JAMES WARREN & Associates Pty Ltd





VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

COBAKI LAKES PREFERRED PROJECT REPORT

OCTOBER 2009

A REPORT TO LEDA MANORSTEAD PTY LTD

Brisbane Office
Suite 28 Cathedral Village
115 Wickham Street
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
PH: (07) 3257 2703

PH: (07) 3257 2703 Fax: (07) 3257 2708 Ballina Office PO Box 1465 BALLINA NSW 2478 PH: (02) 6686 3858

Fax: (02) 6681 1659

Sunshine Coast Office PH: (07) 5437 0277 Fax: (07) 5437 0922



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	2
1.1	Background	2
1.3 1.4	Management requirements	
2.	SIGNIFICANT SPECIES REQUIRING PROTECTION	4
2.1 2.2	ENDANGERED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES	
3.	STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	5
3.	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	6
4.	PROTECTION OF SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION	7
4.1 4.2	Threatened flora species	
5.	DISPOSAL OF DEBRIS	10
6. ISSUI	WEED CONTROL, PEST SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND LANI	
7.	CONTROLS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS	12
8.	MONITORING / REPORTING	13
ANNE	EXURE 1: WEED CONTROL METHODOLOGY	14



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

James Warren and Associates (JWA) have been engaged by LEDA Manorstead Pty Ltd to prepare a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to accompany the Preferred Project Report for the proposed residential development at Cobaki Lakes.

JWA prepared a VMP for the Cobaki Lakes site in October 2008 in response to the Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirements (DGEAR's) issued 21st August 2007. The VMP was placed on public exhibition along with various other reports required under the DGEAR's.

Following submissions from the public and State Agencies, some amendments have occurred to the Concept Plan. This VMP has been revised to reflect changes to the Concept Plan and provide additional information where required.

1.2 Site Description

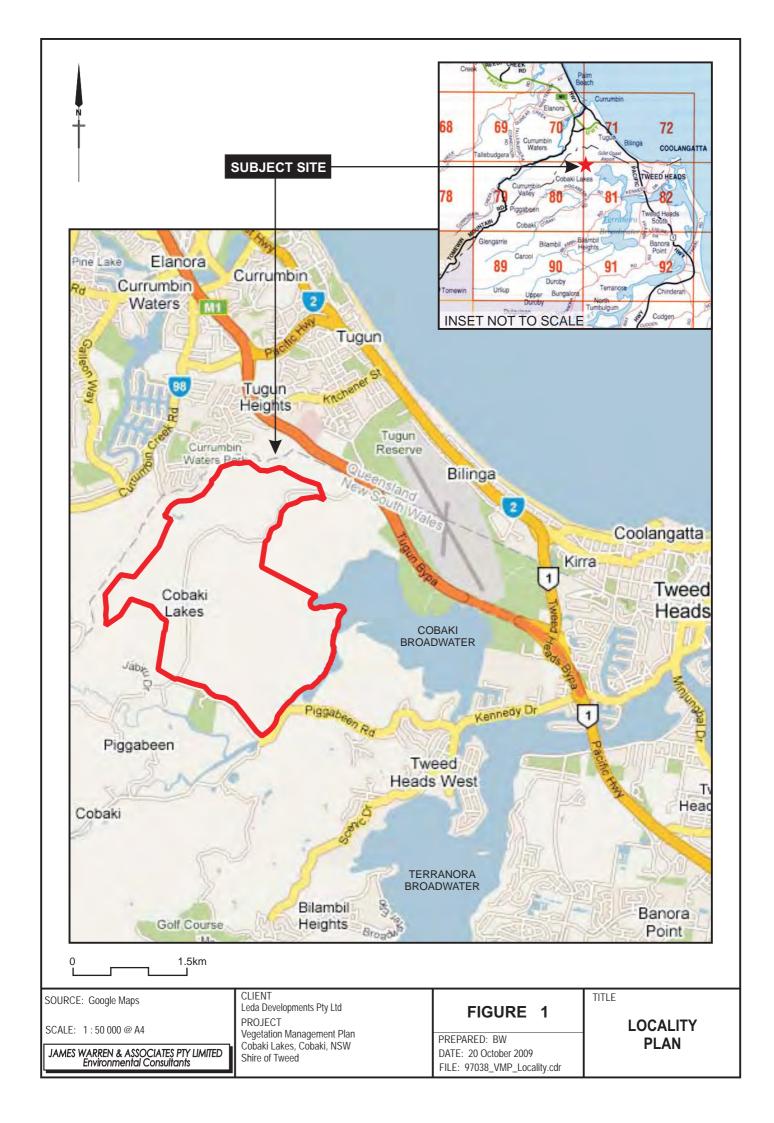
The Subject site consists of land described as Lot 1 DP 570076, Lot 2 DP 566529, Lot 1 DP 562222, Lot 1 DP 570077, Lot 1 823679, Lots 46, 54, 55, 199, 200, 201, 202, 205, 206, 209, 228 & 305 DP 755740, Cobaki Lakes, off Piggabeen Road, Tweed Heads. The site covers an area of approximately 593 hectares. The location of the subject site is shown in FIGURE 1.

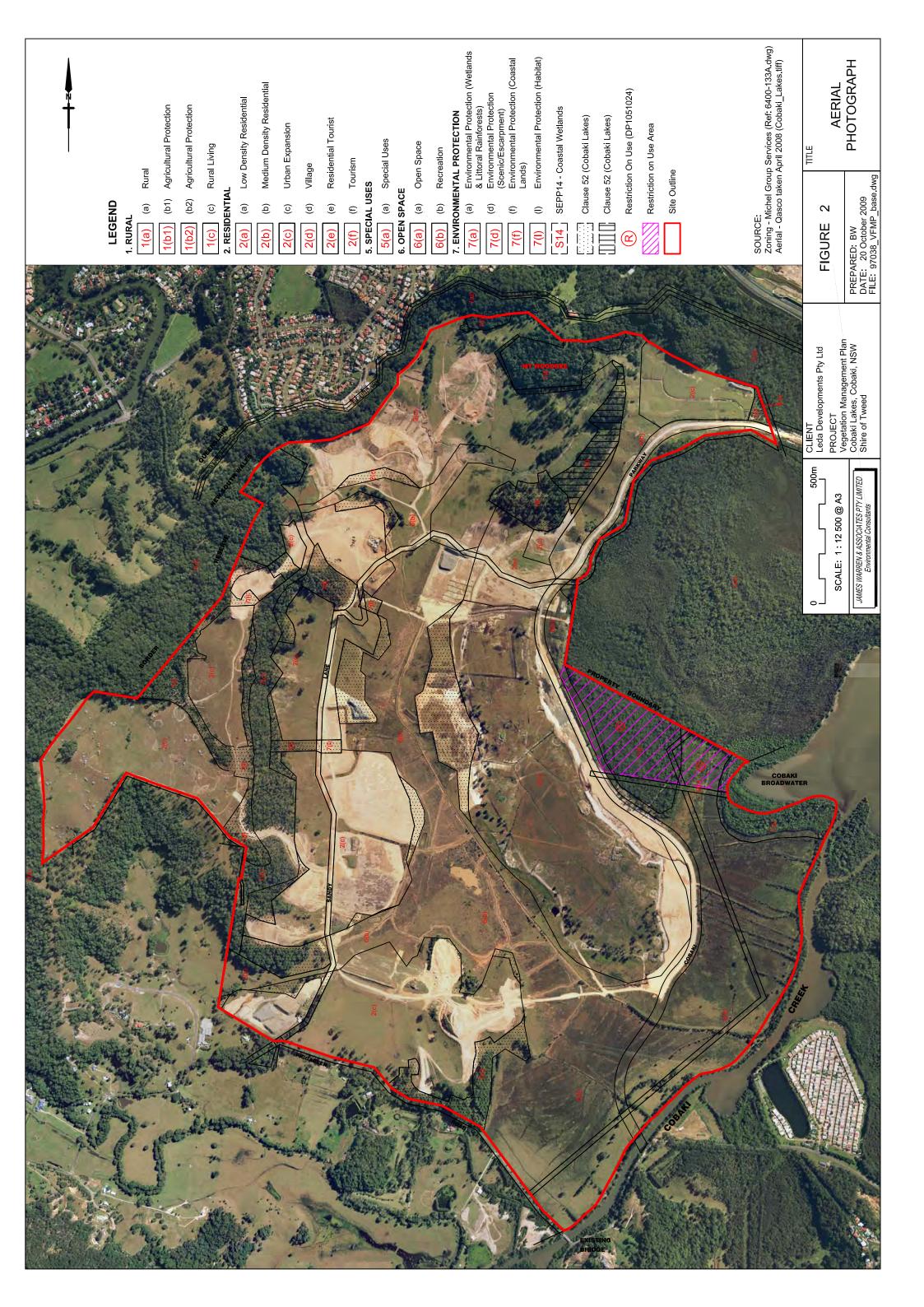
The site lies adjacent to private landholdings to the north-west and south-east, and comprises a large portion of land cleared for agricultural purposes (i.e. grazing) throughout which a number of vegetation communities occur. Extensive clearing and subsequent slashing over the drainage basin has resulted in the recruitment of a combination of native and introduced grass species in place of native plants. Forested Crown lands which form the NSW-QLD border also form the northern and western boundary of the Cobaki Lakes site. There are no mapped State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) areas occurring on the site. A large area of SEPP 14 Wetland (No. 1) is located immediately west of and adjacent to Cobaki Broadwater and Cobaki Creek, in the Lower Tweed Estuary (TSC 2003).

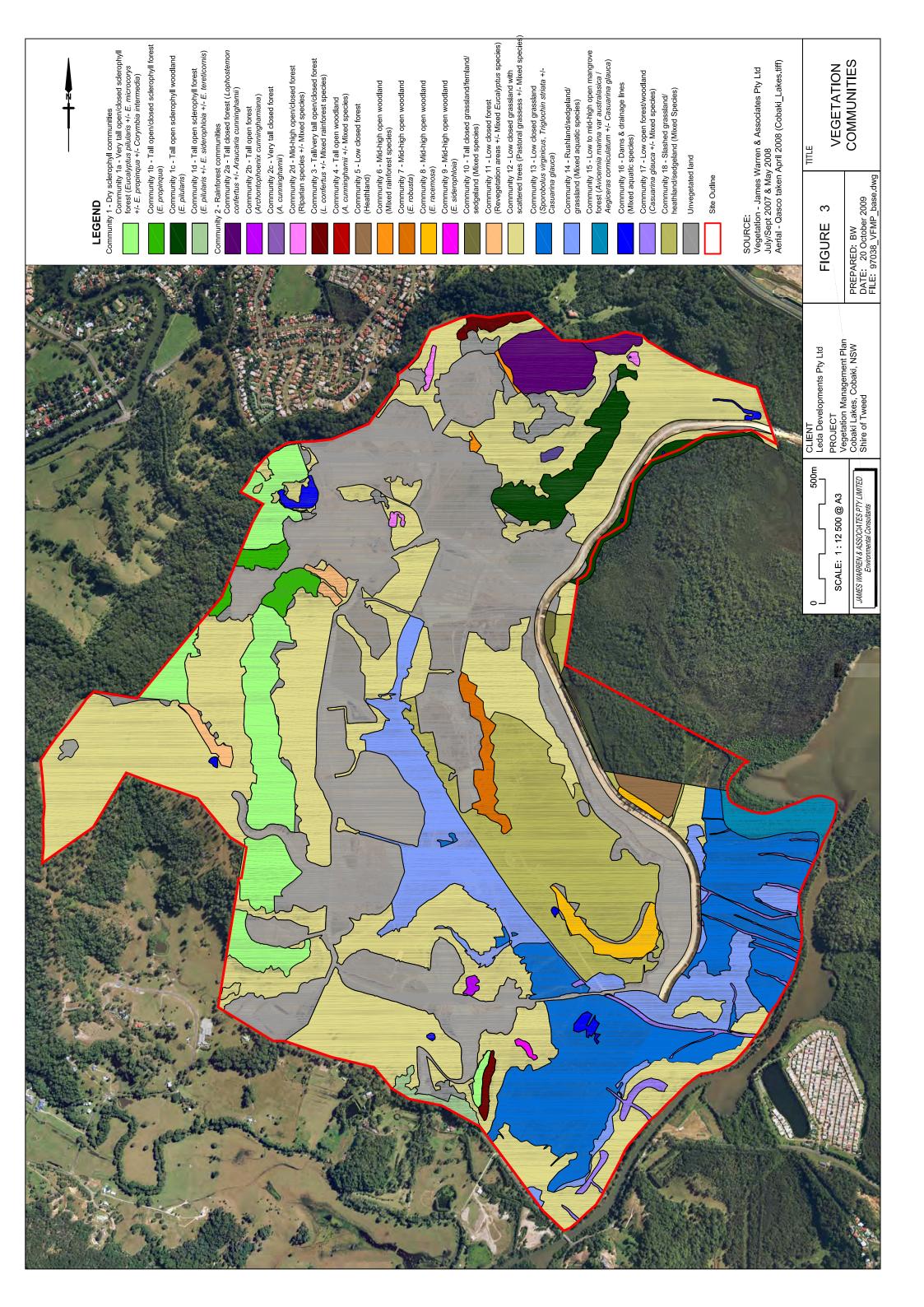
FIGURE 2 shows a recent aerial photograph of the site. It is worth noting that vegetation clearing and earthworks have occurred in various locations of the subject site (in accordance with relevant approvals) subsequent to this aerial photograph. However, the vegetation assessment has utilised a combination of aerial interpretation and on-site surveys and reflects the current distribution and extent of vegetation communities.

Currently three (3) broad vegetation associations comprising twenty-four (24) vegetation communities occur on the site. Vegetation mapping over the subject site is shown in **FIGURE 3**.

It is worth noting that vegetation to be removed from the subject site occurs within existing 2(c) zoned land (i.e. Urban Expansion), land proposed to be rezoned









as 2(c), or land that may otherwise be cleared in accordance with existing use rights. This VMP is intended to apply to these portions of the site only.

1.3 Management requirements

It is worth noting that the majority of the proposed development will occur within land previously cleared of vegetation (i.e. in accordance with relevant approvals and/or existing use rights). The concept plan has been prepared with respect to the location and extent of significant vegetation on the subject site. A number of plans have been prepared to direct the management of vegetation to be retained on the subject site, as follows:

- Saltmarsh Rehabilitation Plan (JWA 2009a);
- Scribbly gum Management Plan (JWA 2009b); and
- Site Regeneration and Revegetation Plan (JWA 2009c).

These management plans provide details for the protection and maintenance of native vegetation communities during the operational phase of the development.

1.4 Scope of this report

The aim of this VMP is to protect native vegetation communities to be retained on the subject site during the construction phase of the development. This VMP aims to ensure that:

- Retained vegetation within designated Conservation and Open Space areas are to be clearly marked and protected prior to commencement of operational works in each stage of the development; and
- Protection of the health and livelihood of Threatened flora species and Endangered Ecological Communities during clearing operations on the subject site.

This VMP has been prepared to direct the clearing of vegetation from within the development footprint.



2. SIGNIFICANT SPECIES REQUIRING PROTECTION

2.1 Threatened flora species

Eight (8) Threatened¹ flora species have been recorded in the most recent vegetation survey (JWA 2008). Threatened flora recorded includes the following species:

- White yiel (Grevillea hilliana) Endangered (TSC Act);
- Scented acronychia (A. littoralis) Endangered (TSC Act & EPBC Act);
- Fine-leaved tuckeroo (Lepiderema pulchella) Vulnerable (TSC Act);
- Spiny gardenia (Randia moorei) Endangered (TSC Act & EPBC Act);
- Marblewood (*Acacia bakeri*) Vulnerable (TSC Act);
- Brush cassia (Cassia brewsteri var. marksiana) Endangered (TSC Act);
- Coolamon (Syzygium moorei) Vulnerable (TSC Act & EPBC Act); and
- Green-leaved rose walnut (*Endiandra muelleri* subsp. *bracteata*) Endangered (TSC Act).

The locations of these Threatened flora species are shown in FIGURES 4, 4a & 4b.

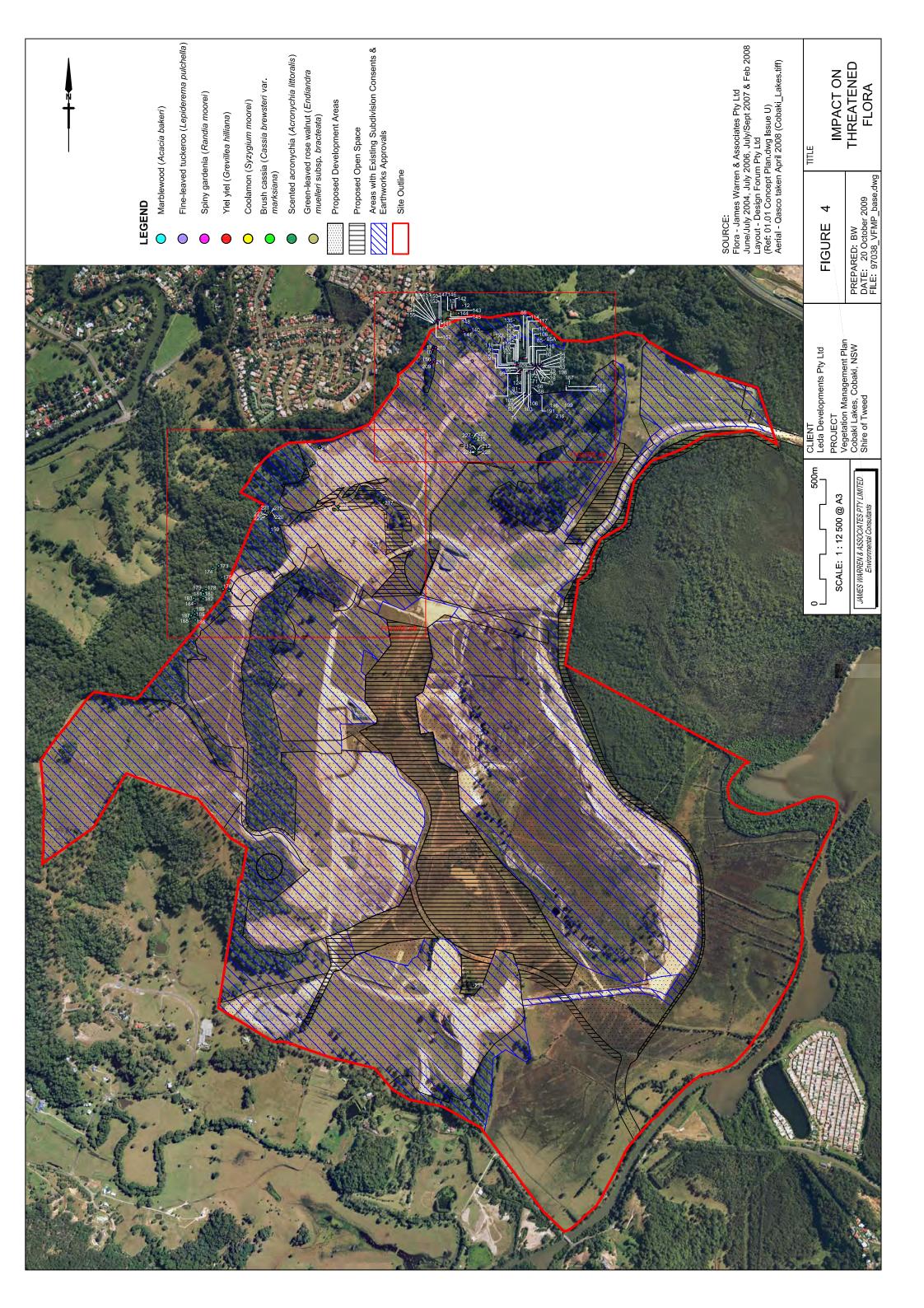
2.2 Endangered Ecological Communities

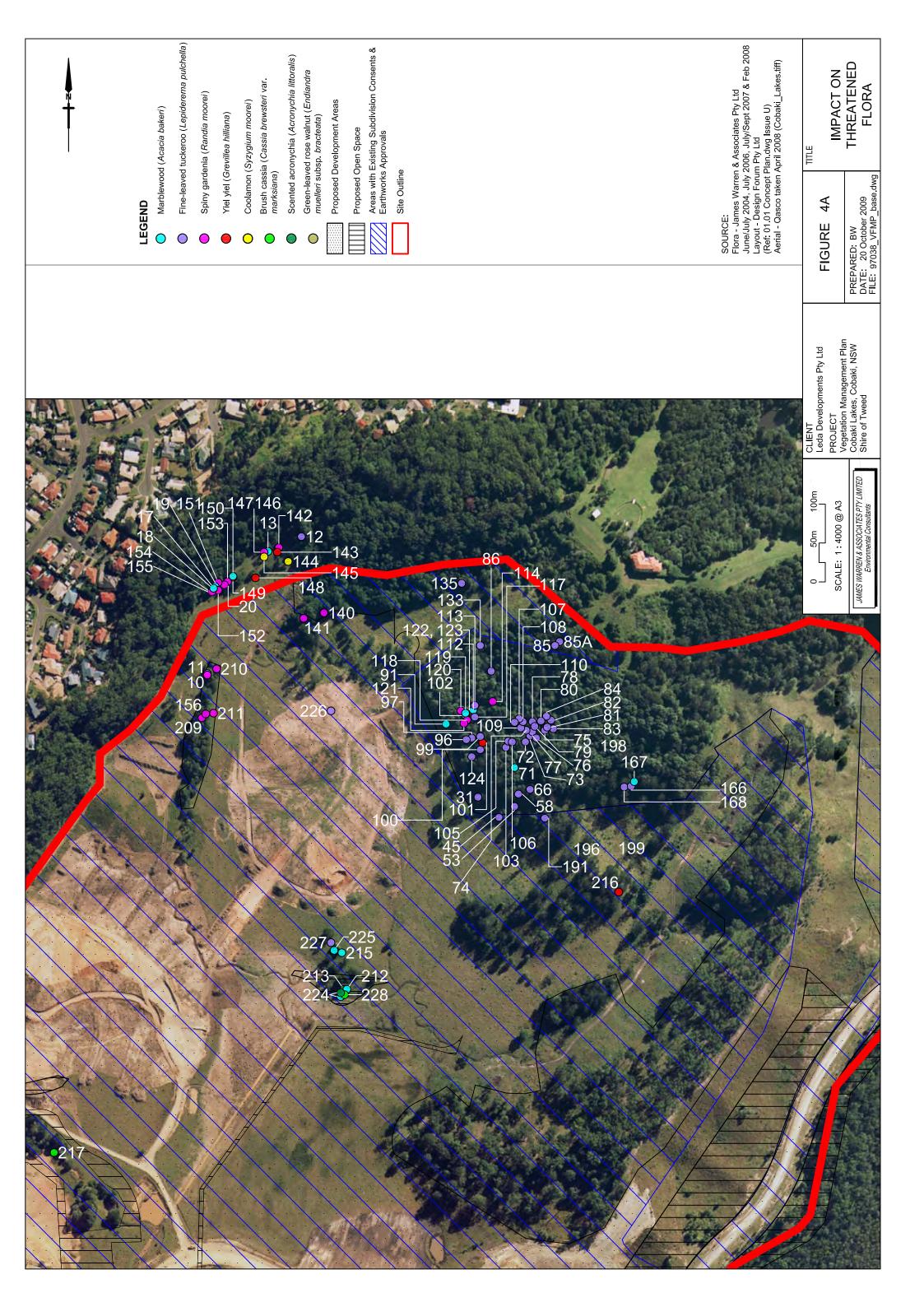
Six (6) Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs)² are considered to occur on the site (JWA 2008) (FIGURE 5). These are as follows:

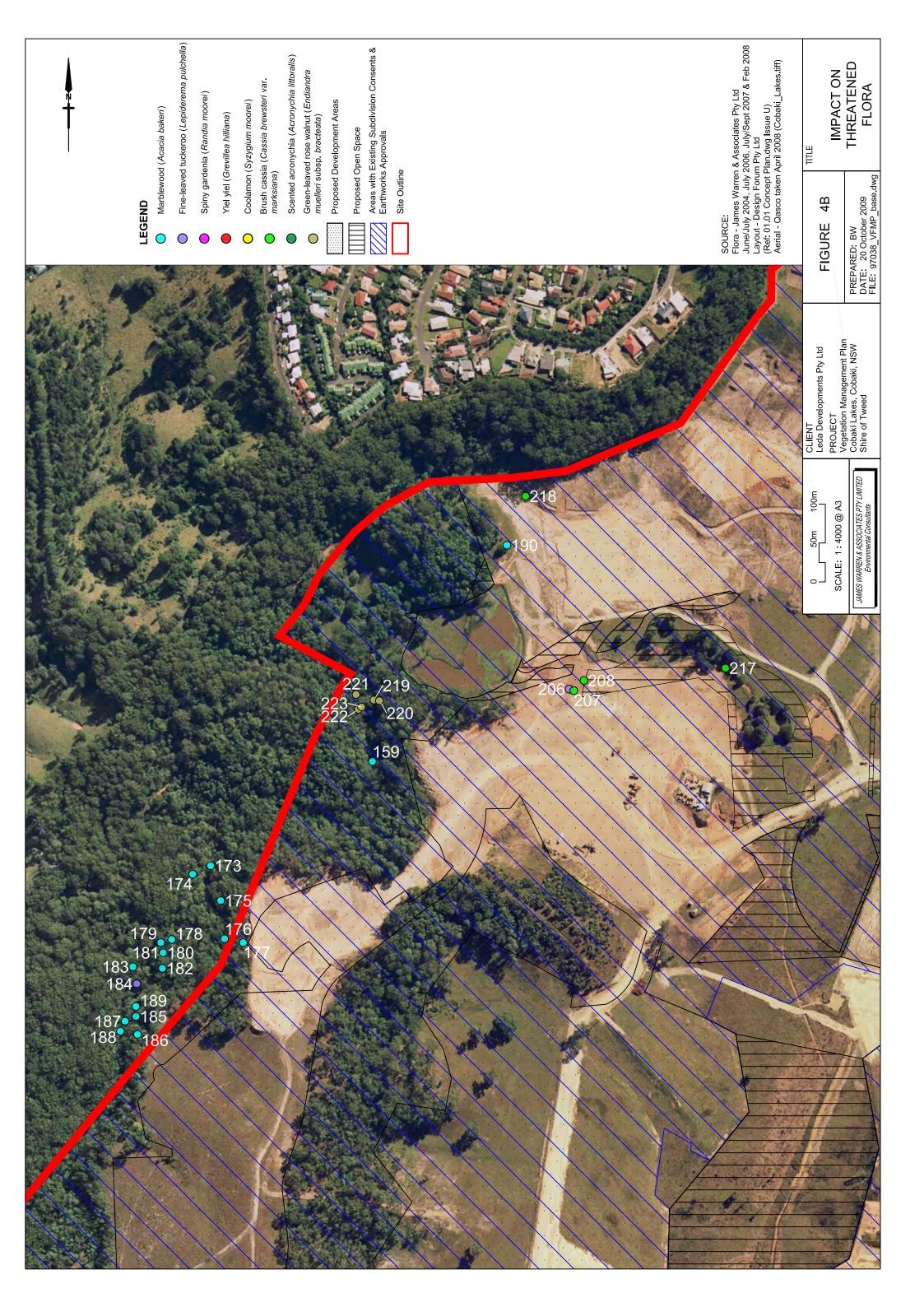
- Swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplain which occurs as an isolated clump of scattered Swamp mahogany in the central eastern of the Subject site:
- Lowland rainforest on floodplain occurring at various locations generally in association with drainage lines and depressions;
- Lowland rainforest occurring on Mt. Woodgee and on lower slopes in the northern portion of the subject site;
- Freshwater wetlands occurring in the central and eastern portions of the site:
- Swamp oak floodplain forest occurring in association with drainage lines in the south-east of the site; and
- Coastal saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast bioregion occurring in the southeast of the site.

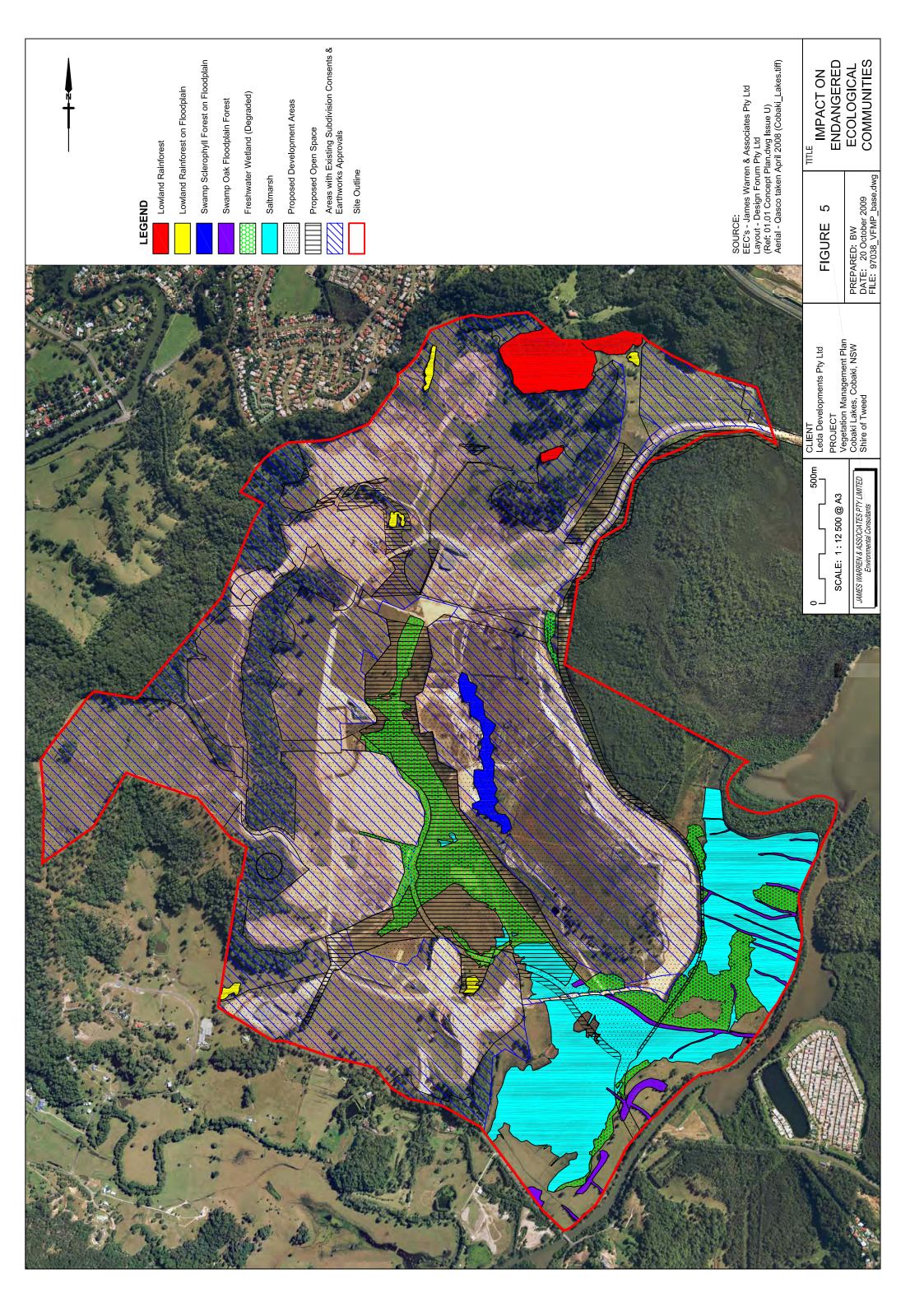
¹ As listed within schedules of the TSC Act (1995) and EPBC Act (1999).

² As listed within schedules of the TSC Act (1995).











3. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Tree clearing shall be carried out in accordance with a sequential selective clearing plan, other approved documents and Council conditions.
- 3.2 The works shall be staged in accordance with the staging plan for Cobaki Lakes. Changes to the sequence may vary in accordance with market forces.
- 3.3 Implementation of vegetation clearance, stockpiling, recycling or disposal practices that maximise the re-use of native vegetation and minimise the potential for spreading weed species shall be completed.
- 3.4 If individual trees or other specific vegetation that require protection are identified in land adjacent to a clearance zone, such protection shall be provided.
- 3.5 Prior to the mulching of cleared vegetation stockpiled on site, the stockpile shall be checked for weed species and, if practicable, the weed species shall be removed for disposal off site to minimise the risk of propagation.
- 3.6 Tree clearing operations shall be completed in a manner that provides maximum protection of the health and livelihood of native fauna (in accordance with the Fauna Management Plan JWA 2009d).
- 3.7 Monitoring programs shall be implemented so as to ensure the performance objectives have been met over time.
- 3.8 Disposal of cleared vegetation shall be managed in an environmentally responsible manner.



4. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- 4.1 The Works shall be conducted only between the hours of 7.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Saturday.
- 4.2 Prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearance, the Contractor shall identify all areas to be cleared on construction plans and in the field.
- 4.3 Prior to commencement of the Works, the applicant shall fence or clearly mark with tape, the limits of all protected vegetation. Within these zones the following activities shall not be permitted:
 - Storage and mixing of materials;
 - Vehicle parking;
 - Liquid disposal;
 - Machinery repairs and/or refuelling;
 - Construction site office or shed;
 - Combustion of any material;
 - Stockpiling of soil, rubble or debris;
 - Any filling or excavation including trench line, topsoil skimming and/or surface excavation, unless otherwise approved by the Project Manager; and
 - Unauthorized pesticide, herbicide or chemical applications.
- 4.4 Trees deemed by an Ecologist to be potentially impacted upon, shall be protected by the application of carpet underlay and/or corrugated iron or some other similar material to encase the trunk of the tree.
- 4.5 Prior to commencement of The Works, the applicant shall arrange a prestart meeting with Council Environmental Assessment Officers or other relevant Council Officer. The applicant shall tag all trees to be retained and shall install all approved protection measures.
- 4.6 No clearing shall occur outside nominated clearing zones.
- 4.7 Clearing shall occur in the sequence of cutting, shearing of felled vegetation and tub grinding.
- 4.8 Upon completion, grubbing operations shall ensure the site is left free draining with no ponding of stormwater.
- 4.9 Erosion and sediment control works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved Stormwater Management Plan.
- 4.10 The erosion and sediment control measures shall not be dismantled until the disturbed areas have been covered by mulch to a minimum depth of 100mm.
- 4.11 Each zone shall be mulched immediately upon completion of clearing and grubbing works.



5. Protection of Significant Vegetation

5.1 Threatened flora species

Several species of flora listed as threatened species under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (1995) occur on the Cobaki lakes site. Potential loss of Threatened flora species have been calculated within the Ecological Assessment (JWA 2008) as the possible maximum loss based on the concept plan. However, there may be opportunities to retain Threatened flora species within the proposed development footprint and this will be the subject of a detailed assessment at the Development Application stage. Seven (7) part tests will also be completed at the Development Application stage for all Threatened flora in accordance with the *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment Act 2002*.

The major amelioration strategy for Threatened flora species on the subject site is the retention and long-term protection of suitable habitat within Environmental Protection Areas. Furthermore, approximately 60.43 hectares of land will be rehabilitated in accordance with the Site Regeneration and Revegetation Plan (JWA 2009c) and will provide additional habitat for Threatened flora species occurring on and adjacent to the subject site.

It is also recommended that propagation of Threatened flora species be undertaken as part of the rehabilitation works on the subject site in an attempt to bolster local populations. The rationale and methodology of Threatened plant propagation will be detailed within individual regeneration and revegetation plans which are to be completed for each of the rehabilitation precincts (in accordance with the Site Regeneration and Revegetation Plan - JWA 2009c) at the Operational Works stage.

The following strategies are suggested to protect any retained Threatened flora species within the development footprint during clearing operations:

- 5.1.1 A 5m radius around all stems of Threatened flora (to be retained) shall be fenced off or clearly mark with tape. Within these zones the following activities shall not be permitted:
 - Storage and mixing of materials;
 - Vehicle parking;
 - Liquid disposal;
 - Machinery repairs and/or refuelling;
 - Construction site office or shed;
 - Combustion of any material;
 - Stockpiling of soil, rubble or debris;
 - Any filling or excavation including trench line, topsoil skimming and/or surface excavation, unless otherwise approved by the Project Manager; and
 - Unauthorized pesticide, herbicide or chemical applications.
- 5.1.2 All activities in an area adjacent to any Threatened plant/s shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimise any damage to the plant/s.



5.1.3 As soon as possible after the completion of adjacent clearing works, amelioration measures discussed within the Site Regeneration and Revegetation Plan (JWA 2009c) should be undertaken.

5.2 Endangered Ecological Communities

Five (5) Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) are considered to occur on the site, including:

- Swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplain which occurs as Swamp mahogany forest in the central eastern of the Subject site;
- Lowland rainforest on floodplain occurring at various locations generally in association with drainage lines and depressions;
- Lowland rainforest occurring on Mt. Woodgee and on lower slopes in the northern portion of the subject site;
- Freshwater wetlands considered to occur in the central and south-eastern portions of the site;
- Coastal saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast bioregion occurring in the southeast of the site.

Potential loss of EEC's has been calculated within the Ecological Assessment (JWA 2008) as the possible maximum loss based on the concept plan. However, there may be opportunities to retain EEC's within the proposed development footprint and this will be the subject of a detailed assessment at the Development Application stage. Seven (7) part tests have been completed for all EEC's in accordance with the *Threatened Species Conservation Amendment Act 2002* (JWA 2009e). No significant impacts have been identified.

Amelioration measures to reduce potential impacts on EECs are also discussed in the Ecological Assessment (JWA 2008) and the Assessment of Significance (JWA 2009e).

The following strategies are suggested to protect any retained EEC's within the development footprint during clearing operations:

- 5.2.1 Prior to commencement of the Works, the applicant shall fence or clearly mark with tape, the limits of all EEC's to be retained within the development footprint. Within these zones the following activities shall not be permitted:
 - Storage and mixing of materials;
 - Vehicle parking;
 - Liquid disposal;
 - Machinery repairs and/or refuelling;
 - Construction site office or shed;
 - Combustion of any material;
 - Stockpiling of soil, rubble or debris;



Vegetation Management Plan - Cobaki Lakes PPR

- Any filling or excavation including trench line, topsoil skimming and/or surface excavation, unless otherwise approved by the Project Manager; and
- Unauthorized pesticide, herbicide or chemical applications.
- 5.2.2 All activities in an area adjacent to any EEC (to be retained) shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimise any damage to the EEC.



6. DISPOSAL OF DEBRIS

- 6.1 Clearing and disposal of vegetation shall be in accordance with Council's policy.
- 6.2 Hollow logs shall not be mulched until inspected by a qualified Ecologist. As many hollow logs as possible shall be relocated to areas within the approved Conservation and Open Space Area(s) (within other Areas of the Estate) as habitat features.



7. WEED CONTROL, PEST SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPING ISSUES

- 7.1 All mulch produced on site (by mulching cleared vegetation and trees) shall specifically exclude weed material and be kept outside of covenant areas.
- 7.2 Soil disturbance nearby to protected vegetation shall be kept to a minimum to avoid weed proliferation.
- 7.3 Management of all weeds³ will occur utilising suitable control measures outlined in **ANNEXURE 1** (i.e. chemical and/or physical control). LEDA Manorstead Pty Ltd shall control all weeds when on-maintenance.
- 1.4 Landscaping of areas shall be completed in accordance with an approved landscape plan for the area. Plant densities, species, schedules and timing will be specified on approved landscape plans. Details on fertilizer and chemical usage will be detailed on specifications attached to the approved landscaping plan.

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³ defined as a translocated or alien plant species occurring at a place outside its historically known natural range because of intentional or accidental spread by human activities which poses a threat by invasion or competition to exclude indigenous species



8. Controls / Corrective Actions

- 8.1 All contractors shall be supervised by an on-site representative of the Applicant.
- 8.2 In Park and Open Space Areas, trees with dangerous limbs shall be inspected by an independent arborist. Subject to Council approval, the applicant/contractor will comply with the recommendations from the arborist.
- 8.3 The Contractor shall provide fences and/or trunk girdles to prevent unintended physical damage to the root system, trunk or canopy of native vegetation identified for retention within park areas.
- 8.4 The boundaries of all conservation areas shall be clearly defined either by fencing or taping or a combination of both.
- 8.5 Contractors shall not enter these conservation areas. Any damage to vegetation in conservation areas will be subject to a contractual penalty per tree damaged.
- 8.6 A copy of the approved Tree Clearing Plan, approved documents and Council's conditions shall be retained on site at all times.
- 8.7 Contractors undertaking The Works shall be instructed directly of all Council's conditions prior to works commencing.
- 8.8 Trees to be retained shall not have their crown removed. Spur climbing of any tree to be pruned shall also be avoided.
- 8.9 Pruning of trees shall be completed in accordance with Australian Standard 4373 1996 (Pruning of Amenity Trees).
- 8.10 Relevant provisions of Local, State and Federal Government Legislation/Policies shall be adhered to by the Contractor.



9. MONITORING / REPORTING

- 9.1 The Applicant shall appoint suitable Contractor(s) to undertake the selective clearing operations and, upon request by Council, the Applicant shall submit the appointed Contractor(s) previous work history for perusal if requested.
- 9.2 The Contractor shall monitor vegetation clearance and earthwork components of the Works on a continual basis to confirm that specific controls have been implemented and appropriate work practices are being adopted to achieve the specified objectives.
- 9.3 The Contractor shall formally report to the Applicant on a monthly basis. The report will discuss the following:
 - 1) Works undertaken;
 - 2) Progress against stated objectives;
 - 3) Compliance with Performance Objectives;
 - 4) Significant problems encountered;
 - 5) Success or failures of measures implemented to rectify previously identified problems; and
 - 6) Measures to be taken to rectify new problems.
- 9.4 During clearing operations the Applicant shall report to Council in accordance with their requirements.



References

JWA (2008). Response to the Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirements COBAKI LAKES VOLUME 1 - Ecological Assessment. A Report to Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd

JWA (2009a). Saltmarsh Rehabilitation Plan. Cobaki Lakes - Preferred Project Report. A Report to Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd

JWA (2009b). Scribbly Gum Management Plan. Cobaki Lakes - Preferred Project Report. A Report to Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd

JWA (2009c). Site Regeneration & Revegetation Plan. Cobaki Lakes - Preferred Project Report. A Report to Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd

JWA (2009d). Fauna Management Plan. Cobaki Lakes - Preferred Project Report. A Report to Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd

JWA (2009e). Assessment of Significance (7-part Test Equivalence). Cobaki Lakes - Preferred Project Report. A Report to Leda Manorstead Pty Ltd



ANNEXURE 1: WEED CONTROL METHODOLOGY

Weed Species	Control Method	Chemical if required
Abelia x grandiflora	CS	GLY
Ageratum houstonianum	SS HP	GLY
Alternanthera ficoidea	CH HP SS	GLY
Amaranthus retroflexus	SS HP	GLY
Andropogon virginicus	CH HP SS	GLY
Avena sp.	SS HP	GLY
Axonopus fissifolius	SS	GLY
Baccharis halimifolia	SSJ A CSA SIA CHJ	GLY
Bidens pilosa	SS	MCPA
Celtis sinensis	HPJ CHJ CSA SSA	GLY
Centella asiatica	SS	MCPA
Chloris gayana	SS	GLY
Cinnamomum camphora	HPJ CHJ BBA CSA	TRI
Conzya bonariensis	SS	GLY
Crassocephalum	HP SS	MCPA
crepidioides		
Crotalaria lanceolata	SSJ HPA CHA	MCPA
Crotalaria pallida	SSJ HPA CHA	MCPA
Desmodium uncinatum	HP CS	GLY
Emilia sonchifolia	HP CH SS	GLY
Erechtites valerianifolia	HP	
Eriobotrya japonica	HPJ SSJ CSA SIA	GLY
Euphorbia drummondii	SS	GLY
Gomphocarpus	HP SSJ	AMINE
physocarpus		
Harrisia martinii	CH SS	TRI
Jacaranda mimosifolia	HPJ SSJ CSA SIA	GLY
Lantana camara	CSA BBA SSJ HPJ	TRI
Macrotyloma axillare	HP	
Mangifera indica	HPJ SSJ CSA SIA	GLY
Melinis minutiflora	SS	GLY
Melinis repens	SS	GLY
Oxalis corniculata	HP SS	GLY
Panicum maximum	SS CH	GLY
Paspalum dilatatum	HP CH SS	GLY
Passiflora foetida	SS HP	GLY
Passiflora suberosa	SS HP	GLY
Phytolacca octandra	CH HP SS	GLY
Pinus elliottii	CSA RBA SIA HPJ	GLY
Schefflera actinophylla	HPJ SSJ CSA SIA	GLY
Senna floribunda	HPJ SSJ CSA SIA	GLY

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Senna pendula var.	CHJ HPJ SSJ CSA SIA BBA	TRIA GLYJ
glabrata		
Setaria pumila	HP SS	GLY
Sida cordifolia	SSJ CHA HPA	FLU
Sida rhombifolia	SSJ CHA HPA	FLU
Solanum mauritianum	HPJ SSJ CSA SIA	GLY
Solanum nigrum	HP SS	GLY
Solanum seaforthianum	HPJ CSA SSA	GLY
Solanum torvum	BBA CSA SSJ	TRIA GLYJ
Sporobolus pyramidalis	SS HP CH	GLY
Stellaria media	HP SS	MCPA
Thunbergia alata	CS SS	GLY
Urena lobata	HP CS SSJ	GLY

SYMBOL	CONTROL METHOD
BB	Basal Bark
CH	Chipping
CS	Cut Stump
HP	Hand Pull
RB	Ring Bark
SI	Stem Injection
SS	Spot Spray

SYMBOL	CHEM
Amine	2,4D-Amine
Flu	Fluroxypyr
Gly	Glyphosate
MCPA	MCPA + dicamba
Tri	Triclopyr
J	Juvenile plants
Α	Adult plants