

NPWS proposed mitigation measures for Whian Whian cpt 85

As Whian Whian cpt 85 has been deferred under the Conservation Criteria Outcome of the IAP it may, by definition, be required for reservation under a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve system. For this reason, it is essential that the integrity and biological diversity of the compartment are not compromised.

Following a site inspection to Whian Whian cpt 85 on the 9 August 1996, the NPWS propose to vary current prescriptions. The attached Map 1 shows the current standard NPWS prescriptions applied to cpt 85. Map 2 shows what the NPWS proposes.

Masked Owl

The current Masked Owl prescription is:

During pre-logging inspections and mark up care will be taken to identify possible masked owl nesting and roosting sites.

No logging shall occur within a 1 km radius of a masked owl detection site.

It is proposed that the current standard NPWS prescription for the Masked Owl be varied, on a trial basis for this compartment, to remove the somewhat arbitrary 1km total exclusion zone. It would be more appropriate to widen the radius around a record and protect only potential habitat within this radius. Potential habitat has been defined using the outcomes of the Expert Fauna Panel established under the IAP. The IAP Panel identified dry sclerophyll forest and woodland as being optimal habitat for the Masked Owl.

Forest type 119 (Scribbly Gum/Bloodwood), occurring in cpt 85, was given a value of 6 out of 10 for habitat quality for Masked Owl. This forest type has been excluded from logging under the current Harvesting Plan

Forest type 36 (Moist Blackbutt) in an oldgrowth or mature growth stage was given a value of 2 out of 10 for habitat quality. This forest type is to be subject to logging under the current Harvesting Plan. The Masked Owl record affecting cpt 85 was within Type 36. Two of the 4 records of Masked Owl in Whian Whian SF are in Type 36. Therefore, the NPWS recommends that the area of mature Moist Blackbutt occurring along Telephone Road between Minyon Drive and Minyon Fire Trail be excluded from logging (see attached map). This area was coded as "sby" (10-30% senescent crown cover) under the Broad Old Growth Mapping Project conducted during the IAP. The other area of mature Moist Blackbutt in the southern part of the compartment should also be excluded from logging. This area of forest was mapped during the Broad Old Growth Mapping Project as "scy" (<10% senescent crown cover) (see Map 2). Most of this area is already excluded through type 49 restrictions. The attached Map 2 shows where this prescription applies.

Marbled Frogmouth

The current Marbled Frogmouth prescription is:

In compartments where the Marbled Frogmouth is recorded or likely to occur, (and in adjacent compartments sharing a common drainage line), logging activities shall be excluded from 100 metres each side of drainage lines shown on the relevant 1:25,000 Topographic map.

The NPWS is currently revising this prescription to take into account the outcomes of the Expert Fauna Panel established during the IAP. It is proposed that within 1.5km of a record, a 100m buffer zone be established either side of 2nd and 3rd order streams where the following rainforest types and moist forest types occur: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 36, 47, 48, 49 and 53. These forest types were assigned a value of 8 out of 10 and 10 out of 10 for habitat quality. The prescription also provides for a 50m buffer either side of 1st order streams where these forest types occur. Of these forest types 36 and 49 occur in opt 85.

The NPWS recommends that this prescription be applied in opt 85 on a trial basis. The attached Map 2 shows where this prescription applies. The revised prescription differs from the current prescription in that it is only applied in certain forest types and the buffer on 1st order streams is 50m not 100m.

The protection of the mature Moist Blackbutt as described in the Masked Owl prescription above, will also benefit the Marbled Frogmouth as mature type 36 was classified as optimal habitat for the Marbled Frogmouth during the IAP.

Other factors

The Flcra Report for cpts 79 to 86 compiled by Rob Kooyman contains a number of recommendations supported by the NPWS. The following should be applied to opt 85:

- All tallowwood trees be retained (this was agreed on site inspection 9 August)
- That forest type 49 (Turpentine) and 119 (Scribbly Gum/Bloodwood) be excluded from harvesting as noted in the Harvesting Plan
- That a 20m buffer be established around all moist forest types. This recommendation was not included in the Harvesting Plan, however NPWS recommends that these buffers be established.

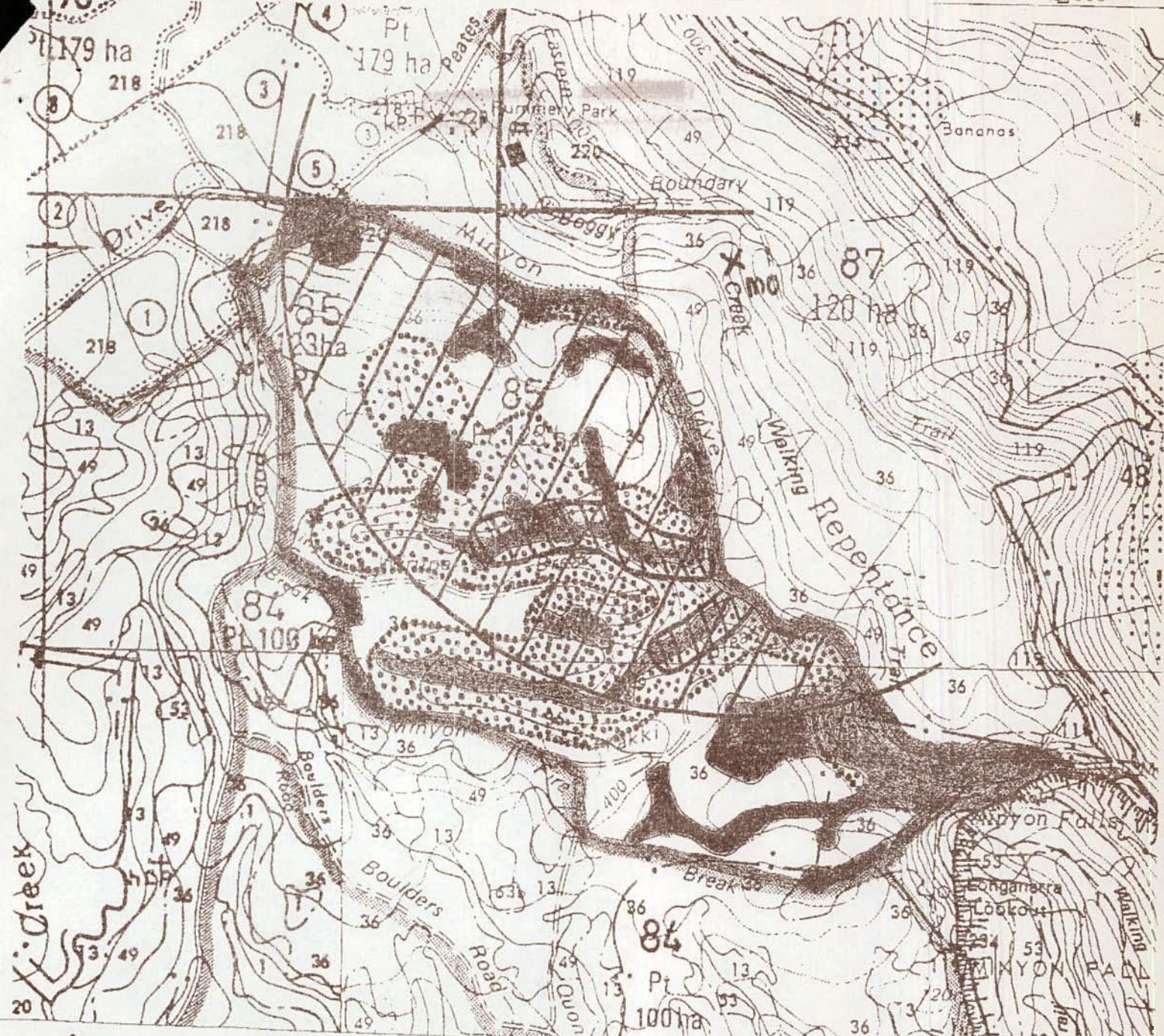
There is a record of a Tiger Quoll within 5km of the compartment, so the standard NPWS CWR prescription will be applied to the licence.

There are records of the Rose-crowned Fruit-dove, Wompoo Fruit-dove and Superb Fruit-dove on the compartment boundary. The prescriptions described above will adequately cover these species.

There are numerous Sooty Owl records on the cpt boundary. The prescriptions above will adequately cover this species.

The standard Condition 5 prescriptions will also apply: Glossy Black Cockatoo, Yellow-bellied Glider, Koala and habitat tree retention.

Threatened plant species within the compartment should be adequately covered by the above prescriptions.



Masked Owl
exclusion zone



Marbled Frogmouth



Sooty Owl



Non Harvest areas
FT 49, 119, rock etc

MAP 1





Marbled Frogmouth



Non Harvest areas
FT 49, 119, rock ect



Masked Owl, Marbled
Frogmouth exclusion
zone

MAP 2