

# HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS

## EPBC 2016-7640 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT 2025

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27/02/2029

**OWNER**

Environment and Community Coordinator

o



**Declaration of accuracy**

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed

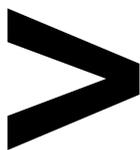
Full name (please print) Michael Lloyd

Position (please print) Environment & Community Coordinator

Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable)

HV Operations Pty Limited (ABN 76 606 478 399)

Date 28 February 2026

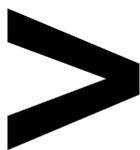


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## 1 | INTRODUCTION

This annual compliance report has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (Commonwealth of Australia 2023) and addresses Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) compliance with the conditions of the EPBC 2016/7640 approval. The period covered by this report is for the calendar year 2025. For ease of reporting, in the January 2021 extended report submission, HVO transitioned the reporting year from the November to October period to the calendar year.

As a result, this report covers the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 (the reporting period).

### 1.1 | BACKGROUND

Hunter Valley Operations is located approximately 24 kilometres northwest of Singleton in the Hunter Valley, NSW. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, under provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), issued approval EPBC 2016/7640 for the continuation of open cut coal mining operations, within the HVO mine complex, in areas that were previously approved by the State after the commencement of the EPBC Act 1999. Approval was granted on 10 October 2016 and the action commenced on 1 November 2016.

The EPBC 2016/7640 approval (last modified in October 2025), requires various offsets to be established as a result of the impacts upon Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). The offsets are required to include no less than:

- Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest (CHVEF) (405.8ha);
- Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) foraging habitat (175.8ha) plus regenerating foraging habitat (40ha);
- Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) breeding and foraging habitat (68.4ha); and
- Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) breeding (2.6ha) and foraging habitat (102.7ha).

The Offset Strategy (Biodiversity Offset Strategy – State Approved Mining (EPBC2016/7640)) details the offset areas that are managed in relation to this approval. Originally approved on 23 October 2017, a variation was approved on 30 October 2025. The offset areas are summarised below:

- Wandewoi Biodiversity Area (BA) – Offsets approximately 66% of the action's impacts on Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest (CHVEF), plus approximately 85% of the action's impacts on the Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
- Hook BA – Offsets approximately 32% of the action's impacts on Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest (CHVEF) plus 15% of the action's impact on the Swift Parrot foraging habitat.
- Mitchelhill BA - Offsets approximately 2% of the action's impacts on CHVEF and 53.9% of the Regent Honeyeater impacts.
- Condon View BA - Offsets the remaining 46.1% of the Regent Honeyeater impacts.
- Crescent Head BA - To offset 99.29% of the action's impacts on the Green and Golden Bell Frog (GGBF). The residual 0.71% offset for the GGBF has been provided through a contribution towards a GGBF Habitat Mapping project at Crescent Head that was managed by the Biodiversity & Conservation Division of the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment.

The EPBC 2016/7640 conditions of approval, as varied by the 30 October 2025 approval, are presented in **Section 2.1**.

The Wandewoi BA, Hook BA, Mitchelhill BA, Condon View BA and the Crescent Head BA offset sites have been secured in perpetuity via Conservation Agreements pursuant to s305 of the EPBC Act. The legally binding agreements were finalised by DCCEEW on 27 January 2026.



## 1.2 | LANDOWNER DETAILS

“Interest Holder” for each of the BAs:

HV Operations Pty Limited,  
Coal & Allied Operations Pty Limited, and  
Anotero Pty Limited

For communications regarding the BAs, the relevant contact details are:

Attn: Manager – Environment and Community  
Hunter Valley Operations  
PO Box 315,  
Singleton, NSW, 2330.

Email: [environmentandcommunity@hvo.com.au](mailto:environmentandcommunity@hvo.com.au)

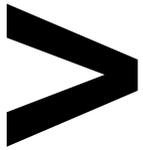
## 2 | CONDITION OF COMPLIANCE

### 2.1 | EPBC 2016/7640

| Condition Number | Condition  | Compliance status | Evidence/Comments  |
|------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 1                | The <b>person taking the action</b> must not clear more than 54.4 hectares of the Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and woodland (CHVEF) ecological community from the Riverview Pit and 6.6 ha of the CHVEF ecological community from within the West Pit and must limit all vegetation clearing to within the project disturbance boundaries defined at Schedule 1, Figures 1 - 4. | Compliant         | Disturbance has been restricted to within project disturbance boundaries through the HVO Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) process. From within the EPBC areas, HVO has, in total, disturbed approximately 41ha CHVEF from Riverview Pit and 5.7ha of CHVEF from West Pit.<br><br>The 2024 compliance report reported 44ha of disturbance within the Riverview EPBC area. That report included the 2.6ha of rehabilitation that occurred in 2000 and 2003. As this rehabilitation occurred prior to the 2016/7640 approval, this 2.6ha will not be included within the reported disturbance area in future compliance reports unless subject to further disturbance. |
| 2                | The <b>person taking the action</b> must prepare and submit a Vegetation Clearance Plan (VCP) for the <b>Minister's</b> approval to mitigate impacts of the action on the CHVEF ecological community, the Regent Honeyeater ( <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> ), Swift Parrot ( <i>Lathamus discolor</i> ) and the Green and Golden Bell Frog ( <i>Litoria aurea</i> ). The VCP must include: | Compliant         | Vegetation Clearance Plan (VCP) was submitted to the DCCEEW and approved by the Acting Assistant Secretary 24 October 2016. A variation to the Plan has been subsequently approved by the Department on 31 October 2024.   |
| 2a               | Clear delineation of vegetation to be cleared, as per the disturbance boundary shown in Schedule 1 Figures 1 - 4, and vegetation that is to be retained.   | Compliant         | These areas are outlined within Section 2.1 and Chapter 3 of the VCP. The areas to be cleared are first identified and approved within a GDP. In the field, the areas were delineated by a surveyor prior to clearing using flagging tape or a hard boundary, such as a track or existing fencing, where applicable.   |
| 2b               | Pre-clearance survey methods, which must include but not be limited to the following requirements:   |                   |  |

|  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| i. A <b>qualified ecologist</b> must undertake a pre-clearance survey within 24 hours prior to the removal of potential foraging, nesting or breeding habitat for the Regent Honeyeater or foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot in areas identified in Schedule 2, Figures 1 - 5.   | Compliant | Chapter 3 of the VCP. All pre-clearance surveys were undertaken by qualified ecologist. No species listed or nests were identified during the surveys.    |
| ii. If during pre-clearance surveys, Regent Honeyeater or Swift Parrot individuals are identified within the clearance area the VCP must specify the use of a two stage clearing protocol where <b>non-habitat trees</b> are cleared 24 hours prior to any <b>habitat trees</b> being cleared, to encourage fauna to move out of a habitat area.               | Compliant | Section 3.2 and 3.3 of the VCP. No species listed or nests were identified during the surveys.  |
| iii. In the event an <b>active Regent Honeyeater nest</b> is identified during pre-clearance surveys, vegetation clearing and overburden removal within 100 m of the active nest should be delayed up until the <b>Regent Honeyeater nest is no longer actively being used</b> .   | Compliant | Section 3.3 of the VCP. No species listed or nests were identified during the surveys.  |
| iv. A qualified ecologist must undertake pre-clearance surveys within a 2 week period prior to the removal of potential breeding habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog. Surveys are to be undertaken within all potential breeding habitat areas identified in Schedule 2, Figure 2 as well as a 200m buffer around each potential breeding habitat area. | Compliant | Section 3.3 of the VCP.<br><br>During the reporting period, pre-clearance surveys for GGBF were completed by qualified ecologists as required by the VCP. |
| v. Pre-clearance survey methods for the Green and Golden Bell Frog must meet the survey effort requirements for the Green and Golden Bell Frog stipulated in the Survey Guidelines for Australia's threatened frog (2010) Commonwealth of Australia  | Compliant | Section 3.3 of the VCP.<br><br>The pre-clearance surveys complied with the VCP and the efforts outlined in the stated guidelines.                         |

|     |  |           |   |
|-----|--|-----------|---|
| vi. | In the event Green and Golden Bell Frog individuals, metamorphs or tadpoles are located during pre-clearance surveys, they are to be handled and translocated in accordance with the Hygiene protocols for the control of diseases in frogs (2008) Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW).   | Compliant | Section 3.3 of the VCP.<br><br>No tadpoles or GGBFs were identified during the pre-clearance surveys for GGBF.  |
| 2c  | Include measures to avoid, suppress and control the spread of plant pathogens (such as <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> ) and chytrid fungus that may degrade habitat for <b>protected matters</b> .<br><br>The action must not commence until the Vegetation Clearance Plan, required by Condition 2, has been approved by the <b>Minister</b> . | Compliant | Chapter 4 of the VCP. The VCP includes hygiene protocols to manage the spread of potential pathogens. Any machinery used to clear within the extension area relevant to the EPBC 2016/7640 approval will be washed of soil and mud prior to exiting HVO. The VCP also outlines measures to avoid the spread of Chytrid fungus from survey equipment, clearing machinery and during frog handling.<br><br>The VCP was approved by the Minister on 24 October 2016 and the action commenced on 1 November 2016. A revised VCP was assessed by the Minister's Delegate and notification provided on 31 October 2024 that the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact on a protected matter. |
| 3   | The approved Vegetation Clearance Plan must be implemented.  | Compliant | Measures outlined in the VCP have been implemented for disturbance associated with GDPs.  |
| 4   | To compensate for impacts to <b>protected matters</b> the <b>person taking the action</b> must, by 31 March 2026, enter into and comply with a <b>Conservation Agreement</b> for each <b>offset area</b> that meets the requirements of the <b>EPBC Act Offset Policy</b> and must:  | Compliant | The Conservation Agreement under the s305 EPBC Act was finalised by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on 27 January 2026.   |
| 4a  | Include no less than:  | Compliant | The Conservation Agreement addresses the required CHVEF quantum by offsets at the Wandewoi (236.8ha), Mitchelhill (135.4ha) and Hook (109ha) biodiversity areas.  |
| i.  | 405.8 hectares of the CHVEF ecological community;  | Compliant | The Conservation Agreement addresses the required CHVEF quantum by offsets at the Wandewoi (236.8ha), Mitchelhill (135.4ha) and Hook (109ha) biodiversity areas.  |



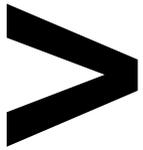
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|    | ii. 175.8 hectares of foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot; and   | Compliant | The Conservation Agreement addresses the required Swift Parrot quantum by offsets at the Wandewoi (236.8ha) and Hook (121.5ha) biodiversity areas, including the required hectares of foraging habitat.   |
|    | iii. 40 ha of regenerating foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot.  | Compliant | The Wandewoi BA includes 61ha of regenerating foraging habitat area.  |
| 4b | Compensate for residual significant impacts to 68.4 ha of breeding and foraging habitat for the Regent Honeyeater.   | Compliant | The residual significant impacts to the Regent Honeyeater have been addressed through the provision of 132ha at Mitchelhill BA and 168ha at Condon View BA.   |
| 4c | Compensate for residual significant impacts to 2.6ha of breeding habitat and 102.7 ha of foraging habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog.  | Compliant | The residual significant impacts to the Green and Golden Bell Frog have been addressed by securing the biodiversity areas at Crescent Head North (52.79ha) and Crescent Head South (136.7ha). In addition, the \$24,510 residual offset liability was paid as a wetland and habitat mapping project to an agreed NSW Save our Species GGBF project. |
| 5  | Revoked  |           |   |
| 6  | Revoked  |           |   |
| 7  | Revoked  |           |   |
| 8  | Revoked  |           |   |
| 9  | The <b>person taking the action</b> must discontinue taking the action by 31 March 2026 unless and until the <b>person taking the action</b> has entered into the <b>Conservation Agreements</b> as required by Condition 4. | Compliant | The Conservation Agreement under the s305 EPBC Act was finalised by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on 27 January 2026.   |
| 10 | Revoked  |           |   |



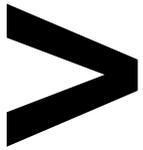
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| 11  | To compensate for residual impacts to the <b>protected matters</b> , the <b>person taking the action</b> must submit to the <b>Department</b> , for the <b>Minister's</b> approval, a Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP) for each of the <b>offset areas</b> . Relevant <b>offset attributes</b> and <b>shapefiles</b> must be provided to the <b>Department</b> at the time each BOMP is submitted. Each BOMP must: | Compliant | The BOMPs were submitted to the Department and approved by the Delegate on 30 October 2025. The submission was accompanied by the relevant offset attributes and shapefiles as required.              |
| 11a | Detail the location, nature and boundaries of the relevant <b>offset area</b> , including textual descriptions and maps.   | Compliant | Chapter 3 of each BOMP outlines the required information.   |
| 11b | Include a survey and description of the current condition (prior to management activities commencing) of each <b>offset area</b> .   | Compliant | Chapter 3 of each BOMP outlines the required information.   |
| 11c | Detail management actions to be undertaken at each <b>offset area</b> to protect and improve the habitat quality for the relevant <b>protected matters</b> . This must include but not be limited to weed management, feral animal management, erosion and sediment control, and fire management, as necessary.  | Compliant | Chapter 5 of each BOMP outlines the required information.   |
| 11d | Include timeframes, interim performance targets and completion criteria for implementing all management measures and for achieving and demonstrating achievement of all required improvements in the condition of the offsets. These must include criteria for triggering corrective actions if interim performance targets and/or completion criteria are not met by the relevant timeframes.                               | Compliant | Chapter 4 of each BOMP outlines the timeframes, interim performance targets and completion criteria.<br><br>The risk assessment and corrective action matrix is documented in Chapter 7 of the BOMPs. |
| 11e | Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the management measures, and to assess and demonstrate progress against the interim performance targets and the completion criteria.   | Compliant | Chapter 6 of each BOMP outlines the required information.   |
| 11f | Identify the potential risks to the successful implementation of the BOMP.   | Compliant | Chapter 7 of each BOMP outlines the risk assessment.  |
| 11g | Include measures that will be implemented to mitigate identified risks to successful BOMP implementation, monitoring to detect the likely realisation of those risks, and corrective measures that will be implemented if those risks are realised.  | Compliant | Chapter 7 of each BOMP outlines the required information.   |
| 12  | The approval holder must ensure that the approved BOMP for each <b>offset area</b> is incorporated into the <b>Conservation Agreement</b> for that <b>offset area</b> and that   | Compliant | The approved BOMP is inserted as Schedule 2 within the relevant Conservation Agreement. The BOMPs are being implemented as  |



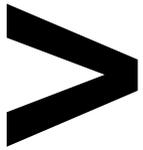
|     |   |                |   |
|-----|---|----------------|---|
|     | each approved BOMP is implemented in accordance with the relevant <b>Conservation Agreement</b> .   |                | evidenced by the compliance table in each EPBC 2016/7640 compliance report.   |
| 13  | Revoked   |                |   |
| 14  | The <b>person taking the action</b> may choose to revise a management <b>plan</b> approved by the <b>Minister</b> without submitting it for approval under Section 143A of the <b>EPBC Act</b> , if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised management plan would not be likely to have a <b>new or increased impact</b> on a <b>protected matter</b> under the conditions of this approval. If the <b>person taking the action</b> makes this choice, they must: | Not applicable | No edits to the approved BOMPs have occurred during the reporting year.<br><br>No edits to the Vegetation Clearing Plan occurred during the reporting year. More details are outlined in Section 8. |
| 14a | notify the <b>Department</b> in writing that the approved management <b>plan</b> has been revised and provide the <b>Department</b> with:   | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.   |
|     | i. an electronic copy of the revised management <b>plan</b> ;   | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.   |
|     | ii. an electronic copy of the revised management <b>plan</b> ; marked up with tracked changes to show the difference between the approved management <b>plan</b> and the revised management <b>plan</b> ;   | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.   |
|     | iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved management <b>plan</b> and the revised management <b>plan</b> ;   | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.   |
|     | iv. the reasons the <b>person taking the action</b> considers that taking the action in accordance with the revised management <b>plan</b> would not be likely to have a new or increased impacts; and  | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.   |
|     | v. written notice of the date on which the <b>person taking the action</b> will implement the revised management <b>plan</b> , being at least 20 <b>business days</b> after the date of providing the notice of the revision of the management <b>plan</b> or a date agreed to in writing with the <b>Department</b> .  | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.   |



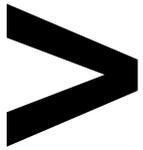
|     |  |                |  |
|-----|--|----------------|--|
| 15  | The <b>person taking the action</b> may revoke its choice under Condition 14 at any time by notice to the <b>Department</b> . If the person taking the action revokes the choice to implement a revised management plan, without approval under Section 143A of the EPBC Act, the management plan approved by the <b>Minister</b> must be implemented            | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year.  |
| 16  | Revoked  |                |  |
| 17  | If the <b>Minister</b> gives a notice to the <b>person taking the action</b> that the <b>Minister</b> is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised management plan would be likely to have a <b>new or increased impact</b> on a <b>protected matter</b> by the conditions of this approval, then:                                  | Not applicable | No edits to the approved management plans occurred during the reporting year and no notifications were received from the Minister regarding revised management plans.                                      |
| 17a | Condition 14 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised management <b>plan</b> ; and   | Not applicable |  |
| 17b | The person taking the action must implement the previous management <b>plan</b> most recently approved by the <b>Minister</b>  | Not applicable |  |
|     | To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of conditions 14, and 15 in the period before the day the notice is given.<br><br>At the time of giving the notice the <b>Minister</b> may also notify that for a specified period of time that Condition 14 does not apply for one or more specified <b>plans</b> required under the approval. | Not applicable |  |
| 18  | Revoked  |                |  |
| 19  | Within 30 days after the <b>commencement of the action</b> , the <b>person taking the action</b> must advise the <b>Department</b> in writing of the actual date of <b>commencement</b> .  | Compliant      | The then Department of Environment and Energy were advised by letter dated 9 November 2016 that the action had commenced on the 1 November 2016 in accordance with the approved Vegetation Clearance Plan. |



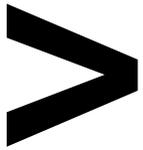
|     |   |                |  |
|-----|---|----------------|--|
| 20  | The <b>person taking the action</b> must:   |                |  |
| 20a | submit <b>plans</b> electronically to the <b>Department</b> ;   | Compliant      | The Plans were provided to the Department electronically on 4/6/2025.  |
| 20b | publish each <b>plan</b> on the <b>website</b> within 20 <b>business days</b> of the date the <b>plan</b> is approved by the <b>Minister</b> or of the date a revised management plan is submitted to the <b>Minister</b> or the <b>Department</b> under condition 14, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the <b>Minister</b> ; | Compliant      | The Delegate advised on 30 October 2025 that the BOMPs were approved. HVO placed the approved BOMPs on its public website on 27 November 2025. |
| 20c | exclude or redact <b>sensitive ecological data</b> from <b>plans</b> to be published on the <b>website</b> or provided to a member of the public; and   | Not applicable |  |
| 20d | keep <b>plans</b> published on the <b>website</b> until the end date of this approval.  | Compliant      | The BOMPs remain on the HVO public website.  |
| 21  | The <b>person taking the action</b> must maintain accurate and complete <b>compliance records</b> .   | Compliant      | Records of activities and outcomes are maintained by site personnel and stored within the electronic folders and compliance management system. |



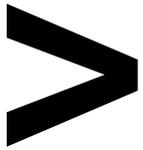
|     |   |                |  |
|-----|---|----------------|--|
| 21a | <p>If the <b>Department</b> makes a request in writing, the person taking the action must provide electronic copies of the <b>compliance records</b> to the <b>Department</b> within the timeframe specified in the request.</p> <p>Note: <b>Compliance records</b> may be subject to audit by the <b>Department</b> or an independent auditor in accordance with Section 458 of the <b>EPBC Act</b>, and/or used to verify compliance with the conditions. Summaries of the result of an audit may be published on the <b>Department's website</b> or through the general media.</p> | Not applicable | No request for an independent audit has been received from the Department. |
| 21b | <p>The <b>person taking the action</b> must ensure the <b>independent audits</b> of compliance with these conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the <b>Minister</b>.</p>  | Not applicable |  |
| 21c | <p>For each <b>independent audit</b>, the <b>person taking the action</b> must:</p>   |                |  |
|     | <p>i. Provide the name and qualifications of the nominated independent auditor, the draft audit criteria, and proposed timeframe for submitting the <b>audit report</b> to the <b>Department</b> prior to commencing the <b>independent audit</b>.</p>  | Not applicable |  |
|     | <p>ii. Only <b>commence</b> the <b>independent audit</b> once the nominated independent auditor, audit criteria and timeframe for submitting the <b>audit report</b> have been approved in writing by the <b>Department</b>.</p>  | Not applicable |  |
|     | <p>iii. Submit the <b>audit report</b> to the <b>Department</b> for approval within the timeframe specified and approved in writing by the <b>Department</b>.</p>   | Not applicable |  |
|     | <p>iv. Publish each <b>audit report</b> on the <b>website</b> within 15 <b>business days</b> of the date of the <b>Department's</b> approval of the <b>audit report</b>.</p>  | Not applicable |  |
|     | <p>v. Keep every <b>audit report</b> published on the <b>website</b> until this approval expires.</p>   | Not applicable |  |



|    |   |                |  |
|----|---|----------------|--|
| 22 | The <b>person taking the action</b> must prepare a <b>compliance report</b> for each calendar year following the date of <b>commencement of the action</b> . The <b>person taking the action</b> must:                                  | Compliant      | HVO has published on its website compliance reports for the previous compliance reporting years. This compliance report outlines HVO's compliance with the approval conditions for 2025 (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025). Evidence of date of publication and notification of any non-compliances with the conditions will be provided to DCCEEW by the 28 February 2026. |
|    | a. publish each <b>compliance report</b> on the <b>website</b> on or prior to 1 March each calendar year following the relevant reporting period;   | Compliant      | For the 2024 reporting year, the compliance report was published on 31 January 2025. Evidence of this publication along with a summary was provided to DCCEEW on the same day.   |
|    | b. notify the <b>Department</b> by email that a <b>compliance report</b> has been published on the <b>website</b> and provide the weblink for the <b>compliance report</b> within five <b>business days</b> of the date of publication; | Compliant      | For the 2024 reporting year, the compliance report was published on 31 January 2025. Evidence of this publication along with a summary was provided to DCCEEW on the same day.   |
|    | c. keep all <b>compliance reports</b> publicly available on the <b>website</b> until this approval expires;   | Compliant      | HVO's EPBC compliance reports are currently available on the HVO public website at <a href="http://HVO.com.au/documents">HVO.com.au/documents</a>  |
|    | d. exclude or redact any <b>sensitive ecological data</b> from the <b>compliance reports</b> published on the <b>website</b> ; and  | Not applicable |  |
|    | e. where any <b>sensitive ecological data</b> has been excluded from the version published, submit the full <b>compliance report</b> to the <b>Department</b> within five (5) <b>business days</b> of publication.                      | Not applicable |  |
|    | <b>Note: Compliance reports</b> may be published on the <b>Department's website</b> .   |                |  |



|     |   |           |  |
|-----|---|-----------|--|
| 22a | <p>The <b>person taking the action</b> must notify the <b>Department</b> in writing of any: <b>incident</b>; non-compliance with these Conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in <b>plans</b>. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two <b>business days</b> after becoming aware of the <b>incident</b> or non-compliance. The notification must specify:</p> | Compliant | No incidents or breaches of commitments made by HVO have occurred within the Biodiversity areas during 2025. |
|     | a. any condition which is in breach;  |           |  |
|     | b. a short description of the <b>incident</b> and/or non-compliance; and  |           |  |
|     | c. the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the <b>incident</b> and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.   |           |  |
| 22b | <p>The <b>person taking the action</b> must provide to the <b>Department</b> the details of any <b>incident</b> or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in <b>plans</b> as soon as practicable and no later than 10 <b>business days</b> after becoming aware of the <b>incident</b> or non-compliance, specifying:</p>   | Compliant | No incidents or breaches of commitments made by HVO have occurred within the Biodiversity areas during 2025. |
|     | a. any corrective action or investigation which the <b>person taking the action</b> has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;   |           |  |
|     | b. the potential impacts of the <b>incident</b> or non-compliance; and  |           |  |
|     | c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the <b>person taking the action</b> .  |           |  |
| 23  | Revoked   |           |  |



2.2 | VEGETATION CLEARANCE PLAN

| Commitment   | Compliance status | Evidence/Comments   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 1. A GDP will be completed and approved prior to any clearance in the extension areas.   | Compliant         | Clearing activities within the EPBC areas occurred within GDP428, GDP 468 and GDP 554 within the West Pit and Riverview Pit during the reporting period.                                      |
| 2. Conduct pre-clearance surveys for CHVEF in accordance with Section 3.3.1  | Compliant         | Pre-clearance surveys were undertaken for the three GDPs stated above.  |
| 3. Identify clearance limits on plans and on the ground.   | Compliant         | The limits of clearing activities are defined by the GDP surveyed boundary with each activity.  |
| 4. Conduct pre-clearance surveys for listed species in accordance with Section 3.3.2, 3.3.3 and 3.3.4.   | Compliant         | Pre-clearance surveys that surveyed for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and the Green and Golden Bell Frog were undertaken for the three GDPs stated above.                               |
| 5. Manage listed species during vegetation clearance in accordance with Section 3.3.2, 3.3.3 and 3.3.4.  | Compliant         | None of the species were identified as having been resident or transient within the surveyed area during the pre-clearance surveys.   |
| 6. All clearing machinery involved in vegetation and/or topsoil clearance in areas relevant to the EPBC 2016/7640 approval will be washed of all loose soil and mud prior to leaving site. | Compliant         | The clearing machinery operating within the EPBC areas within the above stated GDPs during the reporting period were washed of soil, mud and vegetation prior to departing the activity area. |
| 7. Disinfection measures are implemented in accordance with Section 4.3.2.   | Compliant         | Disinfection measures during the pre-clearing inspection were undertaken in accordance with Section 4.3.2.  |
| 8. Records will be kept in accordance with Section 5.2.  | Compliant         | The final report of the pre-clearance survey documents the activities undertaken during the survey. The HVO file management system documents equipment washing records.                       |



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9. Publish the annual compliance report on the proponent's website, in accordance with Section 5.1 and 5.3.

Compliant

Previous compliance report have been posted on HVO's public website prior to the required date. This compliance report will be placed on the HVO public website and notification provided to DCCEEW in accordance with the EPBC 2016/7640 approval.

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### 3 | NEW ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND POTENTIAL THREATS TO MATTERS OF NATIONAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

#### **Mitchelhill (West)**

In July 2025, the routine property inspection identified that unauthorised entry had occurred via a boundary fence that was cut from a neighbouring property. A fallen tree had been partially removed for firewood. Additional trespass checks were completed without incident.

In December 2025, the routine property inspection identified that an unauthorised trespasser had gained entry to the offset via driving across a section of fenceline. No evidence of additional unauthorised activities were observed during the inspection. No evidence of firewood collection or damage to the offset was noted.

Following both events, the fence was repaired within 30 days of identification in line with the BOMP requirements.

#### **Crescent Head**

In June 2025, an unspecified number of unauthorised cattle were placed within the Crescent Head South BA. Access was gained via removing the hinges from the locked gate. The cattle were within the BA for approximately three days, during which, much of the long grass had been grazed. The cattle had access to both the inground and constructed frog ponds.

The constructed frog ponds have been refilled and the broken netting repaired. Every gate now has a chain and lock on both sides of the gate to ensure the gate remains locked and prevent access by lifting the gate from the hinges.

No additional environmental risks or threats to matters of national environmental significance have been identified during the reporting period.



## 4 | SUMMARY OF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Table 4.1 shows the monthly rainfall compared to the long-term average for the BAs. The rainfall received during 2025 at all locations slightly exceeded the annual average.

**Table 4.1. Rainfall received during 2025 against the average annual rainfall occurring at each of the BAs.**

| Site          | Weather station                     | Annual Rainfall Received (mm) | Annual Average (mm) | Surplus/Deficit (mm) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Condon View   | Putty Tea Rooms # 61209             | 765.8                         | 750.3               | 15.5                 |
| Crescent Head | Crescent Head # 59047               | 1733.7                        | 1459.7              | 274                  |
| Hook          | Elderslie # 61092                   | 966                           | 727                 | 239                  |
| Mitchelhill   | Muswellbrook (Spring Creek) # 61192 | 787.4                         | 686.1               | 101.3                |
| Wandewoi      | HVO Corp - North                    | 709.8                         | 658.2               | 51.6                 |

\* Note:

Crescent Head: December rainfall extrapolated from rainfall received in Kempsey.

## 5 | MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING SCHEDULE

Established offset sites at Wandewoi, Mitchelhill, Hook, Condon View and Crescent Head Biodiversity Areas (BAs) offset the impacts on *Lathamus discolor* (Swift Parrot), *Anthochaera phrygia* (Regent Honeyeater), *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog) (GGBF) and Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland (CHVEFW). The Crescent Head Biodiversity Area is the only site established to offset impacts to GGBF; the monitoring requirements for this BA are discussed separately in this report.

The Biodiversity Management Plan for each site identifies the key conservation outcomes of the long-term management and protection of the offset areas. In addition, the conservation values, key performance indicators, and completion criteria are outlined.

The landscape monitoring requires an interpretation of aerial photo images of the BAs over time and is not considered in this compliance report. This report provides a summary of investigations and activities undertaken to address both the ecological and management requirements of HVO's BAs.

Offset monitoring has been ongoing according to the schedule in **Table 5.1** since the EPBC approval in 2016.

**Table 5.1. Monitoring schedule proposed in biodiversity areas management plans and implemented in all BAs.**

| Monitoring method   | Year 1     | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4     | Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | On                    |
|---|------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| <b>Landscape</b>  |            |        |        |            |        |        |        |                       |
| Aerial photo interpretation                                     | X          |        |        |            | X      |        |        | Repeat every 5th year |
| <b>Ecological</b>   |            |        |        |            |        |        |        |                       |
| Condition Assessment  | Spring     | Spring |        | Spring     |        | Spring |        | Repeat from Year 2    |
| Bird Assemblage   | Winter     | Winter |        | Winter     |        | Winter |        | Repeat from Year 2    |
| Green and Golden Bell Frog: threatened species monitoring       | Sept - Mar |        |        | Sept - Mar |        |        |        | Repeat every 4th year |
| Green and Golden Bell Frog: habitat assessment                  | Spring     | Spring |        | Spring     |        | Spring |        | Biennial              |
| Mosquito Fish monitoring  | Biannual   |        |        | Annual     |        |        |        | If required           |
| <b>Management</b>   |            |        |        |            |        |        |        |                       |
| Rapid Condition Assessment - CHVEFW                             |            | Spring | Spring | Spring     | Spring | Spring | Spring | Spring                |
| Rapid Condition Assessment – Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater |            | Winter | Winter | Winter     | Winter | Winter | Winter | Winter                |
| Property inspection   | Biannual   |        |        |            |        |        |        |                       |

## 6 | MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - 2025

Various conservation, monitoring, management and maintenance activities were undertaken within the BAs throughout the reporting period between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025. An overview of the various activities that occurred is presented in **Table 6.1**.

**Table 6.1. Overview of activities undertaken within the HVO EPBC 2016/7640 BAs during the reporting period.**

| Site          | Activities undertaken during the reporting period  |
|---------------|--|
| Condon View   | Property inspections, vertebrate pest management, rapid condition assessment, bushfire assessment, ecological monitoring, repair of eroded access tracks.  |
| Crescent Head | Property inspections, weed control, vertebrate pest management, rapid condition assessment, bushfire assessment, slashing of boundary firebreaks and internal access tracks, frog monitoring, internal fence removal, ecological monitoring, install second offline pond for Chytrid control, replacement of bird netting, gate repairs.   |
| Hook          | Property inspections, weed control, vertebrate pest management, rapid condition assessment, bushfire assessment, ecological monitoring, African Olive mapping, slashing of existing boundary firebreaks and internal access tracks, tubestock planting, watering and survival assessment, replacement of top barb wire on boundary fence adjoining conservation area.                                    |
| Mitchelhill   | Property inspections, weed control, vertebrate pest management, rapid condition assessment, bushfire assessment, slashing of existing boundary firebreaks and internal access tracks, waste removal.<br><b>Activities specific to the western BA:</b> fenceline survey, tubestock planting, watering and survival assessment, fencing of well to restrict fauna entry, fenceline maintenance and repair. |
| Wandewoi      | Slashing of boundary firebreaks and internal access tracks, property inspections, rapid condition assessment, weed control, vertebrate pest management and bushfire assessment, repair of eroded access tracks, waste removal.   |

### 6.1 | PROPERTY INSPECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Property inspections were undertaken regularly across all the BAs during the reporting period and provided critical advice regarding works that needed to be prioritised. A summary of the condition of each BA based on the property inspection reports is as follows:

#### **Condon View**

As per previous years, Condon View has few serious management issues and routine inspections have not identified illegal access. Despite being logged at some point many years ago, the site is well vegetated, has minimal weeds that are primarily located around an old dam, and recruitment of various native species has been observed. During 2025, vertebrate pest management and monitoring were the main activities that occurred within the BA.

Monitoring within the BA has identified various native fauna species as utilising the offset. This BA has the benefit of being located close to the Wollemi National Park in an area that is well vegetated and did not burn in the bushfires of 2020. The pest management activities will continue in 2026.



### Crescent Head

Ongoing flooding and soft ground along the access track made management of the Crescent Head North offset challenging. Plans have been developed and quotes obtained to improve access safety and reduce the bogging risk along the access track that is owned by Kempsey Council. It is intended that access across these areas will be remediated during 2026, allowing improved vehicle access and ease of property management.

At both Crescent Head BAs, a second 1000L round trough was installed as GGBF habitat. This trough is to be maintained as a brackish pond should the Chytrid fungus be found to occur within the BA. The trough was installed inline with the existing freshwater trough and covered with a bird netting structure to protect frogs and tadpoles from swooping birds (**Figure 6.1**). The trough will be maintained at 3% salt solution, which has been reported to be tolerated by frogs and tadpoles, but detrimental to Chytrid survival (Callen *et al.* 2023; Clulow *et al.* 2017; Stockwell *et al.* 2012; White 2006).

At Crescent Head North, a frog 'hotel' was constructed from PVC piping and installed within the freshwater offline trough. This is being trialled as additional frog habitat within the pond, should assist any residents with temperature regulation and, being in the middle of the trough, provide a basking location away from the majority of predators. The pipes can be seen in **Figure 6.1**.

Vegetation management has occurred along the fencelines that were previously impacted by bushfire. Fencelines that bordered private property have been repaired and are intact. The fenceline that adjoins the Hat Head National Park is yet to be repaired and will occur during 2026 following the remediation of the access track by HVO. No public access into the offset is available through the national park due to the swampy terrain and dense vegetation.

The internal fencelines were removed during 2025. A small number of stacked roofing tiles can be found near Pond 1 at Crescent Head North. Being inert, these are being retained in situ as additional habitat for frogs, such as the GGBF.

As per previous years, no dog baiting occurred at the Crescent Head offsets due to discussions with the Ranger of the adjacent National Parks indicating that a pure population of dingos exist in the Park that assist to manage the pig population. Should evidence of the dingos potentially impacting the GGBFs become available, further discussions will be held with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Crescent Head North remains in good condition but does have some minor weed issues, particularly at the exposed edges of vegetation where light is greater than beneath the established plants. The weeds are being managed within the BA and no reoccurrence of Tropical Soda Apple have been identified during 2025. The other issue that occurs at both sites is the removal of fallen trees across fencelines. This is a common occurrence following storms and is rectified immediately upon identification.

During the inspections, the constructed frog ponds and associated water tanks were reported to be in good condition. The netting (installed over the pond to provide the frogs protection from bird predation) is replaced annually. No Green and Golden Bell Frogs or tadpoles were photographed within the constructed pond or the grass beneath the pond.



**Figure 6.1.** Offline trough installation at Crescent Head BA.

Crescent Head South is also in good condition but has ongoing native shrub regrowth and extensive grass biomass in areas potentially increasing the risk of bushfire. Following significant rainfall, it is also not uncommon for trees to fall over within areas due to the shallow depth to the water table and the peaty soils offering limited support. As such, the dominant management issue in the reporting period was vegetation management, maintaining open access tracks and habitat connectivity in accordance with the management plan, and bushfire prevention.

The trespassing event discussed in Section 3 with the introduction of cattle, reduced the tall grassy growth within the northern extent of the offset. This lowered the risk of fire during the start of the 2025 bushfire season and allowed time for ongoing grass management activities to be planned. Actions to prevent similar trespass events in the future have been implemented with the inclusion of additional locked chains on both sides of all gates.

The movement corridors between the constructed frog pond and Pond D were maintained during 2025 in accordance with the draft management plan for the BA, and in line with the *Best Practice Guidelines for Green and Golden Bell Frog Habitat*, encouraging grassy tussock growth between the two sites.

Aside from native shrub regrowth within the movement corridors, vegetation management focussed on outbreaks of Groundsel bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*). The areas treated for this weed are shown in **Figure 6.2**.

No tadpoles were observed within the artificial frog ponds at the Crescent Head South BA. While no GGBF have been sighted within this BA, the property is being managed in accordance with the best practice GGBF guidelines.

Various native fauna have been sighted during the inspections across both offsets and included lace monitors, finches, fan tails, bandicoots, echidnas, robins, wrens, kookaburras, snakes and various reptiles.



Figure 6.2. Weed management in 2025 at Crescent Head South BA.

**Hook**

The primary management issues within the Hook property is the removal of African Olive (*Olea europaea subspecies cuspidate*) and Lantana, to enable the recruitment of native species consistent with the Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland ecological community. With the exception of the African olive and Lantana, exotic weeds are mainly concentrated within the grassland areas. A diverse suite of native species is recruiting across all areas of the site with active management of the exotic grasslands ongoing throughout 2026.

During 2025, the grass spraying trial was continued along the edge of the exotic grassland area due to CHVEFW species also regrowing within the grassland. The intention is to control the exotic grasses at the edges and allow the CHVEFW species to become established.

Management activities during 2025 included slashing tracks within the BA, extensive weed control (Figure 6.3), vertebrate pest management and planting tubestock of CHVEF within the nominated rehabilitation area.



The planted tubestock have established well within the rehabilitation areas. Initial survival assessments in December determined that the survival rate of these additional plantings was 71%. The survival is above the minimum required 60% and, despite this, additional plantings of tubestock is being planned for 2026.

In February 2025, the Hook property was surveyed to record the locations of all African olive individuals in accordance with the Hook BA Intensive Weed Management Plan. Weed management services were undertaken over several occasions also targeting the African olive and lantana regrowth.

HVO has the commitment to reduce the extent of African olives on the Hook BA by 30% annually. With the majority of the olive biomass having been removed in previous years via mulching, management of this species focussed on individual cut and paint and the various herbicide application techniques on smaller individuals. The commitment to a 30% annual reduction in African olives is discussed further in **Section 6.3**.



**Legend**  
 2025 Weed Treatment  
 Hook\_Offsets\_Boundary



Figure 6.3. Weed management within the Hook BA.



### Mitchelhill

The Mitchelhill West BA is in good condition and recruitment has been recorded throughout the offset areas. During the reporting period, no unauthorised entry events were noted.

Weed management has occurred with the major weeds targeted being African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Galenia (*Galenia pubescens*) various pear (*Opuntia* species) and Pampas grass (*Cortaderia* species). The areas where weed management was undertaken during 2025 is illustrated in **Figure 6.4**.

To reduce the fire risk coming into summer, the open grassy areas and the planted riplines were slashed between the rows where natural regrowth has not occurred.

Natural recruitment has continued throughout the BA and, while the planted tubestock in the riplines have established well, in 2025, supplementary tubestock of CHVEF species were installed within the rehabilitation areas. Initial survival assessments in December determined that the survival rate of these additional plantings was 58%. As the survival is below the required 60%, additional plantings of tubestock is planned for 2026.

The Mitchelhill East BA is primarily steep country which is why it is predominately vegetated with few cleared areas. The weeds present on the BA are typical of those within agricultural environments and, while these can be found in scattered dense infestations, the majority are located within the lines ripped to facilitate the planted tubestock and areas adjoining the boundary fencelines. Natural regeneration is occurring within the BA extending into the cleared grassland areas. Management of this regrowth and weed competition within the ripped lines will continue throughout 2026.

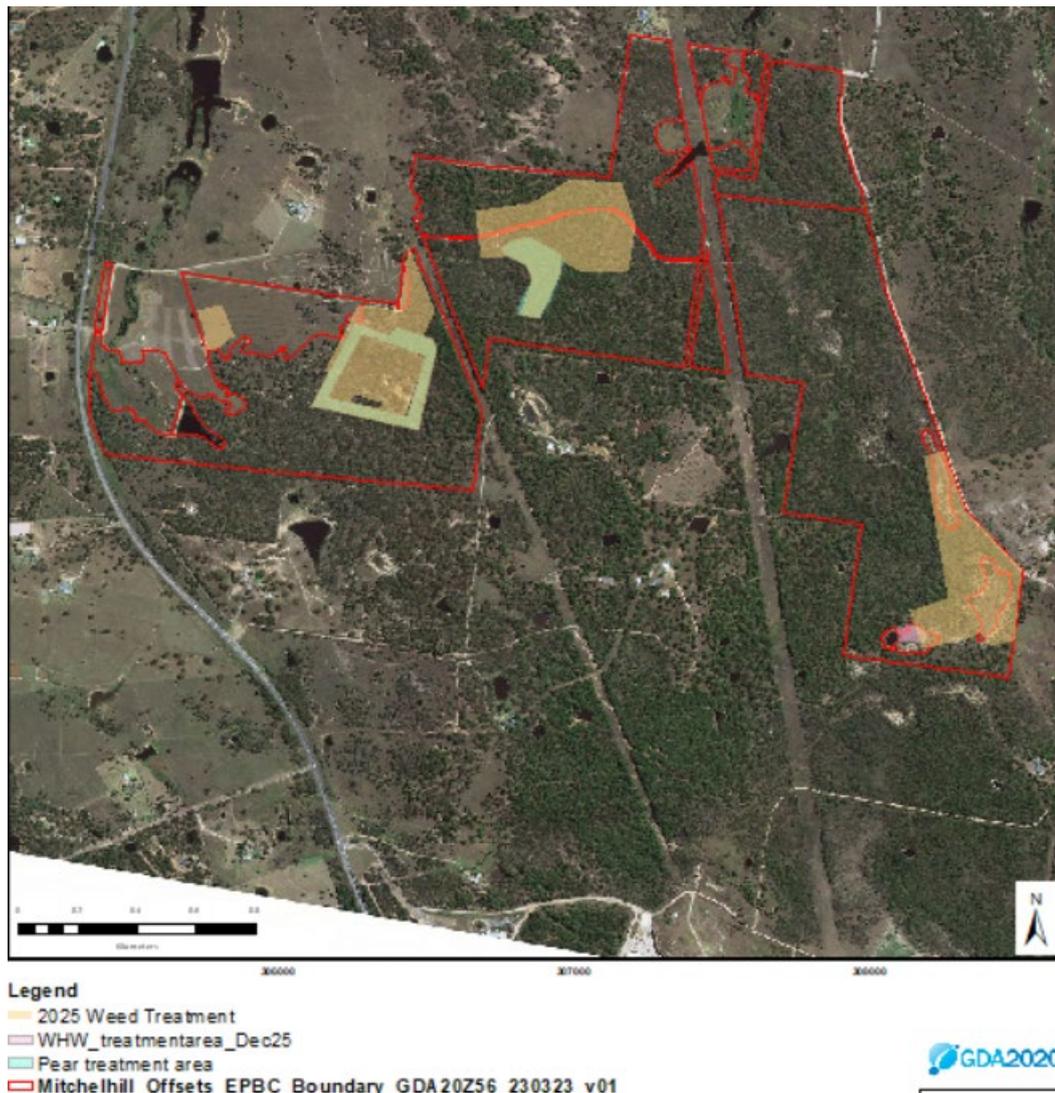


Figure 6.4. Weed management within the Mitchelhill West biodiversity area.

### Wandewoi

The management of weed growth is the main issue at the Wandewoi BA although the majority of the obvious weed proliferation occurred in the cleared, previous agricultural areas and gullies. Slashing of the tracks and open areas assisted in reducing weed establishment where possible with careful planning to avoid areas of native regrowth. Weed spraying has also occurred within specific areas identified during the monthly inspections as requiring management.

Vertebrate pests (pigs and wild dogs) are routinely managed during trapping and baiting programs. Widespread recruitment of native species has been observed within the woodland along the ridgeline. Weed management within these areas is scheduled to continue during 2026 with a focus on areas that are being planned for active rehabilitation.

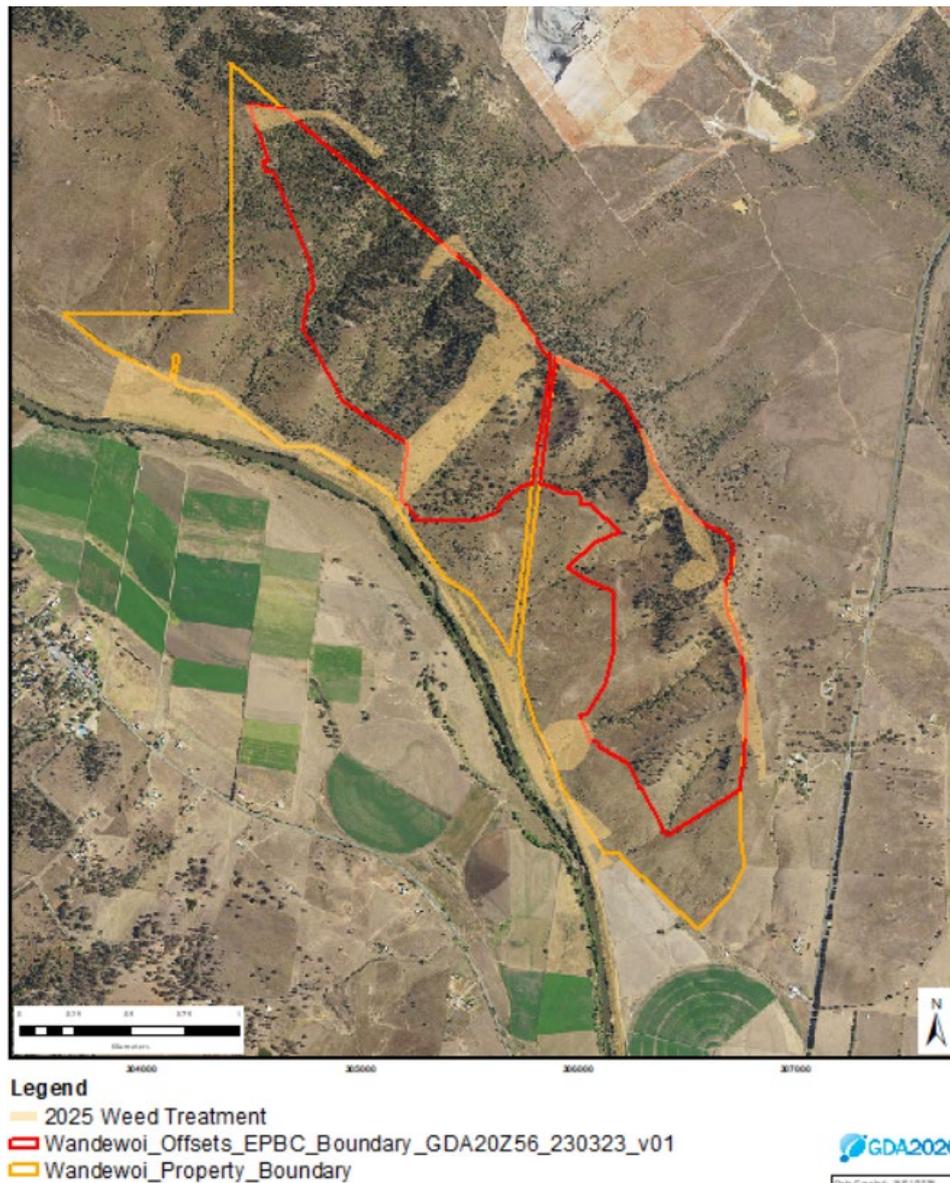


Figure 6.5. Weed management within the Wandewoi biodiversity area.

## 6.2 | VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT

During 2025, vertebrate pest management has been undertaken within all of HVOs EPBC biodiversity areas in conjunction with the Local Land Services (LLS), NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and surrounding landholders. 1080 baiting programs have targeted dogs and foxes, and trapping and baiting programs that targeted pigs were implemented.

The wild dog baiting program occurred across the Mitchelhill (East and West), Hook, Wandewoi and Condon View BAs. While no dog baiting programs occurred at the Crescent Head BA, a pig trapping program was undertaken during 2025 based on evidence of a small number of pigs traversing the property. The property inspection reports at Crescent Head have not indicated a need to undertake wild dog and fox control to manage predation on the GGBF. Discussions around regional dog baiting programs have occurred with the Kempsey NPWS due to the Crescent Head BAs adjoining the Limeburners Creek and Hat Head National Parks. To date, NPWS officers have indicated a reluctance to bait for dingos due to a 'pure' population of dingos occurring within Limeburners Creek National Park (pers comm.) and their ability to control pig populations and ensure that the pigs are transient across the area.



### 1080 Baiting Program

Wild dog baiting programs within the BAs occurred during autumn and spring 2025. Ten-eighty (1080) bait stations are selected based on previous baiting station locations, motion camera results from previous programs and sightings of wild dogs and foxes, biodiversity concerns and the location of tracks and trails within the offsets. Stations were either established as Ejector Bait Sites or baited with fresh meat containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080) at a concentration that targeted wild dogs and foxes.

The ground baiting method used aligns with the NSW Code of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for the Effective and Humane Management of Wild Dogs produced by NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI) (March 2022).

The location of the baits within each BA for both the autumn/winter and the spring 2025 programs are shown in **Figures 6.6 to 6.15**.

A summary of the baiting programs undertaken at the BAs are outlined in **Tables 6.2 and 6.3**. **Table 6.3** also presents the results from the previous year. The final column entitled 'Baiting efficiency excluding other' removes the non-target species from the calculation and gives a more accurate representation of the efficiency for the target species.

During autumn, 12 baits were taken by dogs, 24 by foxes and one by a non-target species. During the spring program, nine baits taken by dogs, 22 by foxes and 23 by non-target species. All the non-target species takes were recorded as either Pigs or Lace Monitors.

Overall, the number of baits taken depends on the season. Comparing seasonal results between years, the baits taken were similar. Considering only the results of the 2025 programs, the overall baits taken increased in spring with an increase in non-target species takes. This can be attributed to the warmer seasonal conditions and an increase in Lace Monitor takes, when compared to autumn 2025.

The results reflect seasonal change where the lace monitors have become active during the warmer months, when foraging increases when compared to the cooler months of autumn. Research shows that Australian native fauna is naturally resistant to 1080 and concentrations in the meat bait need to be substantially higher to adversely affect the animals; any native species take is an undesirable outcome for baiting results. Therefore, baiting during the cooler seasons in autumn / winter or earlier in the spring is ideal to minimise lace monitor takes and optimise target species takes.

Cats were identified within the HVO Condon View BA during the autumn program. While no cats were captured on motion cameras during Spring 2025, cats were identified within an adjoining biodiversity offset. As such, a cat trapping program will be considered for implementation during 2026.

The outcomes of the baiting program illustrate that a linear decline in vertebrate pests may not occur the following year despite efforts and expenditure. This emphasises the importance of a centralised coordination (LLS in this case) to ensure adjacent landholders participate in the scheme to minimise other properties becoming a source from where recolonisation can occur. The vertebrate pest management program will continue during 2026.

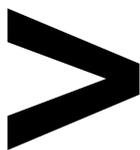


Table 6.2. Results of 1080 Vertebrate Pest Management Programs at the Wandewoi BA.

| Season | Bait Station Name | Check 1 Species | Check 2 Species | Check 3 Species | Check 4 Species | Check 5 Species |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Autumn | 3107              | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3105              | -               | Dog             | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3106              | -               | -               | -               | Fox             | -               |
| Autumn | 3098              | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3094              | -               | Dog             | -               | Dog             | Fox             |
| Autumn | 3093              | -               | Dog             | -               | -               | Dog             |
| Autumn | 3092              | -               | Pig             | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3091              | -               | Dog             | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3100              | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3083              | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               |
| Autumn | 3141              | -               | -               | -               | -               | -               |
| Spring | 3768              | -               | Fox             |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3770              | -               | -               |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3776              | -               | Dog             |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3777              | -               | -               |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3784              | -               | -               |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3785              | Dog             | Fox             |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3791              | Fox             | Dog             |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3792              | -               | Dog             |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3793              | Fox             | -               |                 |                 |                 |
| Spring | 3804              | Fox             | -               |                 |                 |                 |

**Table 6.3. Comparison of Results of all 1080 Vertebrate Pest Management Programs for HVO Biodiversity Areas (except Wandewoi and Crescent Head).**

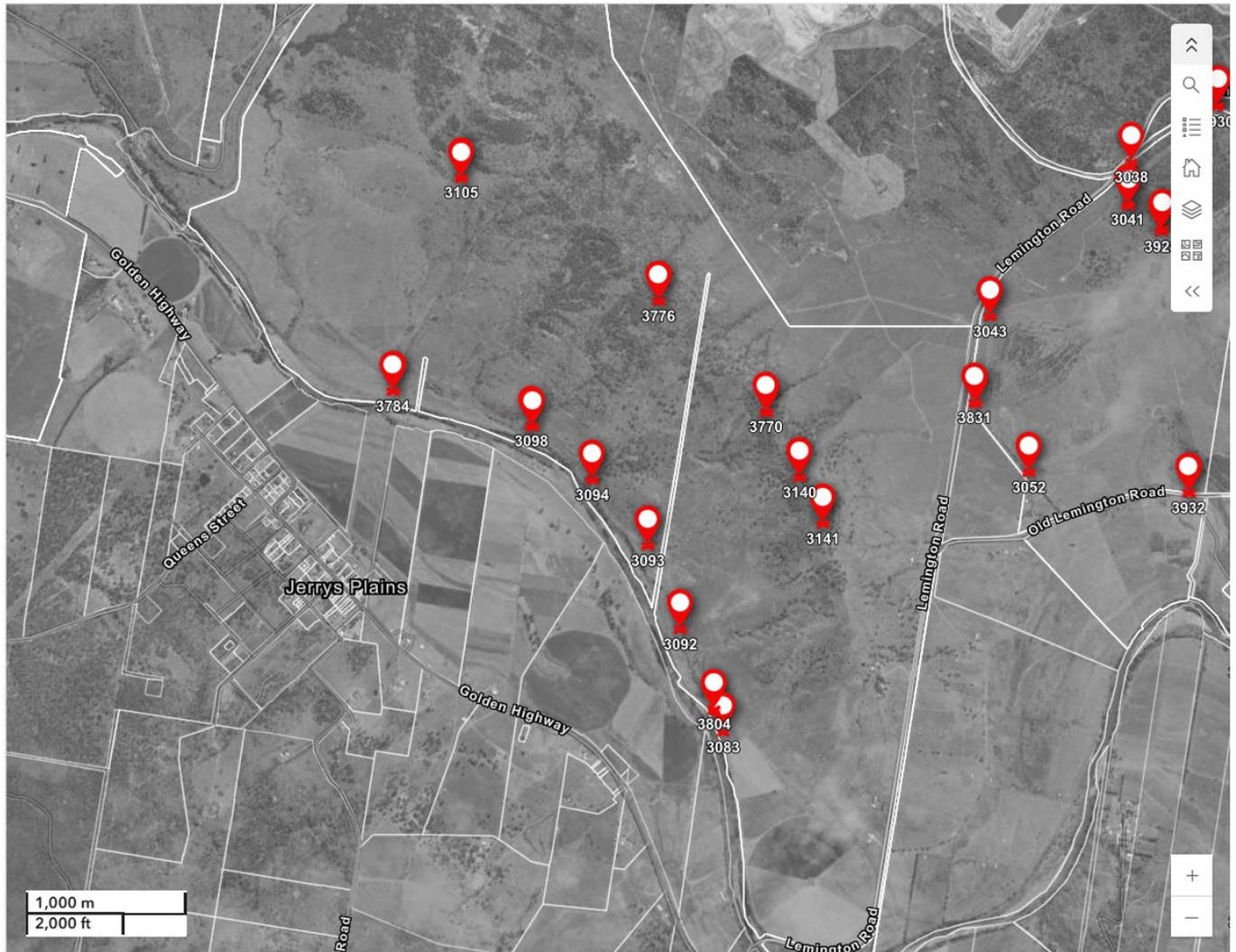
| Baiting Program | No. of Baiting Sites | Baiting opportunities | Baits taken by Dogs | Dog (%) | Baits taken by Foxes | Fox (%) | Baits taken by other (non-target) species | Other (%) | Total No. of Baits Taken | No. Sites where baits taken at least once | Represented as Percentage (%) | No. sites with baits taken on all occasions | No. sites with no baits taken | No. baits Disturbed Not Taken | No. baits taken alternatively by Dog or Fox | Baiting Efficiency % | Baiting efficiency (excl 'other') |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---|-----------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 24 LB       | 12                   | 24                    | 7                   | 54%     | 6                    | 46%     | 0   | 0%        | 13                       | 11  | 92%                           | 2   | 1                             | 2                             | 0   | 54%                  | 54%                               |
| Nov 24 LB       | 12                   | 24                    | 4                   | 21%     | 9                    | 47%     | 6   | 31%       | 19                       | 11  | 91%                           | 8   | 1                             | 3                             | 0   | 79%                  | 54%                               |
| May 25 LB       | 16                   | 32                    | 8                   | 50%     | 7                    | 43%     | 1   | 6%        | 16                       | 12  | 75%                           | 4   | 4                             | 4                             | 1   | 50%                  | 46%                               |
| Nov 25 LB       | 12                   | 24                    | 3                   | 16%     | 7                    | 38%     | 8   | 44%       | 18                       | 11  | 91%                           | 7   | 1                             | 3                             | 1   | 75%                  | 41%                               |
| May 24 MIT E    | 5                    | 10                    | 2                   | 67%     | 1                    | 33%     | 0   | 0%        | 3                        | 3   | 60%                           | 0   | 2                             | 2                             | 0   | 30%                  | 30%                               |
| Nov 24 MIT E    | 5                    | 10                    | 0                   | 0%      | 5                    | 100%    | 0   | 0%        | 5                        | 4   | 80%                           | 1   | 1                             | 1                             | 0   | 50%                  | 50%                               |
| May 25 MIT E    | 5                    | 10                    | 1                   | 16%     | 5                    | 83%     | 0   | 0%        | 6                        | 4   | 80%                           | 2   | 1                             | 2                             | 1   | 60%                  | 60%                               |
| Nov 25 MIT E    | 5                    | 10                    | 1                   | 16%     | 4                    | 66%     | 1   | 16%       | 6                        | 5   | 100%                          | 1   | 0                             | 3                             | 0   | 60%                  | 50%                               |

| Baiting Program | No. of Baiting Sites | Baiting opportunities | Baits taken by Dogs | Dog (%) | Baits taken by Foxes | Fox (%) | Baits taken by other (non-target) species | Other (%) | Total No. of Baits Taken | No. Sites where baits taken at least once | Represented as Percentage (%) | No. sites with baits taken on all occasions | No. sites with no baits taken | No. baits Disturbed Not Taken | No. baits taken alternatively by Dog or Fox | Baiting Efficiency % | Baiting efficiency (excl 'other') |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---|-----------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| May 24 MIT W    | 12                   | 24                    | 3                   | 37%     | 6                    | 67%     | 0   | 0%        | 9                        | 6   | 50%                           | 3   | 6                             | 1                             | 1   | 38%                  | 33%                               |
| Nov 24 MIT W    | 12                   | 24                    | 4                   | 20%     | 8                    | 40%     | 8   | 40%       | 20                       | 12  | 100%                          | 8   | 0                             | 2                             | 1   | 83%                  | 60%                               |
| May 25 MIT W    | 12                   | 24                    | 1                   | 12%     | 7                    | 87%     | 0   | 0%        | 8                        | 5   | 41%                           | 3   | 7                             | 4                             | 0   | 33%                  | 33%                               |
| Nov 25 MIT W    | 12                   | 24                    | 3                   | 14%     | 7                    | 33%     | 11  | 52%       | 21                       | 11  | 91%                           | 10  | 1                             | 1                             | 0   | 87%                  | 41%                               |
| May 24 CON      | 6                    | 12                    | 3                   | 37.5%   | 5                    | 62.5%   | 0   | 0%        | 8                        | 5   | 83%                           | 3   | 1                             | 1                             | 3   | 67%                  | 67%                               |
| Nov 24 CON      | 6                    | 12                    | 4                   | 40%     | 4                    | 40%     | 2   | 20%       | 10                       | 6   | 100%                          | 4   | 0                             | 0                             | 1   | 83%                  | 67%                               |
| May 25 CON      | 5                    | 10                    | 2                   | 28%     | 5                    | 71%     | 0   | 0%        | 7                        | 4   | 80%                           | 3   | 1                             | 0                             | 0   | 70%                  | 70%                               |
| Nov 25 CON      | 6                    | 12                    | 2                   | 22%     | 4                    | 44%     | 3   | 33%       | 9                        | 6   | 100%                          | 3   | 0                             | 0                             | 0   | 75%                  | 50%                               |

Note

MITE = Mitchelhill East BA  
MITW = Mitchelhill West BA

LB = Lower Belford (Hook) BA  
CON = Condon View BA



**Figure 6.6.** Wandewoi BA vertebrate pest management locations for the Autumn 2025 program.

Note: The Wandewoi baiting locations are those shown on the left of Lemington Rd.



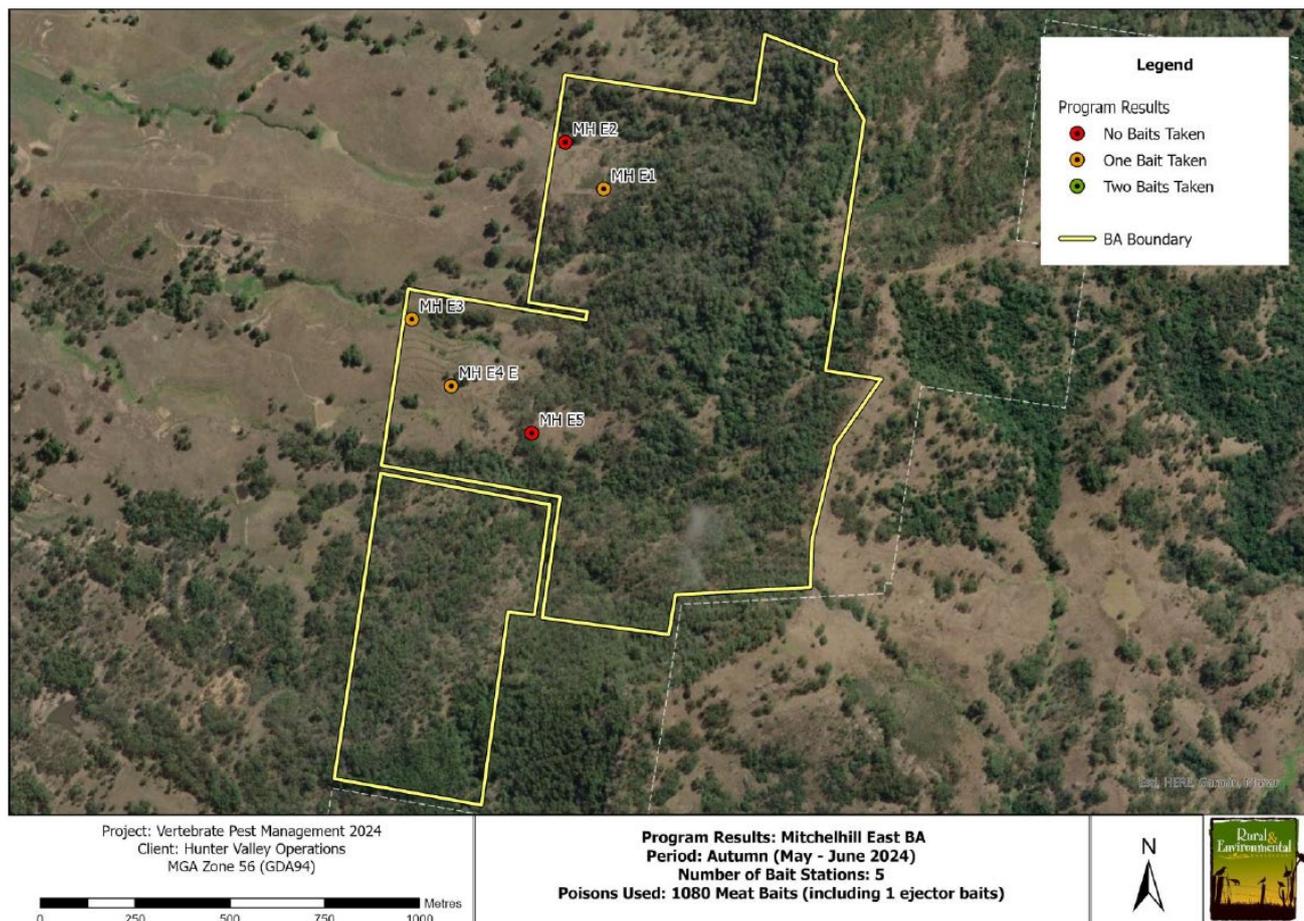


Figure 6.8. Mitchelhill East BA vertebrate pest management results for the Autumn 2025 program.

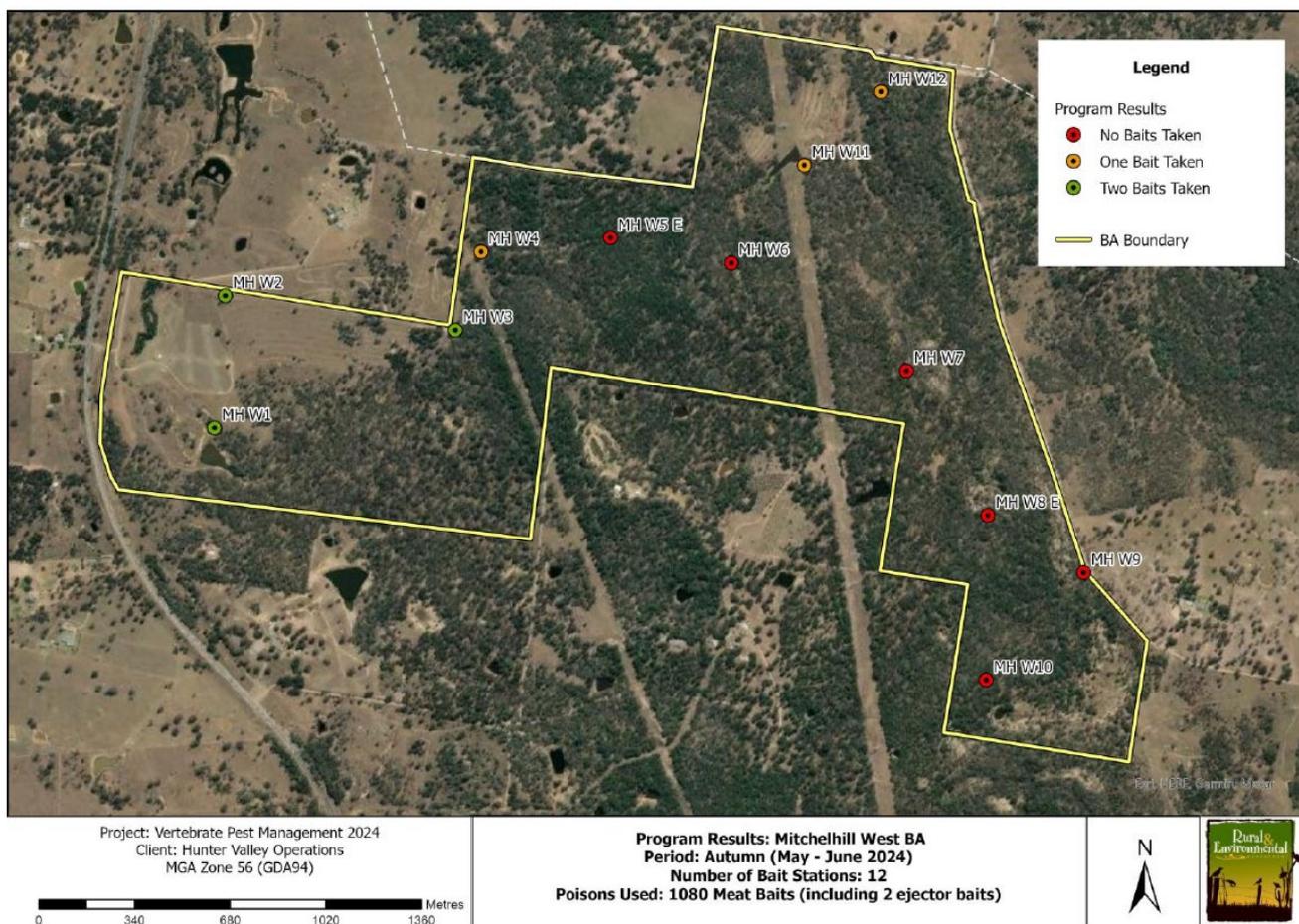


Figure 6.9. Mitchelhill West BA vertebrate pest management results for the Autumn 2025 program.

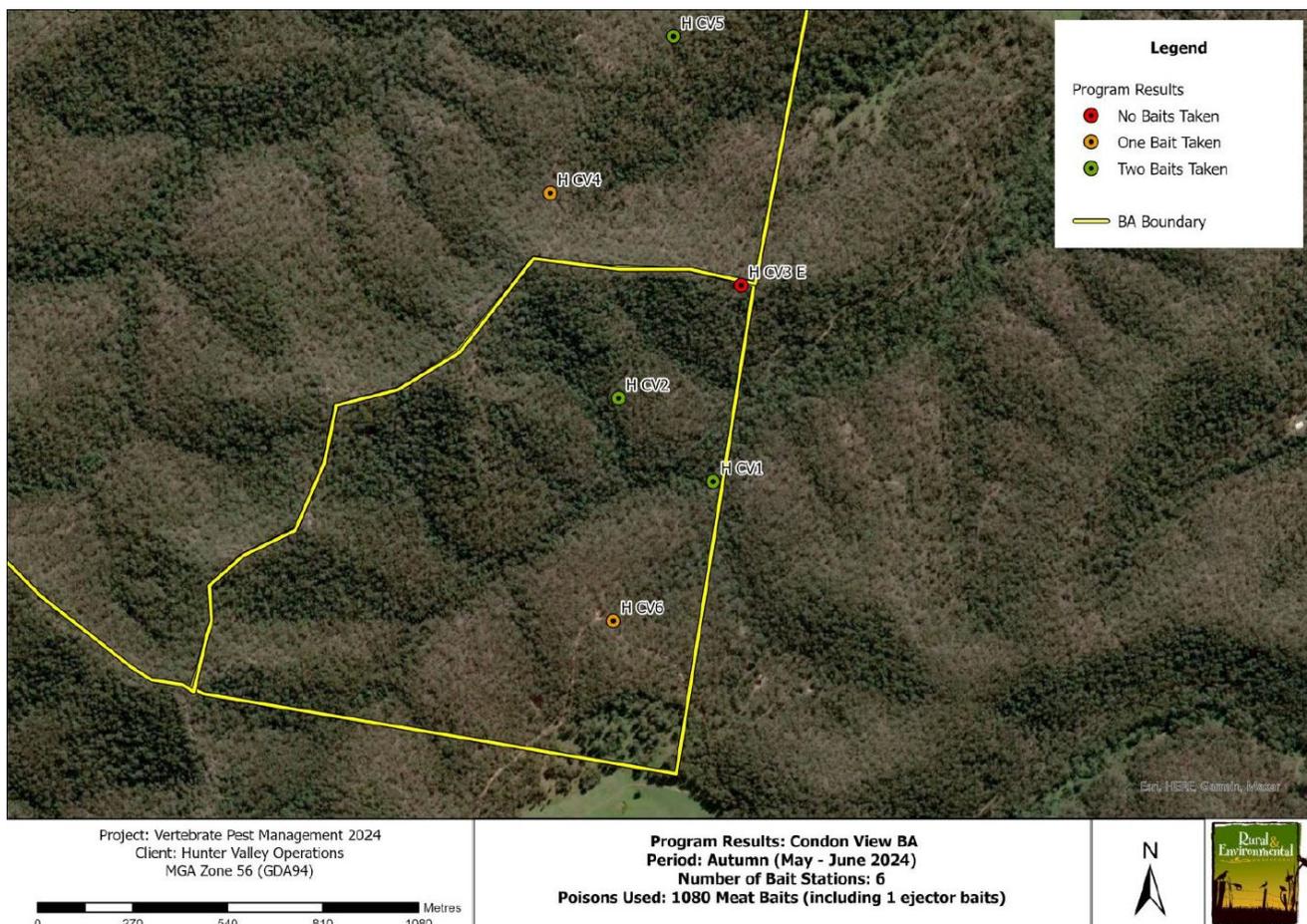
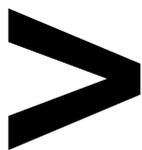


Figure 6.10. Condon View BA vertebrate pest management results for the Autumn 2025 program.



### Pig Control Program

HVO undertook pig baiting and trapping programs at HVO during 2025. The programs were in response to monitoring results and observations that reported pigs traversing the Hunter River.

Baits or traps were established at various locations along the Hunter River, including sites within the Wandewoi BA. Free feed stations were initially provided to encourage visitation by the pigs. Once visitation was determined, the free feed stations were swapped for the sodium nitrite bait stations. Sodium nitrite baits were used as studies have found that the effect on pigs is immediate with little impact on non-target species.

Each trap was baited and monitored with either a live stream HogEye Camera trap system or standard motion sensor camera system. This system allows for remote activation of the trap and aligns with the Code of Practice and Standard Operation Procedures.

Each station was checked daily using the live web-based system and visited if required to restock food or access the trap.

The pig baiting program was not as successful as anticipated. Only 12 pigs were positively identified as being impacted by the baiting. As such, a trapping program was implemented in areas where pigs were observed to occur. This included up to three locations within the Wandewoi offset.

Due to the Hunter River being in flood, which assisted to restrict cross river movement of pig populations, the trapping program ran continuously from winter into spring. On completion, in excess of 178 pigs were removed during the winter and spring 2025 campaigns. An additional 99 pigs were reported by HVO's leaseholders as having been culled under their bounty management incentive.

Weed management along the Hunter River continued during 2025 to reduce the cover and habitat for feral animals residing within HVO-owned land. It is hoped that the number of pigs controlled in future campaigns would decrease as a result of declining populations, or represent groups that traverse across the area as opposed to breeding within lands at HVO.

Within the Crescent Head BAs, monitoring for feral animals via remote cameras occurred in August 2025. The initial monitoring detected four feral pigs traversing the northern BA. To prevent these pigs from becoming established, a trapping program was installed, and two large pigs were caught and dispatched. No other pigs have been recorded or reported within these BAs.

Other species identified within the BAs on the cameras are presented in the table and images shown in Section 9.

Pig trapping is scheduled again at HVO during 2026, which will include the Wandewoi BA. A trapping program will also occur at the other BAs should monitoring results indicate that the pigs still traverse the area.

## 6.3 | HOOK BA INTENSIVE WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Intensive Weed Management Plan for the Hook BA was implemented to reduce the extent of the African olive (*Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata*) population within the Hook BA and, to a lesser extent, Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia species*). The Hook BA Intensive Weed Management Plan is included within the Hook Biodiversity Offset Management Plan.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, all landowners have a responsibility to control noxious weeds on their property, known as a General Biosecurity Duty. Landowners or land managers have a "General Biosecurity Duty" to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by priority weeds. African olive is listed as a priority weed for the Hunter region.

In the Plan, HVO has committed to reducing the extent of African olive within the Hook BA by 30% per year. This exceeds the 20% reduction recommended by the Upper Hunter Weeds Authority General Biosecurity Control Duty Guidelines.

In February each year, the Hook BA is surveyed to determine the extent and location of African olive individuals. With the ongoing reduction of African olive across the BA, it is noted that lantana and prickly pear have been increasing in number as the canopy opens up. As such, for ease of management, the mapping of individuals of these species also occur.



The sixth African olive survey was undertaken on the BA during 2025. The entire offset was surveyed, and data collected and mapped according to the following:

- Large plants (individual)
- Medium plants (individual)
- Small plants (individual)
- Seedling (individual)
- Medium to large patch
- Seedling to small patch
- Previously treated areas

Plant size was determined according to the following heights:

- Seedling: up to 12cm
- Small: 12cm to 100cm (1m)
- Medium: Approximately 1m to 3m in height
- Large: Greater than 3m in height

During the survey, individual lantana and prickly pear plants within the offset are recorded as these weed species are also considered priority for control within the Hook BA. There was no discerning between plant sizes for either lantana or prickly pear.

Activities that remove African Olive target the more-dense areas and areas containing the large mature seeding individuals to reduce the volume of seed being produced within the property. When larger individuals are removed, frequently, a 'carpet' of African olive individuals germinates from the seedbank that was beneath the removed tree. While follow up treatment does occur across these areas as soon as possible, it does not have to occur immediately as these individuals will not produce seed and the additional time will allow the seedlings to grow taller to enable them to be readily identified.

The results from the 2025 survey and the areas targeted for weed control during that year are outlined in **Table 6.4** and **Figures 6.11** and **6.12**.

**Table 6.4. Summary of the 2025 African olive survey against the previous survey results.**

| Categories        | 2020                 | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        | 2024        | 2025          |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
|                   | Total No Individuals |             |             |             |             |               |
| Large (over 3m)   | 578                  | 440         | 939         | 623         | 1443        | 297           |
| Medium (1-3m)     | 967                  | 762         | 764         | 786         | 923         | 1024          |
| Small (12cm-1m)   | 2209                 | 2068        | 3322        | 3886        | 3564        | 8166          |
| Seedling (≤12cm)  | 416                  | 438         | 640         | 792         | 1872        | 14494         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>4170</b>          | <b>3708</b> | <b>5665</b> | <b>6087</b> | <b>7892</b> | <b>23,981</b> |
| Mulched area      |                      |             | 3.12        | 4.9         | 5.35        | 0             |
| Patch description | Patch size (ha)      |             |             |             |             |               |



|                            |              |              |              |              |             |             |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Medium-large               | 20.44        | 18.05        | 7.92         | 5.69         | 2.28        | 0.27        |
| Small- seedling            | 0.88         | 0.29         | 0.9          | 0.51         | 0           | Not mapped  |
| Treated area incl. mulched | 9.32         | 5.80         | 4.63         | 32.07        | 5.35        | 76.45       |
| <b>Total (ha)</b>          | <b>30.64</b> | <b>24.14</b> | <b>13.45</b> | <b>38.27</b> | <b>7.64</b> | <b>0.27</b> |

The 2025 survey recorded 297 large African olive trees, 1,024 medium trees, 8,166 small trees and 14,494 seedlings. Approximately 0.27 ha of dense infestations (patches) of 'medium to large' African olives were mapped on the offset.

Comparing the results of the 2025 survey results against the previous year, there was a significant reduction in the large tree count which reflects the focus on removing the larger, mature individuals that propagate the seeds and shade the vegetation community. The increase recorded in other size classes are the result of the removal of the larger individuals permitting the other size classes to be observed, and the germination of seedlings as a result of the increased availability of resources, such as light, that assist with germination from the seed bank.

The contractor commented that the large individuals that remained were skinny and tall individuals that are more difficult to observe, with some located within treated areas that were concealed by the surrounding vegetation.

Approximately 76ha were managed for weeds across the Hook BA in 2025. Given the olive counts were undertaken in February and reflect the management activities of the previous year, it is hoped that the annual count of the African olive population in February 2026 indicates a large olive population decline following the weed management that occurred during the 2025 reporting period (**Figure 6.12**).

Calculating the annual percentage reduction of African olives across the BA is difficult. By reducing the patch size, individuals are able to be counted, which may result in an increase in numbers within that size class. Opening up the canopy also allows for the seedbank to germinate, which increases the total number of seedlings. The most effective action to restore CHVEF is the removal of the medium-large individuals and patches, which would allow other species to recruit from the seedbank, or consolidate their establishment if they are not overshadowed by the mature olives.

As such, in this reporting year, the medium-large olive patch decreased from 2.28ha to 0.27ha as at the February 2025 count, which is an 88% annual reduction of this patch size class. If the totals for the large and medium individuals were combined, the percentage decrease following the 2025 count is 44%. Both metrics exceed the required 30% annual reduction that HVO committed to meet.

Across the period that African olive has been removed from the Hook BA, the medium-large olive patch has reduced from 20.44ha to 0.27ha. This is a 20.17ha, and 98%, reduction of this patch size class over six years.



**Figure 6.11.** African olive survey results at the Hook BA.

Note: February 2024 survey (left) and 2025 survey (right) noting that the small and seedling size classes are not displayed in the 2025 survey.

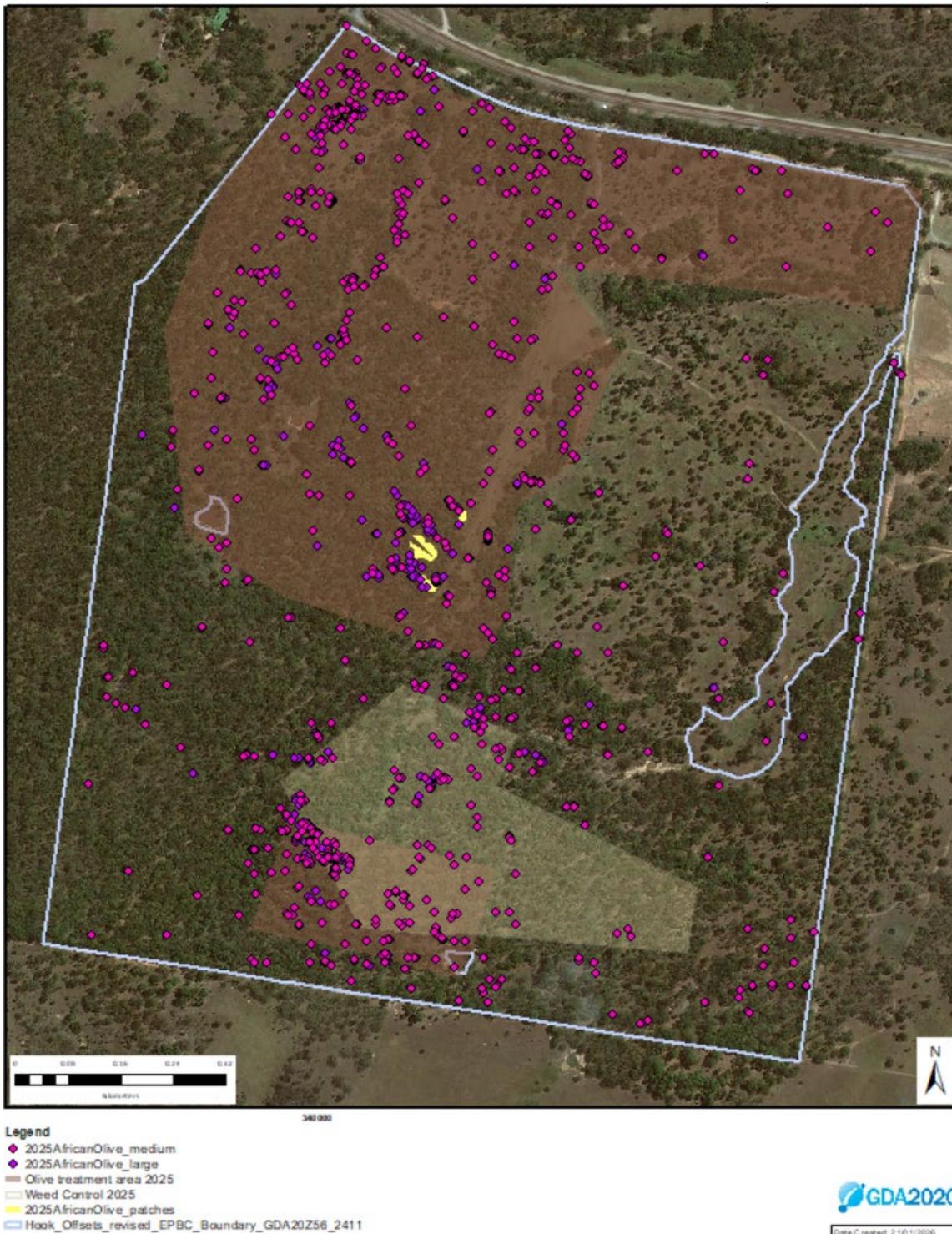


Figure 6.12. African olive 2025 management areas that were planned around the survey results of the large and medium individuals at the Hook BA.



## 7 | ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

Ecological monitoring has been undertaken at each of the BAs as per the monitoring schedule outlined in **Table 5.3**. The objectives of monitoring is to confirm that the BOMP for each BA is being effectively implemented and the conservation objectives are being achieved.

Each BOMP lists the conservation values, key performance indicators, and completion criteria identified for the offset areas. Key performance indicators and completion criteria for foraging habitat and habitat connectivity and condition are being realised through the monitoring program and management response.

### 7.1 | ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

The following table provides a summary of the ecological monitoring activities undertaken across the various BAs as outlined in the BOMPs.

The locations of each of the monitoring points and detailed description of each monitoring methodology can be seen in Chapter 6 of each BOMP and **Figures 7.1 to 7.7**.

**Table 7.1. Monitoring activities completed during the reporting year.**

| Monitoring event           | Site  | Comments                                     |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Condition assessment       | Condon View, Hook, Mitchelhill, Wandewoi                | Completed – Section 7.1.2                    |
| Bird assemblage            | Condon View, Hook, Mitchelhill, Wandewoi                | Completed – Section 7.1.3                    |
| GGBF monitoring            | Crescent Head   | Completed – Section 7.1.5                    |
| GGBF habitat assessment    | Crescent Head   | Completed – Section 7.1.4                    |
| Mosquito Fish monitoring   | Crescent Head   | Completed – Section 7.1.6                    |
| Rapid condition assessment | Condon View, Crescent Head, Hook, Mitchelhill, Wandewoi | Completed – Section 7.1.1 and Appendix A     |
| Property inspections       | Wandewoi  | Feb, Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec |
|                            | Mitchelhill   | Feb, Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec |
|                            | Hook  | Feb, Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec |
|                            | Condon View   | Feb, Apr, May, Sept, Oct, Dec                |
|                            | Crescent Head   | Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Nov                      |

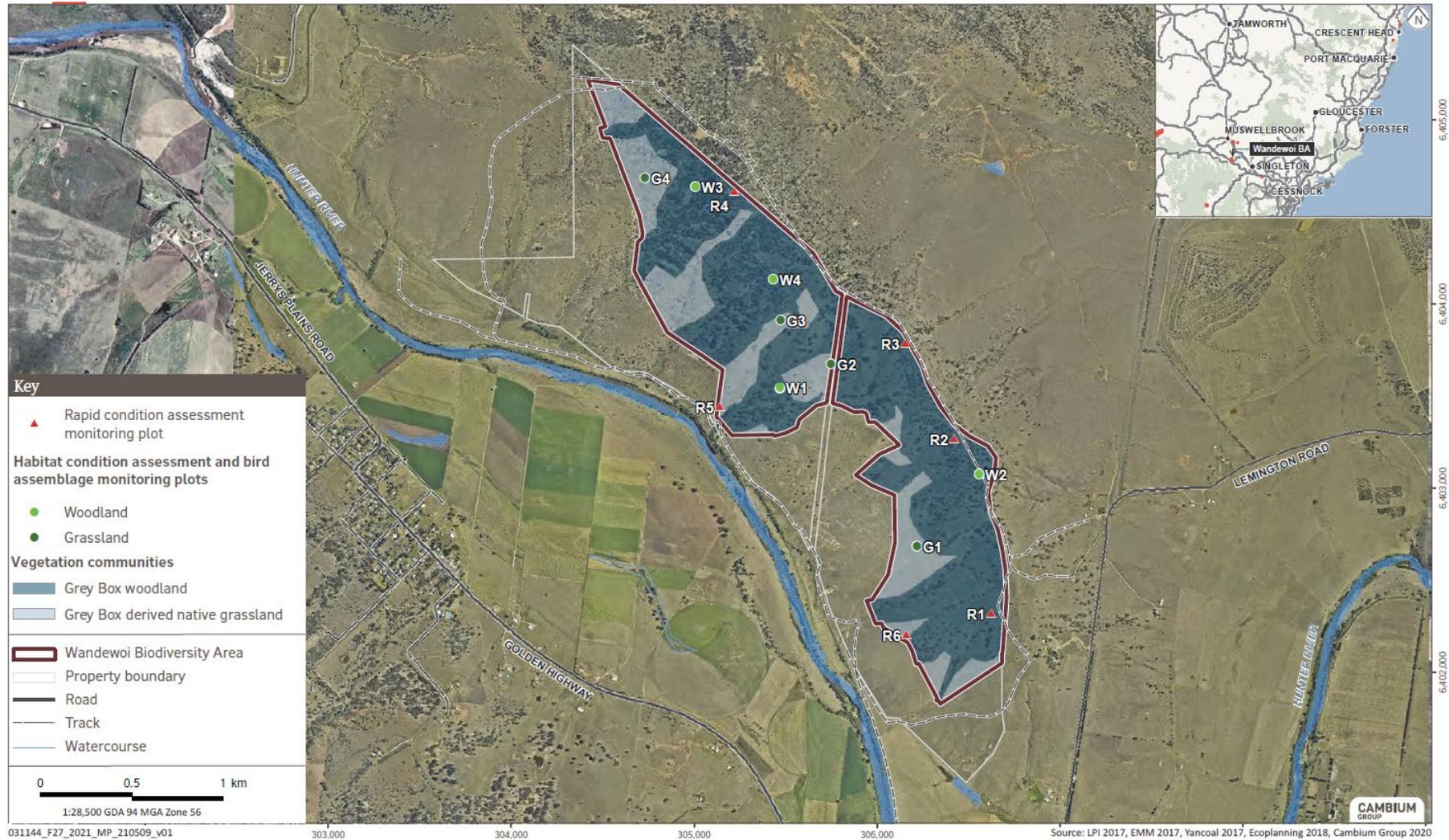
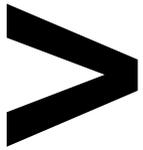


Figure 7.1. Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Wandewoi Biodiversity Area.



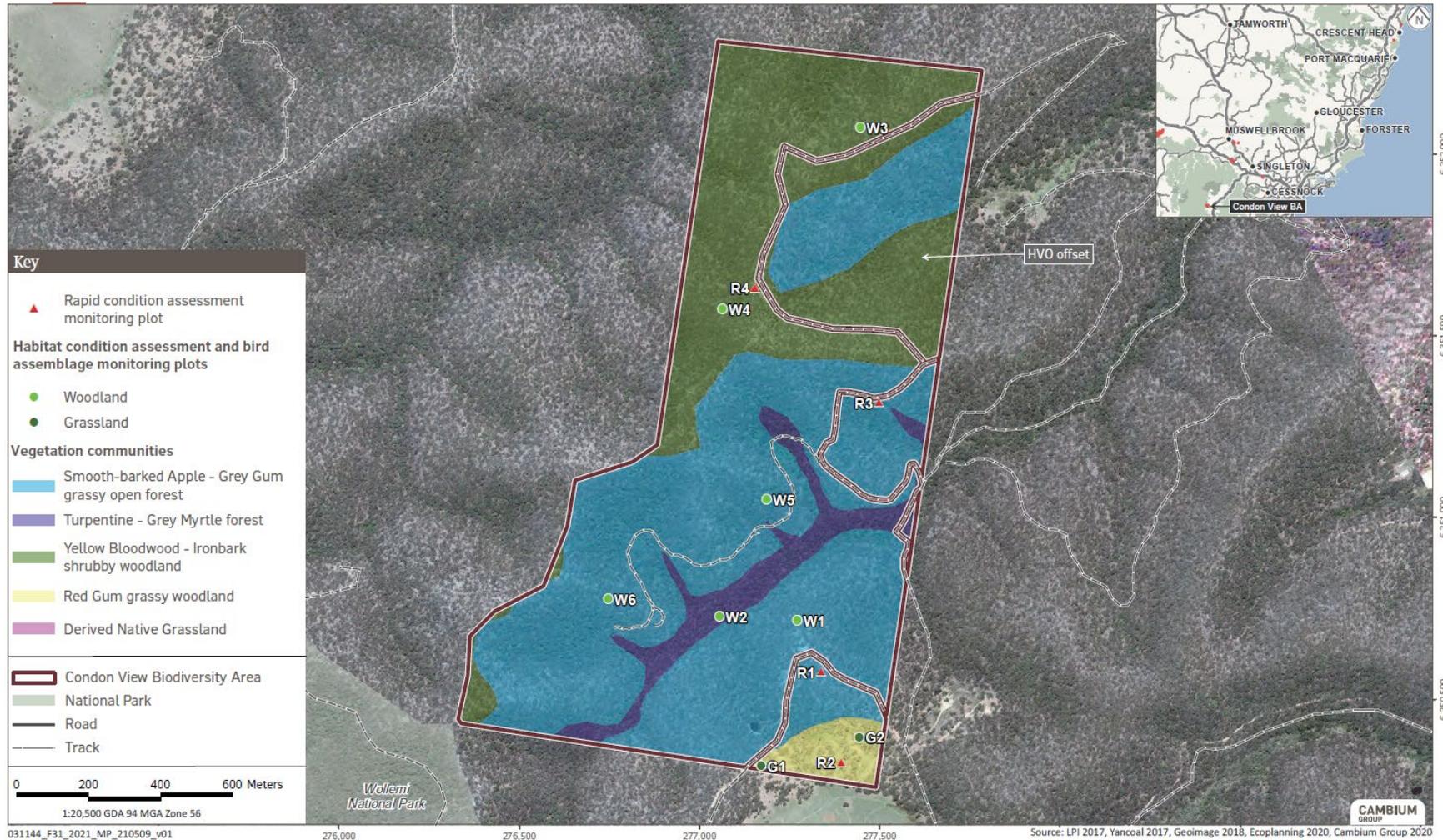
**Figure 7.2.** Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Mitchelhill (West) Biodiversity Area.



**Figure 7.3.** Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Mitchelhill (East) Biodiversity Area.



**Figure 7.4.** Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Hook Biodiversity Area.



**Figure 7.5.** Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Condon View Biodiversity Area.



**Figure 7.6.** Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Crescent Head (North) Biodiversity Area.



**Figure 7.7.** Rapid condition assessment, habitat condition assessment and bird assemblage monitoring locations at the Crescent Head (South) Biodiversity Area.



### 7.1.1 | RAPID CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

The rapid condition assessments (RCA) are presented in Appendix A and the locations can be seen in **figures 7.1 to 7.7**. The results from the 2024 and 2025 RCE are presented. The quick examination determined that, overall, there was little change in condition between the years. A more thorough assessment was undertaken with the full ecological assessments below.

### 7.1.2 | CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Ecological condition assessments are undertaken as per **Table 5.1** and were completed in Spring 2025. The information below summaries the findings. More details and tables can be found in the consultant report that can be provided on request.

As outlined in the 2023 compliance report, the PCTs used were updated to be consistent with those outlined in the State Vegetation Type Map. **Table 7.2** lists the previous and current PCTs within each Biodiversity Area and whether they are equivalent to the CHVEFW Threatened Ecological Community. The results reflect that the relative condition scores have changed not only as a result in data captured, but due to changes in the new benchmarks.

The sections below report on the monitoring results for the individual offset properties. A summary of the key performance criteria follows these results and is outlined in **Table 7.10**.

In summary, the Hunter Valley experienced a much wetter-than-average winter in 2025, with several sites recording record daily rainfall, which likely boosted soil moisture and promoted strong early-season growth. However, spring shifted to drier conditions, with below-average rainfall across most of the region and exceptionally warm temperatures in October and likely had impact on the vegetation condition results seen for this monitoring period.

Woodland plots across BOAs generally meet CHVEFW thresholds and show structural improvements, particularly in canopy cover and shrub layers. However, some sites exhibit declining native:exotic ratios and reduced species richness, indicating emerging risks in regard to exotics, despite overall positive trends. The recent plantings of canopy species are beginning to feature in plot data, and their survival will be critical to restoring benchmark condition.

Grassland plots remain the weakest performers, with exotic species dominance and low structural complexity limiting progress toward woodland benchmarks. While some plots show incremental gains in canopy cover and native richness, most remain far below benchmark standards. Exotic cover increased significantly in some BOAs (e.g. Wandewoi grasslands, Mitchelhill grasslands), constraining native recruitment. In terms of MNES habitat (Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater), woodland habitats remain suitable and improving, with canopy development and nectar resources present.

Generally, woodland sites lack coarse woody debris and large trees, while grasslands show poor litter cover and minimal fallen logs, reducing habitat complexity and faunal microhabitats. These deficits highlight the need for targeted structural enhancement which will develop naturally with the progression of DNG to woodland; however, encouragement of native species assemblage will have a positive flow on effect for this component.

An assessment of relative condition showed:

- Woodland plots: 85% improved, 20% declined, 0% stable, since the last monitoring event.
- Grassland plots: 47% improved, 40% declined, 13% stable, since the last monitoring event.

Declines in condition were largely associated with increased exotic cover and reduced species richness, likely influenced by seasonal variability and competitive pressure from weeds.



**Table 7.2. Plant community types within each BA.**

| Previous PCT   | New PCT   | Biodiversity Area        | CHVEFW |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------|
| Spotted Gum - Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Red Ironbark shrub - grass open forest of the central and lower Hunter (PCT 1601)           | Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum Forest (PCT 3315)       | Mitchelhill (West), Hook | Yes    |
| Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box - Spotted Gum shrub - grass woodland of the central and lower Hunter (PCT 1604)                  | Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum Forest (PCT 3315)       | Mitchelhill (East)       | Yes    |
| Narrow-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box grassy woodland of the central and upper Hunter (PCT 1691)                                       | Central Hunter Slopes Grey Box Forest (PCT 3314)            | Wandewoi                 | Yes    |
| Turpentine - Grey Myrtle forest of sheltered sandstone gullies of the Central Coast hinterland, Sydney Basin Bioregion (PCT 1282)  | Hunter Range Turpentine-Grey Myrtle Gully Forest (PCT 3152) | Condon View              | No     |
| Yellow Bloodwood - ironbark shrubby woodland of the dry hinterland of the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion (PCT 1327)         | Hunter Range Ironbark Forest (PCT 3605)                     | Condon View              | No     |
| Rough-barked Apple – Grey Gum grassy open forest of the hinterland hills of the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion (PCT 1385)   | Hunter Range Colluvial Apple-Gum Forest (PCT 3238)          | Condon View              | No     |
| Rough-barked Apple - Red Gum grassy woodland of the MacDonald River Valley on the Central Coast, Sydney Basin Bioregion (PCT 1386) | Hunter Range Creekflat Apple-Red Gum Forest (PCT 4039)      | Condon View              | No     |



# REPORT | EPBC 2016-7640

## ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

### 2025

#### Wandewoi

Across the eight monitoring plots within the Wandewoi BOA (comprising four grassland and four woodland plots), a total of 144 flora species were recorded, including 86 native species and 58 exotic species. The 2025 monitoring surveys revealed a markedly higher proportion of exotic species relative to natives across the Wandewoi BOA compared to 2023. While woodland plots (W1–W4) show a lesser degree of change, grassland plots (G1–G4) exhibit a substantial shift in exotic species composition.

Between 2023 and 2025, CHVEFW conditions remained absent from all grassland plots, with most metrics trending away from thresholds due to declining native:exotic ratios and reduced understorey diversity. In contrast, woodland plots showed structural improvement, with canopy cover increasing markedly in W2 (8.4% to 30%) and W3 (42.1% to 85%), enabling W2 to meet CHVEFW condition alongside W3 and W4. However, native:exotic ratios declined across all plots. Overall, progress was positive for woodland condition, but ratio trends highlight a need for targeted weed management to maintain and enhance CHVEFW quality.

Woodland structure is generally intact, supporting habitat quality, whereas grasslands lack coarse woody debris, litter, and large trees, limiting faunal microhabitats and nutrient cycling. Increases are most evident in tree cover within woodland plots and herb-layer cover (grasses and forbs) across several plots, consistent with vigorous ground-layer growth since the 2023 monitoring period. However, decreases in native richness metrics, particularly grass richness suggest that gains in total cover are not translating into improved native diversity. Overall, condition scores have improved modestly in better-performing woodland plots but have declined or remained low in grasslands, where exotic dominance is more pronounced.

**Table 7.3. CHVEFW Thresholds against plots at Wandewoi BA.**

| Plot ID | Canopy >10% |      | Native:Exotic Ratio |      | No. Native Understorey spp. |      | Condition |      |
|---------|-------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-----------|------|
|         | 2023        | 2025 | 2023                | 2025 | 2023                        | 2025 | 2023      | 2025 |
| G1      | 0           | 0    | 0.97                | 0.45 | 18                          | 15   | -         | -    |
| G2      | 0           | 0    | 0.89                | 0.41 | 22                          | 11   | -         | -    |
| G3      | 10.6        | 0    | 0.80                | 0.50 | 20                          | 18   | -         | -    |
| G4      | 1           | 0.5  | 0.91                | 0.63 | 26                          | 27   | -         | -    |
| W1      | 4           | 7    | 0.81                | 0.50 | 27                          | 19   | -         | -    |
| W2      | 8.4         | 30   | 0.79                | 0.55 | 19                          | 20   | -         | A    |
| W3      | 42.1        | 85   | 0.97                | 0.74 | 30                          | 34   | A         | A    |
| W4      | 35.1        | 60.1 | 0.89                | 0.63 | 35                          | 31   | A         | A    |

Green coding indicates where the metrics meet the CHVEFW standards.  
Different shading is applied for 2023 and 2025 results.



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### 2025

Table 7.4. Wandewoi BA Condition against Benchmarks.

| Community Benchmarks  | 3314 | Wandewoi |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|---|------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   |      | W1       | W2        | W3        | W4        | G1        | G2        | G3        | G4        |
| <b>Native Species Richness</b>  |      |          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Tree  | 5    | 2<br>v   | 3<br>v    | 2<br>v    | 3<br>v    | 0         | 0         | 0<br>v    | 1         |
| Shrub   | 8    | ^<br>3   | ^<br>5    | 3<br>v    | 3         | 0<br>v    | 0<br>v    | 1<br>v    | 2<br>v    |
| Grass and Grass-like  | 12   | 2<br>v   | 3<br>v    | 7<br>v    | 8<br>v    | 6<br>v    | 4<br>v    | 6<br>v    | 7<br>v    |
| Forb  | 14   | 10<br>v  | ^<br>12   | ^<br>16   | 14<br>v   | ^<br>9    | 6<br>v    | ^<br>10   | ^<br>15   |
| Fern  | 2    | 0        | 0         | 0         | ^<br>1    | 0         | 0         | 0         | 1         |
| Other   | 4    | ^<br>2   | 1         | ^<br>5    | 3         | 1         | 0<br>v    | 0<br>v    | 1         |
| <b>Native Foliage Cover</b>   |      |          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Tree  | 52   | ^<br>7   | ^<br>30   | ^<br>85   | ^<br>60.1 | 0         | 0         | 0<br>v    | 1         |
| Shrub   | 15   | 0.6<br>v | ^<br>20.1 | ^<br>45   | ^<br>3.1  | 0<br>v    | 0<br>v    | ^<br>1    | ^<br>7    |
| Grass or grass-like   | 59   | ^<br>77  | ^<br>71.5 | ^<br>49.2 | ^<br>73.4 | ^<br>89.4 | 22.3<br>v | ^<br>21.5 | ^<br>93.1 |
| Forb  | 9    | 1.2<br>v | ^<br>4.7  | ^<br>3.3  | ^<br>8.6  | ^<br>11.3 | ^<br>31.1 | 3.3<br>v  | ^<br>8.3  |
| Fern  | 1    | 0        | 0         | 0         | ^<br>0.1  | 0         | 0         | ^<br>0.1  | 0.1       |
| Other   | 4    | ^<br>0.2 | 0.1       | ^<br>0.6  | 0.5       | ^<br>0.4  | 0.1<br>v  | 0<br>v    | ^<br>0.3  |
| <b>Other</b>  |      |          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total length of fallen logs   | 40   | ^<br>60  | ^<br>6    | ^<br>55   | ^<br>40.0 | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Litter Cover  | 40   | 3<br>v   | 26.4<br>v | 29.0<br>v | 2.8<br>v  | 4.8<br>v  | 5.2<br>v  | 4.4<br>v  | ^<br>10.4 |
| Number of large trees   | 3    | ^<br>2   | ^<br>2    | ^<br>3    | 0<br>v    | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Sum of score  |      | ^<br>15  | ^<br>23   | ^<br>29   | 25<br>v   | 9<br>v    | 9<br>v    | 10<br>v   | ^<br>18   |
| An increase in relative conditions since 2023 is indicated by “^” before the score, and a decrease in relative condition is indicated by “v” after the score. |      |          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |

Note: Attributes were scored by condition: green = optimal, amber = moderate, red = low, grey = very low.



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### 2025

#### Mitchelhill

Across the eleven monitoring plots within the Mitchelhill BOA these are split across Mitchelhill East and West. The combined plots consist of five grassland and six woodland plots. A total of 205 flora species were recorded, including 158 native species and 47 exotic species.

In 2025, exotic flora cover in Mitchelhill woodland plots remained low in most areas (<2%), except for W1 (31.2%) and W2 (5.4%), which showed significant increases compared to previous years. W1 shifted from minimal cover in 2023 (1%) to a major spike in 2025, while W2 declined sharply from its 2021 peak (42.7%) but stayed above baseline. Other plots (W3–W6) show gradual increases but remain under 6%, which may be explained by seasonality picking up these fluctuations rather than widespread spread.

Exotic cover within grassland plots exhibits an overall increasing trajectory, with G2 showing a pronounced rise to approximately 70% by 2025 and G5 displaying a steady upward trend to nearly 46%. G1 demonstrates high variability, peaking near 100% in 2021, declining by 2023, and subsequently increasing again, indicating persistent propagule pressure. Conversely, G3 has shown recent improvement, while G4 has maintained negligible exotic cover throughout the monitoring period. These patterns suggest that elevated exotic cover in G1, G2, and G5 may constrain the progression of DNG toward CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks, necessitating targeted and adaptive weed management interventions.

Woodland plots are generally meeting CHVEFW criteria, with most maintaining strong native understorey richness and high native:exotic ratios. W1, W3, W4, and W6 remain in good condition, while W2 and W5 may require attention despite good species diversity. It is possible that the latter may be owing to survey bias or plot placement inconsistencies in the field. Grassland plots mostly fall short of thresholds, primarily due to very low canopy cover.

**Table 7.5. CHVEFW Thresholds against plots at Mitchelhill BA.**

| Plot ID | Canopy >10% |      | Native:Exotic Ratio |      | No. Native Understorey spp. |      | Condition |      |
|---------|-------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-----------|------|
|         | 2023        | 2025 | 2023                | 2025 | 2023                        | 2025 | 2023      | 2025 |
| G1      | 0           | 0.1  | 0.04                | 0.63 | 5                           | 7    |           |      |
| G2      | 0           | 0    | 0.54                | 0.38 | 15                          | 13   |           |      |
| G3      | 0.3         | 4    | 0.24                | 0.45 | 14                          | 12   |           |      |
| G4      | 5.5         | 10   | 0.91                | 0.28 | 19                          | 22   | A         | A    |
| G5      | 0.4         | 4    | 0.56                | 0.60 | 22                          | 24   |           |      |
| W1      | 11.5        | 13.2 | 0.98                | 0.81 | 25                          | 29   | A         | A    |
| W2      | 19          | 2.3  | 0.99                | 0.84 | 31                          | 23   | A         |      |
| W3      | 22          | 22   | 0.99                | 0.78 | 25                          | 27   | A         | A    |
| W4      | 30.2        | 40   | 0.99                | 0.84 | 37                          | 26   | A         | A    |
| W5      | 32.2        | 5.3  | 0.98                | 0.84 | 36                          | 39   | A         | -    |
| W6      | 25.9        | 20.5 | 0.98                | 0.85 | 35                          | 37   | A         | A    |

Green coding indicates where the metrics meet the CHVEFW standards.  
Different shading is applied for 2023 and 2025 results.



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### 2025

Table 7.6. Mitchelhill BA Woodland Condition against Benchmarks.

| Community Benchmarks  | 3315 | Mitchelhill (East and West)<br>Woodland Plots |          |           |           |           |           |
|---|------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   |      | W1  | W2       | W3        | W4        | W5        | W6        |
| <b>Native Species Richness</b>  |      |   |          |           |           |           |           |
| Tree richness   | 5    | 5<br>v  | ^<br>5   | 3<br>v    | 3<br>v    | 2<br>v    | 2<br>v    |
| Shrub richness  | 8    | 0<br>v  | 3<br>v   | 5         | 8<br>v    | 7<br>v    | 5<br>v    |
| Grass and Grass-like richness   | 12   | 9<br>v  | 7<br>v   | 10<br>v   | 9<br>v    | 11<br>v   | 13<br>v   |
| Forb richness   | 14   | ^<br>17                                       | ^<br>12  | ^<br>15   | ^<br>11   | ^<br>19   | ^<br>16   |
| Fern richness   | 2    | ^<br>2  | ^<br>1   | ^<br>1    | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Other richness  | 4    | 2<br>v  | ^<br>3   | 1         | ^<br>5    | ^<br>8    | ^<br>7    |
| <b>Native Foliage Cover</b>   |      |   |          |           |           |           |           |
| Tree  | 52   | ^<br>13.2                                     | 2.3<br>v | 22        | ^<br>40   | 5.3<br>v  | 20.5<br>v |
| Shrub   | 15   | 0<br>v  | 0.8<br>v | ^<br>7.6  | ^<br>60.5 | ^<br>28.6 | ^<br>11.5 |
| Grass or grass-like   | 59   | 46.3<br>v                                     | 9.0<br>v | ^<br>85.7 | ^<br>62   | ^<br>47.4 | ^<br>71   |
| Forb  | 9    | ^<br>18.3                                     | ^<br>6.0 | ^<br>11.6 | ^<br>7.6  | ^<br>2.5  | ^<br>2.1  |
| Fern  | 1    | ^<br>0.7                                      | ^<br>0.2 | ^<br>4.0  | ^<br>0.5  | 0.1<br>v  | 0.1       |
| Other   | 4    | 0<br>v  | ^<br>0.3 | 0<br>v    | ^<br>0.8  | ^<br>1.1  | ^<br>0.8  |
| <b>Other</b>  |      |   |          |           |           |           |           |
| Total length of fallen logs   | 40   | ^<br>6  | ^<br>55  | ^<br>120  | ^<br>65   | 7<br>v    | ^<br>13   |
| Litter Cover  | 40   | 38<br>v                                       | 37       | 29<br>v   | 62<br>v   | ^<br>51   | ^<br>44   |
| Number of large trees   | 3    | ^<br>2  | ^<br>2   | 0         | 3<br>v    | 1         | 0<br>v    |
| Sum of Score  |      | ^<br>25                                       | ^<br>24  | ^<br>25   | ^<br>38   | 26<br>v   | ^<br>28   |
| An increase in relative conditions since 2023 is indicated by “^” before the score, and a decrease in relative condition is indicated by “v” after the score. |      |   |          |           |           |           |           |

Note: Attributes were scored by condition: green = optimal, amber = moderate, red = low, grey = very low.



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Table 7.7. Mitchelhill BA Grassland Condition against Benchmarks.

| Community Benchmarks  | 3315 | Mitchelhill (East and West) Grassland Plots |           |          |           |           |
|---|------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|   |      | G1  | G2        | G3       | G4        | G5        |
| <b>Native Species Richness</b>  |      |   |           |          |           |           |
| Tree richness   | 5    | ^<br>1                                      | 0         | ^<br>2   | 2         | 2         |
| Shrub richness  | 8    | 0   | 0<br>v    | 0<br>v   | 4<br>v    | ^<br>3    |
| Grass and Grass-like richness   | 12   | ^<br>4                                      | 7<br>v    | 8<br>v   | ^<br>7    | 11<br>v   |
| Forb richness   | 14   | ^<br>3                                      | 4         | ^<br>4   | ^<br>9    | ^<br>10   |
| Fern richness   | 2    | 0   | ^<br>1    | 0        | 1         | ^<br>1    |
| Other richness  | 4    | 0   | 1         | 0        | 1<br>v    | 2         |
| <b>Native Foliage Cover</b>   |      |   |           |          |           |           |
| Tree  | 52   | ^<br>0.1                                    | 0         | ^<br>4.0 | ^<br>10.0 | ^<br>4    |
| Shrub   | 15   | 0.0   | 0<br>v    | 0<br>v   | ^<br>4.7  | ^<br>0.6  |
| Grass or grass-like   | 59   | ^<br>13.2                                   | 30.6<br>v | 6.1<br>v | ^<br>1.7  | ^<br>41.8 |
| Forb  | 9    | 0.3<br>v                                    | 0.4       | ^<br>0.4 | ^<br>1.0  | ^<br>1.1  |
| Fern  | 1    | ^<br>0.0                                    | ^<br>0.1  | 0.0      | 0.1       | ^<br>0.1  |
| Other   | 4    | 0.0   | 0.1       | 0.0      | 0.1<br>v  | 0.2       |
| <b>Other</b>  |      |   |           |          |           |           |
| Total length of fallen logs   | 40   | 0   | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0         |
| Litter Cover  | 40   | ^<br>84                                     | ^<br>75   | ^<br>75  | ^<br>16.2 | 4.8<br>v  |
| Number of large trees   | 3    | 0   | 0         | 0        | ^<br>1    | 0         |
| Sum of Score  |      | 6   | 10        | 7<br>v   | ^<br>15   | ^<br>20   |
| An increase in relative conditions since 2023 is indicated by “^” before the score, and a decrease in relative condition is indicated by “v” after the score. |      |   |           |          |           |           |

Note: Attributes were scored by condition: green = optimal, amber = moderate, red = low, grey = very low.



#### Hook

Across the eight monitoring plots within the Hook BOA (comprising four grassland and four woodland plots), a total of 135 flora species were recorded, including 107 native species and 28 exotic species.

Between 2019 and 2025, exotic cover at Hook showed a clear overall decline, with notable differences between woodland and grassland plots. In woodland plots exotic cover remained consistently low (<6%) across all years, with a slight decline overall and only minor increases in W3 and W4 by 2025. This indicates stable and well-managed woodland condition. In contrast, grassland plots (G1–G4) showed much higher variability and generally greater exotic cover.

All woodland plots maintained CHVEFW condition in 2025, with strong canopy increases (e.g., W1 from 26.1% to 58.6%, W2 from 25.5% to 50.8%). Native:exotic ratios remained high (≥0.75). Native understorey species counts stayed well above thresholds, despite some reductions. Overall, woodland plots show stable high-quality condition with structural improvement, but minor ratio declines.

G1 met CHVEFW conditions in both 2023 and 2025; G2, G3 and G4 improved to meet conditions in 2025 after not meeting thresholds in 2023. Canopy cover increased in G2 (5.1% to 12.2%) and G4 (6 to 13.1%) but declined in G1 (19.2% to 12.1%). Native:exotic ratios remained above 0.50 for all plots. Understorey species richness declined across all grassland plots. Overall, grassland plots maintained or improved condition, but reductions in species richness and ratio trends suggest emerging risks.

**Table 7.8. CHVEFW Thresholds against plots at Hook BA.**

| Plot ID | Canopy >10% |      | Native:Exotic Ratio |      | No. Native Understorey spp. |      | Condition |      |
|---------|-------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-----------|------|
|         | 2023        | 2025 | 2023                | 2025 | 2023                        | 2025 | 2023      | 2025 |
| G1      | 19.2        | 12.1 | 0.90                | 0.89 | 30                          | 23   | A         | A    |
| G2      | 5.1         | 12.2 | 0.66                | 0.75 | 37                          | 23   | -         | A    |
| G3      | 7.3         | 25   | 0.61                | 0.63 | 16                          | 19   |           | A    |
| G4      | 6           | 13.1 | 0.90                | 0.76 | 24                          | 24   |           | A    |
| W1      | 26.1        | 58.6 | 0.99                | 0.90 | 34                          | 30   | A         | A    |
| W2      | 25.5        | 50.8 | 0.98                | 0.82 | 29                          | 23   | A         | A    |
| W3      | 22          | 40   | 0.96                | 0.75 | 31                          | 25   | A         | A    |
| W4      | 21          | 37   | 0.96                | 0.77 | 52                          | 30   | A         | A    |

Green coding indicates where the metrics meet the CHVEFW standards.  
Different shading is applied for 2023 and 2025 results.



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Table 7.9. Hook BA Condition against Benchmarks.

| Community Benchmarks   | 3315 | Hook      |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|--|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  |      | W1        | W2        | W3        | W4        | G1        | G2        | G3        | G4        |
| <b>Native Species Richness</b>   |      |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Tree   | 5    | ^<br>6    | 3         | 2         | 4         | ^<br>5    | ^<br>3    | 2<br>v    | ^<br>3    |
| Shrub  | 8    | ^<br>11   | 5<br>v    | ^<br>7    | 7<br>v    | ^<br>6    | 4         | 0<br>v    | ^<br>5    |
| Grass and Grass-like   | 12   | 8<br>v    | 8<br>v    | 9<br>v    | 8<br>v    | 9<br>v    | 11<br>v   | 10<br>v   | 6<br>v    |
| Forb   | 14   | ^<br>17   | ^<br>11   | ^<br>14   | 17<br>v   | ^<br>12   | 10<br>v   | ^<br>7    | ^<br>15   |
| Fern   | 2    | ^<br>1    | ^<br>1    | 0         | 1<br>v    | ^<br>1    | ^<br>1    | 0         | 0         |
| Other  | 4    | ^<br>4    | ^<br>3    | 2<br>v    | ^<br>4    | 0<br>v    | 1<br>v    | ^<br>2    | ^<br>3    |
| <b>Native Foliage Cover</b>  |      |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Tree   | 52   | ^<br>58.6 | ^<br>50.8 | ^<br>40.0 | ^<br>37.0 | 12.1<br>v | ^<br>12.2 | ^<br>25.0 | ^<br>13.1 |
| Shrub  | 15   | ^<br>18.7 | ^<br>4.9  | 1.3<br>v  | ^<br>7.9  | ^<br>17.6 | 1.3<br>v  | 0.0<br>v  | ^<br>0.8  |
| Grass or grass-like  | 59   | ^<br>48.4 | ^<br>41.4 | ^<br>26.2 | ^<br>39.8 | ^<br>55.9 | ^<br>67.9 | ^<br>69.8 | 64.7<br>v |
| Forb   | 9    | ^<br>2.4  | ^<br>2.7  | ^<br>3.2  | ^<br>5.0  | ^<br>2.6  | ^<br>5.7  | ^<br>2.8  | ^<br>3.0  |
| Fern   | 1    | ^<br>0.1  | ^<br>0.1  | 0.0       | 0.1<br>v  | 0.1       | 0.1<br>v  | 0.0       | 0.0       |
| Other  | 4    | ^<br>0.6  | ^<br>0.6  | 0.3       | ^<br>0.4  | 0.0<br>v  | 0.1<br>v  | ^<br>0.4  | ^<br>0.4  |
| <b>Other</b>   |      |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Total length of fallen logs  | 40   | 15<br>v   | 0<br>v    | ^<br>90   | 20<br>v   | 15<br>v   | ^<br>20   | 0         | 0         |
| Litter Cover   | 40   | 59<br>v   | 59<br>v   | 68<br>v   | 37<br>v   | 17<br>v   | ^<br>37   | 25<br>v   | ^<br>32   |
| Number of large trees  | 3    | 1<br>v    | 0         | 0         | 0<br>v    | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Sum of score   |      | ^<br>31   | ^<br>22   | ^<br>20   | 25<br>v   | 22<br>v   | 20<br>v   | ^<br>14   | ^<br>18   |
| <b>An increase in relative conditions since 2023 is indicated by “^” before the score, and a decrease in relative condition is indicated by “v” after the score.</b> |      |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |

Note: Attributes were scored by condition: green = optimal, amber = moderate, red = low, grey = very low.



#### **Condon View**

Across the eight monitoring plots within the Condon View BOA (comprising four grassland and four woodland plots), a total of 141 flora species were recorded, including 124 native species and 17 exotic species.

The highest prevalence of weeds was identified in G2 where it reaches 17.1% in 2025, which is the highest recorded value across all plots and years. Exotic cover in woodland plots (W1–W6) is effectively absent across all years where only trace readings (0.1%) occur. The woodland areas appear highly resistant to exotic flora incursion under current conditions. The occasional 0.1% observations are likely minor, localised occurrences (e.g. short-lived individuals or small patches) and may sit within typical detection/observer precision limits for low cover classes.

Grasslands show greater variability and higher susceptibility to exotic flora compared with woodlands. The dip in 2023 followed by a strong 2025 increase especially at G2 which suggests influences such as (e.g. disturbance, seasonal conditions, management timing) are more influential in grasslands.

The Condon View plots generally fall short of their benchmarks in key structural and functional attributes. Across all PCTs, the most consistent deficits are in the ground layer native grasses and especially forbs are well below benchmark in both richness and cover while shrub layers are imbalanced, being either overly dense (e.g. PCT 3152 W2 and PCT 3238 W6) or largely absent (PCT 3605 and PCT 4039). Tree cover is often near or above benchmark, and large trees are generally present, but litter cover is frequently low, and fallen logs are sub-benchmark in some plots. Overall, these sites show simplified understorey and reduced functional complexity compared to benchmarks, indicating priorities for management such as restoring native grasses and forbs, rebalancing shrub strata, increasing litter and coarse woody debris, and protecting tree recruitment to improve ecological condition.



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Table 7.10. Condon View BA Condition against Benchmarks.

| Community Benchmarks  | Condon View |           |          |           |           |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |
|---|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | PCT 3152    |           | PCT 3238 |           |           |           | PCT 3605 |           |           | PCT 4039 |           |           |
|   | BM          | W2        | BM       | W1        | W5        | W6        | BM       | W3        | W4        | BM       | G1        | G2        |
| <b>Native Species Richness</b>  |             |           |          |           |           |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |
| Tree  | 7           | ^<br>8    | 7        | 5         | 6<br>v    | 5<br>v    | 6        | 3<br>v    | 4         | 4        | 3         | 3         |
| Shrub   | 13          | 8<br>v    | 13       | 6<br>v    | 8<br>v    | ^<br>11   | 23       | 11<br>v   | 8<br>v    | 8        | 0         | 0         |
| Grass and Grass-like  | 10          | 7<br>v    | 10       | ^<br>11   | 9         | 11        | 9        | ^<br>9    | 8         | 8        | 9<br>v    | 6<br>v    |
| Forb  | 12          | ^<br>11   | 12       | ^<br>6    | 6<br>v    | ^<br>14   | 9        | 7         | 4<br>v    | 8        | 15        | ^<br>9    |
| Fern  | 3           | ^<br>3    | 3        | 0         | 0<br>v    | 0         | 2        | 0         | 0         | 2        | 0         | 0         |
| Other   | 9           | ^<br>6    | 9        | 0         | 2<br>v    | 4<br>v    | 4        | 1<br>v    | 0<br>v    | 4        | ^<br>2    | 1<br>v    |
| <b>Cover</b>  |             |           |          |           |           |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |
| Tree  | 62          | ^<br>39.3 | 62       | ^<br>54.0 | ^<br>69.0 | ^<br>63.0 | 60       | ^<br>45.0 | ^<br>44.0 | 21       | ^<br>45.0 | ^<br>25.0 |
| Shrub   | 29          | ^<br>73.4 | 29       | ^<br>5.7  | ^<br>5.1  | ^<br>17.1 | 55       | ^<br>18.0 | ^<br>8.2  | 21       | 0.0       | 0.0       |
| Grass or grass-like   | 38          | 21.3<br>v | 38       | ^<br>34.1 | ^<br>27.7 | ^<br>10.2 | 23       | ^<br>28.0 | ^<br>23.2 | 69       | 46.0<br>v | 67.7<br>v |
| Forb  | 8           | ^<br>1.9  | 8        | ^<br>0.7  | ^<br>1.2  | ^<br>2.8  | 6        | ^<br>1.9  | 0.4<br>v  | 3        | ^<br>5.7  | 1.4<br>v  |
| Fern  | 2           | ^<br>1.4  | 2        | 0.0       | 0.0<br>v  | 0.0       | 0        | 0.0       | 0.0       | 1        | 0.0       | 0.0       |
| Other   | 10          | ^<br>0.7  | 10       | 0.0       | 0.3       | 0.4<br>v  | 3        | 0.1<br>v  | 0.0       | 1        | ^<br>0.2  | 0.1<br>v  |
| <b>Function Data</b>  |             |           |          |           |           |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |
| Total length of fallen logs   | 80          | 54<br>v   | 80       | 30<br>v   | 76<br>v   | 27<br>v   | 45       | ^<br>37   | 27<br>v   | 12       | ^<br>17   | ^<br>32   |
| Litter Cover  | 61          | 37<br>v   | 61       | 52<br>v   | ^<br>81   | ^<br>75.5 | 75       | 47<br>v   | 51<br>v   | 40       | ^<br>31.6 | 20<br>v   |
| Number of large trees   | 1           | ^<br>3    | 1        | ^<br>5    | 1<br>v    | 2         | 3        | 3         | 3<br>v    | 1        | ^<br>4    | ^<br>1    |
| Sum of score  |             | ^<br>31   |          | ^<br>22   | ^<br>23   | ^<br>26   |          | ^<br>25   | 19<br>v   |          | ^<br>26   | ^<br>24   |
| An increase in relative conditions since 2023 is indicated by “^” before the score, and a decrease in relative condition is indicated by “v” after the score. |             |           |          |           |           |           |          |           |           |          |           |           |

Note: Attributes were scored by condition: green = optimal, amber = moderate, red = low, grey = very low.



### Key Performance Criteria

Table 7.11. Key Performance Criteria Summary 2025 – Wandewoi BA

| Conservation Value      | Key Performance Criteria (10-year horizon)       | Completion Criteria  | Change Observed from Monitoring Plots  | On-track (Y/N)   |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| CHVEFW                  | Improved condition of 175.8 ha woodland          | Observed & measured increase in woodland condition through monitoring                              | <p>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wandewoi saw improved condition of three woodland plots, declining in one and zero stable.</li> <li>Native foliage cover for tree is trending upwards and has increased across all plots since 2023. Native species richness for tree is below benchmark.</li> <li>Native species richness for grass and grasslike species diversity has declined. Native species richness for groundcover species is generally below benchmark, with moderate improvements observed.</li> <li>Native species richness for shrub is below benchmark, with slight increase in 50% of plots.</li> <li><b>Exotic cover across has increased significantly in woodland plots.</b></li> </ul> <p>Results from RCAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R1 – R6: Tree and shrub regeneration recorded at all rapid condition points</li> <li>R1 – R6: Healthy mature trees (no dieback) present at all rapid condition points</li> <li>R1 – R6: Native shrubs present at all rapid condition points</li> <li>R1 – R6: Average health rating awarded to each of the rapid condition points was an average of 79%.</li> </ul> | Trajectory has been affected by higher exotic cover in 2025. |
| DNG → CHVEFW transition | Transition of 61 ha grassland to woodland        | Trajectory towards/attainment of CHVEFW key characteristics  | <p>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wandewoi saw improved condition of one grassland plot, decline in three and zero stable.</li> <li>CHVEFW conditions remain absent from all grassland plots, with most metrics trending away from thresholds due to declining native: exotic ratios and reduced understorey diversity.</li> </ul> <p>Results from RCAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R1 – R6: Tree and shrub regeneration recorded at all rapid condition points which shows progression towards CHVEFW characteristics.</li> </ul>   | Trajectory has been affected by higher exotic cover in 2025. |
| Swift Parrot habitat    | Improved condition of 175.8 ha woodland habitats | Increase or maintenance of condition in woodland habitat; <i>DNG trajectory tracked biannually</i> | <p>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodland plots showed structural improvement, with canopy cover increasing markedly in W2 (8.4% to 30%) and W3 (42.1% to 85%), enabling W2 to meet CHVEFW condition alongside W3 and W4.</li> </ul> <p>Results from RCAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R1 – R6: Tree and shrub regeneration recorded at all rapid condition points which shows progression towards CHVEFW characteristics.</li> </ul>  | Yes  |



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**Table 7.12. Key Performance Criteria Summary 2025 – Mitchelhill BA**

| Conservation Value      | Key Performance Criteria (10-year horizon)     | Completion Criteria   | Change Observed from Monitoring Plots   | On-track (Y/N) |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| CHVEFW                  | Improved condition of 183.4 ha woodland        | Observed & measured increase in woodland condition through monitoring<br><br>Trajectory towards/attainment of CHVEFW key characteristics (biannual) | <b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitchelhill saw improved condition of five woodland plots, one declined and zero stable.</li> <li>Native foliage cover for trees has shown some level of increase in 50% of plots.</li> <li>Woodland plots are generally meeting CHVEFW criteria. W2 and W5 show concern canopy declines that could compromise compliance despite good species diversity.</li> <li>Exotic cover in grassland plots is largely increasing and constrain the progression of DNG toward CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks.</li> <li>Exotic cover in woodland plots has increased in some locations; however, current levels are unlikely to significantly compromise attainment of CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks.</li> </ul>   | Yes            |
|                         |  |   | <b>Results from RCAs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R1 Mitchelhill East: No Natural Regeneration. Moderate exotic cover 10 – 20%.</li> <li>R1 Mitchelhill West: No Natural Regeneration. Moderate to high exotic cover 30 – 40%.</li> <li>R2 Mitchelhill East: Common Regeneration (high density). Low exotic species Cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R2: Mitchelhill West: Scarce Regeneration. Low exotic species Cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R3 Mitchelhill East: Common Regeneration (high density). Low exotic species Cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R3 Mitchelhill West: Common Regeneration (low density). Exotic Species Cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R4 Mitchelhill East: <b>No Natural Regeneration. High exotic cover 80 – 100% cover</b></li> </ul>   |                |
|                         |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R4 Mitchelhill West: Regeneration of 60% of canopy species. Low exotic species Cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R5 Mitchelhill East: Regeneration present for all canopy species. Low exotic species cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R5 Mitchelhill West: Scarce Regeneration.</li> <li>R6 Mitchelhill East: Regeneration of 30% of canopy species. Moderate exotic cover 10 – 20%.</li> <li>R6 Mitchelhill West: No regeneration recorded. High exotic cover 20 - 30%.</li> </ul>  |                |
| DNG → CHVEFW transition | Transition of 31.5 ha grassland to woodland    | Increase or maintenance of condition in woodland habitat; DNG trajectory tracked biannually   | <b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitchelhill saw improved condition of two grassland plots, declining in one and two stable.</li> <li>Native foliage cover for trees has shown some level of increase in 80% of grassland plots.</li> </ul> <b>Results from RCAs show:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results applicable as above for R1 – R6.</li> </ul>  | Yes            |
| Swift Parrot habitat    | Improved condition of 113 ha woodland habitats | Observed & measured increase in woodland condition through monitoring<br><br>Trajectory towards/attainment of CHVEFW key characteristics (biannual) | <b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native foliage cover for trees has shown some level of increase in 50% of plots.</li> <li>Woodland plots are generally meeting CHVEFW criteria. W2 and W5 show concerning canopy declines that could compromise compliance despite good species diversity.</li> <li>Exotic cover in grassland plots is largely increasing and constrain the progression of DNG toward CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks.</li> <li>Exotic cover in woodland plots has increased in some locations; however, current levels are unlikely to significantly compromise attainment of CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks.</li> </ul> <b>Swift Parrot Habitat (DCCEEW, 2022a):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eucalyptus woodland and forest: present within BOA.</li> </ul> | Yes            |

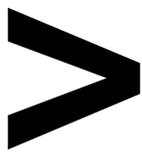


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|                           |  |   |   |     |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|-----|
|                           |  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seasonal nectar resources: present within BOA.</li> <li>Habitat connectivity: present, and grassland showing trends to increase towards woodland.</li> <li>Key structural features: High foliage cover is present in woodland; maturity of canopy will continually increase.</li> <li>Minimal disturbance: Fragmentation of vegetated patches will incrementally decrease. However, exotic cover may be the factor which may slow progression of natural recruitment.</li> </ul>   |     |
| Regent Honeyeater habitat | Improved condition of 245 ha woodland habitats | Increase or maintenance of condition in woodland habitat; DNG trajectory tracked biannually | <p><b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native foliage cover for trees has shown some level of increase in 50% of plots.</li> <li>Woodland plots are generally meeting CHVEFW criteria. W2 and W5 show concerning canopy declines that could compromise compliance despite good species diversity.</li> <li>Exotic cover in grassland plots is largely increasing and constrain the progression of DNG toward CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks</li> <li>Exotic cover in woodland plots has increased in some locations; however, current levels are unlikely to significantly compromise attainment of CHVEFW structural and compositional benchmarks</li> </ul> <p>Regent Honeyeater Habitat (DCCEEW, 2022b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Box-Ironbark woodland and forest: present within BOA.</li> <li>Mistletoe presence: present within BOA in varied densities.</li> <li>Large mature trees: present within BOA, this will incrementally increase given time.</li> <li>Habitat complexity: Exotic cover may be the factor which may slow progression of native species richness. However, native species richness did show to increase for some strata such as forbs, ferns and other native species richness.</li> <li>Low weed invasion: Exotic flora cover in woodland plots remained low in most areas. Exotic cover within grassland plots exhibits an overall increasing trajectory.</li> </ul> | Yes |



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**Table 7.13. Key Performance Criteria Summary 2025 – Hook BA**

| Conservation Value      | Key Performance Criteria (10-year horizon)                             | Completion Criteria   | Change Observed from Monitoring Plots   | On-track (Y/N) |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| CHVEFW                  | Improved condition of 78.6 ha woodland + 28.3 ha regenerating woodland | Observed & measured increase in woodland & regenerating woodland condition                  | <p><b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hook saw improved condition of three woodland plots, decline in one and zero stable.</li> <li>All woodland plots maintained CHVEFW condition in 2025</li> <li>Woodland plots show stable high-quality condition with structural improvement, but minor ratio declines.</li> </ul> <p><b>Results from RCA show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R1: Common Regeneration (low density). Low exotic species cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R3: Common Regeneration (low density). Low exotic species cover.</li> <li>R2, R4 – R6: Scarce Regeneration. Low exotic species cover &lt;10%.</li> </ul>   | Yes            |
| DNG → CHVEFW transition | Transition of 2.6 ha grassland to woodland                             | Trajectory towards/attainment of CHVEFW key characteristics (biannual)                      | <p><b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hook saw improved condition of two grassland plots, two decline and zero stable.</li> <li>75% of grassland plots have increased in canopy cover, allowing canopy of these plots to meet criteria of the CHVEFW thresholds. Therefore, all plots now have increased metrics enough to satisfy these criteria.</li> <li>Some concern in the increase of native:exotic ratio, plateau of number of native understory species recorded.</li> </ul> <p><b>Results from RCAs show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R1: Common Regeneration (low density). Low exotic species cover &lt;10%.</li> <li>R3: Common Regeneration (low density). Low exotic species cover.</li> <li>R2, R4 – R6: Scarce Regeneration. Low exotic species cover &lt;10%.</li> </ul> | Yes            |
| Swift Parrot habitat    | Improved condition of 122 ha woodland habitats                         | Increase or maintenance of condition in woodland habitat; DNG trajectory tracked biannually | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All grassland plots display some upward trends; however, these improvements have not yet translated into meeting benchmark standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Swift Parrot Habitat (DCCEEW, 2022a):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eucalyptus woodland and forest: present within BOA.</li> <li>Seasonal nectar resources: present within BOA.</li> <li>Habitat connectivity: present, and grassland showing trends to increase towards woodland.</li> <li>Key structural features: High foliage cover is present in woodland; maturity of canopy will continually increase.</li> <li>Minimal disturbance: Fragmentation of vegetated patches will incrementally decrease. However, exotic cover may be the factor which may slow progression of natural recruitment.</li> </ul>  |                |



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**Table 7.14. Key Performance Criteria Summary 2025 – Condon View BA**

| Conservation Value        | Key Performance Criteria (10-year horizon)     | Completion Criteria   | Change Observed from Monitoring Plots   | On-track (Y/N) |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| Regent Honeyeater habitat | Improved condition of 168 ha woodland habitats | Increase or maintenance of condition in woodland habitat; assessed against PCT benchmarks | <p><b>Results from condition monitoring plots show:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Condon View saw improved condition of five woodland plots, decline in one and zero stable.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Condon View saw improved condition of two grassland plots, decline and stable in zero.</b></li> <li>○ <b>PCT 3152:</b> Native species richness is mixed, with trees slightly above benchmark but shrubs, ferns, and other groups below; tree cover is low while shrubs dominate, and functional attributes such as fallen logs and litter cover are below benchmark.</li> <li>○ <b>PCT 3238:</b> Richness is generally strong for forbs and grasses, variable for shrubs, and poor for ferns and other groups; tree cover is close to benchmark, shrub cover is suppressed, grass cover is high, and functional condition shows good litter cover but low fallen logs.</li> <li>○ <b>PCT 3605:</b> Richness is consistently below benchmark for most groups except grasses; tree cover is moderate, shrubs are very low, and grasses dominate; functional attributes show good litter cover and large trees, but fallen logs remain below benchmark.</li> <li>○ <b>PCT 4039:</b> Richness is below benchmark across all groups; tree cover is low, shrubs are suppressed, and grasses dominate;</li> </ul> | Yes            |
|                           |  |   | <p>functional condition is poor overall with low fallen logs and litter cover, though large trees meet benchmark.</p> <p><b>Regent Honeyeater Habitat (DCCEE, 2022b):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Box-Ironbark woodland and forest: present within BOA.</li> <li>○ Mistletoe presence: present within BOA in varied densities.</li> <li>○ Large mature trees: present within BOA, all plots reach benchmark for this attribute.</li> <li>○ Habitat complexity: Native species richness did show to increase for some strata such as forbs, ferns and other native species richness.</li> <li>○ Low weed invasion: Exotic flora cover in woodland plots remained low in most areas. Exotic cover across the entire BOA is very low.</li> </ul>  |                |



### 7.1.3 | BIRD ASSEMBLAGE MONITORING

Bird assemblage assessments are undertaken as per **Table 5.3** and occurred in August 2025. The general conservation value across the offsets required is an increased or maintained species richness and usage by woodland birds over 10 years, and is the criteria by which the assemblage monitoring is assessed.

During the survey of the offsets, the consultants noted that few trees were in flower. In general, Wandewoi had the most flowering eucalypts observed, which is a potential cause of the high species richness observed within the BA.

The surveys recorded 73 bird species, all of which were native species. Nine of the species recorded had a preference for grasslands, 15 were generalists and 49 were woodland species.

No Regent Honeyeaters or Swift Parrots were observed during the survey which correlated with the Central Hunter Valley observations of these species listed by Birdlines Australia ([www.ereamaea.com](http://www.ereamaea.com)).

Some larger and more aggressive honeyeaters were recorded during the 2025 survey. While Red Wattlebird and Noisy Friarbird are aggressive, they have a positive correlation with the occurrence of Swift Parrot (Saunders and Heinsohn 2008).

Observations of birds at woodland sites were similar at Mitchelhill, Condon View and Hook. Woodland sites at Wandewoi, however, had the highest number of bird observations. All four BAs had a similar number of birds detected at grassland sites. The average number of woodland bird species was also higher in woodland sites than in grassland/regenerating woodland (transition) sites at all four BAs.

Over the past reporting years, woodland birds have maintained the highest species richness, with generalist and grassland birds continuing to show few records across the BAs (**Figure 7.8**).

There has been an overall increase in woodland birds at grassland sites in all BAs, except for Condon View, since surveys began. The largest increase in species richness is seen at Wandewoi, which has observed a steady increase in bird species since 2018. There has also been a general increase in the total number of birds at Wandewoi, Mitchelhill grassland sites, and Hook over the survey years, with a general decrease in the total number of birds at Mitchelhill woodland sites and at Condon View.

The overall decline in species richness at the Condon View BA, particularly since the initial 2020 survey, is likely due to changed survey methodology. The 2020 and 2021 surveys conducted dawn and dusk surveys for bird assemblages which typically detects a higher diversity of bird species. This was changed to surveying at any time throughout the day in 2023 and continued in 2025 to maintain consistency. This should be noted when inferring changes from years prior to 2023. There is a minor increase in overall species richness at Condon View from 2023 to 2025.

The completion criteria for woodland birds requires that the assemblage of species increases or is maintained at the offset areas. The assemblage of woodland birds (excluding other birds observed) has varied across the offset areas over the monitoring period. This variation is most evident at Hook and Condon View, whereas Mitchelhill and Wandewoi appear to be steadily increasing or approaching a steady equilibrium.



Figure 7.8. Mean Species Richness Over Time of Birds recorded within the BAs.

### 7.1.4 | GREEN AND GOLDEN BELL FROG HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Habitat assessments for the GGBF are undertaken as per the frequency outlined in **Table 5.3**.

Tracks and dispersal pathways have been subject to ongoing management as part of the site fire management and to maintain movement corridors for the GGBF. While woody vegetation is present within the corridors, it predominantly occurs as regrowth or resprouting vegetation. Maintenance of this regrowth is necessary to ensure that the vegetation community does not form a tall, closed canopy.

#### Ponds

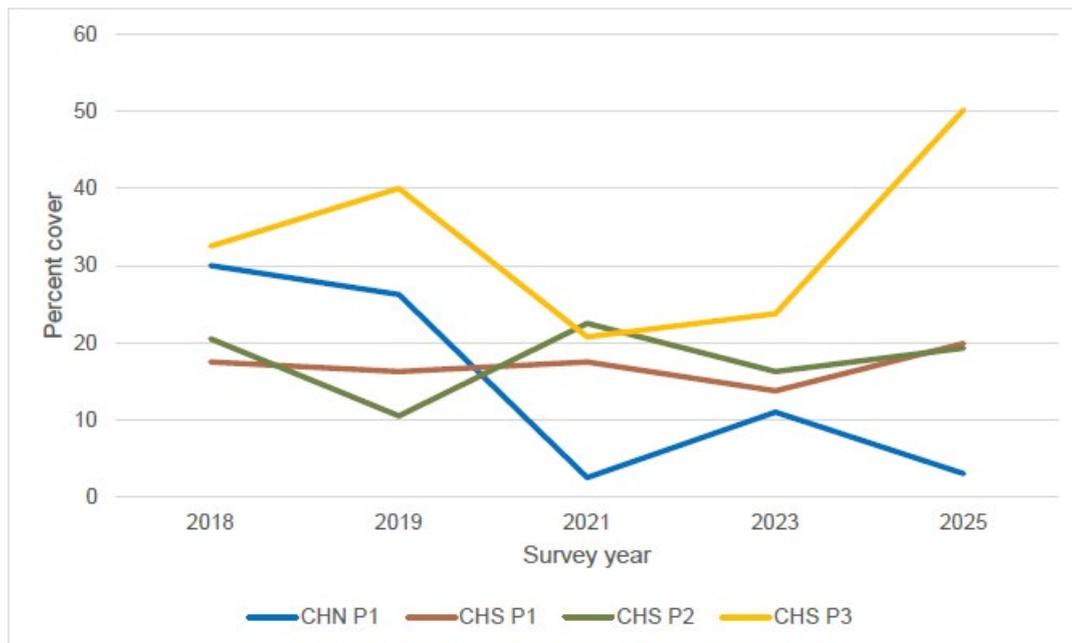
The cover of aquatic vegetation in the permanent ponds varied from the previous monitoring year but all fell below the maximum threshold score for suitable GGBF habitat. While the vegetative cover and floristic composition likely fluctuate with seasonal and climatic variations, the ponds are able to provide reliable aquatic habitat to a range of amphibians.

Vegetative cover within the ponds at Crescent Head North was low. The estimated vegetative cover in Pond 1 at Crescent Head North was only 3%, and the diversity of the aquatic vegetation in this pond was also comparatively low. Vegetative cover and diversity were higher at Crescent Head South, with cover ranging from 19.3% to 50.3% and eight flora species recorded on ponds across the offset site. No aquatic vegetation was recorded in the offline ponds at either Crescent Head North or South.

Vegetative cover has decreased at Crescent Head North Pond 1 since the previous monitoring survey in 2023. Over the same time, vegetative cover has increased by varying degrees in Pond 1, Pond 2 and Pond 3 at Crescent Head South. **Figure 7.9** illustrates the variability of cover in ponds containing vegetation since the first year of monitoring.

The management plan provides key performance criteria and completion criteria related to the conservations objectives as well as criteria related to specific conservation management actions. The criteria relevant to this habitat assessment are addressed in **Table 7.15** and **Table 7.16**.

Note that there are no performance criteria or completion criteria for offline ponds. Performance and completion criteria are associated with the presence and/or absence of Mosquito Fish and GGBF to determine whether suitable habitat has been established in offline ponds.



**Figure 7.9.** Change in vegetative cover (%) of the monitored ponds in the Crescent Head BA.

#### Tracks and Boundaries



While regenerating woody vegetation was recorded throughout the movement corridors, regular slashing has been effective at reducing and managing woody and herbaceous biomass along these trails. Corridors through heath communities adjacent to Limeburners Creek National Park at Crescent Head South contain a high abundance of woody regrowth. Regular management will continue to maintain the movement corridors as open grassy areas without dense woody vegetation.

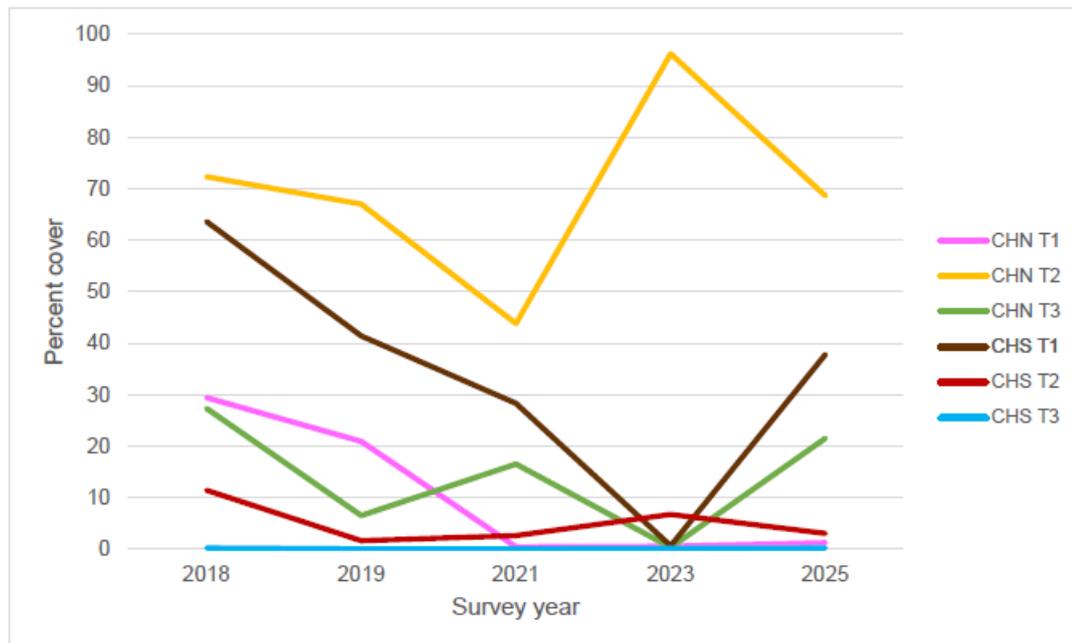
The survey of monitoring plots in movement corridors identified 138 species across the Crescent Head BA, which included 111 native species and 27 exotic species. This represents ten additional species recorded compared to the previous monitoring survey. In accordance with the growth forms in DPIE (2020), nine native trees, one exotic shrub and 26 native shrub species were recorded in the plots. Most of the species recorded were juvenile in growth, showing evidence of previous slashing in the movement corridors.

The cover of exotic species recorded in plots have varied considerably over time with variability noted between locations (**Figure 7.10**). At both Crescent Head North and South, the increase in exotic cover is largely driven by the growth of prostrate exotic grasses and forbs, which are unlikely to have a significant impact on the efficacy of the movement corridors or on GGBF habitat, but will be managed nonetheless.

The cleared tracks and fencelines that form potential GGBF movement corridors are subject to ongoing management as per the management plan. The regeneration of woody vegetation in these areas may impede the dispersal of GGBF into the Crescent Head Biodiversity Area or between suitable ponds onsite. Most of the woody vegetation recorded was very low growing (<20 cm in height); however, management to maintain cleared movement corridors will continue. Periodic slashing has been effective at reducing woody biomass along the movement corridors.

In 2023, a wildfire burnt the majority of Crescent Head North. The ongoing vegetative effects of this were observed during the 2025 monitoring survey, however, much of the offset has recovered, with only small areas of reduced vegetation. The decline in exotic vegetation cover in Plot 3 at Crescent Head North between 2021 and 2023 was likely a result of this fire. Exotic grasses and forbs in this plot have since recovered, with exotic cover now similar to pre-burn levels.

In June 2025, unauthorised cattle were placed into the Crescent Head South BA in response to a local flooding event. The monitoring indicates that that event seems to have had minimal ongoing impact to GGBF habitat.



**Figure 7.10.** Change in the cover of exotic flora species within monitored plots in the Crescent Head BA.



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**Table 7.15. Progress towards performance and completion criteria for the GGBF.**

Red text indicates progress to date.

| Habitat value                      | Key performance criteria   | Completion criteria  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Green and Golden Bell Frog habitat | <p>Improved condition of 189.5 ha of Green and Golden Bell Frog habitat over 10 years.</p> <p><i>Aquatic vegetative cover was below the maximum threshold cover score for all surveyed ponds. Both offline ponds and Pond 2 Crescent Head North did not contain any aquatic vegetation. Vegetative cover has varied across monitoring years, however, has remained below the maximum threshold at all permanent ponds.</i></p> <p><i>Exotic vegetation cover in the movement corridors differs significantly between plots and between years, with the greatest shifts observed at Plot 2 Crescent Head North, showing an approx. 15% reduction in exotic cover. Crescent Head North Plot 3 and Crescent Head South showed an increase in exotic cover. All other plots did not show a notable change in exotic cover.</i></p> | <p>Observed and measured increase in or maintained condition through monitoring over 10 years.</p> <p><i>The data suggests that the ponds and surrounding vegetation have maintained a similar condition to previous monitoring years.</i></p>   |
| Existing breeding habitat          | <p>Reduction in the Mosquito Fish population in the ponds where control methods are possible.</p> <p><i>Refer to Section 7.1.6.</i></p>  | <p>Mosquito Fish control trials are completed and their success is evaluated by analysis of monitoring results.</p> <p><i>Refer to Section 7.1.6.</i></p>  |
| Supplementary breeding habitat     | <p>Provision of suitable supplementary breeding habitat.</p> <p><i>Offline ponds have been installed at Crescent Head North and South. Green and Golden Bell Frog have been observed at the offline pond at Crescent Head North in previous years.</i></p>   | <p>Offline ponds are designed with consideration of breeding habitat principles outlined in Best Practice Guidelines for Green and Golden Bell Frog Habitat (DECC 2008).</p> <p><i>Offline ponds that address the best practice guidelines have been installed at Crescent Head North and South.</i></p> |
| Foraging habitat                   | <p>Maintenance of existing foraging habitat quality.</p> <p><i>Foraging habitat has been maintained within the Crescent Head Biodiversity Area.</i></p>  | <p>Foraging habitat is managed with consideration of the principles outlined in Best Practice Guidelines for Green and Golden Bell Frog Habitat (DECC 2008).</p>   |



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|                      |  |   |
|----------------------|--|---|
|                      |  | <i>Habitat has been managed consistent with the guidelines. This includes weed control and monitoring.</i>                        |
| Habitat connectivity | Maintenance of connectivity between GGBF habitat components.<br><br><i>Dispersal pathways have been maintained to reduce the cover and height of woody vegetation and other vegetation at Crescent Head North and South.</i> | Open vegetative structure is maintained on existing tracks and fence lines,<br><br><i>Maintained during the reporting period.</i> |

**Table 7.16. Progress towards performance and completion criteria for managing vegetation in GGBF habitat.**

Red text indicates progress to date.

| Performance criteria  | Year 1 to Year 10   | Completion criteria   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Management of regrowth and remnant vegetation</b>  |   |   |
| Maintenance of aquatic vegetation (i.e. breeding habitat structure in ponds).   | Complete annual inspection and manage aquatic vegetation such that 20% of open water is maintained in permanent ponds.<br><br><i>Monitoring survey complete. All ponds contained &gt;20% open water or were dry at time of survey.</i>  | Annual inspection and aquatic vegetation maintenance are completed.<br><br><i>Monitoring completed for 2025.</i>  |
| Maintenance of movement corridors (i.e. existing open grassed areas along access tracks and lot boundaries).<br><br><i>Maintenance of movement corridors undertaken.<br/><br/>Ongoing maintenance of movement corridors required due to regenerating woody species.</i> | Complete annual inspection and remove tree and shrub saplings as necessary.<br><br><i>Monitoring of movement corridors complete. Slashing of movement corridors occurred in months prior to the monitoring survey; however, further slashing recommended in early months of 2026 due to rate of regrowth.</i> | Annual inspection and groundcover maintenance are completed.<br><br><i>Monitoring and maintenance of movement corridors completed as required in 2025.</i>  |
| <b>Weed control</b>   |   |   |
| Control weeds to maintain a suitable habitat structure in breeding, foraging and dispersal habitat.<br><br><i>Weed control undertaken. Slashing of tracks and boundaries occurred to reduce the cover of woody and herbaceous vegetation in 2025.</i>                   | Complete weed assessments during habitat monitoring and property inspections.<br><br><i>Habitat monitoring undertaken, which recorded 25 exotic species within movement corridors and two exotic species in ponds. Evidence of weed control through slashing observed along movement corridors.</i>           | Habitat monitoring data indicates a trajectory for reduction in cover over three consecutive assessments.<br><br><i>2025 is the fifth year of monitoring in the Crescent Head BA. Three of six plots have shown a consistent reduction in weed cover, however, exotic cover variable in other plots. Exotic cover increased in 2025 in Plot 3 Crescent Head North and Plot 1 Crescent Head South.</i> |



| Bushfire management  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Prepare and implement a bushfire management plan.<br><br><i>The bushfire management plan has been prepared and updated with the 2025 findings.</i> | Complete habitat monitoring and property inspections.<br><br><i>Annual bushfire monitoring completed. Property inspections completed as outlined in Table 7.1.</i> | Habitat monitoring and property inspections have been conducted annually.<br><br><i>Annual bushfire monitoring completed.</i><br><br><i>Property inspections completed.</i> |

### 7.1.5 | GREEN AND GOLDEN BELL FROG SURVEYS

Field surveys at both Crescent Head North and South were undertaken over four nights on 27 to 30 October 2025. Total rainfall (recorded at Crescent Head) in the months prior to the survey was overall above average, with 277.2 mm recorded in August (average 64.1 mm), but the months of September and October, prior to the survey window, received less than average rainfall. Rainfall in October was not optimal for GGBF surveys, with less than 50 mm falling prior to the survey. Rain did, however, fall during the survey and evening temperatures were high for two of the four nights.

GGBF have been previously recorded at Crescent Head North. However, no GGBF were recorded at Crescent Head North during the 2025 monitoring period. Likewise, no GGBF were recorded at Crescent Head South. A total of nine frog species were identified across the Crescent Head Biodiversity Area in the October 2025 survey through both aural-visual survey and acoustic recording analysis. The frog species recorded during the monitoring surveys is outlined in **Table 7.17**, and an incidental fauna list from across the Crescent Head Biodiversity Area is provided in **Table 9.1**.

In 2019 and 2021, GGBF were recorded at Crescent Head North but have not been recorded since. At Crescent Head North, GGBF have been recorded at Pond 1 and the offline pond, which are two permanent water bodies on this site. It is possible that the previously recorded GGBF were dispersing individuals, with the known breeding areas in the vicinity of Ryan’s Cut likely to be the source of these frogs. A brief survey of GGBF habitat in the hind dunes near Ryan’s Cut was conducted during the October 2025 monitoring period; however, no GGBF were recorded during this inspection. It is understood that monitoring of GGBF in the hind dunes in summer of 2024/25 returned a low frog abundance result. Whilst not broadly studied, rates of amphibian temporary emigration are known to vary widely (Goldingay 2020).

The vegetative habitat that burnt at Crescent Head North during the spring 2023 wildfire has mostly recovered well, with only small areas of reduced vegetation. The potential impact of cattle accessing the Crescent Head South property in May 2025 is currently unknown, however, frog diversity appears to be presently unaffected, with eight frog species being recorded across Crescent Head South.

An additional offline pond was installed at both Crescent Head South and Crescent Head North as a mitigation measure against the increased risk of Amphibian Chytrid Fungus. The additional offline ponds were installed following the intrusion of cattle at Crescent Head South and prior to the 2025 survey period. The additional offline ponds contain saline/brackish water, which inhibits the growth and transmission of Chytrid Fungus.

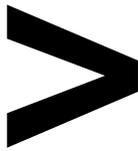
While permanent ponds might provide reliable refuge habitat in dry climatic conditions, research have suggested that ephemeral ponds are most beneficial for breeding and controlling tadpole predators. Beranek et al. (2022) found that wild populations of GGBF have greater metamorph output (i.e. a greater successful transformation of aquatic tadpoles to adult frogs) in recently refilled wetlands. They found that metamorph output was negatively correlated with tadpole predator abundance, and waterbodies with longer duration of water inundation have higher abundances of aquatic predators and lower abundances of GGBF.

These findings will be considered in the management of the ponds within the BA.

**Table 7.17. Frog species recorded during the GGBF monitoring surveys.**

| Scientific name                   | Common name             | Crescent Head North |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                   |                         | Pond 1              |        |        |        |        | Pond 2 |        |        |        |        | Pond 3 |        |        |        |        |
|                                   |                         | Oct-18              | Mar-19 | Oct-21 | Nov-24 | Oct-25 | Oct-18 | Mar-19 | Oct-21 | Nov-24 | Oct-25 | Oct-18 | Mar-19 | Oct-21 | Nov-24 | Oct-25 |
| <i>Crinia signifera</i>           | Common Eastern Froglet  |                     |        |        | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        | X      |        |
| <i>Crinia tinnula</i>             | Wallum Froglet          |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>    | Eastern Banjo Frog      |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>      | Striped Marsh Frog      | X                   |        | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        | A      | X+     |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> | Spotted Marsh Frog      |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea aurea</i>              | Green and Golden Bell   |                     | 2      | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea dentata</i>            | Bleating Tree Frog      |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | +      |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea caerulea</i>           | Green Tree Frog         |                     |        | X      | X      | +      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea fallax</i>             | Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog | X                   | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        |        | A      | X      |        | X      |        |        |
| <i>Litorea gracilentata</i>       | Dainty Green Tree Frog  |                     |        |        | X      | X,A    |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        | X      |        |        |
| <i>Litorea latopalmata</i>        | Broad-palmed Rocket     |                     |        |        |        |        | S      |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea nasuta</i>             | Striped Rocket Frog     |                     | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea peronii</i>            | Brown Tree Frog         | X+                  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea tyleri</i>             | Tyler's Tree Frog       |                     |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Uperoleia fusca</i>            | Dusky Toadlet           |                     |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Uperoleia laevigata</i>        | Smooth Toadlet          |                     |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

Note: X = recorded (heard and/or observed), S = captured with sweep net, + = denotes species heard calling at a distance from the monitoring pond, 1 = denotes dry ephemeral



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| Scientific name                   | Common name                | Crescent Head South |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                   |                            | Pond 1              |        |        |        |        |        |        | Pond 2 |        |        |        |        |        |        | Pond 3 |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|                                   |                            | Oct-18              | Mar-19 | Feb-20 | Oct-21 | Feb-22 | Nov-24 | Oct-25 | Oct-18 | Mar-19 | Feb-20 | Oct-21 | Feb-22 | Nov-24 | Oct-25 | Oct-18 | Mar-19 | Feb-20 | Oct-21 | Feb-22 | Nov-24 | Oct-25 |
| <i>Crinia signifera</i>           | Common Eastern Froglet     |                     |        | X+     |        |        |        | X,A    |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        | X+     |        | X      | X      |
| <i>Crinia tinnula</i>             | Wallum Froglet             |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |
| <i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>    | Eastern Banjo Frog         |                     |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |
| <i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>      | Striped Marsh Frog         | X                   |        | X+     | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        |        |        | X      | X      | X+     | X      | X+     | X      | X+     | X      | X      |
| <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> | Spotted Marsh Frog         | X+                  |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea aurea</i>              | Green and Golden Bell Frog |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea dentata</i>            | Bleating Tree Frog         |                     |        |        | X      |        |        | X,A    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea caerulea</i>           | Green Tree Frog            |                     |        | X+     | X+     |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |
| <i>Litorea fallax</i>             | Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog    | X                   | X,S    | X+     | X      | X      | X      | X,A    | X      | X      |        | X      | X      | X      | X,A    | X      |        | X      | X      |        | X      | X      |
| <i>Litorea gracilentata</i>       | Dainty Green Tree Frog     |                     |        | X+     | X      | X      | X      | X      |        |        |        | X      |        | X      | X      |        |        |        | X      | X      | X      | X      |
| <i>Litorea latopalmata</i>        | Broad-palmed Rocket Frog   |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Litorea nasuta</i>             | Striped Rocket Frog        |                     |        | X+     | X      | X      |        | X,A    |        |        |        | X      | X      |        | X      |        |        | X+     |        |        | X      | X      |
| <i>Litorea peronii</i>            | Brown Tree Frog            | X                   |        |        | X      |        | X      |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        | X      | X      |
| <i>Litorea tyleri</i>             | Tyler's Tree Frog          |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Mixophyes fasciolatus</i>      | Great Barred Frog          |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| <i>Uperoleia fusca</i>            | Dusky Toadlet              |                     |        | X+     | X+     |        |        | X      |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        |        |        | X+     |        |        |        | X      |
| <i>Uperoleia laevigata</i>        | Smooth Toadlet             |                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | X      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

Note: X = recorded (heard and/or observed), S = captured with sweep net, + = denotes species heard calling at a distance from the monitoring pond, A = recorded with an acoustic recorder, 1 = denotes dry ephemeral pond/swamp at time of survey.



### 7.1.6 | MOSQUITO FISH MONITORING

The presence of Mosquito Fish were monitored within the Crescent Head BA over the 2025 monitoring period. This is the eighth year that monitoring of the mosquito fish within the ponds has occurred. Three inground ponds are being monitored at both sites along with the constructed ponds at each site. The results are compared to baseline information from monitoring in 2018 and data collected in previous years.

The monitoring occurred during October 2025. As outlined in **Section 7.1.5**, the rainfall received for the three months prior to monitoring was overall above average, despite being less than optimal during September and October.

Water was present within all in ground and constructed ponds with the exception of Pond 3 at Crescent Head North. Pond 3 is an ephemeral pond and water was absent during the monitoring event. Pond 2 at Crescent Head North is also ephemeral but did contain a small amount of water during the survey window.

Several months prior to the commencement of the 2025 monitoring surveys, a major flood event affected Crescent Head and the surrounding area. Mosquito Fish are known to move between sites via flood waters and surface flow, and removing this feral species is problematic and often short term.

None of the constructed ponds were found to contain Mosquito Fish. These ponds have been located above the known flood levels and have sides that are 600mm above the ground level as per the best practice guidelines for the Green and Golden Bell Frog.

Mosquito Fish were present in Pond 1 at Crescent Head North and all inground ponds at Crescent Head South.

There was an increase in the number of Mosquito Fish sampled at Pond 1 Crescent Head North with 519 recorded in 2025 compared to 44 in 2024 and 18 in 2023. The reason for the dramatic increase is not known; however, it may be due to lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water column of this pond, resulting in more fish positioned close to the surface where oxygen levels are generally higher (Pyke 2005). Disturbance (or ruffling) to the water surface caused by rain and wind can increase dissolved oxygen levels.

At Crescent Head South, the relative Mosquito Fish abundance was similar to previous years in Ponds 1 and 2, but decreased in Pond 3, with 358 sampled in 2024 and 111 individuals sampled in 2025.

Several of the larger, permanent ponds across the Crescent Head Biodiversity Area have seen substantial fluctuations in the number of sampled Mosquito Fish over the eight years of monitoring, which was evident in Pond 1 at Crescent Head North and in Pond 3 at Crescent Head South. It is accepted that Mosquito Fish abundance can shift markedly between seasons and years with similar survey effort. While this phenomenon is acknowledged in the literature, the factors that affect change in abundance remain poorly understood (MDBA 2011).

As in previous years, the native fish, Firetail Gudgeon (*Hypseleotris galii*), was recorded during the Mosquito Fish survey as occurring within all inground ponds surveyed that also contained the Mosquito Fish. Firetail Gudgeon is a known predator of GGBF tadpoles (Pyke and White 2000).

A mechanism to remove Mosquito Fish from the ponds is yet to be applied. The majority of the larger inground ponds are fed by groundwater and contain native fish. These inground ponds regularly flood through overland flow and any attempts to remove the Mosquito Fish would have to be repeated. The complete drying of a pond is likely to be the most effective method of removing the species from a pond without applying chemicals. While attempts to drain the ponds may be undertaken, given the presence of native fish within the ponds, draining of the ponds to rid the Mosquito Fish may present a challenge to regulators. Further, as they are groundwater fed, it is unlikely that draining and drying of the ponds would be successful without significant regional water losses. Success is more likely to focus efforts to develop breeding habitats that are free from Mosquito Fish and are not impacted by flood flows. Should attempts to drain the existing ponds occur, it will be important to restore habitat (i.e. water levels) relatively quickly thereafter if low rainfall is predicted.

The management plan provides key performance criteria and completion criteria related to the conservation objectives as well as criteria related to specific conservation management actions. The criteria relevant to

Mosquito Fish monitoring are addressed in **Table 7.18** and **Table 7.19** for the conservation objectives and specific management actions, respectively.

Given the low likelihood of long-term success in removing Mosquito Fish from the inground ponds, and the high feasibility of removing this species from the constructed ponds should they ever occur, HVO may, in the future, consider a discussion with DCCEEW regarding removing the requirement to reduce the Mosquito Fish population in the inground ponds at the Crescent Head biodiversity areas.

**Table 7.18. Progress towards performance and completion criteria relevant to the Crescent Head BA conservation objectives.**

Red text indicates progress to date

| Habitat value             | Key performance indicator   | Completion criteria   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Existing breeding habitat | Reduction in the Mosquito Fish population in the ponds where control methods are possible.<br><br><i>Significant increase at Pond 1, Crescent Head North; slight increase at Pond 1 and Pond 2, Crescent Head South; significant decrease at Pond 3, Crescent Head South.</i> | Mosquito Fish control trials are completed and their success is evaluated by analysis of monitoring results.<br><br><i>Not yet commenced.</i> |

**Table 7.19. Progress towards performance and completion criteria relevant to Crescent Head BA pond management.**

Red text indicates progress to date

| Performance criteria   | Year 1 to year 10  | Completion criteria  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Pond management</b> |  |  |
| Offline ponds          | Complete drainage survey.<br>Prepare plan for construction.<br>Construct ponds and water capture to fill ponds.<br>Review success.<br><br><i>Drainage survey completed, construction of ponds completed.</i><br><br><i>GGBF detected at the offline pond at Crescent Head North in March 2021.</i>                           | Drainage survey completed.<br><br>Ponds have been constructed in accordance with design.<br><br>Ponds constructed at Crescent Head North and South<br><br><i>Additional constructed pond installed at Crescent Head North and South for chytrid management.</i>  |
| Pond A to F            | Complete drainage survey.<br>Prepare plan for pond refurbishment.<br>Implement plan.<br>Conduct Mosquito Fish control.<br>Review success.<br><br><i>Drainage survey completed, Pond refurbishment to be planned based on ecological monitoring results.</i>  | Drainage survey completed.<br><br>Ponds refurbished in accordance with plan.<br><br>Mosquito Fish control completed in suitable ponds in accordance with approved methods.<br><br><i>Pond refurbishment delayed due to ponds being groundwater fed and native fish species recorded.</i>   |
| Monitoring             | Monitor number of Mosquito Fish following initial control.<br><br>Monitor for the presence of Green and Golden Bell Frogs.<br><br>Follow-up monitoring and control of Mosquito Fish.<br><br><i>Green and Golden Bell Frog presence being monitored as scheduled.</i><br><br><i>Monitoring completed as required in 2025.</i> | Monitoring of Mosquito Fish and GGBF completed as required.<br><br><i>Mosquito Fish consistently present at Pond 1 at Crescent Head North and Pond 1, 2 &amp; 3 at Crescent Head South. Populations fluctuate between monitoring years.</i><br><br><i>Offline ponds have been created and Mosquito Fish have not been recorded in these ponds.</i> |

## 8 | FAUNA CAPTURED ON CAMERA

**Table 9.1. Native species recorded on camera within the Crescent Head BAs during the 2025 feral animal monitoring program.**

| Identified Animal        |                                 | South |       |       | North |       |       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Common                   | Scientific                      | Cam 1 | Cam 2 | Cam 3 | Cam 4 | Cam 5 | Cam 6 |
| <b>Reptile</b>           |                                 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Lace Monitor             | <i>Varanus varius</i>           |       |       |       | yes   |       | yes   |
| <b>Mammal</b>            |                                 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Koala                    | <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>   |       | yes   | yes   |       |       |       |
| Spot-tailed Quoll        | <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>       |       | yes   |       |       |       |       |
| Long-nosed Bandicoot     | <i>Perameles nasuta</i>         | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   |
| Northern Brown Bandicoot | <i>Isoodon macrourus</i>        | yes   |       |       |       | yes   | yes   |
| Swamp Wallaby            | <i>Wallabia bicolor</i>         | yes   | yes   | yes   |       |       | yes   |
| Red-necked Wallaby       | <i>Notamacropus rufogriseus</i> | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   |       |       |
| Eastern Grey Kangaroo    | <i>Macropus giganteus</i>       | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   | yes   |
| Brush-tail Possum        | <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>    | yes   | yes   | yes   |       | yes   | yes   |
| Ringtail Possum          | <i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i> |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Brush-tailed Phascogale  | <i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>     |       | yes   |       |       |       |       |
| Sugar Glider             | <i>Petaurus breviceps</i>       |       | yes   |       |       |       |       |
| Squirrel Glider          | <i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>    |       | yes   | yes   |       |       |       |
| Brown Antechinus         | <i>Antechinus stuartii</i>      | yes   | yes   | yes   |       |       | yes   |



*Figure 9.1. Koala recorded at the Crescent Head BA.*



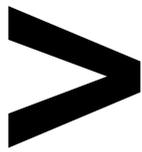
*Figure 9.2. A quoll at the Crescent Head BA.*



*Figure 9.3. Gliders recorded within the Crescent Head BA.*



*Figure 9.4. Lyrebird photographed during pest management monitoring at the Condon View BA.*



*Figure 9.5. Brush-tailed possum photographed during pest management monitoring at the Condon View BA.*



*Figure 9.6. Echidna photographed during pest management monitoring at the Mitchelhill West BA.*



*Figure 9.7. A Bandicoot photographed by motion sensor camera at the Mitchelhill West BA.*



*Figure 9.8. A brush-tailed phascogale photographed by motion sensor camera at the Mitchelhill West BA.*



*Figure 9.9. A wild dog photographed by motion sensor camera at the Mitchelhill West BA.*



*Figure 9.10. Lace monitor photographed by motion sensor camera at the Mitchelhill West BA.*



*Figure 9.11. Red necked wallaby photographed by motion sensor camera at the Mitchelhill East BA.*



*Figure 9.12. Wedge tailed eagle photographed by motion sensor camera at the Mitchelhill East BA.*

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## Appendix A - Rapid Condition Assessment - Current and Previous Year Tables



**Wandewoi Biodiversity Area**  
**Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

Date: 20.11.2025

| Attribute   | Wandewoi R1   | Wandewoi R2      | Wandewoi R3 | Wandewoi R4      | Wandewoi R5   | Wandewoi R6   |
|---|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Low grazing intensity—never farmed                                      | X             | ✓                | ✓           | X                | ✓             | X             |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5-year intervals)                              | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | X             | ✓                | X           | ✓                | X             | X             |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Presence of native shrubs   | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Presence of large, old-growth trees with hollows                        | ✓             | >50cm-DBH-no-HBT | ✓           | >50cm-DBH-no-HBT | ✓             | ✓             |
| Dead timber is left standing  | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | No-crypograms | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | No-crypograms | No-crypograms |
| Remnant is large (>5-ha is optimum)                                     | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | ✓             | ✓                | ✓           | ✓                | ✓             | ✓             |
| Health Rating   | 85%           | 80%              | 80%         | 80%              | 70%           | 80%           |
| % cover of canopy species   | 5%            | 20%              | 25%         | 25%              | 10%           | 5%            |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | 50-79cm       | 30-49cm          | 50-79cm     | 30-49cm          | >80cm         | >80cm         |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | >5cm          | >5cm             | >5cm        | >5cm             | >5cm          | >5cm          |
| Stem class average (cm)   | 20-29cm       | 20-29cm          | 20-29cm     | 20-29cm          | 20-29cm       | 20-29cm       |

**Wandewoi Biodiversity Area**  
**Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

Ecoplanning, November 2024

Note: True = 1, False = 0

| Site ID   | WAN R1    | WAN R2          | WAN R3                | WAN R4                  | WAN R5    | WAN R6    |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                       | 0         | 0         |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | 0         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 0         | 0         |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | 1         | 0               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | 0         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 0         | 0         |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 0                       | 1         | 1         |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Presence of native shrubs   | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                       | 1         | 0         |
| Dead timber is left standing  | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 0         | 0         |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     | 1         | 1               | 1                     | 1                       | 1         | 1         |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | 0         | 0               | 0                     | 0                       | 0         | 0         |
| <b>Health Rating</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b>       | <b>17</b>             | <b>16</b>               | <b>15</b> | <b>14</b> |
| % cover of canopy species   | Em 1%     | Em 5%,<br>Et 2% | Em 5%,<br>Et 6% Af 1% | Al 1%, Em 10%,<br>Bp 1% | Em 1%     | Em 1%     |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | 50-80 cm  | 30-50 cm        | 50-80 cm              | 50-80 cm                | >80 cm    | 50-80 cm  |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | 20-30 cm  | <5 cm           | <5 cm                 | <5 cm                   | 50-80 cm  | 30-50cm   |
| Stem class average (cm)   | 50-80 cm  | 20-30 cm        | 20-30 cm              | 20-30 cm                | 50-80 cm  | 50-80 cm  |

Note Et = *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, Em = *Eucalyptus moluccana*, Af = *Angophora floribunda*, Al = *Allocasuarina littoralis*, Bp = *Brachychiton populneus*

## Mitchelhill (West and East) Biodiversity Area Rapid Condition Assessment – Woodland

Hunter Valley Operations

Date: 29 September 2025

**Number:** HVOOC-1797567310-5484

**Status:** Final

**Effective:** 27/02/2026

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**Owner:** Environment and Community Coordinator

**Version:** 1.0

**Review:** 27/02/2029

| Attribute   | R1-MHEast   | R2-MHEast                          | R3-MHEast                          | R4-MHEast  | R5-MHEast                          | R6-MHEast  | R1-MHWest                             | R2-MHWest  | R3-MHWest                         | R4-MHWest                         | R5-MHWest           | R6-MHWest               |
|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Low-grazing-intensity—never-farmed                                      | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ?  | ✓                                  | ☐  | ✓                                     | ☐  | ☐                                 | ☐                                 | ✓                   | ?                       |
| Tree-and-shrub-regeneration-present (<2m)                               | Scarce-Regeneration   | Common-Regeneration (high-density) | Common-Regeneration (high-density) | No-Natural-Regeneration  | Common-Regeneration (high-density) | Common-Regeneration (low-density)                      | No-Natural-Regeneration               | Scarce-Regeneration  | Common-Regeneration (low-density) | Common-Regeneration (low-density) | Scarce-Regeneration | No-Natural-Regeneration |
| Infrequent-fire-regime (<5-year-intervals)                              | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                  | ☐  | ✓                                     | ☐  | ✓                                 | ☐                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| Healthy-mature-trees (no-dieback)                                       | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                     | ✓  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| Little-to-no-evidence-of-rabbits  | ✓   | Rabbits                            | Rabbit-Scats/Rabbit Warrens        | ✓  | Rabbits                            | ✓  | ✓                                     | Rabbits  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| Little-to-no-evidence-of-foxes/cats                                     | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                     | ✓  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| Low-abundance-of-weeds (most-remnants-contain-some-weeds)               | 10–20% exotic-cover<br><i>Senecio-madagascariensis</i> [Fireweed] | <10%                               | ✓                                  | 80–100% exotic-cover<br><i>Senecio-madagascariensis</i> [Fireweed] | Fireweed <10%                      | Exotic-cover-10–20%<br><i>Senecio-madagascariensis</i> | <10-Majority-weeds-and-exotic-grasses | <i>Senecio-madagascariensis</i> and <i>Opuntia-stricta</i> are-most-abundant | Exotic-cover <10%                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| No-evidence-of-firewood-collection                                      | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                     | ✓  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| No-obvious-signs-of-erosion-or-salinity                                 | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                     | ✓  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |
| Not-susceptible-to-fertiliser-application, herbicide-or-pesticide-drift | ✓   | ✓                                  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                  | ✓  | ✓                                     | ✓  | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                   | ✓                       |

|  |        |          |          |       |        |          |        |          |          |          |           |                     |
|--|--------|----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|--------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Less-than-20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)▯ | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines▯                                 | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Presence of native shrubs▯   | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Presence of large, old-growth trees with hollows▯                  | None▯  | ✓▯       | Few▯     | None▯ | ✓▯     | None▯    | None▯  | None▯    | None▯    | None▯    | Moderate▯ | None▯               |
| Dead timber is left standing▯                                      | ▯      | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ▯        | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground▯                     | None▯  | Scarce▯  | Few▯     | None▯ | ✓▯     | Scarce▯  | None▯  | Scarce▯  | Common▯  | Common▯  | None▯     | None▯               |
| Abundance of native ground flora▯                                  | X▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | X▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks▯                  | X▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | X▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | X▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Remnant is large (>5 ha is optimum)▯                               | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | X▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | X▯    | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯     | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯       | ✓▯        | ✓▯                  |
| Health Rating▯   | 65%▯   | 80%▯     | 85%▯     | <50%▯ | 80%▯   | 80%▯     | 65%▯   | 80%▯     | 85%▯     | ▯        | 80%▯      | 70%▯                |
| % cover of canopy species▯   | <10▯   | 20-30%▯  | 60-70%▯  | <10▯  | <10▯   | 20-30%▯  | 0▯     | 20-30%▯  | 30-40%▯  | 20-30%▯  | 20-30%▯   | <10▯                |
| Stem class maximum (cm)▯   | 5-9cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | -▯    | 5-9cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | 5-9cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | 20-29cm▯  | 30-49cm▯            |
| Stem class minimum (cm)▯   | >5cm▯  | >5cm▯    | >5cm▯    | -▯    | >5cm▯  | >5cm▯    | 5-9cm▯ | >5cm▯    | >5cm▯    | >5cm▯    | >5cm▯     | >5cm▯               |
| Stem class average (cm)▯   | >5cm▯  | 5-9cm▯   | 20-29cm▯ | -▯    | >5cm▯  | >5cm▯    | 5-9cm▯ | 30-49cm▯ | 20-29cm▯ | 10-19cm▯ | 10-19cm▯  | 30-49cm (adjacent)▯ |

## Mitchelhill (West) Biodiversity Area Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland

Ecoplanning, November 2024

Note: True = 1, False = 0, (G) = Grassland

## Hunter Valley Operations

| Site ID   | MIT-W R1 (G) | MIT-W R2      | MIT-W R3                 | MIT-W R4                | MIT-W R5                       | MIT-W R6     |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | 1            | 0             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Presence of native shrubs   | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| Dead timber is left standing  | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | 0            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 1            |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | 1            | 1             | 1                        | 1                       | 1                              | 0            |
| <b>Health Rating</b>  | <b>12</b>    | <b>19</b>     | <b>20</b>                | <b>20</b>               | <b>20</b>                      | <b>11</b>    |
| % cover of canopy species   | Et 1%        | Em 20%, Ec 2% | Cm 15%,<br>Ec 10%, Em 1% | Cm 16%,<br>Ep 2%, Ec 2% | Ec 10%, Cm 2%,<br>Et 1%, Em 1% | Et 1%, Ec 1% |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | >50 cm       | >50 cm        | >80 cm                   | >80 cm                  | >80 cm                         | 20-30 cm     |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | <5 cm        | <5 cm         | <5 cm                    | <5 cm                   | <5 cm                          | <5 cm        |
| Stem class average (cm)   | 10-20 cm     | 20-30 cm      | 20-30 cm                 | 20-30 cm                | 20-30 cm                       | 5-10 cm      |

Note Ec = *Eucalyptus crebra*, Ep = *Eucalyptus punctata*, Cm = *Corymbia maculata*, Et = *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, Em = *Eucalyptus moluccana*, Ef = *Eucalyptus fibrosa*

## Mitchelhill (East) Biodiversity Area Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland

## Hunter Valley Operations

Ecoplanning, November 2024

Note: True = 1, False = 0, (G) = Grassland

|   | Site ID | MIT-E R1 (G)           | MIT-E R2               | MIT-E R3               | MIT-E R4 (G) | MIT-E R5     | MIT-E R6               |
|---|---------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    |         | 0                      | 1                      | 0                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               |         | 0                      | 1                      | 1                      | 1            | 1            | 1                      |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       |         | 1                      | 1                      | 0                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 1            | 1            | 1                      |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 1            | 1            | 1                      |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               |         | 0                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 0            | 1                      |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 1            | 1            | 1                      |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 1            | 1            | 1                      |
| Presence of native shrubs   |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        |         | 1                      | 0                      | 1                      | 0            | 0            | 1                      |
| Dead timber is left standing  |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Abundance of native ground flora  |         | 0                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        |         | 0                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          |         | 1                      | 1                      | 1                      | 0            | 1            | 1                      |
| <b>Health Rating</b>  |         | <b>15</b>              | <b>19</b>              | <b>18</b>              | <b>5</b>     | <b>18</b>    | <b>20</b>              |
| % cover of canopy species   |         | Cm 1%,<br>Ec 1%, Et 1% | Af 4%, Et 10%<br>Cm 2% | Af 1%, Cm 15%<br>Et 5% | -            | Cm 1%, Ec 5% | Et 10%, Ec 5%<br>Cm 1% |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   |         | >80 cm                 | >80 cm                 | >80 cm                 | -            | 50-80 cm     | >80 cm                 |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   |         | <5 cm                  | <5 cm                  | <5 cm                  | -            | 5-10 cm      | <5 cm                  |
| Stem class average (cm)   |         | 20-30 cm               | 20-30 cm               | 20-30 cm               | -            | 20-30 cm     | 20-30 cm               |

Note Af = *Angophora floribunda*, Ec = *Eucalyptus crebra*, Cm = *Corymbia maculata*, Et = *Eucalyptus tereticornis*

**Hook Biodiversity Area  
Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

Date: 29.10.2025

| Attribute   | R1                                       | R2                | R3                                       | R4                      | R5                                 | R6   |
|---|--|-------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Low grazing intensity – never farmed                                    | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2 m)                              | ✓Common<br>Regeneration (low<br>density) | ✓                 | ✓Common<br>Regeneration<br>(low density) | ✓Scarce<br>Regeneration | ✓Scarce<br>regeneration            | ✓<br><b>Scarce<br/>canopy<br/>regeneration</b> |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5-year intervals)                              | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | <b>Senescent<br/>trees present</b> | ✓  |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Presence of native shrubs   | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Presence of large, old-growth trees with hollows                        | <b>No hollows</b>                        | <b>No hollows</b> | <b>Scarce</b>                            | <b>Scarce</b>           | <b>Scarce</b>                      | <b>No hollows</b>                              |
| Dead timber is left standing  | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | <b>Scarce</b>                            | <b>Moderate</b>   | <b>Moderate</b>                          | <b>Scarce</b>           | <b>Scarce</b>                      | <b>Scarce</b>                                  |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Remnant is large (> 5 ha is optimum)                                    | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | ✓  | ✓                 | ✓  | ✓                       | ✓                                  | ✓  |
| Health Rating   | 75%                                      | 80%               | 85%                                      | 70%                     | 70%                                | 80%  |
| % cover of canopy species   | <10%                                     | 40 – 50%          | 40 – 50%                                 | 20 – 30%                | 30 – 40%                           | 30 – 40%                                       |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | 20 - 29 cm                               | 30 – 49cm         | 30 – 49cm                                | 30 – 49cm               | 30 – 49cm                          | 30 – 49cm                                      |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | >5cm                                     | >5cm              | >5cm                                     | >5cm                    | >5cm                               | >5cm   |
| <b>Stem class average (cm)</b>  | <b>10 – 19cm</b>                         | <b>10 – 19cm</b>  | <b>20 – 29cm</b>                         | <b>30 – 49cm</b>        | <b>30 – 49cm</b>                   | <b>10 – 19cm</b>                               |

## Hook Biodiversity Area

### Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland

### Hunter Valley Operations

Ecoplanning, November 2024

Note: True = 1, False = 0

| Site ID   | HOO R1                    | HOO R2                     | HOO R3                      | HOO R4                      | HOO R5                     | HOO R6                    |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    | 0                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | 0                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | 0                         | 0                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Presence of native shrubs   | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        | 0                         | 0                          | 0                           | 0                           | 0                          | 0                         |
| Dead timber is left standing  | 1                         | 0                          | 0                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | 1                         | 1                          | 1                           | 1                           | 1                          | 1                         |
| <b>Health Rating</b>  | <b>16</b>                 | <b>17</b>                  | <b>18</b>                   | <b>19</b>                   | <b>19</b>                  | <b>19</b>                 |
| % cover of canopy species   | Ec 2%,<br>Cm 1%,<br>Et 3% | Em 12%,<br>Et 8%,<br>Ec 1% | Cm 10%,<br>Ef 6%,<br>Em 10% | Et 10%,<br>Em 10%,<br>Cm 2% | Em 10%,<br>Cm 5%,<br>Ef 2% | Em 5%,<br>Cm 2%,<br>Ef 2% |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | 50-80 cm                  | 30-50 cm                   | 50-80 cm                    | 50-80 cm                    | 50-80 cm                   | 50-80 cm                  |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | <5 cm                     | <5 cm                      | <5 cm                       | <5 cm                       | <5 cm                      | <5 cm                     |
| Stem class average (cm)   | 20-30 cm                  | 20-30 cm                   | 20-30 cm                    | 20-30 cm                    | 10-20 cm                   | 10-20 cm                  |

Note Ec = *Eucalyptus crebra*, Cm = *Corymbia maculata*, Et = *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, Em = *Eucalyptus moluccana*, Ef = *Eucalyptus fibrosa*

**Number:** HVOOC-1797567310-5484

**Status:** Final

**Effective:** 27/02/2026

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**Owner:** Environment and Community Coordinator

**Version:** 1.0

**Review:** 27/02/2029

**Crescent Head Biodiversity Area  
Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

October 2025

Auditor: Ecoplanning (DM)

Note: True = 1, False = 0

| Site ID   | CRE-S R1 | CRE-S R2 | CRE-S R3 | CRE-S R4 | CRE-N R1 | CRE-N R2 | CRE-N R3 | CRE-N R4 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    | 0        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               | 0        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 0        |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | 0        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 1        |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | 1        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Presence of native shrubs   | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        |
| Dead timber is left standing  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |

**Health Rating**

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 16 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 19 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

**Crescent Head Biodiversity Area  
Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

November 2024

Auditor: Ecoplanning

Note: True = 1, False = 0

| Site ID   | CRE-S<br>R1 | CRE-S<br>R2 | CRE-S<br>R3 | CRE-S<br>R4 | CRE-N<br>R1 | CRE-N<br>R2 | CRE-N<br>R3 | CRE-N<br>R4 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Presence of native shrubs   | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 1           |
| Dead timber is left standing  | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 1           |

**Health Rating**

|           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

**Condon View Biodiversity Area  
Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

Date: 17 – 19 November 2025

| Attribute   | R1                    | R2                | R3        | R4        |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Low grazing intensity – never farmed                                    | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2 m)                              | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5-year intervals)                              | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | Low level of die back |                   | ✓         | ✓         |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Presence of native shrubs   | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Presence of large, old-growth trees with hollows                        | ✓                     | ✓                 | No HBT    | ✓         |
| Dead timber is left standing  | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | ✓                     | Mainly cryptogams | ✓         | ✓         |
| Remnant is large (> 5 ha is optimum)                                    | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         | ✓         |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | ✓                     | ✓                 | ✓         |           |
| Health Rating   | 90%                   | 85%               | 90%       | 90%       |
| % cover of canopy species   | 50%                   | 25%               | 60%       | 40%       |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | 50 – 79cm             | 50 – 79cm         | 50 – 79cm | >80cm     |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | <5cm                  | <5cm              | <5cm      | >5cm      |
| Stem class average (cm)   | 30 – 49cm             | 30 – 49cm         | 30 – 49cm | 30 - 49cm |

**Condon View Biodiversity Area  
Rapid Condition Assessment - Woodland**

**Hunter Valley Operations**

Ecoplanning, November 2024  
Note: True = 1, False = 0

| Site ID   | CON R1                                  | CON R2        | CON R3                               | CON R4                  |
|---|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Low grazing intensity - never farmed                                    | 1                                       | 0             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Tree and shrub regeneration present (<2m)                               | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Infrequent fire regime (<5year intervals)                               | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Healthy mature trees (no dieback)                                       | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Little to no evidence of rabbits  | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Little to no evidence of foxes/cats                                     | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Low abundance of weeds (most remnants contain some weeds)               | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| No evidence of firewood collection                                      | 1                                       | 0             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| No obvious signs of erosion or salinity                                 | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Not susceptible to fertiliser application, herbicide or pesticide drift | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Less than 20% trees with Mistletoe (NB some mistletoe is healthy)       | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Few tracks, trails or fence lines                                       | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Presence of native shrubs   | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Presence of large, old growth trees with hollows                        | 1                                       | 0             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Dead timber is left standing  | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Fallen timber and logs are left on the ground                           | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Abundance of native ground flora  | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Presence of litter, cryptogams, cracks and rocks                        | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Remnant is large (> 5ha is optimum)                                     | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| Connected to or in close proximity to other remnant vegetation          | 1                                       | 1             | 1                                    | 1                       |
| <b>Health Rating</b>  | <b>20</b>                               | <b>17</b>     | <b>20</b>                            | <b>20</b>               |
| % cover of canopy species   | Ep 10%, Ef 2%,<br>Ac 5%, Ce 10%, Ee 10% | Et 10%, Em 1% | EP 2%, Ef 2%,<br>Sg 8%, Ee 5%, Ac 5% | Ep 10%, Ee 5%,<br>Ce 5% |
| Stem class maximum (cm)   | 50-80 cm                                | 50-80 cm      | 50-80 cm                             | 50-80 cm                |
| Stem class minimum (cm)   | <5 cm                                   | <5 cm         | <5 cm                                | <5 cm                   |
| Stem class average (cm)   | 20-30 cm                                | 20-30 cm      | 10-20 cm                             | 30-50 cm                |

Note Ee = *Eucalyptus eugenioides*, Em = *Eucalyptus moluccana*, Ep = *Eucalyptus punctata*, Et = *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, Ac = *Angophora costata*, Ce = *Corymbia eximia*, Sg = *Syncarpia glomulifera*