

# PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

## Mount Glen Rock Mountain Bike Trails Project

OTIUM PLANNING GROUP

September 2021



Hi Verda,

We have undertaken a quick desktop assessment of the ecological values present in the Mount Glen Rock area, and at this preliminary stage, we can give the following advice as to areas to avoid (if possible):

- **Regulated Vegetation – Please refer to Map 1 in the Appendix of this letter. Trails will need to be located within either Category X (white areas on the map) or Category B (dark blue areas on the map). All areas of Category C (light blue areas on the map) will need to be avoided entirely.**

Placing trails within Category C areas needs to be avoided entirely as clearing of Category C vegetation cannot be approved through a development application due to it not being considered clearing for a 'relevant purpose' under section 22a of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Qld, reference section 22a: 2B).

Category C areas can only be cleared under an Accepted Development Clearing Code. An Accepted Development Clearing Code does exist for infrastructure, however due to the project requiring a Material Change of Use application under the *Planning Act 1992* (Qld) the project is considered 'prohibited development' and cannot use the Accepted Development Clearing Code for this type of clearing. Therefore, these light blue Category C areas need to be avoided as approval will not be given to construct the trails within these areas.

*Please note that trails located in Category X areas will not trigger a referral to the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) for clearing of native vegetation, and will also not trigger the Biodiversity Overlay under the Somerset Region Planning Scheme. While trails located within Category B areas will trigger these Environmental Approvals.*

- **Wetlands – Please refer to Map 2 in the Appendix. To gain approval through SARA for trails that are in the vicinity of a mapped wetland, the trails will either need to:**
  1. **Not occur within 100metres of the defining bank of the wetland; OR**
  2. **If a trail is proposed to occur within 100metres, then it must, both not occur within 10metres of the defining bank and not exceed a width of 10metres; OR**
  3. **An offset will be required.**

The best approach would be to place trails at least 100metres from the mapped wetlands, though if this cannot be done place them at least 10metres away (as trails will be less than 10metres wide anyway). This means that trails cannot cross

the mapped wetlands, rather only track alongside them otherwise an offset will be required for any clearing that does not meet the above conditions.

- **Watercourses protected under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Qld) – Please refer to Map 3 in the Appendix. To gain approval through SARA for trails that are in the vicinity of a mapped watercourse, the trails will either need to:**
  1. **Not occur within 10 metres of the defining bank of the watercourse; OR**
  2. **Can cross the watercourse but must not exceed a width of 10metres; OR**
  3. **An offset will be required.**

The best approach would be to place trails at least 10metres from the mapped watercourses shown in Map 3 (Appendix) or directly cross these watercourses. Trails cannot track alongside these watercourses (within 10metres of the defining bank) otherwise an offset will be required for any clearing that does occur within this distance.

- **Watercourses protected under the *Water Act 2000* (Qld) – Please refer to Map 4 in the Appendix. Any activities that occur within these mapped watercourses (on the Watercourse Identification Map) such as destroying vegetation, excavating or placing fill require a Riverine Protection Permit, and will require an assessment against State Code 10: Taking and Interfering with Water to be referred to SARA.**

This should not be an issue in terms of getting the project approved, it just means that if these mapped watercourses are crossed, it adds two extra approvals to the project (adding time and costs)– the Riverine Protection Permit and assessment against State Code 10 to be referred to SARA.

- **Native Vegetation – Please refer to Map 5 in the Appendix. Try to avoid areas of vegetation that are less than 100metres wide. The map shows such areas in yellow.**

If these areas cannot be avoided, it would mean a more detailed response to performance outcome PO16 in State Code 16: Native Vegetation Clearing for SARA to approve trails in these areas. It is assumed that SARA would still approve trails in these areas as their impact on connectivity of vegetation would be considered low but if these areas can be avoided that would be the best approach in terms of reducing impacts and simplifying Environmental Approvals.

- **Threatened Flora Species recorded – Please refer to Map 6 and Map 7 in the Appendix. A threatened flora species (Lloyd's Native Olive, *Notelaea lloydii*) listed as vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) has been recorded within the Mount Glen Rock Survey area. The area designated in yellow on Map 5 is the location of the mapped essential habitat for this species, and the two blue dots within this yellow area are the previous record locations for this species. Map 6 shows the 'high risk' area on the Flora Survey Trigger Map that also relates to the essential habitat area for this threatened flora species.**

It would not be particularly useful to avoid these areas as it is likely that habitat for this species exists over most of the Mount Glen Rock area, and there are also other threatened flora species that may occur throughout the survey area. So, avoiding these areas from a desktop point of view doesn't mean threatened flora species will definitely be avoided on the ground.

The best approach would be to just design the trails and the field surveys will need to inform realignments if this species or other threatened flora species are observed on the ground during later stages of the project.

- **Koala Habitat mapped throughout most of the survey area – Please refer to Map 8 and 9 in the Appendix. Most of the Mount Glen Rock Area is either considered to be Koala District A, Core Koala Habitat, Locally Refined Koala Habitat (Map 8 – State Government Legislation) or Bushland Koala Habitat – Primary and Secondary Habitat (Map 9 - Koala**

**Conservation Overlay under the *Somerset Region Planning Scheme*). Koala records also exist within the Mount Glen Rock area (other blue dots shown on Map 6 in the Appendix).**

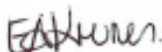
This should not be an issue in terms of getting the project approved due to the low impact nature of bike trails and the limited need to clear larger habitat trees. It would also not be possible to avoid all koala habitat areas anyway. It just means that assessment against State Code 25: Development in South East Queensland Koala Habitat Areas will be required to be referred to SARA as part of the approval process. While this is the case, it is assumed there wouldn't be any issues with getting this referral approved due to the low impact nature of the bike trails.

In the addition to the above approvals, it is likely that if the trails impact on Koala habitat, there will be conditions put on construction crews, such as undertaking sequential clearing to avoid direct impacts to Koalas that are present, but this is usually done by bike trail construction crews anyway.

All other ecological values in which database searches were undertaken were either not mapped in the survey area or were not considered a concern in terms of causing constraints to Environmental Approvals for the project.

We hope this provides sufficient information to be useful during the site visit and for the purpose of designing the trails. Please get in touch if you would like clarification on any of the above.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Krunes

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# APPENDIX

Map 1: Regulated Vegetation Management Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area

Map 2: Queensland Wetland Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area

Map 3: Vegetation Management Supporting Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area. This map shows mapped watercourses protected under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Qld)

Map 4: Watercourse Identification Map – Watercourses protected under the *Water Act 2000* (Qld)

Map 5: Screenshot of the Vegetation Management Supporting Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area showing areas to avoid in yellow as these areas are likely to be less than 100metres wide.

Map 6: Screenshot of the Vegetation Management Supporting Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area. Area designated in yellow is essential habitat for the Lloyd's Native Olive, *Notelaea lloydii*, with two records of this species designated by the blue dots within the yellow mapped area.

Map 7: Flora Survey Trigger Map for Protected Plants protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld)

Map 8: Koala Habitat Map (Queensland Government mapping)

Map 9: Koala Conservation Overlay Map (OM-003) in the *Somerset Region Planning Scheme 2016*

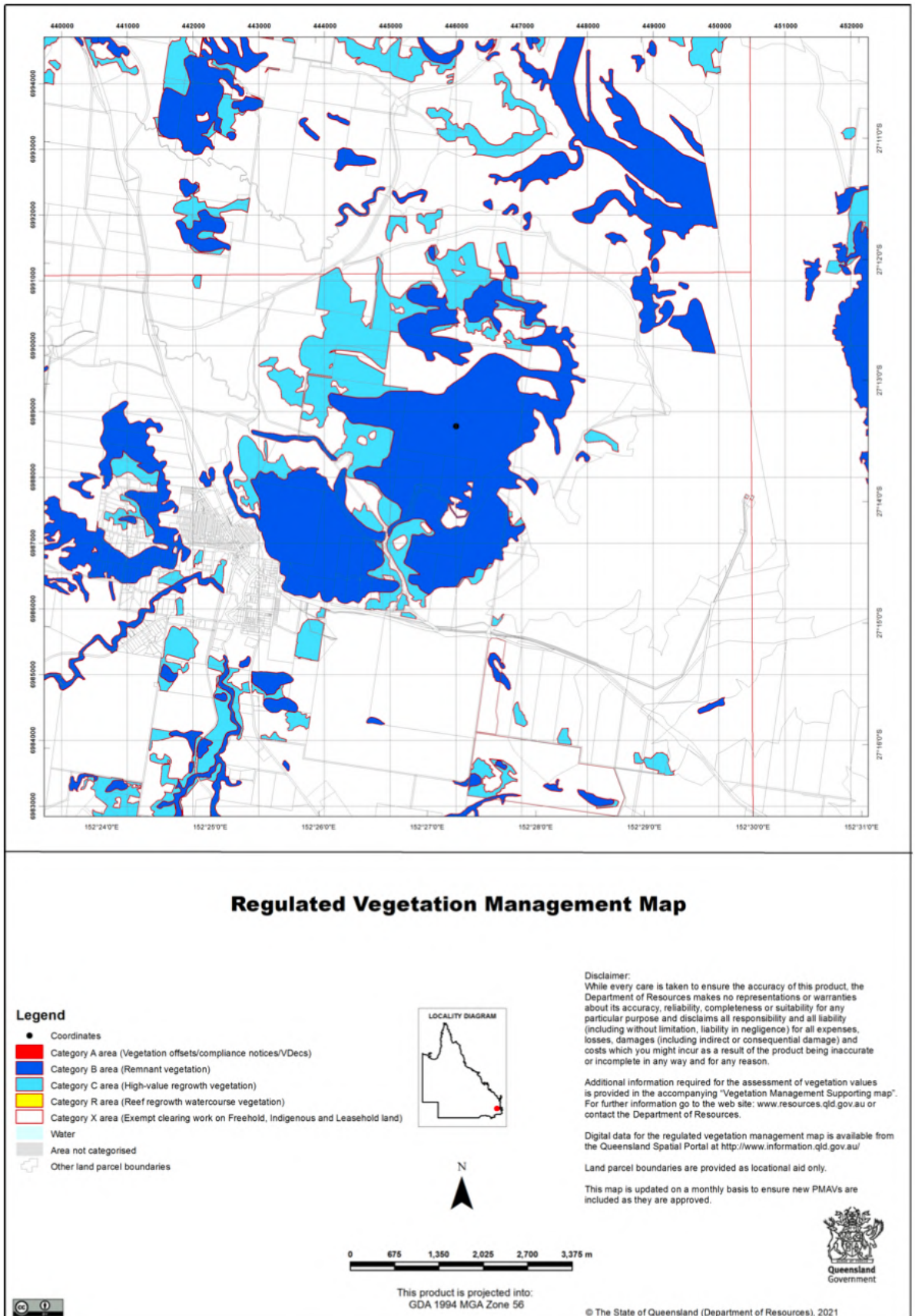


Figure 1 Regulated Vegetation Management Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area

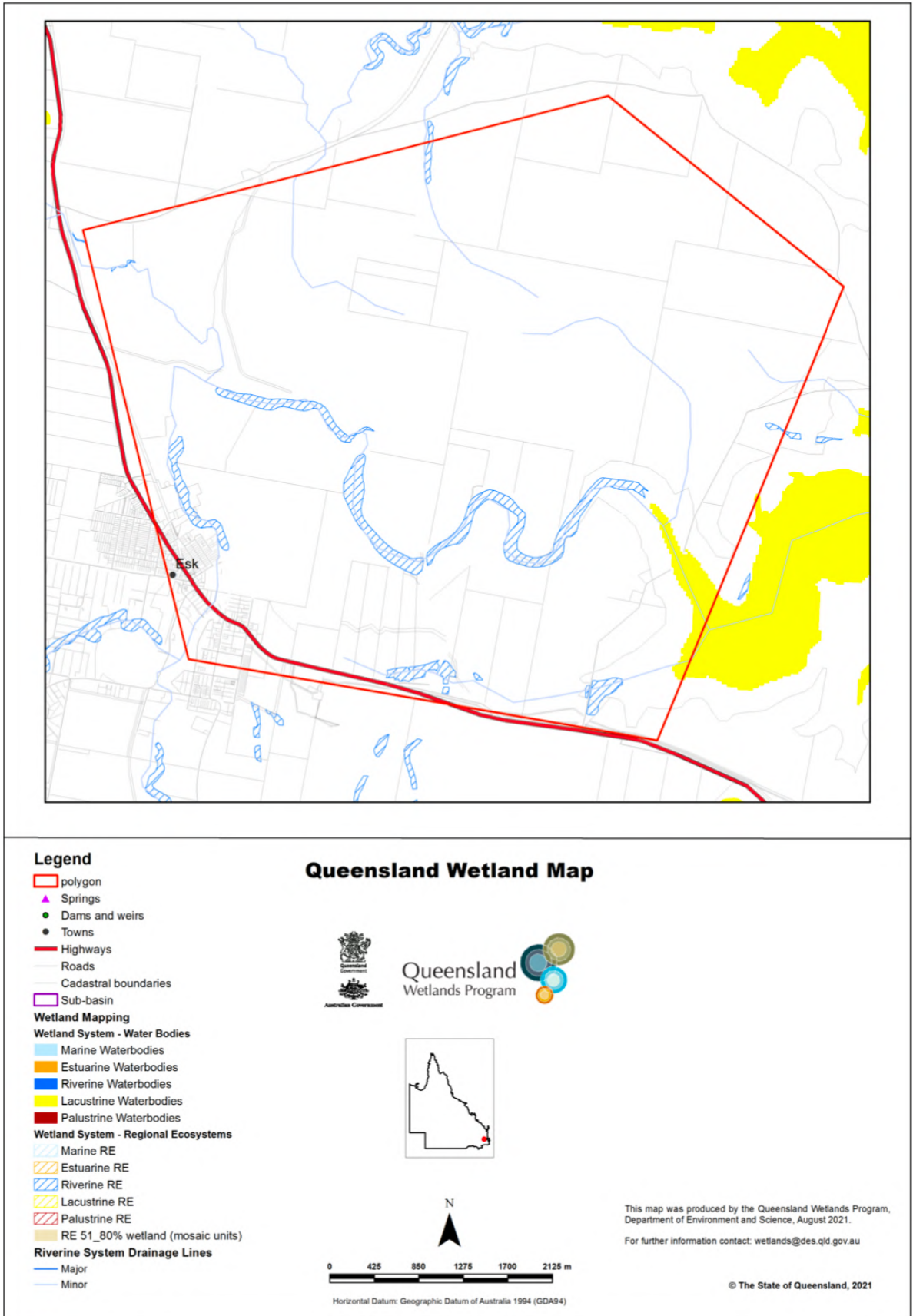
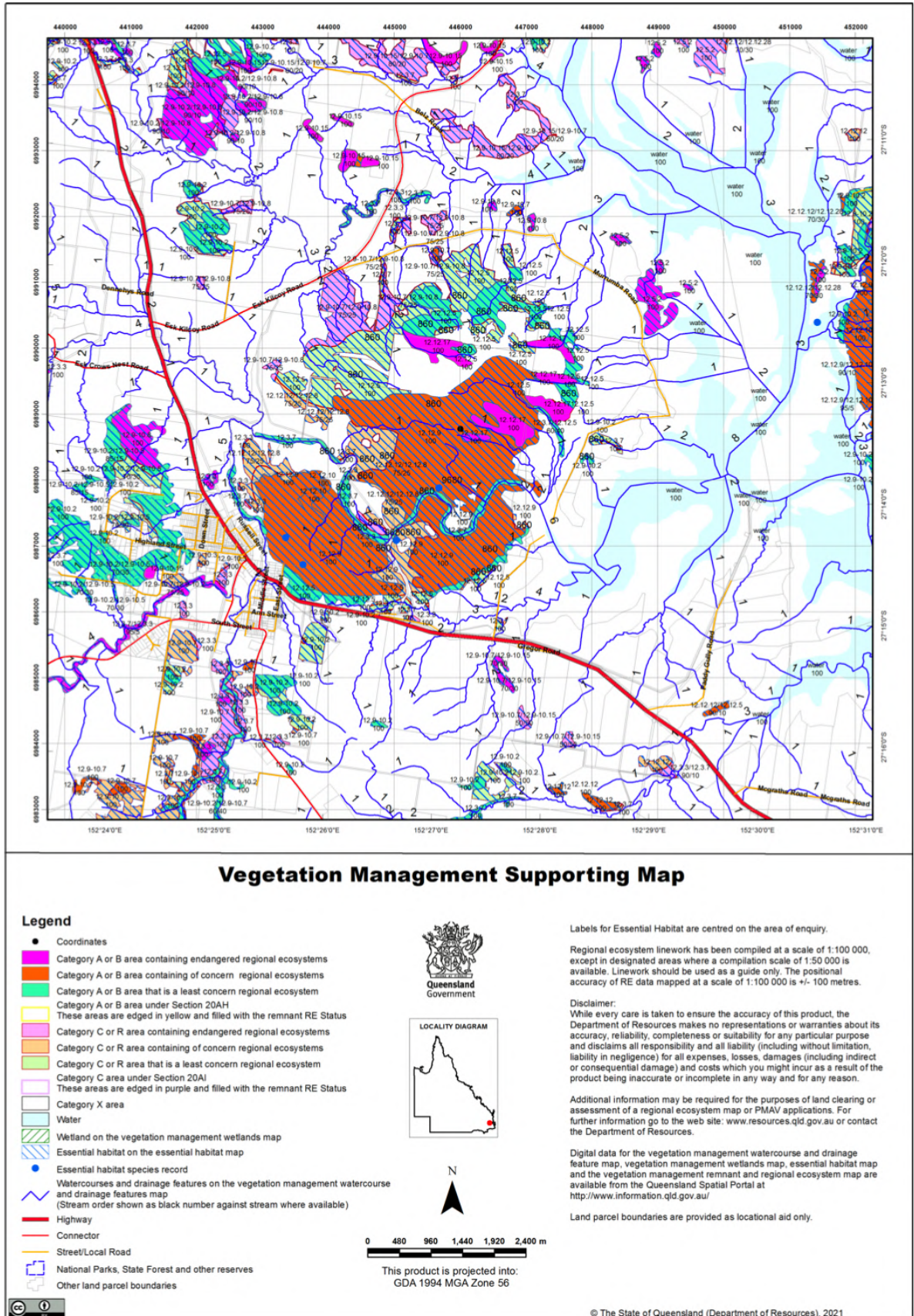


Figure 2 Queensland Wetland Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area



**Figure 3** Vegetation Management Supporting Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area. This map shows mapped watercourses protected under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*(Qld)

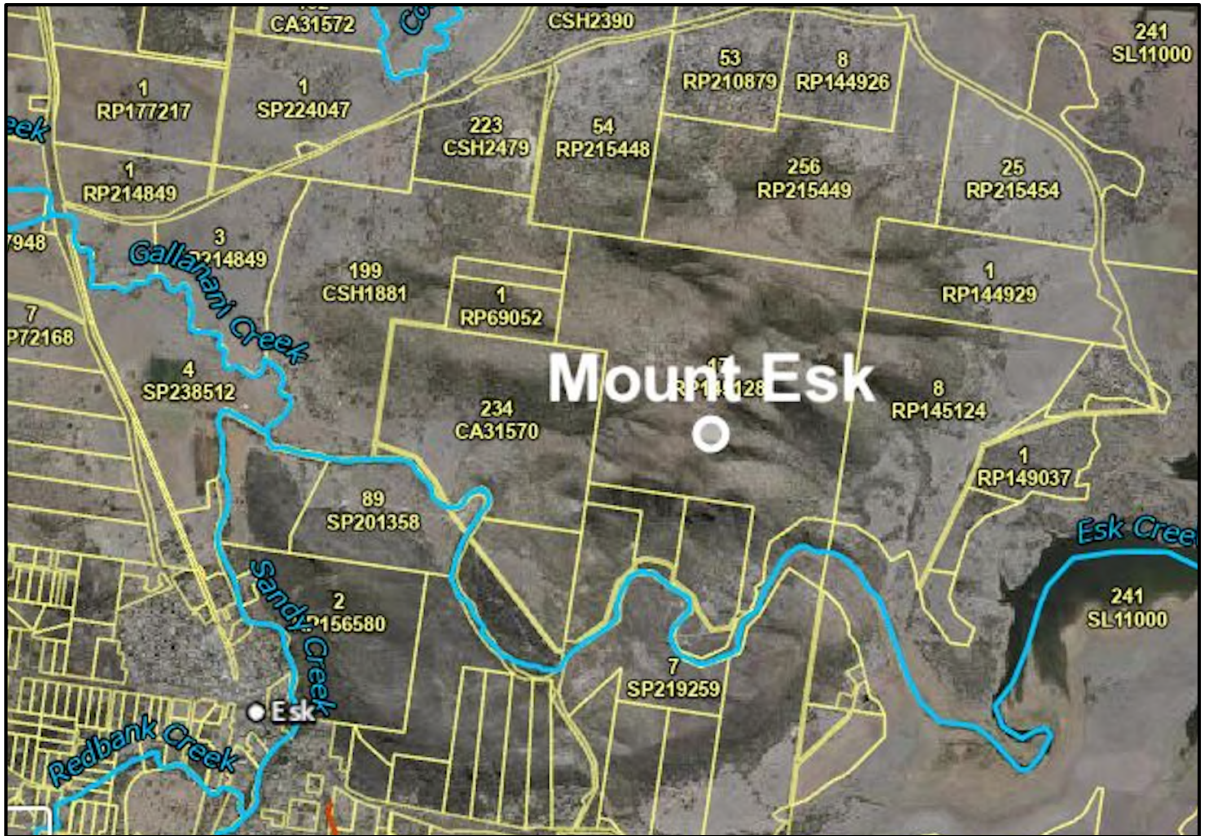
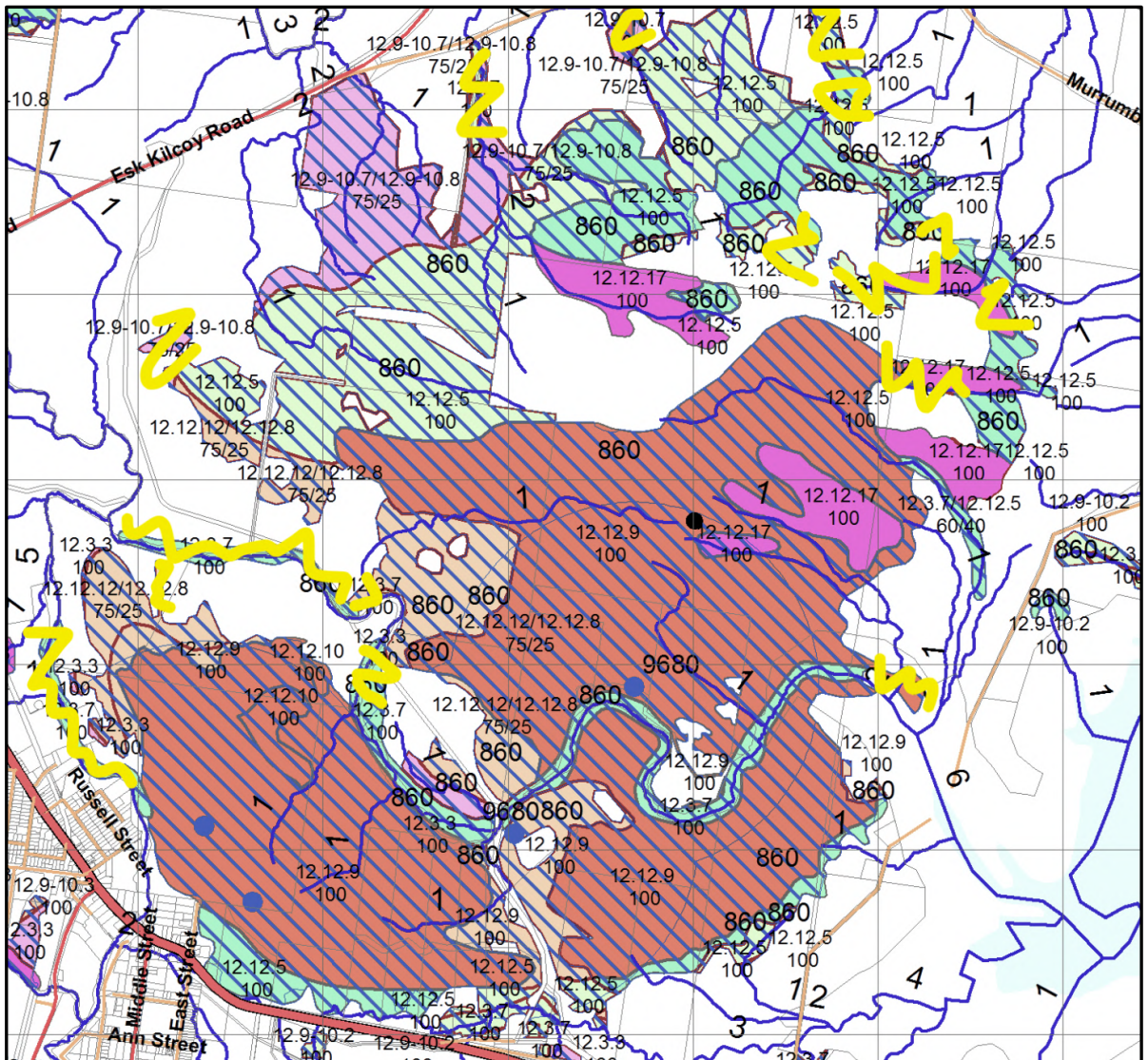
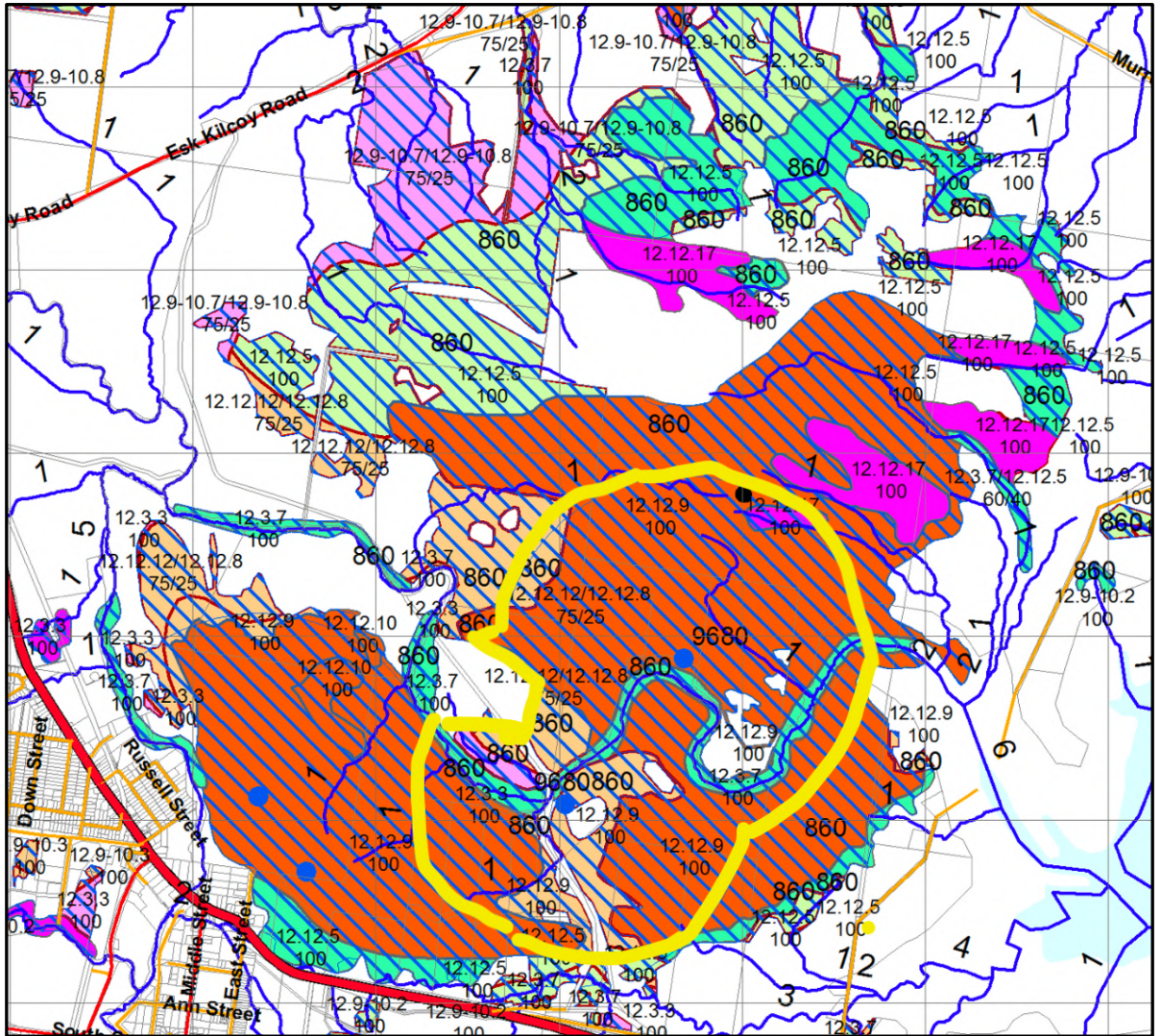


Figure 4 Watercourse Identification Map – Watercourses protected under the *Water Act 2000* (Qld)





**Figure 5** Screenshot of the Vegetation Management Supporting Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area showing areas to avoid in yellow as these areas are likely to be less than 100metres wide.



**Figure 6** Screenshot of the Vegetation Management Supporting Map for the Mount Glen Rock survey area. Area designated in yellow is essential habitat for the Lloyd's Native Olive, *Notelaea lloydii*, with two records of this species designated by the blue dots within the yellow mapped area.

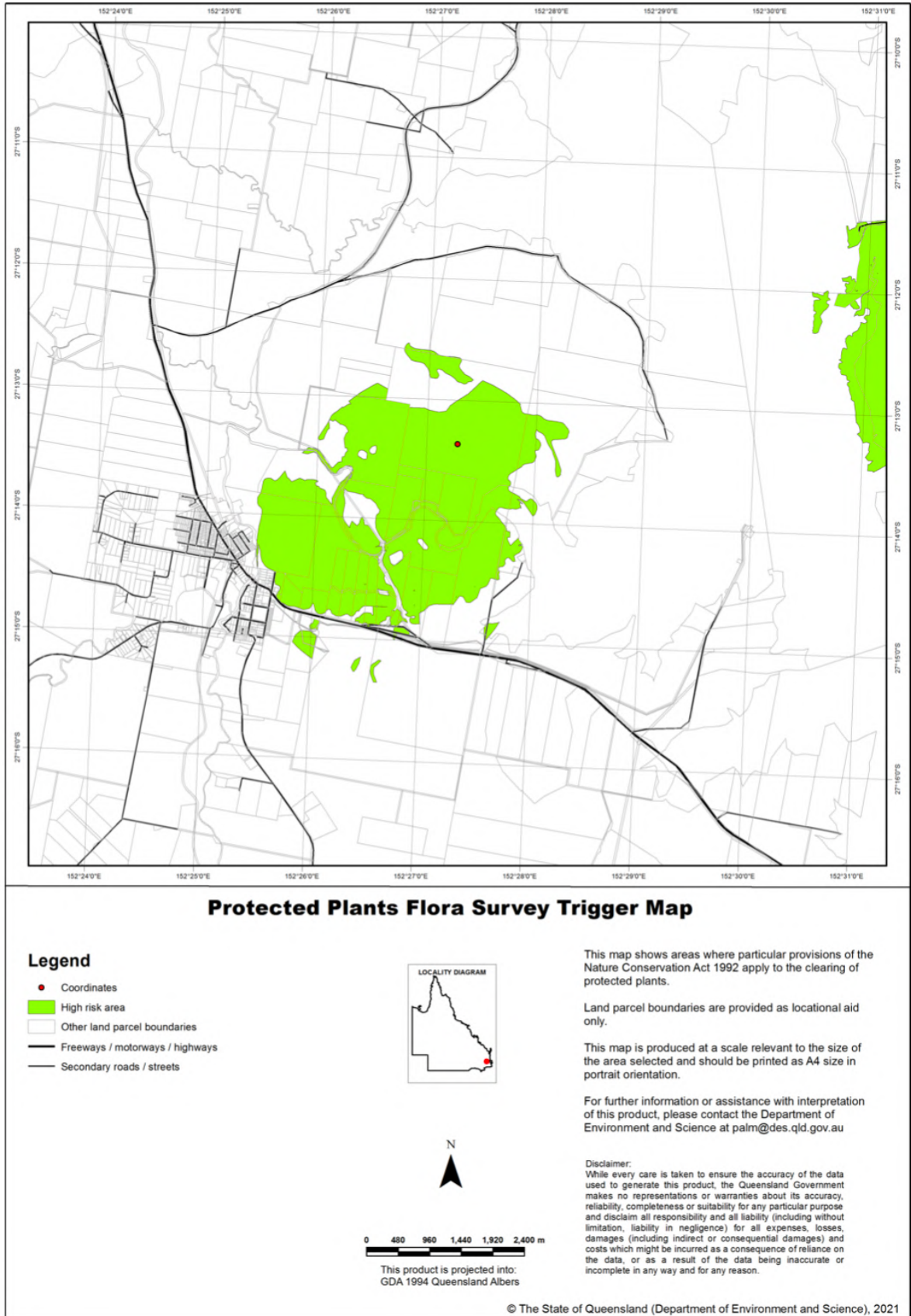


Figure 7 Flora Survey Trigger Map for Protected Plants protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld)

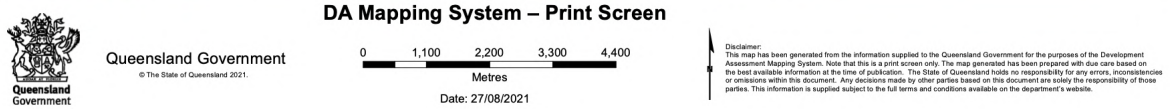
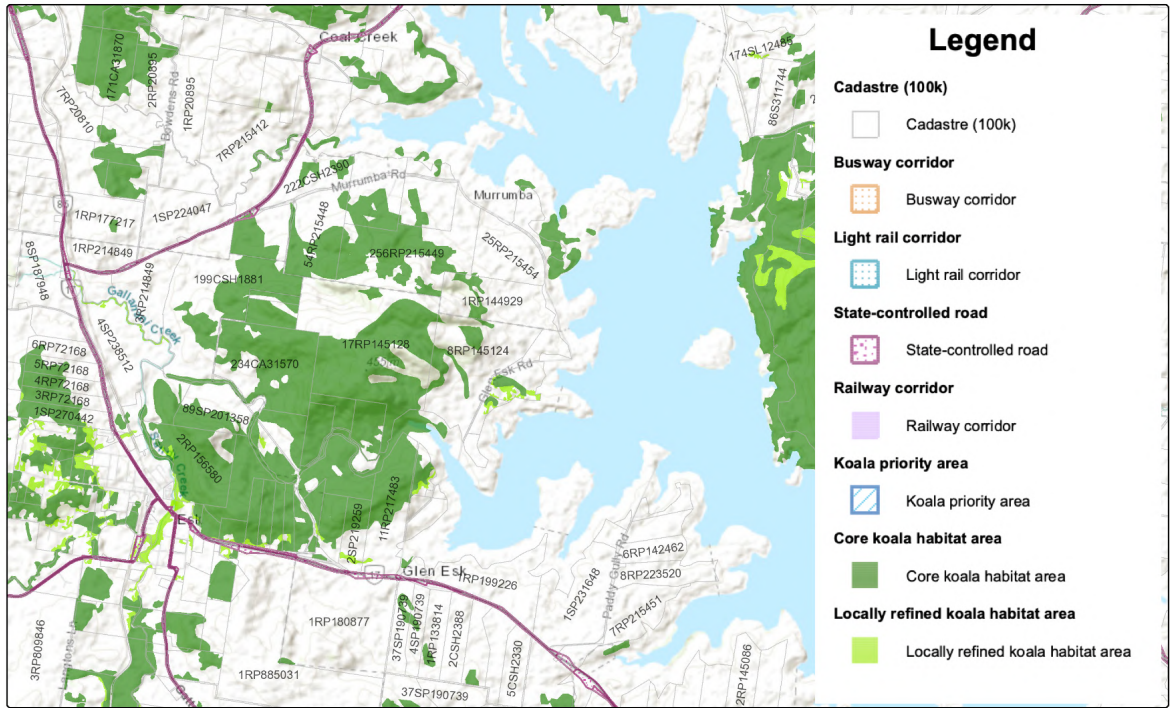


Figure 8 Koala Habitat Map (Queensland Government mapping)

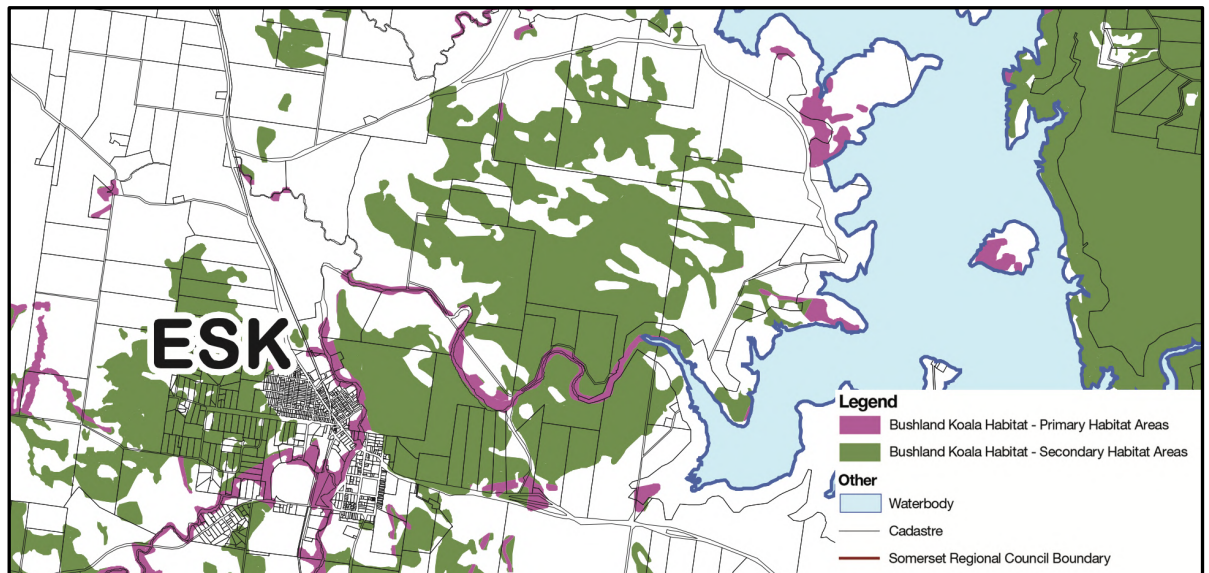


Figure 9 Koala Conservation Overlay Map (OM-003) in the Somerset Region Planning Scheme 2016

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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