

# Monitoring and Reporting Framework: Technical Protocols for Program Outputs

Melbourne Strategic Assessment



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# Introduction

## Context and scope

The Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) evaluates the impacts of the Victorian Government's urban development program for Melbourne on matters of national environmental significance (MNES) listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and establishes conservation measures to mitigate these impacts. The MSA was conducted under the strategic assessment provisions of the EPBC Act.

The government's urban development program for Melbourne provides for:

- Urban development in four growth corridors within Melbourne's expanded 2010 Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)
- Urban development in 28 existing precincts within the 2005 UGB
- Development of the Regional Rail Link Corridor between west of Werribee and Deer Park (section 2)
- Development of the Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor.

The Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has prepared a Monitoring and Reporting Framework (MRF) for the MSA program (DELWP, 2015a) to ensure compliance with the endorsed program and the conditions of the Commonwealth approvals. The MRF provides the framework for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the program outputs and outcomes. The purpose of the MRF is to assist the government to:

- Provide transparency in the implementation of the program
- Determine whether the conservation outcomes for MNES set out in the program report are being achieved
- Determine whether the processes and activities established to achieve the program outputs and program outcomes are efficient and effective
- Adaptively improve the implementation of the program where necessary to ensure the program outputs and program outcomes are achieved.

This document has been prepared to support the MRF. The purpose of this document is to outline the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for program outputs and describe the monitoring protocols that will be used for the collection of data.

For each program output, this document sets out:

- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), against which the progress of the program can be judged. These KPIs have been designed with the program activities and processes in mind as well as existing standards developed by DELWP
- Protocols for monitoring progress towards the KPIs.

An equivalent document has been prepared for program outcomes (DELWP 2015b).



## Program Outputs

### Definition of outputs

The over-arching 'Monitoring and Reporting Framework' (DELWP 2015a) defines the outputs for the program. These outputs, listed below, form the structure of the current document:

- Urban and infrastructure development occurs in accordance with the Commonwealth approvals
- Program cost recovery and expenditure is transparent and efficient
- A 15,000 hectare grassland reserve is established and managed
- A network of conservation areas within the UGB is protected and managed for MNES species and vegetation communities
- A 1,200 hectare Grassy Eucalypt Woodland reserve is established and managed outside the UGB
- 80 per cent of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland within the northern growth corridor is protected and managed
- 80 per cent of confirmed highest priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth, Spiny Rice-flower and Matted flax-lily are protected and managed
- Important landscape and habitat areas for SBB are protected and managed.

### Forms of key performance indicators

The choice of KPI is determined by the activities and processes that support the delivery of the output, the feasibility and cost of measurement, and the form of the output.

Eight categories of KPI are commonly used:

- DELWP standard outputs – this is one of several Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) standards developed under DELWP's MER Framework: land, water and biodiversity. The DELWP standard outputs describe environmental goods or services delivered through program investment, in this instance particularly associated with land management. This includes structural works, environmental works and management services
- Hectares – this is a recognised unit of area chosen to report on the area of land or a key vegetation community secured. Output objectives outlined in the Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities 'Program Report' (DPCD 2009) described area targets as number of hectares
- Percent - this describes progress towards a target. Multiple KPIs will report on progress towards a quantitative objective outlined in the Program Report
- \$ - Funding in dollars is used to describe the balance of funding received and expended by the program. The KPI, funding in dollars, is used to monitor the output 'cost recovery and expenditure is transparent and efficient'
- Agreements - this unit represents an arrangement between two parties, in this case DELWP and a landholder or land manager
- Parcels - this output refers to an individual piece of land which can be sold separately. Parcels are the chosen reporting unit for secured land (e.g. through land transfer or on-title agreements). A property may be combined of multiple parcels and the relationship between landowner and parcel can be one to many

- **Populations** - In the context of outputs for the MSA, populations refers to key populations defined in the program report as a species at a defined geographic location, usually a parcel or parcels of land. Four key populations are identified in the program report.

### **Data sources for reporting on key performance indicators**

A combination of existing and built for purpose processes and systems will be used to store and retrieve data to measure against output KPIs.

**Business Management System (BMS)** - BMS is DELWP's internal financial reporting system. All revenue received by the Department under the MSA program, and expenditure will be managed through the system. Reporting functions within BMS will be used for annual reporting.

**Native Vegetation Information Management System (NVIM)** - NVIM is an online system for the management of biodiversity information. An initial version of the system is in use, and is in development to expand to support additional processes and data management for the MSA. NVIM will be used to report on outputs relating to offset obligations, including Habitat Compensation Obligations, Staged Obligations and Works in Kind Agreements. Until NVIM is available to support all reporting functions for offset agreements, data will be managed in internal program files.

**Spatial and Temporal Activity Recorder (STAR)** - STAR will be used to record management activities across the MSA program area. Management activities implemented by all responsible parties (DELWP, Parks Victoria, Local Government Authorities, landholders, contractors, etc.) will be recorded in STAR and the system will be used for regular reporting.

**MSA program files** - Records for the MSA will be managed in line with the Department's Records Management Policy which complies with legislative obligations relating to public records under the *Public Records Act (Vic) 1973*

### **Baselines and targets for KPI's**

In order to track performance against KPIs it is necessary to specify a baseline against which progress is determined. In most cases the KPIs baseline depends in the timing of gazettal of VC68, or after the first parcel within the conservation area is secured. In cases where outputs do not include land acquisition, baselines will begin at the commencement of the implementation program. In some other cases (e.g. % of Golden Sun Moth habitat protected) KPIs are evaluated against fixed targets (e.g. based on previous modelling or calculations). Targets for most output KPIs are based on an increase from a baseline of 0.

### **Output monitoring and reporting**

The actual rate and pattern of development (habitat removal) and reserve establishment is unknown. Output monitoring will only commence at a given site once DELWP has secured the land for conservation or the implementation program has commenced in that area such as for the Growling Grass Frog, and the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

KPIs for all outputs will be reported annually in the MSA Output Progress Report.



# Urban and infrastructure development proceeds in accordance with the Commonwealth approvals

## Introduction

The Commonwealth approvals for urban development in the growth corridors and the requirements of the Program Report and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) (DEPI 2013) are implemented through a range of planning mechanisms and processes.

The key mechanisms are:

### Planning scheme amendments

Planning schemes are amended under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* after the preparation of Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) to give effect to the Commonwealth approvals and requirements of the Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities- Program Report (Program Report) (DPCB 2009) and BCS within each precinct. The amendments include the incorporation of schedules to the Urban Growth Zone (applies to land suitable for urban development) and Special Use Zone (applies to conservation areas) and PSPs into planning schemes.

### Precinct Structure Plans

PSPs are prepared for each precinct by the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) and set out the future structure of a suburb, detailing the location of housing, activity centres, community facilities, local transport networks, open space and areas of biodiversity value. PSPs are prepared in accordance with the Growth Corridor Plans and the Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines (GAA, 2009) and are incorporated into the relevant planning schemes. Once a plan has been incorporated, planning permits can be granted by the responsible authority (usually council) for urban development.

### Native Vegetation Plans

Native Vegetation Plans are prepared for each precinct by the MPA in consultation with DELWP and set out the requirements for the protection and removal of native vegetation within the precinct. Native vegetation plans identify the native vegetation that may be removed and the native vegetation that must be retained. Native vegetation within conservation areas will be identified as 'to be retained'. Native vegetation plans are incorporated into PSPs.

### Conservation Area Concept Plans

Conservation Area Concept Plans (CACPs) are prepared for each conservation area by the MPA in consultation with DELWP. CACPs set out the land-uses and constraints for each conservation area and specify conservation requirements and constraints relating to the conservation area. CACPs are prepared at the PSP stage and are incorporated into PSPs.

### **Planning permits**

A planning permit is a legal document that gives permission for a use or development on a particular land parcel under a planning scheme. The permit includes conditions that must be satisfied in carrying out an approved use or development. These conditions will reflect the requirements of the Commonwealth approvals, Program Report and BCS.

### **Integrated Water Management Plans**

Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMPs) are prepared for each precinct by the MPA to ensure development occurs in accordance with best practice urban water management and impacts on matters of national environmental significance, including Ramsar wetlands, are avoided and minimised. IWMPs are prepared at the PSP stage.

### **Environmental Management Plans**

An Environmental Management Plan has been prepared by the Regional Rail Link Authority for the Regional Rail Link (section 2) to ensure impacts on matters of national environmental significance are avoided, minimised and mitigated.

### **Cultural Heritage Management Plans**

Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) are prepared by the MPA for each precinct in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. These plans provide for the management of known Aboriginal cultural heritage values and those that may be discovered during development or works.

### **Work plans**

Work plans are prepared by the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation (DSDBI) in consultation with DELWP for any quarries and mines within the MSA area. The Program Report requires that work plans are consistent with the requirements of the prescriptions. In areas covered by the BCS, work plans are to be consistent with the requirements of the BCS, which gives effect to the prescriptions.

### **Adjustments to conservation area boundaries**

The Commonwealth approvals associated with the BCS require approval to be obtained from the Commonwealth Minister for:

- Any proposed adjustments to the boundaries of conservation areas numbered 10, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36 identified in the BCS that would result in a net loss of area of the conservation area
- Any proposed changes to the boundaries of conservation areas numbered 1 to 9, 11 to 13, 16, 17, 19, 22 to 27, and 29 to 32 identified in the BCS

## Development and works in conservation areas

The Commonwealth approvals associated with the BCS require approval to be obtained from the Commonwealth Minister for any proposed actions associated with urban development within the 36 conservation areas identified in the BCS resulting in a net loss of habitat for species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act.

## Key performance indicators

Table 1: Planning scheme amendments

KPI:	Per cent of gazetted planning scheme amendments to introduce a Precinct Structure Plan consistent with the Commonwealth approvals	
Data	Baseline	0% of planning scheme amendments
	Data collection	Collated data from review of each planning scheme amendment
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first planning scheme amendment to introduce a precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 2: Precinct Structure Plans

KPI:	Per cent of program area with gazetted Precinct Structure Plans	
Data	Baseline	0% of program area
	Data collection	Collated data from each gazetted precinct structure plan
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 3: Native Vegetation Plans

KPI:	Per cent of gazetted precincts with Native Vegetation Plans (or equivalent plans)	
Data	Baseline	0% of precincts
	Data collection	Collated data from each gazetted precinct structure plan
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

KPI: Number of non-compliances with Native Vegetation Plans (or equivalent plans)		
Data	Data collection	Collated data from compliance activities
	Data Source	Compliance files
	Target	0
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 4: Conservation Area Concept Plans

KPI: Per cent of conservation areas in gazetted precincts with Conservation Area Concept Plans (or equivalent plans)		
Data	Baseline	0% of conservation areas
	Data collection	Collated data from each gazetted precinct structure plan
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 5: Permits

KPI: Per cent of permits with conditions consistent with the Commonwealth approvals		
Data	Baseline	0% of permits
	Data collection	Sample of permits from each council issued within gazetted precincts
	Data Source	Collated data from sample of permits from each council
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Number of non-compliances with permit conditions associated with the Commonwealth approvals		
Data	Data collection	Collated data from compliance activities
	Data Source	Compliance files
	Target	0
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazetting of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 6: Adjustments to conservation area boundaries

KPI:	Number of approved adjustments to conservation area boundaries	
Data	Baseline	0 adjustments
	Data collection	Collated data from program files
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon granting of Commonwealth approvals
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 7: Development or works in conservation areas

KPI:	Number of approved development or works in conservation areas	
Data	Baseline	0 development or works
	Data collection	Collated data from program files
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon granting of Commonwealth approvals
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 8: Illegal removal of native vegetation

KPI:	Number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation within conservation areas	
Data	Data collection	Collated data from compliance activities
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	0
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon granting of Commonwealth approvals
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI:	Number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation outside conservation areas	
Data	Data collection	Collated data from compliance activities
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	0
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon granting of Commonwealth approvals
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 9: Water management

KPI:	Per cent of gazetted precincts with approved Integrated Water Management Plans	
Data	Baseline	0% of precincts
	Data collection	Collated data from each gazetted precinct structure plan
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazettement of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Metropolitan Planning Authority

Table 10: Transport projects

KPI:	Number of non-compliances with the approved Environmental Management Plan for the Regional Rail Link (section 2) affecting matters of national environmental significance	
Data	Data collection	Collated data from compliance activities
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	0
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon
	Responsibility	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Table 11: Cultural heritage

KPI:	Per cent of gazetted precincts with approved Cultural Heritage Management Plans	
Data	Baseline	0% of precincts
	Data collection	Collated data from each gazetted precinct structure plan
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazettement of the first precinct structure plan
	Responsibility	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Table 12: Quarries and mines

KPI:	Per cent of approved work plans consistent with the prescriptions or BCS for Melbourne's Growth Corridors	
Data	Baseline	0% of works authorities and work plans
	Data collection	Collated data from review of each work authority and work plan
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report



<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Per cent of approved work plans consistent with the prescriptions or BCS for Melbourne's Growth Corridors</b>	
	Start Date	Upon issuing of the first work authority and work plan
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of non-compliances with approved work plans affecting matters of national environmental significance</b>	
Data	Data collection	Collated data from compliance activities
	Data Source	Program files
	Target	0
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon issuing of the first work authority and work plan
	Responsibility	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

## Monitoring protocol

### Per cent of gazetted planning scheme amendments to introduce a Precinct Structure Plan consistent with the Commonwealth approvals

DELWP will review each gazetted planning scheme amendment for consistency with the requirements of the Commonwealth approvals and associated documents, including the Program Report and BCS.

The components of the planning scheme amendment that will be reviewed are:

- Precinct Structure Plan
- Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) schedule.

Each amendment will be reviewed in relation to:

- Incorporation of Conservation Area Concept Plans in PSPs
- Incorporation of Conservation Interface Plans into PSPs
- Requirements to secure conservation areas in UGZ schedule
- Requirements for salvage and translocation in UGZ schedule.

### Per cent of program area with gazetted Precinct Structure Plans

DELWP will use geographic information system (GIS) shape files of the boundary of the area covered by the program and the boundaries of precincts with gazetted Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) to calculate the per cent of the program area with gazetted PSPs

The boundaries of precincts with gazetted PSPs will be obtained from the MPA.

Formula used:  $\frac{\text{area covered by gazetted precinct structure plans}}{\text{MSA program area}} * 100$

The Regional Rail Link (section 2) will be excluded from the total area covered by the program.

**Per cent of gazetted precincts with approved Native Vegetation Plans (or equivalent plans)**

DELWP will check that gazetted PSPs contain Native Vegetation Plans (or equivalent plans, such as Native Vegetation Precinct Plans). MSA program files will be checked to ensure each Native Vegetation Plan was approved by DELWP.

The list of gazetted PSPs will be obtained from the MPA.

**Number of non-compliances with Native Vegetation Plans (or equivalent plans)**

The responsible authority will provide DELWP with data collated from compliance activities. Compliance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Compliance Strategy for the MSA.

**Per cent of conservation areas in gazetted precincts with Conservation Area Concept Plans (or equivalent plans)**

DELWP will check that gazetted PSPs that include conservation areas contain Conservation Area Concept Plans (or equivalent plans, such as Conservation Management Plans) for each conservation area. MSA program files will be checked to ensure each Conservation Area Concept Plan was approved by DELWP.

The list of gazetted precinct structure plans will be obtained from the MPA.

**Per cent of permits with conditions consistent with the Commonwealth approvals**

DELWP will request from each council a random sample of permits issued within one randomly selected gazetted precinct. The minimum number of permits that will be reviewed within each council will be 15 permits.

DELWP will review the sample of permits for consistency with the requirements of the Commonwealth approvals and associated documents, including the Program Report and BCS.

Each permit will be reviewed in relation to:

- Securing conservation areas
- Salvage and translocation
- Protecting conservation areas during construction on adjacent land.

**Number of non-compliances with permit conditions associated with the Commonwealth approvals**

The responsible authority will provide DELWP with data collated from compliance activities. Compliance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Compliance Strategy for the MSA.

**Number of approved adjustments to conservation area boundaries**

DELWP will check MSA program files for the number of approved adjustments to conservation area boundaries. The program files will be checked to ensure each adjustment to conservation area boundaries was approved by DELWP (for those adjustments not requiring Commonwealth approval) or endorsed by DELWP and subsequently approved by the Commonwealth Government (for those adjustments requiring Commonwealth approval).

**Number of approved development or works in conservation areas**

DELWP will check MSA program files for the number of approved development or works in conservation areas. The program files will be checked to ensure each proposed development or works was approved by DELWP (for those proposals not requiring Commonwealth approval) or endorsed by DELWP and subsequently approved by the Commonwealth Government (for those proposals requiring Commonwealth approval).

**Number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation within conservation areas**

The responsible authority will provide DELWP with data collated from compliance activities. Compliance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Compliance Strategy for the MSA.

**Number of cases of illegal removal of native vegetation outside conservation areas**

The responsible authority will provide DELWP with data collated from compliance activities. Compliance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Compliance Strategy for the MSA.

**Per cent of gazetted precincts with approved Integrated Water Management Plans**

MPA will check that Integrated Water Management Plans have been prepared for each gazetted precinct. MSA program files will be checked to ensure each Integrated Water Management Plan was approved by the MPA.

MPA will provide the list of gazetted precincts containing approved Integrated Water Management Plans to DELWP.

**Number of non-compliances with the approved Environmental Management Plan for the Regional Rail Link (section 2) affecting matters of national environmental significance**

The Regional Rail Link Authority will provide DELWP with their Environmental Annual Report annually, which sets out the Regional Rail Link project's compliance with the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This includes reporting on compliance with the requirements of the EMP relating to the protection of matters of national environmental significance.

**Per cent of gazetted precincts with approved Cultural Heritage Management Plans**

MPA will check that Cultural Heritage Management Plans have been prepared for each gazetted precinct. MSA program files will be checked to ensure each Cultural Heritage Management Plans was approved by MPA.

MPA will provide the list of gazetted precincts containing approved Cultural Heritage Management Plans to DELWP.

**Per cent of approved work plans consistent with the prescriptions or BCS for Melbourne's Growth Corridors**

Work plans are required to be statutorily referred to DELWP under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* or submitted for comment under the Memorandum of Understanding for Earth Resource Industries Approvals (DPI and DSE, 2011).

DELWP will review each proposed work plan or variation to a work plan for quarries or mines within the MSA area to ensure consistency with the requirements of the MSA. For quarries or mines within the 12 precincts not covered by the BCS, work plans will be reviewed for consistency with the requirements of the prescriptions. For quarries or mines within the area covered by the BCS, work plans will be reviewed for consistency with the requirements of the BCS.

**Number of non-compliances with approved work plans affecting matters of national environmental significance**

DSDBI will provide DELWP with data collated from compliance activities. Compliance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Compliance Strategy for the MSA.

# Program cost recovery is transparent and efficient

## Introduction

Conservation measures under the MSA are funded by a cost recovery model. The model follows a user pays system for offsets for the removal of native vegetation and loss of habitat for threatened species protected under the EPBC Act. The cost recovery model follows the *Cost Recovery Guidelines* (DTF 2010). By incorporating all costs into the payment required by users for government services to secure and manage offsets, cost recovery charges act as important price signals to users. This serves to increase transparency and efficiency in the allocation of costs. The key performance indicators for transparency and efficiency will be reported separately for different program areas, reflecting differences in cost recovery approaches.

### Area covered by the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

Cost recovery for detailed conservation measures outlined in the BCS will be funded using a cost recovery model structured as the Habitat Compensation Scheme. Landowners undertaking development within Melbourne's growth corridors will pay a flat fee based on native vegetation time-stamping data and threatened species habitat mapping. The fee amount reflects services to be provided by the State for purchasing and managing land as offsets and will be subject to review every two years. The Habitat Compensation Scheme applies to the following program areas

- the four growth corridors in the expanded 2010 UGB
- 16 of the existing 28 Urban precincts in the 2005 UGB.

### Regional Rail Link corridor (section 2) and 12 precincts approved prior to 1 March 2012

The Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor/ E6 Road Reserve Offset requirements for the 12 precincts approved prior to March 2012 and the Regional Rail Link corridor between Werribee and Deer Park are not subject to Habitat Compensation Fees. Instead offset requirements for these areas are outlined in existing precinct structure plans. The offsets for these areas will be secured and managed as part of the MSA program.

### Other areas

The Melbourne Urban Development (MUD) Policy applies to urban development requiring referral under the EPBC Act, not captured in the MSA. Development projects must continue to be individually referred under the EPBC Act, but under some scenarios development may be offset into the Western Grassland Reserve (WGR) and managed under the MSA program.

Additional areas may be offset into the WGR following changes to Conservation Area boundaries defined in the BCS. In line with program objectives, any changes to the boundaries of conservation areas from those outlined in the BCS must result in no net loss of area. Surplus area generated from changes to boundaries within the MSA may be offset into the WGR and contribute towards the 15,000 hectare area target.

## Key performance indicators

Table 13: Revenue and Expenditure

KPI: Revenue		
	Baseline	\$0
	Data collection	Collated data from financial report
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazettal of VC68
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Expenditure		
	Baseline	\$0
	Data collection	Collated data from financial report and contracts
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 14. Area covered by the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

KPI: Hectares of habitat compensation obligation met		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated data from Habitat Compensation Statements and equivalent
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Number of staged obligation agreements		
	Baseline	0 agreements
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Number of Works-in-kind agreements		
	Baseline	0 agreements
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually



<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of Works-in-kind agreements</b>	
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Value of Works-in-kind Agreements</b>	
	Baseline	\$0
	Data Collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

**Table 15: Regional Rail Link corridor (section 2) and 12 precincts approved prior to 1 March 2012**

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of habitat hectares provided as offset</b>	
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of hectares of GSM habitat with offset met</b>	
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of hectares of GGF habitat with offset met</b>	
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of staged obligation agreements</b>	
	Baseline	0 agreements
	Data Collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Number of staged obligation agreements</b>	
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 16. Other Areas

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of offsets provided to development within the Melbourne Urban Development Policy area</b>	
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of offsets provided from changes to Conservation Area boundaries</b>	
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated data from agreements
	Data Source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

### Revenue and Expenditure

DELWP's Business Management System (BMS) will be used to report regularly on revenue collected and funding expenditure under the MSA program. All revenue received from cost recovery and payables relating to the purchase and management of land for offsets will be recorded in BMS. The start date for revenue reporting was the gazetting of the Planning Scheme Amendment VC68 on 6 August 2010 which amended the expanded Melbourne's UGB and put in place Public Acquisition Overlays for the WGR, The Regional Rail Link and the Outer Metropolitan Ring/ E6 transport Corridor. Expenditure reporting is initiated following the security of the first land parcel within the MSA conservation areas.

### Area covered by BCS

NVIM will manage data for Habitat Compensation agreements, Staged Obligations and Works in Kind agreements. Reporting functions within the system will be used to report annually on the hectares of Habitat Compensation Obligations met, and the number of Staged Obligation or Works in Kind agreements established for the year of reporting. All staged obligations active at 1<sup>st</sup> July for the year of reporting will

also be recorded indicating the number of active agreements for a financial year. NVIM will also be used to determine the value of Works in Kind agreements.

#### **Regional Rail Link corridor (section 2) and 12 precincts approved prior to 1 March 2012**

KPIs will be reported for the number of habitat hectares, and the number of hectares for GSM and GGF habitat offset under the MSA program. Data for these offset outputs will be collated from MSA files. Staged obligations are available for these program areas and outputs will record the number of agreements established within the year of reporting, and the number agreements active or current for the year of reporting. This will include agreements active at 1<sup>st</sup> July, regardless of the scheduled date of completion. Staged obligations data will be managed in NVIM or MSA program files until NVIM is operating at the required capacity

#### **Other areas**

Data on the hectares of offsets into the WGR from development within the Melbourne Urban Development area or changes to conservation area boundaries will be collated from MSA files.

# A 15,000 hectare grassland reserve established and managed

## Introduction

The Victorian Government will reserve 15,000 hectares of land to protect native grasslands in Melbourne's west. Natural grasslands are some of the most important areas for conservation in Australia. The grasslands of Victoria's fertile volcanic plain once extended from Melbourne almost to South Australia. Intact examples are very rare, and many grassland species are threatened.

The Western Grassland Reserve (WGR) will form a new grassland park, covering two large areas: around Mt Cottrell and north of Little River. They will protect the largest concentration of remaining grassland of this type anywhere in the world. The reserve is intended to provide sufficient habitat to allow the persistence of a number of threatened species. They will also cover a range of other habitat types including seasonal herbaceous wetland, waterways, rocky knolls and open grassy woodlands.

The reserves are being established outside the UGB, in areas now covered by a Public Acquisition Overlay. Acquisition is expected to take a number of years.

During the initial period of land acquisition and mixed ownership, interim management will be undertaken to support private landowners and reduce the risk of degradation of grassland values prior to acquisition. This will focus on control of grassland weeds beyond the duty of care (particularly those with potential to cause damage), and prevention of the establishment of new weeds. Interim management may also include changes to grazing regimes for biodiversity or weed management objectives.

Management of acquired land will be directed by land management guidelines developed by DELWP for each acquired parcel shortly after acquisition. The guidelines are directed by parcel inventory reports which document the presence and location of biodiversity values and management risks such as weeds at the time of acquisition.

## Key performance indicators

Table 17: Interim management in the Western Grassland Reserve

KPI: Parcels under interim management		
Data	Baseline	0 parcels
	Data collection	Collated data from contracts, agreements and associated reports
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazettal of VC68
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Number of landowners participating in interim management		
Data	Baseline	0 landowners
	Data collection	Collated data from contracts, agreements and associated reports
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually

KPI: Number of landowners participating in interim management		
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazettal of VC68
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Units of interim land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
Units	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
		Hectares of alternative slashing regime established
	Agricultural practice change	Hectares of agricultural practice change established
		Hectares of agricultural practice change maintained
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	0 units
	Data collection	Collated data from contracts, agreements and associated reports
	Data source	Program files and STAR
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon gazettal of VC68
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 18: Land secured in the Western Grassland Reserve

KPI: Hectares of land secured		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms
	Data source	Program files
	Target	15,023 hectares
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

KPI:	Per cent of reserve secured	
Data	Baseline	0 %
	Data collection	Per cent calculated from hectares of land secured
	Data source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Collated annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 19: Vegetation communities secured in the Western Grassland Reserve

KPI:	Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured	
Data	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI:	Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class secured	
Data	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 20: Management undertaken in the Western Grassland Reserve

KPI:	Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken	
Units	Channel	Metres of channels removed
		Metres of drain removed
	Water storage	Number of dams removed
	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Road	Metres of firebreak installed
		Metres of firebreak maintained
		Metres of road removed
	Vegetation	Hectares of EPBC-listed community established
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated



KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Threatened species populations	Number of threatened species populations established
		Number of threatened species populations translocated
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
		Hectares of alternative slashing regime established
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts
	Data source	Program files and STAR
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Parks Victoria

## Monitoring protocol

### Interim management

Interim management will be conducted on land allocated under the Public Acquisition Overlay prior to its acquisition by the Crown. Interim management will include weed management or incentive programs such as BushTender agreements funded through the MSA or external projects. MSA files will record the number of parcels and the number of landholders engaged in interim management in a given year (or any portion of the year). Units of interim land management follow DELWP's standard outputs and cover the length or area of management action implemented. Interim management outputs are important to monitor and document as a baseline for parcel management plans as parcels are acquired and transition to ongoing management. Delivery agents will be responsible for reporting management activities for interim management. This includes landholders engaged in management agreements such as BushTender. Activities will be recorded and reported annually from STAR.

### Land secured

Land secured for the WGR will be acquired by the Crown through negotiated or compulsory sale under a Public Acquisition Overlay. The number of hectares of acquired land and its percentage of the 15,023 hectare target will be determined using GIS and state-wide data that spatially define land parcels across

Victoria. DELWP files relating to the acquisition of land will be collated on an annual basis and used to calculate the area of land acquired for the year of reporting, and the entire program to date.

Vegetation KPIs will monitor the area of vegetation communities listed under the federal EPBC Act and Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) secured for perpetuity in the WGR. The area of key vegetation communities will be determined from on ground mapping conducted as part of interim vegetation surveys following the acquisition of a new land parcel. Inventory surveys will be conducted within a year of land acquisition by the crown and native vegetation KPIs will be reported for the year they are surveyed if land acquisition and survey do not occur in the same year. The parcel to be surveyed for vegetation will be divided into manageable sections and walked in a systematic manor by a qualified botanist to identify EVC or EPBC communities. On ground mapping will use a combination of aerial photography and GPS to map vegetation at a minimum polygon size of 0.25ha (50mx50m). Vegetation survey data for the WGR will be stored and managed (including output reporting) in NVIM.

EPBC communities in the WGR may include:

- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains.

EVCs in the WGR may include:

- Plains Grassy Wetland (125)
- Plains Grassland (132)
- Riparian Woodland (641)
- Stony Knoll Shrubland (649)
- Creekline Tussock Grassland (654)
- Plains Woodland (803)
- Tall Marsh (821)
- Escarpment Shrubland (895).

## **Management**

Management following acquisition will shift from the immediate threat focus of interim management to include more extensive management options and reporting outputs. The units of land management follow DELWP's output standards and will report management outputs for the previous 12 months, and for the entire WGR to date. Delivery agents will be responsible for reporting on ground activities, and this data will be stored and managed in STAR. Annual reporting will be conducted by the responsible agent and GIS may be used to determine areas of management.

# A network of Conservation Areas within the Urban Growth Boundary is protected and managed for MNES species and vegetation communities

## Introduction

The Victorian Government will reserve a network of conservation areas within the UGB to protect habitat for matters of national environmental significance (MNES). MNES include threatened species and communities, migratory species, or wetlands of international importance listed under the EPBC Act. In total, 36 conservation areas within the UGB have been allocated and are documented in the BCS.

The conservation areas are divided into six management categories that will guide the method of protection and management of the reserve area. Conservation areas within the UGB may be managed for:

- Nature Conservation
- Growling Grass Frog conservation, floodplain and open space
- Regional Parks
- Existing Public land
- Existing offsets
- Open space.

All management categories will be managed and protected in perpetuity through either statutory planning provisions, land transfer to the Crown or on-title agreements. Conservation management plans will be prepared for each of the 36 conservation areas and will outline how MNES and matters of state significance including native vegetation will be managed across the entire conservation area. This will include identifying conservation objectives and general management measures such as arrangements to secure land. Conservation Management Plans will be prepared by DELWP in consultation with the landholder and relevant authorities as appropriate. More detailed management plans will be prepared for individual properties within a conservation area once land is secured for conservation.

## Key performance indicators

Table 21: Land secured in each Conservation Area in the network

KPI:	Hectares of land secured	
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Target	Final agreed area as per the approved Precinct Structure Plan
	Frequency	Annually

<b>KPI: Hectares of land secured</b>		
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Per cent of conservation area secured</b>		
	Baseline	0 %
	Data collection	Collated from hectares of land secured
	Data source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Hectares secured though purchase/ transfer by the Crown</b>		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Hectares of land secured by vesting in a public authority and permanent protection agreement on-title with management plan</b>		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Hectares of land secured through permanent protection agreement on-title with management plan</b>		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

KPI: Hectares of land secured through permanent protection on-title agreement		
Reporting	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 22: Vegetation communities and key populations secured across network

KPI: Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

KPI: Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

KPI: Number of key populations secured		
Data	Baseline	0 populations
	Data collection	Collated from agreements
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 23: Management undertaken across the network in secured areas with a management plan for conservation

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
Units	Channel	Metres of channels removed
		Metres of drain removed
	Water storage	Number of dams removed
		Number of wetlands constructed
		Number of wetlands maintained

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Road	Metres of firebreak installed
		Metres of firebreak maintained
		Metres of road removed
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
		Hectares of alternative slashing regime established
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts in secured areas with a management plan for conservation
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon signing biodiversity management agreement on secure land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

### Land secured

The number of hectares of acquired land and its percentage of the total conservation area target will be determined using GIS and state wide data that spatially define land parcels across Victoria. Annual reporting will outline the area of land acquired within the previous 12 months and all land acquired to date. Data will be collected from MSA files. KPIs will distinguish between the total number of hectares secured through land purchase by the Crown versus on-title agreements. Purchase of land by the Crown includes negotiated or compulsory sale under a Public Acquisition Overlay, a voluntary negotiated sale, or voluntary land transfer for a habitat compensation obligation reduction. Land security outputs will not be recorded for existing offsets and some methods of security may not be applicable for a reserve depending on its management category. Table 24 outlines the land security outputs that may be monitored for each conservation management category.



## **Biodiversity**

### Vegetation Communities

As a land parcel is secured for biodiversity conservation under the management category Nature Conservation (Crown Land) an inventory survey will be conducted to determine the presence and distribution of biodiversity values. EVCs and EPBC listed communities will be mapped and reported using methods described for the establishment of a 15,000 grassland reserve. Vegetation community data will be stored and collated for reporting in NVIM. If present, the following communities will be reported as a KPI.

EPBC communities include:

- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains
- Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

EVCs may include:

- Plains Grassy Wetland (125)
- Plains Grassland (132)
- Riparian Woodland (641)
- Stony Knoll Shrubland (649)
- Creekline Tussock Grassland (654)
- Plains Woodland (803)
- Tall Marsh (821)
- Escarpment Shrubland (895).

Vegetation community outputs will only be reported for secured land, and for conservation areas included in the management category nature conservation.

### Key Populations

Key populations are identified in the program report as significant populations of EPBC listed species. There are four key populations identified, each defined by clear geographic locations. They include:

- areas of Clarke's Road Grassland containing Small Golden Moths Orchid (portion of Conservation area 3 in the BCS)
- Ravenhall North Grassland containing Large-fruit Groundsel (Conservation area 5 in the BCS)
- Truganina Cemetery and land within the buffer (e.g. 200 m) for Button Wrinklewort (Conservation area 10 in the BCS)
- Clyde railway to protect Maroon Leek-Orchid (Conservation area 35 in the BCS).

Key populations will be secured through land purchase or by land management agreement/s.

## **Management**

Management outputs will only be monitored for conservation areas under the management categories Existing public land, Nature Conservation, and Growling Grass Frog Conservation (on public land). Where reserves are combined of more than one management category, only the section of the reserve within the appropriate management category will be included in reporting. Delivery agents will be responsible for submitting data regarding on-ground activities, and this data will be stored and managed in STAR. Annual reporting will be conducted by responsible agents including landholders under management agreements. Where land is secured under agreements void of management plans, land use restrictions or management

requirements included in on-title agreements will be used in reporting (e.g. exclusion of all livestock from the site). Landowners under on-title agreements may also be issued with a written notice for works or activities (e.g. management of high threat weeds, or biomass) within a specified timeframe. Such notices will also be included as a data source for output reporting. Regular compliance monitoring will apply to all landholder agreements. Management outputs will only include those funded by the MSA program, in the areas identified above (Existing public land, Nature Conservation, and Growling Grass Frog Conservation on public land). Outputs will be combined across all three conservation area types.

**Table 24: KPIs for Conservation Area Management Categories**

<b>Conservation area Management Category</b>	<b>KPIs that apply to the Management Category</b>
<b>Nature conservation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hectares of land secured</li> <li>• Per cent of conservation area secured</li> <li>• Total hectares secured through purchase by the Crown</li> <li>• Total hectares of land secured through on-title agreement with plan</li> <li>• Total hectares of land secured through on-title agreement</li> <li>• Hectares of EPBC-listed community</li> <li>• Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class</li> <li>• Number of key populations secured</li> <li>• Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken</li> </ul>
<b>Growling Grass Frog conservation, floodplain and open space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hectares of land secured</li> <li>• Per cent of conservation area secured</li> <li>• Total hectares of land secured by vesting in a public authority &amp; on-title agreement with plan</li> <li>• Total hectares of land secured through on-title agreement</li> <li>• Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken (only on public land)</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Parks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not reported under the MSA</li> </ul>
<b>Existing Public land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hectares of land secured</li> <li>• Hectares of EPBC-listed community</li> <li>• Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class</li> <li>• Number of key populations secured</li> <li>• Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken</li> </ul>
<b>Existing offsets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not reported under the MSA</li> </ul>
<b>Open space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not reported under the MSA</li> </ul>

# A 1,200 hectare Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Reserve protected and managed

## Introduction

The Victorian Government will reserve at least 1,200 hectares of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland (GEW) to offset the impact of development occurring within the urban growth corridors. GEW of the Victorian Volcanic Plain is listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act (Department of Environment 2009a). The ecological community was once widespread around Melbourne, but intact examples are now extremely rare.

The Victorian Government has committed to permanently protect stands of GEW in a new conservation reserve north-east of Melbourne. The boundaries of a broad area, within which the GEW Reserve will be located, have been identified and published in the BCS. The reserve is expected to be a multi-tenure reserve, secured through voluntary negotiation with landholders. Some land will remain in private ownership protected through on-title agreements, while other areas will be purchased through voluntary negotiation by the Crown followed by the reservation for ecological purposes under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. As the reserve security model relies on voluntary negotiation with landholders, the final size and layout of the reserve is unknown. The boundary of the reserve will evolve as parcels are gradually secured over time with each new secured parcel influencing the future priorities and shape of the reserve. A reserve management plan will be prepared for areas of the reserve on Crown land. Management requirements for private land secured within the reserve will be detailed in the on-title permanent protection agreements.

## Key performance indicators

Table 25: Land secured in the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Reserve

KPI: Hectares of land secured		
Reporting	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Target	1,200 hectares
	Frequency	Annually
	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Per cent of reserve secured		
	Baseline	0 %
	Data collection	Calculated from hectares of land secured

<b>KPI: Per cent of reserve secured</b>		
	Data source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Collated annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Total hectares secured though purchase by the Crown</b>		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Hectares of land secured through permanent protection on-title agreement with management plan</b>		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Hectares of land secured through permanent protection on-title agreement</b>		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 26: Vegetation communities secured in Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Reserve

<b>KPI: Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured</b>		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually

<b>KPI: Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured</b>		
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI: Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class secured</b>		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 27: Management in the GEW Reserve

<b>KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken</b>		
Units	Channel	Metres of channels removed
		Metres of drain removed
	Water storage	Number of dams removed
	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Road	Metres of firebreak installed
		Metres of firebreak maintained
		Metres of road removed
	Vegetation	Hectares of EPBC-listed community established
		Hectares of non-native vegetation removed
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
		Hectares of alternative slashing regime established
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined for the 15,000 hectare grassland reserve and network of conservation areas within the UGB outcomes. While vegetation surveys will be applied across the entire reserve area to confirm the area of GEW, full flora and fauna inventories will only occur over Crown land. Vegetation surveys will be conducted prior to the establishment on any on-title agreements, and prior to acquisition by the Crown to determine the most appropriate security mechanism in accordance with the Land Protection Strategy.

# Eighty per cent of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland protected within the Urban Growth Boundary

## Introduction

Grassy Eucalypt Woodland (GEW) of the Victorian Volcanic Plain is listed as a Critically Endangered ecological community under the federal EPBC Act. The Victorian Government will protect 80 percent of the area of GEW in the growth corridors that meets the Commonwealth listed definition of the community. The area of GEW to be secured within the UGB equates to 294 ha in total, and conservation areas must be of a size and shape that enables their effective management.

## Key performance indicators

Table 28: Land protected for Grassy Eucalypt Woodland

KPI: Hectares of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland secured		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from hectares of EPBC listed community (GEW) secured in the network of conservation areas within the UGB
	Data source	Program files
	Target	294 hectares (80% of 368 hectares)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Per cent of Grassy Eucalypt Woodland secured		
	Baseline	0 %
	Data collection	Calculated from hectares of GEW protected
	Data source	Program files
	Target	80% of 368 hectares
	Frequency	Collated annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

### Land protected

The methodology used for identifying GEW and applying the protection requirements in the prescription comprised the following key steps:

1. Identification of areas of potential GEW on the basis of geological maps, aerial photos, observations from roadsides, historic parish plans, and use of GIS.
2. Identification of areas within potential GEW considered 'highly likely' to comprise the ecological community on the basis of site assessments, observations from roadsides, and landscape information (these site assessments were used to confirm the presence of woodland on properties surveyed in the field through the Melbourne Planning Authority surveys or by DELWP).
3. Use of GIS to determine the amount of 'highly likely' GEW that occurs within the conservation areas and the percentage of the total amount within the growth corridors that this amount represents.

On an annual basis, data will be collected from the MSA and other programs (including vegetation negotiated by Local Government Authorities during the Precinct Structure Planning Process that meets the retention requirements, any new reserves, on-title agreements etc.) on the area of GEW habitat secured. All methods of protecting GEW will require on ground assessment to confirm the site meets the Commonwealth listed definition of the community. Contribution towards the 80% target will only include habitat confirmed as GEW rather than area calculated from the 'highly likely' GIS layer. On- ground mapping will follow similar methods identified for inventory vegetation surveys for the WGR. The results will map polygons at a minimum size of 0.25ha (50m x 50m). After GEW habitat has been confirmed and secured, GIS will be used to determine its contribution towards the 80% target. Progress towards the target will include additional land secured within the GEW reserve above the minimum 1,200 ha of land required to meet commitments for the reserve.

### Baseline Data

Areas of 'highly likely' GEW were identified using a combination of geological maps, aerial photographs, observation from roadsides, historic parish plans and the use of GIS. This document outlines the total area of highly likely GEW habitat within the UGB as 368ha, a reduction of 58ha from the area identified in the BCS. The revision has occurred as part of the preparation of this document which recognised errors in the original data set. Quality assurance procedures identified issues in information transfer between the multiple methods used to determine the baseline data, and resulted in recalculations.



# Eighty per cent of high priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth protected and managed

## Introduction

The Victorian Government will protect at least 80 per cent of confirmed high persistence habitat for Golden Sun Moth (GSM) across the Victorian Volcanic Plain. The GSM is 'Critically Endangered' in Victoria (DSE, 2009) and 'Critically Endangered' nationally under the EPBC Act (Department of the Environment 2009b).

Progress towards the 80% target will be reported against yearly and includes:

- The WGR which will protect about 8,100 ha of high priority habitat
- Conservation areas protected within the UGB which are expected to protect about 410ha of high priority habitat
- Areas within existing and new conservation reserves, not part of the MSA, where the required standard of protection is achieved. At the time the Sub-regional species strategy of the GSM was produced about 15% of the highest priority habitat was protected
- To reach the 80% target an additional 680 hectares of habitat for GSM must be protected outside the UGB. Habitat for GSM outside the UGB will be protected through voluntary on-title management agreements with active management or voluntary acquisition of land by the Crown
- The GEW reserve has no confirmed high contribution habitat. Following security and survey of land in the GEW land, any confirmed habitat would contribute to the 80% target and reduce the area to be protected outside the UGB.

Should DELWP be unsuccessful in securing any land on the Victorian Volcanic Plains for GSM within a given budget period, DELWP will seek to secure habitat for that species elsewhere in its range. Any land secured through this program will be counted towards the target size, thereby resulting in a decrease in the amount of land to be secured on the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

## Key performance indicators

Table 29: High priority habitat for Golden Sun Moth protected

KPI:	Hectares of high priority habitat protected
Baseline	677 hectares
Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title compared to high persistence habitat model
Data source	Program files
Target	9,862 (80% of 12,328 hectares)

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of high priority habitat protected</b>	
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Per cent of high priority habitat protected</b>	
	Baseline	5.5 %
	Data collection	Calculated from hectares of high priority habitat for the GSM protected
	Data source	Program files
	Target	80% of 12,328 hectares
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 30: Land secured for Golden Sun Moth outside the UGB

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of high priority habitat secured</b>	
	Baseline	0 ha
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Target	Estimated to be 680 hectares (subject to review based on progress against per cent of high priority habitat protected)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of high priority habitat secured through purchase by the Crown</b>	
	Baseline	0 ha
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of land secured through permanent protection agreement on-title with management plan</b>	
	Baseline	0 ha
	Data collection	Collated from agreements for permanent protection on-title

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of land secured through permanent protection agreement on-title with management plan</b>	
	Data source	Program files
	Target	100%
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 31: Vegetation communities on land secured for Golden Sun Moth outside the UGB

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured</b>	
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class secured</b>	
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 32: Management on land secured for Golden Sun Moth outside the UGB

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken</b>	
Units	Channel	Metres of channels removed
		Metres of drain removed
	Water storage	Number of dams removed
	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Road	Metres of firebreak installed
		Metres of firebreak maintained
		Metres of road removed
	Vegetation	Hectares of EPBC-listed community established

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
		Hectares of non-native vegetation removed
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	TBD
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

### High priority habitat protected

The area of high priority habitat to be protected in order to meet to the 80% target for the GSM was determined using the GSM Species Distribution Model developed for the Strategic Impact Assessment Report (DSE, 2009). The following process was used to determine the area of habitat required to meet the 80% target:

1. The model was update to incorporate two years of recent survey data (Brown and Tolsma 2010, Brown *et al.* 2011) and then reclassified into the three 'contribution to species persistence' categories (high, medium and low).
2. The model identified a total area of 12,328 hectares of high priority habitat across the Victorian Volcanic Plains. This estimate is the area of high contribution habitat on a land parcel where GSM has previously been recorded. As per the Final Prescription for GSM and Strategic Impact Assessment Report for 'confirmed habitat', GSM records do not need to occur in the high contribution habitat but must be located on the same land parcel as high contribution habitat.

3. Of the 12,328 hectares of high priority habitat identified, 9,862 hectares must be protected to meet the 80% target. Across the Victorian Volcanic Plains 677 hectares of high priority habitat is already protected in existing parks, reserves and private land sites.

It is anticipated that once protected, the WGR and network of conservation areas within the UGB will contribute an additional 8,506 hectares. The area of 680 hectares required outside the UGB to meet the 80 per cent target is the difference between the area of 'high priority habitat that is already protected or will be protected in the Victorian Volcanic Plain and 80 per cent of the total area of 'high priority habitat'. This may be through land purchase or permanent on-title agreements under the MSA or through new conservation reserves and permanent on-title agreements external to the MSA, or the GEW Reserve (in which case the amount of land to be secured for GSM through this program would decrease).

On an annual basis, data will be collected from MSA files and other programs (including data for any new reserves, or on-title agreements to protect GSM not included in the MSA) and analysed against the MSA GSM species distribution model. Surveys for the species may be conducted (in accordance with the MRF Technical Protocols for Program Outcomes) in areas which are shown to be high persistence habitat to confirm presence on the parcel if there are no current records of previous surveys. An area will be counted towards the 80% target where there is a record of the species in high persistence habitat and the area is protected to the appropriate standards.

#### **Other key performance indicators**

Key indicators associated with land secured, vegetation communities present and management undertaken will only apply to parcels of land outside the UGB and not including the WGR or GEW reserve, which have been funded and secured for GSM through the MSA. Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined for the 15,000 hectare grassland reserve and network of conservation areas within the UGB outcomes.

# Eighty per cent of high priority habitats for Spiny Rice-flower protected and managed

## Introduction

The Victorian Government will protect and manage 80 percent of confirmed high priority habitat for Spiny Rice-flower (SRF) across the Victorian Volcanic Plain. SRF is endemic to Victoria and is listed as Critically Endangered under the EBPC Act (Department of the Environment 2009c). The SRF prescription requires protection of the species where populations are between five and 200 plants and native vegetation has less than 25 per cent cover of high threat perennial grassy weeds. Progress towards the 80% target will be reported against yearly and includes:

- The WGR which is expected to protect 314 ha of high priority habitat
- Conservation areas within the UGB expected to contribute 216 ha of high priority habitat
- An additional 374 ha of confirmed high priority habitat outside the UGB. Confirmed high priority habitat outside the UGB will be protected through land purchase or permanent on-title agreements under the MSA or through new conservation reserves and permanent on-title agreements, not part of the MSA (in which case the amount of land to be secured for SRF through this program would decrease).

## Key performance indicators

Table 33: High priority habitat for Spiny Rice-flower protected

KPI: Hectares of high priority habitat protected		
	Baseline	69 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title compared to high persistence habitat model
	Data source	Program files
	Target	1,138 hectares (80% of 1,422 hectares)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Per cent of high priority habitat protected		
	Baseline	4.9 %
	Data collection	Calculated from hectares of high priority habitat for SRF protected
	Data source	Program files

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Per cent of high priority habitat protected</b>	
	Target	80% (of 1,422 hectares)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 34: Land secured for Spiny Rice-flower outside the UGB

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of high priority habitat secured</b>	
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Target	Estimated to be 394 hectares (subject to review based on progress against per cent of high priority habitat protected)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of high priority habitat secured through purchase by the Crown</b>	
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

<b>KPI:</b>	<b>Hectares of land secured through permanent protection agreement on-title with management plan</b>	
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 35: Vegetation communities on land secured for Spiny Rice-flower outside the UGB

KPI: Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class secured		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 36: Management on land secured for Spiny Rice-flower

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
Units	Channel	Metres of channels removed
		Metres of drain removed
	Water storage	Number of dams removed
Fence		Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
Road		Metres of firebreak installed
		Metres of firebreak maintained
		Metres of road removed
Vegetation		Hectares of EPBC-listed community established
		Hectares of non-native vegetation removed
Weed control		Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
Pest animal control		Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
Grazing regime		Hectares of grazing management regime established



KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	TBD
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

### High priority habitat protected

The area of high priority habitat to be protected in order to meet to the 80% target for SRF was determined using the SRF Species Distribution Model developed for the Strategic Impact Assessment Report (DSE, 2009). The following process was used to determine the area of habitat required to meet the 80% target:

1. The model was reclassified into the three 'contribution to species persistence' categories (high, medium and low) based on a combination of site condition and contiguous area rankings.
2. The area of 'occupied habitat' within the UGB was determined. Occupied habitat was defined as remnant vegetation patches (identified from field survey data) existing on the same parcel as a SRF record. Adjacent remnant patches were included as 'occupied habitat' in certain cases. The relevant native vegetation patches were those classified as high or medium after applying the ranking used in the high persistence habitat model developed for the Strategic Impact Assessment Report (DSE 2009).
3. The area of 'occupied habitat' within surveyed areas of the UGB was expressed as a proportion of the total area of 'modelled high persistence habitat' within the surveyed areas of the boundary. This provided the total high priority habitat within the Victorian Volcanic Plain based on the assumption that this proportion holds constant across the bioregion.
4. A total of 1,422 hectares of high priority habitat for SRF was identified on the Victorian Volcanic Plains. Of this area 1,138 ha must be protected to meet the 80% target.

Sixty nine hectares of high priority habitat have already been protected across the Victorian Volcanic Plains including parks, reserves and private sites in existence prior to 2012, Conservation Area 6 and 'Troups Rd' within the WGR.

On an annual basis, data will be collected from MSA files and other programs (including data for any new reserves, or on-title agreements to protect SRF not included in the MSA) and analysed against the MSA SRF species distribution model. Surveys for the species may be conducted (in accordance with the MRF

Technical Protocol for Program Outcomes) in areas which are shown to be high persistence habitat to confirm presence on the parcel if there are no current records of previous surveys. An area will be counted towards the 80% target where there is a record of the species in high persistence habitat and the area is protected to the appropriate standards.

#### **Other key performance indicators**

Key indicators associated with land secured, vegetation communities present and management undertaken will only apply to parcels of land outside the UGB and not including the WGR or GEW reserve, which have been funded and secured for SRF through the MSA. Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined for the 15,000 hectare grassland reserve and network of conservation areas within the UGB outcomes.

# Eighty per cent of highest priority habitats for Matted Flax-lily protected and managed

## Introduction

The Victorian Government will protect and manage 80% of confirmed high priority habitats for Matted Flax-lily (MFL) across the Victorian Volcanic Plain. The prescription for MFL requires areas of native habitat where the species occurs that has less than 25 per cent cover of high threat perennial grassy weeds to be protected. Progress towards the 80% target will be reported against yearly and includes the WGR, GEW Reserve, Conservation areas within the UGB and an additional 529 ha of confirmed high priority habitat outside the UGB to reach the target of 721ha. Confirmed high priority habitat outside the UGB will be protected through land purchase or permanent on-title agreements. It includes new conservation reserves and permanent on-title agreements not part of the MSA.

## Key performance indicators

Table 37: High priority habitat for Matted Flax-lily secured

KPI: Hectares of high priority habitat protected		
	Baseline	3 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title compared to high persistence habitat model
	Data source	Program files
	Target	721 hectares (80% of 901 hectares)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Per cent of highest priority habitat protected		
	Baseline	1 %
	Data collection	Calculated from hectares of high priority habitat for SRF protected
	Data source	Program files
	Target	80% (of 901 hectares)
	Frequency	Collated annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 38: Land secured for Matted Flax-lily outside the UGB

KPI: Hectares of high priority habitat secured outside the UGB		
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms and agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Target	Estimated to be 529 hectares (subject to review based on progress against per cent of high priority habitat protected)
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Hectares of highest priority habitat secured through purchase by the Crown		
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from notification of completed land purchase forms
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
KPI: Hectares of land secured through permanent protection agreement on-title with management plan		
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from agreements for permanent protection on-title
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing first parcel
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 39: Vegetation communities on land secured for Matted Flax-lily outside the UGB

KPI: Hectares of EPBC-listed community secured		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	NVIM
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

KPI: Hectares of Ecological Vegetation Class secured		
Data	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Mapping of parcel
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Table 40: Management on land secured for Matted Flax-lily outside the UGB

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
Units	Channel	Metres of channels removed
		Metres of drain removed
	Water storage	Number of dams removed
	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Road	Metres of firebreak installed
		Metres of firebreak maintained
		Metres of road removed
	Vegetation	Hectares of EPBC-listed community established
		Hectares of non-native vegetation removed
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	TBD
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually

KPI: Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken		
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## Monitoring protocol

### High priority habitat protected

The area of high priority habitat to be protected in order to meet the 80% target for the MFL was determined using the MFL Distribution Model developed for the Strategic Impact Assessment Report (DSE, 2009). The following process was used to determine the area of habitat required to meet the 80% target:

1. The species distribution model was reclassified into the three 'contribution to species persistence' categories (high, medium and low). Sites with a condition score of 0.35 and above were classified as high persistence.
2. The area of 'occupied habitat' within the UGB was determined. Occupied habitat was defined as remnant vegetation patches (identified from field survey data) existing on the same parcel as a MFL record. Adjacent remnant patches were included as 'occupied habitat' in certain cases. The relevant native vegetation patches were those classified as high after applying the ranking used in the high persistence habitat model developed for the Strategic Impact Assessment report (DSE 2009).
3. The area of 'occupied habitat' within surveyed areas of the UGB was expressed as a proportion of the total area of 'modelled high persistence habitat' within the surveyed areas of the boundary. This provided the total high priority habitat within the Victorian Volcanic Plain based on the assumption that this proportion holds constant across the bioregion.
4. A total of 901 hectares of high priority habitat were identified across the Victorian Volcanic plain. Of this area 721 hectares must be protected to meet the 80% target.

Three hectares of high priority habitat is already protected in reserves, parks and private land sites established prior to 2012.

It is anticipated that once protected, the network of conservation areas within the UGB will contribute an additional 187 hectares. An area of 529 hectares will be protected outside the UGB to meet the 80 per cent target. Land outside the UGB may be protected through land purchase or permanent on-title agreements under the MSA including the GEW reserve or through new conservation reserves and permanent on-title agreements, not part of the MSA, (in which case the amount of land to be secured for MFL through this program would decrease).

On an annual basis, data will be collected from MSA files and other programs (including data for any new reserves, or on-title agreements to protect MFL not included in the MSA) and analysed against the MSA MFL species distribution model. Surveys for the species may be conducted (in accordance with the MRF Technical Protocol for Program Outcomes) in areas which are shown to be high persistence habitat to confirm presence on the parcel if there are no current records of previous surveys. An area will be counted towards the 80% target where there is a record of the species in high persistence habitat and the area is protected to the appropriate standards.

**Other key performance indicators**

Key indicators associated with land secured, vegetation communities present and management undertaken will only apply to parcels of land outside the UGB and not including the WGR or GEW reserve, which have been funded and secured for MFL through the MSA. Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined for the 15,000 hectare grassland reserve and network of conservation areas within the UGB outcomes.

# Important landscape and habitat areas for Southern Brown Bandicoot are protected and managed

## Introduction

Since European settlement the Southern Brown Bandicoot (SBB) has experienced severe range contractions and population decline, and the species is listed at 'Endangered' under the EPBC Act (DSE 2013). Habitat for the species within the MSA impact area occurs only in the south-eastern growth corridor. The Sub-regional Species Strategy for the SBB outlines a management area located almost exclusively on the Gippsland Plain as the focus for conservation programs under the MSA. The Victorian Government will implement a package of voluntary integrated conservation measures including but not exclusive to:

- a broad scale integrated predator control program
- habitat security and management in private land - incentive programs for landholders
- habitat security and management in public land - including measures to enhance security of public land such as a change of status to a conservation designation
- management of key habitat areas including the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, and the Koo Wee Rup Swamp
- create and enhance habitat to provide habitat connectivity

## Key performance indicators

Table 41: Land managed for Southern Brown Bandicoot

KPI: Hectares of private land with management agreement		
	Baseline	0 hectares
	Data collection	Collated from agreements and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon signing agreement with landowner
	Responsibility	TBD
KPI: Hectares of public land with management agreement		
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from agreements and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon signing agreement with landowner
	Responsibility	TBD



KPI:	Hectares in landscape scale predator control program	
	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated from agreements, contracts and reports
	Data source	Program files
	Target	30,000 hectares
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon commencement of program
	Responsibility	TBD

Table 42: Management undertaken in areas managed for Southern Brown Bandicoot

KPI:	Units of land management (DELWP Standard Outputs) undertaken	
Units	Fence	Metres of fence installed
		Metres of fence maintained
		Metres of fence removed
		Hectares of stock exclusion created by fencing
	Vegetation	Hectares of revegetation established
		Hectares of revegetation maintained
		Hectares of non-native vegetation removed
	Weed control	Hectares of weed species contained
		Hectares of weed species eradicated
		Hectares of weed species prevented
	Pest animal control	Hectares of pest animal species controlled
		Hectares of pest animal species restricted
		Hectares of pest animal species prevented
	Grazing regime	Hectares of grazing management regime established
		Hectares of grazing management regime maintained
		Hectares of grazing management regime removed
		Hectares of alternative slashing regime established
	Fire regime	Hectares of fire regime established
		Hectares of fire regime maintained
Data	Baseline	0
	Data collection	Collated data from land manager reports, data submissions and contracts
	Data source	Program files
	Frequency	Annually
Reporting	Forum	Output Progress Report
	Start Date	Upon securing the land
	Responsibility	TBD

## Monitoring protocol

### Land managed for SBB

A management area of approximately 60,000 hectares has been identified for the SBB and is outlined in the sub-regional strategy for the species. The defined management area was determined based on expert advice (Biosis 2013) and considered:

- the extent of the south central population
- the distribution of known sub-populations
- the conservation outcomes sought under the program report
- the available management interventions.

The defined management area is a subset of the pre 1750 South Central Population. It includes sub-populations where they are likely to be part of the existing metapopulation (i.e. Bunyip) but not parts of the eastern and western shoreline as these sub-populations are likely to be functionally separated due to relatively large hostile breaks in habitat. Across the management area most management actions will be defined to key areas of high priority habitat. The predator control program is the only exception and intends to be applied over at least half of the management area.

Three KPIs will be used to monitor outcomes relating to land secured for the SBB. Voluntary incentive programs designed specifically for the SBB will be implemented in key areas. The programs will use market based instruments such as BushTender style approaches to implement simple enhancement and protection measures such as:

- retention and maintenance of identified habitat
- permission to lay fox baits, or assistance with other pest animal control activities
- building and/or placement of small mammal refuges (boxes)
- fencing where necessary.

Depending on the incentive mechanism, landowners may be required to sign a management agreement and preference will be given to permanent agreements that are secured on-title. The number of hectares of private land under management agreements will be reported every 12 months. Data will be sourced from MSA files.

The second KPI will report on the hectares of public land under management agreements. The SBB sub-regional strategy lists key public land areas either within the primary SBB Management area, or adjacent to it with potential to expand the SBB Management area. Measures to enhance security on public land include a change of status to a conservation area designation (e.g. Nature Conservation Reserve under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*), or establishment of agreements between public authorities under the FFG Act. A management plan will be required in both circumstances. Data will be collected from MSA files.

The third KPI will report on the number of hectares of land included in predator control programs. The Victorian Government aims to implement an integrated predator control program over at least 30,000 hectares (half of the management area). All conservation programs for the species will be voluntary and the intensity and effectiveness of predator control in many areas will be reliant in landholder participation for access to lay baits. Several agencies will be involved in the implementation of the program and delivery agents will be required to supply data on predator control activities. STAR will be used to record management activities and will be used to report on hectares included in predator control programs along with MSA files including agreements, contracts and reports.

### Data management

Several agencies will be involved in the implementation of the SBB management strategy including local councils and water authorities, private organisations, landowners, consultancies and land management bodies. Delivery agents will be required to supply data on management activities that will be stored and managed within STAR. Management activities will be recorded within the SBB Management Area, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and may include potential extension areas outlined in the sub-regional species strategy. Annual reporting will be conducted by responsible agents where management agreements are in place, including landholder agreements. Where land is secured under agreements void of management plans, land use restrictions included in on-title agreements will be included in reporting. Landholder agreements will be subject to compliance monitoring. Output reporting will only include activities funded by the MSA. Any actions funded by the MSA on public land must be clearly additional to existing obligations of the public land manager. Data on management outcomes will be collated from STAR and MSA files including agreements, contracts and reports.

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