
From: Tania Poultney [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 April 2022 5:50 PM
To: TPC Enquiry
Cc: iain.more@launceston.tas.gov.au; Adam Poultney
Subject: Launceston Draft LPS - submission in response to 24 March 2022 Direction - A and T Poultney Rep. 40
Attachments: Variation Castle Hill March 2022 (1).pdf; 2022_04-listmap-removePVA.pdf; 2022_04_08 Poultney vegetation AP.pdf

Attention: Commissioner Ann Cunningham - Delegate (Chair) - Launceston Draft LPS Assessment

In your letter dated 24 March 2022 you issued the following direction.

Provide any other supporting information, such as a natural values assessment by a suitably qualified person that would support modification of the Priority Vegetation Area overlay at 2460 Deddington Road, Blessington FR 28411/1.

Please find attached a letter dated 8 April 2022 from Anna Povey on behalf of the Private Land Conservation Program, DNRE, which includes a current assessment of the natural values on our property as well as further information about the variation to the covenant boundary that is in process. The letter has two attachments:

Variation Castle Hill March 2022.pdf
2022_04-listmap-removePVA.pdf

Regards

Adam and Tania Poultney

[REDACTED]
Tranmere, TAS 7018

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Natural & Cultural Heritage Division
Private Land Conservation Program
GPO Box 44, HOBART, Tas., 7001
Enquiries : Anna Povey
Phone : 0498 800 611
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Our Ref: 225351



8th April 2022

Tasmanian Planning Commission
GPO Box 1691,
Hobart, Tasmania 7001

c/- Adam and Tania Poultney
[REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners

RE: Vegetation and covenant at [REDACTED], Blessington, [REDACTED]

I am writing in relation to the conservation covenant and vegetation extent at the property owned by Adam and Tania Poultney, known as Castle Hill.

I am an ecologist with over 30 years' experience, and my current role is providing stewardship support to owners of conservation covenants. I work for Tasmanian Land Conservancy, in a partnership with the Private Land Conservation Program of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

In this role, I have visited Castle Hill twice and assessed vegetation and fauna habitat of the property.

The owners have requested a variation of their covenant, which I have recommended to be approved and which is currently being progressed through government processes. While the decision must be made by Ministers, it is anticipated that the variation will be approved as per the attached map ("Variation Castle Hill March 2022").

The variation is intended to reflect the relative natural values on the land, with the northern tip of the covenant to be removed and replaced with a much larger area in the northeast that is of higher value.

From field inspections together with historical imagery, my opinion is that the northern tip of the property, including the covenant tip and the rest of the northern paddock, could be removed from the Priority Vegetation Area overlay (as sketched in the attached map, "2022_04-listmap-removePVA"). While there are scattered eucalypts, the groundcovers are now predominantly pasture species, with so few

native understorey species that this would not now be classified as a native vegetation community. This area would now be classified under TASVEG as agricultural land (code FAG), with some remnant eucalypts and silver wattles. In recent years, the bulk of the vegetation has been gorse, until cleared by the landowners, and even the groundcovers below the gorse were mostly weedy grasses (e.g. *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus lanatus*) with just some patches of native species (e.g. *Acacia dealbata*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Microlaena stipoides* – see Figure 1). In fact, TASVEG 3.0 and 4.0 classify much of this area as “weed infestation” (FWU). While some of the area was classified as “lowland grassland complex” (GCL), this too was degraded by weeds and is now converted to pasture.



Figure 1. Remaining groundcovers show that they were a mix of pasture weeds like sweet vernal and fog grass, and some native patches of bracken, sagg, weeping grass and wallaby grass.

There are no threatened flora species in the northern paddock area. There is also very low quality of habitat for threatened fauna as noted in the Regional Ecosystem Model (glossy grass skink, eastern quoll, masked owl) in the paddock area, though they may sometimes forage there from the shelter provided by the covenanted bushland.

While there are few eucalypts remaining in the paddock area, and most are relatively young, it is always important to protect the one or two old trees with hollows, if at all possible, as they may provide nesting hollows for birds such as masked owl in future. However, this possibility is insufficient in the context of the pasture for this area to be retained as Priority Vegetation Area.



Figure 2. Some few eucalypts within the paddock area.

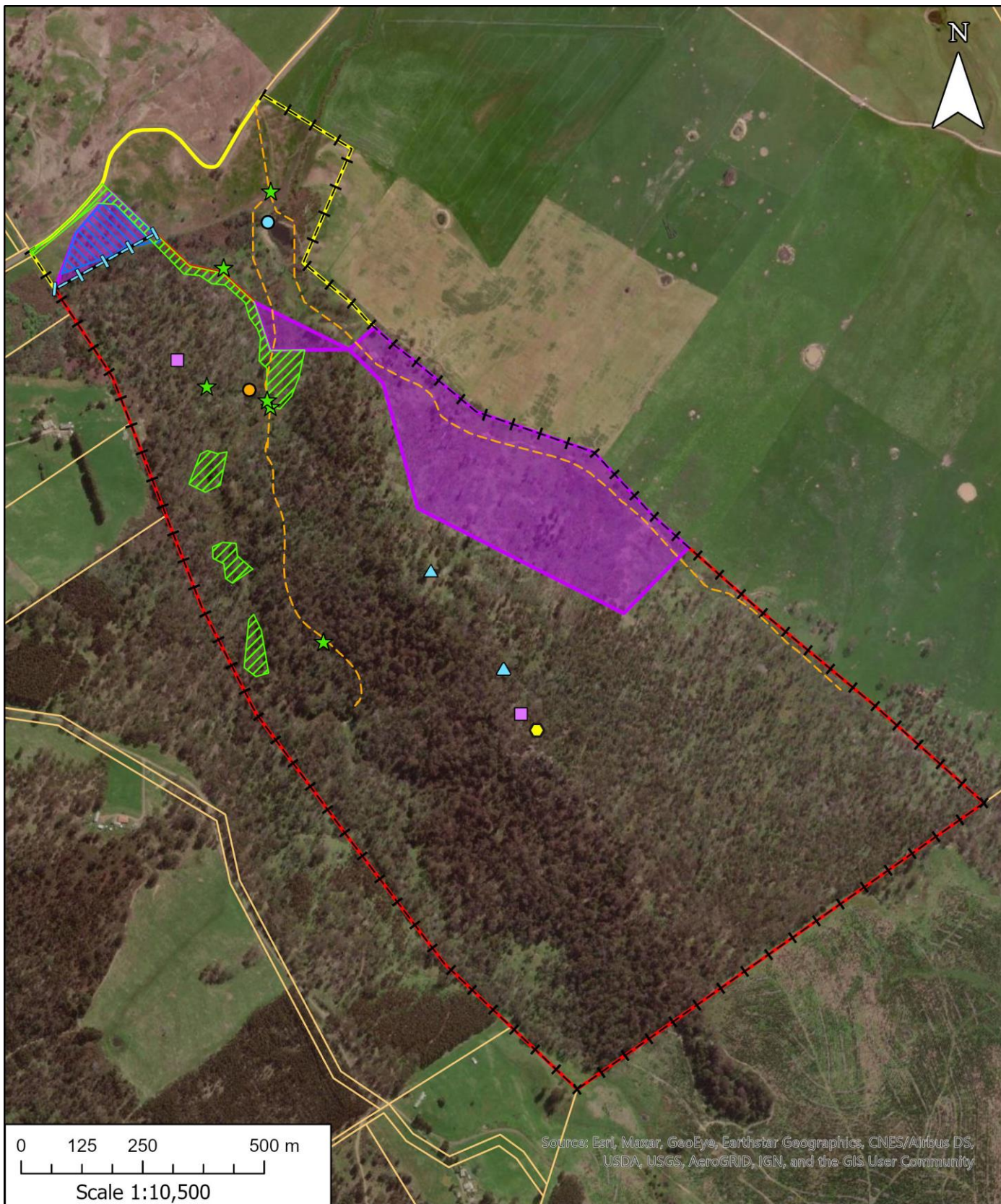
The threatened vegetation community, *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest on sandstone (DAS), has not been cleared and is still protected within the covenant. There are also threatened flora species, *Scleranthus fasciculatus*, (unfortunately not yet shown in the map “Variation Castle Hill March 2022”, though recorded in the Natural Values Atlas) and native vegetation communities in the north-eastern area that is to be included in the extended covenant, even though this was missed by the Regional Ecosystem Model. The Priority Vegetation Area could be extended to include this native vegetation, likely to be covenanted.

I can be contacted if any further information is required.

Yours sincerely



Anna Povey
Protected Areas Partnership
A partnership between the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Private Land Conservation Program of
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



Conservation Covenant Management Map

Property: Castle Hill Reserve 2460 Deddington Road, Blessington

Title Ref: 28411/1

Database ID: 12592 File No: 225351

Data Sources: LIST & PLCP, Tas Land Conservancy Inc.

Map Date: 5/04/2022

Imagery: ESRI World Imagery Service

Map Prepared by Private Land Conservation Program

- Variation Proposal
- Covenant Boundary
- Property Boundary
- Unauthorised clearing
- Fence
- New fence
- Vehicle Track
- Spreading Knawel

Weeds

- Bracken
- Bulrush
- Gorse
- Thistle
- Crab Apple
- Gorse

