

February 2016

Rokeby Main Road Upgrade



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Glossary of Terms

The Approval – The approval granted under Sections 130(1) and 133 of the *EPBC Act: Rokeby Main Road Upgrade (EPBC 2011/6061)*

Bagdad offset site – This site is an offset site for swift parrot habitat proposed as an alternative to the Bicheno proposed offset site. It was first proposed to DotE on 6 November 2014 and was approved on 10 April 2015.

Bicheno proposed offset site – The site proposed as an offset for swift parrot habitat, as contained within the Preliminary Documentation (PD). This site is also referred to as *Appendix F* of the Approval (see Appendix A of this Report)

Blue ‘Roadside’ Wallaby Grass – the species formerly described as *Rytidosperma popinensis* (formerly *Austrodanthonia popinensis*), now widely accepted as common Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma fulvum*).

The Conditions – The conditions of approval, as per the approval granted under Sections 130(1) and 133 of the *EPBC Act: Rokeby Main Road Upgrade (EPBC 2011/6061)*

The Department – Tasmanian Department of State Growth (formerly the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources)

DotE – Commonwealth Department of the Environment (formerly the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities)

DPIPWE – Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment

EPBC Act – *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Mangalore proposed offset site – The site located at Mangalore, as identified within the PD. This site is also referred to as *Appendix D* of the Approval (see Appendix A of this Report)

The Minister – The Minister responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

PD – Preliminary Documentation, submitted as part of the EPBC Referral

The Project – Rokeby Main Road Upgrade

The Report – Rokeby Main Road Upgrade Annual Compliance Report 2015

Swift Parrot Habitat – Those vegetation communities classified under TASVEG mapping as DOV (*Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland) and DGL (*Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland), being favoured for foraging and nesting by the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)

TSSC – Threatened Species Scientific Committee

1. About

The *Rokeby Main Road Upgrade Annual Compliance Report 2015* is the second annual report (the Report) addressing compliance with approval EPBC 2011/6061 (the Approval). Condition 11 of the Approval states:

“Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of construction of the action, annually until the expiry date of this approval, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be notified to the department as soon as they occur.”

Construction on the Rokeby Main Road Upgrade commenced on 25th November 2013 and was formally completed on 25th September 2015. The Department of State Growth has been committed to ensuring that the upgrading of Rokeby Main Road would have minimal impacts on local populations of native animals, plants and the surrounding environment. The Department is committed to achieving the highest practicable environmental outcomes and takes its responsibilities seriously. The Report addresses each condition of the Approval specifically, outlining how compliance has been met. Some conditions have yet to be triggered, and thus compliance with these conditions will be addressed in future reports as appropriate. Similarly, the circumstances of some conditions have since changed (as detailed in Section 1.1 below), and statements addressing each of these changes have been provided.

Section 2 of this Report addresses compliance with the Approval and will re-state each condition of the Approval (*in bold and italics*) followed by statements of compliance. Where any of the Conditions of Approval refer to an attachment, this refers to those attachments as contained within the Approval itself. A copy of the Approval is provided in *Appendix A* of this Report.

1.1 Blue ‘Roadside’ Wallaby Grass

During the previous 12 months, Blue ‘Roadside’ Wallaby Grass was formally delisted and removed from Section 178 of the EPBC Act. Effective 16 September 2015, the Minister formally delisted Blue ‘Roadside’ Wallaby Grass on advice from the TSSC that the species was no longer eligible due to taxonomic changes. These changes included acknowledgement that this species should be considered synonymous with the common species *Rytidosperma fulvum*, and be regarded as ‘introduced’ to Tasmania. Given this recognition, ongoing preservation of an introduced species to Tasmania is an undesirable ecological outcome.

The Department wrote to DotE on 11 January 2016 requesting advice regarding further compliance activities under the Approval. At the time of writing this report, no response has yet been received. Noting the above-mentioned changes in circumstances regarding Blue ‘Roadside’ Wallaby Grass, the Department has halted further activities which will result in the proliferation of an introduced species. Certainty around the future of these conditions is needed.

1.2 Key Dates

Activity	Date (Due)
Date of EPBC Act Approval	19 th August 2013
Construction commenced	25 th November 2013
Construction completed	25 th September 2015
New swift parrot offset secured	13 th October 2015
Second annual compliance report due	24 th February 2016
Expiry date of EPBC Act Approval	25 th June 2033

Table 1. Key dates relevant to this compliance report

2. Compliance

The Department of State Growth has endeavoured to fully comply with, and strictly adhere to, the Conditions of the Approval. Table 2 details the status of each of the Conditions of Approval.

	Conformed	Yet to be Completed	Non-Conformance	Not Triggered	Other
Condition #					
1	x				
2	x				
3				x	
4	x				
5					x
6					x
7					x
8	x				
9	x				
10	x				
11	x				
12				x	
13				x	

Table 2. Which conditions have been triggered, and how they have been managed.

Condition 1

1. For the better protection of the swift parrot, the person taking the action must:
 - a. not remove more than 86 Eucalyptus ovata trees and one Eucalyptus globulus tree from inside the development footprint as shown in Appendix A;
 - b. only clear the Eucalyptus ovata trees referred to in condition 1(a) above, between the months of March to July, to avoid disturbance to swift parrot individuals; and
 - c. immediately prior to undertaking tree removal works on the Eucalyptus globulus tree referred to in condition 1(a), engage a suitably qualified expert to ensure no swift parrot individuals are present.

The removal of these 87 trees of potential swift parrot habitat occurred at two separate times due to the schedule of works and the location of each of the trees. Details of this activity were provided

in a previous reporting period. No other *Eucalyptus ovata* or *Eucalyptus globulus* trees were removed as part of construction activities.

Condition 2

2. *To compensate for the residual loss of swift parrot foraging habitat, prior to the one (1) year anniversary of commencement of construction, the person taking the action must engage a suitably qualified expert to undertake ecological surveys and an assessment, during an optimal ecological time, of the Bicheno proposed offset site to determine:*
 - a. *the intensity and extent of impacts of the 2013 fire event on the Bicheno proposed offset site. These surveys must provide a discussion of the results in relation to:*
 - i. *the historical fire frequency and intensity at the site; and*
 - ii. *the ecological role of fire at the site.*
 - b. *prospects for recovery (including recovery milestones and estimated timing) of the Bicheno proposed offset site in terms of quality and extent of swift parrot foraging habitat;*
 - c. *ongoing management measures (including methods, standards and schedules wherever relevant) required to maintain or improve swift parrot foraging habitat at this site.*

The results of the surveys and assessment must be provided to the department within three (3) months of completion of the surveys.

Investigations into the viability of the initially proposed Bicheno offset site for swift parrot habitat was re-assessed to determine the status of its recovery following the January 2013 Tasmanian bushfires. A report was produced on 16 December 2013 detailing the findings of these investigations. This report was provided to DotE via email correspondence on 16 December 2013. Details relating to this condition was provided in the *Annual Compliance Report 2014*. No further actions relating to this condition has since occurred.

Condition 3

3. *In the event that the surveys required in condition 2 above show that the Bicheno proposed offset site does not contain adequate swift parrot foraging habitat (as advised by the Minister), to compensate for the residual loss of swift parrot foraging habitat, prior to the three (3) year anniversary of the commencement of construction, the person taking the action must:*
 - a. *establish a reserve within the Bicheno proposed offset site, of no less than ten (10) hectares of swift parrot foraging habitat, using a legal mechanism appropriate to the long-term conservation of the site and approved in advance by the Minister;*
 - b. *commence implementation of the management measures, identified by the suitably qualified expert to maintain or improve swift parrot foraging habitat at this site under condition 2(c),*
 - c. *commence monitoring of the reserve, to be conducted by a suitably qualified expert during an optimal ecological time, annually until the expiry date of this approval, to determine:*
 - i. *the success of the management measures to maintain or improve the swift parrot foraging habitat against the baseline condition; and*
 - ii. *changes in the quality of the swift parrot foraging habitat in the reserve against the baseline condition.*
 - d. *commence reporting to the department, annually until the expiry date of this approval, on surveys conducted under c) above; and*
 - e. *outline any additional offsets or measures to maintain or enhance the swift parrot foraging habitat in the reserve against the baseline condition.*

As assessed under Condition 2 of this Approval – and stated in previous compliance reports – the originally-proposed Bicheno offset was deemed unsuitable for protection as an offset for suitable swift parrot habitat. Given this, Condition 3 is not triggered.

Condition 4

4. *In the event that the surveys required in condition 2 above show that the Bicheno proposed offset site does not contain adequate swift parrot foraging habitat (as advised by the minister), to compensate for the residual loss of swift parrot foraging habitat, prior to the three (3) year anniversary of this approval, the person taking the action must:*

- a. *identify a reserve of swift parrot foraging habitat in eastern Tasmania, or a location of equivalent or greater conservation measure, as agreed to by the Minister, that complies with the department's offset policy;*
- b. *secure the site identified under a) above using a legal mechanism appropriate to the long-term conservation of the site and approved in advance by the Minister;*
- c. *commence ongoing management measures (including methods, standards and schedules wherever relevant) as determined by a suitably qualified expert, required to maintain or improve foraging habitat for the swift parrot within the reserve;*
- d. *commence monitoring of the reserve, to be conducted by a suitably qualified expert during an optimal ecological time, annually until the expiry date of this approval, to determine:*
 - i. *the success of the management measures to maintain or improve the swift parrot foraging habitat against the baseline condition; and*
 - ii. *changes in the quality of the swift parrot foraging habitat on the reserve against the baseline condition.*
- e. *commence reporting to the department, annually until the expiry date of this approval, on surveys conducted under d) above: and*
- f. *outline additional offsets or measures to achieve the swift parrot foraging habitat against the baseline condition*

As assessed under Condition 2 of this Approval, the originally-proposed Bicheno offset was deemed unsuitable for protection as an offset for suitable swift parrot habitat. An alternative offset has now been secured. Advice was provided to DotE by email on 11 November 2015 confirming the establishment of a conservation covenant at Bagdad, Tasmania. The covenant was registered as secured-in-perpetuity on 13 October 2015. Associated documentation, including electronic shapefiles (see Condition 8 in this Approval), were also provided at this time. Monitoring of the site will commence effective 2016.

Condition 5

5. *For the better protection of the blue (roadside) wallaby grass, the person taking the action must not remove more than 0.6 hectares of blue (roadside) wallaby grass from inside the development footprint as shown in Appendix B.*

As noted in previous compliance reports, and as at completion of works, ecological investigations have determined that impacts to populations of Blue 'Roadside' Wallaby Grass were limited to within the construction footprint, as required. That is, impacts to this population was limited to the 0.6ha as per Appendix B of the Approval.

Condition 6

6. *For the better protection of the blue (roadside) wallaby grass, during construction, the person taking the action must:*
 - a. *implement construction exclusion zones of all blue (roadside) wallaby grass outside the development footprint as shown in Appendix 8 to prevent disturbance of the avoided populations. Construction exclusion zones must be:*
 - i. *identified on contractor drawings and provided to the department prior to construction; and*
 - ii. *marked with a flag line and signs during construction.*

All impacts to Blue 'Roadside' Wallaby Grass were confined to within the permitted construction footprint, as identified in Appendix B of the Approval. To ensure this condition was met, construction exclusion zones were erected around all previously identified populations outside of the construction footprint. This was in the form of flagging tape tied to wooden stakes. These exclusion zones were demarcated clearly on construction drawings provided to contractors prior to the commencement of works. These drawings – and evidence of the erection of exclusion zones – were provided to DotE.

Condition 7

7. *To compensate for the loss of blue (roadside) wallaby grass, prior to the two (2) year anniversary of the commencement of construction, the person taking the action must:*
 - a. *establish a reserve at the Mangalore proposed offset site using a legal mechanism appropriate to the long-term conservation of the site and approved in advance by the Minister;*

- b. *plant no fewer than 24,000 blue (roadside) wallaby grass plants on site at Rokeby as shown in Appendix C;*
- c. *commence implementation of the management measures, identified by a suitably qualified expert, to ensure maintenance of the blue (roadside) wallaby grass population within both the reserve at the Mangalore proposed offset site, referred to in condition 6(a) above, and planted blue (roadside) wallaby grass plants at Rokeby, referred to in condition 6(c) above.*
- d. *commence monitoring of the reserve at the Mangalore proposed offset site and established blue (roadside) wallaby grass plants at Rokeby, to be conducted by a suitably qualified expert during an optimal ecological time, annually until the expiry date of this approval, to determine:*
 - i. *the success of the management measures to maintain no less than 7310 blue (roadside) wallaby grass plants at the Mangalore proposed offset site, referred to in condition 6(a) above, and to ensure establishment of no less than 75% of the planted blue (roadside) wallaby grass plants at Rokeby, referred to in condition 6(c) above.*
- e. *commence reporting to the department, annually until the expiry date of this approval, on surveys conducted under d) above; and*
- f. *outline any additional offsets or measures to maintain or enhance the blue (roadside) wallaby grass population within both the reserve at the Mangalore proposed offset site, referred to in condition 6(a) above, and planted blue (roadside) wallaby grass plants at Rokeby, referred to in condition 6(c) above.*

As stated in section 1.1 of this report, Blue 'Roadside' Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma popinensis*) is no longer recognised as a unique species, now being subsumed under the species *R. fulvum*. Equally, Blue 'Roadside' Wallaby Grass is no longer a listed threatened species – not due to conservation efforts – but due to identification and reclassification. This change poses significant challenges for the Department in meeting the requirements of this condition and for ensuring positive ecological outcomes.

No further actions have been taken under this condition which will impact – either positively or negatively – the *Rytidosperma fulvum* plants at this location. That said, DPIPW is supportive of the de-registration of a conservation covenant which no longer supports ecological values and one which supports introduced species. Ecological investigations have been scheduled for March 2016 to further quantify any remaining values within this site.

Condition 8

- 8. *The person taking the action must provide the department with offset attributes, shapefiles, textual descriptions and maps to clearly define the location and boundaries of the offsets required as a result of this approval. These must be provided within 30 days of the offsets being secured in perpetuity.*

Mangalore Offset Site

As per Condition 7, the Mangalore offset is an already-established conservation covenant, secured under EPBC 2009/4762 and EPBC 2009/4757. Half of this offset was allocated to EPBC 2009/4762 and EPBC 2009/4757, with the remainder secured for future use if needed. This remaining area was already approved by DotE as part of the referral process.

Bagdad Offset Site

As detailed in Condition 4 above, official documentation regarding the establishment of this conservation covenant was provided to DotE on 11 November 2015. The conservation covenant was formally registered with the Recorder of Titles on 13 October 2015.

Condition 9

- 9. *Within 30 days after the commencement of construction of the action, the person taking the action must advise the department in writing of the actual date of commencement.*

Construction works relating to Rokeby Main Road commenced on 25th November 2013. Further details relating to this condition have been provided in previous compliance reports.

Condition 10

- 10. The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, and make them available upon request to the department. Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.**

The Department has maintained accurate records substantiating all activities associated with the works and relevant conditions.

Condition 11

- 11. Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the commencement of construction of the action, annually until the expiry date of this approval, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be notified to the department as soon as they occur.**

The purpose of this Report is to satisfy this condition. This report contains statements addressing compliance with each of the conditions of the Approval. Each of the conditions referring to the implementation of management plans or programs has already been addressed in the respective statements of compliance throughout this Report. Upon publishing this Report on the Department's website, evidence will be provided to DotE of this fact at the time of publishing.

Condition 12

- 12. Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.**

This condition has not been triggered.

Condition 13

- 13. If, at any time after three (3) years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not substantially commenced the action, then the person taking the action must not substantially commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.**

Works on this project commenced on 25th November 2013. This condition can no longer be satisfied.

3. Conclusion

This Report is intended to meet the full requirements of condition 11 of the Approval. All statements made in the Report are true and evidence-based. Further information can be provided as required. This Report will be publicly available on the Department's website within the three month anniversary of the commencement of works.

Appendix A – Approval – Rokeby Main Road Upgrade EPBC 2011/6061



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Approval

Rokeby Main Road Upgrade, Howrah and Rokeby, Tasmania (EPBC 2011/6061)

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

Proposed action

person to whom the approval is granted Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

proponent's ACN (if applicable) ABN: 363 889 805 63

proposed action Road upgrade to Rokeby Main Road from Oceana Drive in Howrah to Diosma Street in Rokeby, Tasmania [See EPBC Act referral 2011/6061]

Approval decision

Controlling Provision	Decision
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approved

conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

expiry date of approval

This approval has effect until 25 June 2033.

Decision-maker

name and position James Tregurtha
Assistant Secretary
South-Eastern Australia Environment Assessment Branch

signature

date of decision 19 August 2013



VARIATION TO CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO APPROVAL

Rokeby Main Road Upgrade, Howrah and Rokeby, Tasmania, (EPBC 2011/6061)

This decision to vary a condition of approval is made under section 143 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Approved action

Person to whom the approval is granted	Tasmanian Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (ABN: 363 889 805 63)
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Approved action	Road upgrade to Rokeby Main Road from Oceana Drive in Howrah to Diosma Street in Rokeby, Tasmania [See EPBC Act referral 2011/6061]
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Variation

Variation of conditions of approval	The variation is: Delete condition 1 attached to the approval dated 19 August 2013 and substitute with the condition specified below.
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Date of effect	This variation has effect on the date the instrument is signed
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Person authorised to make decision

name and position	Mahani Taylor A/g Assistant Secretary South-Eastern Australia Environment Assessment Branch
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Signature

Date of decision

25/11/13

Conditions for substitution:

1. For the better protection of the **swift parrot**, the person taking the action must:
 - a) not remove more than 86 *Eucalyptus ovata* trees and one *Eucalyptus globulus* tree from inside the development footprint as shown in Appendix A;
 - b) only clear the *Eucalyptus ovata* trees referred to in condition 1(a) above, between the months of March to July, to avoid disturbance to **swift parrot** individuals; and
 - c) immediately prior to undertaking tree removal works on the *Eucalyptus globulus* tree referred to in condition 1(a), engage a suitably qualified expert to ensure no **swift parrot** individuals are present.

Conditions attached to the approval

- 1) For the better protection of the **swift parrot**, the person taking the action must:
 - a) not remove more than 86 *Eucalyptus ovata* trees and one *Eucalyptus globulus* tree from inside the development footprint as shown in Appendix A; and
 - b) only clear the *Eucalyptus ovata* trees and *Eucalyptus globulus* tree, referred to in condition 1(a) above, between the months of March to July, to avoid disturbance to **swift parrot** individuals.
- 2) To compensate for the residual loss of **swift parrot foraging habitat**, prior to the one (1) year anniversary of **commencement of construction**, the person taking the action must engage a **suitably qualified expert** to undertake ecological surveys and an assessment, during an optimal ecological time, of the **Bicheno proposed offset site** to determine:
 - a) the intensity and extent of impacts of the 2013 fire event on the **Bicheno proposed offset site**. These surveys must provide a discussion of the results in relation to:
 - i) the historical fire frequency and intensity at the site; and
 - ii) the ecological role of fire at the site.
 - b) prospects for recovery (including recovery milestones and estimated timing) of the **Bicheno proposed offset site** in terms of quality and extent of **swift parrot foraging habitat**;
 - c) ongoing management measures (including methods, standards and schedules wherever relevant) required to maintain or improve **swift parrot foraging habitat** at this site.

The results of the surveys and assessment must be provided to the **department** within three (3) months of completion of the surveys.

- 3) In the event that the surveys required in condition 2 above show that the **Bicheno proposed offset site** does contain adequate **swift parrot foraging habitat** (as advised by the **Minister**), to compensate for the residual loss of **swift parrot foraging habitat**, prior to the three (3) year anniversary of the **commencement of construction**, the person taking the action must:
 - a) establish a reserve within the **Bicheno proposed offset site**, of no less than ten (10) hectares of **swift parrot foraging habitat**, using a legal mechanism appropriate to the long-term conservation of the site and approved in advance by the **Minister**;
 - b) commence implementation of the management measures, identified by the **suitably qualified expert** to maintain or improve **swift parrot foraging habitat** at this site under condition 2(c),
 - c) commence monitoring of the reserve, to be conducted by a **suitably qualified expert** during an optimal ecological time, annually until the expiry date of this approval, to determine:
 - i) the success of the management measures to maintain or improve the **swift parrot foraging habitat** against the **baseline condition**; and
 - ii) changes in the quality of the **swift parrot foraging habitat** in the reserve against the **baseline condition**.
 - d) commence reporting to the **department**, annually until the expiry date of this approval, on surveys conducted under c) above; and

- e) outline any additional offsets or measures to maintain or enhance the **swift parrot foraging habitat** in the reserve against the **baseline condition**.
- 4) In the event that the surveys required in condition 2 above show that the **Bicheno proposed offset site** does not contain adequate **swift parrot foraging habitat** (as advised by the **minister**), to compensate for the residual loss of **swift parrot foraging habitat**, prior to the three (3) year anniversary of this approval, the person taking the action must:
- a) identify a reserve of **swift parrot foraging habitat** in eastern Tasmania, or a location of equivalent or greater conservation measure, as agreed to by the **Minister**, that complies with the **department's offset policy**;
 - b) secure the site identified under a) above using a legal mechanism appropriate to the long-term conservation of the site and approved in advance by the **Minister**;
 - c) commence ongoing management measures (including methods, standards and schedules wherever relevant) as determined by a **suitably qualified expert**, required to maintain or improve **foraging habitat** for the **swift parrot** within the reserve;
 - d) commence monitoring of the reserve, to be conducted by a **suitably qualified expert** during an optimal ecological time, annually until the expiry date of this approval, to determine:
 - i) the success of the management measures to maintain or improve the **swift parrot foraging habitat** against the **baseline condition**; and
 - ii) changes in the quality of the **swift parrot foraging habitat** on the reserve against the **baseline condition**.
 - e) commence reporting to the **department**, annually until the expiry date of this approval, on surveys conducted under d) above; and
 - f) outline additional offsets or measures to achieve the **swift parrot foraging habitat** against the **baseline condition**
- 5) For the better protection of the **blue (roadside) wallaby grass**, the person taking the action must not remove more than 0.6 hectares of **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** from inside the development footprint as shown in Appendix B.
- 6) For the better protection of the **blue (roadside) wallaby grass**, during **construction**, the person taking the action must:
- a) implement construction exclusion zones of all **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** outside the development footprint as shown in Appendix B to prevent disturbance of the avoided populations. Construction exclusion zones must be:
 - i) identified on contractor drawings and provided to the **department** prior to **construction**; and
 - ii) marked with a flag line and signs during **construction**.
- 7) To compensate for the loss of **blue (roadside) wallaby grass**, prior to the two (2) year anniversary of the **commencement of construction**, the person taking the action must:
- a) establish a reserve at the **Mangalore proposed offset site** using a legal mechanism appropriate to the long-term conservation of the site and approved in advance by the **Minister**;
 - b) plant no fewer than 24,000 **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** plants on site at Rokeby as shown in Appendix C;

- c) commence implementation of the management measures, identified by a **suitably qualified expert**, to ensure maintenance of the **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** population within both the reserve at the **Mangalore proposed offset site**, referred to in condition 6(a) above, and planted **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** plants at Rokeby, referred to in condition 6(c) above.
 - d) commence monitoring of the reserve at the **Mangalore proposed offset site** and established **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** plants at Rokeby, to be conducted by a **suitably qualified expert** during an optimal ecological time, annually until the expiry date of this approval, to determine:
 - i) the success of the management measures to maintain no less than 7310 **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** plants at the **Mangalore proposed offset site**, referred to in condition 6(a) above, and to ensure establishment of no less than 75% of the planted **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** plants at Rokeby, referred to in condition 6(c) above.
 - e) commence reporting to the **department**, annually until the expiry date of this approval, on surveys conducted under d) above; and
 - f) outline any additional offsets or measures to maintain or enhance the **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** population within both the reserve at the **Mangalore proposed offset site**, referred to in condition 6(a) above, and planted **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** plants at Rokeby, referred to in condition 6(c) above.
- 8) The person taking the action must provide the **department** with **offset attributes**, **shapefiles**, textual descriptions and maps to clearly define the location and boundaries of the offsets required as a result of this approval. These must be provided within 30 days of the offsets being secured in perpetuity.
 - 9) Within 30 days after the **commencement of construction** of the action, the person taking the action must advise the **department** in writing of the actual date of commencement.
 - 10) The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, and make them available upon request to the **department**. Such records may be subject to audit by the **department** or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the **department's** website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.
 - 11) Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the **commencement of construction** of the action, annually until the expiry date of this approval, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval, including implementation of any management plans as specified in the conditions. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication and non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be notified to the **department** as soon as they occur.
 - 12) Upon the direction of the **Minister**, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the **Minister**. The independent auditor must be approved by the **Minister** prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the **Minister** and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the **Minister**.

- 13) If, at any time after three (3) years from the date of this approval, the person taking the action has not **substantially commenced** the action, then the person taking the action must not **substantially commence** the action without the written agreement of the **Minister**.

Definitions

Baseline condition means the condition of the *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland (Tasmanian vegetation mapping unit: DOV) at Appendix F.

Bicheno proposed offset site means the site located on private land south of Bicheno on the east coast of Tasmania, and identified as 'Field survey extent' at Appendix E.

Blue (roadside) wallaby grass means the **EPBC Act** endangered species *Rytidosperma popinensis* (previously known as *Austrodanthonia popinensis*).

Commencement of construction includes any preparatory works required to be undertaken including clearing vegetation, the erection of any onsite temporary structures, excluding fences and signage, and the use of heavy duty equipment for the purpose of breaking the ground for buildings or infrastructure excluding any signage or fences.

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

Department's offset policy means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Environmental Offsets Policy (October 2012).

EPBC Act means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Mangalore proposed offset site means the site located at Mangalore on private land north of the junction of Ballyhooly Road and the Midland Highway, and identified as 'Offset for: Rokeby Main Road, from Oceana Drive in Howrah to Disoma Street in Rokeby (EPBC 2011/6061)' at Appendix D.

Minister means the Minister administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and includes a delegate of the Minister.

Offset attributes mean an '.xls' file capturing relevant attributes of the Offset Area, including the EPBC reference ID number, the physical address of the offset site, coordinates of the boundary points in decimal degrees, the EPBC protected matters that the offset compensates for, any additional EPBC protected matters that are benefiting from the offset, and the size of the offset in hectares.

Shapefiles means an ESRI ArcGIS Shapefile, containing '.shp', '.shx' and '.dbf' files and other files. Shapefiles must include appropriate metadata capturing attributes including but not limited to the EPBC reference number of the approved action and details of the EPBC protected matters present within the offset, covenant or legal protection details, including type and identification. The **department** prefers **shapefiles** using the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 94.

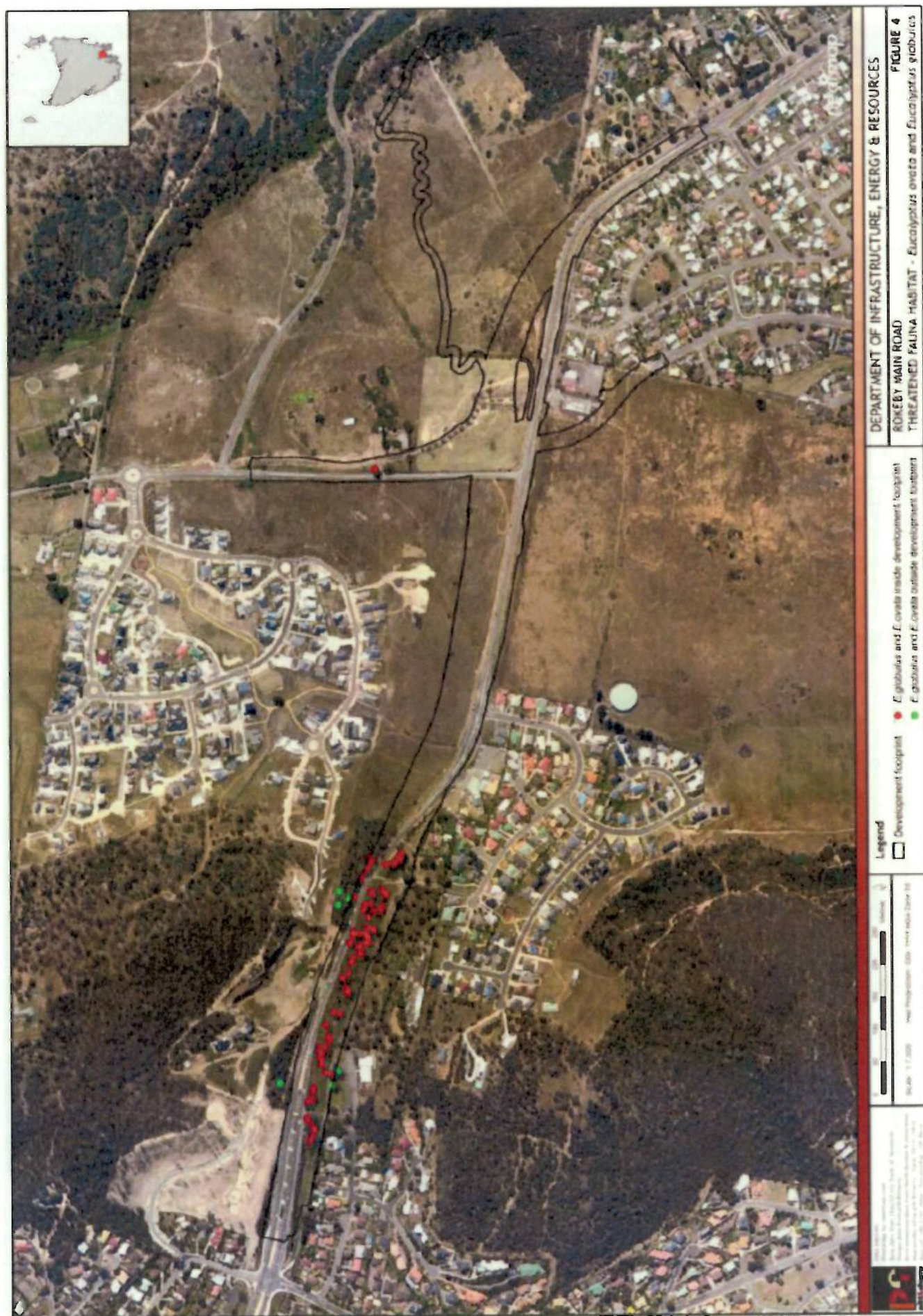
Substantially commence means the erection of any permanent infrastructure excluding signage and fences, associated with the action.

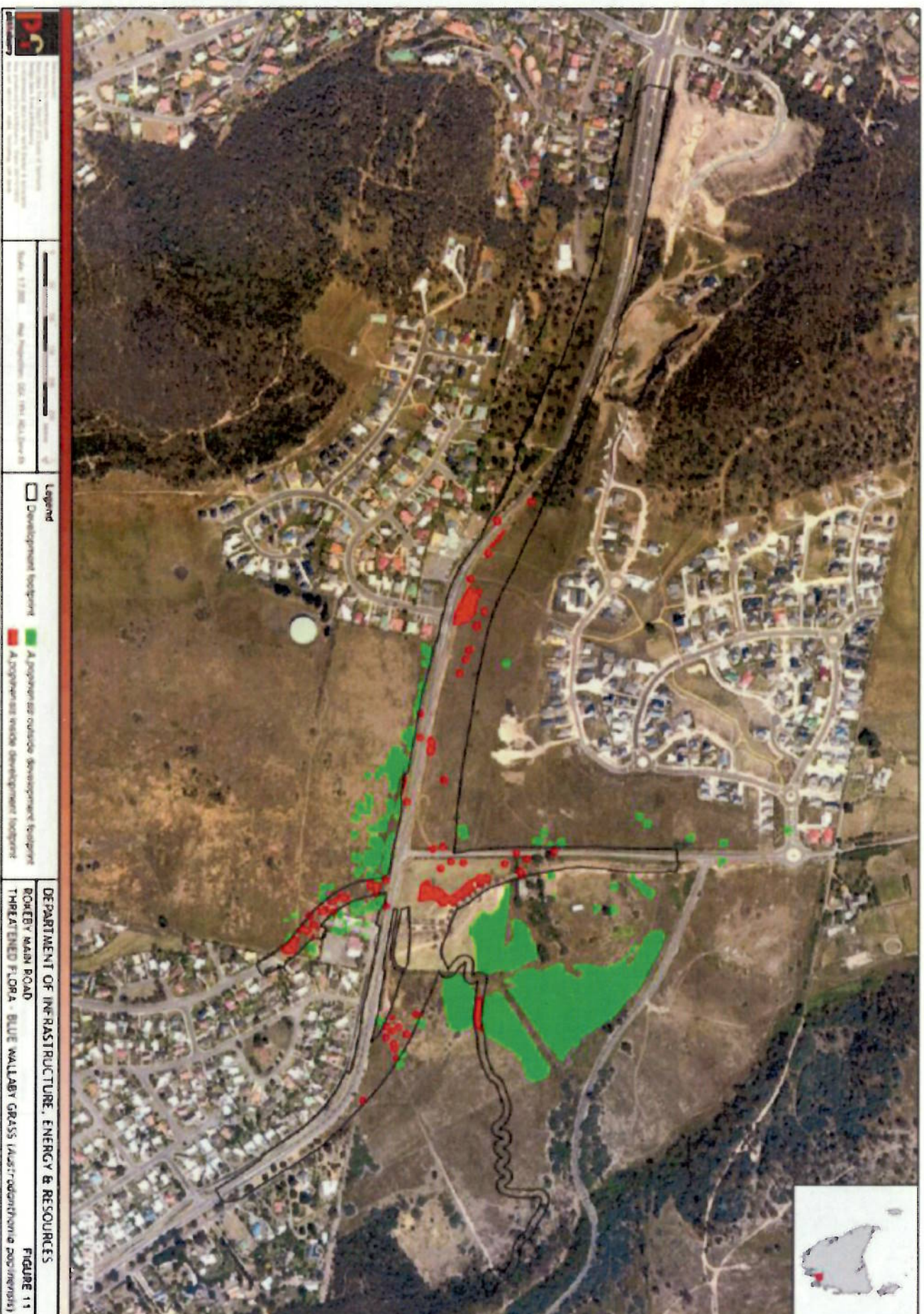
Suitably qualified expert means one or more botanists, ecologists, or environmental scientists with relevant valid qualifications and at least two years of demonstrated expertise in the surveying and management of **blue (roadside) wallaby grass** or **swift parrot**, and who is independent to the person taking the action.

Swift parrot means the **EPBC Act** listed endangered species *Lathamus discolor*.

Swift parrot foraging habitat means grassy blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) forest and/or grassy/shrubby swamp gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) forest of a quality agreed with the department.

Appendix A:





Appendix C:



Appendix D:



Developments To Be Offset

Rokeby Main Road,
from Oceana Drive in Howrah to Diosma Street in Rokeby
(EPBC 2011/6061)

Offset Area (sq m)

1,366

Offset number of plants +/-

8,140 830



NorthMap PhotoMap Imagery date: 30/12/2011
Datum: GDA84, AHD Grid: MGA Zone 58

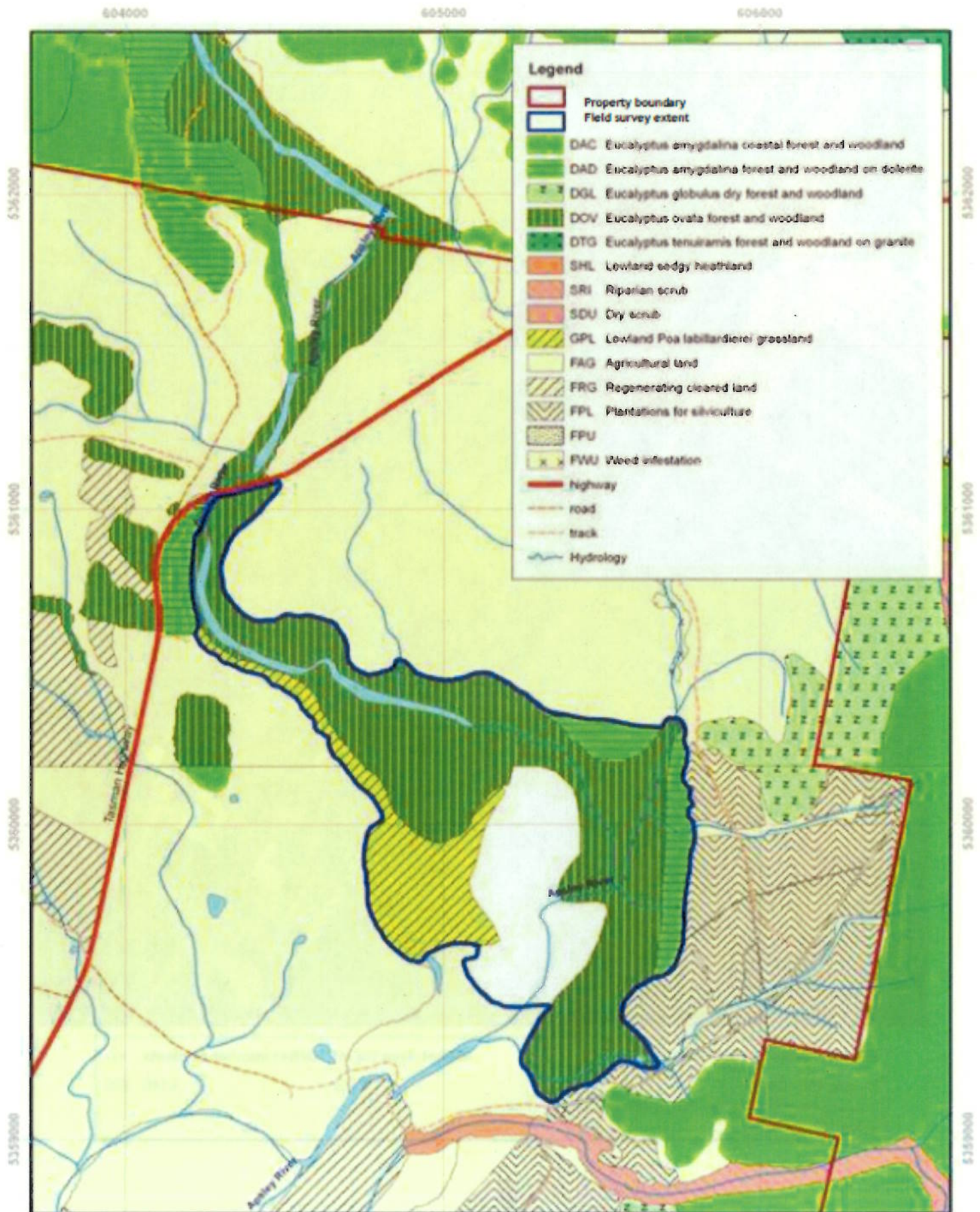


0 25 50
metres

northbarker
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

PA8038 22/06/2012

Appendix E:



Appendix F:

Appendix E

**Vegetation Condition Assessment (VCA) -
Proposed swift parrot offset area**

Vegetation Condition Assessment Form V1.0

DATE: 14/08/2009 LOCATION: Apsey River East Coast MAP:
 SITE NAME: GRID REFERENCE (centre of zone):
 ZONE no./name: 1 ASSESSOR: GPS DATUM (circle one): WGS84 / GDA94 / AGD86
 TASVEG VC CODE: DOV
 SIZE of zone (ha): 720 ha
 COMMENTS: Areas of Eucalyptus ovata / Callitris oblonga forest

Site Condition Score

Large Trees Observed large trees 29 / ha
 Benchmark DBH 80cm Benchmark 20 / ha Score 10

Category & Description	% Canopy Health*		
	>70%	30-70%	<30%
None present	0	0	0
>0 to 20% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	3	2	1
>20% to 40% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	4	3	2
>40% to 70% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	6	5	4
>70% to 100% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	8	7	6
≥ the benchmark number of large trees/ha	10	9	8

Large trees are defined by diameter at breast height (dbh) - see benchmark
 *estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (ie. not missing due to tree death or decline)

Tree Canopy Cover

Benchmark 40% Observed cover 40% Score 5

Category & Description	% Canopy Health*		
	>70%	30-70%	<30%
<10% of benchmark cover	0	0	0
<50% or >150% of benchmark cover	3	2	1
≥50% or ≤150% of benchmark cover	5	4	3

Tree canopy cover is defined as those canopy tree species reaching 100% of mature height - see benchmark description

*estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (ie not missing due to tree death or decline)

Lack of Weeds

Observed weed cover 5%
 Observed high threat weeds 100% Score 11

Category & Description	% High threat weeds*		
	None	≤ 30%	>30%
> 75% cover of weeds	0	0	0
25-75% cover of weeds	4	2	0
10-25% cover of weeds	7	6	4
5-10% cover of weeds	11	9	7
<5% cover of weeds**	15	13	11

*Proportion of weed cover due to high threat weeds

High threat weed species are defined as introduced species (including non-indigenous natives) that achieve >5% cover in the zone or those weed species listed as high threat weeds in Tasmania

A list of high threat weeds in Tasmania is provided in the TASVEG Vegetation Condition Assessment manual

**if total weed cover is negligible (<1%) and high threat weed species are present then score '13'

The Assessor should determine the threat posed by any weed in the zone listed or not

Understorey Life Forms

Benchmark No. Life forms 9
 Phytophthora dieback symptoms (tick if observed) ☐

LP code from benchmark	# spp observed/benchmark # spp	% cover observed/benchmark % cover	Present (tick)	Modified (tick)
IT	/ n/a	10 / 5	✓	
T	8 / 5	40 / 40	✓	
S	11 / 4	30 / 15	✓	
Total	/	/		
PS	/	/		
H	7 / 6	25 / 25	✓	
G	4 / 1	20 / 25	✓	
LSR	3 / 3	30 / 20	✓	
MSR	/	/		
GF	2 / 2	25 / 10	✓	✓
TF	/	/		
SCE	1 / 1	25 / 25	✓	
ML	/ n/a	5 / 5	✓	
SC	/	/		
Total			9	1

Present Life forms with benchmark cover of <10% are considered present if any specimens are observed
 Life forms with benchmark cover of >10% are considered present if the life form occurs at least 10% of benchmark cover

Modified Life forms with benchmark cover of <10% are considered substantially modified if the life form has either:
 - <50% of benchmark species diversity, or
 - no reproductively mature specimens are observed
 Life forms with benchmark cover of >10% are considered substantially modified if the life form has either:
 - <50% of benchmark cover, or
 - <50% of benchmark species diversity

Understorey Summary

Benchmark Life forms present 100% Score 20

Category and Description		
All strata and life forms effectively absent		0
Up to 50% of life forms present		5
>50% to 90% of life forms present	of those present ≥50% substantially modified	10
	of those present, <50% substantially modified	15
>90% of life forms present	of those present, ≥50% substantially modified	15
	of those present, <50% substantially modified	20
	of those present, none substantially modified	25

Vegetation Condition Assessment Form V1.0

FOREST VEGETATION

Species Recruitment

Woody species recorded in habitat zone (5 and taller)	Adequate recruitment (✓)
Canopy trees (canopy species)	
<i>Acacia stricta</i>	✓
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	✓
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	✓
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	✓
<i>Callitris oblonga</i>	✓
<i>Callitris rhomboides</i>	✓
<i>Eucalyptus cypripediformis</i>	✓
<i>Pomadouria affinis</i>	✓
<i>Leptospermum lanigerym</i>	✓
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	✓
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	✓
Total recruiting species	12 / 12

Treat multiple canopy species as a single species.
Adequate recruitment of canopy species requires at least 2 cohorts to be present (seedlings <2m and saplings >2m tall) and where canopy cover is less than benchmark, sufficient recruitment to attain benchmark cover over time.
Adequate recruitment of other woody species requires observed immature individuals to be at least 10% of number of mature individuals for each species.

Organic Litter

Benchmark 20% Observed litter 50% Score 5

Category & Description	Dominated by native organic litter	Dominated by non-native organic litter
<10% of benchmark cover	0	0
<50% of benchmark cover	3	2
≥50% of benchmark cover	5	4

Litter is defined as dead organic material detached from the parent plant, including plant debris, fallen leaves and twigs <10cm.

Recruitment

Score 10

Category & Description			High diversity*	Low diversity*
No evidence of a recruitment cohort**	within community not driven by episodic events		0	0
	within community driven by episodic events†	clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	0	0
		no clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	5	5
Evidence of at least one recruitment cohort in at least one life form	Proportion of native woody species present that have adequate recruitment‡	<30%	3	3
		30 - 70%	6	3
		≥70%	10	5

* cohort refers to a group of woody plants established in a single episode (can include suppressed canopy species individuals).
† refer to benchmarks for clarification.
‡ high diversity defined as ≥50% of benchmark woody species diversity.

Logs

Benchmark log length 40 Observed length 22 Score 5

Category & Description	Large logs present*	Large logs absent*
<10% of benchmark length	0	0
<50% of benchmark length	3	2
≥50% of benchmark length	5	4

Large logs defined as those with diameter ≥0.5 of benchmark large tree DBH.
* present if large log length is ≥25% of benchmark log length.
* absent if large log length is <25% of benchmark log length.

Landscape Context Score

Patch Size Patch size 60 ha Score 8

Category & Description	Score
< 2 ha	1
Between 2 and 5 ha	2
Between 5 and 10 ha	4
Between 10 and 20 ha	6
≥20 ha, but 'significantly disturbed'	8
≥20 ha, but not 'significantly disturbed'	10

The patch is the area of native vegetation continuous with the assessment area (zone), regardless of EVC, condition or land tenure. Includes adjoining wetlands.
* 'significantly disturbed' if activities such as grazing, timber harvesting, roading, fuel reduction burning or Phytophthora infestation have occurred. Effectively most patches within fragmented landscapes are significantly disturbed.

FINAL HABITAT SCORE

		'Site Condition Score'							'Landscape Context Score'			
Score	Component	Large Trees	Tree Canopy Cover	Lack of Wildlife	Understorey Summary	Recruitment	Organic Litter	Logs	Patch Size	Neighbourhood	Distance to Core Area	TOTAL
		10	5	11	20	10	5	5	8	2	4	100 80

Neighbourhood

Score 2

Radius from site	% Native vegetation*	Weighting	
100 m	20	0.03	0.6
1 km	40	0.04	1.6
5 km	60	0.03	1.8
subtract 2 if the neighbourhood is 'significantly disturbed'			-2
Add values and 'round-off'			2

* to nearest 20%.
Multiply % native vegetation x weighting for each radius from the zone (eg.) 40% = 0.03 x 1.2), then add values to obtain final Neighbourhood Value.

Distance to Core Area

Score 4

Distance	Core Area not significantly disturbed*	Core Area significantly disturbed*
> 5 km	0	0
1 to 5 km	2	1
< 1 km	4	3
contiguous	5	4

A 'core area' is native vegetation > 50 ha regardless of type, condition or tenure. Includes natural wetlands and lakes, estuaries and rivers.
* 'significantly disturbed' see definition under patch size.

Vegetation Condition Assessment Form V1.0

DATE: 19/08/2009 LOCATION: Apsley River MAP:
 SITE NAME: East Coast GRID REFERENCE (centre of zone):
 ZONE no./name: 2 ASSESSOR:
 TASVEG VC CODE: DOV GPS DATUM (CIRCLE ONE): WGS84 / AD94 AGD66
 SIZE of zone (ha): 25
 COMMENTS: Swampy forest south of Apsley River. Partially burnt c. 2 yrs ago.

Site Condition Score

Large Trees Observed large trees 15 s/ha
 Benchmark DEN 90 s/ha Benchmark 20 s/ha Score 7

Category & Description	% Canopy Health*		
	>70%	30-70%	<30%
None present	0	0	0
>0 to 20% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	3	2	1
>20% to 40% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	4	3	2
>40% to 70% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	6	5	4
>70% to 100% of the benchmark number of large trees/ha	8	7	6
≥ the benchmark number of large trees/ha	10	9	8

Large trees are defined by diameter at breast height (DBH) – see benchmark
 *estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (ie. not missing due to tree death or decline)

Tree Canopy Cover
 Benchmark 40% Observed cover 25% Score 4

Category & Description	% Canopy Health*		
	>70%	30-70%	<30%
<10% of benchmark cover	0	0	0
<50% or >150% of benchmark cover	3	2	1
≥50% or ≤150% of benchmark cover	5	4	3

Tree canopy cover is defined as those canopy tree species reaching ≥10% of mature height – see benchmark description

*estimate proportion of an expected healthy canopy cover that is present (ie. not missing due to tree death or decline)

Lack of Weeds
 Observed weed cover 5-10%
 Observed high threat weeds 10% Score 7

Category & Description	"High threat weeds"		
	None	≤ 50%	>50%
> 75% cover of weeds	0	0	0
25-75% cover of weeds	4	2	0
10-25% cover of weeds	7	6	4
5-10% cover of weeds	11	9	7
<5% cover of weeds**	15	13	11

*Proportion of weed cover due to "high threat" weeds

**"High threat" weed species are defined as introduced species (including non-indigenous "natives") that achieve >5% cover in the zone or those weed species listed as high threat weeds in Tasmania

A list of high threat weeds in Tasmania is provided in the TASVEG vegetation Condition Assessment manual

**if total weed cover is negligible (<1%) and high threat weed species are present then score "13"

The Assessor should determine the threat posed by any weed in the zone (present or not)

Understorey Life Forms

Benchmark No. Life forms 9
 Phytophthora cinnamomi symptoms (tick if observed) ☐

LF code from benchmark	# spp. observed/ benchmark # spp.	% cover observed/ benchmark % cover	Present (tick)	Modified (tick)
IT	✓ / n/a	5 / 5	✓	
T	5 / 5	25 / 40	✓	
S	5 / 4	10 / 15	✓	
Total	/	/		
PS	/	/		
H	7 / 6	25 / 25	✓	
G	1 / 1	5 / 25	✓	
LSR	4 / 3	40 / 20	✓	
MSR	/	/		
GF	2 / 2	25 / 10	✓	✓
TF	/	/		
SCE	1 / 1	25 / 25	✓	
ML	✓ / n/a	10 / 5	✓	
SC	/	/		
Total			9	1

Present Life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10% are considered present if any specimens are observed
 Life forms with benchmark cover of < 10% are considered present if the life form occupies at least 10% of benchmark cover

Modified (tick) Life forms with benchmark cover of < 10% are considered substantially modified if the life form has either
 < 50% of benchmark species diversity, or
 no reproductively mature specimens are observed
 Life forms with benchmark cover of ≥ 10% are considered substantially modified if the life form has either
 < 50% of benchmark cover, or
 < 50% of benchmark species diversity

Understorey Summary

Benchmark Life forms present 100% Score 20

Category and Description		
All strata and life forms effectively absent		0
Up to 50% of life forms present		5
>50% to 90% of life forms present	of those present ≥50% substantially modified	10
	of those present, <50% substantially modified	15
>90% of life forms present	of those present, ≥50% substantially modified	15
	of those present, <50% substantially modified	20
	of those present, none substantially modified	25

Vegetation Condition Assessment Form V1.0

FOREST VEGETATION

Species Recruitment

Woody species recorded in habitat zone (5 and taller)	Adequate recruitment
Canopy trees (combined species)	✓
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	✓
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	✓
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	✓
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	✓
<i>Leptospermum laurigerum</i>	✓
<i>Malolucra ericifolia</i>	✓
<i>Malolucra squarrosa</i>	✓
<i>Glennia linearis</i>	✓
<i>Pomadouria apicalis</i>	✓
Total recruiting species	10 / 10

Treat multiple canopy species as a single species.
Adequate recruitment of canopy species requires at least 2 cohorts to be present (seedlings <2m and saplings >2m tall) and where canopy cover is less than benchmark, sufficient recruitment to attain benchmark cover over time.
Adequate recruitment of other woody species requires observed immature individuals to be at least 10% of number of mature individuals for each species.

Organic Litter

Benchmark 80% Observed litter 40% Score 5

Category & Description	Dominated by native organic litter	Dominated by non-native organic litter
<10% of benchmark cover	0	0
<50% of benchmark cover	3	2
>50% of benchmark cover	5	4

Litter is defined as dead organic material detached from the parent plant, including plant debris, fallen leaves and twigs <10cm.

Recruitment

Score 10

Category & Description			High diversity*	Low diversity*
No evidence of a recruitment 'cohort'	within community not driven by episodic events		0	0
	within community driven by episodic events	clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	0	0
		no clear evidence of appropriate episodic event	5	5
Evidence of at least one recruitment cohort in at least one life form	Proportion of native woody species present that have adequate recruitment*	<30%	3	1
		30 - 70%	6	3
		>70%	10	5

*cohort refers to a group of woody plants established in a single episode (can include suppressed canopy species individuals)
*refer to benchmark for clarification
*high diversity defined as >50% of benchmark woody species diversity

Logs

Benchmark log length 40 Observed length 32 Score 5

Category & Description	Large logs present*	Large logs absent*
<10% of benchmark length	0	0
<50% of benchmark length	3	2
>50% of benchmark length	5	4

Large logs defined as those with diameter >1.5 of benchmark's large tree DBH.
* present if large log length is >25% of benchmark log length
* absent if large log length is <25% of benchmark log length

.....Landscape Context Score.....

Patch Size

Patch size >20ha Score 8

Category & Description	
< 2 ha	1
Between 2 and 5 ha	2
Between 5 and 10 ha	4
Between 10 and 20 ha	6
>20 ha, but 'significantly disturbed'	8
>20 ha, but not 'significantly disturbed'	10

The patch is the area of native vegetation continuous with the assessment area (zone), regardless of EVC, condition or land tenure. Includes adjoining wetlands.
*'significantly disturbed' if activities such as grazing, timber harvesting, roading, fuel reduction burning or Phytophthora infestation have occurred. Effectively most patches within fragmented landscapes are significantly disturbed.

FINAL HABITAT SCORE

Component	'Site Condition Score'						'Landscape Context Score'				TOTAL
	Large Trees	Tree Canopy Cover	Lack of Weeds	Understorey Summary	Recruitment	Organic Litter	Logs	Patch Size	Neighbourhood	Distance to Core Area	
Score	7	4	7	20	10	5	5	8	2	4	72

Neighbourhood

Score 2

Radius from site	% Native vegetation*	Weighting	
100 m	20	0.03	0.6
1 km	40	0.04	1.6
5 km	60	0.03	1.8
subtract 2 if the neighbourhood is 'significantly disturbed'			- 2
Add Values and 'round-off'			2

*to nearest 20%
Multiply % native vegetation x weighting for each radius from the zone (eg 40% x 0.03 = 1.2), then add values to obtain final Neighbourhood Value

Distance to Core Area

Score 4

Distance	Core Area not significantly disturbed*	Core Area significantly disturbed*
> 5 km	0	0
1 to 5 km	2	1
< 1 km	4	3
contiguous	5	4

A core area is native vegetation > 50 ha regardless of type, condition or tenure. Includes natural wetlands and lakes, estuaries and rivers.
*'significantly disturbed' see definition under patch size



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