

Somersby Falls Picnic Area – REF Addendum

Review of Environmental Factors Addendum to Doc22/930699

This addendum covers additional under scrubbing of vegetation and selective tree removal within the study area that was not included in the determined REF Doc22/930699. During the ‘setting out’ for the site, an area requiring retaining will impact some vegetation not described in the original REF. This addendum addresses this impact.

The proposed work remains unchanged to the civil engineering design package attached as Appendix 6 to the determined REF and is completely contained within the already assessed study area.

Table 1 provides a summary of information for the environmental assessment, including additional details where the assessment was not sufficient.

Table 1. REF Summary

REF Contents	Section in REF Doc22/930699 & Additional Details (if required)
1. Brief description of the proposed activity	Section 1
2. Proponents details	Section 2
3. Permissibility & Assessment Pathway	Section 3
4. Consultation - General	Section 4
5. Consultation – Aboriginal Communities	Section 5
6. Proposed Activity	
6.1 Location of activity	Section 6.1
6.2 Description of proposed activity	Section 6.2 and Item 1 / Map 1 below.
7. Reasons for the activity and considerations of alternatives	Section 7
8. Description of the existing environment	Section 8
8.1 Overview of the project area	Section 8.1 and Item 2 / Map 1 below
8.2.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage	Section 8 and Item 3 below
9. Impact Assessment	Section 9
	Section 9.2 & Item 4 below
10. Summary of Impacts & Conclusions	Section 10
Appendix 1 Threatened species tests of significance	Appendix 1
	Item 5 and 6 below

ITEM 1.

Earthworks or site clearing including extent of vegetation to be removed (section 6.2.5 of REF)

The proposed work will involve the construction of batters to stabilise slopes adjacent to the carpark, picnic area and bus turning area. Works will involve under scrubbing of vegetation and selective tree removal.

The proposed works overall will now impact 0.36ha (an increase of 0.3ha) of exposed Hawkesbury woodland, 0.19ha of Hawkesbury Banksia scrub woodland and 0.18ha of existing disturbed vegetation within the study area.

Large mature trees, particularly habitat trees will be retained where possible. Habitat trees identified for removal must comply with Appendix 5 of the determined REF “habitat tree felling procedures”.

ITEM 2 .

Biodiversity (section 8.1.5 of REF)

Works will involve under scrubbing of vegetation and selective tree removal across the study area.

Works overall will now impact 0.36ha (an increase of 0.3ha) of exposed Hawkesbury woodland, 0.19ha of Hawkesbury Banksia scrub woodland and 0.18ha of existing disturbed vegetation within the study area.

Large mature trees, particularly habitat trees will be retained where possible. Habitat trees identified for removal must comply with Appendix 5 of the determined REF “habitat tree felling procedures”.

ITEM 3.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (section 8.2.1 of REF)

The proposed additional vegetation and tree works fall within the AHIP permit area but outside of the moderate archaeological potential zone. There is no extra impacts on the archaeology or cultural values of the site.

The proposed works are consistent with those already assessed as part of the ACHA and determined REF. An amendment to the AHIP permit is not required.

Safeguards and mitigation measures remain unchanged from the determined REF and ACHA.

ITEM 4

Biodiversity impacts during all stages of the activity (section 9.2 of REF)

Works will involve under scrubbing of vegetation and selective tree removal across the study area.

Works overall will now impact 0.36ha (an increase of 0.3ha) of exposed Hawkesbury woodland, 0.19ha of Hawkesbury Banksia scrub woodland and 0.18ha of existing disturbed vegetation within the study area.

Large mature trees, particularly habitat trees will be retained where possible. Habitat trees identified for removal must comply with Appendix 5 of the determined REF “habitat tree felling procedures”.

Cut vegetation should be mulched and re-used across the site where possible or stockpiled for future use. Complete landscaping works as per Appendix 6 landscaping plan.

All other safeguards and mitigation measures remain unchanged from the determined REF.

ITEM 5 .

Test of significance for:

6 Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Micronomus norfolkensis*)

7 Large Bent-winged Bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*) - (Appendix 1 of REF)

Works will involve under scrubbing of vegetation and selective tree removal across the study area.

Works overall will now impact 0.36ha (an increase of 0.3ha) of exposed Hawkesbury woodland, 0.19ha of Hawkesbury Banksia scrub woodland and 0.18ha of existing disturbed vegetation within the study area.

Large mature trees, particularly habitat trees will be retained where possible. Habitat trees identified for removal must comply with Appendix 5 of the determined REF "habitat tree felling procedures".

The proposed increase in vegetation works is still considered a minor disturbance due to the availability of high-quality habitat in the adjacent landscape.

If mitigation measures identified in Section 9 of the determined REF are implemented, a significant impact is not likely to occur for either the Eastern Coastal Free-tailed Bat and Large Bent-winged Bat as a result of the proposed work

ITEM 6.

Test of significance (under BC Act and EPBC Act) for:

8 Somersby Mintbush (*Prostanthera Junonis*)

9 Spreading Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia procumbens*) (Appendix 1 of REF)

Works will involve under scrubbing of vegetation and selective tree removal across the study area.

Works overall will now impact 0.36ha (an increase of 0.3ha) of exposed Hawkesbury woodland, 0.19ha of Hawkesbury Banksia scrub woodland and 0.18ha of existing disturbed vegetation within the study area.

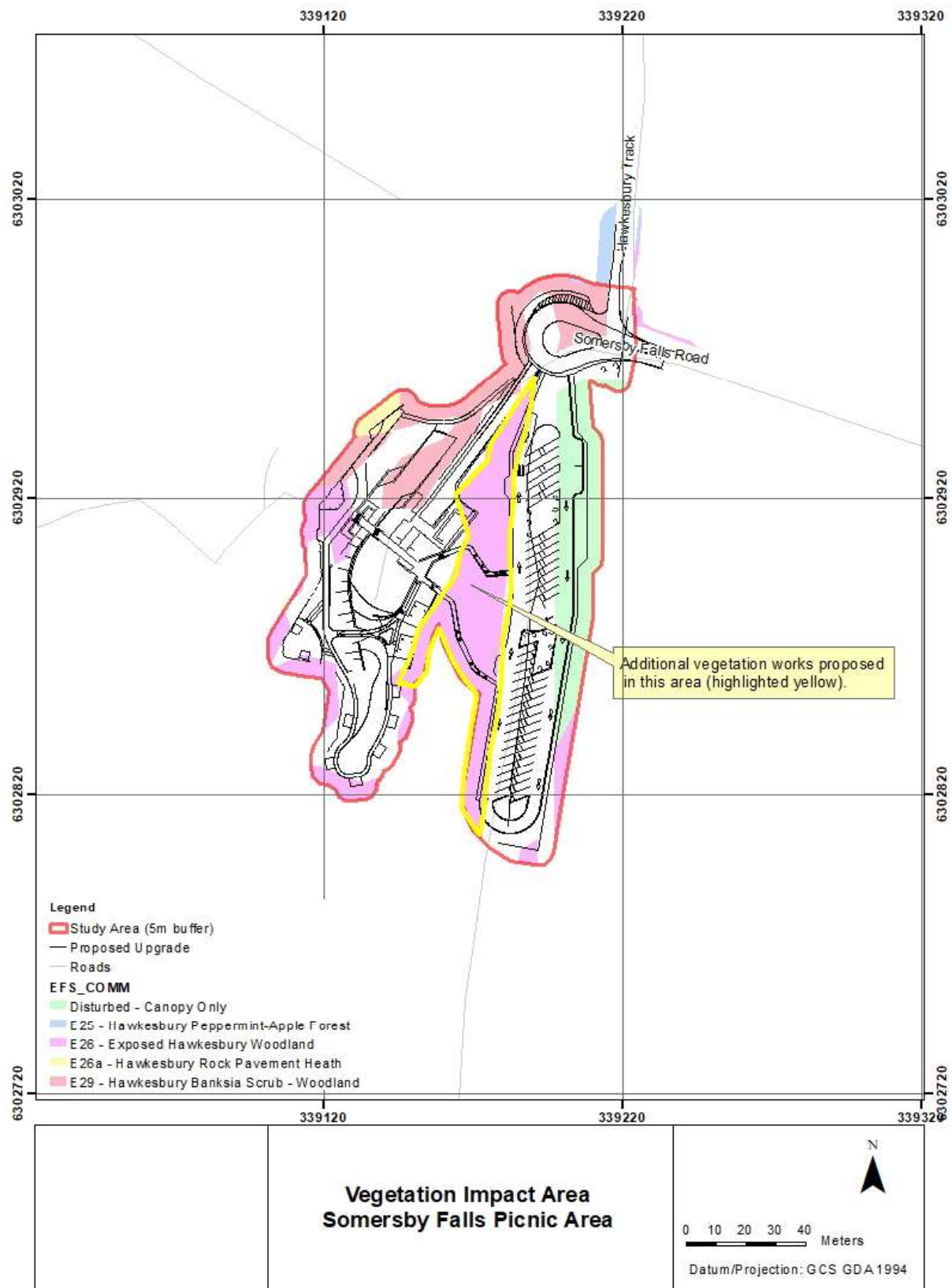
Large mature trees, particularly habitat trees will be retained where possible. Habitat trees identified for removal must comply with Appendix 5 of the determined REF "habitat tree felling procedures".

The proposed increase in vegetation works is still considered a minor disturbance due to the availability of high quality habitat in the adjacent landscape.

Disturbance of potential habitat for *Prostanthera junonis* within AIS site # AIS-E0-065 remains unchanged to the determined REF.

If mitigation measures identified in Section 9 of the determined REF are implemented, a significant impact is not likely to occur for *Prostanthera junonis*, AIS site # AIS-E0-065 or *Hibbertia procumbens* as a result of the proposed work.

Map 1 Vegetation Impact Area





Decision Statement for NPWS Proponents

REF CM9 file no.	DOC22/930699-6 (Addendum)
Title of proposal:	Somersby Falls Precinct Upgrade
Park name:	Brisbane Water National Park
Area/ NPWS Branch:	Central Coast / Hunter Central Coast Branch
Proponent:	Andrew Bayley (NPWS)

Based on the Review of Environmental Factors and any additional information obtained, and after having taken into account to the fullest extent possible all matters likely to affect the environment as a result of the proposed activity (in accordance with section 5.5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*), **I hereby determine that:**

Activity to proceed

Further information/assessment is not required:

- an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required as the activity is not likely to significantly affect the environment
- a Species Impact Statement (SIS) is not required as the activity is not proposed to occur on land that is part of an area of outstanding biodiversity value or critical habitat, and is not likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats

The activity may proceed, subject to the conditions specified in the attached Schedule 1 and subject to any necessary approvals (if approval required) being obtained first.

AND

Related matters

Further, it is considered that the proposed activity:

- ☒ **is unlikely to** impact significantly on matters of **National Environmental Significance** under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.
- ☒ **is unlikely to** impact significantly on **local council infrastructure**, including roads, water, sewer and stormwater, **local heritage items** listed by the council, and **flood liable land**.
 - ☒ a record of any required consultation with the appropriate council has been provided.

Central Coast Council have been consulted from initial design phase to final design. A deed of agreement between NPWS and Council will be developed. Council consultations refer to DOC22/104630
- ☒ **will** require certification to Building Code of Australia or Australian Standards in accordance with the NPWS *Construction Assessment Procedures*

Recommendation for determination

NPWS Area Manager recommendation:

Name: Andrew Bayley



Signature:

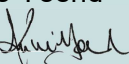
Date: 19/6/2023

Determination

I certify that I have reviewed and endorsed the contents of this REF document and, to the best of my knowledge, it is in accordance with the EP&A Act, the EP&A Regulation and the Guidelines approved under section 170 of the EP&A Regulation, and the information it contains is neither false nor misleading.

Determination by Director Park Operations, Hunter Central Coast Branch*

Name: Kylie Yeend

Signature: 

Date: 21/06/2023