Western Renewables Link

Draft Offset Management Strategy

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AusNet Transmission Group Pty Ltd

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Glossary

Term	Definition
AusNet	AusNet Transmission Group Pty Ltd
Construction Footprint	The Construction Footprint is indicative, contained within the Project Area and encompasses the land required to facilitate construction of the Project, including the vegetation removal needed to achieve the operational safety clearance zone for the transmission line.
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DELWP	The *former* Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
Environment Effects Act	*Environment Effects Act 1978*
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
EPR	Environmental Performance Requirement
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Community
FFG Act	*Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 / Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019*
GHU	General Habitat Units
ha	Hectare
kV	Kilovolt
MCA	Multi-criteria analysis
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
OMP	Offset Management Plan
OMS	Offset Management Strategy
Planning and Environment Act	*Planning and Environment Act 1987*
Project Area	The Project Area encompasses all areas that would be used to support the construction and operational components of the Project considered in the EES. The Project Area is contained within the Project Land and encompasses the following: ▪ Permanent infrastructure including: ▪ Transmission tower structures ▪ Upgrade and connection to the Bulgana terminal station ▪ Connection to the Sydenham terminal station ▪ An upgrade of Elaine Terminal Station ▪ The new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana ▪ Minor safety upgrades at other terminal stations ▪ Access tracks required for operation.

Term	Definition
	▪ Temporary construction areas including: ▪ Distribution line crossovers ▪ Hurdles ▪ Laydown areas ▪ Stringing pads ▪ Access tracks ▪ Tower assembly areas ▪ Workforce accommodation facilities.
Project Land	The Project Land encompasses all land parcels that could be used for the purpose of temporary Project construction and permanent operational components. The Project Land corresponds with the extent of the Specific Controls Overlay proposed in the draft Planning Scheme Amendment for the Project. This generally includes the entire land parcel intersected by a Project component to allow for changes generally in accordance with the proposed draft Planning Scheme Amendment. The Project Land defines the minimum area for which existing conditions are considered in the technical reports.
Proposed Route	The Proposed Route is approximately 100m to 170m wide and encompasses the nominal future easement (including a buffer either side), and the terminal station areas. The Proposed Route is located within the Project Area.
SHU	Species Habitat Unit
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Western Renewables Link Project (the Project) proposes a new transmission line starting at Bulgana, near Stawell in Victoria's west, and extending approximately 190km to Sydenham in Melbourne's north-west. The Project will enable the connection of new renewable energy generated in western Victoria into the National Electricity Market and increase the Victorian transmission capacity. The Project is being delivered by AusNet Transmission Group Pty Ltd (AusNet).

The Project was originally referred to the former Minister for Planning under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (Environment Effects Act) on 9 June 2020 by AusNet and it was determined that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) was required. On 22 August 2023, the Minister for Planning determined that the Project has the potential to cause significant environmental effects and that an EES was required to inform decision-makers in the granting of key approvals for the Project. In summary the key changes in the new proposed Project scope are:

- The urgent Sydenham Terminal Station Rebuild will be completed separately. A connection into the Sydenham Terminal Station forms part of the Western Renewables Link Project scope
- The 220kV portion of the transmission line is proposed to be uprated to 500kV
- The new terminal station north of Ballarat would no longer be required
- A new 500kV terminal station near Bulgana would be required, including a new 220kV connection to the existing Bulgana Terminal Station.

The Commonwealth Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) – now Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) – has also confirmed that the Project is a 'controlled action' and will require assessment and approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Commonwealth has determined that it will use the bilateral assessment agreement and rely on the Victorian Government's assessment process (EES) to inform an approval decision under the EPBC Act.

An EES for the Western Renewables Link Project was placed on public exhibition on 30 June 2025. The EES included Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment and Attachment V – Offset Management Strategy. In September 2025, an additional biodiversity report, Report 1 on Ecological Surveys Required by EPR-BD1 (BD1 Report), was published. The BD1 Report necessitated the update of the draft Offset Management Strategy. This report is an updated draft Offset Management Strategy that accounts for the additional work documented in the BD1 Report and additional work undertaken on potential offset sites, as well as incorporating edits to improve clarity and consistency. The impacts to which this report relates are those documented in the BD1 Report.

1.2 Purpose of the strategy

The mitigation hierarchy (avoid-minimise-offset) has been applied throughout the development of Project design. As detailed in the Western Renewables Link EES Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment (Biodiversity IA), where impacts to ecological values (i.e., threatened species and ecological communities) could not be avoided, and mitigation measures could not reduce impacts sufficiently, offsets have been proposed. Avoidance and mitigation are discussed further in Section 2.1 and this document summarises the 'offset' measures proposed.

The purpose of this draft Offset Management Strategy (OMS) is to detail the approach to offsetting and managing residual impacts on native vegetation and communities and species of state and national significance, ensuring compliance with relevant environmental legislation and maximising biodiversity conservation in line with the EES scoping requirements. Prior to the Project's construction, an Offset Management Plan (OMP) will be prepared for each site, detailing how the sites are to be managed to achieve biodiversity conservation gains.

Offsets are proposed to achieve the evaluation objective for Biodiversity to:

'*Avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, minimise potential adverse effects on protected native vegetation and animals (particularly listed threatened species and their habitat and listed ecological communities), as well as address offset requirements consistent with state and Commonwealth policies.*'

The specific objectives of the strategy are to:

- Address the offset requirements consistent with state and Commonwealth policies, including the requirements of the Victorian Guidelines for the Removal, Destruction or Lopping of Native Vegetation 2017 (the Guidelines) and the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy 2012 as it relates to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Final offset requirements will be incorporated into the OMS based on the Project design and construction approach in accordance with the Guidelines and policy.
- Set out the proposed means for identifying the availability and securing offsets required for the Project.

As the extent of native vegetation removal has not yet been finalised, information has been provided detailing the likely offsets required for a conservative, worst-case scenario. The offset requirements and calculations provided within this draft OMS are presented as follows:

a) Survey data: what has been confirmed / known from surveys completed, and

b) Modelled data: use of modelled/desktop data where access constraints exist, which presents a worst-case value.

For the worst-case values, it has been assumed that all desktop analysis (modelled data) is correct; that is, all areas yet to be surveyed contain the matter of interest (except for White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland (WBYB) TEC, for which a specific approach has been developed and applied). Overall, the use of modelled data in the assessment of impacts is a conservative approach in the absence of field data. For most communities the modelled data significantly over-estimates the extent of impacts and offsets that would be required for the Project, and therefore is considered a conservative assessment. Where modelled data has not been used or contributes minimally to the assessment of the Project's impact to a species (e.g. Golden Sun Moth) or TEC (e.g. NTGVVP) in the Biodiversity IA, there may be some small variation (increase or decrease) in extent of impacts as field work progresses. However, the significance of impacts is not expected to change.

Final offset requirements for the Project will be based on completion of all required surveys (removing reliance on modelled data) and detailed Project design. In addition, the use of micro-siting to avoid or minimise further impacts where feasible and subject to project approvals will be undertaken, which may also reduce the offsets required.

1.3 Related studies and EES documents

This report should be read in conjunction with the following related reports and chapters that inform the assessments and which this report relies on:

- Technical Report A: Biodiversity Impact Assessment
- Report 1 on Ecological Surveys Required by EPR-BD1
- EES Chapter 8: Biodiversity and habitat
- EES Chapter 27: Matters of National Environmental Significance
- Draft Planning Scheme Amendment.

2. Summary of avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures

The Project is a significant infrastructure development aimed at enhancing the transmission of renewable energy across western Victoria. Given the scale (spanning approximately 190km) and nature of the Project (a linear infrastructure project), it inevitably intersects with native vegetation and natural habitats, leading to potential biodiversity impacts. These potential impacts include disturbances to flora and fauna, potential habitat fragmentation and impacts on vulnerable species.

To address these concerns, the Project has implemented a strategy to minimise biodiversity impacts. This includes a comprehensive route selection process to avoid ecologically sensitive areas based on extensive desktop assessment and field surveys. Additionally, the Project team has engaged with local communities and biodiversity specialists to further refine the Proposed Route, ensuring that any unavoidable impacts are mitigated through targeted conservation efforts.

The Project aligns with Clause 12.01-1S Native vegetation management of the Victorian Planning Provisions. The objective of this clause is to prevent a net loss to biodiversity resulting from the removal, destruction, or lopping of native vegetation. The strategies related to the clause inform decisions that involve, or will lead to, the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation, and apply the three-step approach in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017):

- Avoid the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.
- Minimise impacts from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation that cannot be avoided.
- Provide an offset to compensate for the biodiversity impact from the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

2.1 Avoidance and minimisation

The avoid-minimise-offset hierarchy, the core principle for state and Commonwealth offset guidance, has been a cornerstone in the development of the Project, guiding the approach to biodiversity management. This approach has prioritised avoiding impacts on biodiversity wherever possible, minimising unavoidable impacts and offsetting the residual impacts as a last resort.

The key avoidance and minimisation steps taken by the Project include:

- Route selection: A comprehensive route selection process including the use of Multi-Criteria Analysis was conducted over broad geographies. This included consideration to avoid large tracts of native vegetation, areas with significant landscape overlays, and habitats of threatened species.
- Design considerations: The siting of infrastructure (e.g., transmission towers) has been refined based on the results of desktop and field investigations, particularly where important biodiversity values have been located.
- Proposed construction practices: Construction practices have been refined to further reduce the need for native vegetation removal.

Key examples of the avoidance measures incorporated into the design process are summarised in Section 2.1.1 to 2.1.5, with full details provided in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment.

2.1.1 Corridor development

Examples of avoidance through corridor development include:

- Avoidance of the conservation estate (e.g., national park, state and regional parks, state forests and conservation areas) and known locations of EPBC Act listed TECs outside the conservation estate was a key consideration in selecting the Project Corridor.

- The Project Corridor avoids the Werribee Gorge State Park, Lerderderg State Park, Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve, Creswick Regional Park, Wombat State Forest, Pyrenees Range State Forest, Mt Beckworth Scenic Reserve and Ben More Bushland Reserve, which were included in the original area of impact.
- The Project Corridor avoids identified areas of the EPBC Act listed Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (CR) TEC, which were included in the original area of impact.
- Considerations were presented to Parks Victoria on avoidance measures for Lexton Bushland Reserve in February 2021. However, the alternative corridors and routes were likely to further fragment areas of higher quality vegetation in the areas surrounding the Lexton Bushland Reserve. Therefore, it was agreed that increasing the width of the current Project Corridor, was the better overall option for local vegetation and habitat.

2.1.2 Route establishment (last quarter 2021)

An example of avoidance through route establishment included:

- Kingston Road Travelling Stock Route: The Proposed Route was refined to avoid the Kingston Road Travelling Stock Route (north of Allendale) following identification of a high-quality area of EPBC Act listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (CR) TEC within the stock route.

2.1.3 Micro-siting route changes (first quarter 2022)

Several micro-siting changes were made in the first quarter of 2022. This included:

- Darley: A variety of route options were considered to the north-east of Darley to avoid the EPBC Act listed Grey Box Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (EN) TEC in the former Darley Military Camp. Grey Box Grassy Woodland TEC patches were ultimately considered unavoidable given the variety of other constraints in the vicinity associated with dwellings and view lines, historical heritage and engineering requirements and the original northern route option was retained. Therefore, a series of workshops were held to determine ways to reduce impacts considering tower locations and the requirement for stringing pads and other ground disturbance requirements within unavoidable patches of Grey Box Grassy Woodland TEC.
- Long Forest–Merrimu: An options assessment considered a range of values, including large extents of EPBC Act listed Grey Box Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (EN) TEC, FFG Act listed Rocky Chenopod Open Scrubland Community, high densities of Brittle Greenhood Orchids (cr) and Bacchus Marsh Wattle (vu), and Brush-tailed Phascogale (vu) habitat. The route between Gisborne Road and Djerriwarrh Creek was moved north, crossing the Merrimu Reservoir to avoid most biodiversity issues identified around the northern area of Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve.
- Melton North: Safe operation of the nearby Melton Aerodrome was a key factor in options assessment at this locality. While not specifically focused on biodiversity, the options assessment also considered the location of the only area of EPBC Act listed Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains (CR) TEC found within the Project Area. The assessment determined a route that ultimately avoided any impact to the TEC as well as reducing the potential impact to identified native grassland patches and several Buloke (cr) trees.
- Haydens Hill: The route was moved to the south of the large bushland area to avoid higher quality habitat for Southern Greater Glider (EN, en), to reduce the overall impacts of fragmentation (moving closer to areas of low quality habitat to the south associated with housing), to reduce the overall native vegetation loss (by aligning on a cleared property) and to reduce specific impact to Brooker's Gum (en) and Spotted Hyacinth Orchid (en).

2.1.4 Micro-siting route changes (second quarter 2022)

More micro-siting changes were made in the second quarter of 2022. This included:

- Werribee River crossing: The route was moved to avoid a Powerful Owl (vu) nesting tree adjacent to the river crossing.
- Victorian Volcanic Plain: Positioning towers and associated tower assembly areas between patches of mapped native grassland on the Victorian Volcanic Plain avoided many impacts. Of the 430 towers proposed for the Project, only 11 towers (F4307DL, F4306DL, F4305DL, F4459SL-A, F4459SL-B, F4451DL, F26DL, F24DL, F4450DL, F4350DL, F4579DL) or their associated tower assembly areas, have unavoidably been sited in locations mapped as EVC 132 Plains Grassland. Nine of these towers are located in patches assessed as both EPBC Act listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (CR) TEC and FFG Act listed Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland Community. The other two towers are located in patches assessed as exclusively FFG Act listed Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland Community. An additional two towers (F4592DL and F4590DL) have been included where potential grassland habitat (and potential striped legless lizard/tussock skink/golden sun moth habitat) occurs and survey has yet to be undertaken.
- Haydens Hill and Callaghans Lane: Minimisation approaches have been used in some instances where large populations of threatened tree species (FFG Act listed Brooker's Gum, Melbourne Yellow Gum and Yarra Gum) have been encountered. This was achieved by altering design aspects. This includes a route revision to avoid one of the two Brooker's Gum populations through Haydens Hill, and the approach to the area of Yarra Gum was changed to reduce the impact, focusing on an area of Callaghans Lane where the population is less dense (where the distribution line crossing occurs).

2.1.5 Micro-siting route changes (last quarter 2022)

Micro-siting, associated with the Project Area and location of infrastructure, was undertaken with designers reducing impacts to listed TECs, including:

- EPBC Act Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (En): The Project underwent design changes to reduce impacts to the TEC including removing stringing pads and rerouting access tracks.
- EPBC Act listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (CR): Approach established to avoid impact to 33.70ha of the 38.005ha recorded within Project Area through modification of tower and access track placements. Conservation management, including low temperature ecological burns, can continue in areas managed for conservation purposes.
- FFG Act listed Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community: Reduced impact by 52.149ha (58.608 ha to 6.459 ha) as per the approach described above for Natural Temperate Grassland.
- Partial Clearing approach: To reduce impact to threatened species (several threatened flora understorey species) a partial clearing approach was agreed to whereby canopy removal will only be undertaken in defined places (refer to the Biodiversity Impact Assessment for partial clearance definitions and locations).
- In instances where impacts could not be entirely avoided, the Project has implemented measures to minimise impacts. Where avoidance and minimisation were insufficient, the Project has committed to offsetting the residual impacts through the purchase of environmental offsets as well as conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration. This comprehensive approach upholds AusNet's responsibility to protect and preserve Victoria's biodiversity.

2.1.6 Micro-siting route changes (2023)

Micro-siting and route changes associated with the Project area and location of infrastructure, was undertaken with designers reducing impacts to biodiversity and listed TECs, including:

- The proposed route was realigned to the south near Moorabool River West Branch to reduce impacts on native vegetation including large old habitat trees and habitat for threatened species. Impacts to local wetlands were also avoided in the re-alignment.
- There were numerous access tracks proposed in the Darley area (south of Lerderderg State Park) initially located due to gradient, vehicle access and constructability constraints. The Project design was changed to re-locate these access tracks or utilise other access tracks which achieved significant avoidance of removal to native vegetation patches and large trees, threatened species including Bacchus Marsh Wattle, Melbourne Yellow-Gum, Austral Tobacco, Fragrant Saltbush and Brush-tailed Phascogale habitat and Rocky Chenopod Open-Scrub FFG Community.

2.1.7 Micro-siting route changes (2024)

Micro-siting and route changes associated with the Project area and location of infrastructure, was undertaken with designers reducing impacts to biodiversity and listed TECs, including:

- Some design changes were made in the Queensbury Way, Toolern Vale areas where the Proposed Route (towers and construction access) was positioned further south along the disturbed edge of EPBC community Natural Temperate Grassland of the VVP to avoid impacting higher quality vegetation through the centre.
- For the site selection of the new terminal station near Bulgana, six candidate sites were assessed against site selection criteria. Of these criteria, in relation to biodiversity, sites were preferred where they avoided to the greatest extent possible known or modelled ecological values including native vegetation, Vulnerable and Endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes, and threatened flora and fauna records. The selected site avoided significant numbers of large scattered trees, including FFG listed Buloke and Creekline Grassy Woodland FFG Community.

2.2 Mitigation and Environmental Performance Requirements

Mitigation means activities or specific actions that will reduce the severity of impacts. These could be measures undertaken to minimise impacts during construction such as engaging a qualified ecologist / wildlife handler to check for fauna occupancy of habitat features immediately prior to clearance activities or using low impact methods to carefully undertake selective vegetation clearance with minimal impact to non-target vegetation. They may also include rehabilitation activities such as the installation of nesting boxes in adjacent areas if hollow bearing trees have had to be removed.

Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs) set out the environmental outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of mitigation measures during construction, operation and decommissioning to avoid, minimise and manage identified impacts. EPRs set out the environmental outcomes to be achieved through the implementation of mitigation measures during construction, operation and decommissioning to avoid, minimise and manage identified impacts.

Eight EPRs are proposed for the Project specific to biodiversity as detailed in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment.

EPR BD1: Complete ecological surveys and finalise design and EPR BD8: Complete ecological survey and finalise design for WBYB TEC, further consider the avoid-minimise-offset hierarchy to reduce residual impacts and the offsets that the Project is required to provide which requires:

- Completion of ecological surveys (in areas yet to be surveyed) prior to finalising the design
- Confirmation through survey of the presence of native vegetation and threatened species habitat (which is expected to be lower than the modelled data and thus reduce the amount of vegetation to be removed and the offsets required)

- Reduction in the extent of vegetation that has been identified as being required to be removed in the easement corridor and identify no-go zones
- Identification, through additional surveys, of native vegetation and threatened species habitat which can be avoided, or impacts minimised through design and establishment of no go zones to reduce the extent of native vegetation removal and thus the amount of offsets required.

These updated surveys and design refinements will inform the final offset requirements for the Project.

3. Potential residual impacts on ecological values

3.1 Potential residual impacts on MNES

The Project is expected to impact several MNES, as defined under the EPBC Act. These impacts concern ecological communities and threatened species.

Under a conservative approach, Project impact analysis has been based upon a worst-case scenario, which was assessed using:

- Field surveys (where access was available), and
- Desktop information, including aerial imagery and modelled datasets for areas where field survey could not be undertaken due to access constraints.

Offsets were deemed necessary for MNES where a significant impact was considered possible or likely, as discussed in Section 4.

Table 3-1 provides a summary of the Project's residual impacts to MNES, after implementation of recommended mitigations outlined in Section 2.2 and defines the conservative worst-case scenario.

Table 3-1. Summary of Project impacts to MNES

Biodiversity value	**Project impacts**			**Estimated worst-case project impact scenario (ha)**	**Significant impact rating**
	Impacted individuals/ confirmed habitat (ha)	Impacted field mapped potential habitat (ha)	Impacted modelled/ desktop mapped potential habitat (ha)		
EPBC Act listed threatened communities					
Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	6.12	n/a	1.43	7.56	**Likely**
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	5.00	n/a	0.58	5.58	**Likely**
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland	0.81	n/a	5.24	5.00*	**Possible**
EPBC Act listed threatened fauna					
Growling Grass Frog	0	0.02	0.64	0.66	**Unlikely**
Gang-Gang Cockatoo	0	32.55	10.50	43.05	**Unlikely**
Brown Treecreeper	0	75.45	11.51	86.96	**Unlikely**
Painted Honeyeater	0	46.23	11.89	58.12	**Unlikely**
Swift Parrot	0	29.1	3.78	32.88	**Unlikely**
Hooded Robin	0	39.03	9.4	48.43	**Unlikely**
Blue-winged Parrot	0	105.92	37.66	143.58	**Unlikely**
Diamond Firetail	0	63.6	10.58	74.18	**Unlikely**
Golden Sun Moth	9.71	11.77	0	21.48	**Possible**
Southern Greater Glider	0	13.71	0	13.71	**Possible**

Biodiversity value	Project impacts			Estimated worst-case project impact scenario (ha)	Significant impact rating
	Impacted individuals/ confirmed habitat (ha)	Impacted field mapped potential habitat (ha)	Impacted modelled/ desktop mapped potential habitat (ha)		
Grey-headed Flying-fox	0	0	17.66	17.66	**Unlikely**
Striped Legless Lizard	0	1.44	0	1.44	**Possible**
Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon	0	3.48	0	3.48	**Possible**
EPBC Act listed threatened flora					
Matted Flax-lily	0 individuals	n/a	15.88	15.88	**Unlikely**
Small Golden Moth Orchid	0 individuals	n/a	0.71	0.71	**Unlikely**
Swamp Fireweed	0 individuals	n/a	2.05	2.05	**Unlikely**

[*] *While a total of 6.04ha (0.08ha field mapped and 5.24ha modelled occurrences of EVC equivalents) of White Box Yellow Box (WBYB) TEC may be impacted, it is estimated that no more than 5ha is likely to qualify as the TEC, as such 5ha was used as a credible worst-case to determine potential offset requirements*

The column 'Impacted individuals/confirmed habitat' in Table 3-1 above, shows confirmed extent (for TECs), recorded individuals (in the case of threatened flora) or habitat confirmed as being suitable and occupied by the target species (for fauna) via field survey, where access was granted for survey work. Therefore, figures in this column are confirmed.

For the column 'Impacted field mapped potential habitat', this is habitat that has been initially mapped from desktop before being confirmed as suitable habitat during initial field survey but has not been confirmed as occupied by the relevant species.

For the column 'Impacted modelled/desktop mapped potential habitat', this is what has been identified via desktop to potentially occur, but the area has not yet been surveyed, as access has not been granted. This method is described in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report, Section 5.12 *Methods used in the absence of field survey*.

A 'worst-case project impact scenario' has been determined by adding the impact columns in Table 3-1 (confirmed presence, suitable field mapped potential habitat and impacted modelled/desktop mapped habitat, except for White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland). For this TEC, the worst-case scenario is that only a total of 5ha of the Construction Footprint contains the TEC, this was adopted due to modelled data excessively overestimating the area of this TEC. For most MNES that contain a significant area of modelled habitat impacts, this presents a worst-case scenario based on a conservative approach and actual impacts are expected to be less. Further surveys shall be progressed as access becomes available to reduce reliance on desktop / modelled data.

There are three levels of 'significant impact'. If an impact has been deemed unlikely, no offset calculations have been undertaken. However, if an impact has been identified as likely to occur, or possible (that is, insufficient evidence to rule that impacts are unlikely) then offset calculations were undertaken.

3.2 Potential impacts on state matters

The Project is expected to impact state biodiversity matters, particularly habitats of state-listed threatened species. The construction and operation of the transmission line could lead to habitat loss and fragmentation. Additionally, the Project may impact important ecological communities, including native grasslands and woodlands, which are crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Table 3-2 summarises residual impacts to native vegetation as provided in the Native Vegetation Removal Report (NVRR) produced by DEECA based on GIS data provided by the Project. The NVRR determines the state offset requirements based on the extent and quality of native vegetation impacted as per the provided GIS data.

Table 3-2. Summary of Project impacts to native vegetation

Native vegetation impacts		**Totals**
Patches		173.26ha
Large canopy trees in patches		1000
Scattered trees	Large	172
	Small	94
Total Native Vegetation Removal Report area[1]		186.264ha

[1]A total of 186.264ha of native vegetation is to be impacted by the Project (as presented within the Native Vegetation Removal report). Of this, 173.260ha consists of patches and 13.004ha consists of the extent of scattered trees.

4. Offset Requirements

4.1 Overall offsets

Offsets will be required for the Project to compensate for the residual impacts on biodiversity that cannot be mitigated through avoidance or minimisation. This is a crucial aspect of the Project's environmental management strategy. By obtaining the required offsets, the Project will align with state (P&E Act) and Commonwealth (EPBC Act) environmental legislation, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable development and mitigating impacts on Victoria's biodiversity.

4.1.1 Commonwealth requirements

Under the EPBC Act, specific offsets are considered necessary for any predicted significant impacts. The Project has the potential to result in significant impacts to seven EPBC Act listed matters associated with the Project. Table 4-1 provides an estimation of EPBC Act offset requirements for the Project. For TECs this includes a worst-case scenario that includes consideration of areas modelled to contain potential habitat where survey has not yet been completed to confirm presence.

Using the Commonwealth offset assessment guidance materials, the quantum of impact (ha) is based on the area impacted and the quality score of the impacted habitat. The indicative offset area was determined using the Commonwealth offset calculator. Inputs for the calculator included:

- 20 years for the risk related time horizon
- 10 years for time until ecological benefit
- Quality score and extent of impacted habitat
- Future score without offset as the same input as the quality score
- Future quality with offset using a 1-point increase (this is the conservative number that has been included as a worst-case, this gain will require consultation with DCCEEW once offset sites are confirmed)
- 70 percent confidence.

Using conservative input figures defined above, a worst-case offset requirement has been calculated using the Commonwealth offset calculator, which provides a guide to the estimated size of the offset area required, as shown in Table 4-1. Once the quality of the individual offset sites is defined in detail and the quality scores determined, the offset calculations will be re-run to give a final offset area required. For TECs, it is expected that this will be less than the worst-case offset requirement included in the strategy. Advice from Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will inform the process and final calculator inputs. The final requirement for EPBC Act offsets is pending the outcome of the EPBC Act determination and may be subject to change.

Table 4-1. EPBC Act offset requirements

Offset type	Impact	Impacted area (ha)	Quality score[1]	Quantum of impact (ha)	Indicative offset area (ha)[2]
Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	Field mapped occurrence	6.12	6	3.67	59.11
	Modelled occurrence of EVC equivalents	1.43	6	0.86	13.81
	Worst-case TEC impact	7.56	6	4.54	73.01
Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	Field mapped occurrence	5.00	4	2.00	55.16
	Modelled occurrence of EVC equivalents	0.58	4	0.23	6.40
	Worst-case TEC impact	5.58	4	2.23	61.56
White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland	Field mapped occurrence	0.81	-	-	-
	Modelled occurrence of EVC equivalents	5.24	-	-	-
	Worst-case TEC impact	5.00[3]	4	2.00	55.16
Golden Sun Moth habitat[4]	Field mapped confirmed habitat	9.71	4	3.88	56.61
	Field mapped potential habitat	11.77	4	4.71	68.62
	Worst-case habitat impact	21.48	4	8.59	125.22
Southern Greater Glider habitat	Field mapped potential habitat	13.71	4	5.48	88.28
Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat	Field mapped potential habitat	3.48	3	1.04	28.80
Striped Legless Lizard habitat	Field mapped potential habitat	1.44	3	0.43	6.30

[1] Quality score is based on the inputs described in Appendix A

[2] The offset area is indicative until the offset sites are assessed and the proposed management actions confirmed. Worse-case scenario indicative offset area totals are directly from the EPBC Act calculator, if discrepancies arise between the addition of field mapped and modelled rows, this is due to decimal rounding in the calculator.

[3] While a total of 6.04ha (0.08ha field mapped and 5.24ha modelled occurrences of EVC equivalents) of WBYB TEC may be impacted, it is estimated that no more than 5ha is likely to qualify as the TEC, as such 5ha was used a credible worst-case to determine potential offset requirements.

[4] Field mapped confirmed habitat is where the species was recorded opportunistically. Field mapped potential habitat was initially mapped in the desktop and preliminary assessment and all these areas were assessed during general field survey to confirm habitat attributes.

NOTE: *The table is indicative only and outlines 100% offset requirements based on a worst-case scenario which includes modelled data. This is subject to change with further surveys undertaken to reduce impacts identified through use of modelled data*.

The detailed calculation of the quality scores summarised in Table 4-1 are outlined in Table A-1 to Table A-7 (Appendix A).

4.1.2 State requirements

State offsets are required to compensate for the loss of native vegetation and threatened species impacts in accordance with the Guidelines, a document incorporated within the Victoria Planning Provisions under Clause 52.17. State offsets are quantified in either general habitat units (GHU) or species habitat units (SHU),and are detailed within the Native Vegetation Removal Report (NVRR) produced by DEECA based on GIS data provided by the Project. Table 4-2 details the native vegetation offset requirements under the Guidelines.

Table 4-2. Native vegetation offset requirements

Offset requirements		
General offset	General offset amount	1.864 general habitat units (GHU)
	Minimum strategic biodiversity value score	0.272
	Large trees	57 large trees
Species offset	Species offset amount	542.191 species habitat units (SHU) comprising 22 species
	Large trees	1115 large trees

4.2 Commonwealth offset calculations

To determine offsets required for the Project, the residual impact and quality for each MNES must be used to calculate the 'Quantum of Impact', as described by the EPBC Act Offset Assessment Guide (DSEWPaC 2012a). The amount of direct offset needed to achieve a tangible and measurable conservation gain, compensating for the 'Quantum of Impact' on the MNES, is calculated by various factors as detailed in the EPBC Act Offset Assessment Guide and How to use the offsets assessment guide documentation (DSEWPaC 2012a, DSEWPaC 2012b) including:

- What enhancement will the offset provide for the affected attribute?
  - Time required to achieve ecological benefit
  - Confidence in the result.
- What is the extent of loss prevention due to the proposed offset?
  - Change in risk of loss
  - Duration over which loss is prevented
  - Confidence in the result.

4.2.1 Assumptions

The Commonwealth offset policy states 'Direct offsets are an essential component of a suitable offsets package. A minimum of 90 per cent of the offset requirements for any given impact must be met through direct offsets.' However, it is AusNet's intention to achieve 100 per cent direct offsets where possible. If indirect offsets are to be considered, it will be as a risk mitigation approach to manage any changes that may occur during the EES process that directly impacts on biodiversity values and offsets. Consultation and approval will be undertaken with relevant authorities for this pathway to be considered in accordance with State guidelines and Commonwealth policy.

The extent of native vegetation removal has not yet been finalised. In accordance with EPR-BD1, AusNet will continue to progress surveys to better understand actual offset requirements. The Commonwealth offset values and calculations provided within this draft OMS are presented as (a) field mapped occurrences/habitat i.e. what has been confirmed / known via field surveys and (b) modelled occurrences of EVC equivalents for TECs (this

assumes that all desktop analysis (modelled data) is correct in areas where land access constraints exist currently and therefore likely over-estimates impacts).

Indicative offset area is based on impacts detailed in Table 4-1. For TECs the sum of field mapped and modelled habitat (i.e. worst-case impact) has been used. However, for White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland, the worst-case scenario is that only a total of 5ha of the Construction Footprint contains the TEC, and hence this area has been used to determine the offset required, this was adopted due to modelled data excessively overestimating the area of this TEC. For the four species that may be significantly impacted (Golden Sun Moth, Southern Greater Glider, Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon and Striped Legless Lizard) sufficient survey has been completed so that modelled habitat has not been used to determine impacts and hence only impacts to field mapped habitat is utilised to calculate the offset requirement for these species.

As more areas are surveyed, worst-case calculations for TECs will be updated to confirm actual offsets required for the Project, and it is anticipated that the offset liability will be reduced. However, to give an indication on the scale of offsets (through applying a very conservative approach), calculations have been run to consider the worst-case scenario offset requirements. Some assumptions include:

- Risk of Loss (without Offset) – until specific site details become available a risk of loss of 0 is assumed for all calculations presented in this draft OMS.
- Change in quality (without offset) - in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken a conservative approach has been undertaken assuming no decline in quality will occur without offset.
- Change in quality (with offset) - a gain in quality of 1-point is assumed for each offset site based on the implementation of a site-specific and fully funded offset management plan (an active management of 10 years is assumed for each site and OMP).
- Time until ecological benefit - a period of 10 years is assumed based on the end of the assumed active management period for each site.
- Confidence in results – change in quality, an assumed confidence of 70 per cent has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
- Percentage of impact offset - One hundred percent direct offset will be sought wherever possible.

These elements contribute to the minimum conservation gain provided by the direct offset to mitigate the anticipated impacts.

In accordance with Commonwealth offset policy, if 100 per cent direct offset is unable to be achieved, then the 90 per cent target described in the Commonwealth offset policy will be used, where the remaining ten per cent is achieved through other compensatory measures. If this approach is required, consultation with relevant authorities (e.g., DEECA, DCCEEW) must be undertaken so that appropriate options and the correct processes are followed, with subsequent approval provided.

As discussed in Section 3.1, the Project will impact a number of MNES including three TECs (Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia, Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain and White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland), and habitat associated with four EPBC listed species (Golden Sun Moth, Southern Greater Glider, Victoria Grassland Earless Dragon, Striped Legless Lizard).

The following sections outline preliminary offsets assessment guide calculations, based on data from surveyed areas and modelled data from areas not yet surveyed (due to access constraints) to give a worst-case scenario as an indication to the size of offset that would be required to meet the EPBC Act offset requirements for the relevant species. More details on draft offset calculations are provided in Appendix A.

Final offset calculations will be undertaken once the extent of vegetation clearing has been determined and surveys completed.

4.2.2 Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia

Within the Construction Footprint, 7.56ha (6.12ha field mapped habitat and 1.43ha modelled habitat in areas not yet surveyed) is anticipated to be impacted.

Using the inputs outlined in Section 4.1 and detailed in Appendix A to achieve 100 percent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset of 73.01ha of this TEC. However, this is the worst-case scenario with an area of 13.81ha required based on current modelled data, and it is expected that a lower offset will be required when outstanding surveys are completed.

4.2.3 Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain

Within the Construction Footprint, 5.58ha (5.00ha field mapped habitat and 0.58ha modelled habitat in areas not yet surveyed) is anticipated to be impacted.

Using the inputs outlined in Section 4.1, Table 5-1 and detailed in Appendix A, to achieve 100 per cent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset of 61.56ha. However, this is the worst-case scenario with an area of 6.40ha required based on current modelled data, and it is expected that a lower offset will be required when outstanding surveys are completed.

4.2.4 White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland

While a total of 6.04ha (0.81ha field mapped and 5.24ha modelled occurrences of EVC equivalents in areas yet to be surveyed due to access constraints) of WBYB TEC occurs within the Construction Footprint, it is estimated that no more than 5ha is likely to qualify as the TEC, as such 5ha was used a credible worst-case to determine potential offset requirements. Completed field surveys show that modelled habitat for TECs do not equate to the area of TEC expected to be present, in the case of WBYB TEC this was often due to incorrect floristics (e.g., lack of Yellow Box) or relatively small size and poor quality of patches that do not meet the condition thresholds to qualify. As such, it has been estimated that no more than 5ha is likely to qualify as the TEC.

Using the inputs outlined in Section 4.1 and detailed in Appendix A, to achieve 100 per cent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset of 55.16ha.

4.2.5 Golden Sun Moth habitat

Within the Construction Footprint, 21.48ha (9.71ha of field mapped confirmed habitat and 11.77ha field mapped potential habitat) of Golden Sun Moth habitat is anticipated to be impacted due to ground disturbance activities. Given the species occurs in primarily grassland habitat it is presumed fuel reduction activities associated with the Project will not impact habitat for the species.

Based on the preliminary offsets assessment guide calculation (as detailed in Appendix A), to achieve 100 per cent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset 125.22ha of habitat.

4.2.6 Southern Greater Glider habitat

While the species was not recorded in targeted surveys completed, 13.71ha of field mapped potential habitat will be impacted in the Haydens Hill area. This habitat is somewhat fragmented from the larger area of habitat on public land to the north in which the species has been recorded (approximately four kilometres north-east) but may still act as refuge habitat.

Based on the preliminary offsets assessment guide calculation (as detailed in Appendix A), to achieve 100 per cent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset of 88.28ha of habitat.

4.2.7 Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat

Within the Construction Footprint, 3.48ha of field mapped potential habitat is anticipated to be impacted. Based on the preliminary offsets assessment guide calculation (as detailed in Appendix A), to achieve 100 per cent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset of 28.80ha of habitat.

4.2.8 Striped Legless Lizard habitat

Within the Construction Footprint, 1.44ha of field mapped potential Striped Legless Lizard habitat is anticipated to be impacted. Based on the preliminary offsets assessment guide calculation (as detailed in Appendix A), to achieve 100 per cent of direct offset, the Project would require an offset of 6.30ha of habitat.

4.3 State Offset calculations

State offsets for the Project are provided in the Native Vegetation Removal Report (NVRR) produced by DEECA based on GIS data provided by the Project. The NVRR determines the state offset requirements based on the extent and quality of native vegetation impacted as per the provided GIS data. The provided GIS data contains both field and modelled data for areas yet to be surveyed due to access constraints. The NVRR for this assessment is included in Appendix B of the BD1 Report and summarised in Table 4-3 and Table 4-4.

The extent of native vegetation removal has not yet been finalised. In accordance with EPR-BD1, AusNet will continue to progress surveys to better understand actual offset requirements Once the Construction Footprint has been finalised, a NVRR will be produced with the final quantification of impact and associated offsets under the Guidelines. However, the currently anticipated calculations are presented in the following sections as an indication of the required offsets.

4.3.1 General Habitat Units

The general offset amount is provided in the NVRR produced by DEECA, and is presented in alongside the sum of all general habitat units. The Project will require 1.864 general offset units with a minimum strategic biodiversity value score of 0.272.

Table 4-3. Native vegetation offset requirements

Offset requirements		
General offset	General offset amount	1.864 general offset units
	Vicinity	Corangamite, North Central, Port Phillip and Westernport, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority or Ballarat City, Hepburn Shire, Melton City, Moorabool Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Pyrenees Shire Councils
	Minimum strategic biodiversity value score	0.272
	Large trees	57 large trees

4.3.2 Species Habitat Units

The species offset requirements are provided in the NVRR produced by DEECA and are summarised in Table 4-4. below. The NVRR determines if the proposed removal of native vegetation has a proportional impact on threatened species habitats above the species offset threshold. The threshold is set at 0.005 per cent of the mapped habitat value for a species. When the proportional impact is above the species offset threshold, a species offset is required and quantified in species habitat units (SHU).

Table 4-4. Species offset requirements

Offset requirements		
Species offset	Species offset amount	▪ 22.321 species units of habitat for Spotted Hyacinth-orchid, *Dipodium pardalinum* ▪ 16.045 species units of habitat for Grassland Earless Dragon, *Tympanocryptis pinguicolla* ▪ 87.696 species units of habitat for Golden Sun Moth, *Synemon plana* ▪ 26.192 species units of habitat for Brooker's Gum, *Eucalyptus brookeriana* ▪ 78.555 species units of habitat for Yarra Gum, *Eucalyptus yarraensis* ▪ 8.606 species units of habitat for Small Golden Moths, *Diuris basaltica* ▪ 33.755 species units of habitat for Goldfields Grevillea, *Grevillea dryophylla* ▪ 18.142 species units of habitat for Ben Major Grevillea, *Grevillea floripendula* ▪ 23.374 species units of habitat for Smooth Grevillea, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia subsp. glabella* ▪ 3.216 species units of habitat for Brisbane Range Grevillea, *Grevillea steiglitziana* ▪ 26.180 species units of habitat for Austral Tobacco, *Nicotiana suaveolens* ▪ 12.027 species units of habitat for Brittle Greenhood, *Pterostylis truncata* ▪ 25.801 species units of habitat for Fragrant Saltbush, *Rhagodia parabolica* ▪ 20.205 species units of habitat for Heath Spear-grass, *Austrostipa exilis* ▪ 21.858 species units of habitat for Melbourne Yellow-gum, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *connata* ▪ 4.536 species units of habitat for Golden Bush-pea, *Pultenaea gunnii* subsp. *tuberculata* ▪ 20.357 species units of habitat for Wombat Bush-pea, *Pultenaea reflexifolia* ▪ 55.547 species units of habitat for Matted Flax-lily, *Dianella amoena* ▪ 19.406 species units of habitat for Bacchus Marsh Wattle, *Acacia rostriformis* ▪ 12.679 species units of habitat for Shiny Leionema, *Leionema lamprophyllum* subsp. *obovatum* ▪ 3.623 species units of habitat for Gum-barked Bundy, *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* subsp. *laxa* ▪ 2.070 species units of habitat for Werribee Blue-box, *Eucalyptus baueriana* subsp. *thalassina*
	Large trees	1115 trees
Total number of large trees that the offset must protect		1172 large trees (inclusive of above totals) to be protected in either the general, species or combination across all habitat units protected

5. Proposed Offset Management Strategy

Offset management strategies are designed to outline how unavoidable impacts on biodiversity will be addressed. This draft OMS emphasises a structured approach to compensating for the loss of native vegetation and habitats, so that the overall biodiversity value is maintained or enhanced.

Central to the OMS is the identification and protection of offset sites that may provide equivalent or greater ecological value compared to the impacted areas. This could involve restoring or enhancing habitats to support the impacted threatened matters, using measures such as replanting native vegetation, managing invasive species, and improving habitat connectivity to facilitate wildlife movement and genetic exchange. Additionally, the Project commits to long-term monitoring and management of offset sites to maintain their ecological integrity and effectiveness over time.

By implementing these measures, the Project aims to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, aligning with both state and federal environmental legislation. This approach not only compensates for the Project's direct impacts but also contributes to broader conservation goals, supporting the resilience and sustainability of Victoria's biodiversity.

The Commonwealth offset policy states 'Direct offsets are an essential component of a suitable offsets package. A minimum of 90 per cent of the offset requirements for any given impact must be met through direct offsets.'

The following steps have been progressed to identify offsets required for the Project and an accredited offset broker has been engaged to inform our strategy and approach to securing offsets as the Project develops:

- Identifying availability of offsets for state and Commonwealth (Section 5.1 - 5.3)
- Offset security mechanisms (Section 5.4)
- Additional ongoing steps (Section 0)
- Alternative offsets process (Section 5.6)
- Development of Offset Management Plan(s) (Section 0).

5.1 Identifying offsets

The following approach has been undertaken to identify offsets required for the Project to date (in consultation with an offset broker) and includes:

- Undertaking a review and risk assessment to identify current market availability of offsets and identifying risks and potential supply shortages of specific offsets required for the Project (December 2022).
- Development of an overall strategy to identify and secure offsets, that included an updated review of key supply shortages in the state offset market for Species Offsets and Commonwealth MNES and outlined steps required to identify and procure key offsets where a supply risk was identified (December 2023).
- Implementation of the strategy (undertaken by a registered offset broker).
- A review of project offset requirements and supply shortages including identification of further steps required to identify and procure offsets for species or MNES with new or persistent supply risk (September 2024 - ongoing).

5.1.1 Risk assessment and review of offset availability

The review and risk assessment approach to identify potentially constrained offsets considered several factors when assessing potential availability risk for state offsets. This included:

- Defining availability of potential offsets currently registered on the Native Vegetation Credit Register (NVCR) (applicable to state offsets only).

- Working with a broker to identify any potential offset sites under development (not currently available on the market or registered on the NVCR) that can provide all or partial offset requirements.
- Profiling any potential new offset sites within the vicinity of WRL through reviewing geographic distribution of potential habitat for Commonwealth offset for MNES and State Species Offsets (using DEECA Habitat Importance Modelling (HIM) and Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) mapping).
- Approaching landholders to gauge interest in establishing an offset site. The initial review of offset availability was undertaken in December 2022 in consultation with the broker and identified several state (species offsets) and Commonwealth offsets with potential for supply and availability. This approach allowed for a more targeted method to be undertaken to identify potential offset sites on several un-registered properties to better quantify offset availability.

5.1.2 Overall strategy for identifying offset sites

An overall strategy was developed and implemented through engagement of an accredited offset broker in December 2023. The following steps were implemented through the offset broker and included:

- Critical Habitat Mapping using Habitat Importance Model (HIM) data for each species to define candidate areas with potential to generate SHUs for each species within a 10km proximity to the proposed Project route.
- Cross referencing with species occurrence records from Atlas of Living Australia to identify any additional candidate areas that are excluded from the HIMs but with potential to supply SHUs via an alternative offset pathway based on actual presence of the species.
- Quantifying extent of native vegetation cover on properties and eliminating those that are obviously agricultural / cleared, or with little to no native vegetation evident (review of DEECA EVC mapping and aerial imagery).
- Using VicMap Property GIS datasets to identify properties underlying the candidate areas and locate property boundaries, zoning and Standard Parcel Identifiers for each potential property within the candidate areas.
- Eliminating all properties that are listed as existing offset sites.
- Undertaking a mail out process to all properties with the potential to supply offsets based on the above criteria used to gauge any interest from landholders, including a secondary mail out process where required.
- Undertaking Due Diligence Assessments (by a DEECA registered offset site assessor) to determine suitability of and number of SHU available for any candidate sites identified.

Sections 5.2 and 5.3 discuss the status of offset availability for the Project for Commonwealth and state offset requirements and incorporate the information and findings from the above steps already implemented to identify and secure any high risks offsets early for the Project.

5.2 Identifying required Commonwealth offsets

As described in Section 4.1.1, offset calculations were conducted to estimate the size of the required offset sites. For fauna, these are an estimation of EPBC Act offset requirements for the Project based on surveys completed, and for TECs they include a worst-case scenario that also considers modelled desktop values of potential habitat. The following section provides a summary of progress on available EPBC offsets that may need to be secured for the Project and alignment with the eight Commonwealth offset principles.

The Project has identified a number of potential offset sites, and AusNet will seek agreement with landholders to facilitate registration of the offsets to secure them for the Project. A summary of these offsets is included in Table 5-1 to define current offset availability for the Project.

Table 5-1. Summary of offsets availability for the relevant MNES

Offset stage	Offset availability	Offset requirement (ha)
AusNet are continuing to undertake further surveys on the proposed route, to , reduce reliance on modelled data and reduce the amount of vegetation that is required to be removed and therefore to reduce the overall offset requirements for the Project. Option agreements are being used to secure offsets prior to project approval. Offset estimates are based on conservative inputs used to inform the EPBC calculator. These inputs will be further refined with specific offset sites and direct consultation with DCCEEW to meet the EPBC Policy requirements.	**Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia** Three sites identified that can supply approximately 101ha to meet direct offset requirements.	**73.01**
	Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain One site identified that can supply approximately 63ha to meet direct offset requirement. Site includes 53ha of NTGVVP and an additional 10ha of native grassland that would require restoration to NTGVVP condition.	**61.56**
	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland Two sites identified that can supply approximately 60ha to meet direct offset requirements. EPR BD8 requires surveys of this threatened community to be done to confirm presence and also requires AusNet to avoid and minimise impacts through design refinements to reduce impacts and confirm actual offset requirements.	**55.16**
	Golden Sun Moth habitat Three sites identified that can supply approximately 130ha of the direct offset requirements.	**125.22**
	Southern Greater Glider habitat Three sites identified that can supply approximately 89ha of the direct offset requirement. AusNet are undertaking further design refinements to confirm additional reductions in accordance with EPR BD1.	**88.28**
	Striped Legless Lizard habitat One site identified that can supply approximately 6.5ha of the direct offset requirement.	**6.30**
	Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat Two sites identified that can supply approximately 28.80ha.	**28.80**

This draft Offset Management Strategy for the Project has been prepared in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (DSEWPaC 2012c) which contains eight principles that must be adhered to. Table 5-2 and Table 5-3 outline how each principle will be met for the seven matters.

Table 5-2. Adherence to EPBC Act offset principles relating to offsets for Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia and the Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain

Offset principle	Offset Requirement	Justification for offset site - Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	Justification for offset site - Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
1	Suitable offsets must deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the protected matter.	The protection and management of the offset site(s) would deliver up to 73.01ha of this community (noting this is based on a worst-case estimate scenario and AusNet expects the offset requirements will be lower, when all survey work is completed).	The protection and management of the offset site would deliver up to 61.56ha of this community (noting this is a worst-case estimate scenario and AusNet expects the offset requirement will be lower, when all survey work is completed).	The protection and management of the offset site would deliver up to 55.16ha of this community (noting this offset is based on an estimate of worst-case scenario removal of vegetation and a worst case offset estimate). AusNet expects offset requirement will be lower, when all survey work is completed).
		The sites will be managed in accordance with an OMP that will provide specific management actions for the site and will deliver an increase in site condition score of 1 point out of 10, resulting in a conservation improvement.		
2	Suitable offsets must be built around direct offsets but may include other compensatory measures.	The offset site(s) would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.	The offset site would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.	The offset site would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.
		The offset site(s) will be managed in accordance with the OMP's through ongoing protection and associated on-ground measures to improve vegetation condition. AusNet are committed to trying to achieve a 100% direct offset. But if this is not possible, then other compensatory measures will be considered to reach the100% offset requirement, including research and educational activities relevant to this MNES once the specific offset measure is identified.		
2.1	Tenure for direct offsets.	Where third-party offset sites will be established, the offset will be secured through application of a Trust for Nature covenant (under the *Conservation Trust Act 1972*) or a Section 69 agreement (under the *Conservation, Forest and Lands Act 1987*). Co-location of both state and federal offsets will be considered in consultation with DCCEEW and DEECA.		
2.2	Impacting on existing EPBC Act offsets.	TBD – pending site-specific details of potential offset sites.		
3	Suitable offsets must be in proportion to the level of statutory protection that applies to the protected matter.	This process relates to MNES of greater conservation status requiring greater offset requirements and is calculated using the Offset assessment guide. The recommended offset calculators have been used that have addressed proportionality in relation to the level of statutory protection that applies to each community; Critically endangered for Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain and endangered for Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands, Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia and critically endangered White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland		

Offset principle	Offset Requirement	Justification for offset site - Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	Justification for offset site - Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
4	Suitable offsets must be of a size and scale proportionate to the residual impacts on the protected matter.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of potentially 7.56ha (though only 6.12ha confirmed at this stage) of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia TEC. It is calculated that an offset of 73.01ha of this community and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of potentially 5.58ha (though only 5.00ha confirmed at this stage) of Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain TEC. It is calculated that an offset of 61.56ha of this community and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of potentially 5.00ha (noting this extent, contains a combination of confirmed TEC through field surveys and modelled TEC in areas yet to be surveyed,) of White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland TEC. It is calculated that an offset of 55.16ha of this community and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland.
5	Suitable offsets must effectively account for and manage the risks of the offset not succeeding.	The legally secured offset sites will be managed by the landowner under a legal contract and site-specific OMP that will contain a risk assessment detailing all relevant risk and mitigation measures specific to the offset site and management, for example risk of bushfires, in line with DCCEEW environmental management plan guidelines (DCCEEW 2024).		
6	Suitable offsets must be additional to what is already required, determined by law or planning regulations or agreed to under other schemes or programs.	No specific offsets for Grey Box (E*ucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia or Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain or White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland are prescribed under any state or Local Government offset prescriptions relevant to the Project Area. State offsets for the removal of native vegetation in addition to the proposed offset sites for MNES will be secured for the Project. Environmental offsets already paid for under other schemes or programs cannot be used. However, if additional conservation gains on the same piece of land can be achieved these may be eligible for use as offsets provided that there are no perverse outcomes and synergies are produced. Additionality activities are to be confirmed (if appropriate) once specific offset measure is identified.		
6.1	Links with state and territory approval processes.	Approvals under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and *Planning and Environment Act 1987,* and the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) will be secured for the Project.		
7	Suitable offsets must be efficient, effective, timely, transparent, scientifically robust and reasonable.	The legally secured offset site will be actively managed by the landowner with the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist through audits and monitoring. The proposed ecological benefit / gain will be achieved through proven management actions and monitored throughout the active management period (typically 10 years) to deliver the desired environmental outcomes. The OMP will allow provision for adaptive management if required in response to offset monitoring results as required.		

Offset principle	Offset Requirement	Justification for offset site - Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia	Justification for offset site - Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
8	Suitable offsets must have transparent governance arrangements including being able to be readily measured, monitored, audited and enforced.	Specific governance arrangements are to be confirmed once offsets have been identified. Site condition will be monitored with monitoring details to be included in an OMP. Results will inform the need for additional interventions (adaptive management) with performance targets and trigger points included in the OMP.		

Table 5-3. Adherence to EPBC Act offset principles for offsets relating to the Golden Sun Moth, Southern Greater Glider, Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon, Striped Legless Lizard

Offset principle	Offset Requirement	Justification for offset site - Golden Sun Moth habitat	Justification for offset site - Southern Greater Glider habitat	Justification for offset site - Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat	Justification for offset site – Striped Legless Lizard habitat
1	Suitable offsets must deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the protected matter.	The protection and management of the offset site would deliver 125.22ha of this habitat.	The protection and management of the offset site would deliver 88.28ha of this habitat.	The protection and management of the offset site would deliver 28.80ha of this habitat.	The protection and management of the offset site would deliver 6.30ha of this habitat.
		The site will be managed in accordance with an OMP that will provide specific management actions for the site and will deliver an increase in site condition score of 1 point out of 10, resulting in a conservation improvement.			
2	Suitable offsets must be built around direct offsets but may include other compensatory measures.	The offset site would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.	The offset site would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.	The offset site would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.	The offset site would deliver 100% of the Project's offset requirement.
		The management of habitat through ongoing protection and associated on-ground measures to improve vegetation condition is considered to be a direct offset. Once secured, offset sites would be managed in accordance with the OMP's. AusNet are committed to trying to achieve a 100% direct offset. But if this is not possible, then other compensatory measures will be considered to reach the100% offset requirement, including research and educational activities relevant to the specific MNES.			
2.1	Tenure for direct offsets.	Where third-party offset sites will be established, the offset will be secured through application of a Trust for Nature covenant (under the *Conservation Trust Act 1972*) or a Section 69 agreement (under the *Conservation, Forest and Lands Act 1987*). Co-location of both state and federal offsets will be considered in consultation with DCCEEW and DEECA.			

Offset principle	Offset Requirement	Justification for offset site - Golden Sun Moth habitat	Justification for offset site - Southern Greater Glider habitat	Justification for offset site - Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat	Justification for offset site – Striped Legless Lizard habitat
2.2	Impacting on existing EPBC Act offsets.	TBD			
3	Suitable offsets must be in proportion to the level of statutory protection that applies to the protected matter.	This process relates to MNES of greater conservation status requiring greater offset requirements and is calculated using the Offset assessment guide. The recommended offset calculators have been used that have addressed proportionality in relation to the level of statutory protection that applies to each species, critically endangered for Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon, endangered for Southern Greater Glider and vulnerable for Golden Sun Moth and Striped Legless Lizard.			
4	Suitable offsets must be of a size and scale proportionate to the residual impacts on the protected matter.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of 21.48ha of Golden Sun Moth habitat. It is calculated that an offset of 125.22ha of this habitat and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on Golden Sun Moth habitat.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of 13.71ha of Southern Greater Glider habitat. It is calculated that an offset of 88.28ha of this habitat and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on Southern Greater Glider habitat.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of 3.48ha of Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat. It is calculated that an offset of 28.80ha of this habitat and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat.	The proposed offsets will meet the requirements for residual impact of direct loss of 1.44ha of Striped Legless Lizard habitat. It is calculated that an offset of 6.30ha of this habitat and an improvement in the site condition score of 1 point would compensate for 100% of the Project's residual impact on Striped Legless Lizard.
5	Suitable offsets must effectively account for and manage the risks of the offset not succeeding.	The legally secured offset sites will be managed by the landowner under a legal contract and site-specific OMP that will contain a risk assessment detailing all relevant risk and mitigation measures specific to the offset site and management, for example risk of bushfires, in line with DCCEEW environmental management plan guidelines (DCCEEW 2024).			
6	Suitable offsets must be additional to what is already required, determined by law or planning regulations or agreed to under other schemes or programs.	No specific offsets for Golden Sun Moth, Southern Greater Glider, Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon or Striped Legless Lizard habitats are prescribed under any state or Local Government offset prescriptions relevant to the Project Area (TBC). State offsets for the removal of native vegetation in addition to the proposed offset sites for MNES will be secured for the Project. Environmental offsets already paid for under other schemes or programs cannot be used. However, if additional conservation gains on the same piece of land can be achieved these may be eligible for use as offsets provided that there are no perverse outcomes and synergies are produced. Additional activities are to be confirmed once specific offset measure is identified.			

Offset principle	Offset Requirement	Justification for offset site - Golden Sun Moth habitat	Justification for offset site - Southern Greater Glider habitat	Justification for offset site - Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat	Justification for offset site – Striped Legless Lizard habitat
6.1	Links with state and territory approval processes.	Approvals under the *Environment Effects Act 1978 and Planning and Environment Act 1987*and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) will be secured for the Project.			
7	Suitable offsets must be efficient, effective, timely, transparent, scientifically robust and reasonable.	The legally secured offset site will be actively managed by the landowner with the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist through audits and monitoring. The proposed ecological benefit / gain will be achieved through proven management actions and monitored throughout the active management period (10 years) to deliver the desired environmental outcomes. The OMP will allow provision for adaptive management if required in response to offset monitoring results as required.			
8	Suitable offsets must have transparent governance arrangements including being able to be readily measured, monitored, audited and enforced.	Specific governance arrangements are to be confirmed once offsets have been identified. Site condition will be monitored with details to be included in an OMP. Results will inform the need for additional interventions (adaptive management) with performance targets and trigger points included in the OMP.			

5.3 Identifying required state offsets

Section 4.3 details the state offsets required based on the current estimate of native vegetation impacts. This section provides a summary of progress on the availability of these estimated offset requirements. Offsets will be secured via a third-party. Landholder's willing to protect and manage native vegetation that is modelled by DEECA to contain habitat for the required species will trade their offset credits with AusNet. These will be traded through a registered offset broker.

Based on the current assessment and results of the NVRR, as detailed in Section 4.3 the Project requires:

- General offsets (GHU) totalling 1.864 GHU
- Species offsets for 22 species totalling 542.191 SHU
- Offsets for 1115 Large Trees.

Offset requirements for all GHU and Large Tree offsets can easily be met by sites registered on the NVCR (refer to Appendix B for statements of availability). Of the 542.191 SHU required, all SHU requirements can be met through a combination of securing credits from registered offset sites and offset sites that have been located and need to be registered. Efforts to identify state offsets as outlined in Section 5.1 have resulted in:

- The identification of nine new offset sites assessed by a DEECA accredited offset site assessor to confirm eligibility to progress with the sites for future registrations through preparation of a memorandum of understanding with each landholder.
- Confirmation that the remaining[1] SHU requirements are available for purchase direct from the NVCR (refer to Appendix B for statements of availability).
- The identification of other offset sites that can provide remaining SHU requirements.
- Site co-location for GSM to meet both state and Commonwealth requirements (Table 5-1).

Table 5-4 provides an overall summary of the proposed state offset availability for the Project, based on a) sites either currently registered and available on the NVCR or b) offset sites that have been identified as being suitable for future registration.

Table 5-5 provides a tabulated summary of the species offsets available at each of the sites.

[1] remaining SHU refers to the balance of SHU required after the securing of the new offset sites including any co-location with Commonwealth sites to meet direct offsets.

Table 5-4. Summary of offset availability for all state offsets

Offset stage	Habitat Units provided
Nine new unregistered offset sites have been identified to supply state offsets. Option agreements are being used to secure offsets prior to project approval based on the conservative assessment. Available offset sites are generally in Catchment Management Areas: ▪ Glenelg Hopkins ▪ Corangamite ▪ Melbourne Water ▪ Local Government Areas ▪ Pyrenees Shire ▪ Golden Plains Shire ▪ Greater Geelong ▪ Moorabool Shire ▪ Moyne Shire.	Species Habitat Units at the nine sites[2] include: ▪ Austral Tobacco – 26.18 SHU ▪ Bacchus Marsh Wattle – 19.406 SHU ▪ Ben Major Grevillea – 15.591 SHU ▪ Brisbane Ranges Grevillea – 3.216 SHU ▪ Brittle Greenhood - 12.027 SHU ▪ Brooker's Gum – 26.192 SHU ▪ Fragrant Saltbush – 25.801 SHU ▪ Golden Bush-pea – 4.536 SHU ▪ Golden Sun-moth – 61.552 SHU ▪ Gum-barked Bundy –3.623 SHU ▪ Heath Spear-grass – 20.205 SHU ▪ Matted Flax-lily – 44.51 SHU ▪ Melbourne Yellow-gum – 28.858 SHU ▪ Shiny Leionema – 12.679 SHU ▪ Small Golden-moths – 8.606 SHU ▪ Smooth Grevillea – 23.374 SHU ▪ Spotted Hyacinth-orchid – 22.321 SHU ▪ Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon – 16.045 SHU ▪ Werribee Blue box – 2.07 SHU ▪ Wombat Bush-pea – 14.533 SHU ▪ Yarra Gum – 57.812 SHU
Registered on the Native Vegetation Credit Register (NVCR). Offset credits currently available to be purchased from offset sites registered on the NVCR as of 3rd July 2025 and 4th September 2025. Refer to Appendix B for statements of availability of offset credits for GHU (4th September 2025) and SHU (3rd July 2025) identified. All offset sites that supply General Habitat Units are located in Catchment Management Areas: ▪ North central ▪ Wimmera ▪ Corangamite ▪ Melbourne Water Local Government Areas: ▪ Pyrenees Shire ▪ Hepburn Shire ▪ Ballarat City ▪ Moorabool Shire ▪ Melton City ▪ Northern Grampians Shire.	General Habitat Units: ▪ 1.864 GHU to be secured in either Corangamite, North Central, Melbourne, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority or Ballarat City, Hepburn Shire, Melton City, Moorabool Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Pyrenees Shire Councils. Species Habitat Units (showing the balance required for species where the nine sites do not provide sufficient SHU): ▪ Ben Major Grevillea – 2.551 SHU. There are two sites that can supply 3.591 SHU. ▪ Golden Sun-moth – 26.144 SHU. There are eleven sites that can supply 93.973 SHU. ▪ Goldfields Grevillea – 33.755 SHU. There are ten sites on the NVCR that can supply 64.484 SHU. ▪ Matted Flax-Lily – 11.037 SHU. There are twelve sites that can supply 56.89 SHU. ▪ Wombat Bush-pea – 5.824 SHU. There are five sites that can supply 36.469 SHU. ▪ Yarra Gum – 20.743 SHU. There are thirteen sites that can supply 82.776 SHU.

[2] Available SHU identified across all nine sites is maximum available or capped at Project SHU requirements where they match species requirements

Offset stage	Habitat Units provided
	Large Trees ▪ All 1172 Large Tree offsets will be secured using a mix of GHU and SHU. The balance of all Large Tree credits not provided from offset site currently in progress will be purchased off market.

Table 5-5. An outline of SHU offsets provided at each site

Offset Site Details	Total Species Habitat Units available[3]
Offset Site 1 can provide species offsets for a total of seven species	▪ Brittle Greenhood – 26.228 SHU ▪ Fragrant Saltbush - 26.449 SHU ▪ Golden Bush-pea – 26.243 SHU ▪ Gum-barked Bundy – 26.268 SHU ▪ Melbourne Yellow-gum – 26.268 SHU ▪ Shiny Leionema – 26.277 SHU ▪ Smooth Grevillea – 23.374 SHU ▪ Yarra Gum – 26.258 SHU.
Offset Site 2 can provide species offsets for a total of ten species	▪ Austral Tobacco – 15.916 SHU ▪ Bacchus Marsh Wattle 15.955 SHU ▪ Brisbane Ranges Grevillea – 9.462 SHU ▪ Brittle Greenhood – 15.958 SHU ▪ Fragrant Saltbush - 15.955 SHU ▪ Golden Bush-pea – 12.944 SHU ▪ Gum-barked Bundy – 11.966 SHU ▪ Heath Spear-grass – 6.665 SHU ▪ Matted Flax-lily – 15.955 SHU ▪ Melbourne Yellow-gum – 15.955 SHU ▪ Shiny Leionema – 15.962 SHU ▪ Yarra Gum – 15.955 SHU.
Offset Site 3 can provide species offsets for a total of eight species	▪ Austral Tobacco -10.746 SHU ▪ Bacchus Marsh Wattle 10.546 SHU ▪ Fragrant Saltbush - 10.746 SHU ▪ Golden Sun Moth – 11.790 SHU ▪ Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon – 11.735 SHU ▪ Heath Spear-grass – 10.746 SHU ▪ Melbourne Yellow-gum – 15.955 SHU ▪ Small Golden Moths – 10.75 SHU.
Offset Site 4 can provide species offsets for a total of three species	▪ Ben Major Grevillea – 15.591 SHU ▪ Golden Sun Moth – 17.004 SHU ▪ Yarra Gum – 15.599 SHU.
Offset Site 5 can provide species offsets for one species	▪ Spotted Hyacinth-orchid - 52 SHU.
Offset Site 6 can provide species offsets for a total of eleven species.	▪ Austral Tobacco 10.703 SHU ▪ Bacus Marsh Wattle – 6.264 ▪ Brittle Greenhood 10.082 ▪ Fragrant Saltbush – 10.074

[3] Not all SHU available at each offset site is required to meet the offset requirements for the Project

Offset Site Details	Total Species Habitat Units available[3]
	▪ Golden Sun Moth – 11.792 ▪ Heath Spear-grass – 6.75 SHU ▪ Matted Flax-lily – 10.074 SHU ▪ Melbourne Yellow Gum 10.074 SHU ▪ Shiny Leionema – 9.699 SHU ▪ Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon – 11.683 SHU ▪ Werribee Blue-box – 6.397 SHU.
Offset Site 7 can provide species offsets for one species	▪ Brookers Gum – 102.987 SHU
Offset Site 8 can provide species offsets for two species	▪ Brookers Gum – 14.803 SHU ▪ Wombat Bush-pea – 14.533 SHU.
Offset Site 9 can provide species offsets for three species	▪ Matted Flax-lily – 18.481 SHU ▪ Melbourne Yellow-gum – 18.121 SHU ▪ Small Golden Moths – 14.561 SHU.

5.4 Offset security mechanisms

Offset sites will be legally secured to support the ongoing protection of the vegetation offset area. In Victoria, this can be achieved through an agreement under one of the following specified Acts:

- Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* – An agreement under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* would need to be established with the relevant responsible Authority
- Section 3A of the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* – A security agreement under this Act can be arranged through Trust for Nature
- Section 69 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* – DEECA is responsible for security agreements under this Act.

Offsets can be first party, for example establishing an offset site on land owned by the proponent, or third party in which the proponent would purchase native vegetation credits from an external party. All state and Commonwealth offsets will be secured under one of the identified mechanisms noted above. The Section 69 agreement can be used to satisfy both state and federal requirements where co-location of offsets is considered. This requires consultation and approval from DEECA and DCCEEW. In some instances, offsets are secured through an agreement under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as an interim measure and as part of a permit condition, whilst additional security under either Section 3A of the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* or Section 69 of the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* is in progress.

When more details are known about proposed offset sites, the most appropriate security mechanism can then be determined. Evidence of how the offset have been secured will be provided to the Minister prior to the removal of native vegetation in accordance with all approval conditions for the Project.

5.5 Ongoing steps to secure offsets

Ongoing steps will be undertaken to continue to secure suitable offset sites for the Commonwealth and state offset matters.

For the Commonwealth offsets, once the amount of vegetation clearance is finalised and those areas still remaining to be surveyed have been surveyed, then calculations can be finalised. Following this, the quantity of required offsets will be compared against the secured sites to confirm the final direct offsets, are in accordance with EPBC approval conditions.

The following points outline the steps to secure direct offsets for the Project:

- Identify any further opportunities to reduce the impacts on native vegetation in areas where impacts overlay with HIMs, including progressing with further surveys where modelled data has been used to inform the assessment and offsets (where access has been constrained) to inform further design refinements and reduce offset requirements, micro-siting infrastructure and access tracks where possible to reduce impacts further at key locations (in progress).
- Continue work with the offset broker and ecologist(s) to review opportunities to generate additional SHU available at existing sites. This includes identifying areas that do not currently meet the condition thresholds to generate SHUs but may be eligible in the future following targeted management actions (in progress).
- Continue work with the offset broker and ecologist(s) to identify potential new sites where state or Commonwealth offsets may be sourced, including where suitable habitat occurs outside of the HIMs that may be suitable for an offset site (or alternative offset) to generate SHU for those species.
- Identify opportunities for co-location of state-based Species Offsets with Commonwealth offset sites(s) for the same species, or co-location where multiple MNES occur on a single site. This includes consideration of and demonstration that any proposed management actions are complementary and not to the detriment of any co-located values at the offset site (in progress).

5.6 Alternative offsets

AusNet will consider the alternative offsets pathway as a risk management approach. This is to manage any changes that could occur during the EES process (e.g. route refinements), which directly affects the final biodiversity impacts and associated offsets requirements, that are currently under investigation and will need to be secured for the Project. An overview of the process for state and Commonwealth alternative offsets is provided.

5.6.1 Commonwealth

The Commonwealth offset policy states 'Direct offsets are an essential component of a suitable offsets package. A minimum of 90 per cent of the offset requirements for any given impact must be met through direct offsets'. Therefore, alternative offsets consideration applies to a maximum of 10 per cent of the offset requirements.

Where a direct offset cannot be secured, any alternative offset must demonstrate an overall benefit to the impacted matter. This may include identifying and funding a research project for the target MNES. All alternative offsets for MNES must be developed in consultation with and approved by DCCEEW.

5.6.2 State

The Victorian *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Section 11.3) sets out the steps required to identify species offsets prior to considering alternative offset arrangements:

- If a suitable species offset cannot be identified, an applicant may consider further steps to avoid or minimise impacts to reduce offset requirements (note Section 2.1 of this OMS describes all the avoidance and minimisation of impacts conducted)

- Appoint an ecologist to review offset requirements and / or species habitat units available at an offset site (Section 5.3)
- Consider activities or alternative management actions that will generate additional gain for the species at an offset site
- Contact landowners or land managers of sites that may be able to be used to generate species habitat units that meet the offset requirements (Section 5 and Section 5.1.2).

If the above actions do not address the inability to secure a species offset, the applicant can propose an alternative offset for the species habitat. The alternative offset must generate direct habitat.

All alternative offsets for species offsets must be developed in consultation with and approved by DEECA.

AusNet will be following the process outlined in this guideline, should alternative species offsets be required.

5.7 Offset Management Plan steps

Table 5-6 and Table 5-7 outline the steps for AusNet to secure offsets for both Commonwealth and state impacts. These steps will be confirmed in consultation with the relevant Commonwealth and state regulators.

Table 5-6. Steps for the Offset Management Strategy for Commonwealth offsets

Steps	Activity	Responsible Party
1	Offset requirements determination and review of offsets availability on the open market via third party offsets.	AusNet / offset broker
	Identification of residual impacts to MNES and calculate offsets required.	AusNet
	Assess potential sites with regard to specified offset requirements and review compliance with DCCEEW policy.	AusNet
	Prepare Offset Strategy for Project in accordance with Scoping Requirements.	AusNet
	Confirm offset requirements based on completion of surveys and finalised design and confirm with DCCEEW.	AusNet / Commonwealth
2	Reporting to DCCEEW and seek approval of the offset site(s) or agreed approach.	AusNet / Commonwealth
	Negotiation with landowners of offset sites or approved credit providers.	Landowner / AusNet
	Enter into a memorandum of understanding with relevant landowner(s) for offset sites to be secured.	Landowner / AusNet
	Prepare OMP for the offset site(s) or agreed approach.	Landowner / AusNet / Commonwealth
	Preparation and execution of a legal binding agreement.	Landowner / AusNet
	Finalise OMP and formalise with signing of contracts.	Landowner / AusNet / Commonwealth
	Secure offset site with on title agreement and provide evidence to DCCEEW.	Landowner /AusNet
3 (Following construction completion)	Formal reporting to DCCEEW as per monitoring program and approval conditions.	Commonwealth

Table 5-7. Steps for Offset Management Strategy for state offsets

Steps	Activity	Responsible Party
1	Offset requirements determination and review of offsets availability on the open market via third party offsets.	AusNet / offset broker
	Prepare Offset Strategy for Project in accordance with Scoping Requirements and reviewed by DCCEEW and DEECA.	AusNet
2	Reporting to DEECA and seek approval of the offset site(s) or agreed approach.	AusNet / state
	Negotiation with landowners of offset sites or approved credit providers.	Landowner / AusNet
	Enter into a memorandum of understanding with relevant landowner(s) for offset sites to be secured.	Landowner / AusNet
	Prepare OMP for the offset site(s).	Landowner / AusNet
	Preparation and execution of a legal binding agreement.	Landowner / AusNet
	Secure offset site with on title agreement and provide evidence to DEECA.	AusNet
	Registration of offset on the native vegetation credit register.	AusNet

Steps	Activity	Responsible Party
3 (Following construction completion)	Offset reconciliation for final offset requirements will be undertaken by AusNet in consultation with DEECA.	AusNet
	On-selling of any excess offsets.	AusNet

6. Offset implementation

Subject to the Project being approved and approval of the Offset Management Strategy, Offset Management Plans (OMPs) will be prepared according to DCCEEW's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (DCCEEW 2024) and in consultation with the manager of the proposed offset site, relevant stakeholders and approval authorities. The OMP will outline specific, measurable environmental outcomes that detail the nature of the conservation gain to be achieved for each MNES. Each OMP will detail the management actions period and implementation including timeframes, monitoring, reporting and other relevant actions over the active management period (10 years depending on the MNES and details of the offset site).

For any offsets sites where state and Commonwealth offsets are co-located on the one site, OMPs will be prepared in accordance with DCCEEW's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (DCCEEW 2024) and DEECA's Management Standards for Native Vegetation Offset Sites (DEECA 2024) and will require approval from both DCCEEW and DEECA.

7. Conclusion

For this Project, environmental offsets are expected to be necessary under both Commonwealth legislation (EPBC Act) and state legislation (Planning and Environment Act), overseen by DCCEEW and DEECA.

The following summarises the Project offset requirements based on a conservative estimate of impacts, , including reliance on modelled data in areas yet to be surveyed due to land access constraints, and conservative EPBC offset calculator inputs. As more areas are surveyed and as the design is finalised, calculations will be updated to confirm actual offsets required for the Project. The required offsets are anticipated to be reduced compared to those currently calculated.

Commonwealth offsets:

- 73.01ha - Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (worst-case scenario – field (59.11ha) and modelled (13.81ha))[4].
- 61.56ha - Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (worst-case scenario – field (55.16ha) and modelled (6.40ha)).
- 55.16ha - White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland (worst-case scenario – field (8.94ha) and modelled (46.23ha))[5].
- 125.22ha - Golden Sun Moth
- 88.28ha - Southern Greater Glider
- 28.80ha - Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon
- 6.30ha - Striped Legless Lizard habitat

It is important to note that the above Commonwealth offsets present a worst-case scenario for TECs where modelled data has been considered where access is not currently available to complete surveys. However, the modelled extent is significantly reduced compared to the previous version of this OMS, such that impacts associated with modelled impact areas provide a limited contribution to the overall calculation. As such, impact estimates are considered to be more closely aligned with what is likely to be the final impact extent for these TECs. For fauna species no modelled data has been used however there has been an assumption that they occupy the field mapped habitat, although this has not been confirmed by survey.

State offsets:

- General Habitat Units (1.864) and 57 large trees
- Species Habitat Units totalling approximately 542.191 comprising 22 species with 1115 large trees.

AusNet will secure available offsets through the registration of new sites and through offsets available on the NVCR through a qualified broker to meet all project requirements (state and Commonwealth). AusNet continues to progress the following steps to reduce offset requirements:

1. Undertake surveys when further access becomes available in areas currently reliant on modelled data. Noting all land will be surveyed as an EPR requirement (BD1, BD8) if and when the Project is approved
2. Use new survey information to inform design refinements, establish no-go zones to further reduce project impacts (BD1, BD8).

[4] The worse-case scenario total offset area 73.01is directly from the EPBC Act calculator, due to the nature of rounding in the calculator, discrepancies do arise when calculating field mapped and modelled offset amounts separately to provide this breakdown of numbers, as depicted here and Table 4-1.

[5] The offset area for the modelled impact extent has been calculated based on 4.19ha which arises from subtracting the field mapped impact extent of 0.81ha from the worst-case scenario impact extent of 5ha.

3. Engagement with both state and Commonwealth agencies to confirm actual offset requirements.
4. Secure all required offsets in accordance with state and Commonwealth approval conditions and timeframes.

In conclusion, the strategy provides a summary of the indicative offset requirements for the Project under both Commonwealth and state legislation. This satisfies the scoping requirements for the Project to submit an OMS and, together with the individual OMPs for the offset sites, will meet the requirements of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy for submitting an 'Offset Proposal'.

The Project is committed to minimising its impact on native vegetation and enhancing biodiversity through an effective offset management strategy. While AusNet is keen to further reduce its impacts to native vegetation and MNES to the greatest extent practicable it is acknowledged that any residual impacts that cannot be avoided must be offset. By adhering to this strategy, the Project will contribute to the conservation of Victoria's unique biodiversity while supporting the transition to renewable energy.

8. References

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Appendix A. Proposed offset calculator inputs

The offset values and calculations provided within this section include worst-case scenarios for TEC impacts. As more areas are surveyed, figures relating to impacts and potential impacts will be updated. Table A-1 to Table A-7 outline the values used in the draft offset calculations, to provide an early indication of the likely offset amounts anticipated to be required at this stage.

Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia TEC

Table A-1. Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator —Area of impact	7.56ha	A worst-case impact area has been provided. At this stage 6.12ha has been confirmed as impacted, the remaining 1.43ha identified via desktop is yet to be surveyed.
Impact calculator — Quality of impacted area	6	Quality score is based on the area-weighted average of the field Vegetation Quality Assessment scores for the impacted patches of the TEC.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	4.54 adjusted hectares	As per the calculator.
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	Landowners will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The TEC is found in all 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to determine which of these values to use (range from 1.23 to 4.18).
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.
Offset calculator – Start Area	73.01ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	6	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality same to impact site has been used.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	6	As above.
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	7	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a one-point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this gain, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Landowner / DEECA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities to improve site condition may include fencing to keep out grazing livestock, pest management and revegetation works as required and to be determined in the OMP. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset site is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Percentage of impact offset	100%	

Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain TEC

Table A-2. Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator – –Area of impact	5.58ha	A worst-case impact area has been provided. At this stage 5.00ha has been confirmed as impacted, and 0.58ha of modelled habitat impacted in areas yet to be surveyed.
Impact calculator – Quality of impacted area	4	Quality score is based on the area-weighted average of the field Vegetation Quality Assessment scores for the impacted patches of the TEC.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	2.23 adjusted hectares	As per the calculator..
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	Landowners will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The grassland is found in 5 of the 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to determine which of these values to use (range from 1.23 to 4.18).
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.
Offset calculator – Start Area	61.56ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality same to impact site has been used.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	4	As above.
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	5	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a one-point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this gain, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Landowner / DECCA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities may include fencing to keep out grazing livestock. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset site is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
Percentage of impact offset	100%	

White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland TEC

Table A-3. White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator – –Area of impact	5.00ha	An estimated worst-case impact area has been provided. At this stage 5.00ha has been estimated to be impacted.
Impact calculator –Quality of impacted area	4	Quality score is based on the area-weighted average of the field Vegetation Quality Assessment scores for the impacted patches of the TEC.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	2.00 adjusted hectares	As per the calculator..
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	Landowners will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The TEC is found in 5 of the 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to determine which of these values to use (range from 1.23 to 4.18).
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.
Offset calculator – Start Area	55.16ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality same to impact site has been used.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	4	As above.
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	5	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a one-point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this gain, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Landowner / DEECA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities may include fencing to keep out grazing livestock. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset site is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
Percentage of impact offset	100%	

Golden Sun Moth

Table A-4. Golden Sun Moth habitat

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator – Area of impact	21.48ha	21.48ha of field mapped potential habitat impacted.
Impact calculator – Quality of impacted area	4	The site condition was scored as one out of three (1/3) based on consideration of the suitable habitat published for the threatened species (DEWHA 2009) and other survey data collected within the Golden Sun Moth habitat within the Project Area. The site context was also scored as one out of three (1/3) based on the size of the habitat patches and their connectivity with larger patches of habitat for Golden Sun Moth discussed above. The species stocking rate was scored as two out of four (2/4) based on the fact that during opportunistic surveys, approximately 40 individuals were recorded in areas of unimproved pasture between Elmhurst and Lexton. Taking these quality inputs into account, the 'Impact calculator - quantum of impact – quality' (i.e., the quality of habitat to be impacted) was scored as four out of ten (4/10) overall.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	8.59 adjusted hectares	As per the calculator.
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	As AusNet will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The species is found in all 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to determine which of these values to use (range from 1.23 to 4.18).
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset site is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset site is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.
Offset calculator – Start Area	125.22ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed. Refer above for some justification of quality, but this will be expanded on later.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed.
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	5	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, a one point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Landowner / DEECA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities include managing grazing pressure on habitat, restricting shrub and tree growth to prevent shade out of habitat, preventing weed invasion and conducting breeding surveys (flying adults) to confirm population persistence. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset mechanism is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
Percentage of impact offset	100.00%	

Southern Greater Glider

Table A-5. Southern Greater Glider habitat

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator – –Area of impact	13.71ha	13.71ha of field mapped potential habitat impacted.
Impact calculator –Quality of impacted area	4	The site condition was scored as two out of three (2/3) based on consideration of the suitable habitat published for the threatened species (DCCEEW 2022) and other survey data collected within the Southern Greater Glider habitat within the Project Area. The site context was scored as one out of three (1/3) based on the size of the habitat patches and the degree of fragmentation with larger patches of habitat for Southern Greater Glider discussed above and the nearby domestic occupation. The species stocking rate was scored as one out of four (1/4) based on the fact it was not recorded during targeted survey within the Project Area – it is considered a potential visitor to this habitat. Taking these quality inputs into account, the 'Impact calculator - quantum of impact – quality' (i.e., the quality of habitat to be impacted) was scored as four out of ten (4/10) overall.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	5.48 adjusted hectares	As per the calculator, using endangered status and 13.71 as impacted area.
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	As AusNet will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The species is found in 2 of the 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to determine which of these values to use (1.23 or 3.19).
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset site is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset site is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.
Offset calculator – Start Area	88.28ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed. Refer above for some justification of quality, but this will be expanded on later.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed.

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	5	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a one-point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Offset Landowner / DEECA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities may include forage tree and hollow assessments, restricting fuel reduction burns, feral predator control, population surveys to confirm habitat usage. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset site is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
Percentage of impact offset	100.00%	

Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon

Table A-6. Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator – –Area of impact	3.48ha	3.48ha of field mapped potential habitat impacted.
Impact calculator –Quality of impacted area	3	The site condition was scored as one out of three (1/3) based on consideration of the suitable habitat published for the threatened species (DCCEEW 2023) and other survey data collected within the Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon habitat within the Project Area. The site context was also scored as one out of three (1/3) based on the size of the habitat patches and their connectivity with larger patches of habitat for Victorian Grassland Earless Dragon. The species stocking rate was scored as one out of four (1/4) based on the fact it is unlikely the areas of potential habitat in the Project Area support the species. Taking these quality inputs into account, the 'Impact calculator - quantum of impact – quality' (i.e., the quality of habitat to be impacted) was scored as three out of ten (3/10) overall.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	1.04 adjusted hectares	As per the calculator, using critically endangered status and 3.48 as impacted area.
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	As AusNet will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The species is found in 1 of the 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to confirm if the 4.18 value should be used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset site is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset site is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Offset calculator – Start Area	28.80ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	3	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	3	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed.
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a one-point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Offset Landowner / DEECA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities to improve site condition may include fencing, weed and pest animal control, restriction of inappropriate fire regimes and agricultural chemical application, invertebrate prey source assessments, vegetation condition and MNES monitoring. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset site is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
Percentage of impact offset	100%	

Striped Legless Lizard

Table A-7. Striped Legless Lizard

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Impact calculator – –Area of impact	1.44ha	1.44ha of field mapped potential habitat impacted.
Impact calculator –Quality of impacted area	3	The site condition was scored as one out of three (1/3) based on consideration of the suitable habitat published for the threatened species (DSEWPaC 2011) and other survey data collected within the Striped Legless Lizard habitat within the Project Area. The site context was also scored as one out of three (1/3) based on the size of the habitat patches and their connectivity with larger patches of habitat for Striped Legless Lizard. The species stocking rate was scored as one out of four (1/4) based on the fact it was not recorded during targeted survey and is unlikely to utilise the areas of potential habitat in the Project Area. Taking these quality inputs into account, the 'Impact calculator - quantum of impact – quality' (i.e., the quality of habitat to be impacted) was scored as three out of ten (3/10) overall.
Impact calculator – Total quantum of impact	0.43 adjusted ha	As per the calculator.
Risk-related time horizon (max. 20 years)	20	
Offset calculator – Time horizon - Time until ecological benefit	10 years	As AusNet will be actively applying management actions to improve habitat conditions at the offset site(s), 10 years has been used.
Offset calculator – Future area and quality without offset – Risk of loss without offset	0	Will use the 'Guidance for deriving 'Risk of Loss' estimates when evaluating biodiversity offset proposal under the EPBC Act' (Maseyk 2017). The species if found in 4 of the 6 Local Government Areas that the Project crosses. Will need to determine which of these values to use (range from 1.23 to 4.18).

Offset assessment guide attribute	Calculator input	Justification
Offset calculator – Future area and quality with offset – Risk of loss with offset	0	As the specific offset site is not currently known, the risk of loss is assumed to be 0%.
Confidence in result – Averted loss of offset	N/A	As the specific offset site is not currently known, not using averted loss in preliminary offset calculations.
Offset calculator – Start Area	6.30ha	Area required for offset to meet quantum of impact.
Offset calculator – Start quality	3	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed.
Offset calculator – Future quality without offset (1-10)	3	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a start quality at the level of the impacted area has been assumed.
Offset calculator – Future quality with offset (1-10)	4	As the specific offset site is not currently known, a one-point gain relevant to the offset site has been assumed. To achieve this, an OMP will be developed in consultation with each Offset Landowner / DEECA / council and approved by DCCEEW with the aim of maintaining and monitoring the offset site to deliver a gain for the MNES over the management period. General management activities to improve site condition may include fencing, weed and pest animal control, restriction of inappropriate fire regimes and agricultural chemical application, invertebrate prey source assessments, vegetation condition and MNES monitoring. Regular audits would also be undertaken by the approval holder to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the activities.
Confidence in result – Change in quality	70%	As the specific offset site is not currently known, an assumed confidence of 70% has been used in the absence of any site-specific due diligence being undertaken.
Percentage of impact offset	100%	

Appendix B. Statement of offset availability

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 04/09/2025 10:26 **Report ID: 31668**

What was searched for?

General offset

General habitat units	Strategic biodiversity value	Large trees	Vicinity (Catchment Management Authority or Municipal district)	
1.864	0.272	1172	CMA	Corangamite
			or CMA	North Central
			or CMA	Melbourne Water
			or CMA	Wimmera
			or LGA	Ballarat City
			or LGA	Hepburn Shire
			or LGA	Melton City
			or LGA	Moorabool Shire
			or LGA	Northern Grampians Shire
			or LGA	Pyrenees Shire

Details of available native vegetation credits on 04 September 2025 10:26

These sites meet your requirements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0677	3.060	1320	Melbourne Water	Whittlesea City	No	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
BBA-0678	27.700	2422	Melbourne Water	Nillumbik Shire	No	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
BBA-2871	13.107	1586	Melbourne Water	Yarra Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3723_01	45.333	1632	Wimmera	West Wimmera Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
VC_CFL-3812_01	18.188	4716	Corangamite	Colac Otway Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

These sites meet your requirements using alternative arrangements for general offsets.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements when applying the alternative arrangements as listed in section 11.2 of the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	GHU	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3792_01	14.025	1235	Melbourne Water	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation
Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation
Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 03/07/2025 11:53 **Report ID: 30536**

What was searched for?

Species offset

Common Name (*Scientific name*)	Species habitat units
Ben Major Grevillea *(Grevillea floripendula)*	1
with number of large trees	0

Details of available native vegetation credits on 03 July 2025 11:53

These sites meet all your requirements for species offsets.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-3027	126	Glenelg Hopkins	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Ben Major Grevillea	Grevillea floripendula	1.272

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-3031	15	North Central	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Ben Major Grevillea	Grevillea floripendula	2.319

These sites meet some of your requirements for species offsets, you may be able to meet all your requirements across multiple sites.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet some of your offset requirements.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no potential sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements.

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation
Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation
Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 03/07/2025 12:00 **Report ID: 30538**

What was searched for?

Species offset

Common Name (*Scientific name*)	**Species habitat units**
Golden Sun Moth *(Synemon plana)*	1
with number of large trees	0

Details of available native vegetation credits on 03 July 2025 12:00

These sites meet all your requirements for species offsets.

Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-3002	0	Wimmera	Northern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Golden Sun Moth		Synemon plana			4.749	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-3018	1	Wimmera	Northern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Golden Sun Moth		Synemon plana			1.034	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-3027	232	Glenelg Hopkins	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Golden Sun Moth		Synemon plana			1.445	

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
TFN-C2031	177	Wimmera	Northern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	20.189

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3076_01	46	North Central	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	9.710

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3693_01	579	Glenelg Hopkins	Ararat Rural City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	1.236

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3697_01	0	Corangamite	Golden Plains Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	19.796

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3727_01	24	Glenelg Hopkins	Ararat Rural City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	1.833

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3785_01	0	North Central	Mount Alexander Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	2.111

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3807_01	62	Glenelg Hopkins	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Golden Sun Moth	Synemon plana	5.685

These sites meet some of your requirements for species offsets, you may be able to meet all your requirements across multiple sites.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet some of your offset requirements.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no potential sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet your offset requirements.

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation
Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation
Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 03/07/2025 12:06 **Report ID: 30540**

What was searched for?

Species offset

Common Name (*Scientific name*)		Species habitat units
Goldfields Grevillea *(Grevillea dryophylla)*		1
with number of large trees	0	

Details of available native vegetation credits on 03 July 2025 12:06

These sites meet all your requirements for species offsets.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0741	0	North Central	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			1.849	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-3002	0	Wimmera	Northern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			4.436	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-3031	86	North Central	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			2.739	

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
TFN-C1970	0	North Central	Greater Bendigo City	No	Yes	No	Contact NVOR
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			5.058	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
TFN-C2031	177	Wimmera	Northern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			18.493	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
VC_CFL-3076_01	46	North Central	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			8.672	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
VC_CFL-3785_01	0	North Central	Mount Alexander Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			1.938	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
VC_CFL-3815_01	61	North Central	Central Goldfields Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			7.666	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
VC_CLO-2451_01	13	North Central	Greater Bendigo City	No	Yes	No	Ethos
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			1.866	

These sites meet some of your requirements for species offsets, you may be able to meet all your requirements across multiple sites.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet some of your offset requirements.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3701_01	18	Goulburn Broken, North Central	Greater Bendigo City	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Goldfields Grevillea		Grevillea dryophylla			11.767	

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation
Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation
Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

This report is **not evidence** that an offset has been secured. An offset is only secured when the units have been purchased and allocated to a permit or other approval and an allocated credit extract is provided by the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

Date and time: 03/07/2025 12:09 **Report ID: 30541**

What was searched for?

Species offset

Common Name (*Scientific name*)		Species habitat units
Matted Flax-lily *(Dianella amoena)*		1
with number of large trees	0	

Details of available native vegetation credits on 03 July 2025 12:09

These sites meet all your requirements for species offsets.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0115	0	West Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Matted Flax-lily		Dianella amoena			2.659	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-0138	419	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Matted Flax-lily		Dianella amoena			11.590	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-0677	1018	Melbourne Water	Whittlesea City	No	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Matted Flax-lily		Dianella amoena			2.894	

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-2323	86	East Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ethos, VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	5.410

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-2849	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	2.395

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3080_01	94	Corangamite	Golden Plains Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	5.003

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3682_01	0	Melbourne Water	Nillumbik Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	1.814

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3727_01	24	Glenelg Hopkins	Ararat Rural City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	1.584

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3785_01	0	North Central	Mount Alexander Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	1.938

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3797_01	743	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets, Ecocentric, VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	5.935

These sites meet some of your requirements for species offsets, you may be able to meet all your requirements across multiple sites.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet some of your offset requirements.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3820_01	44	Melbourne Water	MELTON CITY	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Matted Flax-lily	Dianella amoena	4.632

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

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Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
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Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

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Date and time: 03/07/2025 12:13 **Report ID: 30544**

What was searched for?

Species offset

Common Name (*Scientific name*)		Species habitat units
Wombat Bush-pea *(Pultenaea reflexifolia)*		1
with number of large trees	0	

Details of available native vegetation credits on 03 July 2025 12:13

These sites meet all your requirements for species offsets.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3744_01	347	Melbourne Water	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Wombat Bush-pea		Pultenaea reflexifolia			1.179	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
VC_CFL-3773_01	540	North Central	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Wombat Bush-pea		Pultenaea reflexifolia			1.303	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
VC_TFN-09554_01	383	North Central	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Wombat Bush-pea		Pultenaea reflexifolia			13.998	

These sites meet some of your requirements for species offsets, you may be able to meet all your requirements across multiple sites.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet some of your offset requirements.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3746_01	563	Melbourne Water	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Wombat Bush-pea	Pultenaea reflexifolia	5.456

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3792_01	1189	Melbourne Water	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Wombat Bush-pea	Pultenaea reflexifolia	14.533

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

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Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au

Report of available native vegetation credits

This report lists native vegetation credits available to purchase through the Native Vegetation Credit Register.

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Date and time: 03/07/2025 12:19 **Report ID: 30546**

What was searched for?

Species offset

Common Name (*Scientific name*)	Species habitat units
Yarra Gum *(Eucalyptus yarraensis)*	1
with number of large trees	0

Details of available native vegetation credits on 03 July 2025 12:19

These sites meet all your requirements for species offsets.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-0115	0	West Gippsland	East Gippsland Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Yarra Gum		Eucalyptus yarraensis			2.665	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-0277	412	Melbourne Water	Mornington Peninsula Shire	No	Yes	No	Abezco, Ethos, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Yarra Gum		Eucalyptus yarraensis			1.402	
Credit Site ID	**LT**	**CMA**	**LGA**	**Land owner**	**Trader**	**Fixed price**	**Broker(s)**
BBA-0677	1018	Melbourne Water	Whittlesea City	No	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink
	Species common name		**Species scientific name**			**SHU**	
	Yarra Gum		Eucalyptus yarraensis			2.912	

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-2849	0	West Gippsland	Wellington Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco, VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	2.395

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
BBA-3027	232	Glenelg Hopkins	Pyrenees Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	1.327

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3080_01	94	Corangamite	Golden Plains Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	5.003

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3682_01	0	Melbourne Water	Nillumbik Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Abezco

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	1.813

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3693_01	257	Glenelg Hopkins	Ararat Rural City	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	1.124

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3807_01	62	Glenelg Hopkins	SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE	Yes	Yes	No	Contact NVOR

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	5.186

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3814_01	522	Glenelg Hopkins	Southern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	12.245

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_TFN-09554_01	383	North Central	Macedon Ranges Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Bio Offsets

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	13.998

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_TFN-C2046_01	1446	Glenelg Hopkins	Southern Grampians Shire	Yes	Yes	No	Ecocentric, Ethos, VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	7.331

These sites meet some of your requirements for species offsets, you may be able to meet all your requirements across multiple sites.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)

There are no sites listed in the Native Vegetation Credit Register that meet some of your offset requirements.

These potential sites are not yet available, land owners may finalise them once a buyer is confirmed.

Credit Site ID	LT	CMA	LGA	Land owner	Trader	Fixed price	Broker(s)
VC_CFL-3820_01	44	Melbourne Water	MELTON CITY	Yes	Yes	No	VegLink

Species common name	Species scientific name	SHU
Yarra Gum	Eucalyptus yarraensis	4.632

LT - Large Trees *CMA - Catchment Management Authority* *LGA - Municipal District or Local Government Authority*

Next steps

If applying for approval to remove native vegetation
Attach this report to an application to remove native vegetation as evidence that your offset requirement is currently available.

If you have approval to remove native vegetation
Below are the contact details for all brokers. Contact the broker(s) listed for the credit site(s) that meet your offset requirements. These are shown in the above tables. If more than one broker or site is listed, you should get more than one quote before deciding which offset to secure.

Broker contact details

Broker Abbreviation	Broker Name	Phone	Email	Website
	Fully traded			
Abezco	Abzeco Pty. Ltd.	(03) 9431 5444	offsets@abzeco.com.au	www.abzeco.com.au
Baw Baw SC	Baw Baw Shire Council	(03) 5624 2411	bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Bio Offsets	Biodiversity Offsets Victoria	0452 161 013	info@offsetsvictoria.com.au	www.offsetsvictoria.com.au
Contact NVOR	Native Vegetation Offset Register	136 186	nativevegetation.offsetregister@deeca.vic.gov.au	www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation
Ecocentric	Ecocentric Environmental Consulting	0410 564 139	ecocentric@me.com	Not avaliable
Ethos	Ethos NRM Pty Ltd	(03) 5153 0037	offsets@ethosnrm.com.au	www.ethosnrm.com.au
IDES	Indigenous Design Environmental Services Pty Ltd	(03) 9437 0555		www.idecological.com.au
Nillumbik SC	Nillumbik Shire Council	(03) 9433 3316	offsets@nillumbik.vic.gov.au	www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au
TFN	Trust for Nature	8631 5888	offsets@tfn.org.au	www.trustfornature.org.au
VegLink	Vegetation Link Pty Ltd	(03) 8578 4250 or 1300 834 546	offsets@vegetationlink.com.au	www.vegetationlink.com.au
Yarra Ranges SC	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	1300 368 333	biodiversityoffsets@yarraranges.vic.gov.au	www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For more information contact the DEECA Customer Service Centre 136 186 or the Native Vegetation Credit Register at nativevegetation.offsetregister@delwp.vic.gov.au