

Approved Boundary Change

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Conservation Area 33- O'Herns Road, Epping

Key Messages

- A Public Acquisition Overlay was placed over the subject area in 2003 to secure the land for the construction of an off ramp from the Hume Freeway.
- The off ramp was identified in the Northern Growth Corridor Plan (GAA 2013).
- The land was later included within Conservation Area 33 when the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) was finalised in 2013.
- An error was made in the mapping out of the conservation area as the Public Acquisition Overlay was in place when the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was finalised in 2013.
- Vic Roads are proposing several infrastructure upgrades along the Hume Highway including an interchange upgrade, widening and signalisation works which are not located within the Melbourne Strategic Assessment program area and will require a Part 9 approval under the EPBC Act. The infrastructure upgrades are considered a project of state significance.
- A Flora and Fauna Assessment prepared by Biosis submitted to DELWP has confirmed that the presence of the nationally significant Golden Sun Moth in the subject area during surveys conducted in November 2016 and January 2017.
- Under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program, Victoria has committed to protection of 80 per cent of high contribution habitat for Golden Sun Moth across the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. High contribution habitat for Golden Sun Moth as described in the Final Prescription is “*Area of native vegetation (greater than 25% native understorey cover) within potentially well connected Golden Sun Moth habitat where connected habitat is separated by break in habitat of <200m*”.
- The survey conducted by Biosis found that the subject area was dominated by introduced grass species and has less than 25 per cent native vegetation cover. It therefore does not represent high contribution habitat for the Golden Sun Moth.
- The boundary change for Conservation Area 33 has been approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the Department of Environment and Energy.
- Habitat compensation fees will apply to any land approved to be removed from the conservation area.

Summary

The subject land was included in Conservation Area 33 by error. The land was identified and flagged for future upgrades by VicRoads in 2003, well before the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was finalised in 2013. On-ground surveys of the area have been conducted by a suitably qualified consultant. The on-ground survey data for the conservation area has been analysed against appropriate boundary change criteria. While Golden Sun Moths have been surveyed on the subject site, the land does not represent high quality habitat, given that it is dominated by introduced grass species and contains less than 25 per cent native vegetation. The approved boundary change removes this area from Conservation Area 33 to allow for the construction of an off ramp from the Hume Freeway.

Table 1: Key information for conservation area 33

Conservation Area- Key Information	
Conservation area name and number	BCS Conservation Area 33 O'Herns Rd, Epping
Type of conservation area	Multiple- Existing offset, open space, nature conservation. Boundary change only applies to open space areas
Precinct name	Cooper Street West
Council area	Whittlesea
Property addresses	2\PS518235- 260 O'herns Rd Epping 3076
Were new surveys undertaken to inform the proposal?	Yes – surveys of native vegetation, scattered trees and Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)

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Assessment Criteria

This boundary change proposal has been assessed against criteria consistent with the Melbourne Strategic Assessment prescriptions and the Guidance Note for the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The approved changes are consistent with the following application criteria in the Guidance Note:

- To address issues associated with the construction and operation of any urban infrastructure shown in the Growth Corridor Plans (GAA, 2013) or existing or proposed new infrastructure of state significance, where no feasible alternatives are available.
- To address issues necessary to meet the urban planning objectives of a precinct structure plan, such as appropriate urban form or the construction of roads, bridges, water management and other infrastructure, where no feasible alternatives are available.

The approved change removes an area of land under a Public Acquisition Overlay for an off-ramp for the Hume Freeway.

In total the proposed change includes;

- Remove approximately 2.2 hectares of land, none of which meets the listing criteria for Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains, nor is high quality habitat for the Golden Sun Moth.

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Proposed boundary change, Conservation Area 33



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



Legend

- Conservation Area 33
- Proposed area of Conservation Area 33 to be removed (2.2 ha)
- Time stamping data (modelled - note site survey by Biosis identified absence of native vegetation)



0 45 90 180 270 360
Meters

Data Source: DELWP Corporate Spatial Data Library
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