

ATTACHMENT 3 – BIODIVERSITY VALUE OF LAND PROPOSED TO FORM REGIONAL PARK SECTION OF CONSERVATION AREA 36

Growling Grass Frog

The subject land is considered to represent primary Growling Grass Frog habitat. The land is low lying and was formerly part of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp. The Clyde Creek runs through it and becomes the Western Outfall Drain in southern sections where the waterway has been channelised.

The land is dominated by open grassy areas suitable for Growling Grass Frog foraging. Growling Grass Frogs have been recorded within the subject land and in areas directly adjoining it. They are considered likely to regularly utilise the subject land for foraging and dispersal.

The value of the land for Growling Grass Frog is further enhanced by the following:

- The land's connection to other sections of Conservation Area 36 to the north (within the Urban Growth Boundary) via a bridge under Ballarto Road. The current bridge provides sufficient openness to facilitate the north-south movement of Growling Grass Frogs;
- The land adjoins large sections of land that are planned for future public land-use (the total area of public land would be 395 hectares). This includes land for a Melbourne Water managed water reserve to the south and municipal sports reserves to the east. In particular, the water reserve would complement the Growling Grass Frog conservation objectives of Conservation Area 36 through creation of stormwater wetlands and a retarding basin.
- The land provides a strategic location for the creation of breeding wetlands for Growling Grass Frogs due its large size (113 hectares), proximity to Clyde Creek and connection to sections of Conservation Area 36 within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Other

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy outlines that the future Melbourne Water water reserve to be located immediately south-east of the Urban Growth Corridor (directly south of the proposed addition of Conservation Area 36) has potential to deliver significant outcomes for biodiversity, including:

- Creation of Growling Grass Frog habitat;
- Enhancement and creation of habitat for migratory birds;
- Potential creation of Dwarf Galaxias habitat;
- Potential enhancement and creation of Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat.

The proposed relocation of the Cranbourne Regional Park section of Conservation Area 36 to directly adjoin this water reserve increases the potential for significant biodiversity outcomes to be achieved at this location.