

Vegetation of  
Lot 10 PS135005  
200 Plantation Rd, Corio

## Site Inspection and ESO4 Assessment

A Report to  
TGM Group Pty Ltd

Prepared by

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## Introduction

A previous report 'Vegetation of Lot 10 PS135005 200 Plantation Rd Corio (January 2006)' prepared by this author, described the vegetation existing conditions of the property.

That report found that the study area was overwhelmingly degraded and dominated by exotic vegetation. Only one locally common and widespread indigenous species, Common Wallaby-grass (*Austrodanthonia caespitosa*) was located. This species was not present in sufficient quantity to constitute a 'remnant patch' in as defined by the Victorian Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action (DNRE 2002) - i.e. Net Gain. Consequently the study area was assessed as having 'negligible significance for biodiversity conservation'.

The purpose of this report is to

- Undertake an additional site inspection to gather current vegetative data and to assess the study area for its values
- Assess any potential significance under the City of Greater Geelong planning Scheme Environmental Significance Overlay 4 (ESO4).

## Site Inspection

An additional site inspection (to that undertaken for the 2006 report) was undertaken on October 16 2011. The purpose of this site inspection was to determine the current state of the site vegetation.

## Results

The October 16 2011 inspection found that the entire site was currently under a crop of the exotic plant Wheat (*Triticum* sp). This species formed a monoculture. No indigenous vegetation was recorded.

## ESO4

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.

ESO4 has been established to protect environmentally significant values, specifically being native grassland values, within the area that it covers, i.e. the volcanic plains to the north of Geelong (DSE website iv).

ESO4 was not in place at the time of the 2006 inspection.

## Implications

The results show that the current vegetation of the study area consists of degraded treeless vegetation with no indigenous species.

Therefore there are considered to be no implications for the current proposal under ESO4.

## Appendix 1 - ASSESSING CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

Conservation significance is assessed at a range of scales, including global, international, 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 Gullan et al. (1990), NRE (2000a) or more recently in the unpublished records of the Flora Information System (NRE), or 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).

An ecological vegetation class that is considered endangered or vulnerable in a particular bioregion (based on Conn 1993 and the Regional Native Vegetation Plan), in which case the area is of **High Regional** significance.

An ecological vegetation class that is considered depleted in a particular bioregion (based on Conn 1993 and the Regional Native Vegetation Plan), in which case it is of **Regional** significance.

**Local** botanical significance applies to all remnant native vegetation that does not meet the above criteria. In much of Victoria, and in particular in the Victorian Volcanic Plain 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.

## References

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (2005) 'Corangamite Native Vegetation Plan' CCMA Website.

DNRE (2002) 'Victoria's Native Vegetation Management A Framework for Action' DNRE, Melbourne.

DSE (2003) 'Victoria's Native Vegetation Management- A Framework For Action- Technical Support Maps' (CD). DSE, Melbourne.

DSE (2007). 'Native Vegetation Guide for assessment of referred planning permit applications'. DSE, Melbourne.

DSE Website i.

<http://mapshare2.dse.vic.gov.au/MapShare2EXT/imf.jsp?site=bim>

DSE Website ii.

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/nrence.nsf/LinkView/A2A7B7D2CABBEE3CCA256F2B000257048062D358172E420C4A256DEA0012F71C>

DSE Website iii.

[http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/B10DC61B8DF2A09FCA25760F0010DF1B/\\$File/Advisory+List+of+Threatened+Vert+Fauna+in+Victoria+-+2007+amended+11+august+2009.pdf](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/B10DC61B8DF2A09FCA25760F0010DF1B/$File/Advisory+List+of+Threatened+Vert+Fauna+in+Victoria+-+2007+amended+11+august+2009.pdf)

DSE Website iv.

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/planningschemes/greatergeelong/maps/greatergeelong18eso.pdf>

EPBC Website i.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=42&status=Critically%20Endangered>

EPBC Website ii.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/ecological-communities-listing-approach-factsheet.pdf>

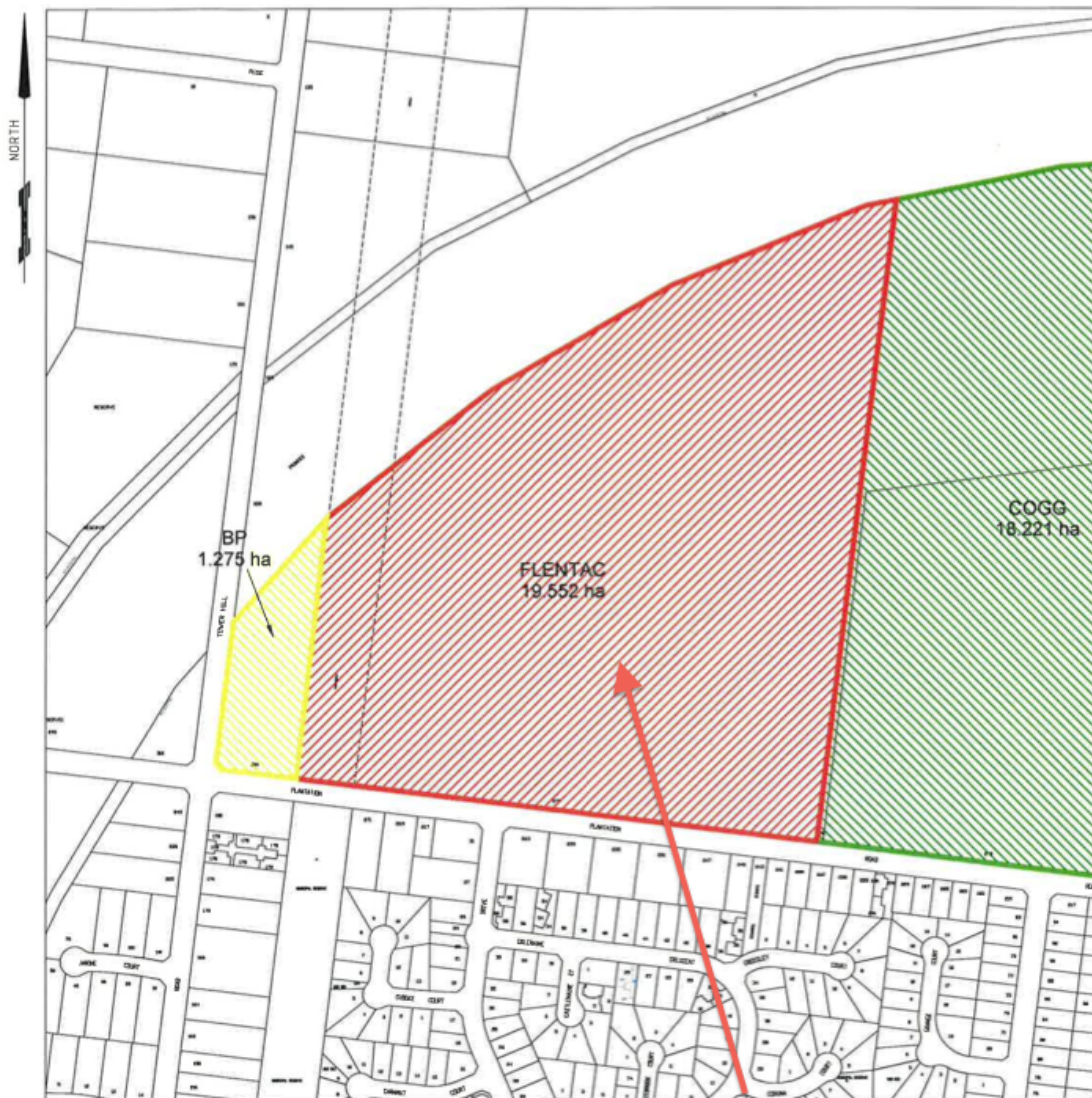
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Parkes, D., Newell, G. & Cheal, D. (2003): 'Assessing the quality of native vegetation: The habitat hectares approach. Parks, Flora & Fauna Division, DNRE, Victoria.

Walsh, N G and Stasjic, V (2007): 'A Census of the Vascular Plants of Victoria' Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

Walsh, N G & Entwisle, T (1994-1999): 'Flora of Victoria Vol 2-4' Inkata Press, Melbourne.

## Map 1 Study Area location



### CONTRIBUTION AREAS

| OWNER     | AREA (ha) | % AREA  |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| FLENTAC   | 19.552    | 23.88 % |
| BP        | 1.275     | 1.56 %  |
| COGG      | 18.221    | 22.25 % |
| M.C. HERD | 42.834    | 52.31 % |

**Study Area**  
**200 Plantation Rd**  
**Corio**  
**MTES August 2011**