

Environmental Management Plan

For 230 Apollo Bay Rd, Apollo Bay



July 2020 (v1.0)

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1. Scope

This *Environmental Management Plan* (EMP) for a 4400m² land parcel at Apollo Bay Road, Apollo Bay, has been developed to satisfy the Performance Criteria for residential development (14.4.5) in the Environmental Living Zone under the *Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015* (KIPS). Under the KIPS, the objective of 14.4.5 Environmental Values is “To ensure development maintains and enhances environmental values”.

A Waterway and Coastal Protection Area applies in the northwest corner of the land because of adjacency to the coastline. The entire property is within a Biodiversity Protection Area.

This EMP pertains to the entire title, Volume 8120 Folio 1 (Figure 1). The plan includes management prescriptions for native vegetation and the management of the property so far as to prevent any impacts on the native vegetation and fauna habitat (such as weed invasion).

The site was surveyed in July 2020, with vegetation communities mapped and flora and fauna values assessed. Weed species on the site were also identified and mapped for management purposes.

2. NATURE CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE SITE

2.1 Vegetation Communities

The site contains one native vegetation community and one non-native vegetation community as per the TASVEG 3.0 vegetation classification system. The conservation status of the native community is summarised in Table 1 and the distribution indicated in Figure 1.

Table 1 – Summary of native vegetation communities occurring on the site and conservation status

VEGETATION COMMUNITY	TASVEG CODE (v3)	STATEWIDE STATUS*	BIODIVERSITY VALUE UNDER E10.1 (KIPS)
<i>Eucalyptus pulchella</i> dry forest and woodland	DPU	Not threatened	Moderate Priority – due to potential threatened fauna habitat (swift parrot and other species)

* as per Schedule 3A of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

Eucalyptus pulchella dry forest (DPU) occupies around one third of the property. Beyond the property, this forest community continues to the east as an extensive patch of forest.

This DPU community is dominated by white peppermint (*E. pulchella*) with black gum (*E. ovata*) subdominant or locally dominant. The canopy trees are multi-aged. The understorey is mostly open, with few shrubs and a dense groundcover of large sedges (*Lepidosperma laterale* and *Lomandra longifolia*). Shrubs mostly occur near the eastern boundary, where native species such as blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) have been planted.

The native vegetation on the site is in good condition, albeit somewhat fragmented by clearing and neighbouring roads. The DPU forest contains mixed aged trees with an intact understorey, few weeds and provides a range of fauna habitat, although fallen logs are rare and old growth trees are absent.

The remainder of the property has been mapped as urban (FUR) because it contains a dwelling and modified vegetation. Despite the disturbance history, this area contains many native trees including white peppermint, black gum and white gum (*E. viminalis*). Much of the previously cleared land in the centre and northwest of the property has been revegetated with native species such as tussock grass (*Poa labillardierei*) and sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*).

2.2 Significant Flora

No threatened flora species listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* were recorded during the survey or are mapped on the property in the Natural Values Atlas.

2.3 Significant Fauna habitat

The property provides habitat suitable for a range of native fauna species. The site contains several moderate sized black gums which provide potential foraging habitat for the critically endangered swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). Two white gums are potential habitat for the forty-spotted pardalote, although being isolated trees (one immature) they are less likely to be utilised than white gums which occur in more extensive stands.

Threatened mammals including the eastern barred bandicoot and eastern quoll are likely to utilise the site for foraging. Dense sedgey understorey in the forest is suitable nesting or shelter habitat for bandicoots.

There is also suitable habitat for many common mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. The small dam in the eastern corner and the drainage line along the northern boundary of the property provides habitat for frogs.

2.4 Introduced species

There are few introduced plant species on the property. One declared weed species (listed under the *Weed Management Act 2002*) was recorded: spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*). This is the only environmental weed present. Spanish heath occurs as seedlings at a low density in the gully in the north of the property (Figure 1) following weed control and revegetation works by the present landowners.

A single rosemary grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*) growing on the adjacent property on the fenceline poses a weed risk. This mainland species can be invasive in Tasmanian bushland.

Australian mainland native species on the property, such as *Hakea laurina* and *Melaleuca* spp., are confined to plantings near the existing dwelling and are unlikely to be a weed risk.

3. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE SITE

The following objectives apply to the management of native vegetation across the site:

- Protection and conservation of the natural systems and features including the diversity of species, habitats, and communities;
- Protection and maintenance of foraging habitat for the swift parrot, forty-spotted pardalote, Tasmanian devil, eastern quoll, eastern barred bandicoot (this applies to native trees across the property, not only in intact forest);
- To maintain the structure of the forest and allow for regeneration of native species under the proposed management regime;
- Protection of the native vegetation from damage by introduced plants and animals, disease, and inappropriate management regimes, including frequent burning;
- To eradicate or control weeds and feral animals and prevent any further introduction(s) of exotic species.



Figure 1 – Vegetation communities and weed locations.

4. MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Clearing of Vegetation

No clearing of native vegetation (including shrubs and other understorey species) is to occur outside the development area (including the bushfire HMA) on the property unless it is of an approved nature, such as:

- i) for emergency bushfire requirements such as fire breaks and backburning operations as directed by Tasmania Fire Service (see 4.6 Fire);
- ii) part of weed eradication efforts (see 4.4 Weed Control);
- iii) for boundary fence maintenance and construction (See 4.3 Fencing).

Vegetation cleared during the process of 'approved clearing' operations (such as shrubs, branches, trunks etc.) may be removed from, and used external to the intact vegetation.

4.2 Domestic Firewood

Firewood collecting is not permitted because there is insufficient fallen timber and standing trees to sustainably harvest. Naturally fallen timber is not to be used for firewood.

4.3 Fencing

There is an existing mesh fence on the southern property boundary.

Boundary fences can be installed or maintained with vegetation within 2 m either side (within the property) permitted to be cleared.

In the event of the construction or maintenance of fences no removal of high conservation value trees, as defined under the Kingborough planning scheme, is permitted unless authorised by the General Manager.

4.4 Weed Control

One declared weed species was recorded on the property. This infestation is to be controlled and monitored as per Table 2.

The site is to be monitored for the emergence of any declared or environmental weeds and any new infestations are to be treated to prevent their establishment. This applies particularly to spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*), which may have a soil seed bank present.

The following broad actions are required to be undertaken:

- The owner must undertake weed management actions as per Table 2.
- Only approved herbicides that are recommended for the control of a target species are to be applied. The owner will apply and dispose of herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Any plant debris that contains seeds should be piled and burnt (subject to required permits) or bagged up and disposed of at an approved waste management facility.
- Soil from the vicinity of Spanish heath plants is not to be removed from the location because it likely contains large numbers of seeds.

4.5 Herbicides, other chemicals and fertilisers

No fertilisers are to be applied within the native vegetation on the land.

No chemicals or herbicides are to be applied within the native vegetation unless it is for weed control.

Fertilisers, herbicides and chemicals may be applied as per label instructions for normal management of the development area (dwelling and surrounding managed land).

4.6 Fire

Fire(s) will be excluded from the native vegetation within the land unless:

- required by the Tasmania Fire Service for fire hazard reduction;
- for ecological purposes (e.g. the maintenance of biodiversity) in accordance with the advice from a qualified fire ecologist; or
- when uncontrolled bushfire cannot be prevented from passing through the site.

4.7 Introduction of non-native flora or fauna

No flora and/or fauna species that are not indigenous to Bruny Island are to be deliberately introduced into the native vegetation unless approved by the General Manager (for example, as part of a rehabilitation, restoration or translocation strategy); and

Dogs are permitted on the property provided they are contained within the non-native vegetation. Dog walking is permitted within the native forest area provided dogs are 'under effective control' at all times.

4.8 Construction Activities

Construction of any future dwelling and access will avoid damage or destruction of high conservation value native trees on the site:

- by establishing temporary fencing around any such trees that occur within the bushfire hazard management zone or within 5 m of any proposed access road centreline;
- unless authorised by the General Manager.

Construction activities will avoid introducing weeds or diseases to the site by:

- following machinery hygiene measures prior to entering or leaving the site in accordance with the Tasmanian Washdown Guidelines for Weed and Disease Control;
- obtaining fill materials only from quarries or sources which are certified weed- and disease-free.

4.9 Recreational Activities

The following restrictions are applied to the native forest in terms of recreational use:

- low impact recreational activities that are not considered deleterious to the values of the site (including bush walking, bird watching) may be carried out within the site.

4.10 Deleterious Activities

No activities (including, but not confined to, removal of soil, gravel or other natural resources, dumping of rubbish, earthworks, modification of natural drainage, etc.) which may be considered deleterious to the natural values will be carried out within the site unless approved by the General Manager.

4.11 Vehicle Use

Vehicle use within the site is restricted to the following:

- access to the dwelling and on established vehicular tracks;
- for fire-fighting emergencies;
- as part of weed control activities; or
- essential management.

4.12 Monitoring and Maintenance

The site is to be monitored, at the cost of the Owner, for the emergence of declared weed species (as listed under *Weed Management Act 1999*) and environmental weed species. Monitoring is to be undertaken annually by the Owner or an appointed representative.

If any declared weeds or environmental weeds are recorded during monitoring, they must be eradicated and all weed debris removed from the site.

Table 2 – Outline of weed control measures

WEED SPECIES	ACTION	TREATMENT/METHODOLOGY	OUTCOME	TIMING	PRIORITY
Spanish heath	Undertake primary control	Foliage spray or cut and paste larger plants.	Spanish heath plants controlled prior to flowering, preventing additional seed production.	Already achieved	High
	Conduct follow-up control of treated areas	Conduct annual inspection of areas where Spanish heath was controlled and treat regrowth and/or missed plants.	Mature Spanish heath plants removed; no expansion of infestation.	Annually in autumn.	High
	Conduct annual inspection of site	Survey general area surrounding the identified infestations to locate any isolated or newly established plants and control using foliage spraying or hand pull when soil is moist.	Spanish heath eradicated.	Annually in autumn.	High

Appendix 1 - Weed Descriptions



Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)

Description – Spanish heath is a woody evergreen perennial (long-lived) shrub growing to a height of 1.5 to 2 m. Spanish heath stems are woody and brittle, and the leaves are tiny (3 to 7 mm long), pointed, and clustered densely on the stem. Spanish heath flowers appear from late autumn to early spring. The flowers are small and white or pinkish occurring in loose groups towards the end of the stems. Each flower can produce hundreds of tiny, dust-like seeds which are released when flowering finishes and the flowers have browned off. The roots are fibrous, and the plant readily breaks off near the base, often regrowing quickly from the broken stump.