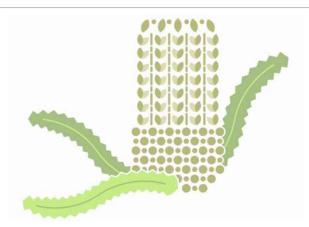


Existing View

LOCATION:	Fulham Cor	Fulham Correctional Centre Car Park			
CO-ORDINATES:	38.109998	S, 146.970454 E	DATE:	30.12.2020	
ORIENTATION:	South	South		12:01pm	
CAMERA BRAND:	Apple IPhone 11 (dual 12 mexapixel)		CAMERA ANGLE:	Horizontal	
IMAGE TYPE:	Digital		IMAGE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:	1,500mm	
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM NEAREST SOLAR PANEL:		340 metres			



Fulham Correctional Centre car park access road

#### SUBJECT SITE



SENSITIVITY OF VIEW				
HIGH	MODERATE	LOW		

## Sensitivity of View Rationale

This sensitivity of view is **low** and provides a generally negative aesthetic. The cleared flat topography shows visual evidence of erosion and compacted soils. There is a level of weed cover to the ground plain and screen planting is composed of exotic species. Infrastructure including wire fencing, an exercise course and associated correctional centre facilities visually dominate this landscape. The occasional scattered tree does little to elevate the aesthetic.

# Photomontage without Intended Landscape

\_SUBJECT\_SITE\_

SUBJECT SITE



# Photomontage

Fulham Correctional Centre car park access road

Fulham Correctional Centre

car park access road



		SENSITIVITY OF VIEW		
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
ОF	HIGH	High visual impact	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
UDE	MODERATE	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
MAGNITUDE CHANGE	LOW	Moderate/low visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	Low visual impact
MA	VERY LOW	Low visual impact	Very low visual impact	Very low visual impact

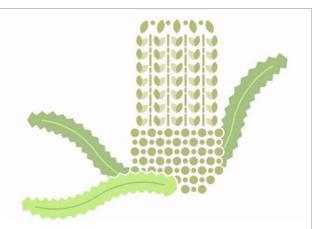
# Magnitude of Change and Visual Impact Rationales

The proposed landscape buffer and boundary fencing are visible behind the exercise course and associated correctional centre facilities in this receptor. The solar panels are not visible from this location nor is the associated infrastructure of the facility. The low, generally negative aesthetic of the view is barely impacted by the proposal resulting in a **low** magnitude of change. When the low sensitivity of view is applied to this magnitude of change, the resulting visual impact is **low**.



Existing View McLarens Road

LOCATION:	McLarens Road immediately south of grassed drain on site			d drain on site
CO-ORDINATES:	38.121102 S, 146.971171 E		DATE:	30.12.2020
ORIENTATION:	North		TIME:	10:34am
CAMERA BRAND:	Apple IPhone 11 (dual 12 mexapixel)		CAMERA ANGLE:	Horizontal
IMAGE TYPE:	Digital		IMAGE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:	1,500mm
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM 10 NEAREST SOLAR PANEL:		106 metres		



**McLarens** 

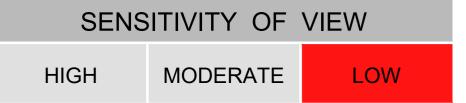
Road I

McLarens

Road I

SUBJECT SITE





## Sensitivity of View Rationale

SUBJECT SITE

The absence of road side and paddock vegetation along with a highly modified agricultural landscape classify this sensitivity of view as **low**. There is a high level of weed cover in the road verge and the drainage line traversing the site does not appear to provide much ecological benefit. Whilst there is limited infrastructure, there is nothing in this landscape to hold the viewer's interest.

# Photomontage without Intended Landscape

McLarens Road



Photomontage McLarens Road	SUBJECT SITE	McLarens Road



		SENS	ITIVITY OF	VIEW
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
ОF	HIGH	High visual impact	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
NGE	$\overline{O}$ () MODERATE	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
MAGNITUE	LOW	Moderate/low visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	Low visual impact
MA	VERY LOW	Low visual impact	Very low visual impact	Very low visual impact

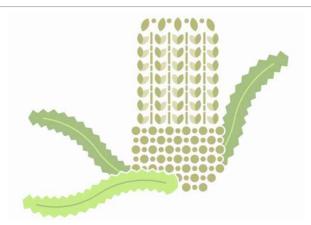
## Magnitude of Change and Visual Impact Rationales

The proposed buffer planting effectively screens the solar panels, infrastructure and perimeter access road from view at this receptor. The proposed boundary fencing follows the title boundary and is a prominent feature in the foreground. It is therefore deemed this proposal would cause a significant deteroiration in the existing view at this receptor and a **high** magnitude of change. When the low sensitivity of view is applied to this magnitude of change, the resulting visual impact is **moderate/low**.



Existing View

LOCATION:	Hopkins Ro	ad (south east of ex	isting site acc	ess)
CO-ORDINATES:	38.117187 S, 146.973954 E		DATE:	30.12.2020
ORIENTATION:	West		TIME:	10:25am
CAMERA BRAND:	Apple IPhone 11 (dual 12 mexapixel)		CAMERA ANGLE:	Horizontal
IMAGE TYPE:	Digital		IMAGE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:	1,500mm
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM NEAREST SOLAR PANEL:		50 metres		

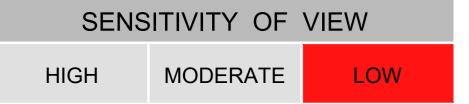


SUBJECT SITE

Hopkins Road

Hopkins Road





## Sensitivity of View Rationale

SUBJECT SITE

Flat, monotonous topography is broken by planted trees in poor health with a high level of weed cover beneath. Distant views are limited and the weed cover continues to the road verge and the cleared paddocks. This sensitivity of view as classified as low.

# Photomontage without Intended Landscape



# Photomontage Hopkins Road

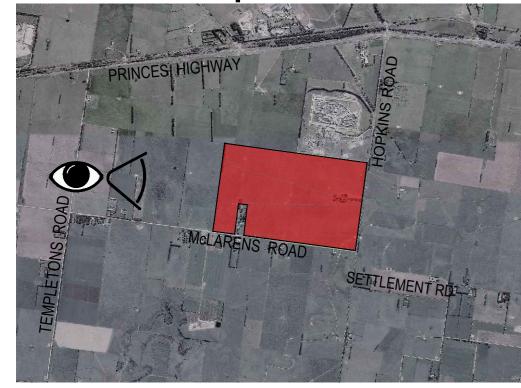
Hopkins Road SUBJECT SITE the star when the star alter the the the 



		SENSITIVITY OF VIEW		
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
ЧO	HIGH	High visual impact	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
UDE NGE	MODERATE	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
MAGNITUDE CHANGE	LOW	Moderate/low visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	Low visual impact
MA	VERY LOW	Low visual impact	Very low visual impact	Very low visual impact

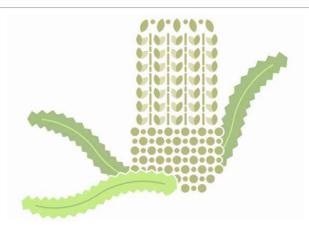
## Magnitude of Change and Visual Impact Rationales

The proposed works would see the existing degraded vegetation removed and buffer planting established. The proposed buffer planting and boundary fence will be visible from this receptor. The solar panels are not visible from this location nor is the associated infrastructure of the facility. The limited distant views are screened by the proposed planting. It is therefore deemed the proposal would cause significant deterioration in the existing view. This classifies the magnitude of change as **high**. When the low sensitivity of view is applied to this magnitude of change, the resulting visual impact is **moderate/low**.



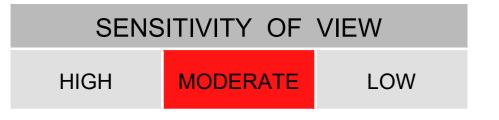
**Existing View** 

LOCATION:	Templetons	Road		
CO-ORDINATES:	38.112684	38.112684 S, 146.936845 E		30.12.2020
ORIENTATION:	East	East		11:49am
CAMERA BRAND:	Apple IPhor	Apple IPhone 11 (dual 12 mexapixel)		Horizontal
IMAGE TYPE:	Digital		IMAGE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:	1,500mm
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM 1,676 metres				



Templetons





## Sensitivity of View Rationale

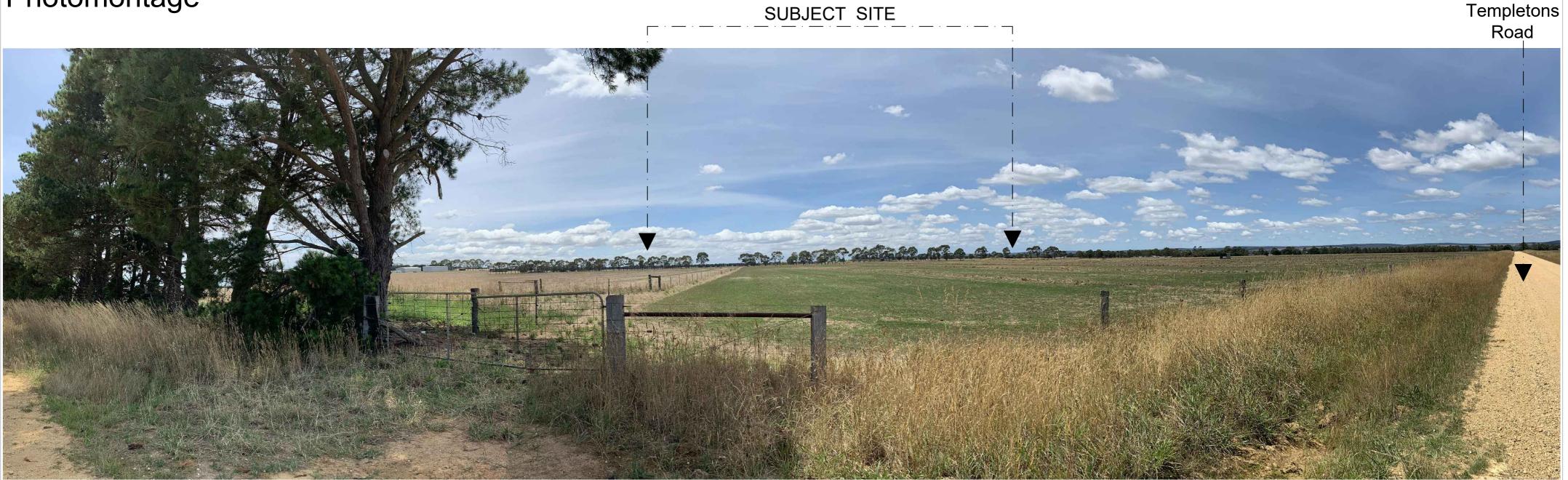
SUBJECT SITE

Gentle undulation, long views to the east and planted vegetation on the horizon line elevate this sensitivity of view to **moderate**. Whilst there is evidence of weed cover and degraded plantings in the foreground the overall aesthetic is mostly positive. The post and rail and post and wire fencing, along with the crushed rock road, are inoffensive and contribute to this landscape.

# Photomontage without Intended Landscape







		SENSITIVITY OF VIEW			
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	
ОF	HIGH	High visual impact	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	
UDE NGE	MODERATE	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	
MAGNITUDE CHANGE	LOW	Moderate/low visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	Low visual impact	
MA	VERY LOW	Low visual impact	Very low visual impact	Very low visual impact	

## Magnitude of Change and Visual Impact Rationales

The proposed landscape buffer on the western boundary of the subject site can barely be seen through existing vegetation. The solar panels are scarcely visible from this location and the associated infrastructure of the facility is not visible at all. It is therefore deemed the proposal would cause little to no discernable deterioration in the existing view. This classifies the magnitude of change as **very low**. When the moderate sensitivity of view is applied to this magnitude of change, the resulting visual impact is **very low**.



Existing View McLarens Road

LOCATION:	McLarens F	Road		
CO-ORDINATES:	38.120302	S, 146.963486 E	DATE:	30.12.2020
ORIENTATION:	North	North		10:39am
CAMERA BRAND:	Apple IPhone 11 (dual 12 mexapixel)		CAMERA ANGLE:	Horizontal
IMAGE TYPE:	Digital		IMAGE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:	1,500mm
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM NEAREST SOLAR PANEL:		40 metres		









## Sensitivity of View Rationale

A cleared agricultural landscape with flat monotonous topography classifies this sensitivity of view as **low**. A moderate level of weed cover to the road verge and an absence of vegetation contribute to a generally negative aesthetic. Distant views across the cleared land to the correctional facility are evident.

# Photomontage without Intended Landscape



# Photomontage



		SENSITIVITY OF VIEW		
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
ОF	HIGH	High visual impact	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
UDE	MODERATE	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact
MAGNITUDE CHANGE	LOW	Moderate/low visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	Low visual impact
MA	VERY LOW	Low visual impact	Very low visual impact	Very low visual impact

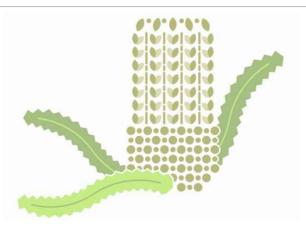
## Magnitude of Change and Visual Impact Rationales

The proposed buffer planting and boundary fence will be visible from this receptor. The solar panels are not visible from this location nor is the associated infrastructure of the facility. The limited distant views of the correctional facility are screened by the proposed planting. It is deemed the proposal would cause a noticeable deterioration in the existing view. This classifies the magnitude of change as **moderate**. When the low sensitivity of view is applied to this magnitude of change, the resulting visual impact is **moderate/low**.



Existing View Hopkins Road

LOCATION:	DCATION: Hopkins Road							
CO-ORDINATES:	38.114748	S, 146.974450 E	DATE:	30.12.2020				
ORIENTATION:	West		TIME:	10:23am				
CAMERA BRAND:	Apple IPhone 11 (dual 12 mexapixel)		CAMERA ANGLE:	Horizontal				
IMAGE TYPE:	Digital		IMAGE HEIGHT ABOVE GROUND:	1,500mm				
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM NEAREST SOLAR PANEL:		45 metres						

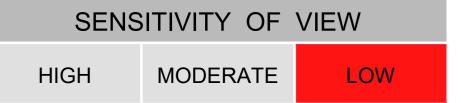


SUBJECT SITE

Hopkins Road

Hopkins Road





## Sensitivity of View Rationale

SUBJECT SITE

Degraded planted vegetation on the subject site and the weed cover beneath dominates the left hand side of this landscape with views of the correctional facility to the far right. The land is cleared, flat and holds little interest for the viewer. Weed cover is evident along the road verge. There are distant views towards the La Trobe River; however the view presents an overall negative aesthetic and the sensitivity of view is classified as **low**.

### Photomontage without Intended Landscape Hopkins Road

# Photomontage

Hopkins Road SUBJECT SITE Hopkins Road



		SENSITIVITY OF VIEW			
		HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	
ЧO	HIGH	High visual impact	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	
MAGNITUDE CHANGE	MODERATE	High/moderate visual impact	Moderate visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	
	LOW	Moderate/low visual impact	Moderate/low visual impact	Low visual impact	
	VERY LOW	Low visual impact	Very low visual impact	Very low visual impact	

## Magnitude of Change and Visual Impact Rationales

The proposed works would see the existing degraded vegetation removed and buffer planting established. The proposed buffer planting and boundary fence will be visible from this receptor. The solar panels are not visible from this location nor is the associated infrastructure of the facility. The views to the correctional facility are screened by the proposed planting. Distant views along Hopkins Road to the La Trobe River are retained. It is deemed the proposal would cause significant deterioration in the existing view. This classifies the magnitude of change as **high**. When the low sensitivity of view is applied to this magnitude of change, the resulting visual impact is **moderate/low**.

#### 5.0 Results

Of the 18 receptors analysed in this assessment, 15 were classified as low sensitivity of view. This was largely due to the receptors distance from the site or the cleared agricultural landscape devoid of vegetation common for the area. The remaining three receptors were classified as moderate sensitivity of view. These receptors were characterised by pleasing distant views, planted natural vegetation and inoffensive rural infrastructure.

The proposal includes the buffer planting specified on the Landscape Plan to mitigate the potential impact of the solar panels. This assessment has therefore considered the buffer planting within the magnitude of change observations. The landscape proposal includes a 5-metre-wide planting buffer to the perimeter of the operations composed of species from the Plains Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Class and the Swamp Scrub Ecological Vegetation Class (Gippsland Plain Bioregion). These are the plants that likely would have occurred across most of the site prior to European settlement and land clearing. The species selected from the EVC's have been chosen to provide screening to the proposed facility while not impacting on the operation of the solar panels or casting long shadows onto neighbouring land.

Photomontages were prepared to illustrate the proposal and enable magnitude of change to be determined at each receptor. By applying the sensitivity of view to the magnitude of change, a visual impact was determined. Of the 18 receptors, four were found to have a very low visual impact, five were found to have a low visual impact, six were found to have a low/moderate visual impact, and three were found to have a moderate/high visual impact.

#### 6.0 Mitigation

Observations made during the site visit identified that the subject site is well suited to this proposal due to the land's topography, lack of naturally occurring trees, sufficient drainage and optimal orientation and size to accommodate a productive facility. The land is well connected to a main road and key transport routes and is adjacent to other non-rural infrastructure.

The predominate landscape character of the area is generally flat, largely cleared paddocks with occasional exotic windrow vegetation. Road reserves are generally cleared and views to agricultural land are unobstructed. The agricultural landscape contains infrastructure elements including the powerlines. The character of the area contrasts with the neighbouring correctional facility and there is no transition at the interface.

A higher visual impact occurred at the northern boundary of the site on Hopkins Road. The proposed 45,000lt water tank and security fencing were found to be visually prominent at this location. The proposed buffer planting adjacent to the security fence allows it to recede. By locating the water tank back from the boundary and within the buffer planting, it is better screened from view and further allows the fence to recede at this location.

A moderate/low visual impact resulted at the intersection of Hopkins Road and McLaren's Road. Initial designs indicated security fencing along the boundary at this intersection, resulting in high visual dominance of the fence. The proposal has relocated the security fence to run adjacent to the buffer planting, in alignment with the interior road and adjacent to the manmade channel traversing the site. This retains the open views across the corner of the site and allows the security fencing to recede alongside the buffer planting. Another mitigation opportunity for this corner would be the planting of scattered native trees. These trees would not impact on the efficiency of the solar panels and would provide interest and ecological benefit.

#### 7.0 Summary of Assessment and Recommendations

This Visual Impact Assessment was undertaken to provide an objective appraisal of the likely extent and magnitude of impacts on the landscape and visual environment from the proposed Fulham Solar Farm, approximately 210 kilometres from Melbourne.

Following the desktop assessment and identification of potential receptors, the site visit was conducted and the key viewsheds confirmed. The 18 selected receptors all occur within a two-kilometre radius from the site. The proposal was found to have very low - high/moderate visual impact on the identified viewsheds.

The proposed design for the solar farm includes perimeter buffer planting which seeks to mitigate detrimental views from the selected receptors. The buffer planting will be composed of locally indigenous plant species to provide ground level, mid and upper storey vegetative cover. Additional mitigation measures have been proposed at the northeast and southeast corners of the site to reduce the visual impact of the proposal.

Based on the appraisal and findings of this Visual Impact Assessment it is considered that the proposed Fulham Solar Farm would have a low effect on the existing landscape characters and values as well as the local context.

#### References

*Guidance Note for Landscape and Visual Assessment* Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (June 2018)

Design and Development Guidelines for Solar Energy Facilities State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (August 2019)

Wellington Shire Planning Scheme Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (July 2020) https://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/wellington Appendix A – Landscape Plan

#### Locality Plan



#### Site Overview

Lot 2 LP204862 (Hopkins Road) in Fulham measures approximately 160 hectares in size and is located 210 kilometres east of Melbourne and 10 kilometres west of Sale. The site is bordered by Fulham Correctional Centre and farming land to the north, McLarens Road to the south, Hopkins Road to the east and farming land to the west. The site wraps around 379 McLarens Road. Gently undulating and zoned Farming, the site has historically been used for agricultural and farming purposes. The land was extensively cleared in the past with only scattered planted trees remaining around a dilapidated dwelling adjacent to Hopkins Road. An exotic windbreak is located on the northern section of the western boundary. There are no roadside plantings on McLarens Road or Hopkins Road.

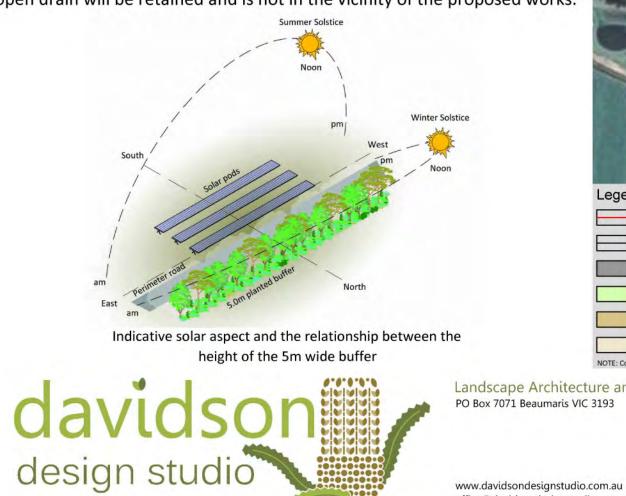


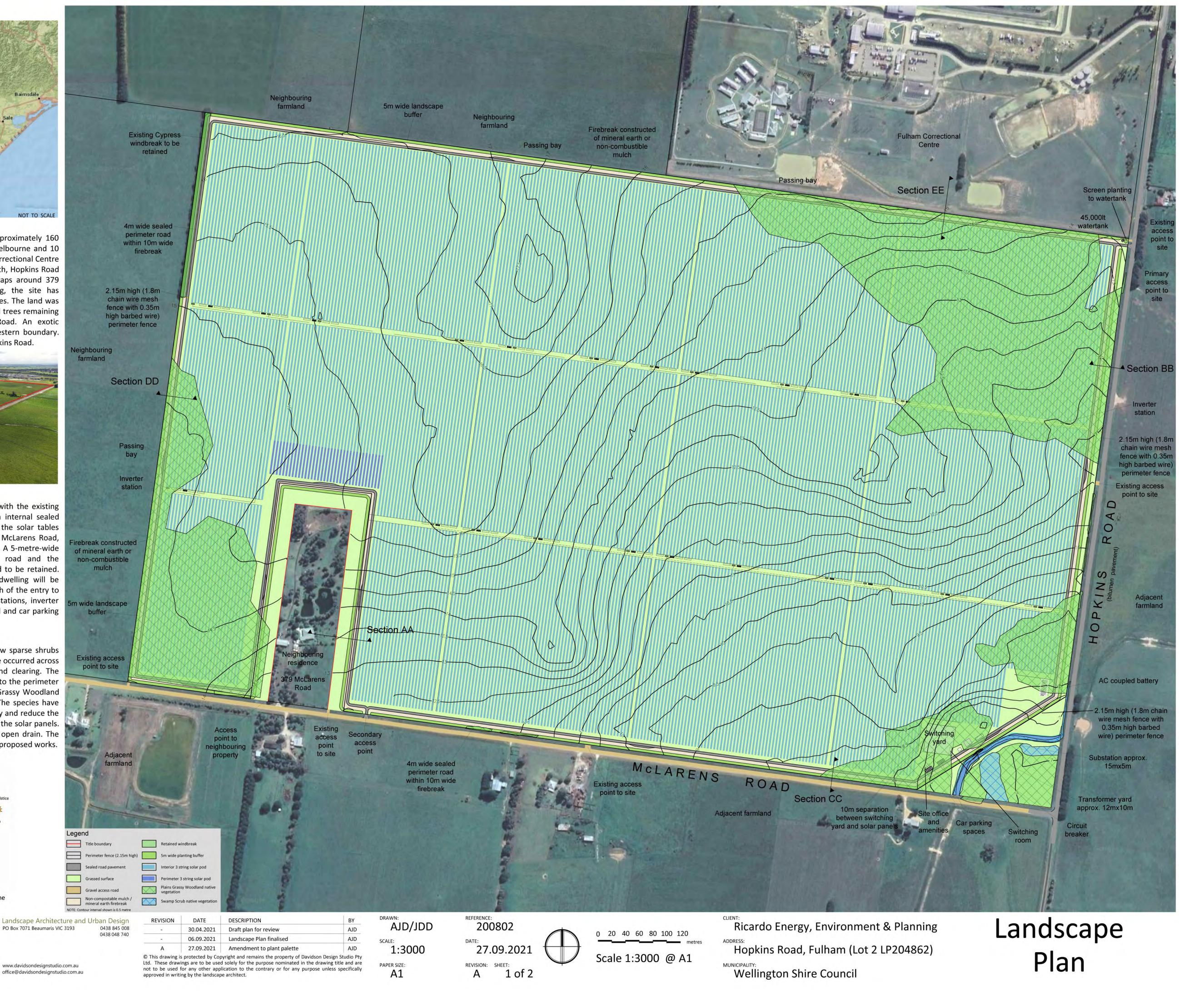
#### The Proposal

A solar energy facility is proposed for most of the site with the existing drain in the south east corner of the site retained. An internal sealed perimeter road accessed from Hopkins Road surrounds the solar tables with secondary emergency gravel access provided from McLarens Road, adjacent to the eastern boundary of 379 McLarens Road. A 5-metre-wide buffer planting zone occurs between the perimeter road and the boundaries of the site. The exotic windbreak is proposed to be retained. The scattered planted trees surrounding the existing dwelling will be removed. An infrastructure and service area is sited south of the entry to the site on Hopkins Road. A switching yard, converter stations, inverter stations and inverter station batteries, a transformer yard and car parking are included in the infrastructure and service area.

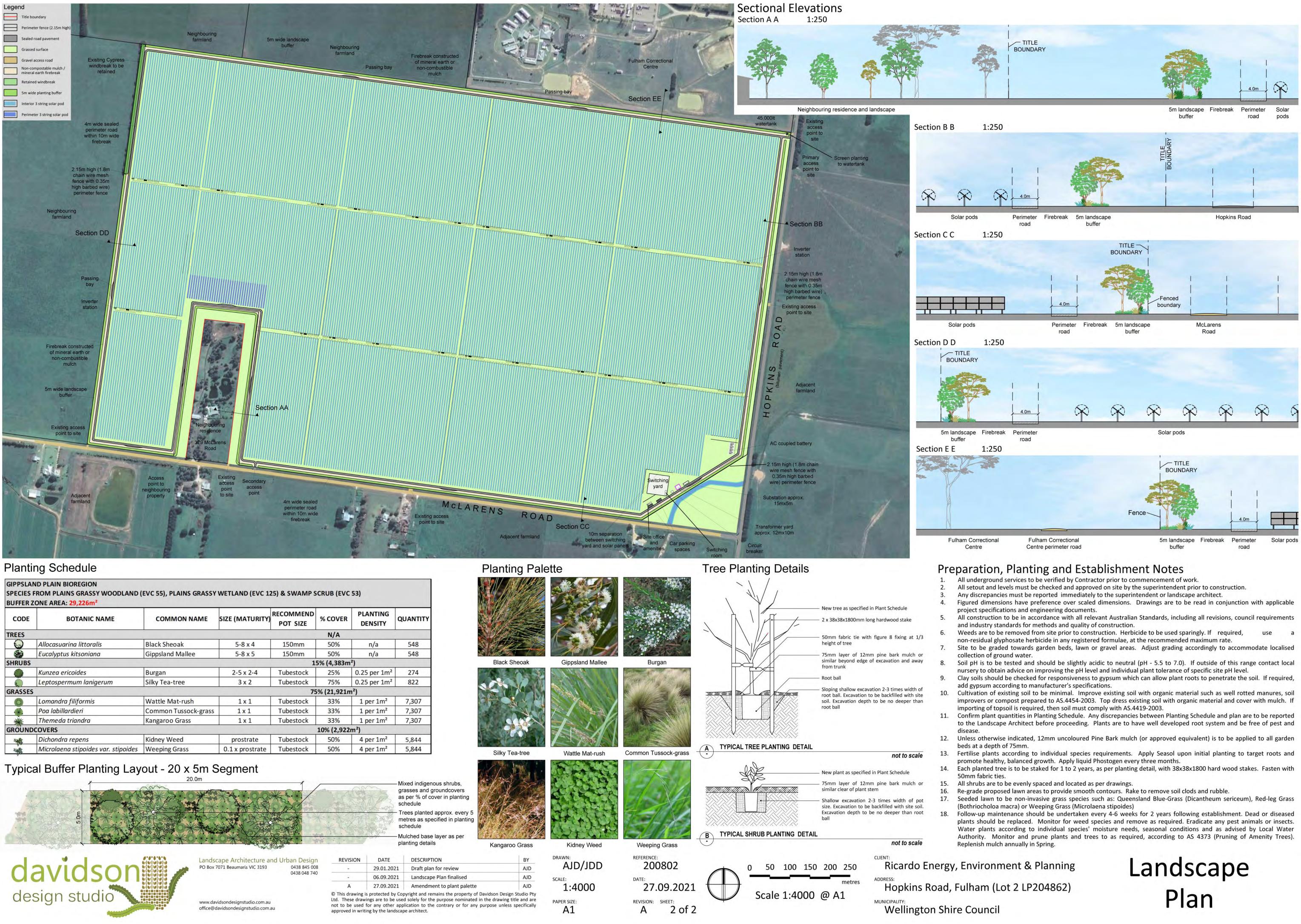
#### Landscape Response

A generally open eucalypt woodland to 15m tall with few sparse shrubs and a species-rich grassy and herbaceous layer would have occurred across most of the land prior to European settlement and land clearing. The proposed facility includes a 5-metre-wide planting buffer to the perimeter of the operations composed of species from the Plains Grassy Woodland Ecological Vegetation Class (Gippsland Plain Bioregion). The species have been selected to provide screening to the proposed facility and reduce the heat island effect while not impacting on the operation of the solar panels. The lower south eastern corner of the site contains the open drain. The open drain will be retained and is not in the vicinity of the proposed works.





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CODE	BOTANIC NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE (MATURITY)	RECOMMEND POT SIZE	% COVER	PLANTING DENSITY	QUANTITY
TREES					N/A		
0	Allocasuarina littoralis	Black Sheoak	5-8 x 4	150mm	50%	n/a	548
8	Eucalyptus kitsoniana	Gippsland Mallee	5-8 x 5	150mm	50%	n/a	548
SHRUBS				1	5% (4,383m	<sup>2</sup> )	
	Kunzea ericoides	Burgan	2-5 x 2-4	Tubestock	25%	0.25 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	274
Õ	Leptospermum lanigerum	Silky Tea-tree	3 x 2	Tubestock	75%	0.25 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	822
GRASSES				75	5% (21,921m	1 <sup>2</sup> )	
	Lomandra filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush	1 x 1	Tubestock	33%	1 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	7,307
-	Poa labillardieri	Common Tussock-grass	1 x 1	Tubestock	33%	1 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	7,307
*	Themeda triandra	Kangaroo Grass	1 x 1	Tubestock	33%	1 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	7,307
GROUND	COVERS				10% (2,922)	m²)	
***	Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed	prostrate	Tubestock	50%	4 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	5,844
X NOT	Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides	Weeping Grass	0.1 x prostrate	Tubestock	50%	4 per 1m <sup>2</sup>	5,844