

ATTACHMENT 8 - FLORA AND FAUNA REPORT

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445 Carrs Road Anakie Poultry Farm 13

Flora and Fauna Assessment

A report to
Pavilion Farms

Prepared by

Ecological Services

May 2025

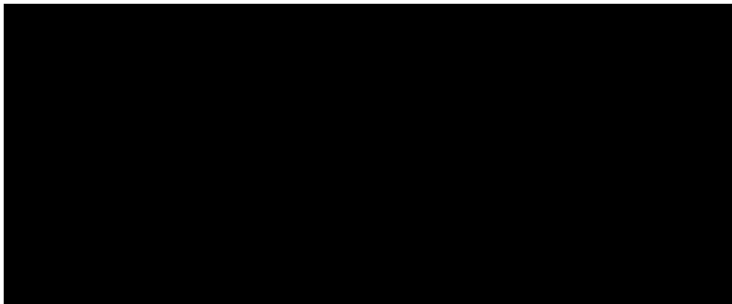
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Document Version

Version	Date	Prepared by
Draft for Client	April 30 2025	
Final	May 29 2025	



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

This report was commissioned by Pavilion Farms to undertake a flora and fauna assessment at 445 Carrs Rd Anakie, proposed Farm 13, to assess the quantity and significance of any biodiversity values that might be present within the subject site.

Refer to Section 5 for conclusions.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this investigation are to:

- Describe the vegetation of the site.
- Describe the faunal values of the site.
- Evaluate the conservation significance of the site.
- Determine the implications of the proposed development for the relevant government policy and legislation (Commonwealth EPBC Act, State FFG Act, State Clause 52.17 and Local ESO4).

1.3 Study Area

The project site is a proposed Farm 13 poultry broiler facility. It is an area of approximately 9 ha, located within an existing paddock to the immediate south of existing Farm 3, at part of 445 Carrs Road, Anakie, within the City of Greater Geelong. The assessment study area is comprised of this site. The surrounding paddock areas are also assessed to provide context.

Access, water and electricity supply easements are to be obtained by utilising the existing Farm 3 infrastructure.

The site is within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion and is located within the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority area. Under the City of Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, the study area is zoned Farming Zone (FZ) and is subject to Environment Significance Overlay 4 (ESO4) (DEECA. 2025).

Vegetation on the proposed impact site can be described as follows:

- Heavily cropped land, dominated by Canola and common agricultural and ruderal weeds and bare earth. No native vegetation was identified.

The larger property is mostly subject to intensive agriculture (cropping and broiler sheds) and is largely devoid of native vegetation. An area of undisturbed basaltic surface rock occurs adjacent to the proposed impact area, located east of the proposed impact area. This area is referred to as part of the larger study area and is assessed to provide context.

2 METHODS

2.1 Taxonomy

Scientific names for plants follow the Vicflora (RBG website i). Common names for plants follow the Flora of Victoria Vols 2-4 (Walsh and Entwisle 1994-1999).

2.2 Literature and Database Review

Relevant literature and databases, including data from the following sources were reviewed to provide an up-to-date assessment of ecological values associated with the study area and surrounds, including:

- Native Vegetation Removal tool for modelled biodiversity data (DEECA, 2025d).
- The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas for threatened flora and fauna species records (DEECA, 2025b).
- The Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) for information relating to matters of National Environmental Significance (listed species and communities) under the EPBC Act (DAWE, 2025).
- Relevant environmental legislation, policies, and strategies.
- Planning Schemes Online for planning information (DEECA).

2.3 Field Survey

Flora

The site was inspected on foot on the 28th of April 2025 by Mark Trengove. The entire site was traversed. Records were taken of all indigenous vascular plant species and dominant exotic vascular plant species. Native vegetation communities were mapped. Vegetation quality assessment (habitat hectares) was undertaken for study area adjacent patch native vegetation in accordance with the Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual Version 1.3. Non-vascular native flora was assessed for cover value.

EVCs were determined by reference to the relevant bioregion mapping and benchmarks descriptions and review of remnant vegetation in the local area.

Fauna

A habitat assessment was undertaken by Mark Trengove on the 28th of April 2025 to determine the quality of ecological values on site and to determine whether habitat for any threatened, listed fauna species occurs within the study area. The presence of any fauna or fauna habitat was recorded and the quality of any fauna habitat was assessed. All species of vertebrate fauna observed during the assessment were noted and active searching for fauna was undertaken. This included direct observation, searching under rocks and vegetation, examination of tracks and scats and identifying calls. Particular attention was given to searching for significant species and their habitats.

Mark Trengove is a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and is a DEECA accredited VQA assessor.

2.4 Limitations

The assessment was conducted in autumn, a time of year that is suitable for most flora and fauna species to be identified. Due to the existing condition of the site, the inspection is considered sufficient to assess the ecological and habitat significance of the site.

Additional survey is unlikely to detect additional native plant species. Due to the relatively degraded condition of the study area vegetation, the site inspections are considered sufficient to assess the ecological values of the site. The survey assesses non-vascular flora for cover value only. Vegetation Quality Assessments v1.3 (Habitat Hectares) were undertaken for adjacent areas of native vegetation. A vertebrate fauna survey and fauna habitat assessment was undertaken. There are not considered to be any significant limitations to the findings of this study.

2.5 Defining Significance

A number of criteria are applied in order to assess the significance of flora species and vegetation communities. The definition of the criteria is detailed in Appendix 1.

2.6 Defining and Assessing Vegetation

Native vegetation in Victoria has been defined by DEECA as belonging to two categories. These are:

Patch native vegetation

Patch native vegetation is either:

- any area of vegetation where at least 25 per cent of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native.
- any area with three or more native canopy trees where the canopy foliage cover is overlapping.
- Current wetlands as mapped by DEECA.

Scattered tree native vegetation

Scattered tree native vegetation is:

- a native canopy tree that does not form part of a patch.

Habitat Hectares

Habitat hectare (Vegetation Quality Assessment v1.3) is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. The current condition of native vegetation is assessed against a benchmark for its Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC). EVCs are classifications of native vegetation types. The benchmark for an EVC describes the attributes of the vegetation type in its mature natural state, which reflects the pre-settlement circumstances. The condition score of native vegetation at a site can be determined through undertaking a habitat hectare assessment. The habitat hectares of native vegetation is calculated by multiplying the current condition of the vegetation (condition score) by the extent of native vegetation. (DEECA website ii).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Ecological Vegetation Class

Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) are the primary level of classification of vegetation communities within Victoria. An EVC contains one or more plant (floristic) community and represents a grouping of vegetation communities with broadly similar ecological attributes. Classification of EVCs in this report follows Oates and Taranto (2001).

The pre-1750 EVC mapping of the study area undertaken by DEECA (DEECA Website i) indicates that the study area was comprised of EVC 132 Plains Grassland.

EVC 132 Plains Grassland Description: Treeless vegetation mostly less than 1 m tall dominated by largely graminoid and herb life forms. Occupies fertile cracking basalt soils prone to seasonal waterlogging in areas receiving at least 500 mm annual rainfall.

EVC 132 Plains Grassland is currently listed as 'Endangered' in the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion (DEECA website ii).

The current study records no areas of native vegetation that accords with EVC 132 Plains Grassland within the assessment study area. The current study records areas of native vegetation that accords with EVC 132 Plains Grassland adjacent to the assessment study area (to the east) (Table 1, Figure 5 and Plates 5-6). The DEECA NVR mapping tool records no modelled year 2005 EVC 132 vegetation as occurring within the assessment study area (Figure 3).

Refer to Figure 3 for DEECA EVC mapping.



Figure 3. Distribution of EVC 132 pre-1750 (dull and bright green) and modelled year 2005 EVC 132 (bright green) (DEECA Website ii).

3.2 Flora

The entire assessment study area has been subject to rock removal and fertilisation. It is heavily degraded land, dominated by crops, invasive weed species (Plates 1-3) and bare earth (Plate 4), with no native vegetation identified. The site was sown to apparently sown to Canola in 2024.

An area of undisturbed basaltic surface rock occurs adjacent to the proposed impact area, located east of the assessment study area. This area supports relatively degraded patch native vegetation dominated by Spear-grass (*Austrostipa* spp.). This area is located beyond the proposed impact area and is proposed to be retained without impacts (Figure 5 and Plates 5-6).

A total of 3 native and 12 naturalised exotic vascular plant species were recorded for the larger study area.

Refer to Figure 5 for the location of the recorded native vegetation. Refer to Table 1 for a list of all recorded native vascular plant species, including conservation status as well as naturalised exotic vascular plant species recorded within the study area and adjacent patch native vegetation. Refer to Plates 1-6 for photographs of the vegetation existing conditions. Refer to Table 1 for a list of native and naturalised exotic vascular plant species identified during this site inspection.

Table 1 Naturalised Vascular plant species, botanical name, common name, conservation significance and impact for native species as identified for the larger study area this survey

Botanical Name	Common Name	Status	Impact
<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.	Spear-grass	Native Local	No*
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Exotic	
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Artichoke Thistle	Exotic	
<i>Galenia pubescens</i>	Blanket Weed	Exotic	
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Ox-tongue	Exotic	
<i>Lycium ferrocissimum</i>	Boxthorn	Exotic	
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow	Exotic	
<i>Nassella trichitoma</i>	Serrated Tussock	Exotic	
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel	Native Local	No*
<i>Physalis hederifolia</i>	Prairie Ground Cherry	Exotic	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	Exotic	
<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	Common Wallaby-grass	Native Local	No*
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade	Exotic	
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Exotic	
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common Sow-thistle	Exotic	

Local – Local conservation significance.

*Recorded for the larger study area only.

3.3 Fauna

A general vertebrate fauna survey and habitat assessment was undertaken on 28 April 2025. A relatively low number of fauna species were observed on site during the assessment. However, this is to be expected given the modified nature of the site and consistent disturbance factors in the form of vehicles and farm machinery moving throughout the broader area. Fauna recorded this survey were typically generalist species common to modified agricultural land. Observed species are comprised of three native bird species and one exotic bird species.

No National, State or Regional conservation significant fauna species were recorded within the study area. Refer to table 2 for a list of fauna species identified during the site inspection.

Taking into consideration the landscape in which site is located, surrounded by similarly degraded cropping and poultry farming land, it is likely that the area provides only minimal habitat value for native fauna.

Table 2 Vertebrate fauna species identified for the study area this survey

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin and status	Observation
Birds			
<i>Corvus mellori</i>	Little Raven	Native Least concern	Sighted
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	Native Least concern	Sighted
<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Magpie Lark	Native Least concern	Sighted
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow	Introduced	Sighted
Mammals – nil identified			
Reptiles – nil identified			
Amphibians – nil identified			

3.4 Vegetation Quality Assessment

Vegetation quality assessment (habitat hectares) undertaken for patch adjacent to study area on 28 April 2025 (Patch 1 at Figure 5) in accordance with the Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual Version 1.3 (DSE 2004) is shown at Table 3.

Table 3 Vegetation quality assessment

EVC 132		Scores out of	Score
Patch 1 at Figure 5			
Site	Large Old Trees	N/A	N/A
	Canopy Cover	N/A	N/A
Condition	Lack of Weeds	15	2
	Understorey	25	5
	Recruitment	10	0
	Organic Matter	5	5
	Logs	N/A	N/A
Landscape	Patch Size	10	2
	Neighbourhood	10	0
	Distance to Core	5	0
Habitat Score		100	18*

$$12 \times 1.36^* = 16 + 2 = 18/100$$

* score is standardized for treeless vegetation. Refer to DSE Vegetation Quality Assessment Manual – p. 43-44.

This area (Patch 1) is located beyond the proposed impact area and proposed to be retained without impacts (Figure 5).

4 LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

4.1 State Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988) is legislative framework for the protection and management of biodiversity. The objective of the Act is to conserve all of Victoria's native plants and animals. Mechanisms within the act include:

- listing threatened species, communities and threats to native species
- requiring an overarching strategy for Victoria's biodiversity
- enabling the declaration of habitat critical to the survival of native plants and animals
- placing a duty on public authorities to have regard to the objectives of the Act in their operations
- requiring permits for activities that could harm threatened plants and fish and communities (DEECA website vii)

Legislation to modernise and enhance the Act has passed the Victorian Parliament. The *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Bill 2019* amends the Act with stronger framework for the protection of Victoria's biodiversity. This took effect after 1st June 2020. (DEECA website vii).

Protected flora are native plants or communities of native plants that have legal protection under the Act. The Protected Flora List includes plants from three sources:

- plant taxa (species, subspecies or varieties) listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- plant taxa belonging to communities listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- plant taxa which are not threatened but require protection for other reasons.

The handling of protected flora is regulated by DEECA to ensure that any harvesting or loss is ecologically sustainable. A 'Protected Flora Licence' or Permit must be obtained from DEECA to collect protected native plants or if works or other activities are planned that may kill, injure or disturb protected native plants on public land. In the case of works, DEECA may place conditions on a licence or permit which serve to avoid or minimise the loss of protected flora or to make good any disturbance caused.

Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens*) is listed as endangered under the FFG Act.

Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) is listed as Vulnerable under the FFG Act.

Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*) is listed as Endangered under the FFG Act.

Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*) is listed as Vulnerable under the FFG Act.

Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*), is listed as Endangered under the FFG Act.

Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community is listed as a threatened community under the FFG Act.

Although widespread at the time of European settlement, only scattered remnants of the Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community now remain on the Victorian Volcanic Plain. The near-absence of tree cover is thought to be due to the heavy basaltic soils and to frequent firing prior to European settlement. Degraded Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community can be heavily invaded by introduced grasses and weed species. (Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List Characteristics of Threatened Communities).

4.1.1 Implications

No FFG Act listed ecological communities or flora or fauna species were identified that are proposed to be impacted on. The identified area of potential Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community that occurs to the east of the proposed impact area is proposed to be retained without impacts (Figure 5).

The proposal, including the proposed access point and provision of services, is assessed to have no implications for the Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community under the FFG Act.

The proposal is assessed to have no implications for the listed threatened species Spiny Rice-flower, Growling Grass Frog, Striped Legless Lizard, Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon or Golden Sun Moth under the FFG Act.

Consequently, there are no implications relating to this proposal under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act).

4.2 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act (1999) was established to ‘promote the conservation of biodiversity by providing strong protection for listed species and communities in the Commonwealth and for protected areas, Ramsar sites, Commonwealth Reserves, conservation zones and World Heritage sites, etc.’.

The EPBC Act applies to developments and associated activities that have the potential to significantly impact on matters protected under the Act. Under the Act, unless exempt, actions require approval from the Australian Government Minister for Environment and Heritage if they are likely to significantly impact on a ‘matter of national environmental significance’. There are currently seven matters of national environmental significance (NES):

- World Heritage properties;
- National Heritage properties;
- nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities;
- listed migratory species;
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance;
- Commonwealth marine areas; and
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining).

Any person proposing to take an action that may, or will, have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance must refer the action to the Australian Government Minister for Environment and Water Resources for determination as to whether the action is a ‘controlled action’ or is not approved.

Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain is an ecological community that is listed as ‘Critically Endangered’ under the EPBC Act (EPBC Website i). The study area carries degraded vegetation that is assessed to not be part of this community.

Ramsar wetlands of international significance. Limeburners Bay RAMSAR site occurs downstream from the proposed facility.

4.2.1 Implications

No Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain ecological community was recorded.

No flora or fauna species listed under the EPBC Act were identified.

It is assessed that there are no implications for the current proposal for the Limeburners Bay RAMSAR site.

It is assessed that there are no implications for the current proposal under the EPBC Act.

4.3 Ecological Significance Overlay 4

The purpose of the Planning Scheme is:

- *To provide a clear and consistent framework within which decisions about the use and development of land can be made.*
- *To express state, regional, local and community expectations for areas and land uses.*
- *To provide for the implementation of State, regional and local policies affecting land use and development.*

Within the City of Greater Geelong ESO4 has been established to protect environmentally significant values, specifically being native grassland values, within the area that it covers.

The areas included within this overlay form part of the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion. The native vegetation of the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion is one of the most depleted in the State. Only 4.5 per cent of the State still has a cover of native vegetation, and less than 1.2 per cent is in formal reserves.

The Werribee Plains hinterland consists of undulating volcanic plains, a scoria cone and steep gorges formed by the Little and Werribee Rivers. Many elements of the flora reflect the low rainfall of this area, which formerly supported extensive areas of Plains Grassland. Although the native vegetation has been extensively cleared and altered for agricultural, urban and industrial use, there are some large areas of predominantly native vegetation as well as some high quality wetlands, which are important for many threatened fauna species. There are a number of communities and species in this area that do not occur elsewhere in the bioregion. Important species in this area include, for flora, the Button Wrinklewort, Large-fruit Fireweed, Small Golden Moths, Small Milkwort, Small Scurf-pea, Spiny Rice-flower, and the only remaining wild population of Sunshine Diuris; and, for fauna, the Grassland Earless Dragon, Orange-bellied Parrot, Plains-wanderer, Red-chested Button-quail, Striped Legless Lizard and Swift Parrot.

The landscape consists of undulating volcanic plains with red duplex soils. The Werribee and Little Rivers have incised steep and sometimes spectacular gorges into the basalt plain. The scoria cone of Mount Anakie is a significant landscape feature. A band of Tertiary sediments is located along the western edge of this area.

It has a unique and relatively early history of European settlement due partly to the ease of access of the open grassland plains. Because of this the landscape has been radically altered.

The dry plains of the Werribee plains hinterland formerly supported extensive areas of Plains Grassland. These grasslands integrated with Riverina Plains Grassy Woodland (dominated by Grey Box, Buloke and Drooping Sheoak) to the west and south of Melton, and Plains Grassy Woodland in and around the You Yangs and east of the Brisbane Ranges. Riparian areas supported Floodplain Riparian Woodland and Creekline Grassy Woodland with Escarpment Shrubland on steeper escarpments. A variety of wetland communities formerly occurred throughout including Plains Grassy Wetland, Plains Sedgy Wetland, Canegrass Wetland, Lignum Wetland and Aquatic Herbfield. Scoria Cone Woodland was associated with Mount Anakie and other volcanoes. Areas of Coastal Saltmarsh were found along the shores of Port Phillip Bay. Many elements of the flora reflect the low rainfall including White

Cypress-pine and Fragrant Saltbush found along the steep escarpments of the Werribee River, and Woolly Buttons at Little River. The native vegetation has been extensively cleared and altered for agriculture and (increasingly) for urban and industrial use. However, there are large areas of predominantly native vegetation including woodlands, wetlands and grasslands.

The major issue for biodiversity conservation in the Werribee plains hinterland is loss of native vegetation and habitat through clearing for urban development, cropping and infrastructure. The compounding effects of such clearing are the loss of floristic and habitat diversity and increasing fragmentation of habitats and isolation of remnants. Similarly, changes to management of remnant vegetation and increased urbanisation contribute to the proliferation of weeds and feral animals. Degradation of drainage lines and riparian vegetation through erosion, pollution and uncontrolled grazing, depletion of wetlands and changes to the hydrology of wetlands and streams are also serious threats to biodiversity in the region. However, a range of conservation assets are present and significant opportunities do exist to establish relatively large areas and networks of areas that are managed sympathetically for conservation. Such networks could include a range of vegetation types and land tenures and relatively large and intact areas of open grassland, grassy woodland and wetland communities.

Environmental objective to be achieved:

- *To prevent a decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation and native fauna habitat of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.*
- *To enhance the environmental and landscape values of the area.*
- *To avoid the fragmentation of contiguous areas of native vegetation or native fauna habitat.*
- *To ensure that any use, development or management of the land is compatible with the long-term conservation, maintenance and enhancement of the grasslands.*
- *To avoid the destruction of habitat for native fauna resulting from the modification of land form and disturbance of surface soils and rocks.*
- *To enable areas of environmental significance, due to their native vegetation or habitat values, to be identified.*

The study area is subject to ESO4.

4.3.1 Implications

The results show that the assessment study area is comprised of exotic degraded vegetation that, if removed, will not impact upon the environmental values of the native vegetation and fauna habitat of the Victorian volcanic plain.

Consequently, there are no implications for the current proposal under ESO4.

4.4 Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations

Under Particular Provision (Native Vegetation Clause 52.17) the State has gazetted the Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations. The Regulations ‘introduce a risk based approach to assessing applications to remove native vegetation’ (DEECA website i). Native vegetation is defined in Clause 72 of the Victoria Planning Provisions as plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses. Plants from other states or overseas are not native and the permitted clearing regulations do not apply if they are being removed. The Guidelines considers the biodiversity value of native vegetation by measuring the following two components:

- Site-based information that can be measured or observed at a site.
- Landscape scale information that cannot be measured or observed at the site and is included in maps and models (DELWP 2017).

The purpose of Clause 52.17 is to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. This is achieved by applying the following three step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017) the *Guidelines*:

1. Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
2. Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
3. Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact if a permit is granted to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

To manage the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation to minimise land and water degradation. (DEECA Website i).

When native vegetation removal is permitted, an offset must be secured which achieves a no net loss outcome for biodiversity. To achieve this the offset makes a contribution to Victoria’s biodiversity that is equivalent to the contribution made by the native vegetation that was removed. The type and amount of offset required depends on the native vegetation being removed and the contribution it makes to Victoria’s biodiversity.

The three assessment pathways are:

- Basic – limited impacts on biodiversity.
- Intermediate – could impact on large trees, endangered EVCs, and sensitive wetlands and coastal areas.
- Detailed – could impact on large trees, endangered EVCs, sensitive wetlands and coastal areas, and could significantly impact on habitat for rare or threatened species.

The assessment pathway of an application is determined in accordance with the following requirements.

Extent of native vegetation	Location Category		
	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3
Less than 0.5 hectares and not including any large trees	Basic	Intermediate	Detailed
Less than 0.5 hectares and including one or more large trees	Intermediate	Intermediate	Detailed
0.5 hectares or more	Detailed	Detailed	Detailed

Source: DELWP (2017).

Implications for the current proposal are discussed as follows. The proposed impact site is located within 'Location 1' (DEECA 2025d) (Figure 4).



Figure 4. DEECA Location mapping. Light green equates with Location 1.

4.4.1 Patch Native Vegetation

Under the Regulations, any areas of patch native vegetation that are proposed to be removed are subject to protection/and or recruitment offsets, depending upon the characteristics of the site.

One area of patch native vegetation was recorded for the broader study area (located to the north-east of the study area (refer to Figure 5) . No areas of patch native vegetation were recorded for the assessment study area. No areas of patch native vegetation are proposed to be impacted.

4.4.2 Scattered Tree Native Vegetation

Under the Regulations, any scattered native canopy trees that are proposed to be removed are subject to protection/and or recruitment offsets, depending upon the characteristics of the site.

Scattered trees, that is, mature native canopy trees that exist outside of a patch, are also assessed under the Regulations. Within the VVP bioregion, EVC 132 has no ‘canopy trees’.

No areas of scattered tree native vegetation were recorded for the assessment study area or are proposed to be impacted.

4.4.3 Implications

The results show that the current vegetation condition for the study area is 0% cover value of perennial native vascular understorey species for the assessment study area. No basaltic rock or non-vascular flora was recorded. The assessment study area is consequently assessed to be comprised of degraded exotic vegetation (i.e., no patch or scattered tree native vegetation).

The one area of recorded patch native vegetation is located beyond the proposed impact area and is proposed to be retained without impacts.

The proposal requires the removal of no ‘patch’ or ‘scattered tree’ native vegetation. Consequently, there are no implications for the removal of native vegetation under the Clause 52.17 Regulations.

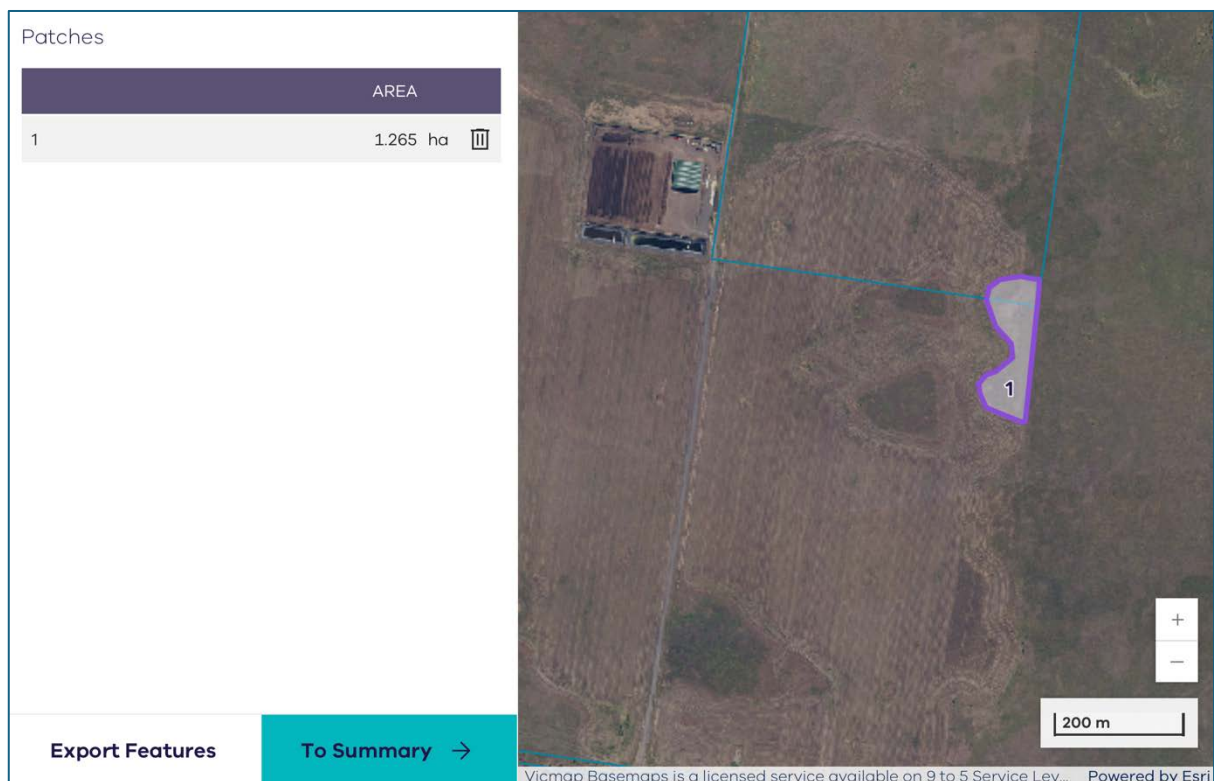


Figure 5. Area of recorded patch native vegetation. This vegetation is proposed located beyond the assessment study area and is proposed to be retained without impacts.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The subject of this report is the site of proposed Farm 13 broiler facility, located at 445 Carrs Rd, Anakie.

This report describes the flora and fauna values present on site.

The subject site is heavily degraded with historical cropping. No native vegetation was identified within the proposed impact area. The area is dominated by crops, common agricultural and ruderal weeds and bare earth.

The single recorded area of patch native grassland vegetation is located beyond the proposed impact area and is proposed to be retained without impacts.

Four common bird species were identified during the assessment, three native and one non-native. Faunal habitat value is assessed to be minimal within the study area.

No flora or fauna species of National, State or Regional conservation significance were recorded. Three locally significant native plant species were recorded that are proposed to be retained without impacts.

It is assessed that there are no implications for the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

It is assessed that there are no implications for the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

It is assessed that there are no implications under ESO4 of the CoGG Planning Scheme.

It is assessed that there are no implications under State Clause 52.17.

There are not considered to be any significant limitations to the findings of this study.

Appendix 1 - ASSESSING CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

Conservation significance is assessed at a range of scales, including national, state, regional and local. Criteria used for determining the conservation significance of flora and fauna at national to local scales are presented below for botanical and zoological conservation significance.

Botanical Significance

National botanical significance applies to an area when it supports one or more of the following attributes:

a population of at least one nationally threatened plant species listed by Briggs and Leigh (1996) or plant species listed on the schedules to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

A nationally threatened ecological community listed on the schedules of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

State botanical significance applies to an area when it supports one or more of the following attributes:

A population of at least one plant species threatened in Victoria, as listed by the schedules to the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

An ecological community considered threatened in Victoria through its listing on the schedules of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Regional botanical significance applies to an area that supports one or more of the following attributes:

Supports a population of one or more regionally depleted species defined in a valid regional assessment of biodiversity (e.g. Regional Native Vegetation Plan, Environment Conservation Council Report or Comprehensive Regional Assessment documents).

An ecological vegetation class that is considered endangered or vulnerable in a particular bioregion (based on Conn 1993 and the Regional Native Vegetation Plan),

An ecological vegetation class that is considered depleted in a particular bioregion (based on Conn 1993 and the Regional Native Vegetation Plan).

Local botanical significance applies to all remnant native vegetation that does not meet the above criteria. In much of Victoria and the VVP bioregion native vegetation has been so depleted by past clearing and disturbance that all remaining vegetation must be considered to be of at least local conservation significance.

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7 Plates 1-6 Vegetation existing conditions



Plate 1. Existing vegetation condition – proposed Farm 13 445 Carrs Rd, Anakie, post canola cropped land, typical conditions for proposed impact area.



Plate 2. Existing vegetation condition – proposed Farm 13. post canola cropped land.



Plate 3. Existing vegetation condition – proposed Farm 13. post canola cropped land.



Plate 4. Existing vegetation condition – proposed Farm 13, bare earth.



Plate 5. Patch native vegetation dominated by Serrated Tussock to the north-east of proposed impacts. To be retained without impacts.



Plate 6. Patch native vegetation dominated by Serrated Tussock to the north-east of proposed impacts. To be retained without impacts.

Appendix 1 - ASSESSING CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

Conservation significance is assessed at a range of scales, including national, state, regional and local. Criteria used for determining the conservation significance of flora at national to local scales are presented below for botanical conservation significance.

Botanical Significance

National botanical significance applies to an area when it supports one or more of the following attributes:

- a population of at least one nationally threatened plant species listed by Briggs and Leigh (1996) or plant species listed on the schedules to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

- A nationally threatened ecological community listed on the schedules of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

State botanical significance applies to an area when it supports one or more of the following attributes:

- A population of at least one plant species threatened in Victoria, as listed on the schedules to the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

- An ecological community considered threatened in Victoria through its listing on the schedules of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

Regional botanical significance applies to an area that supports one or more of the following attributes:

- Supports a population of one or more regionally depleted species defined in a valid regional assessment of biodiversity (eg. Regional Native Vegetation Plan, Environment Conservation Council Report or Comprehensive Regional Assessment documents).

Local botanical significance applies to all remnant native vegetation that does not meet the above criteria. In much of Victoria native, and in particular in the VVP bioregion, vegetation has been so depleted by past clearing and disturbance that all remaining vegetation must be considered to be of at least local conservation significance.