

3.0 THREAT/IMPACT MITIGATION MEASURES

3.1 LITTORAL RAINFOREST VEGETATIVE SCREEN

3.1.1 General Characteristics

As noted in section 1, the location and extent of the potential development envelope east of Duchess Gully is limited by the required setbacks to vegetation in the west along Duchess Gully; vegetation and the Bonny Hills sewage treatment plant (STP) to the south; and the vegetated Crown land to the east. Compared to traditional residential development, tourism style development fronting the dunal vegetation will limit threats such as green waste dumping, predation by domestic pets, invasion by exotic fauna, ornamental escapees, erosion and sedimentation, extension of private back yards into native vegetation, etc.

To protect the rainforest core of SEPP 26 #116 from the main environmental threats ie exposure to westerly winds, prolonged exposure to the setting sun, and excess salt deposition on the western fringe via turbulence, the proponent intends to establish a varying width vegetated screen adjacent to the core rainforest area adjacent to the northeast as shown in figure 3. This vegetated screen will predominantly consist of rainforest species in a fully structured community interconnecting with similar works proposed to the north (King and Campbell 2007). A gradation from east to west will occur in structure and floristics, with protective species such as Banksias, wattles and Spiney-Headed Matrush occupying the western edge (as per photo 10), and rainforest species dominating the inner zone.

Photo 1: Area to be revegetated with rainforest and edge species

Some of the pasture in the foreground falls into the proposed vegetative screen, with the green arrow showing the width, northwest to southeast of the screen.

