

Objectives of environmental report

The aim of this report is to identify management actions which are consistent with and will assist the owners' environmental objectives for Clyffe House Estate. These objectives are:

- To maintain and improve the existing native vegetation and wildlife habitat
- To link existing vegetation with wildlife corridors to expand available habitat

Overview of Current Property Status

Native plants and animals

Clyffe House Estate retains a number of areas of native vegetation across the property. The main area at the south of the property is probably best described as iron bark (*Eucalyptus seiberi*) forest (TasVeg code DSG & DSO). However a mixed canopy of species exists including brown top stringy bark (*E. obliqua*), white gum (*E. viminalis*) and white peppermint (*E. pulchella*). The understorey is dominated by native cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*), silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), varnish wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*), Drooping she-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), black she-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), prickly box (*Bursaria spinosa*) with ground cover species dominated by saggs (*Lomandra longifolia*) and bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*).

Vegetation bordering Flagstaff Creek maintains a similar composition with white gum, silver wattle and dogwood (*Pomaderris* sp.) becoming most dominant and occasional examples of christmas bush (*Prostanthera lasianthos*) observed. The condition of the main area of native vegetation is generally good with evidence of natural regeneration, a reasonably healthy canopy and substantial fallen logs and debris available for animal habitat. The relatively open nature of the vegetation should not be linked to poor health as this is quite natural for dry eucalypt forest, with this especially true for ironbark forest. Many of the smaller areas of vegetation have suffered from a combination of cattle grazing, and illegal firewood collection resulting in a substantial thinning of canopy trees and a simplified understorey. Some native vegetation has been maintained along both sides of Flagstaff Creek, although it is bare or reduced to a width of a single tree in parts.



There are also a number of areas of bush regenerating from past clearing and largely composed of bracken ferns and wattles, but with evidence of eucalypt seedlings naturally regenerating.

Threatened flora in the wider vicinity includes the lesser guinea flower (*Hibbertia calycina*) and cane holy grass (*Hierochloe rariflora*). Neither of these are known on the property but they may occur in the less disturbed areas.

Clyffe House Estate is home to a range of native fauna with species such as platypus, echidna, blue tongues and the endangered wedge tailed eagle often sighted. A nest sight has been reported some 2km south of the property (see threatened fauna map). Bennetts wallabies, common brushtail and common ringtail possums also occur in substantial populations on the property.

Flora and fauna – summary of special values

Vegetation community/species	Conservation status*	Location/s on property	Conservation significance for property and/or catchment
Wedge Tailed Eagle	Endangered (EPBCA & TSPA)	A mating pair is regularly observed on the property	Valued part of the environment by owner
Ironbark (<i>E. sieberi</i>) forest	Not a priority for conservation	Southern part of property	Locally endemic
Lesser guinea flower (<i>Hibbertia calycina</i>)	Vulnerable (TSPA)	Not known on property	Sightings recorded in the area
Cane holy grass (<i>Hierochloe rariflora</i>)	Rare (TSPA)	Not known on property	Sightings recorded in the area

- the different classifications of threatened species is described in General Environmental Report & Information

Weeds and pests

Blackberry (both a declared weed and a WONS) is widespread in the Break O'Day municipality which is listed as a containment zone under the Statutory Weed Management Plan. Blackberry can be found in a number of small infestations around Clyffe House Estate. Spear Thistle (Scotch thistle) (not currently a declared weed in Tasmania) occur as annual infestations around Clyffe House Estate. Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*), is a problem in a number of pastoral areas bordering native vegetation where they are competing with pasture species.

Property weed summary

Weed	Status (e.g declared)	Location/s on property	Severity of infestation
Blackberry	Declared (WONS)	Around property	Low
Spear (Scotch)Thistle	Not Declared	Annual infestations around property	Moderate
Bracken	Native	Pastoral areas close to bush	High in areas



A number of introduced animals species including rabbits and starlings cause management issues on the property. Starlings cause substantial damage to the olive crop and rabbits contribute grazing pressure as well as damaging native seedlings.