



14 February 2022

Our ref: MELB22\_Balmoral

Hub



Attention:



Dear



**Balmoral Stage 5 Balmoral Quay development – ecology advice**

Balmoral Quay Pty Ltd have engaged Eco Logical Australia (ELA) to provide advice on the status of native vegetation within the proposed Balmoral Stage 5 – Balmoral Quay development. The vegetation proposed for removal is referred to as Tree Groups 29 and 30 in the Arboricultural Assessment (Balmoral Stage 5 Planning Scheme Amendment – Tree Impacts Balmoral Quay Geelong, March 2021) completed for the site by Let’s Talk About Trees.

The Arboricultural Assessment identifies both tree groups as mature, planted native Moonah *Melaleuca lanceolata* (7 individuals with group 29 and 6 individuals with group 30) (Appendix A). This species is a shrub or small tree to 10 m which occurs primarily on southern coastlines on both the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas, as well as inland in North-western Victoria. Within a coastal context the species is commonly associated with dunes and cliffs, where it will often form the dominant canopy species in the Coastal Alkaline Scrub ecological vegetation class (EVC 858) and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* listed Coastal Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata* subsp. *lanceolata*) Woodland Community.

EVC mapping of the study area indicates the site would have previously supported Grassy Woodland (EVC 175), however the steep embankments/escarpment along the coastline would likely have supported a narrow band of low shrublands. Whilst Moonah is uncommon along the western coastline of Port Phillip Bay, sporadic indigenous occurrences are known.

With regards to the site, the vegetation in question is considered to have been planted within the past 20 years due to:

- site context – the vegetation is closely aligned to the boundary/fenceline of the former shipyard precinct
- structure of vegetation – the density and linear nature of the vegetation indicates it is likely a result of past planting (Appendix A). This species is not commonly observed in this structure in natural settings.
- evidence of past disturbance in historical aerial imagery – a range of historical aerial imagery was reviewed (Appendix B) with imagery from 1947 clearly showing an absence of vegetation within the locations of Group 29 and Group 30, with subsequent 1966 imagery shown evenly spaced plantings along the property boundary.

Given the vegetation is considered planted, it is therefore exempt from a planning permit to remove native vegetation in accordance with Clause 52.17 of the Geelong local planning scheme.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this report, please contact me on 

  
Regards,

  
Ecology Team Lead (Victoria)

## Appendix A Site photos



Figure 1. Native vegetation Group 30



Figure 2. Native vegetation group 29

## Appendix B Historical aerial imagery



Figure 3. 1947 aerial imagery of site shown in red (Landata 2022)



Figure 4. 1966 aerial imagery of site shown in red (Landata 2022)



Figure 5. 1966 aerial imagery of site shown in red (Nearmap 2022)