

Notice of Approved Boundary Change

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Conservation Area 15

Conservation Area 15- Western Growth Corridors: Growling Grass Frog corridor (north)

Summary

For Growling Grass Frog conservation areas, the Commonwealth approvals provide flexibility for the Victorian Government to make slight changes to the boundaries of these conservation areas to maximise their design and function. DELWP will consider supporting applications of proposed adjustments to Growling Grass Frog corridors where they result in a 85% or greater probability of a better outcome for the species or the adjustment is required to meet particular site specific issues. The Guidance note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors outlines the site specific criteria that may require boundary changes and includes rectifying errors in mapping within the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS)

Amendments to the boundary of conservation area 15 are required to align the boundary identified in the BCS with the boundary identified in the gazetted Rockbank North Precinct Structure Plan (The PSP). The PSP and BCS were developed in parallel and resulted in some small discrepancies that require adjustment. The PSP was gazetted based on conservation area boundaries based on the Conservation Management Plan for the conservation area which was subsequently approved by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP, then the Department of Sustainable and Environment). The BCS was published in May 2013 and did not incorporate the final agreed boundary from the gazetted PSP (June 2012). Very minor corrections to the boundary shown in the PSP also need to be made to align it with the Rural Conservation Zone where this was intended to be positioned. The following amendments are required

- Multiple additions and subtractions along Kororoit Creek and around the Deanside Wetlands resulting in a net loss of 14.730 hectares. The main subtractions include:
 - an area on the north bank of Kororoit Creek identified in the PSP for Active Open Space (which is not normally compatible with a conservation area),
 - the adjacent area identified as encumbered "Waterway – drainage/flooding" because it is within the 100 year flood level;
 - the minor tributary from the northeast, which is also encumbered "Waterway – drainage/flooding"
 - the northwest corner of the conservation area around the western Deanside Wetland, to reflect the shape of the existing wetland.
- Removal of the "Potential GGF habitat link" alongside the proposed OMR easement resulting in a loss of 7.039 ha. The potential link was identified as dependant on the impact of the Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport corridor (OMR). Since this time DELWP has developed draft standards for the design and construction of GGF passage structures under roads and a population modelling tool, both of which will

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assist in the design of the OMR to minimise the barrier to GGF passage. The proposed link is not included in the PSP.

The approved change results in no loss of GGF habitat, as the master plan is based on the conservation areas identified in the PSP. DELWP is satisfied that the proposed boundary meets the boundary change criteria for Growling Grass Frog conservation areas. As the proposed change results in a net loss of conservation area, approval was sought and granted by the Commonwealth Minister.

Background Information and relevant commonwealth approvals

Table 1 provides information on the conservation area

Key Information	
Conservation area name and number	CA15 Western Growth Corridor: Growling Grass Frog corridors (north)
Type of conservation area	Growling Grass Frog conservation, floodplain and open space
Precinct name	Rockbank North
Council area	Melton City Council
Applicant	MPA via the Rockbank North Precinct Structure Plan (PSP)
Landowner/land manager	Private landholder
Property addresses	1902-1990 Western Highway Rockbank 3335
Were new surveys undertaken to inform the proposal?	N/a

Any changes to the boundary of conservation area 15 that result in a net loss of area require the approval of the Commonwealth Minister. The approval conditions relating to this condition are identified in the table below.

Table 2 provides information on the commonwealth approval conditions for changes to conservation area boundaries

MSA Commonwealth approval	
Relevant approval	September 2013 (2010 Urban Growth Boundary expansion of the Western Growth corridor)
Relevant approval condition	Condition 3
Is approval required?	Yes
Reason approval is required	Condition 3 requires Commonwealth Ministerial approval of boundary changes that result in a net loss of area to conservation area 15.



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Approved Boundary Changes and Assessment Criteria

DELWP will consider supporting applications of proposed adjustments to Growling Grass Frog corridors where they result in a 85% or greater probability of a better outcome for the species or the adjustment is required to meet particular site specific issues outlined in the table below.

The approved boundary change for conservation area 15 addresses errors in the mapping provided in the BCS, and is required to meet urban planning objectives of a precinct structure plan.

Table 3 provides information on how the approved boundary change meets the boundary change criteria

Boundary Change Criteria

Changes to the boundaries of a Growling Grass Frog conservation area are considered necessary if :

A. The proposal results in a 85% or greater probability of a better outcome for the Growling Grass Frog in comparison to the current design, as determined by the predicted risk of extinction over 50 years, based on DELWP's GGF stochastic patch occupancy model;	n/a
B. The adjustment is required to address one or more of the following site specific issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">urban infrastructure shown in the Growth Corridor Plans (GAA, 2013);existing or proposed new infrastructure of state significance;urban planning objectives of a precinct structure plan, such as appropriate urban form, roads, bridges, water management and other infrastructure;land made inaccessible as a result of a conservation area;existing buildings or other infrastructure on or near the boundary of a conservation area;final requirements of regional (metropolitan) park planning processesErrors in mapping	<p>The approved boundary change is required to amend errors in the boundary shown in the BCS, and support planning objectives identified in the precinct structure plan.</p> <p>The PSP was developed in parallel with the BCS and the boundary identified in the gazetted PSP matched a draft Conservation Management Plan subsequently approved by DELWP (then the Department of Sustainability and Environment). However the BCS did not incorporate the final agreed boundary.</p> <p>Very minor corrections to the boundary shown in the PSP also needed to be made to align it with the Rural Conservation Zone where this was intended</p> <p>There is no loss of habitat for Growling Grass Frog, as the masterplanning process is based on the conservation area boundaries shown in the PSP.</p>

Commonwealth Government Approval

DELWP is satisfied that the proposed boundary change meets the boundary change criteria identified in the Guidance note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors and has received approval from the Commonwealth Minister.

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Appendix 1: Map of proposed boundary change and site values, which has been approved by the Commonwealth

