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Our Reference: 1097

28 January 2014

Alexandrea Malishev
Senior Precinct Structure Planner
Metropolitan Planning Authority
Level 29, 35 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Via email: Alexandrea.Malishev@gaa.vic.gov.au

Dear Alexandra,

Re: Scattered Tree Assessment within the Thompson's Road Precinct Structure Plan Area (1053).

Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd was engaged by the Metropolitan Planning Authority to undertake a 'scattered tree assessment' within Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) Area 1053: Thompson's Road, Clyde North (Figure 1).

This Precinct was created as a result of the extension of the Urban Growth Boundary through Amendment V68 passed by the Victorian Government in July 2010. PSP 1053 covers an area of approximately 700 ha and is expected to support 4,200 residential dwellings as well as 300 ha of employment land and a Town Centre.

It is understood that the majority of the PSP has already been assessed. The current contract (COR/13/9475) requires that the approximately six trees are assessed from within three road reserves located along Hardy's Road, Tucker's Road and Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Clyde North (Figure 1).

The purpose of the assessment is to identify trees that require further consideration by the MPA when gaining planning approvals and designing development plans. Indigenous trees will require vegetation offsets in accordance with Melbourne's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (DEPI 2013a; b) if they are to be removed.

Methods

Access

The field assessment was undertaken on 9 January 2014 by two qualified ecologists; Simon Scott and Dr Stuart Cooney. Both assessors have more than ten years' experience undertaking ecological surveys, and the author is accredited with a Vegetation Quality Competency Check (HH015).

Tree Assessment

Approximately five trees within the three road reserves were required to be assessed, as stated in the Request for Quotation (RFQ), and shown in Figure 1. The data was collected using hand-held Personal Digital Assistant loaded with ArcPad 8.1 software and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) 'ST_Locn' GIS database.

Point files for all indigenous trees were collected in GDA_1994_VICGRID94 format. The following metrics were recorded in the field (with GIS field name in parentheses, and bold items provided in an ESRI point shapefile):

- **The date of the survey (HH_Date);**
- **Identification of the surveyor (HH_PI);**
- **Identity of the tree (sequential number that corresponds with the mapping);**
- **The location of the tree (decimal degrees, northings and eastings);**
- **The location of the tree (property identifier: HH_PAI);**
- The tree's species (common name)
- **The tree's species (binomial name: SP);**
- The tree's Diameter at Breast Height; and,
- **The tree's size class (VL, LT, MT, S).**

Data Management and Mapping

The data collected by Ecolink Consulting was reviewed internally for quality assurance purposes. Data was checked against the requirements specified within the Time Stamping Vegetation Mapping and Condition Assessment Procedures (DSE 2010). Once completed, the files were then sent to DEPI on 28 January 2014 for a secondary review. On ... DEPI advised that the data was accepted.

Results

Eight indigenous tree were recorded within the area assessed (Table 1). This comprised:

- Five indigenous trees within the Tucker's Road road reserve (Parcel PFI 217605013):
 - One Small River Red-gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (tree 1);
 - Two Large Swamp Gums *Eucalyptus ovata* (tree 2 and 5);
 - Two Medium Swamp Gums (tree 3 and 4);
- Three indigenous trees within the Hardy's Road road reserve (Parcel PFI 217600934):
 - Two small Swamp Gums (tree 6 and 7); and
 - One Medium Swamp Gum (tree 8) (Figure 2, Table 1).

Several other indigenous trees were observed within the road reserve, but appeared to form part of a remnant patch of vegetation. It is therefore assumed that any losses of trees within road reserves will be accounted for when patches of 'Time Stamped' vegetation are offset.

No indigenous trees were observed within the vicinity of the scattered tree located along the Berwick–Cranbourne Road, and it is suggested that the expected scattered tree mapping (provided in the RFQ and shown in Figure 1) may be erroneous, or that the tree has been removed since the mapping was created.

Vegetation offsets for indigenous trees is \$13,218.00 per tree, regardless of size, in accordance with Melbourne's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the Habitat Compensation Fees (DEPI 2013a; b). The total vegetation offsets for the removal of all indigenous trees recorded during the current assessment is therefore \$105,744.00.

I trust the above is clear, but please call me if you have any queries (mobile phone no: 0422 623 144).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Scott', on a light blue background.

Simon Scott
Principal Ecologist
Ecolink Consulting Pty Ltd

References

- DEPI (2013a). 'Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors.' (Department of Environment and Primary Industries: Melbourne).
- DEPI (2013b). 'Habitat Compensation under the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.' (Department of Environment and Primary Industries: Melbourne).
- DSE (2010). 'Time Stamping Project 2010/11: Vegetation mapping and condition assessment procedures.' Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne.
- Standards Australia (2009). 'Australian Standard: Protection of trees on development sites (AS 4970 - 2009).' (Standards Australia: Sydney).

Table 1. Indigenous trees recorded within the study area

Tree No	Address	Parcel PFI	Map Reference (Fig 1)	Common Name	Species Name	Provenance	DBH (cm)	Size Class*	Tree Protection Zone Radius (m)**
1	Tucker's Road	217605013	E2	River Red-gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Indigenous	25	Small	3.00
2	Tucker's Road	217605013	E4	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	84	Large	10.08
3	Tucker's Road	217605013	E4	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	61	Medium	7.32
4	Tucker's Road	217605013	E4	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	71	Medium	8.52
5	Tucker's Road	217605013	E4	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	85	Large	10.2
6	Hardy's Road	217600934	D5	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	41	Small	4.92
7	Hardy's Road	217600934	D5	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	33	Small	3.96
8	Hardy's Road	217600934	D5	Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Indigenous	64	Medium	7.68

*Size class is based on the observed size of the tree compared against the Large Tree DBH EVC Benchmark from which the tree is likely to have originated - Small <75%, Medium 75% - 99%, Large 100% to 150%, Very Large >150%. A size class for non-indigenous trees is Not Applicable (N/A).

**The radius of the Tree Protection Zone is 12 times the DBH up to a maximum of 15 metres (Standards Australia 2009).

Figure 1: Location of the study area and parcels assessed.

PSP 1053
Thompson's Road

- Legend**
- Parcel PFI
 - Tree Nominated for Assessment
 - PSP 1053 Thompsons Road
 - PSP 1054 Clyde Creek



0 250 500 750 1,000
Meters

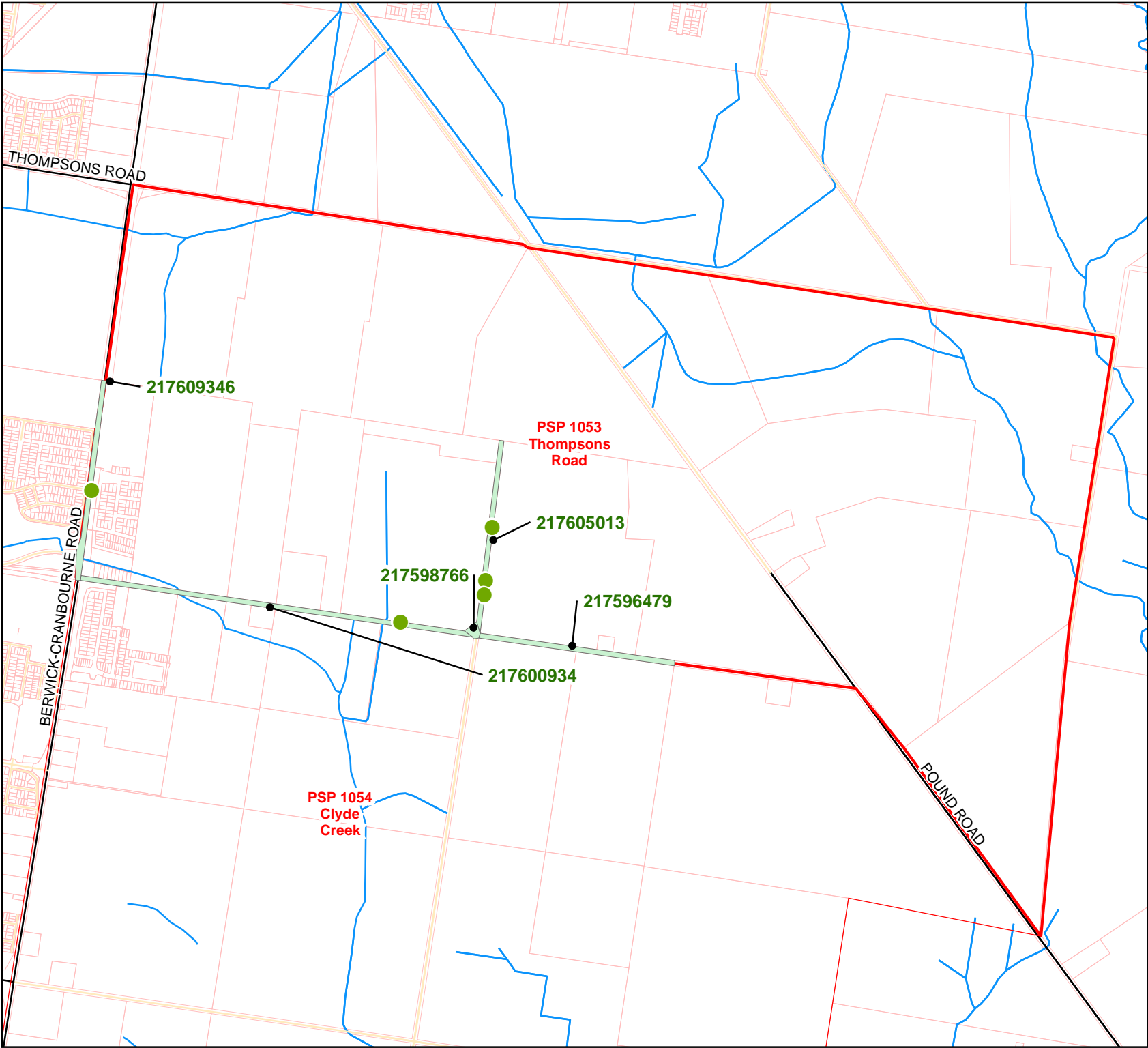
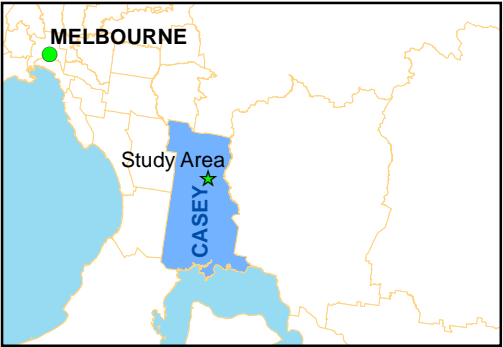







Figure 2: Location and species of scattered trees assessed during the current assessment

PSP 1053
Thompson's Road

Legend

-  PSP Boundary
-  Parcels Assessed
-  Tree nominated for Assessment

Tree Species

-  *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
-  *Eucalyptus ovata*

