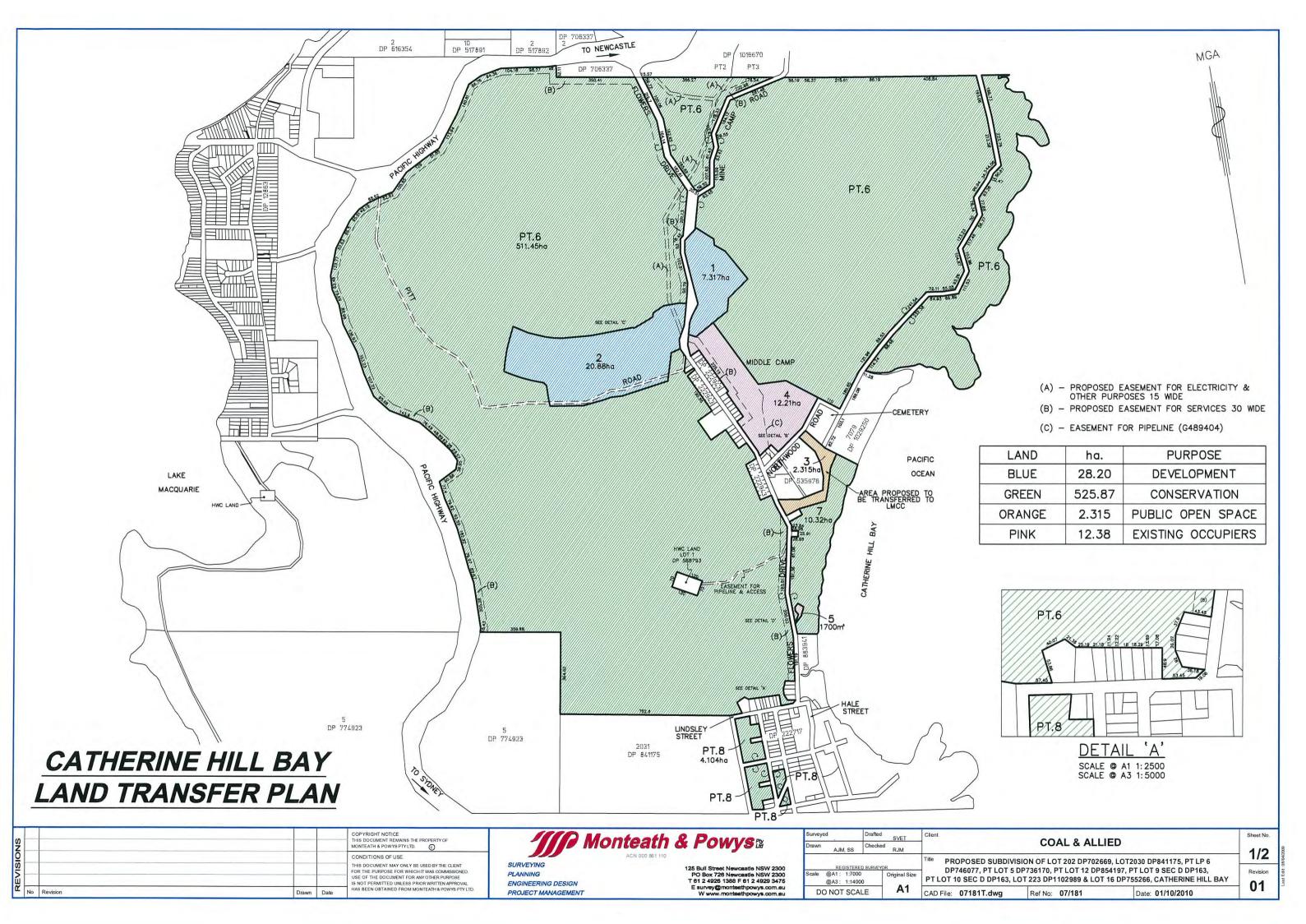


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1.2 Scope and Purpose

The scope and purpose of this BTA is to review the overall bushfire threat to the site and to review the capability of the site to provide a safe outcome on the development estates. This assessment will include information on ability of the site to comply with the recommendations of PBP (RFS, 2006). This will be achieved by providing/undertaking:

- An assessment of all vegetation on and adjacent to the subject property within 140 metres from all elevations from the site boundary;
- An assessment of topography (slope) on and adjacent to the subject property to a distance of 140 metres from the site boundary;
- Adequacy of public roads in the vicinity to handle increased traffic in a bushfire emergency;
- Recommendations for appropriate setback (APZ) distances from the identified bushfire hazards:
- Information on water supply for fire fighting purposes;
- Review of the Concept Plan for the site; and
- Access Ingress and Egress.

At the state level, the proposal is to be assessed pursuant to Part 3A of the EPA Act. To this end, on August 2010, the DGEAR's were issued for the site (Appendix A).

The 'Key' Assessment requirements for investigations required under the DGEAR's are:

- Identify how the proposed concept plan addresses the requirements of Planning for Bush Fire Protection and Australian Standard 3959 (Building in Bush Fire Prone Areas).
- Outline ongoing management arrangements of any proposed APZs, including through negotiation with relevant agencies where APZs are proposed to be located on land to be dedicated for a public purpose.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with clause 46 of the RF Regulation 2007. This BTA also addresses the six key Bush Fire Protection Measures (BFPM's) in a development assessment context being:

- The provision of clear separation of buildings and bush fire hazards, in the from of fuel-reduced APZ (and their components being Inner Protection Areas (IPA's) and Outer Protection Areas (OPA's);
- Construction standards and design;
- Appropriate access standards for residents, fire-fighters, emergency workers and those involved in evacuation:
- Adequate water supply and pressure;

- Emergency management arrangements for fire protection and / or evacuation; and
- Suitable landscaping, to limit fire spreading to a building.

This assessment adheres to Chapter 4.1.3 of PBP (RFS, 2006) 'Standards for Bush Fire Protection Measures for Residential and Rural Residential Subdivision' and Australian Standard 3959 – Construction of Buildings in Bush Fire Prone Areas (now referred to as AS3959- 2009).

1.4 Development Estate Particulars

Locality – The development estates occurs on the Wallarah Peninsula on the southeastern side of Lake Macquarie. The site encompasses land owned by Coal & Allied, which surrounds the village of Middle Camp and occur largely north of the CHB village.

LGA - Lake Macquarie City Council.

Title(s) for Entire Land Holdings – LOT 202 DP 702669, LOT 2030 DP 841175, Part LOT 6 DP 746077, Part LOT 5 DP 736170, Part LOT 12 DP 854197, LOT 16 DP 755266, LOT 223 DP 1102989 and LOTS 9 & 10 Section D DP 163.

Area – The site is approximately 569ha of which 28ha is proposed for development, land dedication of 1.6ha to Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC), 12.5ha to be retained by C&A relating to existing occupancies and the remainder (527ha) will be dedicated as conservation lands to the NSW Government.

Zoning – Zone 7 (1) Conservation (Primary).

Bushfire Prone Land Zoning - The Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) Bush Fire Prone Land Map (BFPLM) maps the site as containing Bushfire Vegetation Category 1 (Figure 1-5). Therefore, the proposed development needs to consider 'Planning for Bushfire Protection' (RFS, 2006) (hereafter referred to as 'PBP').

Boundaries – The site is bounded to the northwest and west by the Pacific Highway and to the east by the Tasman Sea. In the northeast the land is bounded by a combination of conservation and development zoned lands and in the south by conservation lands.

Current Land Use – Development estate lands are currently used for residential or livestock agistment purposes. Outside of the development estate lands the site is largely represented by natural bushland communities with some areas, around the villages of Middle Camp and Catherine Hill Bay, exhibiting weed infestations.

Topography – The site is surrounded by low coastal hills, draining to the east through Middle Camp Gully and a smaller watershed to the west and north of the village of Catherine Hill Bay. In the northeast the coastal hills fall relatively steeply to cliffs and rockshelf shorelines and the central and south-eastern edges of the site are characterised by sandy beaches.