



RAVENHALL PRISON PROJECT

REFERRAL OF A PROJECT FOR A DECISION
ON THE NEED FOR ASSESSMENT UNDER
THE ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978



Department of Justice
18th January 2013

PART 1 PROPONENT DETAILS, PROJECT DESCRIPTION & LOCATION

1. Information on proponent and person making Referral

Name of Proponent:	Department of Justice
Authorised person for proponent:	Johan Top
Position:	Project Adviser, Ravenhall Prison Project
Postal address:	Department of Justice, Level 30, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 3000
Email address:	johan.top@justice.vic.gov.au
Phone number:	03 8684 7708
Facsimile number:	03 8684 0521
Person who prepared Referral:	Sarah Emons and Sarah Ancell
Position:	Director and Senior Consultant
Organisation:	Urbis
Postal address:	Level 12, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Email address:	semons@urbis.com.au
Phone number:	03 8663 4851
Facsimile number:	03 8663 4999
Available industry & environmental expertise: (areas of 'in-house' expertise & consultancy firms engaged for project)	Urbis – Planning Assessment Biosis – Vegetation Assessment, Flora and Fauna Assessment, Cultural Heritage Assessment Arup – Site Assessment

2. Project – brief outline

Project title: Ravenhall Prison
Project location: (describe location with AMG coordinates and attach A4/A3 map(s) showing project site or investigation area, as well as its regional and local context)
<p>The subject site comprises two land parcels situated within the existing Department of Justice prison precinct in Ravenhall, being:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A vacant parcel of approximately 40.5ha situated between the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (Women's Prison) and the Melbourne Remand Centre (identified as Site 1 on the Location map attached at Appendix A); ▪ A further site of 20.83ha located immediately east of the Deer Park Bypass (identified as Site 2 on the Location Map attached at Appendix A). <p>In a broader strategic context, the land is positioned between the Melton and Wyndham growth corridors, both of which were expanded in December 2010 to provide for increased residential growth in Melbourne's west. In the immediate local context, the Derrimut residential area and Truganina employment precinct have encroached towards the prison precinct in recent years, but remain well buffered from the land by virtue of the Deer Park Bypass, the conservation reserves and the arterial road network.</p>

The AMG coordinates for the sites are as follows:

Site	Location Point	Latitude			Longitude		
		degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
Site 1	1	37	46	51	144	44	45
Site 1	2	37	46	51	144	44	49
Site 1	3	37	47	23	144	44	53
Site 1	4	37	47	26	144	44	54
Site 1	5	37	47	23	144	44	30
Site 1	6	37	47	5	144	44	32
Site 1	7	37	47	4	144	44	22
Site 1	8	37	47	2	144	44	23
Site 1	9	37	47	3	144	44	43
Site 2	1	37	46	51	144	44	54
Site 2	2	37	46	53	144	45	17
Site 2	3	37	47	6	144	44	56
Site 2	4	37	47	5	144	45	15

Short project description (few sentences):

The proposed prison at Ravenhall is an important element in the Victorian Government's program to relieve growing pressures on the capacity of Victoria's prison system. The project will deliver a new 500 bed medium security male prison, situated centrally within the existing prison precinct at Ravenhall, adjacent to the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and Melbourne Metropolitan Remand Centre.

The project will involve:

- Buildings and works associated with the construction of the prison buildings, perimeter fencing and ancillary buildings.
- Construction of two new T-intersections to facilitate access into the sites from Riding Boundary Road.
- The creation of internal access roads.
- The creation of parking areas, including a bus stop for the #400 bus service.
- Removal of native vegetation to enable the above activities.

The proposed project works will be considered for approval by the Minister for Planning in 2013, following the preparation of a Correctional Facility Development Plan by the Department of Justice.

3. Project description

Aim/objectives of the project (what is its purpose / intended to achieve?):

The proposed prison at Ravenhall is an important element in the Victorian Government's program to relieve growing pressures on the capacity of Victoria's prison system. The project will deliver a new 500 bed prison, and will generate benefits to the local economy through creation of jobs and increased demand for local services.

Background/rationale of project (describe the context / basis for the proposal, eg. for siting):

The rationale for selection of the Ravenhall site has been informed by a wide range of factors, including site accessibility, transport and infrastructure requirements, social and environmental issues, and community acceptance. The strategic and physical context of the site provide strong support for the proposed use, as evidenced by the following:-

- The site is located adjacent to two existing correctional facilities, which significantly reduces planning risk associated with the establishment of a new prison in this location.
- The site is strategically located adjacent or close to a range of non-sensitive land uses that are capable of serving as long term buffers around the proposed use.
- The site enjoys good access to employment markets in the surrounding growth areas of Brimbank, Wyndham and Melton.
- The site is well serviced by existing public and private transport.
- The Route 400 bus service could readily service the site with a minor adjustment to the current route and timetabling.
- The accessibility of the site by rail may further improve with the construction of the Regional Rail Link and nearby stations.

Main components of the project (nature, siting & approx. dimensions; attach A4/A3 plan(s) of site layout if available):

The project will comprise the construction of a 500 bed men's prison (able to be expanded in the future), accessed from Riding Boundary Road. The detailed siting and design of the proposed facility is yet to be resolved, hence a site layout plan is not yet available. It is anticipated that the main prison facility will be located within Site 1, with various ancillary facilities to be developed within Site 2.

Site 1 will be developed with low density campus-style buildings enclosed within a perimeter security wall. The prison buildings will be interspersed with areas of undeveloped land, both within and external to the security wall.

Site 2 will be developed with low density ancillary buildings and will contain substantial undeveloped areas, resulting in a relatively low site coverage.

Ancillary components of the project (eg. upgraded access roads, new high-pressure gas pipeline; off-site resource processing):

The creation of two (2) new local access connections off Riding Boundary Road will be required to facilitate vehicle access into Sites 1 and 2.

Key construction activities:

A comprehensive construction program will be developed once a project contractor is appointed in 2014. The key construction activities are expected to include:-

- Demolition of existing structures on Sites 1 and 2.

- Removal of vegetation (native and non native).
- Remediation of any identified contaminated land.
- Site levelling.
- Erection of protective fencing around vegetation to be retained (if required in the Environmental Management Plan).
- Any mitigation works arising from the Cultural Heritage Management Plans for Sites 1 and 2.
- Construction of the prison buildings, perimeter fencing, car parking and internal access roads within Site 1.
- Construction of ancillary buildings, car parking and internal access road within Site 2.
- Construction of two new T-intersections to facilitate access into the sites from Riding Boundary Road.

Key operational activities:

The sites will be used for prison purposes and may include ancillary activities, consistent with the purpose of the proposed Special Use Zone.

Key decommissioning activities (if applicable):

N/A

Is the project an element or stage in a larger project?

☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, please describe: the overall project strategy for delivery of all stages and components; the concept design for the overall project; and the intended scheduling of the design and development of project stages).

Is the project related to any other past, current or mooted proposals in the region?

☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, please identify related proposals.

4. Project alternatives

Brief description of key alternatives considered to date (eg. locational, scale or design alternatives. If relevant, attach A4/A3 plans):

Alternative site options were considered by government. This site best meets the requirements of government for the planned delivery of correctional services.

Brief description of key alternatives to be further investigated (if known):

None

5. Proposed exclusions

Statement of reasons for the proposed exclusion of any ancillary activities or further project stages from the scope of the project for assessment:

N/A

6. Project implementation

Implementing organisation (ultimately responsible for project, ie. not contractor):

Department of Justice

Implementation timeframe:

Construction of prison to be completed in 2017.

Proposed staging (if applicable):

N/A

7. Description of proposed site or area of investigation

Has a preferred site for the project been selected?

☒ No ☒ Yes If no, please describe area for investigation.

If yes, please describe the preferred site in the next items (if practicable).

General description of preferred site, (including aspects such as topography/landform, soil types/degradation, drainage/ waterways, native/exotic vegetation cover, physical features, built structures, road frontages; attach ground-level photographs of site, as well as A4/A3 aerial/satellite image(s) and/or map(s) of site & surrounds, showing project footprint):

The topography of the site is generally flat (refer to Contour Plan attached at Appendix A) and contains patches of very high conservation significance native vegetation and threatened fauna (refer to the Biodiversity Assessment Report attached at Appendix B). The site and surrounding area are characterised by a generally open rural landscape, save for the existing prison buildings to the north and south (refer to Aerial Photo at Appendix A and Photos of Site at Appendix A). The elevated Deer Park Bypass is also a dominant feature of the landscape, creating a strong visual break between the residential areas of Derrimut to the east and the prison precinct to the west of the Bypass.

Site 1 contains an area of wetland in the south-western corner. Site 2 contains two small lakes/dams and Melbourne Water's recently constructed concrete-lined culvert that drains water from land to the north and feeds it into the wetland to the south.

Site area (if known): 61.33ha (Site 1 being 40.5ha and Site 2 being 20.83ha)

Route length (for linear infrastructure) ...n/a..... (km) **and width** ...n/a..... (m)

Current land use and development:

The site and surrounding area are characterised by a generally open rural landscape, save for the existing prison buildings to the north and south. Sites 1 and 2 were formerly used by the Department of Defence for munitions testing and destruction. A number of buildings and structures associated with this former use remain including:

- A fenced compound which contains an office/amenities building, a rocket testing facility, a large concrete building, an iron shed, and two blast shelters.
- A large steel urn.
- A small brick building.

Description of local setting (eg. adjoining land uses, road access, infrastructure, proximity to residences & urban centres):

The existing and emerging land use context of the site and its immediate surrounds are illustrated on the Land Use Context map attached at Appendix A and explained in further detail below:

North:

- To the north Site 1 directly adjoins the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and Riding Boundary Road. Riding Boundary Road lies to the north of Site 2.
- The Department of Justice land abutting the road is affected by a Public Acquisition Overlay in favour of Vic Roads, which was reserved to provide for the construction of a half diamond interchange. The interchange is no longer required, and the land is to be transferred to the Department of Justice to enable the construction of a new entry road to serve the proposed prison. It is noted that the construction of the Regional Rail Link will turn Riding Boundary Road into a dead end road at Christies Road.
- North of Riding Boundary Road, the site adjoins the Robinsons Road Employment Centre Area North (which is subject to a Precinct Structure Plan currently being implemented via Planning Scheme Amendment C061) and land within a proposed Growth Area Framework Plan.

East:

- To the east Site 1 directly adjoins the Western Freeway (Deer Park Bypass), beyond which lies a Melbourne Water site retarding area and Crown land enshrined as a grassland conservation reserve. The Western Freeway includes land around it reserved for road widening.
- Site 2 adjoins Robinsons Road to the east. The Derrimut residential area is located east of Robinsons Road.

South:

- To the south Site 1 directly adjoins the Metropolitan Remand Centre.
- Site 2 directly adjoins one of the grassland conservation reserves to the south.
- Middle Road borders the southern boundary of the prison precinct, where a reservation also runs in parallel to provide a potential link between the Western Freeway and the proposed Outer Metropolitan Ring Road.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Robinsons Road Employment Centre Area (South), which is subject to a Precinct Structure Plan, is located south of Middle Road.
<p>West:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To the west Site 1 directly adjoins a Crown land Conservation Reserve. ▪ The western boundary of the wider site is subject to a Public Acquisition Overlay for the Regional Rail Link, which is proposed to carry both passenger and freight services. Beyond this lies the Boral quarry site and land within the Melton-Wyndham Growth Area Framework Plan. The Department of Transport's 'Freight Futures' plan also shows the land to the west as a potential Stage 2 freight terminal location. <p>The wider prison precinct includes grassland conservation reserves that were established by the Department of Justice as native vegetation reserves at the time of the development of the Metropolitan Remand Centre. These high value grasslands are managed by Parks Victoria with recurrent funding provided specifically for this purpose, and assist in providing a natural buffer from residential developments and allow flexibility for future development to occur on the remaining undeveloped land within the precinct. The reserves were gazetted as Conservation Reserves under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 and will be rezoned to a Public Conservation and Resource Zone as part of the project. Refer to the Location Map at Appendix A for the location of these reserves.</p> <p>The Transport Context Map attached at Appendix A depicts the existing and proposed transportation networks that serve the site. The Social and Community Issues Map attached at Appendix A depicts key existing and proposed social infrastructure including schools, activity centres and social housing estates.</p>
<p>Planning context (eg. strategic planning, zoning & overlays, management plans):</p> <p>The sites are presently included in the Public Use 7 Zone and are surrounded by land zoned Special Use 2, Special Use 6, Public Use 7 and Farming (Refer to Figure 4). The sites are also affected by the Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1 and Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 4, both of which relate to the Deer Park Bypass. The Design and Development Overlay requires noise attenuation to be provided for sensitive uses (including corrective institutions). Public Acquisition Overlay – Schedule 4 also affects part of the wider precinct; this overlay sets aside land for the Regional Rail Link. Refer to the Zoning and Overlay maps at Appendix A.</p> <p>On 19th December 2012, the Minister for Planning, at the request of the Department of Justice, prepared and approved Planning Scheme Amendment C136 to the Melton Planning Scheme, using his powers under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The planning scheme amendment applies to Department of Justice land in the Ravenhall prison precinct, and is expected to be gazetted in late January 2013. The approved amendment:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rezones parts of the subject land from Public Use Zone 7 and Special Use Zones 2 and 6 to Special Use Zone – Schedule 8 to facilitate the development of a new correctional facility and establish a consistent zoning framework across the prison precinct. The Special Use Zone requires the approval of a Correctional Facility Development Plan (CFDP) by the Minister for Planning, and the approval of an Environmental Management Plan by DSE, before development can commence. ▪ Rezones two existing conservation reserves from Public Use Zone 7 to Public Conservation and Resource Zone to reflect their status as grassland conservation reserves. ▪ Removes the Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1 from part of the subject land but require that noise attenuation measures related to the Deer Park Bypass be considered as part of the Correctional Facility Development Plan. ▪ Removes the Public Acquisition Overlay from parts of the subject land that are no longer required for road purposes, to facilitate their transfer from VicRoads to the Department of Justice.

- Exempts the Special Use 8 zoned land from the requirements of Clause 52.17 to allow vegetation removal without the need for a planning permit.

Local government area(s):

Melton City Council

8. Existing environment

Overview of key environmental assets/sensitivities in project area and vicinity

(cf. general description of project site/study area under section 7):

Key values within the study area include:

- Vegetation consistent with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain community.
- A single patch of native vegetation consistent with the EPBC-listed Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains community.
- Habitat for EPBC-listed flora species: Spiny Rice-flower *Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens* and Small Golden Moths orchid *Diuris basaltica*.
- Habitat for EPBC-listed fauna species including Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar*, Golden Sun Moth *Synemon plana* and Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*.
- Two Ecological Vegetation Classes: *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland and Plains Grassy Wetland. The *Low-Rainfall* Plains Grassland is also consistent with the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) listed Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland community.
- Fifty habitat zones across the two sites including:
 - Site 1: 29 habitat zones, 16.35 ha of native vegetation, 0.02 habitat hectares of vegetation of High conservation significance and 7.26 habitat hectares of vegetation of Very High conservation significance (7.28 habitat hectares in total).
 - Site 2: 21 habitat zones, 4.85 ha of native vegetation, 1.96 habitat hectares of vegetation of Very High conservation significance.
- Five State-listed flora species: Pale Swamp Everlasting *Helichrysum* aff. *rutidolepis* (Lowland Swamps), Fragrant Saltbush *Rhagodia parabolica*, Pale-flower Crane's-bill *Geranium* sp. 3, Pale Spike-sedge *Eleocharis pallens* and Slender Bindweed *Convolvulus angustissimus* subsp. *omnigracilis*.
- The study area falls within a Biosite of State significance: Ravenhall Grasslands Nature Conservation Reserve (Biosite 4205).

9. Land availability and control

<p>Is the proposal on, or partly on, Crown land?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please provide details.</p> <p>The site is part of Allotment 2007 Parish of Derrimut</p>
<p>Current land tenure (provide plan, if practicable): Crown land</p>
<p>Intended land tenure (tenure over or access to project land):</p>
<p>Other interests in affected land (eg. easements, native title claims):</p> <p>N/A</p>

10. Required approvals

<p>State and Commonwealth approvals required for project components (if known):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Planning Scheme Amendment C136 was approved by the Minister for Planning on 19th December 2012, at the request of the Department of Justice, which applies to Department of Justice land in the Ravenhall prison precinct. The approved amendment facilitates the introduction of a new zone framework to the land and in particular:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rezones parts of the subject land from Public Use Zone 7 and Special Use Zones 2 and 6 to Special Use Zone – Schedule 8 to facilitate the development of a new correctional facility and establish a consistent zoning framework across the prison precinct. The Special Use Zone requires the preparation and approval of a Correctional Facility Development Plan by the Minister for Planning before development can commence. ▪ Rezones two existing conservation reserves from Public Use Zone 7 to Public Conservation and Resource Zone to reflect their status as grassland conservation reserves. ▪ Removes the Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 1 from part of the subject land but requires that noise attenuation measures related to the Deer Park Bypass be considered as part of the Correctional Facility Development Plan. ▪ Removes the Public Acquisition Overlay from parts of the subject land that are no longer required for road purposes, to facilitate their transfer from VicRoads to the Department of Justice. ▪ Exempts the Special Use 8 zoned land from the requirements of Clause 52.17 to allow vegetation removal without the need for a planning permit. 2) Approval of the Correctional Facility Development Plan by the Minister for Planning. 3) Approval of an Environmental Management Plan by DSE as part of the Correctional Facility Development Plan, which will address the removal of native vegetation, habitat for the threatened species and ensure that impacts to the adjacent conservation reserves are avoided. 4) State approval by the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change is required for the removal of native vegetation. 5) A permit will be required from the Department of Sustainability and Environment under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act to remove protected flora and listed communities from public land.
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- 6) Some parts of the study area support Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). Site 1 is located within one of the four new growth areas (Western Growth Area – Wyndham/Melton) covered by the Melbourne Strategic Assessment (DSE 2009c). The Western Growth Area is currently awaiting approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment. Until approved, any development within this area that is likely to result in a significant impact on a MNES will need to be referred to the Minister to determine whether the action requires EPBC approval. It is likely that any EPBC referral will need to identify and be consistent with the relevant prescriptions approved under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment.
- 7) An Application for Consent will need to be lodged with Heritage Victoria to carry out works or activities within the boundaries of a heritage place or object (H7822-0174); refer to Section 15 for further details.
- 8) Standard Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Site 1 and Complex Cultural Heritage Management plan for Site 2.
- 9) At this stage, it is not envisaged that the project will be determined as a 'scheduled premise' under the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions) Regulations 2007, and as such works approvals or licences under the Environment Protection Act 1970 are unlikely to be required. However, this will be determined in consultation with the Environment Protection Agency once the exact nature of ancillary activities associated with the prison are known.

Have any applications for approval been lodged?

☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, please provide details.

Planning Scheme Amendment C136 has been prepared and approved by the Minister for Planning, which establishes a new zoning framework for the prison precinct. Gazettal of the Amendment is anticipated in late January 2013. No other applications for authority approval have been lodged to date.

Approval agency consultation (agencies with whom the proposal has been discussed):

- Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development
- Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- Victorian Department of Sustainability and the Environment

Other agencies consulted:

- VicRoads
- Parks Victoria
- Melton City Council
- Brimbank City Council

PART 2 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

11. Potentially significant environmental effects

Overview of potentially significant environmental effects (identify key potential effects and comment on their significance and likelihood, as well as key uncertainties):

Future development of the study area has the potential to result in the following impacts to biodiversity values:

- Removal of up to 17.52 ha of native vegetation which is consistent with the EPBC-listed ecological community: Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.
- Removal of 0.51 ha of native vegetation consistent with the EPBC-listed: Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains.
- Removal of up to 20.63 ha of native vegetation which is consistent with the FFG-listed community: Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland.
- Removal of up to 21.2 ha of native vegetation which corresponds with two Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs):
 - 20.63 ha and of *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland (EVC 132_63) which constitutes 8.94 habitat hectares of Very High Conservation Significance vegetation.
 - 0.57 ha of Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) which constitutes 0.28 habitat hectares of Very High and 0.2 habitat hectares of High conservation significance vegetation.
- Removal of potential habitat for significant flora species including EPBC-listed Spiny Rice-flower and Small Golden Moths orchid.
- Removal and/or modification of known or potential habitat for EPBC-listed fauna species including Golden Sun Moth, Striped Legless Lizard and Growling Grass Frog.
- Removal of individuals and habitat for rare and threatened flora species listed on the DSE Advisory List:
 - Pale Swamp Everlasting
 - Fragrant Saltbush
 - Pale-flower Crane's-bill
 - Pale Spike-sedge
 - Slender Bindweed
- Removal and/or modification of potential wetland habitat for state significant waterbirds and other aquatic fauna.
- Reduction in viability of retained vegetation and fauna habitat in the local area.
- Accidental loss or damage to retained vegetation during the construction phase. Refer to the Biodiversity Assessment Report in Appendix B for further details.
- There are no potentially significant environmental effects anticipated on water environments, landscape and soils, social environments (including traffic), cultural heritage, or energy, wastes and greenhouse emissions.

Refer to the maps in Appendix C for further details of the environmental features of the site.

12. Native vegetation, flora and fauna

Native vegetation

Is any native vegetation likely to be cleared or otherwise affected by the project?

☒ NYD ☒ No ☒ Yes If yes, answer the following questions and attach details.

What investigation of native vegetation in the project area has been done? (briefly describe)

Sections of the study area and its surrounds have been previously assessed for biodiversity values as part of a number of developments and infrastructure projects including the Deer Park Bypass, Regional Rail Link, Metropolitan Remand Centre and the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.

A Biodiversity Assessment Report has been prepared by Biosis Research specifically for this project (refer to Appendix B). The assessment included targeted searches for listed communities and a habitat hectares assessment (Biosis Research 2012). Note that the subject land is referred to as Sites 1 and 2 in the Biosis Research report.

What is the maximum area of native vegetation that may need to be cleared?

☒ NYD Estimated area 21.2 ha (Biosis Research 2012).

How much of this clearing would be authorised under a Forest Management Plan or Fire Protection Plan?

☒ N/A approx. percent (if applicable)

Which Ecological Vegetation Classes may be affected? (if not authorised as above)

☒ NYD ☒ Preliminary/detailed assessment completed. If assessed, please list.

Two Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) occur within the study area: *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland and Plains Grassy Wetland (Biosis Research 2012).

Low-rainfall Plains Grassland

Up to 20.63 ha of *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland (EVC 132_63) may be affected by the project which constitutes 8.94 habitat hectares of Very High Conservation Significance vegetation.

Low-rainfall Plains Grassland occurs across much of the project area and is dominated by either Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* or a mixture of wallaby grasses *Rytidosperma* spp. and spear grasses *Austrostipa* spp. Other common species include Berry Saltbush *Atriplex semibaccata*, Annual Cudweed *Euchiton sphaericus*, Cotton Fireweed *Senecio quadridentatus* and Hairy Willow-herb *Epilobium hirtigerum*.

Embedded basalt occurs in many of the grassland areas dominated by Kangaroo Grass indicating that these areas may have remained relatively undisturbed in the past.

Low-rainfall Plains Grassland is Endangered within the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion.

All of the *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland within the study area is consistent with the FFG-listed community: Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland. Most of these grassland areas are also consistent with the EPBC-listed community: Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. The difference in extent of these two different threatened grassland communities is result of the more detailed size and quality thresholds required for an area of Plains Grassland to be consistent with the EPBC community.

Plains Grassy Wetland

A total of 0.57 ha of Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) will be affected by the project which constitutes 0.28 habitat hectares of Very High and 0.2 habitat hectares of High conservation significance vegetation.

Plains Grassy Wetland occurs in three locations within Site 1. Dominant species found in these areas include Common Spike-sedge *Eleocharis acuta*, Brown-back Wallaby-grass *Austrodanthonia duttoniana* and Small Loosestrife *Lythrum hyssopifolia*.

Plains Grassy Wetland is Endangered in the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion.

The largest wetland area mapped in Site 1 is also consistent with the EPBC-listed community: Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains.

Have potential vegetation offsets been identified as yet?

NYD ☒ Yes If yes, please briefly describe.

For the project to meet its Net Gain obligations it is proposed that the necessary offsets come from two adjacent grassland conservation reserves managed by Parks Victoria. These reserves include a 66 ha area to the west of the Remand Centre (Allotment 2041, Parish of Derrimut) and a 27 ha area south of Site 2, to the east of the Deer Park Bypass (Allotment 2009, Parish of Derrimut).

These reserves are currently listed as Crown Land (with a single Tenure ID of 2014441) and zoned as Public Use 7. These areas will become Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) as part of the re-zoning process for the new prison development.

This offset approach has been proposed as these reserves were set aside as high quality habitat for conservation purposes when development was considered in the area by the Department of Justice (DoJ) for the construction of the Metropolitan Remand Centre. This was despite there being no offset requirements associated with the construction of the Metropolitan Remand Centre, which was built on degraded farmland (Lady Gee Ranch) that was purchased specifically to avoid impacts to native vegetation. In 2002, capital funding of \$100,000 was provided to DSE for the establishment of the reserves, and \$20,000 per year (indexed from 2002) has been contributed since then for their ongoing management, which has been undertaken by Parks Victoria.

DSE has considered the net gain offset obligations arising from the proposed prison project, and advised DoJ by way of letter dated 2nd November 2012, that in relation to its matters, "...DSE can advise that the loss of Plains Grassland/Natural Temperate Grassland associated with the proposal have been fully offset by the creation and protection of the two existing Grassland Conservation Reserves totalling 93ha, managed by Parks Victoria."

These offsets are also expected to meet any requirements under federal legislation. This will be discussed further with DSEWPaC in relation to the proposed EPBC referral.

Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)

N/A

NYD = not yet determined

Flora and fauna

What investigations of flora and fauna in the project area have been done?

(provide overview here and attach details of method and results of any surveys for the project & describe their accuracy)

A Biodiversity Assessment Report has been prepared (specifically for this project (Biosis Research 2012)). This report is provided in Appendix B. The report documents the methods and result of a habitat hectare assessment and targeted searches for the following significant flora and fauna:

- Golden Sun Moth
- Growling Grass Frog
- Plains-wanderer

- Grassland Earless Dragon
- Fat-tailed Dunnart
- Late spring targeted search for significant flora.

Sections of the study area and adjacent areas have been previously assessed for their biodiversity values as part of a number of developments and infrastructure projects including the Deer Park Bypass, Regional Rail Link, Melbourne Metropolitan Remand Centre and the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.

Other assessments undertaken within the study area and in adjacent areas have informed the Biodiversity Assessment Report are as follows:

- Ravenhall Development: Preliminary Flora and Fauna Assessment (Ecology Australia, 2002).
- Ravenhall Grasslands: Biodiversity Assessment (Ecology Australia, 2003).
- Flora and Fauna Review Study and Net Gain Assessment for the Proposed Deer Park Bypass: Alignment Option 2 (Biosis Research, 2005).
- Targeted Surveys for the Golden Sun Moth & Growling Grass Frog along the Proposed Deer Park Bypass (Biosis Research, 2006).
- Salvage of the Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* within the Deer Park Bypass Right-of-way (Biosis Research, 2007).
- Flora and Fauna Assessment of Department of Justice Land, Ravenhall (Practical Ecology, 2010).
- Regional Rail Link – Section 2: Flora and Fauna Assessment, Aquatic Survey and Net Gain Assessment, Melbourne – Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2010).
- Environmental Management Plan for Proposed Extension to Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, 101-201 Riding Boundary Road, Deer Park, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2011a).
- Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* Salvage and Translocation Plan for the Proposed Expansion of the Existing Women's Prison, Riding Boundary Road, Deer Park, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2011b).
- Flora and Fauna Assessment of the Proposed Women's Prison Expansion, 101-201 Riding Boundary Road, Deer Park, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2011c).
- Targeted Spiny Rice-flower *Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *spinescens* Survey, Riding Boundary Road, Deer Park, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2011d) – this report is attached as Appendix D.
- Striped Legless Lizard *Delma impar* salvage and translocation measures – Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Ravenhall, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2011e).
- Growling Grass Frog *Litoria reniformis* Salvage and translocation measures – Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Ravenhall, Victoria (Ecology and Heritage Partners, 2011f).

Have any threatened or migratory species or listed communities been recorded from the local area?

☐ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, please:

List species/communities recorded in recent surveys and/or past observations.

The following rare or threatened flora species have been recorded or are predicted to occur within 5 km of the study area:

Scientific name	Common name	EPBC	DSE	FFG	Most recent record
National Significance:					
<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	River Swamp Wallaby-grass	VU			#/1991
<i>Carex tasmanica</i>	Curly Sedge	VU	v	L	#
<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Matted Flax-lily	EN	e	L	2004
<i>Diuris basaltica</i>	Small Golden Moths	EN	v	L	2004/#
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine	VU	v	L	#
<i>Pimelea spinescens</i> subsp. <i>spinescens</i>	Spiny Rice-flower	CR	e	L	2010/#
<i>Prasophyllum frenchii</i>	Maroon Leek-orchid	EN	e	L	#
<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoidea</i>	Button Wrinklewort	EN	e	L	2009/#
<i>Senecio macrocarpus</i>	Large-headed Fireweed	VU	e	L	2009/#
State Significance:					
<i>Alternanthera</i> sp. 1 (Plains)	Plains Joyweed		k		2009
<i>Comesperma polygaloides</i>	Small Milkwort		v	L	1996
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i> subsp. <i>omnigracilis</i>	Slender Bindweed		k		2009
<i>Cullen parvum</i>	Small Scurf-pea		e	L	2009
<i>Cullen tenax</i>	Tough Scurf-pea			L	2010
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	Slender Tick-trefoil		k		2010
<i>Dianella</i> sp. aff. <i>longifolia</i> (Benambra)	Arching Flax-lily		v		2010
<i>Eleocharis macbarronii</i>	Grey Spike-sedge		k		1993
<i>Eleocharis pallens</i>	Pale Spike-sedge		k		1999
<i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i> s.s.	Austral Crane's-bill		v		2010
<i>Geranium</i> sp. 3	Pale-flower Crane's-bill		r		2010
<i>Goodenia macbarronii</i>	Narrow Goodenia		v	L	2009
<i>Helichrysum</i> aff. <i>rutidolepis</i> (Lowland Swamps)	Pale Swamp Everlasting		v		2008
<i>Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium</i>	Native Peppercress		k		2009
<i>Podolepis</i> sp. 1	Basalt Podolepis		e		1991
<i>Rhagodia parabolica</i>	Fragrant Saltbush		r		2009
<i>Tripogon loliiformis</i>	Rye Beetle-grass		r		2009

EPBC: CR - Critically Endangered, E - Endangered, V - Vulnerable; **DSE:** e - endangered, v - vulnerable, r - rare; **FFG:** L - listed as threatened under FFG Act; **Most recent record:** # - predicted to occur by the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool

The following rare or threatened fauna species have been recorded or are predicted to occur within 5 km of the study area:

Scientific name	Common name	EPBC	FFG	DSE	Most recent record
National significance					
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	VU	en	L	#
<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>	Plains-wanderer	VU	cr	L	1979
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	EN	en	L	#
<i>Tympanocryptis pinguicollis</i>	Grassland Earless Dragon	EN	cr	L	#

<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	CR	cr	L	1977
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	EN	en	L	#
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	EN	cr	L	#
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll	EN	en	L	#
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	VU	vu	L	#
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse	VU	vu	L	#
<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard	VU	en	L	2008/#
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Growling Grass Frog	VU	en	L	2007/#
<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Australian Grayling	VU	vu	L	#
<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	Dwarf Galaxias	VU	vu	L	#
<i>Sternula nereis nereis</i>	Fairy Tern	VU	en	L	#
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	VU	cr	L	#/1977
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth	CR	cr	L	2006
State significance					
<i>Turnix pyrrhorostrax</i>	Red-chested Button-quail		vu	L	1990
<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Baillon's Crake		vu	L	2003
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret		vu	L	#/1990
<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead		vu		1977
<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck		vu		1977
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle		vu	L	#
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black Falcon		vu		2003
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail		vu	L	1898
Other significance					
<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Brown Quail		nt		2004
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe		nt		#/1988
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Nankeen Night Heron		nt		1999
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier		nt		2007
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern ssp.)		nt		1905
<i>Melithripes gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater		nt		1905
<i>Sminthopsis crassicaudata</i>	Fat-tailed Dunnart		nt		2004

EPBC: CR - Critically Endangered, E - Endangered, V – Vulnerable; **DSE:** e – endangered, v – vulnerable, r – rare; **FFG:** L - listed as threatened under FFG Act; **Most recent record:** # - predicted to occur by the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool

The following migratory species have been recorded or are predicted to occur within 5 km of the study area:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Most recent record
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	#
<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>	Lewin's Rail	2006
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	2006
<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	2006/#
<i>Ardea modesta</i>	Eastern Great Egret	2006/#
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	#
<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>	Orange-bellied Parrot	1977
<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Rainbow Bee-eater	2006/#
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	#
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	2006/#
<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous Fantail	#
<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	Satin Flycatcher	#
<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	Clamorous Reed Warbler	2010

<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	#
<i>Ardea ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	2006/#
<i>Rostratula benghalensis australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	1977/#

Most recent record: # - predicted to occur by the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool

Indicate which of these have been recorded from the project site or nearby.

Species of national significance that have been recorded during previous assessments within the study area or nearby include:

- Spiny Rice-flower (Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act, Threatened under the FFG Act, Endangered under the DSE Advisory List): Within the adjacent Deer Park Bypass corridor and other nearby locations.
- Small Golden Moths orchid (Endangered under the EPBC Act, Threatened under the FFG Act, Vulnerable under the DSE Advisory List): Within the Clarke Road Grassland Reserve north of the study area.
- Golden Sun Moth (Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act, Threatened under the FFG Act, Critically Endangered under the DSE Advisory List): Within the study area and adjacent Deer Park Bypass corridor.
- Striped Legless Lizard (Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, Threatened under the FFG Act, Endangered under the DSE Advisory List): Previously recorded during the construction of the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre adjacent to the study area and within the Regional Rail Link corridor to the west of the study area as part of salvage works.
- Growling Grass Frog (Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, Threatened under the FFG Act, Endangered under the DSE Advisory List): Anecdotal records from the Dame Phyllis Frost extension area adjacent to the study area.
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (Vulnerable under the EPBC Act, Threatened under the FFG Act, Vulnerable under the DSE Advisory List): Flying over the study area.

Five flora species listed on the DSE Advisory list were observed in the study area during the targeted surveys (Biosis Research 2012):

- Pale Swamp Everlasting (Vulnerable in Victoria).
- Fragrant Saltbush (Rare in Victoria).
- Pale-flower Crane's-bill (Rare in Victoria).
- Pale Spike-sedge (Poorly Known in Victoria).
- Slender Bindweed (Poorly Known in Victoria).

The following significant ecological communities occur within the study area:

- Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland (Threatened under the FFG Act): Each of the *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland patches identified within study area is consistent with this community. Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland is a broadly defined community dominated by tussock grasses including Kangaroo Grass, wallaby grasses and spear grasses with a variety of perennial herbs occupying the inter-tussock spaces.
- Natural Temperature Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act): Grassland patches at each site met the size and quality thresholds necessary to be defined as community. This community is dominated by tussock grasses and is generally consistent with Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland community described above however there are more stringent quality and size thresholds in order for grasslands to be considered part of this EPBC-listed community.

- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains (Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act): This community consists of isolated, freshwater wetlands that are usually seasonally inundated with an open structure and dominated by herbaceous species.

If known, what threatening processes affecting these species or communities may be exacerbated by the project? (eg. loss or fragmentation of habitats) Please describe briefly.

The primary threatening process that would affect these species and communities is loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat.

Other potential threatening processes include:

- Reduction in viability of retained vegetation and fauna habitat in the local area.
- Accidental loss or damage to retained vegetation during the construction phase.
- Reduced viability of some fauna species on the site in the longer term due to reductions in population size and reduced habitat area.

The following potentially threatening processes listed under Section 10 of the FFG Act are considered relevant to the project:

- Habitat fragmentation as a threatening process for fauna in Victoria.
- Wetland loss and degradation as a result of change in water regime, dredging, draining, filling and grazing.

Are any threatened or migratory species, other species of conservation significance or listed communities potentially affected by the project?

☒ NYD ☒ No ☒ Yes If yes, please:

List these species/communities. Indicate which species or communities could be subject to a major or extensive impact (including the loss of a genetically important population of a species listed or nominated for listing) Comment on likelihood of effects and associated uncertainties, if practicable.

Nationally threatened (EPBC-listed) flora species which will potentially be affected:

- Spiny Rice-flower: This species has not been recorded within the project area however there remains a medium likelihood of occurrence given the suitable grassland habitat present and nearby records of the species. Winter targeted surveys for the species were conducted by Ecology and Heritage Partners in 2011 (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2011d). According to the Ecology and Heritage Partners Report the 'detection rates were significantly reduced due to thick grass present over much of the study area'. They conclude that there remains a 'moderate probability of some individuals surviving across the study area, especially where native grasses remain' (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2011). The species was recorded adjacent to the project area in the Deer Park Bypass in 2006 (Biosis Research 2006a). An additional targeted search for this species will be undertaken in winter 2013 after an ecological burn in autumn to determine whether the species occurs within the study area. If recorded on site, a Salvage and Translocation Plan will be prepared. At this stage it is not possible to determine whether if found in the project area, the project will lead to a major or extensive impact on this species.
- Small Golden Moths orchid - This species has not been recorded within the project area however there is a medium likelihood of occurrence given the suitable grassland habitat present and nearby records of the species. This species flowers in September–October and is summer deciduous therefore it is would not have been visible during targeted flora searches performed in December 2011 by Bios Research (Biosis Research 2012). A

targeted search for this species will be undertaken in spring 2013 after an ecological burn in autumn to determine whether if found in the project area, the species occurs within the study area. At this stage it is not possible to determine whether the project will lead to a major or extensive impact on this species.

Nationally threatened (EPBC-listed) fauna species which will potentially be affected:

- Golden Sun Moth – This species was previously recorded within a small area of Site 1 (Biosis Research 2006b) and potential habitat occurs across the study area in both native and non-native vegetation. Targeted survey was undertaken in 2011/12 and no Golden Sun Moth were recorded (Biosis Research 2012) but the species is still considered likely to occur on the site due to the presence of suitable habitat. It is difficult to determine the level of impact on this species but it is unlikely that it will have a major or extensive impact on this species
- Striped Legless Lizard - Potential habitat has been identified within *Low-rainfall* Plains Grassland and exotic grassland habitat across both sites (Biosis Research 2012). Striped Legless Lizard were recorded in habitat contiguous with the study area during salvage operations for the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre in 1995 (VBA 2010) and the Deer Park Bypass in 2007 (Biosis Research 2007). The species has also recently been recorded immediately west of the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre during salvage works for the Regional Rail Link (K. Sofo, pers. comm. 2012). This species is assumed to be present within the project area. A Salvage and Translocation Plan will be developed for this species prior to development. It is difficult to determine the level of impact on this species but it is possible that the project will have a major impact.
- Growling Grass Frog – The wetland areas within the study area are considered to provide marginal habitat for this species (Biosis Research 2012). A targeted survey for the species was undertaken in December 2011 and no individuals were recorded. Habitat modelling presented in the draft Sub-regional Species Strategy for Growling Grass Frog identifies that some small areas of Category 2 habitat occurs within the study area. A Salvage and Translocation Plan will be developed for this species prior to development. It is unlikely that the project will have a major or extensive impact on this species.
- Grey-headed Flying-fox – this species will not be affected by development within the study area. The project will not have a major or extensive impact on this species.

State-listed flora species which will be affected:

- Pale Swamp Everlasting - This species was recorded in Site 2 in three locations dominated by Kangaroo Grass. This species was also recorded during a previous assessment of the area (Ecology Australia 2003). It is unlikely that the project will have a major or extensive impact on this species.
- Fragrant Saltbush - This species was recorded in a single location within Site 2. It is possible that this record has recruited from planted individuals along the Deer Park Bypass or other nearby roadside plantings. The project will not have a major or extensive impact on this species.
- Pale-flower Crane's-bill - This species was found in a number of locations in Site 1 and 2. At both sites the vegetation where this species occurs is grassland dominated by Kangaroo Grass. It is unlikely that the project will have a major or extensive impact on this species.
- Pale Spike-sedge - Two mats of this species were recorded in Site 1 including one in Low-rainfall Plains Grassland and one in nearby Degraded Treeless Vegetation. It is unlikely that the project will have a major or extensive impact on this species.
- Slender Bindweed - This species is commonly associated with the grasslands of the western basalt plains and was scattered across both sites within the study area. The project will not have a major or extensive impact on this species as this species is abundant in Plains Grassland west of Melbourne.

Significant ecological communities which will be affected:

- Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland - 20.63 ha of this community occurs within the areas of Low-rainfall Plains Grassland in the study area (Biosis Research 2012). Other areas mapped as degraded treeless vegetation may also represent lower quality remnants of this community. The project will have an extensive impact on this community.
- Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain - 17.52 ha of this community occurs within the study area across the two sites (Biosis Research 2012). The project will have an extensive impact on this community.
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains – One of the Plains Grassy Wetland patches identified in Site 1 (0.51 ha) meets the quality and size thresholds to be consistent with this community. The project will not have a major or extensive impact on this community.

Is mitigation of potential effects on indigenous flora and fauna proposed?

☒ NYD ☒ No ☒ Yes If yes, please briefly describe.

The following mitigation measures are proposed:

- Salvage and Translocation Plans will be prepared for Growling Grass Frog and Striped Legless Lizard prior to construction.
- Additional targeted surveys for Spiny Rice-flower and Small Golden Moths orchid will be undertaken after an ecological burn in autumn 2013 to reduce the biomass loads of high-quality habitat within the project area and improve the detectability of these species. This will occur prior to construction.
- An Ecological Management Plan (EMP) will be prepared prior to construction. This EMP will outline a number of mitigation measures including those that particularly focus on preventing impacts associated with construction of the prison development on the adjacent grassland reserves.
- A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) will be prepared for each site prior to construction.
- During the design phase for development within Site 2, native vegetation identified in the Biosis Research (2012) report will be avoided where possible.
- The native vegetation to be removed across the project area will be offset in accordance with Victorian Net Gain policy prior to construction. This will involve increased protection of the adjacent Ravenhall Grassland Reserves and ongoing management in these areas. These Reserves will be re-zoned from Special Use Zone to Public Conservation and Recreation Zone under the Melton Planning Scheme. Further survey of these Grassland Reserves will also be undertaken prior to construction to improve knowledge of the ecological values of these areas and tailor future management practices to ensure maximise ecological improvements in the long-term.
- Any stormwater treatment wetlands will be designed to provide fauna habitat. Suitable habitat features include shelter and basking sites (i.e. rocks and logs), fringing emergent aquatic vegetation and submerged aquatic vegetation.
- All environmental constraints will be clearly communicated to construction personnel and incorporated into the workforce induction program.

- Construction works will be managed to minimise discharge of sediments and other pollutants.

Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)

The flora and fauna assessments undertaken as part of the Biodiversity Assessment Report (refer to Appendix B) were conducted at spring/summer, which is an optimal time for the surveys undertaken.

The 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 (current) seasons have been very poor for Golden Sun Moth surveys due to periods of high rainfall, poor weather conditions for survey and increased plant biomass.

The Biodiversity Assessment Report does not include an assessment of aquatic fauna values of water bodies or waterways within or adjacent to the study area.

- The targeted flora surveys undertaken by Biosis Research in December 2011 were undertaken outside the optimal survey period for the Small Golden Moths orchid and Spiny Rice-flower. Additional targeted surveys for these species will be undertaken after an ecological burn in autumn 2013 to reduce the biomass loads of high-quality habitat within the project area and improve the detectability of these species. This will occur prior to construction.

13. Water environments

<p>Will the project require significant volumes of fresh water (eg. > 1 GI/yr)? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, indicate approximate volume and likely source.</p>
<p>Will the project discharge waste water or runoff to water environments? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, specify types of discharges and which environments.</p> <p>The stormwater drainage system will be designed to ensure that water is intercepted and flows through treatment wetlands before it enters any waterways.</p>
<p>Are any waterways, wetlands, estuaries or marine environments likely to be affected? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, specify which water environments, answer the following questions and attach any relevant details.</p> <p>The project is likely to result in the removal of an area of wetland in the south-western corner of Site 1. Site 2 contains two small dams along an artificial drainage line and Melbourne Water's recently constructed concrete-lined culvert; these areas may not be impacted.</p> <p>The proposed stormwater drainage system will be designed to avoid impacts on any downstream waterways or wetlands.</p>
<p>Are any of these water environments likely to support threatened or migratory species? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, specify which water environments.</p> <p>No Growling Grass Frogs were recorded during the most recent fauna surveys, but the habitat modelling presented in the draft Sub-regional Species Strategy for Growling Grass Frog identifies that there are some small areas of Category 2 habitat present. Under the Strategy, Category 2 habitat will be permitted to be cleared provided a Compensatory Habitat Fee is paid and a Salvage and Translocation Plan is prepared to the satisfaction of DSE. The habitat modelling undertaken for the Strategy does not identify any important Category 1 habitat for the species within the study area.</p> <p>Wetland habitat within the study area provides a potential habitat resource for a small number of highly mobile State-listed waterbirds, however the project will not have a major or extensive impact on any of these species.</p>
<p>Are any potentially affected wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention or in 'A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia'? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please specify.</p> <p>The project area does not drain into the Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site.</p>
<p>Could the project affect streamflows? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, briefly describe implications for streamflows.</p>
<p>Could regional groundwater resources be affected by the project? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, describe in what way.</p> <p>The URS Australia (18 September 2009) "Preliminary Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment – Deer Park Site" report includes the following relevant sections on groundwater:</p> <p><i>The Newer Volcanics basalt formation forms the regional aquifer beneath the site, and in surrounding areas. According to the Victorian Government's Melbourne Groundwater Map, regional water table is generally between 10 and 20m bgs. Regionally, groundwater flow is to the south-east, in the direction of Port Phillip Bay. (p. 4)</i></p> <p><i>As indicated in Section 3.1.6 a previous investigation of groundwater quality underlying the site</i></p>

was undertaken by Woodward-Clyde (1992). A review of the report indicated that three (3) groundwater monitoring wells were installed on site and the location of these wells was also confirmed during the site inspection. The three wells were gauged using an oil/water interface probe to identify standing water levels (SWL) and ascertain the presence or absence of any phase-separated hydrocarbons (PSH). No groundwater samples were collected. Groundwater levels were recorded between 10.8 to 13 m below ground surface and no recordable PSH was identified. (p. 20)

The development will not require construction of basement levels nor significant excavation works to prepare the sites for development. With ground water levels at least 10m below the surface, it is highly unlikely that there will be any impact on groundwater arising from construction activities.

Any potential excavation required as a result of the recommendations of the environmental audit will be required to address and mitigate potential groundwater impacts.

Could environmental values (beneficial uses) of water environments be affected?

☐ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, identify waterways/water bodies and beneficial uses (as recognised by State Environment Protection Policies)

The removal of a total of 0.57 ha of Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) present in Site 1 could have an impact on the beneficial use of 'aquatic ecosystems'. No other beneficial uses would be impacted by the loss of this wetland.

It is not yet determined whether the project will impact on the anthropogenic drains and dams that occur at Site 2.

Could aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems be affected by the project?

☐ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, describe in what way.

A total of 0.57 ha of Plains Grassy Wetland (EVC 125) present in Site 1 will be removed by the project. The largest wetland area mapped in Site 1 (0.51 ha) is also consistent with the EPBC-listed community: Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains.

It is not yet determined whether the project will impact on the anthropogenic drains and dams that occur at Site 2.

Is there a potential for extensive or major effects on the health or biodiversity of aquatic, estuarine or marine ecosystems over the long-term?

☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, please describe. Comment on likelihood of effects and associated uncertainties, if practicable.

Given the small size of the wetland patches within the study area there is no potential for extensive or major effects on health or biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems in the long-term.

Is mitigation of potential effects on water environments proposed?

☒ NYD ☐ No ☐ Yes If yes, please briefly describe.

Mitigation measures to minimise potential effects on water environments associated with the proposed development will be outlined in the Environmental Management Plan.

Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)

Additional site investigations will be carried out that will include consideration of impacts on water.

14. Landscape and soils

Landscape

Has a preliminary landscape assessment been prepared? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please attach.
Is the project to be located either within or near an area that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to a Landscape Significance Overlay or Environmental Significance Overlay? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, provide plan showing footprint relative to overlay. Identified as of regional or State significance in a reputable study of landscape values? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please specify. <p>The entire study area falls within a Biosite of state significance - Ravenhall Grasslands Nature Conservation Reserve (Biosite 4205).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within or adjoining land reserved under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i> ? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please specify. Within or adjoining other public land used for conservation or recreational purposes? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please specify. <p>The site is adjacent to two grassland conservation reserves (refer to Location Plan at Appendix A).</p>
Is any clearing vegetation or alteration of landforms likely to affect landscape values? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please briefly describe.
Is there a potential for effects on landscape values of regional or State importance? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please briefly explain response.
Is mitigation of potential landscape effects proposed? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please briefly describe.
Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)

Note: A preliminary landscape assessment is a specific requirement for a referral of a wind energy facility. This should provide a description of:

- The landscape character of the site and surrounding areas including landform, vegetation types and coverage, water features, any other notable features and current land use;
- The location of nearby dwellings, townships, recreation areas, major roads, above-ground utilities, tourist routes and walking tracks;
- Views to the site and to the proposed location of wind turbines from key vantage points (including views showing existing nearby dwellings and views from major roads, walking tracks and tourist routes) sufficient to give a sense of the overall site in its setting.

Soils

Is there a potential for effects on land stability, acid sulphate soils or highly erodible soils? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please briefly describe.
Are there geotechnical hazards that may either affect the project or be affected by it? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please briefly describe.
<p>A number of environmental investigations have been completed for Site 1 and 2; these are summarised below.</p> <p><u>Status of site 1</u></p> <p>The reports relevant to site 1 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> URS Australia (15 August 2011) – Extension to the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre – Phase II Site Characterisation Milseach Pty Ltd (27 June 2011) Desktop Historical Review for Potentially Unexploded

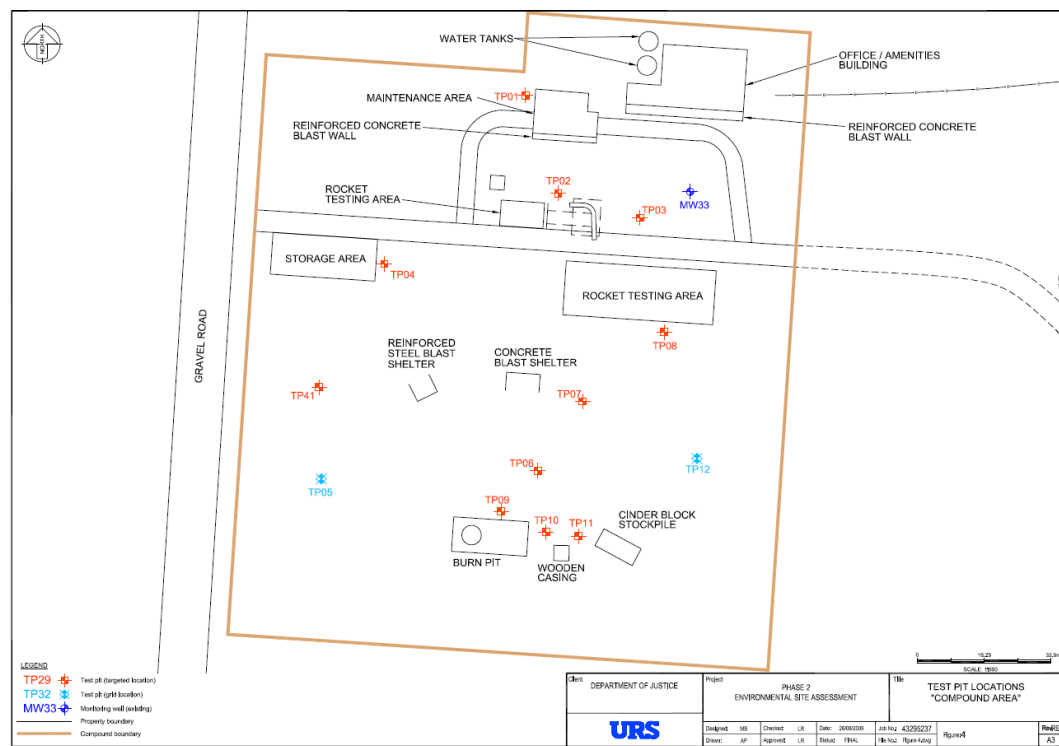
- Ordnance and Munitions Related Contamination
- URS Australia (18 September 2009) – Preliminary Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment – Deer Park Site
- URS Australia (3 December 2009) – Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment – Proposed Extension to the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre – Deer Park
- Dames & Moore (July 1995) – Interim Report on an Environmental Site Assessment at the New Women’s Prison Project Deer Park, Victoria
- Dames & Moore (July 1995) – Interim Report on an Assessment of Radioactivity Potential at the New Women’s Prison Project Deer Park, Victoria
- Dames & Moore (August 1995) – Report on an Assessment of Radioactivity Potential at the New Women’s Prison Project Deer Park, Victoria
- AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd (January 1992) – ADI-ADD Surface Water and Groundwater Investigation Report Ravenhall Facility Volumes I and II

The approximate extent of the study areas for these reports is shown on the maps at Appendix E. It is noted that only the southern portion of the study areas of the reports relating to the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (also referred to as the “New Women’s Prison Project”) are relevant, and that the AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd (January 1992) relates to both Site 1 and a wider area.

The key findings of the reports are summarised as follows:

- Excerpt from executive summary of the URS Australia (18 September 2009) “Preliminary Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment – Deer Park Site”:
 - *Based on the information derived from the Phase I ESA a number of historic activities and potential sources of contamination were identified within the compound and nearby to the compound that were targeted for investigation. Also a number of locations were identified to provide overall coverage of the site. The results of the investigation indicated that:*
 - *There were a number of locations within and adjacent to the compound that had evidence of explosive ordnance waste in the surface soils. Fill materials were observed to a depth of up to 1.8m. It should be noted that since the purpose of the UXO safeguarding works was to avoid excavating into locations that have potential explosive ordnance waste, these locations may contain explosive residues in the soil.*
 - *Suspected asbestos cement sheeting was observed to be associated with a small building along the south-western boundary of the site. Fragments of this material were also observed on the ground surface around the building. However, the scope of this assessment did not assess the potential for any other hazardous building materials.*
 - *Laboratory analysis of the soil samples collected as part of this investigation for the identified chemicals of concern did not identify levels above the adopted investigation criteria for future residential use of the site.*
 - *Results from previous groundwater investigations (Woodward-Clyde 1992) indicated that protected beneficial uses of the groundwater are not likely to have been impacted by the historic activities at the site.*
 - *In summary, based on the information collated from the Phase I ESA (including the previous ESA reports) and the limited Phase II ESA, the environmental quality of the underlying soil and groundwater investigated is likely to be suitable for future residential purposes. However, areas of fill have been identified that were not sampled during this investigation due to the potential explosive hazards associated with these locations. There is also potential for further filled areas to exist across the site. Furthermore, investigation of hazardous building materials to exist within the existing building has not been assessed.*

The maps from this report depicting the location of the compound are attached below.



- Excerpt from the executive summary of the URS Australia (15 August 2011) "Extension to the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre – Phase II Site Characterisation" report:
 - The results of the assessment indicate the environmental quality of the identified elements of the environment is suitable for the intended development of the site based on the findings and limitations summarised below.
- Excerpt from the conclusions of the Milseach Pty Ltd (27 June 2011) "Desktop Historical Review for Potentially Unexploded Ordnance and Munitions Related Contamination" report:
 - The desktop review of readily available archival material and reports plus an examination of air photographs indicates that the area adjacent to and to the east of the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre – Deer Park was used as a buffer zone and used primarily for

- grazing/agricultural purposes. There are no obvious soil disturbances apparent in the photography that would indicate burials.
- Explosive testing and disposal activities were conducted in the area to the south and rocket motors were subject to static testing in the walled facility still extant.
 - On the larger 32ha area south of the DFPC expansion, burials of munitions debris and disposal "fines" are most likely to exist.
 - Furthermore, ejected discrete items of Explosive Ordnance Waste and small numbers of Explosive Ordnance items are most likely to exist scattered about the larger site, as a result of radial projection from uncovered burning pits. Ample evidence of covered over burials on the larger 32ha site are apparent in the period photography.
- Excerpt from the executive summary of the URS Australia (3 December 2009) "Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment – Proposed Extension to the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre – Deer Park" report:
 - In summary, based on the information collated from the Phase I ESA (including the previous ESA reports) and the limited Phase II ESA, the environmental quality of the underlying soil and groundwater investigated is likely to be suitable for future residential purposes. However, the isolated locations where concentrations of lead and chromium were identified above the investigation criteria require further investigation to confirm whether these chemicals are only isolated occurrences or more widespread. Also, the UXO safeguarding works undertaken by Milsearch indicated that although no EOW or related munitions evidence was identified in the safeguarding works for the 14 investigation locations, additional site hazard assessment works are recommended given the former Defence munitions testing and destruction activities.
 - Excerpt from the conclusions of the Dames & Moore (August 1995) "Report on an Assessment of Radioactivity Potential at the New Women's Prison Project Deer Park, Victoria" report:
 - The available documented history of the site of the Womens Prison does not indicate a potential for the presence of radioactive material;
 - Review of available airphoto information does not identify areas considered to be potential locations of waste disposal activities;
 - Field screening of the Womens Prison Site has not located sources of radioactivity exceeding the action level of twice background and/or the public exposure limit of 5 microSievert per hour
 - Laboratory screening of a composite sample has indicated concentrations of the radionuclides analysed that are typical of background levels in Australia soils.

Recommended mitigation measures from the URS Australia (18 September 2009) "Preliminary Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment – Deer Park Site" report are as follows:

It is understood that the DoJ is considering use of the site for future residential purposes. For future consideration of the site for residential use, the following recommendations are provided:

- *The UXO safeguarding works have indicated that explosive ordnance waste (EOW) and the potential for UXO exists. Therefore, a 100% survey for UXO and EOW and clearance (i.e. remediation) of suspected EOW and UXO is recommended. The details of the recommendations are provided in the UXO report included as an appendix to this report.*
- *Review of previous reports confirmed the presence of three groundwater monitoring bores at the site. Although site activities have not heavily impacted the site the DoJ may wish to conduct one round of monitoring from these to establish the current environmental quality of the underlying groundwater.*
- *Review of previous reports also confirms the existence of an environmental site assessment report prepared by Australian Defence Industries – Industrial Decontamination Division (ADIIDD), which is understood to be the whole of the former Defence facility. Enquiries have been made to access this report. At the time of preparing this report, the ADI-IDD report was not available for review.*
- *An audit of hazardous building materials (including asbestos containing materials) is recommended given the age of some of the buildings and infrastructure contained at the site.*
- *Use, development or re-development of the site for future residential purposes may require planning and other approvals and, in some cases, environmental regulatory*

authority and accredited site auditor approvals. Should this be the case, it is possible that some additional investigation works would be required and almost certainly remediation of any EOW and UXO will be required, with follow up validation.

Status of site 2

The reports relevant to site 2 are as follows:

- DASCEN Holdings Pty Ltd (April 2003) – Environmental Assessment Former Ravenhall Defence Site Deer Park Victoria
- AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd (January 1992) – ADI-ADD Surface Water and Groundwater Investigation Report Ravenhall Facility Volumes I and II

The approximate extent of the study areas for these reports is shown on the maps at Appendix E. It is noted that the AGC Woodward-Clyde Pty Ltd (January 1992) relates to both Site 1 and a wider area.

The key findings of the reports are summarised as follows:

- The executive summary of the DASCEN Holdings Pty Ltd (April 2003) “Environmental Assessment Former Ravenhall Defence Site Deer Park Victoria” states that:
 - The report focuses on the north-eastern area of the study area, which generally accords with the boundaries of Site 2.
 - The report concludes that “the 20 hectare section of the site which was the subject of the investigation does not contain any soil contamination in excess of the site investigation criteria. The 20 hectare portion of the site is therefore considered to be suitable for its intended industrial/commercial use”.

Mitigation of effects and environmental audit

Having regard to the findings of the various reports above, DoJ has commissioned Arup to coordinate the appointment of appropriate specialist consultants to undertake a Contaminated Land Investigation and an Environmental Audit for Sites 1 and 2. The scope of works for the Contaminated Land Investigation includes a range of measures which will assist with the mitigation of effects including:

- a landfill gas assessment
- removal/remediation of buried unexploded ordnance/explored ordnance waste, infrastructure and impacted soils
- demolition and removal of remaining onsite infrastructure
- installation of a groundwater monitoring well network
- preparation of a Clean Up Plan
- groundwater remediation if required

The proposed Schedule 8 to the Special Use Zone that will apply to sites 1 and 2 includes the following clause addressing environmental site conditions:

Before the use of the land for a prison commences or before the construction or carrying out of buildings and works in association with a sensitive use commences, either:

- *A certificate of environmental audit must be issued for the land (or stage) in accordance with Part IXD of the Environmental Protection Act 1970; or*
- *An environmental auditor appointed under the Environment Protection Act 1970 must make a statement in accordance with Part IXD of that Act that the environmental conditions of the land (or stage) are suitable for the sensitive use.*

The Environmental Audit will meet these requirements, and will involve site remediation works that will allow the site to be used for its intended purpose.

Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)

15. Social environments

<p>Is the project likely to generate significant volumes of road traffic, during construction or operation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, provide estimate of traffic volume(s) if practicable.</p> <p>A Traffic Management Study will be undertaken as part of the requirements of the CFDP.</p>
<p>Is there a potential for significant effects on the amenity of residents, due to emissions of dust or odours or changes in visual, noise or traffic conditions? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, briefly describe the nature of the changes in amenity conditions and the possible areas affected.</p> <p>The site is well buffered from nearby dwellings and is unlikely to generate any adverse amenity impacts on nearby residential areas.</p>
<p>Is there a potential for exposure of a human community to health or safety hazards, due to emissions to air or water or noise or chemical hazards or associated transport? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NYD <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, briefly describe the hazards and possible implications.</p> <p>A Contaminated Land Investigation and a Landfill Gas Assessment will be conducted prior to commencement of construction to identify and manage potential risks of this nature.</p>
<p>Is there a potential for displacement of residences or severance of residential access to community resources due to the proposed development? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, briefly describe potential effects.</p>
<p>Are non-residential land use activities likely to be displaced as a result of the project? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, briefly describe the likely effects.</p>
<p>Do any expected changes in non-residential land use activities have a potential to cause adverse effects on local residents/communities, social groups or industries? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, briefly describe the potential effects.</p>
<p>Is mitigation of potential social effects proposed? <input type="checkbox"/> NYD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please briefly describe.</p>
<p>Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)</p>

Cultural heritage

Have relevant Indigenous organisations been consulted on the occurrence of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the project area?

- ☐ No If no, list any organisations that it is proposed to consult.
☒ Yes If yes, list the organisations so far consulted.

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
 Wurundjeri Registered Aboriginal Party
 Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council
 Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
 Boon Wurrung Foundation Ltd
 Heritage Victoria

What investigations of cultural heritage in the project area have been done?

(attach details of method and results of any surveys for the project & describe their accuracy)

Site 1

A Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken by Biosis Research (May 2010) to investigate whether there are cultural heritage values found within Site 1, which is the primary site on which the prison is to be developed. A desktop assessment was undertaken for Aboriginal and Historic places and the relevant notifications forwarded to AAV and Heritage Victoria prior to a field survey being conducted in March 2010. Representatives of the relevant indigenous organisations above were invited to participate in the cultural heritage survey.

No Aboriginal archaeological sub-surface deposits or historical archaeological sub-surface deposits were recorded on the site during the field survey. After consultation with the Wurundjeri Registered Aboriginal Party and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation representatives it was determined that there was low likelihood of Aboriginal places within the boundary of the study area.

A series of recommendations are set out at Section 7.0 of the Cultural Heritage Assessment (included at Appendix F). Recommendation 1 requires that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan be prepared for the site, on the basis that the proposed use of the site is regarded as a high impact activity, and the site is within 50 m of a registered Aboriginal Place (VAHR 7822-1412) and has not been subject to significant ground disturbance.

Site 2

A Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken by Biosis Research (September 2012) to investigate whether there are cultural heritage values found within Site 2, where ancillary structures for the prison will be located. A desktop assessment was undertaken for Aboriginal and Historic places and a field survey and the relevant notifications forwarded to AAV and Heritage Victoria prior to a field survey being conducted in July 2012. Representatives of the relevant indigenous organisations above were invited to participate in the cultural heritage survey.

No Aboriginal places were recorded on the site during the field survey. However, it was concluded that there is the potential for Aboriginal archaeological materials to be present, as previously recorded site VAHR 7822-0706 (with around 20 lithic artefacts) is situated less than 100 metres south of the site on the edge of a natural swampy drainage line that also runs through the subject site.

Heritage site Ravenhall 2 Magazine and Storage Facility (H7822-0174) includes features relating to the 19th century pastoral activities and the Ravenhall Magazine and Storage Facility which was established between 1943 and 1946. The site survey results note that the last four buildings from the latter were removed in 2012, and that the only remaining features are vehicle tracks, culvert and a timber gate post. From the pastoral period, a drystone dam and part of a dry stone wall remains. In regards to site significance, the features associated with the Ravenhall Magazine and Storage Facility are of low local and cultural significance, and Biosis note that "there are more buildings and associated facilities from WWII at the Truganina Magazine facility" and that the historic pastoral features are "common throughout the geographic region".

The Assessment recommends that further investigations for both European and Aboriginal heritage should be undertaken. A Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan will need to be prepared, as the site is an area of sensitivity for Aboriginal places, and the construction activities are defined as high impact activities. At the time of preparation of the Assessment, there was no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the region that includes the Study Area. An Application for Consent will also need to be lodged with Heritage Victoria to carry out works or activities within the boundaries of a heritage place or object (H7822-0174).

Is any Aboriginal cultural heritage known from the project area?

☒ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, briefly describe:

- Any sites listed on the AAV Site Register
- Sites or areas of sensitivity recorded in recent surveys from the project site or nearby
- Sites or areas of sensitivity identified by representatives of Indigenous organisations

Refer to list at Section 5.1 of the 2010 Cultural Heritage Assessment (Site 11) included at Appendix F, which lists all relevant Registered Places on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage register (VAHR) within 2 km of the activity area. Refer to Section 2.3.1 of the 2012 Cultural Heritage Assessment (Site 2) included at Appendix G, which lists all relevant Registered Places on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage register (VAHR) within 2 km of the activity area

Are there any cultural heritage places listed on the Heritage Register or the Archaeological Inventory under the *Heritage Act 1995* within the project area?

☒ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, please list.

Ravenhall 2 Magazine and Storage Facility (H7822-0174).

Is mitigation of potential cultural heritage effects proposed?

☒ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, please briefly describe.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be prepared for both sites in accordance with the recommendations of the Cultural Heritage Assessments.

Other information/comments? (eg. accuracy of information)

16. Energy, wastes & greenhouse gas emissions

What are the main sources of energy that the project facility would consume/generate?

- ☒ Electricity network. If possible, estimate power requirement/output
- ☒ Natural gas network. If possible, estimate gas requirement/output
- ☐ Generated on-site. If possible, estimate power capacity/output
- ☐ Other. Please describe.

Please add any relevant additional information.

What are the main forms of waste that would be generated by the project facility?

- ☒ Wastewater. Describe briefly.

Wastewater associated with the operation of the prison.

- ☐ Solid chemical wastes. Describe briefly.

- ☒ Excavated material. Describe briefly.

Excavated material that could be contaminated. A Contaminated Land Investigation will be undertaken to identify potentially contaminated areas, and a Certificate of Environmental Audit obtained prior to the commencement of buildings and works. The volume of excavated material generated by the Contaminated Land Investigation and any subsequent Remediation Works that may be required is not yet known. This will depend on the scope of investigations and requirement for remediation works determined to the satisfaction of the independently appointed Environmental Auditor.

- ☐ Other. Describe briefly.

Please provide relevant further information, including proposed management of wastes.

What level of greenhouse gas emissions is expected to result directly from operation of the project facility?

- ☐ Less than 50,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per annum
- ☐ Between 50,000 and 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per annum
- ☐ Between 100,000 and 200,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per annum
- ☐ More than 200,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per annum

☒ Level of greenhouse gas emissions unknown

Please add any relevant additional information, including any identified mitigation options.

17. Other environmental issues

Are there any other environmental issues arising from the proposed project?

- ☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, briefly describe.

The proposal will include environmentally sustainable design features to address issues such as energy efficiency and water management.

18. Environmental management

What measures are currently proposed to avoid, minimise or manage the main potential adverse environmental effects? (if not already described above)

☒ Siting: Please describe briefly

The siting of proposed prison buildings and access roads within the precinct will be guided by an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared in consultation with DSE, and will have regard to the principles for avoidance and minimisation of removal of significant native vegetation, in accordance with *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management - A Framework for Action*.

As part of the EMP, Salvage and Translocation Plans will be implemented in conjunction with DSE to ensure the safe relocation of any significant flora and fauna to adjacent to the conservation reserves. The EMP will also seek to address and mitigate any potential impacts on the adjacent conservation reserves arising from the construction or carrying out of any buildings and works on the land (including site drainage, removal or planting of any vegetation, erection of fencing, etc). Geotechnical survey points will be determined in consultation with DSE, and the EMP will make clear that all construction activity will be restricted to the new prison site 'footprint' with no disturbance to the adjoining conservation reserves.

☒ Design: Please describe briefly

The design of the proposed buildings will be of low scale and generally compatible with the form and character of other correctional facility buildings within the precinct. There are no adverse environmental effects associated with the design of the proposed facility.

☒ Environmental management: Please describe briefly.

As noted above, an Environmental Management Plan will be prepared to the satisfaction of DSE prior to the commencement of any works on the land.

☐ Other: Please describe briefly

Add any relevant additional information.

19. Other activities

Are there any other activities in the vicinity of the proposed project that have a potential for cumulative effects?

☐ NYD ☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, briefly describe.

20. Investigation program

Study program

Have any environmental studies not referred to above been conducted for the project?

☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, please list here and attach if relevant.

Has a program for future environmental studies been developed?

☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, briefly describe.

Biosis has recommended further surveys for two EPBC-listed flora species: Spiny Rice-flower and Small Golden Moths orchid. The targeted flora surveys described in the Biodiversity Assessment Report (refer to Appendix B) were undertaken outside the optimal survey period for these two species. A targeted search for Spiny Rice-flower was undertaken by Ecology Partners in 2011 however the thick biomass across the study area limited the detectability of the species and there remains the potential for them to occur in the study area.

The flowering period of Spiny Rice-flower is between April and August. The flowering period for Small Golden Moths orchid is between September and October. An ecological burn would improve the likelihood of detecting both these species within the study area.

The targeted searches and ecological burns discussed above would also be undertaken within the adjacent conservation reserves.

Salvage and Translocation Plans will be prepared for a number of threatened species that have either been recorded or have potential to be present within the study area including Striped Legless Lizard, Growling Grass Frog and, if found to occur, Small Golden Moths orchid and Spiny Rice-flower. DSE may request that salvage also occur for additional species.

An Environmental Management Plan will also need to be prepared for the site to the satisfaction of DSE.

The Contaminated Land Assessment (including the Landfill Gas Assessment) will be undertaken over the next 12 months.

Consultation program

Has a consultation program conducted to date for the project?

☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, outline the consultation activities and the stakeholder groups or organisations consulted.

Has a program for future consultation been developed?

☐ NYD ☐ No ☒ Yes If yes, briefly describe.

A comprehensive program for community consultation has been developed by Department of Justice in consultation with the Cities of Melton and Brimbank and DPCD to inform the preparation and approval of a Correctional Facility Development Plan for the new prison.

A 'Community Advisory Group' (CAG) has been established as a major focus for the consultation process. The CAG comprises representation from the local community, officers and Councillors of the Shires of Melton and Brimbank, local business interests, DoJ and other government agencies (including Victoria Police), and is chaired by an independent person appointed by the Minister for Corrections. Refer to Appendix G for a list of the appointed CAG members.

The first meeting of the CAG was conducted in December 2012. The group will meet regularly throughout the planning and construction phases of the project, and will have direct input to the preparation of the Correctional Facility Development Plan. Supporting technical reports will be made available to the CAG through this process.

Information sessions will be conducted with the broader community in 2013 to advise the community on the general details of the project, including the planning process for approval and timing for construction. The project's response to environmental issues and impacts within the precinct will also form part of the community briefings. A community notice inviting local residents to attend various information sessions on the project, to be conducted by DoJ in March 2013, is included at Appendix H. This notice will be distributed by the City of Melton in a locally circulating newsletter to residents, and will appear in local print media.

Following consultation with the local community, the CAG will be presented with a draft Correctional Facility Development Plan (CFDP) for consideration. The final CFDP is expected to be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval in mid 2013.

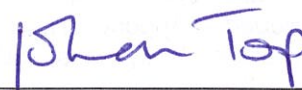
Following approval of the CFDP, the CAG will continue to meet on a regular basis throughout the construction phase of the project.

A program outlining the key steps and proposed meetings in the first phase of the CAG process is included at Appendix I.

Authorised person for proponent:

I, Johan Top, Project Adviser, Ravenhall Prison Project, Department of Justice Victoria, confirm that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading.

Signature



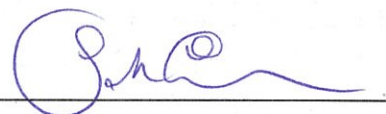
Date

18/1/2013

Person who prepared this referral:

I, Sarah Emons, Director Urbis Pty Ltd, confirm that the information contained in this form is, to my knowledge, true and not misleading.

Signature

Date 18th January 2013