
From: Cuskelly, Richard <Richard.Cuskelly@nre.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 January 2024 4:28 PM
To: Blyth, Louise <Louise.Blyth@planning.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Mellor, Sonia (DPIPWE) <Sonia.Mellor@nre.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: TPP hearing tomorrow - NRE Tas submission

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Hello Louise,

Just responding on behalf of Sonia – please see submission below:

Strategy 2.1.3.3 (a) and (b) of the TPPs references biodiversity values and specifically high biodiversity values. This indicates there is a scale of biodiversity values to be considered. Is there publicly available data which could be accessed to enable ranking of the biodiversity values?

The [Natural Values Atlas](#) is Tasmania's comprehensive database for natural values information. It draws together in one centralised location data on:

- Tasmanian flora and fauna, including species listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA)
- TASVEG – the digital vegetation map of Tasmania; including Threatened Native Vegetation Communities protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NCA)
- Tasmanian Geoconservation Database (see comments under question 3).
- Areas of reserved land protected under the NCA
- Weeds and biosecurity risks.

These datasets can also be viewed through various layers in [LISTmap - Land Information System Tasmania \(thelist.tas.gov.au\)](http://thelist.tas.gov.au).

Ranking of biodiversity values

The term *biodiversity* refers to the number and variety of endemic species at a particular site relative to another location. CAS can advise that there is currently no system that directly compares the relative biodiversity values of one location with another, however, this information could be derived from the observation records in the NVA. Note that biodiversity as a measure of habitat value should not be considered in isolation, factors such as individual species status and existing level of disturbance should also be taken into consideration as part of a comprehensive assessment.

The ranking/level of protection afforded to specific values such as flora and fauna may be determined by aspects such as the species population size, geographic range (extent of occurrence and/or area of occupancy), threatening processes and potential other factors. Species that meet certain eligibility criteria may be listed under the TSP Act and/or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) which would rank them higher than non-listed native flora/fauna. Some Native Vegetation Communities are also be listed under Section 3A of the NCA as Threatened Native Vegetation Communities.

Natural values that are listed under legislation, such as the TSPA, EPBCA and/or NCA require greater protection and can be additionally ranked based on the listing status prescribed to each value.

- The TSPA contains three listing status': rare (lowest) - vulnerable – endangered (highest) which can be attributed to flora and fauna species listed under the TSPA.
- The EPBCA contains four listing status': Conservation Dependent (lowest) – Vulnerable – Endangered – Critically Endangered (highest) which relates to listed flora/fauna in addition to Threatened Ecological Communities.
- The NCA Wildlife Regulations 2021 contains the following statuses: Protected Wildlife, Partly Protected Wildlife and Specially Protected Wildlife, all relating exclusively to wildlife.

Please note that the existing data (observation records and listing status) for any given species may not be an accurate reflection of the species significance and may reflect survey effort and resourcing constraints.

Strategy 2.2.3.1 references 'groundwater recharge areas'. Are these areas mapped and is there publicly available data to enable consideration of these areas?

NRE Tas's Groundwater Assessment Project is underway and could in the future inform mapping to support the implementation of strategy 2.2.3.1.

A new groundwater risk management framework has been developed and includes a supporting Groundwater Risk Assessment Tool. A preliminary risk assessment has been completed for 32 groundwater assessment units across Tasmania, to identify key areas of high risk for future investment including monitoring. Six groundwater assessment units were identified as areas of high groundwater risk, requiring further investigation: Smithton Syncline, Flinders Island, Burnie Basalts, Great Forester-Brid, Sassafras-Wesley Vale, Sheffield-Spreyton- Kimberley, Huon North.

Strategy 2.3.3.1 refers to identifying and mapping 'high conservation value geodiversity'. Is there mapping available to facilitate this strategy, and are the geodiversity values ranked to identify those that are of high value?

The Tasmanian Geoconservation Database (the Database) – accessed through the Natural Values Atlas' Geodiversity tab – is an official dataset of sites with high conservation value geodiversity. The sites can also be accessed through the LISTmap layer "Geoconservation Sites"; however, only a small portion of the data is available through LISTmap, so it is more efficiently accessed through the Natural Values Atlas. The Database is live and is updated with new sites annually.

However, please note that the Database is *not* a complete record of all high value geoconservation sites in the state, nor is it a measure of geodiversity, as neither of these are presently available. Instead, the sites identified in the Database represent a subset of geoconservation sites that have been identified and brought to the attention of the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database Reference Group for assessment. As such, the absence of a recorded feature in the Database does not necessarily mean the absence of geoconservation values at a particular location but may be a result of lack of survey effort. As such, significant developments should be preceded by a geoconservation assessment.

The geodiversity values in the Database are ranked as to their relative value, with Global being the highest level and deserving the greatest protection, and District being the lowest relative value (while still being considered important enough to be listed in the Database). More information on levels and types of significance can be found here: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/downloadattachment?id=30>.

How susceptible an aspect of geodiversity is to damage from disturbances depends greatly on the nature of the geoconservation site and the level of disturbance. The Database identifies *Potential Threats* for each site. It is recommended this information is used as a guide to the vulnerability to a particular disturbance at a particular site. More information on the classes of potential threats can be found here: <https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/downloadattachment?id=18>. CAS can provide assistance with interpreting this information if needed.

END

Many thanks,

Richie



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In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, I acknowledge and pay my respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present custodians of the land.

From: Blyth, Louise <Louise.Blyth@planning.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Mellor, Sonia <Sonia.Mellor@nre.tas.gov.au>
Subject: TPP hearing tomorrow

Good afternoon Sonia,

Your email of 18 January advised a submission would be provided prior to tomorrows hearing.

Could you please advise whether you will be providing a prehearing submission or intend on providing the submission at tomorrows hearing.

Kind regards

Louise Blyth
Planning Adviser

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