

Central North Field Naturalists Inc.

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2nd June 2020

General Manager
Devonport City Council
council@devonport.tas.gov.au

Draft Devonport Local Provisions Schedule

I am writing on behalf of the Central North Field Naturalists Inc. (CNFN) to provide comment on the draft Devonport Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The CNFN is a community group dedicated to the exploration and preservation of Tasmania's natural environment. Our activities mostly take place in the central north of Tasmania, including the Devonport municipality, and involve organising walks for members to places of special environmental interest, participating in surveys and research, providing and disseminating information about the natural environment, and acting as a responsible apolitical advocate on environmental conservation matters. With our interests in the natural environment, our comments are focussed on the Environmental Management Zone and the Priority Vegetation Overlay of the Natural Assets Code.

The Environmental Management Zone: We give our full support to all the areas covered by the Zone on the map shown on the 'Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Devonport Local Provisions Schedule: Zones'. These include the following areas, which we understand will transition from the Interim Planning Scheme:

- the coastal strip between the boundaries of the Devonport Municipality with Central Coast Council and Latrobe Council;
- the Don Reserve and other riparian areas along the Don River
- the Mersey River and its riparian areas south of the Victoria Bridge
- the public land on Kelcey Tier
- the Tasmanian Arboretum Inc.
- the area which straddles the ridge of Porcupine Hill between the Don and Forth valleys.

We also welcome and support the three proposed additions to the Zone: Forth Scout Camp and Champion Park in Pumping Station Road on the banks of the Forth River and the land under conservation covenant at 189 Buster Road, Melrose.

There is one other area that we consider may be more appropriately zoned under the Environmental Management Zone than its proposed zoning of Open Space. This is the Hiller Flora Reserve, which we believe could meet criteria under Guideline No. 1 – Local

Provisions Schedule (LPS): zone and code application (June 2018) issued by the Tasmanian Planning Commission in accordance with s.8A of the Land Use Planning & Approvals Act 1993. The Reserve is public land and it may have significant ecological values. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions that have been in place during the public comment period for the draft LPS, it has been too difficult to carry out the necessary research to support our suggestion but we believe it may warrant further investigation before the LPS is finalised.

The Priority Vegetation Overlay: We support the areas of priority vegetation included in the map illustrated in the ‘Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Devonport Local Provisions Schedule: Natural Assets Code – Priority Vegetation Area Overlay’. We consider this is an important part of the Planning Scheme, particularly where the priority vegetation occurs on zones other than the Environmental Management Zone. It is reassuring, for example, that the Hiller Flora Reserve is included in the Overlay.

Two areas that the Overlay does not include are the Mersey Bluff and the Mary Binks Wetland. Although much of the top of the Bluff is covered in exotic grasses and parking areas, it also contains areas of significant native vegetation, particularly close to Tiagarra; and the remnant vegetation in the Mary Street Wetland provides habitat for the endangered Central North Burrowing Crayfish, *Engaeus granulatus*. We query why these areas are not included.

In addition to our comments regarding the Environmental Management Zone and the Priority Vegetation Overlay, we would also like to give our support to the requirement under the **Devonport Reserved Residential Land Specific Area Plan** that any future use must not impact on threatened flora and fauna.

Thank you,

Patricia Ellison

President

Central North Field Naturalists Inc.

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11th June 2020

General Manager
Devonport City Council
council@devonport.tas.gov.au

Draft Devonport Local Provisions Schedule

Additional Submission by the Central North Field Naturalists Inc.

Since our original submission on the draft Devonport Local Provisions Schedule, dated 2nd June 2020, the Central North Field Naturalists Inc. wish to add the following comments regarding four Public Reserves listed under the Crown Lands Act. These Reserves, which do not appear to have individual names, cover a continuous area of land in the neighbourhood of the Tasmanian Arboretum, stretching from the Don River Valley in the east to the northern part of the ridge of Porcupine Hill in the west (please see the areas shaded in purple on the attached map). Details of the locations of these Reserves, taken from the LIST, are as follows (from south-west to north-east):

1. POI: GDA94 MGA53; 440172E, 5436308N;
2. POI: GDA94 MGA55; 441181E, 5436558N;
3. POI: GDA94 MGA55; 441494E, 5437222N;
4. POI: GDA94 MGA55; 441587E, 5437276N.

Under the draft Devonport LPS, all of these Reserves are included in the Rural Zone. While the vegetation they contain is also included in the Priority Vegetation Overlay, we consider they may also qualify for zoning under the Environmental Management Zone for the reasons outlined below.

- (a) Reserves 2-4 all border the Don River and are important for the protection they provide for the River's riparian areas.
- (b) This is a particularly important function of Reserve 2, which covers the steep western side of the Don River gorge to the immediate north of the Tasmanian Arboretum. In the *Don Rivercare Plan and Initial Works Plan (June 2002)**, this gorge was included in *Category 1. Conservation of the Priority Categories for River Rehabilitation*. This means the gorge was one of the least disturbed parts of the Don River catchment and had assets that should be protected. The vegetation in the gorge was described as relatively intact, from a habitat perspective, however 'weed control (including isolated willows...) is a high priority for the Arboretum gorge.' Although it is now 18 years since this document was written, we believe its arguments for protection of the gorge are still relevant.

- (c) These three Reserves are also important for the scenic values they protect along the Don River.
- (d) Reserves 1 and 2 cover over 95% of the land area included in the four reserves and together make up a significant area of publicly-owned native vegetation in the Devonport Municipality. They form part of an area of outstanding scenic amenity in the Municipality and also help to protect connectivity between the habitats of the Don River and those of the higher slopes of the Don Valley.
- (e) Upgrading the zoning of these Reserves would also, we believe, give increased protection to the Tasmanian Arboretum. The Arboretum is already part of the Environmental Management Zone and adjoins the south-east corner of Reserve 2.

Thank you for considering our submission,

Patricia Ellison

President

* The *Don Rivercare Plan and Initial Works Plan* (June 2002) was prepared by Armstrong Agricultural Services Pty Ltd and Ecosynthesis for the Mersey Natural Resource Management Group Inc. The project was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and supported by the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, the City of Devonport and Kentish Council.

listmap

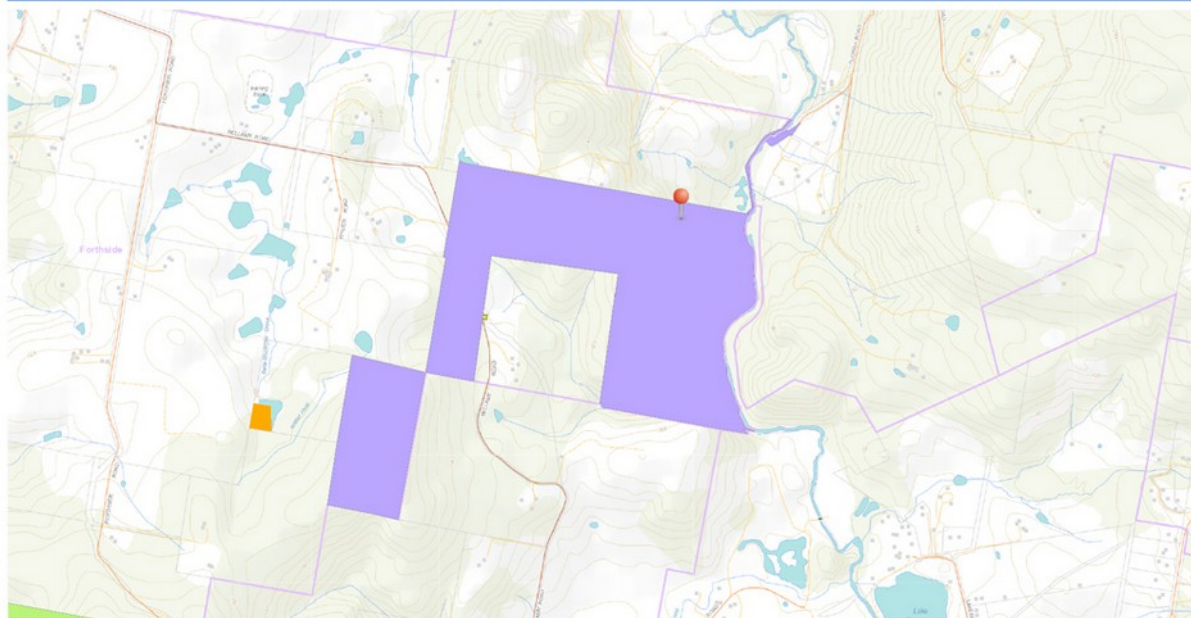
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