

Appendix 29_Rifle Range Road Biodiversity Officer Comments

Site Assessment 159 Rifle Range Road Lot 1 DP 706477

Portion of the land located to the north of the Hume Highway

Date of Site Inspection: Thursday 18 /02/2021

Site inspected by Brian Faulkner and Jack Miller

Approximately 2 hours spent on site

General description

The property is divided by the Hume Highway, with a southern portion containing a dwelling and comprising approximately 43 hectares.

The northern portion of land comprises approximately 76 hectares. This portion is subject to investigation for possible subdivision as a separate lot with dwelling permissibility, and as part of this investigation, was inspected to identify and assess vegetation present.

There are scattered remnant trees along drainage lines, and some shelter belt areas planted out with native trees. Remnant native trees include Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*) and Apple Box (*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*). Some of these trees are large and have hollows, and undoubtedly provide a significant habitat resource for native fauna.

It is likely that in its original state, the vegetation in this area would have met the criteria for identification as White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland.

While there are areas along the drainage lines where good native groundcover persists, the groundcover layer in most other parts of the property has been pasture improved. At the time of our site inspection these areas appeared to be largely dominated by exotic species (less than 50% native groundcover).

The property owners said that the last occasion on which pasture improvement activities had been conducted was approximately 8 years prior.

The land has a long history of being used for grazing of cattle and horses, and horses were present at the time of the site inspection. It was evident that some trees have been ring-barked by stock (most likely by horses).

The land features seven dams, in addition to ephemeral drainage lines. It is likely that these would provide habitat for a number of fauna species.

Lists of flora and fauna identified during the site visit are presented below. It is likely that these would be greatly expanded if a more formal flora and fauna survey were to be conducted in late spring.

Plant species recorded 18/02/2021

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Exotic or native |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | | |
| <i>Acacia floribunda</i> | Gossamer Wattle | Planted shelter belt |
| <i>Acacia genistifolia</i> | Early Wattle | Native |
| <i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i> | Tall Spear Grass | Native |
| <i>Austrostipa scabra</i> | Corkscrew Grass | Native |
| <i>Bothriochloa macra</i> | Red Stem Grass | Native |
| <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> | Soft Brome | Exotic |
| <i>Calocephalus citreus</i> | Lemon Beautyheads | Native |
| <i>Calotis lappulacea</i> | Yellow Burr Daisy | Native |
| <i>Carthamus lanatus</i> | Saffron Thistle | Exotic |
| <i>Cassinia arcuata</i> | Sifton Bush | Native |
| <i>Chenopodium album</i> | Fat Hen | Exotic |
| <i>Chloris truncata</i> | Windmill Grass | Native |
| <i>Chondrilla juncea</i> | Skeleton Weed | Exotic |
| <i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> | Common Everlasting | Native |
| <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> | Spear Thistle | Exotic |
| <i>Conyza</i> sp. | Fleabane | Exotic |
| <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> | Couch | Native |
| <i>Cyperus eragrostis</i> | Umbrella Sedge | Exotic |
| <i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> | Summer Grass | Exotic |
| <i>Dysphania pumilio</i> | Small Crumbweed | Native |
| <i>Echium plantagineum</i> | Paterson's Curse | Exotic |
| <i>Einadia nutans</i> | Climbing Saltbush | Native |
| <i>Eleusine tristachya</i> | Goose Grass | Exotic |
| <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> | African Love Grass | Exotic |
| <i>Eryngium ovinum</i> | Blue Devil | Native |
| <i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i> | Blakely's Red Gum | Native |
| <i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i> | Apple Box | Native |
| <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> | Yellow Box | Native |
| <i>Eucalyptus nicholli</i> | Narrow Leaf Peppermint | Planted shelter belt |
| <i>Euphorbia drummondii</i> | Caustic Weed | Native |
| <i>Glycine tabacina</i> | Variable Glycine | Native |
| <i>Hirshfeldia incana</i> | Buchan Weed | Exotic |
| <i>Hordeum leporinum</i> | Barley Grass | Exotic |
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | St John's Wort | Exotic |
| <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> | Flatweed | Exotic |
| <i>Juncus</i> sp. | Rush | Native |
| <i>Lepidium africanum</i> | African Peppergrass | Exotic |
| <i>Lissanthe strigosa</i> | Peach Heath | Native |
| <i>Lomandra multiflora</i> | Many Flowered Mat Rush | Native |
| <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | African Box Thorn | Exotic |
| <i>Malva neglecta</i> | Small Mallow | Exotic |
| <i>Microleana stipoides</i> | Weeping Grass | Native |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Modiola caroliniana</i> | Creeping Mallow | Exotic |
| <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> | Serrated Tussock | Exotic |
| <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> | Scotch Thistle | Exotic |
| <i>Ottelia ovalifolia</i> | Swamp Lily | Native |
| <i>Oxalis</i> sp. | Wood Sorrel | Possibly native |
| <i>Panicum effusum</i> | Hairy Panic | Native |
| <i>Paronychia brasiliana</i> | Chilean Whitlow Wort | Exotic |
| <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> | Paspalum | Exotic |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Water Couch | Native |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Ribwort | Exotic |
| <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> | Cherry Plum | Exotic |
| <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> | Sweet Briar | Exotic |
| <i>Rubus</i> sp. | Blackberry | Exotic |
| <i>Rumex acetosella</i> | Sheep Sorrel | Exotic |
| <i>Rytidosperma</i> spp. | Wallaby Grass | Native |
| <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | Black Nightshade | Exotic |
| <i>Trifolium subterraneum</i> | Sub Clover | Exotic |
| <i>Vittadinia cuneata</i> | Fuzzy New Holland Daisy | Native |
| <i>Vittadinia muelleri</i> | Narrow Leaf New Holland Daisy | Native |
| <i>Vulpia</i> sp. | Rat's Tail Fescue | Exotic |
| <i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp. | Native Bluebell | Native |

Fauna species recorded 18/02/2021

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Exotic or native |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | | |
| <i>Anas superciliosa</i> | Pacific Black Duck | Native |
| <i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i> | White Winged Chough | Native |
| <i>Corvus coronoides</i> | Australian Raven | Native |
| <i>Crinia signifera</i> | Common Eastern Froglet (Calls) | Native |
| <i>Egernia cunninghami</i> | Cunningham's Skink | Native |
| <i>Equus caballus</i> | Horse | Domestic stock |
| <i>Lymnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> | Spotted Marsh Frog (Calls) | Native |
| <i>Manorina melanocephala</i> | Noisy Miner | Native |
| <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | Rabbit (Scats & burrows) | Exotic |
| <i>Platycercus eximius</i> | Eastern Rosella | Native |
| <i>Psephotus haematonus</i> | Red Rumped Parrot | Native |
| <i>Vombatus ursinus</i> | Wombat (Scats) | Native |

[illegible]

Photographs



The land is used for agisting horses



Remnant Blakely's Red Gum & Yellow Box along drainage line



Groundcover dominated by exotics



African Love Grass



Paterson's Curse



Pasture with some *Austrostipa scabra* (Yellow Box tree on left)



Calotis lappulacea



Glycine tabacina