

Biodiversity



Ensuring ecological net benefit

Independent ecologists have undertaken site surveys to comprehensively assess environmental values and inform the project design.

Pacific Green is committed to providing a positive environmental development. Our primary mitigation tool is to avoid impacts through intelligent design, then minimise and offset any impacts as required. The project will include planting local species vegetation and rehabilitation of wetland areas, to improve biodiversity values. Already, Pacific Green has fenced exclusion areas and planted native species, with significant additional planting to come.

Due to the site's use for cattle grazing, it has been broadly cleared of trees and there is minimal native vegetation within the site boundaries. The most sensitive areas of the site are roadside vegetation, providing habitat for a range of fauna species.

Any impacts to native vegetation or nationally-significant flora and fauna must meet Victoria's legislation and relevant guidelines, as well as the Federal Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

To ensure the project meets all requirements, the following assessments and approvals have been completed:

- Site and landscape surveys
- Targeted species surveys
- Avoid, minimise and offset statement

Biodiversity assessments will accompany the planning permit application and EPBC Act Referral.

Biodiversity (continued)

Vehicle access will be designed to avoid this vegetation. Historic modification of wetlands, digging of drainage, and ongoing stock grazing means that the wetlands are highly degraded.

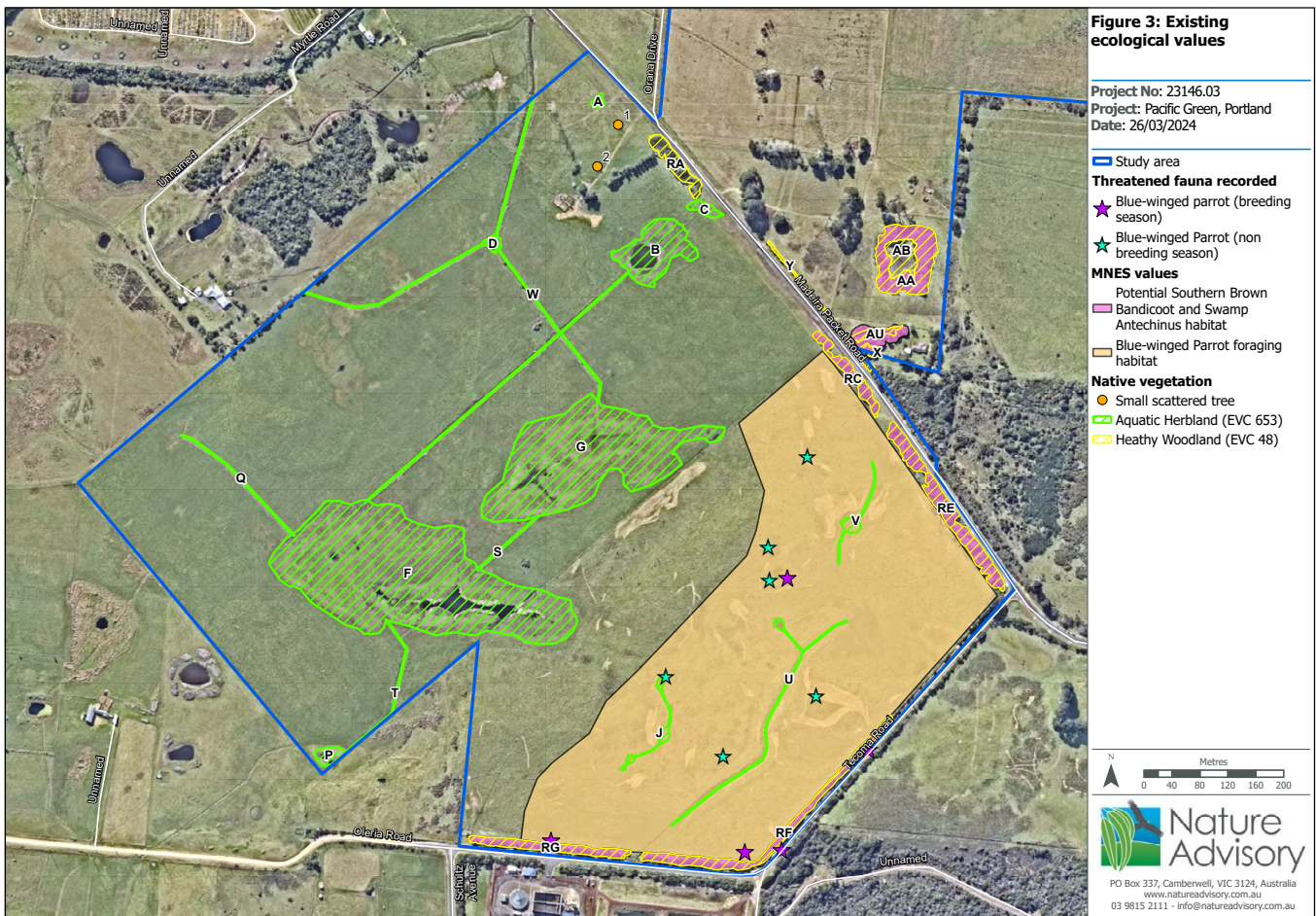
The layout design seeks to avoid impacts upon roadside vegetation and minimise development into lower lying areas.

A biodiversity impact assessment will be prepared to address State environmental laws as part of the planning permit application process. This will determine the necessary offsets. A landscape plan will be prepared with a focus on locally appropriate species.

Separately, we have referred the project under the federal *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act), with the expectation that there are no significant impacts to matters of national environmental significance (MNES).

Site survey results found that roadside vegetation is potential habitat for Southern Brown Bandicoot and Swamp Antechinus, and Blue-winged Parrot were observed foraging in the south of the Site. Aquatic hermland areas within drains and wetlands are highly degraded.

Map: existing ecological values



About Pacific Green

At Pacific Green we specialise in delivering grid-scale smart energy storage solutions from greenfield to operation. We are proud of our record in delivering safe, cutting-edge energy storage solutions, which are benefiting people and the planet.

To learn more about the Portland Energy Park via our project website, scan this QR code:
www.pacificgreen.com/aus/projects/portland
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