



- Targeted surveys were conducted for the following species using the following methods.
  - Yellow-bellied Gliders *Petaurus australis* - searching for incised Ribbon Gum and Narrow-leaved Pepermint during rolling foot censuses.
  - Large forest owls - searches were made of the base of all hollow-bearing trees for 'white-wash'.
  - Koala - searches were made for Koala scats at the base of large gum trees. In addition, scratches on Ribbon Gum were examined as Koala make many small scratch marks on the trees that they climb as opposed to large scratch marks made by the Common Brushtail Possum and or Lace Monitor.
  - Striped Legless Lizard – diurnal searches involving lifting of rocks and fallen logs.
  - Spotted-tailed Quoll – searches were made for latrine sites along Majors Creek at sites that had exposed rock outcrops.
  - Gang-gang Cockatoo - searches were made of hollow-bearing trees for nesting individuals.
- Incidental observations - further incidental observations of animals were made based on visual identification of animal, remains, other features or call recognition.

Gaia (2010) state that the fauna survey methodology and effort are considered adequate to detect threatened species of fauna. It is noted that the survey methodology did not, in all cases, comply with the recommended methodology provided in the Environmental Assessment Requirements provided by DECCW on 1 April 2010. Section 3.4 of Gaia (2010) provides a detailed description of where the actual survey methodology differed from that recommended by the DECCW and justifies that divergence.

#### **4.3.4 Project Site Flora and Fauna**

##### **4.3.4.1 Introduction**

This sub-section presents an overview of the species and vegetation communities identified within the Project Site. It is noted that this sub-section focuses principally on listed species and communities and a complete list of all species identified is presented in Sections 4.4 and 4.5 and Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of Gaia (2010).

##### **4.3.4.2 Flora Species Identified**

A total of 100 species of native and 38 species exotic of plant were identified within the Project Site. No species listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) or *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (EPBC Act) were identified.



It is noted, however, that potential habitat for the Major's Creek Leek Orchid was identified within the Project Site (**Figure 4.16**). The habitat is dominated by Swamp Gum with a grassy understorey of native and exotic species. This site was first identified in May 2010 and opportunity to inspect the area during the orchid's October to December flowering season has not been possible. Gaia (2010) state that this species would be unlikely to be found elsewhere within the Project Site.

#### **4.3.4.3 Vegetation Communities Identified**

The Ecology Assessment identified 10 vegetation communities within the Project Site. The following provides a brief description of each community and **Figure 4.16** presents the distribution of each. Further details are presented in Section 4.4.4 of Gaia (2010). The classification of each community is in accordance with Tozer *et al.* (2006). It is noted that there are significant similarities between some communities and that the location of boundaries between those communities are subjective.

##### **Community 1 - Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum Grassy Open Forest**

The remnant vegetation within the Project Site may be classified as Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum Grassy Open Forest on flats and undulating hills of the eastern tableland (Ribbon Gum Forest).

The overstorey is dominated by Ribbon Gum and Narrow-leaved Peppermint with occasional Snow Gum. Many trees are mature and support hollows. The understorey is typically sparse.

##### **Community 2 - Fragmented Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum Grassy Open Forest**

This community represents a degraded and disjunct form of Ribbon Gum - Snow Gum Grassy Open Forest described above.

##### **Community 3 - Woody Weeds Shrubland**

This community consists largely of Broom and Blackberry and is common in the southern sections of the Project Site on land newly acquired by the Proponent. This community consists of a dense shrub layer to 2m and commonly occurs in highly disturbed areas but can also occur in untreated areas as the shrub layer in Ribbon Gum Forest and or Black wattle regrowth. It is noted that weed management programs undertaken by the Proponent in the northern section of the Project Site have removed most of this community from that section of the Project Site.

##### **Community 4 - Regenerating Wattles**

Patches of Black Wattle and Blackwood occur along the gullies and on the edges of the Ribbon Gum Forest and in areas of regeneration. Vegetation within the Regenerating Wattles Community is up to 5m high and often supports Broom and/or Blackberry in the shrublayer. The groundcover often consists of exotic grasses, such as Rye Grass.

##### **Community 5 - Exotic Vegetation**

This community consists of stands of poplars and pines planted as wind breaks. The groundcover consists of exotic grasses, such as Rye Grass.

