

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

NORTHERN AND WESTERN GEELONG GROWTH AREAS

MAY 2023

DRAFT COMMITMENTS AND MEASURES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Greater Geelong is located on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people. The land was created by the great ancestor spirit, Bunjil, the wedge-tailed eagle. Wadawurrung territory extends from the great dividing range in the north to the coast around Port Phillip Bay.

The city acknowledges the Wadawurrung people as the traditional owners of this land who to this day practice their culture and uphold the dignity of their ancestors.

DOCUMENT TRACKING

This document was prepared on behalf of the City of Greater Geelong by Biosis and Open Lines.

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Acronyms and terms

Acronyms	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
DCCEEW	Commonwealth Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
DEECA	Victorian Government Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
DTP	Victorian Government Department of Transport and Planning
EPBC Act	Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MERI	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NGGA	Northern Geelong Growth Area
NVPP	Native Vegetation Precinct Plan
PSP	Precinct Structure Plan
SAR	Strategic Assessment Report
WGGA	Western Geelong Growth Area
WIK	Works in Kind

Terms / Abbreviations	Definition
BCS guiding principles	A set of principles to guide both the preparation of the BCS and the decisions that will need to be made as part of the strategy's implementation
City Implementation Group	The primary body responsible for day-to-day implementation of the Plan
Conservation Management Plan	The document used to provide for the protection and ongoing management of the biodiversity values within each strategic conservation area
Construction Environmental Management Plans	A plan developed to ensure appropriate environmental management practices are implemented during the construction phase of a project
Cowies Creek Conservation Area	The section of Cowies Creek within the WGGA to be protected and managed for conservation purposes under the Plan
Development land	Specified land within the Strategic Assessment Area where development under the Plan is proposed to occur
Development under the Plan	The broad term used to describe all development occurring under the Plan. This includes land subject to development within the Growth Areas, the External infrastructure corridors, the NGGA Conservation Area, and Cowies Creek Conservation Area
Evaluation Questions	The questions used to evaluate the Plan in regard to the achievement of outcomes and implementation of commitments
External infrastructure	Development comprising the supporting infrastructure and services class of action and the environmental management class of action that is located outside of Growth Areas but within the Strategic Assessment Area
Land subject to development	Development land within the Growth Areas subject to all classes of actions under the Plan

Terms / Abbreviations	Definition
NGGA Conservation Area	Area of land within the NGGA to be avoided for conservation purposes under the Plan
Specific mitigation measures	Additional mitigation measures beyond those delivered through the existing planning system to address specific risks to MNES associated with the implementation of the Plan
Stakeholder engagement strategy	A process for stakeholder engagement to guide the City in undertaking ongoing engagement with key stakeholders over the life of the Plan
Standard mitigation measures	Mitigation measures delivered by the Victorian planning system through the PSP process, existing provisions in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, and the planning permit process
Strategic Conservation Area	Areas within the Growth Areas that will be avoided from development and protected and managed for conservation in-perpetuity
The City	The City of Greater Geelong
The Executive Committee	The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas EPBC Plan Executive Committee
The Framework Plan	<i>Northern and Western Geelong Growth Area Framework Plan</i>
The Growth Areas	Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas
The Plan	The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas EPBC Plan
Works in Kind	A contribution in lieu of payment of the biodiversity levy amount

1 Introduction

The City of Greater Geelong (the City) has identified two key areas for urban growth in Geelong's northwest in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas (the Growth Areas).

The Growth Areas were identified through several State planning strategies for future growth. The City subsequently developed the *Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan* (the Framework Plan) (The City of Greater Geelong, 2021), which describes the Growth Areas and outlines considerations for their future development until 2047.

Development within the Growth Areas and associated infrastructure development outside the Growth Areas will lead to impacts to biodiversity values protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and impacts on biodiversity values protected under Victorian biodiversity regulations.

1.1 THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

To support development in the Growth Areas and protect matters of national environmental significance (MNES), the City is undertaking a strategic assessment under Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This enables a landscape scale assessment and approval of a suite of development actions under the EPBC Act and provides the opportunity to deliver improved environmental and development outcomes compared to project-by-project assessments through strategic consideration of biodiversity issues.

As part of the strategic assessment process, the City has prepared the *Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas EPBC Plan* (the Plan). The Plan ensures development within the Growth Areas, as well as associated infrastructure development outside the Growth Areas, protects MNES and proceeds in accordance with the requirements of the EPBC Act.

The Plan:

- Describes the development (classes of actions) that approval is being sought for under the EPBC Act
- Sets out an objective, and a series of outcomes and commitments to define what the Plan will achieve
- Sets out a conservation framework to address the impacts of the development on MNES, including through avoiding and minimising, mitigating and offsetting residual impacts
- Describes the process for delivering infrastructure outside the Growth Areas
- Sets out an assurance and implementation framework to implement the Plan

The Plan is supported by four documents. These include:

- Three implementation documents:
 - The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Commitments and Measures (this document)
 - The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS)
 - The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Funding Program
- A Strategic Assessment Report (SAR)

The three implementation documents contain more information about how the Plan will be implemented. The BCS also addresses how the outcomes of the strategic assessment are consistent with Victorian biodiversity regulations and provides additional outcomes for the protection of State-listed and locally significant biodiversity values.

The Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) has been prepared to assess the impacts of development under the Plan on MNES. The SAR evaluates the adequacy of the Plan's outcomes, commitments and measures in protecting MNES over the life of the Plan.

Figure 1-1 shows the relationship between the documents associated with the strategic assessment.

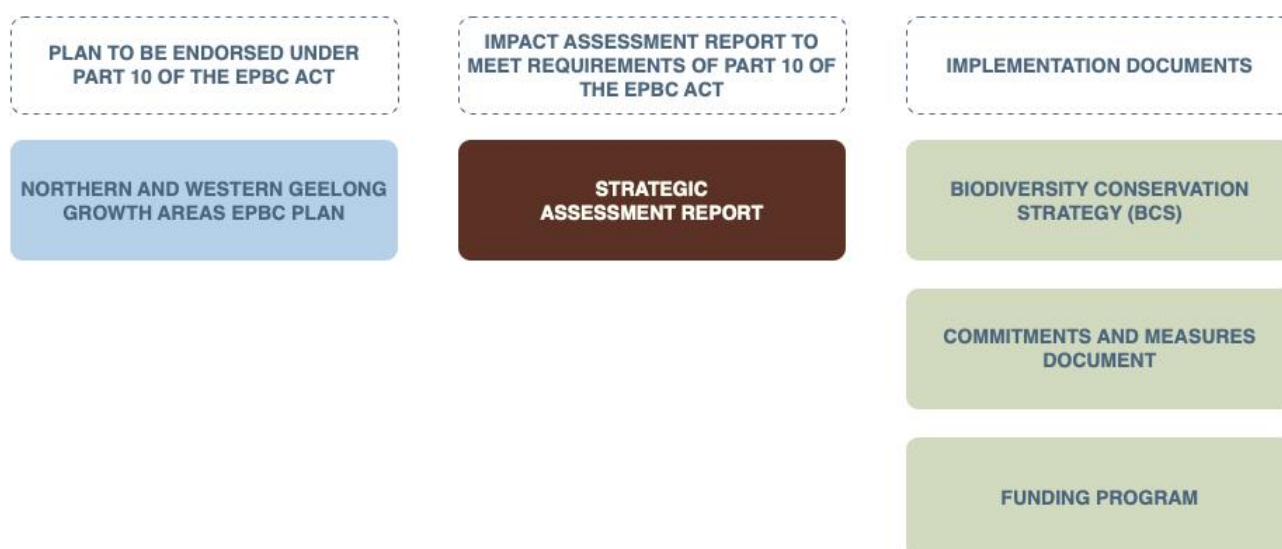


Figure 1-1: Strategic assessment documents

1.2 OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK AND PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Plan identifies a broad objective, as well as six national level outcomes relating to the protection of MNES under the EPBC Act and socio/economic considerations. The Plan's outcomes represent standards of environmental protection that will be achieved for MNES under the Plan in accordance with the requirements of the EPBC Act.

The BCS identifies an additional broad objective focussing on state and local biodiversity. Some of the Plan's outcomes are relevant to the BCS, but additional state and local specific outcomes are also provided in the BCS.

The Plan and the BCS objectives and outcomes will be achieved through the delivery of a set of commitments and measures.

1.2.1 OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

The outcomes, commitments and measures were developed as part of an 'outcomes framework' based on program logic principles. The outcomes framework provides a way to structure what the Plan will deliver for the conservation of protected matters in a clear and logical way. It supports accountability and transparency by providing the basis and set of benchmarks for monitoring, reporting, and ongoing evaluation and adaptive management of the Plan.

The outcomes framework is a requirement of the Endorsement Criteria in the Strategic Assessment Agreement.

The outcomes framework for both the Plan and BCS is comprised of four components:

- A broad *objective*
- *Outcomes*
- *Commitments* to deliver the outcomes
- *Measures* to implement the commitments

The definition of each of these in relation to the Plan and BCS is provided in Table 1-1.

The outcomes framework is described in more detail in Chapter 3 of the Plan and Section 2.1 of the BCS.

Table 1-1: Definition of the components of the outcomes framework

Framework component	Definition
Plan objective	The contribution that the outcomes of the Plan will make to broader State-wide, regional and local planning policies. It articulates the reason the Plan is being undertaken and the broad goal it is intended to support
BCS objective	The contribution that the outcomes of the BCS will make to biodiversity
Plan outcomes	The impacts or changes to environmental and socio/economic conditions that are expected to be achieved because of the delivery of the commitments and that are needed to achieve the overall objective of the Plan
BCS outcomes	The positive impacts or changes to biodiversity values that are needed to achieve the overall objective of the BCS. The outcomes are set out in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National level biodiversity outcomes (these are taken from the Plan) State and local biodiversity outcomes which are specific to the BCS An implementation outcome for the BCS
Commitments	The direct results of implementing the measures that are expected to lead to the achievement of the outcomes
Measures	The specific actions that will be undertaken to meet the commitments. Measures are not defined in the Plan. The commitments and measures document provides the full suite of measures needed to implement the biodiversity commitments at all levels

1.2.2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The outcomes and commitments are set out in the Plan and the BCS. The EPBC outcomes and commitments will not be changed once the Plan is endorsed under Part 10 of the EPBC Act.

The measures to implement the Plan and BCS commitments are set out in this document. This document also provides the following details for each measure:

- Responsibility
- Key support partner/s (if relevant)
- Timing

While the commitments cannot be changed once the Plan is endorsed, the measures set out in this document may be updated from time to time over the life of the Plan through an adaptive management process in accordance with the Plan's MERI framework (see Section 7.5 of the Plan). The improvement step of the MERI framework provides the opportunity to adaptively manage implementation of the Plan to ensure the commitments are successfully delivered and the Plan's objective and outcomes are achieved.

The ability to adapt the measures is therefore an important and necessary characteristic of the outcomes framework, designed to better assure successful delivery of the outcomes and commitments, rather than providing inappropriate lenience or flexibility where environmental diligence and obligations have not been adequately met.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides the Plan (national level) objective, outcomes, commitments and measures (some of which are also relevant to the BCS)
- Section 3 provides the BCS (state and local level) objective, outcomes, commitments and measures which are only relevant to the BCS

1.3.1 NUMBERING OF OUTCOMES, COMMITMENTS AND MEASURES

To provide clarity, different numbering systems are used to distinguish the national level versus state and local level outcomes, commitments and measures.

National level outcomes and commitments provided in the Plan and their associated measures are identified using cardinal numbers (e.g. 1, 2, 3 etc).

State and local outcomes, commitments provided in the BCS and their associated measures are identified using Roman numerals (e.g. i, ii, iii etc).

2 Objective, outcomes, commitments and measures under the Plan

This section provides the national level objective and outcomes, as detailed in the Plan. A detailed set of measures is then provided for each of the national level commitments. These measures are to enable adequate implementation of the Plan and the achievement of the outcomes and objective of the Plan.

2.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN

The objective of the Plan is to:

Provide for the protection of matters of national environmental significance while supporting the delivery of the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan and its objectives

2.2 OUTCOMES OF THE PLAN

The outcomes of the Plan are set out in Table 2-1. An explanation, including definition of key terms, is provided at the end of the table.

Table 2-1: Outcomes of the Plan

No.	Outcome
1	Populations of Golden Sun Moth and Striped Legless Lizard are maintained within the Northern Geelong Growth Area (NGGA) Conservation Area
2	The long-term viability of the important population of the Growling Grass Frog along Cowies Creek is supported through the protection and enhancement of habitat within the Western Geelong Growth Area (WGGA)
3	The protection and management of land outside of the Growth Areas makes an important contribution to the recovery efforts for Natural Temperate Grassland, Golden Sun Moth and Striped Legless Lizard in Victoria
4	Matters of national environmental significance associated with waterways, riparian areas and wetlands are protected from any notable adverse impacts of development under the Plan
5	The Plan improves regulatory efficiency by streamlining EPBC Act approvals
6	Implementation of the Plan is effective, timely, and cost efficient

2.2.1 EXPLANATION AND DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

The following provides a rationale for the outcomes and definition of the key terms.

OUTCOME 1

The populations of Golden Sun Moth and Striped Legless Lizard within the NGGA are two of the key MNES values present. Existing threats in the area continue to degrade habitat and reduce the long-term viability of these populations. The Plan will protect, restore and actively manage some existing areas of habitat within the NGGA to ensure that these species persist in the area.

In this context, the meaning of the term 'maintained' is defined as and would consider to be achieved where, over the life of the Plan:

- The extent of mapped habitat is shown to be the same or greater than that presented in the SAR
- Both species continue to be recorded within the NGGA Conservation Area

OUTCOME 2

The population of the Growling Grass Frog (GGF) within the WGGA is one of the key MNES values present within the Growth Area. The species displays classical metapopulation dynamics. In relation to the Growth Areas, this means that the population recorded within the WGGA occurs as part of a larger metapopulation within Cowies Creek made up of discrete populations connected by migration. These discrete populations can naturally change over time and go locally extinct (for instance, due to flooding events) and then be recolonised from connected populations. As a result, the continued persistence of the WGGA population is dependent on both the presence and retention of suitable habitat, as well as the persistence of the downstream, connected populations that form the Cowies Creek metapopulation.

A range of external factors could influence the persistence of the broader metapopulation and many of these factors are outside the control or influence of the Plan. The Plan therefore provides for the protection, restoration and management of GGF habitat within the WGGA Cowies Creek Conservation Area with the aim of supporting the long-term persistence of this population over time, but without being able to commit to its continued persistence.

In this context, the meaning of the term 'supported' is defined as and would consider to be achieved where the extent and condition of suitable GGF habitat within the Cowies Creek Conservation Area is improved over the life of the Plan compared to that presented in the SAR.

OUTCOME 3

Protected areas supporting large or important occurrences of Natural Temperate Grassland, Golden Sun Moth, and Striped Legless Lizard are needed for the recovery of these MNES in the long-term. The Plan represents a critical opportunity to deliver larger occurrences of these matters in good condition due to the strategic nature and coordinated implementation of the offset program.

In this context, the meaning of the term 'important contribution to the recovery efforts' is defined as and would consider to be achieved where: offsets delivered for each MNES outside of the Growth Areas are in good condition and of a large size relative to the remaining extent of available habitat within Victoria.

OUTCOME 4

There are a number of MNES associated with habitat areas outside and downstream of the Strategic Assessment Area. The risks to these values are generally considered to be low as a result of development within the Growth Areas and measures to mitigate and manage potential downstream impacts are expected to avoid any notable adverse impacts.

To demonstrate, monitor and manage to this outcome, a number of technical studies will be undertaken as part of implementation to ensure that precincts are designed and developed in a way which avoids notable adverse impacts to downstream values.

In this context, the meaning of the term 'protected from any notable adverse impacts' is defined as and would considered to be achieved where, prior to final design and development of each precinct: relevant downstream MNES values are identified; the meaning of notable adverse impacts to those values are defined; necessary mitigation and management measures to avoid notable impacts are stipulated in a set of guidelines to be addressed as part of development; and a monitoring and adaptive management program is implemented over the life of the Plan to ensure that notable adverse impacts are being avoided.

OUTCOME 5

Regulatory efficiency is an outcome that is required as part of the Endorsement Criteria under the Strategic Assessment Agreement. The Plan will deliver regulatory efficiency through the single Part 10 assessment and approval process which will ensure that future activities consistent with the classes of action do not require separate referral, assessment and approval under Parts 7, 8 and 9 of the EPBC Act. Design of the key elements of the Plan, including the commitments and MERI framework, will streamline the regulatory processes during implementation by removing the ongoing approval role of the Commonwealth government where State and local processes can adequately meet the requirements of the Plan.

OUTCOME 6

Lessons learnt from previous Part 10 Strategic Assessment processes point to the importance of effective implementation and its role in ensuring the MNES related outcomes are delivered. Timeliness and cost efficiency are key elements of good implementation which will help to ensure fair and equitable processes that facilitate the support and buy in from stakeholders needed to deliver on the outcomes of the Plan

2.3 COMMITMENTS AND MEASURES FOR THE PLAN

The commitments and measures for the Plan are set out in Table 2-2, including responsibility, support partner/s and timing.

Table 2-2: Commitments and measures for the Plan

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
Delivery of development						
1	Development within the Strategic Assessment Area will proceed in accordance with any Commonwealth approval conditions and generally in accordance with the EPBC Plan and NWGGA Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	1	Prepare PSPs for each precinct within the growth areas in consideration of the Plan and the BCS	City of Greater Geelong	DTP	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		2	Incorporate relevant Plan commitments and associated measures as PSP Requirements and Guidelines for each precinct	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		3	Prepare schedules to the Urban Growth Zone for each precinct and specify requirements for permit applications, conditions that must be included on permits, and decision guidelines to give effect to the relevant Plan commitments and measures	City of Greater Geelong	DTP	At planning scheme amendment stage for the relevant precinct
2	Proposed minor changes to the boundaries of land subject to development will meet the eligibility for consideration and be in accordance with the process for considering changes set out in Section 4.5 of the Plan	4	Review planning proposals that require a boundary change to the land subject to development against the eligibility for consideration in Section 4.5 of the Plan, and advise proponents of their eligibility or how the planning proposal could be adjusted	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		5	Undertake ecological surveys within the proposed new land subject to development for all protected matters with the potential to occur. Surveys must be undertaken by a qualified ecologist in accordance with relevant guidelines	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		6	Prepare a report assessing the potential direct and indirect impacts of the planning proposal requiring the boundary change on protected matters. The report must demonstrate how impacts are avoided and minimised, mitigated, and offset in accordance with the offsets	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			mitigation hierarchy and the EPBC Act Offsets Policy (DSEWPC, 2012)			
		7	Provide the report to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW for consideration and comment	City of Greater Geelong	DCCEEW	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		8	If the planning proposal within the proposed new land subject to development will impact MNES or proposes to modify the boundaries of the NGGA Conservation Area or the Cowies Creek Conservation Area, the change must be endorsed by DCCEEW. Other changes will be endorsed by the City Implementation Group	City of Greater Geelong	DCCEEW	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		9	Once the boundary change is endorsed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Relevant maps in the BCS will be updatedThe PSP will show the new boundary of land subject to developmentThe boundary change will be reported in the annual progress report for that year	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
Conservation						
3	The NGGA Conservation Area will be established in perpetuity to avoid and protect 74 ha of habitat for Striped Legless Lizard and 108 ha of habitat for Golden Sun Moth	10	Identify the conservation area in relevant PSPs as land to be protected for conservation in urban structure maps of the precinct	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		11	Apply an appropriate environment zone to the conservation area under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme	City of Greater Geelong	-	At planning scheme amendment stage for the relevant precinct
		12	Identify native vegetation in the conservation area as to be retained within the relevant NVPPs	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		13	The City to purchase Stage 1 of the NGGA Conservation Area	City of Greater Geelong	Relevant landholder(s)	By the end of year 5 of Plan implementation

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
4		14	The City to purchase Stage 2 of the NGGA Conservation Area	City of Greater Geelong	Relevant landholder(s)	At the time of subdivision of adjacent land
		15	Secure the conservation area under in-perpetuity, on-title agreements consistent with the security requirements of the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c)	City of Greater Geelong	Relevant landholder(s)	At the time the land is purchased
	A Conservation Management Plan will be prepared and implemented for the protection and ongoing management of Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth within the NGGA Conservation Area	16	Prepare a Conservation Management Plan in accordance with the Commonwealth <i>Environmental Management Plan Guidelines</i> (DoE, 2014), and include the following information in the plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of the plan Boundary of the conservation area Native vegetation to be retained as identified in the NVPP Extent and condition of habitat and records for Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth Management actions and arrangements to protect Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth, including methods, standards and techniques, roles and responsibilities, timing for implementation, funding and monitoring and reporting 	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	Within 1 year of securing of the conservation area
		17	Include objectives in the Conservation Management Plan that are consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting habitat supporting populations of the Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth 	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	Within 1 year of securing of the conservation area

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
5			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the condition of habitat for the Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth Increasing the area of occupied habitat for the Striped Legless Lizard through regeneration or restoration of suitable areas 			
		18	Provide a draft of the Conservation Management Plan to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW for consideration and comment prior to its finalisation and approval by the City of Geelong	City of Greater Geelong	-	Finalisation and approval within 6 months of providing the draft to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW
		19	Implement the Conservation Management Plan over the life of the Plan	City of Greater Geelong	-	Following approval of the Conservation Management Plan by the City of Greater Geelong
	The Cowies Creek Conservation Area will be established in perpetuity to avoid and protect habitat needed to support the continued persistence of the Growling Grass Frog in the WGGA	20	In designing the Creamery Road PSP, confirm the boundaries of the Cowies Creek Conservation Area currently shown in the BCS to ensure the conservation area includes all areas of habitat that may be needed to support the continued persistence of the Growling Grass Frog within the WGGA, including areas of habitat that may be used for breeding, foraging and movement	City of Greater Geelong	Corangamite CMA	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		21	Identify the conservation area in relevant PSPs as land to be protected for conservation in urban structure maps of the precinct	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		22	Apply an appropriate environment zone to the conservation area under the <i>Greater Geelong Planning Scheme</i> (The City of Greater Geelong, 2022)	City of Greater Geelong	-	At planning scheme amendment stage for the relevant precinct

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		23	Identify native vegetation in the conservation area as to be retained within the relevant NVPPs	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for each precinct
		24	Conservation area to be vested to the City as part of subdivision of the subject land	City of Greater Geelong	Relevant landholder(s)	At the time of subdivision of adjacent land
		25	Conservation area to be established as part of the City's reserve program	City of Greater Geelong	Relevant landholder(s)	At the time of subdivision of adjacent land
6	A Conservation Management Plan will be prepared and implemented for the protection and ongoing management of Growling Grass Frog and areas of potential habitat for Adamson's Blown-grass within the Cowies Creek Conservation Area	26	<p>Prepare a Conservation Management Plan in accordance with the Commonwealth <i>Environmental Management Plan Guidelines</i> (DoE, 2014), <i>Growling Grass Frog Habitat Design Standards</i> (DELWP, 2017b), <i>Growling Grass Frog Crossing Design Standards</i> (DELWP, 2017a) and to address the requirement in the Framework Plan to develop a Master Plan for the corridor. Include the following information in the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the plan • Boundary of the conservation area • Native vegetation to be retained as identified in the NVPP • Growling Grass Frog records and habitat • Potential habitat for Adamson's Blown-grass • Any locations suitable for public access points, walking paths/trails, and passive recreation • Any locations suitable for water management assets and associated infrastructure • Management actions and arrangements to protect Growling Grass Frog and its habitat, including methods, standards and 	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	Within 1 year of securing of the conservation area

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			<p>techniques, roles and responsibilities, timing for implementation, funding and monitoring and reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management actions and arrangements to maintain suitability of the area for Adamson's Blown-grass, including the use of appropriate indigenous species for revegetation 			
		27	<p>Include objectives in the Conservation Management Plan that are consistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting high quality instream habitat Improving the condition of lower quality instream habitat Protecting terrestrial habitat in buffer areas adjacent to the creek Regenerating areas of terrestrial habitat that are degraded Potentially providing for the creation of off-stream habitat, where appropriate and beneficial to the species 	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	Within 1 year of securing of the conservation area
		28	<p>Undertake the following actions if monitoring shows declines in the Cowies Creek Growling Grass Frog population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instigate further information gathering to try and determine the causes of the declines Determine restorative actions based on the causes of decline. These may include: changes to how water quantity and/or quality are managed; management actions in the corridor to restore habitat; and/or creation of new habitat features (e.g. off-stream ponds) 	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	If monitoring shows declines in the Cowies Creek Growling Grass Frog population

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase monitoring intensity to determine if restorative actions are working 			
		29	Provide a draft of the Conservation Management Plan to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW for consideration and comment prior to its finalisation and approval by the City of Geelong	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within 1 year of securing the conservation area
		30	Implement the Conservation Management Plan over the life of the Plan	City of Greater Geelong	-	Following approval of the Conservation Management Plan by the City of Greater Geelong
7	Standard mitigation measures will continue to be implemented to minimise the indirect impacts of the development on MNES in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Greater Geelong Planning Scheme</i> (The City of Greater Geelong, 2022), as updated from time to time, and generally in accordance with the Framework Plan (The City of Greater Geelong, 2021)	31	<p>Continue to include standard mitigation measures as requirements and guidelines in PSPs and/or as conditions on permits, as appropriate, to mitigate the following indirect impact types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altered fire regimes and increased fire risk Changes to water flows and quality Disturbance from increased public access to natural areas Fauna disturbance due to noise, dust and light Fauna mortality, displacement, and barriers to movement Inadvertent impacts on adjacent habitat or vegetation Predation/competition/land degradation by pests/domestic fauna Spread of infection/disease Spread of weeds 	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage (for conditions included as requirements and guidelines in PSPs) and at the planning permit stage (for conditions included as permit conditions)

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
8	<p>The following additional specific mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise the indirect impacts of development on the NGGA Conservation Area and Cowies Creek Conservation Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a conservation interface for the conservation areas Design and baffle public lighting to prevent light spill and glare within the Cowies Creek Conservation Area Prepare Construction Environmental Management Plans for construction works on land immediately adjacent to the conservation areas 	32	Identify a conservation interface between urban development and the boundaries of the NGGA Conservation Area and Cowies Creek Conservation Area in plans within relevant PSPs. The conservation interface should be established in accordance with relevant principles and standards in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (DEPI, 2013)	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		33	Include the design and baffle of public lighting to prevent light spill and glare within the Cowies Creek Conservation Area as a requirement or guideline in PSPs and/or as a condition on permits for land use, subdivision and development, as appropriate	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		34	Include the preparation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan on land immediately adjacent to the NGGA Conservation Area and Cowies Creek Conservation Area as a requirement or guideline in PSPs and/or as a condition on permits for land use, subdivision and development, as appropriate. The purpose of these plans is to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate the potential indirect impacts of construction on the MNES values within the Conservation Areas. The Plans should stipulate the measures that will be undertaken and the monitoring and reporting that will be undertaken to ensure appropriate implementation	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage (for conditions included as requirements and guidelines in PSPs) and at the planning permit stage (for conditions included as permit conditions)
		35	Monitor and report on the inclusion of the specific mitigation measures in PSPs and as conditions on permits, as part of the monitoring	City of Greater Geelong	-	As part of annual progress reporting

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			program and annual progress reporting under the MERI framework			
9	<p>Additional specific mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise the indirect impacts of the development on MNES associated with waterways, riparian areas and wetlands including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPBC listed threatened and migratory birds • <i>Galaxiella toourtkoourt</i> (Little Galaxias) • <i>Litoria raniformis</i> (Growling Grass Frog) • <i>Nannoperca obscura</i> (Yarra Pygmy Perch) • <i>Prototroctes maraena</i> (Australian Grayling) • <i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i> (Adamson's Blown Grass) • Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site 	36	<p>Undertake relevant technical studies to understand the key risks from development on protected matters associated with Hovells Creek and the Moorabool River.</p> <p>These studies will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address potential risks associated with changes to water quality and hydrology as a result of development within the Growth Areas • Identify appropriate measures, standards or targets to avoid and minimise adverse impacts on protected matters including, as relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water quality parameters ○ Water retention and flow management requirements ○ Limits on extraction or use ○ Habitat buffer requirements ○ Monitoring and reporting <p>These studies will be undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders, regulators and experts</p>	City of Greater Geelong	Corangamite CMA and other key stakeholders	Prior to PSP preparation for the relevant precincts
		37	Prepare guidelines based on the results of the technical studies to guide the preparation of PSPs and decisions on planning permits and permit conditions to ensure risks to protected matters in relation to indirect and downstream impacts are adequately managed	City of Greater Geelong	Corangamite CMA and other key stakeholders	Prior to PSP preparation for the relevant precincts
		38	Undertake a planning scheme amendment or other appropriate process to ensure the	City of Greater Geelong	DTP	Prior to PSP preparation for the relevant precincts

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			guidelines are considered during the preparation of PSPs and in decisions on planning permits and permit conditions			
		39	Ensure that the design of stormwater infrastructure and ongoing stormwater management is sympathetic to and does not notably alter habitat for the Growling Grass Frog within downstream reaches of Cowies Creek	City of Greater Geelong	DTP	Prior to PSP preparation for the relevant precincts
10	Offset sites will be established in strategic locations to protect and manage a minimum of the following amounts of habitat to support the following MNES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 ha of Natural Temperate Grassland 375 ha of known habitat for Striped Legless Lizard 585 ha of known habitat for Golden Sun Moth 	40	Develop strategic landscape criteria to guide the targeting of land suitable for strategic offsets that considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locating sites in areas of habitat that would be considered large for each MNES Locating sites within key biodiversity corridors Locating sites adjacent to or connected to existing conservation reserves 	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 3 months of Plan implementation
		41	Identify priority offset locations that meet at least one of the strategic landscape criteria and establish a work program to engage with landholders within those areas to seek agreement to establishing offset sites	City of Greater Geelong	Landholders	Within the first 6 months of Plan implementation
		42	Confirm the presence and extent of Natural Temperate Grassland and known habitat for Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth and other biodiversity values of the offset sites through field surveys undertaken in accordance with relevant survey guidelines	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to agreeing with the landholder to secure the land as an offset site
		43	Secure offset sites under in-perpetuity, on-title agreements consistent with the security requirements of the <i>Guidelines for the removal,</i>	City of Greater Geelong	-	Following confirmation of biodiversity values of

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			<i>destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c)			the offset site through surveys
		44	Prepare an offset management plan for each offset site and undertake and report annually on management actions in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c)	Landholders	City of Greater Geelong	Following securing the land as an offset site
11	Within the first five years of Plan implementation the City of Greater Geelong will secure the following offsets at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the offset requirement for Natural Temperate Grassland 70% of the offset requirement for Striped Legless Lizard 50% of the offset requirement for Golden Sun Moth 	45	Monitor and track the rate of offset delivery to ensure that the offset targets for the first five years of Plan implementation are being met	City of Greater Geelong	-	Throughout the first five years of Plan implementation
		46	Implement the following contingency steps if the rate of offset delivery is not on track for meeting the targets by year five of Plan implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City will notify DCCEEW about the issue The City will make every effort to secure the necessary offsets to meet the necessary rate of offset delivery within 12 months of the issue being identified If at year five of Plan implementation the offset targets have not been met, the City will pause development approvals within the NGGA until sufficient offsets are secured to meet the five-year targets 	City of Greater Geelong	-	If monitoring shows that the rate of offset delivery is not on track for meeting the targets for the first five years of Plan implementation
12	Offset delivery will keep pace with and occur ahead of impacts within the NGGA	47	Monitor and track the rate of development within the NGGA and the associated impacts to Natural Temperate Grassland, Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth using the baseline ecological data used for the strategic assessment	City of Greater Geelong	-	As development proceeds

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		48	Secure offset sites at a rate that is faster than the rate of impacts to Natural Temperate Grassland, Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth	City of Greater Geelong	-	As development proceeds
		49	Implement the following contingency steps if the rate of offsets is not ahead of the rate of impacts to Natural Temperate Grassland, Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The City will notify DCCEEW about the shortfall and outline proposed steps to remedy the issueThe City will make every effort to secure the necessary offsets within 12 months of a shortfall being identifiedIf the necessary offsets cannot be secured within the 12-month period, the City will pause development approvals within the NGGA until sufficient offsets are secured to address the level of impact to MNES	City of Greater Geelong	-	If monitoring shows that the rate of offsets is not ahead of the rate of impacts to NTG, SLL or GSM
External infrastructure						
13	External infrastructure development will be designed and located to avoid impacts to MNES and native vegetation. The following specific avoidance outcomes will be delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Spiny Rice-flower – any confirmed population or part of the population must be avoided and will be protected, maintained and managed to ensure the persistence of that population in the long-term	50	Undertake targeted surveys within the external infrastructure footprints for all protected matters with the potential to occur. This may include, but not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Natural Temperate GrasslandSpiny Rice-flowerAdamson's Blown-grassStriped Legless LizardGolden Sun Moth Surveys must be undertaken prior to development to inform the detailed planning and design phase of each infrastructure project, and in accordance with relevant survey	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	Prior to development of each external infrastructure project

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other MNES – any confirmed population or occurrence that would be considered important or notable (for instance, due to size, condition or potential contribution to the recovery of the MNES) must be avoided and will be protected, maintained and managed to ensure the persistence of that population or occurrence in the long-term. Impacts to all other populations or occurrences will be avoided and minimised as far as practical 		guidelines or standards (including published survey guidelines for MNES)			
		51	Prepare maps showing the location of any protected matters recorded within the external infrastructure footprints to inform the detailed design of each infrastructure project and the avoidance that is proposed to occur within the infrastructure footprint	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	Prior to development of each external infrastructure project
		52	Provide a report to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW that includes the location of any protected matters within the external infrastructure footprints and demonstrates avoidance outcomes in accordance with the requirements of the commitment	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	Prior to development of each external infrastructure project
		53	Monitor and report on residual impacts within the external infrastructure footprints as part of the monitoring program and annual progress reporting under the MERI framework	City of Greater Geelong	Project proponent	Within 6 months following construction impacts of each external infrastructure project as part of annual progress reporting
		54	Should any important populations or occurrences of MNES be avoided within the external infrastructure footprints, develop a Conservation Management Plan to ensure appropriate roadside management of avoided areas. This plan will address potential indirect impacts associated with the spread of weeds, fire regimes, removal of rocks or other habitat features and inappropriate road maintenance works such as slashing, grazing, clearing, herbicide application, and soil disturbance from vehicle traffic	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	Prior to development of each external infrastructure project

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
14	Unavoidable clearing due to the external infrastructure development of any areas confirmed to support MNES will be offset in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy and associated Offsets Assessment Guide (or equivalent) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012; DSEWPC, 2012)	55	Determine offset requirements in accordance with the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy and associated Offsets Assessment Guide (or equivalent) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012; DSEWPC, 2012) based on the surveys conducted for the external infrastructure footprints and in consultation with DCCEEW	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong, DCCEEW	Prior to development of each external infrastructure project
		56	Secure and manage offset sites in accordance with the eligibility, security and offset management requirements of the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c)(or equivalent). Secure offsets following project proposal endorsement from DCCEEW and prior to the commencement of works	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong, DCCEEW	Following endorsement of the project proposal by DCCEEW and prior to development of each external infrastructure project
		57	Provide a report to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee that shows the location of any MNES within the external infrastructure footprints that will be directly impacted and the proposed offsets for these impacts, including security and management arrangements.	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	Prior to development of each external infrastructure project
Governance						
15	Governance arrangements will be established to implement the Plan, consistent with the Plan's governance framework	58	Establish an NWGGA EPBC Plan Executive Committee as the primary body responsible for overseeing and making key decisions about the implementation of the Plan	City of Greater Geelong	DCCEEW, DEECA, DTP	Within the first 3 months of Plan implementation
		59	Prepare Terms of Reference to set out the purpose, responsibilities, membership and decision-making processes for the NWGGA EPBC Plan Executive Committee for approval by the Commonwealth Environment Minister	City of Greater Geelong	DCCEEW	Draft provided to DCCEEW within the first month of Plan implementation

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		60	Establish an Implementation Group within the City's Planning and Economy Group (or equivalent group) as the primary body responsible for day-to-day implementation of the Plan	City of Greater Geelong	-	At beginning of Plan implementation
		61	Consider establishing formal agreements with key support partners to formalise roles and responsibilities	City of Greater Geelong	Support partners identified in the Plan	Any agreements established within the first 6 months of Plan implementation
16	A Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will be developed to guide engagement with key stakeholders on implementation of the Plan	62	Include the following in the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement objectives and principles Key stakeholders and their interests in the Plan Engagement processes and tools, including an implementation schedule How the results of engagement will be used to inform improvements to implementation of the Plan, including through the 5-yearly independent evaluation and assurance reviews Reporting requirements on results of engagement to be included in annual progress reports 	City of Greater Geelong	-	Draft provided to DCCEEW within the first 3 months of Plan implementation
Funding						
17	Funding arrangements will be established to fund the implementation of the Plan's commitments and measures over the life of the Plan, consistent with the Plan's funding framework	63	Establish an implementation fund to fund the costs of implementing the Plan's commitments and measures	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to development proceeding in the Growth Areas
		64	Establish a biodiversity levy payable by developers in the Growth Areas to fully recover the costs incurred by the city in implementing the Plan's commitments and measures	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to development proceeding in the Growth Areas

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		65	Determine and implement an appropriate mechanism to collect the biodiversity levy	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to development proceeding in the Growth Areas
		66	Further consider, and if determined to be appropriate, establish arrangements to allow developers to provide a Works in Kind (WIK) contribution in lieu of the biodiversity levy	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to development proceeding in the Growth Areas
		67	Establish governance and administrative arrangements to administer the implementation fund and the collection and application of the biodiversity levy	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to development proceeding in the Growth Areas
MERI						
18	A MERI program will be implemented over the life of the Plan, consistent with the Plan's MERI framework	Monitoring				
		68	Develop Key Performance Indicators for each outcome and commitment in the Plan	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation
		69	Develop monitoring protocols for each Key Performance Indicator to set out how monitoring will be undertaken	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation
		70	Establish baseline data for each outcome and commitment based on the data captured from the first monitoring event	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation
		71	Monitor the implementation of commitments and measures annually in accordance with the monitoring protocols	City of Greater Geelong	-	Annually over life of the Plan
		72	Monitor the achievement of outcomes annually or 5-yearly in accordance with the monitoring protocols	City of Greater Geelong	-	Annually or 5-yearly over life of the Plan

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		73	Record monitoring data for each monitoring event in an appropriate and readily accessible data management system	City of Greater Geelong	-	Annually over life of the Plan
		<i>Evaluation</i>				
		74	Refine and finalise the draft Evaluation Questions in the Assurance and Implementation Framework prior to the first 5-yearly evaluation	City of Greater Geelong	-	Prior to the first 5-yearly evaluation
		75	Undertake independent 5-yearly evaluations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether the outcomes of the Plan are being achieved, and if not, the reasons for this Determine how efficiently and effectively the commitments and measures are being implemented Make any recommendations for improving the implementation of the Plan as part of adaptive management 	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	Within 12 months after the first full 5 years following Commonwealth approval of the actions/classes of actions for the development under the Plan, and then within that timeframe every five years following this over the life of the Plan – at year 10, 15, 20 and 25 of the Plan's implementation
		76	Include recommendations in the 5-yearly evaluations for improving the implementation of the Plan where necessary	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	As part of the 5-yearly evaluations
		77	Review the adequacy of Key Performance Indicators and monitoring protocols as part of the 5-yearly evaluations	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	As part of the 5-yearly evaluations

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		78	Undertake an end of Plan evaluation to determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan's objective was achieved The Plan's outcomes were achieved Commitments and measures in the Plan were implemented effectively and efficiently 	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	Within 12 months of the end of Plan implementation
		Reporting				
		79	Prepare annual progress reports to provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in implementing the commitments and measures Progress in delivering the development in accordance with the Commonwealth approvals Revenue and expenditure of funds to implement the Plan Compliance issues and actions taken 	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within 6 months after the end of the first full financial year following Commonwealth approval of the actions/classes of actions for the development under the Plan, and then within that timeframe every year following this over the life of the Plan
		80	Prepare independent five-yearly assurance reports to present the results of the five-yearly evaluations and assurance review	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	Within 12 months after the first full 5 years following Commonwealth approval of the actions/classes of actions for the development under the Plan, and then within that timeframe every five years following this over the life of the Plan – at year 10, 15, 20 and 25 of the Plan's implementation

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		81	Prepare an independent final report for the Plan to present the results of the end of Plan evaluation	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	Within 12 months of the end of Plan implementation
		82	Make annual progress reports, 5-yearly assurance reports, and the final report for the Plan publicly available on the City's website and provide these reports to the NWGGA EPBC Plan Executive Committee for review and comment prior to public release	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within 1 month following the completion and approval of each of the reports
		Improvement				
		83	Undertake independent 5-yearly evaluations to form the primary trigger point and basis for any necessary adaptive management of the Plan	City of Greater Geelong (responsible for engaging independent party)	-	As part of the 5-yearly evaluations
		84	Establish criteria to determine trigger points for when adaptative management should be considered outside the independent five-yearly evaluation and assurance review process	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation
		85	Prepare adaptive management reports every 5 years for the NWGGA EPBC Plan Executive Committee that includes recommendations for adaptive management actions for endorsement by the committee and a response to recommendations made in the independent five-yearly assurance report	City of Greater Geelong	-	Every 5 years within 3 months following completion of the draft five-yearly assurance report
		86	Commence implementation of adaptive management actions endorsed by the NWGGA	City of Greater Geelong	-	Commence implementation within 5

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			EPBC Plan Executive Committee over the following five-year implementation period of the Plan			years of endorsement of the adaptive management actions in accordance with the timing specified in the adaptive management reports
		87	Amend the measures or other parts of the implementation documents where necessary to reflect and give effect to the endorsed recommendations	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within 12 months of endorsement of the recommendations
		88	Publish the endorsed adaptive management actions and the proposed timing for implementation of these actions on the City's website, including the reasons why any recommendations in the draft five-yearly assurance report are not being implemented	City of Greater Geelong	-	At the same time as the final five-yearly assurance reports
19	A development registration system will be developed and implemented to track development under the EPBC Part 10 approval	89	Develop a draft outline for a development registration system that sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the City will monitor developments using the EPBC Part 10 approval Processes to ensure regulated third-parties (developers) are aware of their responsibilities under the Plan The trigger points for registration using an appropriate step in the Victorian planning system The information that developers are required to provide to the City about their action, including how it is consistent with the requirements of the Plan 	City of Greater Geelong	Developers	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation
		90	Provide the draft outline of the registration system to the EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW for consideration and comment	City of Greater Geelong	Developers	Finalisation and approval within 6 months of providing the draft to the

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			prior to its finalisation and approval by the City of Geelong			EPBC Plan Executive Committee and DCCEEW
Compliance						
20	A compliance program will be implemented over the life of the Plan, consistent with the Plan's compliance framework	91	Develop a series of educational materials to inform the public about the Plan and help support regulated third parties to comply with the Commonwealth approval conditions	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 6 months of Plan implementation
		92	Collect compliance monitoring data in accordance with the MERI Framework, including through establishing Key Performance Indicators for compliance and developing monitoring protocols for each compliance KPI	City of Greater Geelong	Other relevant regulatory authorities	Annually over life of the Plan
		93	Create and fund a position for one additional compliance officer to support the City's existing compliance team	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 3 months of Plan implementation
		94	Undertake a compliance risk assessment to prioritise compliance issues into risk categories and update the assessment every 5 years to respond to any changes in risks as part of the five-yearly evaluation	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 6 months of Plan implementation
		95	Develop a decision framework to guide the taking of compliance action against regulated third-parties in a way that is proportionate to the risk, as determined through the compliance risk assessment	City of Greater Geelong	Other relevant regulatory authorities	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation
		96	Where a potential non-compliance is identified in relation to the delivery of commitments or measures that the City or a support partner is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify DCCEEW of the non-compliance as soon as possible 	City of Greater Geelong	Other relevant regulatory authorities	As soon as reasonably possible following any non-compliance

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the non-compliance is identified as high risk, provide DCCEEW with a plan setting out the compliance actions proposed to be taken to rectify the non-compliance and the timing for implementing these actions within 3 months For other non-compliance risk categories, undertake compliance actions appropriate to the risk category and respond to any requirements of DCCEEW in relation to the non-compliance within a reasonable timeframe Report to DCCEEW regularly on progress in implementing the compliance actions 			
		97	<p>Where a potential non-compliance is identified in relation to a regulated third-party taking approved actions under the endorsed Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an initial assessment of the potential non-compliance Notify DCCEEW of the non-compliance following the initial assessment as soon as possible Respond to the non-compliance in accordance with the decision framework for taking compliance action Report to DCCEEW regularly on progress in implementing the compliance actions 	City of Greater Geelong	Other relevant regulatory authorities	As soon as reasonably possible following any non-compliance
		98	<p>Undertake regular reporting on compliance in accordance with the MERI Framework, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting in annual progress reports on: Any measures taken by the City to support voluntary compliance 	City of Greater Geelong	Other relevant regulatory authorities	Annually for annual progress reports or five-yearly for independent assurance reports

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of non-compliances for the reporting period and the nature of the non-compliance Any compliance action taken by the City or other relevant responsible regulatory authority to each high-risk non-compliance and the outcomes of the compliance action taken Reporting in five-yearly independent assurance reports on: Analysis and key findings on extent of compliance with the Commonwealth conditions of approval Any recommendations for improving the implementation of the Plan, including compliance 			
Data sharing						
21	A data management and sharing agreement will be developed to set out how data associated with the Plan will be managed and shared	99	Prepare a draft data sharing agreement for review and comment by DCCEEW	City of Greater Geelong	-	Within the first 12 months of Plan implementation

3 Objective, outcomes, commitments and measures under the BCS

This section provides the state and local level objectives and outcomes, as detailed in the BCS. A detailed set of measures is then provided for each of the commitments under the BCS. These measures are to enable adequate implementation of the BCS and achievement of the outcomes and objective of the BCS.

Although some national level outcomes, commitments and measures (provided in Section 2) are also relevant to the BCS, they are not repeated in this section.

3.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE BCS

The objective of the BCS is to:

Provide genuine, long-term, positive outcomes for the national, state and local biodiversity values that are present within the Growth Areas

3.2 OUTCOMES OF THE BCS

The outcomes specific to the BCS are set out in Table 3-1. These outcomes recognise that the national level outcomes will also provide a range of benefits to state and local values, and seek to minimise duplication by focusing on the additional positive impacts or changes to biodiversity values that are needed at the state and local level.

Table 3-1: Outcomes specific to the BCS

No.	Outcome
i	Strategic conservation areas within the Growth Areas are protected and managed to provide for the long-term protection of biodiversity values
ii	Opportunities to further protect and enhance biodiversity and connectivity within the Growth Areas are delivered during precinct planning
iii	Biodiversity offsets for impacts to state values are calculated at the precinct scale and provided as development proceeds
iv	Implementation of the BCS is effective, timely, and cost efficient

3.3 COMMITMENTS AND MEASURES FOR THE BCS

The commitments and measures specific to the BCS are set out in Table 3-2, including responsibility, support partner/s and timing.

Table 3-2: Commitments and measures specific to the BCS

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
i	Strategic Conservation Areas will be confirmed and protected through the PSP process	i	<p>Confirm the boundaries of the Strategic Conservation Areas relating to the Moorabool River Corridor and the Barwon River Corridor through the PSP process. In doing this, ensure the corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate as much of the key biodiversity values associated with each river corridor as possible • Reflect the relevant priorities or standards in the <i>Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022</i> (Corangamite CMA, 2014) • Include a minimum of 50 m of riparian land from the top of bank either side of the waterways 	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		ii	Identify the strategic conservation areas in relevant PSPs as land to be protected for conservation in urban structure maps of the precinct	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		iii	Apply an appropriate environment zone to the strategic conservation areas under the <i>Greater Geelong Planning Scheme</i> (The City of Greater Geelong, 2022)	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		iv	Identify native vegetation in the strategic conservation areas as to be retained within the relevant NVPPs	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		v	Strategic conservation areas to be vested to the City as part of subdivision of the subject land	City of Greater Geelong	Landholders	At the time of subdivision of the adjacent land
		vi	Strategic conservation areas to be established as part of the City's reserve program	City of Greater Geelong	-	At the time of subdivision of the adjacent land

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
		vii	Individual detailed master plans that outline the protection and enhancement of river and creek corridors will be prepared and incorporated within the relevant Precinct Structure Plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barwon River, between Geelong Ring Road and Merrawarp Road Moorabool River, between Midland Highway and Geelong-Ballarat Railway Moorabool River (and deviation channel), between Geelong Ring Road and Midland Highway and including Dog Rocks Sanctuary and Moorabool River Reserve 	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
ii	Opportunities for further avoidance of impacts to biodiversity values within the biodiversity opportunity areas will be considered through the PSP process	viii	Apply the BCS guiding principles relating to biodiversity opportunity areas and refer to the relevant precinct profiles in the BCS to identify locations that can provide co-benefits for biodiversity. Incorporate these areas into each PSP. Where relevant or necessary, confirm the values of the biodiversity opportunity areas through surveys or site visits prior to defining these areas as part of each PSP	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		ix	Confirm any native vegetation to be retained in the biodiversity areas in the NVPP for each precinct	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		x	Define the purpose, biodiversity management actions and design requirements for locations that can provide co-benefits for biodiversity and incorporate these into permit conditions or similar	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
iii	Investigation areas within the WGGA will be confirmed as either:	xi	Use detailed ecological survey data to confirm the biodiversity values of the investigation areas	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic conservation areas Biodiversity opportunity areas Areas not suitable for biodiversity protection and rather suitable for development 		within the WGGA, in accordance with relevant survey guidelines or standards			
		xii	Apply the BCS guiding principles relating to strategic conservation areas to identify locations that should be protected, managed and restored. Implement relevant measures relating to Commitments i, iv and v for any locations identified as strategic conservation areas	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xiii	Apply the BCS guiding principles relating to biodiversity opportunity areas to identify locations that can provide co-benefits for biodiversity. Implement relevant measures relating to Commitment ii for any locations identified	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xiv	Amend mapping within the BCS to confirm the location of the strategic conservation areas and the biodiversity opportunity areas	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
iv	Conservation Management Plans will be prepared and implemented for the protection and ongoing management of biodiversity values within each of the strategic conservation areas	xv	Where appropriate, undertake ecological surveys of the strategic conservation areas to inform development of the Conservation Management Plan and establish year 1 baseline data	City of Greater Geelong	Relevant landholder(s)	At the time the land is secured
		xvi	Include the following information in the Conservation Management Plans for the Moorabool River Corridor and Barwon River Corridor (as well as any additional Strategic Conservation Areas identified through Commitment iii): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary of the conservation area Native vegetation to be retained as identified in the NVPP 	City of Greater Geelong	Corangamite CMA	Within 1 year of establishment of the conservation areas

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any locations suitable for public access points, walking paths/trails, and passive recreation Any locations suitable for water management assets and associated infrastructure Management actions and arrangements to protect and restore biodiversity values, including methods, standards and techniques, roles and responsibilities, timing for implementation, funding and monitoring and reporting 			
v	<p>The following additional specific mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise the indirect impacts of the development on the environmental values of the strategic conservation areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a conservation interface for each strategic conservation area Design and baffle public lighting to prevent light spill and glare within the strategic conservation areas Prepare Construction Environmental Management Plans for construction works on land immediately adjacent to the strategic conservation areas 	xvii	Identify a conservation interface between urban development and the boundaries of each strategic conservation area in plans within relevant PSPs. The conservation interface should be established in accordance with relevant principles and standards in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors</i> (DEPI, 2013)	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xviii	Include the design and baffle of public lighting as a requirement or guideline in PSPs and/or as a condition on permits for land use, subdivision and development, as appropriate	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xix	Include the preparation of Construction Environmental Management Plans for construction works on land immediately adjacent to the strategic conservation areas as a requirement or guideline in PSPs and/or as a condition on permits for land use, subdivision and development, as appropriate	City of Greater Geelong	-	At PSP preparation stage (for conditions included as requirements and guidelines in PSPs) and at the planning permit stage (for conditions included as permit conditions)
		xx	Monitor and report on the inclusion of the specific mitigation measures in PSPs and as	City of Greater Geelong	-	As part of annual progress reporting

No.	Commitment	No.	Measure	Responsibility	Key support partner(s)	Timing
			conditions on permits, as part of the monitoring program and annual progress reporting under the MERI framework			
vi	State offsets to compensate for the loss to biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation will be provided in accordance with the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c)	xxi	Undertake surveys within each PSP prior to development	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xxii	Determine State offset requirements at the precinct level in accordance with the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c)	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xxiii	Confirm State offset requirements through the NVPP for each precinct	City of Greater Geelong	DEECA	At PSP preparation stage for the relevant precinct
		xxiv	Secure offsets in accordance with the eligibility, security and offset management requirements of the <i>Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation</i> (DELWP, 2017c) (or equivalent). Secure offsets prior to the commencement of works.	Project proponent	City of Greater Geelong	Prior to development

References

Commonwealth of Australia (2012) 'How to use the offsets assessment guide'.

Corangamite CMA (2014) 'Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014 - 2022'.

DELWP (2017a) 'Growling Grass Frog Crossing Design Standards Melbourne Strategic Assessment'. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

DELWP (2017b) 'Growling Grass Frog Habitat Design Standards Melbourne Strategic Assessment'. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

DELWP (2017c) 'Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation'.

DEPI (2013) 'Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors'.

DoE (2014) 'Environmental Management Plan Guidelines 2014'. Commonwealth Department of the Environment.

DSEWPC (2012) 'Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy'.

The City of Greater Geelong (2021) 'The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan.'

The City of Greater Geelong (2022) 'Greater Geelong Planning Scheme'.