



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Approval

CHANGES IN LAND USE AT THE WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT WERRIBEE, VICTORIA (EPBC 2008/4221)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Proposed action

person to whom the approval is granted Melbourne Water

proposed action To implement Melbourne Water's Western Treatment Plant Land Use Strategy within the Western Treatment Plant Werribee, Victoria.

Approval decision

| Controlling Provision | Decision |
|--|----------|
| Listed migratory species (section 20) | Approved |
| Ramsar wetland of international importance (sections 16 & 17B) | Approved |

conditions of approval This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

expiry date of approval This approval has effect until 31 February 2028

Decision-maker

name and position Michelle Wicks
A/g Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessment Branch

signature 

date of decision 11 February 2010



| Conditions |
|---|
| 1. To minimise impacts on the Straw-necked Ibis (<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>) and the Port Phillip and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar wetland the person taking the action must retain a conservation buffer, consisting of existing irrigated and dry pastureland, between the site of the proposed action and the western margin of the Lake Borrie Grasslands, the western and northern margins of the 'T' Section Lagoons and the western and northern margins of the Western Lagoons as delineated in the maps at Schedule 1. |
| 2. To minimise impacts on the Port Phillip and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar wetland the person taking the action must retain a riparian buffer between the site of the proposed action and Little River, Lollypop Creek and Cherry Tree Creek as delineated in the maps at Schedule 1. |
| 3. If the person taking the action wishes to amend the boundaries of the conservation buffer and riparian buffers delineated in the maps at Schedule 1 the person taking the action must submit for the Minister's approval a revised version of the maps. If the Minister approves such a revised version of the maps, then that version of the maps must be implemented in place of the maps in Schedule 1. Unless the Minister has approved the revised maps, then the person taking the action must continue to undertake activities in accordance with the maps originally approved in Schedule 1. |
| 4. To minimise impacts on the Straw-necked Ibis (<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>) and the Port Phillip and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar wetland and the person taking the action must submit for the Minister's approval a Strategic Plan within 12 months of the date of this approval. The Strategic Plan must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A description of the fauna species at the Western Treatment Plant to be subject to monitoring by the person taking the action;▪ Methodologies for monitoring fauna species at the Western Treatment Plant;▪ Benchmarks for populations of fauna species at the Western Treatment Plant that will trigger the implementation of additional measures to mitigate impacts;▪ Mitigation measures to be implemented in response to declines in fauna species populations below benchmark levels;▪ Protocols for annual reporting and notification of any decline in fauna species populations below benchmark levels to the Department; and▪ Additional detail on measures proposed by Melbourne Water to manage pesticide use and invasive flora and fauna at the Western Treatment Plant during implementation of the land use strategy. The approved plan must be implemented. |
| 5. The Strategic Plan required under Condition 4 must be reviewed and resubmitted to the Minister for approval in December 2013 and for every five years thereafter until the approval expiry date. The resubmitted Strategic Plans must incorporate the relevant results of the independent audit report required under Condition 6. |



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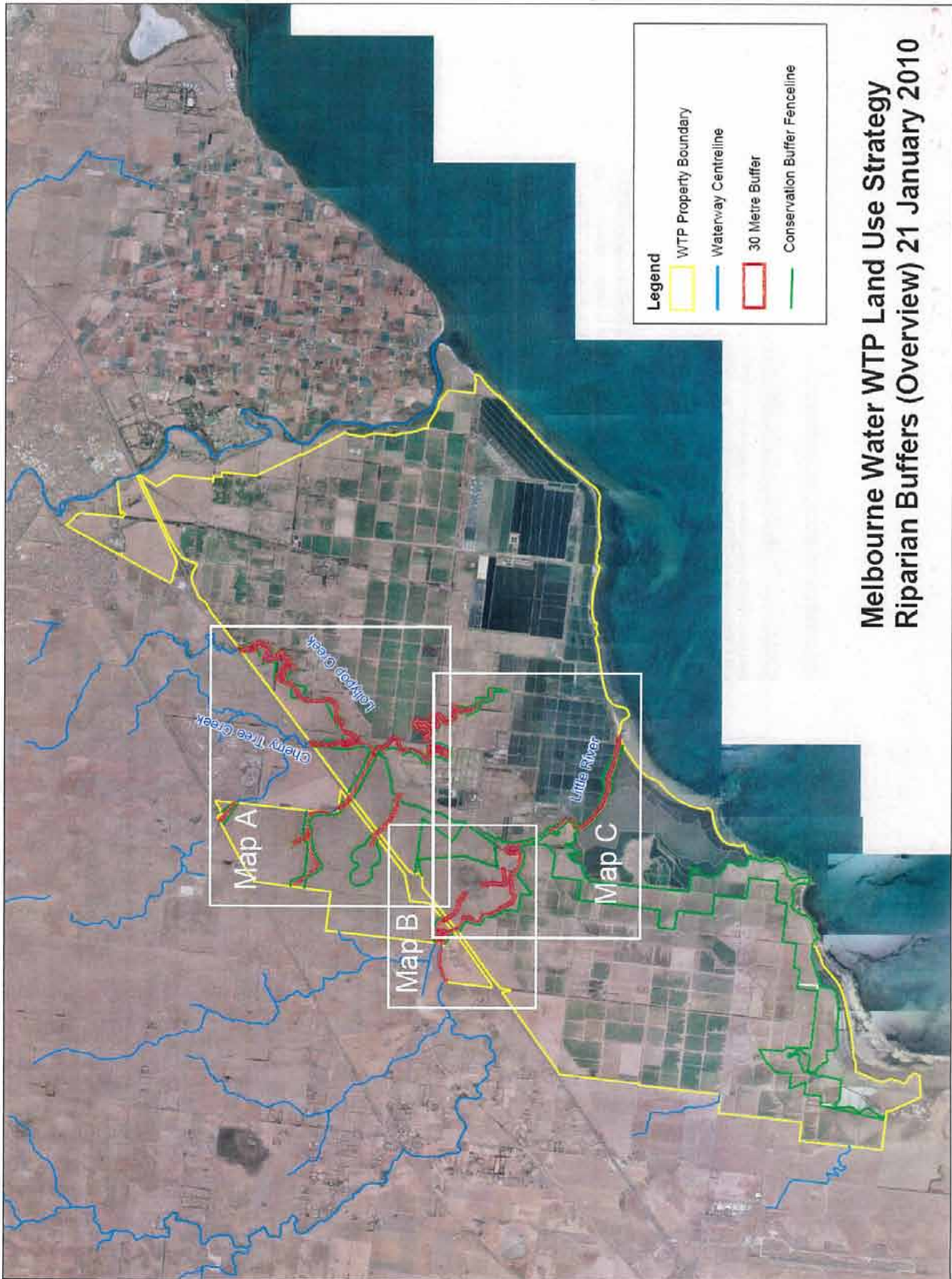
6. In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter the person taking the action must appoint an independent auditor to audit compliance with the conditions of approval and the effectiveness of mitigation measures to maintain the ecological character of the Port Phillip and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar wetland. The auditor must be accredited by the Quality Society of Australasia or such other similar body as the Minister may notify in writing. The audit criteria must be agreed by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.
7. To minimise impacts on the Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*) and the Port Phillip and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar wetland the person taking the action must ensure that a minimum of 3,000 Megalitres of recycled water per year is allocated and delivered to the conservation buffer required under Condition 1, to maximise the habitat quality of this area.
8. The person taking the action must maintain accurate records of all activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department, and used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.
9. If, at any time after 5 years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not commenced implementation of the Western Treatment Plant land use strategy, then the person taking the action must not commence implementation without the written consent of the Minister.
10. The person taking the action must advise the Department of the date of commencement of implementation of the Western Treatment plant land use strategy.

Definitions:

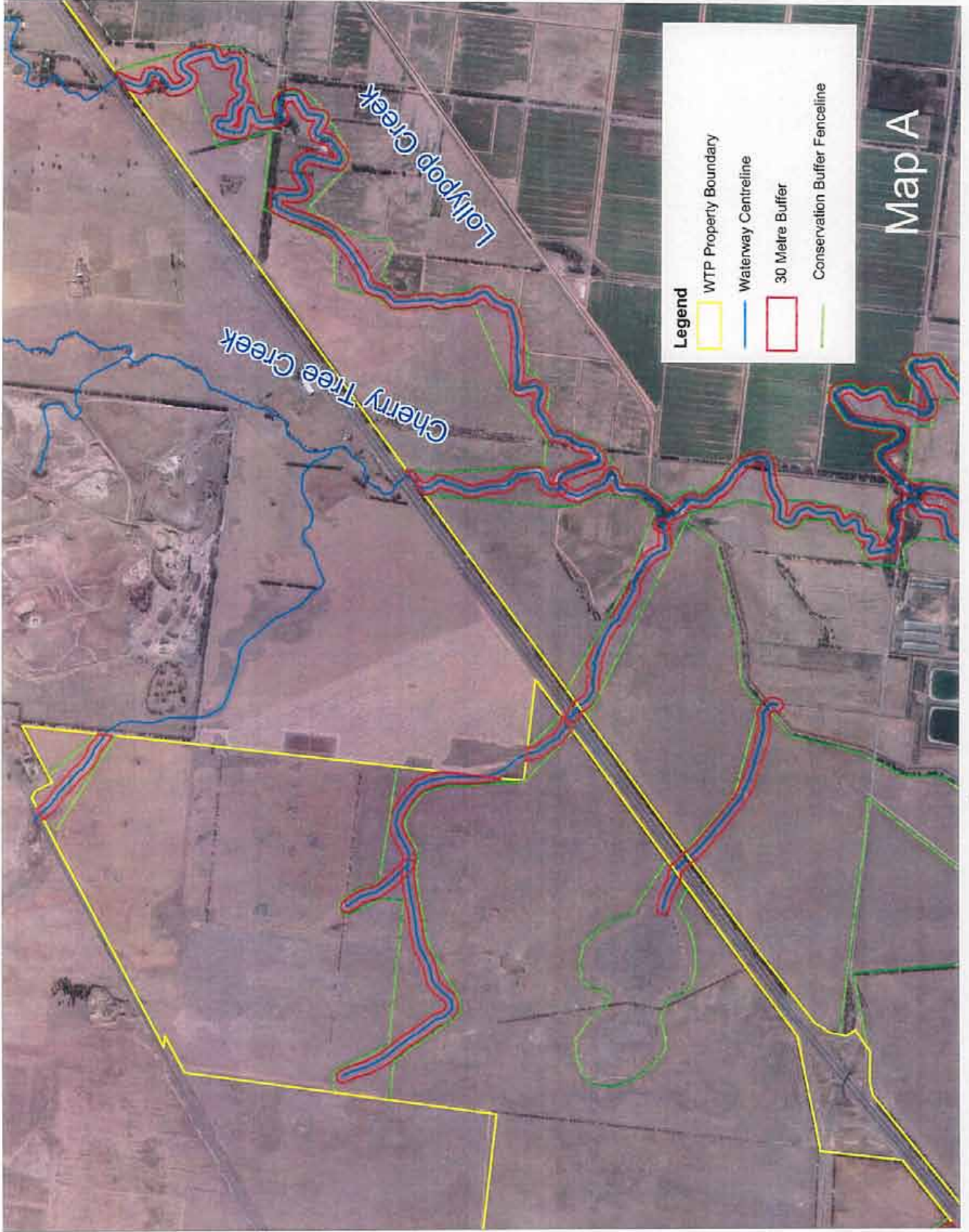
the Department means the Australian Government Department responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

the Minister means the Australian Government Minister responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Schedule 1: Location of Conservation Buffer and Riparian Buffers



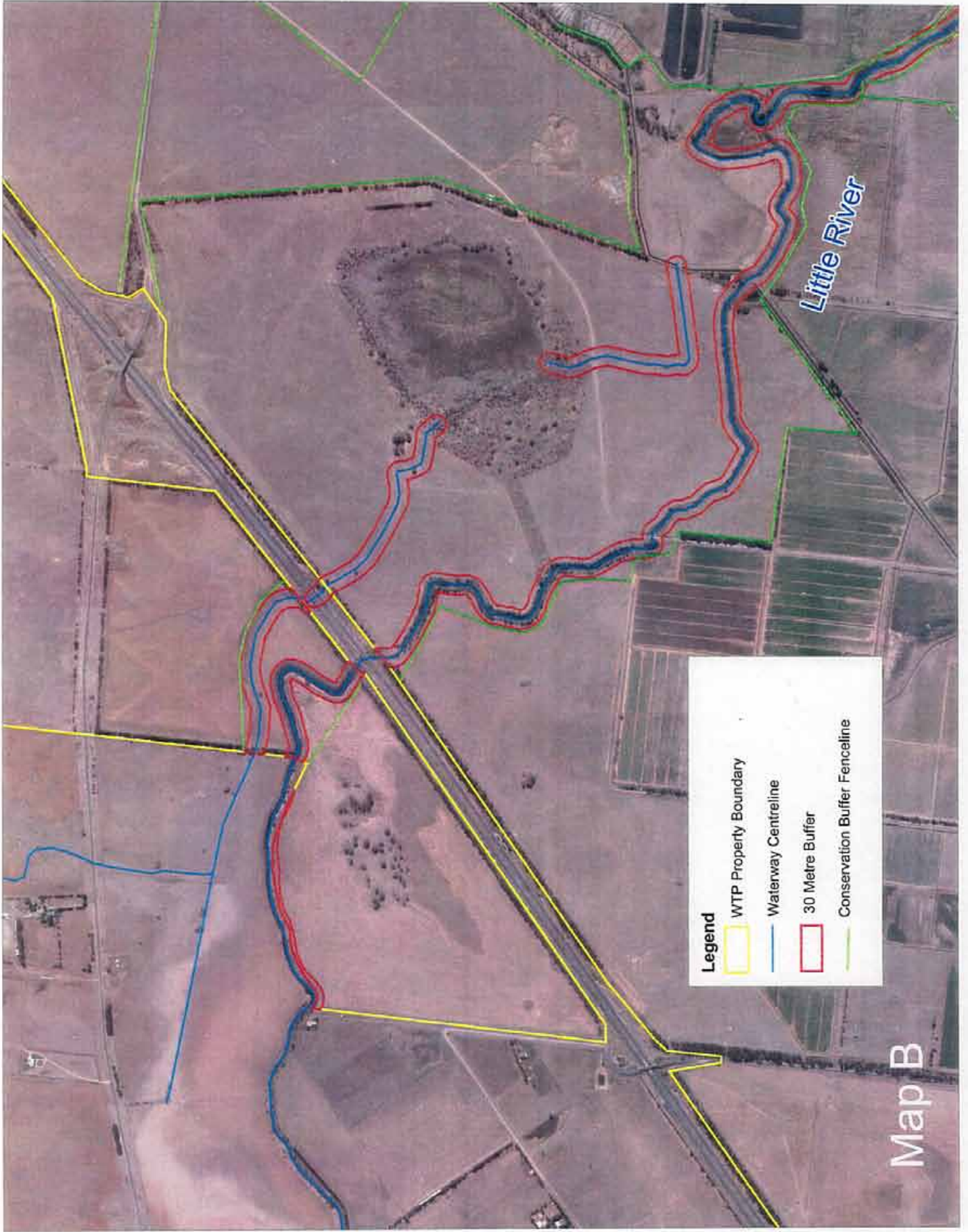
Melbourne Water WTP Land Use Strategy
Riparian Buffers (Overview) 21 January 2010



Legend

- WTP Property Boundary
- Waterway Centreline
- 30 Metre Buffer
- Conservation Buffer Fenceline

Map A



Map B

