

Updated 18 June 2024

Job No. 12787

HDB Town Planning & Design
44 Church Street
MAITLAND NSW 2320

Attention: Aprajita Gupta

RE: Direct Ecological Impact for the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Lot 1 DP 1265736 1154 Clarence Town Road, Seaham NSW.

Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel dated 17th May 2024 detailed a Request for Further Information in regards to clarification on the direct ecological impact of the for the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Lot 1 DP 1265736 1154 Clarence Town Road, Seaham NSW. An Ecological Assessment Report was completed by Wildthing Environmental Consultants on 21 March 2024.

The NSW Biodiversity Values Map was consulted on the 18 May 2023. As of this date it was determined that although there were areas of mapped 'Biodiversity Values' within the subject site, there were no areas mapped within the proposed footprint of the BESS and new access. Consequently, the proposed development would not exceed the biodiversity offsets scheme threshold in regard to Section 7.2(1)(b) of the BC Act. The clearing threshold for the subject land is 1ha. The impact to native vegetation will be well under 1ha, with 0.2ha of PCT 3433 and one tree from within 'Grazed Exotic Groundcover with Scattered Trees' requiring removal for the proposed BESS and new access. All other vegetation requiring removal from 'Grazed Exotic Groundcover with Scattered Trees' is non-native (please note no PCT could be assigned to this community due to the vegetation being predominately non-native). Consequently, the proposed development would not exceed the biodiversity offsets scheme threshold regarding Section 7.2(1)(b) of the BC Act. There were also no areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value within the subject site and therefore the proposed development would not exceed the biodiversity offsets scheme threshold in regard to Section 7.2(1)(c) of the BC Act.

As the proposed development was not found to comply within any of the criteria it was determined that a BDAR and entry into the BOS threshold would not be applicable for this development. Thus, the survey methodology was undertaken in accordance with the requirements for a standard Assessment of Significance.

After seeking further clarification on the proposal from HDB Town Planning & Design it was determined:

The proposal, including the BESS footprint, access and connection (trenching/underboring) will require the removal of:

- 34 trees, which includes 14 Koala Food Trees *Eucalyptus tereticornis* under the Port Stephens CKPOM.
- Two hollow-bearing trees (Tree No. 23 and 32)
- 0.36ha of highly disturbed PCT 3433 - Hunter Coast Foothills Spotted Gum-Ironbark Grassy Forest. This is also a disturbed example of the EEC Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions
- 1.40ha of Grazed Exotic Groundcover with Scattered Trees (one native tree requires removal. All other vegetation is non-native)
- known habitat for *Miniopterus australis* (Little Bentwing Bat)
- known habitat for the *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala)
- known habitat for a number of the addressed threatened species

The proposal only comprising of the BESS footprint and access will require the removal of:

- 23 trees, which includes 14 Koala Food Trees *Eucalyptus tereticornis* under the Port Stephens CKPOM.
- One hollow-bearing tree (Tree No. 23)
- 0.20ha of highly disturbed PCT 3433 - Hunter Coast Foothills Spotted Gum-Ironbark Grassy Forest. This is also a disturbed example of the EEC Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions
- 0.89ha of Grazed Exotic Groundcover with Scattered Trees (all vegetation requiring removal is non-native)
- known habitat for *Miniopterus australis* (Little Bentwing Bat)
- known habitat for the *Phascolarctos cinereus* (Koala)
- known habitat for a number of the addressed threatened species

The impact of the roadway was determined from plan version 13/03/2024 'Preliminary Issue' by HDB Planning & Design. The pre-existing eastern access was not included in the assessment as it is understood that no widening of the road was required and no native vegetation would be impacted along the pre-existing road.

Figure 1.1 shows the direct impact of the proposal (BESS footprint, access and connection (trenching/underboring)) and Figure 1.2 shows the direct impact of the BESS footprint and access. Figure 1.3 shows all surveyed trees and Figure 1.4 shows only the trees that require removal. Figure 1.5 shows Koala Food Trees required to be removed for the proposal.

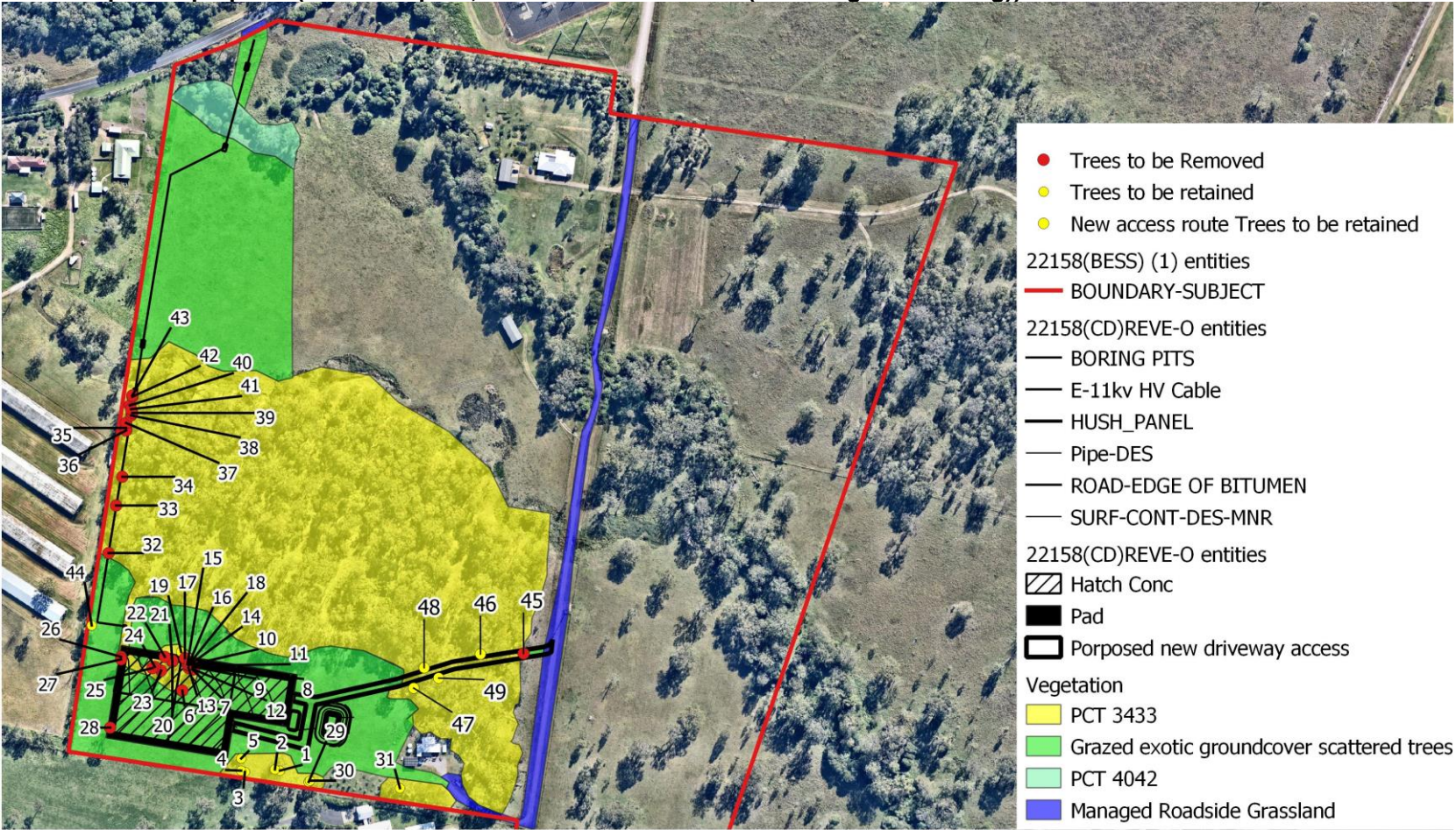
It is believed that the direct impact of the proposal is outlined above. If you have any queries or require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K. Bridges', with a light grey shadow effect behind the text.

Dr KYLIE BRIDGES
Ecologist
Wildthing Environmental Consultants

Figure 1.1: Direct Impact of proposal (BESS footprint, access and connection (trenching/underboring))



Job Ref	12785
A4 Scale	1:3913

Disclaimer: While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the information contained on this map is up to date and accurate, no guarantee is given that the information portrayed is free from error or omission. In addition the spatial accuracy of the map is wholly dependant on source data. Please verify the accuracy of all information prior to use. Development footprint areas should be used for indicative areas only.

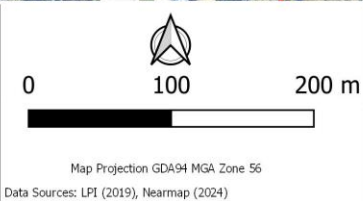


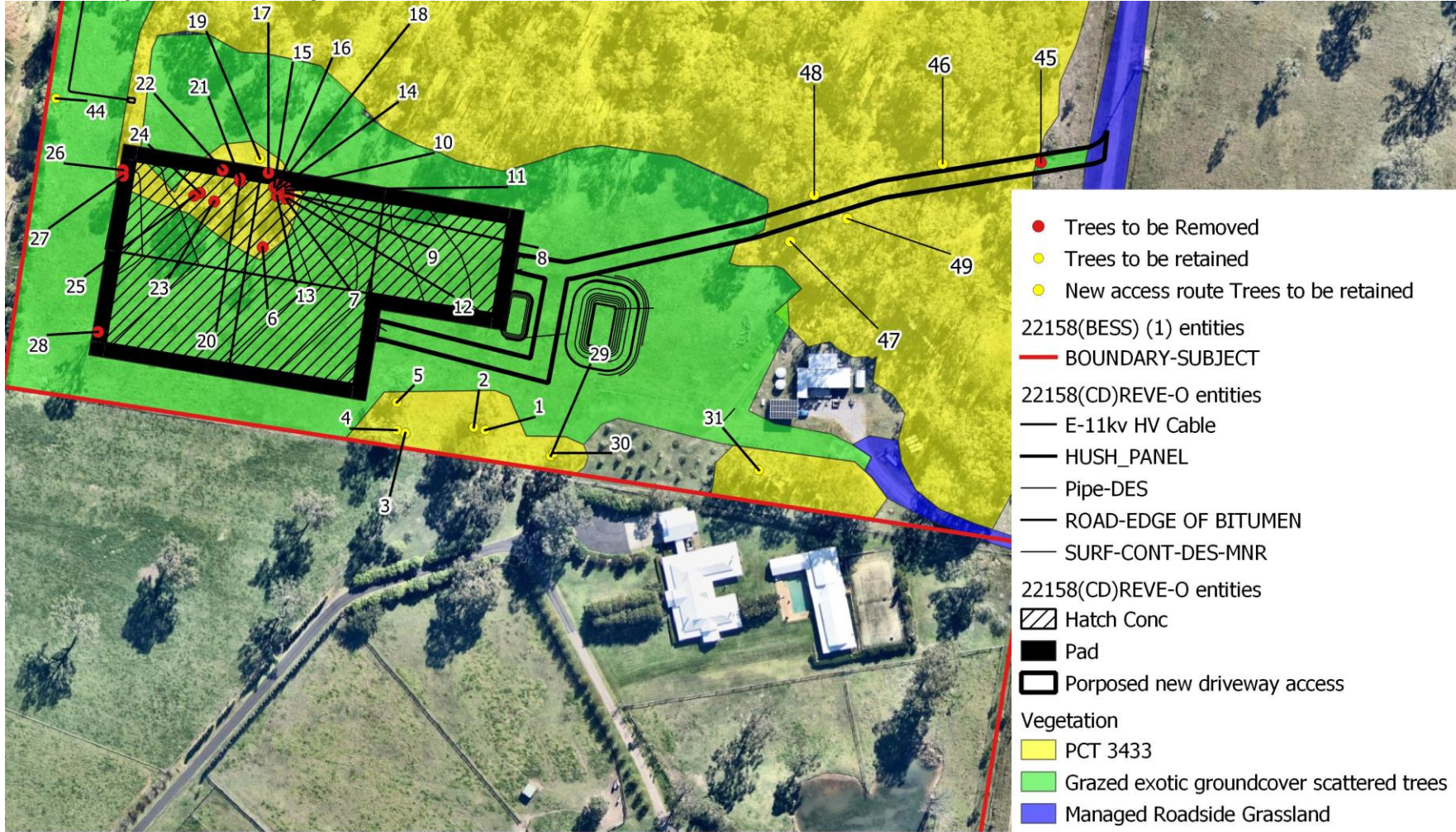
Figure 1.1
Trees and vegetation to be removed for the proposal

1154 Clarence Town Road
Seaham, NSW

17 June 2024

WILDTHING
Environmental Consultants
(a Division of Tattersall Lander Pty Ltd)
ABN 41 003 509 215

Figure 1.2: Direct impact of BESS footprint and access.



Job Ref	12785
A4 Scale	1:1715

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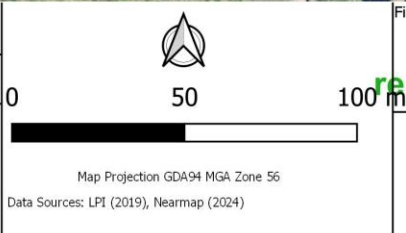


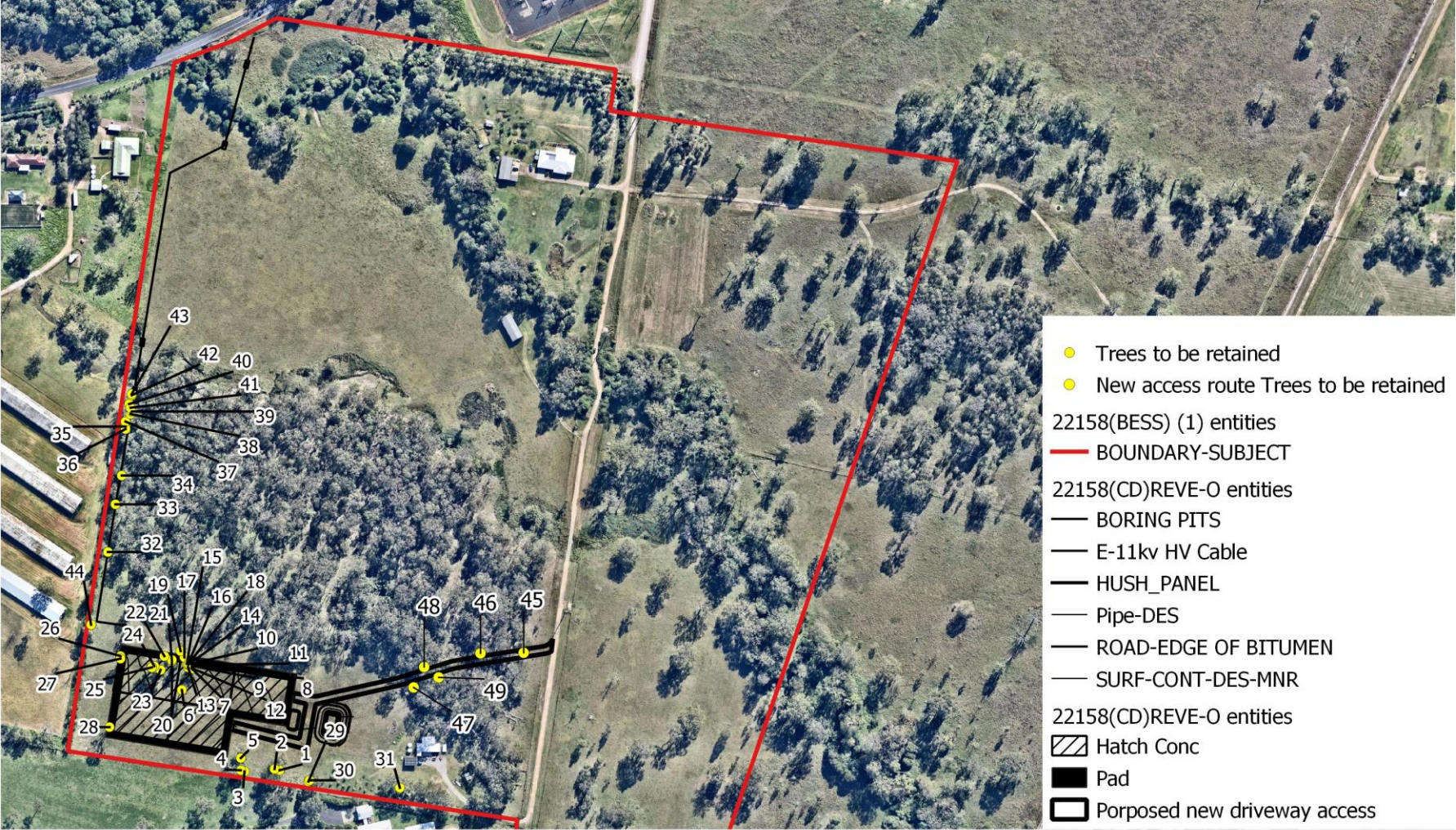
Figure 1.2
Trees and vegetation to be removed for the BESS & access

1154 Clarence Town Road
Seaham, NSW

17 June 2024

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Figure 1.3: All surveyed trees.



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A4 Scale	1:3913

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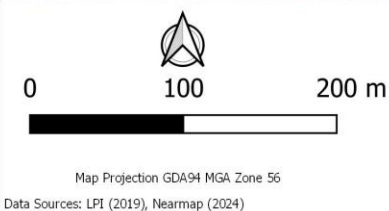


Figure 1.3

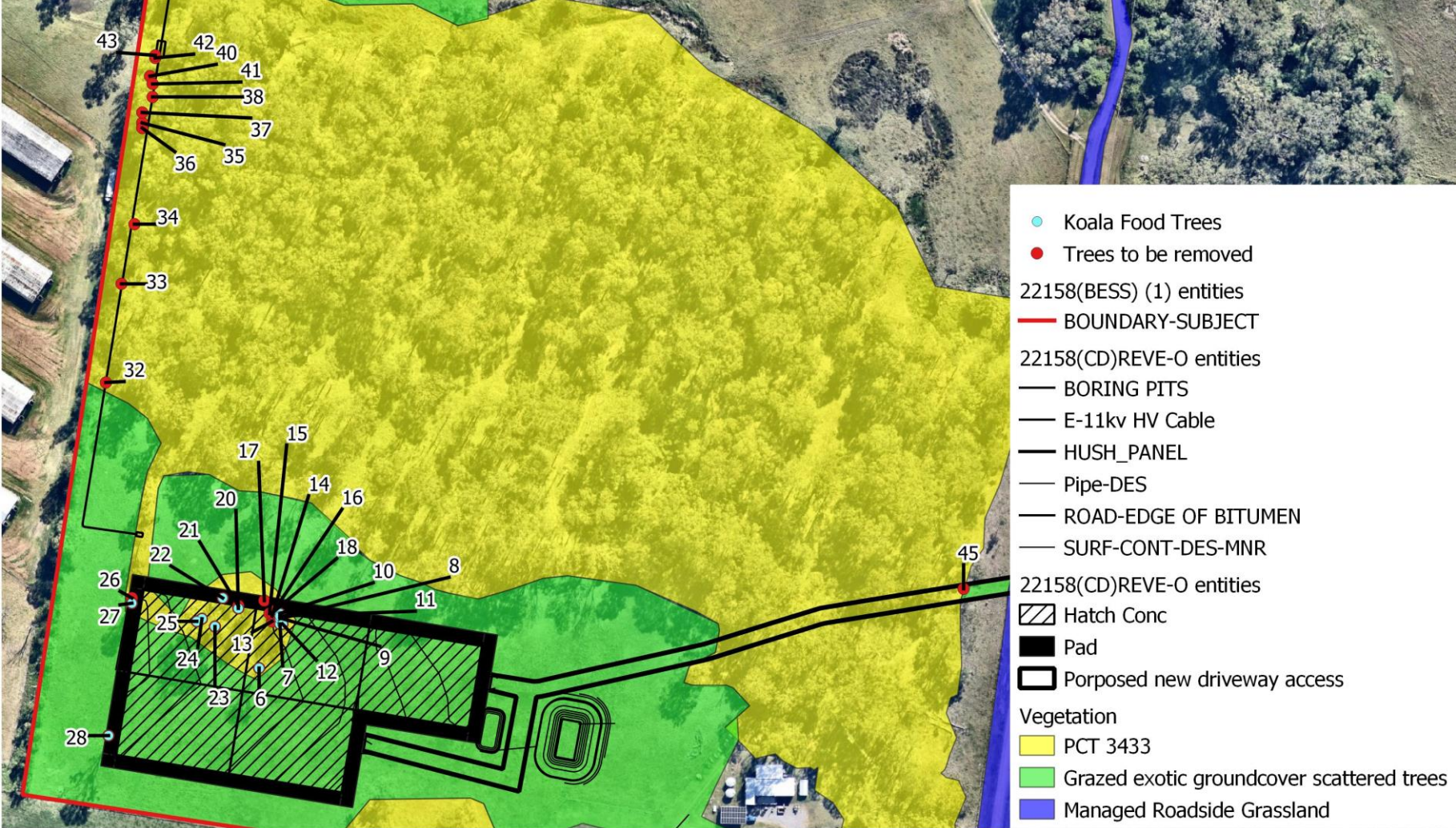
Surveyed Trees

1154 Clarence Town Road
Seaham, NSW

17 June 2024

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Figure 1.4: Trees to be removed for the proposal.



Job Ref	12785
A4 Scale	1:1890

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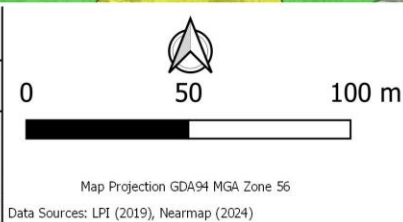
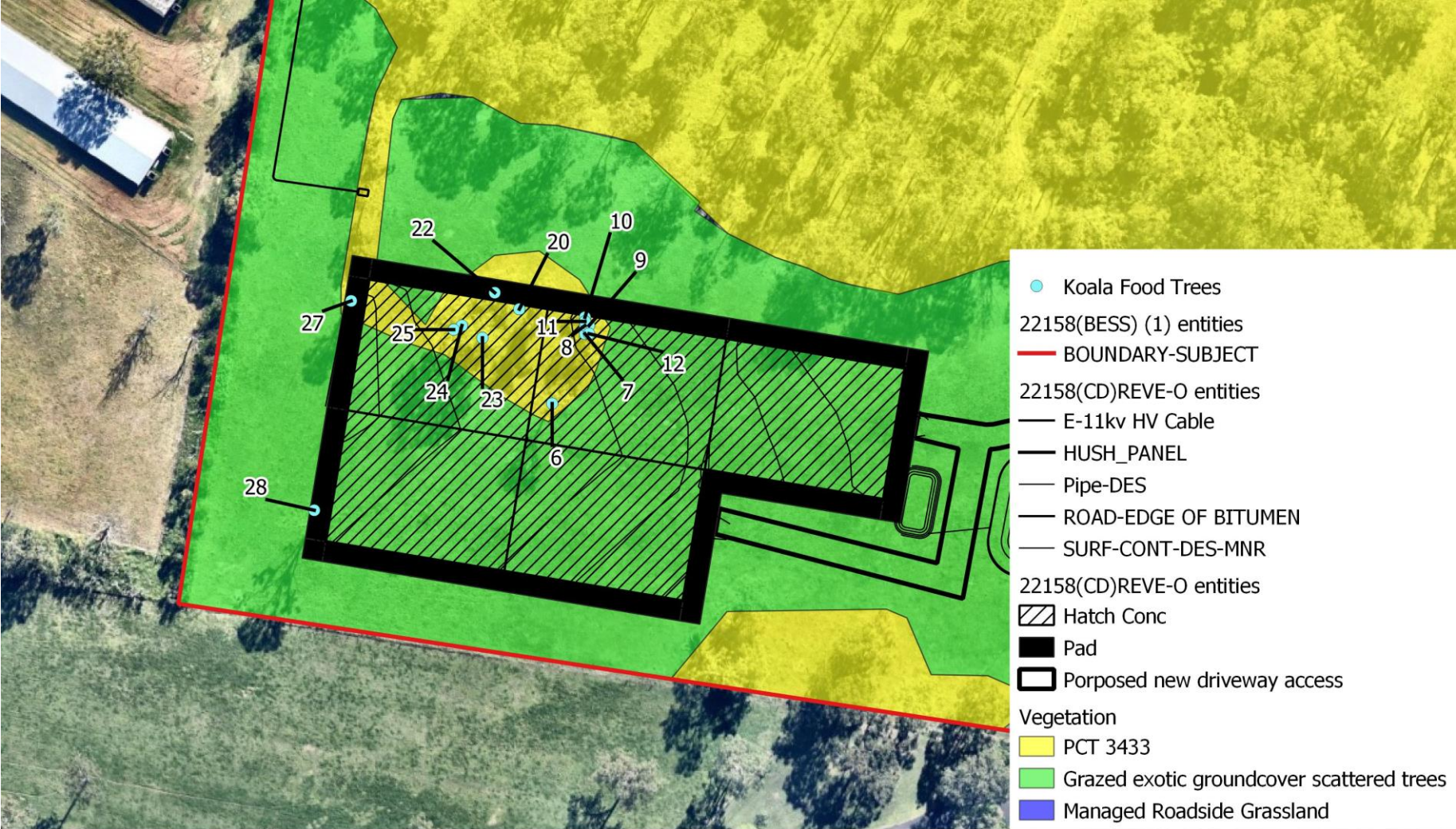


Figure 1.4
Trees to be removed for the proposal
1154 Clarence Town Road
Seaham, NSW
30 May 2024

WILDTHING
Environmental Consultants
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ABN 41 003 509 215

Figure 1.5: Koala Food Trees to be removed for the proposal.



Job Ref	12785
A4 Scale	1:1890

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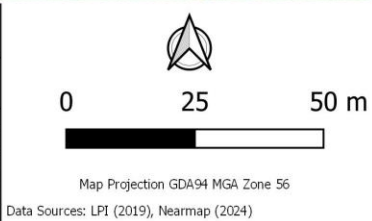


Figure 1.5

Koala Food Trees to be removed for the proposal

1154 Clarence Town Road
Seaham, NSW

17 June 2024

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