

Site 115. Lysterfield Rural Properties

Farms and farmlets with scattered remnant trees and other habitat.

Summary of significant features:

- Locally significant: a population of the locally-threatened eucalypt species, Mealy Stringybark.
- Contains scattered indigenous trees and other rudimentary habitat for indigenous fauna.

Boundaries

The site includes the three polygons of private land shown on the aerial photograph on page 532.

Land use & tenure: Freehold farms and farmlets.

Site description

The land in this site is grazing country abutting more biologically significant sites. Its habitat comprises:

- Scattered remnant eucalypts, Blackwoods and small numbers of other trees;
- The headwaters of Corhanwarrabul Ck, with wetland visited by many waterbirds;
- Farm dams that are also visited by waterbirds; and
- Pasture grazed by kangaroos and wood ducks.

Relationship to other land

The habitat in this site represents a small supplementation to the habitat in the adjacent sites marked on page 532.

Bioregion: Gippsland Plain

Habitat type

There is too little coverage of native vegetation within the site to regard it as a representation of an EVC. The original EVCs were:

Valley Heathy Forest (EVC 127, **regionally Endangered**); and

Swampy Woodland (EVC 937, **regionally Endangered**).

Flora and fauna of special significance

None detected.

Significance rating

Locally-threatened plant species

The site supports viable populations of locally-threatened eucalypt species such as *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*, thereby meeting criterion 3.1.5 of Amos (2004) for a site of **Local** significance. Some other locally-threatened species may also qualify.

Threats

- Human-induced climate change, which is predicted to cause more severe droughts, heatwaves and storms, as well as substantially lower rainfall (particularly in winter);
- Debilitation and deaths of trees due to the effects of climate change;
- Reduced availability of water in the dams and boggy ground along drainage lines, due to climate change;
- Lack of natural replacement of remnant trees as they die;
- Residential development, if the Urban Growth Boundary is moved.

Strategic planning

- The area is outside the Urban Growth Boundary;

- The planning scheme zoning is Green Wedge Zone – Schedule 1 north of Wellington Rd and Green Wedge Zone – Schedule 2 (GWZ2) south of Wellington Rd;
- All the site’s native vegetation is covered by Clause 52.17 of the Knox Planning Scheme. The farm dams and pasture need no specific recognition or protection in the planning scheme. There is therefore no recommendation for the site to be covered by any overlay to protect its flora or fauna.

Information sources used in this assessment

- Inspection of the area by Dr Lorimer in 2002–2004 in search of sites of biological significance and while surveying the adjoining sites of biological significance
- An inspection of the site for this edition during 2024, on foot and by car, including redetermination of the site’s boundary;
- General visual inspection of the area’s vegetation and birdlife by the author while surveying the neighbouring sites of biological significance, in 2024 and 2002–2004;
- A search in vain for records of flora and fauna observations stored in Knox City Council’s biodiversity database;
- Flora and fauna observations stored in the Atlas of Living Australia;
- Aerial and satellite imagery from between 1976 and 2024;
- The Victorian Government’s ‘NatureKit’ website;
- Maps of geology, topography and strategic planning information produced by agencies of the Victorian Government.