

CAIRNCROSS WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY - RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS REPORT APPENDIX F

BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY

06 DECEMBER 2018

Incorporating



Introduction

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council (PMHC) is seeking development approval to extend the Cairncross Landfill to cover the remaining area identified for landfilling in the 1999 Environmental Impact Statement (1999 EIS). The Proposal is for the expansion of the existing landfill at the Cairncross Waste Management Facility (Cairncross WMF), and would involve the progressive construction, operation and rehabilitation of three landfill stages (Stages 1-3), following a staged approach with implementation over approximately 36 years. Stage 1 would commence construction/operation in approximately 2019/2020 respectively and Stage 3 would reach capacity in approximately 2056 with a landfill closure period to follow. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to support a State Significant Development (SSD) application under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*.

Vegetation Impact

Section 8.2.3 of the Cairncross Landfill Expansion Environmental Impact Statement (2017) identifies 3.4 Ha of native vegetation that contains habitat for treated and migratory species that will be lost due to progressive clearing as part of the Proposal, as shown on Figure 1 overleaf.

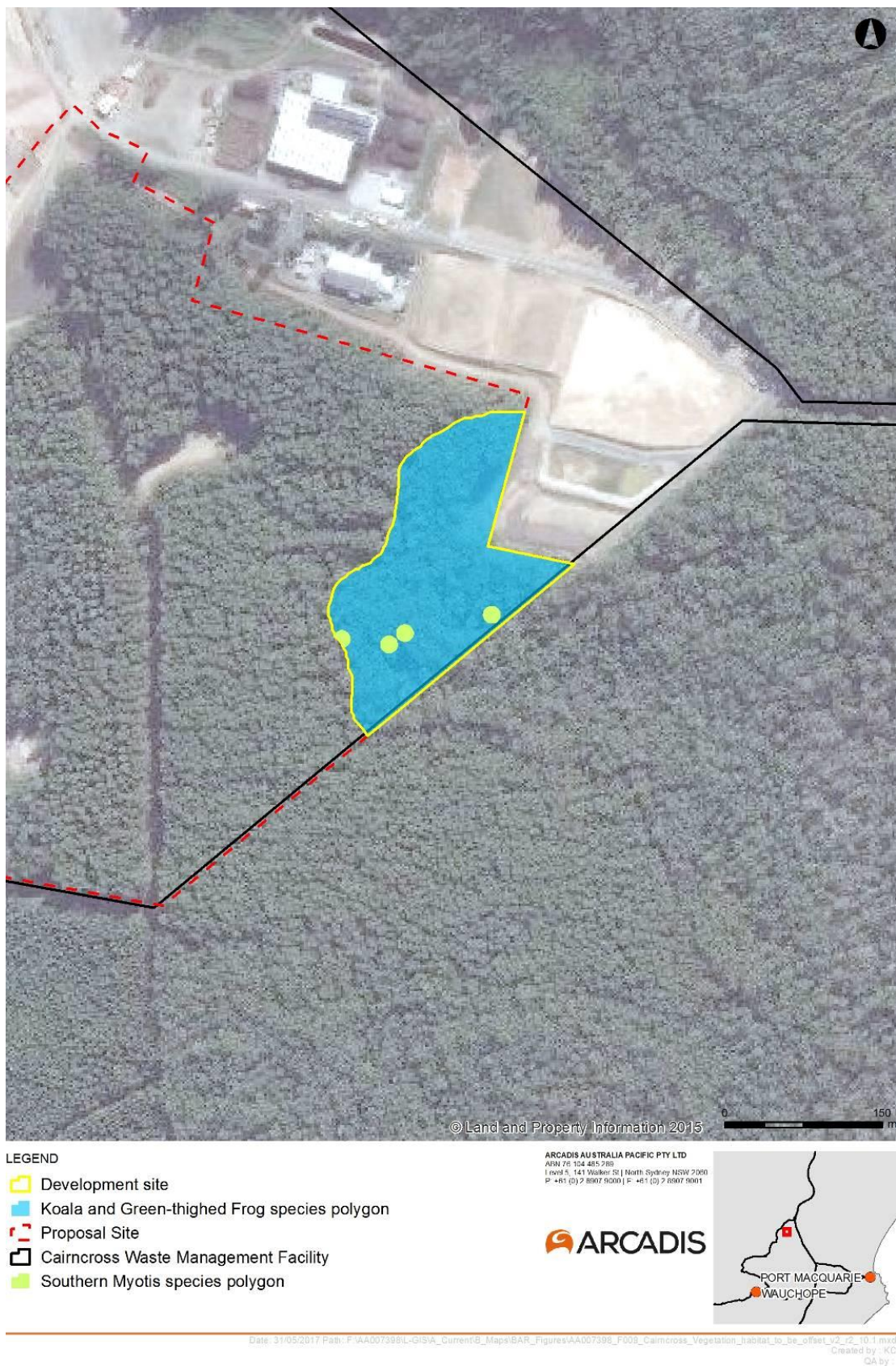


Figure 1: Vegetation/habitat to be offset

Table 8-5 and 8-6 of the EIS (shown below as Table 1 and

Table 2) describes the species and their respective species credits.

Table 1: Vegetation values and associated species credits

Vegetation Zone	Associated EECs and/or threatened species	Loss in landscape value	Loss in site value store	Number of ecosystem credits required
Blackbutt – Pink Bloodwood shrubby open forest of the coastal lowlands of the NSW North Coast Bioregion (NR117): Moderate/Good	Spotted Tailed Quoll	15.00	84.38	221

Table 2: Threatened Species and associated species credits

Common name	Scientific name	Status	Impacts	Number of species credits required
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Vulnerable	3.4 ha	84
Green-thighed frog	<i>Litora brevipalmata</i>	Vulnerable	3.4 ha	248
Southern Myotis	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Vulnerable	0.12 ha	3

Impact Mitigation

The following mitigation measure and timing associated with clearing of the 3.4 Ha is included as part of the Amended Proposal, finalised within Section 8 of the RtS:

- A biobanking agreement, or equivalent, would be established to secure an offset site in accordance with applicable legislation prior to clearing the 3.4 ha of native vegetation within the Stage 3 area. The offsets site would secure the ecosystem and species credit offset requirements outlined in Section 8.2.3, or equivalent requirements identified at the time of clearing. All offset land will be funded and managed in perpetuity under Councils Public Bushland Management Programme. Management actions would include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Identification of type and location of weeds of concern within the site
 - Identification of sensitive receivers (such as native vegetation and waterways) within or adjacent to the Proposal Site

Management and disposal of weeds (including declared noxious weeds) in accordance with requirements of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

A biobanking agreement would therefore be established to secure an offset site under the *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects* prior to clearing the 3.4 ha of native vegetation within the Stage 3 area. Two options to secure the necessary offset credits are proposed:

1. an offset site or sites (land) would be purchased that achieve the necessary offset credits, alternatively
2. the necessary offset credits will be purchased.

The offsets site would secure the ecosystem and species credit offset requirements outlined in Section 8.2.3. The offset site would be established prior to clearing the 3.4 ha of native vegetation within the Stage 3 area.