

Aurora EPBC Act approval compliance report: January 2023 to December 2023

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for Development Victoria and Lendlease

20 February 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) is engaged by Development Victoria and Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited (Lendlease) to undertake annual compliance monitoring in accordance with their approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act approval 2007/3524). The requirement for the annual compliance report is prescribed under Condition 10 of the approval EPBC 2007/3524 for the Aurora Residential Subdivision in Epping North, Victoria.

This compliance report addresses relevant conditions of the approval and reports on compliance with those conditions, including implementation of the Aurora Conservation Management Plan (CMP) (Biosis Research 2008) as specified in Condition 1 of the approval. This report provides a review of actions undertaken between January 2023 and December 2023.

1.2 Objectives of the audit

The objectives of the compliance monitoring are to:

- Address each approval condition (EPBC 2007/3524) and document compliance or otherwise.
- Address implementation of the approved Aurora CMP and document compliance or otherwise.
- Provide evidence of compliance against any new actions that have arisen.

1.3 About the development

The approved action involved the development of the Aurora Residential Subdivision in Epping North, Victoria (the study area), which is located approximately 20 kilometres north of the Melbourne Central Business District and 1.5 kilometres north of existing urban development in the township of Epping (Figure 1). It is bound by Craigieburn Road East to the north, O'Herns Road to the south, the Craigieburn Bypass to the west, and existing property titles to the east. The study area is within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, the City of Whittlesea, and the Yarra River Basin. The total Aurora development area is approximately 630 hectares, and is owned by three landholders: Development Victoria, Lendlease and Hexa Group.

Biosis conducted the initial flora and fauna assessments for Development Victoria between 2000 and 2005, which identified Matted Flax-lily *Dianella amoena*, and suitable habitat for Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana* and Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* (Biosis Research 2006), all of which are matters of national environmental significance (MNES).

The proposed works were referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment on 3 July 2007 (Referral 2007/3524). On 3 August 2007, the proposed works were declared a controlled action by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) (now the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)) and required assessment based on preliminary documentation. The action was approved subject to conditions on 16 March 2008. Variations have been approved on 15 April 2011, 3 October 2016, 29 November 2017 and 17 March 2019. The approval and associated conditions are in effect until July 2033.

The removal of native vegetation was assessed in accordance with Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework (NRE 2002) by Biosis in 2007 (Biosis Research 2007) and was endorsed by the former Department

of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)) and the City of Whittlesea (Council).

Offsets for the loss of native vegetation and threatened species habitat within the development area are generated across 14 Conservation Reserves within the study area (Figure 2). Lendlease currently own and manage Conservation Reserves 1 – 9, 12 and 13, and Development Victoria currently own and manage Conservation Reserves 10, 11 and 14. The Conservation Reserves are managed for the protection of native vegetation, threatened flora species, and threatened fauna habitat in accordance with the Aurora CMP. Management of the Conservation Reserves will continue until the reserves are suitably protected on title and handed over to Council.

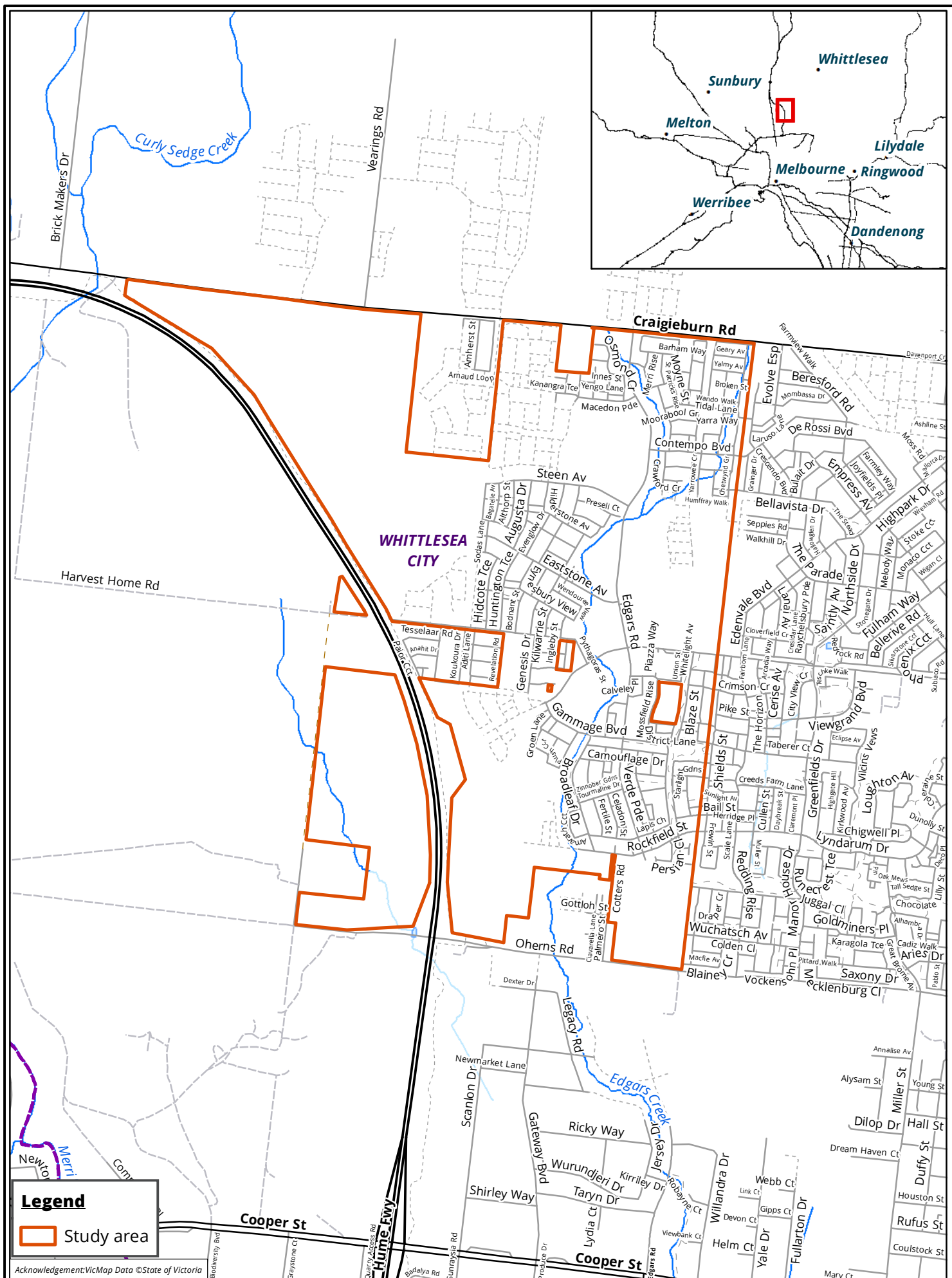
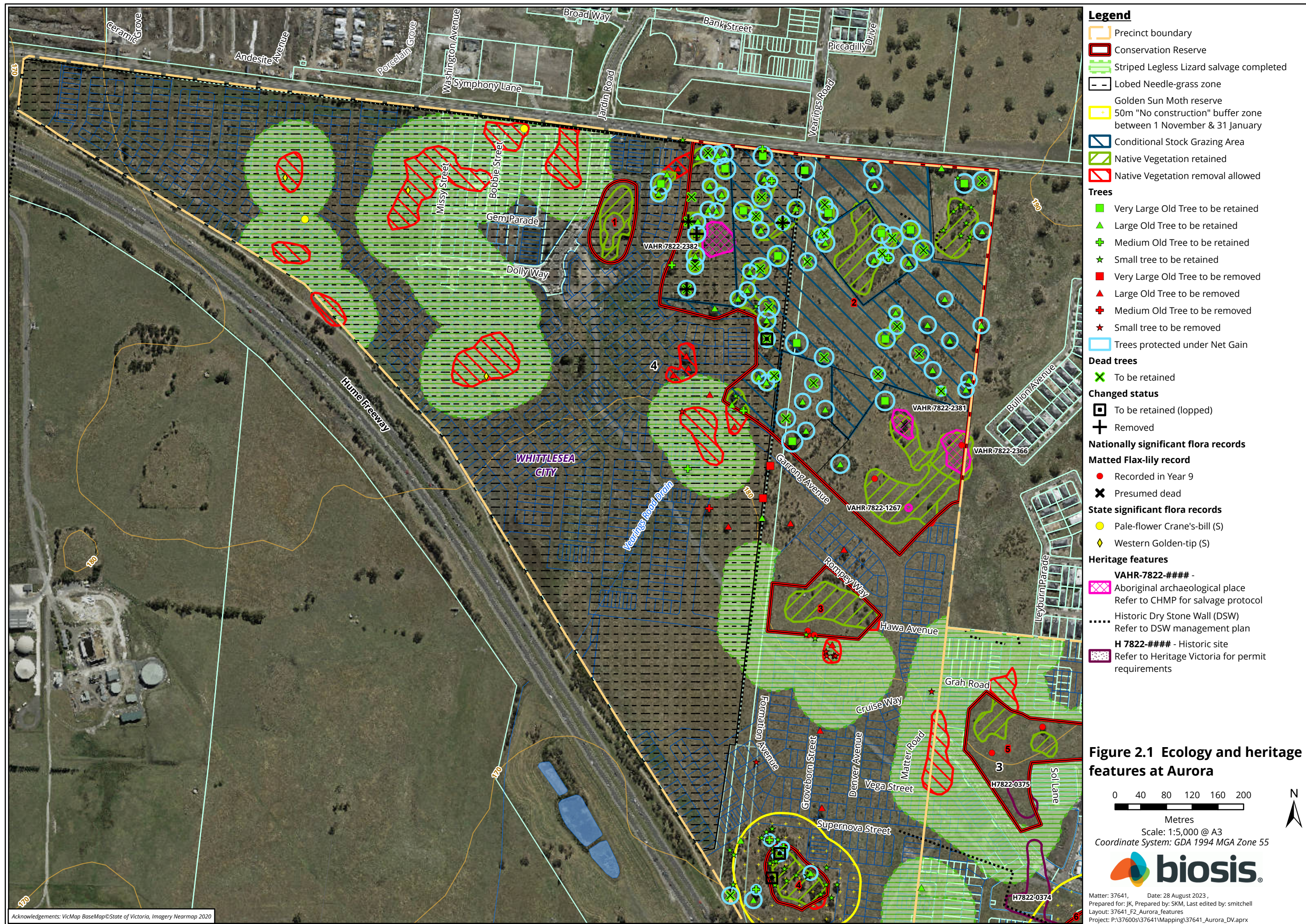


Figure 1 Location of the Aurora development, Epping North, Victoria





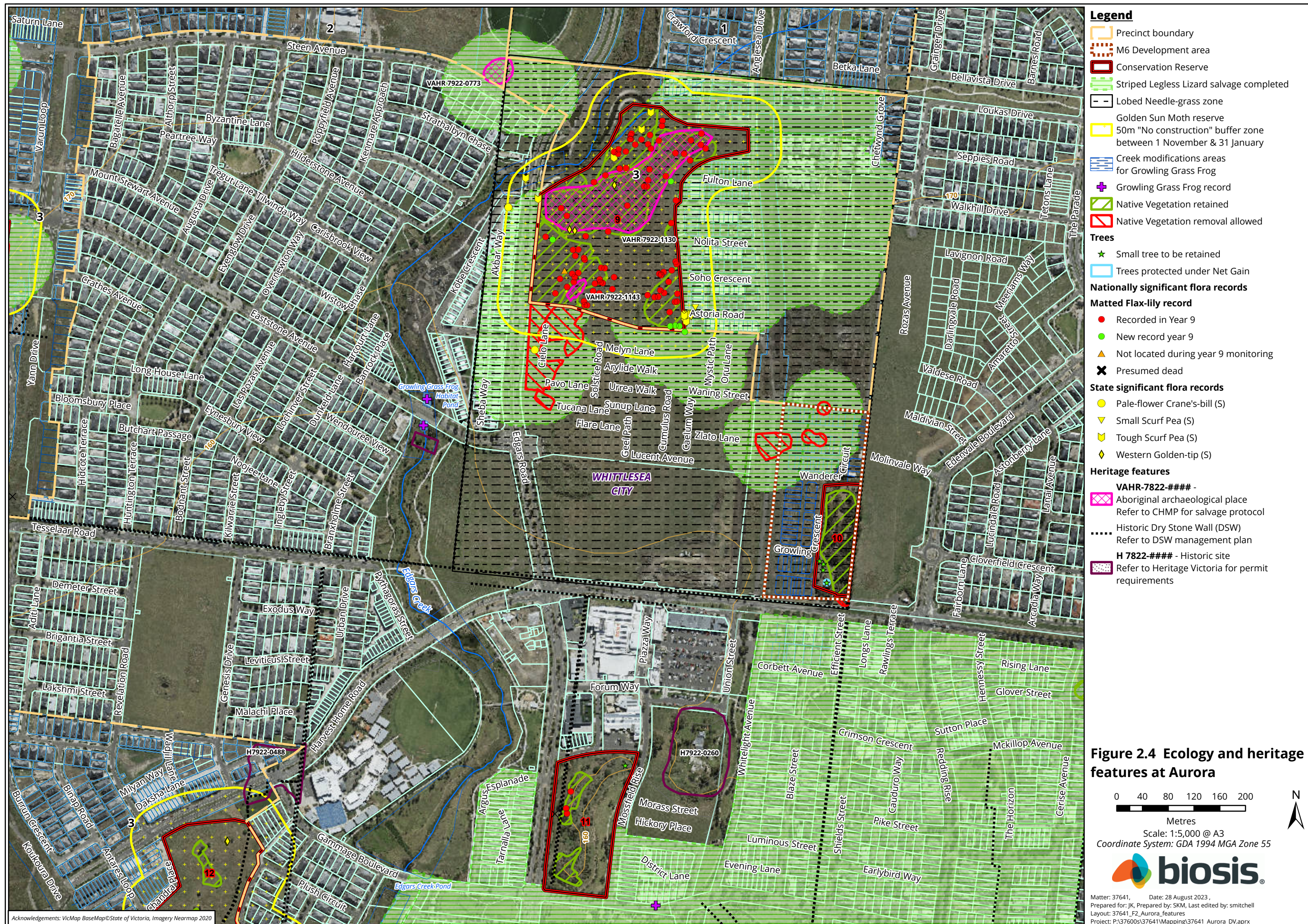
- Legend**
- Precinct boundary
 - Conservation Reserve
 - Striped Legless Lizard salvage completed
 - Lobed Needle-grass zone
 - Golden Sun Moth reserve
 - 50m "No construction" buffer zone between 1 November & 31 January
 - Creek modifications areas for Growling Grass Frog
 - Growling Grass Frog record
 - Conditional Stock Grazing Area
 - Native Vegetation retained
 - Native Vegetation removal allowed
- Trees**
- Very Large Old Tree to be retained
 - Large Old Tree to be retained
 - Medium Old Tree to be retained
 - Small tree to be retained
 - Large Old Tree to be removed
 - Small tree to be removed
 - Trees protected under Net Gain
- Dead trees**
- To be retained
 - To be removed
- Changed status**
- To be retained (lopped)
 - Removed
- Nationally significant flora records**
- Matted Flax-lily record**
- Recorded in Year 9
 - Not located during year 9 monitoring
 - Presumed dead
- State significant flora records**
- Western Golden-tip (S)
- Heritage features**
- VAHR-7822-#### -**
 - Aboriginal archaeological place
 - Refer to CHMP for salvage protocol
 - Historic Dry Stone Wall (DSW)
 - Refer to DSW management plan
 - H 7822-#### - Historic site**
 - Refer to Heritage Victoria for permit requirements

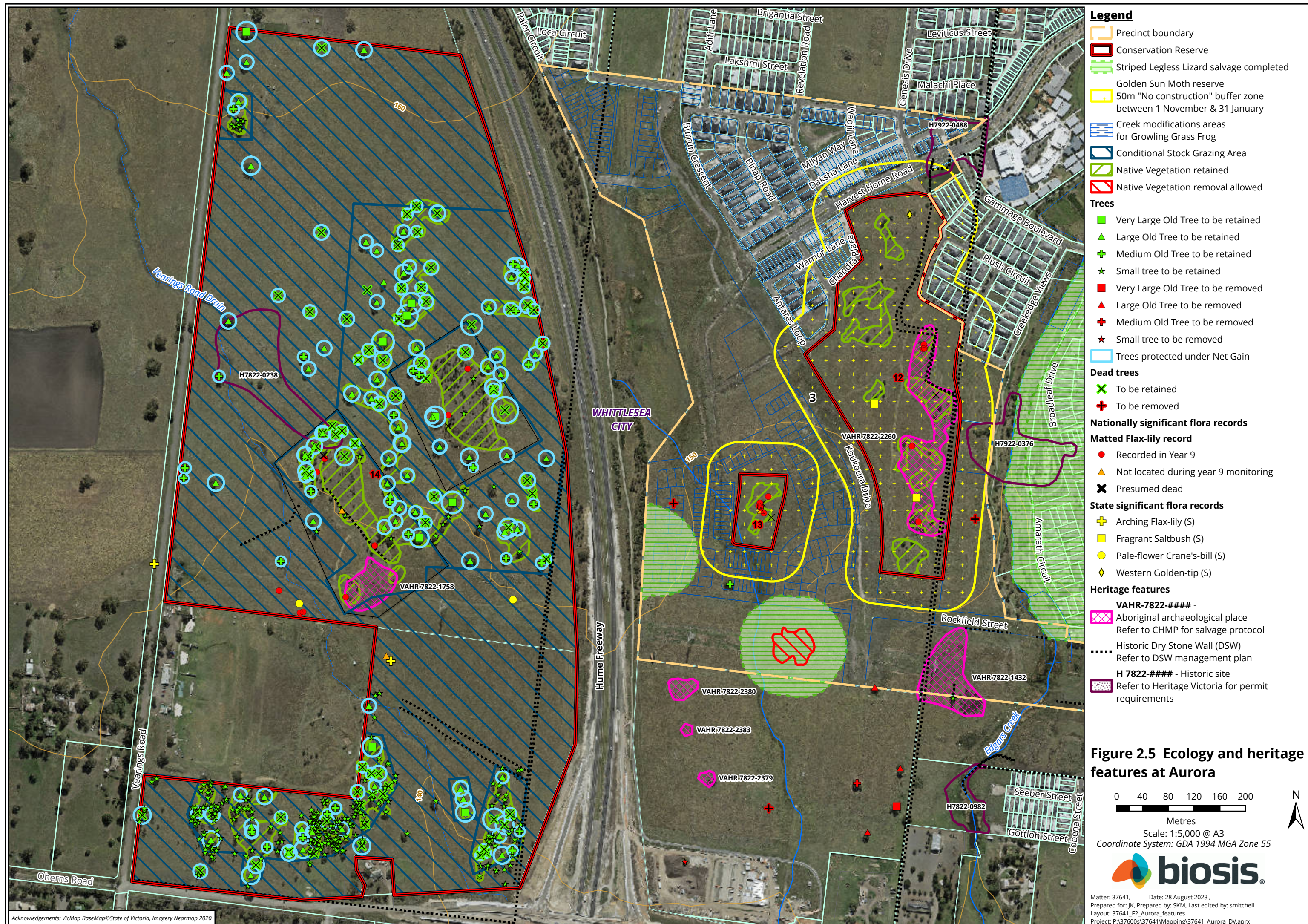
Figure 2.3 Ecology and heritage features at Aurora

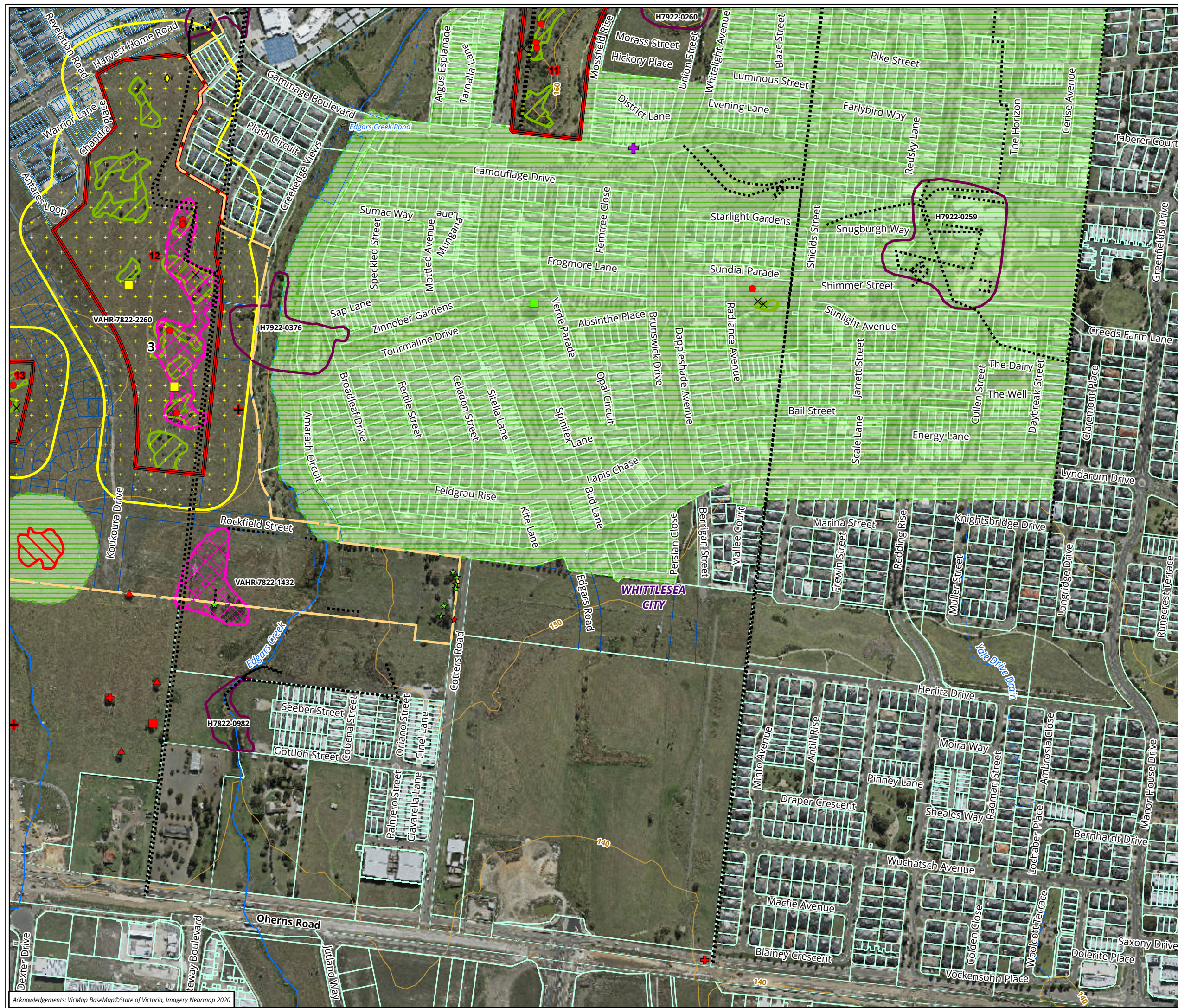
0 40 80 120 160 200
Metres
Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 37641, Date: 28 August 2023,
Prepared for: JK, Prepared by: SKM, Last edited by: smitchell
Layout: 37641_F2_Aurora_features
Project: P:\37600s\37641\Mapping\37641_Aurora_DV.aprx







Legend

- Precinct boundary
- Conservation Reserve
- Striped Legless Lizard salvage completed
- Golden Sun Moth reserve
- 50m "No construction" buffer zone between 1 November & 31 January
- Creek modifications areas for Growling Grass Frog
- Growling Grass Frog record
- Native Vegetation retained
- Native Vegetation removal allowed

Trees

- Very Large Old Tree to be retained
- Small tree to be retained
- Very Large Old Tree to be removed
- Large Old Tree to be removed
- Medium Old Tree to be removed
- Small tree to be removed

Dead trees

- To be removed

Nationally significant flora records

Matted Flax-lily record

- Recorded in Year 9
- Presumed dead

State significant flora records

- Fragrant Saltbush (S)
- Western Golden-tip (S)

Heritage features

VAHR-7822-#### -

- Aboriginal archaeological place
Refer to CHMP for salvage protocol

.....

- Historic Dry Stone Wall (DSW)
Refer to DSW management plan

H 7822-#### - Historic site

- Refer to Heritage Victoria for permit requirements

Figure 2.6 Ecology and heritage features at Aurora

0 40 80 120 160 200

Metres

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

biosis

Matter: 37641, Date: 28 August 2023, Prepared for: JK, Prepared by: SKM, Last edited by: smitchell
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Project: P:\37600s\37641\Mapping\37641_Aurora_DV.aprx

2 Compliance with EPBC Act approval conditions

This section (Table 1) provides an assessment of compliance with each of the EPBC Act approval conditions and identifies whether the condition has been satisfactorily met, i.e., whether compliant (highlighted green), ongoing (highlighted orange) or non-compliant (highlighted red). It should be noted that many conditions are ongoing and relevant until completion of the action. Further detail of the actions completed in relation to the EPBC Act approval conditions is provided in *Aurora EPBC approval compliance report: End of year 10 to October 2019* (Biosis 2021).

Table 1 Assessment of compliance with EPBC Act approval conditions

Number	Condition	Notes on compliance	Compliance
1.	The person taking action must undertake all works in accordance with the Aurora Conservation Management Plan.	Works within the Aurora development area and Conservation Reserves have generally been undertaken in accordance with the Aurora Conservation Management Plan (Biosis Research 2008; CMP) to date, however, there have been some incidents / breaches that have occurred. Section 3 provides details of these incidence / breaches that are not in accordance with the CMP, and measures that have been taken.	Ongoing
2.	To protect the threatened species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), in particular the Matted Flax-Lily <i>Dianella amoena</i> and Golden Sun Moth <i>Synemon plana</i> , the person taking the action must monitor and manage the reserves identified in Figures 1a and 1b in accordance with the Aurora Conservation Management Plan – January 2008. In particular the following actions must be taken:		
i.	Translocate the Matted Flax-lilies that occur outside reserves into reserves 7, 9, 11. This is to be undertaken by an experienced contractor and in accordance with translocation methods agreed by the proponent and the responsible state department.	<p>Actions completed in relation to Condition 2i are detailed in Table 3 of <i>Aurora EPBC approval compliance report: End of year 10 to October 2019</i> (Biosis 2021).</p> <p>While establishment targets outlined in the Aurora Matted Flax-lily Translocation Plan (Biosis 2013) were met during year 6 of monitoring (summer 2020/21), DEECA do not yet consider the approved Matted Flax-lily Translocation Plan native species cover performance target to be successfully met. DEECA will consider the Translocation Plan to be successful when native species cover within one metre of each Matted Flax-lily has increased to 25%. Monitoring of the translocated Matted Flax-lily within Reserve 7 will continue until all performance targets have been met.</p> <p>One additional Matted Flax-lily plant was salvaged in 2020 from the Hexa Group development area and clones are currently being held in the Native Grass Matters nursery. An addendum to the Aurora Matted Flax-lily Translocation Plan has been prepared and approved by DEECA for the planting and monitoring of these new clones. Planting is planned for 2024.</p>	Ongoing
ii.	Weed management must be undertaken in all areas of retained vegetation with the reserves.	Weed management to date has been undertaken in accordance with the Aurora CMP (Biosis Research 2008) and annual works plan by specialised native vegetation management contractors under the supervision of Biosis.	Ongoing
iii.	Monitoring of the Matted Flax-lily is to be undertaken between 1 October and 1 March every 12 months commencing 2008 and continuing for a period of 10 years after establishment of reserves.	Monitoring of remnant Matted Flax-lily plants was undertaken annually for 10 years, commencing December 2008, and concluding in December 2018.	Compliant
iv.	Monitoring of the Golden Sun Moth is to be undertaken between 1 November and 31 January every 12 months commencing immediately and continuing for a period of 10 years after establishment of reserves.	Monitoring of Golden Sun Moth populations was undertaken annually for 12 years within the Aurora Conservation Reserves, commencing in the 2007-2008 Golden Sun Moth flight season, and concluding in the 2018-2019 Golden Sun Moth flight season.	Compliant
v.	If monitoring indicates a decrease of the Matted Flax-lily, the cause of the decline must be investigated. Corrective actions must be developed and implemented. In this event the Department must be provided, within two months of the monitoring results being known, with a report stating the corrective action(s) implemented.	Monitoring has indicated that the population of Matted Flax-lily within the Conservation Reserves remains healthy. Management actions implemented to maintain the healthy population of Matted Flax-lily included: watering, weed control or replanting of clones. The establishment target in the approved Matted Flax-lily Translocation Plan was met in summer 2020/21 for the translocation Matted Flax-lily clones within Reserve 7, however, monitoring of the translocated clones is to continue until all performance targets have been met. Monitoring of the remnant Matted Flax-lily concluded in December 2018.	Ongoing
vi.	Ecological burns must not occur in reserves containing known Golden Sun Moth habitat (6, 7, 9, and 12) between 1 September and 31 January.	No ecological burns have been undertaken within the Conservation Reserves identified as Golden Sun Moth habitat between 1 September and 31 January. A deliberately lit wildfire spread through Conservation Reserve 14 on 19 December 2015. This reserve is known habitat for Golden Sun Moth.	Ongoing
vii.	Construction activities adjacent to reserves 6, 7, 9, and 12 must not occur between 1 November and 31 January.	No construction has occurred adjacent to reserves between November 1 and 31 January. Where construction has occurred, habitat for Golden Sun Moth was removed prior to these dates.	Ongoing
viii.	No fertilisers or insecticides must be used within reserves. Grazing must not occur within reserves, with the exception of reserves 2 and 14, unless recommended by a qualified ecologist for management purposes.	To date, no fertilisers or insecticides have been used within any of the Aurora Conservation Reserves. Grazing has only occurred within Reserve 14 to manage biomass across the broader area of the reserve. Net Gain vegetation patches have been fenced off and are protected from cattle grazing. Cattle were removed from Reserve 14 in October 2022.	Ongoing
ix.	Pathways, signs, and other infrastructure must be located outside native vegetation patches with fencing to be installed along the boundaries of all reserves prior to construction in areas outside the reserves.	All reserves had farm fences installed along the boundary prior to construction commencing within the adjacent development area. Many reserves are fenced with farm fencing that is now in poor condition and requires upgrades to the fencing to adequately protect the reserves. Australasian Fencing are currently engaged by Lendlease to install wire mesh fencing around Lendlease Conservation Reserves to ensure the reserves are adequately protected during construction. Where adjacent construction is complete, or is not occurring in the near future, reserves will be fenced with the ultimate vehicle exclusion fencing pending approval by Council. Temporary protection fencing is installed around reserves prior to adjacent construction activities.	Ongoing
x.	In addition to known Golden Sun Moth habitation, reserves 2, 3, and 5, must be retained and managed to preserve potential Golden Sun Moth habitat.	Ongoing management of Reserves 2, 3 and 5 is consistent with measures to manage Golden Sun Moth habitat.	Ongoing

Number	Condition	Notes on compliance	Compliance
3.	To protect the threatened species listed under the EPBC Act, in particular the Striped Legless Lizard <i>Delma impar</i> , the person taking action must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prior to construction the Salvage of Striped Legless Lizards must be undertaken by a qualified person(s) in areas of suitably identified habitat. Striped legless lizards must be salvaged and translocated in accordance with methods outlined in the salvage and translocation protocol provided in the Aurora Conservation Management Plan. 	Striped Legless Lizard salvage has now been completed across the development area in accordance with <i>Striped Legless Lizard salvage at Aurora Section C and beyond</i> (Biosis Research 2009). All areas of suitable habitat identified within the development area have been salvaged, and no Striped Legless Lizard individuals were found. Where pathways are proposed for construction in areas of suitable habitat within the Conservation Reserves, it is not recommended to undertake Striped Legless Lizard salvage as per the salvage and translocation protocol. The methods in the salvage and translocation protocol are too destructive and not suitable for sensitive areas. Alternatively, it is proposed that an ecologist supervise initial ground disturbance works within the reserves to capture Striped Legless Lizard if present. If Striped Legless Lizard are detected within a Conservation Reserve, further advice from DEECA will be sought on the release of animals within the Conservation Reserve.	Compliant
4.	The person taking the action must secure an offsite offset for the protection of the Growling Grass Frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i> by 30 September 2019. The offset site must be approved by the Minister . The offset site at a minimum must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be outside the Melbourne Urban Growth Zone; ii. be no less than 10ha in size and contain opportunities for offsite dispersal; iii. be sourced in consultation with the Growling Grass Frog Recovery Team; and iv. represent habitat critical to the survival of the <i>L. raniformis</i> as per page 7 of the species National Recovery Plan. 	No changes since previous compliance reporting. Actions completed in relation to Condition 4 are detailed in Table 4 of <i>Aurora EPBC approval compliance report: End of year 10 to October 2019</i> (Biosis 2021).	Compliant
5.	The person taking the action must submit an Offset Management Plan within 6 months of this variation for the Minister's approval. At a minimum, the plan must include: baseline surveys; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. provision to covenant the offset site for protection; ii. performance indicators, including threat abatement and adaptive measures to be implemented to adequately demonstrate a stable or improved population of <i>L. raniformis</i> on site; iii. public awareness and education program; iv. monitoring and reporting. 	No changes since previous compliance reporting. Actions completed in relation to Condition 4 are detailed in Table 4 of <i>Aurora EPBC approval compliance report: End of year 10 to October 2019</i> (Biosis 2021). It should be noted that addressing compliance against the Growling Grass Frog Offset Management Plan actions is outside of the scope of this compliance report.	Compliant
6.	The person taking the action must maintain accurate records of all activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval and make them available on request by the department. Such documents may be subject to audit by the Department and used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval.	Monitoring reports have been completed for remnant Matted Flax-lily and Golden Sun Moth monitoring annually. Monitoring reports for translocated Matted Flax-lily continue to be prepared annually. Reports documenting each stage of Striped Legless Lizard salvage have been prepared after each salvage event. Monthly site reports are prepared by the land management contractors, documenting all management activities. Notes are kept from regular Conservation Reserve site visits. All reports can be provided to the Department upon request.	Ongoing
7.	If the person taking the action has not commenced construction of the development's infrastructure within 5 years of this approval, then they must notify the Minister in writing and not commence construction without the Minister's agreement.	Construction of the first stages commenced in 2008.	Compliant
8.	The person taking the action may choose to revise the Plans approved by the Minister under conditions 1 or 5 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act , if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact . If the person taking the action makes this choice they must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. notify the Department in writing that the approved plan has been revised and provide the Department with an electronic copy of the revised plan; ii. implement the revised plan from the date that the plan is submitted to the Department; and iii. for the life of this approval, maintain a record of the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. 	No revised plans have been finalised to date. It is likely that the CMP will be updated to reflect ongoing compliance actions for the life of the approval. A revised version (Version 2) of the CMP was completed by Biosis in December 2012, which included an assessment of the works completed to that date and some amendments to the information and management strategies based on those works (Biosis 2012). The intention was that Version 2 of the CMP would be current to the end of 2019 although it should still be periodically reviewed and modified if necessary. At the end of 2019, a new CMP was to be drafted to prescribe the ongoing management of the reserves beyond the initial 10-year Net Gain period. Version 2 of the CMP was accepted by DEECA and submitted to DCCEEW in 2013. However, at the request of Development Victoria, Version 2 of the CMP was not formally submitted. As such, this report assesses compliance against the 2008 version of the CMP. No new CMP has been prepared for ongoing management.	Ongoing

Number	Condition	Notes on compliance	Compliance
8A.	The person taking the action may revoke their choice under condition 8 at any time by notice to the Department . If the person taking the action revokes the choice to implement a revised plan, without approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act , the plan approved by the Minister must be implemented.	Not applicable	Not applicable
8B.	Condition 8 does not apply if the revisions to the approved plan include changes to environmental offsets provided under the plan, in relation to a matter protected by a controlling provision for the action, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. This does not otherwise limit the circumstances in which the taking of the action in accordance with a revised plan, would, or would not, be likely to have new or increased impacts.	Not applicable	Not applicable
8C.	If the Minister gives a notice to the person taking the action that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan, would be likely to have a new or increased impact , then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Condition 8 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised plan; and ii. The person taking the action must implement the plan, approved by the Minister. To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 8, 8A and 88 in the period before the day the notice is given. At the time of giving the notice, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time that condition 8 does not apply for one or more specified plans required under the approval.	Not applicable	Not applicable
8D.	Conditions 8, 8A, 8B and 8C are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the person taking the action to submit a revised plan to the Minister for approval.	Not applicable	Not applicable
9.	Upon the direction of the Minister , the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister . The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister .	Not applicable - an independent audit has not been requested by the Minister to date.	Not applicable
10.	Within three months of every 12-month anniversary of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be provided to the Department within 2 days of discovery by the approval holder. Reports must remain published for the life of the approval. The person taking the action must continue to provide reports until such time as agreed to in writing by the Minister .	Since the addition of this condition in October 2016, compliance reports have been published on the following website by Development Victoria: https://www.development.vic.gov.au	Ongoing

3 Tracking of CMP actions

This section (Table 2) provides information to track progress against the Aurora CMP actions and identifies whether each action has been satisfactorily met, i.e., whether achieved (highlighted green), ongoing (highlighted orange) or not achieved (highlighted red). It should be noted that many actions are ongoing and relevant until completion of the action. Further detail of the actions completed in relation to the Aurora CMP in the period between the commencement of the action and July 2021 is provided in *Aurora EPBC approval compliance report: End of year 10 to October 2019* (Biosis 2021).

Threatened fauna management actions related to Growling Grass Frog have been excluded from this report as the population of Growling Grass Frog within the Aurora development was identified as non-sustaining and therefore the conditions are no longer a requirement under the EPBC Act approval. Details of the specific CMP actions related to Growling Grass Frog are provided in *Aurora EPBC approval compliance report: End of year 10 to October 2019* (Biosis 2021). Addressing compliance against the Growling Grass Frog Offset Management Plan actions is outside of the scope of this compliance report.

Table 2 Reserve management – CMP Section 2.3

CMP action	Detailed actions / targets	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
2.3.1 Establish and protect the reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection mechanism implemented. Annual management costs identified. Contingency funding reserved for unforeseen issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lendlease and Development Victoria are in the process of engaging Trust for Nature to apply covenants to all 14 Conservation Reserves. An onsite meeting with Trust for Nature occurred in May 2019 and a quote for establishing the deed of covenant was provided. A follow up site meeting occurred in June 2022. Ongoing discussions between Lendlease, Development Victoria and Whittlesea City Council (Council) have been underway throughout 2023 with regards to finalising service agreements. Lendlease and Development Victoria have reserved funds for ongoing land management until the reserves are handed over to Council. Ongoing land management contracts include budget for contingency actions. 	Ongoing
2.3.2 Fencing, access control and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle and stock exclusion fencing with lockable gates installed and maintained around all reserves. Grazing permitted in Reserve 2 and 14 to control biomass. Internal fencing required to protect areas from grazing. Signage installed and maintained on all reserve boundaries. Environmental inductions in all contractor environmental management plans. Pedestrian access prevented to stony rises. Trails located outside native vegetation patches. Unleashed dogs prohibited in reserves. Information brochures etc. used to increase public awareness and appreciation of reserves. Interpretive signage installed at pedestrian access points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All reserves are fenced with either temporary farm fencing, permanent post and wire vehicle exclusion fencing, or wire mesh fencing which will ultimately be replaced with permanent post and wire fencing after completion of all surrounding development. Many of the reserves are fenced with farm fencing that is in poor condition. Council have raised the poor condition of fencing with Lendlease who are actioning this issue. Australasian Fencing are currently engaged by Lendlease to install wire mesh fencing around Lendlease Conservation Reserves to ensure the reserves are adequately protected during construction. Where adjacent construction is complete, or is not occurring in the near future, reserves will be fenced with the ultimate vehicle exclusion fencing pending approval by Council. Adequate fencing is important to ensure reserves are protected from potential impacts. Refer to Table 3 for breaches that have occurred due to adjacent construction activities. Cattle grazing in Reserve 14 ceased in October 2022 upon request by Trust for Nature as a condition of applying a covenant. No Go Zone signs have been installed on all reserve boundaries adjacent to active construction works. Biosis provide environmental inductions to all contractors prior to commencing each development stage. Interpretive signage will be installed once construction is complete. Interpretive signage content is to be discussed with Council prior to installation. Pathways through Conservation Reserves are being designed through consultation with Biosis ecologists to avoid and minimise impacts to values within the reserves. Dogs will be prohibited from reserves and interpretive signs will incorporate this requirement. Western Land Services (WLS) continue to check fences in all reserves, report breaches and resolve any issues. 	Ongoing
2.3.3 Tree Protection and recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallen timber and branches retained in reserves. Total weed cover reduced below existing levels. High threat weed cover reduced to below 10%. Construction avoided within Net Gain tree protection areas. Exotic grass growth in Reserve 2, 4 and 14 controlled by herbicide spraying and/or slashing under River Red-gum canopies. Newly regenerated trees mapped. Rabbit and hare populations reduced and controlled. Possum populations monitored; tree guards installed. Arborist engaged for specialist advice. Open shrub canopy re-established in Reserve 2, 4, 10, 11 and 14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallen timber and branches are retained within the reserves. Unauthorised tree removal occurred in 2021 and 2022 by an unknown third party, therefore, there has been an emphasis on installation and maintenance of all fences and gates. Biosis monitor fence condition during reserve checks every two months and WLS undertake repairs where required. Further detail provided in Section 4. Weed control works are ongoing and most recent weed mapping was undertaken in spring 2023. Total weed cover has not reduced below baseline levels, and high threat weed cover has not, and is unlikely to be reduced to below 10%. This is attributed to the extensive areas of Chilean Needle-grass <i>Nassella neesiana</i> and Toowoomba Canary-grass <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> throughout the broader areas of the Conservation Reserves. Current weed levels, however, are not impeding recruitment of River Red-gums. WLS continue to monitor and manage pest animals throughout the reserves. Rabbit control programs are undertaken annually as needed. Possums are no longer considered a threat to canopy trees. Reserve 2, 4, 10, 11 and 14 require supplementary planting. Biosis have recommended that pathway plantings include species that would improve the overall species diversity and habitat available to fauna. Fences and gates are to be maintained securely to prevent public access and unauthorised removal of fallen timber for firewood. WLS continue to fix fencing as required. 	Ongoing
2.3.4 Biomass Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas within Reserve 2 and 14 dominated by weeds slashed annually or grazed. Biomass within native grass dominated reserves periodically reduced through fire. Slashing machinery free of weed seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biomass control is managed by slashing and brushcutting in all Conservation Reserves. Biomass within Reserve 14 has previously been managed through cattle grazing, however, cattle were removed in October 2022. Reserve 14 is now managed through firebreak slashing, brushcutting around edges of stony knolls and areas of native vegetation, and slashing tracks through the broader reserve and underneath River Red-gums. Biomass in Reserve 2 is managed through firebreak slashing and brushcutting around edges of stony knolls and areas of native vegetation. 	Ongoing

CMP action	Detailed actions / targets	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
2.3.5 Weed Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woody weeds controlled in all reserves to achieve less than 1% cover over 10-year period. High threat perennial grass weeds eradicated within native vegetation patches. Thistles eliminated within Conservation Reserves. Total weed cover reduced over 10-year period. Where baseline levels are >50%, the target is <50%. Where baseline levels are >25%, the target is <25%. Residents provided with information about potential weed species that should not be planted in gardens. Reserves monitored for new high threat weeds. Lobed Needle-grass <i>Nassella charruana</i> records to be reported to DSE (now DEECA) if found. Threatened flora pegged to avoid accidental damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WLS undertake weed control within all Conservation Reserves. High threat weeds within patches of native vegetation are treated monthly. African Box-thorn <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> and Briar Rose <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> occur across many reserves in small numbers and are regularly treated, therefore have less than 1% cover. Artichoke Thistle <i>Cynara cardunculus</i> subsp. <i>flavescens</i> and Spear Thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> are treated annually in the broader reserve areas, however, are not yet eradicated from Reserve 14. The extent and quality of native vegetation was mapped within Lendlease reserves in February 2021, and Development Victoria reserves in November 2021. The results indicate an overall increase in the extent of native vegetation. However, weed mapping indicates that the total weed cover targets were not met in the 10-year period, therefore this action has not been achieved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was reported to the DCCEEW EPBC Act monitoring team on 5 April 2023 who acknowledged receipt of the information on 28 April 2023. Further response has not been received. Known locations of Lobed Needle-grass continue to be monitored and controlled by WLS in accordance with the Lobed Needle-grass Management Plan (Biosis 2022a). New locations identified in 2023 reported to DEECA on 12 January 2024. New Matted Flax-lily plants found within reserves are flagged by WLS and marked with a GPS by Biosis. WLS to incorporate new plants into their management regime. 	Not achieved - total weed cover target not achieved by Year 10
2.3.6 Organic litter and logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallen timber, branches and stumps retained within the reserves. Reserves fenced to reduce illegal firewood collection. Logs from trees removed from development area to be placed in suitable locations in Reserve 2, 4, 10 and 14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fallen timber and branches are retained within the reserves. Unauthorised tree removal occurred in 2021 and 2022 by an unknown third party, therefore, there has been an emphasis on installation and maintenance of all fences and gates. Biosis monitor fence condition during reserve checks every two months and WLS undertake repairs where required. All reserves are fenced with either temporary farm fencing, permanent post and wire vehicle exclusion fencing, or wire mesh fencing which will ultimately be replaced with post and wire fencing after completion of development. Many sections of farm fence are in poor condition. Australasian Fencing are currently engaged by Lendlease to install wire mesh fencing around Lendlease Conservation Reserves to ensure the reserves are adequately protected. Where adjacent construction is complete, or is not occurring in the near future, reserves will be fenced with the ultimate vehicle exclusion fencing pending approval by Council. Trees removed within Lendlease development areas are stockpiled as logs for later placement within reserves. 	Ongoing

Table 3 Potential construction impacts – CMP Section 2.4

Detailed actions / targets	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where native vegetation patches and/or trees adjoin reserve boundary, a buffer will be provided between reserve fence and limit of construction. Weeds that establish following soil disturbance near the perimeter of the reserve will be regularly sprayed/slashed. Dust controlled during construction. Sediment control fences installed where necessary. Earth and debris not to be pushed through reserve fences. No civil construction permitted within Conservation Reserves except for paths, etc. outside native vegetation. Protective fencing and sediment control regularly inspected and maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works adjacent to reserves is ongoing. No-Go Zone fencing, sediment, weed, and dust control is ongoing. Civil contractors should be addressing these items through the Biosis induction packages provided and contractor Construction Environmental Management Plans. Biosis undertake site supervision and inspections during the installation of temporary construction fencing along the boundaries of Conservation Reserves. Reserve boundaries are surveyed prior to fencing. Breaches of protection fences are reported and resolved when observed. A breach occurred along the southern boundary of Conservation Reserve 9, observed by Biosis on 30 March 2023 during a routine Conservation Reserve check. Damage appeared to be caused by vehicles during the installation of temporary fencing by Hexa and resulted in soil disturbance and dumping of rocks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This breach was reported to the DCCEEW EPBC Act monitoring team on 11 May 2023 after remediation steps were agreed upon between Lendlease and Hexa. Remediation works are currently underway. DCCEEW responded via email on 1 August 2023 advising that after providing evidence of the completed remediation work, no further action is required. A potential breach in the northwest of Conservation Reserve 9 is currently under investigation due to inappropriate installation of temporary construction fencing in 2023. An assessment is currently underway to determine whether the adjacent works have resulted in any impacts to the reserve. A breach was observed in the southwest corner of Conservation Reserve 14 in March 2023 due to works occurring in the adjacent road reserve. The disturbance was caused by the installation of telecommunications services along Vearings Road and O'Herns Road by a third party. The works resulted in soil disturbance within an area of predominantly introduced vegetation within the reserve. Remediation works are currently underway. A minor encroachment was observed along the western boundary of Conservation Reserve 10 on 14 November 2023. A thick layer of soil was distributed outside the western boundary of the reserve with no sediment control, resulting in soil being pushed through the reserve fencing onto an area of predominantly introduced vegetation. 	Ongoing

Detailed actions / targets	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosis notified Development Victoria of the issue on 17 November 2023. Spiire and Rokon were immediately notified by Development Victoria on 17 November 2023. Evidence of the removal of soil and installation of sediment control was provided by Rokon on 21 November 2023. There have been no residual impacts to the reserve. 	

Table 4 Threatened flora management – Matted Flax-lily – CMP Section 2.5

Detailed actions / targets	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matted Flax-lily monitored each year. New Matted Flax-lily individuals (and any other threatened flora) marked. Regionally significant flora species not present in Conservation Reserves salvaged and propagated. Tough Scurf-pea <i>Cullen tenax</i> seed collected, and new population established in Reserve 9. Matted Flax-lily within development area salvaged and translocated. Application for overarching permit to remove FFG Act protected flora to be submitted for development area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring program for remnant Matted Flax-lily concluded in 2018. Remnant Matted Flax-lily within reserves are checked during site visits every two months. One Matted Flax-lily was found in the development area south of Reserve 9 and was salvaged in 2020. Clones are currently being held at the Native Grass Matters nursery awaiting translocation. An Addendum to the Matted Flax-lily translocation plan has been approved by DEECA for planting of these clones into Reserve 9 in 2024. Seed was collected from Western Golden-tip <i>Goodia medicaginea</i> from a stony knoll adjacent to Reserve 1 for propagation and planting into Reserve 1 once rabbit numbers are further reduced. Seed has been collected from Tough Scurf-pea for propagation. Development Victoria received a permit to remove FFG Act protected flora from the development area on 26 August 2019. Permit number 10009220, expiry date 31 December 2024. 	Ongoing

Table 5 Threatened fauna management

CMP action	Detailed actions / targets	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
2.6.1 Threatened fauna management – Golden Sun Moth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Sun Moth monitored each year. Management strategies developed. Active weed control program established for all areas of retained native vegetation. No application of fertilisers or insecticides. Links between stony rises and vegetation patches in Reserve 12 revegetated using indigenous grasses. Open grassland structure maintained, and stony knoll grassland habitat managed to prevent dense regeneration of shrubs. Ecological burns avoided between September and January inclusive. Construction activity adjacent to Golden Sun Moth habitat in reserves avoided between mid-November and January inclusive. Construction workers inducted. Suitable habitat within powerline easement managed in a manner compatible with maintaining Golden Sun Moth habitat. Investigate opportunities for creating and managing areas of suitable habitat within landscaping of Edgars Creek corridor, and establishing and managing indigenous vegetation suitable for Golden Sun Moth in open space, parklands, road verges, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring program for Golden Sun Moth concluded in 2018. No changes to management strategies have been made to date. All Conservation Reserves are actively managed for weeds. No fertilisers or insecticides have been applied within the Conservation Reserves. Native grass seed has been harvested and spread between stony rises, however, has not resulted in established native grasses. This item is therefore non-compliant. Biomass is controlled monthly by WLS through brushcutting and slashing. No large-scale ecological burns have been undertaken in the Conservation Reserves. Where construction activity has occurred between mid-November to January, Golden Sun Moth habitat in the development area was removed prior to 1 November. All contractors are inducted by Biosis prior to construction works and provided with induction packages and information posters. Golden Sun Moth habitat has not yet been incorporated into the Edgars Creek corridor, open space/parklands, or road verges, therefore this action has not yet been achieved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was reported to the DCCEEW EPBC Act monitoring team on 5 April 2023 who acknowledged receipt of the information on 28 April 2023. Further response has not been received. It has been recommended to Development Victoria and Lendlease that pathways through Conservation Reserves are landscaped with species such as Wallaby Grass <i>Rytidosperma</i> spp. to create Golden Sun Moth habitat linkages. Pathways are currently being planned, and Development Victoria and Lendlease are aware that further discussions with landscape teams are required. It is expected that this item can be achieved in the future. 	Not yet achieved - habitat creation not yet undertaken
2.6.3 Threatened fauna management - Striped Legless Lizard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small scale sample salvage conducted prior to earthworks within areas of higher habitat potential. Construction workers inducted and provided with information sheets. Protocol provided to construction contractors in the event that any animals are encountered during their works. Relocation protocol confirmed in consultation with DSE (now DEECA) well in advance of construction of ADP2. Salvage protocol reviewed in the event that Striped Legless Lizards are found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Striped Legless Lizard salvage has been completed across the development area in accordance with <i>Striped Legless Lizard salvage at Aurora Section C and beyond</i> (Biosis Research 2009). No Striped Legless Lizard individuals have been found. No further salvage is required. Contractors are provided with Striped Legless Lizard fact sheets at each induction prior to construction works and information on protocol to follow in the event that an animal is found. Any Striped Legless Lizard found is to be submitted to the Museum of Victoria for scientific purposes, as advised by DEECA. 	Complete

Table 6 Planning, monitoring, and reporting – CMP Section 2.7

CMP action	Notes on actions undertaken	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent photo points established. Threatened species monitored. Alternative management strategy implemented in consultation with DSE (now DEECA) if threatened species populations are shown to be declining. Results of management actions reviewed annually. Site inspections undertaken by suitably qualified ecologist. Annual works program prepared and implemented based on management review. Report prepared at end of years 1, 2, 5 and 10 incorporating a review of past works and future planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo point and threatened species monitoring concluded at the end of 2018. Translocated Matted Flax-lily in Conservation Reserve 7 met the establishment targets of the Translocation Plan during Year 6 monitoring; however, monitoring must continue until native species cover within 1 metre of each Matted Flax-lily has increased to 25%. Land management works continue within the Conservation Reserves until handover to Council. Management actions are regularly reviewed during reserve checks every two months, and during the development of each annual works plan. Biosis meet with WLS to discuss management actions when required. This compliance report has been prepared as per Condition 10 of the approval EPBC 2007/3524, and by request of Council. Council has requested annual reporting to provide evidence of the ongoing works occurring in the Aurora Conservation Reserves, to track the ongoing and outstanding CMP actions and any new actions that may have arisen, such as actions related to occurrence of unauthorised tree removal. This report provides a review of actions undertaken between January 2023 and December 2023. 	Ongoing

4 Compliance with additional actions

This section provides evidence of compliance against actions that have arisen since the completion of the 10-year compliance report (Biosis 2021), as requested by Council.

4.1 Removal of native vegetation subject to a Guidelines assessment

Additional removal of trees or patches that were marked as 'to be retained' or 'to be retained and protected' are to be offset in accordance with Victoria's *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (the Guidelines; DELWP 2017), as instructed by Council. In such cases, these additional offsets should be sourced from a registered vegetation offset broker, so that adequate tree offsets are available within the reserve pool for future development.

4.1.1 Offset requirements

Offset requirements for instances where offsets under the Guidelines are / have been triggered for the Aurora development are summarised in Table 7, along with the relevant Native Vegetation Credit Register (NVCR) allocated credit extract identification number. Native Vegetation Removal Reports (NVRR) can be viewed in the latest Net Gain and offset system tracking report version, and NVCR allocated credit extracts are provided in Appendix 1.

For the purposes of providing an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact resulting from removal of native vegetation, where trees form a patch or part of a patch, the tree removal has been considered partial removal as the understorey is to be or has been left intact. Patch trees have therefore been mapped as scattered canopy trees and their condition score is that of the patch of native vegetation they are located within (Appendix 3B, Assessors Handbook; DELWP 2018).

Council has advised that when native vegetation marked as 'to be retained' is removed (vegetation that was already providing an offset for previous native vegetation removal), the offset for the removed native vegetation must be doubled as compensation.

Table 7 Offset information for removal of native vegetation subject to the Guidelines

Landholder	Description of removal	General Habitat Units (ghu)	Allocated credit extract ID
Development Victoria	Koukoura Drive extension: removal of large tree (332).	0.038 ghu, one large tree.	2020-0289
	Conservation Reserve (CR) 10: Removal of three small trees for M6 development and November 2021 unauthorised tree removal by unknown third party.	0.090 ghu.	2022-0472
	CR 10: May 2022 unauthorised tree removal by unknown third party.	0.026 ghu.	2022-0968
	100A Cotters Road: removal of native vegetation.	0.001 ghu.	2023-0905
	Business Park: removal of large tree (287).	0.015 ghu, one large tree.	2023-0917
Lendlease	CR 2, 4, and development area: 2021 unauthorised tree removal by unknown third party.	0.219 ghu, 10 large trees.	2022-0381 2022-0382

Landholder	Description of removal	General Habitat Units (ghu)	Allocated credit extract ID
	CR 2: May 2022 unauthorised tree removal by unknown third party.	0.078 ghu, two large trees.	2023-0045 2023-0077

4.2 Recruitment assessment (2022) – Conservation Reserve 10

4.2.1 Background

During reserve checks in November 2021 and May 2022, Biosis observed a total of 11 small trees that had been cut and removed from the Net Gain patch in Conservation Reserve 10 without approval. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action advised Council that to achieve no net loss objectives, revegetation of the site was required, where practicable, including replanting replacement trees where recruitment is not already evident (and where complete loss or death of tree occurred). Biosis was engaged by Development Victoria to undertake a recruitment assessment in Conservation Reserve 10 to provide evidence that the dense natural recruitment of River Red-gums within the reserve meets this requirement, and that no additional revegetation actions are required.

4.2.2 Methods

Details of the methods used to quantify the natural recruitment within Reserve 10 are provided in the *Aurora Net Gain and offset tracking system report – Version 11* (Biosis 2022b) and retained in all future versions.

4.2.3 Results

In total, approximately 1,411 River Red-gum saplings were recorded within Conservation Reserve 10 in six locations, concentrated in dense bands (Table 8). While there is no dense recruitment directly surrounding the removed trees, it is recommended that the level of natural recruitment across the entire reserve is satisfactory to meet the DEECA requirement. These results have also been described in *Aurora M6 Development – response to Council comments re: Planning Permit 718576* (Biosis 2022c). Photos are provided in Biosis 2022b: Appendix 5.1 and Biosis 2022c: Attachment 1.

Table 8 Conservation Reserve 10 recruitment assessment

ID #	Size (m2)	Method	Count
1	194	Count	60
2	NA	Count	14
3	290	1x1m quadrats	600
4	265	1x1m quadrats	700
5	NA	Count	30
6	NA	Count	7
Total			Approx. 1,411

Notes to table: ID 2, 5 and 6 were mapped as a single point and recruits counted. ID 3 and 4 were mapped as polygons indicating the extent of recruitment, and a sampling approach used to approximate number of recruits in the polygons.

4.3 Conservation Reserve breaches

The increase in construction activities directly adjacent to Conservation Reserves within the Aurora development area has resulted in the following breaches.

4.3.1 Conservation Reserve 9 – southern boundary

Reserve damage

Biosis conducts regular checks (every two months) of the Aurora Conservation Reserves to monitor land management activities and potential breaches. After becoming aware of damage along the boundary between Aurora Conservation Reserve 9 and the Hexa development site, a site visit was attended by Samantha Wright (Lendlease Development Manager), Paul Carstairs (Hexa Development Manager), Jane Kenny (Biosis Senior Botanist) and Molly Farquharson (Biosis Botanist) on 9 May 2023. The following was observed:

- Temporary construction fencing was erected between the old farm fence along the southern boundary of Reserve 9, and the Hexa development site to the south.
- Soil disturbance caused by vehicles driving within the reserve was evident between the old farm fence boundary and the temporary fencing.
- Some rocks appeared to have been dumped between the old farm fence boundary and the temporary fencing.

It was clear that upon installation of the temporary construction fencing, the contractors worked from the incorrect side, and may not have been informed that the farm fence did not reflect the current boundary of the Conservation Reserve. This resulted in vehicle traffic within the reserve, causing soil disturbance and ruts. The rocks may have been dumped assuming the area was not within the reserve.

Reporting and remediation

This breach was reported to the DCCEW EPBC Act monitoring team on 11 May 2023 after remediation steps were agreed upon between Lendlease and Hexa. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water responded via email on 1 August 2023 advising that after providing evidence of the completed remediation work, no further action is required.

The following remediation steps have been undertaken, or are currently underway:

- Return soil to original state and fill ruts with weed free topsoil (complete).
- Spread indigenous grass seed in disturbed areas (underway/ongoing).
- Weed control in disturbed areas (underway/ongoing).
- Removal of dumped rocks (complete).

4.3.2 Conservation Reserve 9 – northwest boundary

Reserve damage

In August 2023 it was observed that the construction of a pathway outside the north-west boundary of Conservation Reserve 9 may have resulted in minor soil disturbance within the reserve. Temporary construction fencing was installed throughout construction.

Reporting and remediation

The following steps have been undertaken, or are currently underway:

- Spiire provided the 'as constructed' extent of works CAD data to Biosis.
- The reserve boundary was surveyed and pegged by Beveridge Williams and pegging plans provided to Biosis.
- Plans and survey data was overlayed with the reserve boundary and native vegetation mapping.
- The breach was reported to the DCCEEW EPBC Act monitoring team on 15 February 2024.

Lendlease, with advice from Biosis, are in the process of determining what next steps are required for remediation and/or offsetting.

4.3.3 Conservation Reserve 14 – southern boundary

Reserve damage

In March 2023 it was observed that works occurring in the road reserve adjacent to Conservation Reserve 14 had resulted in soil disturbance within an area of predominantly introduced vegetation in the reserve. The works appeared to be for the installation of telecommunications services by a third party. No temporary construction fencing was present between the reserve and the works.

Reporting and remediation

The following steps have been undertaken, or are currently underway:

- Biosis notified Development Victoria of the breach. Remediation steps agreed upon and works approved. Biosis advised Development Victoria to install temporary construction fencing along reserve boundary.
- Soil to be returned to original state by land management team, followed by the distribution of indigenous grass seed and weed control in disturbed areas.
- Additional Conservation Reserve signage to be installed with contact information.

4.3.4 Conservation Reserve 10 – western boundary

Reserve damage

On 14 November 2023 it was observed that a thick layer of soil had been distributed outside the western boundary of Conservation Reserve 10 for landscaping purposes. With no sediment control in place, soil was pushed through the fencing onto an area of predominantly introduced vegetation.

Reporting and remediation

The following steps have been undertaken:

- Biosis notified Development Victoria of the issue who immediately notified Spiire and Rokon.
- Rokon removed the soil from the Conservation Reserve, installed silt fencing and provided photographic evidence on 21 November 2023.

There have been no residual impacts to the reserve and no native vegetation was impacted. No further actions are considered necessary beyond ensuring standard practices such as sediment control are implemented and maintained.

5 Future planning and management

The EPBC Act approval and associated conditions are in effect until July 2033. Development at Aurora is ongoing within the development area. Landscaping works are proposed within and adjacent to Conservation Reserves and the Conservation Reserves are still to be protected on title and handed over to the City of Whittlesea (Council) for ongoing management.

This section outlines ongoing tasks required to remain compliant with the existing approvals and ensure the current condition of native vegetation and fauna habitat within the Aurora Conservation Reserves is maintained.

5.1 Reserve Management

The following actions are required for the ongoing management and establishment of the 14 Conservation Reserves until they are handed over to Council:

- Continue implementation of land management activities outlined in the annual scope of works, which must be undertaken by experienced conservation land managers.
- Protect Conservation Reserves on title through a Trust for Nature Deed of Covenant (negotiations underway).
- Survey final boundaries of Conservation Reserves and install permanent fencing (underway).
- Consult with DEECA and DCCEEW with regards to constructing pathways within Conservation Reserves, in consultation with Biosis, Trust for Nature and Council, avoiding patches of native vegetation, tree protection zones, heritage places, Matted Flax-lily, and reducing impacts to fauna habitat where possible.
- Install interpretive signage on the boundaries of Conservation Reserves, along pedestrian access points or at information viewing platforms within the Conservation Reserves. Consult with Council regarding the content of interpretive signage.

5.2 Threatened flora management

The following actions are required to remain compliant with EPBC Act approval conditions and CMP actions related to threatened flora:

- Continue annual monitoring of translocated Matted Flax-lily in Conservation Reserve 7 until all Translocation Plan performance targets related to weed control and native cover are met (Biosis 2013). As per correspondence from DEECA on 13 October 2022, DEECA will consider the Translocation Plan to be successful when native species cover within 1 metre of each plant has increased to 25% (DELWP 2022).
- Plant the Matted Flax-lily salvaged from south of Conservation Reserve 9 into Conservation Reserve 9 and monitor survival and health. Undertake annual monitoring of translocated Matted Flax-lily.
- Salvage and translocate any additional Matted Flax-lily plants identified within the development area and incorporate into a monitoring program that is approved by the appropriate regulator.

- Salvage or collect seed from all regionally significant species identified during pre-development assessments from the development area, propagate within a nursery and plant within the Conservation Reserves.
- Propagate the Tough Scurf Pea and Western Golden-tip seeds collected from the knoll adjacent to Conservation Reserve 1 and plant within Conservation Reserve 1, following reduction in rabbit abundance in the broader area.

5.3 Threatened fauna management

The following actions are required to remain compliant with EPBC Act approval conditions and CMP actions related to threatened fauna:

- Ensure no construction occurs within Golden Sun Moth habitat adjacent to Conservation Reserves 6, 7, 9 and 12 between 1 November and 31 January. If works are required within these areas during this period, Golden Sun Moth habitat must be removed prior to 1 November.
- Revegetate links between stony rises and vegetation patches in Conservation Reserve 12 using indigenous grasses. Establish and manage indigenous vegetation suitable for Golden Sun Moth within landscaping of Edgars Creek corridor, open spaces, parklands, and road verges.
- Continue monitoring and compliance reporting for the Growling Grass Frog offset site (the ongoing responsibility of Development Victoria, to be reported on separately) (Biosis 2018).

5.4 Reporting

The following reporting is required to remain compliant with the EPBC Act approval and CMP:

- Prepare annual monitoring reports for the translocated Matted Flax-lily in Conservation Reserve 7 until the Translocation Plan is deemed successful by DEECA.
- Prepare annual monitoring reports for the Matted Flax-lily salvaged from south of Reserve 9 once Matted Flax-lily are translocated.
- Maintain records of Conservation Reserve management activities, inspection findings, notes and actions and maintain records for the duration of the project.
- Maintain records of non-compliance, boundary breaches etc. for the duration of the project.
- Prepare an updated CMP to simplify and clarify the ongoing obligations of Development Victoria, Lendlease and Hexa Group until July 2033. Incorporate the Net Gain tracking and targets into this report as a consolidated document for ecology at Aurora.
- Prepare individual management plans for each of the 14 Conservation Reserves for attachment to Trust for Nature covenants.
- Undertake compliance reporting as outlined within the Growling Grass Frog Offset Management Plan (Biosis 2018). Addressing compliance against the Growling Grass Frog Offset Management Plan actions is outside of the scope of this compliance report.
- Undertake annual compliance reporting to satisfy Condition 10 of the EPBC Act approval (2007/3524), provide evidence of the ongoing works occurring in the Aurora Conservation Reserves, and track ongoing and outstanding CMP actions, and any new actions that may have arisen. To be submitted to Council, DEECA and DCCEW, and published to Development Victoria's website.

5.4.1 Conservation Management Plan

The Aurora CMP (Biosis Research 2008) is the key documentation for the implementation of conservation management actions at Aurora. Due to several EPBC Act approval variations, many actions within the CMP do not align with the current conditions of the approval. It is therefore recommended that the Aurora CMP is updated to be in accordance with the EPBC Act approval conditions.

Condition 8 of the EPBC Act approval states that the CMP can be revised without submitting for approval if the revised plan does not have a **new or increased impact**. However, the regulators would need to be notified of the revision and be provided with the revised plan for their records. When considering whether there will be a **new or increased impact**, we would need to consider whether there are any new impacts to matters of national environmental significance, including any EPBC Act listed Matted Flax-lily plants, EPBC Act listed ecological communities, and Golden Sun Moth or Striped Legless Lizard habitat.

References

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Appendix 1 NVCR allocated credit extracts



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2020-0289

Credit owner: Development Victoria

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	719137
Project name:	260 O'Herns Rd, Epping
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	27/04/2020

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	0	0.037	0.496
1-B	1	0.001	0.490
Total	1	0.038	

Credit site details:

Property identifier:	VC_CFL-3084_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Port Phillip And Westernport
Local Government Authority:	Cardinia Shire
Locality:	Gembrook
Bioregion:	Highlands - Southern Fall
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Damp Forest (0029), Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2022-0472

Credit owner: Development Victoria

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	718576_1
Project name:	286 Harvest Home Road, Wollert (Aurora) (Aurora M6 – Habitas - 286 Harvest Home Road, Wollert(Aurora))
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	08/07/2022

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	0	0.090	0.566
Total	0	0.090	

Credit site details:

Property identifier:	VC_CFL-3762_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Port Phillip And Westernport
Local Government Authority:	Moorabool Shire
Locality:	Greendale
Bioregion:	Central Victorian Uplands
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2022-0968

Credit owner: Development Victoria

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type: Planning permit
Approval reference: 718576_1
Native vegetation removal report ID:
Project name: 286 Harvest Home Road, Wollert (Aurora M6)
Responsible authority: Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation: 24/11/2022

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	0	0.026	0.566
Total	0	0.026	

Credit site details:

Property identifier: VC_CFL-3762_01
Catchment Management Authority: Port Phillip And Westernport
Local Government Authority: Moorabool Shire
Locality: Greendale
Bioregion: Central Victorian Uplands
Ecological Vegetation Class: Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type: Remnant vegetation

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Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2022-0381

Credit owner: Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	716776
Project name:	365 & 405 Craigieburn Road, Wollert (Vearings Road) Aurora
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	30/05/2022

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	0	0.218	0.566
Total	0	0.218	

Credit site details:

Property identifier:	VC_CFL-3762_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Port Phillip And Westernport
Local Government Authority:	Moorabool Shire
Locality:	Greendale
Bioregion:	Central Victorian Uplands
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2022-0382

Credit owner: Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	716776
Project name:	365 & 405 Craigieburn Road, Wollert, (Vearings Road) Aurora
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	30/05/2022

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	10	0.001	0.496
Total	10	0.001	

Credit site details:

Property identifier:	VC_CFL-3084_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Port Phillip And Westernport
Local Government Authority:	Cardinia Shire
Locality:	Gembrook
Bioregion:	Highlands - Southern Fall
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2023-0045

Credit owner: Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	716776
Native vegetation removal report ID:	BIO_2022_089
Project name:	Conservation Reserve 2, Craigieburn Road East, Wollert (Aurora)
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	30/01/2023

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	2	0.002	0.496
Total	2	0.002	

Credit site details:

Property identifier:	VC_CFL-3084_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Port Phillip And Westernport
Local Government Authority:	Cardinia Shire
Locality:	Gembrook
Bioregion:	Highlands - Southern Fall
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2023-0077

Credit owner: Lendlease Communities (Australia) Limited

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	716776
Native vegetation removal report ID:	BIO_2022_089
Project name:	Conservation Reserve 2, Craigieburn Road East, Wollert (Aurora)
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	13/02/2023

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-E	0	0.076	0.949
Total	0	0.076	

Credit site details:

Property identifier:	BBA-3030
Catchment Management Authority:	Port Phillip and Westernport
Local Government Authority:	Moorabool Shire
Locality:	Beremboke
Bioregion:	Central Victorian Uplands
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Grassy Dry Forest (0022)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2023-0905

Credit owner: Development Victoria

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	PLN-41754
Native vegetation removal report ID:	BIO_2023_207
Project name:	100A Cotters Road, Epping and 188A O'Herns Road, Epping (Lot: A PS 732551D and Lot: A PS 819152L)
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	23/11/2023

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	0	0.001	0.585
Total	0	0.001	

Credit site details:

Property Identifier:	VC_CFL-3769_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Melbourne Water
Local Government Authority:	Nillumbik Shire
Locality:	Strathewen
Bioregion:	Highlands - Southern Fall
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Herb-rich Foothill Forest (0023)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Native Vegetation Credit Register

Allocated credit extract

Credit ID: 2023-0917

Credit owner: Development Victoria

Credits allocated to:

Planning approval type:	Planning permit
Approval reference:	PLN-38936
Native vegetation removal report ID:	BIO_2022_025
Project name:	Aurora Business Park
Responsible authority:	Whittlesea City Council
Date of allocation:	29/11/2023

Credits allocated:

Site-Zone	Large Trees	General Habitat Units	Strategic Biodiversity Value Score
1-A	1	0.015	0.566
Total	1	0.015	

Credit site details:

Property Identifier:	VC_CFL-3762_01
Catchment Management Authority:	Melbourne Water
Local Government Authority:	Moorabool Shire
Locality:	Greendale
Bioregion:	Central Victorian Uplands
Ecological Vegetation Class:	Shrubby Foothill Forest (0045)
Credit type:	Remnant vegetation

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