HO7 – Hegarty's House, 24 Ballan Road, Werribee

Heritage Place: Hegarty's House	**HO Reference:** HO7 **Date updated:** 15 October 2026

Address: 24 Ballan Road, Werribee



Figure 1. Hegarty's House, 24 Ballan Road, Werribee. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.

Item Group: Residential buildings (private) **Item Type:** House	**Key Theme:** Building towns and cities **Key Sub-theme:** Housing the population
Designer: Unknown **Builder:** Unknown	**Construction:** c.1891 **Style:** Victorian
Significance Level: Local	
Recommendation: Remove tree controls. Retain solar energy controls.	

Controls:	○	External paint controls	○	Internal alteration controls	○	Tree controls
	○	Included on Victorian Heritage Register	○	Incorporated Plans	○	Outbuildings and fence not exempt

	○	Prohibited uses may be permitted	○	Aboriginal Heritage Place	●	Solar energy system controls

Curtilage



Figure 2. Hegarty's House, 24 Ballan Road, Werribee. *Basemap source*: Nearmap. 2025. Spatial data source: VicMap & Department of Transport and Planning

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	*Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history*	Hegarty's House is of historical significance for its associations with the Scott family as early landowners and pastoralists in the Werribee region and for later associations with the Hegarty family who remained prominent in the regions into the twenty-first century. Residential dwellings in close proximity to townships were key in the growth and development of regional towns and specifically Werribee.
B	*Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history*	The place does not meet this criterion.
C	*Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history*	The place does not meet this criterion.
D	*Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments*	Hegarty's House is of significance as a representative example of a typical Victorian era dwelling adopting the local materiality of bluestone as was commonplace for early dwellings in Werribee. The rectangular form, hipped roof clad in slate and largely symmetrical appearance are typical of Victorian cottages.
E	*Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics*	Hegarty's House is of aesthetic significance for its reflection of vernacular Victorian architecture within the region. The dwelling features large bluestone blocks laid in neat courses with weeping mortaring and pointing, as well as half-height bluestone block pairs at regular intervals, creating a decorative pattern to all elevations. The dwelling also features a steep hipped clad roof in slate with two double flue chimneys, which are rendered with projecting stepped detailing, and a return verandah clad in sheet metal retaining its ornamental lacework detailing and iron posts. The overall composition of the dwelling including its detailing is a superior example of an early bluestone cottage in the municipality.

F	*Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period*	The place does not meet this criterion.
G	*Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions*	The place does not meet this criterion.
H	*Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.*	The place does not meet this criterion.

Statement of Significance - Hegarty's House, 24 Ballan Road, Werribee

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Figure 3. Hegarty's House, 24 Ballan Road, Werribee. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2025.

What is significant?

Hegarty's House, constructed in c. 1891, including the front garden setting, is significant. The rear addition and all outbuildings are not significant.

How is it significant?

Hegarty's House is of historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Wyndham.

Why is it significant?

Hegarty's House is of historical significance for its associations with the Scott family as early landowners and pastoralists in the Werribee region and for later associations with the Hegarty family who remained prominent in the region into the twenty-first century. Residential dwellings in close proximity to townships were formative in the growth and development of regional towns and specifically Werribee (Criterion A).

Hegarty's House is of significance as a representative example of a typical Victorian era dwelling adopting the local materiality of bluestone as was commonplace for early dwellings in Werribee. The rectangular form, hipped roof clad in slate and largely symmetrical appearance are typical of Victorian cottages (Criterion D).

Hegarty's House is of aesthetic significance for its reflection of vernacular Victorian architecture within the region. The dwelling features large bluestone blocks laid in neat courses with weeping mortaring and pointing, as well as half-height bluestone block pairs at regular intervals, creating a decorative pattern to all elevations. The dwelling also features a steep hipped clad roof in slate with two double flue chimneys, which are rendered with projecting stepped detailing, and a return verandah clad in sheet metal retaining its ornamental lacework detailing and iron posts. The overall composition of the dwelling including its detailing is a superior example of an early bluestone cottage in the municipality. (Criterion E).

Primary Source

Hegarty's House citation, Extent Heritage, 2026.

Description

Physical Analysis

Hegarty's House is located north-west of the centre of Werribee, on the corner of Edgar Street and Ballan Road opposite Werribee Racecourse (HO12).

Hegarty's House is constructed from bluestone blocks and is square in plan. The bluestone blocks are large and laid in neat courses, with weeping mortaring and pointing. Half-height bluestone block pairs have been used at regular intervals to create a pattern on the elevations. The dwelling has a steep hipped roof clad in slate, with two double flue chimneys, which are rendered and have projecting stepped detailing. The façade has a return verandah which extends around the north and south elevations and is clad in corrugated sheet metal with iron lacework and supported by iron posts. The sheet metal cladding is not original. The verandah floor is a step above ground level and covered in a pattern of hexagonal terracotta tiles. The front door is an ornate wooden door, featuring stained glass double sidelights either side and a textured glass panel above it with two symmetrical tripartite windows either side.

Later additions to the original c. 1891 dwelling were constructed in the latter half of the twentieth century. A circular driveway occupies the western half of the property, leading to the main dwelling. There are two garage structures, one in the north-eastern corner of the property facing Edgar Street, the other in the southwestern corner of the property. These garages feature slate tile hipped roofs, imitating the Victorian style of the dwelling. The garage structure fronting Edgar Street, as well as the water fountain located in the centre of the front yard, were constructed sometime between 1949 and 1959. At the rear of the dwelling, there is a large rectangular extension, constructed of rendered brick and a hipped slate tile roof. This extension, as well as the other garage located within the site, were constructed sometime in the late twentieth century. At this time, part of the verandah, on the southern elevation, was also infilled, to enable the construction of an ensuite and wardrobe. In 2020, a pool, pool house and carport were constructed on the southern boundary. A small basketball court was laid north of the dwelling in 2022.

Alterations and Additions

- A garage was constructed in the north-east corner of the property between 1949-1959.
- A rear extension and second garage were constructed, and part of the verandah infilled, during the late twentieth century. *
- The southern portion of the property was subdivided and developed in 2011 (not included in the existing curtilage).
- A carport, pool and pool house were constructed in 2020. *
- A small basketball court was constructed in 2022. *

Hegarty's House is of moderate integrity and in good condition.

**** Denotes element that does not contribute to the cultural significance of the place.***

History

Hegarty's House, is located on the traditional and unceded lands of the Wadawurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of Country. Wadawurrung people are deeply connected to Dja (Country), including the lands, waters and skies, and to Yaluk (waterways), Murran (nature), Weeagoon (living things) and Wiyn (fire). Wadawurrung Country encompasses vast volcanic plains and mountains, Little River (Worrin-yaloke) to the west and the mighty Werribee River (Wirribi Yaluk) in the east, and abundant coastlines and wetlands, all of which hold the stories and memories of Wadawurrung ancestors.

Despite the impacts of colonisation, including dispossession of land and disruption to cultural practices, Wadawurrung people have maintained and continue to sustain their deep connection to Country, Land, Waters and Culture. The memories embedded in Country remain alive today, including intangible cultural heritage and song lines, reflecting the continuity of cultural knowledge, custodianship and resilience passed down through generations.

Hegarty's House is located in proximity to the Werribee River (Wirribi Yaluk), a significant waterway for the Wadawurrung peoples. Functioning as a major linking corridor across Country, the river formed an important travel route for movement and exchange and served as a 'spine' within the broader cultural landscape, marking the eastern boundary of Wadawurrung Country. As a major and reliable source of permanent freshwater, food and other resources, the river and its waterholes were central to cultural, social and economic life, each with their own names and stories. Areas of remnant bush along the river corridor continue to provide a rare and tangible connection to the pre-colonial landscape and Wadawurrung ways of life.

The early settlement of Werribee was positioned in proximity to a ford over the Werribee River, connecting the route between Melbourne and Geelong (Murray 1974, 11; Lovell Chen 2024, 51). As traffic grew along the Melbourne to Geelong route, the Werribee settlement expanded. In 1849, land was reserved for a township and was gazetted as 'Wyndham' in 1850. The sale of Crown Land commenced shortly after (James and Pritchard 2008, 15; Hocking 2013, 177; Murray 1974, 14).

Place History

Town Allotment 1 Section 18 in the Parish of Mambourin was first purchased by Elliot Armstrong (Figure 4). Armstrong was a successful pastoralist, specialising in breeding cattle as well as a land speculator; purchasing and selling a vast portfolio of land across Melbourne's west throughout the 1850s and 1860s (Werribee Shire Banner 1916, 3).

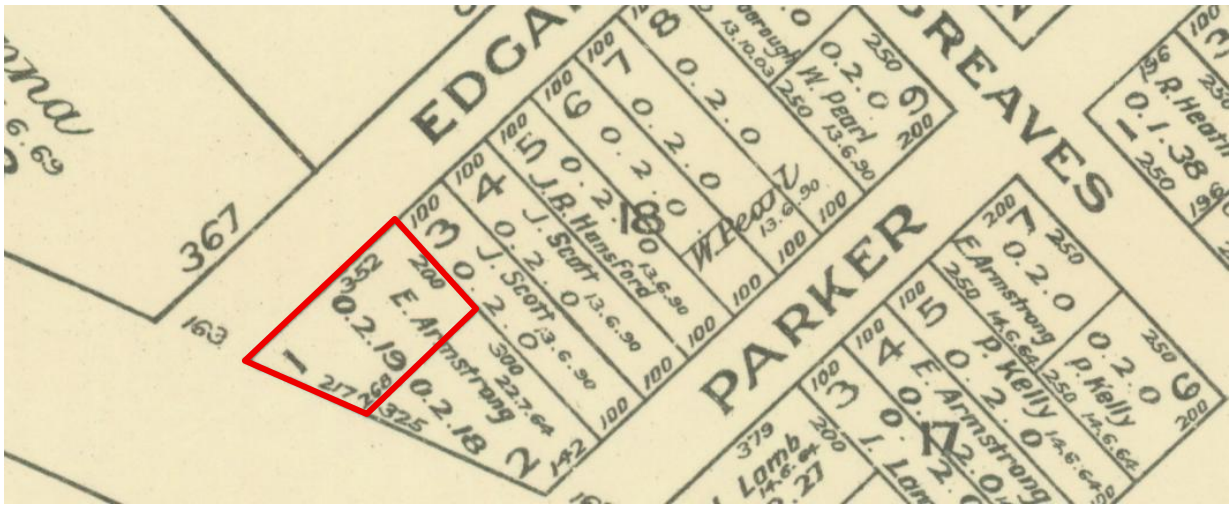


Figure 4. Allotment 1 of Section 18 in the Parish of Mambourin, indicated by red line. *Source:* W.M. Houston. 1954. 'Township of Werribee; Parishes of Mambourin and Deutgam.' Department of Lands and Survey. Map. State Library Victoria. http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/109853.

The Scott Family

The Scotts, a farming family from Northumberland, England, came to own land on Ballan Road within the Parish of Mambourin from as early as 1857 (Figure 5). The Scott family, comprising John Scott and his three children Anthony, Robert and Mary Ellen Scott, farmed their land in Mambourin, while residing in Footscray (Shire of Wyndham 1888, no.1224 and 1225).

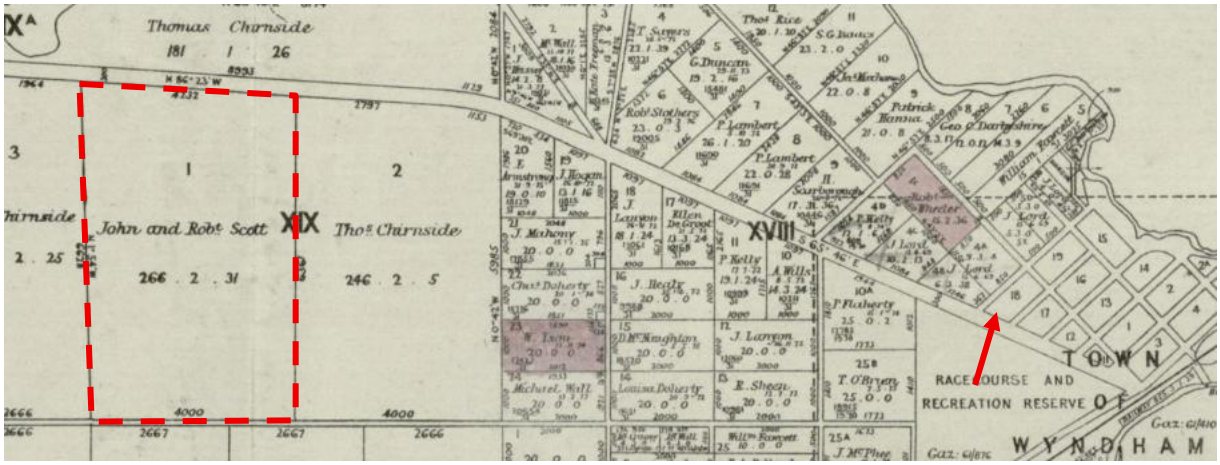


Figure 5. Mambourin Parish Map. Dashed red line indicating land first bought in Mambourin by the Scott family. Red arrow indicating location of house constructed c.1891-1892. *Source:* J. Noone. 1880. 'Mambourin, County of Grant.' Department of Lands and Survey Melbourne. Map. State Library Victoria. http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/162470.

In 1890, the Scott family purchased two acres in Town Lot 18 in the Parish of Mambourin. Mary Ellen Scott was rated as the owner. At this time, the Scott family owned approximately 480 acres within the Parish of Mambourin (Shire of Wyndham 1890, no.1655-1657).

In 1891, the bluestone dwelling was constructed on the land owned by Mary Ellen Scott, being Allotment 1 of Section 18 (Context Pty Ltd. 1997, 199; Shire of Wyndham 1895, no.2561). It is

likely that the Scott family lived together in this house from this time, as all were rated as having relocated to Werribee (Shire of Wyndham 1895, no.2560-2562). In 1893, a grassfire spread rapidly across thousands of acres in the Parish of Mambourin. Although the Scott's farming land was entirely razed, the family were able to prevent the fire from reaching the house (The Bacchus Marsh Express 1893, 3). The Scott family would proceed to acquire much of Section 18, including Lots 1-7 (Shire of Werribee 1915, no.6159-6162). While John Scott died in 1896, the dwelling remained owned and occupied by his children until their passing; Robert Scott died in 1914, Mary Ellen Scott died in 1917 and Anthony Carr Scott died in 1921 (Leader 1896, 24; Werribee Shire Banner 1914, 2; The Argus 1924, 9).

In 1921, following the death of Anthony Carr Scott, all furniture, vehicles, implements, sundries and other possessions within Hegarty's House were advertised for public sale. At this time, the property was described as comprising "three acres of land… a 7-roomed bluestone house and all necessary outbuildings, comprising brick stables (3 stalls) and sheds" (Werribee Shire Banner 1921, 2). Due to complications around the beneficiary of Anthony Carr Scott's will, the property was advertised for lease for a period of three years (The Argus 1924, 9). Alfred Thompson took up this lease in the early 1920s (Shire of Werribee 1924, no.4948).

The Hegarty Family

Soon after, Charles James Hegarty came to own and occupy Hegarty's House (Context Pty Ltd. 1997, 199; Shire of Werribee 1927, no.881 and 893). Charles James Hegarty was the son of the well-renowned local pastoralist John Hegarty (Werribee Shire Banner 1938, 3). The dwelling remained in the ownership of the Hegarty family until 2010 (Figure 6 and Figure 7). The Hegarty family maintained their prominence in the Werribee community throughout the twentieth century, including Valerie Hegarty as the principal of Werribee Primary school from 1981 to 1987 (Werribee Primary School n.d.). During the Hegarty family's ownership, much of the land originally owned within Section 18 was subdivided and developed, reducing the property on which Hegarty's House sat to just Allotment 1 of Section 18. The stables and outbuildings associated with the Scott's occupation were also removed during this period. Two garages, a rear extension to the dwelling, and substantial landscaping including a tennis court were constructed during the period of the Hegarty's ownership.

In 2011, following the departure of the Hegarty family, the land of the tennis court was subdivided and sold (R.G. Lee & Associates 2011). In 2020, additional structures including a carport, pool and pool house were constructed (TMC 2020).

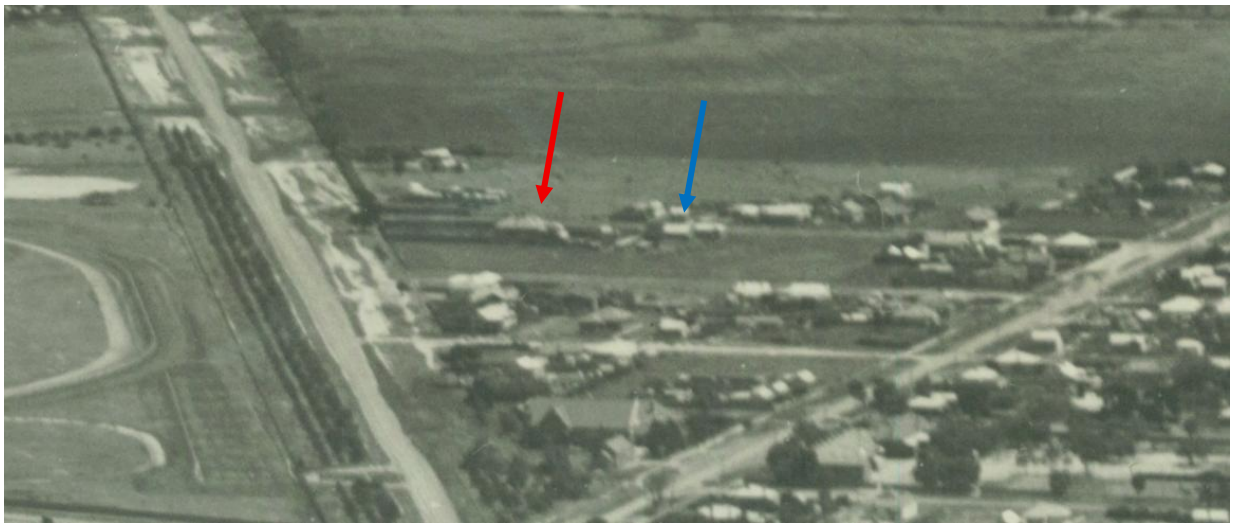


Figure 6. 1949 oblique view of Werribee, with Hegarty's House indicated by red arrow. Blue arrow indicates structures likely to be the outbuildings and stables associated with Hegarty's House. No vegetation is extant at this time. *Source:* Airspy. 1949. 'Werribee.' Digitised aerial photograph. State Library Victoria. https://find.slv.vic.gov.au/permalink/61SLV_INST/1sev8ar/alma9916715643607636

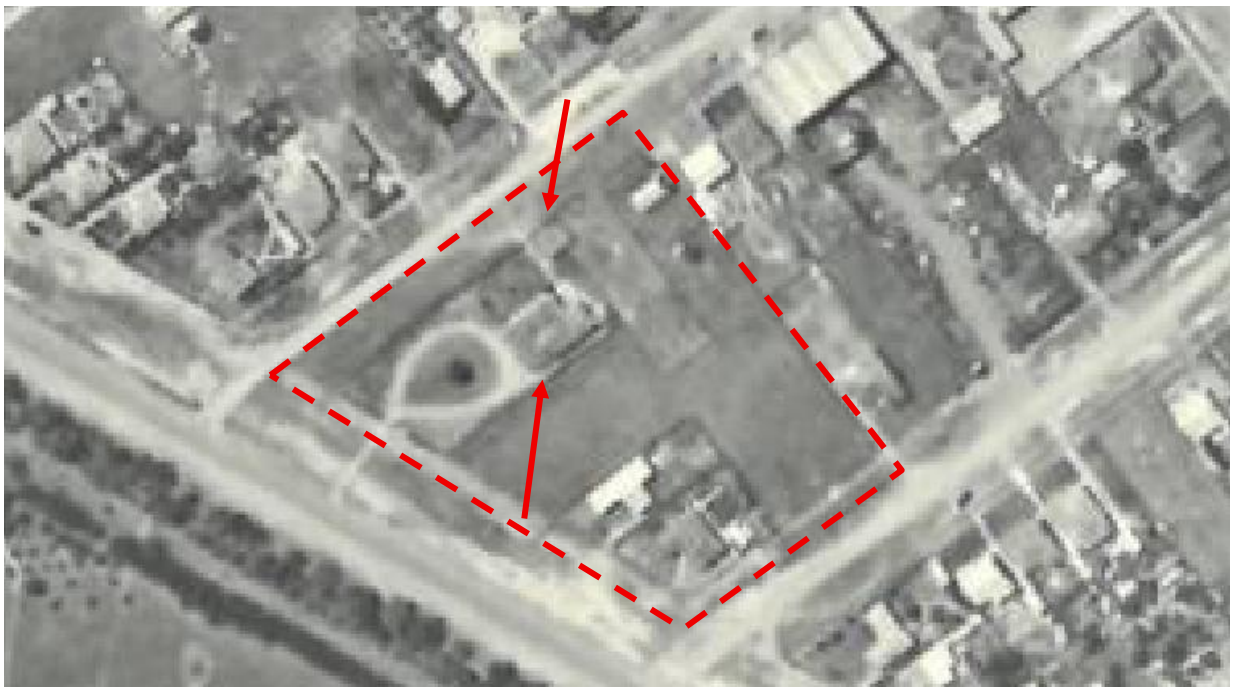


Figure 7. 1959 aerial, with the extent of the 2.5 acres of land owned by Mary Ellen Scott indicated by dashed line, dwelling and garage indicated by arrows. Circular driveway and central tree depicted. *Source:* Landata. 1959. Digitised aerial photograph. VIC-1099-59. https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/tpc_from_landataonline.aspx

Comparative Analysis

Hegarty's House is comparable to the following places:

Doherty House (HO36)

Hegarty's House is comparable to Doherty House, Truganina, as an example of a bluestone dwelling constructed in the Victorian period on a large landholding. Comparable to the Scott family, Doherty accumulated various lots over a number of years to acquire a large land holding. While Doherty House is now ruinous, it is comparable to Hegarty's House as an example of a Victorian dwelling constructed of the local building material bluestone which is typical of the early farmhouses within the region.

House, 90 Cottrell Street (HO23)

Hegarty's House is comparable to the house at 90 Cottrell Street, Werribee, as an example of a dwelling from the late nineteenth century located in close proximity to the town centre. The two dwellings both demonstrate Victorian design elements. However, with its bluestone construction, slate roof and return verandah, Hegarty's House is demonstrative of a more rural location and involved greater expense in its construction than 90 Cottrell Street. Hegarty's House is also a more architecturally distinct example of an early dwelling in the township of Werribee.

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Images



Figure 8. Facade of Hegarty's House, with garage structure also depicted. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2025.



Figure 9. Oblique view of Hegarty's House from Edgar Street. *Source:* Wyndham City Council 2025.



Figure 10. The front door, terracotta tiling, iron lacework and posts, and bluestone patterning depicted. *Source:* Hocking Stuart. 2017. '24 Ballan Road Werribee.' https://www.realestate.com.au/property/24-ballan-rd-werribee-vic-3030/

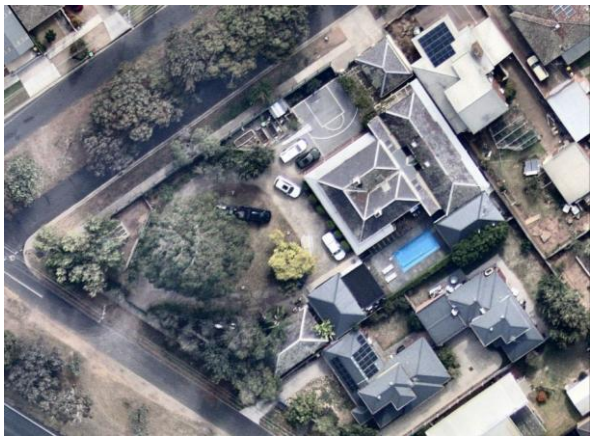


Figure 11. Aerial of 24 Ballan Road in 2025. *Source:* Nearmap. 2025. 24 Ballan Road, Werribee. 18 April 2025.