native fauna during construction must hold a current Management Authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, issued by DELWP.

4.5 Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Victoria)

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) contains provisions relating to catchment planning, land management, noxious weeds and pest animals. Landowners are responsible for the control of any infestation of noxious weeds and pest fauna species to minimise their spread and impact on ecological values.

Weeds listed as noxious under the CaLP Act (Artichoke Thistle, Fennel, Paterson's Curse, African Box-thorn, Blackberry, Chilean Needle-grass and Serrated Tussock) were recorded during the assessment. Weeds should be managed in accordance with the Act.



4.6 Best Practice Mitigation Measures

This assessment identifies the creek line to provide the greatest ecological value (Figure 2). In particular, the native vegetation adjacent to the creek line is in moderate-high condition and development in this area should be avoided and minimised, where possible. The linear strip of Plains Grassland and small patches of Stony Knoll Shrubland identified (Figure 2) are of lesser quality and while efforts should be made to retain this native vegetation, it is unlikely to provide important habitat for significant species.

The creek line which intersects the south/ south-east section of the study area contains patches of native vegetation. While the riparian vegetation provides potential habitat for Growling Grass Frog, targeted surveys conducted in accordance with the survey guidelines (DEWHA 2009) in late 2020 did not detect the species within the creek line habitat (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2021). Similarly, while the entire extent of the study area provides potential habitat for Golden Sun Moth, targeted surveys did not detect the species in the study area (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2021).

The mapped Stony Knoll Shrubland located to the south-east of the study area, while very degraded, is identified as native vegetation. While generally this is typical habitat for Striped Legless Lizard, given the lack of records within a 10 kilometre radius of the study area and the degraded nature of the habitat, the species is considered unlikely to occur and targeted surveys were not deemed necessary.

Recommended measures to mitigate impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic values present within the study area may include:

- Minimise impacts to native vegetation and habitats through construction and micro-siting techniques, including fencing retained areas of native vegetation. If indeed necessary, trees should be lopped or trimmed rather than removed. Similarly, soil disturbance and sedimentation within wetlands should be avoided or kept to a minimum, to avoid, or minimise impacts to fauna habitats;
- All contractors should be aware of ecologically sensitive areas to minimise the likelihood of inadvertent disturbance to areas marked for retention. Habitat Zones (areas of sensitivity) should be included as a mapping overlay on any construction plans;
- Tree Retention Zones (TRZs) should be implemented to prevent indirect losses of native vegetation during construction activities (DSE 2011). A TRZ applies to a tree and is a specific area above and below the ground, with a radius 12 x the DBH. At a minimum standard a TRZ should consider the following:
 - A TRZ of trees should be a radius no less than two metres or greater than 15 metres;
 - Construction, related activities and encroachment (i.e. earthworks such as trenching that disturb the root zone) should be excluded from the TRZ;
 - Where encroachment exceeds 10% of the total area of the TRZ, the tree should be considered as lost and offset accordingly;
 - Directional drilling may be used for works within the TRZ without being considered encroachment. The directional bore should be at least 600 millimetres deep;
 - The above guidelines may be varied if a qualified arborist confirms the works will not significantly damage the tree (including stags / dead trees). In this case the tree would be retained and no offset would be required; and,
 - Where the minimum standard for a TRZ has not been met an offset may be required.



- Where possible, construction stockpiles, machinery, roads, and other infrastructure should be placed away from areas supporting native vegetation, LOTs and/or wetlands, and;
- Ensure that best practice sedimentation and pollution control measures are undertaken at all times, in accordance with Environment Protection Authority guidelines (EPA 1991; EPA 1996; Victorian Stormwater Committee 1999) to prevent offsite impacts to waterways and wetland.



5 FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

The DPO18 requirements to support the Development Plan, as well as further requirements associated with development of the study area, are provided in Table 3.

This assessment responds to the DPO18 requirements in support of a Development Plan and provides an overview of ecological values present or likely to occur in the study area.

Relevant Legislation	Implications	Further Action
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	Targeted surveys conducted for significant flora and fauna species in late 2020 (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2021) did not detect Matted Flax-lily, Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Fireweed, Golden Sun Moth or Growling Grass Frog within the study area, As a result, an EPBC Referral is not required.	No further action required.
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988	There is suitable habitat within the study area for several species listed or protected under the FFG Act. However, as the study area is privately owned, a permit under the FFG Act is not required.	No further action required.
Planning and Environment Act 1987	A Planning Permit from Macedon Ranges Shire is required to remove, destroy or lop any native vegetation.	 Native vegetation adjacent to the creek line will be retained and stock excluded. At the time of subdivision, a planning permit is required for the removal of any native vegetation, which includes: Demonstrated avoidance and mitigation of native vegetation (DELWP 2017)
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	Several weed species listed under the CaLP Act were recorded within the study area. To meet requirements under the CaLP Act, listed noxious weeds should be appropriately controlled throughout the study area.	Required state Offsets. Manage weeds in accordance with the CaLP Act.
Wildlife Act 1975	Any persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate native fauna during construction must hold a current Management Authorisation or Research Permit under the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i> , issued by DELWP.	No further action required.

Table 3. Further requirements associated with development of the study area



REFERENCES

- DELWP 2017a. *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* Protected Flora List June 2017. Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Melbourne, Victoria.
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- Gullan, P. 2017. Illustrated Flora Information System of Victoria (IFISV). Viridans Pty Ltd, Victoria.
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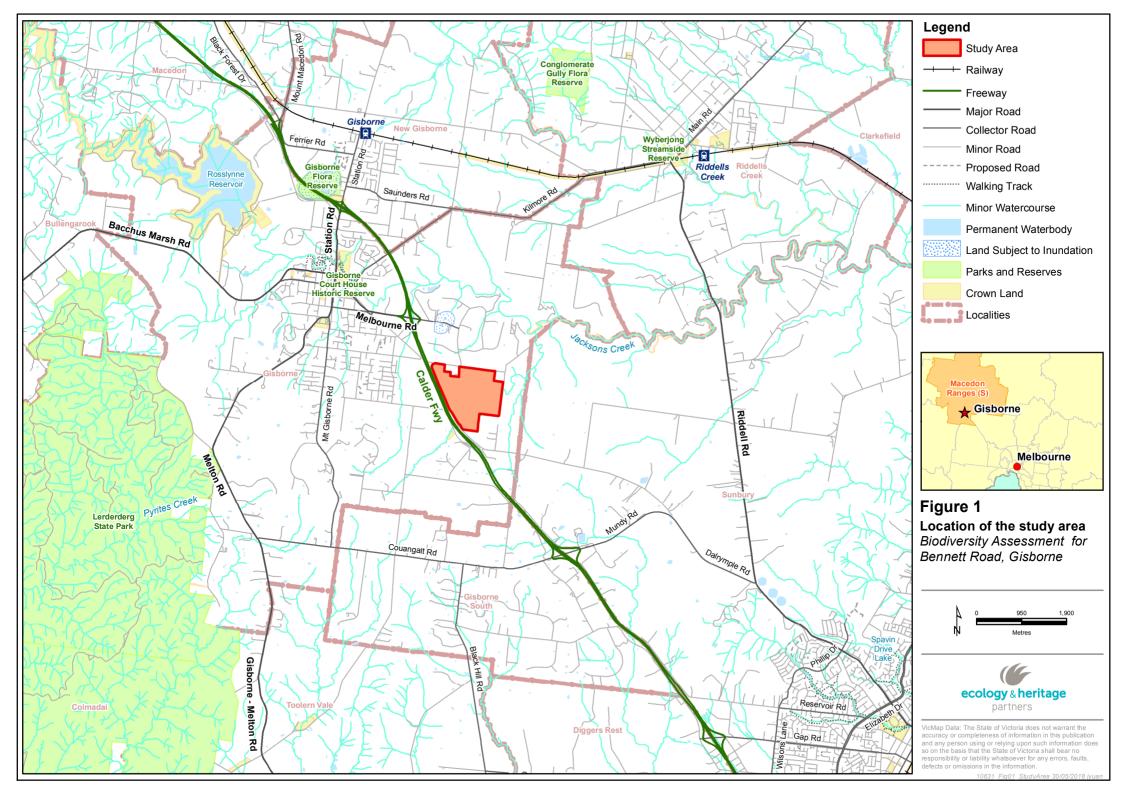


Terraco 2020. Bennett Road Precinct Development Plan and Subdivision Concept Plan. Version 19.



FIGURES

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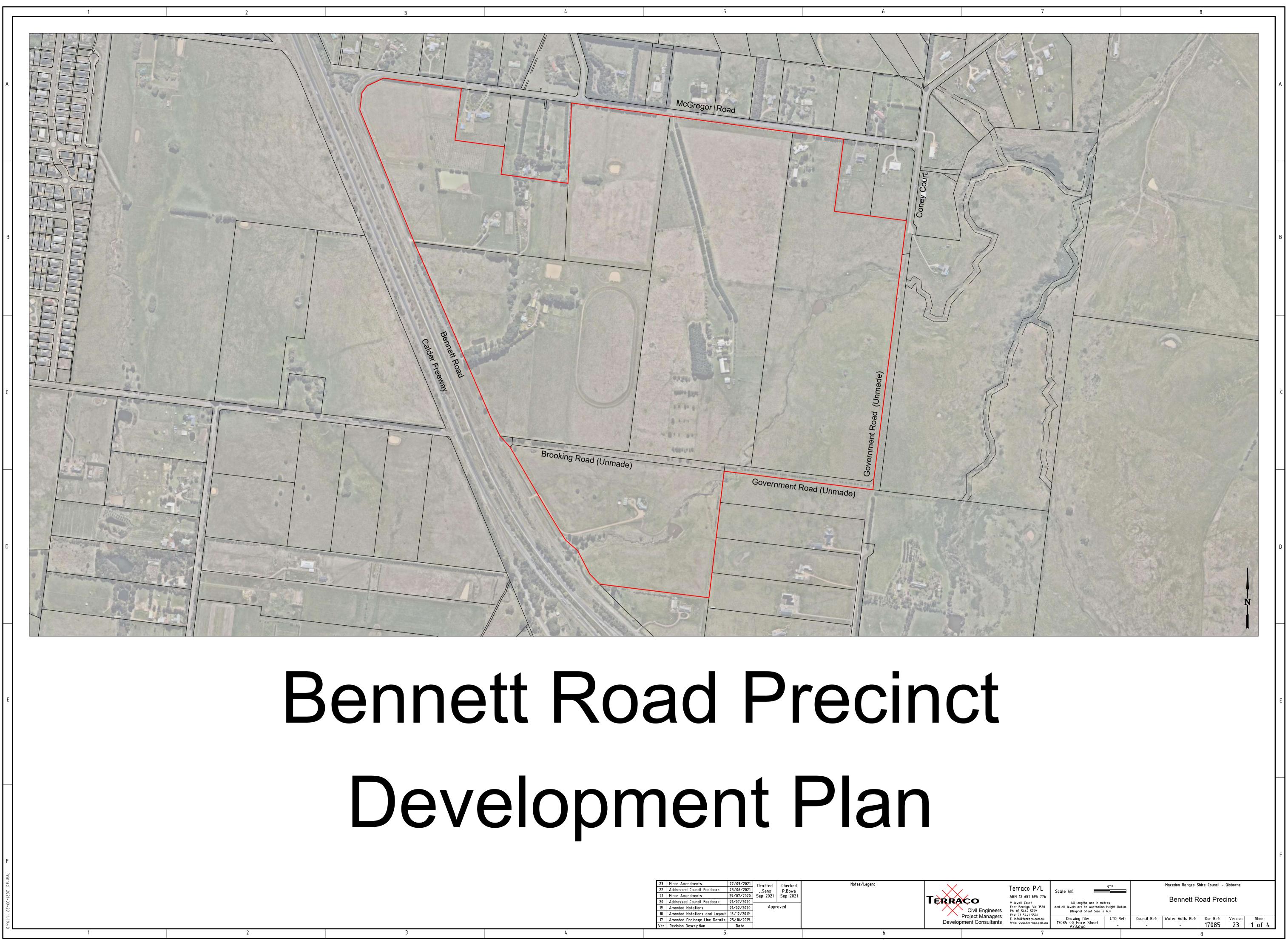
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APPENDICES



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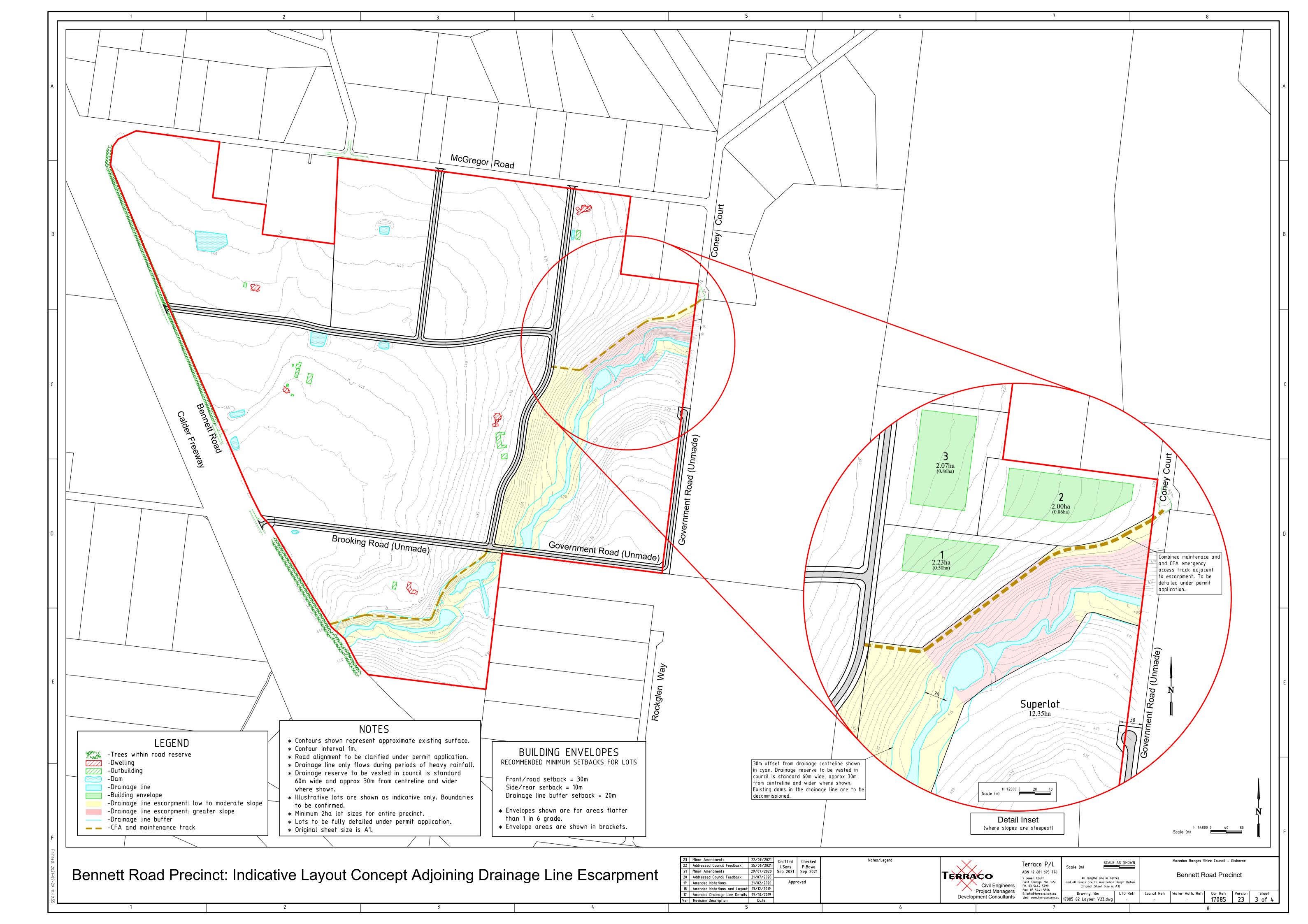
Appendix 1.1 – Development Plan

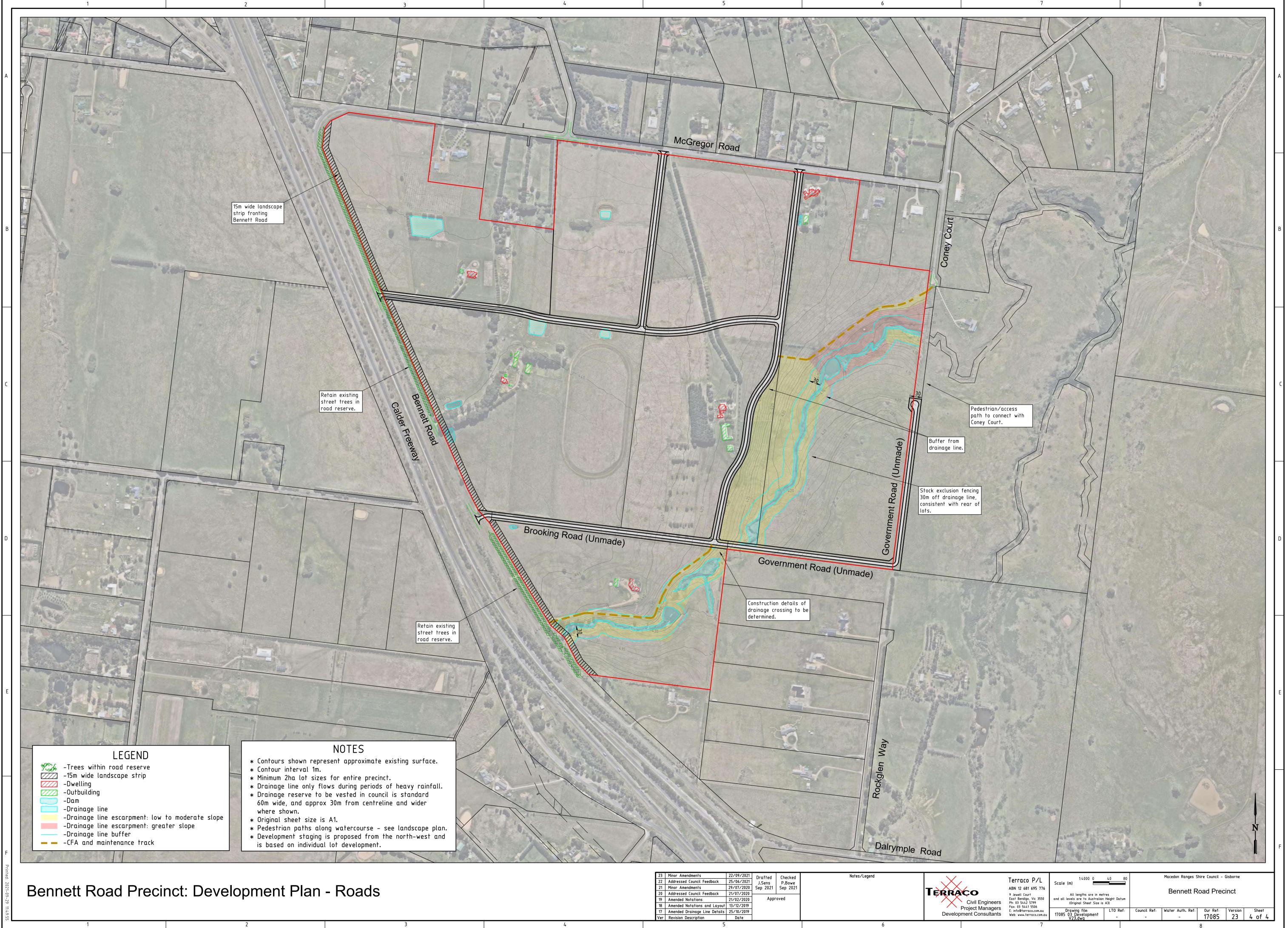


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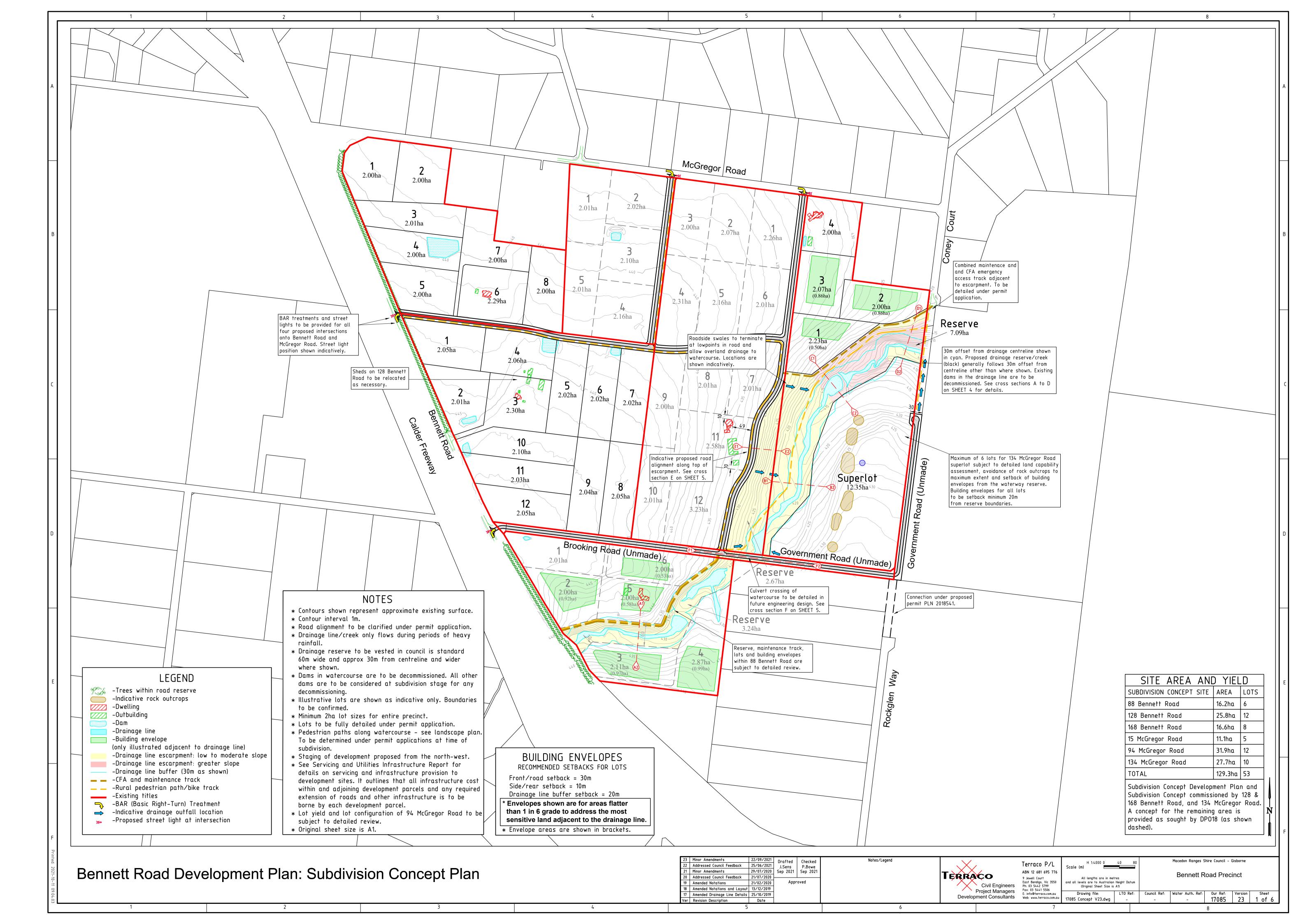


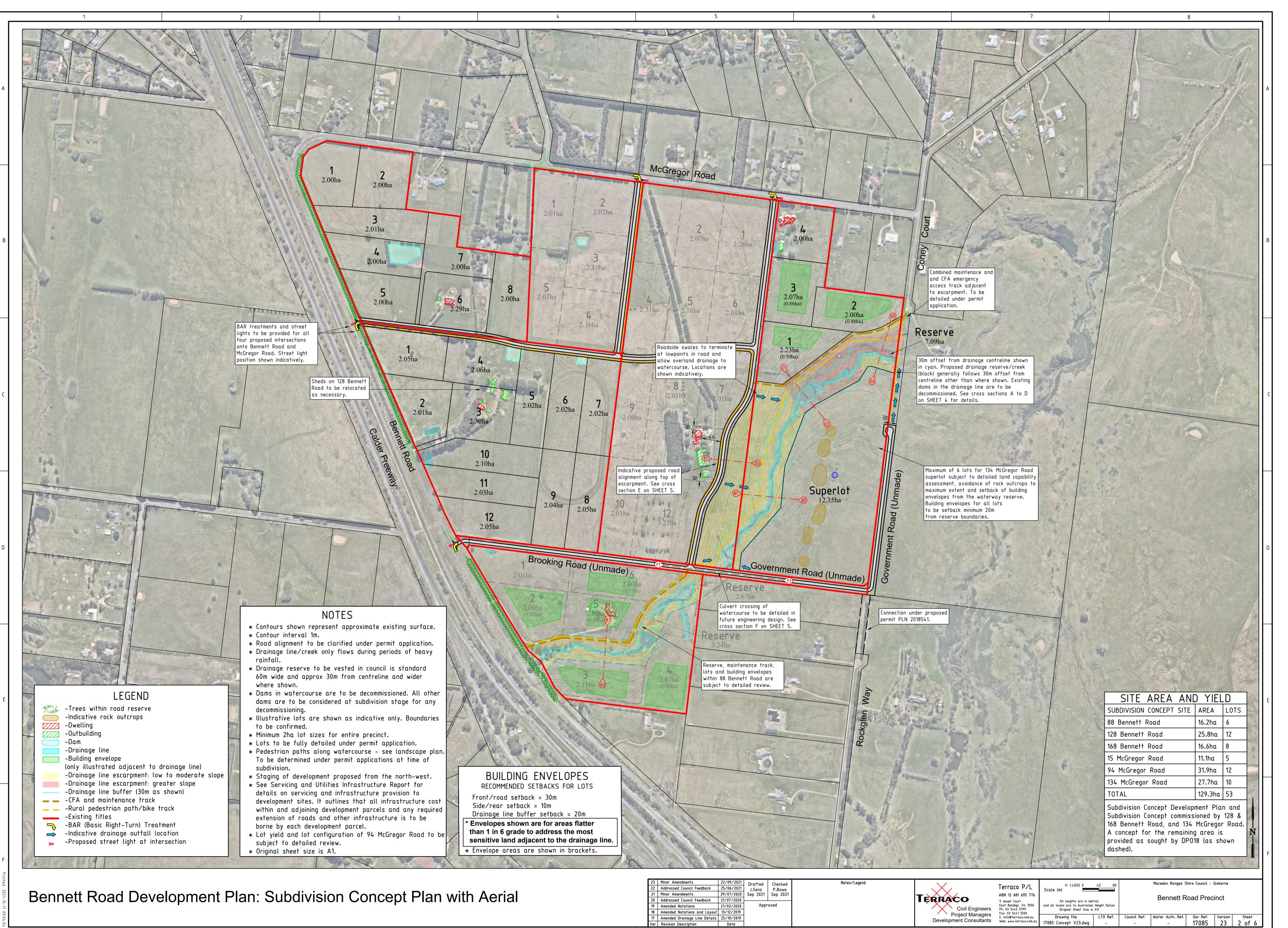


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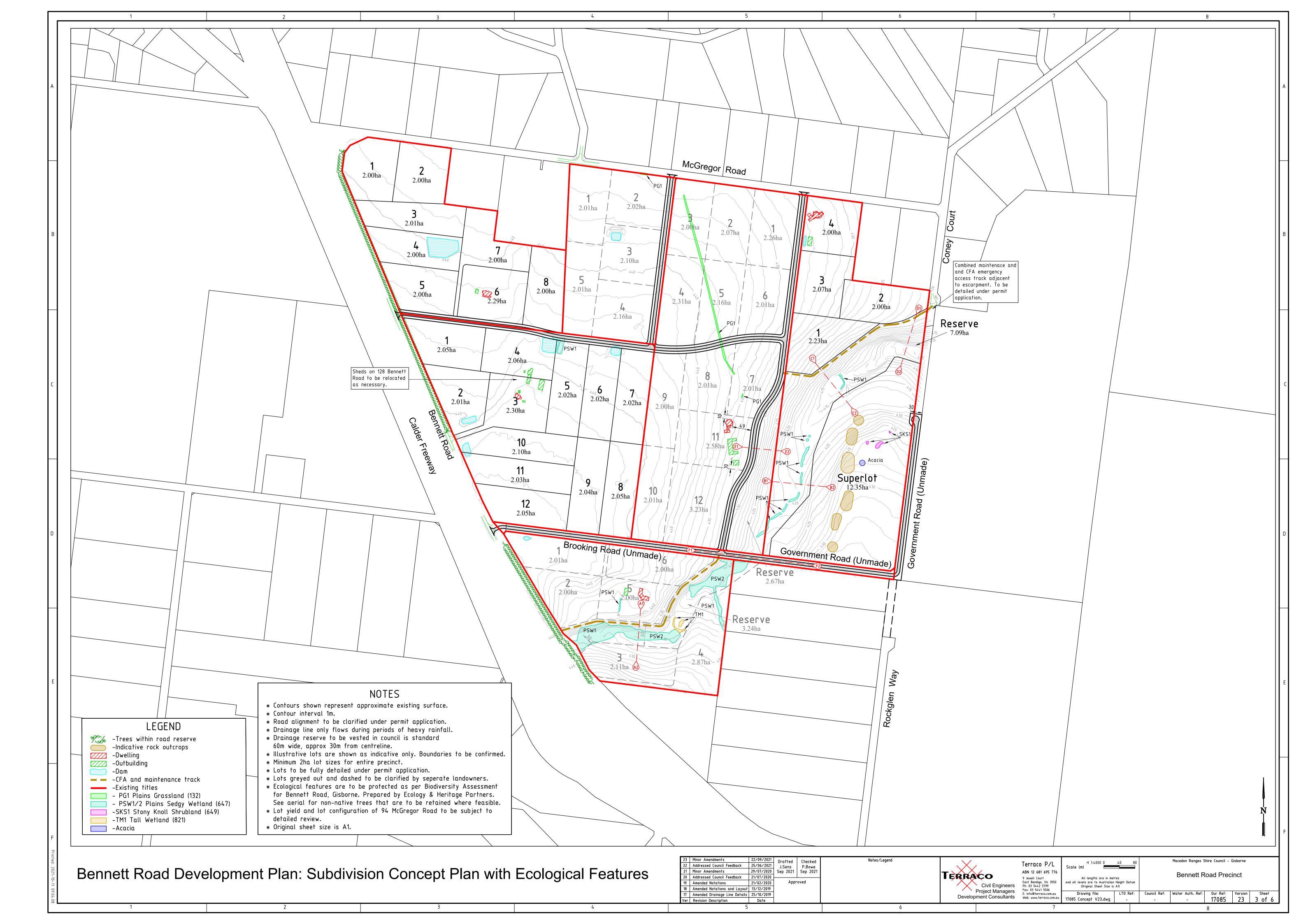


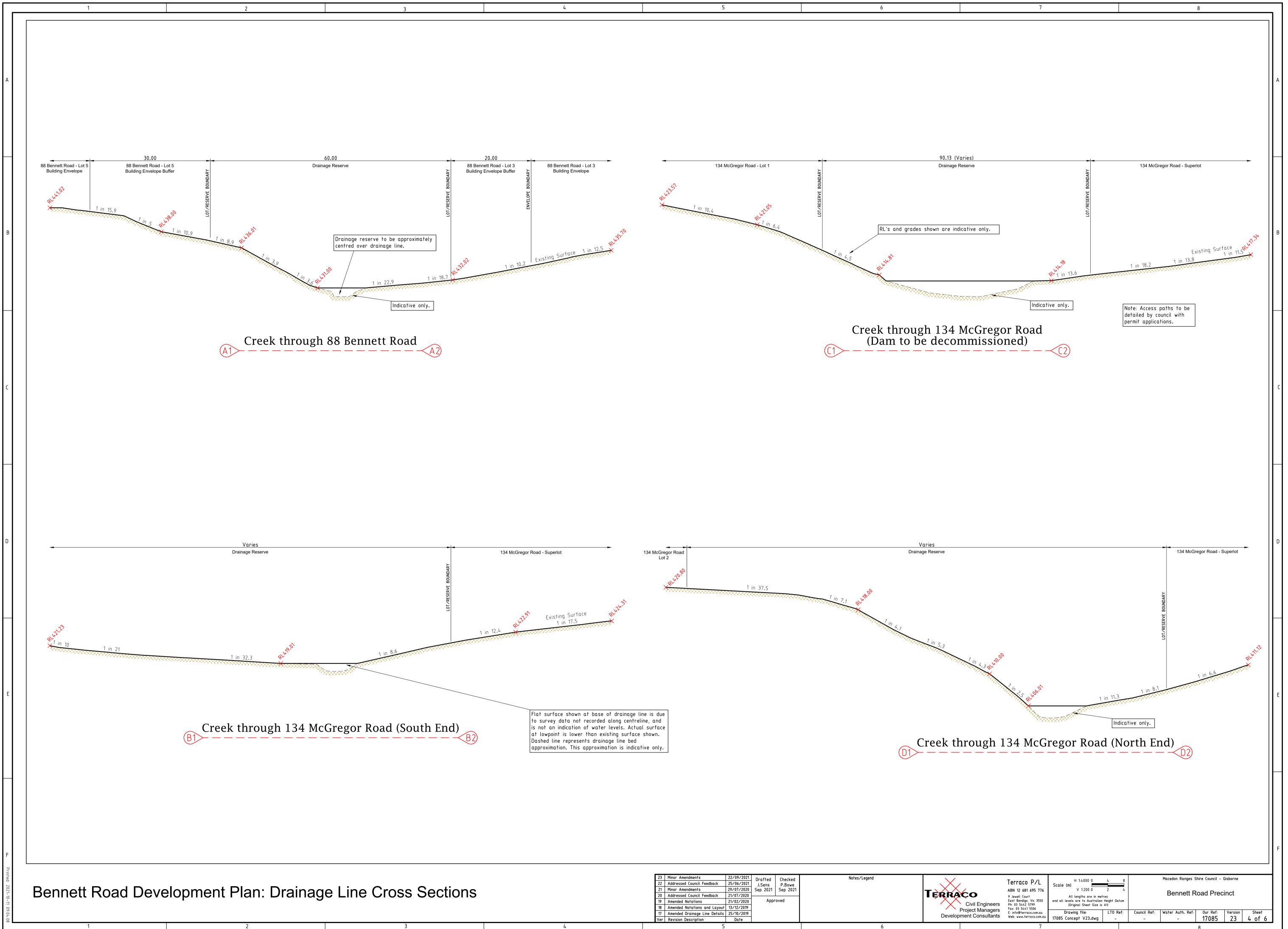
Appendix 1.2 – Subdivision Concept Plan with Ecological Features



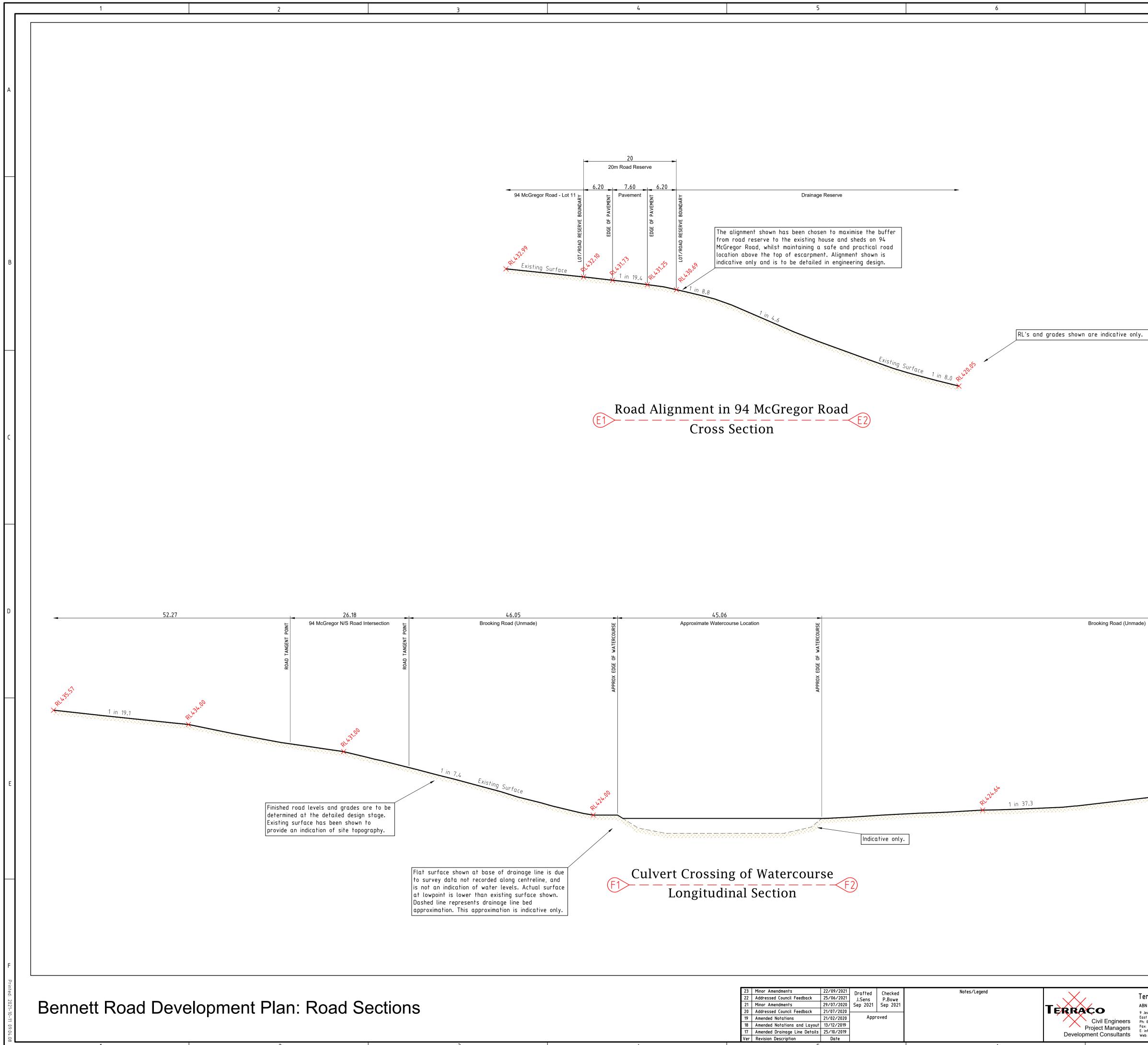


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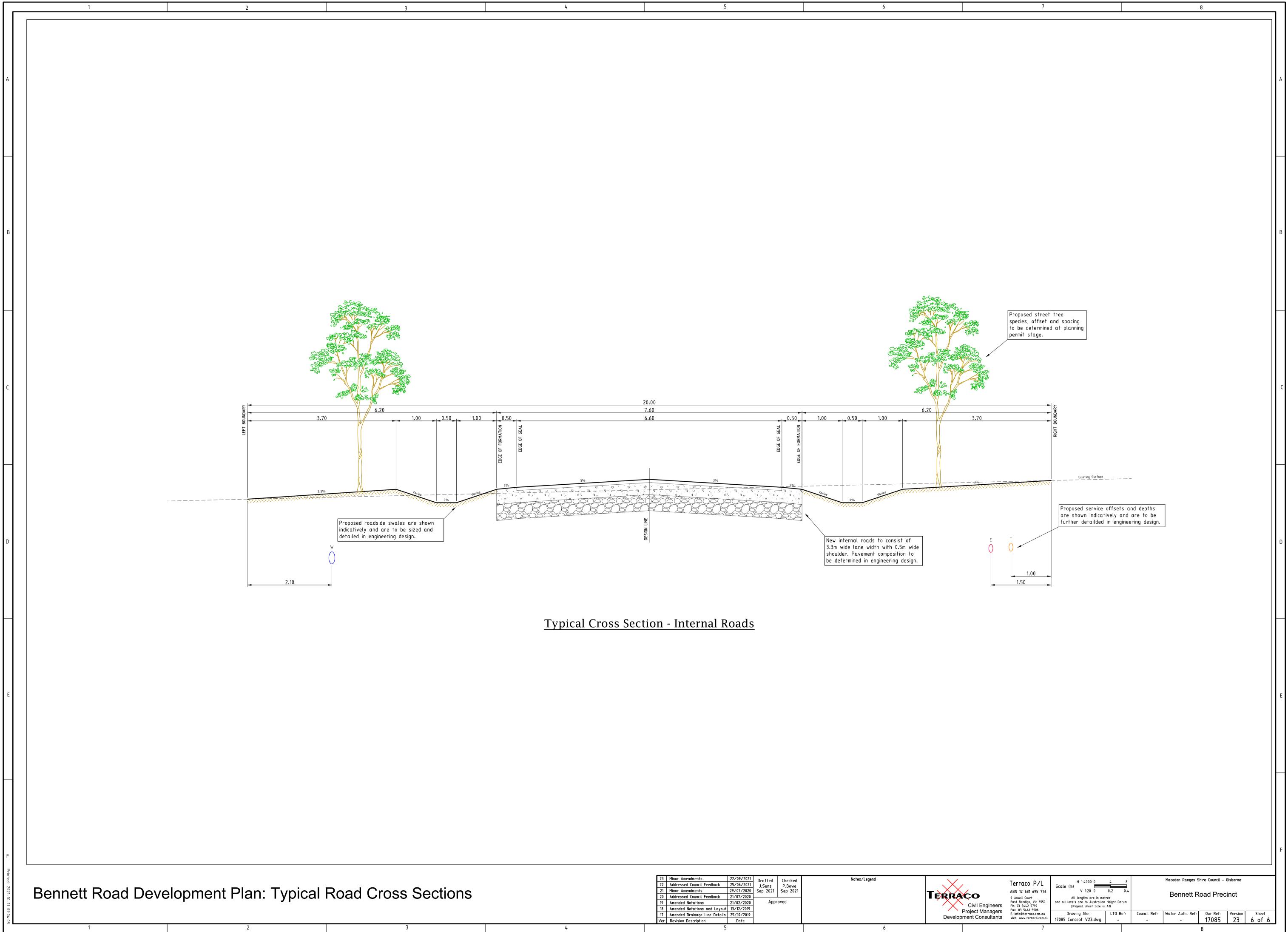
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Appendix 2.1 – Significant flora species

Table A2.2 Significant flora recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area

Key:

- EPBC Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- FFG Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)
- DEPI Advisory List of Threatened Flora in Victoria (DEPI 2014)

EX	Extinct	Х	Extinct
CR	Critically endangered	e	Endangered
EN	Endangered	v	Vulnerable
VU	Vulnerable	r	Rare
К	Poorly Known (Briggs and Leigh 1996)	k	Poorly Known
#	Records identified from EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool.	L	Listed
*	Records identified from the FIS		

Recorded within the study area recently (i.e. within ten years) 1 Known occurrence Previous records of the species in the local vicinity; and/or, 2 High Likelihood The study area contains areas of high quality habitat. Limited previous records of the species in the local vicinity; and/or, Moderate Likelihood 3 The study area contains poor or limited habitat. Poor or limited habitat for the species however other evidence (such as a lack of records or Low Likelihood 4 environmental factors) indicates there is a very low likelihood of presence. Unlikely 5 No suitable habitat and/or outside the species range.



Scientific name	Common name	Total # of documented records	Last documented record	EPBC	FFG	DEPI	Likely occurrence in study area
	NATIONA	AL SIGNIFICANCE					
Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass #	-	-	VU	-	-	4
Caladenia versicolor	Candy Spider-orchid #	-	-	VU	L	е	5
Dodonaea procumbens	Trailing Hop-bush #	-	-	VU	-	V	5
Eucalyptus aggregata	Black Gum #	-	-	VU	L	е	5
Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine #	-	-	VU	L	V	4
Pterostylis chlorogramma	Green-striped Greenhood	1	1990	VU	L	V	4
Senecio macrocarpus	Large-headed Fireweed	1	1984	VU	L	e	4
Senecio psilocarpus	Swamp Fireweed	3	2016	VU		V	2
Thelymitra matthewsii	Spiral Sun-orchid #	-	-	VU	L	V	5
Xerochrysum palustre	Swamp Everlasting	9	2016	VU	L	V	2
Caladenia tensa	Greencomb Spider-orchid #	-	-	EN	-	v	4
Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily	27	2016	EN	L	е	2
Lachnagrostis adamsonii	Adamson's Blown-grass #	-	-	EN	L	V	5
Lepidium hyssopifolium s.s.	Basalt Peppercress	1	1977	EN	L	е	4
Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor	Hoary Sunray#	-	-	EN	-	е	5
Prasophyllum frenchii	Maroon Leek-orchid #	-	-	EN	L	е	5
Rutidosis leptorhynchoides	Button Wrinklewort #	-	-	EN	L	е	5
Pimelea spinescens subsp. Pubiflora	Wimmera Rice-flower #	-	-	CR	L	е	5
	STATE	SIGNIFICANCE					
Acacia rostriformis	Bacchus Marsh Wattle	8	2013		L	V	2
Diuris punctata	Purple Diuris	14	2001		L	v	3
Geranium sp. 1	Large-flower Crane's-bill	4	2010		L	e	3
Pterostylis truncata	Brittle Greenhood	35	2006		L	е	2



Scientific name	Common name	Total # of documented records	Last documented record	EPBC	FFG	DEPI	Likely occurrence in study area
Stylidium armeria subsp. pilosifolium	Hairy-leaf Triggerplant	7	2014		L	е	2
	REGION	AL SIGNIFICANCE					
Acacia howittii	Sticky Wattle	4	2017			r	2
Acacia leprosa s.s.	Cinnamon Wattle	1	2009			k	2
Acacia leprosa var. uninervia	Large-leaf Cinnamon-wattle	1	2009			r	2
Acacia nanodealbata	Dwarf Silver-wattle	10	2011			r	2
Austrostipa hemipogon	Half-bearded Spear-grass	1	1990			r	5
Bossiaea cordigera	Wiry Bossiaea	1	2011			r	2
Calochilus imberbis	Naked Beard-orchid	5	1953			r	4
Calochilus therophilus	Slender Beard-orchid	1	2014			k	3
Convolvulus angustissimus subsp. omnigracilis	Slender Bindweed	3	2017			k	2
Coronidium gunnianum	Pale Swamp Everlasting	5	2011			v	3
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum	3	2017			v	1
Desmodium varians	Slender Tick-trefoil	2	2006			k	3
Dianella callicarpa	Swamp Flax-lily	1	2005			r	3
Dianella sp. aff. longifolia (Benambra)	Arching Flax-lily	1	2017			v	2
Dipodium pardalinum	Spotted Hyacinth-orchid	11	2017			r	2
Diuris X palachila	Broad-lip Diuris	1	1900			r	5
Eucalyptus globulus subsp. globulus	Southern Blue-gum	3	2017			r	2
Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. connata	Melbourne Yellow-gum	18	2017			v	2
Eucalyptus sideroxylon subsp. sideroxylon	Mugga	2	2017			r	2
Eucalyptus yarraensis	Yarra Gum	3	2010			r	3
Geranium solanderi var. solanderi s.s.	Austral Crane's-bill	2	2017			v	2
Grevillea repens	Creeping Grevillea	1	1932			r	4
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	Rosemary Grevillea	4	2017			Р	2



Scientific name	Common name	Total # of documented records	Last documented record	EPBC	FFG	DEPI	Likely occurrence in study area
Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium	Native Peppercress	1	1977			k	4
Leucopogon microphyllus var. pilibundus	Hairy Beard-heath	1	1980			r	4
Melaleuca armillaris subsp. armillaris	Giant Honey-myrtle	6	2016			r	2
Microseris scapigera s.s.	Plains Yam-daisy	2	1999			V	3
Nicotiana suaveolens	Austral Tobacco	1	1900			r	5
Nymphoides montana	Entire Marshwort	4	1985			r	4
Platylobium montanum subsp. prostratum	Mountain Flat-pea	4	2011			k	2
Pleurosorus subglandulosus	Glandular Blanket-fern	1	1895			k	5
Poranthera corymbosa	Clustered Poranthera	1	1982			r	4
Prostanthera saxicola var. bracteolata	Slender Mint-bush	3	1996			r	3
Pterostylis rubescens	Inland Red-tip Greenhood	1	2000			r	3
Pultenaea reflexifolia	Wombat Bush-pea	1	1932			r	4
Rhagodia parabolica	Fragrant Saltbush	10	2017			r	2
Sclerolaena muricata var. muricata	Black Roly-poly	2	1920			k	4
Senecio cunninghamii var. cunninghamii	Branching Groundsel	2	2010			r	3
Senecio microbasis	Slender Fireweed	1	2010			r	3
Tetratheca stenocarpa	Long Pink-bells	2	1996			r	3
Thelymitra exigua	Short Sun-orchid	1	1935			k	4

Data source: Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (DELWP 2015); Protected Matters Search Tool (DoE 2015).

Taxonomic order: Alphabetical.

Note: While the species listed in Table A_{3.2}. are based on VBA data from 2018, the list has been cross-referenced with the latest FFG Act Threatened species list in order to ensure it appropriately reflects significant species data for the study area and surrounds. There are no changes to the conclusions and recommendations provided in the report.



Appendix 3.1 – Significant fauna species

Table A3.2. Significant fauna within 10 kilometres of the study area.

Habitat characteristics of significant fauna species previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area, or that may potentially occur within the study area were assessed to determine their likelihood of occurrence. The likelihood of occurrence rankings for each of the threatened species are:

1	High Likelihood	 Known resident in the study area based on site observations, database records, or expert advice; and/or, Recent records (i.e. within five years) of the species in the local area (VBA 2011); and/or, The study area contains the species' preferred habitat. 							
2	Moderate Likelihood	 The species is likely to visit the study area regularly (i.e. at least seasonally); and/or, Previous records of the species in the local area (DSE 2011b); and/or, The study area contains some characteristics of the species' preferred habitat. 							
3	Low Likelihood	 The species is likely to visit the study area occasionally or opportunistically whilst en route to more suitable sites; and/or, There are only limited or historical records of the species in the local area (i.e. more than 20 years old); and/or, The study area contains few or no characteristics of the species' preferred habitat. 							
4	Unlikely	 No previous records of the species in the local area; and/or, The species may fly over the study area when moving between areas of more suitable habitat; and/or, Out of the species' range; and/or, No suitable habitat present. 							
EPBC	Environment Protection and	Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)							
FFG	Flora and Fauna Guarantee	4 <i>ct 1988</i> (FFG Act)							
DSE	Advisory List of Threatened	Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria (DSE 2013); Advisory List of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria (DSE 2009)							
NAP	National Action Plan (Cogger	r et al 1993; Duncan et al. 1999; Garnet and Crowley 2000; Lee 1995; Maxwell et al. 1996; Sands and New 2002; Tyler 1997)							
EX	Extinct	DD Data deficient (insufficiently or poorly known							
RX	Regionally extinct	L Listed as threatened under FFG Act							
CR	Critically endangered	I Invalid or ineligible for listing under the FFG Act							
EN	Endangered	# Listed on the Protected Matters Search Tool							
VU	Vulnerable	 * Additional information from the Victorian Fauna Database 							
RA	Rare								
NT	Near threatened								
CD	Conservation dependent								
LC	least concern								



Common Name	Scientific Name	Last Documented Record (VBA)	# Records (VBA)	EPBC Act	FFG ACT	DSE (2013)	National Action Plan	Likelihood
NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE								
Eastern Quoll	Dasyurus viverrinus	1900	1	EN	L	RX	NT	4
Greater Glider	Petauroides volans	1990	4	VU	-	VU	VU	4
Long-nosed Potoroo	Potorous tridactylus tridactylus #	-	-	VU	L	NT	EN	4
Grey-headed Flying-fox	Pteropus poliocephalus #	-	-	VU	L	VU	VU	4
Smoky Mouse	Pseudomys fumeus #	-	-	EN	L	EN	RA	4
Australasian Bittern	Botaurus poiciloptilus	2017	4	EN	L	EN	VU	3
Plains-wanderer	Pedionomus torquatus #	-	-	CR	L	CR	EN	4
Australian Painted Snipe	Rostratula australis #	-	-	VU	L	CR	VU	4
Eastern Curlew	Numenius madagascariensis #	-	-	CR	-	VU	-	4
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea #	-	-	CR	-	EN	-	4
Swift Parrot	Lathamus discolor	2001	4	CR	L	EN	EN	3
Regent Honeyeater	Anthochaera phrygia	1975	2	CR	L	CR	EN	3
Painted Honeyeater	Grantiella picta #	-	-	VU	L	VU	NT	4
Pink-tailed Worm-Lizard	Aprasia parapulchella #	-	-	VU	L	EN	-	4
Striped Legless Lizard	Delma impar #	-	-	VU	L	EN	VU	4
Grassland Earless Dragon	Tympanocryptis pinguicolla#	-	-	EN	L	CR	VU	4
Growling Grass Frog	Litoria raniformis	2000	8	VU	L	EN	VU	2
Dwarf Galaxias	Galaxiella pusilla #	-	-	VU	L	EN	VU	4
Australian Grayling	Prototroctes maraena #	-	-	VU	L	VU	VU	4
Murray Cod	Maccullochella peelii	1974	2	VU	L	VU	-	4
Macquarie Perch	Macquaria australasica	1970	1	EN	L	EN	DD	4
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	2006	4	CR	L	CR	-	2
STATE SIGNIFICANCE								
Brush-tailed Phascogale	Phascogale tapoatafa	2016	14	-	L	VU	NT	3
Common Dunnart	Sminthopsis murina murina	1990	2	-	-	VU	-	4
Musk Duck	Biziura lobata	1977	5	-	-	VU	-	3
Australasian Shoveler	Anas rhynchotis	1975	2	-	-	VU	-	3



Common Name	Scientific Name	Last Documented Record (VBA)	# Records (VBA)	EPBC Act	FFG ACT	DSE (2013)	National Action Plan	Likelihood
Hardhead	Aythya australis	1975	2	-	-	VU	-	3
White-throated Needletail	Hirundapus caudacutus	1990	6	-	-	VU	-	4
Eastern Great Egret	Ardea modesta	1977	7	-	L	VU	-	3
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	1975	2	-	L	EN	-	3
Black Falcon	Falco subniger	1975	2	-	-	VU	-	3
Lewin's Rail	Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis	2017	1	-	L	VU	NT	1
Baillon's Crake	Porzana pusilla palustris	1975	4	-	L	VU	-	3
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1977	2	-	-	VU	-	3
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia #	-	-	-	-	VU	-	4
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	1977	1	-	L	NT	-	3
Powerful Owl	Ninox strenua	2008	9	-	L	VU	-	3
Barking Owl	Ninox connivens connivens	1975	2	-	L	EN	NT	3
Masked Owl	Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae	1975	2	-	L	EN	NT	3
Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern								
ssp.)	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	1977	3	-	-	NT	NT	3
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	Calamanthus pyrrhopygius	1990	2	-	L	VU	-	4
Speckled Warbler	Chthonicola sagittatus	1990	8	-	L	VU	NT	4
Hooded Robin	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	1990	3	-	L	NT	NT	4
Diamond Firetail	Stagonopleura guttata	2005	6	-	L	NT	NT	3
Tussock Skink	Pseudemoia pagenstecheri	2003	1	-	-	VU	-	2
Brown Toadlet	Pseudophryne bibronii	1989	3	-	L	EN	DD	3
REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE								
Fat-tailed Dunnart	Sminthopsis crassicaudata	1967	3	-	-	NT	-	3
Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius	2017	3	-	-	NT	-	1
Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus hillii	2011	5	-	-	NT	-	2
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia	1975	3	-	-	NT	-	3
Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis	1977	1	-	-	NT	-	3
Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii	2016	7	-	-	NT	-	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	Calidris melanotos #	-	1	-	-	NT	-	4
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus javanicus	1975	2	-	-	NT	-	3



Common Name	Scientific Name	Last Documented Record (VBA)	# Records (VBA)	EPBC Act	FFG ACT	DSE (2013)	National Action Plan	Likelihood
Azure Kingfisher	Alcedo azurea	1976	1	-	-	NT	-	3
Spotted Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma punctatum	1989	9	-	-	NT	-	3
Golden Perch	Macquaria ambigua	2012	3	-	-	NT	-	3

Data source: Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (DELWP 2015); Victorian Fauna Database (Viridans 2011b); Protected Matters Search Tool (DoE 2015).

Taxonomic order: Mammals (Strahan 1995 *in* Menkhorst & Knight 2004); Birds (Christidis & Boles, 2008); Reptiles and Amphibians (Cogger et al. 1983 *in* Cogger 1996); Fish (Nelson 1994).

Note: While the species listed in Table A_{3.2}. are based on VBA data from 2018, the list has been cross-referenced with the latest FFG Act Threatened species list in order to ensure it appropriately reflects significant species data for the study area and surrounds. There are no changes to the conclusions and recommendations provided in the report.



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