

Appendix 10 Landscape Restoration Report

BOWMANS CREEK DIVERSION

PREPARED FOR ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS LIMITED | 12 OCTOBER 2009

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION REPORT



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Introduction

1.0

1.00 INTRODUCTION

AECOM Design + Planning has been commissioned by Ashton Coal Operations Limited (ACOL) to prepare a landscape restoration approach for the two proposed watercourse diversions on Bowmans Creek, as described within the head document.

This report is to be read in conjunction with the following drawings (refer Appendix 1):

- » SK01 Masterplan Eastern Diversion;
- » SK02 Detail Area / Sections Eastern Diversion;
- » SK03 Masterplan Western Diversion;
- » SK04 Detail Area / Sections Western Diversion;
- » SK05 General Details

1.01 BACKGROUND

The project is described in detail within the head document. For the purposes of this report, the project involves the construction of two diversions on Bowmans Creek between the New England Highway and the Hunter River:

- » Eastern Diversion which will start about 150 m south of the New England Highway and extend for about 830 m approximately along the eastern edge of the floodplain to join an existing oxbow channel (approximately 125 m long) and then drain into the existing creek. This diversion will involve excavation of a meandering channel that mimics the geomorphic features of the adjacent reach of Bowmans Creek, including variable width (about 35m to 100m) and variable bed levels to create pools and riffles. Typical maximum excavation depth in this diversion is varies from 4.0m to 5.5m.
- » Western Diversion which will start just downstream of the existing streamflow monitoring station (operated by the Office of Water). This diversion, which will extend for approximately 780 m, will also mimic the geomorphic characteristics of the adjacent reach of Bowmans Creek which is typically about 7m deep. Top width of this diversion channel will vary from 45 to 70 m.

In each instance, block banks will be placed in the existing channel to direct flows into the diversion channels. The block banks will be installed in two phases as follows:

- » Phase 1 up to the 6 month average recurrence interval flood;
- » Phase 2 up to the 5 year average recurrence interval flood.

The Phase 1 temporary block bank will minimise the potential for a highly damaging flood event passing through the diversions within the early period of the landscape restoration, as the flow for each diversion will be split between the existing reach of the creek and the diversion. The 5 year average recurrence interval flood through the diversion in this instance has been calculated to be approximately equal to that of the 1 year average recurrence interval flood if all of the flow was passing through the diversion.

Construction of each diversion will be undertaken in four phases over a total period of about four months for each diversion:

- » Bulk earthworks to create the general form of the channel;
- Detailed channel shaping to develop the required geomorphic characteristics in the base of the channel and install rock bars and engineered log jams;
- » Landscape detailing and revegetation;
- » Construction of block banks and final cut-in at the ends of the diversion channels.

2.0

General Approach



2.00 GENERAL APPROACH 2.01 PREVIOUS STUDIES

The landscape restoration approach for the Bowmans Creek diversions proposes the establishment of plant communities that will be characteristic of those that were present prior to European colonisation. Objectives of the approach are to create plant communities that establish rapidly, are species rich and have dense plant cover, so as to achieve:

- » Quick ground-holding characteristics Sufficient to withstand flooding early within the plant establishment period (PEP);
- » Resistance to on-going weed colonisation, maximising the potential for natural colonisation / regeneration of the planted species, particularly the native grasses;
- » A diverse suite of endemic species that maximise the potential for colonising of new niches as they become available in the developing community;
- » High plant cover rates to ensure the communities will have natural resistance to weed colonisation, good ground-holding characteristics sufficient for a range of periodic flood events, and sufficient species diversity to develop into an appropriate climax community.

A substantial number of previous studies have been undertaken for the site. The key studies of relevance to this report are discussed below.

2.01.01 Flora And Fauna Assessment

HLA-Envirosciences undertook a flora and fauna assessment of the site in 2001. The assessment included a summary of eight (8) previous flora and fauna assessments commencing from 1984, and undertaken either specifically for the site, or within close proximity to the site, in addition to species identified within the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Atlas. The report provides a species list incorporating findings from six (6) of the previous flora and fauna assessments, the NPWS Wildlife Atlas and the HLA 2001 study (refer Appendix 2). No threatened species (flora or fauna) were observed on the site.

Of relevance to the works proposed within this report, the assessment identified the following plant communities within close proximity to the proposed creek diversion works:

- » Grassland comprising a combination of dry pasture and improved pasture, to the flood terrace through which Bowmans Creek cuts. Limited regeneration was noted as occurring within the dry pasture. The improved pasture has a very high percentage of weed cover;
- » Bulloak a primary colonising community of which the key species, Bulloak (Allocasuarina luehmannii) tends to form dense monoculture stands, due to the fallen cladodes which cause the exclusion of most other tree and shrub species;
- » Riparian a community dominated by River Oak (Casuarina cunninghamiana), with a lesser component of Rough-barked Apple (Angophora floribunda). The community is highly disturbed by grazing impacts.

Additionally, seven (7) specimens of River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) were identified in the narrow riparian corridor of the southern meander of Bowmans Creek, on the adjoining property to the west. Within the Hunter Catchment, this population is unique in NSW, being the only one to occur within a coastal catchment, and is restricted to 19 stands, covering approximately 100 hectares (ERM, 2006).

2.01.02 Hunter-Central Rivers Cma Mapping

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority has produced vegetation mapping of the Central Hunter Valley (Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007). The mapping identifies existing plant communities as a series of Map Units (MU), for each of which it provides a general assessment, e.g. significance / condition / threat assessment, and a list of key species. The following plant communities identified within the CMA reporting were identified by the author as being likely to be associated with Bowmans Creek and its adjoining flood terrace environs:

- » MU 13 Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex;
- » MU 30 Hunter Valley River Oak Forest (identified by the CMA mapping);
- » MU 32 Central Hunter Bulloak Forest Regeneration.

The River Red Gum population within the Hunter Catchment is listed as an endangered population under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 (TSCA). The CMA further states that the regional TSCA listed population of Red Gums is in danger of extinction from the introduction of 'non-natural hybrid River Red Gums for revegetation projects' which could result in the extinction of the local gene pool for this species (Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007).

With regard to the Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex, the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA states that the community is under extreme threat, is not reserved, and that urgent protection and management agreements are required with private landholders (Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007).

Additionally, the mapping identifies the subject site as being centrally located within a proposed regional vegetation linkage.

2.02 PROPOSED VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

2.02.01 Hunter Valley River Oak Forest

This community is proposed for the low active floodplain and adjoining inset benches (refer Masterplan and Detail Area / Sections drawings for locations). As can be seen from the sections, the low active floodplain comprises of a cobble / sand / silt material mix placed over a synthetic clay liner, while the inset benches comprise of in-situ alluvial material.

The profile for this community (including a list of key species) is attached (refer Appendix 3). The community typically forms a mid-high to tall forest with a mid-dense canopy almost exclusively dominated by River Oak (Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana). Other less frequent canopy species may include Rough-barked Apple (Angophora floribunda), Forest Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis), Swamp Oak (Casuarina glauca). Rainforest-affiliated low trees and shrubs sometimes form an understorey stratum, which may include such species as Native Peach (Trema tomentosa var. viridis), Ironwood (Backhousia myrtifolia) and Muttonwood (Rapanea variabilis) (Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007).

2.02.02 Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland

This community is proposed for the side slopes and adjoining flood terrace (refer Masterplan and Detail Area / Sections drawings for locations). The side slopes are likely to comprise of lenses of various alluvial materials including cobbles, sand, silt and clay.

The profile for this community (including a list of key species) is attached (refer Appendix 4). The community typically forms a mid-high to very tall or open woodland, and occurs on floodplains and floodplain rises along the Hunter River and several major tributaries. Sites on major floodplains between Singleton and several kilometres south of Scone are dominated by River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis), often as a sole dominant canopy species. Forest Red Gum (Eucalyptus tereticornis), Yellow Box (Eucalyptus melliodora) and Rough-barked Apple (Angophora floribunda) can co-dominate in places although they usually form a minor part of the canopy. River Oak (Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana) once formed a gallery forest, within the typically surrounding Red Gum Forest, along most creeks and rivers (Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007).

3.0

Restoration Method

3.00 RESTORATION METHOD

Following is a description of the proposed method for the undertaking of the landscape restoration works (the works). Landscape restoration will commence upon completion of the channel forming works, and will be undertaken as a staged process.

The key steps that will be undertaken in the construction of the works are described below.

3.01 WORKS METHOD

3.01.01 Protection of the Works

Fence off the works area, or undertake other measures as necessary to ensure stock are no longer (in perpetuity) able to access the area, allowing for restricted stock access to the area of the diversion if they are not able to otherwise access unrestored sections of the creek.

3.01.02 Weed Management

Weed management will be a key factor in determining the success of the project, particularly within the first 12 to 18 months of the Plant Establishment Period (PEP). Very high weed densities are present on the flood terrace within which the diversions are constructed, particularly within the areas of improved pasture. The following weed management process is recommended:

- » Slash or otherwise manage the flood terrace for weeds within 50 metres of the creek diversions to minimise the extent of weed seed inputs to the area of the works – slashing is to commence prior to commencement of the engineering works, and take place at intervals sufficient to stop substantial setting of weed seed for at least the first 12-18 months of the PEP;
- Undertake restoration treatments quickly upon completion of the civil engineering works to minimise the opportunity for weed colonisation;
- » Weed manage prepared areas with glyphosate (e.g. Roundup Biactive) as required prior to undertaking restoration treatments;
- » Regularly undertake initial weed management of the works until a dense native plant cover is in place, and that is of sufficient capacity to provide for natural regeneration of native species and minimise habitat / colonisation opportunities for weeds;
- » Thereafter, undertake weed management as required.

3.01.03 Soil Preparation

The following soil preparation measures will be undertaken:

- » Low Active Floodplain For those areas of the works that comprise of placed cobble material, i.e. to the low active floodplain, no soil preparation will be required after the material has been placed. However, the placed cobble material will be carefully selected during the creek construction phase of works to ensure it contains a sand / silt / clay content sufficient to support an appropriate level of plant growth for the proposed plant species;
- » Inset Benches The inset benches will comprise of various alluvial materials. Soil testing will be undertaken to the benches to determine its suitability for planting into, and ameliorants applied as required sufficient to ensure an appropriate level of plant response;
- » Lower Side Slopes The lower side slopes are defined as that area below the 5 year average recurrence interval flood. It is proposed that this area be mass planted with cell-grown seedlings to ensure a relatively quick cover. Given that it is anticipated that the side slopes will constitute a series of alluvial lenses comprising of a range of materials, soil testing will be undertaken on a representative sample of each lens type to test chemical and physical soil properties and identify any requirements for amelioration to a level that seeks to provide a greater advantage to native seedlings than colonising weed species, e.g. low P levels. Additionally, the lens material will be assessed to determine whether it can readily be planted into with cell size plants, e.g. if it comprises of a substantial cobble content, it may not be possible to plant cell size seedlings into it. If the lens cannot be planted into, than provision will be made for the installation of a thin (say 75mm depth) layer of site topsoil as described below.

- » Upper Side Slopes and Flood Terrace The upper side slopes are defined as that area above the 5 year average recurrence interval flood. It is proposed that this area be subject to direct seeding of native grasses in the first place, in conjunction with a limited structural planting of cell-grown seedlings.
- » Site Topsoil Site topsoil will be stockpiled as part of the civil works package. Prior to stripping of topsoil, testing will be undertaken to determine the depth to which the majority of the weed seed load is situated. For areas to be stripped for their topsoil, this top layer (potentially in the order of 100mm) will be scalped and removed well away from stockpile sites, in order to remove the majority of the soil weed seed bank. The remaining topsoil will subject to soil testing and amelioration as required prior to installation.

3.01.04 Protective Matting / Erosion Protection

Protective matting will be applied to the following areas for both erosion control and weed suppression:

- » Inset Benches Unlike the low active floodplain which is to comprise of a cobble mix, the inset benches will comprise of various alluvial materials which will potentially be susceptible to erosion. Subject to the findings of the previously undertaken soil testing, and the materials composition of the benches, these benches will be covered with a heavy duty, biodegradable protective matting to assist in the prevention of erosion from storm events until the plant material has established sufficiently to perform this role;
- » Lower Side Slopes To minimise the level of risk of major damage to landscape restoration works within the first 12–18 months, it is proposed that those areas of the sides slopes that fall below the level of the 1 year average recurrence interval flood are to be matted with a medium duty, biodegradable protective matting assist in the prevention of erosion from storm events until the plant material has established sufficiently to perform this role.

Note: The project has been designed such that the proposed block banks that will direct water into the diversions, will initially be constructed to divert water up to the 1 in 6 month Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) storm event (these will later be increased in size to divert flows up to the 1 in 5 year ARI storm event). Storm events greater than this 1 in 6 month ARI will be split between the diversion and the existing stream. As a result, it has been calculated that the 1 year ARI storm event calculated for the diversions (based upon the final 1 in 5 year ARI block bank being in place), will broadly equate to a 1 in 5 year ARI storm event with the 6 month block bank in place. It is considered that this 1 in 5 year ARI storm level provides an acceptable level of flood damage risk to the restoration works in the early stages of the project.

3.01.05 Planting - Long-stem Tubes

Planting to the low active floodplain and inset benches will include long-stem tubes of River Oak, which have been developed specifically for riparian situations. These tube plantings are essentially tall (about 1m high) plants with a with a single long stem, most of which in fact comprises of roots. Once established, other species from the Hunter Valley River Oak Forest community will be planted using a mix of long-stem tubes for those species for which they are available. Where proposed species are not able to procured in a long-stem form, these will be planted as cell-grown seedlings progressively in small numbers throughout the period of the works to minimise losses to flood. The initial planting of long-stem tubes will be undertaken at average three (3) to four (4) metre centres across the area of the low active floodplain and inset benches. This density allows for open cobble and bench areas as is characteristic of the community, as well proving niches for following-up planting of additional species.

3.01.06 Planting - Cell-grown Seedlings

Cell-grown seedlings will be planted to the lower side slopes at an average density of 8 plants sq.m. The planting palette will comprise of a mix of robust and quick growing species from all structural layers to maximise early soil holding properties, including a substantial ground layer of native grasses and forbs such as Lomandra longifolia. An initially species diverse structural planting will be undertaken for this area, with an emphasis on the canopy and shrub layers, to assess the relative performance of different species within the Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland community, including at different heights up the bank, and possible responses to periodicity of inundation and soil types. Once this initial planting is established, staged supplementary planting will take place to increase species diversity and plant density where required.

3.01.07 Direct Seeding

Direct seeding of a select suite of native grasses will be undertaken to the upper slopes and flood terrace edge in conjunction with a structural planting initially in limited numbers, to provide a dense, weed resistant cover, into which later staged planting can be undertaken to create a species rich community characteristic of Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland. As with the planting to the lower side slopes, an assessment will be made of the relative performance of different species within the Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland community, to help determine an optimal species composition for later supplementary planting. The outer five (5) metres of the corridor restoration will be seeded initially to a dense cover of native grasses to provide a robust weed barrier between the works and the adjoining weed community on the flood terrace. Select native grass species will include: Kangaroo Grass (Themeda australis); Scented Top (Capillipedium spicigerum) and Wild Sorghum (Sorghum lieocladum), species which have previously performed well in direct seeding applications. Additionally, a sterile cover crop will be judiciously used during the initial period of direct seeding, sufficient to assist in weed suppression without unduly compromising the growth of the young native seedlings.

3.01.08 Watering

Watering, where needed, will be undertaken for a minimum period of 3 months after each planting or direct seeding event.

3.01.09 Plant Provenance

Where available, provenance River Red Gum seed will be utilised for this project.

A key aim of the project is to provide a flexible, cost effective and adaptive approach to the restoration process, which takes advantage of the opportunities offered by the relatively long life of the project, i.e. a period of some 14 years. Advantages of this approach are as follows:

- » Facilitates early focus on ground stabilisation and associated simplified maintenance approach, i.e. weed management is less constrained by the number and range of species planted and subsequent very high need in the early stages of the project for skilled, highly labour intensive weed management, which given the area to be covered for this project would be very difficult to adequately resource. The proposed approach of having a limited number of robust native grass species providing the main initial ground holding and weed suppressing function, simplifies maintenance and provides better protection, increased soil moisture holding capability and a more biologically active soil layer for subsequent plantings over that available in a single occurrence conventional mass planting processes;
- » Facilitates early commencement of the works in keeping with ACOL's program, as seed is only required for a handful of species, and cell-grown seedlings can initially be procured in readily low, achievable quantities;

- » Provides appropriate lead time to procure a diverse suite of species in high numbers;
- » Facilitates the opportunity for collection of provenance propagation materials by ACOL, e.g. for Eucalyptus camaldulensis, and may facilitate the same for other species in the normal course of nurseries providing plant material for the project, given the opportunity for substantial plant order lead times;
- Facilitates a gradual building up of species diversity, by-passing problems often associated with procurement of particular species, e.g. limited viable seed drop in some seasons;
- » Early structural planting provides a framework for the later introduction of 'softer' species that are difficult to introduce in the early phases of a project due to their particular requirements, e.g. areas with dappled light, elevated soil moisture, wind and sun protection, locally increased humidity, etc.

3.02 PLANTING PROGRAM

Broad planting and seeding phases are described below.

3.02.01 Phase 1 – Site Stabilisation

This phase of the works would take place over the first 2 -3 years of the project. Key objectives of this phase would be to:

- » Quickly stabilise the works;
- Provide a quick and robust weed suppressing native plant cover which will improve soil structure and microclimate;
- » Assess initial species performance, in order to tailor the initial species planting lists.

3.02.02 Phase 2 – Community Structure

This phase of the works would generally take place between years 3 and 6 of the project. Key objectives of this second phase of the project would be to:

- » Augment species diversity of the communities sufficient to provide a significant level of species richness, characteristic of the community, e.g. in the order of say 30 to 40 species for the upper side slopes and approximately 40 species for the lower side slopes (both communities are Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland), and 20-30 species for the Hunter Valley River Oak Forest community within the Low Active Floodplain and Inset Benches;
- » Increase numbers and density of particular species where required.

3.02.03 Phase 3 – Species Diversity

This phase of the works would generally take place between years 6 and 8 of the project. Key objectives of this third phase of the project would be to:

- Further augment species composition of the communities to a comprehensive suite of up to say 50 species;
- » Providing the 'softer' and harder to establish species in the now substantially ameliorated natural environment which should by that stage provide many of the niches necessary for the establishment of these species.

4.0

Corridor Management

4.00 CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT

The landscape restoration method proposed within this report proposes that the works be undertaken gradually and in a staged and adaptive manner, commencing with site stabilisation using a combination of direct seeding of native grasses and planting, followed by a gradual building up community structure and species richness, until a robust, and relatively low maintenance, selfperpetuating corridor community is created.

An appropriate level of resources will be committed in the initial plant establishment period, in particular during the first 12 to 18 months after implementation. During this phase weed control will be regularly and rigorously undertaken, so as to facilitate the colonising of the great majority of available niches by native species. Once this outcome has been achieved, it can be expected that the required maintenance effort will significantly drop-off, until it reaches a relatively low, longterm maintenance level.

As part of this process, management will be adaptive, with outcomes being monitored and evaluated against restoration goals and objectives, and management actions adjusted as required to best meet these. These principles are summarised in the flow diagram below.

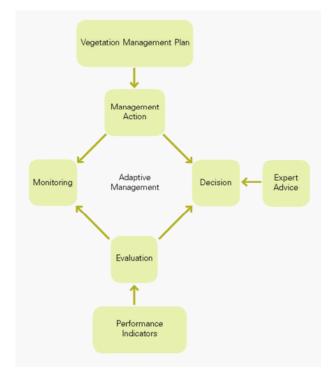


Figure 1: Adaptive Management Flow Diagram

4.01 EXISTING MANAGEMENT PLANS

The works will be undertaken generally in accordance with the following ACOL management plans which are currently in place:

- » Environmental Management Strategy Phase 2 Underground Mining Operations
- » Land Management Plan
- » Landscape and Revegetation Management Plan
- » Weed Management Plan.

References

REFERENCES

Brooks, A, et al. 2006. *Design guidelines for the reintroduction of wood into Australian Streams.* Land & Water Australia, Canberra.

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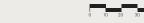
APPENDIX 1 LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS

- » SK01 Masterplan Eastern Diversion
- » SK02 Detail Area / Sections Eastern Diversion
- » SK03 Masterplan Western Diversion
- » SK04 Detail Area / Sections Western Diversion
- » SK05 General Details









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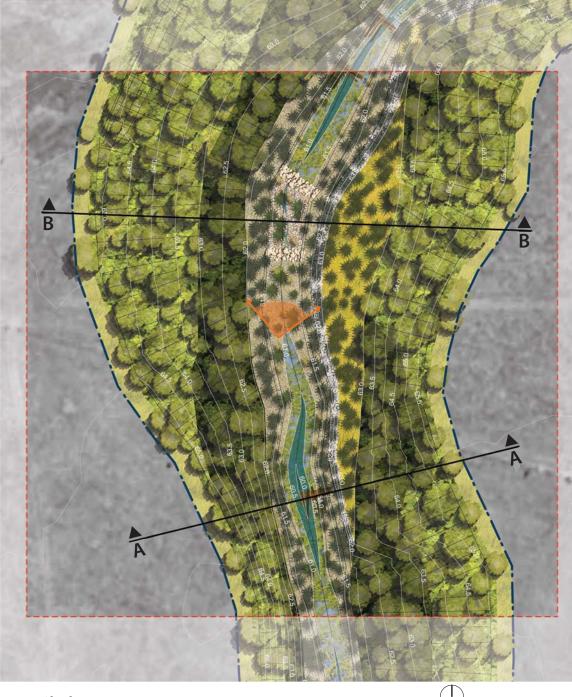
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12 OCTOBER 2009

Bowmans Creek Diversion Masterplan - Eastern Diversion

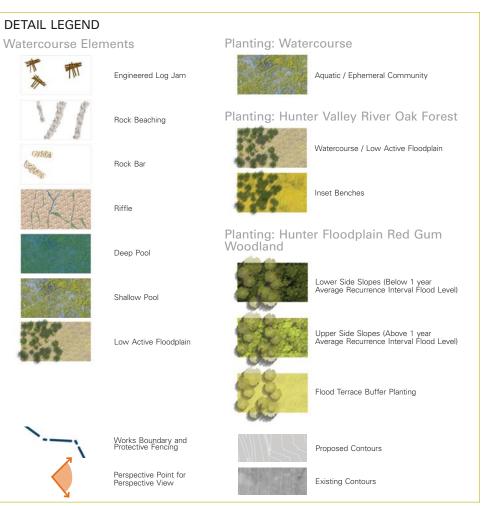
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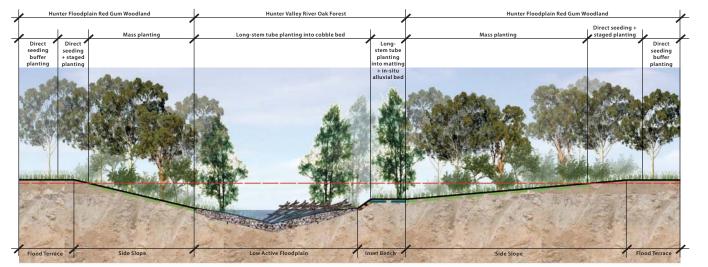


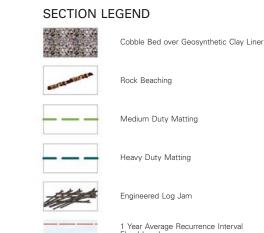




Perspective View Looking Upstream

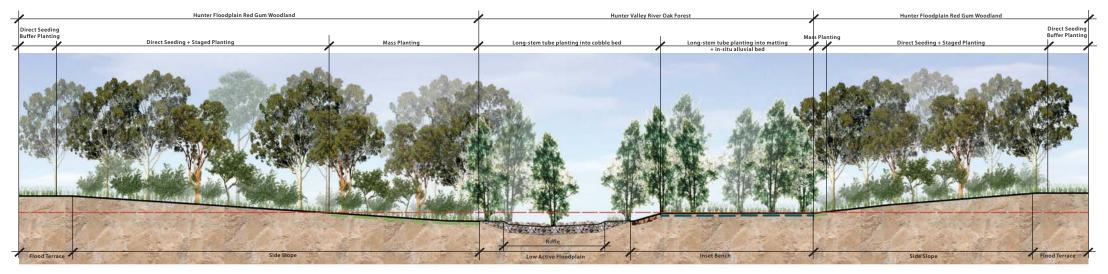






Section A-A Scale1:200@B1

1 Year Average Recurrence Interval Flood Level



Section B-B Scale1:200@B1

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09503243 Drawing number Sko2

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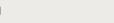
Bowmans Creek Diversion **Detail Area / Sections - Eastern Diversion**





EDAW AECOM





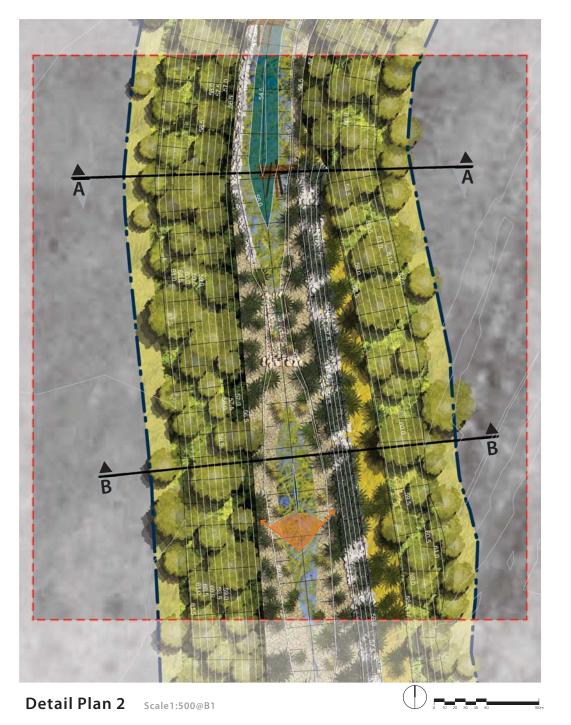
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12 OCTOBER 2009

Bowmans Creek Diversion Masterplan - West Diversion





Riffle

Deep Pool

Shallow Pool

Low Active Floodplain



Aquatic / Ephemeral Community

Planting: Hunter Valley River Oak Forest



Inset Benches

Planting: Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland

Lower Side Slopes (Below 1 year Average Recurrence Interval Flood Level)



Flood Terrace Buffer Planting

Works Boundary and Protective Fencing

Perspective Point for Perspective View

Proposed Contours

Existing Contours

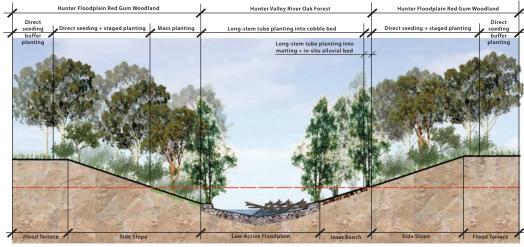
SECTION LEGEND



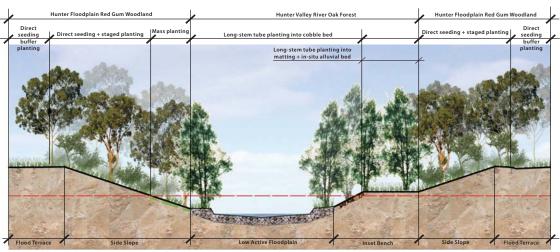


Engineered Log Jam

1 Year Average Recurrence Interval Flood Level



Section A-A Scale1:200@B1



Section B-B Scale1:200@B1









Perspective View Looking Upstream

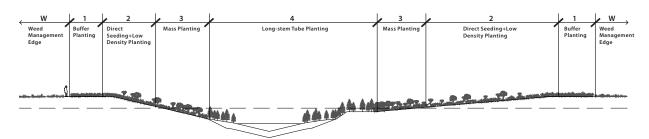
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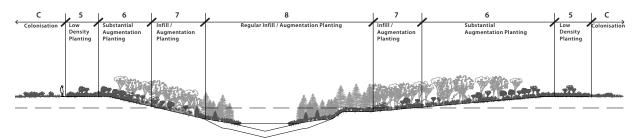
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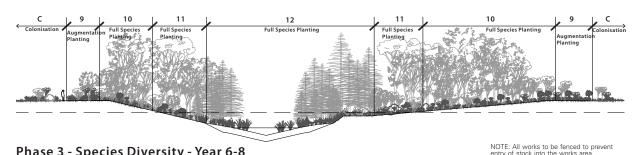
Bowmans Creek Diversion **Detail Area / Sections - Western Diversion**



Phase 1 - Site Stabilisation - Year 1-3



Phase 2 - Community Structure - Year 3-6



Phase 3 - Species Diversity - Year 6-8

Staging of Landscape Restoration

Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Forest

Trees Eucalyptus camaldulensis Eucalyptus tereticornis Angophora floribunda Brachychiton populneus subsp. populneus Eucalyptus melliodora Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana Austrodanthonia fulva Eucalyptus crebra Eucalyptus punctata Casuarina glauca

Shrubs and Groundcovers Notelaea microcarpa var. microcarpa Bursaria spinosa Exocarpus strictus Notelaea neglecta Solanum cinereum Dichondra repens Einadia hastata Pratia purpurascens Alternanthera denticulata Calotis lappulacea Commelina cyanea Einadia trigonos Geranium solanderi var. solanderi Rumex browni Ajuga australis Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium Oxalis exilis Oxalis radiocosa Plantago debilis Pratia concolour Sida corrugata Solanum americanum

Urtica incisa Amaranthus macrocarpus var. macrocarpus Grass Cynodon dactylon Austrostipa verticilliata Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides Aristada ramosa Cynoglossum australe Eragrostis leptostachya

Carex sp. Cyperus fulvus

Ground Fern Chielanthes austrotenuifolia Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. sieberi

Twiner Glycine tabacina Desmodium varians Glycine clandestina

Hunter Valley River Oak Forest

Trees Casuarina cunningamiana subsp. cunninghamiana Angophora floribunda Eucalyptus tereticornis

Shrubs and Groundcovers

Acacia falcata Acacia longifolia Acacia paradoxa Ficus coronata Hymenanthera dentata Myoporum montanum Notelaea venosa Nyssanthes diffusa Solanum prinophyllum Lomandra longifolia Dichondra Repens Persicaria decipien: Plectranthus parviflorus Pratia purpurascens Commelina cyanea Convolvulus erubescens Cotula australis Cynoglossum australe Einadia hastata Galium propinquum Geranium solanderi var. solanderi Plantago debilis Plantago gaudichaudii Solenogyne bellioides Stellaria pungens Urtica incisa

Grass Austrostipa verticillata Oplismensus aemulus Echinochloa termatophila Cynodon dactylon Echinopogon ovatus Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides

Carex appressa Schoenus apogon

Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. sieberi

Pandorea pandorana subsp. pandorana Calystegia marginata Clematis glycinoides var. glycinoides Stephania japonica var. discolor

1 - BUFFER PLANTING

Direct seeding with dense planting of select native species on prepared seed bed to provide weed management buffer planting

2 - UPPER SIDE SLOPE PLANTING

Direct seeding and low density planting of cell-grown seedlings on prepared seed bed. Works are above the 1 year ARI flood and designed to provide cost-effective early ground holding with dense native grass planting, and low density cell-grown seedling planting of key structural Red Gum Forest species.

3 - LOWER SIDE SLOPE PLANTING

Mass planting of cell-grown seedlings with key structural Red Gum Forest species and high glassland content. Works are below the 1 year ARI flood and designed to provide quick cover with high ground-holding characteristics.

4 - LOWER ACTIVE FLOODPLAIN PLANTING

Long-stem tube planting of River Oak. Augmented periodically with low-density planting of key structural elements as either long stem or cell-grown seedlings, as available. Cell-grown seedings planted in regularly but relatively low numbers to minimize losses to flood.

W - WEED MANAGEMENT EDGE

Subject to regular slashing of weed infested pasture community for minimum 50m perimeter width to minimize weed colonisation of the

5 - LOW DENSITY AUGMENTATION PLANTING

Low density augmentation planting with key structural species. Primary purpose of this zone is still to provide dense grassland buffer to adjoining weed infested flood terrace.

6 - SUBSTANTIAL AUGMENTATION PLANTING

Substantial augmentation of species diversity to approximately 30-40 species

7 - INFILL / AUGMENTATION PLANTING

Substantial infill planting and species augmentation, including the introduction of 'softer', more difficult to establish species, to an approximate total of 40 species.

8 - REGULAR INFILL / AUGMENTATION PLANTING

Substantial augmentation of species, Regular planting in relatively small number to increase species diversity while minimising extent of losses from periodic flooding. Build to 20-30 species.

C - COLONISATION

Encourage natural colonisation of native grasses out onto the flood terrace. This can be readily achieved by providing judicious weed management to assist early natural colonisation that will take place to this weed management edge.

9 - AUGMENTATION PLANTING

Increase species number to approximately 10-15, to create simplified community form with relatively strong grassland buffer edge retained.

10 - FULL SPECIES PLANTING

Plant remaining species to achieve approximately 50 species for community. Note: At this stage of the project there may be little requirement to plant the remaining species as they may have already naturally colonised the area

11 - FULL SPECIES PLANTING

Add any last required species to achieve approximately 50 species for this community

12 - FULL SPECIES PLANTING

Continue to regularly plant outstanding remaining species in small number to achieve final diversity of between 40-50 species

C - COLONISATION Encourage natural colonisation of all native species out from the buffer edge and onto the flood terrace.



Engineered Log Jam, in this case log step with paired abutment jams. Williams River, NSW Photo provided by Chris Gippel



Engineered Log Jams at the completion of construction Photo provided by Chris Gippel



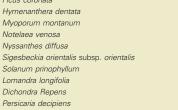


Sporobulus creber

Sedges and Rushes

Cyperus gracilis Juncus sp.

Marsilea drummondii



Sedges

Ground Fern

Vine

Cayratia clematidea Eustrephus latifolius Desmodium varians Glycine clandestina



1 Photo of Bowmans Creek showing existing cobble watercourse and remnant River Oak Forest character.

- 2 Example of densely planted water course15 months after planting, as proposed for the lower side slopes, showing ground-holding capability of the approach. Intensive weed management s crucial to the success of this approach in the early phase of the project.
- 3 The proposed works will provide substantial habitat opportunities for a range of both aquatic and terrestrial fauna.
- 4 Example of Kangaroo Grass cover 15 months after being direct seeded to this site, as proposed for the upper slopes.

EDAW AECOM

LEVEL 8, 17 YORK STREET, SYDNEY NSW 2000 T 02 8023 9333 F 02 8023 9399

09503243 DRAWING NUMBER SK05 12 OCTOBER 2009



Image Key Plan

The same site as above seven years later with the engineered log jams visible at the middle right of frame Photo provided by Chris Gippel



Bowmans Creek Diversion General Details

APPENDIX 2 SPECIES LIST – SITE AND LOCAL ENVIRONS

Species list excerpt from flora and fauna assessment for the site – HLA Envirosciences 2001

Appendix 2



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APPENDIX 2

FLORA OF THE STUDY SITE, LOCAL AREA AND WITHIN A 20 KM X 20 KM GRID (NPWS WA DATA)

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APPENDIX 2

Ι	- Exotic species (** = declared noxious species)
Status	- Status in Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 &
	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.
1	- Present Study
2	- Croft and Associates (1986a) – Rixs Creek
3	- EEPS and Associates (1989) – Camberwell
4	- ERM Mitchell McCotter (1999) - Ravensworth West
5	- ERM Mitchell McCotter (1997) - Ravensworth East
6	- Croft and Associates (1986b) – Ravensworth South
[•] 7	- Dames and Moore (1990) – Glennies Creek
8	- Sinclair Knight Merz (1997) - Lemington South
9	- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Atlas

Coniferopsida

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Cupressaceae				
Callitris columellaris			U	6,8
Callitris endlicheri	Black Cyprus Pine		U	6,8
Pinaceae				
Pinus pinaster	Cluster Pine	*	U	. 8

Cycadopsida

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Zamiaceae				
Macrozamia spiralis			U	6

Filicopsida

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Adiantaceae				
Adiantum aethiopicum	Common Maidenhair		• P 13	3,6
Aspleniaceae				
Asplenium flabellifolium	Necklace Fern		U.	3



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Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Dennstaedtiaceae				
Pteridium esculentum	Bracken		U	3,8
Lindsaeaceae				
Lindsea microphylla			U	8
Marsileaceae				• • •
Marsilea drummondii	Common Nardoo	A		6
Marsilea mutica	Common Nardoo		U	1,4,8
Sinopteridaceae				
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	Rock Fern		U	1,2
Cheilanthes distans	·		U	4,10
Cheilanthes seiberi	Mulga Fern		U	1,3,6,8,10
Cheilanthes sp.	Mulga Fern		U	4

Appendix 2: Flora (Filicopsida continued)

Magnoliopsida (Liliidae)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Agavaceae				
Agave americana	Century Plant	*	U	2
Yucca aloifolia	Yucca	*	U	8
Alliaceae				
Ipheion uniflorum	Spring Star-flower	*	U	. 1
Nothoscordum borbonicum	Onion Weed	+	U	б
Antheriaceae				
Arthopodium milleflorum	Vanilla Lily		U	б
Arthopodium minus	Small Vanilla Lily		U	. б
Caesia parviflora				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Tricoryne elatior	Autumn Yellow Lily		U	6
Tricoryne simplex	Northern Rush Lily		U	6
Asphodelaceae				
Aloe saponaria	Soap Aloe	*	U	1
Commelinaceae				
Aneilema biflorum			U	8

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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Liliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Cyperaceae			· · · · · · · · ·	
Bolboschoenus caldwellii			U ·	8
Carex tereticaulis			U	9
Cyperus difformis	Dirty Dora		U	1,6,8
Cyperus eragrostis	Umbrella Sedge	*	U	1,6,8
Cyperus gracilis			U	1
Cyperus laevigatus			U	8
Cyperus sp.		?	U	4,7
Eleocharis acuta	Spike Rush		Ū	3,6
Eleocharis equisetina			U	6
Eleocharis pusilla			U	6
Eleocharis sp.		?	U	3,4,7
Eleocharis sphacelata	Tall Spike-rush		U	4,5,6,8
Fimbristylis dichotoma			U	1,4
Gahnia aspera			U	3,5,6
Lepironia articulata		÷.	U	б
Schoenoplectus mucronatus			Ŭ	6
Schoenoplectus validus			U	6
Hydrocharitaceae			e de la companya de la	
Ottelia ovalifolia	Swamp Lily	•••	U	3,8
Irididacae				
Romulea longifolia	Onion Weed	*	U	2
Romulea roea var australis	Onion Weed	*	U	4
Wurmbea dioca	Early Nancy		U	2
Juncaceae		•		
Juncus acutus	Sharp Rush		U	1,2,3,4,5,8
Juncus continuus			U	8
Juncus pauciflorus			Ŭ.	8
Juncus planifolius			U	9
Juncus procerus	· .		U	8
Juncus sp.		?	U	3,7
Juncus subglaucus			. U	5
Juncus subsecundus				8
Juncus usitatus			U	1,2,3,4

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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Liliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Juncaginaceae				
Triglochin procerum	Water Ribbons		U	2,3,4,8
Lomandraceae		1		
Lomandra confertifolia		· ·	U	1,8,10
Lomandra filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush		U	4,8
Lomandra longifolia		1	U	1,3,5,6,10
Lomandra multiflora	Many Flowered Mat-rush		U	1,3,6,10
Luzuriagaceae				
Eustrephus latifolius	Wombat Berry		U	6
Geitonoplesium cymosum			U	9
Orchidaceae				·
Dipodium sp.			U	. 9
Microtis unifolia	Common Onion Orchid		U	8
Phormiaceae				
Dianella longifolia			U	8,10
Dianella laevis		·	U	3
Dianella revoluta		· .	U	1,8
Dianella sp.			U .	1
Poaceae				
Agrostis avenacea	Beard Grass		U	3,5,6
Alloteropsis	Cockatoo Grass		U	3
Andropogon virginicus	Whiskey Grass	*	U	. 8
Aristida ramosa	Wire Grass		Ŭ	1,4,10
Aristida sp.			U	3,10
Aristida vagans	Threeawn Speargrass		U	1,2,3,4,5,6,8
Axonopus affinis	Narrow-leaved Carpet Grass		U	8
Avena sterilis	Wild Oats	*	U	3
Botriochloa decipiens	Redleg Grass		U	2,4
Botriochloa macra	Redleg Grass		U	3,4,5,6,10
Briza minor	Shivery Grass	*	U	1,6
Bromus cartharticus	Prairie Grass	*	U	1,3,6
Bromus sp.	Brome	*	U	4

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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Liliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Poaceae continued				
Chloris gayana	Rhodes Grass	*	U	1,3,4,5,6,8
Chloris sp.			U	2
Chloris truncata	Windmill Grass		U	1,4,5,6,8,10
Cortaderia selloana	Pampas Grass	**	U	8
Cymbopogon refractus	Barbed Wire Grass	· · ·	U	1,2,4,5,8
Cynodon dactylon	Couch		U	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10
Cynodon incomplectus		*	U	6
Danthonia linkii	Wallaby Grass		U	1
Danthonia monticola	Wallaby Grass		Ŭ	5,6
Danthonia richardsonii	Wallaby Grass		U	9
Danthonia sp.	Wallaby Grass		U	3,4,10
Danthonia tenuior	Wallaby Grass		U	8
Dichanthium sericeum	Queensland Blue Grass		U	· 2
Dichelachne inaequiglumis			ับ	1
Dichelachne micrantha	Shorthair Plumegrass		Ŭ	3,5,6,8
Echinochloa colona	Awnless Barnyard Grass		U	6
Echinopogon sp.			U	9
Eleusine indica	Crowsfoot Grass	*	U	8
Elymus scaber	Common Wheat Grass		U	6
Elymus scaber			U	3
Entolasia stricta	Wiry Panic		U	8
Enteropogon acicularis			U .	1
Eragrostis brownii	Browns Lovegrass		U	1,2,8
Eragrostis lacunaria	Purple Lovegrass		U	5,6
Eragrostis molybdea			Ū	6
Eragrostis parviflora	Weeping Lovegrass		U	5,6
Eragrostis sp.	Lovegrass		Ū	4
Hordeum leporinum	Barley Grass	*	U	3,5,6
Imperata cylindrica	Blady Grass		U	8,10
Lolium perenne	Ryegrass	*	U	1,6
Lolium rigidum	Wimmera Ryegrass	*	U	6
Melinis repens	Red Natal Grass	* .	U	1,2,4
Microlaena stipoides			U	1,8



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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Liliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Poaceae continued				
Panicum effusum	Hairy Panic		U	4,10
Paspalum constrictum	Box Grass		U	6
Paspalum dilatatum	Paspalum	. *	U	1,2,3,4,5,6,8
Paspalum distichum	Water Couch	-	U	1,3,6
Pennisetum clandestinum	Kikuyu .	*	U	1,3,4,6,8
Pennisetum setaceum	Fountain Grass	*	U	4
Phalaris aquaticum	Phalaris	*	U	8
Phalaris paradoxa	Paradoxa Grass	*	U	5
Phragmites australis	Common Reed		U	1,2,3,6,8
Poa annua		*	U	8
Poa labillardierei			U	9
Poa sp.			U	7
Setaria gracilis	Slender Pigeon Grass	*	U	1,2,8
Sorghum bicolor	Sorghum	*	U	· 1
Sorghum halepense	Johnson Grass	**	U	3,6
Sorghum leiocladum	Wild Sorghum		U	6,10
Sporobolus creber	Slender Rats Tail		U	1,4,10
Sporobolus elongatus	Slender Rats Tail Grass		U	6
Sporobolus indicus	Parramatta Grass		U	6
Sporobolus virginicus	Sand Couch		U	3
Stipa aristiglumis	Plains Grass		U	6,8
Stipa bigeniculata	Yanganbil		U	1,6
Stipa densiflora	Foxtail Speargrass		U	6
Stipa ramosisima	Stout Bamboo Grass		U	3,6
Stipa scabra	Rough Spear Grass		U	1,3,4,5,6,10
Stipa sp.			U	2,3,7,10
Stipa variabilis	Species Complex	?	U	3,6
Stipa verticillata			U	9
Themeda australis	Kangaroo Grass		U	1,2,4,5,6,7,10
Potamogetonaceae				
Pomatogeton tricarinatus	Floating Pondweed		U	1,6,8
Potamogeton pectinatus	Sago Pondweed		U	3
Potamogeton perfoliatus	Clasped Pondweed		U	· · 3

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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Liliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Typhaceae		1 .	1	
Typha orientalis	Cumbungi		U	1,3,4,6,7,8

Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Acanthaceae				· · · · · · · · · · · ·
Brunoniella pumilio	4		U	10
Aizoaceae				
Galenia pubescens	Galenia	*	U	1,3,4,5,6
Amaranthaceae				
Amaranthus pungens		*	U	8 .
Amygdalaceae				·····
Prunus armeniaca	Apricot	*	U	8
Prunus persica	Peach	*	U	1,8
Anacardiaceae				<u></u>
Schinus areira	Pepper Tree	*	U	1,2,3,4,8
Apiaceae				
Centella asiatica	Pennywort		U	4,10
Ciclospernum leptophyllum	Slender Celery	*.	U	6
Feoniculum vulgare	Fennel	*	U	1,3,4,6,8
Hydrocotyle bonariensis	Pennywort	. *	U	3
Platysace ericoides			·U	6
Trachymeme incisa			U	1
Apocynaceae				
Nerium oleander	Oleander	*	U	8
Parsonsia straminea	Common Silkpod		U	3,6
Asclepiadaceae				
Gomocarpus fruticosus	Narrow-leaved Cotton Bush	*	U	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10
Marsdenia rostrata	Common Milk Vine		U	6
Asteraceae				
Arctotheca calendula	Cape Weed	*	U _	1,4
Aster subulatus	Bushy Starwart	*	U	1,4,8

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Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Asteraceae continued				
Biddens pilosa	Pitchfolks	*	U	1,2,4,6,8,10
Brachyscome sp.]	Ú Ú	1,6
Brachyscome multifida			U	10
Bracteantha bracteata	Golden Everlasting		U	6
Calocephalus citreus	Lemon Beauty Heads		U	1,5
Calotis cuneifolia	Purple Burr-daisy		U	1,2,6
Calotis hispidula	Bogan Flea		U	1
Calotis lappulacea	Yellow Burr Daisy		U	4,8,10
Carthamus lanatus	Saffron Thistle	*	U	1,3,6
Cassinia cunninghamii			U	1
Cassinia quiquefaria	Dead Finish		U	3
Cassinia uncata			U	10
Centipedia minima	Spreading Sneezeweed		U	8
Centipedia sp.	Sneezeweed		U	10
Chondrilla juncea	Skeleton Weed	*	U	3
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Yellow Buttons		U	1,3,5,6,8,10
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	Clustered Everlasting		U U	3,6
Cirsium arvense	Perennial Thistle	*	U	6,8
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	*	U	1,3,4,5,6
Conyza alba		*	U	3,10
Conyza bonariensis	Flaxleaf Fleabane	*	U	1,3,5,6,8
Cotula australis	Carrot Weed		U	1,6,8
Cotula coronopifolia	Water Buttons	*	U	3
Craspedia uniflora	Common Billy Buttons		U	6
Epaltes australis	Spreading Nut-heads		U	8
Erigeron canadadensis	Canadian Fleabane	*	U	6
Gnaphalium sphaericum	Common Cudweed		U	1,8
Gnaphalium spicatum	Spiked Cudweed		U.	6
Helichrysum sp.	4		U	7,10
Hypochaeris radicata	Catsear, Flatweed	*	U	1,8,10
Leptorhynhos tetrachaetus	Beauty Buttons		U	5,6
Olearia elliptica	Sticky Daisy Bush		U	2,6
Ozothamus diosmifolius	White Dogwood		U	1 ,2,6,8

Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)



Flora and Fauna Report – White Mining Limited – Ashton Mine Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Asteraceae continued				
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum	Jersey Cudweed		U	3,6,8
Schkuhria pinnata	Dwalf Marigold	*	U.	1,6
Senecio glossanthus			U	3,5,6
Senecio hispidulus	Fireweed		U	8
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	*	Ū	6
Senecio lautus	Ragwort		U	2,3
Senecio madagascariensis	Fireweed	*	U	1,4,6,8,10
Senecio quadridentatus	Cotton Fireweed		U	6,8
Senecio sp.		?	U.	3,4,10
Sigesbeckia orientalis ssp orientalis			U	
Silybum marianum	Variegated Thistle	*	U	1,6,8
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sowthistle	*	U	1,3
Sonchus oleraceus	Common Sowthistle	*	U	1,6,8
Tagetes minuta	Stinking Roger	*	U	1
Taraxacum offinale	Dandelion	*	U	1,3,4,5,6
Vittadinia cervicularis			. U [°]	5
Vittadinia dissecta	Fuzzweed		U	10
Vittadinia sp	Fuzzweed		Ŭ	4,10
Vittadinia sulcata	Fuzzweed		U	9
Vittadinia trilobia	Fuzzweed		U	1
Xanthium occidentale	Noogoora Burr	*	U	1,6
Xanthium sp.	Burr	**	U	4
Xanthium spinosum	Bathurst Burr	**	U	1,3,6,8
Bignoniaceae				
Pandorea pandorana	Wonga Wonga Vine		្រប	6
Boraginaceae				
Cynoglossum australe			U	6
Echium vulgare	Vipers Bugloss	*	U.	8
Echium plantagineum	Paterson's Curse	*	U	1
Brassicaceae				
Brassica tournefortii	Mediterranean Turnip	*	U	1,2
Hirschfeldia incana	Buchan Weed	*	U	6

Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)



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Scientific Name	Common Name	J	Status	Source
Brassicaceae continued				
Lepidium africanum	Peppercress	*	U	1
Lepidium bonariensis		*	U	1,8
Lepidium campestre	Field Cress	· ·	U	4
Lepidium hyssopifolium			El	. 6
Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium			U	1
Lepidium pseudotasmanicum			U	5 .
Lepidium sp.			U.	1
Rapistrum rugosum	Turnip Weed	. *	U	1,6
Sisymbrium officinale	Hedge Mustard	*	U	1,8
Cactaceae				
Optuntia aurantiaca	Tiger Pear	**	U	1,4,8
Opuntia stricta	Prickly Pear	**	U ·	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
Campanulaceae				
Wahlenbergia communis	Tufted Bluebell		U	1,6,8,10
Wahlenbergia gracilis	Blue Bell		U	1,6,8
Wahlenbergia luteola	Blue Bell		U	10
Wahlenbergia stricta	Tall Blue Bell		U	2,4,6,8
Capparaceae				
Capparis mitchellii	Native Orange		U	6
Caryophyllaceae				
Cerastium glomeratum	Mouse-eared Chickweed	*.	U	1,4
Petrorhagia nanteuilii	Proliferous Pink	*	U	1,6
Casuarinaceae				
Allocasuarina luehmannii	Bull Oak		U	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
Allocasuarina verticillata	Drooping She Oak	ŀ	·U	3
Casuarina cunninghamiana	River Oak		P13	1,3,4,7,8
Casuarina glauca	Swamp Oak		U	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10
Celastraceae				
Maytenus silvestris	Narrow-leaved Orangebark		U	3,6
Chenopodiaceae				
Chenopodium album	Fat Hen	*	U	1,6,8,10
Einadia hastata	Berry Saltbush		·U	6,10

Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)



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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Chenopodiaceae continued	•			
Einadia sp.			U	4
Einadia trigonos	Fishweed		U	1,8
Maireana microphylla	Eastern Cottonbush		U	1,2,3,4,6,7,8,10
Sclerolaena birchii	Galvanised Burr		U	1,6
Chloanthaceae				
Spartothamnella juncea	Bead Bush		U	5,6,8
Clusiaceae			·.	
Hypericum granineum	Small St John's Wart		U	1,8
Hypericum perforatum	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	**	U	6
Convolvulaceae				
Convolvulus arvensis	Bindweed	*	U	6
Convolvulus erubescens	Bindweed		U	1,6
Cuscuta australis	Australian Dodder		U	6
Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed		U	1,3,4,8
Porana commixta	Climbing Bindweed		U	6
Crasulaceae				
Crassula seiberiana	Australian Stonecrop		U	8
Kalanchoe longifolia		*	U	8
Dilleniaceae				
Hibbertia diffusa			U	6
Hibbertia faciculata			Ū	8
Hibbertia obtusifolia			U	10
Hibbertia sp.			U	3,7
Droseraceae				
Drosera peltata	Sundew		U	2
Elatiniaceae				•
Elatine gratioloides	Waterwort		U	8
Epacridaceae				
Epacris sp.			U	10
Lissanthe stringosa	Peach Heath		Ŭ	1,2,6
Melichrus urceolatus	Urn Heath		U	1,2



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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Euphorbiaceae	•			· · · ·
Breynia oblongifolia	Coffee Bush		U	1,6,8,10
Chamaesyce dallachyana	•		U	1
Euphorbia peplus	Radium Plant	*	U	1
Phyllanthus gasstroemii			U	8
Riccinus communis	Castor Oil Plant	*	U	6
Fabaceae (Faboideae)				•
Daviesia genistifolia	Bitter Broom Pea		U	1,8,10
Daviesia ulicifolia	Gorse Bitter Pea		U	1,2,5,6,8
Desmodium brachypodum	Large Tick-trefoil		U	6,10
Desmodium varians	Slender Tickfoil		U	1,6,8
Dillwynia sp.				7
Glycine clandestina	Species complex		U	1,2,3,4,6,8,10
Glycine microphylla	Species Complex		U	4,8
Glycine tabacina	Species Complex		U	1,4,6
Hardenbergia violacea	False Sarsaparilla		U	12,3,6,8,10
Hovea linearis			U	6
Indigofera australis			U	3
Jacksonia scoparia	Dogwood		U	6,8
Kennedia prostrata			U	6
Kennedia rubicunda	Red Kennedy Pea		U	1
Lotus australis	Australian Trefoil		U.	6
Medicago polymorphia	Burr Medic	*	U	1
Medicago sativa	Lucerne, Alfalfa	*	U	1,6
Medicago sp.		· *	U	1,4
Melilotus indicus	Hexham Scent	*	U	1
Melilotus officinalis	Common Melilot	*	U	8
Pultenaea linophylla			U	8
Swainsonia galegifolia	Smooth Darling Pea		U	6
Swainsonia queenslandica			U	10
Trifolium campestre	Hop Clover	*	U	6
Trifolium dubium	Yellow Suckling Clover	*	U	8
Trifolium glomeratum	Clustered Clover	*	U	6



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Appendix 2:	Flora (Magnoliopsida	(Magnoliidae) continued)
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Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Fabaceae (Faboideae) continued				· · · · · ·
Trifolium repens	White Clover	*	U	1,4,8
Trifolium sp.		*	U	3
Trifolium subterraineum	Subterrainean Clover	*	U	· 1
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	*	U	1,8
Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)			•	· ·
Acacia amblygona	Fan Wattle		U	1,2,3,5,6,8,10
Acacia cultriformis	Knife-leaved Wattle		U U	6,8
Acacia deanei	Green Wattle			6
Acacia decora	Western Golden Wattle		U	1,2,3,5,6,7,8
Acacia decurrens	Black Wattle		U	4
Acacia falcata			·U	1,2,4,5,8
Acacia farnesiana	Mimosa		U	2
Acacia filicifolia	Fern-leaved Wattle		U	1,8
Acacia homalophylla	Yarran		U	6
Acacia paradoxa	Kangaroo Thorn		U	1,2
Acacia parvipinnula	Silver-stemmed Wattle		U	1,2,7,10
Acacia pendula	Boree/Weeping Myall		U ·	8
Acacia salicina	Cooba, Native Willow			1,5,8,10
Acacia sp.			U	. 10
Acacia stricta			U	6
Acacia ulicifolia	Prickly Moses		U	2
Fumariaceae			· .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Fumaria muralis	Wall Fumitory	*	U	1
Gentianaceae				
Centaurium erythraea		*	U	8
Centaurium tenuiflorum		*	U	5
Geraniaceae				
Geranium retrorsum			U	6
Geranium solanderi	Native Geranium		U	1,6
Goodeniaceae				
Goodenia bellidifolia			U	8
Goodenia hederacea			Ŭ.	1,8



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Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Goodeniaceae	· · ·			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Goodenia pinnatifida			U	6
Goodenia pusilliflora			U	6
Goodenia rotundifolia			U	1,6,10
Scaevola albida				6
Haloragaceae				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Gonocarpus teucrioides			U	8
Myriophyllum striatum			U	8
Lamiaceae	2.			
Ajuga australis	Austral Bugle		U	6,10
Plectranthus graveolens			U	9
Salvia verbenaca	Wild Sage	*	U	1
Lauraceae				· · · ·
Cassytha pubescens	Devil's Twine		U	6
Lobeliaceae	· · · · ·			<u> </u>
Pratia purpurascens	White Root		U	1,4,6,10
Loranthaceae				
Amyema cambagei	Mistletoe		U	1,4,5,6,8,10
Amyema gaudichaudii	Mistletoe		U	8
Amyema linophyllum	Mistletoe		U.	6
Amyema miquelli	Box Mistletoe		U	2,3,5,6
Amyema pendulum	Mistletoe		U	1,8
Amyema quandang	-		U	8
Amyema sp.			U	10
Lysiana exocarpi	Harlequin Mistletoe		U	6
Muellerina eucalyptoides			• U •	10
Malaceae				
Malas X domestica	Apple	*	U	1
Malvaceae				
Malva parviflora	Small Flowered Mallow	*	U	6
Modiola caroliniana	Red-flowered Mallow	*	U	1,5,6,8
Sida corrugata			U	6
Sida rhombifolia	Paddy's Lucerne	*	U.	1,4,5,6,8,10

Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

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Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Meliaceae				· · · · · ·
Melia azedarach	White Cedar		U	1,8
Menyanthaceae		·		
Villarsia exaltata			U	
Myoporaceae			<u>.</u>	
Eremophila debilis	Winter Apple		U	1,2,6,8,10
Eremophylla deserti	Turkeybush		U	1,8
Myoporum montanum	Western Boobialla		U	1,2,3,6
Myrtaceae				
Angophora bakeri	Narrow-leaved Apple		·U	6
Angophora floribunda	Rough-barked Apple		U ·	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10
Backhousia mrytifolia	Lemon-scented Gum		U	8
Callistemon shiressii	Wooly Bottlebrush		U	5
Calytrix tetragona	Fringe Myrtle		U	3
Corymbia citriodora	Lemon-scented Gum		U	8
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum		U	2,3,4,7,10
Eucalyptus blakelyi	Blakely's Red Gum		U	1,2,3,8,10
Eucalyptus botryoides	Bangalay		U	8
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum		U	. 8
Eucalyptus canaliculata	Large-fruited Grey Gum		U	.10
Eucalyptus cladocalyx	Sugar Gum		U	4,8
Eucalyptus crebra	Narrow-leaved Ironbark		U	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
Eucalyptus fibrosa	Red Ironbark		U	1,2,4,7,10
Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box		U	. 8
Eucalyptus moluccana	Grey Box		U	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Red Box		U	6
Eucalyptus punctata	Grey Gum		U	7
Eucalyptus siderophloia	Grey Ironbark		U	6
Eucalyptus tereticornis	Forest Red Gum		U	1,2,3,7,8
Eucalyptus tereticornis ?	Forest Red Gum		Ü	4
Leptospermum polygalifolium			U	8
Melaleuca armillaris	Honey Myrtle		U	8

Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)



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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Ι	Status	Source
Myrtaceae continued				
Melaleuca decora	•		U.	8
Melaleuca thymifolia			U	. 8
Oleaceae				• • •
Jasminium suavissimum	Sweet Jasmine		U	6
Notelaea longifolia	Native Olive		U	10
Notelaea microcarpa	Native Olive	•	U	1,6,7,10
Olea europaea	Common Olive	*	U	1,6,7,10
Onagraceae		· ·		
Oenothera sp.	Primrose	*	U	2
Oenothera stricta	Primrose	*	U	3,6
Oxalidaceae				· ·
Oxalis corniculata	Creeping Oxalis	*	U	1,3,4,6
Oxalis pes-caprae	Soursob	*	U	1,2,8
Papaveraceae				•
Argemone ochroleuca	Mexican Poppy	*	U	6
Argemone subfusiformis	American Poppy	*	U	8
Pittosporaceae				
Billardiera scandens	Apple Dumplings		Ū.	2
Bursaria spinosa			U	1,3,5,6,10
Plantaginaceae	<i>.</i>			
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain	*	U	6
Plantago gaudichaudi			U	8
Plantago lanceolota	Lambs Tongue	*	U	1,4,6,8
Plantago major	Large Plantain		U	4
Plantago sp.		?	U	2,5
Plantago varia			U	3,6
Polygonaceae				
Emex australis		*	U	8
Persicaria decipiens	Slender Knotweed		U	6,8
Persicaria hydropiper	Water Pepper	•	U	8
Persicaria lapathifolia	Pale Knotweed		U	1
Rumex brownii	Swamp Dock		U	6



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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Polygonaceae continued				
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock	*	U	1,5,6,8
Rumex dumosus	Wiry Dock		U	6
Rumex sp.	Dock	*	U	3,4
Portulaceae		-		
Portulaca oleracea	Pig Weed		U	6
Primulaceae				
Anagallis arvensis	Pimpernell	*	U	1,4,6,8,10
Proteaceae				
Banksia integrifolia	Coastal Banksia		U	8 .
Banksia serrata	Old Man Banksia		U	8
Grevillea arenaria			U	1,6,8
Grevillea mucronulata	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		U	8
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak		U	8
Ranunculaceae				
Clematis aristata	Clematis		U	8
Clematis glycinoides			U .	10
Ranunculus plebeius			U	8
Rhamnaceae				
Cryptandra amara			U	1
Rosaceae			•	
Rosa bracteata	Macartney Rose		U.	6
Rosa rubiginosa	Sweet Briar	**	U	1,2,3,5,8
Rubus discolor	Blackberry	**	U	1,2
Rubiaceae				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Canthium odoratum	Shiny-leaved Canthium		U	8
Canthium oleifolium	Wild Lemon		U	6
Galium gaudichaudii			U	10
Opercularia diphylla	Stinkweed		U	8
Rutaceae				
Geijera parviflora	Wilga		U	1,6
Salicaceae				
Salix alba	White Willow	*	U	8
Salix babylonica	Weeping Willow	*	. U	1,3,6,8



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Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Santalaceae				**
Exocarpus cupressiformis	Native Cherry		U	2,3,6,8,10
Exocarpus strictus	Dwarf Cherry		U	6
Sapindaceae				,,, <u></u>
Dodonea viscosa	Hop Bush		U	6,8
Scrophulariaecae		-		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Misopates orontium	Lesser Snapdragon	*	U	1
Verbascum virgatum	Twiggy Mullien	*	U	1,6,8
Simaroubaceae				
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven	**	Ŭ	8
Solanaceae				
Lycium ferocissimum	African Boxthorn	**	U .	1,8,10
Nicotiana glauca	Tree Tobacco	*	U	4
Solanum chenopodiodes	White Tip Nightshade	• *	. U	8
Solanum cinereum	Narrawa Burr		U	1,5,6
Solanum elegans		*	U	10
Solanaceae continued				
Solanum nigrum	Black Nightshade	*	U U	1,6
Solanum prinophyllum	Forest Nightshade	*	U	1,8,10
Solanum pseudocapsicum	Jerusalem Cherry	*	U	1
Solanum sp.		*	U	2,10
Solanum stelligerum	Star Nightshade		U	6,10
Stackhousiaceae				
Stackhousia viminea	Slender Stackhousia		U	2
Sterculiaceae				
Brachychiton populneus	Kurrajong		U	1,6,8,10
Thymelaeaceae				
Pimelea glauca	Smooth Rice Flower		U	6
Pimelea linifolia	Rice Flower		U	1,6,8
Pimelea sp.			U	2
Urticaceae				· · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Urtica incisa	Stinging Nettle		U	1

Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

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Appendix 2: Flora (Magnoliopsida (Magnoliidae) continued)

Scientific Name	Common Name	I	Status	Source
Verbenaceae				
Clerodendrum tomentosum	Velvet Spider-bush		U	6
Lantana camara	Lantana	*	U	10
Verbena bonariensis	Purple Top	*	U	1,2,6,8
Verbena hispida	Rough Verbena	*	U	3
Violaceae		· · · ·		
Viola hederacea	Ivy-leaved Violet		U	1,6,8,10

APPENDIX 3 COMMUNITY PROFILE: HUNTER VALLEY RIVER OAK FOREST

Excerpt from Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007. Vegetation of the Central Hunter Valley, NSW

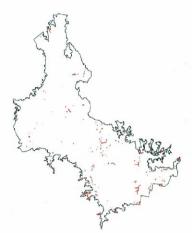
VEGETATION OF THE CENTRAL HUNTER VALLEY · Volume 2 · Profiles of Vegetation Communities

MU 30 • Hunter Valley River Oak Forest

Walker & Hopkins classification

Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. *cunninghamiana* very tall open forest to closed forest

Distribution in the study area



Field photograph of map unit



REMS equivalent	MU 14 Wollombi Redgum – River Oak Woodland (in part)			
Number of sites sampled in study area (and used in delineation)	4 (4)			
Number of native taxa recorded	50			
Median area	1.72 ha			
Mean area	3.27 ha			
Pre-European esitmated area	unknown			
Extant area	955 ha (1.6% of remnant vegetation)			
Likely proportion cleared	98.9% (Note: this value includes MU 13 & MU 28)			
Model reliability	no model			

Vegetation community significance

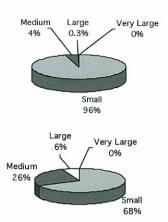
Conservation assessment:	1 (E) and 2 (R)
Reservation status:	extremely poor (very small area of similar community in Towarri NP)
EPBC Act status:	not listed
TSC Act status:	not listed
Regional significance:	significant (highly cleared, restricted, under threat)

Significant species recorded¹ or expected²

Eucalyptus glaucina (3VCa) ²	
none recorded	5
Eucalyptus glaucina (V) ²	£
Eucalyptus glaucina (V) ²	47
Eucalyptus glaucina ²	
none recorded	8 V.
	none recorded Eucalyptus glaucina (V) ² Eucalyptus glaucina (V) ² Eucalyptus glaucina ²

Local landscape pattern

Number of remnants		
Very large remnants (>100 ha):	0	0%
Large remnants (40–100 ha):	1	0.3%
Medium remnants (10–40 ha):	13	3.7%
Small remnants (<10 ha) :	278	96%
Area of vegetation in remnants		
Very large remnants (>100 ha):	0 ha	0%
Large remnants (40–100 ha):	60 ha	6%
Medium remnants (10–40 ha):	247 ha	26%
Small remnants (<10 ha):	647 ha	68%
	the second of the second se	



Floristic description

A mid-high to tall forest with a mid-dense canopy almost exclusively dominated by river oak (*Casuarina cunning-hamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*). Other less frequent canopy species may include rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*), forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*) or an intergrade between river oak and swamp oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana—glauca*). Rainforest-affiliated low trees and shrubs sometimes form an understorey stratum where the natural structure remains relatively intact. These may include such species as native peach (*Trema tomentosa* var. *viridis*), ironwood (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) and muttonwood (*Rapanea variabilis*). However, in most places the understorey is absent, and the ground cover, which can be sparse to dense, is typically dominated by herbaceous weed species (see the *Significant Weeds* section). The most frequent shrubby weeds are lantana (**Lantana camara*) and African olive (**Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*).

Weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*), couch (*Cynodon dactylon*) and basket grass (*Oplismenus aemulus*) are the most abundant native grasses, and stinging nettle (*Urtica incisa*), kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*), slender knotweed (*Persicaria decipiens*), common cotula (*Cotula australis*), whiteroot (*Pratia purpurascens*), prickly starwort (*Stellaria pungens*), cockspur flower (*Plectranthus parviflorus*), native geranium (*Geranium solanderi* var. *solanderi*) and spiny-headed mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) were the most abundant forbs at the sites sampled.

Vines are common and include wonga wonga vine (*Pandorea pandorana* subsp. *pandorana*), traveller's joy (*Clematis glycinoides* var. *glycinoides*) and wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*), with a rare record of *Calystegia marginata* from Middlebrook. The exotic balloon vine (**Cardiospermum grandiflorum*) has established substantial infestations within this community, and now forms a dominant component throughout much of its distribution. Sheoak mistletoe (*Amyema cambagei*) is a frequent aerial hemiparasite of river oak.

Known variants

Numerous: This community is extremely variable, being at least in part a response to disturbance arising from altered land use practices. As such, numerous variants occur across the range of its distribution, particularly in response to different land use conditions.

Habitat

Hunter Valley River Oak Forest occurs mostly along creek banks and (rarely) some alluvial flats. Woolfrey and Ladd (2001) considered that this tendency to grow along river banks and in valleys may be a response to fire regimes. Unlike swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*), it is not usually associated with soils of higher than usual salinity levels. It usually occurs closer to the high energy banks and shoals in streams than most eucalypts species do.

Distribution

Study area: Hunter Valley River Oak Forest occurs along the Hunter River and its tributaries throughout the study area. In smaller streams of the Belford district and in the central Hunter Valley around Ravensworth, Edderton and Wybong, river oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*) is usually replaced by swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*), most often in areas of higher soil salinity.

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Region: This community occurs broadly between Wingen, Denman and Maitland. Upstream of Fordwich along Wollombi Brook it intergrades into Wollombi Red Gum – Apple Forest. It is currently uncertain whether the riparian communities dominated by river oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*) along the Goulburn River west of Denman, and along the Pages and Isis rivers, and the Hunter River north of Glenbawn Dam, are part of the same vegetation community, although this does seem likely.

Example locations: New England Highway crossing over Black Creek, west of Branxton; Wollombi Brook near Bulga; Golden Highway crossing of the Hunter River at Bowman's Crossing, west of Jerrys Plains.

Condition assessment

This vegetation community is typically highly modified, having been extensively cleared, often grazed and usually infested with weeds. In most places where riparian fencing is present it does not necessarily prevent livestock incursions on to stream banks, so livestock frequently damage the community through trampling, grazing pressure and the addition of nutrients through defecation. Livestock also assist the invasion of weed species, several of which have a significant impact on this community (see the Significant Weeds section).

No sites have been observed where the vegetation could be considered to be in relatively pristine condition, or even necessarily in good condition.

Threat assessment

This community was once probably most threatened by direct clearing, which has been the most significant cause of the reduction in its extent. Presently, clearing of riparian vegetation is not permitted without approval, and the degradation of riparian vegetation is listed as a Key Threatening Process under the NSW *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

The most significant specific threats to this community are weed invasion and establishment, livestock grazing and the lack of structural intactness, the latter of which is both a result of and further prevented by the former two factors. Most threats occur as a result of the very high edge-area ratio that is exhibited by the long, narrow stands of river oak.

Mapping accuracy

Hunter Valley River Oak Forest is mapped to a high degree of accuracy. Inaccuracies in the mapping will occur where the boundary between this vegetation community and MU 28 Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest occurs. Even in the field it can be difficult to determine the exact boundary between these two vegetation communities, as *Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana* and *Casuarina glauca* hybridize and can be difficult to separate. Other errors will occur where dry rainforest was naturally present in sheltered sites along the banks of major watercourses.

The mapped boundary between this vegetation community and MU 13 Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex is relatively arbitrary. It is sometimes difficult to determine where these two communities begin and end when they abut each other. In most instances MU 13 Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex commences at the outer edge of the Hunter Valley River Oak Forest boundary.

3 Open Forests • MU 30

Equivalent vegetation types

NPWS (2000):	MU 14 Wollombi Redgum – River Oak Woodland (in part)
Hill (2003a):	Unit 3 Alluvial River Oak Forest
Thomas (1998):	Casuarina cunninghamiana (River Oak) River Flat Forest.
Fallding et al. (1999):	none
Hill et al. (2001):	RPF1 River Oak Riparian Forest (in part)
Bell (2004b):	E14 Wollombi Redgum – River Oak Woodland (in part)
Hill (1999):	RPF1 River Oak Riparian Forest (in part)
Bell (1998):	F20 Alluvial River Oak Forest (in part)
ERM Mitchell McCotter (1998a&b):	Riparian Forest (in part)
Hill and Peake (in prep.):	none

Structure

Stratum	Height range	Canopy cover	
Emergent:	20–30 m	<5%	
Upper tree:	15–25 m	40-80%	
Shrub:	0.5–3 m	10-40%	
Ground:	<1 m	80-100%	

Significant weeds

Serious weeds include balloon vine (**Cardiospermum grandiflorum*), blue morning glory (**Ipomoea indica*), kikuyu (**Pennisetum clandestinum*), panic veldtgrass (**Ehrharta erecta*), green cestrum (**Solanum parquii*), wandering Jew (**Tradescantia fluminensis*), paspalum (**Paspalum dilatatum*), shivery grass (**Briza minor*), lantana (**Lantana camara*) and African olive (**Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*) among many others. African olive and balloon vine are particularly insidious.

Other comments

An extensive programme of riparian fencing is required to control livestock and to encourage recruitment to allow this vegetation community to persist.

Key species

Note: the following diagnostic species list is based on data from three sites only.

Life form	Botanical name		In comm.		ners	Fidelity
		c.a.	Freq.	c.a.	Freq.	
Tree	Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana	4	100%	3	2%	positive
	Angophora floribunda	2	33%	2	15%	uninformative
	Eucalyptus tereticornis	1	33%	2	9%	uninformative
Shrub	Acacia falcata	1	33%	2	9%	uninformative
	Acacia longifolia	1	33%	2	3%	uninformative
	Acacia paradoxa	1	33%	2	4%	uninformative
	Ficus coronata	. 1	33%	2	5%	uninformative
	Hymenanthera dentata	2	33%	2	7%	uninformative
	Myoporum montanum	1	33%	1	7%	uninformative
	Notelaea venosa	1	33%	1	1%	uninformative
Subshrub	Nyssanthes diffusa	3	33%	2	4%	uninformative
	Sigesbeckia orientalis subsp. orientalis	2	33%	2	24%	uninformative

Life form	Botanical name		In comm.		ners	Fidelity
		c.a.	Freq.	c.a.	Freq.	
Subshrub contd	Solanum prinophyllum	2	33%	1	16%	uninformative
Forb	Lomandra longifolia	2	100%	2	25%	positive
	Dichondra repens	3	67%	2	49%	constant
11.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	Persicaria decipiens	5	67%	2	2%	positive
	Plectranthus parviflorus	2	67%	1	18%	positive
	Pratia purpurascens	2	33%	2	45%	uninformative
	Commelina cyanea	2	33%	1	15%	uninformative
	Convolvulus erubescens	2	33%	1	3%	uninformative
	Cotula australis	5	33%	2	3%	uninformative
	Cynoglossum australe	2	33%	1	6%	uninformative
	Einadia hastata	2	33%	2	12%	uninformative
	Galium propinquum	3	33%	2	9%	uninformative
	Geranium solanderi var. solanderi	5	33%	2	9%	uninformative
	Plantago debilis	1	33%	2	17%	uninformative
	Plantago gaudichaudii	2	33%	1	1%	uninformative
	Solenogyne bellioides	2	33%	2	2%	uninformative
	Stellaria pungens	5	33%	2	3%	uninformative
	Urtica incisa	6	33%	2	12%	uninformative
Grass	Austrostipa verticillata	4	100%	2	10%	positive
	Oplismenus aemulus	3	67%	2	15%	positive
	Echinochloa telmatophila	2	33%	0	0%	unique
	Cynodon dactylon	6	33%	2	10%	uninformative
	Echinopogon ovatus	3	33%	2	18%	uninformative
	Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides	0	0%	2	43%	negative
Sedge	Carex appressa	2	33%	- 1	4%	uninformative
	Schoenus apogon	2	33%	1	1%	uninformative
Ground fern	Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. sieberi	2	33%	2	47%	uninformative
Vine	Pandorea pandorana subsp. pandorana	2	67%	1	27%	positive
	Calystegia marginata	2	33%	1	1%	uninformative
	Cayratia clematidea	2	33%	2	15%	uninformative
	Clematis glycinoides var. glycinoides	4	33%	1	23%	uninformative
	Eustrephus latifolius	2	33%	2	26%	uninformative
Twiner	Desmodium varians	2	33%	2	42%	uninformative
	Glycine clandestina	2	33%	2	36%	uninformative
	Stephania japonica var. discolor	2	33%	1	11%	uninformative
Mistletoe	Amyema cambagei	2	33%	2	1%	uninformative
	Muellerina celastroides	2	33%	2	<1%	uninformative

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APPENDIX 4 COMMUNITY PROFILE: HUNTER FLOODPLAIN RED GUM WOODLAND

Excerpt from Hunter-Central Rivers CMA, 2007. Vegetation of the Central Hunter Valley, NSW

Appendix 4

MU 13 • Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex

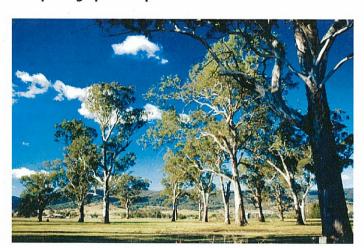
Eucalyptus camaldulensis – Eucalyptus tereticornis – Eucalyptus melliodora very tall woodland

Distribution in the study area

Walker & Hopkins classification

Field photograph of map unit





3 (13)
04
.15 ha
.45 ha
1,142 ha (13.1% of study area)
36 ha (0.7% of remnant vegetation)
8.9% (Note: this value includes MU 28 & MU 30)
+

Vegetation community significance

Conservation assessment:	1 (C) and 2 (V).
Reservation status:	not reserved
EPBC Act Status:	not listed
TSC Act status:	not listed
Regional significance:	significant (very rare, highly cleared, highly threatened, not reserved)

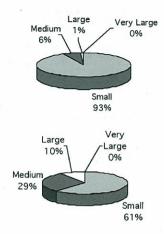
Significant species recorded¹ or expected²

Undescribed:	none recorded	
Regionally Significant:	Eucalyptus camaldulensis ¹	
Threatened (TSC Act):	Eucalyptus camaldulensis (E-pop) ¹	
Threatened (EPBC Act):	none recorded	
Recommended ROTAP:	none recorded	
Nationally Rare (ROTAP):	none recorded	

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Local landscape pattern

Number of remnants		
Very large remnants (>100 ha):	0	0%
Large remnants (40–100 ha):	1	1%
Medium remnants (10–40 ha):	6	6%
Small remnants (<10 ha):	91	93%
Area of vegetation in remnants		
Very large remnants (>100 ha):	0 ha	0%
Large remnants (40–100 ha):	42 ha	10%
Medium remnants (10–40 ha):	125 ha	29%
Small remnants (<10 ha):	268 ha	61%



Floristic description

A mid-high to very tall or open woodland occurring on floodplains and floodplain rises along the Hunter River and several major tributaries. Sites on major floodplains between Singleton and several kilometres south of Scone are dominated by river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), often as a sole dominant canopy species. Forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), yellow box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) and rough-barked apple (*Angophora floribunda*) can co-dominate in places, although they usually form a minor part of the canopy. River oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*) once formed a gallery forest, within the typically-surrounding red gum forest, along most creeks and rivers. Today, in many places, all that remains of the surrounding red gum forest are scattered individuals of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* co-occurring with *Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*.

Eucalyptus camaldulensis has not been located along Kingdon Ponds north of Parkville, or along the Pages River (D. Lewer pers. comm.). Instead, *Eucalyptus tereticornis* forms dominant woodlands on floodplains in these areas. At marginal sites throughout the study area, *Eucalyptus tereticornis* usually takes over from *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in upstream locations, such as along the lower Wybong Creek.

On rises occurring on and around the margins of floodplains, *Eucalyptus melliodora* often forms a woodland or occasionally a mid-dense forest, to the exclusion of other tree species, although *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and *Angophora floribunda* may also occur with it. *Angophora floribunda* also dominates some sites. Occasional remnants of white cedar (*Melia azedarach*) suggest that it may once have formed an important sub-canopy in some sheltered sites, particularly in the Aberdeen district on the flats below Segenhoe Mountain.

In various parts of the vegetation community's range, it may be dominated almost exclusively by trees in the following combinations: *E. camaldulensis* \pm *C. cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*; *E. tereticornis* \pm *E. melliodora*; *E. melliodora* \pm *A. floribunda*; *A floribunda*; or variations of the above. These combinations most likely relate to land use history, and local geomorphological conditions.

Shrubs are generally very sparse or absent. The groundcover of most sites has been significantly altered but presumably would have been dominated by a range of native grasses and forbs, with sedges and rushes also being important. Today, dominant groundcovers include couch (*Cynodon dactylon*), lesser joyweed (*Alternanthera denticulata*), slender bamboo grass (*Austrostipa verticillata*), kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*), rushes (*Juncus spp.*), peppercress (*Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium*), poison pratia (*Pratia concolor*), stinging nettle (*Urtica incisa*), berry saltbush (*Einadia hastata*), dwarf amaranth (*Amaranthus macrocarpus* var. *macrocarpus*), sticky sedge (*Cyperus fulvus*), Australian hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum australe*), *Cyperus gracilis*, knob sedge (*Carex inversa*), variable glycine (*Glycine tabacina*), *Oxalis exilis*, native geranium (*Geranium solanderi* var. *solanderi*), weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*), common everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), wallaby grass (*Austrodanthonia fulva*), slender plantain (*Plantago debilis*), tufted hedgehog grass (*Echinopogon caespitosus* var. *caespitosus*) and fishweed (*Einadia trigonos* subsp. *trigonos*). The groundcover flora at each site is strongly influenced by surrounding vegetation types and the degree of, and time since, disturbance.

Habitat

This vegetation community is strongly tied to floodplains of major and intermediate watercourses. It occurs invariably on alluvial soils and generally in locations that receive reasonably regular flooding. It is probable that *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* predominates in areas where water is impounded for several days or weeks after floods.

Known variants

The following variants are recognised but have not been mapped separately:

River red gum variant: Dominated almost exclusively by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*; may include extensive areas of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* subsp. *cunninghamiana*.

Forest red gum variant: Dominated mostly by Eucalyptus tereticornis; may include stands of Eucalyptus melliodora.

Yellow box variant: Dominated by Eucalyptus melliodora; may include Angophora floribunda.

Rough-barked apple variant: Dominated by Angophora floribunda.

Mixed variant: Contains attributes of two or more variants.

Distribution

Study area: Occurs throughout the study area, along the Hunter River, Goulburn River, Dart Brook, Kingdon Ponds, Wollombi Brook, Wybong Creek, Muscle Creek and the lower reaches of other smaller tributaries. A very small stand occurs in the upper reaches of Doughboy Hollow in Singleton Military Area. The largest and most intact stands occur on Dart Brook south of Scone and at Hunterview near Singleton.

Region: NPWS (2000) did not describe this community, however it is partly covered by MU 13 Central Hunter Riparian Forest. It occurs as far east as Maitland LGA (at Hinton and Aberglasslyn), where single trees of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus tereticornis* are all that remain. It may also occur in Cessnock LGA. This vegetation community also probably occurs further along Goulburn River west of the study area as small, isolated remnants, and also at Bylong (where a small stand of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* occurs) and possibly further. It may also occur further north along the Pages River in the Blandford district, although evidence is required to confirm this supposition.

Example locations: Muscle Creek, Muswellbrook, (including Muswellbrook Golf Course, a highly disturbed remnant); Dart Brook and Kingdon Ponds confluence, near Aberdeen; Dart Brook 2 km south of Scone (the most intact remnant); Kingdon Ponds, 2 km north of Scone; Hunter River at Plashett, near Jerrys Plains; Redbournberry Reserve, Singleton.

Condition assessment

Most stands of Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex are in poor to very poor condition. This has resulted from: widespread clearing that has been undertaken since European settlement (and possibly still continues); intensive land use for dairying and cropping, and; associated weed invasion and establishment. Most sites have very limited recruitment of native species, and consequently most remnants comprise old or senescent trees. Recruitment is suppressed by weeds, grazing and fertiliser application. Tree dieback is a major problem, with a high proportion of mature trees suffering defoliation and branch pruning. The combination of poor recruitment and early senescence in remnants means that little or no replacement of old growth trees has taken place. Despite the general poor condition of remnants, a few are in relatively good condition and may recover if appropriate management conditions were provided.

Threat assessment

After direct clearing, floodplain alienation has probably been the most important threatening process for the river red gum variant. Recent studies in the Murray River catchment have shown that without regular flooding, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* struggles to compete with other species (Murray Darling Basin Commission 2003). When placed in the context of intensive land use, weed impacts and grazing, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* does not regenerate well. The alienation of floodplains has exacerbated this problem. Little, if any, additional alienation takes place today, however the legacy of previous flood mitigation works continues to limit the rehabilitation of this community.

All variants are seriously threatened by weed invasion and establishment, grazing, fertiliser and herbicide application, tree dieback and increased mistletoe infestation — a natural process that has been exacerbated by the effects of clearing and fragmentation.

The introduction of non-natural hybrid river red gums for revegetation projects and farm forestry could have a very serious impact on the survival of pure river red gum in the Hunter Valley. This practice is continuing and expanding despite abundant evidence that it should not take place (e.g. Daniels and Sheil 1999; Potts and Wilt-

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shire 1999; Potts et al. 2001; Potts et al. 2003; Hill 2003; Meddings et al. 2003). If continued, it may result in the extinction of the Hunter Valley genetic pool.

Mapping accuracy

Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex is mapped with a moderate to high degree of accuracy. As a very high proportion of this community has been cleared there are relatively few control sites upon which this community has been described. Given its fidelity to floodplains and their margins, the modelling of the extent of this community should be relatively accurate.

The mapped boundary between this community and MU 30 Hunter Valley River Oak Forest is relatively arbitrary in many cases. It is often difficult to determine where these two communities begin and end when they abut each other. In most instances MU 13 Hunter Floodplain Red Gum Woodland Complex commences at the outer edge of MU 30 Hunter Valley River Oak Forest boundary.

Equivalent vegetation types

MU13 Central Hunter Riparian Forest (in part)
MU13 Central Hunter Riparian Forest (in part)
none (although some representative species are present at one site)
none
none

Structure

Stratum	Height range	Canopy cover		
Upper tree:	18–35m	5–25 (40)%		
Ground:	<1m	60–90%		

Significant weeds

This vegetation community is severely threatened by a range of groundcover weed species, most of which are associated with dairying and cropping practices. Kikuyu (**Pennisetum clandestinum*) is probably the most prevalent weed. Galenia (**Galenia pubescens*) is likely to eventually smother most other groundcover species in this community as it advances across the central and upper Hunter. Other important groundcover weeds include panic veldtgrass (**Ehrharta erecta*), carpet grass (**Axonopus affinis*), various clovers (**Trifolium* spp.), various medics (**Medicago* spp.) and khaki weed (**Alternanthera pungens*). Castor oil plant (**Ricinus communis*) infests numerous sites, developing dense, largely impenetrable patches.

Other comments

The river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) population within the Hunter catchment is listed as an endangered population under the TSC Act 1995.

This community is under extreme threat and is not reserved. Urgent protection and management agreements with private landholders are required.

Life form	Botanical name	In comm.		Others		Fidelity
it Maladari, phi		c.a.	Freq.	c.a.	Freq.	PASPARA CONTRACTOR
Tree	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	3	46%	0	0%	unique
	Eucalyptus tereticornis	3	38%	2	9%	positive
Eucalyptus melliodora	Angophora floribunda	3	15%	2	15%	uninformative
	Brachychiton populneus subsp. populneus	1	15%	1	14%	uninformative
	Eucalyptus melliodora	4	15%	2	2%	uninformative
	Casuarina cunninghamiana subsp. cunninghamiana	3	8%	3.	2%	uninformative

Key species

2 Woodlands • MU 13

A STREET MAN	and the second	c.a.	Freq.	6.2	Freq.	a destruction of the second
T.	- · · ·	A NORSHITTER AND		c.a.	A CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR	
Tree CONTD	Eucalyptus crebra	1	8%	3	28%	uninformative
	Eucalyptus punctata	2	8%	2	21%	uninformative
<u></u>	Casuarina glauca	4	8%	3	3%	uninformative
Shrub	Notelaea microcarpa var. microcarpa	2	23%	2	19%	uninformative
	Bursaria spinosa	2	15%	2	26%	uninformative
	Exocarpos strictus	1	15%	1	4%	uninformative
	Notelaea neglecta	2	15%	1	1%	uninformative
Subshrub	Solanum cinereum	2	15%	1	4%	uninformative
Forb	Dichondra repens	2	54%	2	49%	constant
	Einadia hastata	2	31%	2	11%	uninformative
	Pratia purpurascens	1	23%	2	46%	uninformative
	Alternanthera denticulata	2	23%	1	2%	uninformative
	Calotis lappulacea	1	23%	2	13%	uninformative
	Commelina cyanea	2	23%	1	15%	uninformative
	Einadia trigonos	2	23%	1	7%	uninformative
	Geranium solanderi var. solanderi	2	23%	2	9%	uninformative
	Rumex brownii	2	23%	1	8%	uninformative
	Ajuga australis	1	15%	1	10%	uninformative
	Lepidium pseudohyssopifolium	2	15%	1	1%	uninformative
	Oxalis exilis	2	15%	2	6%	uninformative
	Oxalis radicosa	1	15%	2	3%	uninformative
	Plantago debilis	3	15%	2	17%	uninformative
	Pratia concolor	3	15%	2	<1%	uninformative
	Sida corrugata	1	15%	2	4%	uninformative
	Solanum americanum	2	15%	2	2%	uninformative
	Urtica incisa	3	15%	2	12%	uninformative
	Amaranthus macrocarpus var. macrocarpus	1	8%	0	0%	unique
Grass	Cynodon dactylon	4	85%	2	9%	positive
	Austrostipa verticillata	4	46%	2	10%	positive
	Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides	4	23%	2	43%	uninformative
	Aristida ramosa	3	23%	2	20%	uninformative
	Austrodanthonia fulva	3	15%	2	9%	uninformative
	Cynoglossum australe	2	15%	1	6%	uninformative
	Eragrostis leptostachya	1	15%	2	17%	uninformative
	Sporobolus creber	2	15%	2	7%	uninformative
Sedge	Carex sp.	3	15%	2	2%	uninformative
	Cyperus fulvus	3	15%	2	1%	uninformative
	Cyperus gracilis	2	15%	2	5%	uninformative
Rush	Juncus sp.	1	31%	1	1%	uninformative
Ground fern	Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	1	23%	1	6%	uninformative
	Cheilanthes sieberi subsp. sieberi	2	8%	2	48%	uninformative
Aquatic fern	Marsilea drummondii	1	8%	0	0%	unique
l Fwiner	Glycine tabacina	2	23%	2	25%	uninformative
	Desmodium varians	2	15%	2	43%	uninformative
	Glycine clandestina	2	15%	2	36%	uninformative
Vistletoe	Lysiana exocarpi subsp. tenuis	2	8%	1	1%	uninformative