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Member for Brindabella

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Mr Simon Tennent
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Dear Mr Tennent

I have reviewed the information provided in your request under section 211 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the Act) for an exemption from the requirement to complete an Environmental Impact Statement for DA201700027, Molonglo Valley Stage 3 - Urban Development and Infrastructure.

Having considered the information submitted in support of your application, the issues raised in submissions made during consultation and the conditions outlined in the assessment report, I consider that the expected environmental impacts of the proposal have been sufficiently addressed.

As Minister responsible for the Act, I have granted you an EIS exemption. I advise that the proposed Molonglo Valley Stage 3 - Urban Development and Infrastructure will not require further environmental assessment in relation to the identified schedule 4 triggers. You are now able to lodge impact track development applications for this proposal with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. Please ensure that you include a copy of this letter and the assessment report with your development application.

A copy of the EIS exemption is available on the ACT Legislation Register at <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/>.

Yours sincerely

Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management

8/3/18

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ACT
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MOLONGLO STAGE 3 – URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**APPLICATION
FOR EIS EXEMPTION
CONSIDERATION REPORT**



This report evaluates the application for an exemption under section 211 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, from requiring a completed Environmental Impact Statement in development applications for the Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Urban Development.

Ref no: 201700027

File no: 1-2017/13921

Project: Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Urban Development

Date lodged: 29 June 2017

Proponent: Land Supply and Policy Branch, ESPDD

Location: numerous blocks, District of Molonglo

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Glossary and definitions

Term	Definition
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
APZ	Asset protection zone
The Authority	The planning and land authority
BGW	White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland (Box Gum Woodland)
CEMP	Construction environmental management plan
DA	Development application
DoEE	Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy
EDP	Estate development plan
EIA	Environmental impact assessment: the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals before major decisions and commitments are made.
EIS	Environmental impact statement: a document prepared to detail the expected environmental, social and economic effects of a development, and state commitments to avoid, mitigate or satisfactorily control and manage any potential adverse impacts of the development on the environment. In the ACT, an EIS (or EIS Exemption) is required for proposals in the impact track as per Section 127 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> .
EMP	Environmental management plan
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth)
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
ESA	Emergency Services Agency
IAPZ	Inner asset protection zone
LDA	Land Development Agency
MNES	Matter of National Environmental Significance (as per the EPBC Act)
NCA	National Capital Authority
NES Plan	<i>Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance</i> (ACT Government, 2011). This document was developed as an approval requirement of the EPBC Act strategic assessment which was undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development within the Molonglo Valley.
NTG	Natural temperate grassland
PD Act	<i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> (ACT)
PD Regulation	Planning and Development Regulation 2008 (ACT)
PTWL	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard
SFAZ	Strategic firefighting advantage zone
TaMS	Territory and Municipal Services (now TCCS)
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services (formerly TaMS)
UDP	Unanticipated discovery plan

1. Introduction

This report is to the ACT Minister for Planning and Land Management on the assessment of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exemption application in relation to the Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Urban Development. The application was made by the former Land Development Agency (LDA) under section 211B of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the PD Act). The LDA ceased to exist on 1 July 2017, and responsibility for progressing this proposal transferred to the new Land Supply and Policy Branch of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

If an EIS exemption is granted, development applications (DA) for works proposed as part of the EIS Exemption application will be required to be lodged in the impact track. The DA process also includes a statutory public notification period.

1.1. Project

The Molonglo Stage 3 Urban Development and Infrastructure project (the Project) aims to house approximately 27,000 people living in 11,000 dwellings by 2042. Services and facilities, such as schools, commercial buildings, recreation facilities and other community facilities will be constructed as part of the development to support residents in Stage 3, and supplement facilities already constructed or planned in earlier stages of the Molonglo Valley urban development. Activities that are proposed as part of the development phase include (but are not limited to):

- land clearing and earthworks;
- contaminated land remediation;
- construction of stormwater management infrastructure;
- construction of utility services;
- construction of roads and transport infrastructure (including for pedestrian and cycle transport);
- construction of dwellings, community facilities, commercial buildings, and supporting infrastructure; and
- landscaping.

1.1.1. Project location

The Project covers an approximate area of 800 hectares located north of the Molonglo River, bounded by the Tuggeranong Parkway and National Arboretum to the east, William Hovell Drive to the north, and Kama Nature Reserve to the west (the project site). The Project location is shown in Figure 1.

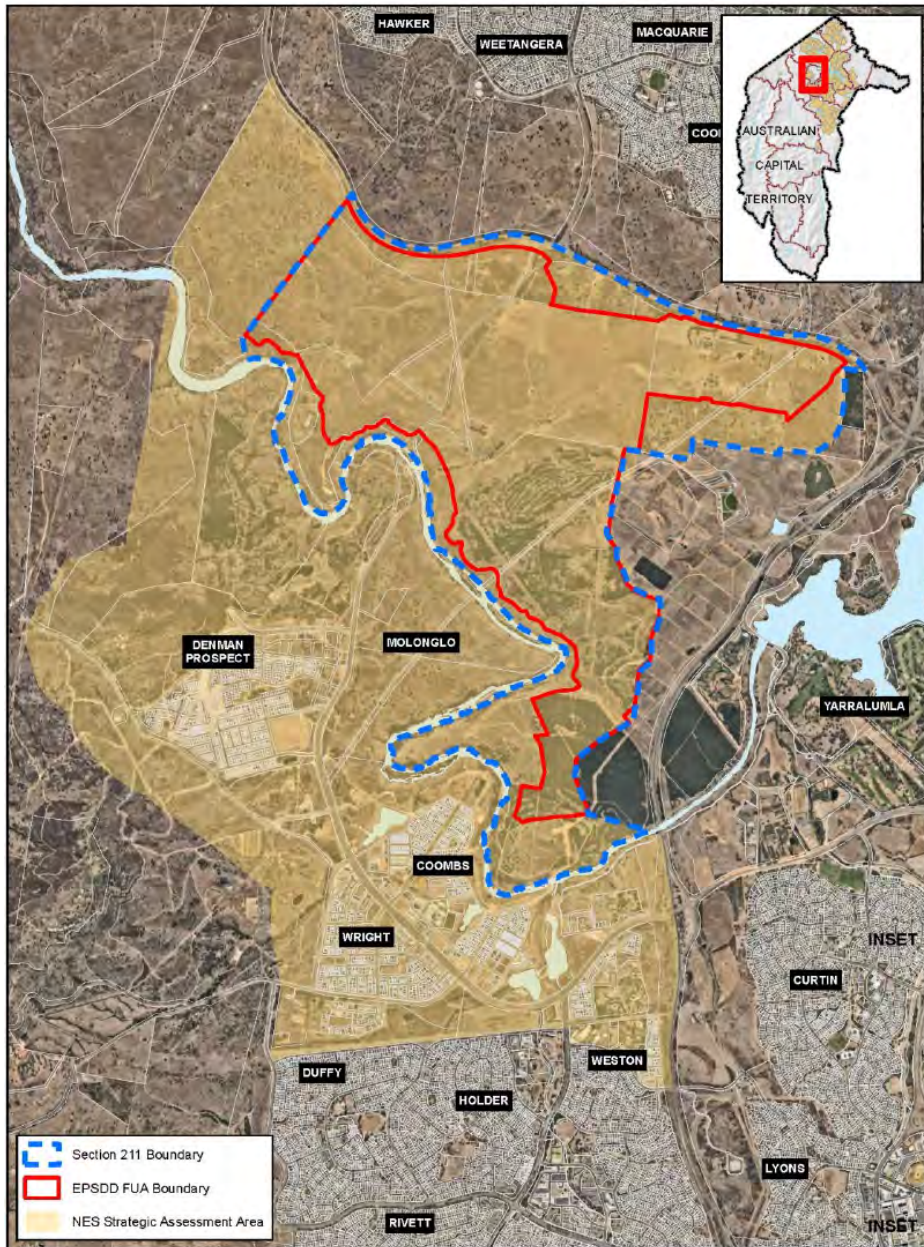


Figure 1 Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Urban Development location.

Note: The project site is indicated by the blue dashed line.

1.1.2. Legal land description and tenancy

The Project will directly and indirectly affect 29 blocks. Table 1 shows the legal land description for each block affected by the proposal and the details of tenancy type at the time the EIS exemption application was lodged.

Table 1 Legal land description and tenancy

Block	District	Tenancy
3	Molonglo Valley	Other Unleased Assets – Forests - Unleased Private Lease - ActewAGL
4	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
5	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
6	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
7	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
10	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
11	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
12	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
13	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
14	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
15	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
16	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
32	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
33	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
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38	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
39	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
40	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
41	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
42	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
43	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
44	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
45	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
46	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
47	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
49	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
50	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
71	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
72	Molonglo Valley	Unleased Territory Land
75	Molonglo Valley	Molonglo River – Unleased Territory Land

1.2. Background

The need for urban development in the Molonglo Valley was identified in the Canberra Spatial Plan 2004. A subsequent variation to the Territory Plan was adopted in August 2008 allowing urban development to occur within the Molonglo Valley. The suburbs of Wright and Coombs within Molonglo Valley Stage 1 were subject to an EIS exemption in July 2009 and are currently under construction. In July 2013, an EIS exemption was granted for Molonglo Stage 2, revoking two separate EIS exemptions for parts of Molonglo Stage 2.

The Molonglo Valley urban development has been subject to a strategic assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The strategic assessment resulted in the production and formal endorsement of the Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (NES Plan). The NES Plan identifies and describes the required management, mitigation and offsetting requirements of the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) to adequately protect matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).

2. Environmental impact assessment

Environmental impact assessment processes are used to identify, predict, plan for and manage the impacts of development proposals before a decision is made about the project going ahead. An environmental impact assessment process is required to be undertaken for projects which would have a development application (DA) lodged in the impact track.

Section 123 of the PD Act states that the impact track applies to a development if:

- the relevant development table states that the impact track applies;
- the proposal is of a kind mentioned in Schedule 4 of the PD Act;
- the Minister makes a declaration under section 124;
- section 125 or section 132 applies to the proposal; or
- the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) advises the Minister in writing that the development is a controlled action under the EPBC Act, section 76.

2.1. Impact track triggers

The Project is in the impact track as it is a development of a kind mentioned in Schedule 4 of the PD Act. This proposal triggers the Schedule 4 items listed in Table 2.

Table 2 Impact track triggers per Schedule 4 of the PD Act

Item Number	Description	Project Component
Part 4.2, item 2	proposal that involves— a) electricity transmission line construction, including additions or realignment works, outside an existing easement or exceeding 500m in length, that are intended to carry underground or above-ground transmission lines with a voltage of 132kV or more.	This application includes the relocation of transmission lines within the urban development boundary of Molonglo Stage 3.
Part 4.3, item 1	proposal that is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact on 1 or more of the following, unless the conservator of flora and fauna provides an environmental significance opinion indicating that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact: a) a critically endangered species; b) an endangered species; c) a vulnerable species; d) a conservation dependent species; e) a regionally threatened species; f) a regionally conservation dependent species; g) a provisionally listed threatened species; h) a listed migratory species; i) a threatened ecological community; j) a protected native species;	The development of Molonglo Stage 3 could have impacts on a number of threatened species and communities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box gum woodland (critically endangered ecological community); • Natural temperate grassland (endangered ecological community); • Pink-tailed worm-lizard habitat (a vulnerable species); • Superb parrot (<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>) (a vulnerable species); • Swift parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>) (an endangered species); and

Item Number	Description	Project Component
	k) a Ramsar wetland; l) any other protected matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoary sunray (<i>Leucochrysum albicans var.-tricolor</i>) (an endangered species).
Part 4.3, item 2	proposal involving— b) the clearing of more than 5.0ha of native vegetation in a native vegetation area, on land that is designated as a future urban area (FUA) under the territory plan unless the conservator of flora and fauna produces an environmental significance opinion that the clearing is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact	A total of 43 hectares of native vegetation would be impacted by the development of Molonglo Stage 3.
Part 4.3, item 4	proposal that is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact on— c) a prescribed environmental value mentioned in the territory plan (water use catchment general code) of a natural waterway or aquifer	Development of Molonglo Stage 3 has the potential to impact natural waterways. The Molonglo River from Scrivener Dam to Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC) has the following water use / environmental values listed in the Territory Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water supply; • passive recreation; • aquatic habitat – lowland stream; • discharge – storm water; • water based recreation – boating; and • irrigation water supply.
Part 4.3, item 6	proposal that is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the heritage significance of a place or object registered under the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> , unless— a) the heritage council produces an environmental significance opinion that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse impact; or b) the proposal is the demolition of a building that is affected residential premises, and the heritage council has approved a statement of heritage effect in relation to the proposal	The development of Molonglo Stage 3 will damage a number of Aboriginal places and objects, including both registered and recorded Aboriginal places and objects.
Part 4.3, item 7	proposal involving land included on the register of contaminated sites under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>	The EIS exemption application notes that a number of blocks were listed on the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Register of Contaminated Sites including:

Item Number	Description	Project Component
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block 16, Molonglo Valley, which contains a sheep plunge dip; • Blocks 7, 34, 46, 66, 70, 71 and 75 Molonglo Valley and Block 8 Section 3, Denman Prospect, which were previously occupied by a commercial forestry plantation; and • Block 10, Molonglo Valley, which contains a number of disused sewage treatment ponds. <p>The EPA advised that these block are not on the Register of Contaminated Sites under section 23 A of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>.</p>

2.2. EIS exemption to enable impact track DA lodgement

The proponent has lodged an EIS exemption application in lieu of completing an EIS to accompany any forthcoming impact track DAs. Section 211H of the PD Act states that the Minister may grant an EIS exemption for the proposal if satisfied that the exempted environmental impact of the development proposal has already been sufficiently addressed by a recent study, whether or not the recent study relates to the particular development proposal.

In deciding whether the environmental impact of the development proposal has been sufficiently addressed by the recent study, the Minister must consider:

- (a) whether the recent study was conducted by an appropriately qualified person with relevant expertise and experience in relation to the environmental values of the land in the proposal;
- (b) if the recent study does not relate directly to the proposal—whether there is sufficient detail to allow assessment of the environmental impacts likely to occur if the proposal proceeds;
- (c) whether the part of the recent study relevant to the proposal required public consultation through a statutory process or as part of a government policy development;
- (d) if the recent study is more than 18 months old—whether the Minister is satisfied that the information in the study is current; and
- (e) any submissions received during the consultation period for the EIS exemption application.

This report documents the information presented by the proponent and information received during entity consultation and public consultation to inform the Minister in making a decision.

For each impact track trigger an assessment of the supporting information will be made against the criteria above in the corresponding sub-sections under Section 4 of this report.

2.3. EIS exemption process

The flowchart below (Figure 2) outlines the EIS exemption application process.

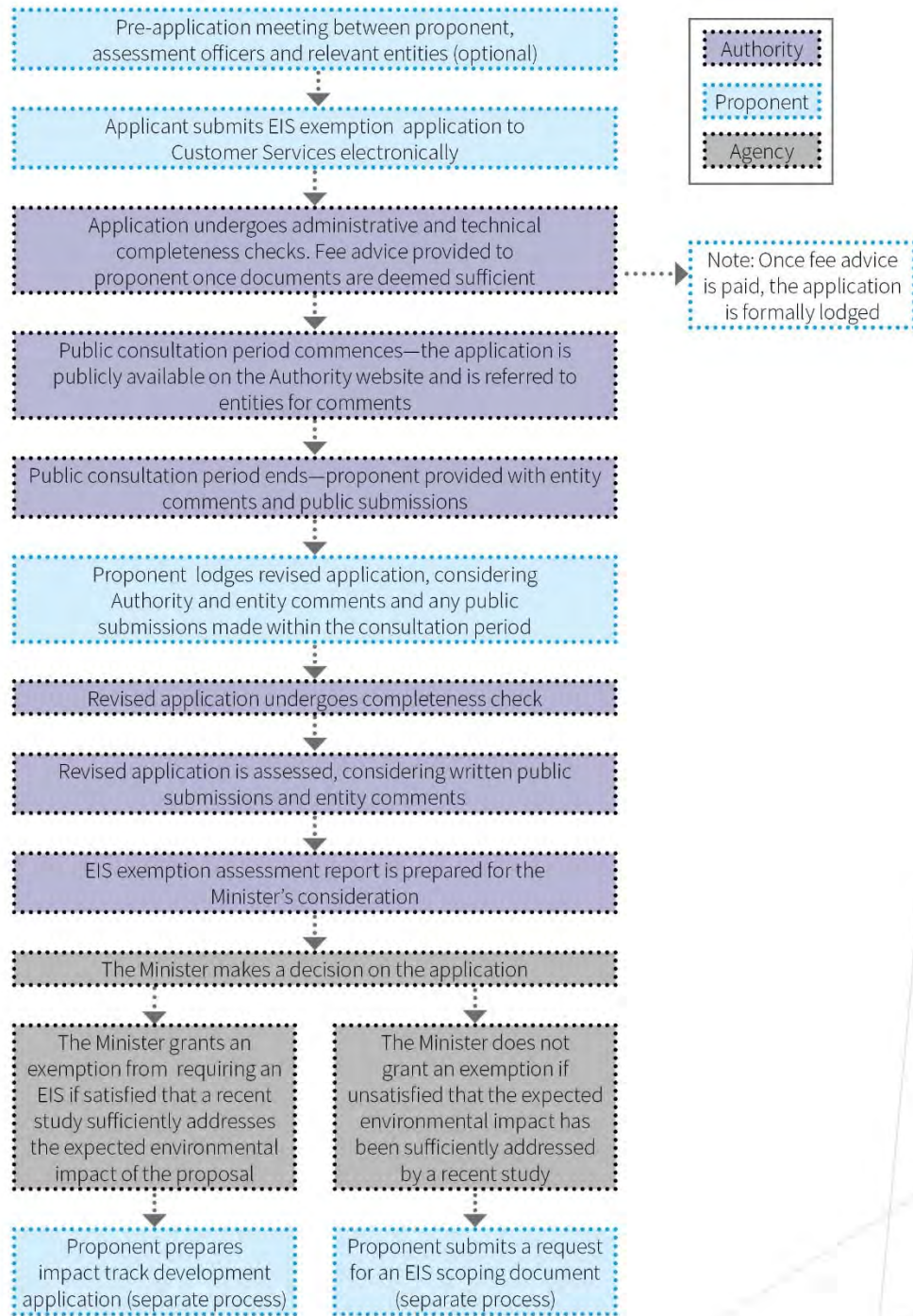


Figure 2 The EIS exemption process

2.4. The EIS exemption application

In accordance with section 211B of the PD Act, the application for an EIS exemption was lodged by the Land Development Agency to the planning and land authority (the Authority), within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) on 29 June 2017.

As required by *EIS exemption application - Form 1M*, the application contained the following information to inform the assessment of the application:

- Molonglo Stage 3 s211 Application Supporting Documentation Report (Umwelt, 2017)
- Molonglo Stage 3 Future Urban Release: Sub Surface testing report and further studies (Biosis, 2013; redacted 2017)
- Molonglo Stage 3 Additional Areas Cultural Heritage Assessment (Biosis, 2014; redacted 2017)
- Molonglo Stage 3 Development Area: Vegetation Classification and Condition Assessment (Biosis, 2016)
- Molonglo Valley Vegetation Survey: Baseline Condition Assessment (ELA, 2013)
- Review of ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator Stage 2 (Umwelt, 2013)
- Molonglo Stage 3: Major Electrical Infrastructure Relocation, Environmental and Heritage Constraints (Umwelt, 2014)

2.5. Consultation

Entity and public consultation were both undertaken for this application, as required by the PD Act.

2.5.1. Entity referral

Section 211E of the PD Act requires the Minister to consult with entities prescribed in the Planning and Development Regulation 2008 (PD Regulation) about the EIS exemption application. The Minister may also seek advice from additional entities.

The Authority referred the Project application to the following entities. Comments were received from seven entities during the consultation period. The proponent revised the EIS exemption application in response to the entity comments, and further consultation was undertaken with relevant entities. Entity comments are provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Summary of entity comments

Referred entity	Entity response	Entity response date
Conservator of Flora and Fauna	Draft EIS exemption application: The buffer between the proposed urban development and Kama Nature Reserve should be wide enough to protect the reserve and the species it supports from the impacts of the urban development. The application would need to include the report Kama Interface Management Strategy. Inclusion of this report would ensure that the impacts of the development on Kama Nature Reserve are recognised and can be addressed.	24 August 2017

Referred entity	Entity response	Entity response date
	<p>Revised EIS exemption application: The exemption from an EIS can be supported by the Conservator provided that the matters below are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kama Interface Management Strategy Report is made public. • The minimum width of the buffer between Kama Nature Reserve and the Molonglo Urban Development. • That the Conservator is consulted in the development of the Planning Design Framework that is being developed to guide the development of Molonglo Stage 3. • The buffer is incorporated into the Territory Plan at the earliest opportunity with a Hills Ridges and Buffers land use, and lifting the Future Urban Area overlay. 	20 February 2018
Emergency Services Commissioner	ACTF&R is supportive of the s211 exemption for the Molonglo Valley Stage 3 based on the additional documentation provided.	17 July 2017
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	<p>Draft EIS exemption application: The document titled “Molonglo Stage 3 S211 Application Supporting Documentation FINAL” dated June 2017 by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited does not accurately reflect the status of the audits into contamination studies within the study area and incorrectly identifies sites as being on the Register of contaminated sites under s21A of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i>. The report must be updated in light of these comments and resubmitted for further review before the EPA will be in a position to comment on the EIS exemption from a contamination perspective.</p>	5 July 2017
	Revised EIS exemption application: EPA supports the EIS Exemption, and notes that the proponent will be required to provide details on site remediation as part of any subsequent development applications.	22 March 2018
Heritage Council	The Council supports the application under the condition that the management and recommendations noted in the heritage reports are adhered to. The council also note that the EIS exemption only applies to the area south of William Hovell Drive. Any proposed works on the north side of William Hovel Drive will require further heritage investigations.	28 August 2017

Referred entity	Entity response	Entity response date
Icon Water	Draft EIS exemption application: ICON Water noted that a number of sewer, water mains and liquid waste receival facilities have not been identified. The risk assessment does not address the design of the sewage odour control for existing Molonglo Valley Interceptor Sewer.	6 July 2017
	Revised EIS exemption application: Icon water agrees with the conclusion of S2.3.6.3 (of the EIS Exemption application report) that the inclusion of more information would not result in an EIS reducing the risk. Existing sewerage has designed overflow points for emergencies. The development plan should consider these sites and ensure there are no sensitive receivers (areas) within the immediate vicinity of these discharge sites.	14 March 2018
	Revised EIS exemption application: Icon Water are pleased to see the amendments incorporated into the documentation. At this point in time we have no further requirements of the proponents from this documentation. We appreciate the ongoing liaison between the proponent and Icon Water in reviewing and considering utility requirements for the future stages of work.	26 March 2018
National Capital Authority (NCA)	The NCA does not object to the exemption, but noted that any works within Designated Areas will need to have planning approval with NCA. The NCA also noted that the design should allow for a connection of approximately 60m wide for a fauna corridor from the National Arboretum west to the river and up to Mount Stromlo.	25 July 2017
Transport Canberra and City Services	TCCS acknowledges that adequate studies have been undertaken and sufficient documentation has been prepared to support the application for EIS exemption.	24 July 2017

Any matters to be considered or conditions that have been recommended by a referral entity will be included in Section 4 and 6 of this report.

2.5.2. Public consultation

The PD Act requires the Minister to consult with the public on the EIS exemption application for a minimum of 15 working days. The initial public consultation period was 4 July 2017 to 24 July 2017 in accordance with Section 211C of the PD Act. Under section 211D(2) of the PD Act, the public

consultation period was extended. The EIS exemption application was further publicly notified from 8 August 2017 to 30 August 2017.

Ten public submissions were received during the public consultation period and were made available on the authority's website until the end of the consultation period as per section 211F of the PD Act. The proponent was provided with a copy of all public submissions and entity comments.

2.5.3. Issues raised in submissions

The following key issues were raised in submissions during the public consultation period:

- the development and management of offset sites for MNES;
- management of nature reserves included or adjacent to the project site, including Molonglo River Reserve and Kama Nature Reserve, and how impacts are to be assessed in accordance with plans of management for these areas;
- additional studies should be required to assess potential impacts (including cumulative temporal and spatial impacts) to threatened species and ecological communities, including PTWL, NTG, BGW, superb parrot, swift parrot, little eagle and a number of other bird species;
- clearing of native vegetation, including the removal of habitat for threatened species and hollow-bearing trees;
- the implementation and extent of a buffer space between urban development and Kama Nature Reserve;
- impacts on non-listed native species, including macropods, wombats and cockatoo species;
- impacts on the area acting as a wildlife corridor;
- impacts on Aboriginal and historical heritage items;
- development and implementation of bushfire management measures, including land clearing for buffer zones between urban development areas and nature reserves;
- concerns that the design of the urban development will impact on views to the area, land value of the area, and impacts on health of residents; and
- comments on the EIS exemption process, public consultation and transparency in general.

The applicant was required to address each matter raised in the public submissions received during the consultation period and provide a revised application to the Minister. Some of the issues raised are for the applicant to address at DA stage. Other matters are outside the scope of this EIS exemption application (for example, impacts on non-native flora and non-threatened species). The issues related to triggers for the EIS exemption application are addressed in the following sections of the report.

2.6. The revised EIS exemption application

To respond to entity comments and public submissions, the applicant lodged a revised EIS exemption application on 15 March 2018. Along with a revised report, the application included additional recent studies to support the exemption from an EIS:

- Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy (Territory and Municipal Services, 2013)
- Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (NES Plan) (Planning and Land Authority, 2011)

- Molonglo Valley Stage 3 (Area B) Stage 2 Detailed Site Investigation (WSP, 2016)
- Bushfire Risk Strategy Molonglo Stage 3, Denman Prospect and the Molonglo River Corridor (ABPP, 2016)
- Kama Interface Management Strategy (Capital Ecology, 2016)
- Molonglo NES Plan Superb Parrot Survey – Baseline Surveys 2013 (ELA, 2013)
- Vegetation Mapping for Kama Nature Reserve, Molonglo (Umwelt, 2013)
- Site Audit Report: Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Future Urban Area: Area A (Zoic, 2017)
- Site Audit Statement and Site Audit Report: Molonglo Valley Stage 3 Future Urban Area: Area B (Zoic, 2017)

2.7. Additional public consultation of recent studies

Some of the supporting information for the Project has been publically available prior to its inclusion as a recent study for the purposes of this EIS exemption application. This included the NES Plan, the Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy, and the Molonglo River Reserve (Kama) Operational Plan. These documents are available on the relevant ACT Government directorate web pages. Public consultation that formed part of the development of the NES Plan and the Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy was not directly related to this application.

The proponent did not undertake additional public consultation related to this EIS exemption application outside of the statutory notification conducted by the Authority. However, the ACT Government has made public its intentions to develop this area of Molonglo Valley, as detailed in supporting reports and studies and in addition to this application.

Some supporting studies had redacted versions publicly notified to remove sensitive heritage information as required by section 56 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. Only information pertaining to the location and details of heritage objects were removed from publicly available documents, with the full version lodged for assessment purposes.

Some supporting studies involved consultation with Representative Aboriginal Organisations to determine the cultural values of the project site.

3. Matters of National Environmental Significance

Under the EPBC Act, a person must not take an action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on any matters of national environmental significance (MNES) without approval from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy.

3.3 EPBC Act Strategic Assessment

Under section 146 of the EPBC Act, the Commonwealth Minister may agree to assess the impacts of actions under a policy, plan or program as a strategic assessment, this may include (but is not limited to):

- regional-scale development plans and policies;
- large-scale industrial development and associated infrastructure;
- fire, vegetation/resource or pest management policies, plans or programs;
- water extraction/use policies;
- infrastructure plans and policies; or
- industry sector policies.

Within this context a strategic assessment normally applies to multiple natured projects which may otherwise be assessed on a case-by-case basis under the EPBC Act.

Preliminary environmental investigations in the Molonglo and North Weston area identified several MNES. These included: Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (PTWL) (listed under the EPBC Act as vulnerable), White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland (BGW) (listed as critically endangered), and Natural temperate grasslands of the Southern Tablelands of NSW and the ACT (NTG) (listed as endangered). Given the presence of these MNES, the impacts of development in the strategic assessment location were required to be assessed under the EPBC Act.

On 16 September 2008, the Federal Minister and the ACT Minister for Planning, announced that a Strategic Assessment of the proposed Molonglo and North Weston Structure Plan (the Structure Plan) would be undertaken in accordance with section 146 of the EPBC Act. This provided potential to address cumulative impacts on MNES and to look for both conservation and planning outcomes on a much larger scale. Figure 3 illustrates the area of land covered by the Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment (Strategic Assessment).



Figure 3 Area of Molonglo Valley covered by the strategic assessment

The Structure Plan is part of the Territory Plan and it sets out the planning and development guidelines and principles for urban development and associated infrastructure at Molonglo and North Weston. It guides urban and commercial development in the Molonglo Valley, including associated infrastructure. The Structure Plan considers a broad range of environmental, social and economic planning issues. It addresses many issues which are unlikely to have an impact on nationally protected matters, and may require adjustment during the life of the Structure Plan.

To protect nationally significant matters the Commonwealth Environment Minister amended the decision to include a strategic assessment of the ACT Government's Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (the NES Plan). The NES Plan identifies nationally protected matters in the Molonglo Valley likely to be affected by implementing the Structure Plan, and sets out protection and conservation strategies to avoid unacceptable impacts. The strategic assessment ensures that development undertaken in the Molonglo Valley avoids unacceptable impacts on matters protected under national environment law by outlining commitments to a suite of avoidance, mitigation and offset measures.

To meet the ACT Government's land release schedule, the suburbs of North Weston, Coombs and Wright were removed from the strategic assessment process and were subsequently assessed and approved under separate EPBC Act Part 9 referrals (EPBC referrals 2009/4752, 2009/5041 and 2009/5050).

On 7 October 2011, the Commonwealth Environment Minister endorsed the NES Plan. This was the third strategic assessment in Australia to reach the endorsement stage. The endorsement of the NES Plan allows the Commonwealth Environment Minister to consider giving approval to actions or classes of actions that are taken in accordance with the endorsed Plan.

On 20 December 2011, the Commonwealth Environment Minister approved actions associated with urban development in East Molonglo as described in the endorsed NES Plan.

Copies of the NES Plan endorsement and the approval decision are included at Appendix 1.

4. Impacts on Schedule 4 items

This section summarises the impacts of the development on the relevant items from Schedule 4 of the PD Act. For each item, the supporting studies lodged with the application and the comments of referral entities and the public are listed along with any recommended mitigation measures. A conclusion is made on whether or not the information satisfies the requirements of section 211 of the PD Act.

4.1. Schedule 4 Part 4.2 Item 2 – electricity transmission line construction works

Two 132kV electrical transmission lines currently traverse the project site, providing critical infrastructure linkages in the ACT. The lines connect the TransGrid Canberra 330/132kV substation in Holt to the Woden Zone Substation in Lyons, and the Civic Zone Substation at the base of Black Mountain to the Woden Zone Substation.

The Project proposes the removal of a total of 8.4km of existing 132kV electrical transmission lines, including 29 towers as they do not align with the proposed configuration of urban development. An undetermined length of new 132kV electrical transmission lines is proposed to replace the decommissioned infrastructure, with the alignment within the project site to be determined. In addition, a new Molonglo Zone Substation is proposed. This will either be located at an existing site earmarked for this use within the project site (Block 3 Molonglo Valley), or an alternative location outside the project site to the north of William Hovell Drive.

4.1.1. Impacts

The removal of existing above ground towers and lines will reduce the existing visual impacts of the infrastructure to the local area, including views of the Molonglo Valley from the National Arboretum and surrounding hills and ridges. Any earthworks associated with the removal of this infrastructure will be occurring in an area which has already been disturbed. The Project has holistically considered the impacts to native flora and fauna in the project footprint, rather than for the transmission line relocation individually as the new alignment is not yet confirmed. The new transmission lines may be underground to reduce visual impacts and the extent of required easements. Details of the new infrastructure is to be included in the Molonglo Stage 3 estate development plan (EDP) DA.

4.1.2. Previous studies and investigation

The proponent referred to a previous feasibility study (L3D, 2014a) and concept design report (Calibre, 2015) prepared for stakeholders directly involved in the infrastructure, which were not lodged with the application. The application states that the preferred alignment will be identified through a triple bottom line assessment, and will also minimise the amount of developable land or environmentally sensitive land lost to the easement corridor.

4.1.3. Entity referrals and public comments

No public submissions and no entity comments directly mentioned the decommissioning, removal and relocation of electrical infrastructure. However, there were comments related to native vegetation removal as a result of the development of the Project which will be addressed under other sections of this report.

4.1.4. Recommended mitigation measures

The recommended mitigation measures from the authority's assessment and studies submitted by the proponent against the impacts of the proposed works in relation to transmission lines include:

- implement measures to minimise the spread of weeds during works e.g. washing vehicles;
- undertake detailed design and options analysis of powerline alignments to minimise the ecological and visual impacts, and encroachment on the urban area;
- ensure the decommissioning process has associated disposal plans, including recycling and reuse of components where possible to minimise waste to landfill; and
- undertake an electromagnetic radiation (EMR) study to ensure that health limits would not be exceeded for the powerline alignment.

Additional mitigation measures are included for each relevant trigger.

4.1.5. Conclusion

The application provides sufficient information in relation to the impacts associated with the electrical transmission lines. Further investigation and environmental assessment of the impacts of the electrical transmission lines is not required for this Project. The recommended conditions to mitigate impacts of this development will be applied through conditions of approval in any subsequent development application.

4.2. Schedule 4 Part 4.3 Item 1– impacts on species or ecological communities

The Project is likely to impact on listed species and ecological communities identified under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act) and/or the EPBC Act. The EIS exemption application notes that a review of potential habitat for threatened species and ecological communities was undertaken, and those species likely to occur in the project site are shown in Table 4 below.

Potential impacts associated with the Project include disturbance of vegetation, temporary or permanent clearing of habitat; and an increase in edge effects associated with urban development.

Table 4 Ecological communities and threatened species

Endangered Ecological Communities	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
Natural Temperate Grassland	Endangered	Not applicable*
White Box Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Threatened species	NC Act status	EPBC Act status
<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i> - pink-tailed worm-lizard	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Flora		
<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i> -Tarengo Leek Orchid	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i> var.-tricolor hoary sunray	Not listed	Endangered
Woodland bird species		
<i>Anthochaera Phrygia</i> – regent honeyeater	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Lathamus discolor</i> – swift parrot	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i> – superb parrot	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Grantiella picta</i> - painted honeyeater	Vulnerable	Not listed
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i> - little eagle	Vulnerable	Not listed
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i> -- hooded robin	Vulnerable	Not listed

* The minimum patch size to meet Commonwealth listing for Natural Temperate Grassland (NTG) is 0.1 ha.

The NTG patch identified in the project area is 0.05ha, therefore this patch does not qualify as EPBC listed NTG.

4.2.1. Impacts

Endangered ecological communities

Two endangered ecological communities, BGW and NTG, were identified in the project site (Figure 4). Impacts on the ecological communities are discussed below.

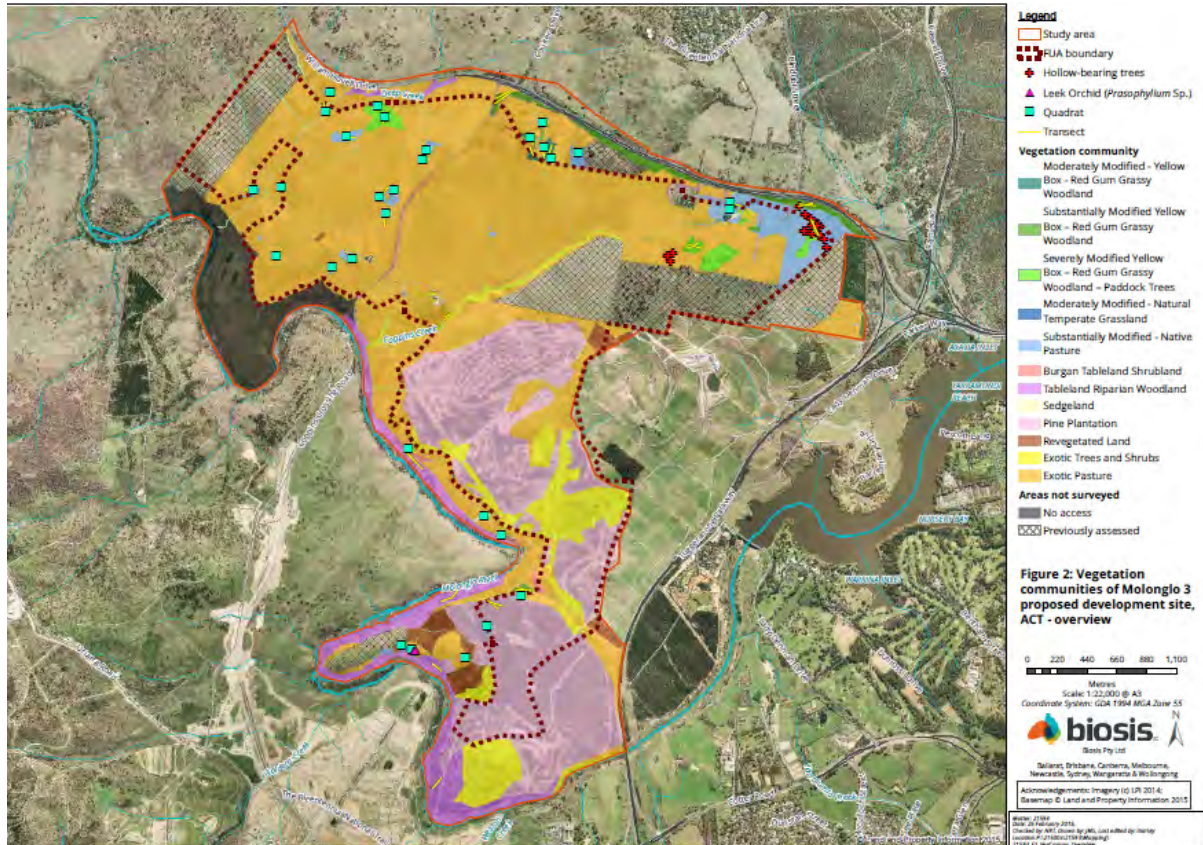


Figure 4 Vegetation communities of Molonglo Stage 3 development. Source: Umwelt (2018)

Box Gum Woodland (BGW)

The EIS exemption application notes 2.6 ha of BGW occurs within the project site. The ecological report identified 12.9 ha of BGW, however the EIS exemption states that this is degraded and does not qualify as BGW under the EPBC Act and NC Act.

The 2.6 ha of BGW identified in the project site, includes 0.3 ha of patch H. In accordance with the NES Plan, the entirety of patch H will be retained and managed to improve its ecological values. The EIS exemption application notes that 2.3 ha of BGW would be impacted by the Project, and these impacts have been considered under the NES plan.

The NES Plan states that impacts to BGW must be limited to a maximum of 110 ha. The EIS exemption application notes that as of June 2016, 10.65 ha has been impacted as a result of development within the Molonglo Valley. Based on these figures, the Project is unlikely to exceed the BGW clearance thresholds of the NES Plan, and no further action under the PD Act is required.

Natural Temperate Grassland (NTG)

The project would result in the permanent removal of a 0.05 ha patch of moderately modified NTG. This patch of NTG does not represent a core conservation site for the community under the ACT's Grassland Conservation Strategy, it is identified as Category 3: landscape and urban sites in this strategy.

The ACT Natural Temperate Grassland Endangered Ecological Community Action Plan (2017) notes that all conservation significance category 3 sites should be protected from unintended impacts (impacts that have not already been considered through an environmental assessment). Impacts on NTG as a result of the Project have been considered under the NES Plan.

The EIS exemption application notes that due to size, isolation, modified nature, and surrounding threats, removal of this patch is unlikely to result in a significant adverse impact on the endangered ecological community.

Threatened species

The Project has the potential to impact on a number of threatened species, as summarised in Table 4. The details of potential impacts are outlined below.

Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (PTWL)

Habitat for the PTWL was determined based on mapping undertaken by Osborne and Wong (2010), which is consistent with the NES Plan. The Project has the potential to directly remove approximately 8.5 ha of moderate to high quality PTWL habitat and 9.1 ha of low quality PTWL habitat.

The NES Plan states that impacts to high and moderate quality PTWL habitat will be limited to a maximum of 27 ha. The EIS exemption application notes 0.47 ha of PTWL within the Strategic Assessment area has been impacted through previous works. Clearance of the PTWL as a result of the Project is consistent with the NES Plan.

The EIS exemption application states that two offset sites, Kama Nature Reserve and the Molonglo River Corridor, will be protected as part of the offset sites established under the NES Plan.

The protection of these sites is consistent with the ACT Action Plan for the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard *Aprasia parapulchella* (2017).

Woodland bird species

The EIS exemption application identifies potential habitat for a number of threatened woodland species within the project site (summarised in Table 4 above). Habitat for woodland bird species has been identified in the woodland and open forest patches within the project site, including the Kama Nature Reserve and Molonglo River Corridor. Impacts associated with the Project on woodland bird species include the direct clearing of foraging habitat, and an increase in edge effects (weeds and feral species) as a result of urban development.

The Kama Nature Reserve was established as an offset area under the Strategic Assessment. A commitment of the strategic assessment was to ensure that an adequate buffer was established between the conservation area and the urban edge to reduce long-term degradation.

The Kama Interface Management Strategy Report (Capital Ecology, 2016) ([Appendix 2](#)) recommended a variable width buffer from 200m in the northern section, tapering to 70 m in the southern section. The 200m width was to ensure an adequate setback was provided to core woodland bird habitat. The EIS exemption application notes that the treatment of the boundary will be consistent with the recommendations outlined in the report, with final details to be defined at the Estate Development Plan (EDP) design stage.

In addition to the woodland habitat, Biosis (2016) recorded approximately 17 hollow-bearing trees within the project site. Tree hollows provide shelter and/or breeding habitat for a range of threatened and non-threatened fauna. The EIS exemption application notes that the removal of the trees has been considered in the total loss of habitat.

The majority of woodland bird habitat occurs within the offset areas established by the NES Plan, as noted by the EIS exemption application. The loss of habitat associated with the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the endangered woodland bird species.

Flora

Two threatened plant species, Hoary Sunray and Tarengo Leek Orchid, were identified in the EIS exemption as having the potential to occur within the project site.

The Tarengo Leek Orchid grows in natural temperate grassland, grassy woodland with river tussock, black gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*) and tea-trees (*Leptospermum spp.*) as well as the grassy understory of box gum woodland. One of the key threats to this species is grazing. The EIS exemption application notes that given the sites long term grazing history of the BGW, the potential for the Tarengo Leek Orchid to occur within the project site is low.

Suitable habitat for the Hoary Sunray was identified within the project site, particularly within the BGW and NTG. The EIS exemption application notes that a targeted survey was undertaken, however no records were found. The loss of habitat associated with the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact on the Hoary Sunray and Tarengo Leek Orchid.

4.2.2. Previous studies and investigation

Five reports have been considered in investigating impacts on species and ecological communities in support of the request for an EIS exemption. Some of this information was provided at revised application stage in response to entity and public comments. Recent studies are considered as documents completed no more than five years before this application was first lodged (i.e. later than 29 June 2012).

The information submitted by the proponent to support the application is listed and assessed for relevance against the requirements of section 211H of the PD Act in Table 5.

Table 5 Assessment of supporting information - Item 1, Part 4.3, Schedule 4

Title & Author of Study	Qualified Person	Recent Study	<i>If recent study >18 months, is information current</i>	Information directly related to proposal?	<i>If no, has sufficient information been provided?</i>	Expert/Peer reviewed
Molonglo Stage 3 Development Area: Vegetation Classification and Condition Assessment (Biosis)	Yes	Yes (2016)	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Kama Interface Management Strategy (Capital Ecology)	Yes	Yes (2016)	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Molonglo NES Plan Superb Parrot Survey – Baseline Surveys (ELA)	Yes	Yes (2014)	Yes	Yes	n/a	Yes
Vegetation Mapping for Kama Nature Reserve, Molonglo (Umwelt)	Yes	Yes (2013)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes
Molonglo Stage 3: Major Electrical Infrastructure Relocation, Environmental and Heritage Constraints (Umwelt)	Yes	Yes (2014)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes

It is considered that these studies provide sufficient detail to allow an assessment of the environmental impacts associated with the proposal.

4.2.3. Entity referral and public comments

The Conservator of Flora and Fauna provided initial comments on the Project which related to the protection of the values within the Kama Nature Reserve, including habitat for woodland birds and BGW. The comments are summarised below:

- Kama Nature Reserve is known breeding habitat of several threatened and regionally declining woodland birds. Research has shown that 40% {36} of the bird species observed in the Molonglo Valley were not seen in or within a few hundred metres of the suburbs. The buffer between the proposed urban development and Kama Nature Reserve should be wide enough to protect the reserve and the species it supports from the impacts of the urban development.
- The application would need to include the report Kama Interface Management Strategy. Inclusion of this report would ensure that the impacts of the development on Kama Nature Reserve are recognised and can be addressed.

The revised EIS exemption application notes that the treatment of the boundary will be consistent with the recommendations outlined in the Kama Interface Management Strategy with final details defined at the EDP stage.

The Conservator provided a response to the revised EIS exemption application, summarised below. These recommendations will inform conditions for the EIS exemption:

- The Kama Interface Management Strategy Report should be made publicly available;
- The width of the buffer between the urban area and Kama Nature Reserve is as recommended in the Kama Interface Management Strategy Report referred to above, and as detailed in that report in Figure 6, Kama Interface Arrangements - Buffer Width;
- The Conservator of Flora and Fauna is consulted in the development of the Planning and Design Framework that is being developed to guide the development of Molonglo Stage 3; and
- The buffer is incorporated into the Territory Plan at the earliest opportunity with a Hills Ridges and Buffers land use, and lifting of the Future Urban Area overlay.

Ten public comments were received during the public consultation period that were relevant to impacts on endangered ecological communities and species. These have been summarised in section 2.5.3 of this report. The applicant has addressed these comments in their revised application.

4.2.4. Recommended mitigation measures

In addition to the above, the recommended mitigation measures from the authority's assessment, entity and public submissions and the studies submitted by the proponent against the impacts of the Project on endangered ecological communities and threatened species include:

- design the urban area to minimise impacts to retained values and character of the region (e.g. through the placement and management of urban open space);
- prevent indirect additional impacts through comprehensive construction environmental management plans;
- develop and implement a construction environmental management plan (CEMP) and associated sub plans to minimise impacts during land clearing and construction;
- develop and implement an operational management plan to provide ongoing management for the urban interface at the Molonglo River Reserve and Kama Nature Reserve;
- implement avoidance and mitigation measures specified in the NES Plan;
- minimise loss of habitat for local fauna in non-cleared areas by using felled trees as habitat;
- minimise vegetation removal to be consistent with the requirements of the NES plan;
- avoid works in all BGW and high and moderate quality PTWL habitat;
- avoid clearing hollow-bearing trees;
- where hollow-bearing trees cannot be retained, removal must be done outside of the key breeding season;
- avoid works in all known nesting tree areas for the superb parrot; and
- implement and monitor the 'impact budget' as approved under the EPBC Act.

4.2.5. Offsets

A range of offsets were proposed during the strategic assessment for the Molonglo Valley. The offset package included both direct and indirect offsets. No further offsets are proposed for the Project.

4.2.6. Conclusion

The supporting studies contain sufficient information on the impacts of the Project on species and ecological communities.

Further investigation and environmental assessment of the impacts of the proposal on species and ecological communities is not required for the Project. The recommended mitigation measures will be applied through conditions of approval in any subsequent development application.

4.3. Schedule 4 Part 4.3 Item 2– Native vegetation clearing

The Project is expected to result in the clearing of 43 ha native vegetation, containing a matrix of BGW, derived native grassland and native pasture.

4.3.1. Impacts

The EIS exemption application identified the following potential impacts related to native vegetation clearing:

- permanent clearance of up to 43 ha of native vegetation;
- loss of hollow-bearing trees;
- removal of shrub and ground cover;
- disturbance of soil and seed bank;
- removal of rock and fallen timber; and
- introduction of weeds due to construction activities and occupation of urban areas.

Some impacts related to native vegetation clearing are covered in other sections of this report, for example, where native vegetation removal relates to habitat removal for protected species. The impacts and any mitigation measures are considered in the appropriate sections.

The EIS exemption application concludes that impacts resulting from vegetation clearing to threatened ecological communities will be mitigated and offset in accordance with the NES Plan. Impacts to the general environment and non-threatened flora would be managed through a CEMP to address avoidable impacts including minimising the spread of weeds, and preventing harm to fauna during construction.

4.3.2. Previous studies and investigation

The proponent has submitted six reports which address impacts of clearing native vegetation in support of the request for exemption from the requirement to complete an EIS. The information submitted by the proponent to support the request is listed and assessed for relevance in Table 6. Recent studies are considered as documents completed no more than five years before this application was first lodged (i.e. later than 29 June 2012).

Table 6 Assessment of supporting information - Item 2, Part 4.3, Schedule 4

Title & Author of Study	Qualified Person	Recent Study	<i>If recent study >18 months, is information current</i>	Information directly related to proposal?	<i>If no, has sufficient information been provided?</i>	Expert/Peer reviewed
Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National	Yes	No (2011)	Yes	Yes	n/a	No

Title & Author of Study	Qualified Person	Recent Study	If recent study >18 months, is information current	Information directly related to proposal?	If no, has sufficient information been provided?	Expert/ Peer reviewed
Environmental Significance (Planning & Land Authority)						
Bushfire Risk Strategy Molonglo Stage 3, Denman Prospect and The Molonglo River Corridor (ABPP)	Yes	Yes (2016)	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Molonglo Stage 3 Development Area: Vegetation Classification and Condition Assessment (Biosis)	Yes	Yes (2016)	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy (TaMS)	Yes	Yes (2013)	Yes	Yes	n/a	n/a
Vegetation Mapping for Kama Nature Reserve, Molonglo (Umwelt)	Yes	Yes (2013)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes
Review of ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator Stage 2 (Umwelt)	Yes	Yes (2013)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes

4.3.3. Entity referrals and public comments

No entities provided comments which specifically relate to the impacts of clearing native vegetation. A number of public submissions raised concerns regarding the clearing of native vegetation in relation to the removal of habitat for threatened species and hollow-bearing trees. These comments were considered in the context of impacts on protected species in section 4.2.

4.3.4. Recommended mitigation measures

The recommended mitigation measures for the impacts of the development on native vegetation identified in the authority's assessment, public submissions and the reports referenced by the proponent include:

- revegetate all areas of disturbance immediately following construction;
- clearly mark limits for clearing prior to any construction commencing;
- reseed disturbed areas with native grass mix where possible, particularly adjacent to areas of BGW; and
- develop and implement CEMP and sub plans to avoid or minimise environmental risks (e.g. sedimentation, erosion, weeds, stormwater runoff).

4.3.5. Offsets

A range of offsets were proposed during the strategic assessment for the Molonglo Valley. These offsets provide protection for native vegetation and habitat for non-threatened species. The offset package included both direct and indirect offsets. No further offsets are proposed for the Project.

4.3.6. Conclusion

The information provided in the application and the comments of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna provide sufficient information on the impacts of the proposal on native vegetation.

Further investigation and environmental assessment of the impacts of the proposal on native vegetation is not required for the Project. The recommended mitigation measures will be applied through conditions of approval in any subsequent development applications.

4.4. Schedule 4 Part 4.3 Item 4(c) – Natural waterway

The Project has the potential to impact on the Molonglo River, a natural waterway as listed in the Water Use and Catchment General Code under the Territory Plan. The affected catchment is the Molonglo River between Scrivener Dam and the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (LMWQCC). This catchment has broad usage and has the following water use and environmental values listed in the Water Use and Catchment General Code:

- stockwater supply;
- waterscape through the provision of views for passive recreation;
- aquatic habitat – lowland stream;
- discharge – storm water;
- water based recreation – boating; and
- irrigation water supply.

4.4.1. Impacts

The Project is likely to result in a change in hydrology, increase in sediment and nutrients entering the Molonglo River and a rise in recreational activities within the Molonglo River corridor. This may result in a decline in water quality and degradation of aquatic habitat.

It is proposed that stormwater runoff and discharge into the river would be managed during design of the suburb, with the use of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles and water quality ponds. In addition, the EIS exemption application notes that any runoff during construction and operation would be captured and/or treated in accordance with ACT Government requirements, and is not expected to significantly impact aquatic habitat.

An increase in recreational activities has the potential to increase weeds, erosion and pollution in the Molonglo River corridor. The EIS exemption application outlines a range of mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the Molonglo River corridor including designated access paths and no-go areas. It is also noted that the management of environmental values will be guided by operational plans for the Molonglo River Reserve, and the Molonglo River Corridor Management Plan.

According to the EIS exemption application, with appropriate design, construction, and operation in accordance with ACT legislation and policy, the Project is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on the prescribed environmental values of the Molonglo River under the Territory Plan.

4.4.2. Previous studies and investigation

The proponent has referenced one document which addresses impacts on a natural waterway in support of the request for EIS exemption. The information referenced by the proponent to support the request is listed and assessed for relevance in Table 7. Recent studies are considered as

documents completed no more than five years before this application was first lodged (i.e. later than 29 June 2012).

Table 7 Assessment of supporting information - Item 4(c), Part 4.3, Schedule 4

Title & Author of Study	Qualified Person	Recent Study	<i>If recent study >18 months, is information current</i>	Information directly related to proposal?	<i>If no, has sufficient information been provided?</i>	Expert/Peer reviewed
Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (Planning & Land Authority)	Yes	No (2011)	No	Yes	n/a	No

4.4.3. Entity referrals and public comments

Public submissions raised concerns regarding the impacts of increased recreational activities, potential for increased erosion and a decline in water quality of the natural waterway.

4.4.4. Recommended mitigation measures

The key recommended mitigation measures for the impacts of the Project on natural waterways identified in the Authority’s assessment, entity and public submissions and the documents referenced by the proponent include:

- develop and implement a CEMP to ensure best practice erosion control measures are installed during construction;
- revegetate all areas of disturbance immediately following construction to prevent excessive run-off entering waterways;
- incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles and water quality considerations in drainage design;
- design stormwater systems to ensure site runoff does not flow across retained areas of PTWL habitat;
- maintain water treatment systems during operation to ensure water quality entering Molonglo River is within EPA guidelines;
- prior to construction establish no-go zones, site boundaries and fences to prevent unauthorised access into adjacent areas;
- minimise adverse impacts on the river corridor during the design and planning phases including consideration of adjacent land uses and adequate open space buffers; and
- provide designated pathways and access points to the Molonglo River Corridor.

4.4.5. Conclusion

The supporting studies provide sufficient information on the impacts of the Project on natural waterways. Further investigation and environmental assessment of the impacts of the Project on the values of natural waterways is not considered necessary for this Project. The conditions attached to this EIS Exemption will be applied through conditions of approval on any subsequent development application.

4.5. Schedule 4 Part 4.3 Item 6 – Heritage

The ACT Heritage Register identifies a number of heritage items and places within the project site (Figure 5), including:

- four Aboriginal places and objects;
- four artefact scatters;
- two scarred trees; and,
- two areas listed for environmental and geological values, being Kama Nature Reserve and Lower Molonglo Geological Site, Stromlo.

In addition to sites on the ACT Heritage Register, the EIS exemption application notes that Biosis (2012) identified 17 previously recorded and 33 unrecorded Aboriginal archaeological sites including artefact scatters and isolated finds, and nine new Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) within their project site. Additional aboriginal places and objects were recorded during a survey undertaken by Biosis in 2014.

4.5.1. Impacts

The Project has the potential to damage Aboriginal places and objects located within the project site.

The EIS exemption application notes that two Aboriginal places would be impacted by the Project, as these items have not been relocated. According to the EIS exemption application advice will be sought from the ACT Heritage Council regarding the management of impacts to these sites.

The EIS exemption application notes that further consideration will also be required for the Aboriginal cultural heritage area identified in project site (Figure 5). The Project is not expected to directly impact this site, however the EIS exemption application notes that site-specific management action will be required to ensure future protection of this site.

The Kama Nature Reserve is listed on the ACT Heritage Register due to its natural heritage including native species diversity and the endangered ecological communities present. Potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures relating to the Kama Nature Reserve have been discussed above (section 4.2).

The EIS exemption application notes that the Lower Molonglo Geological Site, Stromlo is outside the project site, and would not be impacted by the Project.

The Biosis (2013) report, noted that a number of archaeological items have been identified and salvaged, and an Unexpected Discovery Plan will be implemented during construction to mitigate risk to any remaining items or sites.

The EIS exemption application identified that whilst heritage assessment has been undertaken, further assessment and salvage may be required. This will require approval from the ACT Heritage Council.

Figure 5 Heritage items and places. Source: Umwelt (2018) - Redacted (confidential)

4.5.2. Previous studies and investigation

The proponent submitted three studies which address impacts on heritage values in support of the request for an EIS exemption. The information submitted by the proponent to support the request is listed and assessed for relevance in Table 8. Recent studies are considered as documents completed no more than five years before this application was first lodged (i.e. later than 29 June 2012).

Table 8 Assessment of supporting information - Item 6, Part 4.3, Schedule 4

Title & Author of Study	Qualified Person	Recent Study	If recent study >18 months, is information current	Information directly related to proposal?	If no, has sufficient information been provided?	Expert/ Peer reviewed
Molonglo Stage 3 Future Urban Release: Sub Surface testing report and further studies (Biosis)	Yes	Yes (2013)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes
Molonglo Stage 3 Additional Areas Cultural Heritage Assessment (Biosis)	Yes	Yes (2014)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes
Molonglo Stage 3: Major Electrical Infrastructure Relocation, Environmental and Heritage Constraints (Umwelt)	Yes	Yes (2014)	No	Yes	n/a	Yes

4.5.3. Entity referrals

The ACT Heritage Council provided conditional endorsement through the following comments:

The Council supports the application for an EIS exemption under s211 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, under the condition that the management recommendations in the noted heritage reports are adhered to, as the proposed EIS exemption area has been subject to several cultural heritage assessments. This has included further works that have salvaged the majority of heritage sites in the area, proposed further works for other sites if development is unavoidable as well as several management recommendations that will conserve any heritage values, or potential values, that may remain.

The ACT Heritage Council also noted that the EIS exemption application only applies to the area south of William Hovell Drive; any works on the northern side will require further investigation.

4.5.4. Public comments

Public submissions raised the following concerns regarding heritage matters:

- the documentation is not clear that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage is adequately respected and protected;
- the proximity of the proposal area to significant cultural heritage sites and pathways of Ngunnawal people, including the Molonglo River Corridor and Black Mountain;
- the loss of cultural heritage sites would have a drastic impact to Canberra and the Ngunnawal people; and
- the removal of natural heritage through developing lands currently covered by pine forests and woodlands.

The applicant noted these concerns in the revised application and determined that they require no further action, as work will be undertaken in accordance with heritage reports for the area.

4.5.5. Recommended mitigation measures

The recommended mitigation measures for the impacts of the Project on heritage values identified in the Authority's assessment, entity and public submissions, and in the reports submitted by the proponent include:

- develop an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) prior to the commencement of works as a contingency in the event that any previously unidentified archaeological artefacts or sites are located during the course of the works;
- implement UDP during construction;
- prepare a specific management plan to ensure protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage areas during construction and operation;
- ensure boundaries and no-go zones are well defined during construction;
- avoid areas identified as cultural heritage sites- if impacts to the identified sites cannot be avoided then a program of surface collection (salvage) of the sites should be undertaken; and,
- avoid impacts to scarred trees-trees should be assessed by a qualified dendrologist to ascertain the origin of the scar/s and guide decisions regarding the future status of these recordings as registered Aboriginal objects.

4.5.6. Conclusion

Based on the supporting studies and ACT Heritage Council comments, all potential impacts on heritage places or objects have been either dealt with or there are recommendations for management actions to be considered at the development assessment stage.

The conditions attached to this EIS exemption will be applied through conditions of approval on any subsequent development application.

4.6. Schedule 4 Part 4.3 Item 7 – Contaminated lands

The EIS exemption application notes that an extensive assessment has been completed in regards to the contamination risk in the project site. At the time of lodgement, the assessment had identified blocks on the register of contaminated sites under the *Environment Protection Act 1997*:

- Blocks 7, 34, 46, 66, 70, 71 and 75 Molonglo Valley and Block 8 Section 3, Denman Prospect, which were previously occupied by a commercial forestry plantation;
- Block 10 Molonglo Valley, which contains a number of disused sewage treatment ponds; and
- Block 16 Molonglo Valley, which contains a sheep plunge dip.

The revised EIS exemption application noted that these sites had been removed and that no land within the project site is listed on the register of contaminated sites. Comments received from EPA state that the sites identified in the EIS exemption as contaminated sites were not listed on the register of contaminated sites under the *Environment Protection Act 1997*.

The EIS exemption notes that there are a number of 'Areas of Environmental Concern'. This is associated with the project sites long use as rural land, close proximity to forestry operations and potential for unexploded ordnances connected with historical Department of Defence field firing range.

Supporting studies have been provided as part of the EIS exemption application including an audit report and site audit statements which address the impacts of developing contaminated land. The EIS exemption application notes that the contamination risks are well understood and remediation actions are planned which will result in the area being made suitable for urban use.

The supporting studies and the comments from the EPA provide sufficient information on the impacts of works proposed on a contaminated site. Further investigation and environmental assessment of the impacts of the proposal on a contaminated site is not required for this Project. Whilst potential contamination issues are recorded within the project site, these can be addressed prior to and through the DA process. The conditions attached to this EIS exemption will be applied through conditions of approval on the DA.

5. Other potential impacts

This section summarises potential impacts of the development other than those impacts which are impact track triggers discussed in Section 4.

5.1 Bushfire

The project site is within the ACT's declared bushfire prone area. Molonglo Valley Stage 3 is intended to promote accommodation for up to 27,000 people. Appropriate bushfire management methods are required to manage the bushfire risk at the urban edge.

For residential areas which are bounded by significant areas of open space, fuel reduction is generally achieved through maintenance of asset protection zones (APZs).

The EIS exemption application included 'Bushfire Risk Strategy for Molonglo Stage 3, Denman Prospect and the Molonglo River Corridor (Australian Bushfire Protection Planners, 2015)', which describes the bushfire risks for the project site. It also outlines management measures required to mitigate the bushfire risk, recommending the establishment and management of Inner Asset Protection Zones (IAPZ) and Strategic Firefighting Advantage Zones (SFAZ).

5.1.1 Impacts

The following potential impacts were identified in relation to the establishment and maintenance of IAPZs and SFAZs:

- removal of BGW trees due to silvicultural thinning and burning;
- introduction of weeds and impacts on seed production of BGW within the Molonglo River riparian area;
- mortality of plants of endangered species by mechanical compaction or over grazing;
- impacts on PTWL from injury or mortality from management activities;
- damage to limestone bluffs and terraces from management activities;
- erosion of soils from tracks worn by people, livestock and plant/machinery; and
- impacts on PTWL from the collection/removal of surface rock to improve ease of slashing/mowing activities with IAPZs and SFAZs.

5.1.2 Recommended mitigation measures

The key commitments and mitigation measures recommended in the studies accompanying the application and by the referral entities are:

- IAPZ will be established within the urban area;
- outer APZ to be established outside conservation areas. Asset protection zones will be implemented in accordance with the 'Planning for Bushfire Risk Mitigation General Code' under the Territory Plan;
- within the SFAZs the proposed work will be limited to the maintenance of fuel loads through appropriate grazing, slashing or burning;
- the Kama Operation Plan will be implemented for any bushfire or maintenance works required within the reserve; and
- establish sensitive mowing regimes.

5.2 Visual Impacts

The proposed urban development includes a range of built forms on a previously undeveloped area. The project site is visible from nearby mountains and lookouts, including Black Mountain, Mount Stromlo, the National Arboretum and major arterial roads such as the Tuggeranong Parkway and William Hovell Drive. Existing urban development in Molonglo Valley and surrounds also have vistas towards the future development area.

5.2.1. Impacts

The following potential visual impacts were identified for Molonglo Stage 3:

- a loss of natural landscape vistas seen from existing residential areas;
- the urban development will be viewed from major arterial roads; and
- loss of the visual amenity for recreational users of Stromlo, Black Mountain and the National Arboretum.

5.2.2. Recommended mitigation measures

To reduce visual impacts of urban development on the landscape, the following mitigation measures are considered:

- appropriate urban form and layout, including considering block sizes and location of denser development multiple-storey buildings to reduce bulk and scale in visually sensitive areas;
- inclusion of open space elements throughout the area for development; and
- establish buffer areas - as well as providing ecological benefits, buffer zones will reduce visual impacts from within retained nature reserves towards the urban development area.

5.2.3. Conclusion

Impacts not listed under Schedule 4 of the PD Act were considered in the assessment of this EIS exemption application. The potential impacts identified, bushfire impacts and visual impacts, were considered to have sufficient supporting information at the environmental assessment stage. Visual impacts will be addressed at the DA stage once the urban design is determined. Bushfire protection measures will be included as conditions in any subsequent DA approvals.

6. EIS exemption conditions

Table 9 details the conditions that are proposed to be set if an EIS exemption is granted. These conditions should be taken into account by the planning and land authority when assessing any DAs for the Project.

If a conditional EIS exemption is granted for a development application, section 128 (1)(b)(iv) of the PD Act requires the approval of any subsequent development applications to be consistent with the EIS exemption conditions.

Table 9 Conditions for development approval

No	Condition	Endorsement/ approval	Development stage	Condition of approval
1	NES Plan	EPSDD	All stages of planning and development	All works must be in accordance with the NES Plan.
2	NES clearance budgets	EPSDD	During construction and operation	Any clearance of BGW or PTWL habitat must be quantified and reported to EPSDD to ensure consistency with the Molonglo NES Plan clearance budgets.
3	Flora and fauna	EPSDD	During construction	To minimise impacts on flora and fauna, the proposal must : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid clearing hollow-bearing trees; • where hollow-bearing trees cannot be retained, removal must be done outside of the key the breeding season; and • avoid works in all known nesting tree areas for the superb parrot.
4	All works		Prior to planning and commencement of any works.	All works must be consistent with the mitigation measures in Table 5.2 of the Molonglo Stage 3 S211 Application Supporting document –Final (Umwelt, March 2018)
5	Kama Nature Reserve Buffer	EPSDD	Preparation of Planning and Design Framework and Estate Development Plans	The treatment and boundary of the Kama Nature Reserve buffer within the FUA must be consistent with the recommendations in the Kama Interface Management Strategy (Capital Ecology, 2016).
6	Planning and design	EPSDD	Preparation of Planning and Design Framework and Estate Development Plans	To minimise impacts from urban development on the environmental and heritage values of the Molonglo Valley the following matters must be incorporated in the Planning and Design Framework and addressed in the design of any EDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design of urban area to minimise impacts to retained values (e.g. through the placement and management of urban open space; and appropriate buffers) and character of the region; • provide designated pathways and access points to the Molonglo River Corridor; • provide a connection of approximately 60m wide for a fauna corridor from the National Arboretum west to the river and up to Mount Stromlo; • the location of the electricity easement must avoid residential areas, and minimise ecological impacts; and • include the buffer between the Kama Nature Reserve and Urban Development in accordance with the Kama Interface Management Strategy Report (Capital Ecology, 2016).

No	Condition	Endorsement/ approval	Development stage	Condition of approval
7	Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy	EPSDD	During construction and operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works must be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy.
8	Revegetation		During operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All areas of disturbance must be revegetated immediately following construction. Native grass mix should be used for reseeding where possible, particularly adjacent to areas of BGW.
9	Heritage	ACT Heritage Council	Prior to construction Preparation of Estate Development Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Molonglo Stage 3 Additional Areas Cultural Heritage Assessment (Biosis 2014), amended in accordance with ACT Heritage Council dated 10 November 2014, must be submitted to the Council for review and endorsement. The Statement of Heritage Effects – Unexpected Aboriginal Find Molonglo Stage 3 Future Residential Development (Biosis 2016) must be submitted to the Council for review and endorsement. Subject to ACT Heritage Council approval of the above, all heritage assessment and management requirements for the Molonglo 3 development must be implemented prior to the commencement of works.
10	Construction environment management plan	EPA/ EPSDD	Before works commence	<p>A CEMP must be developed and implemented addressing the commitments made by the proponent in the EIS exemption application. The CEMP should include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> weed management strategy to prevent weed infestation; erosion and sediment control measures to be implemented during and after construction; unanticipated Discovery Protocols for the management of impacts on unexpected heritage object finds; provisions for tree removal and log storage; and, WSUD measures, e.g. removal or construction of stormwater ponds.
11	Water quality	EPA/ Icon Water/ EPSDD	Requirement for DA lodgement/ prior to construction/during operation	The development application must include details on how stormwater will be managed and/or treated prior to entering the Molonglo River, in accordance with the relevant guidelines.

No	Condition	Endorsement/ approval	Development stage	Condition of approval
				The water treatment system must be maintained during operation and water entering Molonglo River must be released in accordance with EPA guidelines to ensure water quality is maintained.
12	Electricity		Prior to construction	Submit electromagnetic radiation (EMR) study as part of any future DA for electrical transmission line works.
13	Land Contamination	EPA	Prior to construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site must be assessed, remediated and the findings of the assessment and remedial works independently audited by an EPA approved Auditor to determine the suitability of the site for its proposed and permitted uses. The Auditor's findings into site suitability from a contamination perspective must be reviewed and endorsed by the EPA prior to occupancy of the site.
14	Bushfire Mitigation	ESA	During operation	All works must be consistent with the Bushfire Risk Strategy – Molonglo Stage 3, Denman Prospect and the Molonglo River Corridor (Australian Bushfire Protection Planners, 2016).
15	Bushfire thinning strategies	Conservation Research (EPSDD)	During operation	Thinning strategies for fuel management, including the intervals for burning, must be determined in consultation with Conservation Research (EPSDD).
16	Bushfire SFAZs	ESA	During operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APZ will occur within the urban areas; OAPZ to be established outside conservation areas. Asset protection zones would be implemented in accordance with the 'Planning for Bushfire Risk Mitigation General Code' The existing Strategic Fire Advantage Zone edges are to be maintained and managed as per Fuel Management Standards of ACT Bushfire Management Standards.
17	DA documentation	EPSDD	Requirement for DA lodgement	As part of any subsequent development applications relying on this EIS Exemption, a document must be provided detailing how the recommended mitigation measures and conditions in this report have/will be met.

7. Conclusion

Having regard to the supporting information provided by the applicant and comments received from referral entities and during the public consultation period the planning and land authority has assessed the Molonglo Stage 3 Urban Development and Infrastructure as meeting the requirements for an EIS exemption under the PD Act.

It is the planning and land authority's assessment that the proponent has provided sufficient information to the ACT Government and the community to allow an informed evaluation of potential environmental impacts which could be attributed to the proposal. The supporting information and referral entities have proposed a range of mitigation measures and conditions to reduce or avoid potential environmental impacts arising from construction and operational activities associated with the Project. It is considered that any potential adverse impacts can be adequately addressed by implementing the conditions outlined in this report.

The planning and land authority's recommendation is that the supporting information submitted with the application has adequately identified and considered those matters of potentially significant impact and that further environmental assessment is not required. The expected environmental impact of the development proposal has already been sufficiently addressed by recent studies.

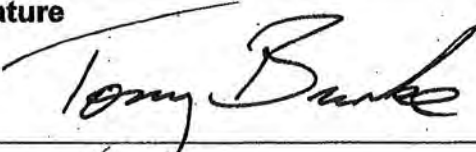
The planning and land authority's recommendation is that the Minister grants the Molonglo Stage 3 Urban Development and Infrastructure an EIS exemption under section 211H of the PD Act.

Appendix 1 – Molonglo NES Plan endorsement and approval decision



APPROVAL DECISION FOR THE TAKING OF ACTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ENDORSED PLAN UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999 (EPBC ACT)

MOLONGLO VALLEY PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF MATTERS OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

General	Further explanatory information related to this approval decision is at Annexure 1.
Approved action/class of actions	All actions associated with urban development in East Molonglo as described in the <i>Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance</i> (ACT Government, September 2011) provided such action takes place wholly within the strategic assessment area in East Molonglo (as shown in Annexure 2).
Relevant controlling provisions	The approval has effect for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)• Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)
Period for which approval has effect	The approval has effect until 31 December 2041
Person authorised to make decision	
Name and Position	The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Signature	
Date of decision	20.12.11

Explanatory information

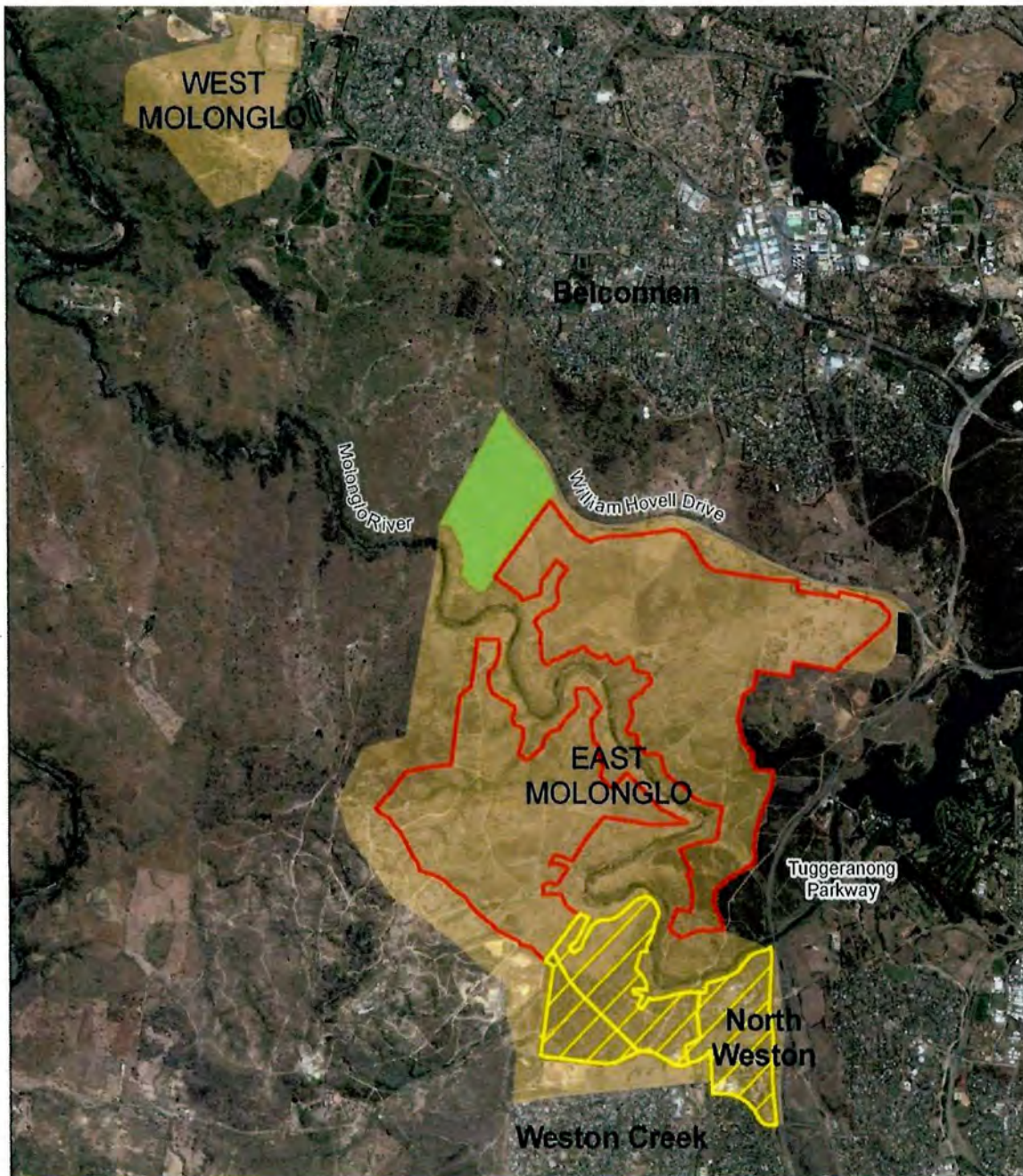
This approval decision is made under section 146B of the EPBC Act which provides for the Minister to approve actions, or classes of actions, undertaken in accordance with a policy, plan or program that has been endorsed following a strategic assessment being undertaken under Part 10 of the EPBC Act. An approval under section 146B of the EPBC Act has the same effect as an approval given under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, therefore actions approved under this decision will not require separate referral, assessment or approval under the EPBC Act prior to being taken.

On 7 October 2011 the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP (the Minister), endorsed the *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance* (ACT Government, September 2011) (the Plan). The Plan is in respect of urban development, and broadacre land use in East and West Molonglo, ACT (as shown in Annexure 2), and details commitments to protect matters of national environmental significance.

The endorsed Plan provides for all actions associated with development within East and West Molonglo, including infrastructure (such as bridges) and services within the proposed development areas.

This approval applies to all actions associated with urban development in East Molonglo as described in the *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance* (ACT Government, September 2011) provided such action takes place wholly within the strategic assessment area in East Molonglo (as shown in Annexure 2).

Strategic assessment area and development boundary¹



Study Area **Molonglo Valley EPBC Ecology**

Legend

- Proposed Development Area - East Molonglo
- Strategic Assessment Area
- EPBC Pre-approved Area
- Kama Nature Reserve

Aerial Imagery source: ACT Planning (obtained October 2006)



Datum/Projection: AGD 1966 ACT Grid AGC Zone www.ecoLOGICAL.AUSTRALIA



¹ "EPBC Pre-approved area" denotes the suburbs of North Weston, Coombs and Wright which were assessed and approved under separate EPBC Act Part 9 referrals (EPBC referrals 2009/4752, 2009/5041 and 2009/5050), and are not part of the strategic assessment
Approval Decision under s146B of the EPBC Act for the *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance*, ACT.

Appendix 2 – Kama Interface Management Strategy Report



Kama Interface Management Strategy

Prepared for ACT Government – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

December 2016

Document Information

Report for: ACT Government – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Prepared by: Robert Speirs

Capital Ecology project no.: 2717

Citation: Capital Ecology (2016). Kama Nature Reserve Interface Management Strategy. Final 02 – December 2016. Prepared for ACT Government – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. Author: R. Speirs. Project no. 2717.

Version Control

Version	Internal reviewer	External reviewer	Date of issue
Draft version 01	Dr Monica Campbell	Jason Forest	06/10/2016
Final version 01	Samantha Vertucci	Jason Forest	14/11/2016
Final version 02	Samantha Vertucci	-	24/12/2016

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- Nick Lhuede, ACT Emergency Services Agency.

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Executive Summary

Capital Ecology has developed this management strategy for the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and the Molonglo 3 development in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

The purpose of the strategy is to provide sound, well-defined and scientifically supported advice and recommendations to the ACT Government regarding the characteristics required for the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and Molonglo 3 to achieve the relevant commitments of the *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance* (ACT Government 2011) (the 'NES Plan'), specifically the following commitment –

Establish a buffer outside the Kama Nature Reserve between the reserve and the proposed development area, and allow for appropriate uses consistent with nature conservation uses of the reserve. The buffer will be developed to ensure that fire management is undertaken outside of the Kama Nature Reserve and will provide protection against urban edge effects

In recognition of the value to conservation of 'softening' the transition across a reserve/development interface, the scope of this strategy includes the broader interface and each of its constituent components, namely Kama Nature Reserve itself, the buffer and the urban land adjacent.

This strategy provides the following:

- determination of what is required to *provide protection against urban edge effects*;
- identification and definition of interface arrangement options and assessment of the predicted efficacy of these in providing protection against urban edge effects; and
- based on the findings of the above, provision of a recommended interface arrangement which will most appropriately achieve the objectives of the interface.

Kama Nature Reserve supports the following Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES): the critically endangered ecological communities Box-Gum woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland, being one of the only ACT reserves to support a good example of the ecotone between these communities; the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard; and foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot and Swift Parrot. Kama Nature Reserve is also significant for its high value as habitat for sensitive declining small woodland bird species, many of which are listed under ACT legislation and are key indicators of the ecological integrity and overall value of a patch of Box-Gum Woodland.

An assessment of the major threats upon ecological values (specifically the MNES listed above) was completed, based upon thorough research of ecological studies relating to reserve/development interface areas. The minimum buffer characteristics for each of the relevant significant ecological values was determined, based on the best available information.

Several potential interface options were developed based on the above, taking into account the pre-established requirement that the buffer contains a minimum 60 m wide Inner Asset Protection Zone (IAPZ) along its full length. An assessment of each potential option was completed, resulting in one recommended interface option, the characteristics of which are described below.

Summary of the recommended interface arrangements

- Kama Interface (refer Section 6.2). The recommended design characteristics are summarised below.
 - Buffer width of 200 m along the northern portion of the Kama Interface, tapering back to 70 m along the southern portion. This is the minimum required to provide the 200 m setback to core woodland bird habitat.
 - The establishment of four Interface Management Zones (IMZs): IMZ-1 Kama Nature Reserve, IMZ-2 Interface Buffer – Woodland Regeneration, IMZ-3 Interface Buffer – Inner Asset Protection Zone, and IMZ-4 Urban Development. This allows for targeted management (refer Section 6.2.3) to ensure each IMZ contributes to meeting the overall purpose of the interface.
 - Other characteristics described in Section 6.2 include: retention of native trees, an urban edge road and road verge with walking path, an urban edge retaining wall, a fire trail, public walking trails, types and locations of fences and gates, undergrounding of the 132kV powerline easement, measures to control artificial light and noise, and signage.
- Interface establishment and Initial Restoration (refer Section 6.3). This will include the following.
 - Initial weed control within the buffer, dictated by a baseline survey and an Initial Weed Control Plan.
 - Restoration planting within the buffer, according to three distinct restoration units: 1 – restored woodland canopy, 2 – restored woodland all strata, and 3 – managed mixed native and exotic grassland.
 - Utilisation of only native plants in the streetscape of IMZ4.
 - Staging of interface establishment, with the aim to soften the impact of urban development, particularly upon native fauna.
- Interface management and maintenance (refer Section 6.4). This will include the following.
 - Ongoing weed monitoring and management within the buffer.
 - Ongoing control of domestic animals.
 - Community education and involvement.
 - Control and management of access to reduce human impacts upon the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve.

Summary of threats, proposed mitigation measures, and threat level

The following table provides an overview of the threats assessed in this strategy, the key design and management mitigation measures for each threat provided by the recommended interface arrangements, and a summary of the assessment of threat (both with and without the mitigation measures).

Threat	Key Mitigation Measures	Threat Level to MNES and other values
<p>1. Weed invasion</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer as sentinel zone. • Interface retaining wall. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial weed control. • Ongoing weed monitoring and control. • Community education and involvement. • Prohibition on planting of weed species. 	<p>Without mitigation: Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most significant threat to the MNES within Kama Nature Reserve. • Particular threat to the condition and overall integrity of Box-Gum Woodland, Natural Temperate Grassland and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat. <p>Residual Threat: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive weed monitoring and control in the Kama Interface is likely to substantially reduce the impact of weeds, however the degree of threat from weeds will remain high.
<p>2. 'Urban-adapted' native fauna</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback from urban development to core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education and involvement. 	<p>Without mitigation: Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly a threat to sensitive woodland birds within Kama Nature Reserve, which could thereby reduce the value of the Box-Gum Woodland. <p>Residual Threat: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed measures will likely reduce but not entirely mitigate the impacts of urban-adapted fauna on sensitive woodland birds.
<p>3. Proximity of urban edge on 'urban avoiding' bird species</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback from urban development to core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic animal control. • Feral animal control. • Access provision and management. • Community education and involvement. 	<p>Without mitigation: Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the impacts of the urban edge are felt up to five kilometres from the urban edge. <p>Residual Threat: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed measures will not entirely mitigate the impacts of the urban edge on sensitive woodland birds within Kama Nature Reserve. Likely to be successful in ensuring that some (but potentially not all) species still occur and breed within the reserve.
<p>4. Loss of remnant trees (east of Kama Nature Reserve)</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of 26 of the 36 remnant trees which occur within Molonglo 3 east of Kama Nature Reserve. 	<p>Without mitigation: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These trees provide nesting habit and connectivity for many species. • Loss of these trees may reduce the value of the habitat within Kama Nature Reserve and reduce connectivity. • May not significantly impact the MNES, however loss would greatly reduce the value of the buffer. <p>Residual Threat: Moderate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retained trees, particularly those within the urban area, will be subject to pressures associated with proximity to urban development (i.e. altered hydrology etc.). These trees are also all very old and will have limited longevity.

Threat	Key Mitigation Measures	Threat Level to MNES and other values
<p>5. Decreased foraging range</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m area within which habitat can be retained and improved. • Retention of 26 of the 36 remnant trees. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education and involvement, notably encouragement to plant native species on private land. 	<p>Without mitigation: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of all foraging habitat adjoining the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve would likely reduce the value of the reserve for native fauna species, particularly urban avoiding woodland/forest birds. <p>Residual Threat: Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the mitigation measures proposed, the residual threat from reduced foraging range will be negligible for most species.
<p>6. Loss of connectivity</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m area within which habitat can be retained and improved. • Retention of 26 of the 36 remnant trees. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. 	<p>Without mitigation: Moderate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of connectivity can lead to smaller effective population sizes and local extinction. This can lead to reduced condition and value of ecological communities. • Kama Nature Reserve is important for connectivity between the Molonglo River Reserve and The Pinnacle Nature Reserve. <p>Residual Threat: Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The residual threat from impacts to connectivity is likely to be low.
<p>7. Noise and light spill</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback between urban development and core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Urban edge road design. • Shielding of street lights. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access provision and management. • Community education and involvement. 	<p>Without mitigation: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise and light pollution is known to impact native fauna, resulting in modified behaviours and changes in distribution and abundance. <p>Residual Threat: Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The residual threat from noise and light spill is likely to be low.
<p>8. Exotic pest animals</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback between urban development and core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Fence Type 1 along eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer. <p>Management</p>	<p>Without mitigation: Very High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exotic pest animals (feral pests) adversely impact upon natural ecosystems in numerous ways, including by: causing erosion and other degradation; preying upon native fauna; competing with native fauna for resources; introducing disease; and introducing and/or spreading weeds. • Impacts from exotic pest fauna such as Common Myna can occur kilometres from the urban edge, reducing species diversity and abundance.

Threat	Key Mitigation Measures	Threat Level to MNES and other values
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feral animal management, notably control of the Common Myna. Community education and involvement. 	<p>Residual Threat: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incursions of exotic pest animals into Kama Nature Reserve will likely be reduced, however ongoing control of pest fauna species will be required to manage impacts, and it is unlikely that impacts can be entirely mitigated.
<p>9. Domestic animals (pets)</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback between urban development and core woodland bird habitat. Buffer restoration planting. Fence Type 1 along eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cat containment. Dog exclusion enforced for Kama Nature Reserve and dog-on-leash enforced for buffer. Community education and involvement. 	<p>Without mitigation: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic dogs and cats will hunt native fauna, with cats being a particular threat to small woodland-dependant birds. <p>Residual Threat: Moderate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threat will be ever-present with the introduction of human occupation to the locality.
<p>10. Increased human use/disturbance</p>	<p>Interface Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interface retaining wall. Urban edge road. Fence Type 1 along eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer. Designated public walking trails. Limited public access points to Kama Nature Reserve (i.e. Gate Type 2). <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access provision and management. Community education and involvement. 	<p>Without mitigation: High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human use of Kama Nature Reserve could have a variety of impacts upon the significant values of the reserve: damage to flora and disturbance to fauna from recreational use, dumping of garbage and garden waste, disturbing or collecting rocks, etc. <p>Residual Threat: Moderate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The threat from human impacts will be ever-present with introduction of human occupation to the locality.

1 Introduction

Capital Ecology has been commissioned to develop a strategy for the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and the Molonglo 3 development in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Located west of the Canberra City Centre, the Molonglo Valley is being developed in three stages. Molonglo 3, the component of the development north of the Molonglo River, is currently being planned, and as such, the specifics of commitments to conservation outcomes must be determined.

Encompassing 154.76 ha and comprising Blocks 1419 and 1386 in the district of Belconnen, ACT, Kama Nature Reserve was established as a nature reserve and part of Canberra Nature Park in 2008. Kama Nature Reserve is bordered by William Hovell Drive to the north, the Molonglo River Corridor to the south, and land currently used for agriculture to the east and west. As illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2, the Kama Interface is the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and the adjoining future urban area of Molonglo 3 to the east, and runs generally south-east to north-west, centred on the 1,260 m administrative boundary between the relevant blocks.

The impacts of the development of Molonglo Valley upon *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) were assessed via a Strategic Assessment. The subsequently prepared *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance* (ACT Government 2011) (the 'NES Plan') details the 'conservation outcomes' to which the ACT Government has committed as conditions of the EPBC Act approval.

One of the conservation outcomes involves the preservation and enhancement of MNES within Kama Nature Reserve. As part of this, the ACT Government is required to:

Establish a buffer outside the Kama Nature Reserve between the reserve and the proposed development area, and allow for appropriate uses consistent with nature conservation uses of the reserve. The buffer will be developed to ensure that fire management is undertaken outside of the Kama Nature Reserve and will provide protection against urban edge effects.

This strategy provides detailed advice and recommendations to the ACT Government regarding the characteristics required for the interface between Kama and Molonglo 3 to achieve its purpose. It details the minimum widths required for the buffer to provide effective protection against edge effects, and how these differ where they adjoin the different ecological communities and habitat types within the Kama Nature Reserve (e.g. woodland vs grassland). It also provides details regarding the management regimes required for land within the interface area and assesses the residual threats to the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.

This strategy is based on:

- extensive review of the scientific literature relating to the mitigation of threats posed by urban development;
- review of documents relevant to the biodiversity values of the Molonglo Valley; and
- field surveys to verify the condition and boundaries of ecological values within Kama Nature Reserve and the interface area.

Structure of this Kama Interface Management Strategy

This strategy is structured in the following manner.

Section 2 – Describes the context of the Kama Interface.

- Subsection 2.1 outlines the key requirements of this strategy
- Subsection 2.2 outlines the purpose, objectives and scope of this strategy
- Subsection 2.3 details the manner in which this strategy is consistent with the other plans and strategies of relevance to the Kama Interface
- Subsection 2.4 describes the Kama Interface, its land management (current and historic) and ecological values
- Subsection 2.5 outlines the bushfire hazard management requirements relevant to the Kama Interface
- Subsection 2.6 provides an overview of the relevant context for the Kama Interface and this strategy

Section 3 – Describes the key potential threats from urban development of Molonglo 3 on the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.

Section 4 – Outlines the evaluation approach and process followed to determine the most appropriate arrangements for the Kama Interface.

Section 6 – Details the recommended interface arrangements as determined during the research and development of this strategy.

- Subsection 6.1 outlines the Kama Interface concept and purpose
- Subsection 6.2 describes the Kama Interface design
- Subsection 6.3 describes the Kama Interface establishment and initial restoration works
- Subsection 6.4 described the ongoing management and maintenance to be implemented for the Kama Interface
- Subsection 6.5 outlines the important interface design matters identified during the development of this strategy that will require further determination.
- Subsection 6.6 provides an assessment of the degree to which each identified potential threat is likely to be mitigated by the measures included in the recommended interface arrangements. A key outcome of this assessment is the identification and definition of the residual threats associated with the recommended interface arrangements.

2 Context

Informed by an extensive review of relevant published literature, previously completed studies, and ACT Government and Commonwealth Government resources, Section 2 provides the background and context to this strategy. Specifically, Section 2 describes and discusses the subject area of this strategy, its geographical characteristics, past and current land management regimes, and current ecological values.

2.1 Key Requirements

The development of this strategy is inherently linked to the *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance* (ACT Government 2011) (the 'NES Plan'). The NES Plan details the 'conservation outcomes' to which the ACT Government has committed with the aim of protecting Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) during the development of East Molonglo. The relevant MNES are:

- 'White Box - Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and derived native grassland' (Box-Gum woodland), listed as critically endangered;
- 'Natural Temperate Grassland of the Southern Tablelands of NSW and the ACT' (Natural Temperate Grassland), listed as endangered;
- Pink-tailed Worm-lizard *Aprasia parapulchella*, listed as vulnerable; and
- Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* and Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*, listed as vulnerable and endangered respectively.

It is noted that the EPBC Act listing for the Natural Temperate Grassland community was revised effective from 6 April 2016, with the name changed to 'Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands and New England Tablelands' and the conservation status elevated to critically endangered. For the purposes of this strategy, the listing revision and associated elevated conservation status is applied when referring to the community, however the community itself is considered to be consistent across the current and previous listings.

The NES Plan was endorsed on 7 October 2011 by the then Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Honourable Tony Burke. On endorsement of the NES Plan and subsequent approval of the associated suite of actions on 20 December 2011 under Section 10 of the EPBC Act, the commitment to achieving the conservation outcomes detailed in the NES Plan became binding and nonadjustable beyond the flexibility built into the NES Plan.

The protection of Kama Nature Reserve, and thereby the protection of the MNES it contains or directly supports, is a key commitment of the NES Plan. As detailed on page 22 of the NES Plan, *Conservation outcome (b)* states that –

Three offset sites will be established within the strategic assessment area (Kama Nature Reserve, Molonglo River Park, Patch GG) that will provide for the long term protection of 234 ha of Box-Gum Woodland (see Figure 6). The three offset sites will be adaptively managed to maintain and enhance the ecological condition of the Box-Gum Woodland that occurs there.

The three 'actions' committed to with the aim of achieving this conservation outcome are (note: numbering is from the NES Plan):

5. *Develop a management plan for the Kama Nature Reserve to provide for the maintenance and enhancement of the ecological condition of Box-Gum Woodland within the reserve (approximately 117 ha).*
6. *Implement the management plan for the Kama Nature Reserve to provide for the maintenance and enhancement of the ecological condition of Box-Gum Woodland within the reserve.*
7. *Establish a buffer outside the Kama Nature Reserve between the reserve and the proposed development area, and allow for appropriate uses consistent with nature conservation uses of the reserve. The buffer will be developed to ensure that fire management is undertaken outside of the Kama Nature Reserve and will provide protection against urban edge effects.*

Actions 5 and 6 have been addressed through the development and implementation of the *Molonglo River Reserve (Kama) Operational Plan 2014-2017* (ACT Government 2014a). A logical deconstruction of Action 7 finds that the ACT Government has committed to:

Establish a buffer outside the Kama Nature Reserve between the reserve and the proposed development area, and allow for appropriate uses consistent with nature conservation uses of the reserve.

And that the width, position and other characteristics of this buffer are such that its establishment will:

- a. *ensure that fire management is undertaken outside of the Kama Nature Reserve; and*
- b. *will provide protection against urban edge effects.*

Given the above, the characteristics for the Kama Nature Reserve buffer must be defined with the primary objective of achieving *a.* and *b.* It is therefore important to determine the characteristics that the buffer must have for it to achieve *a.* and *b.*, not to define the buffer's characteristics and then work out what can be done to facilitate the buffer's achievement of its purpose.

As detailed in Section 2.5, the bushfire management regime for Kama Nature Reserve and its interface with Molonglo 3 has been determined by the ACT Government, the outcome being reflected in Section 6.7.4 of the *Molonglo River Reserve – Draft Management Plan 2016* (ACT Government 2016). This regime will achieve *a.*, provided that the Kama Nature Reserve buffer includes a minimum 60 m wide Inner Asset Protection Zone (IAPZ) along the urban interface.

In accordance with the above, the key requirements which must be achieved by this strategy are to:

1. include the required IAPZ within the Kama Nature Reserve buffer; and
2. develop a Kama Nature Reserve buffer with characteristics that will *provide protection against urban edge effects.*

2.2 Purpose, Objectives and Scope

The overarching objective of this strategy is to provide sound, well-defined and scientifically supported advice and recommendations to the ACT Government regarding the characteristics required for the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and Molonglo 3 to achieve the NES Plan commitments.

More specifically, this strategy will:

- determine what is required to *provide protection against urban edge effects* (as per Actions 7, 27 and 34 of the NES Plan);
- identify and define interface arrangement options (e.g. buffer width/s, treatments etc.) and assess the predicted efficacy of these in providing protection against urban edge effects, taking into account all relevant factors; and
- based on the findings of the above, develop a recommended interface arrangement which will most appropriately achieve the objectives of the interface.

It is important to note the following regarding the purpose, objectives and scope of this strategy, and the approach taken for its development.

1. The Kama Nature Reserve buffer does not form the entire interface, rather it is a component of the interface. The benefits of measures implemented a distance from a reserve's boundary for the conservation of ecological values and ecosystem function within that reserve, are well documented (Gleeson & Gleeson 2012; Ikin *et al.* 2012; Ikin *et al.* 2013a; Ikin *et al.* 2014; Rayner *et al.* 2015). 'Softening' the transition across an interface can positively influence the perception of the interface and land uses beyond by many native fauna groups, notably urban sensitive woodland birds (Ikin *et al.* 2013a; Rayner *et al.* 2015). In recognition of this, the scope of this strategy includes the broader interface and each of its constituent components, namely Kama Nature Reserve itself, the buffer and the urban land adjacent.
2. It is unlikely that urban edge effects upon the MNES within Kama Nature Reserve can be entirely avoided or mitigated under any interface arrangement. Some of the impacts of urban development can be experienced several kilometres from the urban edge and thus they cannot be entirely avoided or mitigated (Rayner *et al.* 2015). In this regard, the objective must be to apply all reasonable and practicable measures to *provide protection against urban edge effects*.
3. A balanced and purposefully objective approach has been taken, providing measured consideration of all relevant aims and agendas. Whilst the ACT Government has a responsibility to ensure that estate planning incorporates measures sufficient to conserve significant biodiversity values, it is also recognised that the ACT Government has a responsibility to ensure that the financial costs (i.e. impacts on revenue, implementation costs etc.) of conservation measures are justified by the conservation gains.
4. The purpose of this strategy is not to describe elements relevant to interface design in minute detail, nor is it to prescribe the characteristics for the recommended interface arrangements beyond a conceptual basis. In this regard, the objective of this strategy is to achieve a balance between providing the detail required to inform evaluation of the efficacy of prescribed measures in achieving the requirements of the interface, whilst recognising

that many of the particulars of such measures must be defined at a later time (i.e. during detailed design, structure planning etc.).

5. Whilst it is understood that there are currently some substantial gaps in our understanding of the impacts of certain edge effects, when decisions regarding significant and permanent actions are to take place in such a context, the precautionary principle must apply. As described by Kriebel *et al.* (2001), the precautionary principle as a guideline in environmental decision making, has four central components: (i) taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty; (ii) shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity; (iii) exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions; and (iv) increasing public participation in decision making. This strategy, in particular the recommended interface arrangements (Section 6), has been developed in a manner guided by the application of the precautionary principle.

2.3 Consistency with other Management Plans and Strategies

The context, scope and content of this strategy is informed by and/or relates to numerous management plans and strategies. Some of these have been approved and implemented, whilst others are currently in draft form. Given the complexity of the land management context along the Kama Interface, development of interface arrangements that are consistent and complimentary with these plans and strategies is paramount to successful establishment and management of the interface. Accordingly, each of the management plans and strategies relevant to the Kama Interface has been reviewed during the development of this strategy. A brief description of each of the management plans and strategies of direct relevance to this strategy, and the relationship between these documents and this strategy, is provided below.

2.3.2 Molonglo Valley Plan for Matters of National Environmental Significance

The *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance* (NES Plan) (ACT Government 2011) was developed as an approval requirement of the EPBC Act strategic assessment which was undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development within the Molonglo Valley. The NES Plan outlines the ACT Government's commitments in relation to avoidance and mitigation of impacts upon MNES. Where such impacts cannot be sufficiently and/or practicably avoided or mitigated, the NES Plan details the offset measures that will be implemented to offset the residual impacts. Key commitments include the establishment of conservation areas containing Box-Gum Woodland, Natural Temperate Grassland and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat, together with the development and implementation of management plans and strategies to guide the ongoing management of these conservation areas.

As detailed in Section 2.1, the NES Plan was endorsed on 7 October 2011 by the then Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Honourable Tony Burke.

2.3.3 Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy

The *Molonglo Adaptive Management Strategy* (Molonglo AMS) (ACT Government 2013) is a key commitment of the NES Plan. The Molonglo AMS describes the ongoing improvement measures and management practices that will be applied to protect and enhance the MNES in the NES Plan application area.

The Molonglo AMS achieves the requirements of the NES Plan by setting out the way in which the MNES values of the area will be assessed, monitored, and adaptively managed. The AMS gives

practical effect to the recognition that MNES exist in an area subject to the increasing and ongoing pressures of urban development. These pressures are not always known and their effects may be uncertain (ACT Government 2013).

The Molonglo AMS addresses these anthropogenic uncertainties as well as natural uncertainties (such as climate variability) by prescribing monitoring and assessment processes which iteratively update the state of knowledge and the subsequent direction of management (ACT Government 2013). The Molonglo AMS also identifies the key threats to MNES conservation as well as uncertainties in relation to management and the achievement of performance targets and objectives. The AMS establishes measures to deal with these threats and uncertainties (ACT Government 2013).

Whilst this strategy does not directly implement or impact elements of the Molonglo AMS, it has been developed in a manner that is consistent with, and complimentary to, the Molonglo AMS.

2.3.4 Molonglo River Reserve: Kama – Operational Plan 2014-17

The *Molonglo River Reserve: Kama – Operational Plan 2014-17* (Kama Operational Plan) (ACT Government 2014a) has been developed to help guide on-ground works and activities that will implement key components of the NES Plan, Molonglo AMS, and the numerous other plans and strategies of relevance to the management of Kama Nature Reserve.

The Kama Operational Plan is the primary planning tool providing for adaptive management approaches based on the results of monitoring, evaluation and review. This Kama Operational Plan will be reviewed every three years and will be put into effect through works programs, which will be reviewed and updated annually (ACT Government 2014a).

The management arrangements for Kama Nature Reserve outlined in the Kama Operational Plan have been treated as a given during the development of this strategy, and as such, this strategy has been developed in a manner that is consistent with, and complimentary to, the Kama Operational Plan.

2.3.5 Molonglo River Reserve – Draft Management Plan 2016

The *Molonglo River Reserve – Draft Management Plan 2016* (ACT Government 2016) is a statutory plan, developed under the *ACT Planning and Development Act 2007* (P&D Act) and as a 'reserve management plan' as defined in the *ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act). The plan's purpose is to provide a clear and agreed-upon set of long term objectives for the Molonglo River Reserve, to outline the planned pathways for achieving them, and to give clear guidance on how the land and waters of Molonglo River Reserve will be managed and used (ACT Government 2016). The plan is structured by topic, each with a nested set of management objectives, policies and actions (ACT Government 2016).

In addition to the above, the *Molonglo River Reserve – Draft Management Plan 2016* describes the manner in which the commitments of the NES Plan will be met throughout the reserve (including Kama Nature Reserve).

Kama Nature Reserve is a key component of the Molonglo River Reserve, and therefore, this strategy has been developed in a manner that is consistent with, and complimentary to, the *Molonglo River Reserve – Draft Management Plan 2016*.

2.3.6 ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Version 3

The *ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Version 3* (SBMP) (ACT Government 2014b) was prepared as a requirement of the *ACT Emergencies Act 2004*. The SBMP is the overarching document that directs all levels of bushfire planning throughout the ACT. The SBMP is a dynamic document that allows emergency services and fire managers the flexibility they require to implement measures that reduce bushfire risk, and to apply improved methods and knowledge as they are developed (ACT Government 2014b).

Prepared under the SBMP, the *ACT Bushfire Management Standards* (ACT Government 2014c) detail the measurable outcomes required under the current and ongoing management policies and procedures detailed in Part 2 of the SBMP. This document, which includes standards for matters such as fuel management and fire trail access, is prepared for the fire services, land managers, developers and the general community, to assist them to effectively manage bushfire risk (ACT Government 2014b).

Determined in accordance with the SBMP and the associated standards, the bushfire hazard mitigation measures required along the Kama Interface are described in Section 2.5. This strategy has adopted these measures and is therefore consistent with the SBMP.

2.4 Kama Interface Description

Encompassing 154.76 ha and comprising Blocks 1419 and 1386 in the district of Belconnen, ACT, Kama Nature Reserve was established as a nature reserve and part of Canberra Nature Park in 2008. Kama Nature Reserve is bordered by William Hovell Drive to the north, the Molonglo River Corridor to the south, and land currently used for agriculture but designated for future urban development or associated buffers to the east (Blocks 12 and 44, Molonglo) and west (Block 1596, Belconnen) (refer Figure 1).

As illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2, the Kama Interface is the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and the adjoining future urban area of Molonglo 3 to the east. The Kama Interface runs generally south-east to north-west, centred on the 1,260 m administrative boundary between the relevant blocks.

The elevation along the Kama Interface ranges from 545 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) at its southern end upslope of the Molonglo River, to 600 m AHD at its northern end abutting William Hovell Drive. As illustrated in Figure 2, the Kama Interface occurs across undulating land with a predominant fall to the south-east from Kama Nature Reserve towards the Molonglo River and its tributary, Deep Creek. No substantial watercourses traverse the Kama Interface itself, however a number of minor seeps and drainage lines flow east from Kama Nature Reserve, downslope to Deep Creek.

Existing built infrastructure currently within the Kama Interface area is limited to stock fences and 132 kV overhead powerlines and towers. Kama Nature Reserve also contains numerous small constructed farm dams and unsealed maintenance tracks.

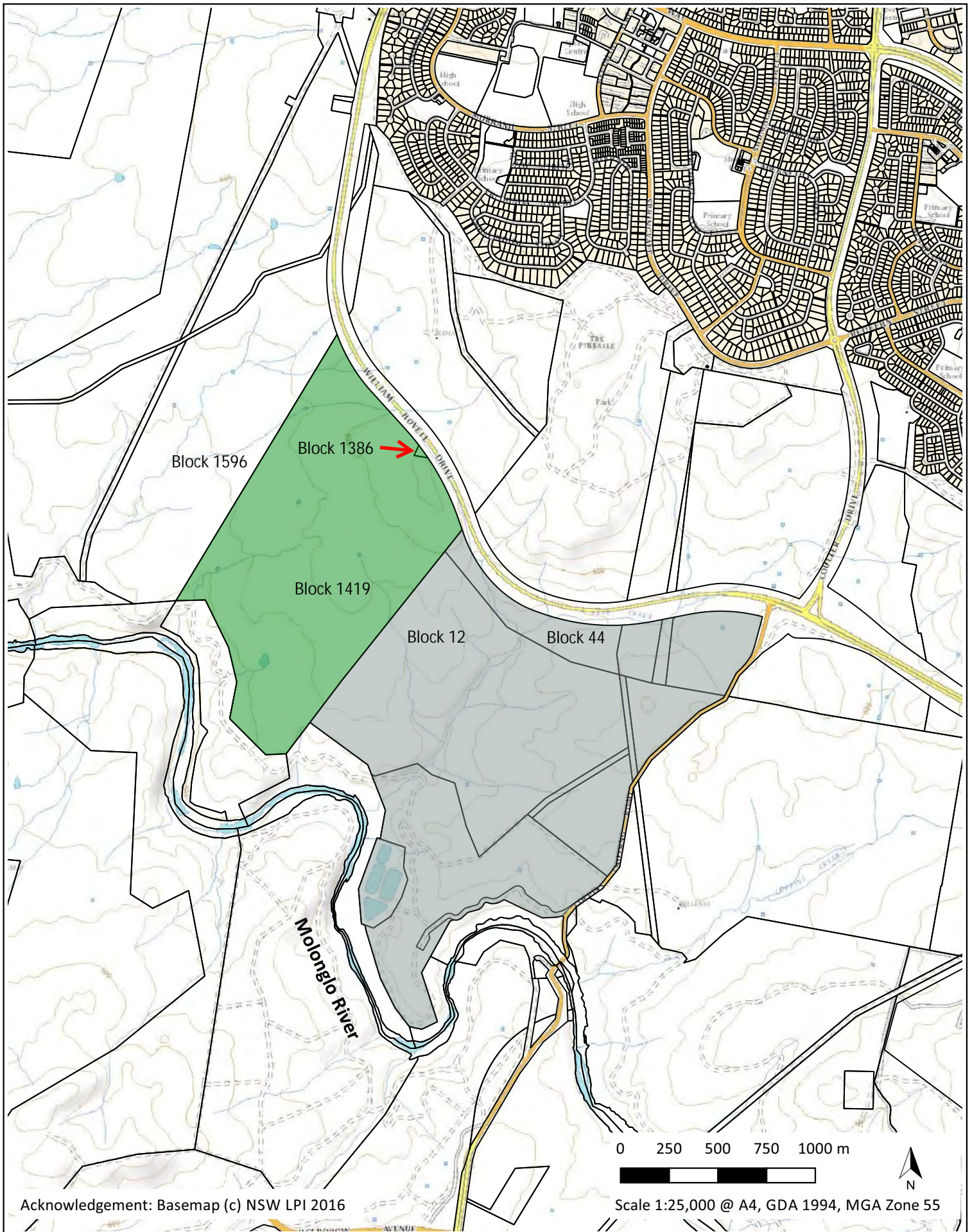


Figure 1. Locality Plan

Capital Ecology Project No: 2717
 Drawn by: R. Speirs
 Date: 29 September 2016

Legend

- ACT Blocks
- Kama Nature Reserve
- Molonglo 3 Urban Area



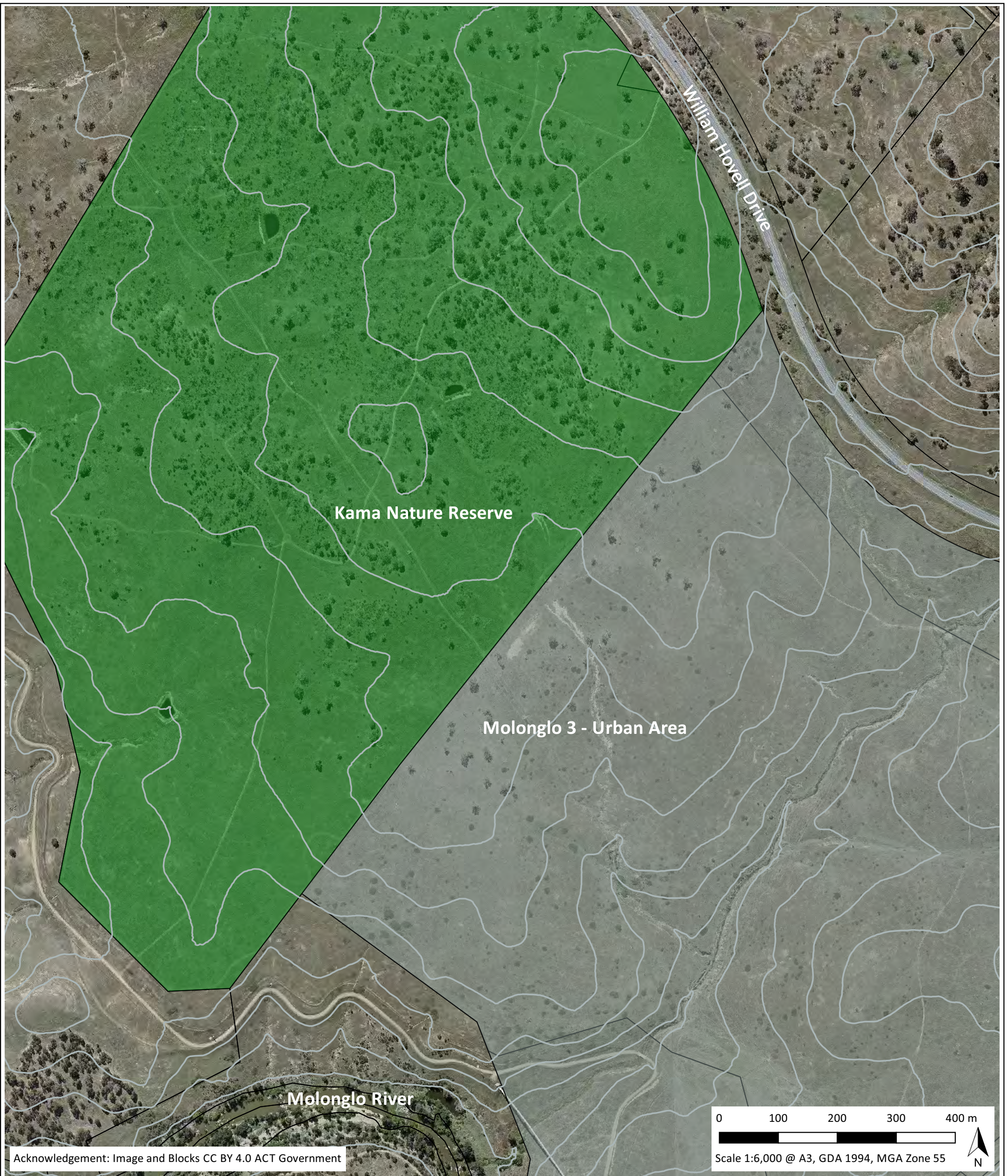






Figure 2. Kama Interface

Legend

-  ACT Blocks
-  2004_5m_Contours
-  Kama Nature Reserve
-  Molonglo 3 Urban Area

2.4.2 Land Management

The current type and condition of the natural values of a parcel of land are often a direct result of the historical management of that land. The management of land for stock grazing, cropping or other agricultural purposes has altered the composition, structure and overall condition of the majority of the low to mid elevated land throughout the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales and the ACT. The degree of this alteration ranges from minor changes to complete transformation and loss of the original ecological community.

Consideration of the land use history of the Kama Interface locality is useful for this strategy as it provides information, and explanation, regarding the type and condition of the existing natural values. It can explain why floristic diversity and structure varies vastly within one paddock from that over the fence. It can also explain observed peculiarities in the site-scale occurrence of certain flora and fauna species. In this regard, the following sections provide a brief account of the land use history of the Kama Interface locality.

2.4.2.1 Historical Land Management

Prior to the 1970s the land throughout the Kama Interface locality was managed for agriculture under long-term rural leases. In the 1970s the ACT Government resumed the lease over the Blocks comprising Kama Nature Reserve and, until 2009, managed the land under agistment to an adjoining lessee who used it primarily for cattle grazing.

The presence of large eucalypt stumps and areas unnaturally clear of trees indicate that extensive tree clearing activities occurred historically throughout much of the Kama Interface locality. Such tree clearing or thinning was undertaken across most areas supporting lowland woodland in the region, usually for the purposes of 'opening-up' the land to promote growth of native and introduced grasses, thereby increasing the grazing productivity. As is evidenced by the now patchy distribution, varied density and other characteristics of the remnant vegetation in the locality, this clearance did not occur uniformly within or across blocks.

The introduced pasture plant species *Phalaris aquatica*, Tall Fescue *Festuca elatior*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and various Clovers *Trifolium* spp. dominate the groundstorey vegetation throughout portions of Kama Nature Reserve and much of the adjoining land. These species were historically sown or spread to improve the grazing value of the pasture for stock. Given these species do not spread readily by wind or animals, the dominance of these species within portions of the higher elevated areas of Kama Nature Reserve and adjoining land indicates that they were deliberately introduced.

2.4.2.2 Current Land Management

The land adjoining Kama Nature Reserve (east and west) continues to be used for agriculture, primarily cattle and sheep grazing, albeit at considerably lower than historical grazing intensity, as indicated by the site visit and by discussions with local land managers (M. Wallace "Lands End" 2015 pers. comm.). Following establishment of Kama Nature Reserve in 2008, the land within has been strategically grazed for positive ecological outcomes, under the direction of ACT Government ecologists and on-ground management personnel.

The north-west corner of Kama Nature Reserve was burnt in a bushfire in 1985 and the southern half of Kama Nature Reserve, together with substantial portions of the adjoining properties, was subject to a very high intensity burn in the 2003 bushfires. In accordance with the Kama Operational Plan (ACT Government 2014a), ACT Parks and Conservation Service periodically carry out controlled low

intensity mosaic burns within Kama Nature Reserve. These burns are conducted for the dual purposes of enhancing ecological community condition and managing fuel levels.

As detailed in Kama Operational Plan (ACT Government 2014a), ACT Parks and Conservation Service undertake numerous other activities within Kama Nature Reserve with the objective of protecting and enhancing the values of the reserve. Such activities include: weed control; slashing and other maintenance of firebreaks, tracks and the powerline easement; vertebrate pest control; native herbivore population control; and fence and gate maintenance.

2.4.3 Ecological Values

As described in the NES Plan (ACT Government 2011) and outlined in Section 2.1, Kama Nature Reserve supports the MNES Box-Gum woodland, Natural Temperate Grassland, and the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, together with foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot and Swift Parrot. However, it is useful to establish that the MNES of greatest significance within Kama Nature Reserve are threatened ecological communities, namely Box-Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland. Whilst Kama Nature Reserve provides intermittent foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot, occasionally utilised foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot, and patches of high and moderate quality Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat (Osborne and Wong 2010), the habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is not considered critical to the conservation of these species.

Whilst the protection of MNES from edge-effects is the primary focus of this strategy, it is important to recognise that Kama Nature Reserve also supports other significant values. The below sections describe these values, together with the relevant MNES.

2.4.3.1 Vegetation Community Classification and Condition

The classification and condition of the vegetation communities present within the Kama Interface locality is mapped inconsistently across the numerous reports, plans and associated datasets relating to the area (ACTMAPi, ACT Government 2004b; ACT Government 2011; ACT Government 2012; ACT Government 2013; Umwelt 2013a and 2013b). As discussed in detail in both Umwelt (2013a) and Biosis (2015), this inconsistency can in part be attributed to the differing classification and survey methods employed. Seasonal timing and variation between seasons (i.e. extended drought vs consecutive seasons of above average rainfall) are also likely factors contributing to the inconsistency in mapping. A thorough review of each of the previously completed vegetation mapping projects was undertaken to inform this strategy, together with a field visit to inspect the on-ground location of mapped boundaries between patches of specific vegetation classification and condition classes. Whilst it is unnecessary to again compare and contrast the vegetation mapping products available for the Kama Interface area, the following points are pertinent to this strategy.

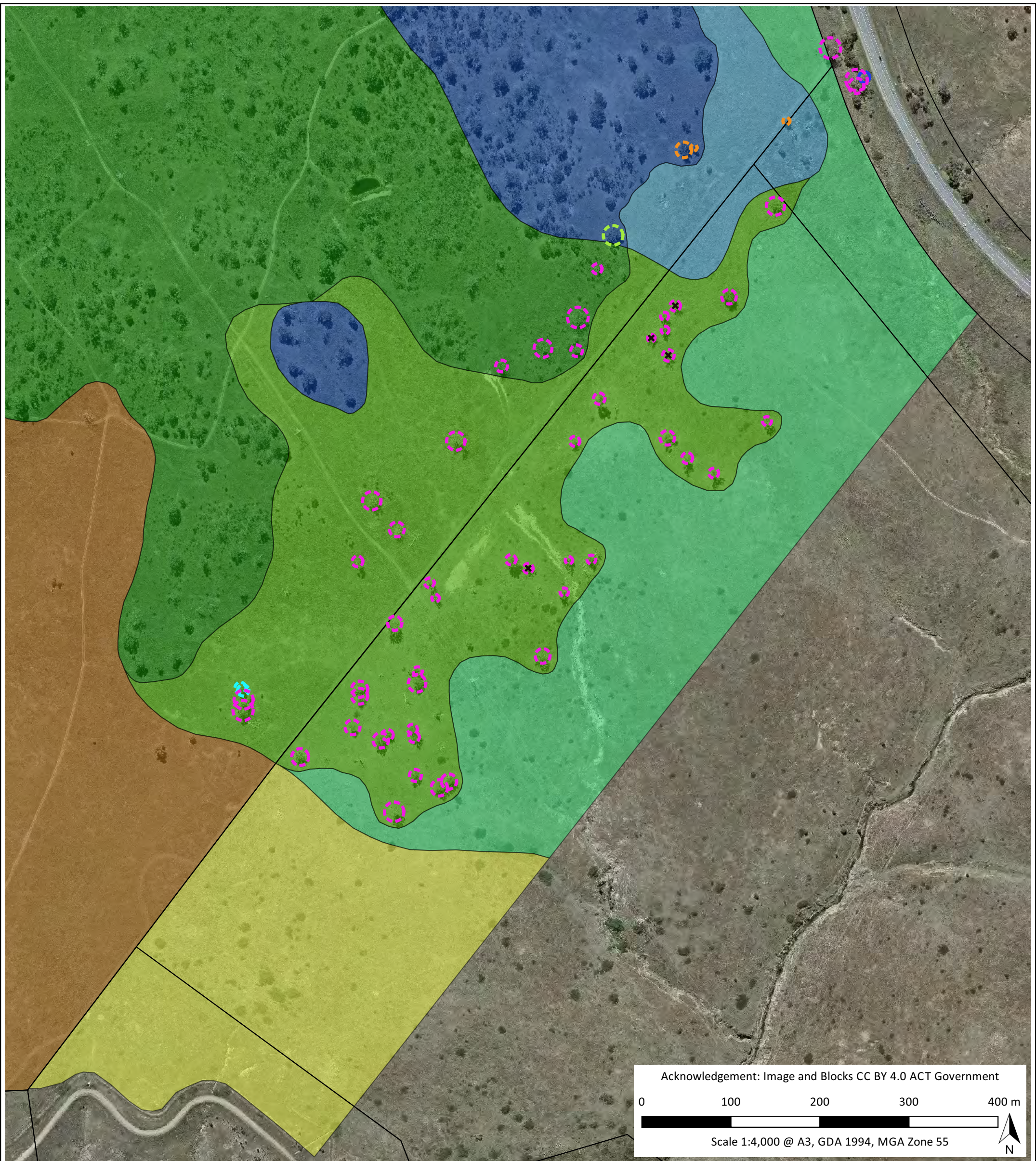
1. The vegetation mapping prepared by Umwelt (Umwelt 2013a) provides the most accurate representation available of the existing vegetation communities within Kama Nature Reserve and adjoining land. Accordingly, the polygon data from Umwelt (2013a) has been used as a base for this strategy. The following alterations to these data have been made by Capital Ecology for presentation in Figure 3.
 - a. The vegetation classifications have been renamed to provide more direct and easily interpreted classification of ACT Plant Community Type (PCT) (Sharp *et al.* 2007) (i.e. the pre-1750 'climax' community) and condition. Vegetation classifications which are consistent with the EPBC Act listing definition for a listed endangered ecological community (i.e. a MNES) are identified as such in the name (i.e. ACT-16-1 EPBC Act Box-

Gum Woodland). Each vegetation classification used for this strategy, together with a brief description of its values, is listed in Table 1.

- b. The vegetation classification polygon boundaries have been refined at fine scale in GIS to more accurately reflect the on-ground boundaries and reduce the unnatural 'blockyness' of polygons drawn at a larger scale. This process was informed by observations made during the site visit and by interpretation of the ACT Government's May 2016 high-resolution aerial imagery.
2. As described in Umwelt 2013a, the area of EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland within Kama Nature Reserve (refer to Figure 3) is considerably less than that identified for the NES Plan. Indeed, GIS calculations prepared by Biosis (Biosis 2015) found that, based on the Umwelt (2013a) mapping, Kama Nature Reserve contains only 58.68 ha of the 118.02 ha (i.e. approximately half) identified for the NES Plan. This is of key relevance to this strategy as much of the Kama Interface area, including the patch east of the Kama Nature Reserve boundary, was incorrectly mapped as EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland in the NES Plan. As illustrated in Figure 3, the proximity of the EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland within Kama Nature Reserve ranges from 12 m to 340 m from the reserve's eastern boundary.

Table 1. Vegetation classifications

PCT	Condition	Vegetation Classification ID	Description	MNES?
ACT01 - Tablelands Dry Tussock Grassland	Mod-High	ACT-01-1 EPBC Act Natural Temperate Grassland	Relatively intact Natural Temperate Grassland.	Yes – Natural Temperate Grassland
	Low	ACT-01-2 Exotic Pasture	Exotic pasture derived from Natural Temperate Grassland.	No
ACT16 - Tableland Grassy Woodland	Mod-High	ACT-16-1 EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland	Relatively intact Box-Gum Woodland.	Yes – Box-Gum Woodland
	Low	ACT-16-2 Exotic Pasture with Remnant Eucalypts	Exotic pasture derived from Box-Gum Woodland. Some scattered remnant Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum trees remain.	No
	Low	ACT-16-3 Exotic Pasture	Exotic pasture derived from Box-Gum Woodland. Cleared of trees.	No
ACT25 - Tableland Grass / Shrub Forest	Mod-High	ACT-25-1 Grassy Dry Forest	Relatively intact Grassy Dry Forest, dominated by Scribbly Gum <i>E. rossii</i> and Red Stringybark <i>E. macroryncha</i> .	No
	Low	ACT-25-2 Exotic Pasture	Exotic pasture derived from Grassy Dry Forest.	No



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0 100 200 300 400 m

Scale 1:4,000 @ A3, GDA 1994, MGA Zone 55

N

Figure 3. Vegetation Community Classification and Condition

Legend

- ACT Blocks
- Tree Assessment**
- Blakely's Red Gum (*E.blakelyi*)
- Broad-leaved Peppermint (*E.dives*)
- Scribby Gum (*E.rossii*)
- Yellow Box (*E.melliodora*)
- Apple Box (*E.bridgesiana*)
- ✕ Tree Assessment - Removal Recommended

Vegetation Communities

- PCT ACT01 Tableland Dry Tussock Grassland**
- ACT01-1 EPBC Act Natural Temperate Grassland
- ACT01-2 Exotic Pasture
- PCT ACT16 YellowBox-RedGum Tableland Grassy Woodland**
- ACT16-1 EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland
- ACT16-2 Exotic Pasture With Remnant Eucalypts
- ACT16-3 Exotic Pasture
- PCT ACT25 Tableland Grass/Shrub Forest**
- ACT25-1 Grassy Dry Forest
- ACT25-2 Exotic Pasture



2.4.3.2 Significant Flora Species

No EPBC Act or NC Act listed threatened flora species have been recorded in Kama Nature Reserve. However, the Box-Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland communities with Kama Nature Reserve support numerous uncommon flora species which, although not listed, indicate the high value of the patches of these communities. Rare flora species recorded within Kama Nature Reserve include: Dawson's Wattle *Acacia dawsonii*, Leafless Indigo *Indigofera adesmiifolia*, Bristly Cloak Fern *Cheilanthes distans*, Smooth Flax-lily *Dianella longifolia*, Narrow Plantain *Plantago gaudichaudii*, and Zornia *Zornia dyctiocarpa* (ACT Government, Conservation Research, unpublished data).

2.4.3.3 Habitat for Significant Woodland Birds

As described in the NES Plan, Kama Nature Reserve supports foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot and Swift Parrot, both of which are MNES. Kama Nature Reserve also provides habitat for several other sensitive and significant woodland bird species. Accordingly, the significance of the habitat within Kama Nature Reserve to these MNES species and other significant bird species is discussed in the following.

- Superb Parrot

Kama Nature Reserve provides intermittent foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot which visits the ACT between September and March and breeds at locations in West Molonglo and North Gungahlin (Davey 2012). Kama Nature Reserve, together with the Pinnacle Nature Reserve directly to the north, provides characteristically suitable breeding habitat for the Superb Parrot, however there is only a single record of a pair utilising a tree hollow within Kama Nature Reserve to breed (M. Mulvaney 2016, pers. comm.). Notwithstanding this, the foraging habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is located within an easy flight distance from the recorded core breeding habitat nearby to the west (Davey 2012).

An Australian National University study currently in preparation (Manning *et al.* in prep) predicts that the impacts of climate change will increase the importance of the habitat in the Canberra region for the breeding of the Superb Parrot. As such, the habitat within Kama Nature Reserve may now, or in future, provide an important contribution towards the Superb Parrot's presence and breeding success within the Molonglo Valley and across its broader range. The possible consequence of this may be even greater at the ACT or regional scale should development in North Gungahlin deter future breeding in that area.

It is also relevant to consider the possibility that Kama Nature Reserve may support Superb Parrot breeding in the future. The core breeding area to the west supports only very old trees, many of which will senesce and die in the next few decades, potentially decreasing the suitability of the area for breeding. Kama Nature Reserve however, contains substantial eucalypt regeneration under a land administration and management regime which will actively support the development of this regeneration in perpetuity. It is therefore reasonable to assert that Kama Nature Reserve may constitute a future 'bank' of habitat which may be crucial to the long-term persistence of the Superb Parrot in the ACT.

- Swift Parrot

The Swift Parrot is a non-breeding migrant to the ACT. Together with the other substantial patches of Box-Gum Woodland within the ACT region, the Box-Gum Woodland within Kama Nature Reserve provides potential transient foraging habitat for the species (Saunders & Tzaros 2011). Kama Nature Reserve is not known to constitute habitat of any particular

importance to the Swift Parrot, and in this regard, the specific consideration of potential impacts to the species in the Strategic Assessment (EcoLogical Australia 2010), NES Plan, and Molonglo AMS is probably unwarranted.

- Other significant woodland bird species

The woodland/forest habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is of greatest and most direct significance to the numerous ACT *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act) 'vulnerable' listed and/or regionally declining woodland birds known to breed and/or forage within, including the: Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus*, White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*, Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* and Scarlet Robin *Petroica boodang* (Davey 2012; ACT Government 2014a). Notably, Kama Nature Reserve is one of the few sites in the ACT region known to support a resident family group of Brown Treecreeper (Davey 2012). Kama Nature Reserve is also likely to provide an important component of the hunting range of the pair of Little Eagles observed to nest nearby, that location being the only recorded nest in the ACT in 2011 (COG 2012). Whilst these NC Act listed and/or regionally declining species are not currently themselves listed as MNES, their occurrence within a patch of Box-Gum Woodland is a key indicator of the ecological integrity and overall value of the patch.

The vegetation classifications within Kama Nature Reserve of key habitat value to woodland birds are 'ACT-16-1 EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland' and 'ACT-25-1 Grassy Dry Forest' (refer Figure 3 and Figure 4). These communities are considered to be the primary preferred habitat types for most of the woodland birds of the region (ACT Government 2004b) and the patches retained and protected within Kama Nature Reserve are relatively intact examples. Whilst the woodland birds utilising these vegetation communities would also intermittently venture out into the other more modified or naturally open areas to forage, as is supported by the point data from numerous bird surveys (Davey 2012; Doerr *et al.* 2014), the patches of moderate to high quality woodland and forest constitute the 'core woodland bird habitat' within Kama Nature Reserve. The extent of this core woodland bird habitat is shown in Figure 4.

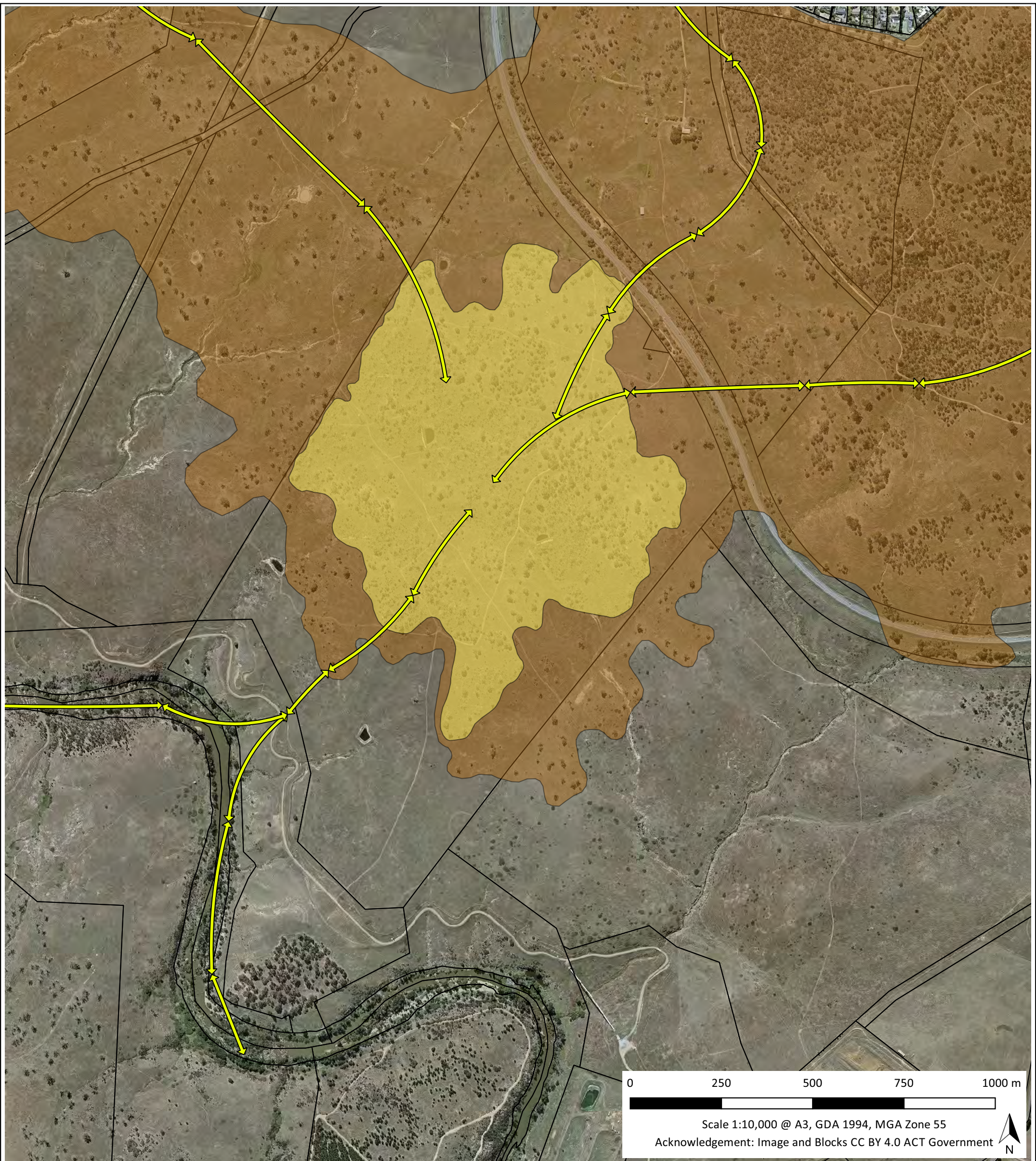






Figure 4. Woodland Bird Habitat

Legend

-  ACT Blocks
- Woodland Bird Habitat**
-  Kama NR - Core Woodland Bird Habitat
-  Woodland Bird Habitat (150 m max distance between trees)
-  Primary Woodland Bird Connectivity

2.4.3.4 Landscape Scale Ecological Connectivity

As stated in ACT Government (2014a) –

Kama is a key connectivity link from Black Mountain and Bruce Ridge through the Belconnen woodlands (The Pinnacle, Mount Painter, Aranda Bushland nature reserves) to the Molonglo River corridor and Murrumbidgee River. Kama is the only lowland reserve in the ACT that links forest (in Kama North and The Pinnacle) through woodland and grassland (Kama) to riparian ecosystems in the Molonglo River.

Doerr *et al.* (2014) found that woodland specialists (i.e. native birds which are generally solely associated with woodland and open dry forest communities) almost exclusively move through the landscape in directions where gaps were <150 m. Connectivity for such species is largely severed where suitable ‘stepping stone habitat’ (retained isolated trees, tree corridors etc.) is not retained. Doerr *et al.* (2014) suggest that keeping gaps <150 m is one action in the management of the landscape that could improve prospects for at-risk movement-limited bird species, many of which are threatened or declining species.

As illustrated in Figure 4, the woodland bird habitat within Kama Nature Reserve comprises a component of an extensive landscape-scale patch of woodland/forest where gaps between habitat patches or stepping stones is <150 m. Observations and targeted studies (Davey 2012; Doerr *et al.* 2014) into the dispersal of woodland birds in the Kama Nature Reserve locality point to the use of broad habitat corridors by numerous species; these dispersal corridors are illustrated in Figure 4.

The above described unique contextual features add further significance to the ecological communities within Kama Nature Reserve and their associated fauna habitat. It is relevant to note however that the habitat connectively value of Kama Nature Reserve is primarily relevant to birds and arboreal mammals (i.e. microbats, Sugar Glider *Petaurus breviceps*). Connectivity along the corridors to the north is largely severed for ground dwelling fauna (i.e. highly mobile reptiles and mammals) by William Hovell Drive. Ground dwelling fauna which traverse William Hovell Drive are subject to high risk of mortality from vehicle strike, as is evidenced by the identification of the location as a kangaroo collision ‘hotspot’ in the *ACT Kangaroo Management Plan* (ACT Government 2010).

Further to the above, while small numbers of the small, predominantly ground-dwelling marsupial, Common Dunnart *Sminthopsis murina*, still occur in limited portions of the Mt Majura / Mt Ainslie and Goorooyaroo reserves, neither of the two *Antechinus* species, historically recorded widely across Canberra’s urban reserve network, have been detected in these reserves for many years (ACT Government 2009). The ACT Government (ACT Government 2009) has attributed the decline in small mammal populations within Canberra’s urban reserves to increases in:

- fire frequency and extent resulting in reduced complexity of the ground layer (i.e. less litter, and fewer branches, logs, hollows, and other habitat features), which provides vital habitat for small mammals;
- predation from feral animals, particularly cats, foxes and dogs, exacerbated by loss of cover;
- increased fragmentation of urban bushlands (preventing recolonisation, reducing effective population sizes etc.); and
- illumination from the urban area creating more favourable environments for nocturnal predators (e.g. owls and cats).

2.5 Bushfire Hazard Management Requirements

It is well established that fire is important to the maintenance of the structure, diversity and ecological function of many Australian ecological communities. Box-Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland (being the dominant communities within Kama Nature Reserve) are examples of such communities. Believed to benefit from fire at intervals of 10 to 40 years and 4 to 10 years respectively, burning these communities at shorter intervals tends to result in a decline in biodiversity (ACT Government 2014b).

Given the above, the application of fire as a management tool within Kama Nature Reserve is entirely appropriate. In fact, as noted in ACT Government (2014a), mosaic burning of portions of Kama Nature Reserve is proposed to be key management tool to enhance the condition of the woodland and grassland within the reserve.

The appropriateness of managing Kama Nature Reserve as a Strategic Firefighting Advantage Zone (SFAZ) was considered at length by a working group of expert bushfire planners and representatives from all relevant ACT Government directorates. The outcome of the working group's considerations was the consensus that the performance criteria of a SFAZ, as required by the SBMP, can be achieved whilst achieving the NES plan commitments for the protection and enhancement of the MNES within Kama Nature Reserve. This outcome is reflected in Section 6.7.4 of the subsequently prepared *Molonglo River Reserve – Draft Management Plan 2016* (ACT Government 2016) –

*Kama is proposed to be zoned as an SFAZ. Fire protection requirements will be achieved using a number of biomass management techniques that are not inconsistent with the conservation objectives for BGW and NTG. These include: ecological burns and planned fuel reduction burns, strategic grazing and herbicide to control high biomass grassy weeds, clumping of restoration plantings so they can be protected from fuel reduction measures, no further planting of Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) and tree by tree charring of the lower bark of existing Red Stringybark trees. If these measures do not achieve the necessary fuel reduction, fuel management may be undertaken in accordance with the Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Operations and the Molonglo River Reserve and Offset Area Ecological Management Guidelines.*

The working group's determination requires that the following measures also be implemented as part of the Kama Interface (Australian Bushfire Protection Planners 2016).

1. *There shall be established and maintained a minimum 60 metre wide Inner Asset Protection Zone (IAPZ) to the north-western edge of the urban development, managed to the prescriptions as detailed in the SBMP. This IAPZ shall contain an edge road and also a gravel fire trail located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Kama and shall include stormwater treatment ponds, cycleway/pedestrian access and electrical power lines, as required.*
2. *There shall be established and maintained a six (6) metre wide fire break located inside the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve.*
3. *The existing access/fire trails within Kama Nature Reserve shall be upgraded and maintained to provide access for management works and fire-fighting operations.*

Item 1 is of critical relevance to this strategy as it defines the minimum characteristics for one of the elements that must be included in the Kama Interface, the Inner Asset Protection Zone.

Items 2 and 3 will be implemented as part of the management of Kama Nature Reserve (addressed in the final version of the Kama Operational Plan).

2.6 Additional Relevant Context

2.6.2 Kama Woodland/Grassland Heritage Listing

'Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen' was listed as a heritage place on the ACT Heritage Register on 18 October 2012, subject to Notifiable Instrument NI2012-541. As illustrated in Figure 5, 'Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen' encompasses Blocks 1419 and 1386 (i.e. Kama Nature Reserve), together with parts of 1596 and 181 and the verge of William Hovell Drive.

The Statement of Heritage Significance assigned to the listed heritage place is –

The Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen is significant because it includes examples of two endangered ecological communities (Yellow Box-Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland) together with the natural boundary (ecotone) between them. The landscape relationship between the two vegetation communities is important because it is considered to be similar to the vegetation patterns that existed prior to European settlement.

This place is also significant because there is a high diversity of native species in the Kama Woodland/Grassland including uncommon native forbs, woodland birds and riparian species. The Kama Woodland/Grassland provides important ecological connectivity between the lower Molonglo River and The Pinnacle (south Belconnen Hills).

In line with the above statement, 'Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen' was assessed against the heritage significance criteria described under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* and found to meet criteria *k* and *l*.

The extent of the land included within the 'Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen' listed heritage place was defined based largely on ecological community classification and condition mapping which, as described in Section 2.4.3.1, has been superseded by more recent and accurate mapping (Umwelt 2013a). This is of key relevance to this strategy given that substantial portions of the land shown as 'partially modified Box-Gum Woodland' in 'Map 3. Kama Ecological Communities/Habitat Classification' of the listing, notably that which lies to the east of the Kama Nature Reserve boundary, was incorrectly mapped, and does not constitute Box-Gum Woodland. The extension of the 'Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen' listed heritage place beyond the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve is likely attributed to this incorrect mapping, and is could therefore be considered to be unjustified.

2.6.3 Contamination Site within the Future Urban Area

As identified in Figure 5, a large pit was excavated in Block 12, Molonglo, immediately east of the Kama Nature Reserve eastern boundary, for the disposal of carcasses from kangaroo culling operations completed within Kama Nature Reserve. The ACT Government Environmental Protection Authority has determined that this pit poses a contamination risk to the adjacent future urban area and, as such, the ACT Government will exhume the contents of the pit and dispose of it elsewhere.

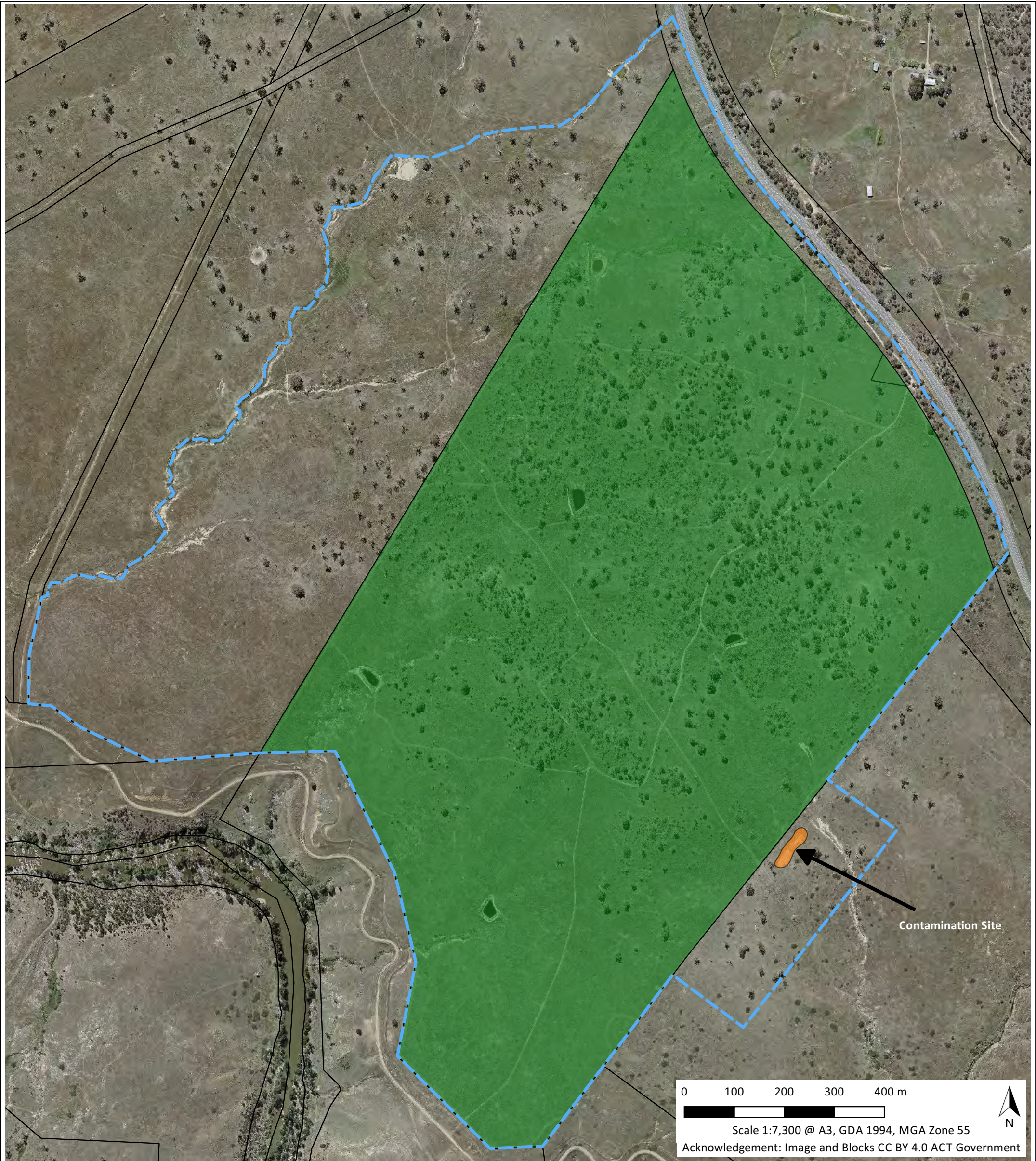






Figure 5. Kama Woodland/Grassland Heritage Listing and Contamination Site

Legend

-  ACT Blocks
-  Kama Nature Reserve
-  Kama Woodland/Grassland Heritage Listing (NI2012—541)
-  Contamination Site - Kangaroo Pit

3 Key Potential Threats from Urban Development

The key potential threats to the ecological values of Kama Nature Reserve from the development of Molonglo 3 (i.e. urban edge effects) are detailed in Table 2. Whilst these potential threats are listed discretely, as discussed in Table 2:

- they will all occur, or their degree of impact will increase, as a result of the development of Molonglo 3;
- they are all linked (directly or indirectly); and
- many of the measures recommended to address one of the threats will also influence the degree of impact of one or more of the others.

Table 3 provides a threat-sensitivity matrix outlining the degree of sensitivity each significant value is likely to have to each identified potential threat in Table 2. As shown in Table 3, the most significant threat to the MNES within Kama Nature Reserve is weed invasion. The introduction, establishment and proliferation of weeds as a result of the development of Molonglo 3, notably African Lovegrass and Chilean Needle Grass, poses a very high degree of threat to the condition and overall integrity of Box-Gum Woodland, Natural Temperate Grassland and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat. The NC Act listed and/or regionally declining (significant) woodland birds of Kama Nature Reserve are likely to be the most sensitive of the values of within the reserve. As noted herein, whilst these species are not themselves currently listed as MNES, their occurrence within a patch of Box-Gum Woodland is a key indicator of the ecological integrity and overall value of the patch. The avoidance and/or mitigation of threats to these other significant woodland birds is therefore a key consideration for the design of the Kama Interface.

Table 2. Key potential threats from urban development

Threat	Description
<p>1. Weed invasion</p>	<p>The incursion, establishment and proliferation of noxious weeds in Box-Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland remnants is one of the foremost threats to the conservation of these threatened ecosystems and their habitat values. Once established, noxious weeds progressively degrade natural ecosystems, often to the point that they no longer reflect the original climax community or support its constituent significant biota.</p> <p>Adverse impacts of noxious weeds on natural ecosystems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smothering and/or outcompeting characteristic native groundstorey flora species; • suppressing recruitment, establishment and development of canopy and midstorey species due to smothering, altered soil chemistry, and losses or changes in the presence of vectors necessary for dispersal; and • reducing the availability or suitability of key foraging and/or breeding resources for native fauna. <p>Although Kama Nature Reserve contains a relatively high cover of both perennial and annual exotic grasses, thistles and other common agricultural weeds, the current occurrence of noxious weeds such as St John’s Wort <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> and Blackberry <i>Rubus fruticosus aggregate</i> is limited and manageable.</p> <p>The noxious perennial grasses African Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> and Chilean Needle Grass <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> now occur extensively along most road verges and median strips throughout urban Canberra. Many such areas, William Hovell Drive being a prime example, support a near monoculture of African Lovegrass in summer-autumn (i.e. C4 warm season growing) alternating with a near monoculture of Chilean Needle Grass in winter-spring (i.e. C3 warm season growing). Both species are highly invasive, have very high seed yields and tolerate harsh climatic conditions, characteristics which allow them to outcompete native species and make them virtually impossible to eradicate once established. African Lovegrass is also adaptable to most soils types and hydrological conditions, giving it the ability to establish even in skeletal soils where weeds have not historically been a major threat.</p> <p>African Lovegrass and Chilean Needle Grass do not disperse via wind-borne seed and rely largely on other human introduced vectors for dispersal (i.e. vehicles, machinery, stock etc.). This is evidenced by the extent of occurrence along roadsides, often roughly aligning with the mowing extent. In this regard, mowing is undoubtedly the primary vector responsible for the spread of these noxious grasses around the urban areas of the ACT, both species being spread into new areas when mowers move from one infested area to another area with little or no consideration of vehicle hygiene. A recent inspection of over 40 woodland and grassland sites subject to mowing by ACT Government City Services observed very poor adherence to weed hygiene requirements and resulting high weed prevalence throughout mown areas (M. Mulvaney 2016, pers. comm.).</p>

Threat	Description
<p>2. 'Urban-adapted' native fauna</p>	<p>Native bird species in Australia are classified as being 'urban-adapters' (respond positively to urbanisation) or 'urban-avoiders' (sensitive to urbanisation and often present only in reserves) as first described by Blair (1996). Urban-adapted species are likely to gain a competitive advantage from the proximity of specific resources present in urban environments such as garden plantings of exotic shrubs which produce berries in winter, garbage, changes in vegetation density etc. These species generally decrease in density with distance from the urban fringe into an adjacent reserve (Rayner <i>et al.</i> 2015).</p> <p>Ikin <i>et al.</i> (2014) found that in Canberra suburbs, bird assemblages were characterised by higher proportions of large-bodied species, arboreal and opportunistic nesters, and granivorous and nectarivorous foragers. In contrast, the reserve community was characterised by woodland-dependant species including small-bodied species, understorey and tree cavity/hollow nesters, and arboreal insectivores.</p> <p>Native bird species considered to be urban-adapted that are likely to gain a competitive advantage as a result of development of Molonglo 3 include the Pied Currawong <i>Strepera graculina</i>, Australian Magpie <i>Cracticus tibicen</i>, Noisy Miner <i>Manorina melanocephala</i> and Red Wattlebird <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>. In addition, certain species such as the Crimson Rosella <i>Platycercus elegans</i> and Common Brushtail Possum <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i> may increase in number on the urban fringe only (as opposed to deeper within the urban area), as they benefit from new foraging resources in the urban matrix, but require resources such as hollows which in the shorter term may only be present within Kama Nature Reserve and other nearby areas.</p> <p>Impacts of urban-adapted fauna, particularly upon (generally smaller) birds, may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased competition for nesting space, foraging resources, and hollows; • direct harassment; and • predation of nestlings. <p>Given the potential intensity and reach of the effects of increased density of urban-adapted species, the entirety of Kama Nature Reserve may be reduced in value for small woodland birds. Urban-adapted species may also affect other values of Kama Nature Reserve such as the Superb Parrot and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard.</p>
<p>3. Proximity of urban edge on 'urban-avoiding' bird species</p>	<p>The extent to which edge effects, penetrate into reserves adjoining urban areas is not well understood. However, results from a study on bird communities across Canberra woodland/urban fringes suggested that the effects of the suburban matrix penetrate into reserves for greater distances than previously thought. Some studies have found that even sites 250 m from the reserve edge were perceived as edge habitat by birds (Ikin <i>et al.</i> 2014). A study in the United States of America recommended restricting housing development within one kilometre of protected areas (Wood <i>et al.</i> 2015) and a study in the ACT detected urban proximity effects on species frequently beyond three kilometres (and up to five kilometres) from the urban boundary (Rayner <i>et al.</i> 2014).</p> <p>Alterations to bird community composition in a reserve following the introduction of adjacent or nearby development are to date poorly studied and are not well understood. Such alterations are likely to depend on numerous factors, however it can be expected that the proximity of the urban edge will reduce the abundance of particular urban avoiding species within Kama Nature Reserve, such as the Brown Treecreeper, and in general reduce the value of the woodland in supporting woodland-dependant species.</p> <p>This is an overarching threat directly contributed to by the other threats listed in this table.</p>

Threat	Description
<p>4. Loss of remnant trees (east of Kama Nature Reserve)</p>	<p>As illustrated in Figure 3, the area within Molonglo 3 east of Kama Nature Reserve supports 36 very old (i.e. >150 years) live eucalypts (GHD 2014), together with numerous stags (dead trees). Most of these remnant trees and stags contain numerous hollows. The groundstorey under these trees and across much of the paddock is a mixture of exotic pasture and low diversity native pasture, highly modified by past tree clearance and approximately 180 years of intensive grazing. As such, the trees are unlikely to be of high value to the MNES of relevance to Kama. Notwithstanding this, recent research indicates that such old remnant trees are of disproportionately high value to the survival of many woodland bird and mammal species in modified environments (Gibbons and Lindenmayer 2002; Goldingay 2011; Le Roux <i>et al.</i> 2014a; Le Roux <i>et al.</i> 2015). The trees themselves are of substantial aesthetic and intrinsic value and, given the age of the trees, cannot be replaced in a timely manner.</p> <p>In light of the above, given the values of these remnant trees, their loss should be avoided to all extent practicable through their retention as part of the Kama Interface. It is noted however that the structural integrity of very old eucalypts is often assessed as unsuitable for retention within urban development. Further, accommodating the retention of remnant trees (including each tree's 'tree protection zone' (Australian Standards 2009)) within urban development is often difficult and impractical. As such, whilst it should be the intention to retain as many of the remnant trees as possible in the Kama Interface buffer (refer Section 6.2.4) as well as within the urban development area, in reality, few of the remnant trees are likely to be retained in the urban area beyond the buffer.</p>
<p>5. Decreased foraging range</p>	<p>Development east of Kama Nature Reserve will lead to distinct changes in the foraging resources available to native fauna, with planted gardens which include shrubs (including non-local and exotic species), structurally non-diverse and generally exotic lawns, fewer mature trees (in the short term) and provision of unnatural food sources (garbage bins, roadkill etc.). This is likely to benefit some species (urban-adapted) and disadvantage others (urban-avoiding). It will also result in the loss of open hunting habitat for large predatory birds such as the Little Eagle and Wedge-tailed Eagle <i>Aquila audax</i>.</p>
<p>6. Loss of connectivity</p>	<p>Fragmentation of habitat is an ever increasing threat in Australia. At Molonglo 3, loss of connectivity for fauna including invertebrates and birds could have a significant impact upon rare groundcover flora species (reliant on pollinator populations) and upon the bird assemblage of Kama Nature Reserve. Structural connectivity in the form of habitat corridors or stepping stones of remnant vegetation or revegetated land leads to functional connectivity in flora and fauna populations (Doerr <i>et al.</i> 2010).</p> <p>The functional connectivity for the constituent fauna of Kama Nature Reserve, particularly woodland birds, may be impacted by the development of Molonglo 3, however the impacts are likely to be minor. As evident in the aerial image (refer Figure 4), there are presently vegetation corridors between Kama Nature reserve and high quality habitat in the Molonglo River Reserve and the habitat across William Hovell Drive (i.e. The Pinnacle Nature Reserve). These corridors, which support remnant trees less than 150 metres apart, will remain unchanged by the loss of the widely scattered remnant trees within Molonglo 3. Some loss of connectivity may occur for the Pink-tailed Work-lizard, however the habitat patches within the development area of Molonglo 3 are not of high significance to the conservation of the species in the locality. The Molonglo River Reserve is likely to remain a significant habitat corridor for the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard.</p>

Threat	Description
<p>7. Noise and light spill</p>	<p>Noise and light from residential areas have been known to impact native fauna, resulting in modified behaviours and changes in distribution and abundance.</p> <p>Light spill from headlights, street lights and houses adjacent to a reserve may impact the function of adjacent ecosystems, through confusing navigation, changing foraging behaviour/predator-prey interactions, or negatively affecting animals or plant physiology (Simon & Babcock 1999). Nocturnal species such as bats may be most affected (Gleeson & Gleeson 2012).</p> <p>Noise from vehicles, construction, music, pets etc. at Molonglo will travel into adjacent areas. Impacts from urban noise have been recorded in fauna groups worldwide and may include distinct changes in fauna assemblages, such as declines in bird diversity and abundance (Shannon <i>et al.</i> 2016). Francis <i>et al</i> (2009) showed that noise alone could reduce nesting species richness and lead to different bird communities. Dog barking can alter bird behaviour by eliciting a fear response which may be detrimental to some species more than others (Randler 2005).</p> <p>To date no studies have been completed that focus specifically on the impact of light pollution and/or noise on wildlife in the ACT region. As such, the precautionary principle must be followed in limiting the impact of this threat to the fullest extent practicable.</p>

Threat	Description
<p>8. Exotic pest animals</p>	<p>Exotic pest animals (feral pests) adversely impact upon natural ecosystems in numerous ways, including by: causing erosion and other direct degradation; preying upon native fauna; competing with native fauna for habitat and foraging resources; introducing disease; and introducing and/or spreading weeds. The impacts of some exotic pest animals have been listed as Key Threatening Processes under the EPBC Act, and threat abatement plans have been developed and implemented for these priority pests.</p> <p>Although numerous feral pests occur in the Kama Interface locality, as described below, the Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>, Feral Cat <i>Felis catus</i> and Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> are the species which pose the greatest threat to the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.</p> <p><u>Red Fox</u></p> <p>Predation by foxes is a Key Threatening Process impacting upon many native fauna groups, including woodland/grassland birds, small reptiles (including the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard) and small mammals. Foxes occur commonly throughout the rural lands surrounding Canberra, within Canberra Nature Park Reserves and adjacent suburbs. Whilst the progressive removal of sheep grazing from the Molonglo locality will reduce the associated food source for foxes, the development of suburbs in close proximity to Kama Nature Reserve has the potential to maintain or increase populations via the introduction of alternative food sources such as unsealed rubbish bins, domestic poultry (chickens, ducks etc.), aviary birds and rodents.</p> <p><u>Feral Cat</u></p> <p>Feral cats are a serious vertebrate pest in Australia having severe to catastrophic effects on native fauna in all regions where present (Woinarski <i>et al.</i> 2014). Predation of native species is the primary threat from feral cats, however feral cats can also compete with native fauna in some regions and are known to transmit diseases (Commonwealth of Australia 2015). Feral cats occur commonly throughout the rural lands surrounding Canberra, particularly within five kilometres of the urban edge. Many of these feral cats come from the nearby suburban areas, often as lost or discarded pets or the progeny of these. The development of Molonglo 3 has the potential to increase the number of feral cats in the Kama Interface Locality, thereby increasing the degree to which this pest impacts upon the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.</p> <p><u>Common Myna</u></p> <p>Listed as one of the world’s worst invasive species (Lowe <i>et al.</i> 2000), the Common Myna is a highly territorial species once established and is known to disrupt many native bird species and guilds of species. Gracock <i>et al.</i> (2014) observed negative associations between Common Myna abundance and some native bird species in Canberra’s urban reserves, particularly those species that nest and/or roost in tree hollows. These impacts are usually particularly pronounced within close proximity to urban development. Whilst the Common Myna is not regularly observed in Kama Nature Reserve, urbanisation associated with the development of Molonglo 3 will undoubtedly result a substantially increase in the species’ presence in the locality. As has been observed with all other recently developed suburbs in Canberra and the region (i.e. Gungahlin, Jerrabomberra, Googong etc.), the Common Myna will follow human occupation, and as such, proactive and intensive control of this species will need to commence upon occupation of Molonglo 3 and be ongoing.</p>

Threat	Description
<p>9. Domestic animals (pets)</p>	<p>Domestic animals, particularly dogs and cats, can dramatically impact wildlife within reserves if permitted within. Both dogs and cats will hunt native fauna, with cats being a particular threat to small woodland-dependant birds (Holderness-Roddam & McQuillan 2014). Cats are also more likely to roam (even in 'cat containment' areas) and are harder to keep out of reserves with fences. As study of pet cats along the urban fringe found that radiotracked cats roamed up to 300 m from home (Lilith <i>et al.</i> 2008).</p> <p>Dogs can also have a large impact upon wildlife, even when leashed (Lenth & Knight 2008; Westgarth <i>et al.</i> 2010). A study in urban fringe woodland north of Sydney found that on-leash dog walking in woodland led to a 35% reduction in bird diversity and a 41% reduction in abundance, with no evidence for habituation (Banks & Bryant 2007).</p>
<p>10. Increased human use/disturbance</p>	<p>Human use of Kama Nature Reserve could have a variety of impacts upon the significant values of the reserve. The most significant impacts are likely to be from recreation as well as from undesirable behaviour within or adjacent to the reserve. Recreational impacts may include damage to flora and disturbance to fauna from walking. Walking dogs adjacent to the reserve may also disturb wildlife. Impacts from undesirable behaviour may include: dumping of garbage and garden waste, disturbing or collecting rocks, and harvesting flora. High human use may lead to increased weed introduction and spread, and reduction in sensitive flora and fauna.</p>

Table 3. Threat-sensitivity matrix

		Degree of threat				Value					
		Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Box-Gum Woodland	Natural Temperate Grassland	Pink-tailed Worm-Lizard	Superb Parrot	Swift Parrot	Other Significant Woodland Birds
Threat	1. Weed invasion	Very High	High	Moderate	Low	Very High	Very High	High	High	Low	High
		May lead to severe degradation of Box Gum Woodland, including loss of characteristic flora. Whilst groundcover weed invasion does not impact overstorey species (although it may reduce recruitment in the long term), it may significantly reduce the overall value and function of the habitat.	Weed invasion can lead to severe degradation of Natural Temperate Grassland, including loss of characteristic flora.	The Pink-tailed Work-lizard is only known to occur in rocky habitat within native-dominated grassland. Weed invasion may reduce the quality of habitat for this species, possibly resulting in local extinction.	Weed invasion may reduce the quality of available foraging resources. As the impact of weed invasion upon this species is not known, the precautionary principle has been applied in categorising the threat as moderate.	Unlikely to have a significant impact upon this species, as it is a rarely visiting migrant and does not breed in the region.	Weed invasion may reduce the quality of available foraging resources for woodland birds and may change the structure of the habitat. May also benefit competing species.				
	2. 'Urban-adapted' native fauna	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Very High	Low	Low	Low	Very High
		May impact upon the functioning of the community through changes in predator-prey and competition dynamics, leading to a reduction in diversity and abundance of characteristic woodland species.	May reduce foraging by certain fauna species.	Unlikely to be a threat although may increase predation.	Urban exploiting native fauna may compete with the Superb Parrot for food or potentially for hollows and may harass birds, leading to reduction in use of Kama Nature Reserve by the species.	May lead to reduction in visitation of Kama Nature Reserve but unlikely to be a significant threat to the species.	Highly likely to compete with small woodland birds. May reduce the abundance and diversity of woodland dependant species.				
	3. Proximity of urban edge on 'urban-avoiding' bird species	High	N/A	N/A	High	Low	Very High	Low	Low	Very High	
	May impact upon the functioning of the community through changes in fauna species composition.	N/A	N/A	May reduce the frequency and duration of foraging behaviour. Likely to prevent the species from breeding in trees near to the urban fringe in future.	Species unlikely to be significantly impacted however foraging behaviour may be affected.	Overarching threat – proximity of urban development likely to permanently change the species composition within Kama Nature Reserve.					
4. Loss of remnant trees (east of Kama Nature Reserve)	High	N/A	N/A	High	Low	Low	High	Low	High		
	Trees east of Kama Nature Reserve are valuable for fauna habitat and a proportion are likely to be cleared. These areas are already highly modified and do not represent the ecological community.	N/A	N/A	Species may be impacted by reduction in mature flowering eucalypts and grassland leading to lower breeding success in Molonglo. Over time, planted trees will mature and may eventually be utilised.	Unlikely to affect the species given the amount of foraging habitat nearby.	May lead to a reduction in abundance and diversity of woodland dependant species in Kama Nature Reserve. Some species unlikely to be affected.					
5. Decreased foraging range	N/A	N/A	N/A	High	Low	High	Low	High	High		
	N/A	N/A	N/A	Species may be impacted by reduction in mature flowering eucalypts and grassland leading to lower breeding success in Molonglo. Over time, planted trees will mature and may eventually be utilised.	Unlikely to affect the species given the amount of foraging habitat nearby.	May lead to a reduction in abundance and diversity of woodland dependant species in Kama Nature Reserve. Some species likely to be unaffected. Large predatory birds likely to be affected.					

		Value					
		Box-Gum Woodland	Natural Temperate Grassland	Pink-tailed Worm-Lizard	Superb Parrot	Swift Parrot	Other Significant Woodland Birds
6. Loss of connectivity							
	Development is unlikely to significantly affect connectivity for characteristic flora and fauna of this community.	Development is unlikely to significantly affect connectivity for characteristic flora and fauna of this community.	Development may have some impact upon connectivity for the species through loss of potential habitat within Molonglo 3, however this is unlikely to be significant for the conservation of the species in the locality.	Development is unlikely to significantly affect connectivity for the species.	Development is unlikely to significantly affect connectivity for the species.	Development is unlikely to significantly affect connectivity for the species.	
7. Noise and light spill							
	May have some minor impact upon the habitat values of the community.	May have some minor impact upon the habitat values of the community.	Unlikely to significantly affect the species.	May reduce the frequency and duration of foraging behaviour. Likely to prevent the species from breeding in trees near to the urban fringe in future.	May reduce the likelihood of the species foraging near the urban edge. Unlikely to have a significant impact.	Likely to reduce the frequency of foraging and nesting near the urban edge of some urban avoiding species. May impact behaviour.	
8. Exotic pest animals							
	May impact upon the functioning of the community through changes in predator-prey and competition dynamics, leading to a reduction in diversity and abundance of characteristic woodland species.	May impact upon the functioning of the community through changes in predator-prey and competition dynamics.	Certain pest fauna may prey upon the species. Unlikely to be a significant threat.	Exotic pest animals may harass or compete with the Superb Parrot for foraging resources and/or hollows.	Unlikely to be a significant threat however may reduce the likelihood of the species foraging near the urban edge.	Highly likely to compete with or prey upon small woodland birds. May reduce the abundance and diversity of woodland dependant species.	
9. Domestic animals (pets)							
	May cause physical disturbance, carry weeds and prey upon native fauna.	May cause physical disturbance, carry weeds and prey upon native fauna.	May prey upon the species, reducing its occurrence in Kama Nature Reserve.	May harass or predate upon foraging birds leading to greater pressure upon the population and reduction in the suitability of the habitat for the species.	May harass or predate upon foraging birds although unlikely to be significant.	Likely to prey upon small woodland birds. May prevent breeding near the urban edge.	
10. Increased human use/disturbance							
	Physical disturbance may reduce abundance and diversity of sensitive native flora.	Physical disturbance may reduce abundance and diversity of sensitive native flora.	Physical disturbance of rocky habitat likely to occur. Collection of rocks and animals may impact upon population density and distribution.	Human use may prevent potential breeding of the species in Kama Nature Reserve in the future.	Unlikely to affect the species given the amount of foraging habitat nearby, however the species may be less likely to visit.	Human disturbance may reduce abundance and diversity of sensitive woodland dependant species.	

4 Determination of Minimum Buffer Characteristics

A key component of the Kama Interface is the buffer to be established between Kama Nature Reserve and the adjacent urban area of Molonglo 3 (the 'buffer'). It is a pre-established requirement that the buffer contains a minimum 60 m wide IAPZ along its full length; this dictates the minimum width of the buffer at any point along the Kama Interface. The width of the buffer beyond this 60 m must be determined based on that which is required to *provide protection* (to the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve) *against urban edge effects*. As established in Section 2.4.3, Kama Nature Reserve contains numerous biodiversity values which require protection from urban edge effects. However, the buffer width and characteristics required to provide an effective level of protection differ substantially between the subject values. In recognition of this, Table 4 lists each relevant significant biodiversity value and defines the corresponding minimum buffer width and other characteristics required. The buffer characteristics required have been determined based on the level of effectiveness where applied elsewhere in the ACT, together with information drawn from the available literature and the application of relevant ecological principles.

Table 4. Minimum buffer width and characteristics

Significant Biodiversity Value	Discussion and Rationale	Minimum Required Buffer Width and Characteristics
<p>Box-Gum Woodland</p>	<p>The key threat to the Box-Gum Woodland ecological community is the invasion and proliferation of exotic weeds, notably African Lovegrass, Chilean Needle Grass, St John’s Wort, and Blackberry. The management of the buffer is likely to be of greater importance to its ability to protect against this threat than its width. Indeed, a narrower buffer that incorporates effective weed control is likely to provide better protection than a larger buffer that is poorly managed (i.e. allowed to become a source of weeds etc.). A broader buffer would also be unlikely to substantially increase protection against feral animals or humans.</p> <p>No standard buffer width has been established for Box-Gum Woodland in the ACT, with setbacks of development from Box-Gum Woodland varying greatly, generally being defined based on other factors.</p>	<p>20 m</p> <p>A 20 m wide buffer to Box-Gum Woodland is likely to provide a sentinel zone of sufficient width to undertake targeted weed monitoring and control. This buffer can be managed as IAPZ (i.e. grazed/mown understorey with or without canopy trees) or as regeneration plantings.</p>
<p>Natural Temperate Grassland</p>	<p>The key threat to the Natural Temperate Grassland ecological community is the invasion and proliferation of exotic weeds, notably African Lovegrass, Chilean Needle Grass, St John’s Wort, and Blackberry. The management of the buffer is likely to be of greater importance to its ability to protect against this threat than its width. Indeed, a narrower buffer that incorporates effective weed control is likely to provide better protection than a larger buffer that is poorly managed (i.e. allowed to become a source of weeds etc.). A broader buffer would also be unlikely to substantially increase protection against feral animals or humans.</p> <p>No standard buffer width has been established for Natural Temperate Grassland in the ACT, with setbacks of development from Box-Gum Woodland varying greatly, generally being defined based on other factors.</p>	<p>20 m</p> <p>A 20 m wide buffer to Natural Temperate Grassland is likely to provide a sentinel zone of sufficient width to undertake targeted weed monitoring and control. This buffer can be managed as IAPZ (i.e. grazed/mown understorey).</p>

Significant Biodiversity Value	Discussion and Rationale	Minimum Required Buffer Width and Characteristics
<p>Pink-tailed Worm-Lizard</p>	<p>The key threats to Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat in urban interface areas are the invasion and proliferation of exotic weeds and disturbance of habitat by humans.</p> <p>Osborne & Wong (2012) found that the areas of Mount Taylor up to approximately 100 m of residential development were significantly degraded, with no Pink-tailed Worm-lizards being recorded within this area. The key causes of this habitat degradation were noted as replacement of important native grasses by exotic weed species, grooming of loose surface rocks, and other physical disturbance (Osborne & Wong 2012). Based on their findings, Osborne & Wong (2012) recommended that a 100 m general management zone be established between residential development and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat. However, where the establishment of such a broad zone is unfeasible, then protection should be achieved by implementing a higher level of management that includes: (i) rigorous protection of habitat areas; (ii) inclusion of a managed 20 m buffer that surround the habitat; and (iii) increased vigilance in managing any open areas of landscape upslope of buffer areas (Osborne & Wong 2012).</p> <p>It is noted that the patches of Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat within the Molonglo 3 area (i.e. east of the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve) are included in the impact areas under the 'ecological impact budget' in the NES Plan. Accordingly, for the purposes of this strategy these patches are not considered as requiring specific protection. Notwithstanding this, to the extent that it is compatible with the other management requirements of the land (i.e. bushfire hazard mitigation), the habitat will be retained.</p> <p>The buffer will adjoin one patch of Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat within Kama Nature Reserve. A fence established along the boundary of Kama Nature Reserve with gates distant from the habitat patch would minimise human disturbance of the habitat beyond the boundary. Managing the adjoining land in line with the higher level of management recommended by Osborne & Wong (2012), notably including the 20 m managed buffer (NES Plan, ACT Government 2011), is likely to provide sufficient protection to the patch of habitat on the reserve side of the fence.</p>	<p>20 m</p> <p>A 20 m intensive management buffer is likely to provide a sentinel zone of sufficient width to undertake targeted weed monitoring and control. This buffer can be managed as IAPZ (i.e. grazed/mown understorey).</p> <p>The construction of a fence along the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve will minimise human disturbance of the habitat protected within the reserve.</p>

Significant Biodiversity Value	Discussion and Rationale	Minimum Required Buffer Width and Characteristics
<p>Superb Parrot</p>	<p>Kama Nature Reserve provides intermittent foraging habitat for the Superb Parrot, which visits the ACT between September and March, breeding at locations in West Molonglo and North Gungahlin (Davey 2012). Although the species is not known to breed within Kama, the foraging habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is located within an easy flight distance from the recorded core breeding habitat nearby to the west (Davey 2012). As such, the habitat within Kama Nature Reserve may now, or in future, provide an important contribution towards the Superb Parrot’s presence and breeding success within the Molonglo Valley. Kama Nature Reserve may also constitute a future ‘bank’ of habitat which may be crucial to the long-term persistence of the Superb Parrot in the ACT.</p> <p>Urban development and human presence appear not to adversely impact upon Superb Parrot foraging activities, rather the species is known to regularly forage in urban gardens across northern Canberra. However, the species prefers not to breed in close proximity to areas frequented by humans (Canberra Ornithological Group 2012) with birds observed to not return to previously occupied nesting trees following urban encroachment.</p> <p>Given the above, it is reasonable to assert that urban development within close proximity of the Superb Parrot foraging habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is unlikely to adversely impact the current foraging value of the habitat to the species. The planting of native trees in portions of the Kama Interface (including urban gardens, refer Section 6.3) may in fact increase the foraging resources present in the locality, although such additional resources may also counterproductively bolster populations of urban exploiting native and exotic birds to the detriment of the Superb Parrot and other sensitive avifauna.</p> <p>In addition to the above potential for impacts to current foraging habitat, as described in Section 2.4.3.3, it is important to consider the potential future value of the Box-Gum Woodland within Kama Nature Reserve as breeding habitat for the Superb Parrot. In this regard, a broad buffer (such as 200 m) is likely to be necessary for the Superb Parrot to ever utilise the Box-Gum Woodland within Kama Nature Reserve as breeding habitat.</p>	<p>20 m (200 m in consideration of potential future breeding habitat value)</p> <p>A 20 m wide buffer to the Box-Gum Woodland is likely to provide a sentinel zone of sufficient width to undertake targeted weed monitoring and control, thereby protecting the foraging value of the groundstorey of this habitat. This buffer can be managed as IAPZ (i.e. grazed/mown understorey with or without canopy trees) or as regeneration plantings.</p> <p>Further to the above, a buffer of 200 m to the Box-Gum Woodland is likely to be the minimum required for the Superb Parrot to ever utilise Kama Nature Reserve as breeding habitat.</p> <p>Subject to fire hazard mitigation requirements, planting portions of the buffer with locally native trees of foraging and/or potential future nesting value will increase the effectiveness of the buffer.</p>

Significant Biodiversity Value	Discussion and Rationale	Minimum Required Buffer Width and Characteristics
<p>Swift Parrot</p>	<p>The Swift Parrot is only an occasional non-breeding migrant to the ACT. Together with the other substantial patches of Box-Gum Woodland within the ACT region, the Box-Gum Woodland within Kama Nature Reserve provides potential transient foraging habitat for the species. Kama Nature Reserve is not known to constitute habitat of any particular importance to the Swift Parrot.</p> <p>With regard to the above, the proximity of urban development to foraging habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is unlikely to be of any considerable consequence to the species' utilisation of the habitat, or its broader conservation.</p>	<p>20 m</p> <p>A 20 m wide buffer to the Box-Gum Woodland is likely to provide a sentinel zone of sufficient width to undertake targeted weed monitoring and control, thereby protecting the foraging value of the groundstorey of this habitat. This buffer can be managed as IAPZ (i.e. grazed/mown understorey with or without canopy trees) or as regeneration plantings.</p>
<p>Other Significant Woodland Birds</p>	<p>The woodland/forest habitat within Kama Nature Reserve is arguably of greatest and most direct significance to the numerous NC Act 'vulnerable' listed and/or regionally declining woodland birds known to breed and/or forage within, notably including the: Brown Treecreeper, White-winged Triller, Varied Sittella and Scarlet Robin (Davey 2012; ACT Government 2014). As discussed in Section 2.4.3.3, whilst these species are not themselves currently listed as MNES, their occurrence within a patch of Box-Gum Woodland is a key indicator of the ecological integrity and overall value of the patch.</p> <p>These species are generally urban-avoiding species and are negatively impacted by urbanisation.</p> <p>A study of the impacts of urban development upon bird species in the ACT detected urban proximity effects on species frequently beyond three kilometres (and up to five kilometres) from the urban boundary (Rayner <i>et al.</i> 2014). It is therefore likely that for sensitive woodland birds, the larger the buffer (up to approximately five kilometres), the better the outcome, and that technically there is no known 'minimum' buffer width.</p> <p>A buffer of 200 m to the core woodland bird habitat (Box-Gum Woodland and Grassy Dry Forest, refer Figure 4) is recommended to provide effective protection to the significant woodland birds of Kama Nature Reserve. Although there is a paucity of Australian research directly relating to the effectiveness of specific buffer widths, the available international research (Martino 2001; Thorell & Gotmark 2005; Wood <i>et al.</i> 2014; Wood <i>et al.</i> 2015) suggests that 200 m is likely to greatly reduce the impact of roaming cats and dogs, human disturbance, and competition from urban-adapted species. Planting portions of the buffer with local native trees and shrubs will increase the effectiveness of the buffer, as vegetative and structural diversity is associated with a greater abundance of sensitive 'urban-avoiding' species (Ikin <i>et al.</i> 2013a).</p>	<p>200 m</p> <p>A buffer of 200 m to the core woodland bird habitat (Box-Gum Woodland and Grassy Dry Forest, refer Figure 6) is likely to be required to provide an appropriate level of protection to the significant woodland birds of Kama Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Subject to fire hazard mitigation requirements, planting portions of the buffer with locally native trees and shrubs will increase the effectiveness of the buffer.</p>

5 Interface Options Evaluation

As described in Section 2.2, the overarching objective of this strategy is to provide sound, well-defined and scientifically supported advice and recommendations to the ACT Government regarding the characteristics required for the interface between Kama Nature Reserve and Molonglo 3 to achieve the NES Plan commitments. Working to achieve this objective, and with regard to each important element of the Kama Interface context (Section 2), the following process was followed to determine the most appropriate arrangements for the Kama Interface.

1. Definition and inclusion of pre-established minimum requirements

As outlined in Section 2.5, it was determined prior to the development of this strategy that the Kama Interface must include the following bushfire hazard mitigation elements.

- a. A minimum 60 metre wide IAPZ to the north-western edge of the urban development, managed to the prescriptions as detailed in the SBMP. This IAPZ shall contain an edge road and also a gravel fire trail located adjacent to the eastern boundary of Kama and shall include stormwater treatment ponds, cycleway/pedestrian access and electrical power lines, as required.
- b. A six (6) metre wide fire break located inside the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve.



2. Definition of the minimum characteristics required

Definition of the minimum characteristics required for the interface to effectively *provide protection against urban edge effects*. This was informed by a thorough review of available literature (refer References) relating to: urban edge effects; the sensitivity of the relevant values, or surrogates for those values which are not well studied; the effectiveness of various buffer widths; and the effectiveness of specific interface treatments.



3. Identification and consideration of countering/controlling factors

In general, a broader buffer between urban development and natural areas is beneficial in reducing or mitigating the impacts of edge effects. It may be that the degree of protection offered increases along a continuum from a narrow to very broad buffer. Nevertheless, the economic costs which increase with buffer width (loss of development yield, initial and ongoing management and maintenance costs etc.) necessitate that the buffer proposed is that which is required to achieve its purpose (Item 2 above), and is not excess to this.



4. Development of options

In the context of Items 1 to 3 above, several Kama Interface options were developed to broad concept level, each with varying characteristics (i.e. buffer widths, treatments etc.). The options developed are detailed in Table 5.



5. Critical evaluation of options

As detailed in Table 5, on completion of Item 4, each Kama Interface option was assessed to evaluate the degree to which it is likely to achieve its purpose, yet minimise economic costs.

The above process resulted in the identification of an interface option which, with a reasonable degree of confidence, is considered likely to achieve the purpose of the Kama Interface in a manner which is duly cognisant of economic considerations. Accordingly, this interface option has been developed in detail and is presented in Section 6 as the 'recommended interface arrangements'.

Table 5. Overview of Kama Interface options evaluation

Note: each option developed includes the pre-established minimum bushfire management requirements as outlined in Section 2.5.

Option	Key Characteristics	Likelihood of Achieving Purpose ¹	Economic Costs	Recommended Interface Option - Yes/No
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 m wide buffer along the length of the interface. The entire buffer would be managed as IAPZ². 	<p>Very Low</p> <p>As detailed in Table 4, a 60 m wide buffer is considerably less than the minimum 200 m likely to be required.</p>	<p>Minimal</p> <p>High development yield and low establishment and maintenance costs.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Option 1 has a very low likelihood of achieving its purpose.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 230 m wide buffer along the length of the interface. The western 200 m of the buffer would be managed as OAPZ³, the eastern 30 m as IAPZ. Note: although this option would not include the minimum 60 m wide IAPZ (refer point '1' above), the ACT Emergency Services Agency have advised that a 30 m wide IAPZ would suffice where it adjoins a 200 m wide OAPZ. 	<p>High</p> <p>A 230 m wide buffer would provide a setback in excess of the minimum 200 m likely to be required.</p>	<p>Very High</p> <p>Very high impact on development yield, together with high establishment and maintenance costs.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The economic costs of Option 2 would not be justified.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 m wide buffer along the length of the interface. The western 140 m of the buffer would be managed as SFAZ⁴, the eastern 60 m as IAPZ. 	<p>High</p> <p>The buffer would provide a setback approximately equal to the minimum 200 m likely to be required. The southern 1/3rd of the buffer would be wider than that likely to be required.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High impact on development yield, together with high establishment and maintenance costs.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The economic costs of Option 3 would not be justified.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 m wide buffer along the northern 2/3rds of the interface (adjacent to Kama Nature Reserve Box-Gum Woodland), tapering back to 100 m wide for the southern 1/3rd of the interface (adjoining Kama Nature Reserve Natural Temperate Grassland and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat). The eastern 60 m would be managed as IAPZ, the balance as SFAZ. 	<p>High</p> <p>The buffer would provide a setback approximately equal to the minimum 200 m likely to be required. The southern 1/3rd of the buffer would provide the 100 m wide optimal buffer as recommended by Osborne & Wong (2012).</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High impact on development yield, together with high establishment and maintenance costs.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The potential additional protection from establishing the 100 m optimal buffer would not justify the economic costs.</p>

Option	Key Characteristics	Likelihood of Achieving Purpose ¹	Economic Costs	Recommended Interface Option - Yes/No
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 m wide buffer along the northern 2/3rds of the interface (adjacent to Kama Nature Reserve Box-Gum Woodland), tapering back to 60 m wide for the southern 1/3rd of the interface (adjoining Kama Nature Reserve Natural Temperate Grassland and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat). The eastern 60 m would be managed as IAPZ, the balance as SFAZ. 	<p>Moderate</p> <p>The buffer would provide a setback along the northern 2/3rds of the interface approximately equal to the minimum 200 m likely to be required. The southern 1/3rd of the buffer would provide marginally less than the 200 m to core woodland values likely to be required.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Moderate impact on development yield, together with moderate establishment and maintenance costs.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The 60 m wide southern 1/3rd of the buffer would provide less than the minimum 200 m setback likely to be required.</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 m wide buffer along the northern 2/3rds of the interface (adjacent to Kama Nature Reserve Box-Gum Woodland), tapering back to 70 m wide for the southern 1/3rd of the interface (adjoining Kama Nature Reserve Natural Temperate Grassland and Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat). The eastern 60 m would be managed as IAPZ along the northern 2/3rds, the 70 m wide buffer would be managed as IAPZ along the southern 1/3rd. The balance would be managed as SFAZ. 	<p>High</p> <p>The buffer would provide a setback along the northern 2/3rds of the interface approximately equal to the minimum 200 m likely to be required. The southern 1/3rd of the buffer would provide the 200 m to core woodland values likely to be required.</p>	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Moderate impact on development yield, together with moderate establishment and maintenance costs.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Option 6 provides the minimum buffer width likely to be required. Accordingly, Option 6 is the recommended interface arrangement developed in detail for this strategy (refer Section 6).</p>

¹To provide protection to the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve against urban edge effects.

ACT Bushfire Management Standards (ACT Government 2014c)

² Inner Asset Protection Zone (IAPZ)

³ Outer Asset Protection Zone (OAPZ)

⁴ Strategic Firefighting Advantage Zone (SFAZ)

6 Recommended Interface Arrangements

6.1 Kama Interface Concept and Purpose

At approximately 155 ha, Kama Nature Reserve is a relatively small reserve which supports important fauna habitat, the value of which is substantially heightened by its location as a habitat linkage (ACT Government 2015a). Although the establishment of the Molonglo River Reserve to the south will substantially increase the area of reserve land directly connected to Kama Nature Reserve, it will not significantly reduce the high edge-to-core ratio of Kama Nature Reserve itself. With a high edge-to-core ratio, small reserves have a correspondingly small area of core or interior habitat to act as a stronghold for biodiversity and provide sufficient refuge for sensitive fauna species (i.e. urban-avoiding woodland birds) (ACT Government 2015a). In this regard, in addition to effective management of Kama Nature Reserve itself, effective protection of the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve will depend greatly on the characteristics and management of the land adjacent. Protection from future urban edge effects will require the combination of effective management within the reserve itself, establishment and in-perpetuity management of an appropriate buffer, together with the implementation of targeted measures within the adjoining urban area.

In recognition of the above, the arrangements for the Kama Interface recommended in this strategy are built on the concept that the Kama Nature Reserve buffer is not the entire interface, rather it is a component of the interface. Accordingly, as detailed in Section 6.2, the recommended Kama Interface arrangements address each of the interface's constituent components, namely Kama Nature Reserve, the buffer, and the urban land adjacent. Establishment and management of a Kama Interface built on this concept will most effectively achieve the interface's purpose – to *provide protection against urban edge effects*.

It is noted that the above stated purpose is logically extended to be interpreted as to *provide protection* (to the MNES of Kama Nature Reserve) *against urban edge effects*. In fact, in recognition of the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve (as outlined in Section 2.4.3), for this strategy the purpose of the Kama Interface is considered to be to *provide protection* (to the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve) *against urban edge effects*.

6.2 Kama Interface Design

6.2.2 Recommended Buffer Width

With regard to the minimum buffer width and characteristics defined in Table 4, the eastern extent of the significant biodiversity values within Kama Nature Reserve is not defined by the reserve's block boundary (as illustrated in Figure 6). Indeed, along substantial sections of the interface the eastern extent of the EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland is more than 100 m from the block boundary. Accordingly, the required buffer width should be defined in a manner that provides the minimum setback (i.e. distance from development) to the actual extent of the significant biodiversity values, rather than to an administrative boundary. For example, as illustrated in Figure 6, establishment of a buffer that provides the 200 m minimum setback to core woodland bird habitat (being a key ecological element of EPBC Act Box-Gum Woodland) does not necessitate a uniform 200 m buffer along the entire interface. Therefore, as illustrated in Figure 6, it is recommended that the buffer width be defined as that required to provide a minimum of 200 m to core woodland bird habitat. Accommodating this 200 m setback results in a 200 m buffer along the northern portion of the Kama Interface, tapering back to 70 m along the southern portion (i.e. the minimum required to provide

the 200 m setback to core woodland bird habitat). This buffer would encompass a total area of 15.82 hectares and would provide a setback equal to, or in excess of, the distances defined in Table 4 required to provide effective protection to each of the relevant significant biodiversity values.

Regarding the above, as described in Section 2.2, the purpose of this strategy is not to describe elements relevant to interface design in minute detail, nor is it to prescribe the characteristics for the recommended interface arrangements beyond a conceptual basis. It is likely that the actual width of the buffer will need to be marginally increased or reduced along portions of the interface to appropriately accommodate site-scale topographic factors and other engineering considerations. Accordingly, the precise width and other particulars of the buffer will need to be defined at a later time (i.e. during detailed design, structure planning etc.).

The recommended characteristics for the buffer (and the other Interface Management Zones) are detailed in Section 6.2.3 below.

6.2.3 Interface Management Zones

As illustrated in Figure 7 (Kama Interface Overview) and Figure 8, Figure 9 and Figure 10 (Kama Interface Detail), the recommended Kama Interface will comprise the following four Interface Management Zones (IMZs):

- **IMZ-1 Kama Nature Reserve** – comprising the land within Kama Nature Reserve;
- **IMZ-2 Interface Buffer – Woodland Regeneration** – comprising the portion of the buffer to be actively restored to Box-Gum Woodland;
- **IMZ-3 Interface Buffer – Inner Asset Protection Zone** – comprising the portion of the buffer to be managed primarily for the protection of the adjoining urban development; and
- **IMZ-4 Urban Development** – comprising the urban development land between the buffer and Deep Creek.

Table 6 provides details of the above listed IMZs, including their characteristics, primary purpose and management measures.

Table 6. Kama Interface – Interface Management Zones

Interface Management Zone	Characteristics	Primary Purpose	Management Measures
<p align="center">IMZ-1 Kama Nature Reserve</p>	<p>Kama Nature Reserve encompasses approx. 155 ha and shares a 1,260 m boundary with Molonglo 3. Managed as a Strategic Bushfire Advantage Zone (SFAZ). Kama Nature Reserve is a dog exclusion area.</p>	<p>In perpetuity conservation of biodiversity and other natural and cultural values.</p>	<p>IMZ-1 Kama Nature Reserve is to be managed in accordance with the <i>Molonglo River Reserve: Kama – Operational Plan 2014-17</i> (Kama Operational Plan) (ACT Government 2014) and the final <i>Molonglo River Reserve – Management Plan</i> (ACT Government, in prep - date TBD).</p>
<p align="center">IMZ-2 Interface Buffer – Woodland Regeneration</p>	<p>Encompassing 8.0 ha, and managed as a SFAZ, IMZ-2 will be characterised by the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ten remnant Blakely’s Red Gum trees, retained together with stags and course woody debris. 2. A regenerating canopy throughout facilitated via the planting of local native eucalypts (notably Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box) (Restoration Units 1 and 2, refer Section 6.3.3). 3. Defined ‘groundstorey and midstorey regeneration patches’ within which these woodland strata will be restored in addition to the canopy (Restoration Unit 2 only, refer Section 6.3.3). In accordance within the management of the area as a SFAZ (<i>ACT Bushfire Management Standards</i>, ACT Government 2014c), these patches will comprise a maximum total area of 2.4 ha (i.e. 30% of 8.0 ha). The woodland regeneration works to occur within IMZ-2 are detailed in Section 6.3.3. <p>IMZ-2 is a dog-on-leash area.</p>	<p>Buffer the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve from the threats associated with the adjacent urban development.</p>	<p>Managed to provide an effective buffer of re-established woodland. As detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4, management measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishment and fencing of boundaries; • construction and maintenance of the fire trail (tanker) and public walking trails; • initial weed removal, ongoing monitoring and control; • re-establishment and encouragement of woodland vegetation (canopy throughout / canopy, groundstorey, midstorey in regeneration patches); • monitoring of woodland re-establishment, implementing alternative or additional works/management as required; • active monitoring and enforcement of dog-on-leash and cat containment laws; and • management of fuel load in line with SFAZ requirements.

Interface Management Zone	Characteristics	Primary Purpose	Management Measures
<p align="center">IMZ-3 Interface Buffer – Inner Asset Protection Zone</p>	<p>Encompassing 7.8 ha and managed as an Inner Asset Protection Zone (IAPZ), IMZ-3 will be characterised by the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sixteen (16) remnant Blakely’s Red Gum trees, retained together with stags (course woody debris will be removed). A regenerating canopy throughout the portion of IMZ3 which would have once supported Box-Gum Woodland, facilitated via the planting of local native eucalypts (notably Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box) (Restoration Unit 2 only, refer Section 6.3.3). Short grass/pasture throughout, as per the requirements of an IAPZ (Restoration Units 2 and 3, refer Section 6.3.3). <p>IMZ-3 is a dog-on-leash area.</p>	<p>Provide effective bushfire hazard mitigation for the adjoining urban development. IMZ-3 will also provide 60 to 70 m of the 200 m required buffer width (i.e. setback to core woodland bird habitat).</p>	<p>Managed primarily to provide effective bushfire hazard protection to adjoining urban development. As detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4, management measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishment and fencing of boundaries; construction of the retaining wall along the urban interface; construction and maintenance of the fire trail (tanker and public walking trails); initial weed removal, ongoing monitoring and control; re-establishment and encouragement of woodland vegetation (canopy only); monitoring of woodland re-establishment, implementing alternative or additional works/management as required; active monitoring and enforcement of dog-on-leash and cat containment laws; and removal of course woody debris and management of fuel load in line with IAPZ requirements.
<p align="center">IMZ-4 Urban Development</p>	<p>Encompassing approximately 53 ha, IMZ-4 will be developed for urban purposes and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> residential properties; asphalt roads; concrete kerbs, driveways and footpaths; planted nature strips and medians; and ponds and other stormwater treatment infrastructure. 	<p>Provision of housing and community infrastructure for ACT residents.</p>	<p>Managed as urban estate. As detailed in Sections 6.3 and 6.4, management measures of relevance to the Kama Interface include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planting of only local native species on public land; active encouragement of residents to plant local native species on private land; maintenance of fuel load in line with IAPZ requirements; and active monitoring and enforcement of dog-on-leash and cat containment laws.

6.2.4 Retention of Remnant Native Trees

As illustrated in Figure 7, the recommended buffer (IMZ-2 and IMZ-3) will include, and facilitate the retention of, 26 of the 36 very old remnant Blakely's Red Gum *Eucalyptus blakelyi* in the subject area of Molonglo 3 (GHD 2014). Four of these trees were declared unsuitable for retention within residential areas, however they may be retained within the buffer. The buffer will also retain the numerous dead stag eucalypts occurring within, together with fallen trees and coarse woody debris within IMZ2.

Whilst the preservation of the remaining ten remnant eucalypts within the buffer would be favourable, the substantial extension of the buffer required to include these trees would be unjustified. Nevertheless, it is recommended that every practicable effort is made to retain these trees within the urban development area (IMZ-4) (i.e. in pocket parks, road verges etc.).

6.2.5 Urban Edge Road

As shown in Figure 7, a 16 metre wide road reserve will be established along the western periphery of IMZ-4 Urban Development. Within this road reserve an edge road will be constructed consisting of a two lane (i.e. a single lane each way) asphalt road. This urban edge road will include traffic slowing devices and will be designed in a manner that prevents it from becoming a major vehicular thoroughfare. The establishment of this urban edge road will provide the following.

1. Reliable and unobstructed access along the entire length of the interface between urban development and land designated for conservation and/or open space purposes (i.e. the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve beyond). This access is beneficial as it will provide effective and efficient:
 - entry and egress for residents and emergency services during a bushfire or other emergency;
 - monitoring and maintenance of the Kama Interface and the ecological values and built infrastructure; and
 - monitoring and control of weeds by ACT Government staff, contractors and others (i.e. there are no hidden or hard to access places which may be missed during weed control works).
2. A substantial separation between private properties and land designated for conservation and/or open space purposes (i.e. the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve beyond). This separation will reduce the risk of weed introduction by preventing dumping of garden waste etc. over the back fence.
3. Increased public surveillance along the Kama Interface which will reduce the incidence of illegal or antisocial activities and increase the likelihood of reporting of such activities.
4. Simplified administration and maintenance works required to appropriately maintain the interface between private land and the adjacent buffer and Kama Nature Reserve beyond.

As described in Section 6.2.2, reducing the buffer width by a few metres along small sections of the interface to accommodate part of the urban edge road would be consistent with the recommended interface concept, provided such reductions:

- a. retain the 200 m setback of development to core woodland bird habitat; and

- b. do not adversely affect the bushfire hazard management function of the buffer (i.e. notably IMZ3 which is the IAPZ).

6.2.6 Urban Edge Road - Buffer Verge

As shown in Figure 7, a buffer verge will be established between the urban edge road and the buffer. A concrete path will be constructed along this verge providing for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Establishment of this verge and path will provide for and encourage people to walk dogs along the interface on the outside of the buffer rather than within it.

6.2.7 Urban Interface Retaining Wall

The majority of the Kama Interface is characterised by a moderate slope downhill to the east (i.e. from the buffer down to the urban area). It is noted that westerly winds prevail across the Molonglo Valley meaning that the detached seed and/or seed heads of weeds (e.g. Serrated Tussock, various thistles) growing in Kama Nature Reserve and further west are likely to blow east into the buffer and urban area beyond, but less likely to blow west and upslope from urban areas into Kama Nature Reserve.

The above described value of the natural topographical features along the Kama Interface in controlling weed spread will be further capitalised upon by the construction of a retaining wall along the eastern boundary of the buffer (refer Figure 7). It is envisaged that the height of the retaining wall will vary along the interface depending upon the amount of cut or fill required (and other engineering considerations), however the retaining wall should result in a minimum effective rise of one metre.

In addition to the reduction of weed spread, incorporation of this retaining wall into the interface will provide a number of benefits including:

- providing a 'catch' for headlight shine and vehicle noise, reducing the reach of these impacts into Kama Nature Reserve;
- making it difficult for residents to carry garden refuse (i.e. lawn clippings, prunings, unwanted plants etc.) into the buffer; and
- encouraging people to follow designated tracks into and within the buffer by only providing stepped sections which direct to tracks.

6.2.8 Fire Trail

In accordance with the agreed-upon bushfire hazard mitigation requirements for the Kama Interface (refer Section 2.5), as illustrated in Figure 7, a fire trail will be established within the buffer running along the eastern boundary of Kama Nature Reserve. The fire trail will extend around the northern and southern ends of the buffer to link with the urban edge road. The fire trail will be established to the specifications for a 'tanker' trail provided in the *ACT Bushfire Management Standards* (ACT Government 2014c) (i.e. having a natural grass or gravel surface, width of four (4) metres, maximum grade of 15 degrees, and corners not requiring 3-point turns by tankers).

The fire trail will also be used for horse riding, providing a link between the riding trail to be established to the north of Kama Nature Reserve and that to be established within the Molonglo River Park to the south. The interface fence and gate arrangements (refer Section 6.2.10) will need

to direct horse riding to the fire trail and keep horses out of IMZ1 and the remainder of IMZ2 and IMZ3.

6.2.9 Public Walking Trails

As illustrated in Figure 8 and Figure 9, designated public walking trails will be established around the inside of the periphery of the buffer and across the buffer at a number of points. Where aligned with the fire trail the walking trail will be provided by the fire trail; all other walking trails will be established as approximately 1.5 m wide mineral earth trails.

6.2.10 Interface Fencing

6.2.10.1 Fence Type 1 - Interface buffer boundary fence

As illustrated in Figure 7, the fence to be constructed along the eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer (1,488 m in length) will be standard 1.2 m high standard stock fencing with the standard mesh replaced with galvanised chain mesh which will be buried to a minimum depth of 300 mm (Fence Type 1). Two strands of standard high-tensile non-barbed wire will be strung along the top of the fence and a single strand will be strung halfway up to maintain tautness of the mesh.

Whilst the establishment of a predator proof fence (such as a Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary) is not recommended along the Kama Interface, the addition of partially buried strong mesh of small aperture will reduce the incidence of domestic dogs and cats accessing Kama Nature Reserve.

The fences within the Kama Interface will not be constructed in a manner that restricts Kangaroo movement more than standard stock fencing. Fences which restrict kangaroo movement in the Kama Interface may increase incidents with dogs and would likely result in kangaroos being funnelled north towards William Hovell Drive. In this regard, fences within the Kama Interface will not incorporate barbed wire which also has the potential to injure wildlife and prevent ready movement between the IMZs.

Where running along the eastern boundary of the buffer the fence will be aligned to run along the top of the interface retaining wall.

Given the attractiveness of the buffer for trail bike riding, four-wheel-driving and other activities undesirable for the protection of ecological values within Kama Nature Reserve, Fence Type 1 will be constructed along the entire eastern boundary of the buffer, together with step-through gates (refer Section 6.2.11.3). Establishment of the fence in this manner will require those accessing for undesirable activities to cut fences or gates, such actions being indefensible when the offending parties are apprehended.

The existing stock fences in the Kama Interface locality will be maintained until their removal and replacement is required for the establishment of the interface.

6.2.10.2 Fence Type 2 - Interface buffer internal stock fence

As illustrated in Figure 8 and Figure 9, standard 1.2 m high stock fences (Fence Type 2) will be constructed along the Kama Nature Reserve boundary (1,260 m in length), between IMZ-2 and IMZ-3 and around the Restoration Unit 2 patches within IMZ2 (refer Section 6.3.3). These stock fences will be required to allow intermittent grazing of cattle within the buffer to manage herbage mass in a similar manner to that within Kama Nature Reserve (as per the Kama Operational Plan). Fence Type 2 will differ from Fence Type 1 in that the mesh will be standard Ringlock[®], HingedJoint[®] or similar, and will not be partially buried.

6.2.11 Interface Gates

6.2.11.1 Gate Type 1 - Locked - Services Only – 4 m width

Four locked services only gates will be installed along the buffer boundary (i.e. in Fence Type 1) to provide access between the urban area (IMZ4) and the buffer (IMZ2/3), and into Kama Nature Reserve beyond. The recommended approximate locations of these gates are shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9. Consistent with Fence Type 1, Gate Type 1 will be constructed in a manner that deters passage of dogs and cats. Gate Type 1 will be locked with a Canberra Nature Park padlock, providing vehicular access to authorised services personnel only (i.e. Emergency Services Agency, Parks & Conservation Service, ActewAGL etc.).

6.2.11.2 Gate Type 2 - Public Access – 1.2 m width

Three public access gates will be installed along the buffer boundary (i.e. in Fence Type 1) next to the Gate Type 1 gates. These gates will provide the access points for public pedestrian traffic between the urban area (IMZ4) and the buffer (IMZ2/3). Whilst the public is encouraged to visit Kama Nature Reserve for low-impact recreational pursuits (i.e. bird watching, bushwalking etc.), given the requirements for stock passage between the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve, managing access to Kama Nature Reserve will be best achieved by limiting access to the buffer to three points. This will:

- limit 'bottleneck' disturbance associated with regular foot traffic to three locations, the recommended location with the shortest across-buffer distance being a point that will direct pedestrian traffic to enter Kama Nature Reserve along an existing management trail;
- increase public surveillance of the access points; and
- prevent the arbitrary establishment of new walking tracks.

Consistent with Fence Type 1, Gate Type 2 will be constructed in a manner that deters passage of unaccompanied dogs. It is envisaged that Gate Type 2 will be operate on a spring-closing mechanism. The three Gate Type 2 locations indicated in Figure 8 and Figure 9 have been located to be no more than 500 m apart, such that people cannot be more than 250 m from an egress point during a bushfire or other emergency.

6.2.11.3 Gate Type 3 - Stock, Services and Public Access – 4 m width

Gate Type 3 will be installed in the stock fences (i.e. in Fence Type 2) at numerous locations along the boundary between Kama Nature Reserve and IMZ2/IMZ-3, and between IMZ2 and IMZ3, with a minimum distance of 300 m between gates. Gate Type 3 will also be installed in the Fence Type 2 around the Restoration Unit 2 patches within IMZ2 (refer Section 6.3.3). Gate Type 3 is the standard stock gate with a 'step through' for pedestrian access. Gate Type 3 will be locked with a Canberra Nature Park padlock when closed.

Indicative locations for Gate Type 3 are shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9, however it is envisaged that actual gate locations will be determined during detailed design.

6.2.12 Underground 132kV Powerline Easement

As indicated in Figure 7, it is recommended that the existing 132 kV overhead powerlines be terminated at a new overhead-to-underground power pole installed within IMZ-3, immediately east of the Kama Nature Reserve boundary. At this point the powerline will be installed underground within a 10 m wide easement for approximately 755 m north to William Hovell Drive.

The establishment of a 45 to 60 m wide cleared easement along this alignment, as would be required for a new overhead powerline, would adversely impact upon the effectiveness of the recommended interface arrangements in meeting the stated objective. Should the recommended undergrounding of the 132 kV powerline be untenable, then the overhead easement should be aligned to run north within IMZ-3 immediately adjoining the urban interface.

6.2.13 Artificial Light and Noise Control

The impacts of artificial light and noise on native fauna in and adjacent to urban areas are not currently well understood. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to assume that the foraging behaviour and potentially breeding behaviour of insectivorous or omnivorous nocturnal vertebrate fauna (i.e. owls, frogmouths, nightjars, microbats, Sugar Gliders etc.) would be influenced by both artificial light itself and the changes to invertebrate activity associated with the light sources. Although at present none of the nocturnal vertebrate species occurring in the lowland areas of the ACT are listed as threatened in the ACT, a number of the microbats listed as vulnerable in NSW occur in Canberra's urban reserves, including Kama Nature Reserve. Whilst not MNES themselves, the persistence of each component of this fauna group is important to the ecosystem function of Box-Gum Woodland.

In light of the above, the following measures will be incorporated into the Kama Interface to protect the biodiversity values of Kama Nature reserve from artificial light and noise from Molonglo 3.

1. As detailed in Section 6.2.7, a retaining wall with a minimum effective rise of one (1) metre will be constructed along the eastern boundary of the buffer. This retaining wall will provide a 'catch' for headlight shine and vehicle noise, reducing the reach of these impacts into Kama Nature Reserve.
2. All street lights along the urban edge road will include a shield which limits the light arc to 180°, directed towards the urban area and away from the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve.
3. The number of roads which run perpendicular to the buffer (and therefore direct headlight shine and exhaust noise into the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve) will be limited to the minimum number practicable.
4. The urban edge road will include traffic slowing devices and will be designed in a manner that prevents it from becoming a major thoroughfare or desirable road for 'noisy' vehicular activities.

6.2.14 Signage

A permanent sign will be installed at the three public pedestrian entry points to the Kama Interface buffer (refer Figure 9). This sign will provide information regarding:

- Kama Nature Reserve and its significant natural and cultural values;
- the activities which are permitted within Kama Nature Reserve and those that are prohibited (notably that Kama Nature Reserve is a dog exclusion area and the buffer is a dog-on-leash area);
- the entity responsible for the management of Kama Nature Reserve and the buffer;
- contact details for the party whom members of the public should contact should they observe illegal or degrading activities being conducted within Kama Nature Reserve or the buffer; and

- contact details for active community conservation ('friends of') groups which interested people can join, together with the ACT Government Access Canberra contact details for general information.

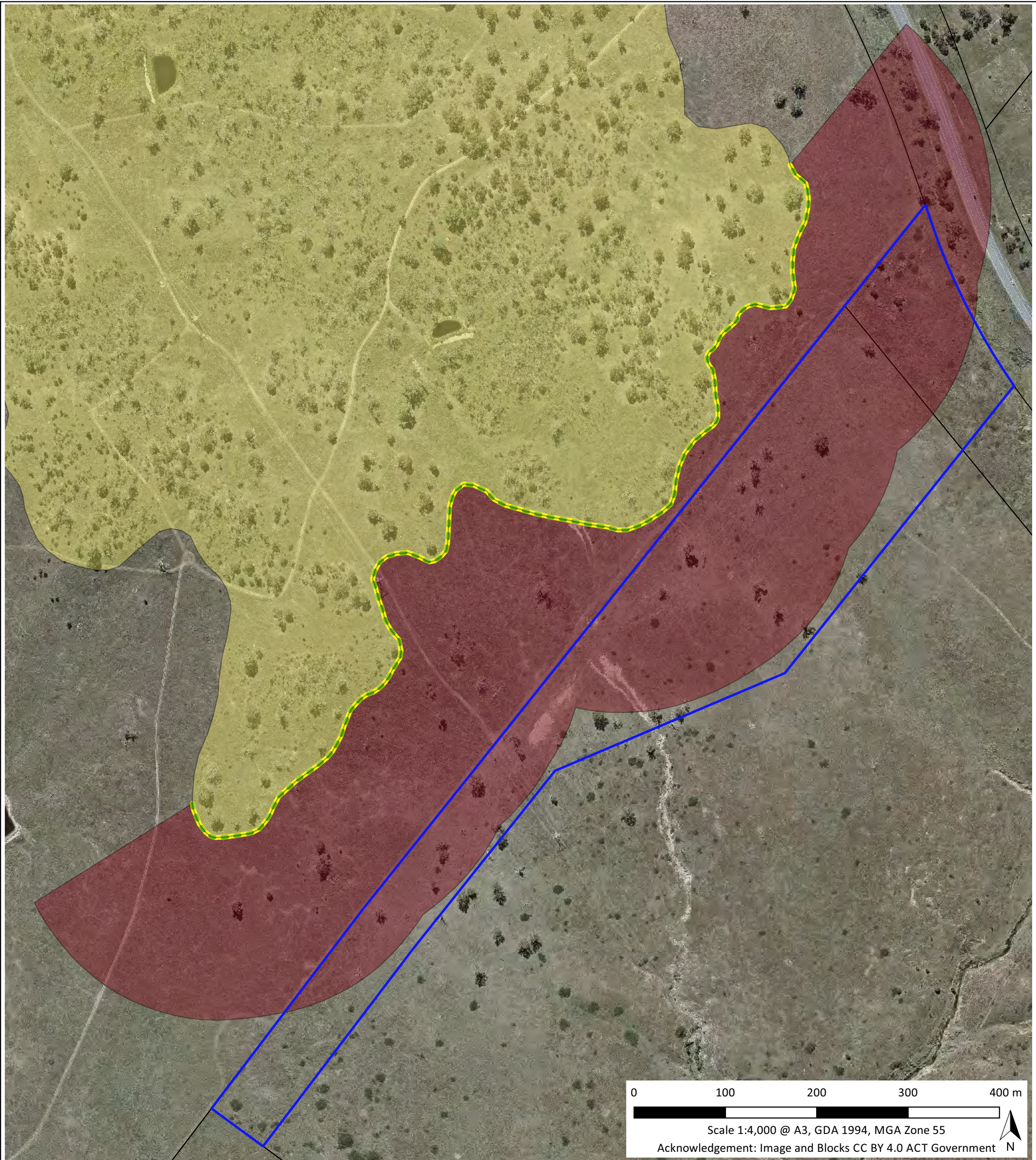


Figure 6. Kama Interface Arrangements – Buffer Width

Legend






-  ACT Blocks
-  Kama NR - Core Woodland Bird Habitat
-  Eastern Extent of Core Woodland Bird Habitat
-  200m Buffer to Eastern Extent of Core Woodland Bird Habitat Values
-  Recommended Buffer Boundary





Figure 7. Recommended Kama Interface Arrangements – Overview

Legend

- ACT Blocks
- ▨ Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Habitat (ACT Gov)

Tree Assessment

- Remnant Tree
- ✕ Tree Assessment - Removal Recommended

Recommended Interface Arrangements

- Interface Management Zone 1 - Kama NR
- Interface Management Zone 2 - Woodland Regeneration
- Interface Management Zone 3 - IAPZ (60m - 70m width)
- Interface Management Zone 4 - Urban Development
- 🌳 IMZ2 & IMZ3 - Restoration Unit 1 - Restored Woodland Canopy
- ▨ IMZ2 - Restoration Unit 2 - Restored Woodland - All Strata

- ▲▲▲ Fence Type 1 - Interface Buffer Boundary Fence
- Fence Type 2 - Interface Buffer Internal Stock Fence
- Gate Type 1 (Locked - Services Only - 4m width)
- Gate Type 2 (Public Access - 1.2m width)
- Gate Type 3 (Stock, Services and Public Access - 4m width)
- Fire Trail - Tanker (4m width)
- Public Walking Trail
- Development Interface Retaining Wall
- ▨ Urban Edge Road (16m)
- Urban Edge Road - Buffer Verge
- Concrete Path (Walking & Riding)
- Current 132kV Power Line Easement (45m) - Eastern Termination
- Underground 132kV Poweline Easement (10m width)
- ★ 132kV Overhead-to-Underground Pole



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 Date: 24 December 2016



Figure 8. Recommended Kama Interface Arrangements – Detail North

Legend

- ACT Blocks
- Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Habitat (ACT Gov)

Tree Assessment

- Remnant Tree
- Tree Assessment - Removal Recommended

Recommended Interface Arrangements

- Interface Management Zone 1 - Kama NR
- Interface Management Zone 2 - Woodland Regeneration
- Interface Management Zone 3 - IAPZ (60m - 70m width)
- Interface Management Zone 4 - Urban Development



IMZ2 & IMZ3 - Restoration Unit 1 - Restored Woodland Canopy

- IMZ2- Restoration Unit 2 - Restored Woodland - All Strata
- Fence Type 1 - Interface Buffer Boundary Fence
- Fence Type 2 - Interface Buffer Internal Stock Fence
- Gate Type 1 (Locked - Services Only - 4m width)
- Gate Type 2 (Public Access - 1.2m width)
- Gate Type 3 (Stock, Services and Public Access - 4m width)
- Fire Trail - Tanker (4m width)
- Development Interface Retaining Wall
- Urban Edge Road - Buffer Verge
- Concrete Path (Walking & Riding)
- Urban Edge Road (16m)
- Underground 132kV Poweline Easement (10m width)



0 25 50 75 100 m
 Scale 1:1,300 @ A3, GDA 1994, MGA Zone 55
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Figure 9. Recommended Kama Interface Arrangements – Detail Centre



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Legend

- ACT Blocks
- Tree Assessment**
- Remnant Tree
- ✕ Tree Assessment - Removal Recommended
- Recommended Interface Arrangements**
- Interface Management Zone 1 - Kama NR
- Interface Management Zone 2 - Woodland Regeneration
- Interface Management Zone 3 - IAPZ (60m - 70m width)
- Interface Management Zone 4 - Urban Development
- 🌳 IMZ2 & IMZ3 - Restoration Unit 1 - Restored Woodland Canopy
- 🌳 IMZ2 - Restoration Unit 2 - Restored Woodland - All Strata
- ▲ Fence Type 1 - Interface Buffer Boundary Fence
- Fence Type 2 - Interface Buffer Internal Stock Fence
- Gate Type 2 (Public Access - 1.2m width)
- Gate Type 1 (Locked - Services Only - 4m width)
- Gate Type 3 (Stock, Services and Public Access - 4m width)
- Fire Trail - Tanker (4m width)
- Public Walking Trail
- Development Interface Retaining Wall
- Urban Edge Road - Buffer Verge
- Concrete Path (Walking & Riding)
- Urban Edge Road (16m)
- Current 132kV Power Line Easement (45m) - Eastern Termination
- Underground 132kV Poweline Easement (10m width)
- ★ 132kV Overhead-to-Underground Pole

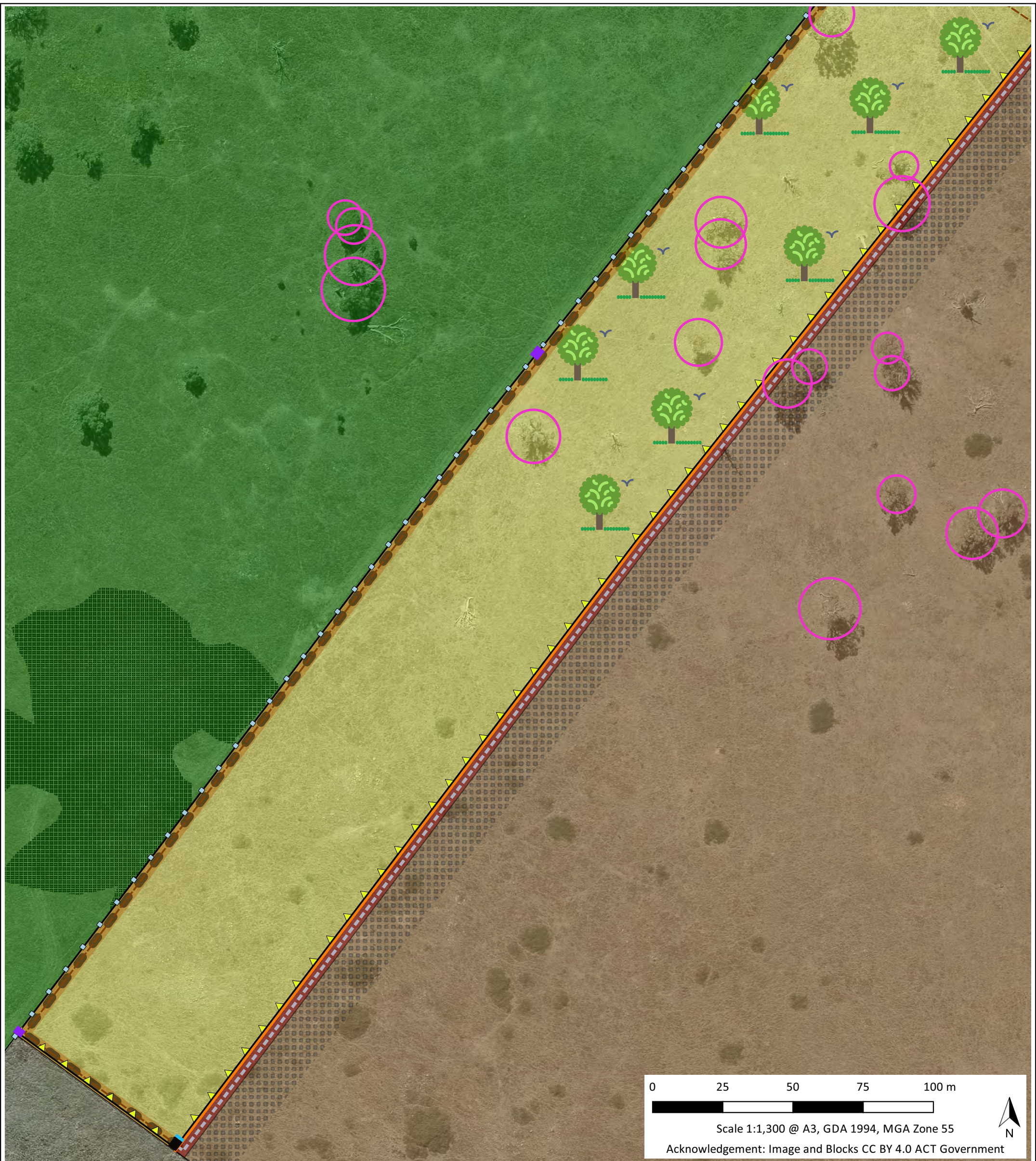


Figure 10. Recommended Kama Interface Arrangements – Detail South

Legend

- ACT Blocks
- Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Habitat (ACT Gov)

Tree Assessment

- Remnant Tree

Recommended Buffer Arrangements

- Interface Management Zone 1 - Kama NR
- Interface Management Zone 3 - IAPZ (60m - 70m width)
- Interface Management Zone 4 - Urban Development

- IMZ3-IAPZ - Restoration Unit 1 - Restored Woodland Canopy
- Fence Type 1 - Interface Buffer Boundary Fence
- Fence Type 2 - Interface Buffer Internal Stock Fence
- Gate Type 1 (Locked - Services Only - 4m width)
- Gate Type 2 (Public Access - 1.2m width)
- Gate Type 3 (Stock, Services and Public Access - 4m width)
- Fire Trail - Tanker (4m width)
- Public Walking Trail
- Development Interface Retaining Wall



6.3 Interface Establishment and Initial Restoration

6.3.2 Buffer Initial Weed Control

As described in Table 2, the incursion, establishment and proliferation of noxious weeds in Box-Gum Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland remnants is undoubtedly one of the foremost threats to the conservation of these threatened ecosystems and the habitat that they provide for many threatened flora and fauna species. Once established, noxious weeds progressively degrade natural ecosystems, often to the point that they no longer reflect the original climax community or support its constituent significant biota.

In the context of the above, one of the key purposes of the buffer is to provide the primary sentinel zone for Kama Nature Reserve. Accordingly, proactive monitoring for and uncompromising control of noxious weeds throughout the buffer is of critical importance to the protection of the MNES within Kama Nature Reserve. Several noxious weeds are currently present within the buffer and rural land to the east (R. Speirs 2016, pers. obs.), however the current infestations are of a scale such that they are likely to be effectively controlled via the implementation of a program of targeted and intensive weed control measures.

In order to direct and facilitate the necessary initial weed control within the buffer, a dedicated Initial Weed Control Plan will be developed for the buffer, including but not limited to:


- fine scale survey and mapping of the noxious weeds within the buffer, prepared not more than six months prior to commencement of development in the vicinity of the Kama Interface;
- a program of works detailing the scope, methods, timing, and cost estimate of all required works required to control the current noxious weed infestations within the buffer;
- a realistic assessment of the likelihood that each weed control measure will fully achieve its objective;
- a contingency plan detailing the scope, methods, timing, and cost estimate of all additional works required to address any weed control objectives not fully met; and
- the stipulation that all weed control works must be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced operators.

The Initial Weed Control Plan will be subject to the review and approval of a senior ACT Government weed control officer. Funding will be allocated for the development of the Initial Weed Control Plan and the full scope of works (including potential contingency works).

6.3.3 Buffer Restoration Planting

As detailed in Section 6.2.3 and illustrated in Figure 8, Figure 9 and Figure 10, the buffer will comprise two Interface Management Zones (IMZs), each with a defined primary purpose and each subject to restrictions on vegetation, imposed to meet bushfire hazard mitigation requirements. Accordingly, the requirements for restoration planting differ substantially between the IMZs. Table 7 and Table 8 detail the restoration planting that will be undertaken in each IMZ.

Table 7. Buffer restoration planting – IMZ-2 Interface Buffer – Woodland Regeneration

IMZ-2 Interface Buffer – Woodland Regeneration	
Purpose	<p>IMZ-2 will be established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create habitat with woodland characteristics which will shield the Box-Gum Woodland and core woodland bird habitat within Kama Nature Reserve from the adjacent urban development; • provide a component of the minimum setback from urban development to core woodland bird habitat, as determined during the development of this strategy; • ‘soften’ the urban edge, an element of urban interface design identified to reduce impacts upon sensitive woodland birds (Hodgson <i>et al.</i> 2007); and • improve connectivity for woodland birds between Kama Nature Reserve and similar habitat north of William Hovell Drive.
Total Area	8.0 ha
Restoration Units Refer Figure 7	<p>Restoration Unit 1 – Restored woodland canopy</p> <p>Restoration Unit 1 will involve the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box-Gum Woodland canopy will be restored throughout via the planting of local native eucalypts (primarily Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box), grown from seed of local provenance. • All remnant eucalypts will be retained with new trees planted in a manner that, when mature, will augment the canopy cover that these provide. • Planting density will be in accordance with the canopy separation requirements stipulated in the <i>ACT Bushfire Management Standards</i> (ACT Government 2014c) for an SFAZ. • No midstorey/shrubstorey will be established. • The groundstorey will be managed in line with SFAZ requirements (i.e. generally maintained via periodic grazing). <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Plate 1. Indicative photograph of the objective for Restoration Unit 1.</p> <p>Photograph of Schwarz Place park on the southwest slope of Mt Rogers, Flynn, ACT. Example of Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box trees planted during the establishment of Flynn circa 1975 (i.e. approx. 40 year old trees). Note: appropriate canopy separation, absent midstorey/shrubstorey and maintained (periodically mown) groundstorey. Photograph: August 2016.</p>

Restoration Unit 2 – Restored woodland – all strata

Restoration Unit 2 will involve the following.

- The Box-Gum Woodland canopy will be restored throughout via the planting of local native eucalypts (primarily Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box), grown from seed of local provenance.
- All remnant eucalypts will be retained with new trees planted in a manner that, when mature, will augment the canopy cover that these provide.
- Tree planting density will be that required to re-establish the natural Box-Gum Woodland canopy.
- The midstorey/shrubstorey of Box-Gum Woodland will be established via the planting of midstorey/shrubstorey species chosen from the list provided in Appendix 1.
- The native proportion and overall condition and habitat value of the groundstorey will be improved via the planting of hardy native grasses and forbs chosen from the listed provided in Appendix 1.
- The groundstorey will be managed for ecological conservation purposes, generally consistent with that applied for the high value portions of Kama Nature Reserve (Kama Operational Plan, ACT Government 2014).
- Fence Type 2 (refer Section 6.2.10.2) will be constructed around each patch to restrict cattle access. Gates in these fences will be opened if cattle grazing is desirable for conservation purposes.

In accordance within the management of the area as a SFAZ (*ACT Bushfire Management Standards*, ACT Government 2014c), patches of Restoration Unit 2 will comprise a maximum total area of 2.4 ha (i.e. 30% of 8.0 ha). This area of IMZ-2 is indicated in Figure 8, comprising three patches. It is recommended that the patches are established generally in the configuration shown in Figure 8. Working within the 30% total area restriction, this configuration will:

- maximise the proportion of the interface shielded by Restoration Unit 2, whilst providing gaps between patches to allow for walking tracks and emergency vehicle passage;
- minimise the distance within IMZ-2 to points of midstorey/shrubstorey refuge for small woodland birds; and
- include most of the remnant eucalypts, notably the three recommended for removal due to structural instability (GHD 2014).



Plate 2. Indicative photograph of the objective for Restoration Unit 2.

Photograph of replanted Box-Gum Woodland on the southern slope of Mt Rogers, Flynn, ACT. Example of Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box trees planted during the establishment of revegetation of Mt Rogers circa 1975 (i.e. approx. 40 year old trees). Note: characteristic woodland canopy, planted and now naturally regenerating midstorey/shrubstorey, and groundstorey of native and exotic grass and forbs. Photograph: August 2016.

Table 8. Buffer restoration planting – IMZ-3 Interface Buffer – Inner Asset Protection Zone

IMZ-3 Interface Buffer – Inner Asset Protection Zone	
Purpose	<p>IMZ-3 will be established to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide effective bushfire hazard mitigation for the adjoining urban development; • provide a component of the minimum setback from urban development to core woodland bird habitat, as determined during the development of this strategy; • create habitat with woodland characteristics (canopy only) which will shield the Box-Gum Woodland and core woodland bird habitat within Kama Nature Reserve from the adjacent urban development; and • ‘soften’ the urban edge, an element of urban interface design identified to reduce impacts upon sensitive woodland birds (Hodgson <i>et al.</i> 2007).
Total Area	7.8 ha
Restoration Units	<p>Restoration Unit 1 – Restored woodland canopy</p> <p>Consistent with the areas to which it applies within IMZ-2, Restoration Unit 1 will involve the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Box-Gum Woodland canopy will be restored throughout via the planting of local native eucalypts (primarily Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box), grown from seed of local provenance. • All remnant eucalypts will be retained with new trees planted in a manner that, when mature, will augment the canopy cover that these provide. • Planting density will be in accordance with the canopy separation requirements stipulated in the <i>ACT Bushfire Management Standards</i> (ACT Government 2014c) for an IAPZ. • No midstorey/shrubstorey will be established. • The groundstorey will be managed in line with IAPZ requirements (i.e. generally maintained via periodic grazing and/or slashing).
Refer Figure 7	<p>Restoration Unit 3 – Managed mixed native and exotic grassland</p> <p>Restoration Unit 3 will involve the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with the natural grassland (i.e. treeless) climax community of the area, no trees or midstorey/shrubstorey vegetation will be planted. • The groundstorey will be managed in line with IAPZ requirements (i.e. generally maintained via periodic grazing and slashing only when grazing is insufficient). • The patches of rocky habitat (i.e. mapped Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat) will be maintained as rocky native grassland if this is compatible with IAPZ requirements. <p>Note: Restoration Unit 3 encompasses the southern portion of IMZ-3 not included in Restoration Unit 1 (refer Figure 7 and Figure 10).</p>

6.3.4 Native Plants for Streetscape and Urban Open Space

Numerous published local studies have demonstrated the benefits of a predominance of native plant species within the urban area to sensitive fauna groups within adjacent or nearby reserves (Ikin *et al.* 2012; Ikin *et al.* 2013b; Ikin *et al.* 2013c; Le Roux *et al.* 2014b; Manning *et al.* 2006; Rayner *et al.* 2015). Ikin *et al.* (2013b) found that the establishment and retention of native suburban streetscapes in Canberra is an important management strategy for improved bird conservation, and reported that native streetscapes increase bird richness and diversity in adjacent woodland and dry forest reserves. Native street trees were found to provide foraging resources for birds that would be reduced or absent in exotic streetscapes (Ikin *et al.* 2013b). Eucalypts planted in urban areas provide particularly diverse and valuable foraging resources for birds, via foliage, flowers, flaking bark, leaf litter, woody debris, and the tendency of some species to support Mistletoe (McElhinny *et al.* 2006).

Studies have found that the diversity of birds present in an urban area is higher where a variety of eucalypt species are planted (McElhinny *et al.* 2006; Ikin *et al.* 2013b), however this tends not to be reflected in the diversity of ‘urban avoiders’. Urban avoiders, which include most of the significant woodland birds of Kama Nature Reserve, appear to be less influenced by the proportion of native street trees. Suburbs with more leaf litter and shrub cover, and with less grass and impervious surface cover provide refuge and alternative foraging and nesting resources, which tends to support urban avoiders both within an urban area and in adjacent reserves (Ikin *et al.* 2013b). Ikin *et al.* (2012) described the four high-priority actions to maintain the current bird community in the Molonglo Valley development zone as: (i) river restoration; (ii) maintenance of a shrubstorey; (iii) preservation of grassland areas within public open spaces; and (iv) promotion of vegetation heterogeneity across the urban landscape.

As described above, the retention of native vegetation (notably remnant trees) and predominance of native plant species (across all strata) in the urban area is likely to have a significant positive influence on the conservation of native fauna of Kama Nature Reserve, particularly with regard to significant woodland birds. Accordingly, the following specifications will apply to IMZ-4 Urban Development (i.e. west of Deep Creek).

1. Only native plant species will be planted on public land. Chosen from the species list provided in Appendix 1, these species will predominantly consist of species representative of Box-Gum Woodland, being the climax community of the land. Species of other local woodland or dry forest communities (e.g. Red Box *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, Red Stringybark *E. macrorhyncha*) and non-local native species (e.g. Mugga Ironbark *E. sideroxylon*, Argle Apple *E. cinerea*) may also be planted given their particularly high value as foraging resources and suitability as street trees.
2. Patches of native shrubs will be established within urban parks and in other locations on public land. Species will be chosen from the list provided in Appendix 1, with a preference for dense, thorny native shrubs (e.g. Bushy Needlewood *Hakea decurrens*, Native Blackthorn *Bursaria spinosa*) which will provide important ‘cat resistant’ refuge points for small birds.
3. Residents will be encouraged to plant native plants on their private land. To this effect, information will be provided to residents regarding the conservation benefits of planting native plants. Information will also be provided regarding the most suitable species to plant in specific locations. Residents will be encouraged not to plant native species with excessive nectar yields (e.g. Rosemary Grevillea *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, nursery cultivars etc.) which bolster populations of large honeyeaters (i.e. Red Wattlebird, Noisy Miner) known to drive out smaller woodland birds (Rayner *et al.* 2015).
4. Residents will be informed that the exotic weed species in the ‘prohibited species list’ provided in Appendix 1 must not be planted on their land. It will be of particular importance that winter seed bearing exotic plants are not planted due to their propensity to prevent winter mortality of first year Pied Currawongs, thereby bolster populations of this species during the spring nesting season of small woodland birds.

6.3.5 Staging of Interface Establishment

A significant challenge in urban planning is to undertake proactive conservation action, and mitigate negative effects of urbanisation on native fauna communities before development begins (Ikin *et al.* 2012). Nevertheless, it is critical to the effectiveness of many of the measures proposed as part of the recommended interface arrangements that they are established and substantially developed

prior to the development and occupation of Molonglo 3. The protections that the buffer and other interface elements will provide must be in place and functioning prior to the introduction of development related threats to the locality. In this regard, the broad staging described in Table 9 is recommended for the establishment of the Kama Interface. As it is unlikely to be practicable to delay the development of Molonglo 3 to allow for the buffer restoration plantings to develop, it will be important to commence Stage 4 as soon as can be facilitated.

Table 9. Staging of interface establishment

Stage	Actions/Measures	Recommended Timing
Stage 1 Commitment to the interface arrangement	Consensus between all relevant agencies and commitment to a final interface arrangement.	As soon as possible
Stage 2 Establishment of interface boundaries	On ground delineation and fencing of the boundaries of the interface (notably the IMZs of the buffer).	As soon as possible following Stage 1.
Stage 3 Initial weed control	Program of initial weed control works as detailed in Section 6.3.2.	Commences immediately following Stage 2.
Stage 4 Restoration planting	Buffer restoration planting as detailed in Section 6.3.3.	Commences upon confirmation from ACT Government ecologists that the outcomes of Stage 3 have been sufficiently achieved.
Recommended minimum buffer development period of five (5) years between Stage 4 and Stage 5.		
Stage 5 Urban development	Urban development commences beyond the buffer (within IMZ-4). IMZ4 will continue to be managed as rural grazing land until Stage 5.	Development will commence as per land release schedule.

6.4 Interface Management and Maintenance

6.4.2 Buffer Ongoing Weed Monitoring and Control

As described in Table 2, noxious weeds pose one of the foremost threats to the conservation of the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve. The Initial Weed Control Plan described in Section 6.3.2 will be implemented to identify, define and control (eradicate if possible) the current noxious weed infestations within the buffer, however the buffer must also function as the primary sentinel zone for Kama Nature Reserve in perpetuity.

The dominant topography of the interface, together with the recommended retaining wall, urban edge road and other design elements, will reduce the risk of new weed incursions into the buffer. Notwithstanding this, many of the most effective vectors for weed introduction and spread are in fact associated (directly or indirectly) with management of the land. Indeed, without conscientious attention to weed hygiene, vehicles, stock, and pedestrian traffic are very effective vectors for many noxious weed species. In light of the above, commencing immediately following establishment of the buffer, the following measures/controls will be implemented on an ongoing basis.

1. Only authorised vehicles will be permitted to access the buffer or Kama Nature Reserve. This access will be restricted via the fences and locked gates detailed in Sections 6.2.10 and 6.2.11.
2. Only dedicated nature reserve (Parks and Conservation Service) machinery and slashing equipment will be used within the buffer or Kama Nature Reserve. The effectiveness of this restriction is evident in Canberra's nature reserves where firebreaks etc. are mown by equipment which is only used in nature reserves. Strict conformance to this is critical as a single mowing event using equipment laden with African Lovegrass and/or Chilean Needle Grass seed is likely to be sufficient to establish these species throughout the buffer.
3. A wash down facility will be built at a point along the urban edge road (i.e. on the down side of the retaining wall). Water from the wash down will flow immediately to underground stormwater or sewer. All vehicles used within the buffer or Kama Nature Reserve will be thoroughly cleaned of all mud, soil and other material which may contain weed seed or propagules.
4. Any stock grazed within the buffer will be subject to the same weed hygiene measures applied to those grazed within Kama Nature Reserve.
5. A dedicated Weed Monitoring and Management Plan will be developed for the buffer, including, but not limited to:
 - biannual monitoring and fine scale mapping of noxious weeds within the buffer, specifically including a review of all previously treated weed infestations to determine requirements for additional treatment;
 - biannual intensive treatment of all newly mapped noxious weeds and any identified as requiring retreatment;
 - a risk assessment for each weed species, updated following each monitoring or control event;

- a contingency plan for each weed species, detailing the scope, methods, and timing of all works likely to be required to address any weed control objectives not fully met; and
- the stipulation that all weed control works must be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced operators.

The Weed Monitoring and Management Plan will be subject to review by, and approval of, a senior ACT Government weed control officer. Funding will be allocated for the development and periodic revision of the Weed Monitoring and Management Plan, together with the annual costs of implementing the full scope of weed monitoring and treatment works (including potential contingency works).

6. Information will be conveyed to the public (refer Section 6.4.5), providing:
 - descriptions of the relevant noxious weeds, including photographs and other relevant information;
 - details regarding how to prevent introduction and spread of the relevant weeds;
 - an outline of the weed monitoring and control measures implemented in the buffer; and
 - details regarding how members of the public can assist with weed control and associated conservation activities.

The success of the buffer in providing this sentinel zone function will hinge upon the full implementation of, and uncompromising compliance with, the measures described above.

6.4.3 Domestic Animal Control

The following measures will be implemented to protect the significant values of Kama Nature Reserve from domestic animals.

1. As detailed in Section 6.2.10.1, Fence Type 1 (fence with partially buried strong mesh of small aperture) will be constructed along the Kama Interface buffer boundary to reduce the incidence of domestic dogs accessing the reserve.
2. Molonglo 3 will be a designated cat containment area, the enforcement of which will be facilitated by the ACT Government.
3. Kama Nature Reserve is a designated dog exclusion area and the buffer will be a designated dog-on-leash area. These designations will be clearly conveyed to the public via signage and other community education (refer Section 6.4.6). Active enforcement of these designations will be facilitated by the ACT Government.

6.4.4 Feral Animal Control

As detailed in Table 2, the Red Fox, Feral Cat and Common Myna are the feral animal species which pose the greatest threat to the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve. The recommended management of these species is detailed below.

Red Fox and Feral Cat

The construction of Fence Type 1 along the eastern boundary of the Kama Interface buffer (refer Section 6.2.10.1) is unlikely to provide a substantial impediment to foxes and feral cats moving across the Kama Interface; a fox will jump the recommended fence with ease and a cat will climb over. Foxes and feral cats can also readily enter Kama Nature Reserve from rural land to the north-west and south.

In light of the above, fox and feral cat populations in the locality will be managed most effectively by the existing and ongoing 'integrated feral animal control program' undertaken within Kama Nature Reserve by the ACT Government in accordance with the *ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 – 2022* (ACT Government 2012). This program will be extended to apply to the buffer once established.

Common Myna

The Common Myna is known to prefer urban areas with low woody vegetation cover, particularly where a high proportion of this vegetation is exotic (Gracock *et al.* 2014). The species has been observed to be far less prevalent in woodland and dry forest with a more intact canopy and midstorey (Gracock *et al.* 2014), indicating that dense planting of native species in reserves and buffers can reduce the reach and prevalence of the Common Myna in these areas. A number of over-abundant native species, such as the Noisy Miner and Red Wattlebird, have also been observed to be less prevalent in more intact woodland environs (Lindenmayer *et al.* 2010). In this regard, the recommended restoration of the buffer (refer Section 6.3.3) is likely to be a useful measure in reducing the impacts of the Common Myna within the core woodland bird habitat within Kama Nature Reserve beyond.

The Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc. (CIMAG) is a group which undertakes control activities and provides advice to the public regarding effective Common Myna control measures and their implementation. In addition to the recommended interface design measures, working in cooperation with the CIMAG, the ACT Government will develop and implement a Common Myna control plan for Molonglo 3. It is envisaged that this control plan will involve trapping programs, education for residents, together with other actions to minimise the impacts of the Common Myna on the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.

6.4.5 Community Education and Involvement

Effective reserve management relies upon the support of local residents through the provision of public surveillance, assistance with restoration and weed control works, and support for public expenditure on conservation-related infrastructure and activities. As people tend to appreciate and value what they understand, involving and educating the community is key to gaining this support. The following measures will be implemented to educate and involve the community regarding the Kama Interface and its function in protecting the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.

1. Pre-purchase information. Pre-purchase information provided as part of marketing and sales for Molonglo 3 will contain information regarding Kama Reserve and the Kama Interface, notably outlining:
 - the significant biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve;

- the infrastructure and management measures established as part of the development of Molonglo 3;
 - the laws/regulations that residents must abide by, such as access provision, cat containment, dog-on-leash requirements, prohibited weeds etc.;
 - who the public should contact should they observe illegal or damaging activities being conducted within Kama Nature Reserve or the buffer;
 - the active community conservation ('friends of') groups which interested people can join; and
 - ACT Government Access Canberra contact details (phone number and website) for general information.
2. As detailed in Section 6.2.14, a permanent sign will be installed at the single public pedestrian entry point to Kama Nature Reserve (refer Figure 8) and each designated entry point from the urban area into the buffer. This sign will provide information to educate and involve the public regarding the Kama Interface.
 3. In cooperation with the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Australian Native Plant Society and/or other similar organisations, the ACT Government will make local native plants available to residents of Molonglo 3. This may be achieved via 'weed-for-plant' swaps or similar events. Information will also be provided regarding the most suitable species to plant in specific locations.

6.4.6 Access Provision and Management

Whilst it is important restrict access to nature reserves for intensive and potentially degrading activities (i.e. bike riding, dog walking, horse riding etc.), it is equally as important to facilitate and encourage access for low-impact recreational activities such as bushwalking, jogging, birdwatching etc.

The recommended interface design has been developed with the specific objective of creating an interface which facilitates and encourages desirable public use of the buffer and Kama Nature Reserve, whilst minimising the degree of ongoing government supervision. To this affect, the recommended locations and characteristics for the fences, gates, retaining wall and walking tracks have all been developed to maximise the effectiveness of this infrastructure in encouraging desirable access and activities.

In addition to the above, as is applicable to all Canberra Nature Park reserves, persons undertaking illegal activities within the buffer or Kama Nature Reserve will be investigated and prosecuted under the provisions of relevant legislation.

6.5 Matters for Determination

The recommended interface arrangements detailed in this strategy have been developed to the concept level on the basis that the precise layout of the Kama Interface will not be determined until future detailed design of Molonglo 3. There are various engineering and design requirements that will need to be appropriately accommodated in the final Kama Interface. These are likely to necessitate fine scale alterations to the recommended interface, however provided they do not entail major changes, these alterations are unlikely to significantly reduce the effectiveness of the recommended interface. The following important interface design matters were identified during the development of this strategy and will require further determination.

1. As described in Section 6.2.12, it is recommended that the existing 132kV overhead powerlines be installed underground within the buffer north to William Hovell Drive as an overhead alternative would substantially adversely impact upon the effectiveness of the recommended interface arrangements in meeting the stated objective. In this regard, it will need to be determined whether the recommended undergrounding of the powerline is feasible.
2. It is understood that stormwater management for Molonglo 3 will require the establishment of stormwater management devices (e.g. retention ponds, drainage swales etc.) within the buffer. The position and design specifications of these should be consistent with the purpose of the buffer and its constituent IMZs.
3. The urban edge road described in Section 6.2.5, and illustrated in Figure 7, is indicative only. The actual location and design specifications for this road will need to be determined, considering relevant engineering requirements whilst ensuring that it will achieve its stated purposes.

6.6 Threat Mitigation Assessment Matrix

Even the best mitigation measures often only result in a reduction in the impact of the applicable threat, they rarely entirely remove the threat or impact. This concept is a key element in the approach to environmental impact management recommended by the Commonwealth Government (Commonwealth of Australia 2012) and ACT Government (ACT Government 2015b), being to avoid → minimise → mitigate, and where there is a significant residual impact, offset.

In applying the above concept, Table 10 provides an assessment of the degree to which each identified potential threat from urban development is likely to be mitigated by the measures included in the recommended interface arrangements. A key outcome of this assessment is the identification and definition of the residual threats associated with the recommended interface arrangements.

Table 10. Threat Mitigation Assessment Matrix

Degree of threat **Very High** **High** **Moderate** **Low**

Threat	Key Mitigation Measures	Threat to MNES Without Mitigation	Assessment of Mitigation Efficacy	Residual Threat
11. Weed invasion	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer as sentinel zone. • Interface retaining wall. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial weed control. • Ongoing weed monitoring and control. • Community education and involvement. • Prohibition on planting of weed species. 		→ → Moderate → →	
			Effective protection of the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve will require the full and uncompromising implementation of the recommended interface arrangements and all recommended weed management measures (as detailed herein). Adoption of this approach is likely to provide a high level of protection, substantially reducing the impact of weeds within Kama Nature Reserve.	The implementation of intensive weed monitoring and control in the Kama Interface is likely to substantially reduce the impact of weeds. Notwithstanding this, the degree of threat from weeds will remain high given the prevalence of weeds in the broader locality.
12. 'Urban-adapted' native fauna	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback from urban development to core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education and involvement. 		→ → Moderate → →	
			The development of Kama Interface as recommended is likely to provide a moderate level of protection to the 'urban avoiding' woodland birds within Kama Nature Reserve.	The proposed measures will likely reduce but not entirely mitigate the impacts of urban-adapted fauna on sensitive woodland birds within Kama Nature Reserve.
13. Proximity of urban edge on 'urban avoiding' bird species	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback from urban development to core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic animal control. • Feral animal control. • Access provision and management. • Community education and involvement. 		→ → Moderate → →	
			The development of Kama Interface as recommended, together with the implementation of the recommended management measures, is likely to provide a moderate level of protection to the 'urban avoiding' woodland birds within Kama Nature Reserve.	As described herein, some of the impacts of the urban edge are felt up to five kilometres from the urban edge and, as such, the proposed measures will not entirely mitigate the impacts of the urban edge on sensitive woodland birds within Kama Nature Reserve.
14. Loss of remnant trees (east of Kama Nature Reserve)	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of 26 of the 36 remnant trees. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. 		→ → High → →	
			The recommended interface arrangements will retain the majority of the remnant trees east of Kama Nature Reserve within the buffer. The trees within the urban area will be retained where practicable.	The retained trees, particularly those within the urban area, will be subject to pressures associated with proximity to urban development (i.e. altered hydrology etc.). These trees are also all very old and will have limited longevity.
15. Decreased foraging range	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m area within which habitat can be retained and improved. • Retention of 26 of the 36 remnant trees. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education and involvement, notably encouragement to plant native species on private land. 		→ → High → →	
			The recommended interface arrangements will retain the majority of the remnant trees east of Kama Nature Reserve within the buffer, these being the foraging habitat of value to the significant woodland birds of Kama Nature Reserve (i.e. the relevant species do not generally forage in open paddocks). In addition, the proposed buffer restoration planting and native plantings in the urban area will provide new foraging habitat.	The residual threat from reduced foraging range will be negligible.

Threat	Key Mitigation Measures	Threat to MNES Without Mitigation	Assessment of Mitigation Efficacy	Residual Threat
16. Loss of connectivity	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m area within which habitat can be retained and improved. • Retention of 26 of the 36 remnant trees. • Buffer restoration planting. • Native streetscape planting. 		→ → High → →	
			With the incorporation of the recommended interface arrangements, the development of Molonglo 3 is unlikely to substantially impact upon native fauna connectivity in the locality. In fact, the proposed restoration of the buffer may improve connectivity between Kama Nature Reserve and similar habitat to the north of William Hovell Drive.	The residual threat from impacts to connectivity is likely to be low.
17. Noise and light spill	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback between urban development and core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Urban edge road design. • Shielding of street lights. Management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access provision and management • Community education and involvement. 		→ → High → →	
			The development of Kama Interface as recommended, together with the implementation of the recommended management measures, is likely to greatly reduce the impact of artificial noise and light spill on the native fauna of Kama Nature Reserve.	The residual threat from noise and light spill is likely to be low.
18. Exotic pest animals	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback between urban development and core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Fence Type 1 along eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral animal management, notably control of the Common Myna • Community education and involvement. 		→ → Moderate → →	
			The development of Kama Interface as recommended, together with the implementation of the recommended management measures, is likely to be moderately effective in reducing the impacts of exotic pest fauna.	Incursions of exotic pest animals into Kama Nature Reserve will likely be reduced, however impacts from the Common Myna and other disruptive species can occur kilometres from the urban edge. Ongoing control of this and other pest fauna species will be required to manage impacts, however it is unlikely that impacts can be entirely mitigated.
19. Domestic animals (pets)	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer that provides a minimum 200 m setback between urban development and core woodland bird habitat. • Buffer restoration planting. • Fence Type 1 along eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer. Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat containment. • Dog exclusion enforced for Kama Nature Reserve and dog-on-leash enforced for buffer. • Community education and involvement. 		→ → High → →	
			The development of Kama Interface as recommended, together with the implementation of the recommended management measures, is likely to greatly reduce the impact of domestic animals on the biodiversity values of Kama Nature Reserve.	Whilst the recommended design and management measures will likely be effective in avoiding or minimising impacts from domestic animals, the threat will be ever-present with the introduction of human occupation to the locality.
20. Increased human use/disturbance	Interface Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface retaining wall. • Urban edge road. • Fence Type 1 along eastern, northern and southern boundaries of the buffer. • Designated public walking trails. • Limited public access points to Kama Nature Reserve (i.e. Gate Type 2). Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access provision and management. • Community education and involvement. 		→ → High → →	
			The development of Kama Interface as recommended, together with the implementation of the recommended management measures, is likely to avoid or substantially minimise the negative impacts of increased human presence in the area.	Whilst the recommended design and management measures will likely be effective in avoiding or minimising impacts from human presence, the threat from human impacts will be ever-present with the introduction of development to the locality.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Permitted and Prohibited Plants

Table A1. 1. Permitted Plant Species for Kama Interface

Note: The list of permitted plant species has been developed to provide suitable species for each stratum (i.e. canopy, midstorey, shrubstorey and groundstorey), based on the objective of augmenting or recreating the strata of Box-Gum Woodland.

It is noted that many of the species listed (notably groundstorey species) are not readily available from local suppliers, particularly during certain seasons. Accordingly, whilst the objective of the list is to ensure that only suitable species are planted in the Kama Interface, it is also important to maximise the species options. Therefore, whilst not exhaustive, Table A1. 1 provides an extensive list of suitable species of which a sufficient diversity should be available.

Scientific Name	Common Name
Canopy	
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong
<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	Blakely's Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	Apple Box
<i>Eucalyptus dives</i>	Broad-leaved Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i>	Bundy
<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>	Red Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	Brittle Gum
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box
<i>Eucalyptus nortonii</i>	Mealy Bundy
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	Red Box
<i>Eucalyptus rossii</i>	Scribbly Gum
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark
Midstorey	
<i>Acacia decurrens</i>	Black Wattle
<i>Acacia falcata</i>	Sickle Wattle
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Hickory
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Late Black Wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus stellulata</i>	Black Sallee
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart
Shrubstorey	
<i>Acacia buxiflora</i>	Box-leaf Wattle
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acacia falciformis</i>	Hickory
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	White Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>	Early Wattle
<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	Ploughshare Wattle
<i>Acacia rubida</i>	Red-stem Wattle
<i>Acacia sicutiformis</i>	Dagger Wattle
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	Prickly Moses
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Bursaria spinosa subsp. lasiophylla</i>	Native Blackthorn
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia
<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	Cauliflower Bush
<i>Cassinia quinquefaria</i>	Rosemary Cassinia
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Hopbush
<i>Hakea decurrens</i>	Bushy Needlewood
<i>Hakea microcarpa</i>	Small-fruited Hakea
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Austral Indigo
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan
<i>Kunzea parviflora</i>	Violet Kunzea
<i>Leptospermum brevipes</i>	Slender Tea-tree
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Teatree
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Tea-tree
<i>Leptospermum multicaule</i>	Silver Teatree
<i>Leptospermum myrtifolium</i>	Swamp Teatree
<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i>	River Tea-tree
<i>Lomatia myricoides</i>	Long-leaf Lomatia
<i>Melaleuca paludicola</i>	River Bottlebrush
<i>Pomaderris pallida</i>	Pale Pomaderris
<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Native Raspberry
<i>Styphelia triflora</i>	Pink Five-corners
Groundstorey	
Shrub	
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	Box-leaved Bitter-pea
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	Bitter Cryptandra

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>	Broom Bitter-pea
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	Hop Bitter-pea
<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
<i>Daviesia mimosoides</i>	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea
<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>	Grey Parrot-pea
<i>Dillwynia glaucula</i>	Michelago Parrot-pea
<i>Dillwynia prostrata</i>	Matted Parrot-pea
<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>	Heathy Parrot-pea
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	False Sarsparilla
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	Grey Guinea-flower
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Stream Guinea-flower
<i>Leucopogon fletcheri</i>	Pendant Beard Heath
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	Beard Heath
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard Heath
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	Peach Heath
<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	Urn Heath
<i>Pultenaea procumbens</i>	Heathy Bush-pea
Sedge, Rush	
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
<i>Carex inversa</i>	Knob Sedge
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	Nodding Club-rush
<i>Isolepis hookeriana</i>	Grassy Club-sedge
<i>Isolepis inundata</i>	Swamp Club-sedge
<i>Juncus australis</i>	Austral Rush
<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	Finger Rush
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	Sword Sedge
<i>Lomandra bracteata</i>	Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Matrush
Grass	
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	Purple Wiregrass
<i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i>	Tall Speargrass
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	Dense Spear-grass

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i>	Corkscrew
<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	Red-leg Grass
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	Windmill Grass
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	Barbed Wire Grass
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	Longhair Plumegrass
<i>Dichelachne hirtella</i>	Slender Plumegrass
<i>Dichelachne inaequiglumis</i>	Plume Grass
<i>Dichelachne micrantha</i>	Short-hair Plumegrass
<i>Dichelachne parva</i>	Plume Grass
<i>Dichelachne rara</i>	Plume Grass
<i>Elymus scaber</i>	Wheat Grass
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
<i>Panicum effusum</i>	Hairy Panic
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Tussock Grass
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	Snow Grass
<i>Rytidosperma bipartita</i>	Wallaby Grass
<i>Rytidosperma caespitosa</i>	Ringed Wallaby-grass
<i>Rytidosperma carphoides</i>	Short Wallaby-grass
<i>Rytidosperma laevis</i>	Wallaby Grass
<i>Rytidosperma monticola</i>	Small-flower Wallaby Grass
<i>Rytidosperma pallidum</i>	Red-anther Wallaby Grass
<i>Rytidosperma racemosa</i>	Slender Wallaby Grass
<i>Sorghum leiocladum</i>	Wild Sorghum
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
Forb, Lily, Orchid	
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee
<i>Acaena ovina</i>	Sheep's Burr
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	Austral Bugle
<i>Alternanthera nana</i>	Hairy Joyweed
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	Vanilla-lily
<i>Arthropodium minus</i>	Small Vanilla Lily
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	Common Woodruff
<i>Asperula scoparia</i>	Prickly Woodruff
<i>Brachyscome aculeata</i>	Hill Daisy
<i>Brachyscome decipiens</i>	Field Daisy
<i>Brachyscome diversifolia</i>	Large-headed Daisy

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Brachyscome graminea</i>	Grass Dairy
<i>Brachyscome heterodonta</i>	Lobe-seed Daisy
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i>	Cut-leaved Daisy
<i>Brachyscome rigidula</i>	Leafy Daisy
<i>Brachyscome scapigera</i>	Tufted Daisy
<i>Brachyscome spathulata</i>	Spoon Daisy
<i>Brunoniella australis</i>	Blue Trumpet
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily
<i>Bulbine glauca</i>	Rock Lily
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	Blue Grass-Lily
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	Lemon Beauty-heads
<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i>	Purple Burr-daisy
<i>Calotis glandulosa</i>	Mauve Burr-daisy
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	Yellow Burr-daisy
<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i>	Rough Burr-daisy
<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	Caustic-weed
<i>Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	Small-leaved Clematis
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	Australian Bindweed
<i>Cotula australis</i>	Common Cotula
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	Billy Buttons
<i>Cullen microcephalum</i>	Dusky Scurfpea
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	Austral Bears-ear
<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>	Australian Hound's-tongue
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	Sweet Hound's-tongue
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	Native Carrot
<i>Derwentia perfoliata</i>	Digger's Speedwell
<i>Desmodium brachypodum</i>	Large Tick-trefoil
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	Slender Tick-trefoil
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Smooth Flax Lily
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney Weed
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	Nodding Chocolate Lily

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>	Chocolate Lily
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i>	Hyacinth Orchid
<i>Diuris aequalis</i>	Buttercup Doubletail
<i>Diuris behrii</i>	Golden Cowslips
<i>Diuris chryseopsis</i>	Common Golden Moths
<i>Diuris dendrobioides</i>	Long-tail Purple Diuris
<i>Diuris maculata</i>	Leopard Orchid
<i>Diuris ochroma</i>	Pale Golden Moths
<i>Diuris pedunculata</i>	Small Snake Orchid
<i>Diuris punctata</i>	Purple Donkey-orchid
<i>Diuris semilunulata</i>	Donkey-ears
<i>Diuris sulphurea</i>	Tiger Orchid
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	Pale Sundew
<i>Drosera pygmaea</i>	Pigmy Sundew
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	Parson's Bands
<i>Erodium crinitum</i>	Native Crowfoot
<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	Blue Devil
<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i>	Rough Bedstraw
<i>Geranium antrorsum</i>	Antrorse Geranium
<i>Geranium retrorsum</i>	Common Cranes-bill
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	Native Geranium
<i>Glossodia major</i>	Wax-lip Orchid
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twining Glycine
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	Glycine Pea
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Raspwort
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	Ivy Goodenia
<i>Goodenia pinnatifida</i>	Scrambled Eggs
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting
<i>Hovea linearis</i>	Creeping Hovea
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort
<i>Isotoma axillaris</i>	Rock Isotome
<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i>	Scaly Buttons
<i>Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor</i>	Hoary Sunray
<i>Lotus australis</i>	Austral Trefoil
<i>Luzula densiflora</i>	Woodrush

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Luzula meridionalis</i>	Common Woodrush
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>	Yam Daisy
<i>Microtis parviflora</i>	Slender Onion-orchid
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	Common Onion Orchid
<i>Opercularia diphylla</i>	Stinkweed
<i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i>	Adder's Tongue
<i>Oreomyrrhis eriopoda</i>	Australian Carraway
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Perennial Oxalis
<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Native Storks-bill
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>	Curved Rice-flower
<i>Plantago varia</i>	Variable Plantain
<i>Podolepis hieracioides</i>	Tall Copper-wire Daisy
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	Showy Copper-wire Daisy
<i>Polygala japonica</i>	Dwarf Milkwort
<i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>	Common Buttercup
<i>Rumex brownii</i>	Swamp Dock
<i>Rutidosia leiolepis</i>	Monaro Golden Daisy
<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i>	Button Wrinklewort
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	Common Bog Sedge
<i>Solenogyne dominii</i>	Smooth Solenogyne
<i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>	Hairy Solenogyne
<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	Creamy Candles
<i>Stellaria angustifolia</i>	Swamp Starwort
<i>Stellaria filiformis</i>	Thread Starwort
<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	Prickly Starwort
<i>Stylidium despectum</i>	Dwarf Triggerplant
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Triggerplant
<i>Stypantra glauca</i>	Nodding Blue Lily
<i>Swainsona behriana</i>	Behr's Swainson-pea
<i>Swainsona monticola</i>	Mountain Swainson-pea
<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Small Purple-pea
<i>Swainsona sericea</i>	Silky Swainson-pea
<i>Thelymitra ixioides</i>	Spotted Sun-orchid
<i>Thelymitra malvina</i>	Mauve-tuft Sun-orchid
<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>	Slender Sun-orchid

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral toadflax
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Twining Fringe-lily
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i>	Common Fringe-lily
<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	Yellow Rush-lily
<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>	Common Sunray
<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	Spur Velleia
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	Arrowhead Violet
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Native Violet
<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>	Fuzzweed
<i>Vittadinia gracilis</i>	Woolly New Holland Daisy
<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>	Narrow-leaved New Holland Daisy
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>	Tufted Bluebell
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	Australian Bluebell
<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>	Tall Bluebell
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	Early Nancy
<i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i>	Sticky Everlasting Daisy

Table A1.2. Prohibited Plant Species

Note: Whilst non-exhaustive, the list of prohibited plant species includes all species listed as pest plants in the ACT in the ACT *Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2015 (No1)*, together with other weed species which occur in the surrounding region of NSW or have the potential to become significant pests if introduced to the Molonglo locality. Those which are also Weeds of National Significance are indicated in the table.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Acacia karroo</i>	Karoo Thorn					
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Kangaroo Thorn					
<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Cootamundra Wattle					X
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder					X
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow					
<i>Achnatherum caudatum</i>	Broad-kernel Espartillo		X			X
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven					X
<i>Alnus gluttnosa</i>	Black Adder					X
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Alligator Weed	X	X			X
<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Gamba Grass	X	X	X		X
<i>Annona glabra</i>	Pond Apple	X				X
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira Vine	X	X	X		X
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Ground Asparagus Fern	X		X		X
<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	Climbing Asparagus Fern	X		X		X
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Bridal Creeper	X				X
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> Western Cape Form	Bridal Creeper – Western Cape Form	X		X		X

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Asparagus declinatus</i>	Bridal Veil	X		X		X
<i>Asparagus plumosa</i>	Climbing Asparagus Fern	X		X		X
<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	Asparagus Fern	X		X		X
<i>Austrocylindropuntia (all species)</i>	Coral Cacti	X	X	X		X
<i>Billardiera heterophylla</i>	WA Bluebell Creeper					
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Cabomba		X			X
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Indian Hemp					
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding Thistle			X		
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Slender Thistle				X	
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender Thistle				X	
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Saffron Thistle				X	
<i>Cassinia arctuata</i>	Sifton Brush					
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Nettle Tree					X
<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>	Spiny Burr Grass					
<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted Knapweed		X			X
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Star Thistle					
<i>Cestrum parqui</i>	Green Cestrum					
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	Siam Weed					
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Bitou Bush / Boneseed					X
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle					

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock					
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	Pampus Grass					X
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampus Grass					X
<i>Cotoneaster franchetti</i>	Cotoneaster					X
<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>	Cotoneaster					X
<i>Cotoneaster pannosus</i>	Cotoneaster					X
<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	Willow-leaf Cotoneaster					X
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Cotoneaster					X
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn				X	X
<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	Rubber Vine					X
<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	Golden Dodder					
<i>Cylindropuntia (all species)</i>	Pear Cacti	X	X	X		X
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Umbrella Sedge					
<i>Cytisus (all species)</i>	Broom species			X		X
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom	X		X		X
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's Curse				X	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Vipers Bugloss				X	
<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth	X				X
<i>Equisetum species</i>	Horsetails		X			X
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	African Lovegrass				X	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Erythroxylum coca</i>	Coca Leaf					
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel					
<i>Genista (all species)</i>	Broom species	X (<i>G. linifolia</i> and <i>G. monspessulana</i> only)		X		X
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Montpellier Heliotrope	X		X		X
<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	Senegal Tea Plant		X			X
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy					X
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Common Heliotrope					
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange Hawkweed		X	X		X
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed		X	X		X
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Hymenachne	X				X
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St John's Wort				X	
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Bellyache Bush	X	X	X		X
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Kochia		X			X
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Lagarosiphon		X			X
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana					X
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Privet					X
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Small-leaved Privet					X
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle					X
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Africa Boxthorn	X		X		X
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	Cat's Claw Creeper	X		X		X

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound					
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Mimosa	X				X
<i>Miscanthus sinensis (all varieties)</i>	Chinese Fairy Grass		X	X		X
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot's Feather		X			X
<i>Nasella tenuissima</i>	Mexican Feather Grass		X			X
<i>Nassella charruana</i>	Lobed Needlegrass		X			X
<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Chilean Needlegrass	X			X	X
<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated Tussock	X			X	X
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch Thistle				X	
<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	Illyrian Thistle				X	
<i>Opuntia (all species)</i>	Prickly Pears	X		X		X
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Lesser Broomrape					
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy					
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia	X				X
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Parthenium Weed	X	X			X
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	African Fountain Grass		X			X
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Yellow Bamboo					X
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Radiata Pine				X	
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water Lettuce		X			X
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar					X

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Populus nigra "Italica"</i>	Lombardy Poplar					X
<i>Prosopis spp.</i>	Mesquite	X				X
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry Plum					
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry					
<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	Firethorn					X
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Scarlet Firethorn					X
<i>Pyracantha fortuneana</i>	Firethorn					X
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia					X
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Briar Rose			X		X
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Blackberry (certain cultivars may be acceptable)	X			X	X
<i>Salix</i> ALL species of willow, except for the permitted species: <i>Salix babylonica</i> , <i>Salix x calodendron</i> , and <i>Salix x reichardtii</i>	All Willows except for Weeping Willow, Pussy Willow, and Sterile Pussy Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix alba var. vitellina</i>	Golden Upright Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Sallow	X		X		X
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix glaucophylloides</i>	Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix matsudana "Pendula"</i>	Matsudana Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix matsudana "Tortuosa"</i>	Tortured Willows	X		X		X

Scientific Name	Common Name	Weed of National Significance WoNS	ACT Declaration			
			Notifiable 1	Must be suppressed 2	Must be contained 3	Prohibited 4
<i>Salix matsudana</i> XS alba (all clones)	Matsudana Hybrid Willows	X		X		X
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Purple Osier	X		X		X
<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Common Osier	X		X		X
<i>Salix X rubens</i> (S. alba XS S.fragilis)	Golden Crack Willow	X		X		X
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Salvinia	X	X			X
<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	Fireweed	X	X	X		X
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silverleaf Nightshade	X	X	X		X
<i>Solanum linnaeanum</i>	Apple of Sodom					
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	Service Tree					X
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom					X
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Athel Pine	X				X
<i>Toxicodendron succedaneum</i>	Rhus Tree		X			X
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Wandering Jew					
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	X		X		X
<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>	Prickly Acacia	X				X
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein					
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle					X
<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	Noogoora burr			X		
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Bathurst Burr			X		