

# Notice of Approved Boundary Change

## Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Conservation Area 26

### Conservation Area 26- Mt Ridley West, Mickleham

#### Summary

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) identifies conservation area 26 as a nature conservation area. In limited circumstances DELWP will consider proposed changes to nature conservation area boundaries where they meet the criteria identified in the Guidance note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors. Changes to the boundaries of a nature conservation area are considered necessary if the adjustment is required to address one or more of the following site specific issues:

- 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
- Errors in mapping

The approved adjustment to conservation area 26 addresses a mapping error in the BCS. The approved boundary aligns with Urban Growth Zone and Conservation Management Plan associated with the Merrifield West Precinct Structure Plan (The PSP) which was gazetted in June 2012. The boundaries identified in The PSP were approved by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP, then the Department of Sustainability and Environment) between the draft and final version of the BCS, but were not updated in the final BCS. The BCS boundary is incorrect and conflicts with the ability to deliver the nominated Active Open Space site. An amendment to the BCS boundary is needed to address this error.

No matters of national environmental significance are impacted by the boundary change. The four mature River Red Gums excluded with the approved boundary change will be retained and protected within the boundaries of the Active Open Space to the north of the reserve. The Active Open Space area will also provide a suitable buffer for the conservation area.

DELWP is satisfied that the amended boundary meets the boundary change criteria for nature conservation reserves. Approval was sought and granted by the Commonwealth Minister.

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## Background Information and relevant commonwealth approvals

Table 1 provides information on the conservation area

Key Information	
Conservation area name and number	BCS Conservation Area 26 – Mt Ridley West, Mickleham
Type of conservation area	Nature Conservation
Precinct name	Merrifield West PSP – Gazetted June 2012
Council area	Winchelsea City Council
Applicant	DELWP
Landowner/land manager	Private Landholders
Property addresses	425 Donnybrook Road, Mickleham – freehold land
Were new surveys undertaken to inform the proposal?	Yes

Any changes to the boundary of conservation area 2 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 Northern Growth corridor)
Relevant approval condition	Condition 4
Is approval required?	Yes
Reason approval is required	Condition 4 requires Commonwealth Ministerial approval boundary changes to conservation area 26

## Approved Boundary Changes and Assessment Criteria

DELWP will consider supporting applications of proposed adjustments to nature conservation areas in limited circumstances, prior to submitting them to the Commonwealth Minister for consideration. The Guidance Note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors suggests boundary changes may be necessary to allow for errors in mapping within the BCS, and allow the urban planning objectives of precinct structure plans.



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

## Boundary Change Criteria

Changes to the boundaries of a 'nature conservation' or 'existing public land' conservation area are considered necessary if the adjustment is required to address one or more of the following site specific issues:

- 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
- Errors in mapping
- The approved adjustment to conservation area 26 addresses a mapping error in the BCS.
- The BCS boundary differs to the boundaries identified in the Merrifield West Precinct Structure Plan (The PSP) which was gazetted in June 2012. The boundaries identified in The PSP were approved by DELWP between the draft and final version of the BCS, but were not updated in the final BCS. The BCS boundary is incorrect and conflicts with the ability to deliver the nominated Active Open Space site.
- The approved boundary change does not impact on any matters of national environmental significance.

## 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

