

**From:** Philip Milner [<mailto:philip.milner@bigpond.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 October 2012 9:43 PM  
**To:** Tamara Coyte  
**Subject:** Re: Bracknell Report

Tamara,

a summary of my survey on the Bracknell property on the 4th October is as follows.

#### VEGETATION COMMUNITIES:

The area of the property surveyed has been subject to extensive disturbances in the past with some areas cleared for pasture, the extraction of ironstone gravel and relatively extensive and ongoing woodcutting. Some areas previously stripped of gravel are regenerating with a groundcover of grasses, both native and exotic and relatively dense (in places) but stunted Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata*. Regrowth of native vegetation is more diverse and vigorous in locations where some depth of gravel has been retained.

There were small patches of original forest vegetation over the survey area and also included about a third of the survey area located to the south-east. Despite the disturbance history of the property there were numerous large old-growth Eucalypts which have been retained including a number with significant hollows which would be potential fauna habitat.

The vegetation community on the property was confirmed as *Eucalyptus amygdalina* Forest on Cainozoic Deposits. The understorey and ground stratum varied from grassy to shrubby. Although listed as a threatened community the property's disturbance history decreased the conservation value of the forest considerably.

#### THREATENED FLORA:

One species of threatened flora was observed during the survey.

*Brunonia australis* the Blue Pincushion was observed in three separate locations on the area surveyed. It was not common and the locations where it was observed can be easily avoided.

Location 1: 496554E - 5386212N (4m +/-) About 15 plants within a 5 metre radius

Location 2: 496888E - 5386348N (3m +/-) About 6 plants within one square metre within an old gravel pit area.

Location 3: 496973E - 538653N (3m +/-) A single clump within an old gravel pit.

#### THREATENED FAUNA:

No threatened fauna were observed during the survey, however there was evidence of the presence of Tasmanian Devils. Scats were observed at the following locations.

Location 1: 496734E - 5386243N (4m +/-) single scat

Location 2: 496623E - 5386374N (3m +/-) numerous scats around a waterhole.

The proposed exploration program will not add significantly to the disturbances already existing on the property, and which the local Tasmanian Devils clearly exist with.

#### THREATENED FAUNA HABITAT:

No Tasmanian Devil dens were observed during the survey however it is possible that suitable hollows for dens may be present on the property. Some of the large Eucalypts present on the property may have suitable basal hollows.

Some of the large eucalypts on the property were also observed to possess significant branch and upper trunk hollows which would provide habitat for fauna, including some threatened species. However no large standing trees will be impacted by the proposed exploration program and no potential threatened fauna habitat will be affected.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS:

The main environmental weed observed during the survey was gorse, and care will need to be taken to avoid transferring seed contaminated soil from drill sites near gorse patches.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

The proposed exploration program will have no significant impacts on the natural values present on the property. Drill sites should be located clear of any large Eucalypt trees, and clear of the recorded locations of the threatened Blue Pincushion *Brunonia australis*.

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