

FINAL REPORT:  Ryan Corne	r Wind Farn				
Pest Animal			ın		
January 2010					
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Ecology Partne	ers Pty Ltd				



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### SUMMARY

#### Introduction

Ecology Partners Pty. Ltd. was commissioned by Ryan Corner Development Pty Ltd to undertake a pre-construction pest animal survey and prepare a Pest Animal Management Plan (PAMP) for the Ryan Corner Wind Farm.

This Pest Animal Management Plan has been prepared in response to the requirements to the conditions of Planning Permit # 20060222 Section 13g, from the Victorian Minister for Planning.

#### **Study Area**

The Ryan Corner Wind Farm is located in south west Victoria, approximately 12 km northwest of Port Fairy. It covers an area of 3,600 ha and comprises 12 land holdings (ERM 2006). The Study Area is bound by Private Property to the north, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road to the east, Fingerboard Road to the south and Youls Road to the West and is bisected by Riverside Road and Harris Road.

#### Methods

A pest animal survey was undertaken during daylight hours on 20, 21 and 22 October, 2009 to identify the presence and/or habitat for pest animals. The survey involved active searching for habitat (i.e. burrows), scats and tracks, signs of predation on livestock and prey.

The survey focused on the areas where wind turbines and access tracks are proposed for construction, as well as property access points. The majority of properties were traversed on foot, due to the nature of the terrain. Incidental records were also made of habitat and/or sightings of pest animals in other parts of the Study Area.

#### Results

The survey identified a number of pest species on the Study Area. The control and management of the following pest animal species are considered to be most important, due to their potential threat to on site values:

- European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*; and
- European Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*.

#### Conclusion

Specific issues and mitigation measures relating to pest animal management have been detailed for each project phase (pre-construction, construction and post-construction).





A regular monitoring program will be undertaken for pest animals throughout the construction area for two years post-construction as part of an integrated pest management approach within the locality.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Ecology Partners Pty. Ltd. was commissioned by Ryan Corner Development Pty Ltd to undertake a pre-construction pest animal survey and prepare a Pest Animal Management Plan (PAMP) for the Ryan Corner Wind Farm.

This PAMP has been prepared in response to the requirements to the conditions of Planning Permit # 20060222 Section 13g, from the Victorian Minister for Planning.

## 1.2 Study Area

The Ryan Corner Wind Farm (Study Area) is located in south west Victoria, approximately 12 km northwest of Port Fairy. It covers an area of 3,600 ha and comprises 12 land holdings (ERM 2006). The Study Area is bound by Private Property to the north, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road to the east, Fingerboard Road to the south and Youls Road to the West and is bisected by Riverside Road and Harris Road (Figure 1).

The majority of native vegetation throughout the Study Area has been cleared, with remnant vegetation generally restricted to roadside reserves. The main land use within the Study Area is agricultural (mostly grazing and cropping), and typically comprises areas of improved and unimproved pasture. The Study Area comprises mostly undulating topography with numerous stony rocky rises. A number of ephemeral creeklines and waterbodies are also present. The Study Area occurs within the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregion, the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and the Shire of Moyne.

## 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the PAMP are to:

- Identify potential pest animals within the study area and outline the relevant National and State Legislation requirements for their control;
- Ensure that the activities of the project do not exacerbate existing pest animal impacts so as to cause economic or environmental impacts to landholders; and
- Outline mitigation and monitoring measures to be implemented throughout each phase (pre-construction, construction and post-construction) of the project to prevent the increase of pest animal populations.

## 1.4 Other Relevant Programs

Other management plans are considered to be related to the PAMP are outlined below:





- Bat and Avifauna Management Program;
- Weed Management Program; and
- Vegetation Offset Management Plan.



## 2 LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

## 2.1 Commonwealth and State Legislation

Commonwealth and State government legislation and policy relevant to the PAMP include:

- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act).
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act).

## 2.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

The Commonwealth EPBC Act deals with actions that have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. The key threatening processes listed under the EPBC Act relevant to the PAMP are:

- Competition and land degradation by European Rabbits Oryctolagus cuniculus; and
- Predation by the European Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*.

#### 2.2 Catchment and Land Protection Act

The CaLP Act is the main state legislation relating to the control of pest animal species (DSE 2002a). Classification of pest animals according to the CaLP Act falls into four categories.

- 1. Prohibited Pest Animals declared prohibited pest animals are those that:
- Do not occur naturally in the wild in Australia before European settlement;
- Either:
  - Are a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in a place outside Victoria; or
  - For which its potential to threaten primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria is unknown; and
  - The importation, keeping and sale should be banned.
- 2. Controlled Pest Animals declared controlled pest animals are those that:
  - Did not occur naturally in the wild in Australia before European settlement;
  - Have a high potential to become a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria; and



- Should only be kept in high security collections approved by the Minister.
- 3. Regulated Pest Animal declared regulated pest animals are those that:
- Did not occur naturally in the wild in Australia before European settlement;
- Is, or has the potential to become, a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria; and
- Should only be kept in collections or at premises approved by the Minister.
- 4. Established Pest Animal declared established pest animals are those that:
- Are established in the wild in Victoria;
- Are a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria; and
- Should be eradicated or controlled or its spread in the wild should be prevented (DPI 2009).

### 2.3 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act

The FFG Act provides the listing of taxa and communities of flora and fauna which are threatened, and potentially threatening processes. The listed potentially threatening processes under the FFG Act that consider pest animals and are relevant to the Study Area are:

- Predation of native wildlife by the European Red Fox;
- Reduction in biomass and biodiversity of native vegetation through grazing by the European Rabbit;

#### 2.4 Literature Review

The following documents have been reviewed in developing the PAMP:

- Victorian Pest Management A Framework for Action (DNRE 2002a);
- Victorian Pest Management A Framework for Action: Rabbit Management Strategy (DNRE 2002b);
- Victorian Pest Management A Framework for Action: Fox Management Strategy (DNRE 2002c);
- EPBC Act 1999, Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Feral Rabbits (draft) (DEWR 2007);



- FFG Act 1988, Action Statement No. 44, Predation of native wildlife by the introduced Red Fox (DSE, 2002a); and
- EPBC Act, Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the Red Fox (National Heritage Trust, 1999).

### 2.5 Definition of a Pest Animal

Under the CaLP Act the definition of a pest animal is:

'exotic (or introduced) animals (excluding any that cannot be declared under the CaLP Act) that threatens, or has the potential to threaten, the existence or well being of valued environmental, agricultural, social or personal resources or assets' (DPI 2009).

Native animal species that are considered by some as pest species are not considered in this report, as all native animals are protected under the FFG Act and the Wildlife Act 1975.



## 3 METHODS

## 3.1 Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment of the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife database (AVW 2007) was undertaken to identify the pest animal species known to occur on and/or within 10 km of Study Area. The search identified a number of pest species, including several listed under the CaLP Act (see Appendix 1).

## 3.2 Survey Method

A pest animal survey was undertaken during daylight hours across the Study Area on 20, 21 and 22 October, 2009 to identify the presence and/or habitat for pest animals. The survey involved active searching for habitat (i.e. burrows, harbour), scats and tracks, predation on livestock and prey, and sightings.

The survey focused on the areas where wind turbines and access tracks are proposed for construction, as well as property access points. The majority of properties were traversed on foot, due to the nature of the terrain. Incidental records were also made of habitat and/or sightings of pest animals in other parts of the Study Area.



## 4 PEST ANIMAL ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Site Assessment

The survey identified the Study Area contains several pest species; including species listed under the CaLP Act (Table 1). In general, the Study Area has been subject to historical land uses (land clearing, grazing, cropping, fertilising) and consists of highly modified vegetation, dominated by exotic species either as improved pasture or agricultural crops. The majority of native vegetation within the Study Area has been removed, and is restricted to roadsides. The history of disturbance and surrounding agricultural landscape, are key factors in facilitating the presence and abundance of pest animals within the Study Area. Survey results for individual properties are outlined in Table 2. Locations of pest animals and/or habitats recorded during the survey are shown in Figure 2.

**Table 1.** List of Pest Animals Recorded during the Survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Pest Animal Category
Alauda arvensis	Skylark	-
Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	-
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	-
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	-
Acridotheres tristis	Common Myna	-
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	-
Oryctolagus cuniculus	European Rabbit	Category 4
Lepus europeaus	European Hare	Category 4
Vulpes vulpes	European Red Fox	Category 4

**Key to table**: Pest animal categories: 1. Prohibited Pest Animals; 2. Controlled Pest Animals; 3. Regulated Pest Animal; 4. Established Pest Animal.

**Table 2.** Survey Results at Individual Properties.

Property	Site Description	Pest Species Recorded during Survey	Habitat
Dumseny	Unimproved pasture. Large weed infestations towards Riverside road	Skylark, Common Myna	Gorse, Boxthorn and Sweet Briar provides harbour for rabbits
Dumseny (Harlock)	Unimproved pasture. Several areas impacted by weeds	Common Starling, Blackbird	Rockpiles provides harbour for rabbits
McDonald (Hogan)	Unimproved pasture. Several areas impacted by weeds	European Hare, Blackbird	Rabbit warrens recorded near Riverside road; rockpiles on property provides harbour for rabbits
McNamara	Unimproved pasture. Several areas impacted by weeds	None recorded	Rockpiles on property provides harbour for rabbits



Property	Site Description	Pest Species Recorded during Survey	Habitat
Moore	Unimproved pasture. Several areas impacted by weeds	European Rabbit, European Red Fox	Rabbit warrens recorded near Riverside road; rockpiles on property provides harbour for rabbits
Homan	Unimproved pasture. Several areas impacted by weeds	Skylark	Boxthorn on rocky outcrops provides harbour for rabbits; Boxthorn provides harbour for rabbits
Wright	Improved pasture towards Youls road	European Rabbit	Gorse (recently sprayed) and Boxthorn on rocky outcrops provides harbour for rabbits.
Hocking	Improved pasture towards Youls road	European Hare	Boxthorn on rocky outcrops provides harbour for rabbits
Forest	Improved pasture	European Red Fox	Boxthorn on rocky outcrops provides harbour for rabbits
Winter	Improved pasture towards Youls road; unimproved pasture and rocky areas towards Riverside road	Skylark, Common House Sparrow	Boxthorn on rocky outcrops provides harbour for rabbits. Rabbit warrens recorded near Riverside road.
Youl	Improved pasture towards Youls road. Unimproved pasture and rocky areas towards Riverside road	European Rabbit (dead)	Rabbit warrens recorded near Riverside road
Porter	Improved pasture towards Youls road. Unimproved pasture and rocky areas towards Riverside road	Skylark, Common Starling	Rockpiles on property provides harbour for rabbits

## 4.2 Target Pest Animals

The survey identified a number of pest species on the Study Area. Of these species, the control and management of the following pest animal species are considered to be most important, due to their potential threat to Study Area values:

- European Rabbit (Rabbit); and,
- European Red Fox (Red Fox).

Rabbits and foxes have been identified by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA (GHCMA 2009) as the most significant pest animals in the southwest region.

The majority of landowners were contacted during the survey to discuss pest animal issues relevant to their property. All landowners reported that rabbits and foxes were present on their property, however, they were not considered to be a serious issue at present. The current abundance/distribution of rabbits and foxes on the Study Area has not been established as this was beyond the project scope. However, the impact of rabbits and foxes was evident throughout the Study Area through the presence of burrows, and predation on livestock, and both pests should be considered as being present at all properties within the Study Area.

The surrounding agricultural landscape provides ideal conditions for rabbits and foxes to proliferate, therefore control of these species throughout the Study Area will be required.



Eradication of these species is considered unlikely due the large area of suitable habitat and difficulty of control.

Although this PAMP does not directly address the remaining pest animal species identified in Table 1, general mitigation measures are provided in Section 4 to avoid or reduce the likelihood of other pest animal species (i.e. European Hare) becoming a threat to values within the Study Area.

## 4.2.1 Impacts of the European Rabbit

Rabbits are the most serious vertebrate pest animals in Victoria, causing major economic and environmental damage (DNRE 2002b). The major component of the economic impact comes from reduced agricultural production, principally in the sheep and cattle industries. The effect of grazing on native species and agricultural pasture can be significant.

The direct impacts of rabbits on native flora and fauna include: grazing on native flora and preventing regeneration; and competition with fauna for food and shelter. Indirect effects include such as supporting populations of foxes, and digging and browsing leading to a loss of vegetation cover and consequent slope instability and soil erosion (DEWHA 2008).

Rabbit populations may also sustain predators such as foxes, subsequently increasing pressure on native animals (DPI 1999). Rabbits have been found to have a significant impact on remnant native vegetation across southeast Australia (IACRC 2007). Ongoing management is therefore required by land managers to control rabbit numbers (IACRC 2007). The Rabbit is declared as an established pest animal throughout Victoria under the CaLP Act (DPI 2007).

## 4.2.2 Impacts of the European Red Fox

The Red Fox is an adaptable and elusive predator and scavenger. Despite management efforts, the fox is now common throughout Victoria and are a major threat to the survival of native fauna (DNRE 2002c). They are Australia's number one predator, and there are reports of them taking up to 30% of lambs in some areas. The combined economic and environmental impact of the red fox is greater than for any other introduced vertebrate, totalling around \$227.5m per year (IACRC 2007). The Red Fox is declared as an established pest animal throughout Victoria under the CaLP Act (DPI 2007).

## 4.3 Study Area Values

The Study Area contains a number of environmental and agricultural values that need to be protected from the direct (i.e. predation on native fauna) or indirect impacts (i.e. loss of productivity through grazing) of pest animals.



### 4.3.1 Environmental Values

While the majority of the Study Area has been modified by agricultural landuse, several areas contain important environmental values. These values include stony rocky knolls, rocky ridges, ephemeral wetlands and creeklines, remnant grassland and grassy wetland, and scattered indigenous trees.

A desktop assessment undertaken by ERM (2006) found that nine flora species listed under the EPBC Act and seven flora species listed under the FFG Act may occur on, or within the vicinity of the Study Area. Also 21 bird species, 6 mammal species, two fish species, three reptile species and three frog species classified as rare or threatened may occur on, or within the vicinity of the Study Area. Of the 35 threatened species, 17 are listed on the EPBC Act and 20 are listed under the FFG Act (ERM 2006). Two threatened species was recorded during the survey alongside Riverside Road (Figure 2):

- Clover Glycine *Glycine latrobeana* listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Threatened under the FFG Act; and,
- Golden Cowslips *Diuris behrii* listed as Vulnerable in Victoria (DSE 2005).

No threatened fauna species were recorded during the survey.

The majority of native vegetation has been cleared from the Study Area and is restricted to roadside reserves adjacent to each property (Figure 2). Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) communities previously identified on the Study Area include Stony Knoll Shrubland (EVC 649); Aquatic Herbland (EVC 653); and Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55\_61) (ERM 2006).

Potential impacts from pest animals to environmental values include:

- Grazing of EVC communities and threatened flora species from Rabbits; and,
- Predation of native fauna (particularly birds and mammals) species from the Red Fox

### 4.3.2 Agricultural Values

The main land use within the Study Area is agricultural, which includes livestock grazing, crops and improved and unimproved pasture. Areas of improved pasture mostly comprise of Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne* and Clover *Trifolium* sp., whereas unimproved pasture contains a higher component of common pasture weeds such as Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Great Brome *Bromus diandrus*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Rough Dogstail *Cynosurus echinatus* and Cape Weed *Arctotheca calendula*. Potential impacts from pest animals to agricultural values include:

- Grazing of crops and pasture from Rabbits;
- Predation of livestock from the Red Fox.



## 5 PEST MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Specific issues and mitigation measures relating to pest animal management have been detailed for each project phase (pre-construction, construction and post-construction). Mitigation measures should be incorporated into the site Construction Environment Management Plan.

Mitigation measures have been developed to comply with regulations outlined in the CALP Act for pest animals. Proper implementation of mitigation measures for pest animal control will enable compliance with responsibilities under the CALP Act.

#### 5.1 Pre-Construction

### 5.1.1 Threats

It is possible that Rabbit and Red Fox numbers on the site may increase during the preconstruction phase of the project, particularly if no control or monitoring is being undertaken during lead up times to construction. Increased rabbit numbers may also act as attractants to foxes, potentially bringing more foxes into an area, which may increase the risk to livestock and native fauna (DPI 2007).

## 5.1.2 Mitigation Measures

In order to be successful, the control of pest animals on the site must be part of an integrated pest management approach within the locality. The various groups (including landowners) and organisations required to work together include the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Landcare and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. To ensure that an integrated management approach is adopted, liaison with these groups is required. Further, it is essential to consult with these groups and local authorities in order to work within existing management strategies for the control of pest animals in the Study Area.

#### 5.2 Construction

#### 5.2.1 Threats

### **European Rabbit**

Rabbit management will be of specific importance during the revegetation and/or reinstatement phase of post-construction. Rabbits have the potential to destroy revegetated areas if control measures are not implemented to or prevent access to these areas.

The construction phase could create additional opportunities for harbour and/or burrows for the European Rabbit within the site and surrounding areas. The prevention of any harbour should be a priority.



Construction activity during the project and lack of rabbit control/prevention during the post-construction phase has the potential to increase impacts already being caused by the existing rabbit populations in the local area. The potential impacts may include:

- Increased grazing pressure on native flora (including threatened flora species);
- Increased resource competition for native fauna;
- Increased burrowing opportunities from soil disturbed during construction; and,
- Increased area of potential habitat from harbour resulting from debris on the site.

#### **European Red Fox**

Red Fox numbers are generally controlled by actions undertaken at a broad scale. If no Red Fox control measures were to be undertaken in the construction area, then Red Fox numbers could potentially increase within the site and surrounding area. Any increase in Red Fox numbers has the potential to increase the existing ecological and agricultural impacts caused by the Red Fox (e.g. predation on native fauna and livestock). Therefore, control actions undertaken would contribute to overall Red Fox control within in the local area.

## **5.2.2 Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures identified during the construction phase of the project are outlined in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Mitigation Measures during the Construction Phase.

Mitigation Measure	Action	Location	Responsibility
Harbour for rabbits	Store construction materials, machinery and equipment in designated areas	Areas impacted by construction activities	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Harbour for rabbits	Avoid stock piling soil, weeds (i.e. Boxthorn) and rubbish within construction areas	Areas impacted by construction activities	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Harbour for rabbits	Do not remove or modify any vegetation (native or non-native) identified as harbour until approval has been granted by a qualified Ecologist.	Areas impacted by construction activities	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Harbour for rabbits	Revegetate disturbed areas as soon as practicable to minimise the area of exposed soil as potential for burrows	Areas impacted by construction activities	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Fox abundance	Undertake fox control measures (i.e. baiting, shooting, den fumigation) with a qualified pest controller in an integrated manner in conjunction with existing management strategies in the local area.	All areas	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Fox abundance	Report all live sightings and fox corpses to the local DPI/DSE.	All areas	Site/Project Environmental Officer



### 5.3 Post Construction

#### 5.3.1 Threats

### **European Rabbit**

Rabbit are likely to pose a threat through grazing to areas re-seeded as improved pasture. Also, revegetation of access points with native trees, shrubs revegetation after construction will also be required to protect against grazing.

Areas on or immediately adjacent to the construction zone where soil has been disturbed are likely to provide potential for burrows. All above ground harbour, including construction materials left on the site will also provide potential habitat.

#### **European Red Fox**

The main threat caused by foxes post-construction is the potential to increase their presence and abundance, through a lack of rabbit control on the site, which in turn increases the potential for ecological and agricultural impacts on the site and in surrounding areas.

## 5.3.2 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures identified during the post-construction phase of the project are outlined in Table 4.

 Table 4. Mitigation Measures during the Post-Construction Phase.

Mitigation Measure	Action	Location	Responsibility
Harbour for rabbits	Remove all above ground surface harbour for rabbits (particularly weeds such as Boxthorn, Blackberry, Gorse and Sweet Briar), as well as discarded construction materials.	Areas impacted by construction activities	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Impacts to revegetation	Use rabbit proof fencing around revegetated areas; as well as plastic guards around each plant	Areas impacted by construction activities	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Fox abundance	Report all live sightings and fox corpses to the local DPI/DSE.	All areas	Site/Project Environmental Officer
Fox and rabbit abundance	Contribute to local pest animal control programs for 2 years following completion of construction	All areas	Site/Project Environmental Officer



## 5.4 Management Approach

Depending on the desired outcome the main approach to management will either be eradication or control of pest animals.

The concept of total rabbit eradication is a worthwhile aim and is achievable at a local scale when using integrated rabbit control methods (DPI 2007a). However, total eradication within the Study Area is considered unlikely within the designated management timeframe (two years following completion of construction). The approach should be to alleviate the impact of rabbits on agricultural and natural environments; this is achievable through integrated rabbit control techniques (DPI 2007a).

As for rabbits, total eradication of foxes within the Study Area is considered unlikely, however, the approach to fox control needs to be undertaken in the same manner to successfully control rabbits (DPI 2007b). Fox populations are very resilient to conventional methods of control, and rapid re-colonisation of areas occurs after control measures are applied. This suggests that control is either rarely achieved or not achieved, particularly when applying a once-off management technique. The approach should be to alleviate the impact of foxes on agricultural and natural environments through integrated control techniques (DPI 2007b).

#### 5.5 Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators for pest animal management include:

- Control the population of rabbits and foxes within the Study Area to meet the requirements under the CALP Act for established pest animals.
- No net increase in the impacts of foxes and rabbits on agricultural and environmental values within the Study Area.

## 5.6 Monitoring and Reporting

### **European Rabbit**

A regular monitoring program will be undertaken for rabbits throughout the construction area for two years post-construction. Monitoring of the area for the presence (e.g. rabbit warrens, sightings) and/or damage caused by rabbits (overgrazing) will be undertaken four times annually (early spring, late spring, summer, autumn) for two years, as part of an integrated pest management approach within the locality.

Important stakeholders in managing rabbits include: DPI, DSE, Parks Victoria, GHCMA, local government and private landholders (DNRE 2002b).

The impact of rabbits varies in different situations. Low populations may be tolerable some situations (i.e. grazing), but not tolerable where they are a particular threat to specific



ecological values (grazing threatened flora). The emphasis of management will focus on long-term habitat modification, i.e. warren removal (DNRE 2002b).

The rabbit control program needs to be evaluated to ensure it meets appropriate best practice pest management. The program should be appropriately planned and coordinated using the most effective, safe and humane methods available, which are aimed at long-term management. (DNRE 2002b).

Integration of rabbit management programs is required between other pest species (i.e. rabbit and foxes), so a reduction in one pest species does not lead to an increase in another, or adversely impact on native prey species (DNRE 2002b).

Monitoring and annual reporting of rabbit management will also follow established processes such as bioregional planning to ensure that relevant information is recorded on appropriate monitoring systems, including the Integrated Pest Management System and the Environmental Information System of Parks Victoria (DNRE 2002b).

#### **European Red Fox**

A regular monitoring program will be undertaken for foxes throughout the construction area for two years post-construction. Monitoring of the area for the presence (e.g. sightings) or evidence (predation of livestock and native fauna; scats) will be undertaken as part of an integrated pest management approach within the locality.

Important stakeholders in managing foxes include: DPI, DSE, Parks Victoria, GHCMA, local government and private landholders (DNRE 2002c).

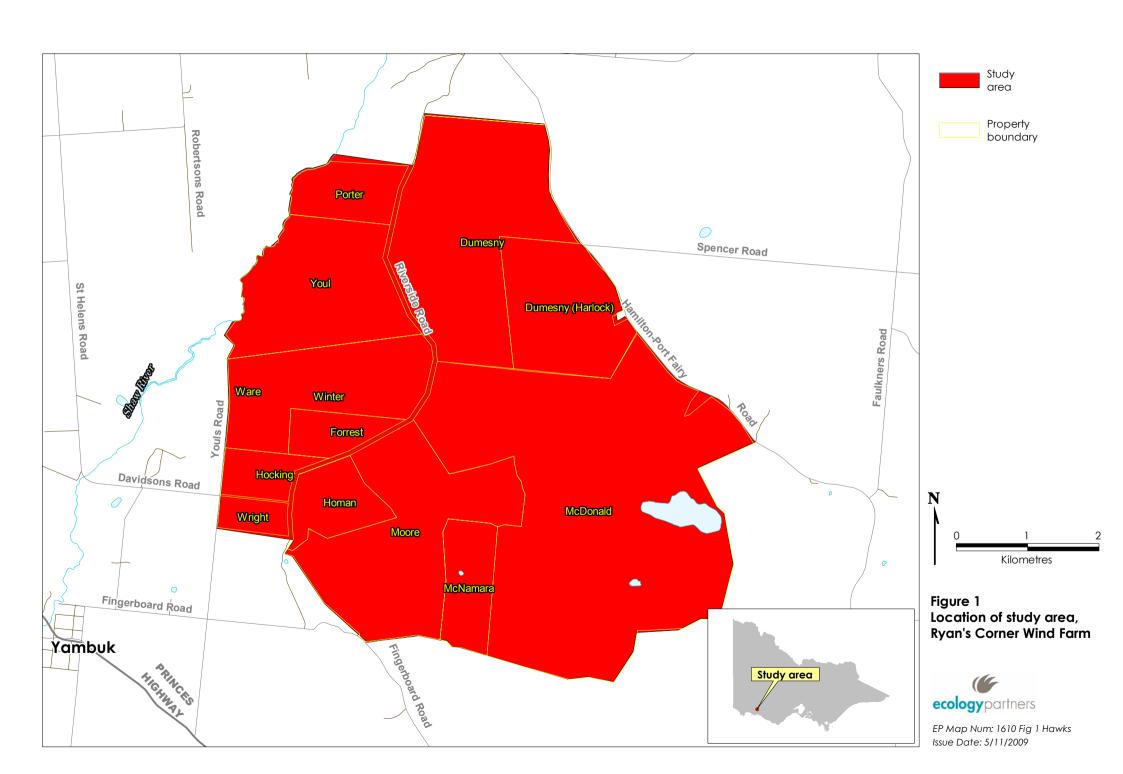
The fox control program needs to be evaluated to ensure it meets appropriate best practice pest management. The program should be appropriately planned and coordinated using the most effective, safe and humane methods available, which are aimed at long-term management (DNRE 2002c).

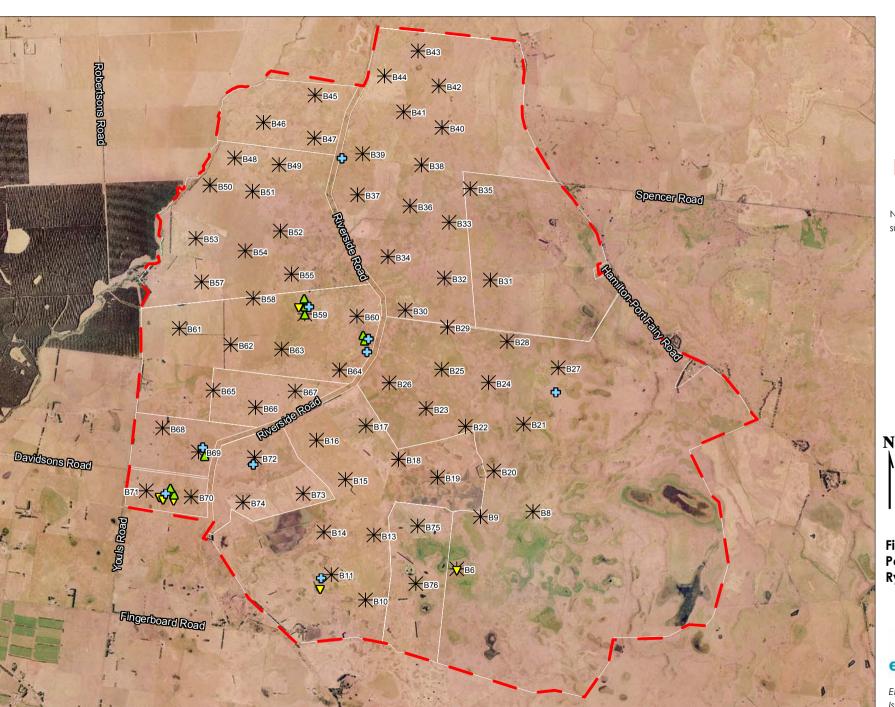
Best practice fox management should focus on limiting the damage to biodiversity and livestock by foxes. To achieve this, the emphasis of the program will be on reducing damage on environmental (i.e. native fauna) and agricultural values (i.e. livestock), rather than eradication of foxes. Integration of fox management programs with those of other pest species (such as rabbits) is also required so that a reduction in one pest species does not lead to an increase in another, or adversely impact on native prey species (DNRE 2002c).

Monitoring and annual reporting of fox management will also follow established processes such as bioregional planning to ensure that relevant information is recorded on appropriate monitoring systems, including the Integrated Pest Management System and the Environmental Information System of Parks Victoria (DNRE 2002c).



# **FIGURES**





#### Pest plan

△ Boxthorn

**7** Gorse

Rabbit burrows



Proposed turbine



Study area

Note: An area of 25 x 40 metres was surveyed around each turbine.

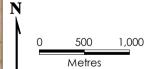


Figure 5 Pest plan, Ryan Corner Wind Farm



EP Map Num: 1610 Fig RC Pest Issue Date: 5/11/2009



# **APPENDICES**

# Appendix 1 – Fauna Results

**Table A1.** Fauna species previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the study area.

Type of Record: Mi Migratory (EPBC Act)
H – Heard Ma Marine (EPBC Act)

S – Seen

I – Incidental (identified from feathers, bones or scats, etc)

 $T-Trapped \ / \ Handheld$ 

\* Introduced species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Last Documented Record (AVW)	Total # of Documented Records (AVW)	Hollow Use	Mi/ Ma	Present Survey
	MAMMA	ALS				
Platypus	Ornithorhynchus anatinus	2002	1	-	-	-
Short-beaked Echidna	Tachyglossus aculeatus	2006	8	-	-	-
Ginkgo-toothed Whale	Mesoplodon ginkgodens	1983	1	-	Ма	-
Fat-tailed Dunnart	Sminthopsis crassicaudata	2003	2	-	-	-
Southern Brown Bandicoot	Isoodon obesulus obesulus	2001	1	-	-	-
Eastern Barred Bandicoot	Perameles gunnii	1972	3	-	-	-
Common Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus vulpecula	1997	7	Total	-	-
Common Ringtail Possum	Pseudocheirus peregrinus	1994	4	Partial	-	-
Sugar Glider	Petaurus breviceps	1993	1	Total	-	-
Feathertail Glider	Acrobates pygmaeus	1888	2	Total	-	-
Koala	Phascolarctos cinereus	1994	3	-	-	-
Black Wallaby	Wallabia bicolor	2006	4	-	-	-
Red-necked Wallaby	Macropus rufogriseus	1994	4	-	-	-
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Macropus giganteus	2002	2	-	-	-
Lesser Long-eared Bat	Nyctophilus geoffroyi	1985	1	Total	-	-
Swamp Rat	Rattus lutreolus	2005	4	-	-	-



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*Black Rat	Rattus rattus	2000	2	-	-	-
*House Mouse	Mus musculus	2002	4	-	-	-
Water Rat	Hydromys chrysogaster	2006	2	-	-	-
*European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	2006	8	-	-	S
*European Hare	Lepus europeaus	1992	2	-	-	S
*Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes	2006	10	=	-	S
*Cat	Felis catus	2006	5	-	-	-
Australian Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus	2005	2	-	Ма	-
Southern Elephant Seal	Mirounga leonina	1978	2	-	Ма	-
Leopard Seal	Hydrurga leptonyx	1968	1	-	Ма	-
Southern Right Whale	Eubalaena australis	2002	7	-	Mi/Ma	-
Blue Whale	Balaenoptera musculus	1999	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Sperm Whale	Physeter macrocephalus	1989	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Pygmy Sperm Whale	Kogia breviceps	1990	1	-	Ма	-
Long-finned Pilot Whale	Globicephala melas	1955	1	-	Ма	-
Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus	2004	1	-	Ма	-
Subantarctic Fur Seal	Arctocephalus tropicalis	2006	4	-	Ма	-
	BIRDS					
Stubble Quail	Coturnix pectoralis	2005	2	-	Ма	-
Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora	1999	1	-	-	-
King Quail	Coturnix chinensis	2001	2	-	-	-
Lewin's Rail	Lewinia pectoralis	1992	1	-	Mi	-
Australian Spotted Crake	Porzana fluminea	1992	3	-	-	-
Baillon's Crake	Porzana pusilla	2006	2	-	Ма	-
Black-tailed Native-hen	Gallinula ventralis	2004	18	-	-	-
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa	2006	7	-	-	-
Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio	2006	84	-	Ма	-
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	2006	55	-	_	-



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Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	2006	25	-	-	-
Australasian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae	2006	16	-	-	-
Hoary-headed Grebe	Poliocephalus poliocephalus	2006	77	-	-	-
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel	Garrodia nereis	1976	1	-	Ма	-
White-faced Storm-Petrel	Pelagodroma marina	1997	2	-	Ма	=
Fluttering Shearwater	Puffinus gavia	2001	2	-	Ма	-
Short-tailed Shearwater	Ardenna tenuirostris	2003	9	-	Mi/Ma	-
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Ardenna carneipes	2001	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Southern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialoides	1986	2	-	Ма	=
Great-winged Petrel	Pterodroma macroptera	1959	1	-	Ма	-
Fairy Prion	Pachyptila turtur	1993	1	-	Ма	-
Antarctic Prion	Pachyptila desolata	1993	2	-	Ма	-
Common Diving-Petrel	Pelecanoides urinatrix	1982	1	-	Ма	-
Wandering Albatross	Diomedea exulans	1992	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Black-browed Albatross	Thalassarche melanophris	2005	5	-	Mi/Ma	-
Yellow-nosed Albatross	Thalassarche chlororhynchos	2000	2	-	Mi/Ma	-
Shy Albatross	Thalassarche cauta	2005	5	-	Mi/Ma	-
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	2006	46	-	=	-
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris	2006	31	-	-	-
Black-faced Cormorant	Phalacrocorax fuscescens	2006	7	-	Ма	-
Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax varius	2006	10	-	-	-
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos	2006	77	-	=	-
Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae	2006	4	-	-	-
Australasian Gannet	Morus serrator	2005	17	-	Ма	-
Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus	2006	51	-	Ма	-
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus	2006	20	-	Ма	-
Gull-billed Tern	Gelochelidon nilotica	2006	2	-	Ма	-
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	2006	12	-	Mi/Ma	-



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White-fronted Tern	Sterna striata	1985	1	-	Ма	-
Crested Tern	Thalaseus bergii	2006	26	-	Ма	-
Fairy Tern	Sternula nereis	1991	1	-	Ма	-
Silver Gull	Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae	2006	130	-	Ма	=
Pacific Gull	Larus pacificus pacificus	2006	28	-	Ма	=
Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	2006	22	-	Mi/Ma	-
Pied Oystercatcher	Haematopus longirostris	2006	43	-	Ма	=
Sooty Oystercatcher	Haematopus fuliginosus	2004	7	-	Ма	=
Red-kneed Dotterel	Erythrogonys cinctus	2003	6	-	=	=
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles	2006	204	-	-	-
Banded Lapwing	Vanellus tricolor	1986	2	-	-	-
Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	2000	2	-	Mi/Ma	-
Pacific Golden Plover	Pluvialis fulva	2006	6	-	Mi/Ma	-
Hooded Plover	Thinornis rubricollis	2006	68	-	Ма	-
Double-banded Plover	Charadrius bicinctus	2003	11	-	Mi/Ma	=
Red-capped Plover	Charadrius ruficapillus	2006	26	-	Ма	=
Black-fronted Dotterel	Elseyornis melanops	2006	15	-	-	-
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	2006	62	-	Ма	-
Banded Stilt	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus	2005	3	-	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	2005	4	-	Mi/Ma	-
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1998	6	-	Mi/Ma	-
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	2006	27	-	Mi/Ma	=
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	2006	3	-	Mi/Ma	=
Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	2006	9	-	Mi/Ma	-
Red-necked Stint	Calidris ruficollis	2006	28	-	Mi/Ma	-
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Calidris acuminata	2006	30	-	Mi/Ma	-
Great Knot	Calidris tenuirostris	1984	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Sanderling	Calidris alba	2006	12	-	Mi/Ma	-



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Latham's Snipe	Gallinago hardwickii	2006	52	-	Mi/Ma	-
Australian Painted Snipe	Rostratula australis	2000	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Beach Stone-curlew	Esacus neglectus	2006	1	-	Ма	-
Brolga	Grus rubicunda	2005	12	-	-	-
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	2006	3	=	Mi/Ma	-
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis molucca	2006	137	=	Ма	S
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis spinicollis	2006	71	-	Ма	-
Royal Spoonbill	Platalea regia	2006	67	-	-	-
Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Platalea flavipes	2006	29	-	-	-
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	2006	8	-	Ма	-
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	1990	1	-	Ма	-
Eastern Great Egret	Ardea modesta	2006	129	-	Mi/Ma	-
White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae	2006	133	-	-	-
White-necked Heron	Ardea pacifica	2005	17	-	-	-
Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus	2006	4	-	Ма	-
Australasian Bittern	Botaurus poiciloptilus	2006	8	-	-	-
Magpie Goose	Anseranas semipalmata	2006	23	-	Ма	-
Australian Wood Duck	Chenonetta jubata	2006	6	Total	-	-
Black Swan	Cygnus atratus	2006	314	-	-	-
Australian Shelduck	Tadorna tadornoides	2006	82	Total	-	-
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	2006	164	-	-	-
Chestnut Teal	Anas castanea	2006	42	Total	-	-
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis	2006	92	Total	-	-
Australasian Shoveler	Anas rhynchotis	2006	50	-	-	-
Pink-eared Duck	Malacorhynchus membranaceus	2003	6	Partial	-	-
Freckled Duck	Stictonetta naevosa	2003	1	-	-	-
Hardhead	Aythya australis	2006	23	-	-	-
Blue-billed Duck	Oxyura australis	2005	13	-	-	-



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Musk Duck	Biziura lobata	2006	49	-	Ма	-
Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis	2001	3	-	-	-
Swamp Harrier	Circus approximans	2006	61	-	Ма	-
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus	1992	1	-	Ма	-
Collared Sparrowhawk	Accipiter cirrhocephalus	2000	2	-	-	-
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Aquila audax	2005	7	-	-	-
Little Eagle	Hieraaetus morphnoides	2005	9	-	-	-
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster	2004	2	-	Mi/Ma	-
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus	2006	21	-	Ма	-
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus axillaris	2006	18	-	-	-
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis	2005	3	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	2005	3	Partial	-	-
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora	2005	20	-	-	S
Nankeen Kestrel	Falco cenchroides	2005	24	Partial	Ма	-
Southern Boobook	Ninox novaeseelandiae	1994	3	Total	Ма	-
Pacific Barn Owl	Tyto javanica	1998	3	Partial	-	-
Eastern Grass Owl	Tyto longimembris	2002	1	-	-	-
Musk Lorikeet	Glossopsitta concinna	1998	1	Total	-	-
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	Glossopsitta porphyrocephala	1998	3	Total	-	-
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus funereus	2000	2	Total	-	-
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	2005	4	Total	-	-
Long-billed Corella	Cacatua tenuirostris	2005	6	Total	-	-
Galah	Eolophus roseicapilla	2006	9	Total	-	-
Crimson Rosella	Platycercus elegans elegans	2005	12	Total	-	-
Eastern Rosella	Platycercus eximius	2002	3	Total	-	-
Red-rumped Parrot	Psephotus haematonotus	2005	2	Total	-	-
Orange-bellied Parrot	Neophema chrysogaster	2006	16	-	Mi/Ma	-
Blue-winged Parrot	Neophema chrysostoma	2006	9	Partial	Ма	-



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Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides	1994	2	-	-	-
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae	2005	5	Total	-	-
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus	2000	1	Partial	Ма	-
White-throated Needletail	Hirundapus caudacutus	2003	2	-	Mi/Ma	-
Fork-tailed Swift	Apus pacificus	1987	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis	2000	2	-	Ма	-
Black-eared Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx osculans	2000	1	-	Ма	-
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis	1999	1	-	Ма	-
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus	2005	2	-	Ма	-
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	2006	46	Partial	Ма	-
Tree Martin	Hirundo nigricans	2000	4	Total	Ма	-
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura albiscarpa	2001	5	-	-	-
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys	2006	42	-	-	S
Restless Flycatcher	Myiagra inquieta	2001	1	-	-	-
Jacky Winter	Microeca fascinans	1999	1	-	-	-
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	2001	1	-	-	-
Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis	2001	2	-	-	-
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris	2001	1	-	-	-
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	2001	4	Partial	-	-
Magpie-lark	Grallina cyanoleuca	2006	41	-	Ма	S
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	2005	3	-	Ма	-
White-fronted Chat	Epthianura albifrons	2006	41	-	-	-
Striated Thornbill	Acanthiza lineata	2001	1	-	-	-
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla	2005	3	-	-	-
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	2005	11	-	-	-
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis	2005	6	-	-	-
Striated Fieldwren	Calamanthus fuliginosus	2001	16	-	-	-
Brown Songlark	Cincloramphus cruralis	2001	7	-	-	-



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Little Grassbird	Megalurus gramineus	2006	12	-	-	-
Clamorous Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus stentoreus	2005	7	-	Mi/Ma	-
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis	2006	19	-	-	-
Southern Emu-wren	Stipiturus malachurus	2000	1	-	-	-
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus	2005	17	-	-	=
Dusky Woodswallow	Artamus cyanopterus	2001	3	Partial	-	-
White-throated Treecreeper	Cormobates leucophaeus	1999	4	Total	-	=
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	2005	20	-	Ма	=
White-naped Honeyeater	Melithreptus lunatus	2001	3	-	-	-
Scarlet Honeyeater	Myzomela sanguinolenta	1985	1	-	-	-
Singing Honeyeater	Lichenostomus virescens	2006	29	-	-	-
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Lichenostomus chrysops	1999	2	-	-	-
White-eared Honeyeater	Lichenostomus leucotis	2001	1	-	-	-
White-plumed Honeyeater	Lichenostomus penicillatus	2002	4	-	-	-
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	2006	17	-	-	-
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala	2001	5	-	-	S
Little Wattlebird	Anthochaera chrysoptera	1998	1	-	-	-
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	2005	13	-	-	-
Australasian Pipit	Anthus novaeseelandiae	2003	19	-	Ма	
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen	2006	74	-	-	S
*Domestic Goose	Anser anser (domestic)	2006	3	-	-	-
Unknown Raven	Corvus sp.	2001	10	-	-	=
Forest Raven	Corvus tasmanicus	2001	2	-	Ма	=
Hutton's Shearwater	Puffinus huttoni	2001	1	-	Ма	=
Mottled Petrel	Pterodroma inexpectata	1984	1	-	Ма	-
Southern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	2006	4	-	Mi/Ma	-
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	2006	7	-	-	-
Kerguelen Petrel	Lugensa brevirostris	1986	1	-	Ма	-



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Northern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes halli	1991	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Pomarine Jaeger	Stercorarius pomarinus	1982	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
*Northern Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	1999	2	-	-	-
Antarctic Petrel	Thalassoica antarctica	1999	1	-	Ма	=
Little Raven	Corvus mellori	2006	44	-	Ма	-
Royal Albatross	Diomedea epomophora	1986	1	-	Mi/Ma	-
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	2001	4	Partial	-	-
Cattle Egret	Ardea ibis	2006	44	-	Mi/Ma	-
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus	2001	13	-	Ма	-
*Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	2006	19	-	-	S
*European Skylark	Alauda arvensis	2005	30	-	-	S
*House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	2006	23	-	-	S
*European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	2006	39	-	-	-
*European Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	2001	4	-	-	-
*Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	2006	37	Partial	-	S
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	0	1	-	-	-
*Domestic duck	Anatidae sp. (domestic)	0	1	-	-	-
	REPTI	LES				
Common Long-necked Turtle	Chelodina longicollis	2000	1	-	-	-
White's Skink	Egernia whitii (group)	2005	50	-	-	-
McCoy's Skink	Nannoscincus maccoyi	2005	6	-	-	-
Garden Skink	Lampropholis guichenoti	2002	1	-	-	-
Blotched Blue-tongued Lizard	Tiliqua nigrolutea	2001	2	-	-	-
Common Blue-tongued Lizard	Tiliqua scincoides	1998	3	-	-	-
Stumpy-tailed Lizard	Tiliqua rugosa	2000	1	-	-	-
White-lipped Snake	Drysdalia coronoides	2005	12	-	-	-
Tiger Snake	Notechis scutatus	2005	4	-	-	-
Eastern Three-lined Skink	Bassiana duperreyi	2005	9	-	-	-



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Glossy Grass Skink	Pseudemoia rawlinsoni	2005	4	-	-	-
Southern Water Skink	Eulamprus tympanum tympanum	2005	4	-	-	-
Lowland Copperhead	Austrelaps superbus	2006	10	-	-	-
Unidentified copperhead	Austrelaps sp.	1997	1	-	-	-
Southern Grass Skink	Pseudemoia entrecasteauxii	2005	28	-	-	-
Unidentified grass skink	Pseudemoia sp.	1976	2	-	-	-
	FROGS					
Southern Bullfrog	Limnodynastes dumerilii	2006	2	-	-	-
Striped Marsh Frog	Limnodynastes peronii	2006	41	-	-	-
Spotted Marsh Frog	Limnodynastes tasmaniensis	2005	21	-	-	-
Brown Toadlet	Pseudophryne bibronii	1976	2	-	-	-
Southern Toadlet	Pseudophryne semimarmorata	2005	1	=	-	=
Common Froglet	Crinia signifera	2005	26	-	-	-
Southern Brown Tree Frog	Litoria ewingii	2005	50	-	-	-
Growling Grass Frog	Litoria raniformis	1962	3	-	-	-

Source: DSE Atlas of Victorian Wildlife (2007)



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