

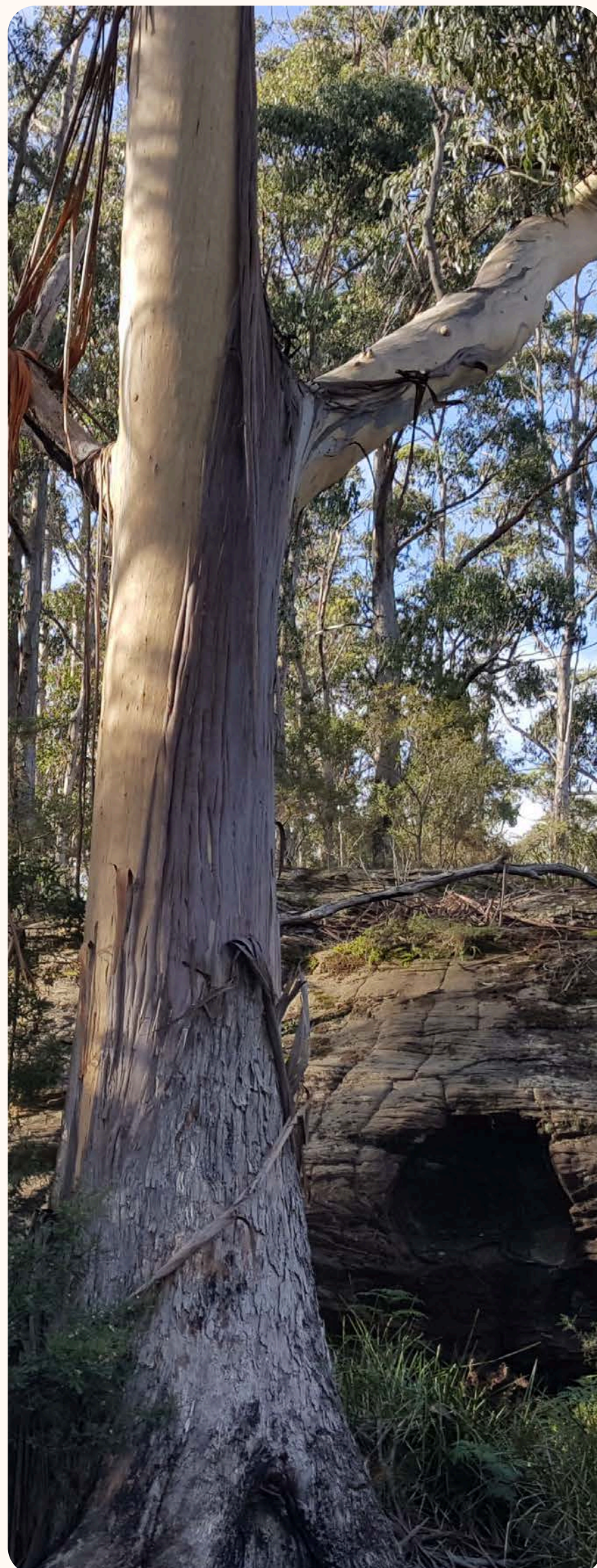
KINGBOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL FUND (KEF)

PROGRESS REPORT 2025 & KEF LANDOWNER REFLECTIONS

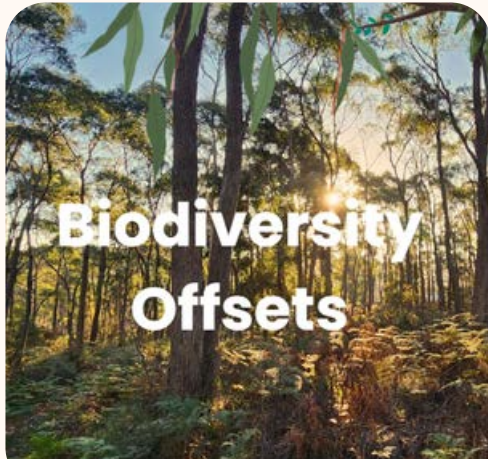


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2025 Snapshot



Biodiversity Offsets

1 An animated video was released in January, aimed at clarifying the process behind biodiversity offsets and the KEF.



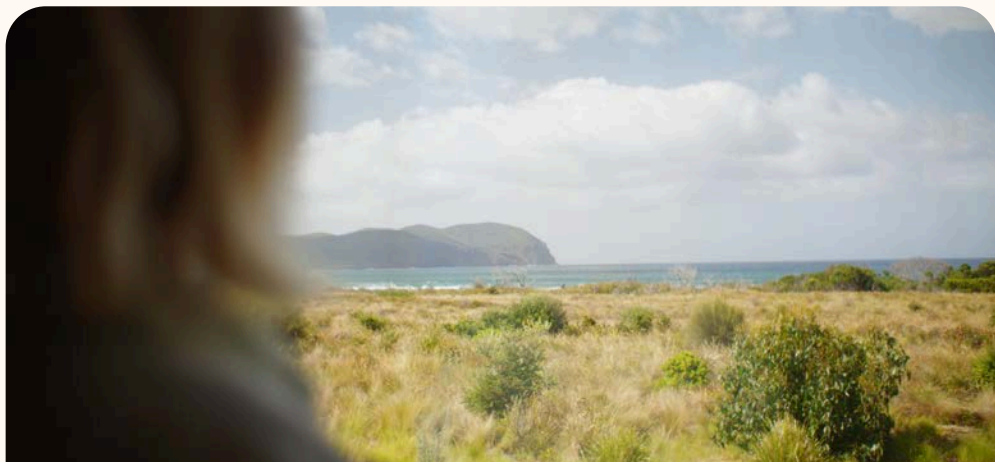
2 A KEF celebration and conservation covenant tour was held at Oyster Cove in April.



3 The KEF Steering Committee met in July to review progress of the program and assess new proposals.



4 A site on North Bruny for the 2026 black peppermint forest and woodland on sandstone revegetation project was confirmed.



5 The Coastal Scrub Revegetation Project was completed in Cloudy Bay, with over 1000 native shrubs planted to restore this bioregionally threatened vegetation community.



6 A new private land reserve at Alonnah protecting critical swift parrot habitat was supported by the Steering Committee.



7 A potential private land reserve on Bruny Island was confirmed as containing critically endangered black gum forest and woodland.



8 Approximately \$64,000 in stewardship funding was implemented across 6 conservation covenants secured under the KEF.

Background

Kingborough Council started using biodiversity offsets in 2003 as an approach to addressing the challenge of balancing development needs whilst conserving biodiversity values. Financial offsets, which are the last step in the offsetting hierarchy, are held by Council in the Kingborough Environmental Fund (KEF), which enables pooled contributions to grow to a level that allows a more strategic application of the funds. Council formalised its approach to offsetting in 2010 by endorsing the Biodiversity Offset Policy (Policy 6.10).

The income stream of the KEF to date has been derived from offsets related to development applications through the planning scheme and loss of high conservation trees on private land previously regulated through the *Health and Environmental Services By-law 3 of 2011*.

A project manager was employed in 2018 to implement projects under the KEF, with the second iteration of the KEF Implementation Plan being endorsed by Council in February 2023. A steering committee of experts in the field of conservation meets as required to provide leadership, technical assistance, and advice for the expenditure of the accumulated offset funds.

The creation of the KEF resulted in over \$760,000 being invested in conservation and land management in Kingborough, the majority of which is being invested in permanent nature reserves on private land.

“It's great to see that offset funding is actually being used appropriately...”

*Christine
Participating Landowner*



Steering Committee

Role Summary

To guide projects, review and monitor proposals, provide strategic advice, foster respectful collaboration, and promote the Fund's achievements.

Chair

Liz Quinn; Manager Environmental Services, Kingborough Council

Committee

Rachel Brown; PLCP Program and Projects Manager; NRE Tasmania

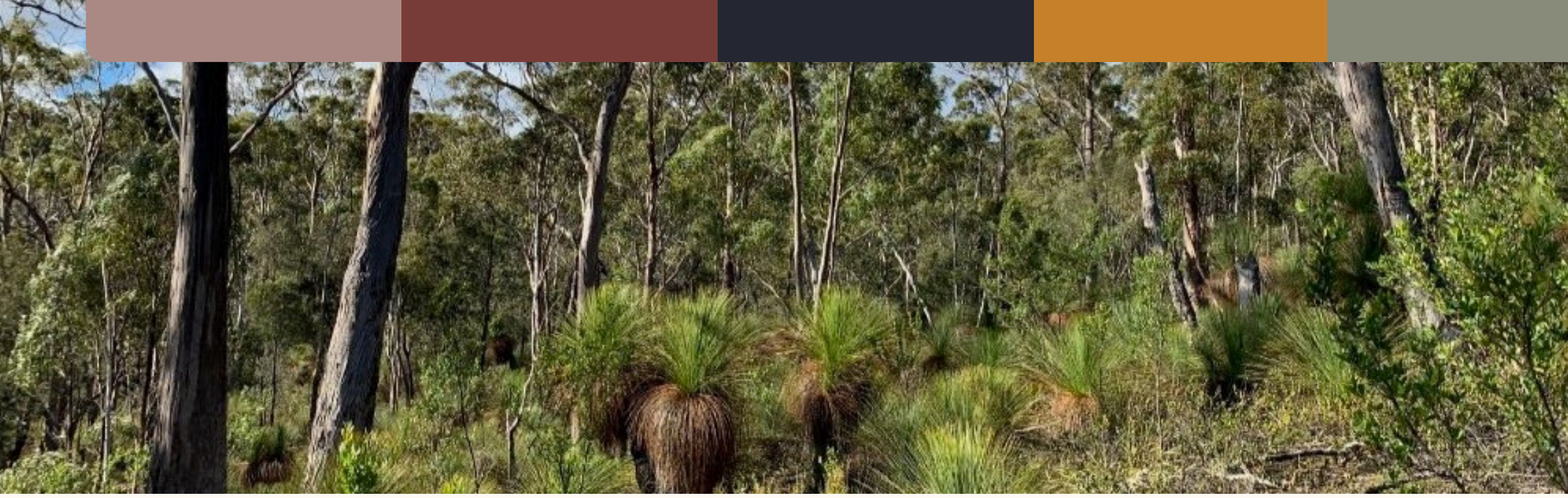
Sally Bryant; Chair; Forty-spotted Pardalote Recovery Team

Tonia Cochran; Managing Director, Inala-Bruny Island

Nikki denExter; Coordinator Environmental Planning, Kingborough Council

Todd Nation; Executive Director Strategy and Business; NRM South

Nicole Sheriff; Conservation Programs Manager, Tasmanian Land Conservancy



Message from the Chair

Across Kingborough, the Environmental Fund continues to deliver meaningful projects that offset the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat resulting from development.

Through the Fund, Council continues to demonstrate environmental stewardship by carefully balancing the community’s need for new infrastructure with our shared responsibility to protect the biodiversity that sustains us. As David Attenborough reminds us, we must “cherish the natural world, because you’re a part of it and you depend on it.” Holding these truths together is a wicked problem, and one that rightly invites ongoing, thoughtful debate and action.

This year the Fund has celebrated the power of collaboration and the meaningful contributions of the people that form the foundation of the KEF. An enduring offset site depends on the willingness and capacity of the landowner. The KEF is shaped by people who care for Country, who feel a deep connection to place, and who are committed to leaving the land in better condition for those who will follow. I hope you enjoy their stories in this report and the soon to be released film. I want to personally thank the expert guidance and passion we receive from the Steering Committee members who have shaped the KEF and ensured its success.

We are 60% through the KEF Implementation Plan and well placed to achieve the 12 conservation targets by 2027. The Steering Committee is turning its mind to the future of the KEF beyond the current Implementation Plan to ensure the investments are enduring and our community can continue to benefit from the work of the Fund.

Liz Quinn



Message from the CEO



Spending time on KEF sites and speaking directly with participating landowners has been one of the most meaningful parts of my engagement with the program. Seeing first-hand the care, commitment and long-term stewardship that landowners bring to their properties has reinforced the real value of the Kingborough Environmental Fund. I am proud of what has been achieved to date and encouraged by how the program is supporting the biodiversity of Kingborough for the future.

Dave Stewart



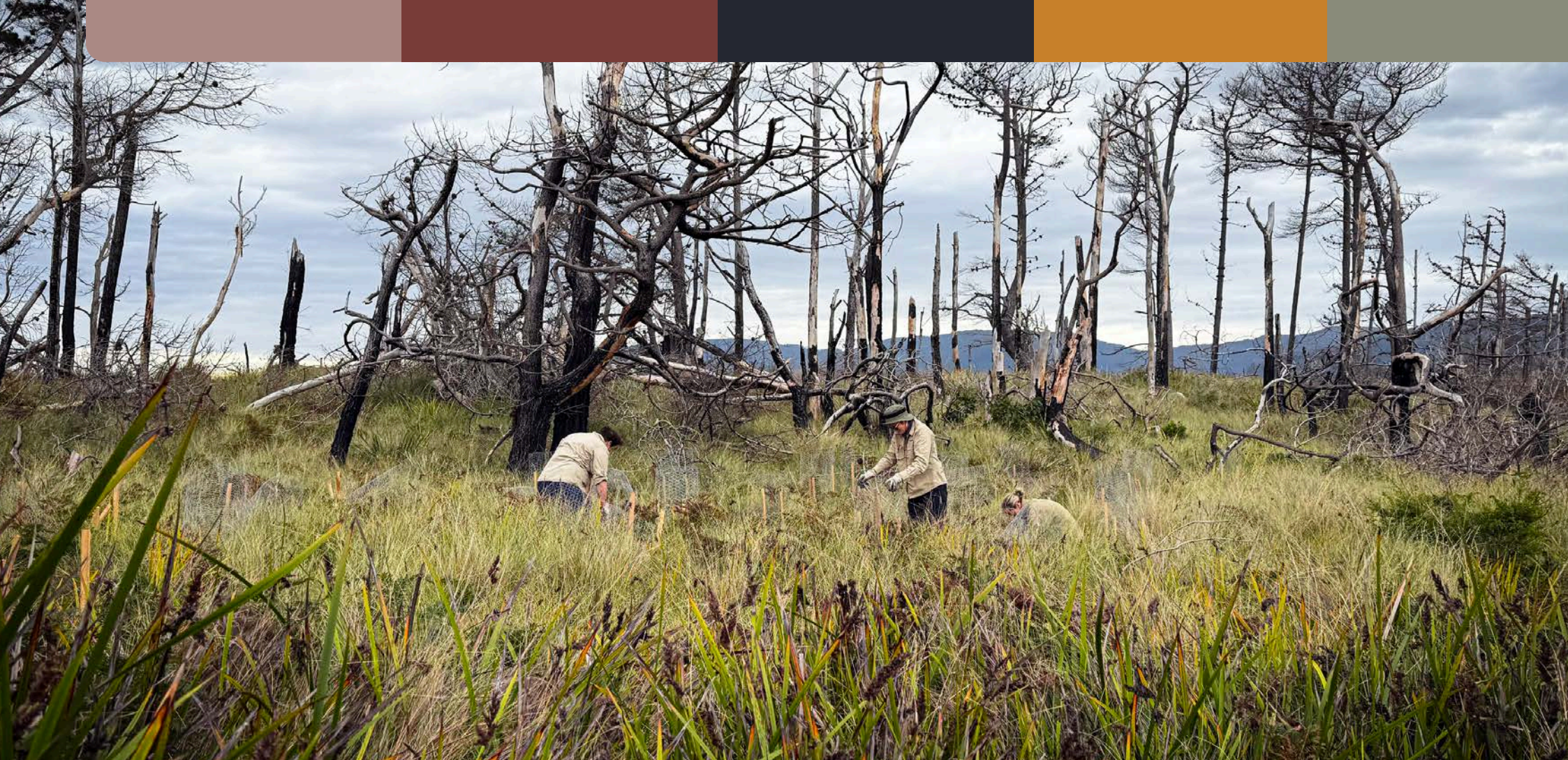
Engagement and Governance

In early 2025 Council released an animated video aimed at helping demystify the process behind biodiversity offsets. The animation takes viewers on a journey from environmental impact through to how KEF expenditure is directed. To date it has received 120 views on Council's website and 1532 views on social media.

To celebrate the first round of KEF conservation covenants, and the stewardship that has been undertaken since they were protected, Council held a covenant tour in April. The event was attended by Councillors, Council staff, steering committee members and participating landowners, and showcased the direct positive impacts that the KEF is having on these properties.

A steering committee meeting was held in July. The committee was updated on the progress of existing projects and stewardship, supported two project proposals and discussed the future of the KEF.



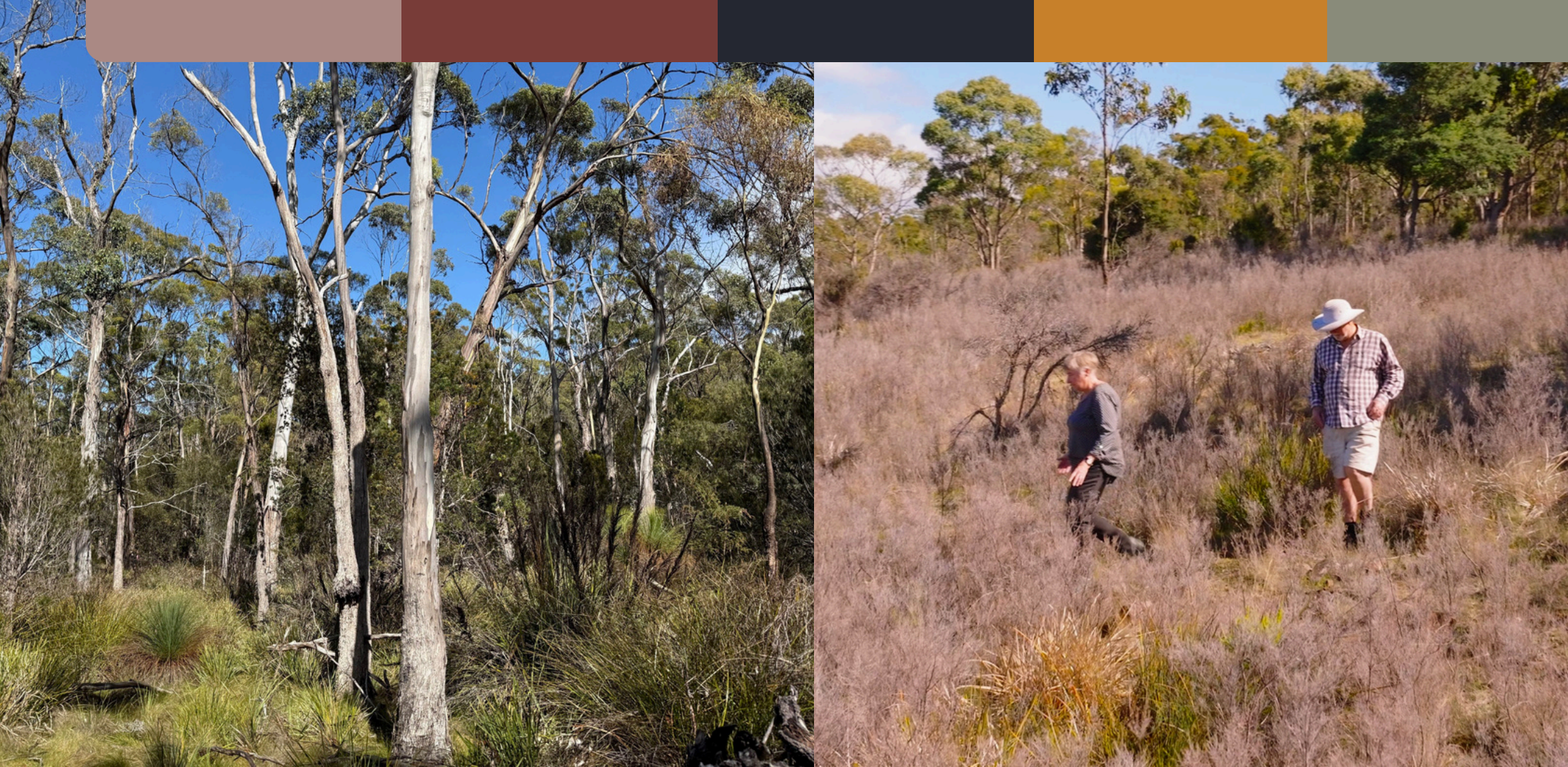


Revegetation

The Coastal Scrub Revegetation Project was completed at Cloudy Bay over the winter months. The project saw approximately 1100 endemic shrubs planted in an area that had been previously impacted by grazing, radiata pines and bushfire. The project helped restore Coastal Scrub, which is considered a threatened vegetation community in the Southern Ranges Bioregion and would have once occurred naturally in this area.

A site for the 2026 black peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) forest and woodland on sandstone Revegetation Project was confirmed for a property at Killora on Bruny Island. The project will involve 1 hectare of revegetation with 2200 trees and shrubs representative of this threatened vegetation community.





Private Land Reserves

A proposal for a private land reserve at Alonnah was approved by the steering committee for progressing through the State Government reserve application process. The reserve which is over 30 hectares in size will target priority swift parrot foraging and breeding habitat. The draft conservation covenant and Part 5 Agreement documents have been completed and will be submitted in the first half of 2026.

The creation of a new reserve at Great Bay on Bruny Island targeting critically endangered Black gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) forest and woodland is being considered. This reserve will protect approximately 4.4 hectares of this valuable vegetation community along with approximately 1 hectare of forty-spotted pardalote habitat.

Stewardship of the six conservation covenants secured in the first round of KEF reserves continued with approximately \$64,000 spent in 2025. A large focus of stewardship in 2025 was on the continued management of a large infestation of Spanish heath at a covenant in Oyster Cove. Other activities completed included white gum planting at Oyster Cove, fencing at Killora, and general weed control across all reserves.



KEF Implementation Plan 2023-27 Progress

Threatened Species and Vegetation Communities: Recovery Actions

PROJECT	LOCATION	STATUS
<i>Allocasuarina duncanii</i> planting	Longley	Completed
Coastal Scrub revegetation project	Cloudy Bay	Completed
<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i> forest and woodland on sandstone revegetation project	Killora	To be completed Winter 2026
<i>Lepidosperma tortuosum</i> propagation / seed collection	TBC	To be completed

All three revegetation projects in the current Implementation Plan will have been completed by the end of the 2025-26 financial year.

Over the course of the implementation of the KEF, 8 separate revegetation projects covering a total of 7.9 hectares have been completed.

Private land conservation targets are continually growing in response to financial offsets received into the KEF.

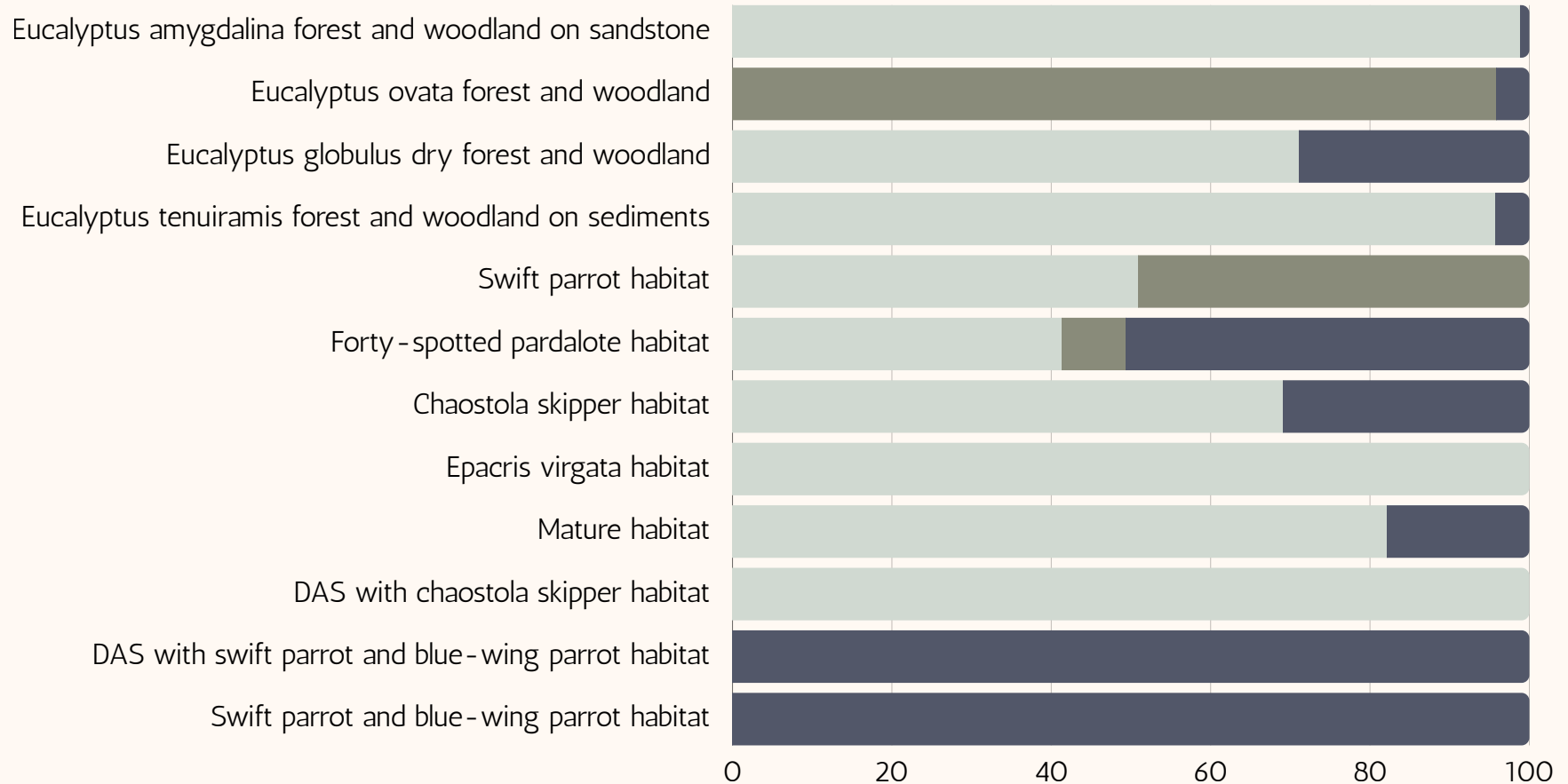
The current remaining target for swift habitat (17.93 ha) will be met by the in-progress private land reserve in Alonnah.

96% of the current target for Black gum forest and woodland (4.59 ha) would be met by a potential private land reserve in Great Bay.

Early discussions are underway with landowners on Bruny Island around private land reserves that will meet most of the remaining targets.

Private Land Conservation Targets

● % Achieved ● % In Progress ● % Remaining

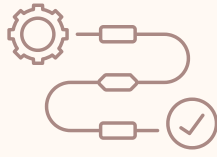


2025/26 Financial Snapshot



\$646,086

Financial Year Opening Balance



\$85,027

Projected Income (5 year Average)



\$105,000

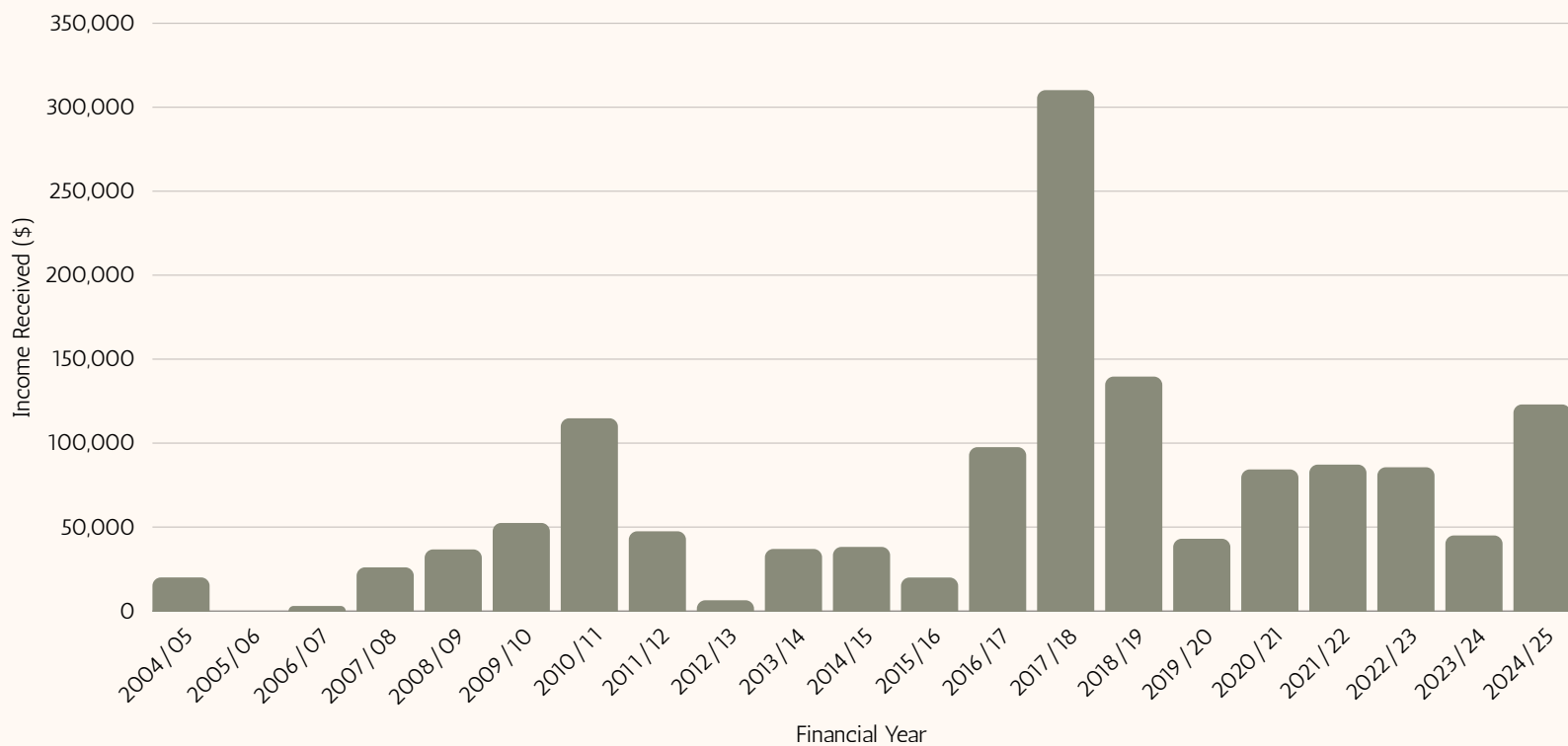
Projected Expenditure



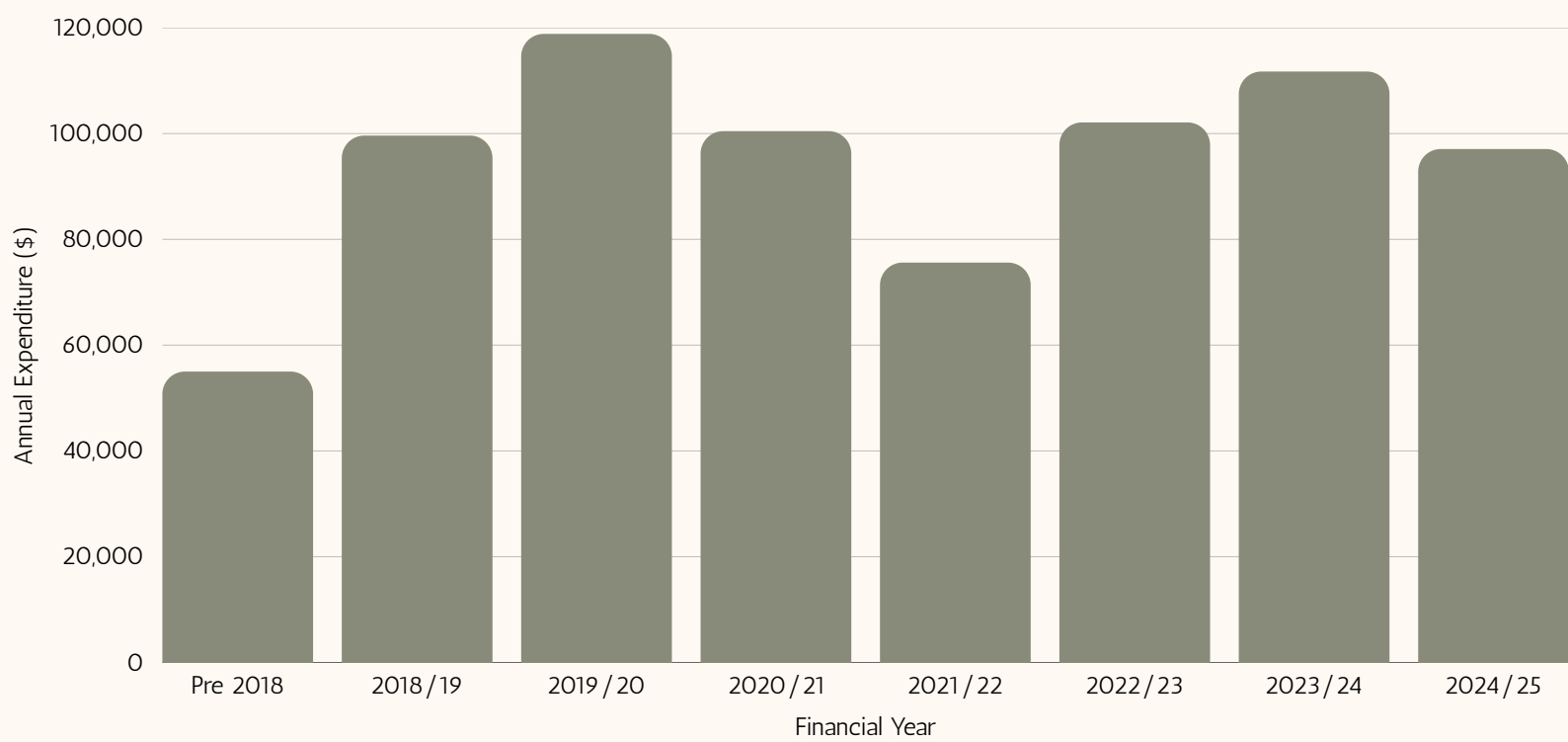
\$68,200

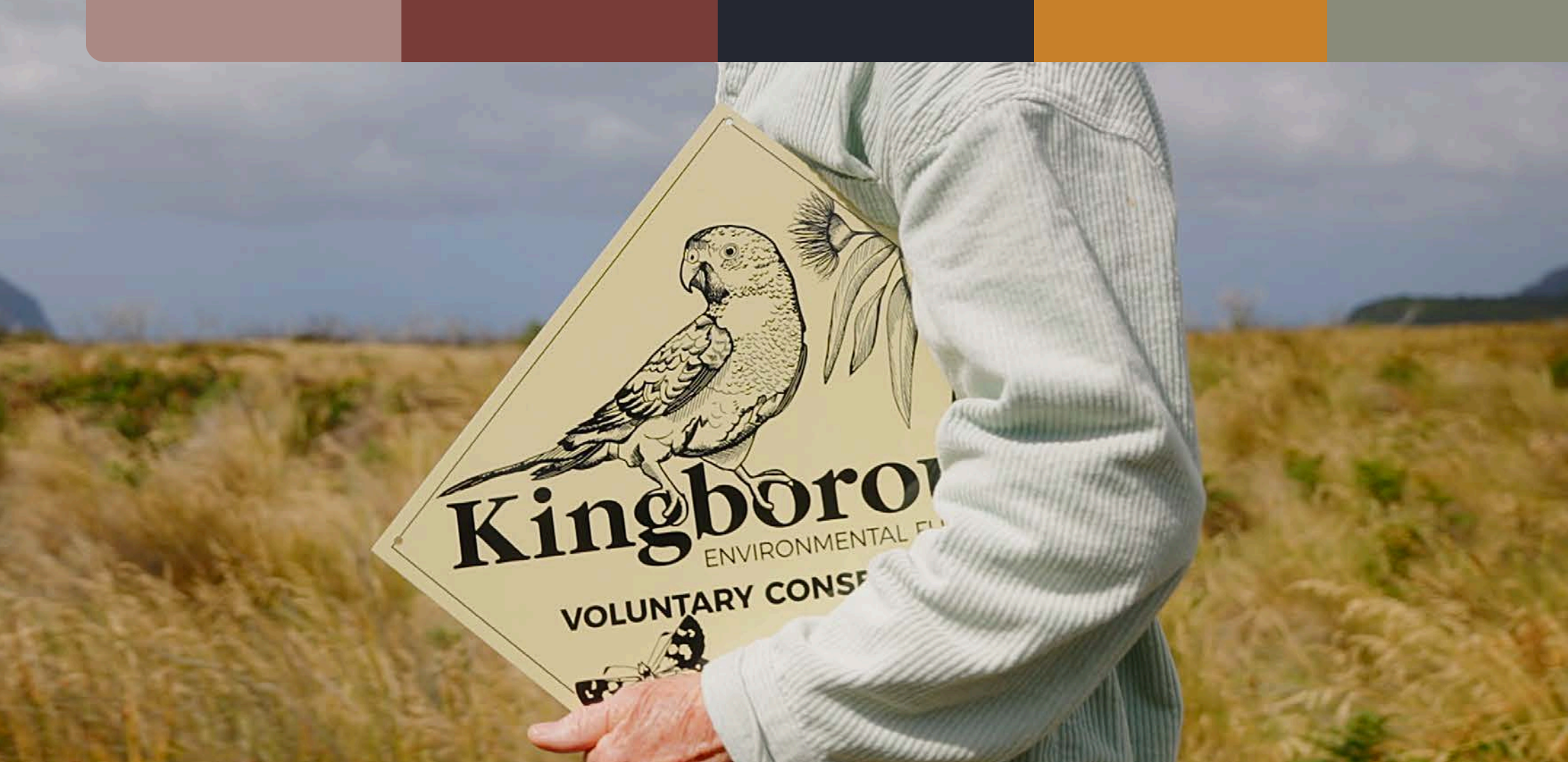
Allocated Stewardship Funds

KEF Financial Contributions Received



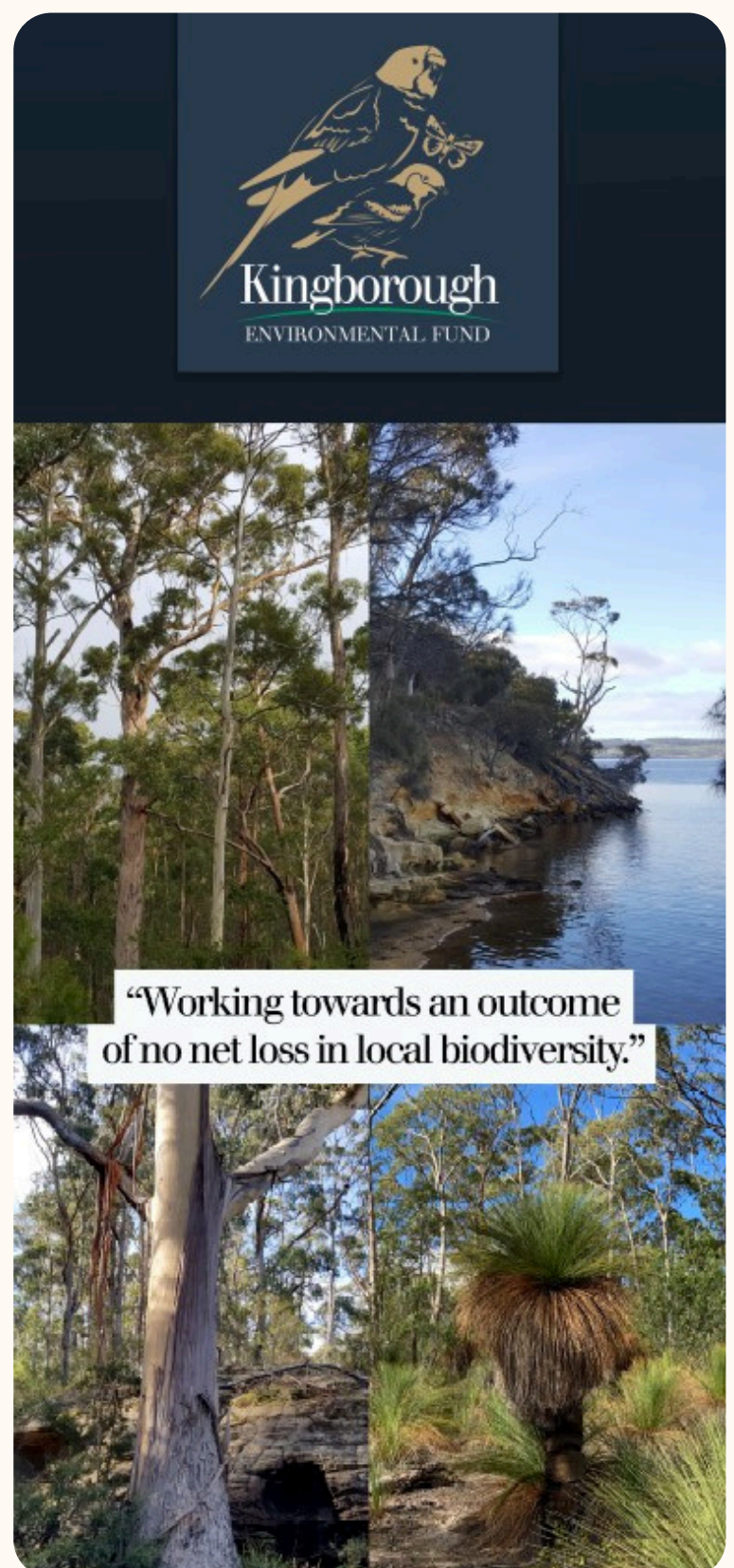
KEF Annual Expenditure





Future of the Fund

- The 5 year stewardship period is approaching its end-point for the conservation covenants secured in the first round under the KEF.
- New private land reserve targets for black peppermint forest, swift parrot habitat and blue-wing parrot habitat have been created in response to recently received financial contributions.
- There is potential for the majority of current private land reserve targets to be met through the creation of 2-3 new reserves on Bruny Island, and discussions are in the early stages.
- As of the 25-26 financial year, the interest that is earned on the financial contributions held in the Fund will be credited back to the fund at the end of each financial year.
- The KEF is investigating use of unallocated funds from the first round of conservation covenants and interest gained by the KEF to resource a landowner support program for residents with onsite offsets.
- A short film presenting the experiences of the landowners that have been involved in the KEF will be released in the first half of 2026.
- The Kingborough Implementation Plan 2028-2032 will be drafted next year in preparation for Council endorsement.





Landowner Involvement in the KEF

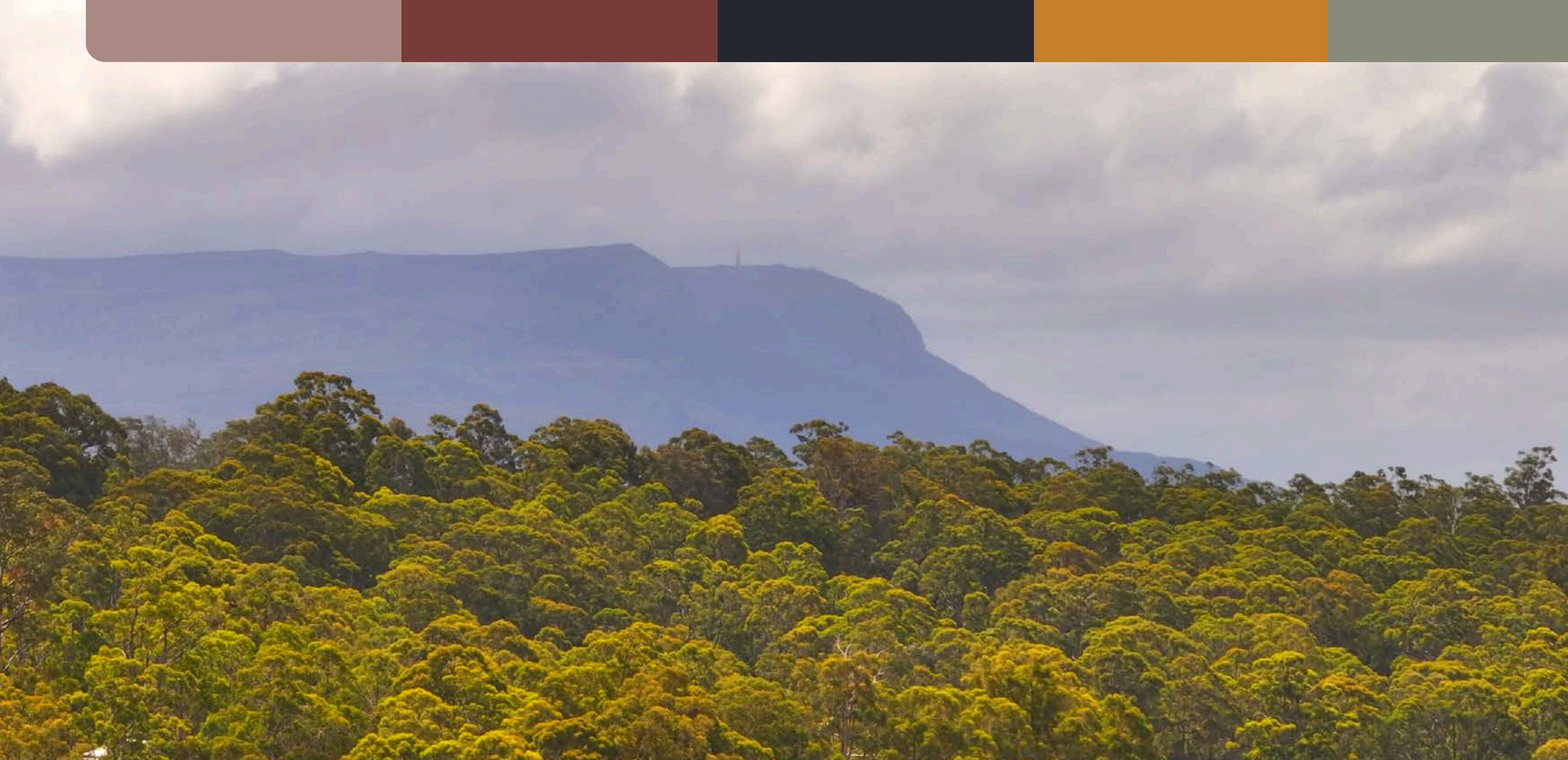
The creation of new conservation reserves on private land is the most important delivery stream of the KEF.

Over 40% of Tasmania's remaining native forest is unprotected on privately owned land, and the preservation of these areas is vital to the survival of many of our threatened species and vegetation communities.

Many landowners want to ensure their patch of bush is protected for future generations, however conservation covenants are currently only permitted through established programs such as the KEF.

The KEF is providing landowners the opportunity to undertake meaningful conservation on their properties, as part of a targeted and strategic program that actively supports the participating landowners.





Landowner Reflections - Louise



Oyster Cove



50.7 ha

Biodiversity Values Protected

Black peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) forest and woodland on sandstone; blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) dry forest and woodland; silver peppermint (*Eucalyptus tenuiramis*) forest and woodland on sediments; swift parrot habitat; forty-spotted pardalote habitat; pretty heath (*Epacris virgata*) habitat.

Stewardship Actions

Fencing, radiata pine removal; weed control; revegetation.

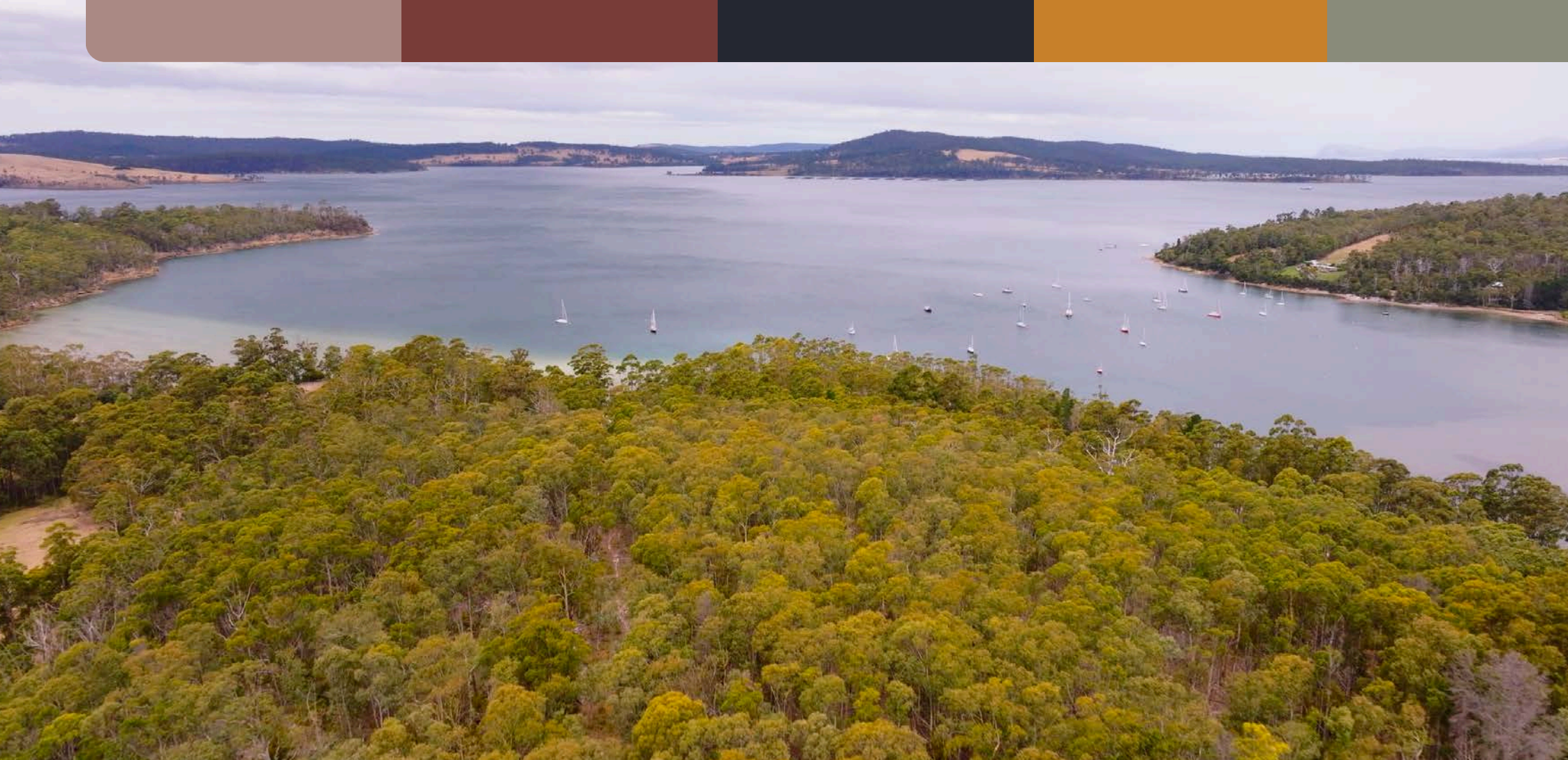


"I live on a lovely property at Oyster Cove, which was a family property. The original part of it was owned by my grandfather. And now I find myself looking after it, a custodian of this property.

"I really wanted to set my land aside as a private reserve because I wanted to look after it. And when I found out that I could be supported to do that through the Kingborough Environmental Fund, I was absolutely delighted that I wasn't alone in looking after the property.

"I was absolutely delighted when I realised that I wasn't alone in looking after the property."

- Louise



Landowner Reflections - Louise...cont

“I also valued the financial incentives because I had a lot of outgoings on the property. I was facing the possibility of not being able to look after it anymore, not being able to stay on it. The exemptions from land tax and reductions in rates and funding for fencing and plantings, were significant reasons for protecting it under the scheme.

“I knew I loved the bush, but I didn't actually realise what environmental values were on my property until this process. And I was really delighted when I found out what they were.

“My hopes for the property is that it will continue to be protected. And that very little will change actually. And when I say protected, I think that means to me, leaving it alone to do its own thing where that's possible, which it's very good at.

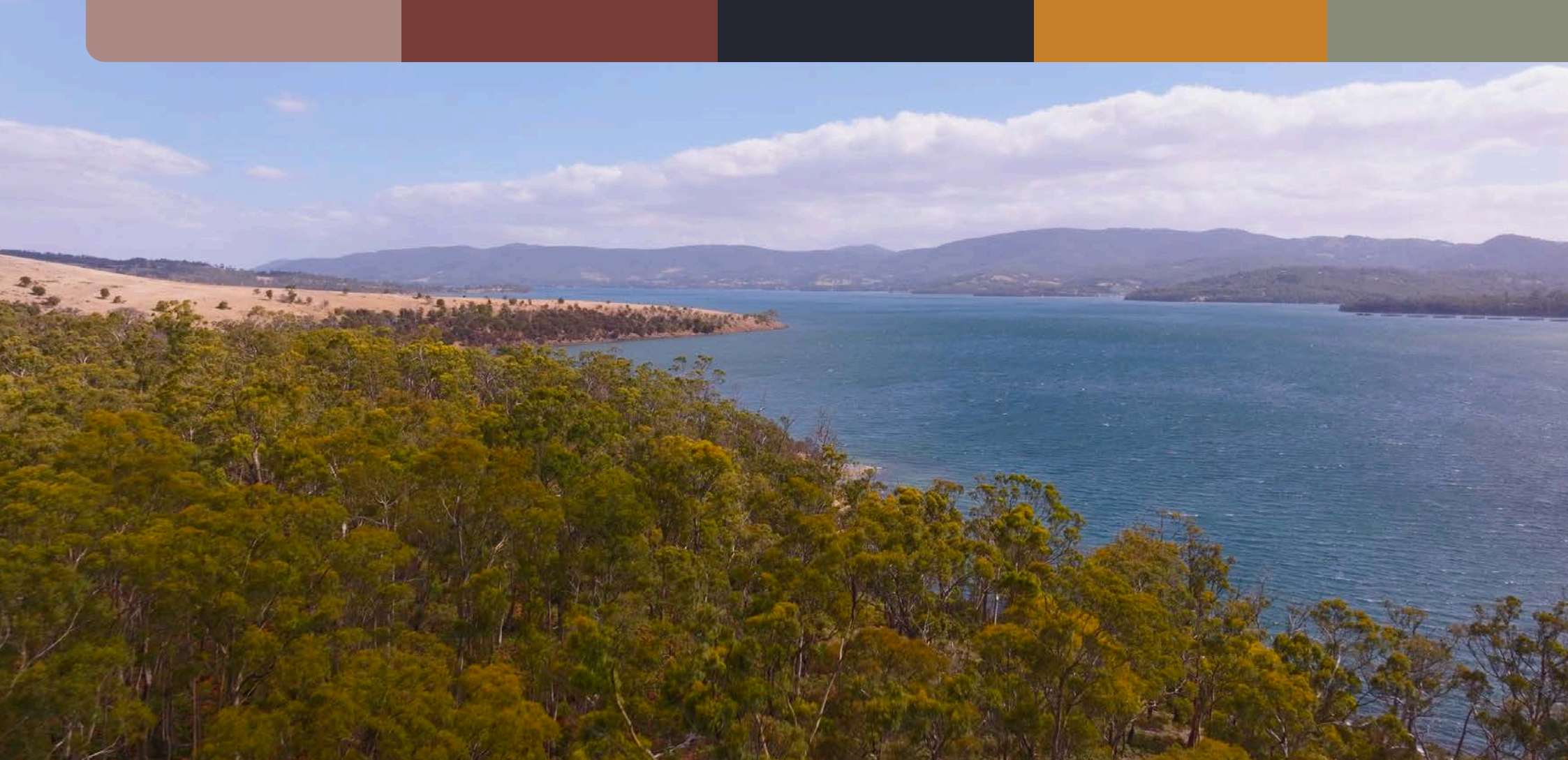
“And I think with all the talk of damage to the environment, climate change and loss of biodiversity and habitat, just in a small way, I feel that this is actually a positive action that I can take. Which makes me feel pretty good.

“My father really prioritised the property over many other things in his life. He loved it and I think he'd be very pleased to see it now.”

“I knew I loved the bush, but I didn't actually realise what environmental values were on my property until this process.”

- Louise





Landowner Reflections - **Suzie**



Killora



18 ha

Biodiversity Values Protected

Black peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) forest and woodland on sandstone; forty-spotted pardalote habitat

Stewardship Actions

Radiata pine removal, fencing, weed control, revegetation.

“My name's Suzie and I own a property in Killora. Bruny Island's always been a very special place to me and it feels like coming home every time I come here.

“I was motivated to join the Kingborough Environmental Fund program through a responsibility to the land, by a real need to make sure that I left it better than when I had actually got it.

“Councils are known generally for rates, roads and rubbish. Things like the Kingborough Environmental Fund are not seen as being logically their responsibility. But in much the same way as I was entrusted, I think Councils have trust placed upon them to do what they can to ensure that their community and the land is made better for the future as well.



“I was motivated to join the Kingborough Environmental Fund program through a responsibility to the land...”

- Suzie



Landowner Reflections - **Suzie**...cont

“Working with Council, I felt supported through the whole process. And I also thought that we were in partnership, that we were doing things together. It wasn't any form of coercion or pressure. It was just an enjoyable opportunity to talk about the things that matter.

“I've talked to people who are being a bit dubious about, oh, you've given your land away. And I keep on saying, no, no, no, it's just all good. I don't see anything bad about what I'm doing.

“There was a moment in this whole process, and it had been after a few dark days where I thought I didn't really know what I was doing and whether I'd made a mistake. But I came down to the property and so many of the pine trees had been removed. I walked into the house, and I opened up the blinds in the lounge room window. And where once it was surrounded and canopied by the pine trees, there was suddenly so much light. And I could see the gum trees below, and the water, and light was coming in, and it just felt like it was right. The light had been brought back to the property.”

“The light had been brought back to the property.”

- Suzie





Landowner Reflections - Martin & Suzanne



Oyster
Cove



142 ha

Biodiversity Values Protected

Black peppermint forest (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) forest and woodland on sandstone; blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) dry forest and woodland; swift parrot habitat; forty-spotted pardalote habitat.

Stewardship Actions

Spanish heath control, fencing.

“We are Martin and Suzanne and we've been in Oyster Cove for about 50 years, and here at on this property for 33 years. When we first visited the property we couldn't believe it, and every day we still cannot believe it because it has so many aspects that just are wonderful.

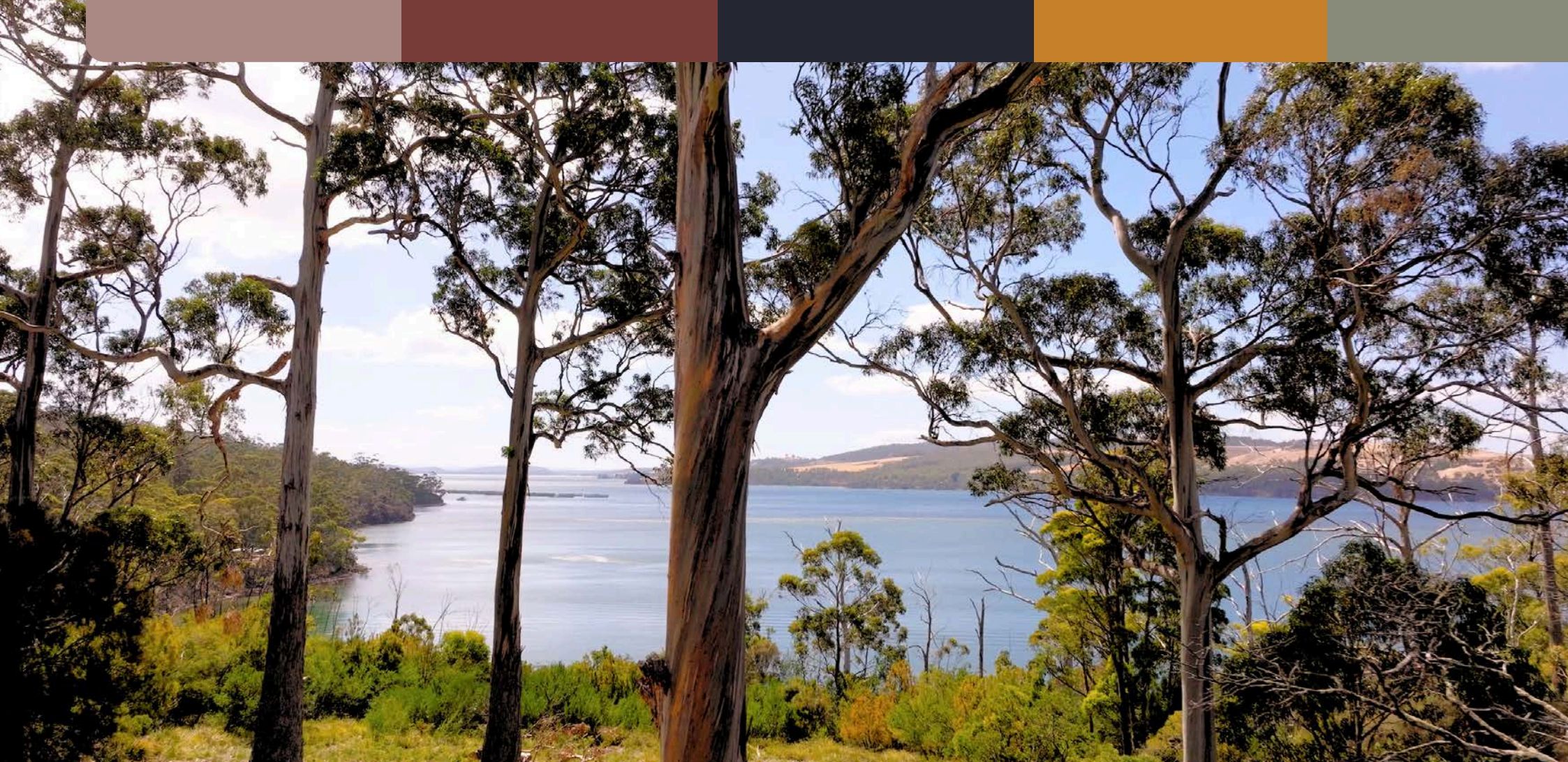
“Being part of the Kingborough Environmental Fund made us realise that the Council is interested in the environment and not just roads and sewerage and the tip. This program has brought in expertise and support to undertake a project that would otherwise be too big for us.

“The changes we have seen have been incredible. Spanish heath was one of our major problems. Since a large area of it has been eradicated it's allowed native grasses such as Poa and some other little native flowering plants to regenerate and that's very gratifying for us.



“... it makes us realise that the Council is interested in the environment and not just roads and sewerage and the tip.”

- Martin & Suzanne



Landowner Reflections - **Martin & Suzanne**...cont

“There's an awful lot of land in Kingborough that I think needs protecting and this is the sort of approach that's needed. We would certainly recommend this process because it's got an excellent outcome and it's been an interesting process. Its been educational for us too, learning more about the trees and the plants and the wildlife on our property.

“I think council needs to put more resources into these teams of people and their expertise. It's a very important program. Kingborough is a wonderful area and it has to be managed extremely carefully otherwise it'll end up with it like every other area, too urbanised.

“The world needs places like this looked after for the future, it's not all about development and cement, it's about preserving the environment because without the environment we humans haven't got a lot left.

“I hope that after we're gone it's still the beautiful place that it is. I hope that people have the chance to experience it. That the animals have a chance to live here and hopefully long after we're gone it will be as beautiful as it is now.”

“The world needs places like this looked after for the future, it's not all about development and cement...”

-Martin & Suzanne





Landowner Reflections - Christine



Cloudy Bay



3.5 ha

Biodiversity Values Protected

Coastal Scrub

Stewardship Actions

Revegetation

“My name is Christine and I own 64 acres of land at Cloudy Bay in a beautiful spot between the lagoon and the ocean. We’ve owned this property for 36-37 years, and we bought it at a time when people said we were absolutely crazy for buying land at the bottom end of the earth. We’ve had many wonderful times here with family and friends.”

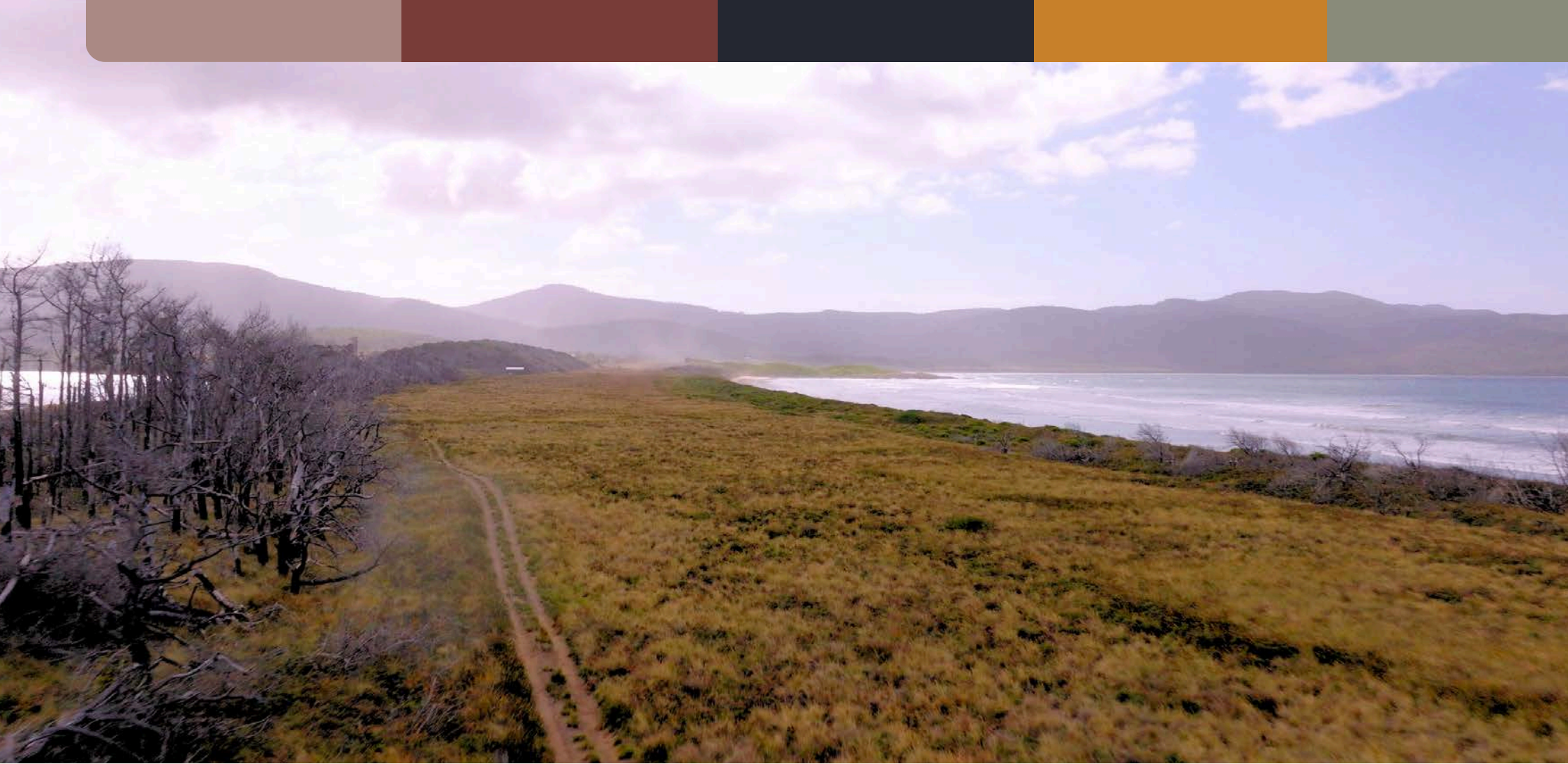
“I was interested in being part of this project because a bushfire seven years ago wiped out the whole area, and it provided the opportunity to try and return the pine forest back to native vegetation. Being able to plant all these coastal shrubs with the help of the Kingborough Environmental Fund was fantastic.”

“The planting area is about 200 meters long and it’s along where the pine trees have died so it’s an excellent opportunity to replant with a wide diversity of coastal shrubs.”



“Being able to plant all these coastal shrubs with the help of the Kingborough Environmental Fund was fantastic.”

- Christine



Landowner Reflections - **Christine**...cont

“The plantings are the shrubs that would have originally been there. Because of the pine plantation and then grazing, mainly with cattle, quite a lot of damage was done to the place, and so this is very much an opportunity to return it back to its native vegetation with a high level of biodiversity.”

“I was really impressed when Council came and collected seeds to be able to develop local provenance seedlings to plant here and I was also very impressed with the way that the staff from Kingborough Council came and helped plant all the seedlings. It was very efficient operation.”

“I go and check some of the seedlings every month or two. I've been amazed at how many have survived. The Banksia have been exceptional. Others have been slower to get going.”

“It's great to see that offset funding is actually being used appropriately and hopefully it will lead to increased native vegetation on my property. Into the future I would love to see all the pine trees gone and the property returned to the native vegetation.”

“I was really impressed when Council came and collected seeds to be able to develop local provenance seedlings...”

-Christine

