Bungendore High School

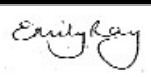
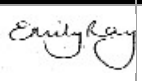
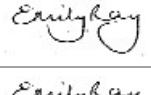
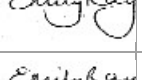
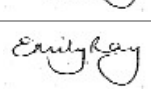
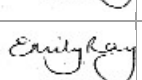
Biodiversity Assessment

NSW Department of Education

14 March 2025

School Name:	New Bungendore High School	**Company Name:**	GHD Pty Ltd
School ID:	SINSW02457	**Report Status:**	Final report
School Address:	Birchfield Drive, Bungendore	**Report Date:**	14 March 2025
School Region:	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	**Contract Number:**	DDWO05434-23

→ The Power of Commitment

Project name		Bungendore High School					
Document title		Biodiversity Assessment					
Project number		12622196					
File name		12622196_REF_Bungendore High School Biodiversity Assessment.docx					
Status Code	Revision	Author	Reviewer		Approved for issue		
			Name	Signature	Name	Signature	Date
S4	0	K. Crosby	E Ray		E Ray		12/02/2025
S4	1	K. Crosby	E Ray		E Ray		21/02/2025
S4	2	K. Crosby	E Ray		E Ray		26/02/2025
S4	4	K. Crosby	E Ray		E Ray		14/03/2025

GHD Pty Ltd | ABN 39 008 488 373
Contact: Kirsten Crosby, Technical Director – Biodiversity | GHD
133 Castlereagh Street, Level 15
Sydney, New South Wales 2000, Australia
T +61 2 9239 7100 | **F** +61 2 9239 7199 | **E** sydmail@ghd.com | **ghd.com**

Contents

1. Introduction **1**
- 1.1 Background 1
- 1.2 Site description 1
- 1.3 Proposed activity description 3
- 1.4 Scope and limitations 4

2. Legislative context **5**
- 2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 5
- 2.2 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 5
- 2.3 Fisheries Management Act 1994 5
- 2.4 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 5

3. Methodology **6**

4. Existing environment **7**

5. Evaluation of environmental impacts **8**

6. Mitigation measures **9**

7. Conclusion **9**

8. References **10**

Table index

Table 5.1 Summary of relevant sections of the Part 5 guidelines and EP&A Regulation 8
Table 6.1 Mitigation measures 9

Figure index

Figure 1.1 Location 2
Figure 1.2 Aerial photograph of the site (photo courtesy of Urbis 2024) 4
Figure 4.1 View of study area looking north (photo courtesy of Colliers) 7
Figure 4.2 View of study area looking east (photo courtesy of Colliers) 7

Appendices

Appendix A Likelihood of occurrence of threatened and migratory biota
Appendix B Assessments of significance

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This biodiversity assessment has been prepared to support a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the NSW Department of Education (DoE) for the construction and operation of the new Bungendore High School (the activity). The proposed school site is located within Stage 2b of the Elm Grove Subdivision ('the subdivision'), approximately 2 kilometres north of the Bungendore Town Centre. The site was previously zoned RU1 Primary Production and was rezoned to R2 Low Density Residential to support residential development on 8 May 2020.

The purpose of the REF is to assess the potential environmental impacts of the activity prescribed by *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (T&I SEPP) as "development permitted without consent" on land carried out by or on behalf of a public authority under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The activity is to be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 3, Part 3.4, Section 3.37 of the T&I SEPP.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments (the Guidelines) by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure* (DPHI) as well as the *Addendum Division 5.1 guidelines for schools* and *Addendum October 2024 (Consideration of environmental factors for health services facilities and schools*).

The purpose of this report is to examine and assess potential impacts of the activity on biodiversity values, taking into account the relevant environmental factors in the Part 5 Guidelines and Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021 under Section 170, Section 171 and Section 171A of the EP&A Regulation.

1.2 Site description

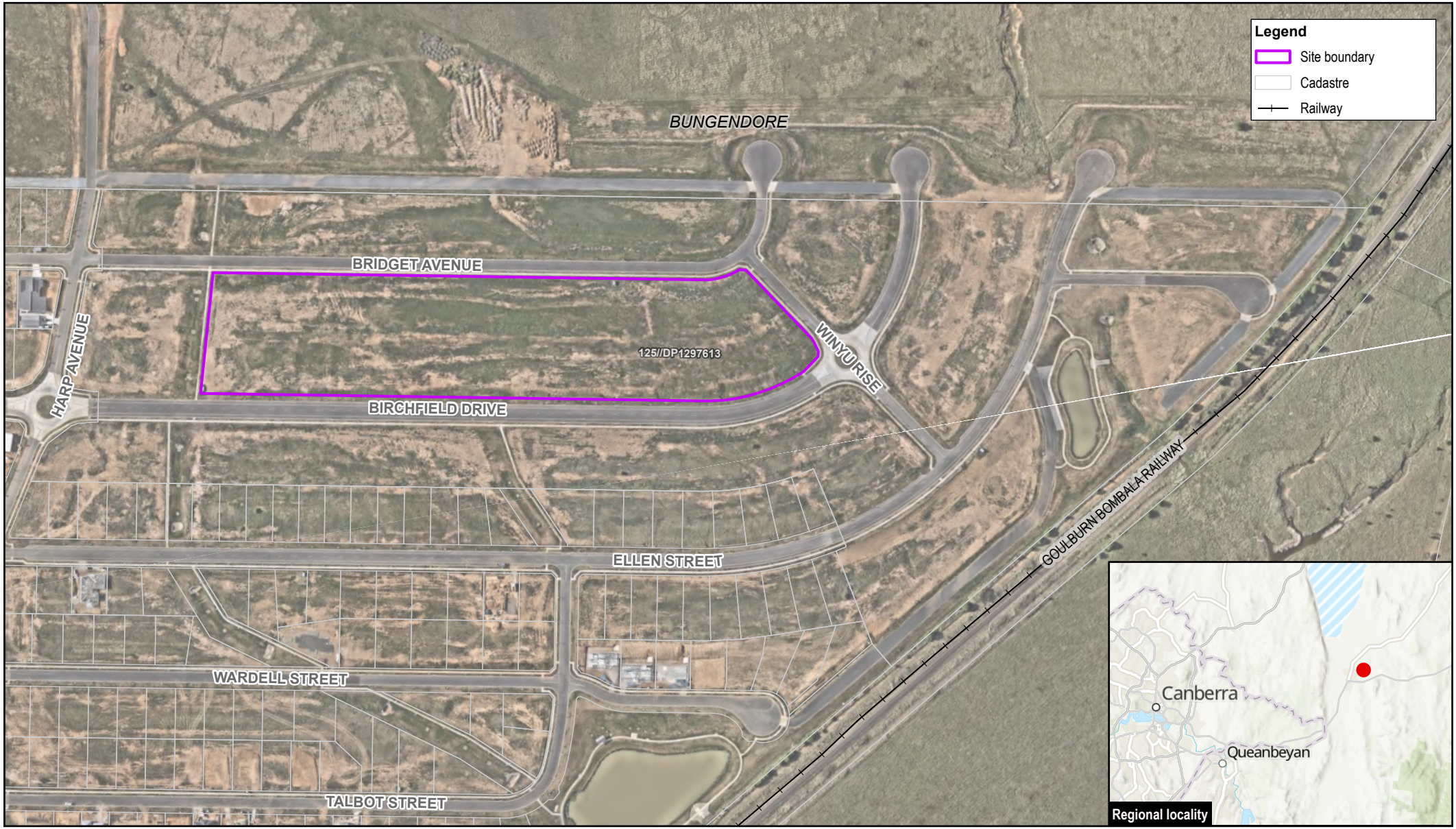
The current street address is a part of 18 Harp Avenue, Bungendore, NSW, 2621 (the site) and is legally described as part Lot 125 in Deposited Plan 1297613. As shown in Figure 1.1, the proposed school site forms part of a larger lot which is the subject of a proposed residential subdivision.

The site is located within the North Bungendore Precinct (Elm Grove Estate) in Bungendore. As a result of precinct wide rezonings, the surrounding locality is currently transitioning from a semi-rural residential area to an urbanised area with new low density residential development.

The site has three frontages:

– Approximately 500 metres southern frontage to Birchfield Drive
– Approximately 500 metres northern frontage to Bridget Avenue
– Approximately 100 metres eastern frontage to Winyu Rise

The site is currently cleared of all vegetation and consists of grassland, having been prepared for the purposes of future low density residential development.



Paper Size ISO A4

0 25 50 75 100

Metres

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

N

GHD

NSW Department of Education
Bungendore High School
Biodiversity Assessment

Project No. **12622196**
Revision No. **0**
Date **12/02/2025**

Project location

FIGURE 1

N:\AU\Sydney\Projects\21\12622196\GIS\Maps\Deliverables\12622196_Bungendore_Bio.aprx
Print date: 12 Feb 2025 - 15:18

Data source: World Hillshade: Esri, CGIAR;Imagery - Nearmap: ;World Topographic Map: Vicmap, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS (extracted: 12/02/2025); General topography - NSWSS, 2024.
Created by: pfernandes

1.3 Proposed activity description

The proposed activity is for the construction and operation of a new high school in Bungendore at part 18 Harp Avenue, Bungendore (the site). The new high school will accommodate 600 students and 68 staff. The school will provide 26 general learning spaces, and three support learning spaces across two buildings. The buildings will be predominantly three-storeys in height and will include permanent and support teaching spaces, specialist learning hubs, a library, administrative areas and a staff hub.

Additional core facilities are also proposed including a standalone school hall with covered outdoor learning area (COLA), a car park, a kiss and drop zone along Birchfield Drive, sports courts and a sports field. The new school also features a single storey building with associated paddocks in the far western portion of the site designed for livestock management and hands-on agricultural learning.

Specifically, the proposal involves the following:

– Building A, a three-storey learning hub accommodating general learning spaces, a special education learning unit (SELU), a physical education centre, a performing arts space, and other core facilities including administrative areas, staff hub, library and end of trip facilities.
– Building B, a part three/part four storey learning hub accommodating general learning spaces, specialist workshops for food, textile, wood and metal workshops, as well as visual arts studios, science labs and staff areas.
– Building C, a standalone school hall with COLA.
– Building D, a single-storey agricultural block comprising an animal storage space, a COLA and internal workshop.
– On-site staff car park with 50 spaces with access via Bridget Avenue.
– Kiss and drop zones and bus bays along Birchfield Drive.
– Open play space including a sports courts and sports field.
– Associated utilities and services including a 1000kv padmount substation.
– Main pedestrian entrance to be located off Birchfield Drive.
– Secondary pedestrian access from Bridget Avenue.
– Public domain/off-site works including the removal of street trees.

The design has been masterplanned to allow for an additional future stage. The second stage does not form part of this proposal.

1.4

Figure 1.2 provides an extract of the proposed site plan.

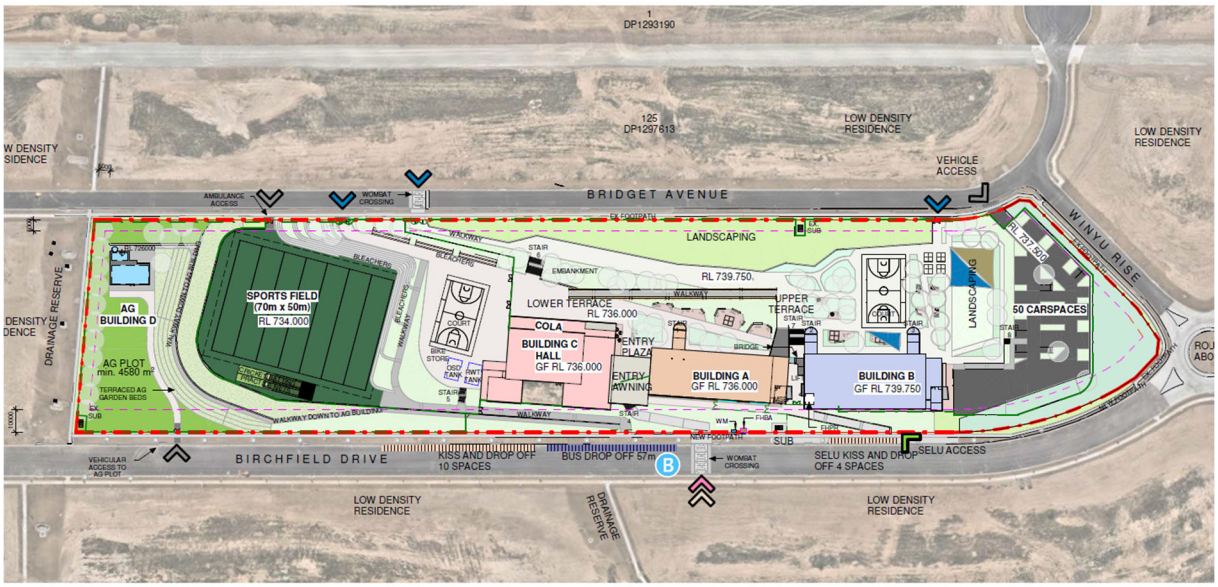


Figure 1.2 Site Plan (photo courtesy of Urbis 2024)

1.5 Scope and limitations

This report: has been prepared by GHD for NSW Department of Education and may only be used and relied on by NSW Department of Education for the purpose agreed between GHD and NSW Department of Education as set out in section 1 of this report. GHD otherwise disclaims responsibility to any person other than NSW Department of Education arising in connection with this report. GHD also excludes implied warranties and conditions, to the extent legally permissible.

The services undertaken by GHD in connection with preparing this report were limited to those specifically detailed in the report and are subject to the scope limitations set out in the report. The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the report. GHD has no responsibility or obligation to update this report to account for events or changes occurring subsequent to the date that the report was prepared.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by GHD described in this report. GHD disclaims liability arising from any of the assumptions being incorrect.

If this report is required to be accessible in any other format, this can be provided by GHD upon request and at an additional cost if necessary.

2. Legislative context

2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act forms the legal and policy platform for proposal assessment and approval in NSW and aims to, inter alia, 'encourage the proper management, assessment and conservation of natural and artificial resources'. Development in NSW is assessed in accordance with the provisions of the EP&A Act and EPA Regulation 2000. Under section 5.5 (1) of the EP&A Act, determining authorities must 'examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reason of that activity'. The EP&A Act is subject to the provisions of Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and Part 7A of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act). Part 7.3 of the BC Act and section 220ZZ of the FM Act list factors that must be taken into account when determining the significance of potential impacts of a proposed activity on threatened species, populations or ecological communities (or their habitats) listed under the BC Act and/or FM Act.

2.2 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) provides legal status for biota of conservation significance in NSW. The purpose of the BC Act is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greatest well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. The BC Act aims, amongst other things, to maintain the diversity and quality of ecosystems and enhance their capacity to adapt to change and provide for the needs of future generations, and to support conservation and threat abatement action to slow the rate of biodiversity loss and conserve threatened species and ecological communities in nature. Part 7.3 of the BC Act lists five factors that must be taken into account when determining the significance of potential impacts of a proposed activity on threatened species, populations or ecological communities (or their habitats) listed under the BC Act. The 'five part test' or 'assessment of significance' is used to assist in the determination of whether a project is 'likely' to impose 'a significant effect' on threatened biota and thus whether a Species Impact Statement (SIS) is required. There is also the option to prepare a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) rather than a SIS, where a significant impact is likely.

2.3 Fisheries Management Act 1994

The objectives of the FM Act are to conserve, develop and share the fishery resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations. It provides for the listing of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, key threatening processes and requirements or otherwise for the preparation of a SIS. One of the objectives of the FM Act is to 'conserve key fish habitats' which includes aquatic habitats that are important to the maintenance of fish populations generally and the survival and recovery of threatened aquatic species. To assist in the protection of key fish habitats, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has produced the Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management (DPI, 2013).

2.4 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The purpose of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is to ensure that actions likely to cause a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance (MNES) undergo an assessment and approval process. An action that 'has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance' is deemed to be a 'controlled action' and may not be undertaken without prior approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment. MNES of potential relevance to this site include threatened species and ecological communities and migratory species.

3. Methodology

A desktop assessment was undertaken to identify threatened flora and fauna species, populations and ecological communities listed under the BC Act, FM Act and MNES listed under the EPBC Act that may occur in the study area. Database records pertaining to the study area and locality (i.e. within a 10 km radius of the site and within the last 20 years) were reviewed, along with relevant reports and mapping, including:

- NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) *NSW BioNet Atlas* database for records of threatened species listed under the BC Act (NSW DCCEEW 2024b)
- NSW DCCEEW *Threatened biodiversity profile search* online database for threatened ecological communities listed under the BC Act (NSW DCCEEW 2024b)
- Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Clth DCCEEW) *Protected Matters Online Search Tool* for MNES listed under the EPBC Act and predicted to occur in the locality (Clth DCCEEW 2024)
- State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM) (DPE 2023)
- Aerial photographs and satellite imagery of the study area.

4. Existing environment

The site has previously been approved for development and clearing and significant earth works have been undertaken in the area. These works have included the importation of fill material, contouring of the site, and additional engineering works. The site exists as a cleared area of land with re-established predominantly exotic grassland (refer to Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2). No native plant community types (PCTs) are present at the proposal site. Small patches of grassy woodlands and native grasslands are mapped in the locality on the State Vegetation Type Map (SVTM), however the site and surrounds are not mapped as native vegetation. Recently planted juvenile street trees are present adjacent to the road verge.

The re-established predominantly exotic grassland would provide foraging habitat for common bird species typical of peri-urban environments, such as the Australian Magpie (*Cracticus tibicen*) and Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*). Birds may occasionally forage or roost in the planted street trees. Land cleared for residential development surrounds the site, limiting habitat connectivity for flora and fauna other than mobile common species. The site lacks suitable breeding habitat for native fauna due to previous vegetation and soil disturbance, and lack of connectivity to larger expanses of vegetation.

Figure 4.1 *View of study area looking north (photo courtesy of Colliers)*

Figure 4.2 *View of study area looking east (photo courtesy of Colliers)*

Several previous ecological assessments have been undertaken at the site and surrounds for the various residential subdivisions and associated development applications. Most recently this has included a biodiversity assessment prepared for the subdivision of Elm Grove stage 2A and 2B by Lesryk Environmental (2021).

Neither Lesryk Environmental (2021) nor Capital Ecology (2020, quoted in Lesryk Environmental 2021) identified any native vegetation in the area, and concluded that the site and surrounds would not support any threatened biota. A likelihood of occurrence assessment of threatened biota is provided in Appendix A. Threatened species predicted or known to occur in the locality are likely highly mobile or opportunistic species capable of traversing substantial distances, and would not rely on the site for any part of their lifecycle.

The site does not contain any defined watercourses, waterbodies or key fish habitat (DPI 2024a). A drainage reserve is located adjacent to the western edge of the site. This drains to the south to a large artificial detention basin. No emergent vegetation or waterbodies were present in this drainage reserve at the time of preparation of this report.

5. Evaluation of environmental impacts

The site is in very poor condition with low biodiversity value due to the previous broad scale clearing, lack of intact native vegetation and dominance of exotic grass species. No natural watercourses occur at the site. The clearing of this non-native vegetation and juvenile planted street trees would remove negligible habitat resources for native fauna species. The proposal is unlikely to result in impacts on threatened flora and fauna or threatened ecological communities and their habitats.

The site is surrounded by highly modified land cleared for subdivision. Construction is unlikely to result in sedimentation, pollution, contaminated runoff or erosion within the site and adjoining land, however, potential indirect impacts may include:

– Erosion and sedimentation: Removal of vegetation, soil disturbance and excavation, and construction of the school facilities would expose subsoil and generate spoil material and could, in general, result in erosion and sedimentation.
– Introduction of contaminants: imported mulch has the potential to introduce contaminants such as asbestos, which could then spread into adjacent areas via wind and water.

Mitigation measures are provided in section 6 to manage the risk of indirect impacts from sedimentation, erosion and contamination.

Landscaping plans for the proposed activity (NBRS 2024) include a range of indigenous plantings and other native plants that will improve habitat values for some species, such as native birds.

The proposed activity will not have a 'significant effect on the environment' (refer to Section 5.7 of the EP&A Act), as outlined in Table 5.1. The proposed activity will not have a significant impact on threatened biota listed under the BC Act or FM Act (see Appendix B). In consideration of the results of the assessments of significance, the proposed activity will not have a significant impact on threatened biota listed under EPBC Act. A BDAR or SIS is therefore not required, and the proposed activity does not require referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.

The extent and nature of potential impacts are low and will not have a significant impact on the locality, community and/or the environment. Potential impacts can be appropriately mitigated or managed to ensure that there is minimal impact on the locality, community and/or the environment (refer to section 6).

Table 5.1 Summary of relevant sections of the Part 5 guidelines and EP&A Regulation

Regulation/ Guideline section	Requirement	Response	Report section
2c	Any environmental impact on the ecosystems of the locality	The proposed activity will have negligible impacts on ecosystems	5
3f	Any impact on the habitat of protected animals (within the meaning of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* 2016)	The proposed activity will have negligible impacts on native biota	5
3g	Any endangering of any species of animal, plant or other form of life, whether living on land, in water or in the air	The proposed activity will have negligible impacts on native biota	5
3h	Any long-term effects on the environment	The proposed activity will have negligible long-term impacts on the environment	5
3i	Any degradation of the quality of the environment	The proposed activity will have negligible impacts on the quality of the environment	5

6. Mitigation measures

Prior to the commencement of any construction work, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared. Recommended mitigation measures to manage the risk of indirect impacts for inclusion in the CEMP are provided in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Mitigation measures

Mitigation Name	Aspect	Mitigation Measure	Reason for Mitigation
Erosion and Sediment	General measures	An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan must be implemented in accordance with the Landcom/Department of Housing Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils and Construction Guidelines (Blue Book).	Manage the risk of indirect impacts from sedimentation, erosion and contamination.
Introduction of Contaminants	General measures	Any imported mulch must comply with the Resource Recovery Order under Part 9, Clause 93 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014* and the *Mulch Order 2016* recognised by the NSW Environment Protection Authority as being "fit for purpose" with respect to the works under the REF. Mulch must not include physical or chemical contaminants or introduce weeds, disease or pests.	Manage the risk of indirect impacts from sedimentation, erosion and contamination.

7. Conclusion

The proposed site for Bungendore High School comprises a highly modified area of land with limited biodiversity values. The proposed activity will not have a significant effect on the environment or on threatened biota listed under the BC Act, FM Act or EPBC Act. A BDAR or SIS is therefore not required, and the proposed activity does not require referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.

8. References

Clth DCCEEW (2024a). Protected Matters Search Tool. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Accessed at: **dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/protected-matters-search-tool**

Clth DCCEEW (2024b). Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Accessed at: **environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl**

DPHI (2024). Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments: Consideration of environmental factors for health services facilities and schools ADDENDUM OCTOBER 2024. **https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/guidelines-for-division-5-1-assessments.pdf**

DPI (NSW Department of Primary Industries) (2013). Policy and guidelines for fish habitat conservation and management (Update 2013) (nsw.gov.au).

DPI (2024a). Fisheries Spatial Data portal. Accessed at: **webmap.industry.nsw.gov.au/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=Fisheries_Data_Portal**

Lesryk Environmental (2021). Biodiversity Assessment. Proposed subdivision, Lot 1 DP798111 and Lot 1 DP880087, 174 Tarago Road, Bungendore, NSW. Report prepared for Fraish Consulting.

DPE (2023). NSW State Vegetation Types Map. Accessed at: https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/nsw-state-vegetation-type-map.

NBRS (2024). Planting Zone Plan. Plan dated 24/01/2025.

NSW DCCEEW (2024a). BioNet Atlas of Wildlife. Accessed at: **environment.nsw.gov.au/AtlasApp/**

NSW DCCEEW (2024b). NSW Threatened Species Profile Database. Accessed at: **environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/**

Appendix A

Likelihood of occurrence of threatened and migratory biota

Likelihood of occurrence and potential impacts on threatened and migratory biota

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Common Sandpiper		C, J, R	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found in Australia during non-breeding season, on all coastlines and in inland areas. Utilises a wide range of coastal and inland wetlands with varying salinity levels.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Anthochaera phrygia*	Regent Honeyeater	CE	CE	Foraging, feeding or related behaviour likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Mainly inhabits temperate woodlands and open forests of the inland slopes of south-east Australia. Only two known key breeding regions remaining in NSW at Capertee Valley and the Bundarra-Barraba region. Inhabit woodlands that support a significantly high abundance and species richness of bird species with large numbers of mature trees, high canopy cover and abundance of mistletoes.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Aphelocephala leucopsis*	Southern Whiteface	V	V	Species or species habitat known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Occur across most of mainland Australia south of the tropics, from the north-eastern edge of the Western Australian wheatbelt, east to the Great Dividing Range. Lives in a wide range of open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses or shrubs, or both. Forages almost exclusively on the ground.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Apus pacificus*	Fork-tailed Swift		C, J, R	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Almost exclusively aerial, flying from less than 1 m to at least 300 m above ground and probably much higher. Mostly found over dry or open habitats, including riparian woodland and tea-tree swamps, low scrub, heathland or saltmarsh. Also found at treeless grassland and sandplains covered with spinifex, open farmland and inland and coastal sand-dunes.	Low – may forage above the site on occasion.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus*	Dusky Woodswallow	V		19 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs throughout most of NSW. Most breeding activity occurs on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Primarily inhabit dry, open eucalypt forests and woodlands. Also found in farmland, usually at the edges of forest or woodland.	Low – Many records in locality, however, there is minimal habitat present on site	Nil
Bird	*Botaurus poiciloptilus*	Australasian Bittern	E	E	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found over most of NSW except for the far north-west. Favours permanent freshwater wetlands with tall, dense vegetation. Hides during the day amongst dense reeds or rushes.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Calidris acuminata*	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper		V, C, J, R	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Most of the population migrates to Australia during non-breeding season, mostly to the south-east and are widespread in both inland and coastal locations and in both freshwater and saline habitats.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Calidris ferruginea*	Curlew Sandpiper	E	CE	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Distributed around most of the Australian coastline. Occurs along the entire coast of NSW, particularly in the Hunter Estuary, and sometimes in freshwater wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin. Migrates to Australia for the non-breeding period, arriving between August and November, and departing between March and mid-April.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Calidris melanotos*	Pectoral Sandpiper		J, R	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Widespread but scattered records across NSW, east of the divide and in the Riverina and Lower Western regions. Prefers shallow fresh to saline wetlands and is found at coastal lagoons, estuaries, bays, swamps, lakes, inundated grasslands, saltmarshes, river pools, creeks, floodplains and artificial wetlands.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Callocephalon fimbriatum*	Gang-gang Cockatoo	E	E	4 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Distributed from the south-east coast to the Hunter region, and inland to the Central Tablelands and south-west slopes in NSW. Occurs regularly in the ACT. In spring and summer the species is generally found in tall mountain forests and woodlands, particularly in heavily timbered and mature wet sclerophyll forests. In autumn and winter, the species often moves to lower altitudes in drier more open eucalypt forests and woodlands, particularly box-gum and box-ironbark assemblages, or in dry forest in coastal areas and often found in urban areas.	Low – Records present in locality, however, there is no habitat present on site	Nil
Bird	*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo	V	V	1 record within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs from the central Queensland coast to East Gippsland in Victoria, and inland to the southern tablelands and central western plains of NSW, with a small population in the Riverina. Feeds almost exclusively on the seeds of several species of she-oak (*Casuarina* and *Allocasuarina* species)	Nil – Records present in locality, however, there is no habitat on site	Nil
Bird	*Circus assimilis*	Spotted Harrier	V		3 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs throughout the Australian mainland, except in densely forested or wooded habitats of the coast, escarpment and ranges. Occurs in grassy open woodland. Found most commonly in native grassland, but also occurs in agricultural land, foraging over open habitats including edges of inland wetlands.	Moderate – Records present in locality, may forage over the site on occasion	Low – species unlikely to rely upon habitat present on site
Bird	*Climacteris picumnus victoriae*	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)	V	V	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Often found in eucalypt woodlands (including Box-Gum Woodland) and dry open forest of the inland slopes and plains inland of the Great Dividing Range. Fallen timber is an important habitat component for foraging. Also recorded, though less commonly, in similar woodland habitats on the coastal ranges and plains.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*	Varied Sittella	V		1 record within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Sedentary species, distribution in NSW is nearly continuous from the coast to the far west. Found in eucalypt forests and woodlands, especially those containing rough-barked species and mature smooth-barked gums with dead branches, mallee and Acacia woodland.	Nil – Records present in locality, however, there is no habitat on site	Nil
Bird	*Epthianura albifrons*	White-fronted Chat	V		8 records within 10km, last recorded in 2011 (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Found mostly in temperate to arid climates and very rarely sub-tropical areas. Occurs mostly in the southern half of NSW, in damp open habitats along the coast, and near waterways in the western part of the state. Typically found foraging on bare or grassy ground within wetland areas, singly or in pairs.	Low – Old records in locality, however, there is minimal habitat on site	Nil
Bird	*Falco hypoleucos*	Grey Falcon	V	V	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Sparsely distributed in NSW, chiefly throughout the Murray-Darling Basin, with the occasional vagrant east of the Great Dividing Range. Usually restricted to shrubland, grassland and wooded watercourses of arid and semi-arid regions, although it is occasionally found in open woodlands near the coast.	Low – Minimal vegetation present for foraging and no roosting habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Falco subniger*	Black Falcon	V		2 records within 10km, last recorded in 2011 (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Widely, but sparsely, distributed in NSW, mostly occurring in inland regions. Occurs in plains, grasslands, foothills, timbered watercourses, wetland environs, crops, and occasionally over towns and cities. Breeding occurs along timbered waterways in in land areas.	Low – Old records in locality, may forage in the area on occasion.	Low – species unlikely to rely upon habitat present on site
Bird	*Gallinago hardwickii*	Latham's Snipe	V	V,J,K	1 record within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Non-breeding migrant to the south east of Australia. Seen in small groups or singly in freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover. Found in any vegetation around wetlands, in sedges, grasses, lignum, reeds and rushes and also in saltmarsh and creek edges on migration. Also uses crops and pasture.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil – no suitable habitat present

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Grantiella picta*	Painted Honeyeater	V	V	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Nomadic species occurring at low densities throughout its range. Mostly found on the inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range in NSW, where almost all breeding occurs. Specialist feeder on the fruits of mistletoes growing on woodland eucalypts and acacias. Prefers mistletoes of the genus Amyema.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Hieraaetus morphnoides*	Little Eagle	V		3 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Found throughout the Australian mainland excepting the most densely forested parts of the Dividing Range escarpment. Occupies open eucalypt forest, woodland or open woodland. Also found in Sheoak or Acacia woodlands and riparian woodlands of inland NSW. Nests in tall living trees within a remnant patch, where pairs build a large stick nest in winter.	Moderate – Records present in locality, may forage in the area on occasion.	Low – species unlikely to rely upon habitat present on site
Bird	*Hirundapus caudacutus*	White-throated Needletail	V	V,C,J,K	1 record within 10km, last recorded in 2006 (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Migrates to eastern Australia from October to April. Almost exclusively aerial and most often seen before storms, low pressure troughs and approaching cold fronts and occasionally bushfire. Occurs over most types of habitat, but mostly recorded above wooded areas, including open forest and rainforest.	Low – Old records in locality, may forage above the site on occasion	Nil
Bird	*Lathamus discolor*	Swift Parrot	E	CE	Species or species habitat known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Migrates from Tasmania to south-eastern Australia in the autumn and winter months. Mostly occurs on the coast and south west slopes in NSW. Occurs on the mainland in areas where eucalypts are flowering profusely or where there are abundant lerp (from sap-sucking bugs) infestations.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Limosa lapponica*	Bar-tailed Godwit		C, J, R	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Recorded in the coastal areas of all Australian states. Widespread along the east and south-east coasts of NSW, including the offshore islands. Few inland records from NSW.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Limosa lapponica baueri*	Nunivak Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit		E	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Recorded in the coastal areas of all Australian states. Widespread in the Torres Strait and along the east and south-east coasts of Queensland, NSW and Victoria. Mainly occur along the north and east coasts.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)	E	E	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found throughout much of inland NSW. Prefers lightly wooded country, usually open eucalypt woodland, Acacia scrub and mallee, often in or near clearings or open areas.	Low – Minimal vegetation present for foraging and no roosting habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Motacilla flava*	Yellow Wagtail		C, J, R	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs within Australia in open country habitat with disturbed ground and some water. Recorded in short grass and bare ground, swamp margins, sewage ponds, saltmarshes, playing fields, airfields, ploughed land and town lawns. Breeds in temperate Europe and Asia.	Low – Minimal vegetation present for foraging or roosting.	Nil
Bird	*Neophema chrysostoma*	Blue-winged Parrot	V	V	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Inhabits a range of habitats from coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas, through to semi-arid zones. Tends to favour grasslands and grassy woodlands, often found near wetlands both near the coast and in semi-arid zones.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Petroica phoenicea*	Flame Robin	V		1 record within 10km, last recorded in 2010 (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Breeds in upland areas in NSW and moves to the inland slopes and plains in winter. Breeds in upland tall moist eucalypt forests and woodlands, often on ridges and slopes. Prefers clearings or areas with open understoreys.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Polytelis swainsonii*	Superb Parrot	V	V	Species or species habitat known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found throughout eastern inland NSW. Inhabit Box-Gum, Box-Cypress-pine and Boree Woodlands and River Red Gum Forest.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Bird	*Pycnoptilus floccosus*	Pilotbird	V	V	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Endemic to south-east Australia. Habitat critical to the survival of the Pilotbird includes wet sclerophyll forests in temperate zones in moist gullies with dense undergrowth, and dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands occupying dry slopes and ridges.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Rostratula australis*	Australian Painted Snipe	E	E	2 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Many records from the Murray-Darling Basin. Other important locations with recent records include wetlands on the Hawkesbury River, the Clarence and lower Hunter Valleys. Prefers fringes of swamps, dams and nearby marshy areas where there is a cover of grasses, lignum, low scrub or open timber. Forages nocturnally on mudflats and in shallow water.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Bird	*Stagonopleura guttata*	Diamond Firetail	V	V	2 records within 10km, last recorded in 2011 (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Widely distributed in NSW. Found in grassy eucalypt woodlands, including Box-Gum Woodlands and Snow Gum Woodlands. Also occurs in open forest, mallee, Natural Temperate Grassland, and in secondary grassland derived from other communities, and often found in riparian areas (rivers and creeks), and sometimes in lightly wooded farmland.	Low – Old records in locality, however, there is minimal habitat present on site	Nil
Bird	*Stictonetta naevosa*	Freckled Duck	V		3 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Found primarily in south-eastern and south-western Australia, occurring as a vagrant elsewhere. Prefers permanent freshwater swamps and creeks with heavy growth of Cumbungi, Lignum or Tea-tree. During drier times they move from ephemeral breeding swamps to more permanent waters such as lakes, reservoirs, farm dams and sewage ponds.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Mammal	*Chalinolobus dwyeri*	Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat	E	E	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found mainly in areas with extensive cliffs and caves, from Rockhampton to Bungonia in the NSW Southern Highlands. Roosts in caves, crevices in cliffs, old mine workings and in the disused, bottle-shaped mud nests of the Fairy Martin (*Petrochelidon ariel*), frequenting low to mid-elevation dry open forest and woodland close to these features. Found in well-timbered areas containing gullies.	Low – there is minimal foraging habitat present on site.	Nil
Mammal	*Dasyurus maculatus*	Spot-tailed Quoll	V	E	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found in eastern NSW, the species has been recorded across a range of habitat types, including rainforest, open forest, woodland, coastal heath and inland riparian forest, from the sub-alpine zone to the coastline. Uses hollow-bearing trees, fallen logs, small caves, rock outcrops and rocky-cliff faces as den sites.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Mammal	*Petauroides volans*	Greater Glider (southern and central)	E	E	Species or species habitat known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs in eastern Australia, in eucalypt forests and woodlands, where it has a broad distribution from around Proserpine in Queensland, south through NSW and the Australian Capital Territory into Victoria. Feeds exclusively on eucalypt leaves, buds, flowers and mistletoe.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Mammal	*Petaurus australis*	Yellow-bellied Glider	V	V	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found along the eastern coast to the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range, from southern Queensland to Victoria. Occurs in tall mature eucalypt forest generally in areas with high rainfall and nutrient rich soils.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Mammal	*Petaurus norfolcensis*	Squirrel Glider	V		1 record within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Widely though sparsely distributed in eastern Australia, from northern Queensland to western Victoria. Inhabits mature or old growth Box, Box-Ironbark woodlands and River Red Gum forest west of the Great Dividing Range and Blackbutt-Bloodwood forest with heath understorey in coastal areas.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Mammal	*Phascolarctos cinereus*	Koala	E	E	Species or species habitat	Found on the central and north coasts, southern highlands, southern and northern	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
					known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	tablelands, Blue Mountains, southern coastal forests of NSW, with some smaller populations on the plains west of the Great Dividing Range. Inhabits eucalypt woodlands and forests, and feeds on the foliage of more than 70 eucalypt species and 30 non-eucalypt species.		
Mammal	*Pteropus poliocephalus*	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V	V	10 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs in subtropical and temperate rainforests, tall sclerophyll forests and woodlands, heaths and swamps as well as urban gardens and cultivated fruit crops. Roosting camps are generally located within 20 km of a regular food source and are commonly found in gullies, close to water, in vegetation with a dense canopy.	Nil – no suitable habitat.	Nil
Reptile	*Aprasia parapulchella*	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Pink-tailed Legless Lizard	V	V	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	There is a concentration of populations in the Canberra/Queanbeyan Region. Other populations have been recorded near Cooma, Yass, Bathurst, Albury and West Wyalong. Inhabit sloping, open woodland areas with predominantly native grassy groundlayers. Sites are typically well-drained, with rocky outcrops or scattered, partially buried rocks.	Nil – Heavily disturbed, minimal suitable vegetation present	Nil. Site has previously been cleared.
Reptile	*Delma impar*	Striped Legless Lizard, Striped Snake-lizard	V	V	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Occurs in the Southern Tablelands, the South West Slopes, the Upper Hunter and possibly on the Riverina. Populations are known in the Goulburn, Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Muswellbrook and Tumut areas. Found mainly in Natural Temperate Grassland but also in grasslands that have a high exotic component.	Nil – Heavily disturbed, minimal suitable vegetation present	Nil. Site has previously been cleared.

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Reptile	*Suta flagellum*	Little Whip Snake	V		260 records within 10km (NSW DCCEEW 2024a)	Found within an area bounded by Crookwell in the north, Bombala in the south, Tumbarumba to the west and Braidwood to the east. Occurs in Natural Temperate Grasslands and grassy woodlands, including those dominated by Snow Gum *Eucalyptus pauciflora* or Yellow Box *E. melliodora*. The species also occurs in secondary grasslands derived from clearing of woodlands. Found on well drained hillsides, mostly associated with scattered loose rocks.	Nil – abundant records in locality, however site is has been highly modified	Nil – Site has been extensively cleared, more suitable habitat is present in the wider locality
Frog	*Litoria aurea*	Green and Golden Bell Frog	E	V	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Approximately 50 recorded locations in NSW, most of which are small, coastal, or near coastal populations. Large populations are located around the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Shoalhaven and mid north coast. Only one known population on the NSW Southern Tablelands. Inhabits marshes, dams and stream-sides. Also recorded in highly disturbed areas.	Nil – No water habitat present	Nil
Frog	*Litoria castanea*	Yellow-spotted Tree Frog, Yellow-spotted Bell Frog	CE	CE	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Single known population occurs on the Southern Tablelands, near Yass. Requires large permanent ponds or slow flowing 'chain-of-ponds' streams with abundant emergent vegetation such as bulrushes and aquatic vegetation.	Nil – No water habitat present	Nil
Fish	*Bidyanus bidyanus*	Silver Perch, Bidyan		E	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Now absent from much of its former range across the Murray-Darling. Most abundant remaining natural population occurs in the central Murray River downstream of Yarrawonga Weir as well as several of its anabranches and	Nil – No water habitat present	Nil
Fish	*Macquaria australasica*	Macquarie Perch		E	Species or species habitat may occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Known only from scattered localities in the cool upper reaches of the Murray-Darling system of NSW, including the Hawkesbury-Nepean and Shoalhaven catchments, Victoria and ACT. Inhabits cool, clear freshwaters of rivers with deep holes and shallow riffles.	Nil – No water habitat present	Nil

Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	BC status	EPBC status	Source data	habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Likelihood of impact
Insect	*Keyacris scurra*	Key's Matchstick Grasshopper	E	E	Species or species habitat known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Typically found in native grassland in cemeteries, travelling stock routes and along railway easements. Associated with Kangaroo Grass and known food plants such as species of the Asteraceae family, but also recorded at sites where these species are absent. Found in wet sclerophyll forest, montane low forest, dry woodlands, heath land and montane grasslands	Nil – Disturbed site with minimal vegetation and exotic grassland	Nil. Site has previously been cleared.
Insect	*Synemon plana*	Golden Sun Moth	V	V	Species or species habitat known to occur within area (Commonwealth DCCEEW 2024a)	Found in the area between Queanbeyan, Gunning, Young and Tumut. Occurs in Natural Temperate Grasslands and grassy Box-Gum Habitat may contain several wallaby grass species, which are typically associated with other grasses particularly spear-grasses *Austrostipa spp.* or Kangaroo Grass *Themeda australis*.	Nil – Disturbed site with minimal vegetation and exotic grassland	Nil. Site has previously been cleared.

Appendix B

Assessments of significance

Assessment of significance (BC Act)

Question	Response
a) in the case of a threatened species, whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction	An assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of threatened species is provided in Appendix A. Most threatened species known or likely to occur in the locality have a nil to low likelihood of occurrence at the site. Several mobile threatened fauna (such as raptors) may forage on occasion at the site as part of a much larger home range. These species are unlikely to rely upon habitat present on site. The proposed activity would not have an adverse effect on the life cycle of these species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.
(b) in the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the proposed development or activity: (i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or (ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction	No native vegetation is present at the site or in the vicinity of the site. The proposed activity will not have an adverse effect on the extent of any threatened ecological community.
(c) in relation to the habitat of a threatened species or ecological community: (i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development or activity, and (ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed development or activity, and (iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species or ecological community in the locality	The proposed activity would modify an already cleared site that provides only limited, poor quality foraging habitat for several wide-ranging species. No habitat would become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat, and the habitat at the site is not considered important to the long-term survival of any threatened species.
d) whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value (either directly or indirectly)	The proposed activity would not have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.
(e) whether the proposed development or activity is or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.	No native vegetation is present at the site. The proposed activity is not part of a key threatening process nor is it likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.
Conclusion	The proposed activity would not have a significant impact on any threatened biota listed under the BC Act.

Assessment of significance (FM Act)

Question	Response
(a) in the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction	No natural water courses occur at the site. A drainage line occurs adjacent to the site that feeds into a detention basin. No threatened aquatic species would occur in this waterway or be impacted by the proposed activity.
(b) in the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction	No natural water courses occur at the site. A drainage line occurs adjacent to the site that feeds into a detention basin. No endangered aquatic populations would occur in this waterway or be impacted by the proposed activity.
(c) in the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed: (i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or (ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction	No natural water courses occur at the site. A drainage line occurs adjacent to the site that feeds into a detention basin. No endangered aquatic ecological communities occur in this waterway or would be impacted by the proposed activity.
(d) in relation to the habitat of a threatened species, endangered population or ecological community: (i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and (ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the action proposed, and (iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, endangered population or ecological community in the locality	The site and adjacent drainage line do not contain habitat for threatened aquatic species, populations or ecological communities. The proposed activity will not remove or modify any habitat or result in an area of habitat being fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat for any threatened aquatic species, population or ecological community. The habitat at the site is not considered important to the long-term survival of any threatened aquatic species, population or ecological community in the locality.
(e) whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly)	The proposed activity would not have an adverse direct or indirect effect on any critical habitat.
(f) whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan	No natural water courses or habitat for threatened aquatic species, populations or ecological communities occur at the site or would be adversely affected by the proposed activity. The proposed activity is not inconsistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.
(e) whether the proposed development or activity is or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.	The proposed activity is not part of a key threatening process nor is it likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process for threatened aquatic biota.
Conclusion	The proposed activity would not have a significant impact on any threatened biota listed under the FM Act.

ghd.com

→ The Power of Commitment