



29 June 2023

Our Ref: 17/82
Enquiries to: Rong Zheng

Mr J Ramsay
Delegate (Chair)
Tasmanian Planning Commission
GPO Box 1691
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: tpc@planning.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Ramsay

RE: DRAFT HUON VALLEY LOCAL PROVISION SCHEDULE (LPS) – LPS-HUO-TPS – DIRECTION 61

I write in response to the Commission's directions issued on 30 May 2023.

Direction 61 requested the following information:

Clarify if the Priority Vegetation Area overlay should be applied to 388 Scotts Road, Cairns Bay FR 165935/2 in accordance with the Regional Ecosystem Model if the land was zoned Rural as recommended in the section 35F report (representation 10). If so, submit written evidence that the owners of the land would support application of the Priority Vegetation Area overlay.

Regional Ecosystem Model (REM) output

The REM picked up this site for general landscape-dependent threatened fauna habitat and for relative reservation of silver wattle forest (NAD). NAD is a relatively common community but is considered under-reserved in the Southern Ranges Bioregion - 23 % reserved compared with a reservation target of 30% (NRE, General Vegetation Reserve Report June 2020).

Grey goshawk nesting habitat

In recent years PhD student Dave Young has added significantly to information on nesting habitat for the endangered grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*) in the Huon region. A nest was identified near the northwest boundary of CT 165935/2 in 2020 (ie after the REM).

Arguments for retention of the Priority Vegetation Area overlay on all established native vegetation on CT 165935/2 and on CT 113657/1 to the north

- The purpose of the overlay is not to map only areas known to have Priority Vegetation but to highlight areas which may contain Priority Vegetation and to trigger an investigation by a suitably qualified person as part of the development assessment process.
- This precautionary approach is necessary because we are dealing with imperfect data and a dynamic system.

- At this site, we have known nesting habitat for the endangered grey goshawk. All intact forest on and around the property should be considered important habitat for the species:
 - Any suitable trees within that forest could be chosen as a future nest site,
 - Any forest in the vicinity of nests should be considered important foraging habitat for breeding success, and
 - Any forest in the vicinity of nests should be considered important to maintaining the integrity and viability of the nesting habitat at the site (ie as buffering the nesting habitat from surrounding human impacts and disturbance).

Arguments for zoning of CT 113657/1 as Rural rather than Agriculture

- It appears that CT 113657/1 is currently recommended for the Agriculture Zone, which would make it exempt from application of the Priority Vegetation Area overlay.
- This is an inappropriate outcome for a site with known nesting habitat for an endangered species and a relatively large area of forest which provides potential nesting habitat in future.

Conclusions

- CT 113657/1 should be zoned Rural rather than Agriculture to allow for application of the Priority Vegetation Area overlay to nesting habitat and potential nesting habitat for the endangered grey goshawk.
- The Priority Vegetation Area overlay should apply to all other areas of native forest vegetation mapped on CT 165935/2 and on CT 113657/1 to the north. In the absence of more detailed geospatial information, the boundary of the overlay should be defined by the apparent vegetation boundary as informed by the State Aerial Photo Basemap and the Hillshade Basemap (theLIST, 2023).

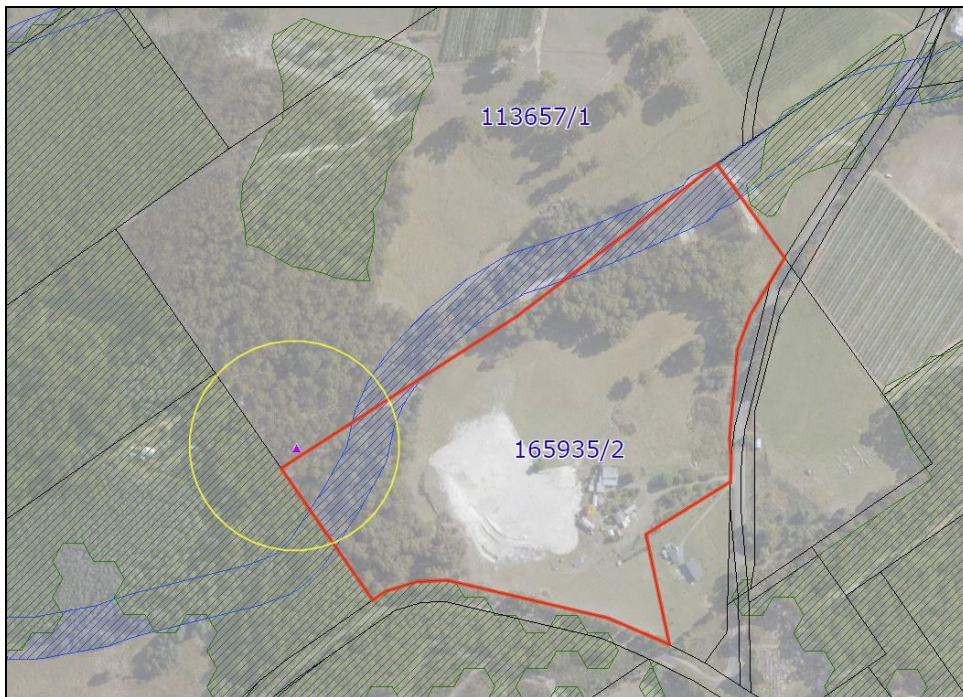


Figure 1. Current application of the biodiversity Protection Area overlay (green) and the Waterway and coastal Protection Area overlay (blue), with recent Grey Goshawk nest record (purple triangle) and associated 100 m development buffer (yellow)

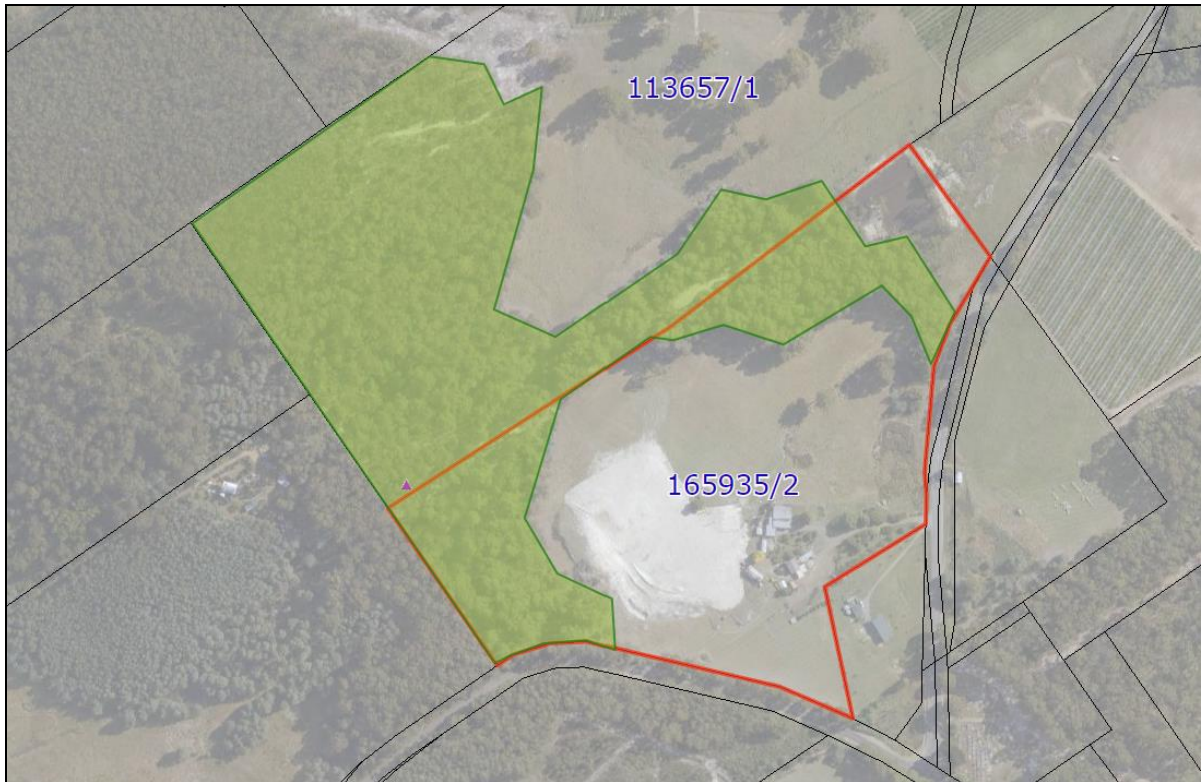


Figure 2. Suggested application of Priority Vegetation Area overlay to Ct 165935/2 and CT 113657/1 (green shading)

Communication with landowner

An email with an official letter was sent to the owner of CT 165935/2 on 28 March 2023 to ask if they were in support of the application of the Priority Vegetation Area overlay on their land. No response has been received so far.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact Rong Zheng direct on 6264 9467.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rong'.

RONG ZHENG
PROJECT MANAGER – STRATEGIC LAND USE