

30 March 2021
Version: 1.0

South Gippsland Highway Realignment Project

Compliance Assessment Report No.1
March 2020 to March 2021
EPBC Approval No. 2017/8070

Prepared for
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Environment Assessment & Compliance Division
GPO Box 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Document information

Criteria	Details
Document title:	Compliance Assessment Report No. 1, March 2020 to March 2021, EPBC Approval No. 2017/8070
Document owner:	MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS VICTORIA
Version:	1.0 DOC/21/77343
Issue date:	30 March 2021

© Document copyright of Major Road Projects Victoria

This document is copyright. This document is published publicly for the purpose of compliance to the EPBC Act Permit requirement and is for general information only.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	2
TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS	4
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
2 INTRODUCTION	6
2.1 Purpose of this Report.....	6
2.2 Background.....	6
2.3 EPBC Act 1999 Requirements.....	6
2.3.1 EPBC Approval.....	6
2.3.2 Change of Proponent	7
2.3.3 Variation of Conditions of Approval.....	7
2.4 Other Approvals	7
3 PROJECT STATUS AND COMPLIANCE	8
3.1 Construction	8
3.2 Current Project Activities.....	8
3.2.1 Environmental Management	8
3.2.2 Native Vegetation Removal	8
3.2.3 Management Plans	8
3.3 Project Compliance.....	8
4 PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE (EPBC 2017/8070)	9
5 REFERENCES	20
APPENDIX A – PROJECT MAP	21
APPENDIX B – SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY REALIGNMENT, KOONWARRA, STRZELECKI GUM OFFSET SITE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021	21
APPENDIX C - LETTER FROM DAWE 29 MARCH 2021 REF: 2017/8070	23

Terms, abbreviations and definitions

Table 1.0: list of Terms and Abbreviations

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>
CPB	CPB Contractors
MRPV	Major Road Projects Victoria
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance

1 Executive Summary

The final approval to Referral No. 2017/8070 under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) was given to Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) on the 18 January 2019 to realign the South Gippsland Highway south of the township of Koonwarra in South Gippsland.

Under Condition 13 of the decision notice, an annual compliance report is required to be published on MRPV's website within three months of every twelve-month anniversary of the commencement of the action. The report must address compliance with each of the conditions of the approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions.

This compliance report addresses the current status of the construction of South Gippsland Highway Realignment Project (the Project) against the conditions of EPBC Act Approval No. 2017/8070 (the Approval). This is the first compliance report to be prepared for the South Gippsland Highway Realignment Project and relates to the period 30 March 2020 to 30 March 2021, or year one of the action.

MRPV has complied with all conditions of the Approval for the annual reporting period.

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this Report

This report details the Project's compliance with the conditions of the Approval in accordance with Condition No. 13 of the decision notice.

2.2 Background

The South Gippsland Highway Realignment Project involves realigning a stretch of the South Gippsland Highway between Koonwarra and Meeniyan. This section of highway has resulted in frequent run-off-road crashes, freight delays and safety concerns. In response the Australian and Victorian Governments have prioritised the realignment of the highway to make it safer.

CPB Contractors was awarded the contract to deliver the upgrade and construction commenced in early 2020.

The project involves:

- building a new section of highway between Old Koonwarra-Meenian Road and Minns Road to reduce the length of highway from 3.4km to 2.3km
- building two new bridges over the Tarwin River
- building an underpass east of the new Caithness Road intersection for the Great Southern Rail Trail
- realigning the Great Southern Rail Trail under the new river bridge at Minns Road
- closing off access to the old section of highway to through traffic east of Caithness Road while retaining access for local residents
- maintaining access to Caithness Road by a new intersection and upgrades to the existing intersection at Minns Road
- installation of safety barriers.

The project will also investigate other possible safety upgrades between Meeniyan and Yarram.

A project map is provided in Appendix A.

2.3 EPBC Act 1999 Requirements

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) has several objectives including the protection of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) such as nationally threatened species and ecological communities and heritage places.

2.3.1 EPBC Approval

Approval of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment is required under the EPBC Act if an 'action' will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. Due to potential impacts on protected native vegetation, the project was referred to the Department of Environment and Energy (now the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) (the Department) on 13 October 2017.

A decision issued on 9 January 2018 determined that the project is a controlled action requiring assessment by preliminary documentation and approval under the EPBC Act. The relevant controlling provision under the Act is the Project's impact on listed threatened species and communities (Sections 18 and 18A). In particular:

- Impacts to Strzelecki Gum under the Project amount to the removal of 181 trees.
- Potential impacts on populations of Australian Grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*).

The project was subsequently approved by the Department as a controlled action on 18 January 2019.

2.3.2 Change of Proponent

As discussed above, the Approval was granted to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Major Road Projects Authority) (ABN 69 981208 782) on 18 January 2019.

Due to Machinery of Government changes with the Victorian State Government the Project is now being delivered by Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV) (formerly the Major Road Projects Authority), which is a division of the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (an administrative office of the Department of Transport (ABN 69 981 208 782)).

2.3.3 Variation of Conditions of Approval

On 8 August 2020 MRPV on behalf of CPB Contractors applied to the Department for a Variation to Condition 1 of the Approval under section 143 (1)(c) of the EPBC Act. This Variation sought to allow the Project to undertake ground-disturbing works on the floodplain (including earthworks, construction of haul roads and hard stand areas and installation of the temporary bridge structures) during the period between April to November of each year provided additional mitigation strategies were implemented.

On 12 August 2020, this Variation of Conditions was granted by the Department. This resulted in an amendment to Condition 1 of approval that now details mitigation strategies to be implemented and requirements for monitoring and reporting of Australian Grayling in the Tarwin River as outlined in Approval Conditions 1b and 1c.

2.4 Other Approvals

In addition to obtaining an EPBC approval a number of other approvals have been obtained for the Project.

These include:

- Planning Permit no. 2002/250/B - The South Gippsland Shire Council
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan 14990 – Aboriginal Victoria
- Works on Waterway Permit - West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

3 Project Status and Compliance

3.1 Construction

The action commenced on 30 March 2020 with enabling works commencing across Areas 1,2,3,7 and 8 of the Project including temporary pavement widening, fence installation and minor civil works. These work areas are outlined on the Project Map in Appendix A.

Over the past 12 months works have progressed well across all areas of the Project with a significant scope of the works delivered including works in Areas 4, 5 and 6 which involve works in the floodplain areas.

3.2 Current Project Activities

3.2.1 Environmental Management

A Project Environmental Management Plan has been developed to manage the environmental actions, mitigation measures and commitments for the Project.

Contractor Environmental Management Plans and procedures have been developed in conjunction with the South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and MRPV

3.2.2 Native Vegetation Removal

As outlined under Condition 2 of the EPBC approval a total of 181 individual Strzelecki Gums were approved to be impacted by the Project.

With the full extent of vegetation removal works now complete, the project was able to limit the total number of impacted Strzelecki gum trees removed to 73 with an additional 64 translocated - a total of 137 trees impacted by the project.

This was achieved by MRPV working with CPB Contractors to identify and protect additional areas of native vegetation within the Project area where possible. This resulted in a number of additional areas of vegetation being marked as no-go zones.

1 additional Strzelecki Gum was recorded to have fallen over within the Project area during an inclement weather event.

3.2.3 Management Plans

Several management plans have been developed and implemented for the Project these include:

- South Gippsland Hwy Realignment Environmental Management Plan
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan 14990
- Strzelecki Gum - Offset Management Plan.

These plans have been endorsed by South Gippsland Shire Council and either approved by or provided to the Department for information as required for each plan.

Additional site environmental plans and erosion and sediment controls plans have also been developed by CPB Contractors highlighting no-go zones and ensuring construction is carried out in accordance with the management plans and approval conditions.

3.3 Project Compliance

MRPV has complied with all conditions of EPBC Act approval 2017/8070 for the annual reporting period. Details of compliance against each of the twenty-five conditions of the approval are provided in Section 4 below.

4 Performance and compliance (EPBC 2017/8070)

Table 3.0 EPBC Act Approval Notice 2017/8070 compliance results Year 1 (2020-21)

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
1	For the protection of Australian Grayling (<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>):	The approval holder must: a. not undertake in-stream works; b. implement the mitigation measures described in Attachment A, and c. only undertake ground-disturbing works on the floodplain, including earthworks, construction of haul roads and hard stand areas and installation of the temporary bridge structure, during December to March (inclusive) unless: i. mitigation strategies are implemented in accordance with Attachment B; and ii. monitoring and reporting of Australian Grayling in the Tarwin River within 1 km of the action is undertaken in accordance with Attachment C.	Stage construction works and implement mitigation measures as outlined.	Compliant	In accordance with this condition no in-stream works have been undertaken. Mitigation measures have been implemented in accordance with Attachment A Conditions where required. All ground-disturbing works carried out on the floodplain have been conducted during December to March or been conducted in accordance with Attachment B Conditions. As outlined in Attachment C Conditions, targeted species monitoring has not been required during construction to date as there have been no major incidents.
2	For the protection of Strzelecki Gum	The approval holder must ensure that no more than 181 Strzelecki Gum individuals are removed as a result of the action.	Management of vegetation losses during	Compliant	137 Strzelecki Gums have been removed to-date with

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
	(Eucalyptus strzeleckii):		construction to ensure project does not impact on more than 181 Strzelecki Gum individuals		all clearing works now complete. This is below the 181 permitted to be removed. 1 additional Strzelecki Gum fell over within the Project area during inclement weather.
3	For the protection of Strzelecki Gum (Eucalyptus strzeleckii):	The approval holder must ensure that lopping or root disturbance impacts to remaining Strzelecki Gum are minimised in accordance with directions from an on-site, suitably qualified person.	Avoid disturbance to Strzelecki Gum's that are to be retained within the project area.	Compliant	No-Go zone fencing was installed around all vegetation to be retained in consultation with arborists. All vegetation was inspected in pre-clearing site assessments and Tree Protection Zones established where it was identified that there was any potential for works to impact vegetation, including Strzelecki Gum individuals, to be retained.
4	For the protection of Strzelecki Gum (Eucalyptus strzeleckii):	Prior to commencement of the action, the approval holder must provide written evidence to the Department of a licence agreement placed on the offset area and provide a shapefile of the offset area to the Department.	Offset Management Plan to be provided to the Department and implemented.	Compliant	The signed licence agreement and shapefile of the Strzelecki Gum offset site was provided to DAWE by MRPV on 4 March 2020.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
					Receipt of this information was acknowledged by the DAWE Compliance Monitoring Team on 5 March 2020.
5	For the protection of Strzelecki Gum (Eucalyptus strzeleckii):	The approval holder must implement the Offset Management Plan(OMP).	Offset Management Plan to be provided to the Department and implemented.	Compliant	<p>The Offset Management Plan is being Implemented.</p> <p>Actions in Table 4 of the OMP are currently on track.</p> <p>Annual reports for 2020 and 2021 have been completed.</p> <p>End of year one audit completed (see Appendix B).</p>
6	For the protection of Strzelecki Gum (Eucalyptus strzeleckii):	If the management action standards specified at Table 4 of the Offset Management Plan are not achieved by the end of the ten year offset implementation period, the approval holder must submit an alternative Strzelecki Gum Offset Plan to the Minister for approval within twelve months of the end of the ten year offset implementation period.	Achieve management action standards specified in Table 4 during the ten-year implementation period.	Compliant	Actions in Table 4 of the OMP are currently on track.
7	Notification of date of commencement of the action	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action.	Provide notification to the Department.	Compliant	Notification was sent to the Department on 3-April 2020 advising that the activity

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
					<p>commenced on 30 March 2020.</p> <p>DAWE acknowledged receipt of the notification on the 8 April 2020.</p>
8	Notification of date of commencement of the action	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written approval of the Minister.	MRPV to ensure construction commences within 5 years of the approval.	Not applicable	The action has commenced.
9	Compliance records	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant	Records of the implementation of management plans/programs are being maintained along with ongoing monitoring data.
10	Compliance records	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request.	No requests to date.	Not applicable	Compliance records to be provided to the Department upon request.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
11	Preparation and publication of plans	The approval holder must: a. submit plans electronically to the Department for approval by the Minister; b. publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of the date the plan is approved by the Minister or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the Minister, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister; c. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and d. keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Submit Plans for Approval. Publish approved plans.	Compliant	Plans have been submitted and approved and are currently published on MRPV's website.
12	Preparation and publication of plans	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required by the Offset Management Plan is prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the Plan.	Compile monitoring data in accordance with Department Guidelines Submit electronically as outlined in OMP.	Compliant	Monitoring data and reporting has been undertaken to date as defined in the OMP. Relevant data has been submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the OMP.
13	Annual compliance reporting	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must: a. publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days	The annual compliance report shall be published on the MRPV's web site by 1 June each year.	Compliant	This is the first compliance report completed for the project. The current Compliance Report (2021) will be published on MRPVs website

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		<p>following the relevant 12-month period;</p> <p>b. notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website within five business days of the date of publication;</p> <p>c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires;</p> <p>d. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and</p> <p>e. where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.</p>			in accordance with Condition 13.
14	Reporting non compliance	<p>The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:</p> <p>a. the condition which is or may be in breach; and</p> <p>b. a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance.</p>	Notify the Department of any incident.	Not applicable	No incidents to date.
15	Reporting non compliance	<p>The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying:</p>	Notify the Department of any incident.	Not applicable	No incidents to date

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; b. the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.			
16	Independent audit	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted for the 12 month period from commencement of the action and for every subsequent 12 month period until completion of the action, or as otherwise requested in writing by the Minister.	Undertake independent audit.	Not applicable	<p>On 2 March 2021 MRPV contacted the Department to request clarification of the intent of Condition 16.</p> <p>On 29 March 2021 MRPV received a letter from the Department advising that an independent audit of the Approval need only be conducted if an audit is specifically requested in writing by the Minister.</p> <p>This letter is attached as Appendix C.</p> <p>To date MRPV have not received a request from the Minister to submit an annual independent audit report.</p>

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
17	Independent audit	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department; b. only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and c. submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.		Not applicable	No Audit conducted to date.
18	Independent audit	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.		Not applicable	No Audit conducted to date.
19	Revision of action management plans	The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to an action management plan approved by the Minister under condition 5, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act. If the Minister approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.	Apply for any variations required to the action management plan.	Not applicable	No variation to action management plans has been required to date.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
20	Revision of action management plans	The approval holder may choose to revise an action management plan approved by the Minister under condition 5, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.	Apply for any variations required to the action management plan.	Not applicable	No variation to action management plans has been required to date.
21	Revision of action management plans (RAMP)	<p>If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 20 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. notify the Department in writing that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the Department with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an electronic copy of the RAMP; ii. an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP; iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP; iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact; and v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the RAMP (RAMP implementation date), being at least 20 business days after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the Department. 	Apply for any variations required to the action management plan.	Not applicable	No variation to action management plans has been required to date.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
		b. subject to condition 23, implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date.			
22	Revision of action management plans	The approval holder may revoke their choice to implement a RAMP under condition 20 at any time by giving written notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 20, the approval holder must implement the previous action management plan approved by the Minister.	Implement approved RAMP.	Compliant	Action Management Plan is being implemented.
23	Revision of action management plans	If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then: a. condition 20 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP; and b. the approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the Minister in the notice.	Implement approved RAMP.	Compliant	Action Management Plan is being implemented.
24	Revision of action management plans	At the time of giving the notice under condition 23, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 20 does not apply for one or more specified action management plans. Note: conditions 20, 21, 22 and 23 are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the EPBC Act which allows the approval holder to submit a revised action management plan, at any time, to the Minister for approval.	Implement approved RAMP.	Compliant	Action Management Plan is being implemented.
25	Completion of the action	Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.	Notification to be sent to the Department once the activity	Not applicable	Activity is yet to be completed.

Condition	Subject	Conditions	Actions	Compliance Status	Response / Evidence
			is complete.		

5 References

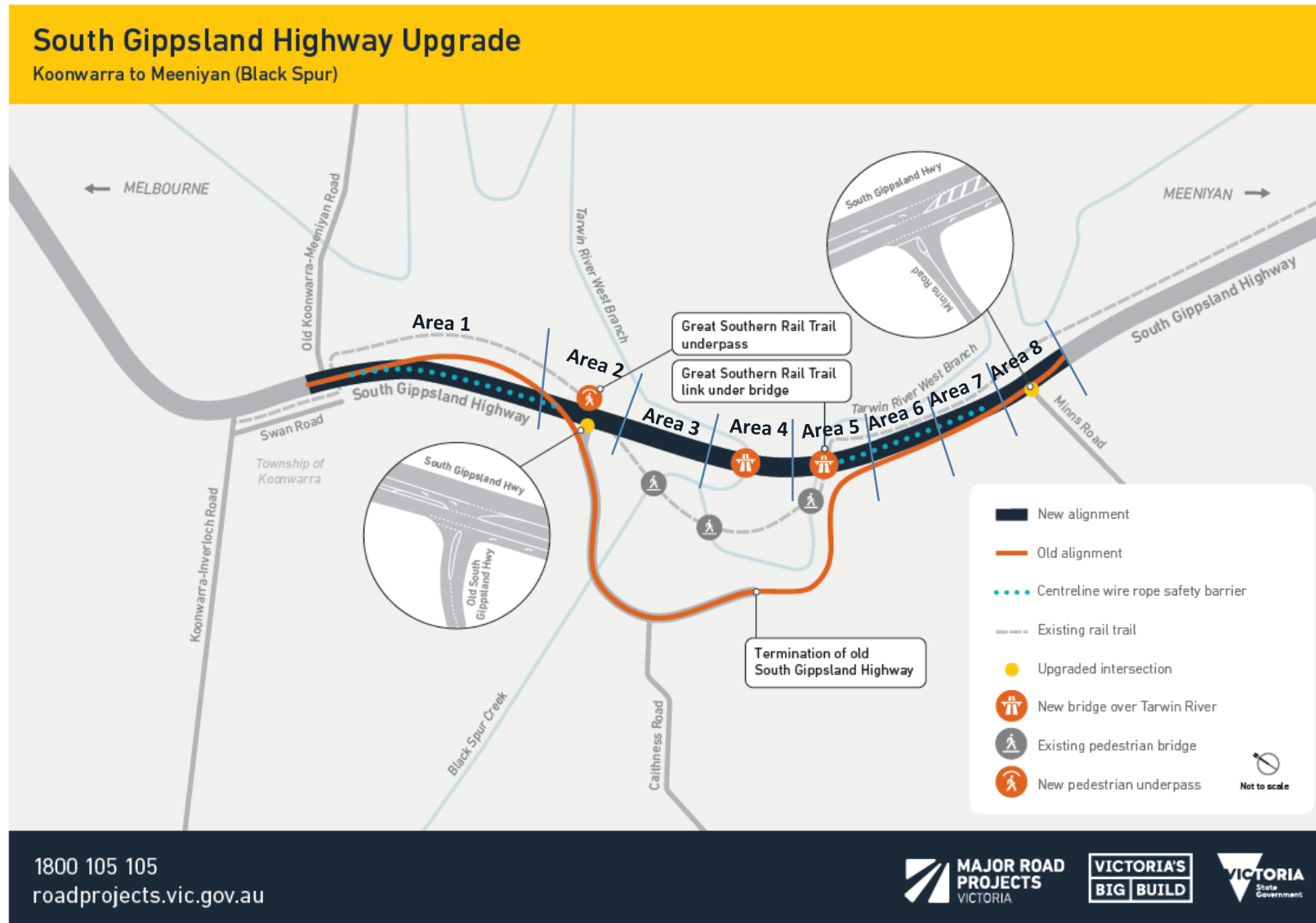
Bowler, T., Brooker, T., & Imbery, B., (2018), South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur) - EPBC 2017/8070. Strzelecki Gum Offset Management Plan. Indigenous Design Environmental Management, Research, Victoria.

Bowler, T. (2020), South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur) EPBC Act 1999 (2017/8070) Strzelecki Gum Offset Site Annual Report 2019-2020. Indigenous Design Environmental Management, Research, Victoria.

Bowler, T. & Brooker, T. (2021), South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur) EPBC Act 1999 (2017/8070) Strzelecki Gum Offset Site Annual Report 2020-2021. Indigenous Design Environmental Management, Research, Victoria.

Appendix A – Project Map

South Gippsland Highway Realignment – Koonwarra



Appendix B – South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra, Strzelecki Gum Offset Site Annual Report 2020-2021

Report for Major Road Projects Victoria

South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur)
EPBC Act 1999 (2017/8070) Strzelecki Gum Offset Site
Annual Report 2020-2021

March 2021

Tim Bowler & Tania Brooker

Citation

Bowler, T. & Brooker, T. (2021), South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur) EPBC Act 1999 (2017/8070) Strzelecki Gum Offset Site Annual Report 2020-2021. *Indigenous Design Environmental Management*, Research, Victoria.

Indigenous Design Environmental Management
1635 Main Road, Research
www.iddesign.com.au

Disclaimer

Indigenous Design Environmental Management and any associated contractors engaged for this project have endeavoured to provide an accurate and current document. However, this document is not guaranteed to be without flaw or omissions. The information and recommendations provided are current at the time of writing but do not account for any changes in circumstances after the time of publication. Indigenous Design Environmental Management accepts no liability for any error, loss or other consequence caused or arising from using the information provided within this report.

Acknowledgements

Debbie McLees - Senior Project Engineer, Major Road Projects Victoria

Daniel Kneebone – Senior Project Engineer, Major Road Projects Victoria

Nicole Noy – Managing Director, Indigenous Design Environmental Management

Mark Bradbury – Regional Manager (Bass Coast), Indigenous Design Environmental Management

Tom Glover – Senior Supervisor, Indigenous Design Environmental Management

Version Control

Status	Date	Revision type	Reviewed by	Amended by
Draft 1.1	26/03/2021	First draft, first review	Tania Brooker	Tim Bowler
Draft 1.2	26/03/2021	First draft, third review	Tania Brooker	Tim Bowler
Draft 1.2	26/03/2021	Final released to client for review		
Draft 2.1	30/03/2021	Second draft, first review	Debbie McLees	Tania Brooker
Final 2.2	30/03/2021	Final release to client		

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Project Background	1
1.2	Site Details	1
1.3	Management Requirements	1
2	Summary of Management Works	4
2.1	Strzelecki Gum Condition.....	4
2.2	Fencing.....	4
2.3	Woody Weeds.....	5
2.4	Herbaceous and Grass Weeds	6
2.5	Pest Animals.....	7
2.6	Revegetation Planting.....	8
3	Photos	9
3.1	General.....	9
3.2	Strzelecki Gum Condition.....	10
3.3	Recruitment and Translocation	12
3.4	Weed Control.....	15
3.5	Pest Animals.....	17
3.6	Photo Points.....	18
	References	35
	Appendices.....	36
	Appendix 1: Year 2 Works Summary	37
	Maps	41
	Map 1 – Offset Site and location of Strzelecki Gums (Bowler, Brooker, & Imbery, 2018)	42
	Map 2 – Juvenile Strzelecki Gum Locations	43

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

This annual report for Major Road Projects Victoria (MRPV), aims to provide an update on the progress of native vegetation conservation and improvement works at the Black Spur Offset site, relating to the South Gippsland Highway Realignment. Condition 5 of the approval for EPBC 2017/8070 requires the approval holder to implement the Offset Management Plan and Condition 13 requires a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of the commencement of the action (DoEE, 2019), being 30th March each year.

The Offset Management Plan specifies a range of management actions including revegetation, weed management, pest animal control and protection of the site from stock and unauthorised access (Bowler, Brooker, & Imbery, 2018).

This annual report provides the following:

- Summary of management actions required to be undertaken on the site;
- Summary of works undertaken at the site between May 2020 and March 2021;
- Photographic evidence of works undertaken;
- Comparisons of photo points between 2019 and 2021;
- Comments on issues or threats to the site identified during the current period; and
- Recommended actions to be undertaken as a result of observations.

1.2 Site Details

The offset site is located on either side of the South Gippsland Highway Realignment, on Crown Land alongside the Tarwin River West Branch and Black Spur Creek, approximately 500 metres east of the township of Koonwarra in South Gippsland (*Figure 1*).

The site is approximately 8.7 hectares in size and includes a remnant patch of native vegetation within a degraded area, 1.2 hectares in size, which is to be used as a Strzelecki Gum revegetation site. The remnant patch areas host a total of 232 Strzelecki Gums of varying sizes from very small recruits to very large mature trees recorded (Bowler, Brooker, & Imbery, 2018).

1.3 Management Requirements

From the commencement of the agreement, MRPV agreed to undertake the following management commitments for the 10-year implementation period:

- Eliminate all woody weeds to less than 1% cover;
- Eliminate high threat herbaceous and grassy weeds to less than 1% cover;
- Ensure other herbaceous and grassy weed cover does not increase beyond current levels;
- Monitor for any new and emerging woody and herbaceous weeds and eliminate to <1% cover;
- Control rabbits and deer or their impacts if they pose a threat to the offset site;
- Retain all standing trees, dead or alive;

- Retain all fallen logs and fallen timber;
- Exclude stock; and
- Successfully establish 235 Strzelecki Gum trees.

(Bowler, Doherty, & Brooker, 2017)

These management actions were summarised in *Table 4* of the Offset Management Plan and included in *Appendix 1*, and this report provides specific detail on the progression of works to achieve these in Year 2 of implementation.

As required by the Offset Management Plan, monitoring of the success of management activities within the offset site must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist annually for the term of the Plan. Monitoring was completed in March 2021 by Mr Tim Bowler- B.A.Sc. (Env. Sc.), a Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) accredited native vegetation assessor, with 8 years' experience in environmental consultancy and flora and fauna assessments in South Gippsland.

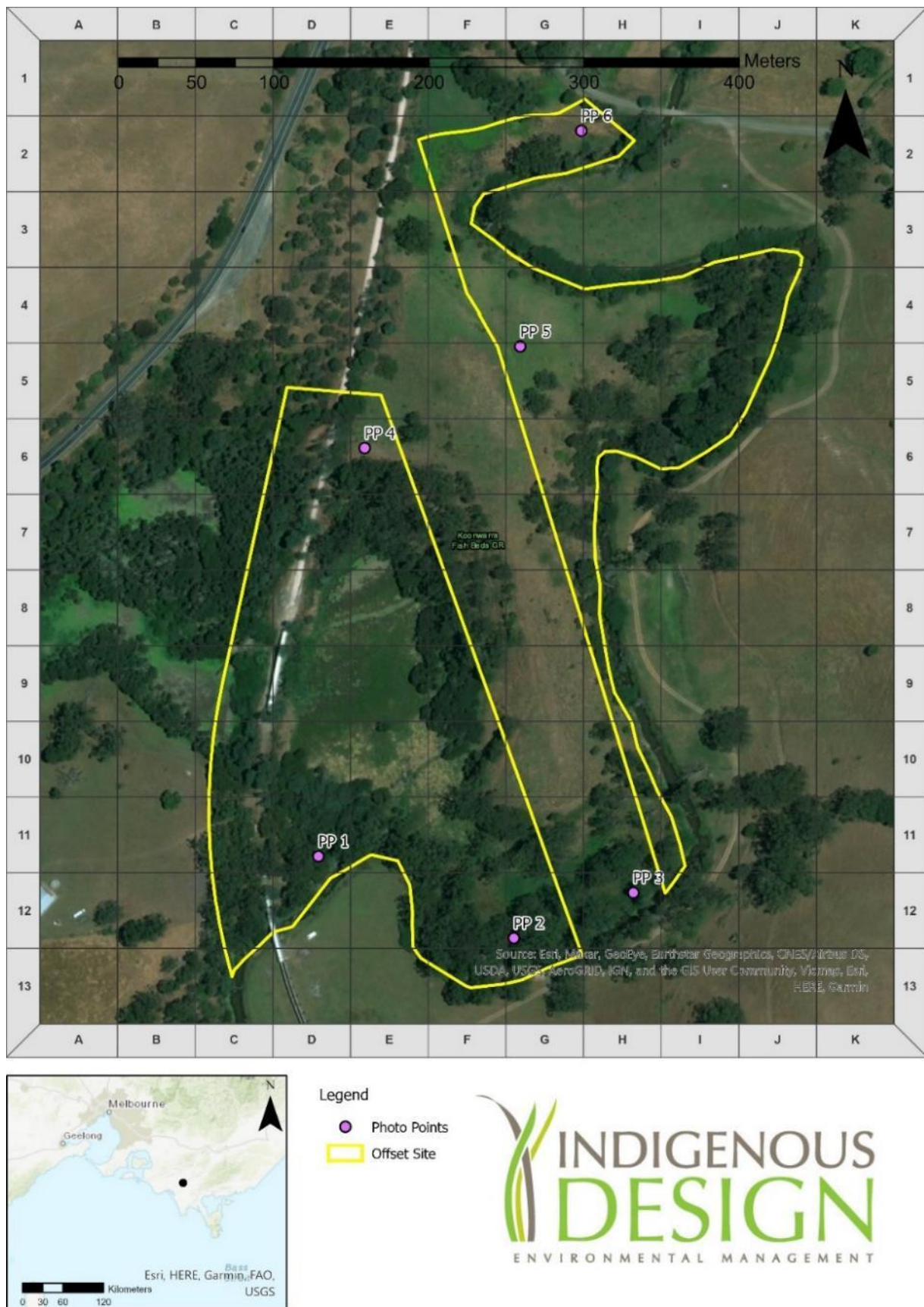


Figure 1: Offset Site

2 Summary of Management Works

The following sections provide a description of works undertaken on site during the 2020/2021 works period and the site's progress towards vegetation improvements and management obligations. This summary is based on site observations and description of works undertaken by environmental work crews across the year, as well as a site visit to determine success, or otherwise, of weed control activities and the results of a weed audit which was completed in early March 2021.

Appendix 1 provides a summation of current condition and actions taken as per *Table 4* in the Offset Management Plan.

2.1 Strzelecki Gum Condition

No obvious signs of decline in the health of remnant Strzelecki Gum (*section 3.2* in Photos) and no removal or loss of Strzelecki Gums has been observed at the site.

Weed control of grassy and herbaceous exotic species has continued beneath the drip lines of mature Strzelecki Gums to aid in the chances of recruitment by reducing competition.

A total of 21 recruited (both naturally and via translocation) Strzelecki Gums have been found and spatially recorded since implementation of the Offset Management Plan, an increase of one since year 1. As part of this total number, translocation of Strzelecki Gum seedlings from within the Clearing site to the Offset site (undertaken in March 2020), has resulted in five healthy plants of 50cm or more in height.

Some of the new recruits (11) are located beyond the Offset Site boundary but are protected by the No Go Zone fencing from damage by adjacent construction works for the South Gippsland Highway Re-alignment (i.e. they are located within the new road reserve).

A total of ten Strzelecki Gums of the required 235 have therefore been established within the Offset site (through either recruitment or translocation) in Year 2 of implementation. Some of these new recruits still require protection through Wallaby tree guard installation in Year 3 to ensure they are not browsed.

The location of the recruited and translocated trees is shown in *Map 2*.

2.2 Fencing

Fencing is present along the Rail Trail boundary in the south-west offset area, along the edge of the Rail Trail, and the adjoining farmland, and remains in good condition. No fencing is currently installed along the boundary of the eastern offset area.

No evidence of firewood collection, stock intrusion or damage to existing fencing was observed or has been reported by environmental work crews.

The No-go Zone fencing, erected by the Clearing Site contractors, is shown in *Map 2*. This temporary fencing is effectively protecting the Offset Site from any unauthorised entry or damage due to construction activities for the South Gippsland Highway Realignment project.

2.3 Woody Weeds

Table 1 displays the nine woody weed species recorded within the offset site, along with their current and target covers. Five of these species are listed under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994 (Agriculture Victoria, 2017). All woody species are subject to the target of elimination, with emerging woody weeds also being monitored and removed by environmental work crews when found.

During the site visit on 24th March 2021, woody weed locations were recorded, with polygons drawn around large infestations. The percentage cover of that weed within the Offset Site was then calculated. Where species coverage was negligible, the cover was noted as less than 1%.

Weed control has been undertaken in this period (since the start of May 2020) targeting *Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg. (Blackberry) with knapsack spraying and cut and paint control of *Salix x reichardtii* (Pussy Willow) and other willow species along the edge of the wetlands. One species remains above its target % cover of <1%, being Willow.

Some off-target damage from control activities was observed, predominantly affecting Native Raspberry (*Rubus parvifolius*) where Blackberry was growing amongst it, although it is likely that the Native Raspberry will recover.

No new woody weed species have been recorded at the site.

Table 1: Woody weeds recorded, targets to achieve and current status

Scientific name	Common name	CALP Status	Method	Timing of Control	Target % Cover	Current % Cover
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Regionally Controlled	Cut & Paint	Spring to Autumn	<1%	<1%
<i>Fraxinus sp.*</i>	Ash Tree		Cut & Paint	Spring to Autumn	<1%	<1%
<i>Genista monspessulana*</i>	Cape Broom	Regionally Controlled	Cut & Paint, spray with appropriate herbicide	Summer	<1%	<1%
<i>Pittosporum undulatum*</i>	Sweet Pittosporum		Cut & Paint	Spring to Autumn	<1%	<1%
<i>Prunus sp.*</i>	Prunus		Cut & Paint	Spring to Autumn	<1%	<1%
<i>Rosa rubiginosa*</i>	Sweet Briar	Regionally Controlled	Cut & Paint, spray with appropriate herbicide	Summer	<1%	<1%
<i>Rubus fruticosus spp. agg.</i>	Blackberry	Regionally Controlled	Cut & Paint, spray with appropriate herbicide	Summer	<1%	<1%
<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>	Madeira Winter Cherry		Dig out or Cut & Paint	All Year	<1%	<1%
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow	Restricted	Cut & Paint	Spring to Autumn	<1%	3%

* Newly recorded In 2020

Appendix 1 provides additional detail and comments in relation to woody weed control in Year 2. The following works are required in Year 3 of the implementation of the offset plan to meet management commitments:

- Continue with Blackberry control within formerly large patches; and
- Reduce Willow cover to < 1% from its currently estimated 3%.

2.4 Herbaceous and Grass Weeds

Table 2 displays the herbaceous and grass weeds recorded within the offset site, along with their current and target covers. Three of these species are listed under the CaLP Act 1994 (Agriculture Victoria, 2017), with four species with the target of elimination within the Offset site. All other species must be controlled so as not to increase in cover from levels recorded in the Offset Management Plan (shown in *Table 2* below).

During the site visit on 24th March 2021, herbaceous and grassy weed locations were recorded, with polygons drawn around large infestations. The percentage cover of that weed within the Offset Site was then calculated. Where species coverage was negligible, the cover was noted as less than 1%. Where areas contained a mixture of species, the proportion of each species was estimated.

Weed control was undertaken across the Offset site throughout the year. Grass weeds targeted included *Cenchrus clandestinus* (Kikuyu) and *Dactylis glomerata* (Cocksfoot), while herbaceous weed species controlled include *Cirsium vulgare* (Spear Thistles), *Galium aparine* (Cleavers), *Senecio jacobea* (Ragwort), *Myosotis* sp. (Forget-me-not) and *Ranunculus repens* (Creeping Buttercup). These weed control works were undertaken across the site, but concentrated efforts were made beneath mature Strzelecki Gum driplines in order to promote recruitment, or at least remove barriers to recruitment. Four species remain above their target cover, being *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Trad), *Dactylis glomerata* (Cocksfoot), *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldt-grass) and *Phalaris arundinacea* (Reed Canary-grass). This increase in coverage (in particular Reed Canary-grass) may be due to the flooding events which occurred last year (in both May and August) which limited access for control and provided favourable growing conditions.

No new and emerging herbaceous weeds have been recorded at the site.

Table 2: Herbaceous and grassy weeds recorded, targets to achieve and current status.

Scientific name	Common name	Standard to Achieve	CALP Status	Method	Timing	Target % Cover	Current % cover
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> *	Sweet Vernal Grass	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	Summer	2%	1%
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> *	Californian Thistle	Eliminate to <1% cover	Regionally Controlled	Dig out or spot spray with an appropriate herbicide	Spring	<1%	<1%
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Eliminate to <1% cover	Regionally Controlled	Dig out or spot spray with an appropriate herbicide	Spring	<1%	<1%
<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>	Kikuyu	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	Spring and Summer	10%	10%

Scientific name	Common name	Standard to Achieve	CALP Status	Method	Timing	Target % Cover	Current % cover
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	No increase beyond existing cover		Hand weed or spray with appropriate herbicide	Winter and Spring	1%	2%
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i> *	Panic Veldt-grass	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	All Year	1%	1%
<i>Galium aparine</i> *	Cleavers	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	All Year	1%	<1%
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	Summer	2%	<1%
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> *	Forget-me-not	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	All Year	1%	<1%
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	Spring and Summer	2%	12%
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	No increase beyond existing cover		Spray with appropriate herbicide	Spring	2%	2%
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	Eliminate to <1% cover	Regionally Controlled	Dig out or spot spray with an appropriate herbicide	Spring and Summer	<1%	<1%
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Wandering Trad	Eliminate to <1% cover		Hand weed or spray with appropriate herbicide	All Year	<1%	4%

* Newly recorded in 2020

Appendix 1 provides additional detail and comments in relation to herbaceous weed control in Year 2. The following works are required in Year 3 of the implementation of the offset plan to meet management commitments:

- Continued weed control to target Ragwort and Spear Thistle is required to achieve or maintain coverages at <1%;
- A concerted effort is required to reduce coverage of Reed Canary-grass to its required 2% target coverage. Careful application of herbicide to target this species should occur in areas where the native *Persicaria* sp. (Knotweed) is prevalent, which will encourage Knotweed to increase in coverage and help to control regrowth of Reed Canary-grass ; and
- Wandering Trad control is required as it does not meet its target cover.

2.5 Pest Animals

Pest animal cameras were installed in August 2020, with one fox recorded at Grid Reference G12 (refer Figure 1 for Grid reference locations). Deer tracks were also observed at Grid Reference E8.

No damage to Strzelecki Gum juveniles from deer activity was or has been observed. No active rabbit warrens have been identified and no rubbish or artificial piles of logs and rocks recorded.

Whilst foxes have been recorded on the pest animal cameras, they are not considered a new and emerging pest animal for the protection and enhancement of Strzelecki Gum.

Continued monitoring of pest animals within the site should continue to be completed annually to determine if control is required.

2.6 Revegetation Planting

Revegetation works are to be instigated within Years 1 -3 if works to encourage natural recruitment are not adequate to meet the requirement of 235 newly established Strzelecki Gums.

A total of 21 Strzelecki Gums (if including all of found to date) of the required 235 have been established (through a mix of recruitment and translocation) in Year 2 of implementation of the Offset Management Plan.

Strzelecki Gum seed collection took place in the form of collecting seed-bearing branches from tree removal relating to the South Gippsland Highway realignment construction works in year 1.

The requirement for revegetation plantings was reviewed in Year 2, with one additional recruitment recorded, indicating that revegetation must take place to reach the required extra 235 Strzelecki Gums.

The following works are required in Year 3 of the implementation of the offset plan to meet management commitments:

- Install wallaby guards on those new recruits currently un-protected;
- Undertake preparatory works for direct seeding of Strzelecki Gum seed within the identified revegetation areas to increase the number of germinants contained within the offset site;
- Undertake preparatory work for the installation of 214 Strzelecki Gum plants grown from seed collected from the offset site if direct seeding efforts are not able to be completed or are unsuccessful; and
- Order and (if possible due to seasonal timing) install 214 plants with wallaby guards within the identified revegetation planting areas of the offset site.

3 Photos

3.1 General



Photo 1 – Hollow cut into discarded Eucalyptus trunk, providing potential habitat for small mammals and birds, Grid reference D7



Photo 2 – Log placement within the offset site



Photo 3 – Wetland adjacent to the Strzelecki Gum plantation, fed by Black Spur Creek, Grid Reference E7

3.2 Strzelecki Gum Condition



Photo 4 – Mature Strzelecki Gums in the northern section of the site, Grid Reference H5



Photo 5 – Dense indigenous tussock-grass beneath Strzelecki Gums. North-west of the site, Grid Reference J4



Photo 6 – Immature Strzelecki Gums in the North-west of the site, Grid Reference I5

3.3 Recruitment and Translocation



Photo 7 –Strzelecki Gum natural recruits remaining adjacent to construction zone, with taller individuals protected by Wallaby Guards and smaller individuals still to be protected by guards. Locations marked by wooden stakes. Northern end of the site, Grid Reference F3.



Photo 8 – Juvenile recruited Strzelecki Gum in the north-east of the offset site, protected by Wallaby guard, , Grid Reference F3



Photo 9 – Juvenile recruited Strzelecki Gum in the north-east of the offset site, Grid Reference F3



Photo 10 – Juvenile recruited Prickly Moses in the north-east of the offset site, Grid Reference F3



Photo 11 – Recruited Blackwood adjacent to the rail trail, near Photo Point 4, Grid Reference E6



Photo 12 – Strzelecki Gum translocated from construction area to the offset site, growing well in a Wallaby guard beside the Tarwin River. Northern section of site, Grid Reference G4

3.4 Weed Control



Photo 13 – Spraying of exotic grasses beneath the dripline of mature Strzelecki Gums, with germinating herbaceous weeds present, but allowing areas for Strzelecki Gum recruitment. North-west section of site, Grid Reference I4



Photo 14 – Willow control beneath the northern rail trail bridge, involving cut and painting with herbicide, Grid Reference D9



Photo 15 – Willow control beneath the northern rail trail bridge, involving cut and painting with herbicide, Grid Reference D9



Photo 17 – Spear Thistle recently treated with herbicide in the Offset Site, Grid Reference I5

3.5 Pest Animals



Photo 16 – Evidence of deer activity in the northern section of the site, Grid Reference E8

3.6 Photo Points

Please note - not all photo points were able to be re-taken in March 2021 due to high rainfall and wet conditions and restricted access due to construction works. Refer to *Figure 1* for photo point locations.

Photo Point 1 - East



July 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 2 - North



May 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 2 - West



May 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 2 - South



July 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 2 - East



July 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 4 - North



May 2019



July 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 4 - West



May 2019



July 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 4 - South



May 2019



July 2019



May 2020

Photo Point 4 - East



July 2019



May 2020



March 2021

Photo Point 5 - North



July 2019



May 2020



March 2021

Photo Point 5 - West



July 2019



May 2020



March 2021

Photo Point 5 - South



July 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 5 - East



July 2019



May 2020



March 2021

Photo Point 6 - North



May 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 6 - West



May 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 6 - South



May 2019



March 2021

Photo Point 6 - East



May 2019



March 2021

References

- Agriculture Victoria. (2017, July 20). *Victorian Noxious Weeds List - Alphabetical by Scientific Name*. Retrieved from Declared noxious weeds and pest animals in Victoria | Legislation, policy and permits | Protecting Victoria from pest animals and weeds | Pests, diseases and weeds | Agriculture | Agriculture Victoria: http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/365098/Victorian-noxious-weeds-list-by-scientific-name-20-July-2017.pdf
- Bowler, T., Brooker, T., & Imbery, B. (2018). *South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur) - EPBC 2017/8070. Strzelecki Gum Offset Management Plan*. Research, Victoria: Indigenous Design Environmental Management.
- Bowler, T., Doherty, W., & Brooker, T. (2017). *Report for VicRoads- High Risk-Based Pathway Biodiversity Assessment Report for South Gippsland Black Spur Highway Realignment*. Indigenous Design Environmental Management.
- Brooker, T. (2018). *EPBC Act Preliminary Documentation (2017/8070)- South Gippsland Highway Realignment, Koonwarra (Black Spur)*. Research: Indigenous Design Environmental Management.
- DoEE. (2019, January 18). Approval - South Gippsland Highway realignment, Koonwarra, Victoria (EPBC 2017/8070). Canberra, Australia.

Appendices

Appendices commence on the next page.

Appendix 1: Year 2 Works Summary

Action #	Management Action	Standard to be achieved	Year 2 Notes
1	Monitor health of and threats to remnant Strzelecki Gum on site.	<p>Retain all remnant Strzelecki Gums on site.</p> <p>Encourage recruitment events of Strzelecki Gum from remnant mature trees through management actions.</p> <p>Record new Strzelecki Gum recruits.</p>	<p>Mature trees remain healthy and all have been currently retained.</p> <p>Recruitment has been recorded in the eastern section (<i>Map 2</i>), with 15 in total being recorded. Guarding of some of these recruits is still required. One Strzelecki Gum recruit in the western section was also recorded, in the mature Strzelecki Gum Plantings.</p> <p>Weed control works undertaken to promote recruitment, in particular spraying weeds within the drip-line of mature Strzelecki Gums.</p> <p>Strzelecki Gum recruits from the clearing site have been translocated to the offset site and protected with Wallaby guards, with 5 currently surviving.</p>
2	Maintain fencing in good condition around entire boundary of all sites where fencing exists or is required.	<p>Maintain current fencing to exclude stock.</p> <p>No firewood collection within the offset site.</p> <p>Repair fence immediately upon identification of damage.</p>	<p>Fencing in good order where present.</p> <p>No evidence of firewood collection or stock intrusion into site or fence repairs required.</p> <p>Monitoring of fencing undertaken during site visits by environmental work crews.</p>
3	<p>Eliminate all woody weeds.</p> <p>Monitor for any re-sprouting or seedlings and eradicate.</p>	<p>Aim to eliminate all listed woody weeds by end of Year 5.</p> <p><1% cover of all listed woody weeds at the end of Year 10.</p> <p>Minimise off-target damage from control activities (avoid all native plants).</p>	<p>Some dense blackberry infestations remain, although due to their large initial size, they are gradually being reduced in area.</p> <p>One woody species remains above their target % cover of <1%, being Willow.</p> <p>Weed control works undertaken through the year, particularly controlling Blackberry, with some works undertaken on Willows.</p>
4	Monitor for and eliminate all new and emerging woody weeds.	<1% cover of all woody weeds at the end of Year 10.	No new woody weed species were recorded for Year 2.

Action #	Management Action	Standard to be achieved	Year 2 Notes
5	Eliminate all high threat herbaceous and grassy weeds.	<p>Aim to eliminate all listed high threat herbaceous weeds by end of Year 5.</p> <p><1% cover of all high threat herbaceous and weeds at the end of Year 10.</p> <p>Minimise off-target damage from control activities (avoid all native plants).</p>	<p>Spear Thistle, Ragwort and Wandering Trad are to be controlled to <1%. Wandering Trad was recorded at approximately 4%.</p> <p>Scattered flowering Ragworts were observed during the site inspection, although treatment of herbaceous weeds has taken place. Spear Thistles were observed as being treated, although many emerging rosettes were observed.</p> <p>Continued weed control to target targeting Ragwort and Spear Thistle is required to maintain <1%, while Wandering Trad control is required as it does not meet its target cover.</p>
6	Ensure all other herbaceous and grassy weeds do not increase in cover across the site.	<p>No increase beyond existing cover for all herbaceous weeds.</p> <p>Minimise off-target damage from control activities (avoid all native plants).</p>	<p>Cocksfoot and Kikuyu were observed as having been treated, while work crew notes indicate that Cleavers, other thistle species and Creeping Buttercup were also controlled, particularly beneath drip-lines of mature Strzelecki Gums.</p> <p>Continued weed control targeting these species is still required.</p>
7	Monitor for and eliminate all new & emerging herbaceous weeds	<1% cover of all new and emerging herbaceous weeds at the end of Year 10.	<p>No new weed species were recorded for Year 2.</p> <p>New and emerging weeds were treated by environmental work crews as part of herbaceous and grassy weed control activities.</p>
8	Monitor for and control impacts from rabbits and deer.	<p>No surface disturbance within the site.</p> <p>No active rabbit warrens to be present.</p> <p>No damage to Strzelecki Gum plantings from deer activity.</p> <p>No rubbish.</p> <p>Minimal artificial piles of logs and rocks.</p>	<p>Deer tracks were observed in the western section of the site at E8, indicating their continued presence within the Offset Site.</p> <p>Pest Animal cameras were placed in the site in August 2020. A fox was recorded in the eastern section.</p> <p>Continued monitoring required to determine the number of pest animals present and if control is required.</p>
9	Monitor and control all new and emerging pest animals.	Control numbers of any new and emerging pest animals.	Whilst foxes have been recorded on the pest animal cameras, they are not considered a new and emerging pest animal for the protection and enhancement of Strzelecki Gum.

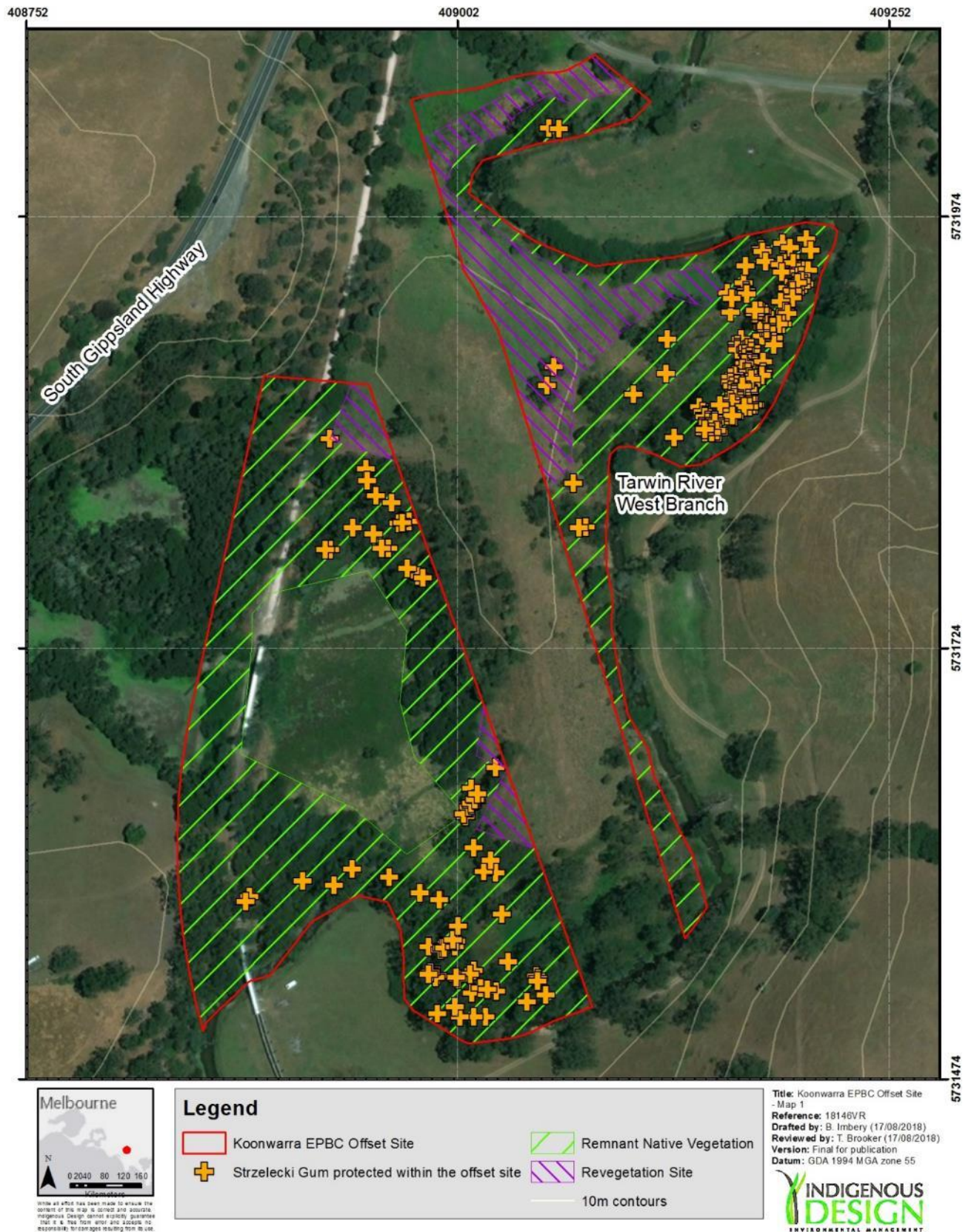
Action #	Management Action	Standard to be achieved	Year 2 Notes
10	Collect indigenous seed on site and / or place order with local indigenous nursery.	Collect seed / propagate tube stock (seedlings) for species listed in Table 3 from seed sourced on site or as locally as possible and from the same soil type. Provenance principles should be followed of seed collected on or adjacent to the offset site.	Branches bearing seed from felled Strzelecki Gums were collected in Year 1 in order to collect seed. No planting undertaken this year.
11	Prepare the site to ensure optimal establishment of the vegetation For areas where planting will occur complete at least 2 cycles of weed elimination.	To ensure plants have greatest chance of survival, planting circles should be weed free with no high threat weed cover at time of planting. Undertake revegetation activities outside of the canopy drip-line of all indigenous trees and avoid disturbing any existing native vegetation.	Not applicable. No planting undertaken this year.
12	Sow seeds / plant seedlings with species specified and guard seedlings with core flute or wallaby guards.	By the end of Year 3 – all plantings have been completed within the revegetation area.	Not applicable. No planting undertaken this year.
13	Replace unsuccessful seedlings if losses observed.	100% survival of Strzelecki Gum plantings and 85% of all other planting numbers as specified in Table 3 by the end of Year 10. Replace lost plantings if required to ensure numbers are maintained.	Not applicable No planting undertaken this year.
14	Undertake plant maintenance post-planting, including weed control and guard re-establishment/removal	Control all high threat weeds to plants survival. Minimise off-target damage from control activities (avoid all native plants). Removal of guards once plantings are self-sufficient and risk reduced to survival.	Not applicable. No planting undertaken this year.

Action #	Management Action	Standard to be achieved	Year 2 Notes
15	Prepare and submit an annual report	Report provides enough detail in the form of written comments and supporting evidence that an assessor can easily determine the completion of / progress against the management commitments	Completed.

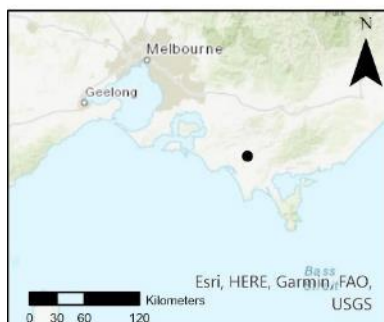
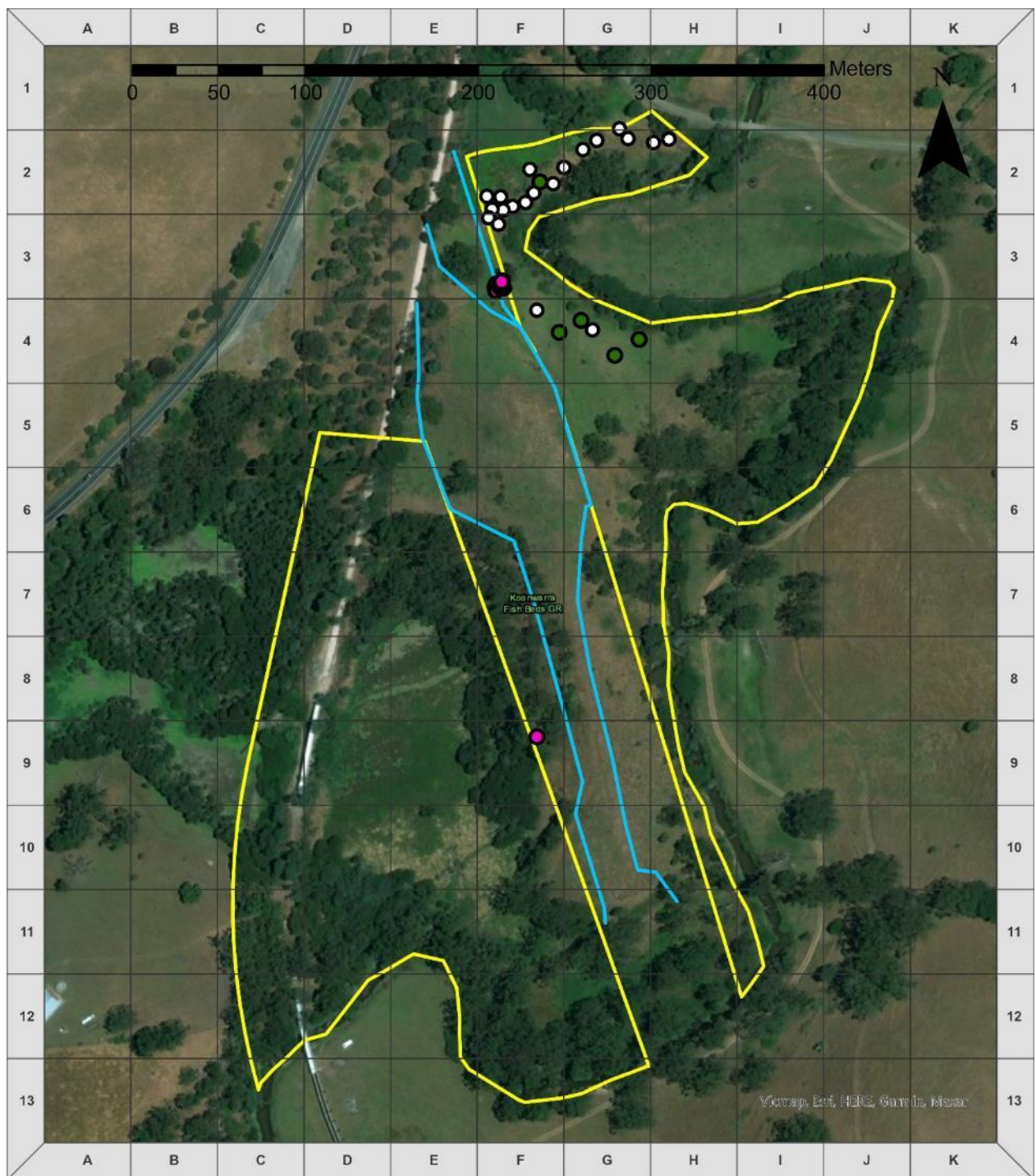
Maps

Maps commence on the next page

Map 1 – Offset Site and location of Strzelecki Gums (Bowler, Brooker, & Imbery, 2018)



Map 2 – Juvenile Strzelecki Gum Locations



Legend

- NoGo Fence
- Offset Site
- Recruit, Alive
- Translocated, Alive
- Translocated, Dead

Strzelecki Gum Juveniles





INDIGENOUS DESIGN

1635 Main Rd, Research, VIC, 3095
Melbourne | Morwell | Wonthaggi

ABN: 64 081 044 144

P (03) 9437 0555
E nicole@iddesign.com.au

www.iddesign.com.au

Appendix C - Letter from DAWE 29 March 2021 Ref: 2017/8070



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Ref: 2017/8070

[REDACTED]
Senior Manager Planning and Environment
Major Road Projects Victoria
L26, 180 Lonsdale St,
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY REALIGNMENT, KOONWARRA, VICTORIA
(EPBC 2017/8070) - Independent audit requirement**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 March 2021 to the department requesting clarification of the intent of condition 16 attached to the EPBC Act approval dated 18 January 2019.

Officers of this department have reviewed the request and briefed me regarding condition 16.

As a delegate of the Minister, I advise that an independent audit of EPBC Act approved action 2017/8070 need only be conducted if such an audit is specifically requested in writing by the Minister. Unless so requested, you do not need to submit an annual independent audit report.

As you are aware, the Department has an active monitoring program which includes monitoring inspections, desk top document reviews and audits. Please ensure that you maintain accurate records of all activities associated with, or relevant to, the conditions of approval so that they can be made available to the Department on request.

Should you require any further information please contact [REDACTED] Assessment Officer, Post Approvals Section, on [REDACTED] or by email:
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Kim Farrant
Assistant Secretary
Assessments (Vic and Tas) and Post Approvals Branch
Environment Approvals Division

29 March 2021

Att.