



Kelcey Tier Master Plan

July 2019

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The Devonport City Council engaged ERA Planning Pty Ltd to lead a multi-disciplinary consultancy team to develop the master plan which comprised:

ERA Planning Pty Ltd (Principal Consultant)
Master Planning & Engagement

Playstreet Landscape Architecture & Urban Design
Mapping

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Photography

All photographs unless otherwise referenced have been provided by Carl Turk & Caroline Lindus.

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1. Introduction

ERA Planning in conjunction with Playstreet Landscape Architecture and Urban Design have been engaged by the Devonport City Council to prepare a master plan for the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt Reserve (Reserve).

The Kelcey Tier is a 185ha area of remnant bushland located directly adjacent and to the south of Devonport.

The master plan aims to provide a realistic, measured and achievable approach to balancing the reserve values and recreational uses. To achieve this the master plan includes:

- o Section 2 and Section 3 that identifies specific actions related to the Natural and Cultural Values.
- o Section 4 then identifies specific actions associated with recreation opportunities which must be read in conjunction with sections 2 and 3 to ensure the natural and cultural values are enhanced and maintained.
- o Appendix A includes maps that are associated with the trail networks, nodes and trackheads.
- o Appendix B includes cost estimates.
- o Appendix C provides the concept and framework, which was the background report that informed the Master Plan and outlines the Natural, Cultural and Recreation Values in greater detail, together with the summary of the stakeholder and community engagement.

1.1 Site and Surrounds

The Kelcey Tier Reserve is located at the southern edge of Devonport directly adjoining residential land in the Stony Rise and Tugrah areas. The site is elevated with its highest point at 205m above sea level. The Reserve provides a significant scenic landscape backdrop to the city, contains a highly valued recreational opportunities and significant biodiversity values.

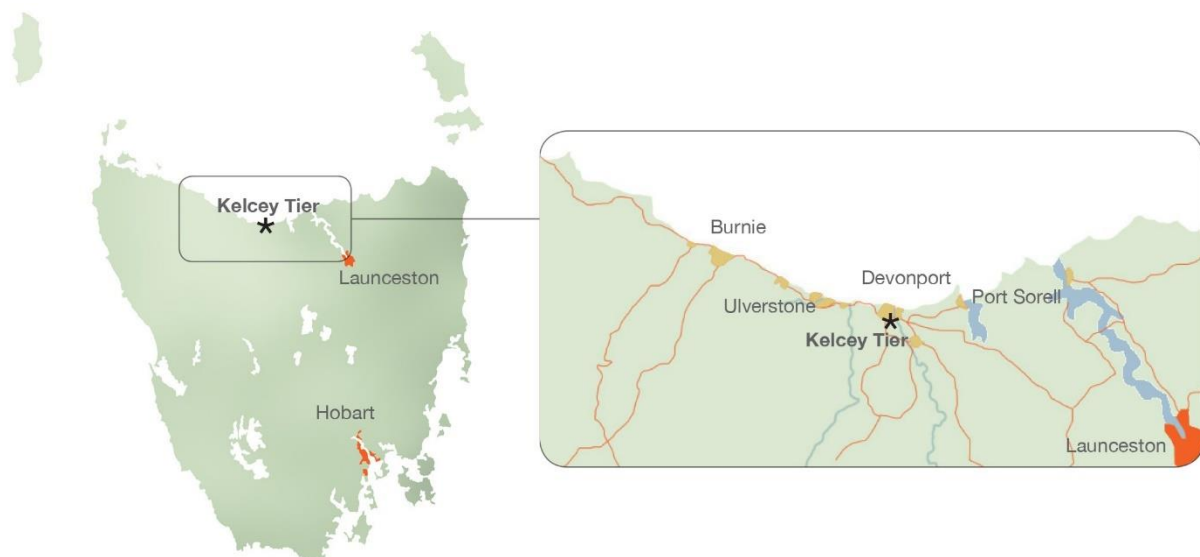


Figure 1: Location of Kelcey Tier.

2. Natural Values

2.1 Natural Values Management

In preparing the master plan, consideration has been made to the available information on ecological values of the site in a desktop manner only. Further information regarding this desktop can be found in **Appendix D Kelcey Tier Master Plan Concept and Framework**.

The available desktop information suggests Kelcey Tier Greenbelt has numerous ecological values which need to be taken into consideration when planning for expanded recreational use of the reserve. These values may be impacted by changes to the recreational features of the site, including directly by land clearance (eg tracks or car parks) as well as indirectly through erosion or spread of weeds and pathogens. The ecological values also provide opportunities for interpretation and passive enjoyment of natural values.

At a broad level, all areas of native vegetation on the site hold some ecological value and potential habitat for threatened and common fauna. More specifically, some areas are of particular ecological value (as shown in Figure 2), including:

- o Threatened vegetation communities DOV (includes *E ovata* grassy woodland and *E ovata* shrubby forest) and WVI (*E viminalis* wet forest).
- o Vegetation communities providing potential habitat for swift parrot as shown in the red hatching in Figure 2. Note that other communities on site may also provide habitat for the species including hollow bearing eucalypts of all species and areas of *E.ovata* and also possibly *E viminalis* and *E. obliqua*¹. Note that Kelcey Tier has been identified as a priority habitat for the swift parrot in the National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot (2011).
- o Damp areas (including stream-sides, dams and their margins, road culverts and marshes) all of which provide potential habitat for the Central North burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus granulatus*).
- o Areas with hollow bearing trees, particularly the area mapped as old growth in Figure 2.

¹ National Recovery Plan for Swift Parrot (2011), Table 1 shows potential habitat in the Cradle Coast region to include all hollow bearing eucalypts (potential nesting habitat), *E ovata* (foraging during breeding season) and *E obliqua* and *E viminalis* (foraging habitat breeding).

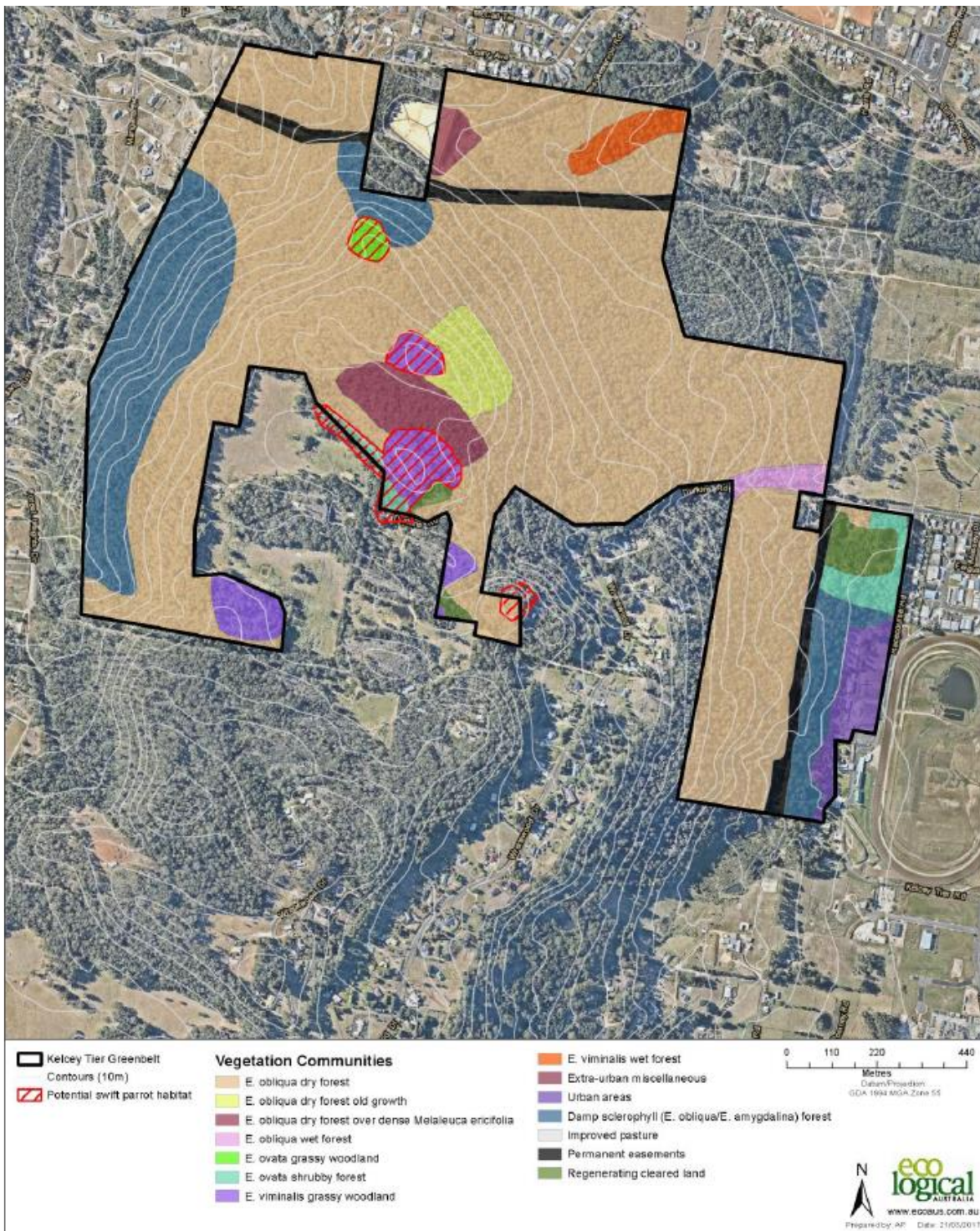


Figure 2: Vegetation Communities (Source – Ego Logical Map 6, from Kelcey Tier Greenbelt Bushfire Management Plan)

2.2 Natural Values Actions

Reference Number	Action	Reason	Priority
NVA1	Engage a suitably qualified person to undertake an updated ecological values survey and prepare a vegetation and weed management plan for the reserve, which includes specific recommendations as to ongoing actions, weed management, protection of sensitive areas, rehabilitation (where applicable) and plant and animal disease controls.	To ensure the values of the reserve are understood and maintained.	High
NVA2	<p>Review options for improving the protection of the scenic, biodiversity and landscape values of the reserve and implement accordingly. This will include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The introduction of a map overlay to ensure the Clearing and Conversion of Vegetation Code applies to the entire reserve under the <i>Devonport Interim Planning Scheme 2013</i> or the Natural Assets Code and Scenic Protection Code under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme; and o A review of the reserve status as a National Park or Reserve under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>. 	Improve the protection of the reserve's scenic, biodiversity and landscape values.	High
NVA3	<p>Ensure that all development including trails obtain the required permits. Including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A planning permit if required under the <i>Devonport Interim Planning Scheme 2015</i>. It is noted that any clearing and conversion of native vegetation within the reserve requires a planning permit. o A permit to take if required under the <i>Threatened Species</i> 	To ensure due process is followed and the required level of independent examination of a development is undertaken.	Ongoing

	<p><i>Protection Act 1995</i> for direct impacts to listed species or products (eg dens/nests) of wildlife (including some non-threatened species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o A Forest Practices Plan if required. Clearance of forest greater than 1 ha (unlikely to apply) as well as clearance of any vegetation within the definition of vulnerable which includes threatened vegetation communities and vegetation inhabited by a threatened species is required to be approved by way of an FPP. Specific exemptions do however apply if it relates to a building for which a permit is required under the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>.o A referral under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBCA) may be required if it is likely that there may be significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), including listed species.		
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3. Cultural Values

3.1 Cultural Values Management

In 1994 an archaeological survey to locate Aboriginal sites was conducted in the Kelcey Tier.

The report provided the following regarding the sites found:

Although the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt area has been disturbed by European modification of the landscape, this in no way diminishes the significance of Aboriginal sites present both in the Greenbelt and the general area. The Aboriginal site located on the existing fire trail is highly significant as it is indicative of Aboriginal trade and transportation of material across the region. The other Aboriginal site located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed track upgrading is also important. When combined with other sites located on adjacent private property, these sites are indicative of intense occupation and use of the area by Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania were consulted and based on a review of the assessment report it was their opinion that the area has a low probability of Aboriginal heritage being present, given the size of the reserve and the type and size of potential development in the reserve. Subsequently, it was recommended that an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) be put in place during ground disturbing works. It is noted that the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* does not necessarily consider the significance in terms of ongoing connection to place.

Further information regarding the cultural values can be found in *Appendix D Kelcey Tier Master Plan Concept and Framework*.

3.2 Cultural Values Actions

Reference Number	Action	Reason	Priority
CVA1	Council engage with the local Aboriginal Community to fully understand the cultural significance of the site.	To ensure the values of the reserve are understood and maintained.	High
CVA2	Future development of the site requires an Aboriginal Heritage assessment report prepared by a suitably qualified practitioner.	Ensure that Council meets the requirements of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975</i> .	Ongoing

4. Recreation Values

4.1 Recreation Values Management

The Kelcey Tier is significantly valued by the local community of all ages. The reserve provides valuable opportunities for outdoor recreational experiences in an outdoor setting. It's discrete boundaries together with it being the nearest reserve to the City of Devonport is seeing unprecedented pressure on the reserve for recreation pursuits. There are several key influences that are occurring which have contributed to this increase in demand including:

- o The emerging and well recognised trend within recreational activities that is seeing the popularity of organised sporting activities decline with a corresponding increase in informal, unstructured recreation pursuits such as riding, running and walking. The popularity in mountain biking activities in particular has increased exponentially in recent years;
- o An increase in residents in proximity to the Kelcey Tier, particularly to the north west due to residential subdivisions;
- o Large tracts of land zoned General Residential and Future Residential (approximately 80ha within 1km of Kelcey Tier not yet developed; and
- o Multiple recreation groups including walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers and bird watchers with several clubs or associations directly connected with the Kelcey Tier, such as friends of Kelcey Tier, the Mersey Valley Devonport Cycling Club and the Central North Field Naturalists.

Kelcey Tier is highly constrained in terms of its size and proximity to residential and urban development. As such, in terms of recreation values, the Kelcey Tier has the capacity to be a local recreation reserve only, utilised predominantly by the local community, not as a State or National mountain biking destination. Identifying the Kelcey Tier as a State or National mountain biking destination would create unsustainable pressure on the Kelcey Tier and the associated infrastructure required.

Further information regarding recreation values can be found in *Appendix D Kelcey Tier Master Plan Concept and Framework*.

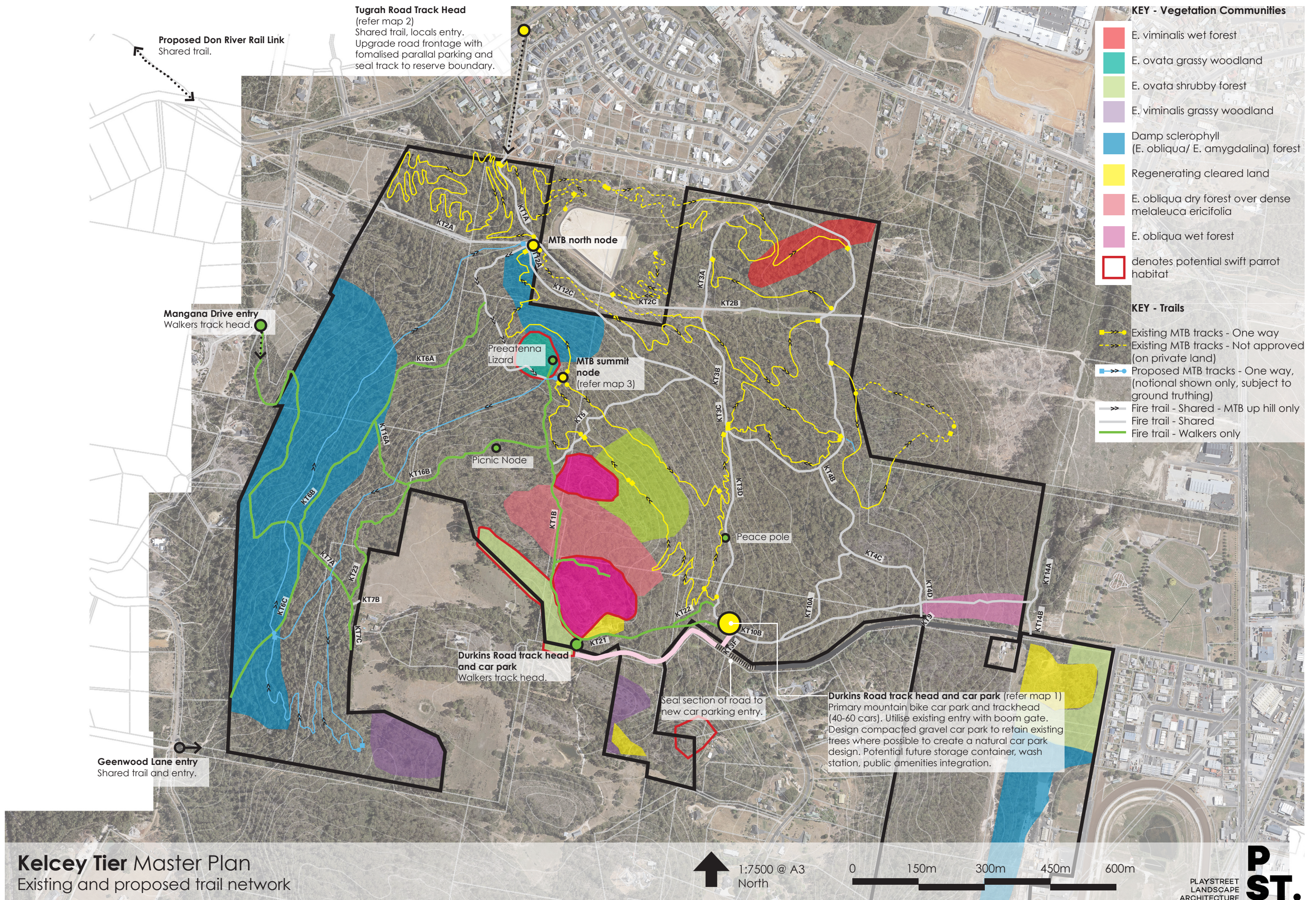
4.2 Recreation Values Actions

Reference Number	Action	Reason	Priority
RVA1	Implement the trail strategy in accordance existing and proposed trail network (refer <i>Appendix A</i>).	To ensure there is a strategic approach to trail development and the needs of all user groups are equally met.	Ongoing
RVA2	Construction of all trails are to be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced trail construction expert.	Ensure that trails are constructed to an appropriate standard, minimising erosion and ongoing maintenance.	Ongoing

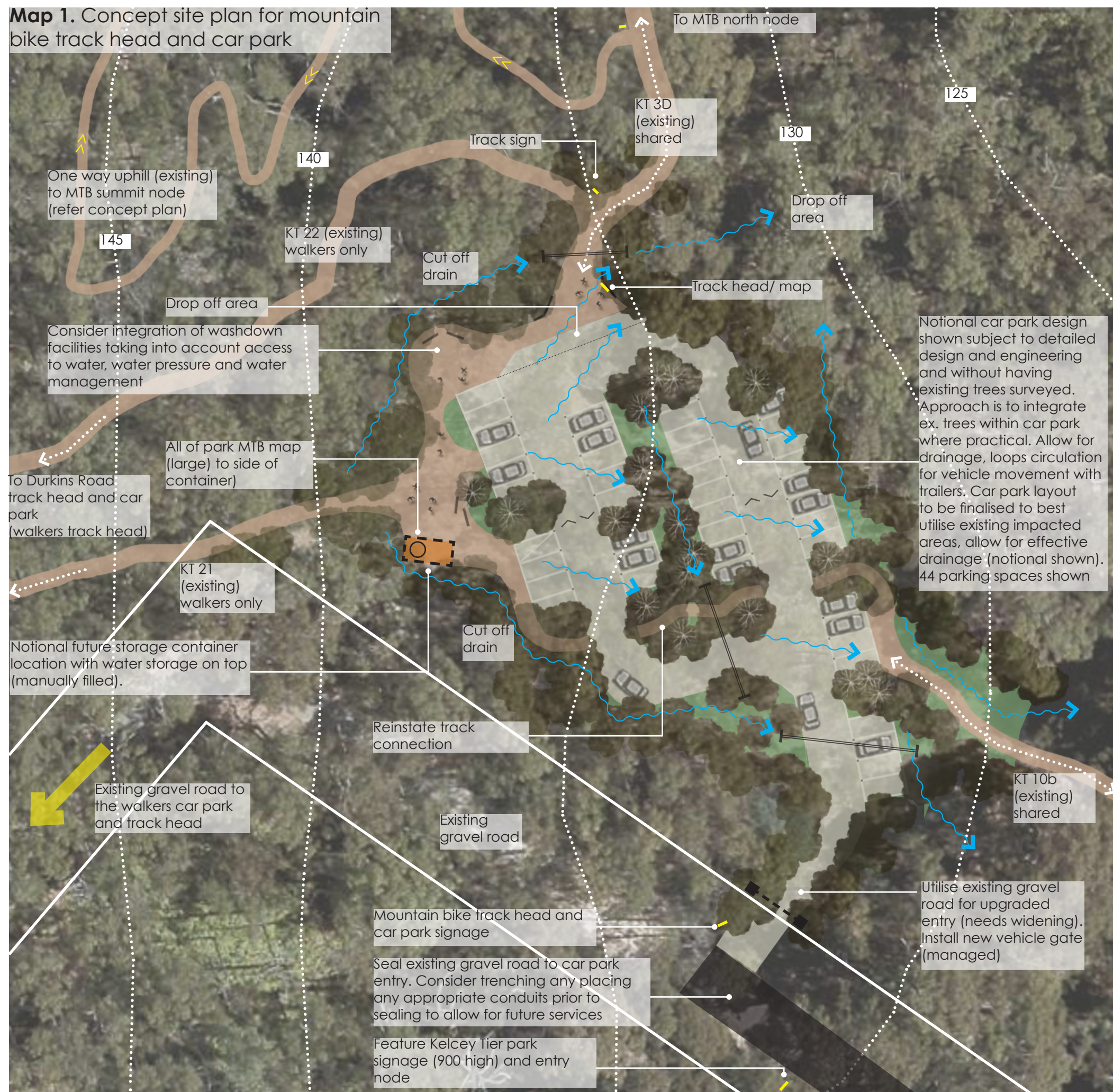
RVA3	Provide accurate skill level identification of MTB trails in accordance with the IMBA AU trail grading system.	To ensure that the MTB trails are consistent state wide.	Ongoing
RVA4	Design and implement a signage strategy that incorporates interpretation and trail maps for all user groups of the Kelcey Tier (refer Appendix C for further details).	To ensure there is adequate signage and information available for all user groups, which is consistent with the reserve's values, is coherent, uniform and effective, without an unnecessary clutter of signage or repetition of messages.	High
RVA5	Formalise agreement with landowners for trails not constructed within Council owned land (refer Appendix A).	To ensure appropriate land owner consent is in place for the formal trail network.	High

Appendix A

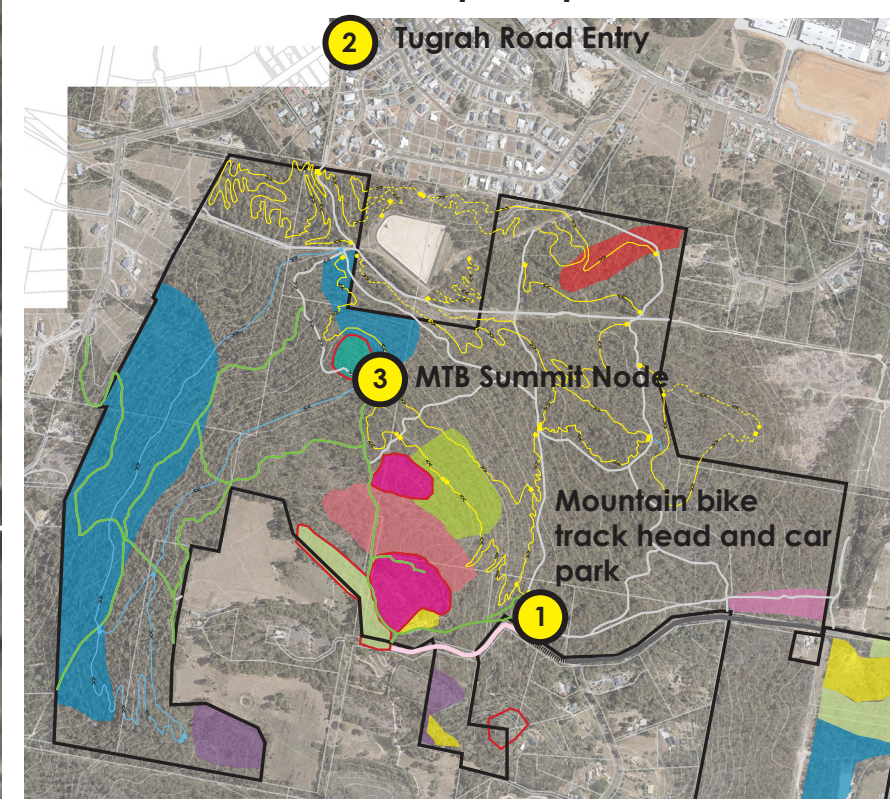
Master Plan Maps



Map 1. Concept site plan for mountain bike track head and car park



Reference Plan - Concept Maps



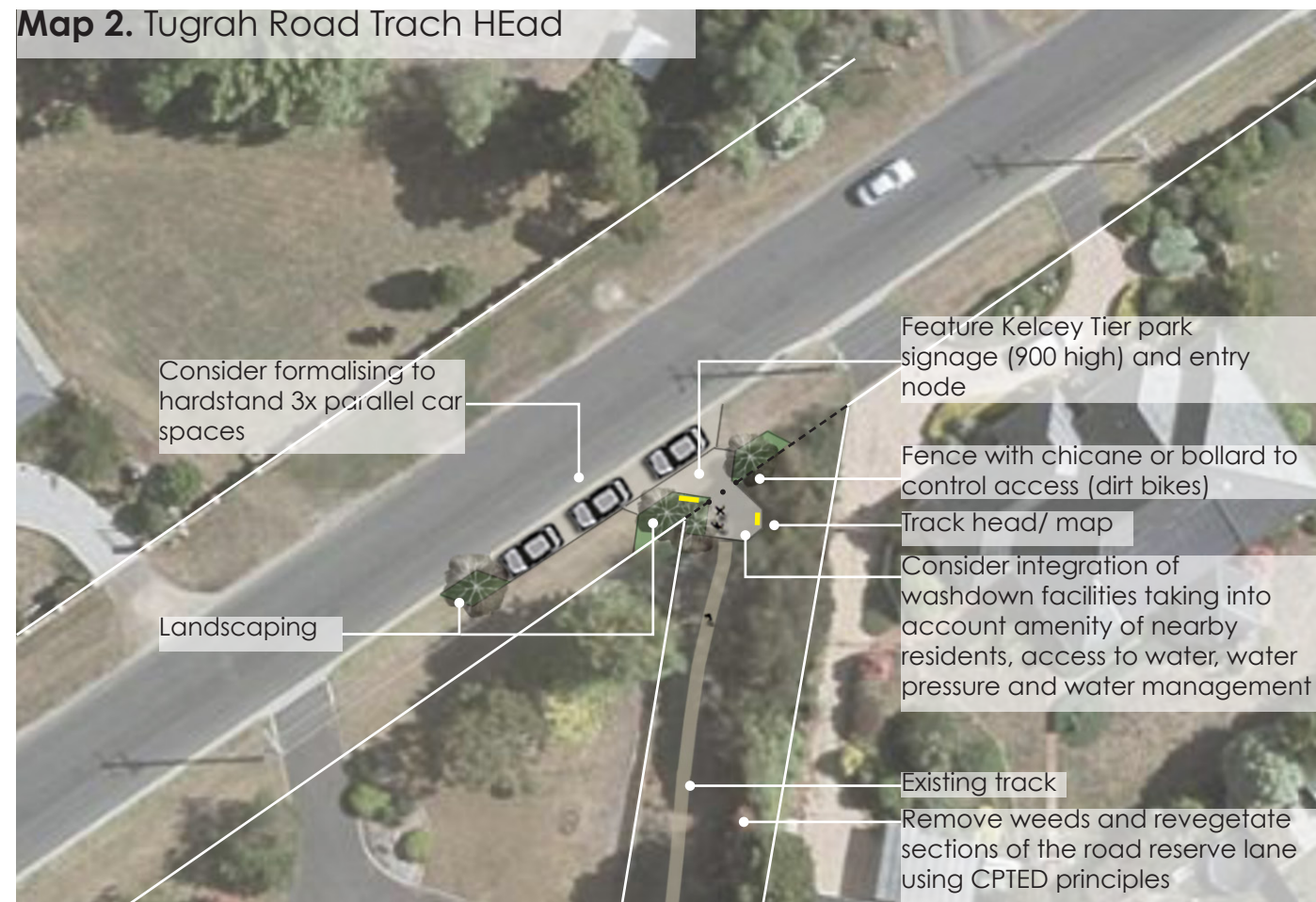
Precedent images showing car parking integration with trees

Scale 1:500@A3

North ↑

P/ST.
PLAYSTREET
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

Map 2. Tugrah Road Trach HEad



Precedent image - Potential Tugrah track head road reserve revegetation and weed control



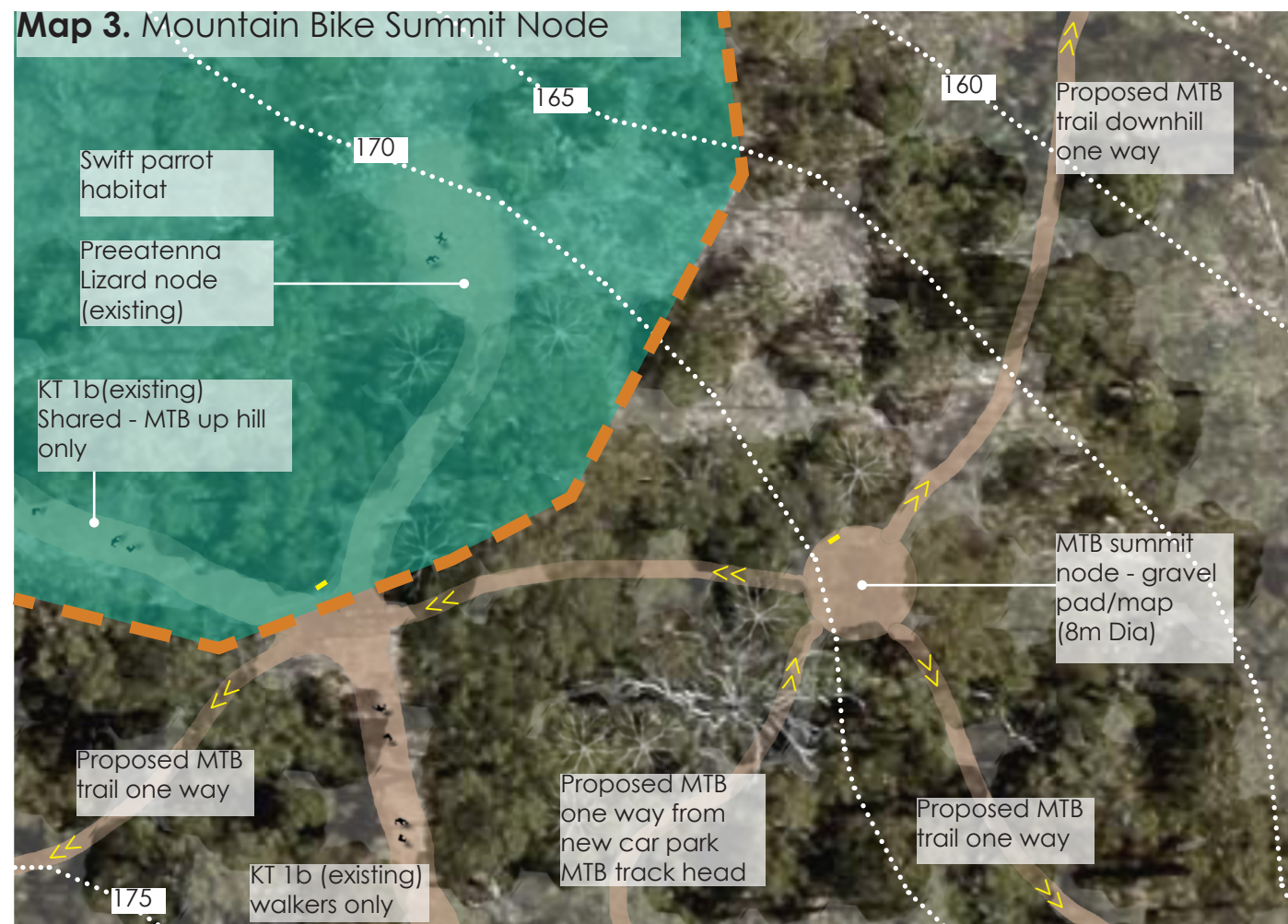
Precedent image - Notional main map signage at walkers and mountain bike track head parking areas



Precedent image - Potential for bespoke interpretation elements

Precedent image - Potential 'look and feel' of passive picnic node (ignore bbq)

Map 3. Mountain Bike Summit Node



Precedent image - Use natural materials where infrastructure is required

Scale 1:500@A3

North ↑

Appendix B

Approximate costings



Indicative Costings Trails and Infrastructure

All costings are for physical infrastructure only. The costings are a broad estimate only and are subject to a quantity surveyor review, survey data and concept design and market conditions.

Exclusions from costing estimates: GST, preliminaries, contingency, consultant services, (survey, design, engineering, project management), disbursements, rock breaking, signage/ way finding (needs strategy), storage container (proposed option).

Mountain Bike Track Head – total approx. 200K

- Site preparation - clearing/ tree removal, chipping, topsoil stripping
25K
- Earthworks – general shaping
15K
- Drainage - cut of drains and culverts/ headwalls
15K
- Civil pavement construction – Base and gravel topping
85K
- Path/ open gravel pedestrian areas
15K
- Rehabilitation/ make good
10K
- Bollards
10K
- Furniture – seats
5K
- Entry gate
5K
- Miscellaneous items
15K

Tugrah Road Formalised Car Parking – total approx. 30K

- Demolition/ preparation
2K
- New flush kerb to grass
3K
- New spoon drain as divider between parallel park and road to continue drainage through
5K
- Base and hotmix for new parking area
5K



- Concrete pedestrian entry pavement
3K
- Landscaping and make good
2K
- Bollards / fence
5K
- Miscellaneous
5K

Mountain Bike Track Cost Estimate

- Trail construction
\$25 - \$30 / lineal metre
80 - 100 lineal metres/day

Appendix C

Indicative Signage Strategy

Indicative Signage Strategy Kelcey Tier

Introduction

A thematic signage strategy will need to be developed for Kelcey Tier. The thematic signage strategy should incorporate park signage, way finding (internal) and bespoke interpretative signage with a clear hierarchy of signs. All signs should be from the same design language palette with appropriate qualified and skilled people engaged to undertake the work.

All signs should be solid, robust and graphic designed to capture essence of the park.

Tier 1 – Gate Way Signs (x2)

These signs should be strategically located at 2 sites:

- o Dirkins Road just past Wrenswood Drive but before the MTB track head car park.
- o Tugrah Road parallel proposed parking area.

An example of a robust sign for the gateway is a low stone wall 2m long 0.9m high with steel text/graphic.

Tier 2 – Car Park track head signs (1x Walkers and 1 x MTB)

Consistent with the Tier 1 – Gateway signs in design and form, this signage is to enable new visitors to reserve to way find.

Tier 3 – Park Map (x3)

These signs should be strategically located at 3 sites – walkers track head, MTB track head and Tugrah Road track head.

The signs could integrate a phone App for the park map on smart phones etc.

Tier 4 – Internal Slimline track identification signage (+25)

These signs are more symbol and pictogram based, located at intersections or strategic locations within the reserve and assists in denoting if a track is shared, MTB or walker only.

Appendix D

Concept and Framework



Kelcey Tier Greenbelt Master Plan

Concept and Framework

22 August 2018

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Appendix A Draft Trail Network and Infrastructure Maps

1. Introduction

1.1 About the Project

ERA Planning in conjunction with Playstreet Landscape Architecture and Urban Design have been engaged by the Devonport City Council to prepare a master plan for the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt Reserve (Reserve).

The Kelcey Tier is a 185ha area of remnant bushland located directly adjacent and to the south of Devonport.

The master plan aims to provide a realistic, measured and achievable approach to balancing the reserve values and recreational uses, as well as:

- o Articulate a clear future direction for the Reserve along with a program of prioritised works, indicative associated costs and potential contributors.
- o Identify of possible development footprints for both passive and active recreation/community pursuits that do not degrade environmental or cultural assets.
- o Highlight existing infrastructure and identify any future additions to support key uses.
- o Enhance the community and visitor access, engagement and usage of the Reserve.

1.2 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the Concept and Framework Report is to firstly detail all values of the reserve, secondly to identify the constraints and opportunities associated with the values and finally to identify a guiding vision for the future management of the reserve.

Appendix A includes a draft Trail Network and Infrastructure Map.

Enquiries relating to this report should be directed to:

Clare Hester
Senior Planner & Associate
ERA Planning
Email: clare@eraplanning.com.au
Mobile: (03) 6105 0443

1.3 Site and Surrounds

The Kelcey Tier Reserve is located at the southern edge of Devonport directly adjoining residential land in the Stony Rise and Tugrah areas. The site is elevated with its highest point at 205m above sea level. The Reserve provides a significant scenic landscape backdrop to the city.

Due north of the Reserve is residential land with lots approximately 1,200m², to the west and south is residential land, developed to a lower density and to the east is land used for industrial land as well as community uses including a cemetery and racecourse.

Access to the site is generally as follows:

- o Vehicular access along Durkins Road which is accessed from the east, off Stony Rise Road;
- o Vehicular access off Stony Rise Road through a right of way located on 137 – 139 Williams Reservoir Road to the benefit of TasWater; and
- o Bike and pedestrian access off Tugrah Road (located between 29-33 and 47 Tugrah Road).

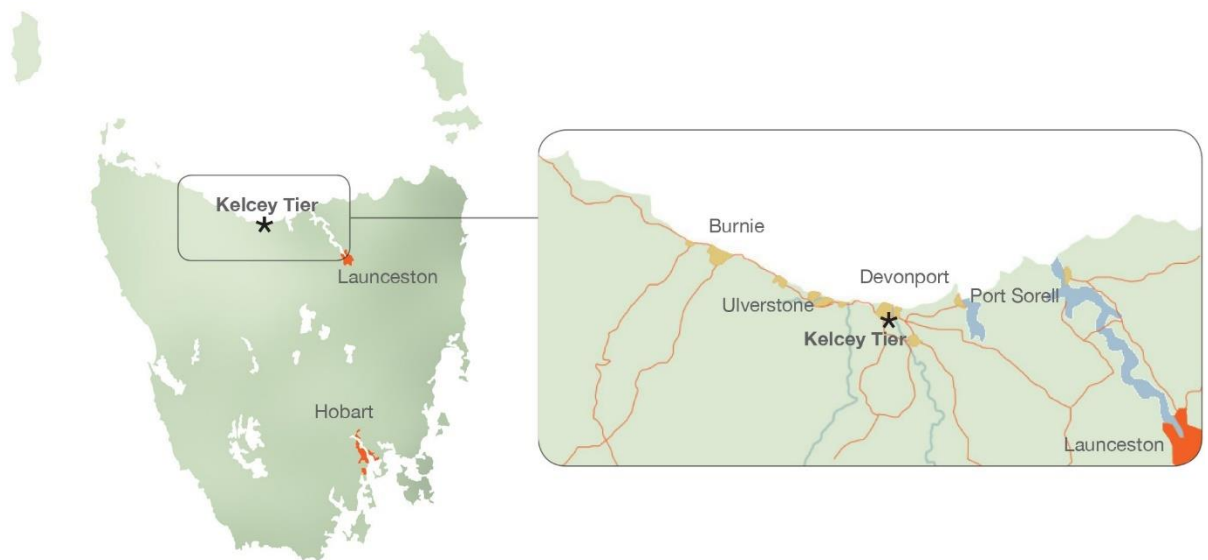


Figure 1: Location of Kelcey Tier

2. Natural Values

2.1 Statutory Controls

In preparing the master plan consideration has been made to the available information on ecological values of the site in a desktop manner only.

Available information has been sourced from the following:

- o Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas (accessed July 2018);
- o The Kelcey Tiers Greenbelt Bushfire Management Plan 2017 (Eco Logical);
- o The Fire Management Plan Kelcey Tier Greenbelt 2005 (AK Consulting); and
- o Information provided by participants of the community engagement process.

The Kelcey Tiers Greenbelt Landscape Management Plan 1992 was also reviewed for context but given its age (over 25 years ago) specific species from this plan were not considered in detail below.

2.2 Vegetation Communities

As a starting point, the Natural Values Atlas was consulted to identify vegetation communities at the site. That showed the site to be dominated by *Eucalyptus obliqua* wet forest (WOU), with *Eucalyptus obliqua* dry forest (DOB) in the far west, *Eucalyptus amygdalina* – *Eucalyptus obliqua* damp sclerophyll forest (DSC) in the south east and a small area of *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland (DOV) in the north east. Of these communities only the latter, (DOV), is listed as threatened in Tasmania (under Schedule 3A of the *Nature Conservation Act* 2002).

The 2017 Bushfire Management Plan was then consulted and found to show a slightly different composition of vegetation communities. Discussions with the author of the 2017 Plan (Adrian Pyrke¹) confirmed the mapping in that report to be the most recent and reliable and it has therefore been adopted herein.

¹ Telephone and email discussions were held with Adrian on 23rd July 2018. Adrian confirmed that the mapping in the 2017 Bushfire Plan was originally sourced from North Barker & Associates, who prepared the mapping for AK Consulting as part of the 2005 Bushfire Plan. When the 2017 Bushfire Plan was being prepared by Eco Logical, Adrian briefly visited the site to ground truth the mapping and made a small amendment to reclassify the western most polygon, to better reflect ground conditions. The map in the 2017 Bushfire Management Plan is therefore deemed the most recent and reliable.

That mapping² (refer Figure 2 below) shows the site to be dominated by *Eucalyptus obliqua* dry forest (DOB) some of which is mapped as “old growth” and some with a *Melaleuca ericifolia* understorey. The remainder of the site is mapped as small patches of:

- o *Eucalyptus obliqua* wet forest (WOU)
- o *Eucalyptus ovata* grassy woodland (presumed to be DOV) - threatened
- o *Eucalyptus ovata* shrubby forest (presumed to also be DOV) - threatened
- o *Eucalyptus viminalis* grassy woodland (DVG)
- o *Eucalyptus viminalis* wet forest (WVI) – threatened
- o *Eucalyptus amygdalina*/ *Eucalyptus obliqua* damp sclerophyll (DSC)

Of these communities *E. ovata* forest and woodland (DOV) and *E. viminalis* wet forest (WVI) are both listed as threatened under the Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Note that *E. ovata* forest and woodland (DOV) was nominated for listing on the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA) in 2013. That nomination has been indefinitely deferred. As a result, the community is currently not listed at a Commonwealth level but may be in the future.

According to the 2017 Bushfire Management Plan, *Melaleuca ericifolia* occurs on site, either as a shrub or sub-dominant tree in the understorey beneath eucalypts but does not form a swamp forest as listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Further discussions with Adrian Pyrke (Pers Comm 23rd July 2018), on this matter indicated that it may be possible for some parts of the site to be classified as swamp forest, but these would be very small patches and therefore not of a suitable scale to be separately mapped as part of the site wide mapping completed to date.

During the engagement for the master plan, discussions were held with the community on the ecological values of the site and an updated vegetation map was provided by P Lawrence of the Field Naturalists. That map shows some differences in vegetation community than those mapped in the 2017 Bushfire Management Plan. Both sets of mapping show a complex mosaic of communities and it is likely that co-dominance of eucalypts occurs, as well as grading between wetter and drier parts of the site. This suggests that the definition of the vegetation communities on site may be subject to interpretation and further reinforces the need for ground truthing prior to any native vegetation clearance on site.

² Note that TasVeg codes included here in brackets are interpreted from the mapping, as that mapping source does not attribute TasVeg codes to the mapped communities.

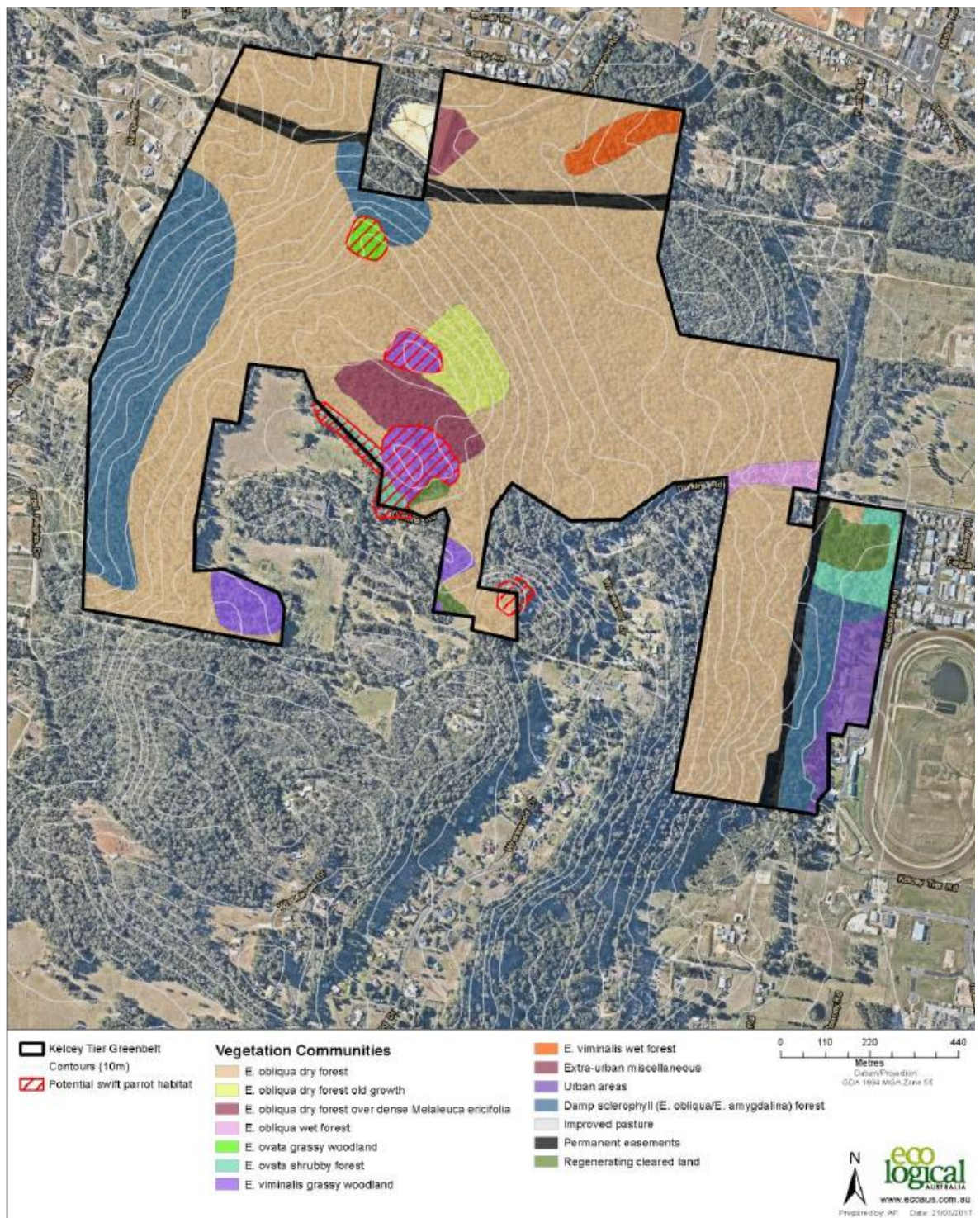


Figure 2: Vegetation Communities (Source – Ego Logical Map 6, from Kelcey Tier Greenbelt Bushfire Management Plan)

2.3 Threatened Flora

A Natural Values Atlas Report shows only two threatened flora species previously recorded within 500m of the site, namely *Epilobium pallidiflorum* (showy willowherb) and *Schenkia australis* (spike centauray). Both species are listed at a State level and previous records of these species are just outside of the site.

The community consultation process indicated orchids are regularly observed at the site and identified two small patches of *E viminalis* community in the central part of the site which may provide habitat for threatened flora (noting no known records to date). These areas are consistent with the mapping of *E viminalis* grassy woodland shown in Figure 2.

2.4 Threatened Fauna

The Natural Values Atlas Report identifies the following threatened fauna species previously recorded within or immediately adjacent to the site (within 500m):

- o Grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*)
- o Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus*)
- o Central North burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus granulatus*)
- o Swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*)
- o Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*)

In addition, the 2017 Bushfire Management Plan also refers to the following additional species (which are drawn from the 2005 Bushfire Management Plan):

- o Eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*)
- o Masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*)

The grey goshawk is listed at a State level only, the Eastern barred bandicoot at a National level only and all other species are listed both in Tasmania (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) and Nationally (*Environment protection and biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*).

Anecdotal evidence collected during community engagement process verified some of the species identified above, with reference made to burrowing crayfish, Tasmanian devil and swift parrot.

There are no recorded raptor nests within 1km of the site according to the Natural Values Atlas.

2.5 Weeds and Pathogens

The Natural Values Atlas and 2017 Bushfire Management Plan note the following environmental weeds as having previously been recorded from the site:

- o Slender thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*)
- o Pampass grass (*Cortaderia sp.*)
- o English broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

- o Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)
- o Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
- o Perforated St Johns wort (*Hypericum perforatum subsp. veronense*)
- o Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)
- o Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)
- o Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

2.6 Implications for Management

The available desktop information suggests Kelcey Tier Greenbelt has numerous ecological values which need to be taken into consideration when planning for expanded recreational use of the Reserve. These values may be impacted by changes to the recreational features of the site; including directly by land clearance (eg tracks or car parks) as well as indirectly through erosion or spread of weeds and pathogens. The ecological values also provide opportunities for interpretation and passive enjoyment of natural values.

At a broad level, all areas of native vegetation on the site hold some ecological value and potential habitat for threatened and common fauna. More specifically, some areas are of particular ecological value (as shown in Figure 2), including:

- o Threatened vegetation communities DOV (includes *E ovata* grassy woodland and *E ovata* shrubby forest) and WVI (*E viminalis* wet forest).
- o Vegetation communities providing potential habitat for swift parrot as shown in the red hatching in Figure 2. Note that other communities on site may also provide habitat for the species including hollow bearing eucalypts of all species and areas of *E.ovata* and also possibly *E viminalis* and *E. obliqua*³ Note that Kelcey Tier has been identified as a priority habitat for the swift parrot in the National Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot (2011).
- o Damp areas (including stream-sides, dams and their margins, road culverts and marshes) all of which provide potential habitat for the Central North burrowing crayfish (*Engaeus granulatus*).
- o Areas with hollow bearing trees, particularly the area mapped as old growth in Figure 2.

Where possible these areas should be protected from further intrusion or development given their potential ecological significance. They also require protection from weeds and pathogens (including phytophthora), involving control of existing weeds where needed and hygiene measures to prevent new infestations.

³ National Recovery Plan for Swift Parrot (2011), Table 1 shows potential habitat in the Cradle Coast region to include all hollow bearing eucalypts (potential nesting habitat), *E ovata* (foraging during breeding season) and *E obliqua* and *E viminalis* (foraging habitat post breeding).

Given the period of elapsed time since the last ecological survey of the site (2005) and the apparent complexity of identified ecological values, it would be beneficial to have a new ecological survey undertaken to assist in planning future works and management of values or at a minimum any areas of native vegetation proposed for impacts (e.g. new trails or carparks) should be surveyed on site by a suitable qualified ecologist and any necessary permits and approvals sought. Possible ecological approvals may include:

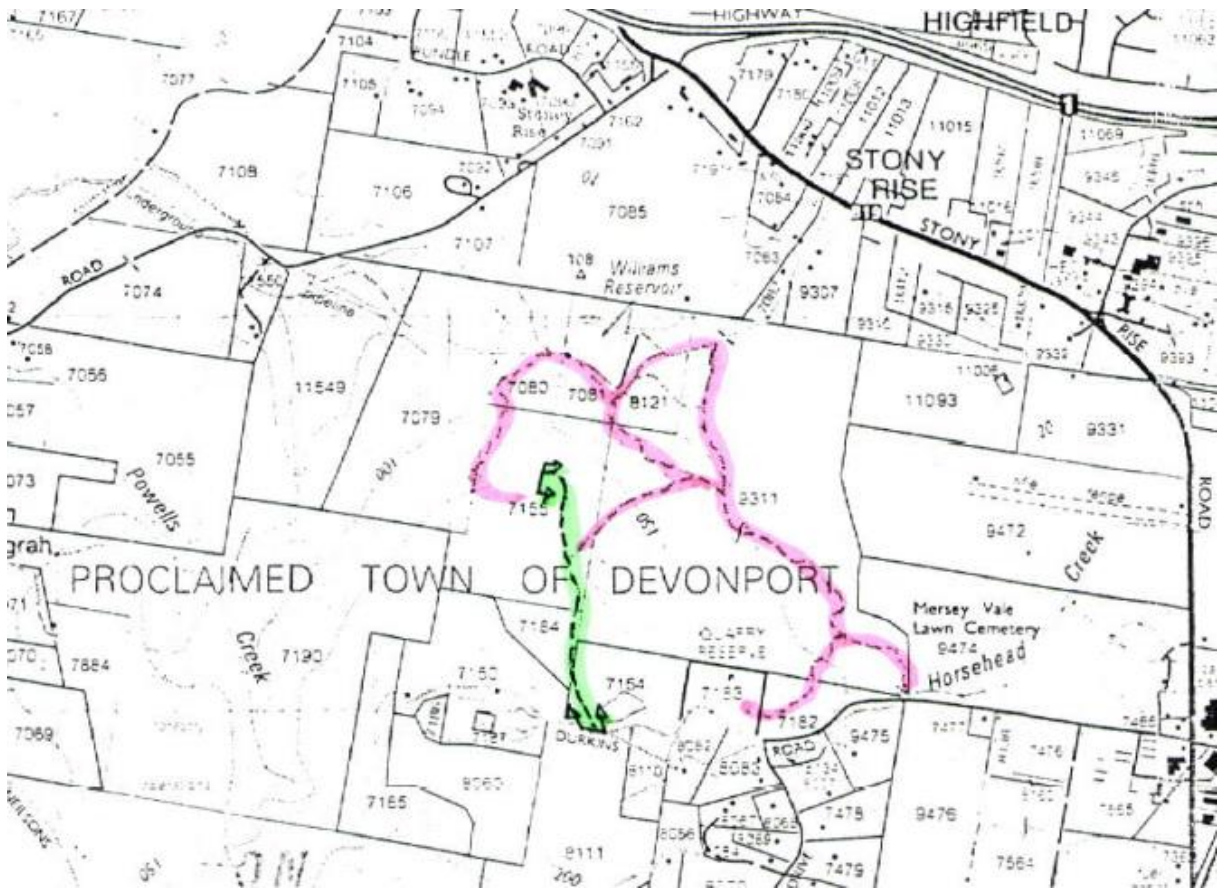
- o Permits may be required under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* and/or the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* for direct impacts to listed species or products (eg dens/nests) of wildlife (including some non-threatened species).
- o A Forest Practices Plan is required⁴ for clearance of forest greater than 1 ha (unlikely to apply) but also for clearance of even small areas (less than 1 ha) of land defined as vulnerable which includes threatened vegetation communities and vegetation inhabited by a threatened species unless it relates to use and development for which a permit is required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.
- o A referral under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA) may be required if it is likely that there may be significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), including listed species.

The potential for such approvals to apply can be confirmed by onsite assessment by a suitably qualified expert, of any areas of native vegetation to be impacted by proposed works.

⁴ With some exemptions

3. Cultural Values

In 1994 an archaeological survey to locate Aboriginal sites was conducted in the Kelcey Tier. Particular attention was paid to a section of a fire trail that was proposed for upgrading, however the document states that the remainder of the Kelcey Tier and some surrounding areas were also surveyed as demonstrated in the map below, which was extracted from the document.



Map 1: Study Area from Archeological survey - pink identifying the extent of the survey area and green the fire trail that was intensively surveyed.

The report provided the following with regard to the sites found:

Although the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt area has been disturbed by European modification of the landscape, this in no way diminishes the significance of Aboriginal sites present both in the Greenbelt and the general area. The Aboriginal site located on the existing fire trail is highly significant as it is indicative of Aboriginal trade and transportation of material across the region. The other Aboriginal site located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed track upgrading is also important. When combined with other sites located on adjacent private property, these sites are indicative of intense occupation and use of the area by Aboriginal people.

Advice was sort from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania with regard to the cultural heritage significance of the site across two stages. The first stage was requesting an Aboriginal Heritage Desktop Review: the response as follows:

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) has completed a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) regarding the proposed master plan for the Kelcey Tier Reserve and can advise that there are three Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within the Reserve. The sites consist of two isolated artefacts and an artefact scatter, recorded as part of an Aboriginal heritage assessment back in 1994. Based on a review of the assessment report it is believed that the area has a low probability of Aboriginal heritage being present.

Accordingly, there is no requirement for an Aboriginal heritage investigation and AHT have not object to the project proceeding.

Please be aware that all Aboriginal heritage is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975. It at any time during works you suspect Aboriginal heritage, cease works immediately and contact AHT for advice. Attached is an Unanticipated Discovery Plan, which you should have on hand during ground disturbing works, to aid you in meeting your requirements under the Act.

The second stage was seeking clarification from Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania in the conflicting advice from AHT and the 1994 an archaeological survey:

Thanks for your enquiry around Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania's (AHT) response regarding the Kelcey Tier master plan. I think I can see were the words we use in our responses can create possible discrepancies. When we talk about low probability of Aboriginal heritage being present, we're basing it on the size and scale of the total impact of the proposal and the potential of unknown Aboriginal heritage being impacted by the proposal.

In this instance, we have determined that the proposal has a minimal footprint therefore the likelihood of Aboriginal heritage being present doesn't justify any further assessment. Assessments can be costly to the proponent so we need to make sure that recommendations asking for an archaeological investigation are warranted.

The 2 known Aboriginal heritage sites that are nearby to Kelcey Tier are on private land and consist of an isolated artefact and a low density artefact scatter. The sites are both within 1km of AH6879 and AH6880 and are of a similar nature to the one's found within the report. There are larger concentrations of Aboriginal heritage sites on major river systems, 6.5km west and 3.5km east of Kelcey Tier. It is expected that any further Aboriginal heritage found within the Kelcey Tier area would be of a similar nature to what's already been recorded.

As mentioned in my original email, it is recommended that an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) be put in place during ground disturbing works, to aid you in meeting your requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975.

4. Recreation Values

4.1 Increase in demand

An emerging and well recognised trend within recreational activities is seeing the popularity of organised sporting activities decline with a corresponding increase in informal, unstructured recreation pursuits such as riding, walking and running. The popularity in mountain biking has, in particular, increased exponentially, with tourists engaging in mountain biking activities having risen 121% in 2016 compared to the year before. For example, the Blue Derby Trail, was visited by 24,000 riders in the first 12 months of its opening⁵.

It is noted, that the Kelcey Tier, given its relatively small area is opined to be a 'local' trail network rather than a regional or sub-regional destination as is Blue Derby.

4.2 Growth in nearby population

In addition, to increasing participation in informal recreation activities, around Kelcey Tier there has been an increase in residents in close proximity to the Kelcey Tier which is evident in Figure 3 over page, particularly to the north west of the Kelcey Tier off Tugrah Road, due to additional residential subdivision on adjacent land.

There are large tracts of land zoned General Residential, approximately 80ha within 1km of the Kelcey Tier that are still to be developed. In addition, there are a significant number of lots that are zoned Low Density residential nearby that are also undeveloped. Residential growth in these areas will place additional pressure on the Kelcey Tier, due to increased local level usage.

⁵ <https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/4389389/hiking-numbers-rise/> 1 August 2018

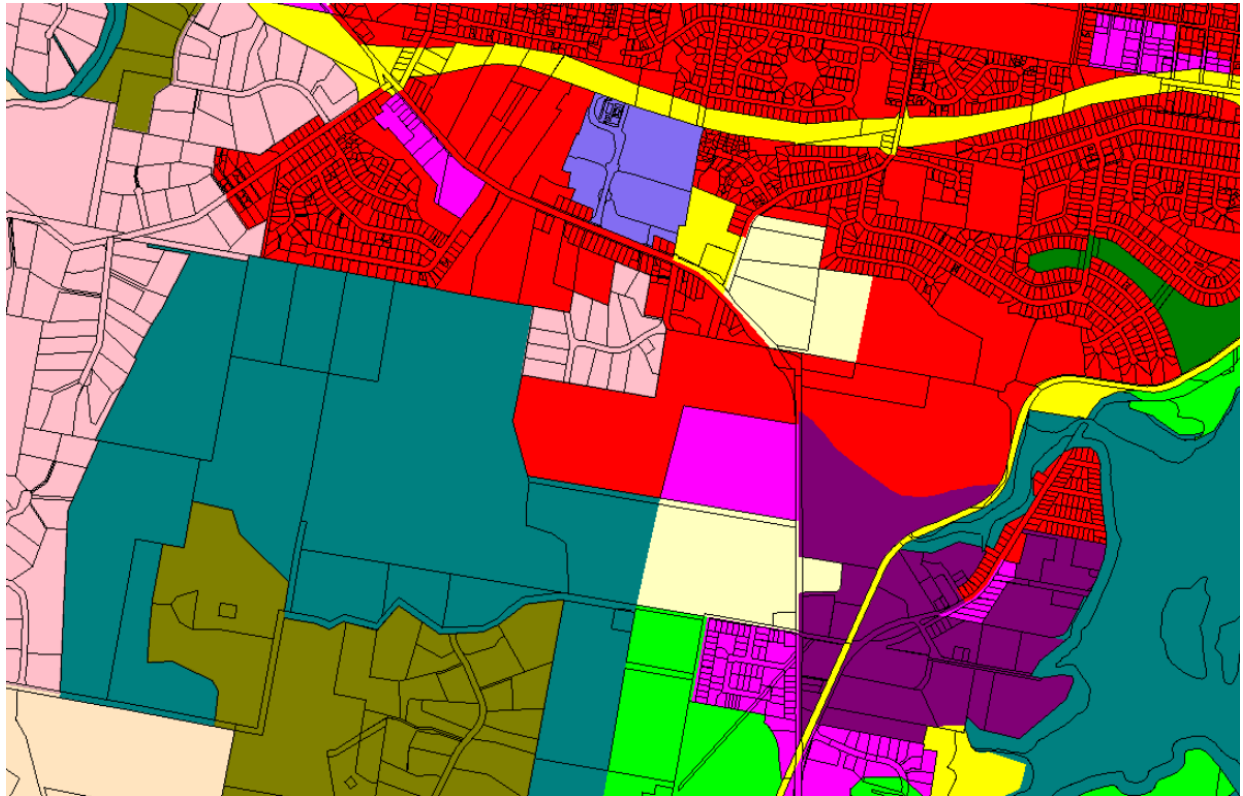


Figure 3: Screenshot of zoning. Note that the red is the General Residential zoned land that shows significant tracts of land for further residential development. Source www.thelist.tas.gov.au 2 August 2018

4.3 Multiple Recreation Values

The Kelcey Tier is enjoyed by multiple recreation groups. This includes, walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers and bird watchers, with a number of club or associations directly connected with the Kelcey Tier, such as the Friends of Kelcey Tier, the Kelcey Tier Mountain Biking Club and the Central North Field Naturalists. There are also organisations such as school groups, TAFE and mountain bike clinics that are regular users of the Kelcey Tier.

5. Community Engagement

5.1 Overview

An initial Community Engagement process has informed the development of this master plan concept and framework. A workshop for key stakeholder was organised and attended by approximately 20 people including representatives from a number of key stakeholders groups including the mountain biking community, the naturalists club, nearby residents, bushwalkers and representatives from Council. The workshop occurred for a period of three hours and discussed opportunities, constraints, issues, challenges and the way forward. The topics explored by each group were as follows:

- o What is working and what is not working?
- o Kelcey Tier's contribution to the sub-region in terms of recreational opportunities
- o Social, Environmental and Landscape Values
- o Proposed trail network
- o Supporting infrastructure and access
- o Vision for Kelcey Tier

A drop-in session was also held for a period of two hours on a Saturday morning to provide an opportunity to the community to provide input into the master plan. There were no attendees at this drop-in session (besides the representatives from ERA Planning and Devonport City Council).

An additional two weeks was provided for stakeholders and the community to provide written comments; an additional 8 submissions were received.

The following is a summary of the comments received.

5.2 What is working?

- o Better utilised than in the past
- o Less anti-social behaviour due to increase level of usage
- o Nothing is working
- o Signage is better than it used to be
- o No more trail bikes or 4WD, horse riders, dumping of cars; although some comments that this still occurred
- o MTB good for businesses in town
- o Very accessible from Devonport
- o Fantastic location
- o Great MTB trails
- o Young people involved – community involvement

- o People getting fit
- o Walks are good
- o Under developed into not too formal with surfaces etc
- o Getting teenagers out and about
- o Natural aspect
- o People of all ages can do activities.

5.3 What is not working?

- o Absence of management – there is no one looking after it
- o More evidence of car and rubbish dumping
- o Not controlled – horses, dirt bikes
- o No consideration for disease such as fungal infections
- o Complaints not taken seriously
- o Lack of consultation with other user groups from Council when new trails constructed
- o Respect of critically endangered swift parrot not being taken seriously
- o Concern that increase in trail development is crowding out fauna habitat
- o Dual system for riders and walkers not working
- o No control of spread of trails – incremental
- o Car park lack of and therefore pressure on residential streets
- o No clear boundaries to Council land
- o Darken road is not appropriate for lots of traffic
- o Lack of signage
- o Potential for conflict between users particularly at cross over points
- o Lack of linkages to other green spaces

5.4 Sub-regional Recreational Opportunities

Mountain Biking

- o Penguin MTB Park
- o Stubbs Road
- o Dial Range
- o Launceston

- o Paloona (only downhill track on NW coast)
- o Don Heads

Kelcey Tier attracts riders from outside of area such as Launceston and Burnie. Users are also from the mainland that come to ride at Derby/Blue Tier and then ride in Kelcey Tier before they catch the boat.

Walkers

- o Mt Roland
- o Narantapu
- o Don River
- o Dooleys Hill (La Trobe)
- o Henry Somerset – protected for orchids
- o Badgers – Sheffield
- o Gog Range – Mole Creek
- o Coppermine forest reserve
- o Dial range
- o Fern Glad – Burnie
- o Blythe River Conservation area
- o Red Water Creek
- o Bells Parade (Latrobe)

5.5 Social, Environmental and Landscape Values

5.5.1 Social

- o Backdrop to Devonport – sense of place
- o Only MTB opportunity in Devonport
- o Opportunities for younger people and teenagers
- o Walking, trail runners, cross country, school groups, orienteering, educational opportunities for plant identification and geology.
- o Community involvement racing groups, bbq's after events etc.
- o KT Mountain bike club was resistant towards me conducting mountain bike coaching in reserve. The club doesn't have formal agreement in place – so this control over my activities was unprecedented and not a helpful way in which activities such as mine should be handled. In

summary, having an unregulated, self-appointed group of individual calling shots on who can use the reserve, enabling the ability to push others out and control the area to their own satisfaction is not working.

- o The KT Mountain Bike club represent a select few and do not represent all mountain bikers in the area
- o We need to ensure community and locals all have the ability to share KT reserve, not just mountain bikers.

5.5.2 Environmental

- o Dam/bird hide could be located where M. Eric was destroyed for fire trail. 10 endemic birds found in this area.
- o Sugar gliders, Tassie Devils, Orchids, Swift parrot
- o Weed – invasion of Spanish heath and gorse. This is problematic in the Taswater area near to water catchment.
- o Frog habitat
- o E. Ovata sections and also scattered throughout – swift parrot habitat
- o Endangered plant species
- o Important reserve for swift parrots to use on their migration to the mainland. Breeding/nesting/foraging KT listed as an important site in recovery plan

5.5.3 Landscape

- o Visual backdrop to Devonport

5.6 Proposed Trail Network

There was a general lack of agreement on trail development intensity, type and location. There were some participants in the workshop that were seeking a total riding time within the reserve from 1.5 – 2 hours to 4 – 5 hours, where other participants did not want to see the development of any further trails.

5.7 Supporting Infrastructure and Access

- o Possible car park but most people park at Tungarah Road as direct access to most trails
- o Nowhere to park car / no easy access to trails which is hard for me as a coach and participants meetings me on site
- o Signage needed both trail head, external directional signage and internal signage, shared signage, difficulty of trails, directional signage
- o Improved interpretation of biodiversity values

- Twilight events – 25 – 30 cars with 60 – 80 cars parked on Tungarah Road on a busy day, Normal summer evening – 15
- Green trail adjacent to peace pole required
- Create a natural car park
- Shuttle bus opportunities
- State wide signage strategy should be followed
- Maps should be made available
- Bike wash in main entrance areas required
- Toilets needed
- Can go peace pole hill on way back to get to car park if needed
- Home maker centre has toilets
- Boot washing station
- BBQ shelter needs to be located near to car park
- Pump track/dirt jumps

5.8 Vision Statement

To promote and protect the current and future needs of the users of the reserve, increase the use and awareness of the values that has been recognised and valued.

- Audit of environmental values complete
- Trail implemented and included in state wide trail maps
- Listed as a Council reserve
- Signage complete
- Recognition of all values

Kelcey Tier to retain its unique feel being a natural environment catering for a diverse group of people.

- Do not want to change the feel that it has at the moment
- Build on interpretation
- Manage the progression of tracks

6. Key Opportunities and Constraints

6.1 Key Opportunities

6.1.1 Infrastructure

There is significant opportunity for further strategic development of the trail network and supporting infrastructure, such as formalising a trail head within the reserve for mountain bikers, development of trail maps, creation and implementation of an interpretation strategy and improving the trail network for all walking, mountain biking and shared use trails.

6.1.2 Improved protection of values

Currently, the trail network has been largely constructed without the required approvals, including land owner consent on the TasWater land. Subsequently, the appropriate level of consideration of the impact on the biodiversity and cultural values of the reserve has not been undertaken. The master plan provides an opportunity to make recommendations around the protection of the reserve regarding the planning scheme controls and other such mechanisms, like the preparation and implementation of a weed management plan.

It is further highlighted by preparing a strategic document for the development of the trail network through community engagement, all reserve values can be protected and maintained in a balanced manner.

6.1.3 Management of Reserve

The master plan provides an opportunity to make clear recommendations around the responsible parties for the governance and management of the reserve and its values, to minimise the risk of conflicts between different user groups into the future.

6.1.4 Improved Health and Fitness

The improved trail network and supporting infrastructure for the reserve will assist in satisfying the recognised increase in the participation rate in informal recreation activities by the community.

6.2 Key Constraints

6.2.1 Reserve Size

There is increasing pressure on the reserve for the construction of more mountain biking trails. The reserve at only 185ha, will reach saturation where other users of the reserve and other values will be detrimentally affected, if mountain biking trail construction is allowed to continue unabated.

6.2.2 Competing Recreation Values

The reserve is seen as a significant asset to the community and in particular, to the users of the reserve. There is the risk that the mountain bikers using the reserve will become the dominant user group of the reserve and detrimentally affect the experience of other trail users.

6.2.3 Impacts on Residential Amenity

The recognised trail head to the reserve is from Durkins Road within the reserve. The more informal trail entrances and ones used by many of the mountain bikers is the access located between 47 Tugrah Road and 29-33 Tugrah Road and to a lesser extent off Stony Rise Road along a TasWater right of way along 137-139 Stony Rise Road. There is anecdotal evidence during the workshop that the nearby residents to these access points are at times unhappy with the increase traffic and parking within proximity.

6.2.4 Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage Values

There are known significant biodiversity values with the reserve as well as known cultural heritage values. Accordingly, each trail or new development proposed in the reserve needs a detailed assessment of these values to ensure they are adequately protected.

7. Vision

7.1 The Proposed Vision

The vision is a result of the stakeholder workshop and the background analysis undertaken for the preparation of the master plan:

The master plan will protect and increase the awareness of the biodiversity and cultural values of the Kelcey Tier whilst providing for the recreation needs of all current and future users of the reserve in a balanced and harmonious way.

7.2 Next Steps

The next steps are as follows:

- o Council to endorse the Concept and Framework document
- o ERA Planning together with Playstreet to prepare Draft Master Plan
- o Draft Master Plan to go on public exhibition (once endorsed by Council) for a period of 28 days
- o In accordance with the responses received and in consultation with Council, amend the Draft Master Plan
- o Council to endorse the final Master Plan

Appendix A

Draft Trail Network and Infrastructure Maps

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Document Status

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