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Addendum: Preliminary ecological assessment for the properties north of Wyndham Street and east of Central Road, Drysdale

Okologie Consulting was engaged by St Quentin Consulting on behalf of 161-169 Jetty Road Pty Ltd to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment for the properties north of Wyndham Street and east of Central Road, Drysdale (the site).

Okologie Consulting (2016) previously assessed the adjacent land bound by Jetty Road, Thomas Street and Central Road. The purpose of the preliminary assessment was to ascertain the presence/absence of ecological values within the site and to identify any potential constraints associated with the proposed future development.

This letter report has been prepared as an addendum to the previous report by Okologie Consulting (2016), and summarises the findings of the assessment. The findings of the previous ecological assessment have not been readdressed in this report.

Site Description

The site comprises several separate properties north of Wyndham Street and east of Central Road, Drysdale (Figure 1). The site topography was undulating, with low to moderate slopes towards the southwest. The majority of the land within the site and immediate surrounds has been modified from agricultural use and residential development.

The site occurs within the Otway Plain bioregion, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority area and the City of Greater Geelong municipality. The Native Vegetation Location Risk mapping shows the site occurs within Location A (DELWP 2016a). The site is zoned Rural Living Zone (RLZ) and is not subject to any environmental significance overlays under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme (DELWP 2016b).



Methodology

Field Assessment

The preliminary assessment was undertaken on 19 October 2016, and involved assessment of ecological values from the adjacent road reserve. No private properties were accessed as part of the assessment.

Native vegetation was classified according to the definitions of the *Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines* (the Guidelines) (DEPI 2013a). The definition of native vegetation in Clause 72 of the Victoria Planning Provisions is *plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses* (DELWP 2016b).

Limitations

The field survey comprised a visual assessment from each property boundary, as no access to private property was available. It is possible that the site contains native vegetation that was not visible from the boundary (i.e. native grasses), and a detailed assessment is recommended to confirm the presence/absence of native vegetation within the site.

The information outlined in this report relies on the accuracy of ecological database information, GIS layers and spatial imagery. To minimise potential errors, the most current available data was obtained from relevant sources.

Notwithstanding the above, data collected during the field assessment and information obtained from relevant sources (i.e. biological databases and relevant literature) was considered appropriate for the scope of the assessment.

Results

Ecological Vegetation Classes

The Biodiversity Interactive Map modelling indicates that pre-1750 EVC mapping for the site would have predominantly comprised of Grassy Woodland (EVC 175). Extant (2005) EVC mapping shows a sparse cover of Grassy Woodland throughout the site (DELWP 2016a).

Vegetation Condition

The site was highly modified and characterised by exotic dominated pasture, interspersed with planted native (non-indigenous) and exotic trees and shrubs along windrows, property boundaries and around dwellings. No native vegetation was observed within the site during the assessment (Figure 1).



Areas of open pasture were generally dominated by exotic species such as Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Brown-top Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Onion Grass *Romulea rosea*, Galenia *Galenia pubescens*, Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus*, Toowoomba Canary Grass *Phalaris aquatica*, Yorkshire Fog-grass *Holcus lanatus*, Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Kikuyu *Cenchrus clandestinus*, Rat-tail Grass *Sporobolus africanus*, Cape Weed *Arctotheca calendula*, Cat's Ear *Hypochoeris radicata* and Ribwort *Plantago lanceolata* (Plate 1).

Planted native trees and shrubs included Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*, River red-gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Plate 2).

No listed threatened ecological communities, flora or fauna species or associated habitats were observed during the field assessment, and none are considered likely to occur due to the absence of suitable habitat.



Plate 1: Exotic dominated pasture and planted trees and shrubs within the site







Plate 2: Planted native trees along Central Road reserve

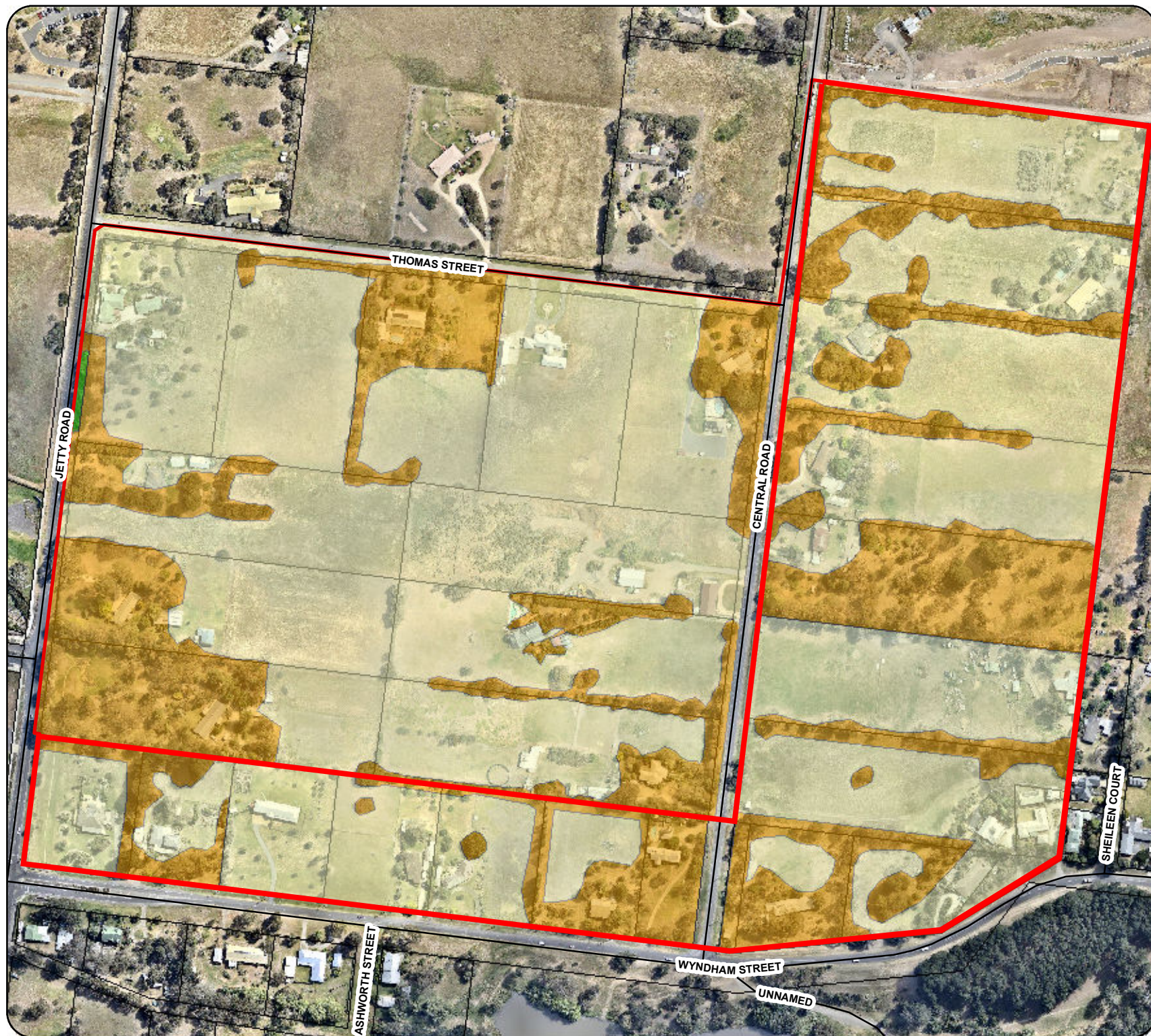
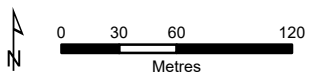
Figure 1

Ecological Features

Wyndham Street, Central Road Drysdale

Legend

-  Subject Site
-  Grassy Woodland
-  Planted Vegetation
-  Predominantly Introduced Vegetation





Conclusion and Recommendations

The site was highly modified and characterised by open pasture, interspersed with planted native (non-indigenous) and exotic trees and shrubs along windrows, property boundaries and around dwellings. No native vegetation was observed within the site.

No listed threatened flora or fauna species or associated habitats were observed during the field assessment, and none are considered likely to occur due to the absence of suitable habitat.

A referral under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is unlikely to be required, as no matters of National Environmental Significance (i.e. species habitats or ecological communities) are likely to be significantly impacted by future development of the site.

It is recommended that a detailed assessment be undertaken to confirm the presence/absence of native vegetation (i.e. native grasses) within the site. If present, the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation will require a permit under Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. The removal of any remnant patches of native vegetation or scattered native trees will require a biodiversity application under the Guidelines.

Please contact me on 0419 786 533 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

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References

DEPI 2013a. *Permitted clearing of native vegetation: Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines*. Department of Environment and Primary Industries: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

DELWP 2016a. Biodiversity Interactive Map. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning: www.depi.vic.gov.au

DELWP 2016b. Planning Schemes Online. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning: <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au>

Okologie Consulting 2016. 'Preliminary ecological assessment for the properties bounded by Jetty Road, Thomas Street and Central Road, Drysdale'. Report prepared for 161-169 Jetty Road Pty Ltd.