

EPBC Ecological Clearance Report

Habitat Management Services
ABN-42 057 792 293 ACN-057 792 293
tanyaw@hbtmgt.com
PO Box 882, PANTON HILL VIC 3759



To: Daisy Lippiatt

From: Michael Cincotta

Client Company: TasVic Greenlink – Marinus Project

Cc: Tanya White

Date of Report: 16th July 2026

Document No: 1175-ECO-CLR-001-1.0

Project No and Name: 1175 – Marinus Link

Subject: EPBC Pre Clearance Report – Early Works Access point

Report Type	
Report Type	☒ EPBC Pre Clearance ☐ Post Clearance Report
1. HMS Staff Details	
Select HMS Staff Name and Position	Tanya White – Principal Ecologist Michael Cincotta – Senior Biodiversity Projects Coordinator Olivia Chubb – Ecologist Meg Langley – Ecologist
HMS Staff Qualifications	Tanya – Biological Science – Natural resource Management – Deakin University Michael – Bachelor of Conservation Biology and Ecology (Botany major) – La Trobe University Olivia – Bachelor of Wildlife and Conservation Biology – La Trobe University Meg - Bachelor of Environmental Science (Wildlife and Conservation Biology) – Deakin University
HMS Permits	WSIAEC Approvals: 05.25 Wildlife Permit No. 10011486 (to 05.05.28) Flora Permit No. 10011038 (to 04.03.27)
Has the Onsite Ecologist read and signed the approved SWMS?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Date of Inspection	V0623 - 27 th March 2026. V0626 – 12 th May 2026
3. HMS Contact Information General enquiries: Tanya White; tanyaw@hbtmgt.com	Michael Cincotta: E: michaelc@hbtmgt.com M: 0491 023 531



4. Site Information

Inspection Site Address | 600 Tramway Road, Hazelwood

Map of Inspected Area and Location of Flora and/or Fauna found onsite (including relocation site where applicable)



Map 1. EPBC Pre Clearance area (yellow shaded zone). Not to scale.



5. Inspection Methodology	
Details of inspection methods used	☒ Ground based assessment
	☐ Pole Camera utilised for observation. ☐ Elevated Work Platform utilised to inspect fauna/fauna habitat. ☐ Other
6. Findings	
Fauna/Fauna Habitat Found onsite (Species and Number/s) and if salvaged/ left in situ.	An EPBC pre-clearance inspection was undertaken across the proposed disturbance footprint within parcels V0623 (600 Tramway Road) and V0626 (Tramway Road- road reserve) in accordance with the requirements of EPBC Approval 2021/9053. The purpose of the assessment was to identify any Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), associated habitat, and/or evidence of species activity that may be affected by the proposed works. Ecologists systematically traversed the entire disturbance footprint within both parcels, assessing vegetation, fauna habitat, Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), flora species and microhabitat features relevant to the protected matters listed under Condition 2 of the approval. The assessment found that the majority of the V0623 private property parcel comprised highly degraded pasture subject to extensive cattle grazing and pugging. Vegetation was dominated by exotic pasture grasses and invasive weeds. Native vegetation was largely restricted to a planted shelterbelt along the fenceline and driveway, containing several scattered Manna Gums (<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> subsp. <i>viminalis</i>) and a single Bog Gum (<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>), a species listed as Critically Endangered under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act). Several trees within the shelterbelt contained hollows that may provide habitat for common fauna species, including Common Brushtail Possum, Common Ringtail Possum and microbats. Small dams within the property supported scattered rushes (<i>Juncus</i> spp.) and herbaceous species including Lesser Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum hyssopifolium</i>), although vegetation was severely grazed and stunted. Small quantities of Red Azolla (<i>Azolla rubra</i>), listed as Protected Flora under the FFG Act, were also recorded within the farm dams. Aside from these features, the site was dominated by pasture grasses and weeds. The dams were highly modified and offered limited habitat value due to the absence of aquatic vegetation, structural complexity and refuge resources typically associated with threatened fauna habitat.



	Additional microhabitats, including moist depressions, coarse woody debris, fence-line shelterbelts, water troughs and farm infrastructure, were inspected for fauna shelter, foraging and basking opportunities, particularly for reptile species. Fauna observations were limited to common farmland bird species utilising paddocks and roadside vegetation. Consistent with the objectives of the EPBC pre-clearance survey, the site was assessed for its capacity to support MNES protected under Conditions 2 and 4-7 of EPBC Approval 2021/9053. No EPBC Act-listed species, ecological communities or regulated habitats were detected within either parcel. The degraded pasture, highly modified dams and limited native vegetation do not possess the structural, hydrological or floristic characteristics required by the listed MNES considered under the approval. Habitat suitability assessments for individual protected matters identified the following: • Limited potential habitat occurs for Grey-headed Flying-fox (<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>) due to the absence of extensive mature forest or suitable roosting habitat. Tree cover is restricted to scattered planted shelterbelts that are unlikely to support camps or regular occupation, although occasional foraging may occur during flowering events. • Suitable freshwater floodplain habitat for River Swamp Wallaby-grass (<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>) is absent. No individuals were detected within farm dams, drainage lines or seasonally moist areas. • EPBC Act-listed orchid species, including Eastern Spider-orchid (<i>Caladenia tetradenia</i>), Thick-lipped Spider-orchid (<i>Caladenia tessellata</i>), Dense Leek-orchid (<i>Prasophyllum spicatum</i>), Green-striped Greenhood (<i>Pterostylis chlorogramma</i>) and Leafy Greenhood (<i>Pterostylis cucullata</i>), require relatively intact native vegetation communities that are absent from the disturbance footprint. The site is dominated by improved pasture and weed-infested ground layers, with no suitable heathy, grassy or sandy native vegetation remaining. • Neither parcel contains the dense understorey vegetation, wet heath, swamp vegetation, habitat connectivity or ground-level structural complexity required by Swamp Antechinus (<i>Antechinus minimus maritimus</i>). • Although the site occurs within the broader distributional range of the Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland ecological community, no diagnostic elements or patches of this ecological community were identified during the assessment. • The inland agricultural setting and absence of beaches, coastal dunes, estuarine mudflats, wetlands or extensive reedbeds preclude habitat suitability for Eastern Hooded Plover (<i>Thinornis cucullatus</i>), Eastern Curlew (<i>Numenius</i>
--	--



	<i>madagascariensis</i>) and Australasian Bittern (<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>). • Growling Grass Frog (<i>Litoria raniformis</i>) was not detected during the assessment. The farm dams lacked the emergent and fringing aquatic vegetation typically required for shelter, breeding and recruitment, and consequently provide very limited habitat value for the species. • No Strzelecki Gum (<i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>) individuals were recorded within either parcel, and no suitable habitat for the species occurs within the proposed disturbance footprint. Collectively, these findings indicate that no Matters of National Environmental Significance listed under EPBC Approval 2021/9053 occur within the proposed disturbance area. Accordingly, the proposed works are not expected to result in the removal of EPBC Act-listed species, listed ecological communities, or habitat critical to the survival of any protected matter assessed under the approval.
Flora found, salvaged and method of salvage/left in situ (where applicable) include declaration i.e., FFG, EPBC or CaLP Act and if WONS)	There were several weeds present that are listed on the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994. These weeds include: ▪ Blackberry <i>Rubus</i> sp. (V0623) ▪ African Boxthorn <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> (V0623 & V0626) ▪ Hawthorn <i>Cretageus monogyna</i> (V0626) One FFG protected (<i>not threatened</i>) species was observed within the farm dams – Red Azolla <i>Azolla rubra</i>. (<i>salvage not required</i>). One Bog Gum <i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i> (FFG – Critically endangered) within a planted shelterbelt along the fenceline and driveway (planted in a shelterbelt on private property – salvage or propagation material not required).
Fauna/Fauna Habitat Management Advice Provided to Client or to be noted by client	The majority of fauna recorded during the pre-clearance survey comprised common farmland bird species. These species are highly mobile and are expected to disperse from the work area in response to the presence of personnel, machinery and vegetation removal activities. The likelihood of reptiles occupying the pasture-dominated areas is considered low due to the limited availability of suitable habitat features. The site lacks important refuge resources such as native ground cover, coarse woody debris, rock piles and deep cracking soils that would otherwise provide shelter, thermoregulatory opportunities and protection from predators. Notwithstanding the generally low habitat values across the disturbance footprint, several trees within the roadside reserve



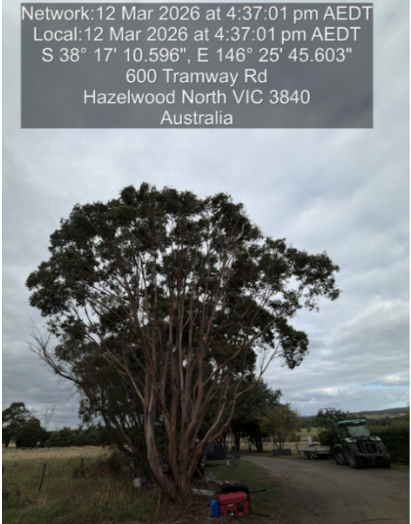
	contain hollows and other habitat features capable of supporting common native fauna, including arboreal mammals and microbats. To minimise the risk of injury or mortality to wildlife, an appropriately qualified ecologist must be present during tree removal works within the roadside parcel. The supervising ecologist will implement fauna-sensitive clearing procedures, inspect habitat features immediately prior to removal, and monitor vegetation clearing activities for the presence of wildlife. Should any fauna be encountered, individuals will be safely captured, assessed and relocated to suitable nearby habitat in accordance with relevant permits, animal welfare requirements, and Habitat Management Services (HMS) approvals and procedures. Implementation of these measures will minimise the potential for impacts on native fauna and ensure compliance with the fauna management requirements associated with the proposed works.
7.Photos of Fauna/Fauna Habitat and Flora (where applicable) Found Onsite	
 Figure 1. Bog Gum at top of driveway V0623.	 Figure 2. Severe erosion and cattle pugging around edge of a dam.



Figure 3. Severe erosion, rubbish and cattle pugging around edge of a dam.



Nest identified 12th May 2026: Likely to that of a Raven or Australin Magpie

8. Follow-Up	
Is an ecologist required on site for future works?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Reason for Follow-Up Inspection	To supervise the removal of trees on the roadside parcel and shelter belts, dewatering the dams if required.
Is any equipment required for Follow-Up Inspection?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NA
Type of equipment required for Follow-Up inspection	Frog hygiene kit, nets, buckets, disposable gloves, dewatering pump cover (all HMS supplied), pole cameras, snake camera, fauna salvage bags and equipment.
Any access requirements (i.e., entry only through locked gate, TFPC required etc.)	N/A
Recommended Date and Time (i.e. Morning) of Follow-Up Inspection	Whenever tree removal/dewatering occurs.
9. Reporting and Review	
Further comments/conclusions	Clearing of the pasture on V0623 can occur without ecological supervision because this area is highly degraded, offers very limited fauna habitat and is unlikely to support reptiles or amphibians. An ecologist must be present when the trees on the V626 roadside parcel and in the shelterbelts/driveway are cleared as these trees contain multiple hollows and there is potential for nests or dreys to have been built within vegetation after this pre-clearance report has been written. Ecological supervision is also required during any dewatering of the dams on V0623, as standing water may support aquatic or semiaquatic species that need to be detected and safely relocated.



Date report completed	17 th July 2026
On-site Ecologist Signature Michael Cincotta	
Peer Reviewer Name and Title	Tanya White: Managing Director & Principal Zoologist/Ecologist
Peer Reviewer Signature	

DISCLAIMER:

Habitat Management Services has taken all necessary measures to ensure that an accurate document has been prepared. However, the company accepts no liability for any damages or loss incurred as a result of the content and recommendations contained within the report. This is the case for this project where no detailed flora and fauna studies were conducted and timing of the year for many annual species is not considered optimal. Habitat Management Services takes no liability for these species not being detected.

COPYRIGHT © HABITAT MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

This document is subject to copyright. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, it may only be used for those purposes for which it was commissioned. The use or reproduction of this report without the consent from the Managing Director of Habitat Management Services is an infringement of copyright.