

# Approved change to the boundary of Conservation Area 11 under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

## Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Conservation Area 11 (Woods Road, Truganina)

### Key points:

- The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) outlines the location for Conservation Area 11 (Woods Road, Truganina).
- Conservation Area 11 is classed as 'nature conservation' and contains the nationally threatened ecological community Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (NTGVVP) as well as the nationally threatened species Golden Sun Moth and Spiny Rice-flower and suitable habitat for Striped Legless Lizard (population not confirmed).
- DELWP proposed to adjust the boundary of Conservation Area 11 to remove the area required by Melbourne Water for the Dohertys Drain Constructed Waterway (**Attachment 1**).
- The area proposed for excision from Conservation Area 11 totals 0.75 hectares of land. This area does not contain any native vegetation and comprises 0.75 hectares of non-native (degraded treeless) vegetation. These values are based on site-surveyed information.
- The approved boundary change does not impact native vegetation or result in a net loss of ecological communities or habitat for or species listed under the EPBC Act.
- Habitat compensation fees applies to the land that has been removed from the conservation area.
- The approved change removed a total of 0.75 hectares of land from Conservation Area 11 – none of which is native vegetation.

### Overview

The BCS and Truganina Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) outline the location for Conservation Area 11 (CA 11) (Western Growth Corridor, Woods Road, Truganina).

The Truganina PSP (p 40) also identifies the location for a constructed waterway corridor/ drainage asset along the pre-existing Dohertys Drain and identifies an area south of the drainage line as an 'opportunity to capture water from adjacent stormwater quality treatment asset and treat to higher level for distribution through the recycled water network'. These areas (totalling 14.14 hectares) are shown as 'encumbered drainage open space' within the Truganina PSP.

While the planned Melbourne Water retarding basin is located wholly outside of Conservation Area 11, the planned Dohertys Drain Constructed Waterway (DDCW) will run southwards and partially overlap (by 0.75 hectares) with the eastern side of Conservation Area 11 (**Attachment 1**).

Melbourne Water have finalised a functional waterway design for the DDCW, which outlines both the extent of

the proposed constructed waterway and its associated construction footprint.

Melbourne Water had indicated that **0.75 hectares** of land within Conservation Area 11 would be required for construction and management of the DDCW, which includes maintenance access tracks on both sides of the waterway. Melbourne Water has ensured its functional waterway design has prevented any native vegetation from being impacted by either the construction or ongoing management of the waterway.

### Boundary change assessed against the Guidance Note criteria

The *Guidance Note: Implementing the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors* (DELWP 2015) prescribes that construction of the planned Melbourne Water DDCW is to be treated as a necessary change to the boundary of Conservation Area 11, and not as a works in conservation area application.

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The reasons DELWP considers the change to Conservation Area 11 to be a necessary change are:

1. It is necessary to meet the urban planning objectives of the Truganina PSP
2. the use of the land as a constructed waterway (i.e. the DDCW) will inhibit DELWP's ability to secure it for ecological purposes, and
3. the land will become the responsibility of Melbourne Water as the relevant public authority.

Therefore, DELWP sought to adjust the boundary of Conservation Area 11 to excise the area of land required by Melbourne Water for the construction and maintenance of the Dohertys Drain waterway asset (**Attachment 1**).

Condition 4 of the Part 10 Commonwealth approvals that regulate urban development in the growth corridors under the EPBC Act requires that boundary changes to conservation areas 1 – 9, 11 – 13, 16, 17, 19, 22 – 27 and 29 – 32 (those generally categorised as 'nature conservation' or 'existing public land') require approval from the Commonwealth Minister.

## Approved boundary change – summary of impacts to listed matters and native vegetation

Conservation Area 11 is classed as 'nature conservation' and contains the nationally threatened ecological community NTGVVP. Within the conservation area's original boundary, there are nine remnant native vegetation patches of EVC 132 Plains Grassland, with respective habitat (quality) scores of 39.92, 39.92, 39.92, 44.00, 53.52, 57.6, 63.04, 63.04 and 63.04 out of a maximum quality score of 100 (**Attachment 1**).

Conservation Area 11 also contains high persistence habitat for Golden Sun Moth (population confirmed in the nearby Truganina South Golden Sun Moth Reserve) and Spiny Rice-flower population within medium persistence habitat.

The approved boundary change removed 0.75 hectares of land alongside Dohertys Drain that is required to meet the urban planning objectives – relating to water management and drainage assets, of the Truganina PSP.

The total area being removed (0.75 hectares) contains no remnant native vegetation. This area is wholly comprised of degraded treeless (non-native) vegetation. In addition, no flora or fauna records exist within the area proposed to be removed.

Given this, the approved boundary change did not impact native vegetation or result in a net loss of ecological communities or habitat for or species listed under the EPBC Act.

The future zoning and for the land's intended land-use of the area proposed for removal from CA 11 will be administered by the State Minister for Planning.

**Table 1: Key information for CA 11**

Conservation area name and number	BCS Conservation Area 11: Western Growth Corridor: Woods Road, Truganina
Type of conservation area	Nature Conservation
Precinct name	Truganina
Council area	Wyndham City

## Commonwealth approval

The proposed boundary change required approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.

On 8 September 2017, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment approved the proposed adjustment to the boundary of Conservation Area 11 (**Attachment 1**).

