

Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve Management Plan

2025-2035

Client: Clarence City Council

Prepared by: Dr Josie Kelman and Meghann Jones

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Executive Summary

Overview

The Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve Management Plan (RMP) provides a coordinated and implementable framework for management of the natural and social values of Pilchers Hill Bushland reserve and its two smaller neighbourhood linking reserves, Thoona Bushland and Lindhill. This RMP seeks to balance the protection of natural values with the provision of appropriate recreational opportunities, recognising the reserves' dual role as high conservation value bushland and heavily used urban fringe open space.

Development of this RMP responds to identified gaps in previous plans around implementation targets and prioritisation of actions within budget limitations. This RMP seeks to establish a clear set of priorities, alignment with available resources and structured implementation and an approach to monitoring and review that assists decision making over the lifetime of the plan. It also draws on the Clarence City Councils framework for bushfire mitigation, natural areas management and the weed management strategy whilst also aligning with broader council goals

Natural and social values

The reserves support significant natural values, including regionally important dry eucalypt forest and woodland communities, two of which, *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland, and *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest and woodland, are listed as threatened at a State level. The reserves also provide habitat for a range of native fauna, including threatened species such as the swift parrot and Tasmanian devil, alongside more common species such as the brown bandicoot, echidna and bennetts wallabies, a diverse assemblage of endemic woodland birds, and bats. In addition to their ecological importance, the three reserves play a critical role in maintaining landscape connectivity with the Meehan Range and function as an increasingly important refuge within an increasingly urbanised landscape. The reserves are also a highly valued community asset due to accessibility, scenic character and opportunities for nature-based recreation including walking, running, cycling and dog exercise all which contributed to health, wellbeing and local amenity.

Threats and management priorities

These values are subject to a range of ongoing and increasing pressures associated with urban proximity and increasing visitation. The most significant threats include illegal firewood harvesting, which is removing critical habitat features such as mature trees and coarse woody debris; the spread of environmental weeds, particularly along disturbed edges and track networks; and the proliferation of informal tracks, which contribute to erosion, habitat fragmentation and vegetation decline. Additional pressures arise from dumping, garden waste and encroachment (garden 'creep'), domestic animal impacts on wildlife, and unmanaged public access, all of which can contribute to a gradual decline in ecological condition if not actively addressed.

Purpose and approach

To respond to these challenges, the RMP introduces a spatial management zoning framework comprising Urban Interface, Nature Based Amenity and Conservation Zones using vegetation-mapping units that reflect current on-ground patterns. This approach enables management actions to be prioritised according to the distribution of values and pressures across the reserves, ensuring that efforts are focused where they can achieve the greatest ecological and operational benefit. The zoning framework also supports integration with existing bushfire vegetation management units, allowing conservation, recreation and risk management objectives to be addressed in a coordinated manner.

Key management priorities

Priority actions identified currently in the process focus on protecting core conservation values, followed by the management of key threat pathways and visitor impacts. Immediate priorities include

- preventing illegal firewood harvesting through improved compliance, visitor access control and signage; restricting unauthorised vehicle access; and retaining habitat features essential for fauna.
- A structured weed management program, with emphasis on containment along urban edges and track corridors to prevent spread into high-value conservation areas with GIS data tracking on weed infestations and treatment.

- A track hierarchy and rationalisation program to reduce informal track proliferation, improve drainage and erosion control, and manage visitor use more effectively.
- Improvements to reserve entrances, signage and parking are recommended where possible, to consolidate access points, improve user experience and reduce unmanaged entry.
- Management of domestic animal impacts through education, compliance and alignment with existing policy is also identified as a key component of reducing pressure on wildlife.

Monitoring and review

A central component of the RMP is the establishment of a monitoring and adaptive management framework to ensure that actions are implemented, outcomes measured, and management can be refined over time. This includes biennial ecological monitoring, ongoing recording of management activities and compliance actions, and annual tracking of implementation progress. This approach is intended to ensure that the RMP functions as an active management tool rather than a static planning document and that investment in on-ground works is aligned with measurable improvements in ecological condition and reserve management outcomes.

In summary, the RMP provides a clear and practical pathway to protect and enhance the natural values of the reserves while maintaining their role as accessible and valued community assets. By prioritising actions, strengthening coordination and embedding monitoring and accountability, the plan significantly increases the likelihood of successful implementation and long-term conservation outcomes. The presentation of this plan to council and the public, and feedback time will clarify and highlight priorities moving forward.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Past RMP process overview

Review of previous Reserve Activity Plans (Tasflora, 2013 and Welling Consulting 2013) identified that while many appropriate management actions were recommended, a significant proportion were not implemented, largely due to competing priorities and resourcing constraints. This RMP builds on prior Reserve Activity Planning and current Bushfire Planning (Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2023–2028) providing a framework that includes prioritised actions, monitoring and evaluation guidelines and baseline data. The focus of this plan is to consider the management of Pilchers Hill, Thoona and Lindhill bushland reserves as an integrated reserve system.

1.1.2 Brief history of the reserves

Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve (PHBR) is located at the western end of the Middle Meehan Range on Hobart's eastern shore. The reserve is owned and managed by Clarence City Council and is valued for its native bushland, fauna habitat, bushland setting, and extensive track network (Figure 1).

Thoona Bushland and Lindhill Reserves (TBLR) are smaller parcels of council land to the west of PHBR. They provide local bushland protection, habitat values and opportunities for local low-key recreation. Weed and bushfire management are ongoing considerations within each of the reserves. While recreation in the two smaller reserves is constrained to walking and use of social green spaces, PHBR offers access to regional cycling circuits, longer hikes and access via walking to local rock-climbing opportunities within the Meehan range.

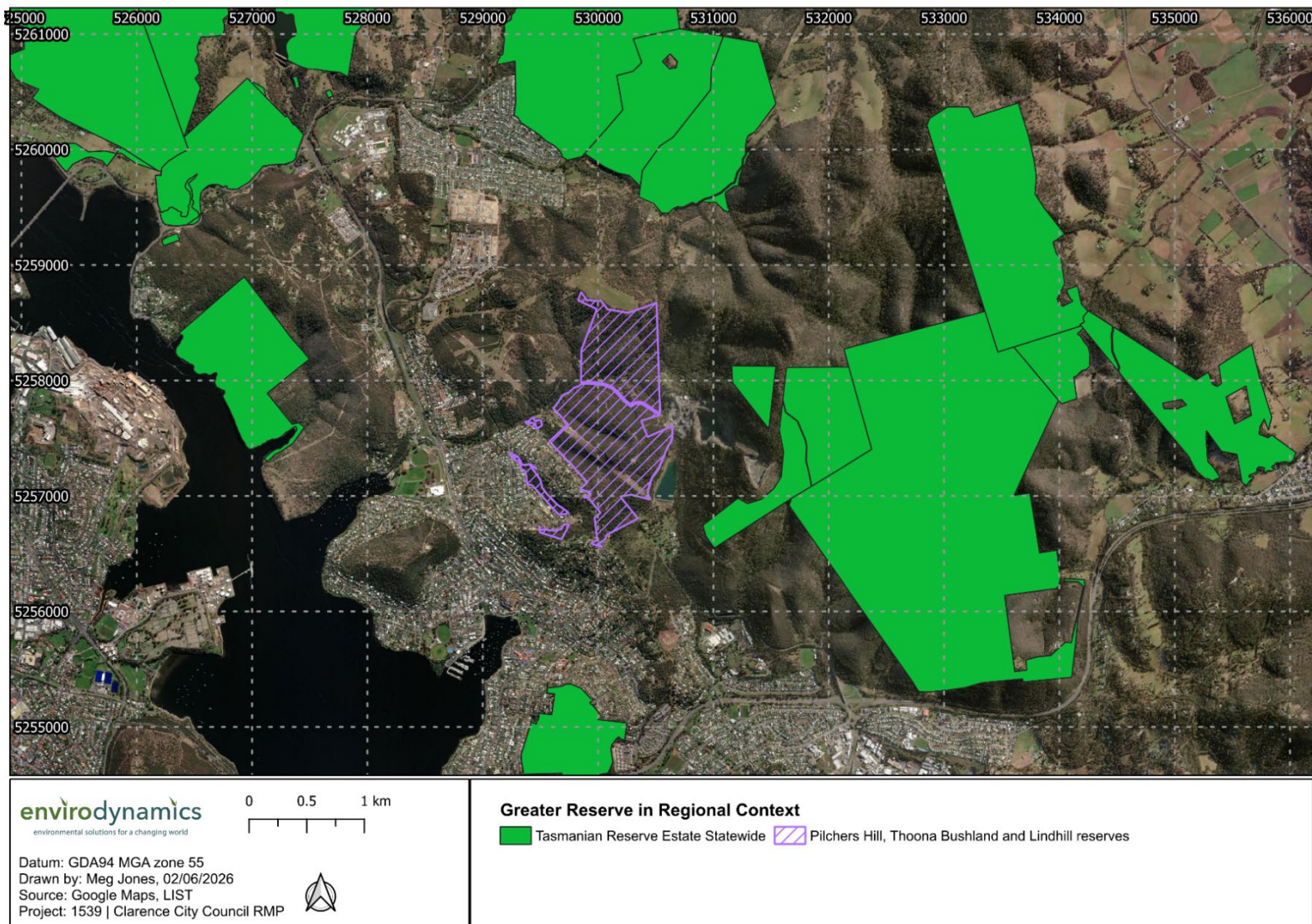


Figure 1. Pilchers Hill, Thoon bushland and Lindhill reserves in overall local regional context

1.1.3 Planning overlay

PHBR is zoned as Landscape Conservation, Low Density Residential, Open Space, and Utilities under the Clarence Local Provisions Schedule. The reserve includes a utilities allotment managed by TasWater containing a roofed water reservoir, and Powerline network area managed by TasNetworks.

TBLR are council-managed parcels surrounded by residential lots. Both reserves have limited access points and constrained connectivity due to surrounding development.

1.2 Aims and process of the reserve management plan

1.2.1 Aims of the Reserve Management Plan

The purpose of this Reserve Management Plan (RMP) is to provide a clear, prioritised and implementable program of actions to protect and enhance the natural values of the reserve system, including PHBR and TBLR as a larger reserve network. The RMP seeks to balance conservation outcomes with appropriate recreational use by:

- protecting biodiversity values, including threatened species and vegetation communities;
- managing key threats such as weed invasion, erosion, bushfire risk, and access-related impacts;
- maintaining and improving opportunities for community use, recreation and connection with nature; and
- supporting coordinated, cost-effective and achievable management over the life of the plan.

1.2.2 Process for developing the RMP

The RMP has been developed through a structured process designed to ensure that management recommendations are evidence-based, spatially targeted, and aligned with both Council priorities and community values. Key components of this process include:

- **Baseline data collection:**

Collection of field-based information on flora, fauna, vegetation condition and track use to establish a current understanding of reserve values and pressures.

- **Ground-truthing and data validation:**

Verification of existing spatial datasets, including Natural Values Atlas (NVA) records and previous conceptual mapping, to ensure accuracy and relevance for on-ground management.

- **Development of an implementation framework:**

Preparation of a structured action framework that assigns clear actions, timeframes, responsibilities and priority levels to support effective and accountable delivery.

- **Internal Council consultation:**

Engagement with relevant Council teams and sub-groups to understand current management roles, responsibilities and operational constraints, recognising that organisational structures and resourcing have evolved since the previous Reserve Activity Plans (Tasflora, 2013 and Welling Consulting 2013).

- **Community engagement:**

This draft Plan has been prepared for public consultation. Feedback received during consultation will inform the final Plan prior to adoption by Council.

This initial release is intended to:

- introduce the proposed management framework and zoning approach;
- seek early input on key issues, priorities and assumptions; and
- identify any significant gaps or concerns

A more comprehensive and structured community engagement process will be undertaken as the next stage of plan development. This will include a combination of online surveys, and targeted stakeholder interviews, as outlined in the proposed engagement plan.

1.3 Natural area framework

The RMP is developed within a broader strategic and planning context established by the Clarence Natural Areas Strategy 2024–2034, which provides the overarching vision, goals and thematic priorities for natural area management across the City of Clarence. This includes key focus areas such as biodiversity conservation, recreation, invasive species management, and community engagement. Within this strategic context, the Natural Area Reserve Management Planning Framework defines the required structure and core components of reserve-level planning, ensuring that individual plans are consistent, comprehensive, and aligned with Council’s broader natural area management objectives (Figure 2).

Where the Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve RMP fits into Council's strategic framework.

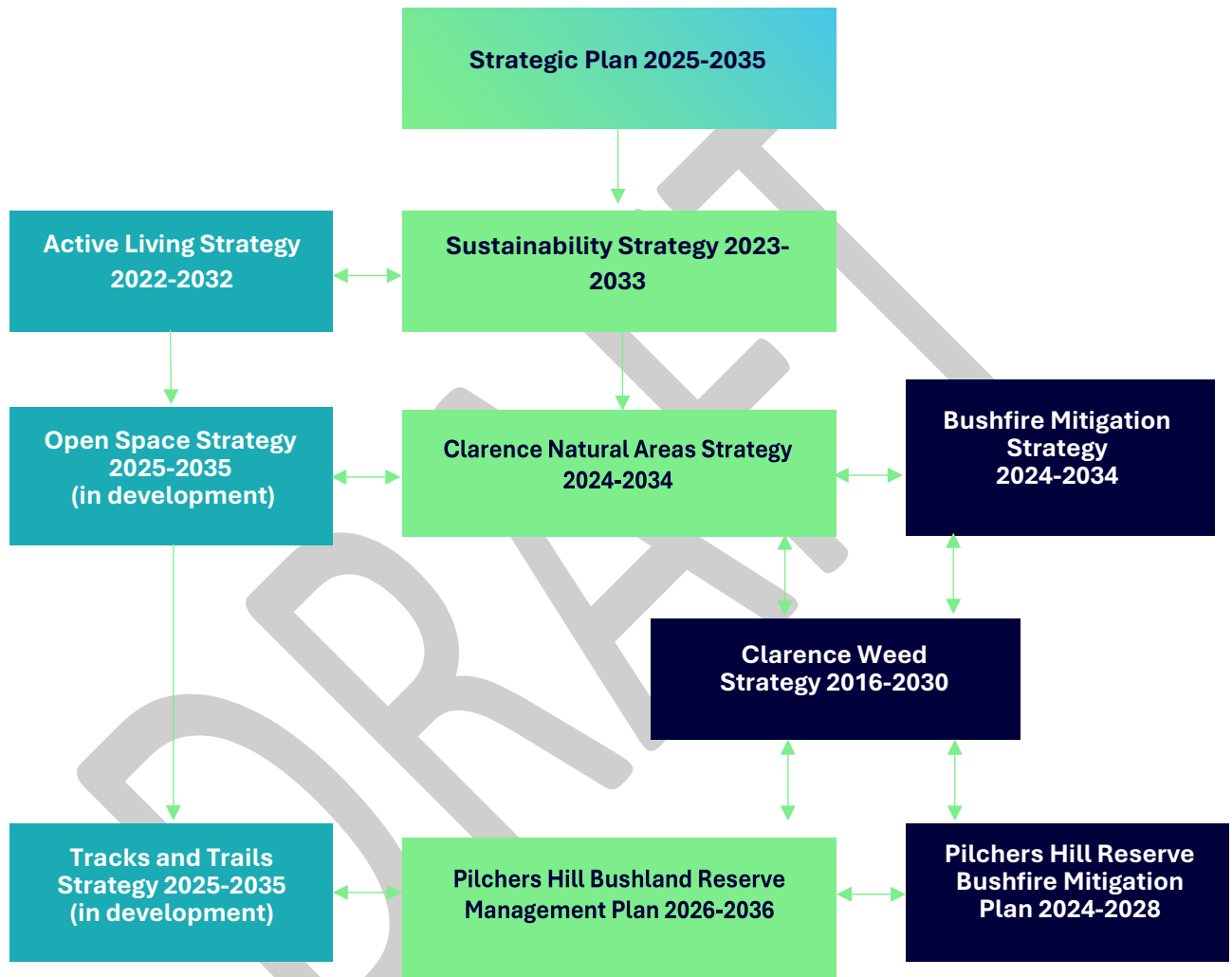


Figure 2

2 Natural values assessment

2.1 Landscape setting and connectivity

PHBR provides an important ecological and visual landscape link as part of the scenic rim of tree-covered hills on the eastern side of the Derwent River. The reserve contributes significantly to the scenic appeal of the Hobart/Clarence region.

Linked to the Meehan Range State Recreation Area, PHBR provides local connectivity to extensive mountain bike trails, significant hikes, and some climbing activities. Connectivity to TBLR is partially maintained via remnant vegetation on private land. TBLR are small and isolated remnants surrounded by residential lots. Connectivity is constrained, however remnant vegetation on adjoining private lots provides limited movement corridors for fauna (see Figure 3).

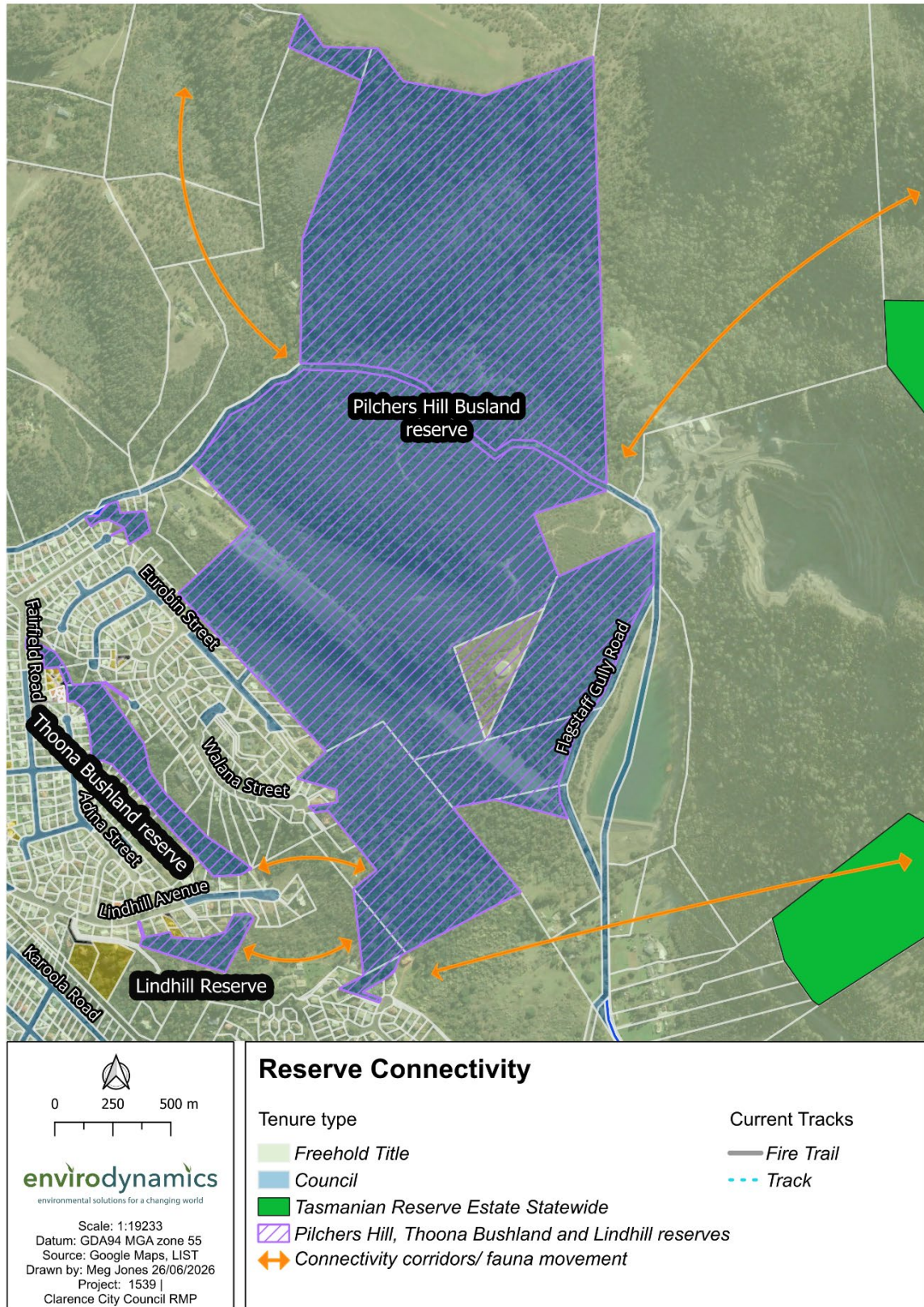


Figure 3. PHBR/TBLR connectivity in local context.

2.2 Vegetation Communities

PHBR contains a range of dry eucalypt forest and woodland communities and is predominantly mapped as *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest on mudstone (DAM).

Additional communities include: *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland (DGL), *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest and woodland (DRI), *Eucalyptus viminalis* grassy forest and woodland (DVG), *Bursaria–Acacia* woodland (NBA).

Lindhill reserve varies slightly as tops a geologic transition and is partially underlain by sandstone, so the veg community is partially *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest on sandstone (DAS). Thoona Bushland reserve primarily contains (DAM) across the slope and disturbed/exotic grassland along the creek line.

Two communities, *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland (DGL), and *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest and woodland (DRI) are listed as threatened communities under Schedule 3A of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

These two communities represent regionally significant dry eucalypt ecosystems of Hobart's Eastern Shore, occurring predominantly on Permian mudstone and Triassic sediments. Reservation status varies; however, all are considered threatened due to clearing history, fragmentation and ongoing pressures such as inappropriate fire regimes, weed invasion and adjacent land use impacts. In particular, *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest and woodland is highly restricted geomorphologically and largely confined to Hobart's Eastern Shore, making its occurrence within PHBR of high conservation significance.

Ground truthing has shown that TasVeg 5 mapping is inconsistent with on-ground survey in some areas and a revised map is provided in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Vegetation community updates across the three reserves.

Threatened community descriptions & reservation significance

Eucalyptus risdonii forest and woodland (DRI)

This is an open forest/woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus risdonii* (risdon peppermint), often in sparse or mallee-form stands (Figure 5). Trees are generally low (rarely exceeding 15 m). It may occur with *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* and *Eucalyptus amygdalina*.

Shrub layer is sparse but may include *Acacia verticillata*, *Acacia genistifolia*; *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Pultenaea juniperina*, *P. daphnoides*, *Styphelia humifusa*, *Daviesia latifolia* and *Tetratheca labillardieri*.

Ground layer includes native tussocks and grasses such as *Poa rodwayi*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Austrodanthonia spp.* and *Austrostipa spp.*

Distribution / Setting Reservation significance

This community grows almost exclusively on Hobart's Eastern Shore, principally on Permian mudstone.

- Estimated extent: ~800 ha statewide
- Reserved in Tasmanian Reserve Estate: 50%
- All reserved area is within the secure National Reserve System

Why it matters

The key significance is its extremely limited distribution (only ~50 mapped patches, average patch size 16 ha). Fire is essential, but too frequent fire can degrade the community via poor regeneration and soil erosion. It is also vulnerable to subdivision and dumping.

Implication for PHBR

This is PHBR's *highest conservation significance* vegetation community because it is endemic to the Eastern Shore region and tightly restricted. These communities onsite were in poor condition with very little understorey or any diversity observed, they are also subject to illegal wood harvesting.



Figure 5. *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest at PHBR (rapid VCA site).

Eucalyptus globulus dry forest and woodland (DGL)

This community is dominated by *Eucalyptus globulus* (blue gum), forming either tall forest (up to ~40 m in productive coastal sites) or shorter woodland (<20 m on poorer soils) (Figure 6).

Associated canopy species may include *Eucalyptus amygdalina* (black peppermint) and *Eucalyptus viminalis* (white gum), with *E. obliqua* (stringybark) appearing in wetter conditions.

The shrub layer is typically sparse but includes *Acacia dealbata* and *A. mearnsii*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, *Allocasuarina verticillata* and *Bursaria spinosa*.

The understorey is often grassy or heathy, becoming shrubbier in humid or infrequently burnt areas. Typical ground layer includes *Epacris impressa*, *Hibbertia riparia*, *Styphelia humifusa*; *Lissanthe strigosa*; *Lomandra longifolia*.

Distribution / Setting Reservation significance

Occurs mainly on dolerite ridges, slopes and flats in eastern and south-eastern Tasmania.

- Estimated extent: ~21,000 ha statewide
- Reserved in the secure National Reserve System: 27%
- Reserved in the broader Tasmanian Reserve Estate: 31%

Why it matters

This community is described as poorly reserved, heavily impacted historically by clearing and harvesting, and is also important habitat for the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) (Critically Endangered).

Implication for PHBR

PHBR supports DGL patches (ground truthing shows variation to NVA mapping). These patches are regionally significant because of limited reservation and DGL's role as potential swift parrot foraging habitat. The condition of this community on site was mixed, with some sections retaining reasonable diversity and understorey whilst some areas were over-browsed and/or burnt and in poor condition. This community is also suffering the effects of illegal wood harvesting.



Figure 6. *Eucalyptus globulus* forest at PHBR (Rapid VCA).

Across all the three reserves, vegetation condition varies depending on factors such as aspect, slope, level of disturbance, and neighbouring land use. Certain vegetation communities and areas of the reserve are affected by degrading processes, including weed invasion, erosion, construction of informal tracks, and recent disturbance.

Large areas of the PHBR *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and in good health, however, overall conditions of the threatened communities *E. risdonii*, *E. globulus* as well as some boarder areas are rated as disturbed or in decline, indicating a need for management actions to ensure the decline is addressed. See Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessments Appendix B and Plant list in Appendix A.

2.3 Flora Values

2.3.1 Threatened Species

The reserve system contains threatened flora including the risdon peppermint (*Eucalyptus risdonii*), listed as Rare under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Blue devil (*Eryngium ovinum*), and soft tussockgrass (*Poa mollis*) are present within 500 m of the reserve system, but further survey and updated flora species lists are recommended as part of the revised RMP monitoring program.

2.4 Fauna Values

2.4.1 Birds

Bird records from a recent survey, eBird and the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas indicate that Pilchers Hill bushland reserve supports a diverse woodland bird assemblage, including a high representation of Tasmanian endemic species. Endemic bird species recorded within the reserve include the Tasmanian native hen (*Tribonyx mortierii*), yellow-throated honeyeater (*Nesoptilotis flavicollis*), black-headed honeyeater (*Melithreptus affinis*), strong-billed honeyeater (*Melithreptus validirostris*), forest raven (*Corvus tasmanicus*), dusky robin (*Melanodryas vittata*), and beautiful firetail (*Stagonopleura bella*). These endemic species are characteristic of dry eucalypt forest and woodland habitats in south-eastern Tasmania and contribute to the ecological integrity of the reserve's remnant vegetation and habitat structure.

The Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas further identifies the reserve as occurring within the mapped range of several threatened bird species of high conservation significance, including the swift parrot listed as Critically Endangered, forty-spotted pardalote (*Pardalotus quadragintus*) listed as Endangered, Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) listed as Endangered, and Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*) listed as Vulnerable. The reserve is also located within mapped range boundaries for other significant raptor species including the white-bellied sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*). See Appendix D for a full species list of birds recorded on site.

2.4.2 Mammals

The reserve system also supports important non-avian fauna values. Recent fauna camera trap surveys undertaken within PHBR/ TBLR confirmed the presence of the Bennett's wallaby (*Notamacropus rufogriseus*), common wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*), short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), southern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*) and Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*). These records confirm that PHBR/ TBLR continues to function as important habitat for both widespread native fauna and threatened species within an increasingly urbanised landscape. The presence of Tasmanian devil (Endangered) and a record within 500 meters of an eastern barred bandicoot (Vulnerable) highlights the significance of the PHBR as a threatened species refuge on Hobart's urban fringe, providing foraging habitat, shelter sites, and movement opportunities across a connected remnant landscape. See Appendix E for species list and Appendix C for camera trap results.

2.4.3 Reptiles and Amphibians

It is likely that lizards, skinks, snakes and frogs are present in the reserve. While monitoring specifically for these animals is not part of vegetation assessments, there is an opportunity to collect data through future community/citizen science/educational activities.

2.4.4 Invertebrates

Large numbers of *Heteronympha merope* (common brown butterfly) were seen at VCA site 1 & 2 near native poa grasses (feeding habitat). Although invertebrate specific monitoring is not included in vegetation assessments this presents an opportunity to develop data with future

community/citizen science/educational activities. In general the diversity of bird species within the reserve suggests a diversity of invertebrates.

2.4.5 Bats

Tasmania has 9 micro-bat species of which 8 are considered resident. These species are all widespread, tree hollow dependent, insectivorous, nocturnal and vary in their habitat requirements. As a mammal group, they have been shown to respond to factors including insect availability, light pollution, environmental pollutants and tree hollow availability. Generally utilising areas ranging in size from 2ha to 400ha or more. It is inferred that Bats will be present at PHBR given the foraging resource and landscape connectivity, and are an important part of the ecosystem.

Bat monitoring requires specialised equipment as bat calls cannot be recorded using the same spectrum as birds. Bat equipment has not been deployed on site to date; however as bats are expected to benefit from measures taken to protect established trees from wood hooking. As a hollow dependent group, bats populations are vulnerable to the loss of large, mature trees targeted for wood yield by illegal logging activity. Both the removal of hollow bearing trees, and trees with the potential to develop hollows within a functional timeframe to support bat populations, is occurring on site.

2.4.6 Fauna habitat values

The presence of endemic woodland birds, potential habitat for threatened bird species, and confirmed threatened mammal records collectively demonstrate the high conservation value of the reserve system. The reserves provides critical habitat resources such as mature eucalypts (including hollow-bearing trees), seasonal flowering resources, dense understorey vegetation, leaf litter, coarse woody debris, and rocky shelter areas. These habitat features support breeding, foraging, denning and dispersal to a diverse range of fauna, and contribute to broader biodiversity resilience across the Meehan Range and Greater Hobart's eastern shore landscape.

As surrounding residential development continues to constrain habitat connectivity and increase edge effects, the conservation role of PHBR is heightened. The reserves provide an increasingly important biodiversity refuge and ecological stepping-stone between larger bushland systems and smaller fragmented patches across Geilston Bay and the City of Clarence.

Ongoing conservation management will require active control of illegal wood harvesting, weed spread, appropriate fire regime management, erosion and track impact mitigation, and minimisation of disturbance pressures (including domestic animal impacts), supported by continued monitoring through fauna camera trapping and targeted bird surveys to inform adaptive management.

2.5 Introduced Species (Flora and Fauna)

Past reserve planning identified blackberry, Spanish heath, pampas grass, horehound, stinkwort, boneseed, gorse and Montpellier broom as key weed management priorities requiring ongoing control and follow-up. Currently the PHBL and TBLR network contains varied and diverse infestations of introduced species, see (Figure 8 and appendix F) with weeds ranging from weeds on national significance (WONS) to highly invasive declared, and environmental weeds, down to backyard garden species

Reserve edges are weed hotspots, due to a combination of urban interface, creeping backyards, and garden waste dumping; main road disturbance along Flagstaff Gully rd., and waterway dispersal of weeds, particularly via drainage lines along Faggs creek gully, and the stormwater way that traverses Thoona Bushland Reserve. Lindhill Reserve is subject to pressure from established boneseed populations nearby on private land, and other common weeds (agapanthus and other garden escapees).

Overall weeds pose a high risk to biodiversity values through competition with native flora, suppression of natural regeneration, alteration of fuel loads, and degradation of habitat structure. Weed management is particularly important in areas associated within the urban interface where garden escapes and disturbance are frequent, as well as in revegetation sites, track margins and disturbed fire management zones, where soil disturbance and vegetation opening increase the risk of invasion and spread.

Currently the combined PHBR and TBLR system is subject to ongoing impacts from exotic weeds and pest animals, particularly along disturbed edges, drainage lines, fire trails and areas adjoining residential development (see figure 8). The reserves' location on the urban fringe increases the likelihood of weed incursion from road verges, neighbouring gardens and disturbed corridors, as well as ongoing dispersal along tracks and watercourses.

Where private land interfaces with reserves, tracks or waterways, weed work needs to be undertaken in a collaborative manner or infestations will continue to proliferate.

Introduced pest fauna and urban-associated species are also a key pressure on the reserve's fauna values. Rabbits, hares and deer are recognised threats due to their grazing impacts on native ground layer vegetation and regeneration, but overgrazing will also be occurring due to wallaby and possum numbers. Both domestic and feral cats will impact on native populations alongside rabbit and hare, all indicated as present within the reserve via camera trapping. See appendix C.

Introduced bird species including the spotted dove (*Spilopelia chinensis*), Eurasian blackbird (*Turdus merula*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) have also been recorded in the reserve and are most common around disturbed edges and residential interfaces.

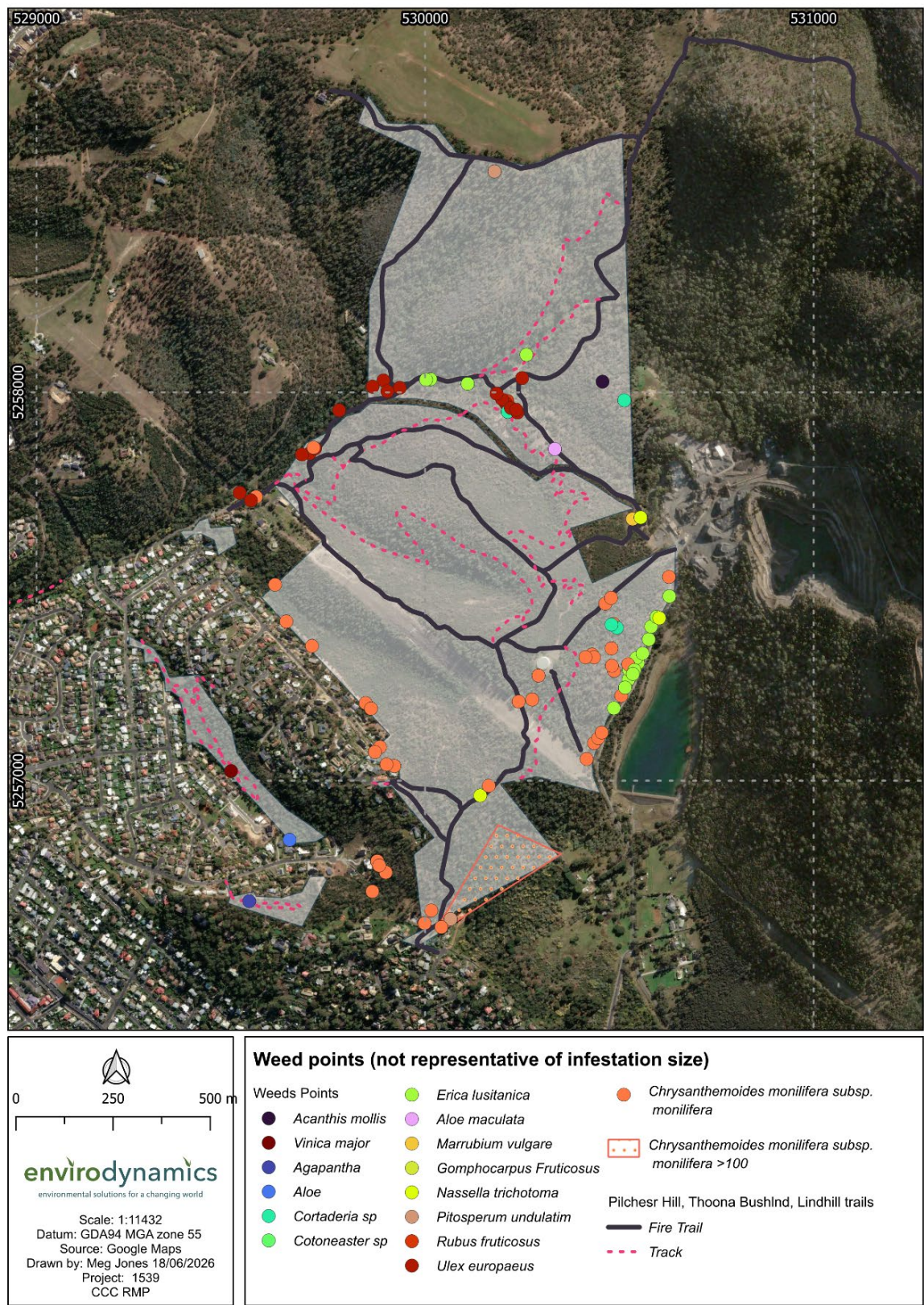


Figure 8. Distribution of weeds identified within the reserve system using collated data.

3 CULTURAL VALUES AND HUMAN USE

3.1 Aboriginal Heritage

The original owners and custodians of the land are the Mumirimina people of the Oyster Bay Nation. No formal Aboriginal heritage assessment has been undertaken for all reserves, and there are no currently recorded sites. However, the area is considered sensitive, and any ground disturbance must follow relevant heritage procedures.

3.2 European Heritage

No major European heritage sites are currently documented within the reserves. Any future discoveries should be documented and managed appropriately.

3.3 Landscape Amenity

PHBR forms part of the scenic bushland rim on Hobart's eastern shore and provides high landscape amenity. TBLR provide local bushland character and visual relief within a residential setting.

3.4 How People Are Using the Reserves

The reserve system is well-used and provides important recreational and wellbeing opportunities for the surrounding communities of Geilston Bay and the wider City of Clarence. Existing information indicates the reserve system supports a high level of informal daily use, particularly for walking, trail running, dog walking and cycling/mountain biking (see Table 1). Recreational use appears concentrated along established fire trails and more accessible track networks near residential edges and key entry points. There is also a visible set of citizen science types collecting and sharing data via resources like eBird and iNaturalist in both the reserve system and urban surrounds, indicating the utilization of the reserves for nature appreciation, bird watching, and access to native flora and fauna sites. However, a high level of informal track creation can be seen in interrogation of mapping resources like STRAVA in key areas, and when ground truthing the sites.

Wildlife camera monitoring can also indicate visitor activities. Enviro-dynamics site cameras positioned for a brief period captured images of both native wildlife, birds, pest animals, and visitor activity including dog walking (and off-lead dogs), and illegal or inappropriate activities such as motorbike use and unauthorised vehicle access. This confirms that multi-use recreation and visitor pressure are key ongoing management considerations for these reserves.

Table 1. Pilchers Hill visitor access counter data 2025- 2026.

Location	Date	Access count
Pilchers Hill Gieslton Creek Rd Entrance	3/11/2025	1876
	02/01/2026	1959
	02/03/2026	2011
Pilchers Hill Robyn Court Entrance	3/11/2025	4038
	02/01/2026	4625
	02/03/2026	4365
Pilchers Hill Walana Entrance	3/11/2025	1362
	02/01/2026	1492
	02/03/2026	1741

3.5 Recreational Use – Values and Benefits

The reserve system is a highly accessible urban fringe reserves valued for their scenic bushland character, extensive track network and proximity to surrounding residential areas. This accessibility supports high levels of recreational use and reinforces the reserves' role as important local open space assets. Recreational use contributes positively to community wellbeing and encourages connection with the natural environment, providing opportunities for physical activity, nature appreciation and informal environmental education.

3.6 Recreational Use and Associated Threats

While recreational use is an important social value, the reserves' popularity and close interface with surrounding residential development also creates a range of pressures that can threaten biodiversity values and reserve condition. Key threats associated with recreational use and urban-edge proximity include illegal wood harvesting, informal track creation, track widening,

dumping of garden waste and rubbish, and ongoing weed spread along disturbed edges, track margins and drainage lines. These impacts can contribute to habitat fragmentation, vegetation degradation, reduced regeneration potential and the gradual decline of ecological condition.

Domestic animals represent a significant additional threat. Off-lead dogs can disturb or harass wildlife, while domestic cats may prey on native birds, reptiles and small mammals, including threatened species. These impacts are of particular concern given the confirmed presence of high conservation value fauna within the reserves, including threatened mammals and endemic woodland bird species.

Higher levels of recreational use can also contribute to soil compaction and erosion, particularly on steep slopes and informal tracks, increasing sediment movement and further degrading vegetation condition. In some locations, cycling and trail running activity may exacerbate track incision and accelerate erosion, particularly where tracks are not appropriately designed or drained. Increased visitor use may also contribute to conflicts between user groups, particularly where cyclists and walkers share narrow tracks, or where dog walking occurs in areas where other users expect low disturbance and strong wildlife protection.

Overall, recreational use and urban-edge pressures represent a key threat to the ecological integrity of the reserves. Active management is required to balance public access and recreation with the protection of natural values, through track planning and rationalisation, erosion control, weed management, signage and education, improved compliance and enforcement where necessary, and ongoing monitoring of visitor impacts.

4 MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Managing Threats to Flora and Fauna Values

A key objective of this revised Reserve Management Plan is to provide a practical and implementable program of works that is achievable within available Council resources. Review of the previous Reserve Activity Plans identified that while many appropriate management actions were recommended, a significant proportion were not implemented, largely due to competing priorities, resourcing constraints and the absence of a clear framework to rationalise activities across the reserve. To address this, the revised Reserve Management Plan adopts a management zoning approach designed to prioritise actions spatially and strategically, ensuring

that recommendations are targeted to the areas of greatest need and highest benefit. This approach supports more cost-effective implementation by reducing duplication, improving coordination between recreation, biodiversity and bushfire objectives, and providing a clear basis for staging works over time. The zoning framework therefore strengthens the likelihood that priority actions will be delivered, and that on-ground outcomes will be measurable and sustained.

4.2 Zoning Approach

To support effective implementation of this Reserve Management Plan, a management zoning approach has been developed for the greater PHB/TBLR system. The zoning recognises that the reserve is both a high conservation value remnant bushland area and a heavily used urban fringe recreational reserve. It provides a practical framework to prioritise management actions, allocate resources, and guide decision-making regarding recreation, conservation, fire management, weeds, compliance, and rehabilitation works.

The zoning is intended to reflect the spatial distribution of pressures and values across the reserve. It also provides a consistent basis for integrating biodiversity management objectives with bushfire mitigation requirements and visitor use patterns. Three primary management zones have been identified: the Urban Interface Zone, the Nature Based Amenity Zone, and the Conservation Zone (Figure 9).

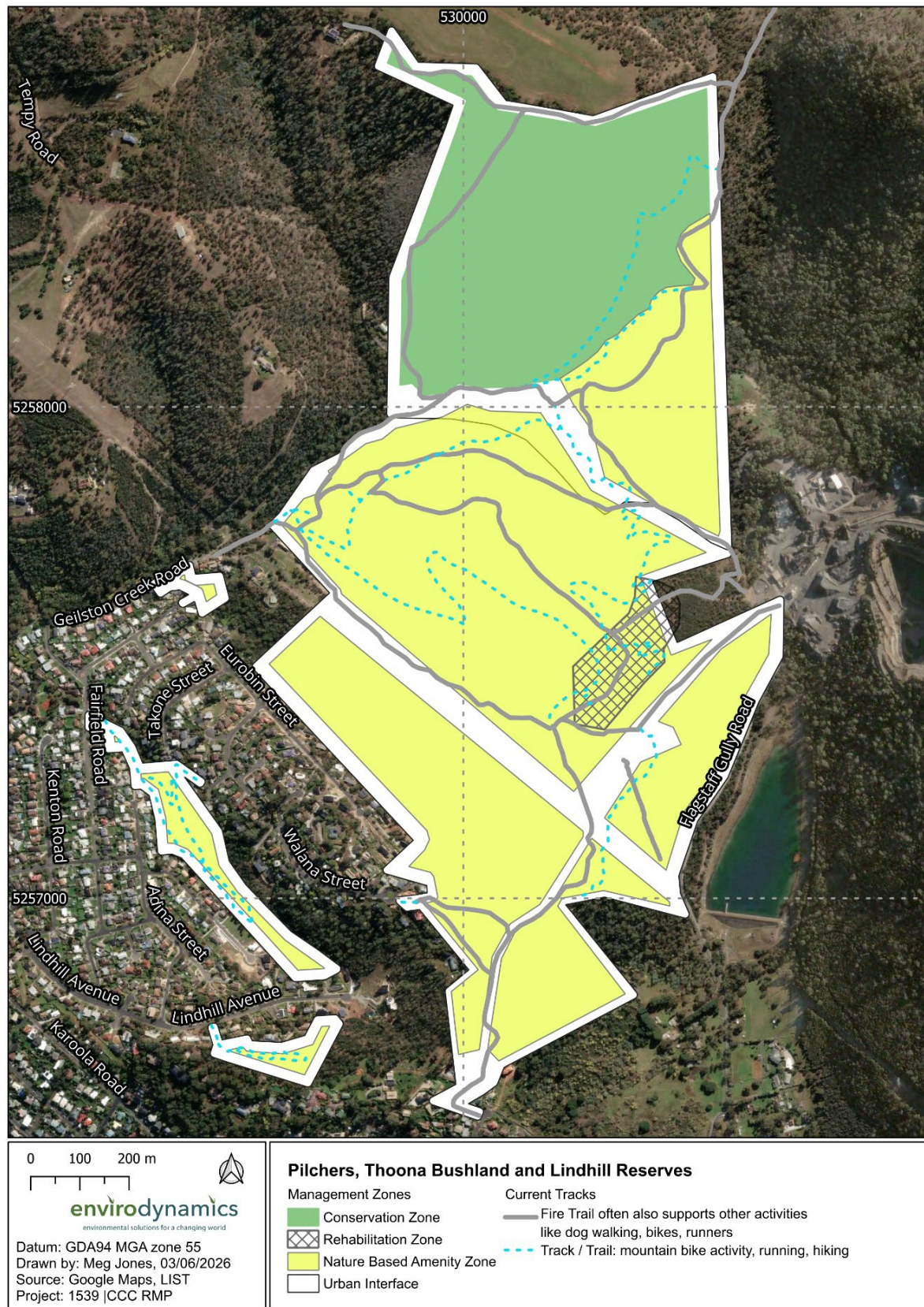


Figure 9. Management Zones.

- **Urban Interface Zone**

The Urban Interface Zone applies to areas along the reserve boundary adjoining residential properties and roads. It also includes highly modified areas like fire tracks and under power lines. This zone experiences the highest level of urban edge pressures including weed invasion, dumping of garden waste, informal access creation, domestic animal impacts, and higher ignition risk. Management priorities in this zone focus on risk reduction and protection of both reserve values and neighbouring assets. Actions typically include targeted fuel management, boundary access control, weed control, surveillance and compliance, signage, and rehabilitation of degraded edges.

- **Nature Based Amenity Zone (overlaps with Urban Interface Zone in places)**

The Nature Based Amenity Zone applies to areas of the reserve containing the most intensively used track and trail network. This zone supports regular recreational use including walking, trail running, cycling and dog walking. Management priorities focus on maintaining safe and sustainable access while minimising environmental impacts. Actions in this zone include track maintenance and rationalisation, weed management, erosion control, drainage improvements, visitor signage and wayfinding, and management of user conflicts. Fuel management and fire access requirements are integrated into recreation planning, recognising that many fire trails also function as primary recreation corridors.

Within this section is a 'Rehabilitation Zone', this area displays characteristics of fire recovery and thickening regrowth of Acacia species, this area would benefit from thinning, particularly mulching, or chop and drop rehabilitation. Allowing Eucalyptus species present to recover, without opening bare ground to potential 'off piste' track development and possible revegetation or protection of young trees that are suffering the effects of over-browsing.

- **Conservation Zone**

The Conservation Zone applies to the most intact areas of native vegetation within the reserve, generally away from high-use edges and high-density track areas. This zone contains key habitat values and provides refuge for native fauna, including threatened mammals and endemic woodland bird species. Management priorities focus on protecting ecological integrity, maintaining habitat structure, preventing fragmentation, and supporting long-term resilience.

Actions typically include reducing illegal wood harvesting, strategic weed control, habitat protection, monitoring programs, and ecological fire regime planning. In this instance, the Conservation Zone borders large areas that are complex to control, and unofficial access routes can be created in an ad hoc manner. Recreation access in this zone is generally limited to existing formal tracks, and new disturbance is minimised wherever possible.

Overall, the zoning approach provides a practical balance between protecting natural values and maintaining appropriate recreational access, while ensuring that bushfire management requirements are implemented in a manner consistent with the reserve's conservation significance.

4.3 Management Zoning and Alignment with Bushfire Vegetation

Management Units (VMUs)

The management zoning developed for this Reserve Management Plan has been designed to align with the Vegetation Management Units (VMUs) established in the Pilchers Hill Bushfire Mitigation Plan 2023–2028. The Bushfire Mitigation Plan identifies VMUs to guide vegetation and fuel management recommendations across the reserve, as presented in Table 2. Aligning RMP management zones with VMUs ensures that conservation priorities, recreation management, and urban interface risk reduction can be integrated with existing bushfire planning and operational requirements.

The relationship between RMP zones and VMUs is summarised below. This alignment supports a consistent spatial framework for implementation, enabling bushfire management activities to be undertaken in a way that is coordinated with track planning, weed management, rehabilitation priorities, and biodiversity protection objectives.

4.3.1 Alignment of RMP Zones with Bushfire VMUs

The Urban Interface Zone corresponds primarily with VMUs located along the southern and western boundaries of the reserve where residential interface pressures are highest. These VMUs are associated with the greatest need for fuel hazard reduction and asset protection outcomes.

The Nature Based Amenity Zone corresponds with VMUs located within the central portion of the reserve where track density and visitor use are greatest. These VMUs include key access corridors and fire trail networks, and require integrated planning to manage both visitor impacts and bushfire access requirements.

The Conservation Zone corresponds with VMUs located in the larger, more intact northern and eastern portions of the reserve. These VMUs are generally further removed from the residential edge and contain important habitat values. Fuel management in these areas should prioritise ecological outcomes and avoid unnecessary disturbance while still supporting strategic bushfire risk management.

Table 2. RMP Management Zones and Bushfire VMUs alignment.

RMP Management Zone	Bushfire VMUs	Primary Management Focus
Urban Interface Zone	VMU 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	Asset protection, edge management, compliance, weed control, fuel hazard reduction
Natural Amenity Zone	VMU 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11	Track and visitor management, erosion control, integrated fire access and fuel management, strategic weed management
Conservation Zone	VMU 4, 5, 7, 19	Core habitat protection, ecological fire planning, low-disturbance management, biodiversity monitoring, weed control.

Where VMUs overlap multiple RMP zones, management actions should be guided by the more precautionary zone objectives unless otherwise specified by the Bushfire Mitigation Plan recommendations. This ensures that bushfire mitigation outcomes are achieved while maintaining the ecological integrity and conservation significance of the reserve.

4.4 Weed management

Weed management remains a major ongoing threat and requires an annually updated, planned approach. The Clarence Weed Strategy (2016-2030) revised in 2023, provides guidance on prioritising weeds management. The updated CWS (NBES 2023) further aligns the strategy with the *Tasmanian Biosecurity Act 2019* and *Biosecurity Regulations 2022*, replacing the *Weed Management Act 1999*. The review revised weed priority ratings to simplify categories and better reflect management goals across the Clarence.

Annual and ongoing monitoring, weed occurrence, data collection and collation, and adaptive management will be required to detect new incursions, track the success of control programs, and support long-term rehabilitation and regeneration of degraded areas.

Routine implementation of hygiene and biosecurity practices (e.g. clean-down of machinery and equipment between worksites) for Clarence City Council and Contractor vehicles will further reduce the likelihood of weed and pathogen spread within and between Reserve Management Zones, and should be a priority when vehicles enter the reserves.

Given the reserve's confirmed high conservation values, including threatened and endemic fauna, effective biosecurity and weed management is essential to protect ecological integrity. Management priorities should include strategic weed control targeting declared weeds, preventing further spread. Particularly along tracks and drainage lines and maintaining a strong follow-up program.

A range of declared weeds under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* are recorded within the reserve boundary. Collated and reviewed data from The Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas (NVA), Clarence City Council Weeds Planning Officer Alister Hazeldine, Weed Contractor treatment points and weeds identified during Enviro-Dynamics field visits, indicate a comprehensive range of weed management activities are required across the reserves (see Appendix F tables 1, 2, 3).

These include Weeds of National Significance (WONS), declared weeds and environmental weeds. New records with in and near to PHBR of *Asphodelus fistulosus* (onion weed) and *Carthamus lanatus* (saffron thistle) should trigger an "alert list" response as described in the CWS 2023 revision; "*weeds with a restricted distribution in the Clarence. These species are of the highest priority and require a rapid response, and immediate implementation of an eradication*

plan". Similarly isolated patches of serrated tussock and pampas grasses identified within the PHBR should trigger an **"Eradicate or quarantine High priority"** actions, using strategies and process undertaken in recent successful Clarence City Council programs for serrated tussock, pampas and Spanish heath for example.

Recommendations include prioritisation of weed management based on a combination of Management Zones, level of weed establishment and potential for eradication

Immediate attention should be applied to highly invasive, localised infestations of priority weeds – halting the progress of these weeds before they become broadly established. Serrated tussock, onion weed, saffron thistle and pampas grass are recommended as the infestations are highly localised within and near to the reserves to date. (see fig 8 and Appendix F tables 1,2,3).

With larger infestations of gorse, boneseed, broom and Spanish heath will need (priority 3 and 4) *"long term containment strategies to limit the spread and protect high value areas from contamination*. Weed control should also be integrated with fire management activities, with particular emphasis on pre- and post-burn weed treatment to reduce the risk of invasive species expansion following disturbance.

4.5 Domestic Animal Management

Domestic animals, particularly dogs and cats, are recognised as a key pressure on biodiversity values within urban fringe reserves. Management of domestic animals within the reserve system must balance community use with the protection of wildlife, including threatened and endemic species.

4.5.1 Dog Access

Dog access and management recommendations within the reserves are determined through the City of Clarence Dog Management Policy, developed under the Dog Control Act 2000. This policy establishes requirements for responsible dog ownership, including registration, effective control of dogs in public places, and designation of on-lead and off-lead areas across the City of Clarence.

The City of Clarence recognises that dogs are a significant part of community life and that public open spaces must accommodate a range of users, while also protecting environmental values.

The Dog Management Policy seeks to balance these needs by:

- promoting responsible dog ownership and compliance;
- improving safety and amenity in shared-use spaces; and
- reducing impacts on natural areas and wildlife.

Within the reserve system, unmanaged or off-lead dog activity can result in disturbance to wildlife, particularly ground-dwelling birds and mammals, as well as sensitive native flora. Dog access management within these reserves should therefore:

- reinforce on-lead and on track requirements in bushland reserves;
- utilise signage and education to improve awareness of wildlife impacts;
- align with broader Council policy settings and declared dog exercise areas; and
- support compliance and enforcement where required.

4.5.2 Cat Control

Cat management within Clarence is guided by the *Cat Management Act 2009* and supported by Council initiatives promoting responsible ownership and reducing impacts on the environment.

The City of Clarence aims to:

- encourage responsible cat ownership;
- improve cat welfare;
- effectively manage domestic and stray cats; and
- reduce the impact of cats on Tasmania's unique environment.

Under the Act, cats over four months of age must be microchipped and desexed (unless exempt). The Council also encourages owners to keep cats contained to their property to reduce risks to wildlife and the cats themselves.

Camera trap surveys undertaken in February 2026 confirmed that cats are present within several areas of PHBR (Figure 10(a) & (b)). These observations indicate that cats are likely to be

exerting predation pressure on native fauna, including small mammals, reptiles and birds. This is of particular concern given the presence of threatened species within the reserve.

Management responses should focus on:

- community education regarding the impacts of free-roaming cats on wildlife;
- encouraging containment of domestic cats, particularly at night;
- supporting reporting and management of stray or feral cats; and
- integrating cat management into broader urban interface management strategies

Ongoing policy development within Clarence, including consideration of measures such as increased containment requirements, reflects growing recognition of the need to better manage cat impacts in urban and peri-urban environments.



Figure 10(a & B) Camera trap images: recording feline movement across the breadth of PHBR (see Appendix C for camera locations a.(CAM 38) and b. (CAM22)

4.6 Track management and development

Track rationalisation, management and future development should be considered within the broader context of the defined management zones, ensuring that different types of recreational use are appropriately located and do not create conflicts or negatively impact ecological values.

Understanding how the reserve is currently used is critical to informing this process. Analysis of publicly available data sources, such as STRAVA, alongside Council-collected data, stakeholder input and community consultation, will help to identify key use patterns, high-use corridors and recreational hotspots.

There may also be opportunities to accommodate more recreational uses in already highly managed locations, such as existing disturbed corridors (e.g. under powerlines). Providing designated areas for higher-impact activities, such as downhill mountain biking, can help to reduce pressure on more sensitive conservation areas. This approach can assist in addressing the current issue of informal and unmanaged track development, which has the potential to cause erosion, increase habitat fragmentation, and degrade ecological values.

A planned and zoned approach to track management will therefore support both sustainable recreation and the protection of the reserve's natural values.

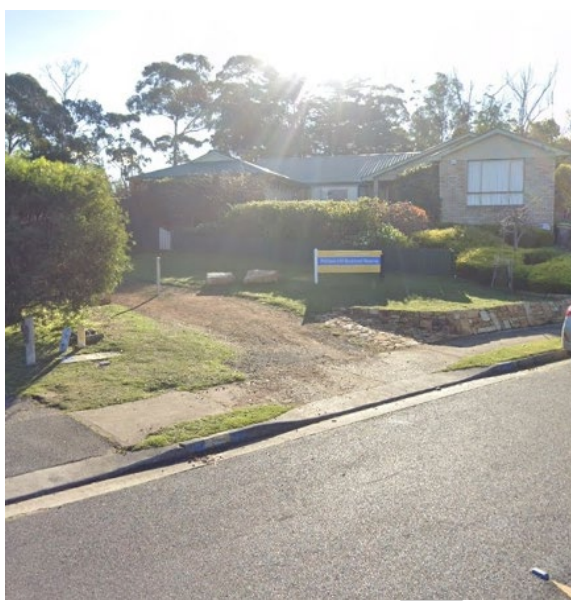
4.7 Entrances, Signage and Infrastructure

Entrances to the reserve system are generally constrained by surrounding urban development, resulting in a limited number of formal access points. Similarly, informal access points are apparent from neighbouring properties across the three reserves, as fencing is generally associated with individual properties and not the reserve boundaries themselves.

Improving the clarity, functionality and amenity of these access points represents an important opportunity to enhance visitor experience while also supporting more effective reserve management. At present, access points are often informal, poorly defined or lack adequate signage. This is particularly evident at the Geilston Creek Road entrance to Pilchers Hill bushland reserve, where parking occurs in an unstructured manner and again at Flagstaff Gully Rd, where 2 of 3 trailheads end/begin in an area signed as 'Quarry Visitor' parking area. Providing well-defined entrances, clear parking arrangements (where viable) and appropriate signage will improve user experience, reduce confusion, and help direct visitors onto formal track networks, thereby supporting broader track management and conservation objectives.

Council is currently undertaking a signage review to help resolve these issues.

Trail head images.



Robin Court entrance.

Cull de sac, limited parking.



Walana street entrance.

Round about, no parking. Near bus stop



Flagstaff Gully entrance. No parking space

Parking via Quarry carpark, unclear



Geilston Creek Entrance.

Some parking 1km from entrance, unclear.



Lindhill reserve, parking on Lindhil Ave.



Thoona bushland reserve entrance

4.8 Stormwater Management and Erosion Control

Pilchers Hill Bushland Reserve and Thoona Bushland Reserve contain ephemeral tributaries of Faggs Gully Creek and form part of the broader Geilston Bay stormwater catchment.

Localised creek erosion, minor flooding within the Thoona Bushland Reserve catchment and runoff from the adjoining concrete plant remain ongoing management issues. In response, Council's Stormwater Team is delivering the Thoona Street Creek Improvement Works in 2026 and, together with Council's Environment Health Officers, continues to work with the adjoining landowner to improve stormwater and sediment management.

The Derwent Estuary Program and Council's Stormwater Team also commenced catchment-scale water quality investigations in 2026 following the identification of elevated pollutant concentrations during routine monitoring. The results will help guide future stormwater management and protect the ecological values of Faggs Gully Creek and the reserve.

4.9 Deterrence of Illegal Activity

In addition to improving access and amenity, the design and management of entrances and infrastructure play a critical role in deterring illegal activities within the reserves. Uncontrolled or informal access points can facilitate activities such as illegal firewood harvesting (“wood hooking”), dumping, and unauthorised vehicle or motorbike entry.

A coordinated approach is required to prevent and deter these activities. This includes:

- formalising and consolidating access points to reduce uncontrolled entry;
- installing appropriate barriers on council property (e.g. bollards, gates, rock placement) to prevent vehicle access beyond designated areas;
- improving signage to clearly communicate permitted uses, restrictions and penalties;
- increasing visibility and passive surveillance at key entry points; and
- supporting compliance and enforcement efforts through clear site design and reporting mechanisms.

Focusing effort at key access locations will enable Council to better manage entry to the reserves, reduce opportunities for illegal activity, and improve the ability to monitor and respond to incidents. Integrating access improvements with compliance measures will be particularly important in addressing ongoing issues such as wood hooking, which relies on vehicle access and discreet entry points.

5 Management actions

Review of previous Reserve Activity Plans and the recent gap analysis identified that many recommended actions were appropriate but were not implemented, largely due to limited resources and competing priorities. This revised Reserve Management Plan therefore adopts a targeted management zoning approach to ensure actions are spatially focused, staged and achievable.

The highest priority actions are those that protect core conservation values by reducing disturbance and limiting the spread of weeds and illegal activities. A key concern is managing

access to conservation priority areas and reducing illegal activities—particularly illegal firewood harvesting (“wood hooking”) (Figure 11), which removes mature foraging and habitat trees, standing deadwood and coarse woody debris essential for threatened fauna and ecosystem services.



Figure 11. Felled wood left to dry within Conservation area near *Eucalyptus risdonii* stands.

5.1 Top 10 Priority Actions (Implementation Focus)

1. Prevent illegal firewood harvesting (“wood hooking”) through targeted compliance, signage, access and incident tracking.
2. Control and restrict illegal vehicle and motorbike access through barriers and access point management.
3. Implement an annual weed control and containment program targeting declared and high-risk environmental weeds. Including prevent weed spread into Conservation Zones through track-edge buffers and rapid response to new incursions.

4. Enhance visitor engagement via consolidation of entry point signage and information points, and formalisation of carparking options.

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5. Develop a detailed track network plan with the aim of; rationalising informal tracks (including redundant fire break clearings), identifying and completing gaps in the track network, establishing a track hierarchy and guiding access, closures, upgrades and rehabilitation.
6. Rehabilitate priority informal tracks and degraded areas, particularly within conservation priority areas.
7. Improve erosion control and drainage on high-use or vehicle trails to reduce sediment movement and track incision.
8. Strengthen domestic animal impact management (dogs and cats) through education, signage and compliance where required.
9. Deliver biennial ecological monitoring and evaluation (photopoints, VCA, threatened flora verification, camera and acoustic monitoring).
10. Track and report implementation progress annually through an action register and performance indicators.

5.1.1 Priority Actions by Management Zone

The highest priority actions have been grouped by Management Zone to support targeted and cost-effective implementation. This approach ensures that works are focused in areas of highest pressure and greatest ecological benefit, while improving the likelihood of delivery. The Management Zone table (Table 3) is followed by a detailed Action Table (Table 4).

Table 3. Management Zone, focus and action priorities

Management Zone	Primary Management Focus	Priority Actions (Summary)
Urban Interface Zone	Reduce urban-edge impacts and protect adjacent assets	• Target illegal firewood harvesting (“wood hooking”) through signage, patrols access control and education • Prevent dumping and garden waste encroachment • Annual weed control and surveillance (rapid response for new incursions) • Install/maintain barriers to prevent illegal vehicle access • Strengthen engagement with neighbours and landholders
The Natural Amenity Zone	Maintain safe access while minimising environmental degradation	• Develop a detailed track network and hierarchy plan • Stabilise high-use trails (erosion control and drainage improvements) • Rationalise or close informal tracks in accord with track network plan, and rehabilitate as required. • Improve signage, wayfinding and shared-use etiquette • Monitor visitor pressure and manage user conflict points • Annual weed control and surveillance (rapid response for new incursions)

Management Zone	Primary Management Focus	Priority Actions (Summary)
Conservation Zone	Protect core habitat and threatened species values	• Restrict illegal vehicle access to high value GDL/DRI area • Restrict access and prevent track creep into high-value habitat areas • Close and rehabilitate informal tracks and disturbed edges • Maintain habitat trees and coarse woody debris • Implement weed containment buffers to prevent spread into core habitat • Targeted monitoring of threatened flora and fauna habitat use
Whole of Reserve (All Zones)	Ensure coordinated delivery and adaptive management	• Deliver biennial monitoring program (photopoints, rapidVCA, meander surveys, camera traps, acoustics) • Maintain annual implementation tracking and reporting • Integrate bushfire works with biodiversity objectives through VMU planning • Support citizen science project to build baseline species richness

5.1.2 Implementation Actions Table (Linked to Zones)

The following table (Table 4) provides a structured list of recommended actions aligned to the Management Zones. Actions are prioritised to support staged delivery and improved implementation success.

Actions to be numbered to facilitate tracking once the RMP consultation process is finalised.

Table 4. Actions and Outputs.

Action	Zone	Priority	Timing	Responsibility	Performance Measure / Output
Map and formalise reserve access points and identify illegal vehicle entry routes	U / N	Very High	Immediate	CCC	Access map completed and used to prioritise barriers and signage
Install/upgrade physical barriers at key illegal vehicle access points	U / N	Very High	Short	CCC	Barriers installed at priority sites; reduced evidence of vehicle access
Install/upgrade physical barriers at key illegal vehicle access points	U / N	Very High	Short	CCC	Barriers installed at priority sites; reduced evidence of vehicle access
Implement targeted compliance patrols focusing on illegal firewood harvesting ("wood hooking")	U / C	Very High	Ongoing	CCC Compliance	Patrol log maintained; reduced evidence of firewood harvesting
Install signage at entrances: "No Firewood Collection", penalties, reporting hotline	U / N	Very High	Immediate	CCC	Signage installed at all major entry points

Action	Zone	Priority	Timing	Responsibility	Performance Measure / Output
Install signage at entrances: “No Firewood Collection”, penalties, reporting hotline	U / N	Very High	Immediate	CCC	Signage installed at all major entry points
Establish a wood hooking response protocol (incident recording and hotspot tracking)	U / C	Very High	Short	CCC	Protocol in place; incidents recorded consistently
Formalise parking for ready access to Pilchers Hill bushland reserve	U / N	High	Near term	CCC	Parking available to visitors
Conduct annual weed control program targeting declared and high-risk weeds	U / N	High	Annual	CCC / Contractor	Annual weed works completed; treatment locations mapped
Implement weed containment buffers along track corridors leading into Conservation Zone	N / C	High	Annual	CCC / Contractor	Reduced weed spread into Conservation Zone; photopoint evidence
Undertake annual surveillance for new and emerging weeds along residential edges and entry points	U	High	Annual	CCC / Contractor	New incursions detected early; Rapid response implemented

Action	Zone	Priority	Timing	Responsibility	Performance Measure / Output
Develop a detailed track network and hierarchy plan for implementation.	N / C	High	Short	CCC / Ecologist	Track hierarchy map endorsed and included in RMP. (primary/secondary/conservation/fire)
Close and rehabilitate priority informal tracks leafing into Conservation Zone	C	High	Medium	CCC / Contractor	Priority informal tracks (vehicle or pedestrian) closed and rehabilitated leading to conservation area.
Undertake erosion control and drainage upgrades on high-use trails	N	High	Short	CCC/ Contractor	Reduced erosion; improved drainage performance
Review dog access messaging and strengthen compliance around wildlife disturbance	U / N	Medium	Short	CCC	Improved signage and compliance messaging installed
Maintain habitat trees and coarse woody debris (retain fallen timber unless safety hazard)	C	High	Ongoing	CCC	Habitat retention principle adopted; reduced wood removal
Identify and protect threatened flora locations (mapping and avoidance in works programs)	C	High	Short	Ecologist / CCC	Threatened flora points verified and mapped

Action	Zone	Priority	Timing	Responsibility	Performance Measure / Output
Deliver biennial monitoring program (photo-points, VCA, flora verification, camera + acoustic)	All	High	Biennial	Ecologist + CCC	Monitoring report produced every 2 years
Establish citizen science projects to build repeatable, intensive, data collection across specified locations including flora, fauna, (Bio Blitz events, iNat, or Council equivalent)	All	Medium	Short / Annual	CCC / Partners	Projects launched; increasing observations recorded
Develop and maintain centralised spatial (GIS) layers for three reserve system: track RMP actions, weed survey, weed treatment, contractor works, relevant Citizen science inputs, track closures, rehabilitation sites	All	Medium	Ongoing	CCC	Spatial records maintained, can be referenced to inform actions in real time.
Develop and maintain RMP action register and annual implementation tracking report	All	Medium	Annual	CCC	Annual progress summary prepared; actions updated
Recording completed works (i.e. signage installation), compliance and enforcement activity (i.e., illegal wood harvest patrols) and community engagement (i.e. bio blitz days).	All	Medium	Annual	CCC	Annual progress summary prepared; actions updated

6 Community participation, education and awareness

6.1 Community Engagement Plan

A key finding of the Reserve Management Plan gap analysis was that previous planning processes did not consistently document a structured community engagement approach, and that consultation outcomes were not always clearly linked to implementation priorities. This revised Reserve Management Plan therefore adopts a staged and targeted engagement process designed to strengthen community input, improve transparency, and support the delivery of achievable and prioritised management actions.

The community engagement time frame corresponds to the release of this draft, at which time an online survey tool will be released for community feedback. Concurrently, targeted stakeholder engagement will be undertaken with priority user groups, key reserve neighbouring and adjacent properties, educational facilities and intersecting government business enterprises.

The purpose of the engagement program is to ensure the revised plan reflects community values and concerns, while also improving the likelihood that recommended actions will be supported, cost-effective, and implemented.

Engagement will focus on understanding how the reserves are used, identifying priority threats, validating management zoning and access planning, and building stronger local stewardship. It is undertaken in stages alongside this draft development and includes directives from the Councils Communications team.

7 Monitoring program

The purpose of the Monitoring and Evaluation program is to establish and maintain a repeatable baseline for ecological condition and key biodiversity values across PHBR and TBLR. The monitoring program is designed to support adaptive management by detecting change over time, evaluating the effectiveness of management actions (e.g. weed control, track

rationalisation, fuel reduction works), and improving understanding of threatened species presence and habitat condition.

It will also ensure practical, cost-effective and achievable goals are developed within the resourcing constraints of Council, while still providing scientifically defensible information suitable for reporting, grant applications, and long-term reserve planning.

7.1 Monitoring Approach

The monitoring program undertaken every two years, and combining standardised site-based condition assessment (Rapid VCA's) with targeted biodiversity monitoring and citizen science contributions, informs management actions.

Undertaken every two years monitoring will provide meaningful trend data while remaining achievable and cost-effective. Monitoring will focus on both vegetation condition and fauna values, recognising that these reserves contain threatened vegetation communities and provide habitat for threatened mammals and birds. See Appendix G and B for baseline monitoring of vegetation condition and fauna and habitat values.

The program is designed to be implemented through a combination of:

- repeatable field-based monitoring methods,
- fixed-location monitoring points,
- remote monitoring devices (camera traps and acoustic recorders),
- targeted verification of threatened flora records,
- ongoing Council compliance and landholder engagement observations, and
- citizen science /community group data contributions to build long-term species richness datasets.

7.2 Adaptive Management Link

Monitoring results will be used to guide adaptive management and prioritisation of on-ground works. Key triggers for management response may include:

- increase in weed cover or emergence of new declared weeds (including WONS updates)
- evidence of new dumping or track creation
- decline in vegetation regeneration or increased bare ground/erosion
- increased pest animal detections (cats, rabbits)
- loss of threatened flora populations or habitat degradation
- changes in threatened fauna detection rates

This adaptive framework ensures that monitoring is not undertaken solely for reporting, but is directly linked to decision-making and measurable outcomes.

7.3 Implementation Monitoring (Tracking Delivery of RMP Actions)

In addition to ecological monitoring, a key component of the Monitoring and Evaluation program will be to track implementation of the Reserve Management Plan Actions

Implementation monitoring will be undertaken through a structured action tracking system linked directly to the Implementation Plan tables. Recording progress against each action, including the timing of works, level of completion, and key outcomes achieved ensures the RMP remains an active operational document.

7.3.1 Action Tracking Framework

Each action within the Implementation Plan should be assigned:

- an action ID/reference number
- a priority rating (Very High/High / Medium / Low)
- a lead responsibility (Council, contractor, ecologist, Bushcare/community group)
- an indicative timeframe (Year 1–2, Year 3–4, ongoing etc.)

- measurable performance indicators (planned/inprogress/deferred)

7.4 Reporting and Review

A summary of implementation progress should be included within the biennial Monitoring and Evaluation reporting cycle, allowing ecological monitoring results and management delivery outcomes to be assessed together. This will support adaptive management by identifying whether observed ecological trends are consistent with on-ground works and management investment.

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List of appendices

Appendix A – Vegetation Community descriptions and Plant list for reserves

Appendix B - Results Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessment

Appendix C – Camera Trap Results

Appendix D - Bird lists

Appendix E - Natural Values Atlas Species Lists, with comments on likelihood of occurrence

Appendix F Natural Values Weed Species Lists aligned to CWS priority Ratings

Appendix G – Monitoring guidelines

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Appendix A

The following vegetation community descriptions are adapted from online pdf revisions of 'From Forest to Fjaeldmark. Dry eucalyptus forest and woodland (revised November 2025) and Non-eucalypt forest and woodland (revised January 2026)

DAM: dominated by *E. amygdalina*, but *E. viminalis* is a widespread subdominant or minor species, *E. globulus*, and *E. risdonii* also present (particularly here in the Meehan Range) trees of less than 20 m tall are common, particularly where there has been a history of frequent fires, and poor soil. Secondary trees/ tall shrubs include *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Acacia dealbata*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis* and regenerating eucalypts. Other common plants include some Fabaceae; Mimosaceae; Ericaceae and Asteraceae. Large areas of PHBR have thick regenerating layers of shrubs *Dodonaea viscosa* particularly. Sclerophyllous graminoids include *Lomandra longifolia*, and *Lepidosperma* species. Native grasses vary across the sites but are typically sparse.

DAS : dominated by *E. amygdalina*, occurs as uneven-aged stands of open forest or woodland, with tree height generally < 25 m, *E. viminalis* is generally present as subdominant species. *E. globulus* present, in small (~ 2–5 ha) patches. *Acacia dealbata*, *Allocasuarina littoralis* typically represent the second stratum of small trees/tall shrubs. The ground stratum varies with soil type, native grasses and *Lomandra longifolia* are present

DGL: dominant tree species is *E. globulus*, with a tree substantial higher than surrounding canopy. The understorey is dominated by native grasses and *Lomandra longifolia*, with shrub layers absent on the upper hillslope near to DRI stands, and with a sparse cover of tall shrubs that include *Acacia dealbata*, *A. mearnsii*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, *Allocasuarina verticillata* and *Bursaria spinosa* in low laying areas. The ground layer is dominated by grasses and *Lomandra longifolia* including *Poa* species, *Themeda triandra*, *Austrostipa* species and *Rytidosperma* species. Frequent herbs include *Viola hederacea*, and *Bossiaea prostrata*. In the wetter gullies, the shrub layer includes *Bedfordia salicina* and *Pomaderris apetala*.

DRI; description included in body text section 2.2

DVG; *E. viminalis* dominated vegetation co-dominant with *E. amygdalina* on Permian mudstone, in the Meehan Range for example, is subsumed within **DAM**. Similarly, where it is locally dominant or co-dominant with *E. amygdalina* on sandstone, it is classified into **DAS** (see those entries)

NBA; Bursaria–Acacia woodland (NBA) occupies sites that were previously *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *E. amygdalina* woodland and forest. The virtual elimination of eucalypts from these sites resulted from rural tree decline and/or tree removal. Recolonisation by *Bursaria spinosa*, *Acacia dealbata*, *A. mearnsii*, *A. melanoxylon*, *A. verticillata*, *Dodonaea viscosa* and other small trees and shrubs has given rise to current NBA areas. Recovery to *E. viminalis* grassy forest *E. amygdalina* forest and woodland may occur where a eucalypt canopy develops.

Table A1. Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessment Species List, Survey February 2026

Family	Scientific Name	Common name	Status
ASPARAGACEAE	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	sagg	
ASPHODELACEAE	<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	tasmanian flax lily	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle	i
ASTERACEAE	<i>Olearia lirata</i>	snowy daisy bush	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Oxathamnus scut.</i>	button leaf everlasting	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Senecio linarifolius</i>	fireweed groundsel	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Coronidium scorpioides</i>	Button everlasting	
BRASSICACEAE	<i>brasscia rapa</i>	field mustard	i
CAMPANULACEAE	<i>Lobelia pedunculata</i>	matted pratia	
CASUARINACEAE	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	black sheoak	
CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	kidney weed	
CYPERACEAE	<i>Gahnia radula</i>	thatch saw-sedge	
CYPERACEAE	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	sword sedge / variable sword sedge	
DENNTAEDTIACEAE	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken	
ERICACEAE	<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	peach heath	
ERICACEAE	<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>	cranberry heath / native cranberry	
FABACEAE	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	silver wattle	
FABACEAE	<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>	spreading wattle	
FABACEAE	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	black wattle	
FABACEAE	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	prickly moses	
FABACEAE	<i>Bossiaea sp</i>	bossia	
FABACEAE	<i>Bossia cinera</i>	showy bossia	

Family	Scientific Name	Common name	Status
FABACEAE	<i>Davesia ulicifolia</i>	gorse bitter pea	
FABACEAE	<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>	large leaf bush pea	
GENTIANACEAE	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	common centaury	i
GERANIACEAE	<i>Geranium potentilloides</i>	soft cranesbill	
GOODINACEAE	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	hop goodenia	
JUNCACEAE	<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	pale rush	
LINACEAE	<i>Linum marginale</i>	native flax	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i>	black peppermint	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	blue gum	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus pulchella</i>	white peppermint	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus risdonii</i>	risdon peppermint	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	white gum	
ORCHIDACEAE	<i>Dipodium roseaum</i>	hyacinth orchid	
OXALIDACEAE	<i>Oxalis perrinans</i>	native oxalis	
PITTOPOACEAE	<i>Bursaria spinosa subsp. spinosa</i>	prickly box	
POACEAE	<i>Aira spp</i>	hairgrasses	
POACEAE	<i>Austrostipa sp.</i>	native spear grass	
POACEAE	<i>Austrostipa spp</i>	speargrasses	
POACEAE	<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>	curly stipa	
POACEAE	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	tussock grass	
POACEAE	<i>Poa rodwayi</i>	velvet tussock-grass	
POACEAE	<i>Rytidosperma</i>	wallabygrass	
POACEAE	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	kangaroo grass	
POACEAE	<i>Vulpina spp</i>	rats tail fescue	
RANUNCULALES	<i>Clematis aristata</i>	wild clematis	
RHAMNACEAE	<i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	common dogwood	
ROSACEAE	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	red bidibidi	
RUBIACEAE	<i>Coprosma quadrafida</i>	prickly current bush	
RUTACEAE	<i>Boronia sp</i>	boronia	
SANTALACEAE	<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	common native-cherry	
SANTILACEAE	<i>Exocarpus humifusum</i>	mountain native cherry	
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	hopbush	
VIOLACEAE	<i>Viola sp</i>	native violet	

Appendix B

Table B1. Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessment results

Vegetation community	Area of community (Ha)	Site	Grid reference	Date of Assessment	Large Trees	Site Condition						Landscape context			Total
						Tree canopy/dominant life form cover	Understory	Lack of weeds	Recruitment/persistence potential	Organic litter	logs	Patch size	Neighbourhood	Distance to Core Area	
DAM		fid 55	529806 E, 5257970 N	Feb - 2026	0	3	5	5	3	5	3	8	5	4	48
DAM		fid 56	529806 E, 5257970 N	Feb - 2026	4	5	25	15	3	5	3	8	5	4	77
DGL		fid 58	530225 E, 5258478 N	Feb - 2026	4	5	5	15	3	5	3	8	5	4	57
DRI		Fid 59	530108 E, 5258540 N	Feb - 2026	4	5	5	15	3	5	3	8	5	4	57
DAM		Fid 60	530241 E, 5257284 N	Feb - 2026	4	3	5	15	10	3	3	8	4	4	59

Table B1.2 Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessment final score context.

Classification	Final score
Functional - excellent condition	>80
Degraded - condition somewhat declined	60-80
Disturbed - declining condition	40-59
Dysfunctional - poor condition	<40

DRAFT

Appendix C

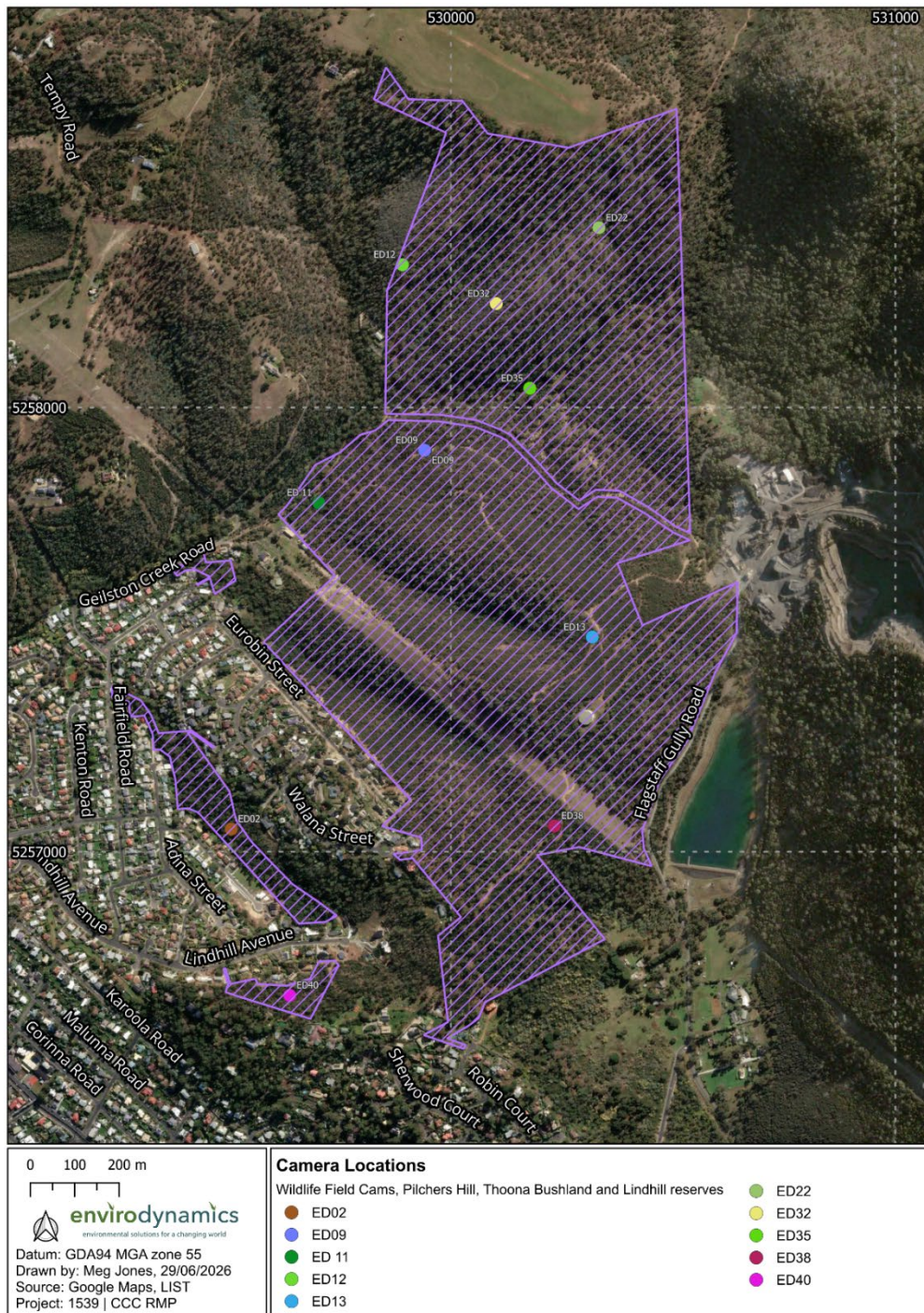


Figure C1. Enviro-dynamics Wildlife camera trap placements.

Table C1. Enviro-dynamics Camera Trap Results Feb 2026.

CAM #		ED02	ED09	ED12	ED13	ED22	ED32	ED35	ED38	ED40		Total
MM/YYYY	02/2026											
	SPECIES	count	count	count	count	count	count	count	count	count	notes	
	human								176		domestic access high use	176
	canine + human								226		domestic access high use	226
pest	<i>felis catis</i>		2			1			1			4
fauna	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>		9			7		1			Brush tail possum	17
fauna	<i>Thylogale billardierii</i> <i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i>	3	2	3	5	31	3	2	20		Combination (Bennets Wallaby and pademelon)	69
pest	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus/Lepus</i>								2		Rabbit/hare	2
fauna	<i>avian</i>		2		1	1				2	Common bronzwing (Phaps chalcoptera)	6
other	car		1	1					2		non CCC	4
other	bicycle		12						32			44
other	motorbike			2					1		2 x dirt bikes 1x e-scooter	3
	total images	4438	1528	113	32	298	1200	635	2878	772		11894
	total days		20	16	16	16	16	16	16	20		136

Appendix D

Table D1. Avifauna species recorded within the Study Area in the first three months of 2026 (Ebird Data).

Common Name	scientific name
Green Rosella	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>
Superb Fairywren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
Yellow-throated Honeyeater	<i>Nesoptilotis flavicollis</i>
Strong-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Gray Currawong	<i>Strepera versicolor</i>
Gray Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Scarlet Robin	<i>Petroica boodang</i>
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Gray Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Tree Martin	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Yellow Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Brown Goshawk	<i>Tachyspiza fasciata</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>

Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
Gray Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Satin Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>
Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>
Dusky Robin	<i>Melanodryas vittata</i>
Common Bronzewing	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>
Black-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>
Beautiful Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura bella</i>
Brush Bronzewing	<i>Phaps elegans</i>
Tasmanian Nativehen	<i>Tribonyx mortierii</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Dusky Woodswallow	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Heteroscenes pallidus</i>
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Zanda funerea</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>

Appendix E

Table E1. Verified Threatened fauna species which have been previously recorded within 500 m and 5 km of the site, including commentary on the likelihood of occurrence.

Species	Status TSPA / EPBCA	Recorded # individuals 500m / 5 km	Comment
<i>Aquila audax</i> subsp. <i>fleayi</i> Wedge-tailed eagle	e / EN	- / 41	- Nests in a range of old growth native forests and is dependent on forest for nesting. Territories can contain up to five alternate nests usually close to each other but may be up to 1 km apart where habitat is locally restricted. This eagle preys and scavenges on a wide variety of fauna including fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals. No suitable nesting habitat may utilise the site for foraging.
<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i> Eastern quoll	e / EN	- / 49	Habitat for the eastern quoll includes rainforest, heathland, alpine areas, and scrub. However, it seems to prefer dry forest and native grassland mosaics which are bounded by agricultural land.
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> White-bellied sea-eagle	v / -	- / 34	- Found in coastal habitats (especially those close to the seashore) and around terrestrial wetlands in tropical and temperate regions of mainland Australia and its offshore islands. The habitats occupied by the sea-eagle are characterised by the presence of large areas of open water (larger rivers, swamps, lakes, the sea). The species is mostly recorded in coastal lowlands, but can occupy habitats up to 800 m above sea level in Tasmania. No suitable nesting habitat may utilise the site for foraging.
<i>Lathamus discolor</i> swift parrot	e / CE	2 / 148	During the breeding season, nectar from Tasmanian blue gum (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>) and black gum (<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>) flowers are the primary food source for the species. These eucalypts are patchily distributed, and their flowering patterns are erratic and unpredictable, often leading to only a small proportion of swift

Species	Status TSPA / EPBCA	Recorded # individuals 500m / 5 km	Comment
			parrot habitat being available for breeding in any one year. Swift parrots breed in tree hollows in mature eucalypts within foraging range of a flower source. • Suitable nesting habitat, may utilise the site for foraging, but heavily disturbed by woodhooking
<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i> blue-winged parrot	- / VU		• The Blue-winged parrot inhabits a range of habitats from coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas, right through to semi-arid zones. Throughout their range they favour grasslands and grassy woodlands. They are often found near wetlands both near the coast and in semi-arid zones. Blue-winged parrots can also be seen in altered environments such as airfields, golf-courses, and paddocks. • Highly cryptic species audio monitoring may show results
<i>Pardalotus quadragintus</i> forty-spotted pardalote	e / EN		• Endemic to Tasmania and occurs in only a few small areas within the State. It is relatively restricted to dry grassy forest and woodland along the east coast containing mature white gum (<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>).
<i>Perameles gunnii</i> Eastern barred bandicoot	- / VU	1 / 568	• Potential habitat for the eastern barred bandicoot is forests with a grassy understorey, native and exotic open vegetation types including woodlands and open grasslands, particularly in landscapes with a mosaic of agricultural land and remnant bushland. • Bandicoot caught on camera Clarence City Council trail camera traps 2025, assumed southern brown.
<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i> Tasmanian devil	e / EN	2 / 64	• This species lives in a wide range of habitats across Tasmania, especially in landscapes with a mosaic of pasture and woodland. • Scat found on fire access trail from entrance opposite mine front (EnviroDyn) and Clarence City Council camera trap data recorded late 2025.

Species	Status TSPA / EPBCA	Recorded # individuals 500m / 5 km	Comment
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae castanops</i> Tasmanian masked owl	e / V	- / 10	- This species occupies a range of habitats which contain some mature forest, usually below 600 m altitude - these include native forests and woodlands as well as agricultural areas with a mosaic of native vegetation and pasture. No suitable nesting habitat may utilise the site for foraging.

Table E2. Verified Threatened flora species which have been previously recorded within 500 m of the site, including commentary on the likelihood of occurrence.

Species	Status TSPA / EPBCA	Records within 500m	Comments
<i>Eucalyptus risdonii</i> risdon peppermint	r / -	500m	<i>Eucalyptus risdonii</i> is restricted to the greater Hobart area (particularly the Meehan Range), with an outlying population at Mangalore and on South Arm. It occurs on mudstone, with an altitudinal range from near sea level to 150 m above sea level. It can occur as a dominant in low open forest with a sparse understorey on dry, insolated ridgelines and slopes (e.g. with a north-west aspect), and individuals can extend into other forest types typically dominated by <i>E. tenuiramis</i> or <i>E. amygdalin</i> (but occasionally by other species) on less exposed sites Illegal wood hooking is filtering into <i>Eucalyptus risdonii</i> stands, including cutting and rubbish dumping
<i>Eryngium ovinum</i> blue devil	v / -	500m	<i>Eryngium ovinum</i> is a perennial herb known in Tasmania from about 24 sites in the State's southeast and east, usually growing in fertile heavy soils in grasslands and grassy woodlands below about 350 m elevation. The species is poorly reserved, and may become confined to rootstock or the soil seed store during unfavourable periods. Subject to a range of threatening processes, including historical and contemporary depletion and

			modification of habitat, competition by weeds, and inappropriate disturbance regimes (e.g. grazing, fire and mechanical disturbance) It is know in the close proximity to the flagstaff quarry opposite Pilchers Hill. Suitable habitat present although due to the distinctiveness of the species it is unlikely to have been overlooked
<i>Poa mollis</i> soft tussockgrass	r / -	500m	<i>Poa mollis</i> is relatively widespread in the eastern half of the State, in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland (often dominated by <i>Eucalyptus amigdalina</i>, <i>E. viminalis</i> or <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>). Sites are often steep and rocky (e.g. Cataract Gorge). Possibility of occurrence within Pilchers Hill BR areas.
<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i> narrowleaf new-holland-daisy	r / -	500m	<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i> occurs in native grassland and grassy woodland Possibility of occurrence within Pilchers Hill BR areas.

Appendix F

Table F1: Weeds within the Pilchers, Thoona and Lindhill reserves.

Information here is collated from NVA, site visits, and council information supplied.

Common Name	Scientific Name	NVA Year	Status	CWS priority status*	2025-2026 update
aloe	<i>Aloe maculata</i>	-			Recorded 2026
agapantha	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	-			Recorded 2026
bears britches	<i>Acanthis mollis</i>	-			Recorded 2026
blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	-	D, WONS	4	Recorded + treated 2025
blue periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	-		4	New record 2026 Thoona
boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> subsp. <i>monilifera</i>	2024	D, WONS	3	Recorded + treated 2025 Lindhill
cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.	-	E	4	Recorded + treated 2025
gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	2017	D	3	Recorded + treated 2025
Narrow-leaf cotton bush	<i>Gomphocarpus Fruticosus</i>				Recorded 2026
onion weed	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	CCC weed officer	D	2	May 2025 ID
pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia</i> sp.	2019	D	2	Recorded + treated 2025
slender thistle & winged thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> and <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	2024	D	3	Data notes thistles non specific treated in 2025
saffron thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	2025		A* P 1	Recorded 2025
serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	2019	D	3	Recorded + treated 2025
spanish heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	2017	D	3	Recorded + treated 2025

sweet pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>		E	4	Recorded + treated 2025 New record 2026
weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	2024		4	

* See Clarence Weed Strategy Review, 2023 Appendix C: Clarence Alert List Weeds, Table C1.

Table F2: Weeds within 500 meters of the reserves

Common Name	Scientific name	NVA Year	Status	CWS priority status	2025-2026 updates
crack willow	<i>Salix x fragilis nothovar. fragilis</i>	2003	D	3	
blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	2009	D, WONS	4	
boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera</i>	2024	D, WONS	3	
fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	1995		4	
foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	2020	D, WONS	No indication P 1	
gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	2020	D	3	
golden willow	<i>Salix alba</i> .var. vitenllina	2003	D	3	
english broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	2012	D- WONS	3	
montpellier broom (canary broom)	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	2012	D- WONS	3	
onion weed	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	2025	D	2	
pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia sp.</i>	2019	D	2	
patersons curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	2021	D	3	
pink pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	2025	D	2	
rosemary grevillea	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	2004	E	No indication	
saffron thistle*	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	2025		A* P1	

serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	2023	D, WONS	3	
spanish heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	2017	D	3	
swanplant	<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i> subsp. <i>fruticosus</i>	2020		No indication	
sweet pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	2004	E	4	
weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	2024		4	
winged thistle	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	2024	D	3	
Horehound (white horehound)	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	2025	D	3	

* See Clarence Weed Strategy Review, 2023 Appendix C: Clarence Alert List Weeds, Table C1.

Reproduced below: The Clarence Weed Strategy priority rating and management approach as revised in 2023 allows for the Clarence Local List (CLL) to be incorporated into the rating system. This revised system has been applied to the collated data in tables F1 and F2

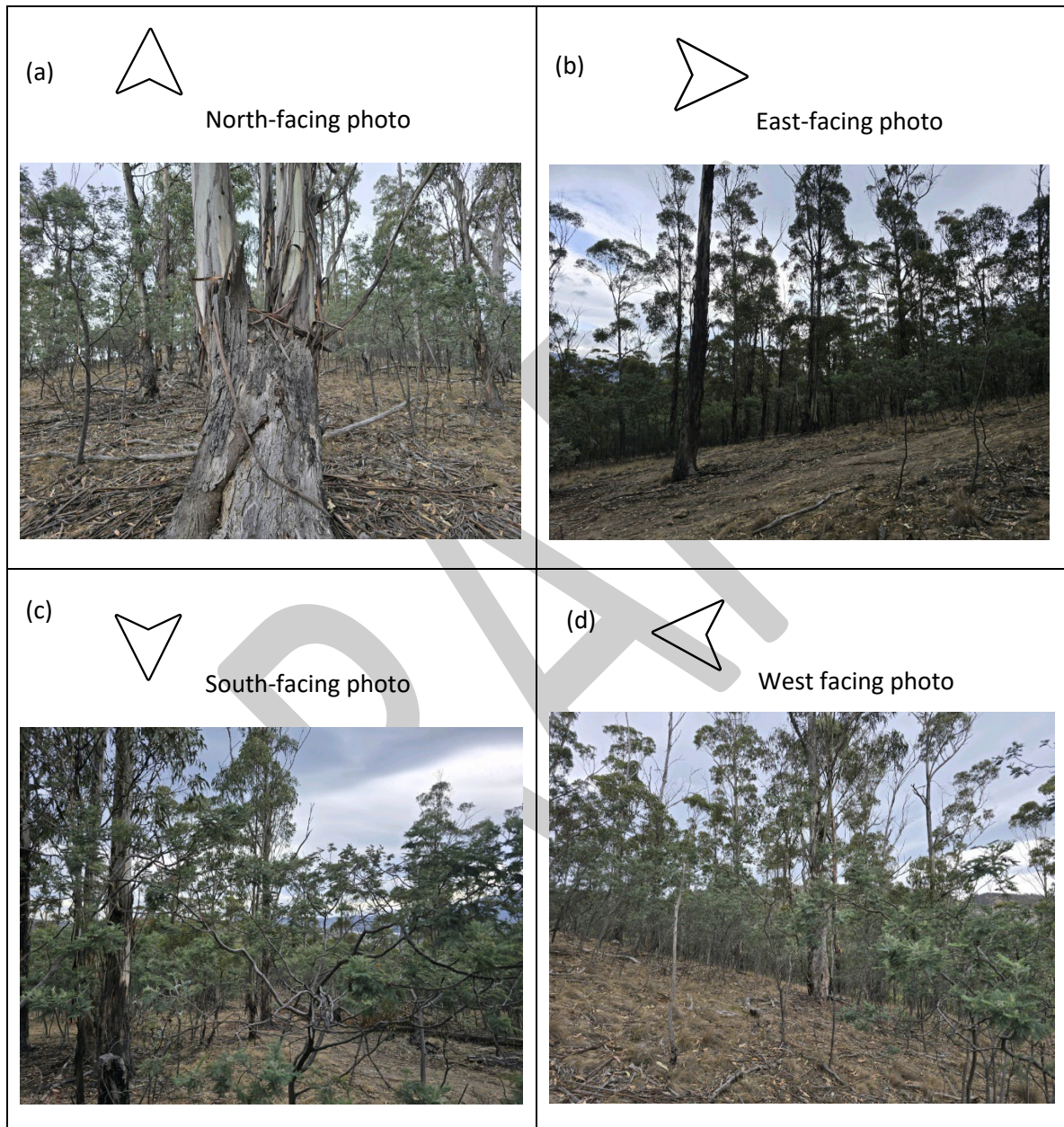
Priority 1	Declared weeds or newly introduced “alert list” weeds with a restricted distribution in the Clarence. These species are of the highest priority and require a rapid response. Immediately implement eradication plan when reported.
Priority 2	Limited distribution. Eradicate or quarantine within the term of the action plan (10 years) High priority.
Priority 3	Widespread distribution. Declared weeds requiring strategic control. Eradicate isolated infestations and contain wider infestations to ensure no further spread within the term of the action plan (10 years)
Priority 4	Widespread distribution. CCL weeds and declared weeds of lowest priority. Species requiring strategic control and containment where threatening important values.

Appendix G

Key Monitoring Components

Photopoints at Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA) Sites

Permanent photopoint monitoring established at each Rapid VCA site allows direct visual comparison over time. At each site, the following standard photo set will be collected:





Photopoints provide an efficient and repeatable method for assessing changes in:

- weed invasion and density
- regeneration success
- canopy health and structural change
- erosion and track creep impacts
- post-fire or post-treatment vegetation response

Photopoints will be supported by consistent GPS point marking (e.g. star picket) and field notes to ensure repeatability.

Rapid Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA) (see Appendix B)

Rapid VCA sites will be assessed concurrently with photopoint collection. VCA will be used to provide a structured measure of vegetation condition and disturbance and will allow comparisons across monitoring periods.

Key indicators assessed include:

1. vegetation structure and regeneration
2. weed presence and cover
3. bare ground and erosion
4. disturbance and edge effects
5. evidence of dumping or track proliferation