

Biodiversity assessment report

Biodiversity information for applications for permits to remove native vegetation under clause 52.16 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions

Date of issue: 23 November 2016

Time of issue: 11:53:54

Property address 6 GRAND RIDGE EAST MIRBOO NORTH 3871
58 GILES STREET MIRBOO NORTH 3871

Summary of marked native vegetation

Risk-based pathway	Low
Total extent	0.101 ha
Remnant patches	
1	0.101 ha
Location risk	A

See Appendix 1 for risk-based pathway details

Offset requirements

If a permit is granted to remove the marked native vegetation, a requirement to obtain a native vegetation offset will be included in the permit conditions. The offset must meet the following requirements:

Offset type	General offset
Offset amount (general biodiversity equivalence units)	0.020
Offset attributes	
Vicinity	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
Minimum strategic biodiversity score	0.342
Strategic biodiversity score of marked native vegetation	0.428

See Appendix 2 for offset requirements details

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Next steps

This proposal to remove native vegetation must meet the application requirements of the low risk-based pathway and it will be assessed in the low risk-based pathway.

If you wish to remove the marked native vegetation you are required to apply for a permit from your local council.

The Biodiversity assessment report should be submitted with your application for a permit to remove native vegetation you plan to remove, lop or destroy.

The Biodiversity assessment report provides the following information that is required to be provided with your application for a permit to remove native vegetation:

- The location of the site where native vegetation is to be removed.
- The area of the patch of native vegetation and/or the number of any scattered trees to be removed.
- Maps or plans containing information set out in the *Permitted clearing of native vegetation - Biodiversity assessment guidelines*.
- The risk-based pathway of the application for a permit to remove native vegetation.
- The strategic biodiversity score of the native vegetation to be removed.
- The offset requirements should a permit be granted to remove native vegetation.

If you have undertaken any permitted clearing on your property within the last five years contact DELWP to confirm offset requirements.

Additional information is required when submitting an application for a permit to remove native vegetation. Refer to the *Permitted clearing of native vegetation - Biodiversity assessment guidelines* for a full list of application requirements.



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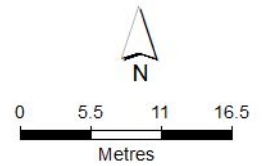
Maps of marked native vegetation

Marked native vegetation to be removed, lopped or destroyed



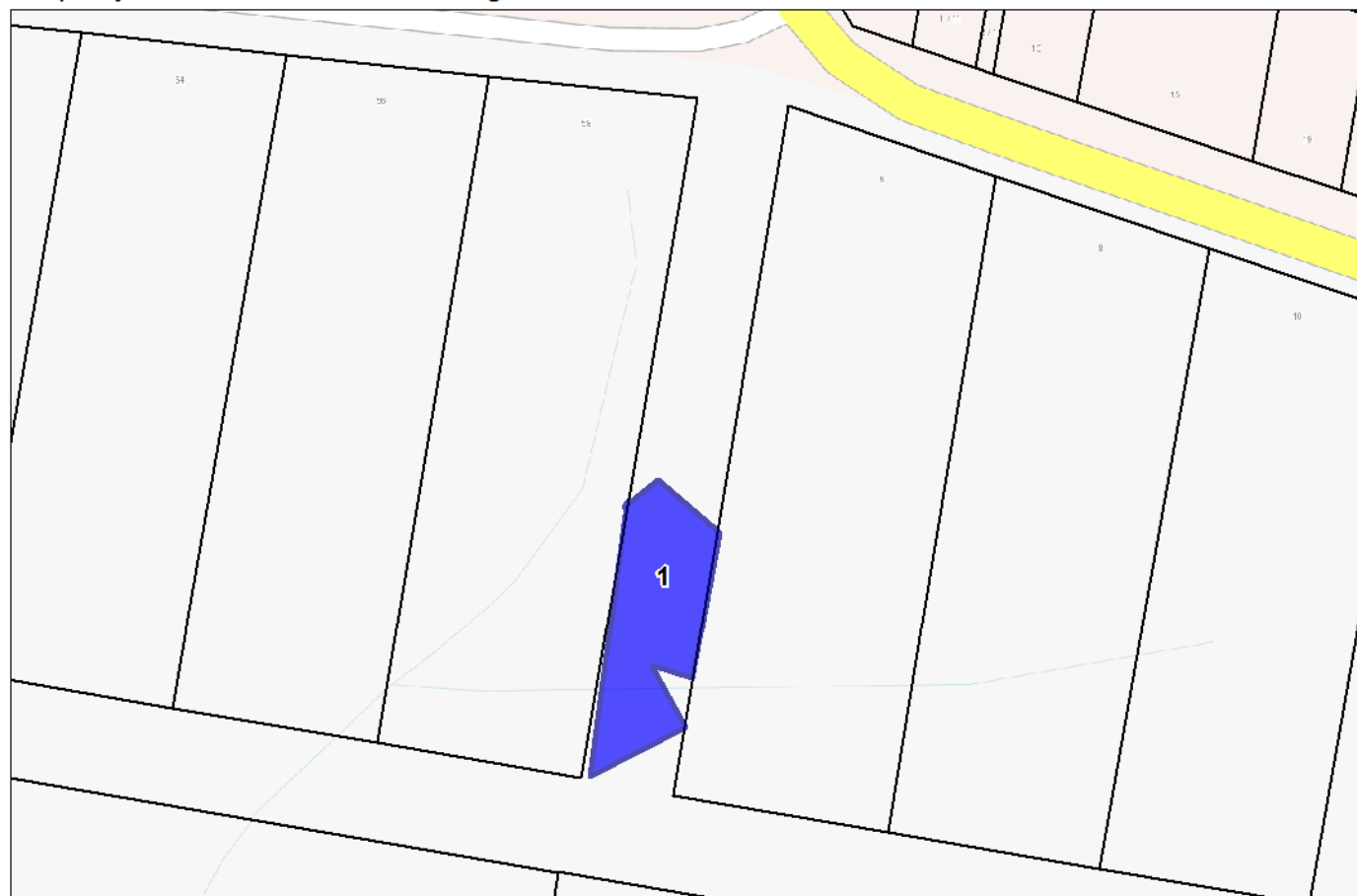
Legend

-  Marked native vegetation
-  Property boundary





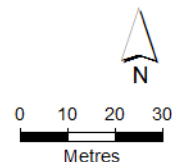
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Property view of marked native vegetation



Legend

-  Marked native vegetation
-  Property boundary



See Appendix 3 for biodiversity information maps

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Obtaining this publication does not guarantee that an application will meet the requirements of clauses 52.16 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions or that a permit to remove native vegetation will be granted.

Notwithstanding anything else contained in this publication, you must ensure that you comply with all relevant laws, legislation, awards or orders and that you obtain and comply with all permits, approvals and the like that affect, are applicable or are necessary to undertake any action to remove, lop or destroy or otherwise deal with any native vegetation or that apply to matters within the scope of clauses 52.16 or 52.17 of the Victoria Planning Provisions.

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Appendix 1 - Risk-based pathway details

Risk-based pathway	Low
Total extent	0.101 ha
Remnant patches	
1	0.101 ha
Location risk	A

Why is the risk-based pathway low?

The following table explains how the risk-based pathway is determined:

Extent	Location A	Location B	Location C
< 0.5 hectares	Low	Low	High
≥ 0.5 hectares and < 1 hectares	Low	Moderate	High
≥ 1 hectares	Moderate	High	High

The marked native vegetation is located entirely within Location A and has a total extent of less than 0.5 hectares.

At this location, native vegetation removal of this size is not expected to have a significant impact on the habitat of any rare or threatened species. As a result, an application for the removal of this native vegetation must meet the requirements of, and will be assessed in, the low risk-based pathway.

For further information on location risk please see *Native vegetation location risk map factsheet*. For information on the determination of the risk-based pathway see *Permitted clearing of native vegetation – Biodiversity assessment guidelines*.

Have you received a planning permit to remove native vegetation in the last five years?

If you have undertaken any permitted clearing on your property within the last five years, the extent of this past clearing must be included in the total extent of your current permit application. The risk-based pathway for your application requirements and assessment pathway is determined using the combined extent of permitted clearing within the last five years and proposed clearing.

If the risk-based pathway determined from this combined extent is low, contact DELWP to confirm offset requirements.

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Appendix 2 - Offset requirements details

If a permit is granted to remove the marked native vegetation the permit condition will include the requirement to obtain a native vegetation offset. This offset must meet the following requirements:

Offset type	General offset
Offset amount (general biodiversity equivalence units)	0.020
Offset attributes	
Vicinity	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
Minimum strategic biodiversity score	0.342
Strategic biodiversity score of marked native vegetation	0.428

Native vegetation to be removed

Total extent (hectares) for calculating habitat hectares	0.101	<p>This is the total area of the marked native vegetation in hectares.</p> <p>The total extent of native vegetation is an input to calculating the habitat hectares of a site and in calculating the general biodiversity equivalence score. Where the marked native vegetation includes scattered trees, each tree is converted to hectares using a standard area calculation of 0.071 hectares per tree.</p>
Condition score*	0.310	<p>This is the weighted average condition score of the marked native vegetation. This condition score has been calculated using the <i>Native vegetation condition map</i>.</p> <p>The condition score of native vegetation is a site-based measure of how close the native vegetation is to its mature natural state, as represented by a benchmark reflecting pre-settlement circumstances. The <i>Native vegetation condition map</i> is a modelled layer based on survey data combined with a benchmark model and a range of other environmental data.</p>
Habitat hectares	0.031	<p>Habitat hectares is a site-based measure that combines extent and condition of native vegetation. The habitat hectares of native vegetation is equal to the current condition of the vegetation (condition score) multiplied by the extent of native vegetation.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Habitat hectares = total extent x condition</p> </div>
Strategic biodiversity score	0.428	<p>This is the weighted average strategic biodiversity score of the marked native vegetation. This strategic biodiversity score has been calculated using the <i>Strategic biodiversity map</i>.</p> <p>The strategic biodiversity score of native vegetation is a measure of the native vegetation's importance for Victoria's biodiversity, relative to other locations across the landscape. The <i>Strategic biodiversity map</i> is a modelled layer that prioritises locations on the basis of rarity and level of depletion of the types of vegetation, species habitats, and condition and connectivity of native vegetation.</p>

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General biodiversity equivalence score	0.013	<p>The general biodiversity equivalence score quantifies the relative overall contribution that the native vegetation to be removed (the marked native vegetation) makes to Victoria's biodiversity. It is calculated as follows:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>General biodiversity equivalence score = habitat hectares × strategic biodiversity score</p> </div>
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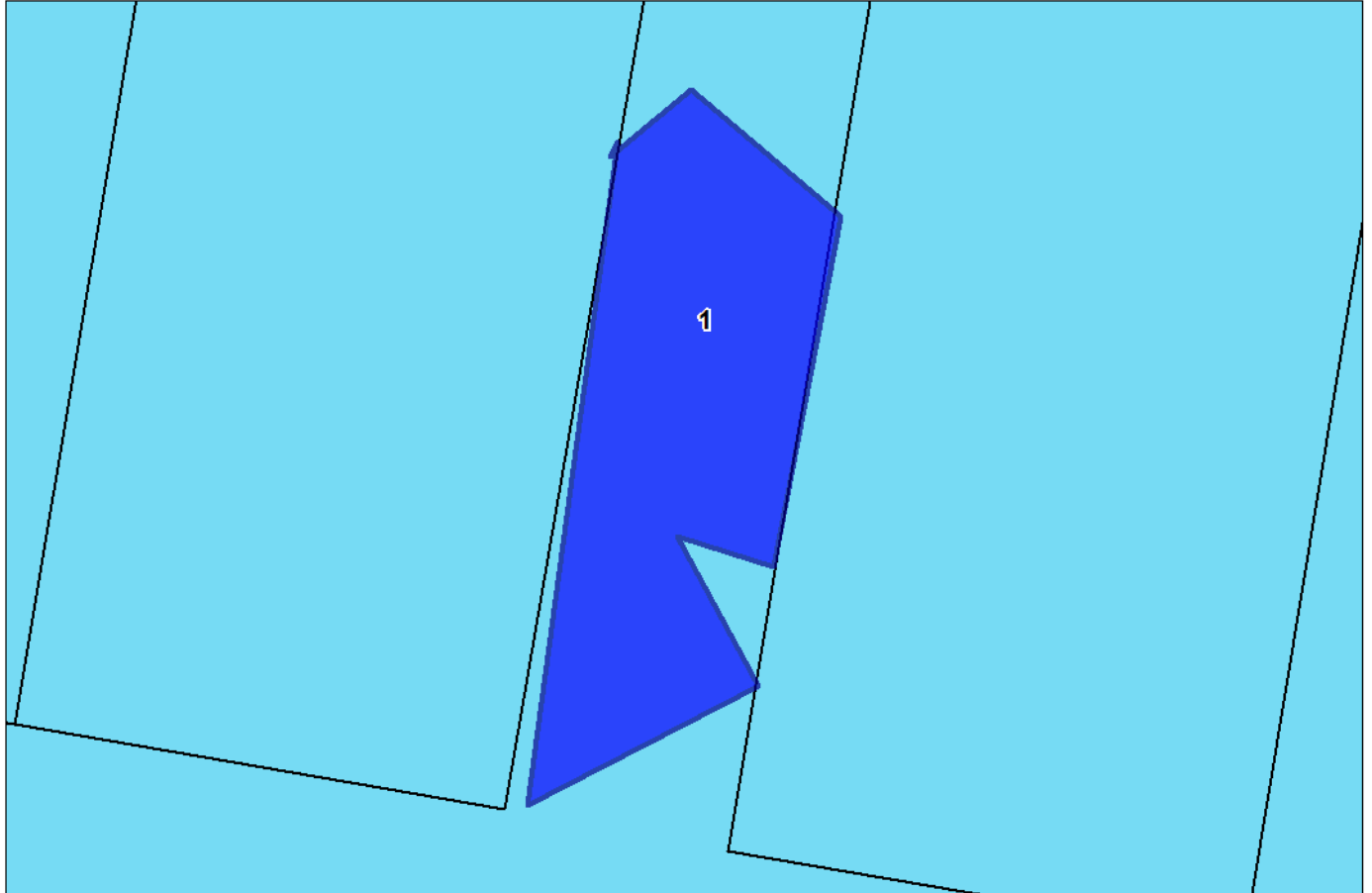
* Offset requirements for partial clearing: If your proposal is to remove parts of the native vegetation in a remnant patch (for example only understorey plants) the condition score must be adjusted. This will require manual editing of the *condition score*, and an update to the following calculations that the biodiversity assessment tool has provided: *habitat hectares*, *general biodiversity equivalence score* and *offset amount*.

Offset requirements		
Offset type	General offset	A general offset is required when a proposal to remove native vegetation is not deemed, by application of the specific-general offset test, to have a significant impact on habitat for any rare or threatened species. All proposals in the low risk-based pathway will require a general offset.
Risk factor for general offsets	1.5	<p>There is a risk that the gain from undertaking the offset will not adequately compensate for the loss from the removal of native vegetation. If this were to occur, despite obtaining an offset, the overall impact from removing native vegetation would result in a loss in the contribution that native vegetation makes to Victoria's biodiversity.</p> <p>To address the risk of offsets failing, an offset risk factor is applied to the calculated loss to biodiversity value from removing native vegetation.</p>
Offset amount (general biodiversity equivalence units)	0.020	<p>This is calculated by multiplying the general biodiversity equivalence score of the native vegetation to be removed by the risk factor for general offsets. This number is expressed in general biodiversity equivalence units and is the amount of offset that is required to be provided should the application be approved. This offset requirement will be a condition to the permit for the removal of native vegetation.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Risk adjusted general biodiversity equivalence score = general biodiversity equivalence score_{clearing} × 1.5</p> </div>
Minimum strategic biodiversity score	0.342	The strategic biodiversity score of the offset site must be at least 80 per cent of the strategic biodiversity score of the native vegetation to be removed. This is to ensure offsets are located in areas with a strategic value that is comparable to, or better than, the native vegetation to be removed.
Vicinity	West Gippsland CMA	The offset site must be located within the same Catchment Management Authority boundary as the native vegetation to be removed.



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Appendix 3 - Biodiversity information maps




Marked native vegetation and the *Native vegetation location risk map*

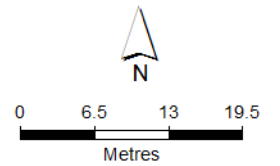


Legend

-  Marked native vegetation
-  Property boundary

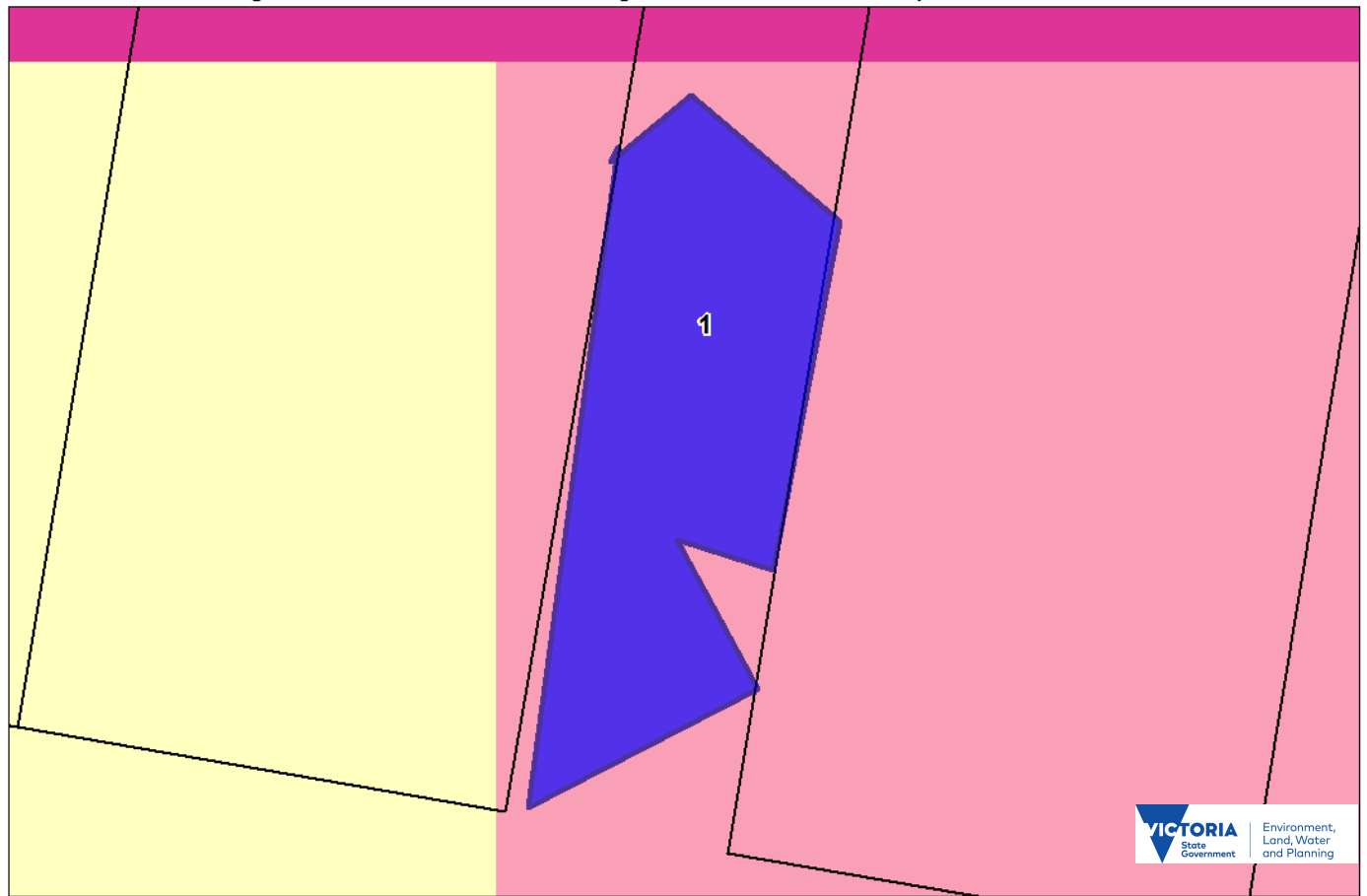
Native vegetation location risk

-  Location C
-  Location B
-  Location A





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
Marked native vegetation and the *Native vegetation condition map*



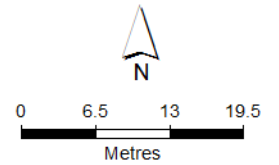
Legend

-  Marked native vegetation
-  Property boundary

Native vegetation condition*

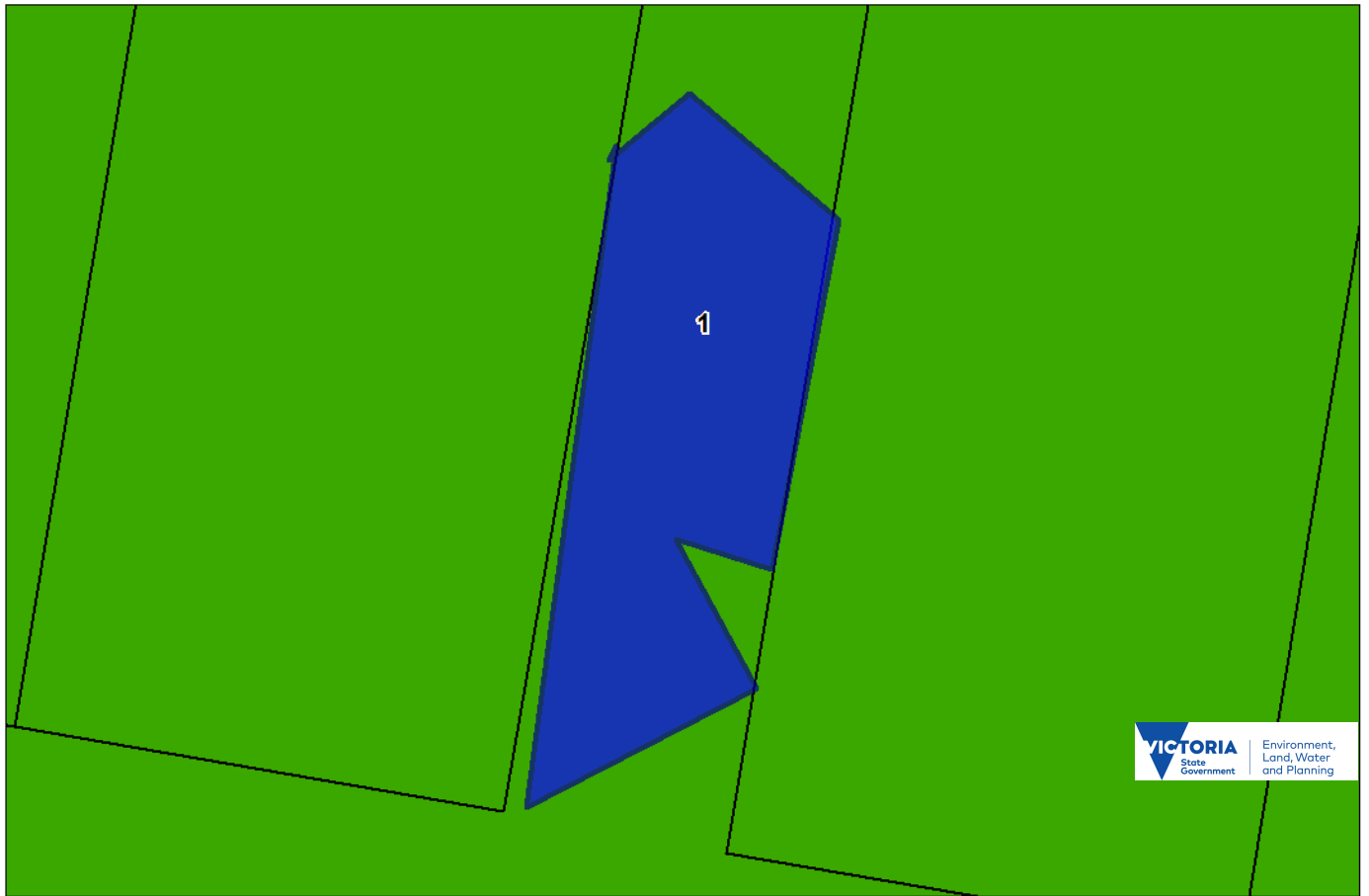
-  0.81 - 1.00
-  0.61 - 0.80
-  0.41 - 0.60
-  0.21 - 0.40
-  0.00 - 0.20

* These classes are for display purposes only





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
Marked native vegetation and the *Strategic biodiversity map*



Legend

-  Marked native vegetation
-  Property boundary

Strategic biodiversity score*

-  0.81 - 1.00
-  0.61 - 0.80
-  0.41 - 0.60
-  0.21 - 0.40
-  0.00 - 0.20

* These classes are for display purposes only