

# NATURAL VALUES SURVEY TEMPUS

The site for the proposed Tempus development has been, and is currently being, used intensively to produce sheep. To the site's south there is a commercial vineyard, while to the west more grazing takes place. To the north of the site there is a home, albeit surrounded by a limited buffer of 'relatively' natural native scrub. Finally to the east of the site lies a reasonably large block of land upon which the Piermont Retreat is located. Within that development are to be found: upmarket (a) accommodation villas, (b) a good-quality restaurant and (c) diverse sporting facilities all nestled on the shoreline of Great Oyster Bay just south of the east coast township of Swansea.

In the present analysis of natural values reference has been made both to: (i) The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act i.e. - EPBCA's - Tasmanian Listed Species and (ii) to The Tasmanian Threatened Species List.

A one-month survey at the proposed Tempus site was completed at the beginning of August 2019 and thus it remains valid for the above-mentioned purpose. That survey revealed the dire state of biodiversity present on the 17.9 ha site in question. Not only was there an incredible paucity of native plant and animal species but, where present, their density typically was sparse. Furthermore with reference to plant species, many were no longer recruiting and the remainder typically were senescing! In short the site was severely over-grazed by sheep and the remnant populations of native flora and fauna were massively degraded.

Given that there were but twelve native plant species identified in the aforementioned survey of remnant flora, one would not be surprised to learn that not a single threatened plant species was found to have survived there any longer. Furthermore with such an

incredible paucity of plant bio-diversity neither would one be amazed to learn that the massively degraded site no longer attracts nor sustains meaningful populations of native invertebrates nor vertebrates. The vast majority thereof are transient. The sole macropod activity noted was scat from a Bennetts wallaby and that was observed not far from the dividing fence. The wallaby in question had entered the site from the adjacent block of land to the immediate north of the site currently under consideration.

Surprisingly, there was but scant evidence of brushtail possum activity and then only at a single site. That demonstrates how truly impoverished the rural site in question really is. In addition, the reference to a wedge-tailed eagle was from an observation of that bird flying above the site.

Amazingly the most valuable remaining remnant assets at the site actually are hollows in both living and dead tree trunks! Those provide nesting and breeding sites and those holes take many decades to develop. As a result, each and every hollow desperately needs to be preserved!

## CONCLUSION:

The location selected by the developers of Tempus is so appallingly degraded that the proposal to nestle a retirement village in the midst of a large area of newly replanted and carefully maintained native plants, including both understory and canopy species, is so vastly much better than the current status quo! Keep in mind that every effort is to be taken to ensure that small tree-dwelling marsupials will have access to a large area on that site of continuous arboreal canopy. Thus species such as ring tailed possums will not need to descend to the ground in order to move over long distances.

Thus it is that the present proposal is truly excellent with reference to environmental restoration. It is my strongly held opinion that the

submission being considered from Tempus, as detailed in my report dated 3 August 2019, represents such an incredible opportunity to restore, enhance and maintain into the future the native ecosystem which is almost totally devoid at present is an wonderful opportunity for society to grasp. Furthermore, and importantly, given approval the development will indeed forge a sterling template for similar projects elsewhere not only in Tasmania, but throughout Australia!

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