

This document is prepared from a precedent intended solely for use by legal practitioners with the knowledge, skill and qualifications required to use the precedent to create a document suitable to meet the vendor's legal obligation to give certain statements and documents to a purchaser before the purchaser signs a contract to purchase the land. This document is current as at 1 July 2024.

Section 32 Statement

The vendor makes this statement in respect of the land in accordance with section 32 of the *Sale of Land Act 1962*. This statement must be signed by the vendor and given to the purchaser before the purchaser signs the contract. The vendor may sign by electronic signature.

The purchaser acknowledges being given this statement signed by the vendor with the attached documents before the purchase signed any contract.

Land Certificate of Title Volume 11947 Folio 327

Property Address 65 BAINES LANE, BENALLA

Vendor's name MAXIMUS MURTAGH

Signature *John Milne Lawyers* **Date** 7.11.2025

Purchaser's name

Signature **Date**

Important information

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1. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1.1 Particulars of any Rates, Taxes, Charges or Other Similar Outgoings (and any interest on them)

(a) Their total does not exceed: \$ _____

OR

(b) Are contained in the attached certificate/s.

OR

(c) Their amounts are:

Authority	Amount	Interest (if any)
(1) <u>Rural City of Benalla</u>	(1) \$2,737.91	(1) \$
(2) _____	(2) \$	(2) \$
(3) _____	(3) \$	(3) \$
(4) _____	(4) \$	(4) \$

(d) There are NO amounts for which the purchaser may become liable as a consequence of the sale of which the vendor might reasonably be expected to have knowledge¹, which are not included in items 1.1(a), (b) or (c) above; other than any amounts described in this rectangular box. \$ _____

1.2 Particulars of any Charge (whether registered or not) imposed by or under any Act to secure an amount due under that Act, including the amount owing under the charge

\$ _____ To _____

Other particulars (including dates and times of payments):

1.3 Terms Contract

This section 1.3 only applies if this section 32 statement is in respect of a terms contract where the purchaser is obliged to make 2 or more payments (other than a deposit or final payment) to the vendor after the execution of the contract and before the purchaser is entitled to a conveyance or transfer of the land.

Attached is a Law Institute of Victoria published "Additional Section 32 Statement".

1.4 Sale Subject to Mortgage

This section 1.4 only applies if this section 32 statement is in respect of a contract which provides that any mortgage (whether registered or unregistered), is NOT to be discharged before the purchaser becomes entitled to possession or receipts of rents and profits.

Attached is a Law Institute of Victoria published "Additional Section 32 Statement".

1.5 Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Reform Act 2024 (Vic) (CIPT Act)

(a) The Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (within the meaning of the CIPT Act) most recently allocated to the land is set out in the attached Municipal rates notice or property clearance certificate or is as follows	AVPCC No. 110
(b) Is the land tax reform scheme land within the meaning of the CIPT Act?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
(c) If the land is tax reform scheme land within the meaning of the CIPT Act, the entry date within the meaning of the CIPT Act is set out in the attached Municipal rates notice or property clearance certificate or is as follows	Date: OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable

¹ Other than any GST payable in accordance with the contract.

2. INSURANCE

2.1 Damage and Destruction

This section 2.1 only applies if this section 32 statement is in respect of a contract which does NOT provide for the land to remain at the risk of the vendor until the purchaser becomes entitled to possession or receipt of rents and profits.

- (a) Attached is a copy or extract of any policy of insurance in respect of any damage to or destruction of the land.
OR
 (b) Particulars of any such policy of insurance in respect of any damage to or destruction of the land are as follows:

Name of insurance company: _____

Type of policy: _____ Policy no: _____

Expiry date: _____ / _____ / _____ Amount insured: _____

2.2 Owner-Builder

This section 2.2 only applies where there is a residence on the land that was constructed by an owner-builder within the preceding 6 years and section 137B of the Building Act 1993 applies to the residence.

- (a) Attached is a copy or extract of any policy of insurance required under the *Building Act 1993*.
OR
 (b) Particulars of any required insurance under the Building Act 1993 are as follows:

Name of insurance company: _____

Policy no: _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____ / _____

Note: There may be additional legislative obligations in respect of the sale of land on which there is a building or on which building work has been carried out.

3. LAND USE

3.1 Easements, Covenants or Other Similar Restrictions

A description of any easement, covenant or other similar restriction affecting the land (whether registered or unregistered): -

- (a) Is in the attached copies of title document/s.

OR

- Is as follows:

- (b) Particulars of any existing failure to comply with that easement, covenant or other similar restriction are:

3.2 Road Access

There is NO access to the property by road if the square box is marked with an "X"

3.3 Designated Bushfire Prone Area

The land is in a designated bushfire prone area under section 192A of the *Building Act 1993* if the square box is marked with an "X"

3.4 Planning Scheme

- Attached is a certificate with the required specified information.

OR

- The required specified information is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Name of planning scheme | Benalla Planning Scheme |
| (b) Name of responsible authority | Rural City of Benalla |
| (c) Zoning of the land | Farming |
| (d) Name of planning overlay | Bushfire Management |

4. NOTICES**4.1 Notice, Order, Declaration, Report or Recommendation**

Particulars of any notice, order, declaration, report or recommendation of a public authority or government department or approved proposal directly and currently affecting the land, being a notice, order, declaration, report, recommendation or approved proposal of which the vendor might reasonably be expected to have knowledge:

Are contained in the attached certificates and/or statements.

OR

Are as follows:

4.2 Agricultural Chemicals

There are NO notices, property management plans, reports or orders in respect of the land issued by a government department or public authority in relation to livestock disease or contamination by agricultural chemicals affecting the ongoing use of the land for agricultural purposes. However, if this is not the case, the details of any such notices, property management plans, reports or orders, are as follows:

4.3 Compulsory Acquisition

The particulars of any notices of intention to acquire that have been served under section 6 of the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act* 1986 are as follows:

5. BUILDING PERMITS

Particulars of any building permit issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the preceding 7 years (required only where there is a residence on the land):

Are contained in the attached certificate.

OR

Are as follows:

6. OWNERS CORPORATION

This section 6 only applies if the land is affected by an owners corporation within the meaning of the *Owners Corporations Act* 2006.

- 6.1 Attached is a current owners corporation certificate with its required accompanying documents and statements, issued in accordance with section 151 of the *Owners Corporations Act* 2006.
- OR
- 6.2 Attached is the information prescribed for the purposes of section 151(4)(a) of the *Owner Corporations Act* 2006 and the copy documents specified in section 151(4)(b)(i) and (iii) of that Act.
- OR
- 6.3 The owners corporation is an inactive owners corporation.²

² An inactive owners corporation includes one that in the previous 15 months has not held an annual general meeting, not fixed any fees and not held any insurance.

~~7. GROWTH AREAS INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION ("GAIC")~~

Words and expressions in this section 7 have the same meaning as in Part 9B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

7.1 Work-in-Kind Agreement

This section 7.1 only applies if the land is subject to a work-in-kind agreement.

- (a) The land is NOT to be transferred under the agreement unless the square box is marked with an "X"
- (b) The land is NOT land on which works are to be carried out under the agreement (other than Crown land) unless the square box is marked with an "X"
- (c) The land is NOT land in respect of which a GAIC is imposed unless the square box is marked with an "X"

7.2 GAIC Recording

This section 7.2 only applies if there is a GAIC recording.

Any of the following certificates or notices must be attached if there is a GAIC recording.

The accompanying boxes marked with an "X" indicate that such a certificate or notice that is attached:

- (a) Any certificate of release from liability to pay a GAIC
- (b) Any certificate of deferral of the liability to pay the whole or part of a GAIC
- (c) Any certificate of exemption from liability to pay a GAIC
- (d) Any certificate of staged payment approval
- (e) Any certificate of no GAIC liability
- (f) Any notice providing evidence of the grant of a reduction of the whole or part of the liability for a GAIC or an exemption from that liability
- (g) A GAIC certificate issued under Part 9B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* must be attached if there is no certificate or notice issued under any of sub-sections 7.2 (a) to (f) above

8. SERVICES

The services which are marked with an "X" in the accompanying square box are NOT connected to the land:

- Electricity supply Gas supply Water supply Sewerage Telephone services

9. TITLE

Attached are copies of the following documents:

9.1 (a) Registered Title

A Register Search Statement and the document, or part of a document, referred to as the "diagram location" in that statement which identifies the land and its location.

OR

(b) General Law Title

The last conveyance in the chain of title or other document which gives evidence of the vendor's title to the land.

- 9.2 Evidence of the vendor's right or power to sell (where the vendor is not the registered proprietor or the owner in fee simple).

~~10. SUBDIVISION~~

10.1 Unregistered Subdivision

This section 10.1 only applies if the land is subject to a subdivision which is not registered.

- (a) Attached is a copy of the plan of subdivision certified by the relevant municipal council if the plan is not yet registered.
OR
- (b) Attached is a copy of the latest version of the plan if the plan of subdivision has not yet been certified.

10.2 Staged Subdivision

This section 10.2 only applies if the land is part of a staged subdivision within the meaning of section 37 of the *Subdivision Act 1988*.

- (a) Attached is a copy of the plan for the first stage if the land is in the second or a subsequent stage.
- (b) The requirements in a statement of compliance relating to the stage in which the land is included that have not been complied with are as follows:
-

- (c) The proposals relating to subsequent stages that are known to the vendor are as follows:
-

- (d) The contents of any permit under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* authorising the staged subdivision are:
-

10.3 Further Plan of Subdivision

This section 10.3 only applies if the land is subject to a subdivision in respect of which a further plan within the meaning of the *Subdivision Act 1988* is proposed.

- (a) Attached is a copy of the plan which has been certified by the relevant municipal council (if the later plan has not been registered).
OR
- (b) Attached is a copy of the latest version of the plan (if the later plan has not yet been certified).

11. *DISCLOSURE OF ENERGY INFORMATION

(Disclosure of this information is not required under section 32 of the Sale of Land Act 1962 but may be included in this section 32 statement for convenience.)

Details of any energy efficiency information required to be disclosed regarding a disclosure affected building or disclosure area affected area of a building as defined by the *Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010* (Cth)

- (a) to be a building or part of a building used or capable of being used as an office for administrative, clerical, professional or similar based activities including any support facilities; and
- (b) which has a net lettable area of at least 1 000m²; (but does not include a building under a strata title system or if an occupancy permit was issued less than 2 years before the relevant date):
- Are contained in the attached building energy efficiency certificate.
OR
- Are as follows:
-

12. DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

(The Sale of Land Act 1962 provides that the vendor or the vendor's licensed estate agent must make a prescribed due diligence checklist available to purchasers before offering land for sale that is vacant residential land or land on which there is a residence. The due diligence checklist is NOT required to be provided with, or attached to, this section 32 statement but the checklist may be attached as a matter of convenience.)

- Vacant Residential Land or Land with a Residence
- Attach Due Diligence Checklist (this will be automatically attached if ticked)

13. ATTACHMENTS

(Any certificates, documents and other attachments may be annexed, and additional information may be added to this section 13 where there is insufficient space in any of the earlier sections)

(Attached is a Law Institute of Victoria published "Additional Section 32 Statement" if section 1.3 (Terms Contract) or section 1.4 (Sale Subject to Mortgage) applies)

Certificate of Title Volume 11947 Folio 327

**REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT (Title Search) Transfer of
Land Act 1958**

Page 1 of 1

VOLUME 11947 FOLIO 327

Security no : 124129498652Y
Produced 30/10/2025 02:49 PM**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 803099B.
PARENT TITLE Volume 10169 Folio 025
Created by instrument PS803099B 11/01/2018

REGISTERED PROPRIETOR

Estate Fee Simple
Joint Proprietors
GLENNIS GAY BARREY
MAXIMUS MURTAGH both of 65 BAINES ROAD BENALLA VIC 3672
AQ680852N 31/01/2018

ENCUMBRANCES, CAVEATS AND NOTICES

MORTGAGE AQ680853L 31/01/2018
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LTD

Any encumbrances created by Section 98 Transfer of Land Act 1958 or Section 24 Subdivision Act 1988 and any other encumbrances shown or entered on the plan set out under DIAGRAM LOCATION below.

DIAGRAM LOCATION

SEE PS803099B FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND BOUNDARIES

ACTIVITY IN THE LAST 125 DAYS

NIL

-----END OF REGISTER SEARCH STATEMENT-----

Additional information: (not part of the Register Search Statement)

Street Address: 65 BAINES LANE BENALLA VIC 3672

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES

NIL

eCT Control 16165A AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED
Effective from 31/01/2018

DOCUMENT END

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION		EDITION 1	PS803099B				
Location of Land Parish: KELFEERA Township: — Section: — Crown Allotment: 54A, 55A Crown Portion: — Title Reference: Vol. 10169 Fol. 025 Last Plan Reference: PS333281G (Lot 1) Postal Address: 65 BAINES LANE, (at time of subdivision) BENALLA 3672 MGA Co-ordinates: E 405700 Zone: 55 (of approx. centre of land) N 5946000 GDA 94		Council Name: Benalla Rural City Council Council Reference Number: S3070 Planning Permit Reference: P0097/17 SPEAR Reference Number: S111083P Certification This plan is certified under section 6 of the Subdivision Act 1988 Statement of Compliance This is a statement of compliance issued under section 21 of the Subdivision Act 1988 Public Open Space A requirement for public open space under section 18 of the Subdivision Act 1988 has not been made Digitally signed by: Joel Daniel Ingham for Benalla Rural City Council on 08/11/2017					
Vesting of Roads and/or Reserves <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Identifier</th> <th>Council/Body/Person</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Identifier	Council/Body/Person	NIL	NIL	Notations	
Identifier	Council/Body/Person						
NIL	NIL						
Notations Depth Limitation: DOES NOT APPLY. Survey: This plan is based on survey. Staging: This is not a staged plan of subdivision. Planning Permit No. P0097/17 This survey has been connected to permanent mark(s): --- In Proclaimed Survey Area No. —							
Easement Information Legend: E - Encumbering Easement or Condition in Crown Grant in the Nature of an Easement or other Encumbrance A - Appurtenant Easement							
Easement Reference	Purpose	Width (Metres)	Origin	Land Benefited/In Favour Of			
E-1	POWER LINE	3	THIS PLAN - SECTION 88 OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY ACT 2000	AUSNET ELECTRICITY SERVICES PTY. LTD.			
E-1	WAY	3	THIS PLAN	LOT 2			
 PROJECT MANAGERS LICENSED SURVEYORS TEL: 03 5721 1824 SHOP 8 CECILY COURT 66 NUNN ST PO BOX 34 BENALLA 3672 WEB: www.mongertomkinson.com		SURVEYOR'S FILE REF: 4241 PLOTTED 21/09/2017 INITIALS GS 		VERSION 01 ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE: A3 SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS			
		Digitally signed by: GRAEME JOHN SCHNEIDER (Tomkinson Group - Monger & Tomkinson), Surveyor's Plan Version (4241 Version 01), 03/10/2017, SPEAR Ref: S111083P		PLAN REGISTERED TIME: 5.17pm DATE: 11 / 1 / 2018 HEATH RICHARDS Assistant Registrar of Titles			

Application by surviving proprietor
Section 50 Transfer of Land Act 1958

Privacy Collection Statement

The information in this form is collected under statutory authority and used for the purpose of maintaining publicly searchable registers and indexes.

Lodged by

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Reference:

Customer code:

The applicant applies to be registered as the proprietor of the estate and interest in the land held jointly with the deceased.

Land: (volume and folio, and if applicable mortgage, charge or lease no.)

VOLUME11947 FOLIO 327

Applicant: (full name and address, including postcode)

MAXIMUS MURTAGH OF 65 BAINES LANE BENALLA 3672

Deceased: (full name)

GLENNIS GAY BARREY

Signing:

35271702A

50TLA

Page 1 of 2

THE BACK OF THIS FORM MUST NOT BE USED

Land Use Victoria contact details: www.delwp.vic.gov.au/property>Contact us

PLANNING PROPERTY REPORT



Department of Transport and Planning

From www.planning.vic.gov.au at 31 October 2025 05:44 PM

PROPERTY DETAILS

Address:	65 BAINES LANE BENALLA 3672
Lot and Plan Number:	Lot 1 PS803099
Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI):	1\PS803099
Local Government Area (Council):	BENALLA
Council Property Number:	www.benalla.vic.gov.au
Planning Scheme:	Benalla
Planning Scheme - Benalla	
Directory Reference:	Vicroads 47 H4

UTILITIES

Rural Water Corporation:	Goulburn-Murray Water
Urban Water Corporation:	North East Water
Melbourne Water:	Outside drainage boundary
Power Distributor:	AUSNET

STATE ELECTORATES

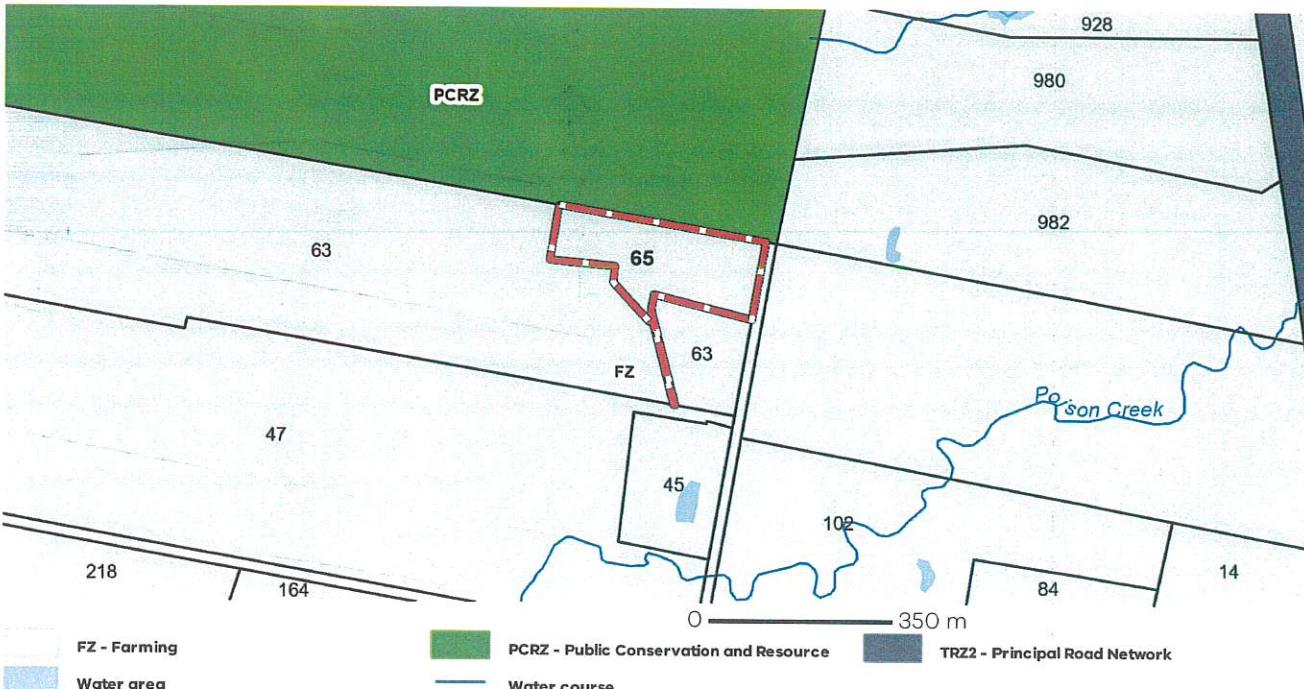
Legislative Council:	NORTHERN VICTORIA
Legislative Assembly:	EUROA
OTHER	
Registered Aboriginal Party:	Taungurung Land and Waters
Fire Authority:	Council Aboriginal Corporation
	Country Fire Authority

[View location in VicPlan](#)

Planning Zones

FARMING ZONE (FZ)

SCHEDULE TO THE FARMING ZONE (FZ)



Note: labels for zones may appear outside the actual zone - please compare the labels with the legend.

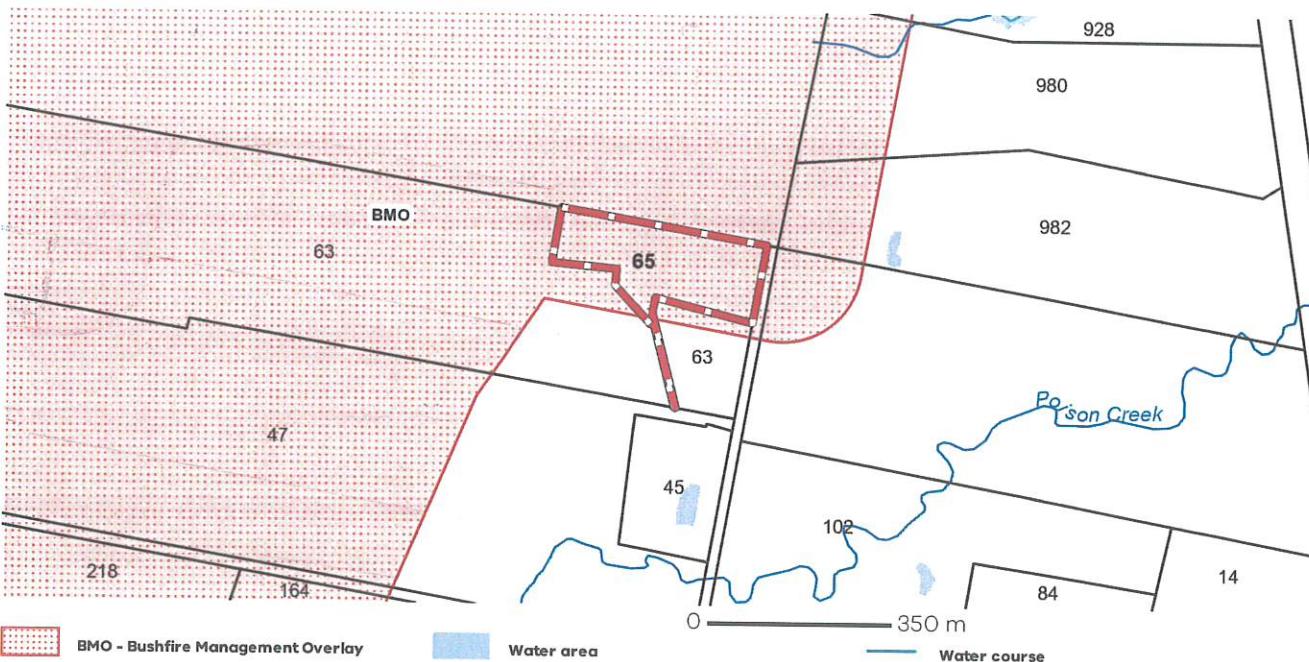
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Notwithstanding this disclaimer, a vendor may rely on the information in this report for the purpose of a statement that land is in a bushfire prone area as required by section 32C (b) of the Sale of Land 1962 (Vic).

Planning Overlay

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAY (BMO)



Note: due to overlaps, some overlays may not be visible, and some colours may not match those in the legend

Further Planning Information

Planning scheme data last updated on 31 October 2025.

A **planning scheme** sets out policies and requirements for the use, development and protection of land. This report provides information about the zone and overlay provisions that apply to the selected land. Information about the State and local policy, particular, general and operational provisions of the local planning scheme that may affect the use of this land can be obtained by contacting the local council or by visiting <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

This report is NOT a **Planning Certificate** issued pursuant to Section 199 of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**. It does not include information about exhibited planning scheme amendments, or zonings that may abut the land. To obtain a Planning Certificate go to Titles and Property Certificates at Landata - <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au>

For details of surrounding properties, use this service to get the Reports for properties of interest.

To view planning zones, overlay and heritage information in an interactive format visit <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/>

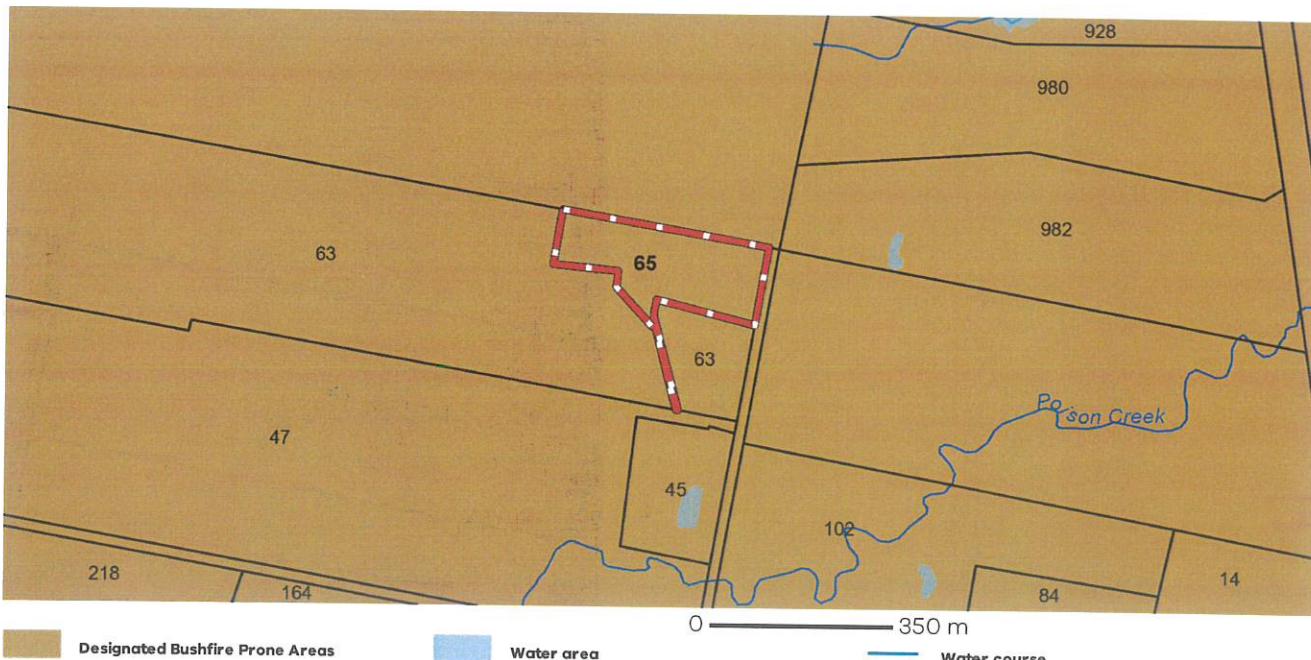
For other information about planning in Victoria visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>

Designated Bushfire Prone Areas

This property is in a designated bushfire prone area. Special bushfire construction requirements apply to the part of the property mapped as a designated bushfire prone area (BPA). Planning provisions may apply.

Where part of the property is mapped as BPA, if no part of the building envelope or footprint falls within the BPA area, the BPA construction requirements do not apply.

Note: the relevant building surveyor determines the need for compliance with the bushfire construction requirements.



Designated BPA are determined by the Minister for Planning following a detailed review process. The Building Regulations 2018, through adoption of the Building Code of Australia, apply bushfire protection standards for building works in designated BPA.

Designated BPA maps can be viewed on VicPlan at <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/> or at the relevant local council.

Create a BPA definition plan in [VicPlan](#) to measure the BPA.

Information for lot owners building in the BPA is available at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>.

Further information about the building control system and building in bushfire prone areas can be found on the Victorian Building Authority website <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au>. Copies of the Building Act and Building Regulations are available from <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au>. For Planning Scheme Provisions in bushfire areas visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au>.

Native Vegetation

Native plants that are indigenous to Victoria and important for biodiversity might be present on this property. This could include trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses or aquatic plants. There are a range of regulations that may apply including need to obtain a planning permit under Clause 52.17 of the local planning scheme. For more information see [Native Vegetation \(Clause 52.17\)](#) with local variations in [Native Vegetation \(Clause 52.17\) Schedule](#).

To help identify native vegetation on this property and the application of Clause 52.17 please visit the Native Vegetation Regulations Map (NVR Map) <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/nvr/> and [Native vegetation \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](#) or please contact your relevant council.

You can find out more about the natural values on your property through NatureKit [NatureKit \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://environment.vic.gov.au/naturekit).

Due diligence checklist

What you need to know before buying a residential property

Before you buy a home, you should be aware of a range of issues that may affect that property and impose restrictions or obligations on you, if you buy it. This checklist aims to help you identify whether any of these issues will affect you. The questions are a starting point only and you may need to seek professional advice to answer some of them. You can find links to organisations and web pages that can help you learn more, by visiting the [Due diligence checklist page on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website](http://consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist) (consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist).

Urban living

Moving to the inner city?

High density areas are attractive for their entertainment and service areas, but these activities create increased traffic as well as noise and odours from businesses and people. Familiarising yourself with the character of the area will give you a balanced understanding of what to expect.

Is the property subject to an owners corporation?

If the property is part of a subdivision with common property such as driveways or grounds, it may be subject to an owners corporation. You may be required to pay fees and follow rules that restrict what you can do on your property, such as a ban on pet ownership.

Growth areas

Are you moving to a growth area?

You should investigate whether you will be required to pay a growth areas infrastructure contribution.

Flood and fire risk

Does this property experience flooding or bushfire?

Properties are sometimes subject to the risk of fire and flooding due to their location. You should properly investigate these risks and consider their implications for land management, buildings and insurance premiums.

Rural properties

Moving to the country?

If you are looking at property in a rural zone, consider:

- Is the surrounding land use compatible with your lifestyle expectations? Farming can create noise or odour that may be at odds with your expectations of a rural lifestyle.
- Are you considering removing native vegetation? There are regulations which affect your ability to remove native vegetation on private property.
- Do you understand your obligations to manage weeds and pest animals?

Can you build new dwellings?

Does the property adjoin crown land, have a water frontage, contain a disused government road, or are there any crown licences associated with the land?

Is there any earth resource activity such as mining in the area?

You may wish to find out more about exploration, mining and quarrying activity on or near the property and consider the issue of petroleum, geothermal and greenhouse gas sequestration permits, leases and licences, extractive industry authorisations and mineral licences.

Soil and groundwater contamination

Has previous land use affected the soil or groundwater?

You should consider whether past activities, including the use of adjacent land, may have caused contamination at the site and whether this may prevent you from doing certain things to or on the land in the future.

Land boundaries

Do you know the exact boundary of the property?

You should compare the measurements shown on the title document with actual fences and buildings on the property, to make sure the boundaries match. If you have concerns about this, you can speak to your lawyer or conveyancer, or commission a site survey to establish property boundaries.

Planning controls

Can you change how the property is used, or the buildings on it?

All land is subject to a planning scheme, run by the local council. How the property is zoned and any overlays that may apply, will determine how the land can be used. This may restrict such things as whether you can build on vacant land or how you can alter or develop the land and its buildings over time.

The local council can give you advice about the planning scheme, as well as details of any other restrictions that may apply, such as design guidelines or bushfire safety design. There may also be restrictions – known as encumbrances – on the property's title, which prevent you from developing the property. You can find out about encumbrances by looking at the section 32 statement.

Are there any proposed or granted planning permits?

The local council can advise you if there are any proposed or issued planning permits for any properties close by. Significant developments in your area may change the local 'character' (predominant style of the area) and may increase noise or traffic near the property.

Safety

Is the building safe to live in?

Building laws are in place to ensure building safety. Professional building inspections can help you assess the property for electrical safety, possible illegal building work, adequate pool or spa fencing and the presence of asbestos, termites, or other potential hazards.

Building permits

Have any buildings or retaining walls on the property been altered, or do you plan to alter them?

There are laws and regulations about how buildings and retaining walls are constructed, which you may wish to investigate to ensure any completed or proposed building work is approved. The local council may be able to give you information about any building permits issued for recent building works done to the property, and what you must do to plan new work. You can also commission a private building surveyor's assessment.

Are any recent building or renovation works covered by insurance?

Ask the vendor if there is any owner-builder insurance or builder's warranty to cover defects in the work done to the property.

Utilities and essential services

Does the property have working connections for water, sewerage, electricity, gas, telephone and internet?

Unconnected services may not be available, or may incur a fee to connect. You may also need to choose from a range of suppliers for these services. This may be particularly important in rural areas where some services are not available.

Buyers' rights

Do you know your rights when buying a property?

The contract of sale and section 32 statement contain important information about the property, so you should request to see these and read them thoroughly. Many people engage a lawyer or conveyancer to help them understand the contracts and ensure the sale goes through correctly. If you intend to hire a professional, you should consider speaking to them before you commit to the sale. There are also important rules about the way private sales and auctions are conducted. These may include a cooling-off period and specific rights associated with 'off the plan' sales. The important thing to remember is that, as the buyer, you have rights.