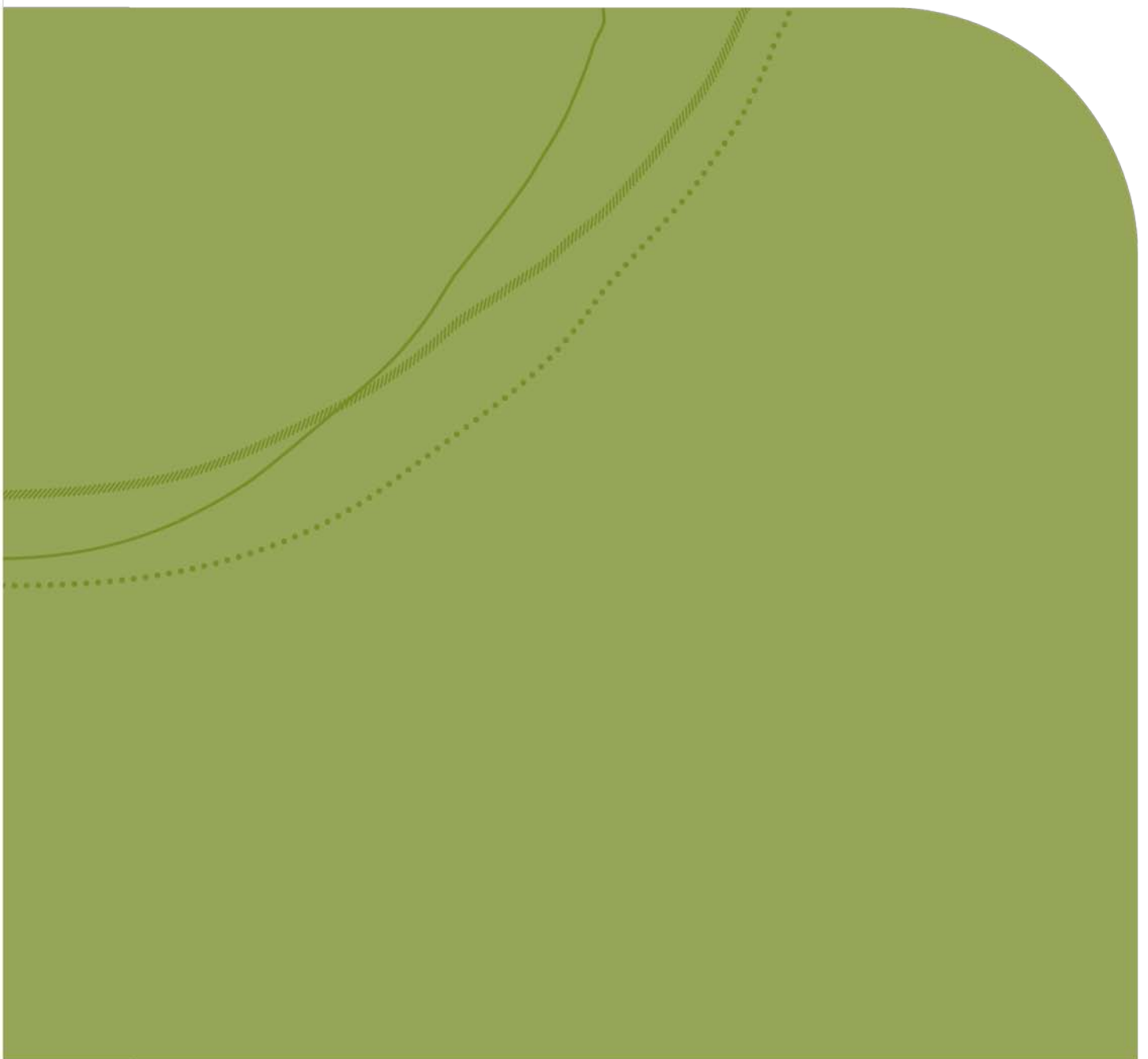


# Conservation Management Plan for Conservation Area 12 – Sewells Road Reserve

Melbourne Strategic Assessment



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# Introduction

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared for Conservation Area 12 – Sewells Road Reserve established by the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (BCS) (DEPI, 2013).

The BCS requires a CMP to be prepared for each conservation area in the growth corridors. The BCS was prepared as part of the commitments to the Commonwealth Government made under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment and requires approval from the Commonwealth Environment Minister.

The purpose of Sewells Road Reserve is to protect high quality, herb-rich native grassland that contains a significant population of Spiny Rice-flower within a practically manageable area.

The CMP identifies the biodiversity values of the Sewells Road Reserve and broadly outlines how these biodiversity values will be protected and managed for conservation. The CMP is not legally binding and will be implemented through more detailed management plans once the land within the area is secured for conservation.

The protection and management of Sewells Road Reserve will be funded under a cost recovery model established as part of the Melbourne Strategic Assessment. For more information on the model, visit DEPI's website.

The CMP has been prepared by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) in consultation with the Growth Areas Authority (GAA) and Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

## Land covered by the CMP

This CMP covers the land within the Sewells Road Reserve shown in Figure 1.

The conservation area is 1.51 hectares.

## Objectives of management

The objectives of management for Sewells Road Reserve are:

- Ensure the long-term persistence of Spiny Rice-flower
- Maintain or improve the current quality and extent of Natural Temperate Grassland
- Maintain or improve the current site quality for other matters of national environmental significance and state significance, including any new matters recorded in the future.

## Securing the conservation area

Land within Sewells Road Reserve comprises Crown land (road reserve), Council owned land and private land.

The Wyndham planning scheme will be amended to require those parts of a property within the conservation area to be secured for conservation if a landowner seeks a planning permit for development or works on that property.

Land will be secured for conservation within the Sewells Road Reserve through one of the following mechanisms:

- Freehold land will be acquired by the Crown on a voluntary basis or secured through a Land Management Co-operative Agreement with DEPI under section 69 of the *Conservation Forests and Lands Act 1987* (CFL Act)

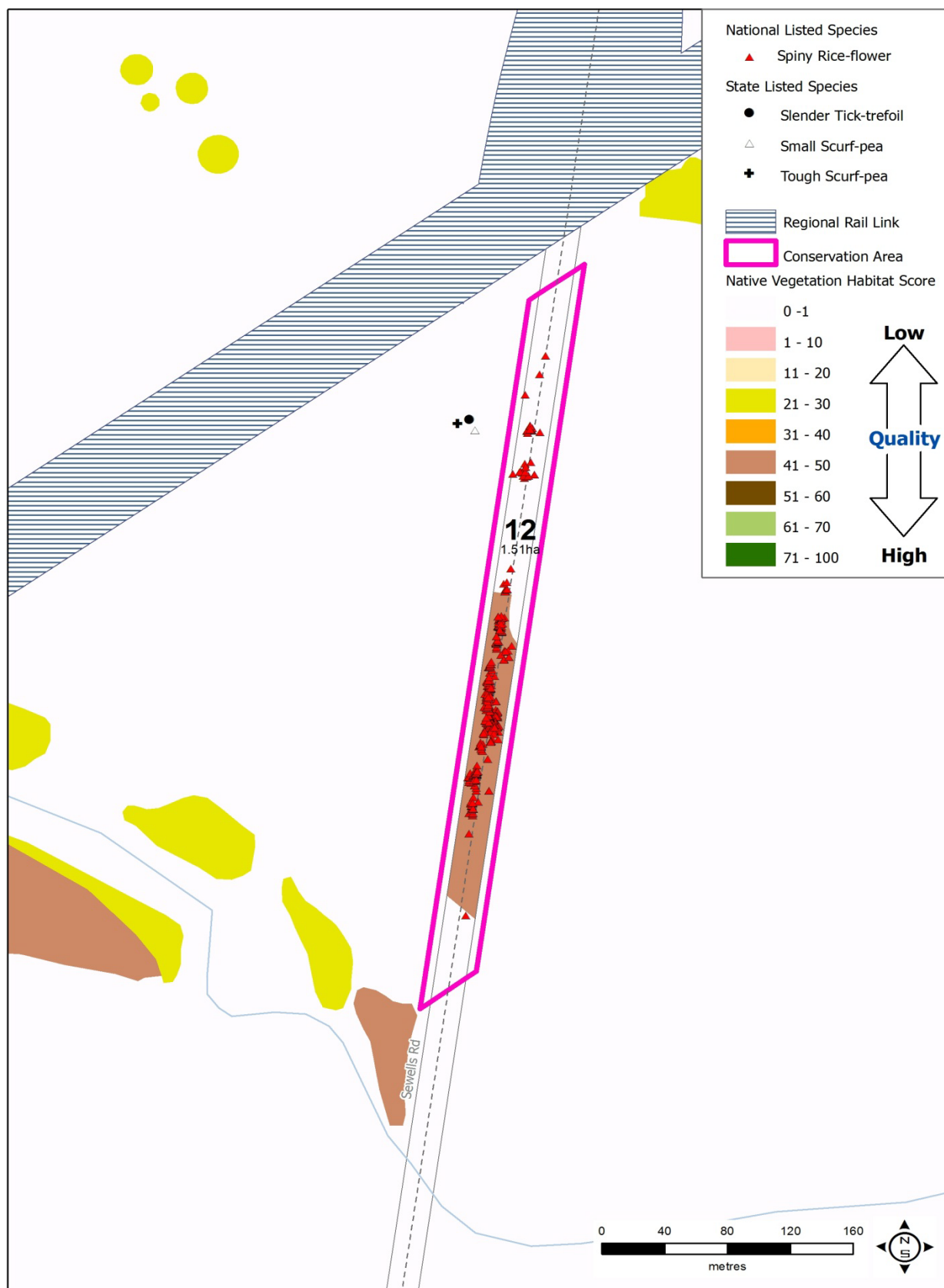


Figure 1 – Sewells Road Reserve

- Crown land will be secured through a Public Authority Management Agreement or other appropriate mechanism.

Prior to securing land, landowners have a 'duty of care' to manage their land under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, including to conserve soil and eradicate regionally prohibited weeds.

## Biodiversity values of the conservation area

The Sewells Road Reserve occurs within the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. The conservation area contains matters of national environmental significance listed under the EPBC Act and matters of state significance listed under the FFG Act and/or DEPI's advisory lists for rare or threatened species (DSE, 2005, 2007, 2009).

The biodiversity values of Sewells Road Reserve are shown in Figure 1, including the native vegetation quality (habitat score), Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) of the native vegetation and threatened species records.

### Matters of national environmental significance

The Sewells Road Reserve contains the following matters of national environmental significance:

- High quality herb-rich Natural Temperate Grassland
- Spiny Rice-flower population (greater than 400 individuals) within high persistence habitat
- High persistence habitat for Golden Sun Moth (population not confirmed)
- Habitat for Striped Legless Lizard (population not confirmed).

### Matters of state significance

The Sewells Road Reserve contains the following matters of state significance:

- Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community
- Spiny Rice-flower
- Golden Sun Moth habitat
- Striped Legless Lizard habitat.

## Management of the conservation area

The framework for managing Sewells Road Reserve will depend on how land within the area is secured.

- The landowner will be responsible for the management of land that is secured through a Land Management Co-operative Agreement under the CFL Act
- A public land manager will be responsible for the management of Crown land.

Management plans will be prepared by the land manager after land within the conservation area is secured.

### Public access

Public access may be available in those parts of the Sewells Road Reserve that are public land. Public access will be restricted to designated areas to ensure biodiversity values are protected.

Public access arrangements will be set out in the management plan for the conservation area.

### Development and works

The BCS specifies that development and works proposed within conservation areas will only be permitted with the agreement of DEPI following implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

## **Fire management**

Fire will be managed in Sewells Road Reserve to ensure the protection of human life, private property, essential and community infrastructure and biodiversity values. The public land manager will be responsible for fire management in accordance with the Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land (DSE, 2012).

## **Translocation**

Translocation of threatened species into Sewells Road Reserve may be required to ensure populations of threatened species present within the area remain sustainable in the long-term.

Any translocation activities will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of DEPI's Salvage and Translocation Protocol for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (currently in preparation).

## **Interface areas**

An interface area will be established for the Sewells Road Reserve to minimise the impacts of adjacent land-uses, including urban development, on the biodiversity values of the conservation area.

The interface area was determined through the precinct structure planning process for PSP 1091 Riverdale in accordance with the principles and standards specified in the BCS.

The land-uses proposed within the interface area are outlined in PSP 1091 Riverdale.

# **References**

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (2013) Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (2012) Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land, Department of Sustainability and Environment, East Melbourne.

