

Biodiversity Assessment Report

Proposed development at
Montgomery Park, ACT

For:
Telopea Park High School

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1 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Project description

PATH Co have been engaged by Hayball Architects (for Telopea Park High School) to undertake a biodiversity assessment of Montgomery Park and Manuka Tennis Courts at Block 5, Section 36, Forrest, ACT. The site is proposed to be re-zoned as part of the Masterplan proposed by Hayball Architects for Telopea Park High School (see Figure 1). This biodiversity assessment has been undertaken to support the proposed rezoning application and seeks to provide advice to the ACT Government to assist with its assessment of the application. Of note, a pre-application meeting was held with the ACT Government and advice as provided relating to Flora and Fauna, as follows:

*ACTMapi shows that the subject area has potentially threatened plants including the Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorhynchoides*) and threatened fauna with presence of the Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*).*

Assessment and management of the above matters will be dealt with at DA stage.

Authority's advice

If this proposal does require a major plan amendment, the supporting report should contain information about the flora and fauna on the subject site and how this will be considered and managed as part of future development on the site.

This biodiversity assessment report (BAR) has therefore been prepared to address the above advice and specifically, provides an assessment of the site's biodiversity values including confirmation of whether there are any ecological values of significance present at the site, such as listed threatened species (including those mentioned above) and/or ecological communities under either the ACT *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act) or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

This assessment also provides consideration of whether the future development of the site (as proposed in the Masterplan) may have the potential to result in a significant impact¹ on any matters of biodiversity conservation significance. Associated with this is consideration of whether the future development of the Masterplan could trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be prepared in accordance with provisions of the ACT *Planning Act 2023*, or require referral to the Commonwealth Government (DCCEE) under the provisions of the EPBC Act.

¹ In accordance with Commonwealth's EPBC Act *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1* (2013)

1.2 Aims of this Assessment

The aims of this consultancy project are to:

- Assess the biodiversity values of the site (via desktop and field-based methods).
- Consider the potential for any other listed threatened species or ecological communities under the EPBC Act or ACT NC Act to occur at the site, as well as identify potential requirements for further survey of the site if required. Specific consideration is given to the Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorhynchoides*) and threatened fauna including the Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*).
- Assess/consider the potential impacts of the proposed Masterplan development on biodiversity, including specifically impacts to listed threatened species and ecological communities.
- Consider the potential triggers for an EIS and/or EPBC Referral based on the significance of potential impacts.
- Provide recommendations where appropriate for either further assessment requirements (if necessary) or design measures or construction management actions to avoid or minimise potential impacts to biodiversity (if/where appropriate).

1.3 Site Context

The subject site for this assessment is Section 36, Block 5, Forrest (Montgomery Park and Manuka Tennis Courts) shown as stage 1A of two sites incorporated into the current Masterplan prepared by Hayball Architects (see Figure 1). The site occupies a total area of 14,571m² (1.46ha) and is currently zoned PRZ2: RESTRICTED ACCESS RECREATION ZONE. The site is bordered by New South Wales Crescent to the Northeast, Fitzroy Street to the Southwest and Manuka Circle to the Southeast. The Northwest boundary adjoins blocks 7 and 13 of Section 34; zoned as CZ5 Mixed Use.

The Manuka tennis courts, currently occupy the southeastern corner while the remainder of the site is largely undeveloped, comprising an open grassland playing field with some existing trees around the site boundaries. The site is relatively flat and does not support any notable (or mapped) natural waterways.

A review of the historic aerial imagery of the area (at 1951; being the oldest available aerial imagery; see Figure 3) shows the site as supporting some built form/hardstand (assumed to be tennis courts) across the majority of the site and occupying much of the current playing field area. Much of the existing street trees appear to also have already been planted at this time.

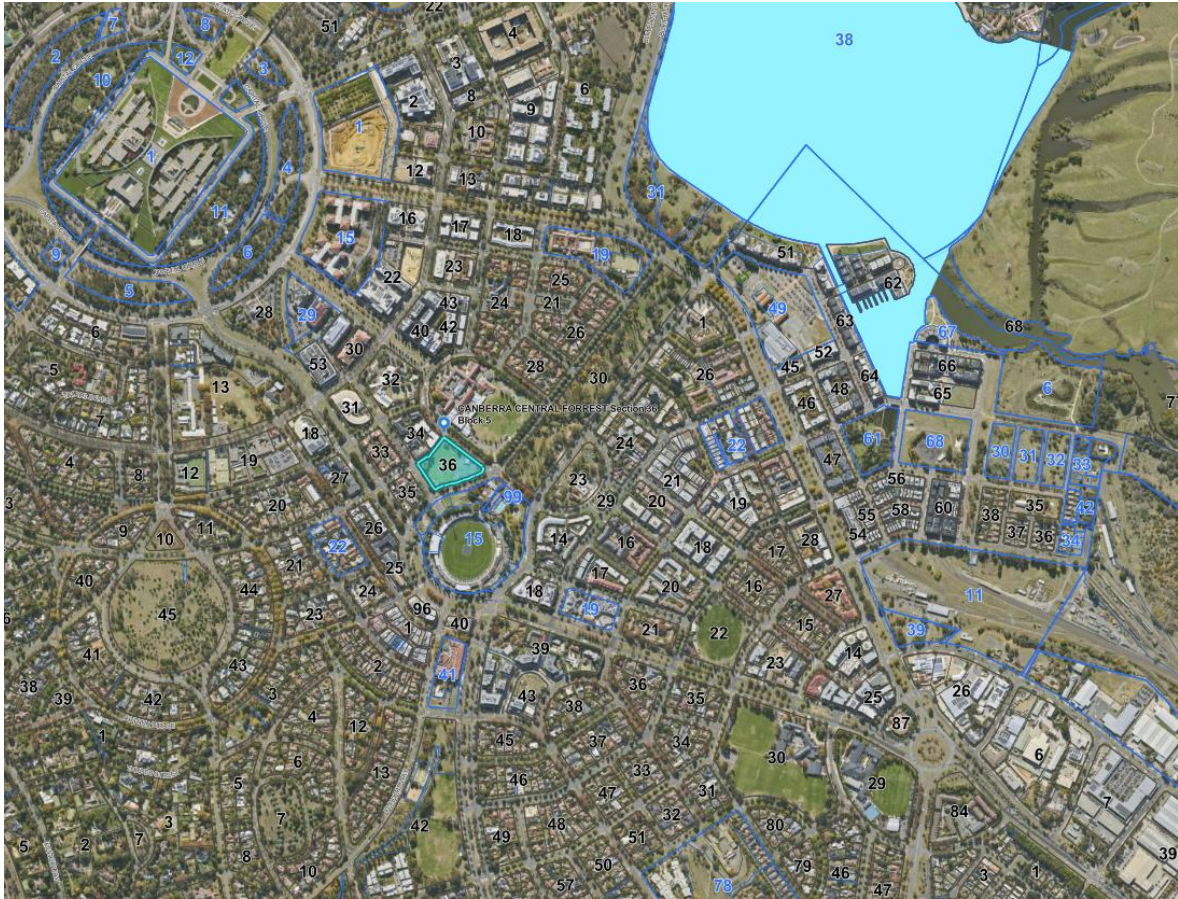


Figure 1. Site location – Block 5, Section 36 Forrest

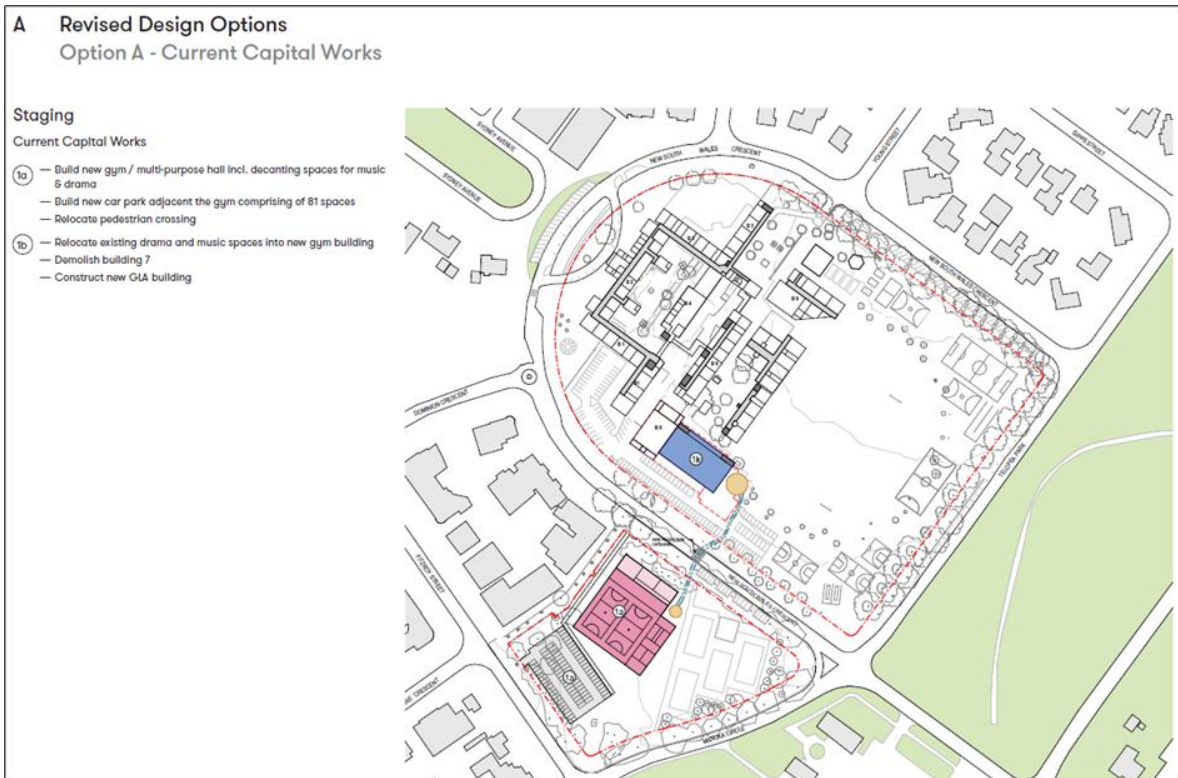


Figure 2. Proposed Masterplan
 (image courtesy: Hayball Architects, 2025)



Figure 3. Historic aerial imagery of the site from 1951

2 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The assessment of the site's biodiversity values included a combination of both desktop searches as well as a brief site inspection, as described further below.

2.1 Desktop Assessment

Background database searches were conducted to identify any existing known or recorded environmental values within the study site that may provide a potential to constraint to the development, or otherwise impact upon the planning and approval requirements to allow the works to proceed. These database searches include the following:

- ACT ACTmapi *Significant Species, Vegetation Communities and Registered Trees* database maps (<http://app.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi/>), and
- Canberra Nature Map (<https://canberra.naturemapr.org>)
- Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) (<https://www.ala.org.au/>)
- EPBC protected Matters Search Tool (<http://www.environment.gov.au/webgis-framework/apps/pmst/pmst.jsf>) applying a 10 km search area centred at the mid-point of the project area).
- Commonwealth Threatened Species Profiles (<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>)

The results of these background searches are summarised briefly in the assessment findings below and in the Threatened Species Evaluation Table (Appendix B).

2.2 Site Survey

A brief daytime site-based survey was conducted by PATH Co on the morning of the 3/09/2025. The survey approach for this ecological assessment involved a random meander about the entire site area (including immediately adjacent areas such as road verges) to broadly assess the flora and fauna values, including potential presence of or suitability of the site for supporting listed threatened species. Specifically, the site survey included the following components:

- Assessment of the floristic values of the site including recording all plant species observed at the site and undertaking a general visual estimate of abundance/cover for groundcover species across the subject site (formal biometric plots were not established for this assessment and were not deemed necessary based on the site conditions described in Section 3). This assessment was used to assist in the identification of broad vegetation communities including conditions and types. Assessment was also made of the potential for any listed threatened flora species or ecological communities to occur at the site (as identified from the database searches)
- Identification of the presence of fauna habitat features such as hollow-bearing trees, nests, fallen logs, rocky outcrops and aquatic habitats.

Note: as second site visit was undertaken on 9/11/2025 to undertake specific searches in suitable areas (mainly in the southern parts of the site with less managed and taller grasses) for the Endangered Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*). The species was known to be in flower at this time based on observed flowering at a reference site in eastern ACT.

2.3 Survey Limitations

The (early) Spring timing of the survey meant that some late-flowering plant species may not have been detectable if present at the site. Of particular note, the Button Wrinklewort would have been difficult to detect during the first survey, and so a second survey was completed at an appropriate time (confirmed from a known reference site). Accordingly, the survey for this species is considered adequate for detecting its presence.

Additionally, the very open, managed understory of the site (see descriptions in Section 3) meant that observability of the groundcover and detectability of (other threatened) plants (if present) would have been relatively high. Notwithstanding this, the general habitat assessment and observations of site management activities were considered suitable for consideration of the potential occurrence of threatened plants known from the broader locality.

3 SITE VALUES

3.1 Vegetation

3.1.1 Flora

The vegetation at the site is characterised as being highly modified and managed, supporting a large area of the open grassed playing field with numerous surrounding trees along the block boundaries, most which are actually located just outside the block boundaries, except for a small patch of trees in the (far) eastern and northwestern corners of the site.

Practically all of the trees at the site (including those just outside the site boundaries) are likely to be planted specimens, including numerous large old trees that would have been planted some time ago (a review of the historic aerial imagery shows tree plantings along road verges having already occurred in 1951; the oldest available aerial imagery; see Figure 3). All of these trees are exotic specimens and include various Cypress Pines (*Cupressus sp.*), Pines (*Pinus sp.*), Oaks (*Quercus sp.*), and Plane Trees (*Platanus sp.*) as well as some smaller ornamental fruit trees such as Plums and Cherry trees (*Prunus spp.*).

The understory vegetation at the site outside of the main playing field area is dominated by exotic species including notably African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*), Couch (*Cynodon dactylon*), Goosegrass (*Eleusine tristachya*), Phalaris (*P. aquatica*), Paspalum (*P. dilatatum*), Serrated Tussock (*Nasella neesiana*), Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), Sticky Mouse-eared Chickweed (*Cerastium glomeratum*), Fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*), and Red-flowered Mallow (*Modiola caroliniana*). The outer edges of the playing field supported many of these species as well as some Ivy (*Hedera sp.*), Dwarf Mallow (*Malva neglecta*), Prairie Grass (*Bromus catharticus?*), Clover (*Trifolium sp.*), Buchan Weed (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Common Storks-bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), and Creeping Speedwell (*Veronica persica*). The playing field, which is regularly mown to a short height, appears to be comprised of mainly Couch.

Very few native species were observed in the groundcover, limited to a small amount of Tall Speargrass (*Austrostipa bigeniculata*), Corkscrew Grass (*A. scabra*), Grassland Wood Sorell (*Oxalis perennanse*) and Common Cotula (*Cotula australis*).

A full list of the species recorded in this area as well as an estimate of the relative abundance/cover values is provided at Appendix B. The potential for the site to support any listed threatened flora species or ecological communities is discussed below.

3.1.2 Threatened flora

There was no evidence of any threatened flora species within the site. A review of the ACTmapi Environment Map layer also does not identify any records of any listed threatened flora as occurring either within the site (see Figure 4 below).

The nearest records of any threatened flora species to the site include the Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*), with a number of records occurring within Telopea Park, the nearest being less than 200m east of the site, as well as records further south near Flinders' Way and the Manuka Tennis Courts and records and records further

north of Brisbane Avenue near Bowen Drive and the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore (see Figure 4). This species requires high quality native grassland habitats with relatively low disturbance levels (grazing/mowing etc). A targeted search for the species was undertaken on the 9th November 2025 when the species was known to be in flower and detectable (based on observed flowering at a known reference site) and was not seen. Based on this as well as the known ecology of the species and the observed site conditions (including likely management regimes), there is considered to be a very low potential for this species to occur at the site.

No other threatened flora species records occur within proximity (i.e. <1km) of the site. With regard to other threatened flora species included in the EPBC PMST results, the degree of disturbance and other features of the site suggest that there is little potential for any of these species occurring at the site (refer to the threatened species evaluations at Appendix B for further information on the potential likelihood of occurrence of these species at the site).

Some (non-threatened) *Rare or Other Important Plant* records also occur in area including the White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*), Spinning Gum (*E. perriniana*) as well as Orchids (species not listed). None of these species were observed within the site, with box Eucalypt species obvious trees that would have been detected if present, while the site conditions as stated above are considered unlikely to be suitable to support any Orchids.

3.1.3 Threatened Ecological Communities

The site does not support any identifiable threatened ecological communities (TEC) listed under either the ACT NC Act or the Commonwealth EPBC Act. A review of the ACTmapi Significant Species database also does not identify any listed threatened communities occurring in or immediately adjacent to this area (see Figure 5). The nearest mapped locations of any listed TEC to the site (per the ACTmapi mapping) includes a small patch of Natural Temperate Grassland (NTG) located north of National Circuit and Sydney Avenue, approximately 400m north of the site. This patch has since been developed and the NTG community removed. Areas of Potential Threatened Woodland is also mapped across much of the Red Hill Nature Reserve, more than 1.5km to the west of the site.

Based on the highly modified nature of the vegetation at the site, comprising areas of exotic tree plantings and exotic-dominant grassland, the vegetation would not meet the criteria for mapping as part of any TEC including any listed grassland or woodland ecological communities.

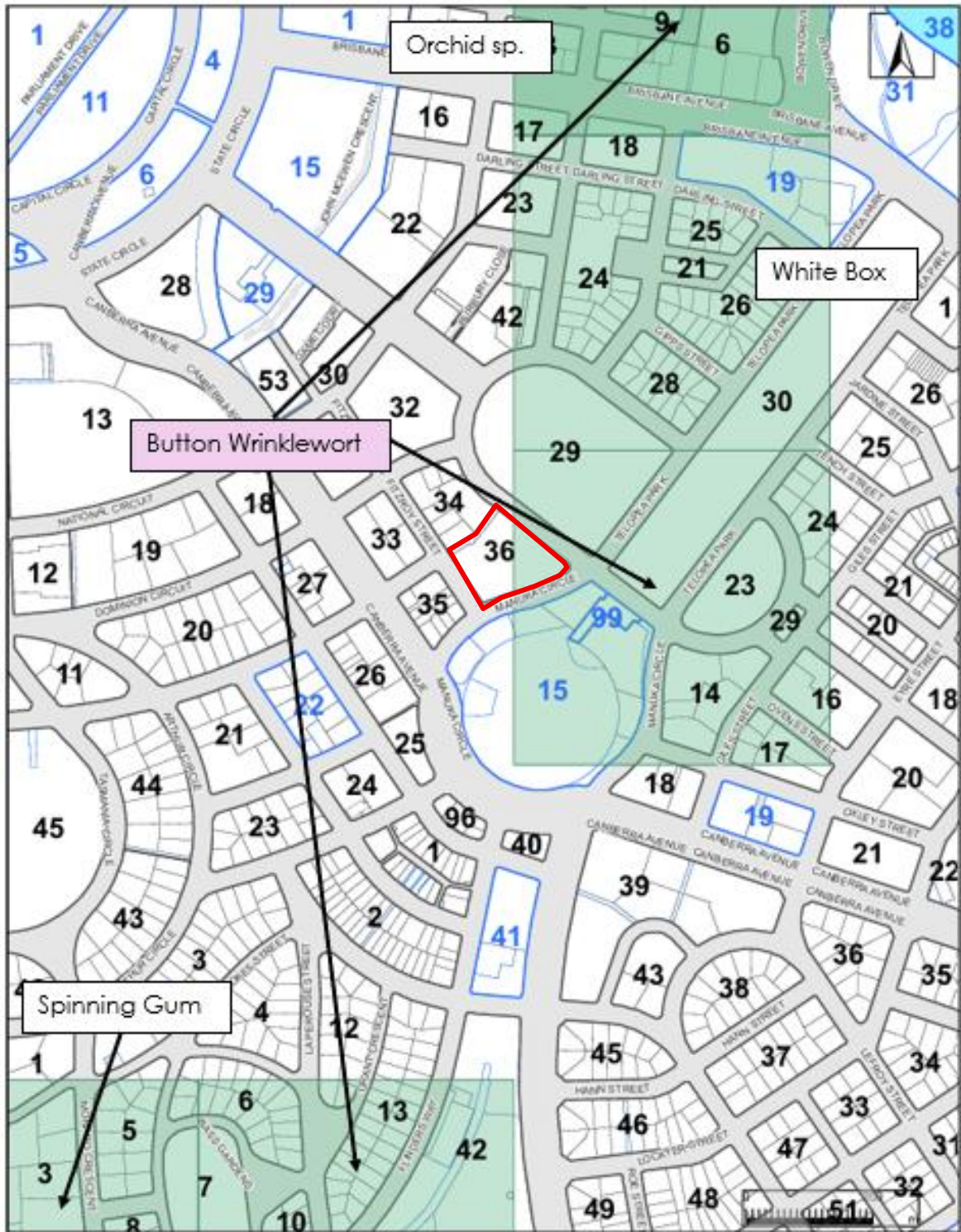


Figure 4. Location of rare and threatened plants in the local area
(note: purple filled box refers to threatened species)



Figure 5. Location of mapped Threatened Ecological Communities in the area

3.2 Fauna and their habitats

3.2.1 Fauna values at the site

The fauna habitat values of the site are considered to be of minimal ecological importance given the highly modified nature of the site, including regular human use/activity as well as its location within the older central parts of Canberra, and surrounded by roads on three of its four sides, with the remaining northern side supporting high-density development.

Specifically, the site supports some marginal arboreal habitat values, limited mainly to some temporary roosting and foraging habitat provided by the variety of mature trees. However, based on the species composition (of Oaks, Pines etc), the foraging habitat values are considered to be limited to mainly Psittacidae family species (i.e. cockatoos rosellas and parrots). Importantly, there were no breeding habitat features observed in

any of the trees, with no tree hollows or nests seen in the tree at the site. A potential hollow was observed in an Oak tree located just outside the eastern site boundary in the western verge of New South Wales Crescent (see photos).

Based on the observed habitat values, the site is likely to support a moderate diversity of native and introduced bird species, including mainly those species that are well adapted to urbanised environments. Bird species directly observed at or very nearby the site during the survey included the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), Galah (*Eolophus roseicapilla*), Red-rumped Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*), Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*) and Eastern Rosella (*P. eximius*), Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*), Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*), Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Yellow-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) and the introduced Rock Dove (or Pigeon; *Columba livia*). A pair of the Endangered Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) were also seen flying past the site to the south, but did not land in any of the trees within or immediately nearby to the site. This species is understood to be regularly observed in the nearby Telopea Park.

The terrestrial fauna habitat values of the site are also considered to be of minimal ecological importance. Of note, the existing site uses comprising predominantly hard-surface tennis courts with tall security fencing as well as a fenced short-mown grassed playing field, and only minimal surrounding areas of partly managed, exotic vegetation, combined provide minimal shelter or foraging opportunities for most native terrestrial fauna. Notably, the site lacks any natural shelter habitat such as fallen logs and rocky outcrops, which combined with the site location in the built-up urban area and surrounded by roads and high-density development, mean that there is very little suitable habitat within the site for terrestrial animals and very little ecological connectivity to enable fauna to access the site (as discussed further below).

No aquatic habitat values occur within the site.

The potential for the site to support listed threatened fauna species is discussed further below.

3.2.2 Threatened fauna

No threatened fauna species were recorded within the site during the survey period. However, as noted above, the Gang-gang Cockatoo was seen flying past the site to the south. This species is listed as Endangered under both the ACT NC Act as well as the Commonwealth EPBC Act. There is considered to be only marginal habitat values present within the site, limited mainly to some foraging habitat provided by some of the Cypress and Pine trees. No suitable hollows were observed in any trees at the site that could provide potential breeding habitat for the species. The observed potential hollow in the Oak tree in the adjacent verge of New South Wales Crescent is not considered likely to be a suitable nesting habitat for this species based on the tree species and general hollow features. Consequently, the site is not considered to be of conservation importance for the Gang-gang.

A review of the ACTmap*i Environment Map Threatened Fauna Habitat* layer notes that generalised habitat mapping occurs over the site and surrounding areas (including over

much of Canberra) for two other threatened fauna species including the Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*) and Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*).

The Superb Parrot feeds on a variety of seeds, including both within the canopy of suitable trees (mostly native Eucalypts and Wattles) as well as foraging on the ground for seeds and herbs. They nest in the hollows of trees in groups around clusters of trees. The site is considered to provide minimal suitable habitat for the Superb Parrot, limited to some marginal foraging habitat resources, with no suitable nesting habitat observed at or nearby to the site. The observed potential hollow in the Oak tree in the adjacent verge of New South Wales Crescent is not considered likely to be a suitable nesting habitat for this species based on the tree species and general hollow features.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll requires areas of intact woodland and forest with an abundance of fallen logs and/or rocky outcrops, as well as an abundance of suitable prey (small birds, mammals and reptiles). These important habitat features are not present within or immediately adjacent to the site and consequently there is considered to be a very low potential for it to occur at the site or rely on the site for important habitat.

With regard to other threatened fauna species included in the EPBC PMST results, the lack of any notable habitat features and general degree of disturbance indicate that there is little potential of any of these species occurring at the site (refer to the threatened species evaluations at Appendix B for further information on the potential likelihood of occurrence of these species at the site).

3.3 Ecological Connectivity

The subject site does not play an important role in maintaining ecological connectivity in the local area. Of note, the site is surrounded on three sides by existing roads, and on the fourth side by an existing medium-high density residential development. These surrounding barriers, including the site's locations within a built-up inner urban area of Canberra, combined with the site uses, lack of notable fauna habitats, and existing fencing mean that the site is likely to provide any important ecological connectivity or movement opportunities for all but highly mobile, common urbanised fauna such as birds, and potentially (Brush or Ring-tailed) possums.

The site's lack of contribution toward local ecological connectivity is consistent with the ACTmapi *Urban Ecological Network* mapping (see Figure 6) which shows the site is not located within or part of the mapped 'green' ecological network in this area. The main network of green corridor/connectivity is mapped to the south along Telopea Park through to Lake Burley Griffin and south past Manuka Oval to the west. Due to the existing conditions as noted above, the site would not contribute to this network.



Figure 6. ACT Urban Ecological Network and Blue Network mapping

3.4 Summary of Biodiversity Values

In summarising the biodiversity values of the site as identified by this assessment, the following key points are noted:

- The vegetation at the site is highly modified, comprised of entirely exotic planted trees and some ornamental shrubs. The groundcover vegetation is also highly modified and comprised of mostly exotic species, with only a small amount of (common) native flora species recorded. Based on this, the site is considered highly unlikely to support any threatened flora and does not support any TEC. Given this, the vegetation at the site is considered to be of minor ecological value or importance.
- No notable native fauna habitats occur within the site, with no nesting habitat features observed in any of the trees within the site margins (noting a low-value potential hollow in an exotic Oak tree in the verge of New South Wales Crescent) and no notable potential nesting/shelter habitat for terrestrial fauna. The trees at the site may provide some temporary resting sites and foraging habitat, mainly for common (and introduced) birds, and potentially possums, however, given their non-native and deciduous nature, these values are considered to be of minor ecological importance. The site's location, including surrounding barriers such as roads and fencing and existing site uses are likely to preclude many native terrestrial fauna types from entering the site. In this respect, the site is not part of and does not contribute to ecological connectivity in the local area in any meaningful way, limited to some minor resting habitat for common birds. The site supports no aquatic habitat.
- No threatened fauna species are considered likely to occur at the site on a regular basis and the site does not support any important or notable ecosystem

functions or processes important for the survival of a local population of a native species, threatened or otherwise.

- There are no other 'Matters of National Environmental Significance' (MNES) listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act that are known to use or rely on the site for habitat.

The current biodiversity values of the site and immediate are reflected in the Current Biodiversity Values Plan at Figure 7 below.

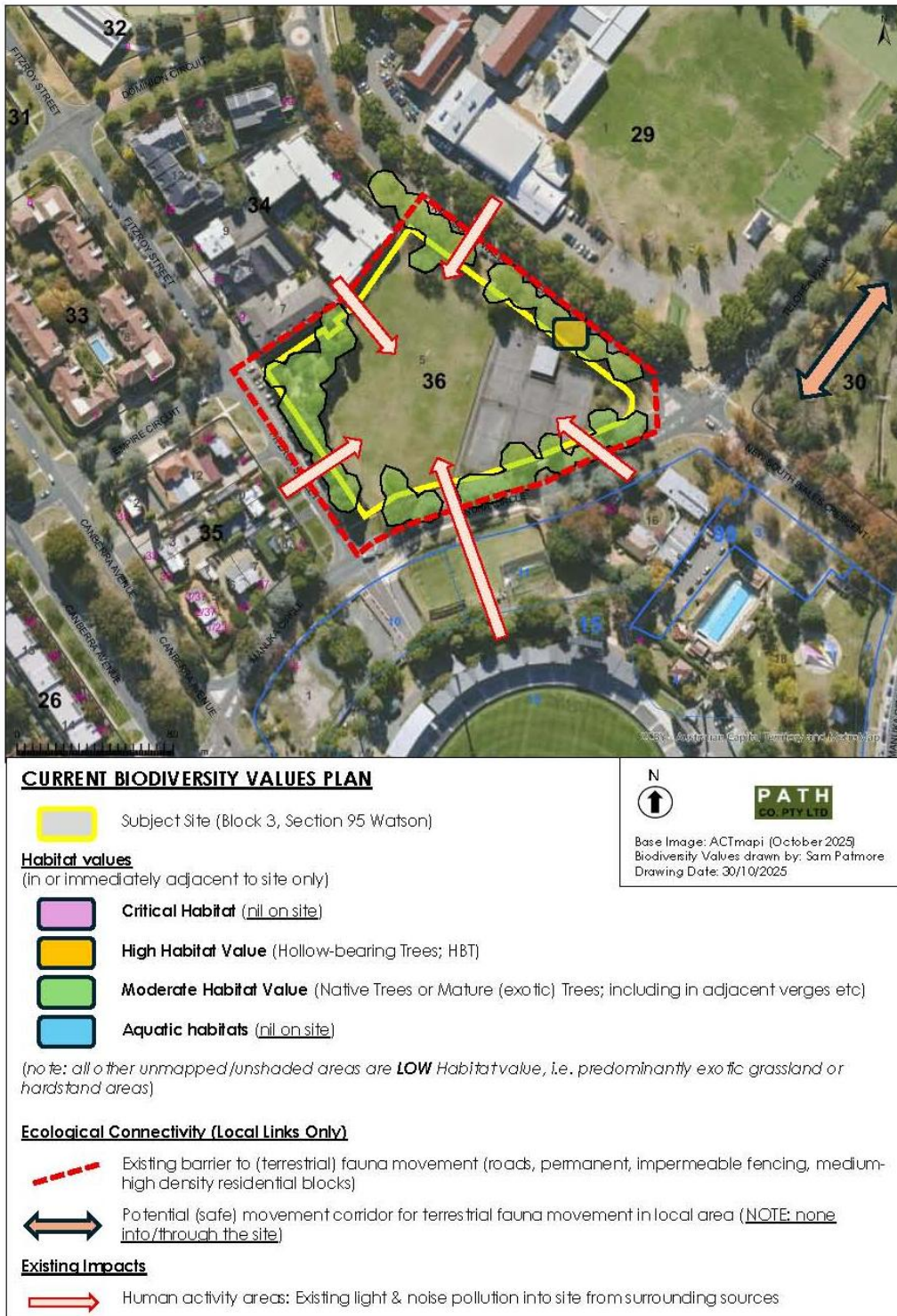


Figure 7. Current Biodiversity Values Plan for the site and surrounding areas

4 ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSTRAINTS AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

The subject site of this assessment was observed to support minimal features or values of ecological importance, limited mainly to some of the existing mature exotic trees which provide some marginal foraging and temporary roosting habitat for mainly common birds.

None of the observed features at the site are considered likely to provide a major constraint to the future development opportunities of the site, with the removal of some or all of these features unlikely to result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Consideration of the potential impacts associated with the proposed redevelopment of the site under the current Masterplan are primarily associated with the removal of vegetation. A brief summary of the potential impacts of the development of the site is provided below.

4.1 Impacts to Native Vegetation

As noted in Section 3.1 above, the vegetation values at the site can be characterised as highly modified, including exotic planted trees and a moderate-highly managed groundcover consisting of mostly exotic species.

Based on the proposed Masterplan design, the development impacts on the vegetation at the site will be limited to the removal of some (approx. 4-5; subject to final detailed design) of the existing large exotic (mostly Pine) trees in the northwestern corner of the site to accommodate the new carpark in this area. The development of the carpark and new tennis courts would also result in the removal of about 5,000m² (0.5ha) of highly modified and managed groundcover vegetation dominated by exotic species.

Given the above, the development would not result in any notable impacts to native vegetation values, limited to the disturbance of less than 500m² of low-value native groundcover species². No native trees would be removed.

Importantly, no listed threatened flora or ecological communities are likely to occur at the site that would be impacted by the development. The development also would not result in any notable loss to native flora species diversity/richness generally, or a reduction in native vegetation or native tree canopy coverage in the ACT.

4.2 Impacts to Fauna and their habitats

The proposed development of the site is considered unlikely to result in any unacceptable impacts to native fauna or their habitats. Of note, there are only limited arboreal habitat values likely to be impacted by the project, restricted to the removal of a small number (approx. 4-5) of the planted exotic trees along the northwestern boundary, none of which support any breeding habitat values (i.e. hollows or nests), and provide only limited

² Based on a total disturbance footprint of about 5,000m² and a native vegetation component of less than 10% of the overall groundcover vegetation.

foraging habitat. The single observed (potential) tree hollow occurs in an Oak tree located in the verge of New South Wales Crescent and would not be impacted by the site development.

Based on the limited habitat value of these trees, it is likely that any fauna using the trees would be restricted to (common) birds. These highly mobile animals would very likely fly away before/during any tree felling and would be capable of finding other available foraging and roosting habitat resources in the surrounding area.

Given the above, the removal of the non-native trees also would not result in any notable impacts associated with the loss or reduction of (native) tree canopy cover and there would be no impacts to any associated natural woodland ecosystem attributes. Additionally, there is considered to be a very low potential for any direct impacts (such as injury or death) to native fauna during the removal of the trees.

Impacts to native terrestrial fauna are also considered to be of minor consequence given the majority of the impact footprint and where disturbance/impacts could occur, will be mainly within the existing highly managed playing fields which does not support any notable habitat values for native terrestrial fauna. Some very small, cryptic species (such as skinks) could potentially be affected by the project, mainly during the construction phase, however these impacts are often considered unavoidable and acceptable, being of negligible conservation significance. No aquatic fauna are likely to occur at the site or be impacted by the development of the site.

In summary, based on the existing marginal ecological values of the site and the proposed scale of development, the project is not anticipated to result in any impacts to native fauna through the (substantial) loss, reduction, modification fragmentation or isolation of habitats. Importantly, no listed threatened fauna species are considered likely to occur at or be impacted by the development of the site.

The proposed site landscaping would also, over time, increase tree canopy cover, however, this will include a predominantly non-native ornamental species composition similar to what already occurs at the site. From an arboreal fauna perspective, and considering the species already known or likely to use the site, this is considered acceptable, and will actually increase arboreal (foraging) habitat values for many common bird species.

Notwithstanding this conclusion, the future site landscaping should aim to increase native tree canopy cover to support arboreal (foraging) habitat values for native bird species (see recommendations at Section 6).

4.3 Loss of ecological connectivity, functions and processes

As stated in Section 3.3, the site does not play any notable role in maintaining ecological connectivity in the broader area, being located in an older built-up urban area of inner Canberra and surrounded by roads on three of its four sides, and by a medium-high density residential development on the fourth side. This is reflected in the ACT Urban Ecological Network mapping which also shows the site being outside of and not contributing to the 'green' network.

Given the substantial barriers to (terrestrial) fauna movements, combined with the limited ecological values that occur within or immediately adjacent to the site, and that the development impacts will occur mainly within the already highly modified playing field area, the proposed development of the site would not impact on ecological connectivity or on any other important ecological functions or processes in the area.

5 STATUTORY APPROVAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Commonwealth EPBC Approval Requirements

The EPBC Act is the Commonwealth Government's primary legislation for the protection and conservation of Australia's environment and biodiversity. The EPBC Act established the 'Matters of National Environmental Significance' (MNES) to be protected. A proposed action that could (significantly) impact a MNES are required to be referred to the Commonwealth for assessment. MNES currently listed under the EPBC Act of relevance to the study area are:

- threatened species and ecological communities; and
- migratory species (protected under international agreements).

Given the site does not support any important habitat for listed threatened species or ecological communities as established by this assessment, or notable habitat for any migratory species, no significant impacts to these or any other MNES are considered likely. Accordingly, a referral to the Commonwealth government of the proposed development is not considered necessary.

5.2 ACT Environmental Planning Approval Requirements

As stated above, this assessment has established that the site does not support any listed threatened species or ecological communities that could be impacted by the proposed development. Given this, the project is not believed to trigger the requirement for the completion of an EIS in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1, Part 1.2, Item 16 of the ACT Planning Act (for impacts to protected species).

Additionally, the project will result in the clearing of less than about 500m² (0.05ha) of low-value native vegetation, comprised entirely of common groundcover species, and located within an exotic dominated grassland that would not be considered a *native vegetation area* (under the NC ACT). Accordingly, the project does not trigger the requirement for an EIS to be completed in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1, Part 1.2, Item 17 of the ACT Planning Act for proposals that involve the clearing of more than 0.5ha of 'native vegetation' in a *native vegetation area*.

In addition to the above, the ACT NC Act establishes a list of Key Threatening Processes (KTPs) to important biodiversity values. One such KTP is the *Loss of mature native trees (including hollow bearing trees) and a lack of recruitment* (Notifiable instrument NI2018-536). This KTP listing seeks to limit the loss of important (mature and/or hollow-bearing) trees in the ACT as they provide important habitat for a number of listed threatened species which could be adversely affected by their removal, as well as contributing to broader ecological community values. As stated above, the project is unlikely to impact any listed threatened species and does not impact on any threatened ecological communities. Given this and the retention of the single, low-value exotic HBT (and no mature native trees are present) at the site, the project would not result in this KTP. The project is also considered unlikely to result in the other KTP listed under the NC Act for the *Unnatural Fragmentation of Habitats* (NI2019-822) based on the existing low level of

ecological connectivity provided by the site. Accordingly, the project does not trigger the requirement for an EIS to be completed in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1, Part 1.2, Item 25 of the Regulation.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

PATH Co undertook an assessment of the biodiversity values at the subject site, being Montgomery Park and Manuka Tennis Courts at Block 5, Section 36, Forrest, ACT. The site is proposed to be re-zoned as part according to the Masterplan proposed by Hayball Architects for Telopea Park High School. This biodiversity assessment has been undertaken to support the proposed rezoning application and seeks to provide advice to the ACT Government to assist with its assessment of the application.

The assessment found that the subject site is in a highly modified condition and is considered to be of limited ecological value or importance. All of the existing trees at the site are exotic, ornamental specimens, the majority of which have been deliberately planted. There is no notable shrubby understorey vegetation, once again restricted to some deliberately planted ornamental varieties in the southern half of the site. The groundcover vegetation at the site is also highly modified and degraded, consisting of both a highly managed (short mown) playing field, and a smaller less-managed groundcover in the southern parts of the site. All of the groundcover vegetation is comprised of mostly exotic species. Based on the degraded/modified conditions, there is considered to be a very low probability of any listed threatened flora species occurring at the site, and collectively, the vegetation would not meet the criteria for inclusion as part of any listed threatened ecological community.

No notable fauna habitats were observed within the site. None of the existing exotic trees within the site boundaries were observed to support any hollows or nests, indicating there is no breeding habitat present within the site for native arboreal fauna. A single (potential) hollow-bearing tree, being an exotic planted Oak tree, was observed just outside the site boundaries in the verge of New South Wales Crescent. The exotic and deciduous nature of these trees also provide only marginal foraging habitat value for native arboreal fauna. The modified groundcover vegetation lacks any natural cover or shelter such as fallen logs or rocky outcrops, and there is very little natural grassland tussock structure due to regularised management (mowing). The current site fencing is also likely to preclude terrestrial fauna movements into/through the site. At a broader level, the site does not contribute to ecological connectivity in any important or meaningful way. Based on this, the site is considered to be of limited value to native fauna and importantly is considered unlikely to support any listed threatened fauna species. A pair of the Endangered Gang-gang Cockatoo was observed flying past the southern site margins. This species is known to occur on a regular basis within Telopea Park, but given the lack of suitable breeding habitat and only marginal foraging habitat, the species is considered unlikely to occur at the site on a regular basis or rely on the site for important habitat.

The potential impacts of the proposed future redevelopment of the site (according to the Masterplan) are considered to be of a minor scale and of no ecological significance. Specifically, the (likely) impacts are limited mainly to the removal of some (4-5) of the existing exotic trees in northwestern corner of the site and the clearing of some of the existing highly modified groundcover vegetation.

Based on the observed high level of exotic species within the groundcover vegetation across the site, the proposed development is anticipated to result in the impact (clearing) of less than 500m² of low-quality native groundcover vegetation. The exotic trees (likely) to be removed do not support any hollows or nests and so the development would not result in any impacts to arboreal fauna or arboreal fauna breeding habitat. Given the limited terrestrial habitat values, no substantial impacts to native terrestrial fauna are expected, and no aquatic habitats are present in the vicinity of the site that could result in impacts to aquatic fauna.

Based on this assessment, the proposed development of the site would not trigger the requirement to complete an EIS under the provisions of the ACT Planning Act and also, would not require referral to the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of the EPBC Act.

Notwithstanding this conclusion, some (minor) management measures are recommended to be implemented to further avoid or minimise potential impacts.

6.2 Recommendations

Given the very low probability of any significant ecological features or values being associated with the site, the proposed rezoning and future Masterplan development is unlikely to result in any notable or unacceptable impacts to biodiversity or other natural values at the site. Accordingly, there are no specific recommendations considered necessary to be implemented to avoid any unacceptable impacts. In addition to this, it is expected that standard construction environmental management measures will be put in place during construction activities (i.e. tree protection, sediment and erosion, and weed management) to further avoid impacts occurring. Accordingly, the recommendations under this assessment are essentially for the implementation of such construction environmental management measures, particularly in relation to the protection of existing trees.

However, it is possible that in the event of an extended period of time between when the site inspection for this assessment was conducted (September 2025) to when the construction works actually commence (which could be more than a year), new habitat features (limited mainly to the construction of bird nests) could occur in one (or more) of the trees to be removed. Accordingly, a brief inspection of trees to be removed should be carried out by a suitably qualified person closer to the time of development works occurring to confirm no new nests have been built. If a nest is found, a habitat tree removal protocol is to be prepared and implemented for the removal of the tree/nest.

7 REFERENCES AND INFORMATION SOURCES

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- Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH: 2006). EPBC Act Policy Statement: *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* (available online at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/be2ff840-7e59-48b0-9eb5-4ad003d01481/files/box-gum.pdf>)
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APPENDIX A. Threatened Species Evaluations

The tables in this appendix present the habitat evaluation for threatened species, ecological communities and endangered populations included in the database search results using a 5 km buffer around project site, for those identified as potentially occurring in the area according to the Commonwealth EPBC *Protected Matters Search Tool*³, as well as records of species in the local area included in the ACT Government's ACTMapi online mapping database.

It was assumed that this search area and use of government databases would bring in all of the relevant species, although the list of species below omits many irrelevant ones found in aquatic habitats (i.e. fish species), or typically found within large waterbodies or coastal areas.

The likelihood of occurrence is based on presence of habitat, proximity of nearest records and mobility of the species (where relevant).

An assessment of potential impacts to these entities is not provided here given that no design and siting plans have yet been prepared upon which a detailed consideration of the likely impacts can be based.

The following classifications are used:

Presence of habitat

- Present: Potential or known habitat is present within the study area
- Marginal: Habitat present is not typical but may be suitable or habitat type is suitable but condition and microhabitat requirements of species are not present
- Absent: No potential or known habitat is present within the study area

Likelihood of occurrence

- None: Species known or predicted within the locality but no suitable habitat present within the study area
- Unlikely: Species known or predicted within the locality but unlikely to occur in the study area
- Possible: Species could occur in the study area
- Present: Species was recorded during the field investigations

³ This online tool is designed for the public to search for matters protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). It is managed by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

A.1 Evaluation of the likelihood of EPBC threatened flora species and ecological communities

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Flora				
Yass Daisy <i>Ammobium craspedioides</i> V EPBC	Most populations of the Yass Daisy occur in the Yass District, at Lake Burrinjuck, Bookham, Rye Park and Dalton. The species is not known from the ACT. The Yass Daisy occurs in dry forest, box gum woodland and secondary grassland derived from clearing of these communities. It grows in association with a large range of eucalypts including Blakely's Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>), Apple Box (<i>E. bridgesiana</i>), Broad-leaved Peppermint (<i>E. dives</i>), Long-leaved Box (<i>E. goniocalyx</i>), Red Stringybark (<i>E. macrorhyncha</i>), Brittle Gum (<i>E. mannifera</i>), Yellow Box (<i>E. melliodora</i>), Red Box (<i>E. polyanthemos</i>) and Candlebark (<i>E. rubida</i>). The species tolerates light grazing, as populations persist in some grazed sites. Also, some sites occurring a number of cemeteries that are mown or slashed.	Absent	None	No No
River Swamp Wallaby-grass <i>Amphibromus fluitans</i> V EPBC	River Swamp Wallaby-grass grows mostly in permanent swamps and also lagoons, billabongs, dams and roadside ditches. The species requires moderately fertile soils with some bare ground; conditions that are caused by seasonally-fluctuating water levels (NSW OEH 2013h).	Absent	None	No No
Canberra Spider Orchid <i>Caladenia actensis</i> CE EPBC	The Canberra Spider-orchid grows on shallow gravelly brown clay loam soils of volcanic origin. Plants occur amongst a ground cover of grasses, forbs and low shrubs, often among rocks. It grows in transitional vegetation zones between open grassy woodland (dominated by <i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i> , <i>E. melliodora</i> , and <i>E. pauciflora</i>) and dry sclerophyll forest (dominated by <i>E. rossii</i>)	Absent	Highly Unlikely	No No

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Mauve Burr-daisy <i>Calotis glandulosa</i> V EPBC	<p>The distribution of the Mauve Burr-daisy is centred on the Monaro and Kosciuszko regions. There are three known sites in the upper Shoalhaven catchment.</p> <p>It is found in montane and subalpine grasslands in the Australian Alps (dominated by <i>Poa</i> spp.), and montane or natural temperate grassland dominated by Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda australis</i>) and Snow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>) Woodlands on the Monaro and Shoalhaven area.</p> <p>It appears to be a coloniser of bare patches, which explains why it often occurs on roadsides and apparently common on roadsides in parts of the Monaro, though it does not persist for long in such sites. It does not appear to persist in heavily-grazed pastures of the Monaro or the Shoalhaven area.</p>	Absent – vegetation conditions not suitable	Highly Unlikely	No No
Trailing Hop-bush <i>Dodonaea procumbens</i> V EPBC	<p>The Trailing Hop-bush is widely but patchily distributed across south-eastern Australia, where it occurs in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This species grows in low-lying, often winter-wet areas in woodland, low open forests, heathland and grasslands, on sands and clays. Most populations in New South Wales occur either in natural grassland or grassy woodland of Snow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>), usually on crests or slopes and on tilted sediments.</p>	Marginal	None – species is obvious and not seen at site	No No
Black Gum <i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i> V EPBC	<p>The Black Gum is a rare species found from Capertee and Bathurst in central New South Wales, south through the central and southern tablelands. It typically grows in low lying areas with soils that are generally poorly drained, alluvial or swampy, and also in areas where there are natural frost hollows.</p>	Marginal	None – species is obvious and not seen at site	No No

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Spiny Peppercress <i>Lepidium aschersonii</i> V EPBC	This species is not widespread, occurring in the marginal central-western slopes and north-western plains regions of NSW (and potentially the south western plains). It is found on ridges of gilgai clays dominated by Brigalow (<i>Acacia harpophylla</i>), Belah (<i>Casuarina cristata</i>), Buloke (<i>Allocasuarina luehmanii</i>) and Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>). In the south has been recorded growing in Bull Mallee (<i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>). It is typically recorded in grey loamy clays. Often the understorey is dominated by introduced plants, and vegetation structure varies from open to dense, with sparse grassy understorey and occasional heavy litter.	Marginal – overstorey species not present and geology generally not suitable	Highly unlikely. Species has not been previously recorded from ACT.	No No
Ginninderra Peppercress <i>Lepidium ginninderense</i> V EPBC	This short-lived forb species is known mainly from one site on Belconnen Naval Station, on the Ginninderra Creek floodplain, growing in grassland. A record may also exist near Woods Lane in Jerrabomberra Valley (ACTmapi). This species is thought to require fertile soils such as those in floodplain or other semi-aquatic environments	Marginal – lack of suitable vegetation or damp conditions	Unlikely	No No
Basalt Peppercress <i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i> E EPBC	This short-lived forb species occurs in a variety of habitats including woodland with a grassy understorey and grassland. It appears to respond to disturbance, having appeared after soil disturbance at one site near Bungendore.	Marginal - geology/soils generally not suitable	Unlikely	No No
Hoary Sunray <i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> <i>subsp. albicans var. tricolor</i> E EPBC	This species may be locally common on the Southern Tablelands. It grows in natural and secondary grasslands and grassy woodlands, often colonising disturbed sites such as road verges and other areas with thin soils, but does not persist well in grazed situations.	Marginal	None – obvious species was not observed at the site	No No

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Silver Sword Lily <i>Neoastelia spectabilis</i> V EPBC	The Silver Sword Lily is restricted to NSW and has only been recorded in New England National Park, on the eastern edge of the New England Tablelands. It grows in rock crevices near waterfalls and in seepage lines on rocky slopes in Antarctic Beech rainforest, between 900 - 1150 m altitude.	Absent	None	No No
Pale Pomaderris <i>Pomaderris pallida</i> E-EPBC	The Pale Pomaderris is currently known from the ACT, southern NSW and eastern Victoria. In the ACT, this species is scattered along the Cotter, Paddys and Murrumbidgee Rivers and through the Molonglo Gorge. The Pale Pomaderris is found at numerous small sites along the plateau edge and very steep upper slopes and cliffs of river valleys at 480-600 m above sea level. The ACT sites are only on the eastern banks of the rivers, with an aspect ranging from north-westerly through westerly to southerly. The soils are shallow, pale brown sandy loams over granite rock and large, exposed granite boulders may be present.	Absent	None – obvious species was not observed at the site	No No
Tarengo Leek Orchid <i>Prasophyllum petilum</i> E-EPBC	Known from three sites on the Southern Tablelands, at Boorowa, and Captain's Flat in NSW and Hall in the ACT, growing in grassland, Box-Gum Woodland or moist grassy flats, with kangaroo grass or wallaby grasses (<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp). Flowers Oct-Nov (Bishop 1996).	Marginal	Unlikely	No No

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Button Winklewort <i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i> E EPBC	This perennial forb grows in scattered populations in natural temperate grassland or grassy woodland on the Southern Tablelands. It occurs mainly in Box-Gum Woodland, secondary grassland derived from Box-Gum Woodland or in Natural Temperate Grassland; and often in the ecotone between the two communities. It typically, grows on soils that are usually shallow, stony red-brown clay loams; tends to occupy areas where there is relatively less competition from herbaceous species (either due to the shallow nature of the soils, or at some sites due to the competitive effect of woodland trees). The species exhibits an ability to colonise disturbed areas (eg. vehicle tracks, bulldozer scrapings and areas of soil erosion), although it is also apparently susceptible to grazing, being retained in only a small number of populations on roadsides, rail reserves and other un-grazed or very lightly grazed sites.	Marginal – lack of suitable native grassland conditions	Unlikely – obvious species and wasn't seen at site (during flowering period)	No No
Large-fruit Fireweed, Large-fruit Groundsel <i>Senecio macrocarpus</i> V EPBC	The Large-fruit Groundsel is a small perennial plant endemic to south-eastern Australia, where it occurs primarily in South Australia and Victoria, and formerly occurred in Tasmania. It is also known from a small number of records in the NSW Southern Tablelands, north of the ACT and west of Lake George. It occurs in a variety of habitats, including grasslands, sedgeland, shrublands and woodlands, generally on sparsely vegetated sites on sandy loam to heavy clay soils, often in depressions that are waterlogged in winter.	Marginal	None – wasn't seen and has not been previously recorded from ACT.	No No
Small purple-pea <i>Swainsona recta</i> E EPBC	The Small Purple-pea occurs mainly on the Southern Tablelands and western slopes of NSW where it is found mostly in the grassy understorey of woodlands and open-forests dominated by Blakely's Red Gum, Yellow Box, Candlebark Gum and Long-leaf Box/Bundy. It grows in association with understorey dominants that include Kangaroo Grass, Poa tussocks and Spear-grasses.	Marginal – vegetation conditions not suitable	None - wasn't seen at site	No No

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Austral Toadflax <i>Thesium australe</i> V EPBC	This species is found in small populations across eastern NSW, on the coast and from the Northern to Southern Tablelands. It occurs in grassland or grassy woodland, sometimes in damp sites, and is almost invariably associated with kangaroo grass (<i>Themeda australis</i>).	Marginal – no Themeda seen at site	Unlikely	No No
EEC's				
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands of NSW and the Australian Capital Territory	<p>Natural Temperate Grassland occurs on ridges, crests, hillsides, undulating plains, valleys and lower slopes, creeks, drainage lines and river flats. It is usually associated with heavy textured soils with low nutrient levels.</p> <p>Natural temperate grassland comprises of closed grassland, grassland and open grassland whose biomass is <u>dominated</u> by two or more of the perennial native tussock grasses <i>Themeda triandra</i> (Kangaroo Grass), <i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp (wallaby grasses), <i>Austrostipa</i> spp (speargrasses), <i>Bothriochloa macra</i> (Red Grass, Red-leg Grass) and/or <i>Poa</i> spp (snowgrasses). Mature tussock grasses range in height from moderately tall (25–50 cm) to tall (50–100 cm) (Commonwealth Endangered Species Scientific Subcommittee 2000). The spaces between the dominant grass tussocks are occupied by graminoids (grasses and grass-like plants) and a wide range of forbs (herbaceous, non-graminoid plants) which may comprise up to 70% of all plant species and form a distinct, lower layer of vegetation (Environment ACT 2005). Many forbs are from the daisy family (Asteraceae), or are lilies or native legumes.</p> <p><u>The perennial native grasses together with the native graminoids and forbs usually comprise more than 50% of the total plant cover</u> (Environment ACT 2005).</p>	Absent	None - condition of vegetation not consistent with mapping criteria	No No

Species	Description of habitat	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Box Gum Woodland CEC EPBC	White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (commonly referred to as Box-Gum Woodland) is an open grassy woodland community (sometimes occurring as a forest formation) , in which the dominant species are White Box <i>Eucalyptus albens</i> , Yellow Box <i>E. melliodora</i> or Blakely's Red Gum <i>E. blakelyi</i> .	Marginal	None - condition of vegetation not consistent with mapping criteria	No No
CE EPBC = listed as Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> . E EPBC = listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> . V EPBC = listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth <i>EPBC Act 1999</i>	CEEC EPBC = Critically Endangered Ecological Community listed under the Commonwealth <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> EEC EPBC = Endangered Ecological Community listed under the Commonwealth <i>EPBC Act 1999</i>			

A.2 Evaluation of the likelihood and extent of impact on threatened fauna

The fauna species list is derived from a search of the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool, both utilising a 10km buffer around the subject site. With regards to the evaluations provided below for each species included in the search results, fish species and marine waterbirds/shorebirds were collectively discounted from the evaluations given the complete lack of any suitable aquatic habitats that could potentially support these species.

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Aves				
Regent Honeyeater <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> E EPBC	The Regent Honeyeater mainly inhabits temperate woodlands and open forests of the inland slopes of south-east Australia, particularly Box-Ironbark woodland, and riparian forests of River She-oak. Birds are also found in drier coastal woodlands and forests in some years. There are only three known key breeding regions remaining: north-east Victoria (Chiltern-Albury), and in NSW at Capertee Valley and the Bundarra-Barraba region. The species is a generalist forager, mainly feeding on nectar from a wide range of eucalypts and mistletoes. Key eucalypt species include Mugga Ironbark, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum, White Box and Swamp Mahogany. Regent Honeyeaters usually nest in horizontal branches or forks in tall mature eucalypts and Sheoaks or in mistletoe clumps.	Absent	None	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
Southern Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> V - EPBC Act	Southern Whiteface occurs across most of mainland Australia south of the tropics, from the north-eastern edge of the Western Australian wheatbelt, east to the Great Dividing Range. It lives in a wide range of open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses or shrubs,	Absent	None	No No Very few trees to be removed (all

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
	or both. These areas are usually in habitats dominated by acacias or eucalypts on ranges, foothills and lowlands, and plains. It forages almost exclusively on the ground, favouring habitat with low tree densities and an herbaceous understorey litter cover.			exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
Gang-gang Cockatoo <i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> E EPBC	During summer, Gang-gang Cockatoos are found in tall mountain forests and woodlands, with dense shrubby understoreys. In winter, Gang-gangs will move to lower altitudes into drier, more open forests and woodlands. They feed mainly on seeds of native and introduced trees and shrubs, with a preference for eucalypts, wattles and introduced hawthorns. They will also eat berries, fruits, nuts and insects and their larvae. They nest in hollows of suitable trees.	Marginal – some potential low-value foraging habitat	Unlikely within site. Species observed nearby	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i> V EPBC	South-eastern glossy black cockatoos are uncommon but widespread. They can be found from Mitchell, Queensland, through eastern New South Wales to East Gippsland, Victoria. They feed almost exclusively on the seeds of sheoaks (<i>Allocasuarina</i> spp. and <i>Casuarina</i> spp.), usually relying on one or two species within a region. They are hollow nesters, utilising large hollows in both living and dead eucalypt trees.	Marginal – some potential low-value foraging habitat	Highly unlikely	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
<p>Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)</p> <p><i>Climacteris picumnus victoricae</i></p> <p>V – EPBC Act</p>	<p>Brown treecreepers (south-eastern) are endemic to south-eastern Australia from the Grampians in western Victoria, through central New South Wales to the Bunya Mountains in Queensland, and from the coast to the inland slopes of Great Dividing Range. In NSW the western boundary of the range of <i>Climacteris picumnus victoricae</i> runs approximately through Corowa, Wagga Wagga, Temora, Forbes, Dubbo and Inverell and along this line the subspecies intergrades with the arid zone subspecies of Brown Treecreeper <i>C. p. picumnus</i>. Brown treecreepers (south-eastern) occupy dry open eucalypt forests and woodlands. The subspecies mainly inhabits woodlands dominated by stringybarks or other rough-barked eucalypts, usually with an open grassy understorey, sometimes with one or more shrub species. They also occur in mallee, forests and woodlands subject to periodic inundation, e.g., river red gum (<i>E. camaldulensis</i>) woodlands with an open understorey of acacias, saltbush, lignum, cumbungi and grasses in the upper Murray River.</p> <p>Brown treecreepers (south-eastern) nest and roost in naturally occurring tree cavities in a variety of eucalypt species.</p>	Absent	None	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance</p>
<p>Grey Falcon</p> <p><i>Falco hypoleucos</i></p> <p>V EPBC</p>	<p>The species occurs in arid and semi-arid Australia, including the Murray-Darling Basin, Eyre Basin, central Australia and Western Australia. The species is mainly found where annual rainfall is less than 500 mm, except when wet years are followed by drought, when the species might become marginally more widespread, although it is essentially confined to the arid and semi-arid zones at all times.</p> <p>The species frequents timbered lowland plains, particularly acacia shrublands that are crossed by tree-lined water courses and has been observed hunting in treeless areas and frequents tussock grassland and open woodland, especially in winter.</p>	Absent. Site is small and within built-up urban area	Highly unlikely	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance</p>

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Painted Honeyeater <i>Grantiella picta</i> V EPBC	The Painted Honeyeater is nomadic and occurs at low densities throughout its range. The greatest concentrations of the bird and almost all breeding occurs on the inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, Victoria and southern Queensland. During the winter it is more likely to be found in the north of its distribution. The species inhabits Boree, Brigalow and Box-Gum Woodlands and Box-Ironbark Forests. A specialist feeder on the fruits of mistletoes growing on woodland eucalypts and acacias. Prefers mistletoes of the genus <i>Amyema</i> .	Absent – no Mistletoe present and no breeding habitat observed	None	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
White-throated Needletail <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> V EPBC	The White-throated Needletail breeds in Asia, from central and south-eastern Siberia and Mongolia, east to the Maritime Territories of Russia, Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands and south to northern Japan and north-eastern China. Most White-throated Needletails spend the non-breeding season in Australasia, mainly in Australia and is widespread in eastern and south-eastern Australia. In Australia, the White-throated Needletail is almost exclusively aerial, from heights of less than 1 m up to more than 1000 m above the ground. Because they are aerial, it has been stated that conventional habitat descriptions are inapplicable, but there are, nevertheless, certain preferences exhibited by the species. Although they occur over most types of habitat, they are probably recorded most often above wooded areas, including open forest and rainforest.	Absent	None	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
Swift Parrot <i>Lathamus discolor</i> E EPBC	Abundance of flowering eucalypts and banksias is required by this species, whose range includes southern Queensland to South Australia. This nectar feeder can gather in large groups when feed trees are in flower. It breeds in Tasmania and	Absent – negligible flowering tree species in the area. No breeding habitat	None	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
	migrates to the south-east mainland between March and October.	(breeds only in Tasmania)		hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
<p><i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i></p> <p>South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)</p> <p>E – EPBC Act</p>	Hooded robins (south-eastern) occur in south-eastern Australia from far south-east Queensland to Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, intergrading with <i>M. c. picata</i> in the southern Murray-Darling basin. They prefer dry eucalypt and acacia woodlands and shrublands with an open understorey, some grassy areas and a complex ground layer. They avoid woodlands with tall trees or dense tree cover but sometimes occur in tall, dense heaths with scattered open areas. Nests comprise small, neat cups of bark and grasses bound with webs.	Absent	None	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance</p>
<p><i>Neophema chrysostoma</i></p> <p>Blue-winged Parrot</p> <p>V – EPBC Act</p>	<p>Breeds on mainland Australia south of the Great Dividing Range in southern Victoria from Port Albert in Gippsland west to Nelson, and sometimes in the far south-east of South Australia, and the north-western, central and eastern parts of Tasmania. During the non-breeding period, from autumn to early spring, birds are recorded from northern Victoria, eastern South Australia, south-western Queensland and western New South Wales with some birds reaching south-eastern New South Wales and eastern Victoria, particularly on the southern migration. While on the mainland, mobile flocks feed in saltmarsh and rough pasture in coastal Victoria. They are known to move more than 100 km inland during winter to feed in semi-arid chenopod shrubland and sparse grassland.</p> <p>Nests are made in hollows, preferably with a vertical opening, in live or dead trees or stumps.</p>	Absent	None	<p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance</p>

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Superb Parrot <i>Polytelis swainsonii</i> V EPBC	The Superb Parrot is found throughout eastern inland NSW. On the South-western Slopes their core breeding area is roughly bounded by Cowra and Yass in the east, and Grenfell, Cootamundra and Coolac in the west, although the species has been moving south into the ACT in recent years (OEH, 2018). Inhabits Box-Gum, Box-Cypress-pine and Boree Woodlands and River Red Gum Forest. Nests in large tree hollows. Species known to be used for nesting are Blakely's Red Gum, Yellow Box, Apple Box and Red Box. Feed in trees and understorey shrubs and on the ground and their diet consists mainly of grass seeds and herbaceous plants.	Marginal – no breeding habitat and only limited/marginal foraging habitat	Unlikely – possible occasional visitor only	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
Pilotbird <i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i> V EPBC	Pilotbirds are endemic to south-east Australia. Upland Pilotbirds occur above 600 m in the Brindabella Ranges in the Australian Capital Territory, and in the Snowy Mountains in New South Wales and north-east Victoria. Lowland Pilotbirds occur in forests from the Blue Mountains west of Newcastle, around the wetter forests of eastern Australia, to Dandenong near Melbourne. Pilotbirds are strictly terrestrial, living on the ground in dense forests with heavy undergrowth. Breeding takes places between August and January and adults build a domed nest on or near the ground.	Absent	None	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable of avoiding small-scale disturbance
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i> Diamond Firetail V – EPBC Act	Diamond firetails occur on the south-east mainland of Australia from south-east Queensland to Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, and about 300 km inland from the sea. Diamond firetails occur in eucalypt, acacia or casuarina woodlands, open forests and other lightly timbered habitats, including farmland and grassland with scattered trees. They prefer areas with relatively low tree density, few large logs, and little litter cover but high grass cover. Nests are bottle-shaped and	Absent	Unlikely.	No No Very few trees to be removed (all exotic, with no hollows or nests). Highly mobile species capable

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
	are made of green grass blades and stems lined with fine grasses.			of avoiding small-scale disturbance
Mammals				
Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> V EPBC	Roosting habitat typically consists of sandstone cliffs and fertile woodland valley habitat within close proximity of each other.	Absent.	None	No No
Spotted-tailed Quoll <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i> E EPBC	This species is found in a variety of habitat types including rainforest, open forest, woodland, coastal heath and inland riparian forest from the subalpine zone to the coastline. Species requires hollow bearing trees, fallen logs, small caves, rock crevices, boulder fields and rocky-cliff faces as den sites.	Absent. Lack of suitable cover and prey items	None	No No
Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) <i>Petaurus australis australis</i> V - EPBC	The yellow-bellied glider (south-eastern) occurs in eucalypt-dominated woodlands and forests, including both wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Abundance is highly dependent on habitat suitability, which is in turn determined by forest age and floristics and shows a preference for large patches of mature old growth forest that provide suitable trees for foraging and shelter. The species uses hollow-bearing trees for breeding and shows a preference for smooth-barked eucalypts. The species feeds mainly on sap which it extracts by chewing off sections of bark from trees, with usually only a few trees selected for repeat feeding, and often leaving a number distinctive incision marks/scars on the trunks of feed trees.	Absent. Lack of suitable native feed trees and no hollow-bearing breeding trees	None	No No
Koala <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	This species inhabits eucalypt woodlands and forests over a broad but fragmented distribution throughout eastern Australia from north-east Queensland to the Eyre Peninsula in	Absent. Lack of suitable native feed trees	None	No No

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
V EPBC	South Australia. In NSW it mainly occurs on the central and north coasts; they are also known from several sites on the southern tablelands.			
Grey-headed Flying-fox <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> V EPBC	Grey-headed Flying-foxes are generally found within 200 km of the eastern coast of Australia, from Bundaberg in Queensland to Melbourne in Victoria. Occur in rainforests, tall sclerophyll forests and woodlands, heaths and swamps as well as urban gardens and cultivated fruit crops. Roosting camps are generally located within 20 km of a regular food source, commonly found in gullies, close to water, or in vegetation with a dense canopy. The closest is likely to be the large colony at Batemans Bay. Forage on the nectar and pollen of native trees, in particular <i>Eucalyptus</i> , <i>Melaleuca</i> and <i>Banksia</i> , and fruits of rainforest trees and vines. Travel up to 50 km to forage.	Absent – lack of suitable feed trees and no camp trees present in area	Unlikely – potential occasional visitor	No No
Amphibians				
Green and Golden Bell Frog <i>Litoria aurea</i> V - EPBC	The Green and Golden Bell Frog occurs mainly along coastal lowland areas of eastern NSW and Victoria. The furthest inland record of the species is at a recently discovered population near Hoskinstown in the Southern Tablelands (referred to as the Molonglo population) (Osborne et al. 2008). The species was previously known from elsewhere in the Southern Tablelands, but is now considered to have disappeared from the ACT and central slopes around Bathurst. Green and Golden Bell Frogs have been found in differing habitat in NSW and Victoria. In NSW, the species commonly occupies disturbed habitats, and breeds largely in ephemeral ponds, but also need various other habitats for different aspects of their life cycle including foraging, breeding, over-wintering and dispersal.	Absent	None	No No

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Booroolong Frog <i>Litoria booroolongensis</i> E EPBC	The Booroolong Frog is restricted to tablelands and slopes in NSW and north-east Victoria at 200–1300 m above sea level. The species is predominantly found along the western-flowing streams and their headwaters of the Great Dividing Range, and a small number of eastern-flowing streams in the north end of its range. The Booroolong Frog occurs along permanent streams with some fringing vegetation cover such as ferns, sedges or grasses. Adults occur on or near cobble banks and other rock structures within stream margins, or near slow-flowing connected or isolated pools that contain suitable rock habitats.	Absent	None	No No
Yellow-spotted Tree Frog <i>Litoria castanea</i> E EPBC	Requires large permanent ponds or slow flowing 'chain-of-ponds' streams with abundant emergent vegetation such as bulrushes and aquatic vegetation. Adults are active during spring and summer and bask on sunny days, and moves and forages at night on grassy banks.	Absent	None	No No
Growling Grass Frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i> V EPBC	This species is found mostly amongst emergent vegetation, including <i>Typha sp.</i> (bullrush), <i>Phragmites sp.</i> (reeds) and <i>Eleocharis sp.</i> (sedges), in or at the edges of still or slow-flowing water bodies such as lagoons, swamps, lakes, ponds and farm dams.	Absent	None	No No
Reptiles				
Pink-tailed Worm-lizard <i>Aprasia parapulchella</i> V EPBC	The Pink-tailed Legless Lizard is only known from the Central and Southern Tablelands, and the South West Slopes. There is a concentration of populations in the Canberra/Queanbeyan Region. The species inhabits sloping, open woodland areas with predominantly native grassy groundlayers, particularly those dominated by Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda australis</i>). Sites are typically well-drained, with rocky outcrops or scattered, partially-buried rocks.	Absent	None	No No

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
	Commonly found beneath small, partially-embedded rocks and appear to spend considerable time in burrows below these rocks; the burrows have been constructed by and are often still inhabited by small black ants and termites.			
Striped Legless Lizard <i>Delma impar</i> V EPBC	The Striped Legless Lizard occurs in the Southern Tablelands, the South West Slopes and possibly the Riverina. Populations are known in the Goulburn, Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and Tumut areas. Also in the ACT, Victoria and south-eastern South Australia. Found mainly in Natural Temperate Grassland but has also been captured in grasslands that have a high exotic component and in secondary grassland near Natural Temperate Grassland and occasionally in open Box-Gum Woodland. Habitat is where grassland is dominated by perennial, tussock-forming grasses such as Kangaroo Grass <i>Themeda australis</i> , <i>Austrostipa</i> spp., <i>Poa</i> spp., and occasionally wallaby grasses <i>Rytidosperma</i> spp. Goes below ground or under rocks or logs over winter.	Absent	None	No No
Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon <i>Tympanocryptis lineata</i> CE EPBC	<i>Tympanocryptis lineata</i> is geographically isolated with a distribution that is restricted to grasslands around Canberra and which does not overlap with any other <i>Tympanocryptis</i> species. It was thought to be extinct in the ACT (not recorded for 30 years) until an opportunistic observation near Canberra in the early 1990s. It is now known to be geographically isolated and restricted to Natural Temperate Grassland round Canberra usually on well-drained sites dominated by Tall Speargrass (<i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i>) and shorter Wallaby Grasses (<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.), with patches of tussocks and open spaces between them.	Absent	None	No No
Insects				

Species and Status	Description of habitat ⁴	Presence of habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Potential Impact? AoS Required?
Key's Matchstick Grasshopper <i>Keyacris scurra</i> E EPBC	Key's Matchstick Grasshopper is a slender, wingless grasshopper. The species is endemic to NSW, the ACT and Victoria (although possibly now extinct in Victoria). This species is typically recorded in native grasslands in the following land-uses: cemeteries, along railway easements, travelling stock routes and more recently conservation reserves in the ACT. It is usually found in native grasslands but it has also been recorded in other vegetation associations containing a native grass understory (especially kangaroo grass <i>Themeda triandra</i>) and known food plants (particularly Asteraceae). Although it does not feed on <i>Themeda</i> , it may be important for providing protection from predators. Disturbance appears to be an important determinant of site occupancy and it appears to be absent from sites where inappropriate disturbance occurs (such as overgrazing at inappropriate times of year which can interrupt the life cycle of the species).	Marginal – Lack of suitable native grassland values.	Highly Unlikely	No No
Golden Sun Moth <i>Synemon plana</i> CE EPBC	The golden sun moth has been recorded in native grasslands and grassy woodlands containing wallaby grass (<i>Austrodanthonia</i> spp.), speargrass (<i>Austrostipa</i> spp.), and <i>Bothriochloa</i> , as well as in degraded grasslands dominated by the exotic Chilean needlegrass (<i>Nassella nessiana</i>), a weed of national significance.	Marginal – lack of adequate vegetation types (i.e. Wallaby Grass or Chilean Needlegrass)	Unlikely	No No
<p>CE EPBC = listed as Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>E EPBC = listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>V EPBC = listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>		<p>M EPBC = listed as Migratory under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>CAMBA = Chinese-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</p> <p>JAMBA = Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement</p>		

APPENDIX B: Flora records.

Relative abundance is given by a cover abundance scale/score (modified Braun-Blanquet, and as per the C/A score used in Rehwinkle, 2015) for a given patch (approx. 0.1ha or generally 50 m x 20m) as follows:

1. 1 to a few individuals present, less than 5% cover
2. many individuals present, but still less than 5% cover
3. 5 - < 15% cover
4. 15 - < 25% cover
5. 25 - < 50% cover
6. 50 - < 75% cover
7. 75 - 100% cover

Tree cover/density is recorded qualitatively as follows:

- d = Dominant
- c/d = Co-dominant
- c = Common
- o = Occasional
- r = rare

GF Code Refers to the Growth Form as follows: T = tree; S = shrub; H/F/S = herb, forb, sedge, G = grass; A = aquatic.

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	GF Code	Cover Score
Exotic Species			
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Capeweed	H/F/S	3
<i>Avena sp.</i>	Oats	G	3
<i>Bromus (catharticus?)</i>	Brome (Prairie Grass)	G	3
<i>Bromus (hordeaceus?)</i>	(Soft) Brome	G	3
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	H/F/S	3
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-eared Chickweed	H/F/S	3
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Fleabane	H/F/S	3
<i>Cupressus sp.</i>	a Cypress	T	c
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Couch	G	4
<i>Eleusine tristachya</i>	Goose grass	G	3
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	African Lovegrass	G	4
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Storks-bill	H/F/S	3
<i>Gamochaeta coarctata</i>	Common Cudweed	H/F/S	3
<i>Hedera sp.</i>	Ivy	H/F/S	2
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Buchan Weed	H/F/S	3
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	H/F/S	3
<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	Red-flowered Mallow	H/F/S	3
<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Chilean Needlegrass	G	3
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Paspalum	G	3
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Phalaris	G	3
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	T	c
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	H/F/S	4
<i>Platanus sp.</i>	(London) Plane Tree	T	o

<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Ornamental Plum/Cherry	T	0
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak tree	T	c
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Goatsbeard	H/F/S	2
<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	a Clover	H/F/S	3
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Creeping Speedwell	H/F/S	2
<i>Vulpia muralis</i>	Ratstail Fescue	G	3
Total Exotic Species; n=29			
Native Species			
<i>Austrostipa begeniculata</i>	Tall Speargrass	G	3
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	Corkscrew Grass	G	3
<i>Cotula australis</i>	Common Cotula	H/F/S	3
<i>Oxalis (perennanse?)</i>	Grassland Wood Sorrel	H/F/S	2
Total Native Species; n=4			

APPENDIX D. Site Photos



Photo 1. View west across southern parts of site with informal gravel carpark



Photo 2. View across southern margins of site showing large planted exotic Cypress trees in Manuka Crescent verge



Photo 3. View of southwestern corner of the main playing fields area with some large planted exotic Pine trees



Photo 4. (Potential) hollow-bearing tree (HBT) located in western verge of New South Wales Crescent outside eastern site boundary (note: hollow limb is on the back of the tree from the viewer)