

Photo 1 – Low Heath vegetation approximately 200m west of the existing dwelling

Disturbances – This vegetation community is impacted by walking / driving tracks.

Common Species

Angophora hispida (Dwarf Apple), Grevillea speciosa (Red Spider Flower), Banksia ericifolia var. ericifolia (Heath-leaved Banksia), Hemigenia purpurea (Narrow-leaved Hemigenia), Actinotus minor (Lesser Flannel Flower), Hakea teretifolia (Dagger Hakea), Phyllota phylicoides (Heath Phyllota), Xanthorrhoea media subsp. media (Forest Grass Tree), Persoonia lanceolata (Lance-leaved Geebung), Tetratheca ericifolia (Black-eyed Susan), Dillwynia floribunda var. floribunda (Parrot Pea) and Epacris pulchella (NSW Coral Heath). Significance – Not endangered or threatened within the Northern Beaches LGA.

Vegetation Community B & B2 – Tall Heath and Damp Tall Heath

Occurrence – In relation to the proposed development area, this community occurs frequently to the south of Ralston Avenue, along the northern edge of Ralston Avenue, and within the North West portion of the flora study area. The Tall Heath and Damp Tall Heath vegetation is most similar to Sydney Coastal Heath as mapped by Smith and Smith (2000).

The Damp Tall Heath appears to have been artificially created by concentrated stormwater drainage from development areas upslope on adjoining lands, or is associated with an existing surface drainage line.



Photo 2 - Tall Heath vegetation in Quadrat 5 (2008) looking east

Structure – Tall heath vegetation consisting of a dominance of *Allocasuarina distyla* with several other heath species. Some emergent trees exist. The dominance by the *Allocasuarina distylla* limits the diversity of plant species within those surveyed quadrats. The average height of vegetation within this community is 2.5-5m.

Damp Tall Heath vegetation is typically a moderately dense scrub comprising of *Banksia ericifolia* with a combination of Hakea, Allocasuarina and Leptospermum species. South of Ralston Avenue, the vegetation community has been caused through disturbance and the structure varies more so with the presence of some tree ferns and weeds.

Disturbances – This vegetation community is impacted by walking / driving tracks.

Common Species

Allocasuarina distyla (Scrub She-oak), Leptospermum squarrosum, Darwinia fascicularis, Banksia ericifolia var. ericifolia (Heath-leaved Banksia), Hakea teretifolia (Dagger Hakea), Banksia spinulosa var. spinulosa (Hairpin Banksia), Actinotus minor (Lesser Flannel Flower), Lepyrodia scariosa (Scale Rush) and Leptocarpus tenax (Slender Twine-rush).

Significance – Likely to provide some good quality habitat for the threatened or ROTAP species *Tetratheca glandulosa, Eucalyptus luehmanniana, Angophora crassifolia* and *Lomandra brevis*.

Vegetation Community C - Low Open Forest

Occurrence – In relation to the proposed development area, this community occurs around the fringes on higher degrees of sloping land, in addition to small patches within the central portion of the site and more extensively to the north western corner. The Low Open Forest vegetation is most similar to Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland as mapped by Smith and Smith (2000). In 2005, Smith and Smith described a wider extent of communities with a description for (Vegetation Community 21). This community is a scrubland with *E. luehmanniana* and *C. gummifera* as dominants with heath and sedge understorey species.

This community is not considered threatened within the Northern Beaches local government area (LGA) but *E. luehmanniana* is a rare species.

Whilst the Low Open Forest is diverse with a mix of upper strata species, the area containing *E. luehmanniana* was prevalent within approximately 100m north and south of Ralston Avenue. It was generally never found more than 100m north of Ralston Avenue within the proposed development area, although some smaller patches were located on south westerly slopes to the west of the proposed development area. The extent of the *E. luehmanniana* to the south of Ralston Avenue was extensive and it crept downslope to the edges of the sandstone gully forest, although was less prevalent within the taller surrounding vegetation.

Structure – Low Open Forest vegetation consists of a high proportion of heath species in the lower layers of vegetation with a low proportion of grass species. This community contains trees typically to a height of between 5-10m with a projected foliage cover (PFC) of 20-35%.

Disturbances – This vegetation community is impacted by walking / driving tracks.

Common Species

<u>Trees:</u> Corymbia gummifera (Red Bloodwood), Eucalyptus piperita (Sydney Peppermint), Eucalyptus haemastoma (Scribbly Gum), Eucalyptus luehmanniana (Yellow top Ash), Angophora hispida (Dwarf Apple) and Angophora crassifolia.



Photo 3 – Low Open Forest within the central portion of the proposed development area

Shrubs: Allocasuarina distyla (Scrub She-oak), Banksia ericifolia var. ericifolia (Heath-leaved Banksia), Hakea teretifolia (Dagger Hakea), Banksia spinulosa var. spinulosa (Hairpin Banksia), Leptospermum polygalifolium (Lemon Scented Tea-tree), Gompholobium grandiflorum (Golden Glory Pea), Grevillea speciosa (Red Spider Flower), Grevillea buxifolia

(White Spider Flower), *Hakea sericea* (Needlebush), *Phyllota phylicoides* (Heath Phyllota) and *Platysace linearifolia* (Narrow-leafed Platysace).

<u>Groundcovers:</u> Actinotus minor (Lesser Flannel Flower), Caustis flexuosa (Curly Sedge), Xanthorrhoea media subsp. media (Forest Grass Tree), Patersonia sericea (Wild Iris), Xanthosia tridentata (Rock Xanthosia), Lomandra glauca subsp. glauca, Pimelea linifolia subsp. linifolia (Slender Rice Flower) and Lomandra gracilis.

Significance – Two (2) rare (ROTAP) species were quite common within this community, *Eucalyptus luehmanniana* and *Angophora crassifolia*. The threatened species *Tetratheca glandulosa* has also been observed.

Vegetation Community D – Open Forest

Occurrence – The community occurs immediately west and south of the Sydney East Substation and at the terminal end of Ralston Avenue. It was extensive further north within the study area. The Open Forest vegetation could be a combination of either Sydney Sandstone Ridgetop Woodland or Duffys Forest (an EEC) as mapped by Smith and Smith (2000). Assessment of the vegetation within all 2008 and 2011 quadrats found the vegetation not to be representative of Duffys Forest (in accordance with P & J Smith's Duffys Forest Index).

Further assessment was undertaken in October 2015 against an alternative method, using a tool developed by Greg Steinbeeke which gives a fairly reliable indication of vegetation types. The results of this tool found a portion of vegetation near the Heath Track on the plateau to be commensurate with the EEC Duffys Forest. The community was delineated when broken down into the various Biometric vegetation types.

Structure – Open Forest structure but taller than the Low Open Forest, generally above 10m tall. This vegetation community contains a mixture of healthy understorey species with a moderate dominance of sclerophyllous species. Taller Eucalypt species dominate such as *Eucalyptus punctata* and *Eucalyptus sieberi*. This vegetation community comprises a partially grassy understorey unlike the low heath and tall heath vegetation communities.

Disturbances – This vegetation community is impacted by walking / driving tracks, a communications tower and an electricity substation.

Common Species

<u>Trees:</u> Eucalyptus punctata (Grey Gum), Corymbia gummifera (Red Bloodwood), Angophora costata (Smooth-barked Apple), Eucalyptus sieberi (Silver-top Ash) and Allocasuarina littoralis (Black She-oak).

<u>Shrubs:</u> Acacia terminalis (Sunshine Wattle), Melaleuca hypericifolia, Banksia ericifolia var. ericifolia (Heath-leaved Banksia), Platysace linearifolia (Narrow-leafed Platysace), Callistemon linearis (Narrow-leaved Bottlebrush) and Acacia longifolia var. longifolia (Sydney Golden Wattle).

<u>Groundcovers:</u> Entolasia marginata (Bordered Panic), Entolasia stricta (Wiry Panic), Tetratheca ericifolia (Black-eyed Susan), Pimelea linifolia subsp. linifolia (Slender Rice Flower), Lomandra longifolia (Spiky-headed Mat-rush), Lindsaea microphylla (Lacy Wedgefern) and Lomandra gracilis.

Significance – This vegetation community provides some habitat for the recorded threatened or ROTAP species *Tetratheca glandulosa, Grevillea caleyi, Pimelea curviflora* var. *curviflora, Eucalyptus luehmanniana* and *Angophora crassifolia*.

Where vegetation within the canopy is dominated by *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Corymbia gummifera*, this provides very good potential habitat for the threatened species *Grevillea caleyi*, particularly to the north and north east of the existing residence.



Photo 4 – Open Forest vegetation along the northern edge of Ralston Avenue

Vegetation Community E - Cleared, Managed, Landscaped or Weed Plume

Occurrence – In relation to the flora study area this community only occurs within the centre of the site adjacent to the intersection of some major tracks, the managed grounds and residential lot, other built structures and the weed plume along the edge of Ralston Avenue near the existing gate.

Structure – Contains shrub and heath vegetation with no trees and a grassy and annual understorey.

Disturbances – This vegetation community is impacted by walking / driving tracks, and a high proportion of annuals, exotic grasses and Pampas Grass.

Common Species

Cortaderia selloana (Pampas Grass), Acacia saligna (Orange Wattle), Acacia longifolia var. longifolia (Sydney Golden Wattle), Andropogon virginicus (Whisky Grass), Eragrostis curvula (African Lovegrass), Centella asiatica (Swamp Pennywort), Hakea teretifolia (Dagger Hakea), Cynodon dactylon (Common Couch), Seneca madagascariensis (Fireweed), Paspalum dilatatum (Paspalum) and Bidens pilosa (Cobbler's Pegs).



Photo 5 – Disturbed area with weed plume near the centre of the site

<u>Vegetation Community F - Coastal Upland Swamp</u>

Occurrence – This vegetation community occurs in patches to the south of Ralston Avenue, varying in size up to 1.27 ha.

Structure – Sedge, heath or scrub usually under 2.5m tall with few emergents and few Eucalyptus / Angophora specimens.

Disturbances – Recent fire within the remnants, south of Ralston Avenue.



Photo 6 – Coastal upland swamp vegetation with fringing low open forest or tall heath in in the background

Common Species

Baeckea imbricata, Banksia ericifolia (Heath-leaved Banksia), Bauera rubioides (River Rose), Dillwynia floribunda var. floribunda (Parrot Pea), Hakea teretifolia (Dagger Hakea), Leptospermum squarrosum, Viminaria juncea (Native Broom), Empodisma minus, Lepidosperma spp., Schoenus brevifolius (Bog-rush), Leptocarpus tenax (Slender Twinerush), Lepyrodia scariosa (Scale Rush), Goodenia dimormpha and Xyris gracilis (Slender Yellow-eye).

Significance – This community is regionally significant and falls under the EEC Coastal Upland Swamps of the Sydney Basin Bioregion. This community may provide good habitat for the threatened frog species, Red-crowned Toadlet and Giant Burrowing Frog.

Vegetation Community G – Sandstone Gully Forest

Occurrence – This vegetation community occurs in steeper portions of land to the south of Ralston Avenue generally outside of the proposed development area and thus was not surveyed in much detail. It tends to occur on sheltered southerly facing slopes.

Structure – An open forest structure of Eucalypts, Angophoras and Corymbias with a moderately healthy understorey and some herbs, forbs and ferns in the ground layer. Trees are usually between 10-20m in height.

Disturbances – There has been recent fire within the remnant south of Ralston Avenue.

Common Species

<u>Trees:</u> *Eucalyptus piperita* (Sydney Peppermint), *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked Apple) and *Corymbia gummifera* (Red Bloodwood).

Shrubs: Banksia serrata (Old Man Banksia), Ceratopetalum gummiferum (Christmas Bush), Leptospermum trinervium, Lambertia Formosa (Mountain Devil), Leptospermum polygalifolium (Tantoon), Woollsia pungens, Acacia linifolia (White Wattle), Acacia terminalis (Sunshine Wattle) and Hakea sericea (Needlebush).

<u>Groundcovers:</u> Entolasia stricta (Wiry panic), Anisopogon avenaceus (Oat Speargrass), Gonocarpus teucrioides (Raspwort), Actinotus minor (Lesser Flannel Flower), Xanthosia pilosa (Woolly Xanthosia), Boronia pinnata, Pimelea linifolia (Slender Rice Flower), Calochlaena dubia (Rainbow Fern), Pteridium esculentum (Bracken), Lepidosperma laterale, Caustis flexuosa (Curly Wig) and Lomandra longifolia (Spiny-headed Mat-rush).



Photo 7 - Sandstone Gully Forest in the northern part of the offset area

Vegetation Community H - Riparian Woodland / Forest

Occurrence – This vegetation community occurs along the edge of the creek line in the offset area. It is someone similar to the adjoining Sandstone Gully Forest however sedge species are more prevalent due to wetter soil profiles.

Structure – An open forest structure to woodland in some places containing Eucalyptus, Angophoras and Corymbias with a limited mid-storey layer but moderately dense understorey of grasses, small shrubs, sedges, ferns and herbs. Rock outcropping is common.

Disturbances – There are some moderate-severe weed infestations adjacent which have been mapped as separate vegetation polygons.

Common Species

<u>Trees:</u> Eucalyptus haemastoma (Scribbly Gum), Eucalyptus punctata (Grey Gum), Corymbia gummifera (Red Bloodwood), Angophora costata (Smooth-barked Apple) and Eucalyptus oblonga (Oblong-leaved Stringybark).

<u>Shrubs:</u> Banksia serrata (Old man Banksia), Leptospermum trinervium (Flaky-barked Teatree) and Persoonia levis (Broad-leaved Geebung)

<u>Groundcovers:</u> Entolasia stricta (Wiry Panic), Anisopogon avenaceus (Oat Speargrass), Platysace linearifolia, Boronia ledifolia (Sydney Boronia), Tetratheca thymifolia (Black-eyed Susan), Dampiera stricta, Xanthosia piilosa (Woolly Xanthosia), Micrantheum ericoides, Bossiaea heterophylla (Variable Bossiaea), Lepidosperma laterale, Lomandra glauca (Pale Mat-rush), Lindsaea linearis (Screw Fern), Actinotus minor (Lesser Flannel Flower), Lomandra obliqua and Patersonia sericea (Silky Purple-flag).



Photo 8 - Riparian woodland / forest with burnt understorey near Quadrat 110

3.1.3 Biometric vegetation units

For the purposes of biodiversity assessment report (*EcoLogical Australia* 2015), the original vegetation communities have been categorised into their equivalent biometric vegetation types. Consequently, some vegetation polygons have been split or combined and the number of mapped vegetation zones has increased. The following list relates the biometric vegetation zone to the observed vegetation community equivalent as mapped by *Travers bushfire* & *ecology*:

- Zone 1 ME012: Sydney Peppermint Smooth-barked Apple Red Bloodwood shrubby open forest on slopes of moist sandstone gullies, eastern Sydney Basin (G -Sandstone Gully Forest H - Riparian Woodland/Forest)
- Zone 2 ME014: Red Bloodwood Scribbly gum healthy woodland on sandstone plateaux, Sydney Basin (C - Low Open Forest (to 10m tall) D - Open Forest (10+m tall))
- Zone 3 ME008: Hairpin Banksia Kunzea ambigua Allocasuarina distyla heath on coastal sandstone plateaux, Sydney Basin (A - Tall Heath (2.5- tall) B - Tall Heath (2.5-5m tall) B2 - Damp Tall Heath)
- Zone 4 ME015: Needlebush Banksia wet heath on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin (F - Coastal Upland Swamp)
- Zone 5 ME013: Hairpin Banksia Slender Tea-tree heath on coastal sandstone plateaux, Sydney Basin Bioregion (various)
- Zone 6 ME039: Red Bloodwood Smooth-barked Apple shrubby forest on shale or ironstone of coastal plateaux, Sydney Basin Bioregion (various)
- Cleared, Managed, Landscaped or Weed Plume

Figure 3a shows the vegetation communities as mapped by *Travers bushfire & ecology* across the entire study area. Figure 3b shows a zoom to the development area and Figure 3c shows the equivalent Biometric vegetation types.

3.2 Fauna results

Fauna species observed throughout the duration of fauna surveys are listed in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2 – Fauna observations for the study area

Common name	Scientific name	Me	Method observed		
Birds		May 2008	Dec 2011	Oct 2012+	
Australian Brush-turkey	Alectura lathami			R	
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen		0	0	
Australian Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles cristatus			С	
Australian Raven	Corvus coronoides	ОС	ОС	ОС	
Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis		0		
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae	0	ОС	ОС	
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Melithreptus validirostris	ОС			
Brown Thornbill	Acanthiza pusilla		ОС	ОС	
Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora	0	0	ОТ	
Brush Bronzewing	Phaps elegans	0	С		
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Scythrops novaehollandiae		С	С	
Common Koel	Eudynamys scolopacea		С	С	
Common Myna *	Acridotheres tristis	0		0	
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes	0			
Crimson Rosella	Platycerous elegans			ОС	
Eastern Spinebill	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	ОС	ОС	ОС	
Eastern Whipbird	Psophodes olivaceus	ОС	ОС	OCR	
Eastern Yellow Robin	Eopsaltria australis	0	ОС	ОС	
Fairy Martin	Hirundo ariel		0		
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis		C	С	
Glossy Black-Cockatoo TS	Calyptorhynchus lathami			ı	
Golden Whistler	Pachycephala pectoralis	0		С	
Grey Butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus	O C	С	C	
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa	ОС	C	ОС	
Grey Shrike-thrush	Colluricincla harmonica	0	ОС	ОС	
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae		ОС	ОС	
Little Lorikeet TS	Glossopsitta pusilla	С			
Little Wattlebird	Anthochaera chrysoptera	ОС	ОС	ОС	
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles		С	С	
New Holland Honeyeater	Phylidonyris novaehollandiae	ОС	ОС	OCR	
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina	С	ОС	ОС	
Powerful Owl TS	Ninox strenua	Sp C P			
Rainbow Lorikeet	Trichoglossus haematodus	С	С	ОС	
Red-browed Finch	Neochmia temporalis	ОС	ОС	ОС	
Red Wattlebird	Anthochaera carunculata	ОС		С	
Red-whiskered Bulbul *	Pycnonotus jocosus		С	С	
Rufous Whistler	Pachycephala rufiventris		С	ОС	
Scarlet Honeyeater	Myzomela sanguinolenta	С			
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx lucidus		С		
Silvereye	Zosterops lateralis	ОС	ОС	OCR	
Southern Boobook	Ninox novaeseelandiae			С	
Spotted Pardalote	Pardalotus punctatus	ОС	С	ОС	
Spotted Quail-thrush	Cinclosoma punctatum			C PR	
Striated Pardalote	Pardalotus striatus	ОС		С	
Striated Thornbill	Acanthiza lineata		ОС	0.0	
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita	С	ОС	ОС	
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus		ОС	С	

Common name	Scientific name	Method observed		
Tawny Frogmouth	Podargus strigoides	0		
Variegated Fairy-wren	Malurus lamberti		ОС	ОС
Welcome Swallow	Hirundo neoxena	0	0	0
White-browed Scrubwren	Sericornis frontalis	ОС	ОС	OCR
White-cheeked Honeyeater	Phylidonyris nigra			C PR
White-eared Honeyeater	Lichenostomus leucotis	ОС	ОС	ОС
White-throated Nightjar	Eurostopodus mystacalis			ОС
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Lichenostomus chrysops	ОС	0	С
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus funereus	С		ОС
Mammals				
Brown Antechinus	Antechinus stuartii		TR	
Bush Rat	Rattus fuscipes		TR	TR
Common Brushtail Possum	Trichosurus vulpecula		STR	TR
Common Ringtail Possum	Pseudocheirus peregrinus		S	
Common Wombat	Vombatus ursinus			R
Dog *	Canis familiaris	0	ОС	OR
Eastern Bentwing-bat TS	Miniopterus orianae oceansis			A
Eastern Pygmy Possum TS	Cercatetus nanus			HR
European Red Fox *	Vulpes vulpes			R
Forest Bat	Vespadelus sp	А		
Gould's Wattled Bat	Chalinolobus gouldii		А	Α
Grey-headed Flying-fox TS	Pteropus poliocephalus	SC	0	0
Horse *	Equus caballus	0	0	0
Little Bentwing-bat TS	Miniopterus australis			A
Little Forest Bat	Vespadelus vulturnus			A PR
Long-nosed Bandicoot	Parameles nasuta		TR	TR
Mouse	Mus or Pseudomys sp.		110	R
Rabbit *	Oryctolagus cuniculus			0
Short-beaked Echidna	Tachyglossus aculeatus		0	Ī
Sugar Glider	Petaurus breviceps		T	IC
Swamp Wallaby	Wallabia bicolor		OR	OTR
White-striped Freetail-bat	Austronomus australis		OK	A
Reptiles	Austronomus austrans			
Blackish Blind Snake	Ramphotyphops nigrecens		Н	
Burton's Legless Lizard	Lialis burtonis			Т
Copper Tailed Skink	Ctenotus taeniolatus	0	Н	T .
Delicate Skink	Lampropholis delicata		0	OT
Diamond Python	Morelia spilota	0	0	0
Eastern Bearded Dragon	Pogona barbata	0		O R
Eastern Blue Tongue Lizard	Tiliqua scincoides		Т	T
Eastern Brown Snake	Pseudonaja textilis			0
Eastern Tiger Snake	Notechis scutatus	0		
Eastern Water Dragon	Physignathus lesueurii			0
Eastern Water Skink	Eulamprus quoyii			0
Grass Skink	Lampropholis guichenoti			T
Rosenberg's Goanna TS	Varanus rosenbergii		Т	OT
Lace Monitor	Varanus rosenbergii Varanus varius	+	0	OT
Mainland She-oak Skink	Cyclodomorphus michaeli	+		Н
Red-throated Skink	Pseudemoia platynota	Н		11
Weasel Skink	Saproscincus mustelina	11	O PR	Т
Yellow-faced Whip Snake	Demansia psammophis	Н	<u> </u>	Ť
Amphibians				
Broad-palmed Frog	Litoria latopalmata	T	C PR	
Common Eastern Froglet	Crinia signifera	С	0 C	СТ
Freycinet's Frog	Litoria freycineti			0
i reyoliteta i rog	Litoria riegorieu			U

Common name	Scientific name	Method observed		
Giant Burrowing Frog TS	Heleioporus australiacus			T/DNA O
Leaf Green Tree Frog	Litoria phyllochroa			С
Peron's Tree Frog	Litoria peronii			С
Red-crowned Toadlet TS	Pseudophryne australis	ОС	С	Н
Striped Marsh Frog	Limnodynastes peronii		С	Н

Note: * indicates introduced species

All species listed are identified to a high level of certainty unless otherwise noted as:

PR indicates species identified to a 'probable' level of certainty PO indicates species identified to a 'possible' level of certainty

A - Anabat II/SD-1 C - Call Identification
O - Observation P - Call playback response
T - Trap (*Elliott*, cage, etc) H - Habitat search

S - Spotlight I - Scat, track or sign identification

R - Surveillance camera DNA - DNA Analysis

TS indicates threatened species

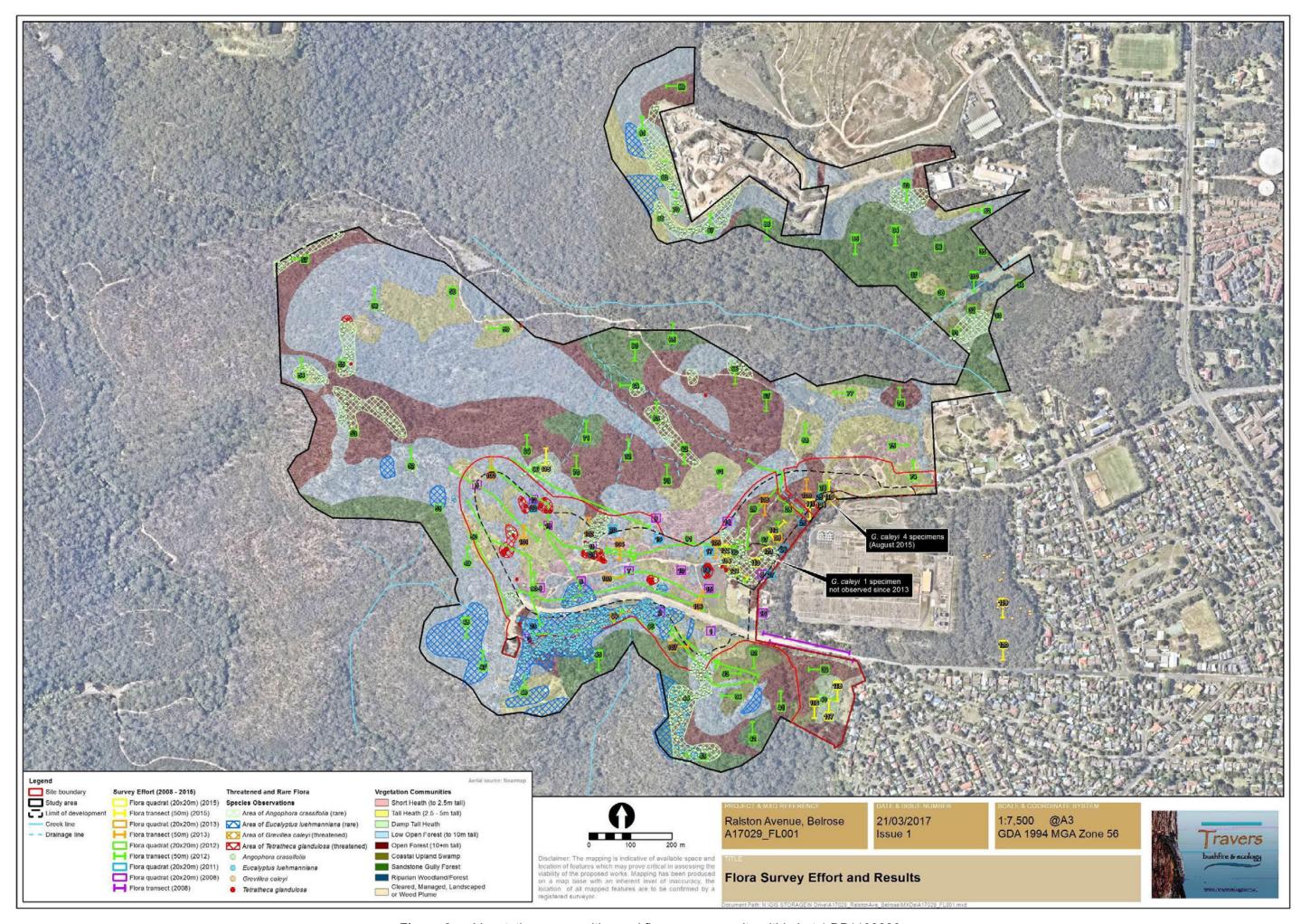


Figure 3a – Vegetation communities and flora survey results within Lot 1 DP1139826

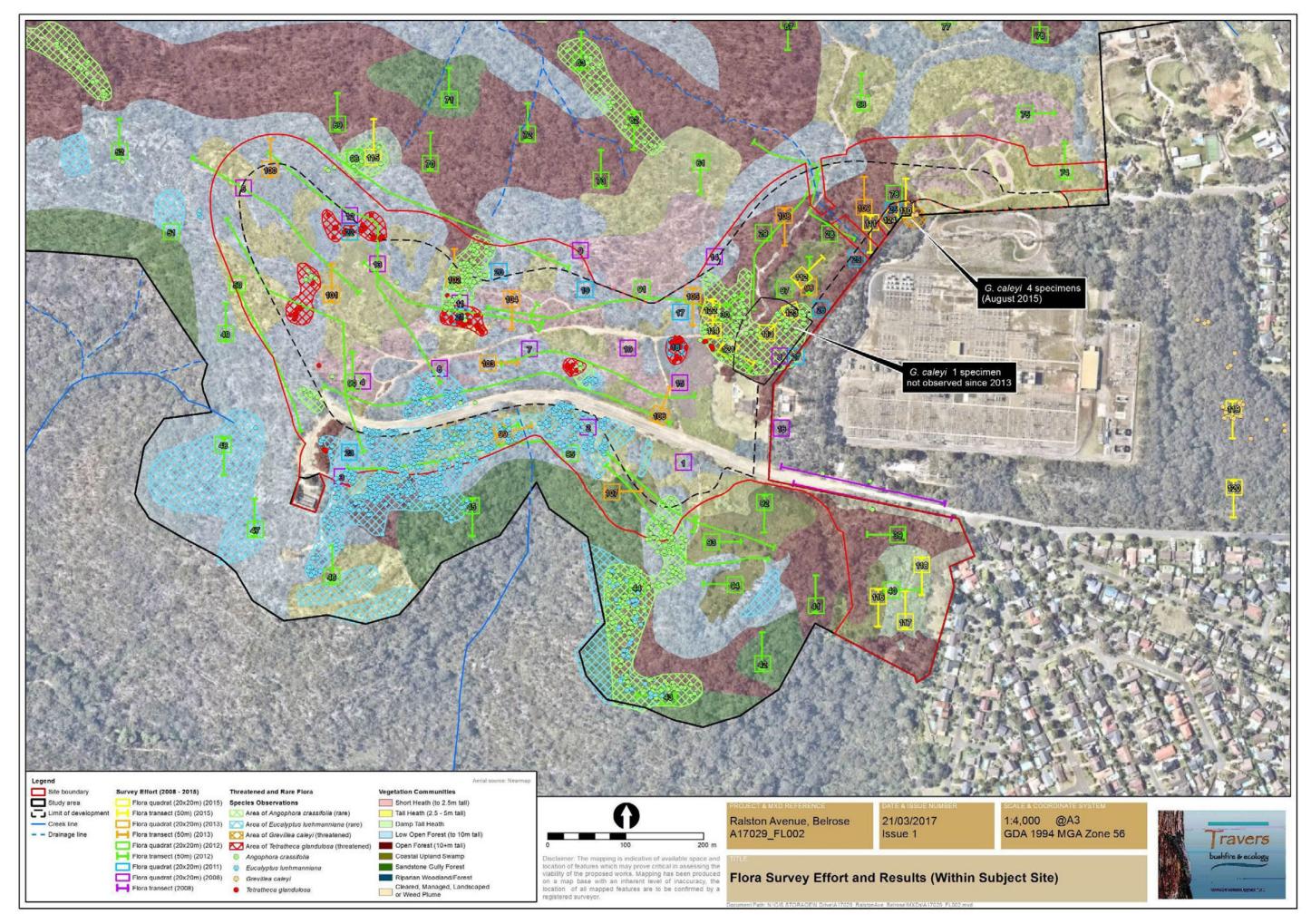


Figure 3b – Vegetation communities and flora survey results within the subject site (zoom in)

Ecological Assessment– Ralston Avenue, Belrose

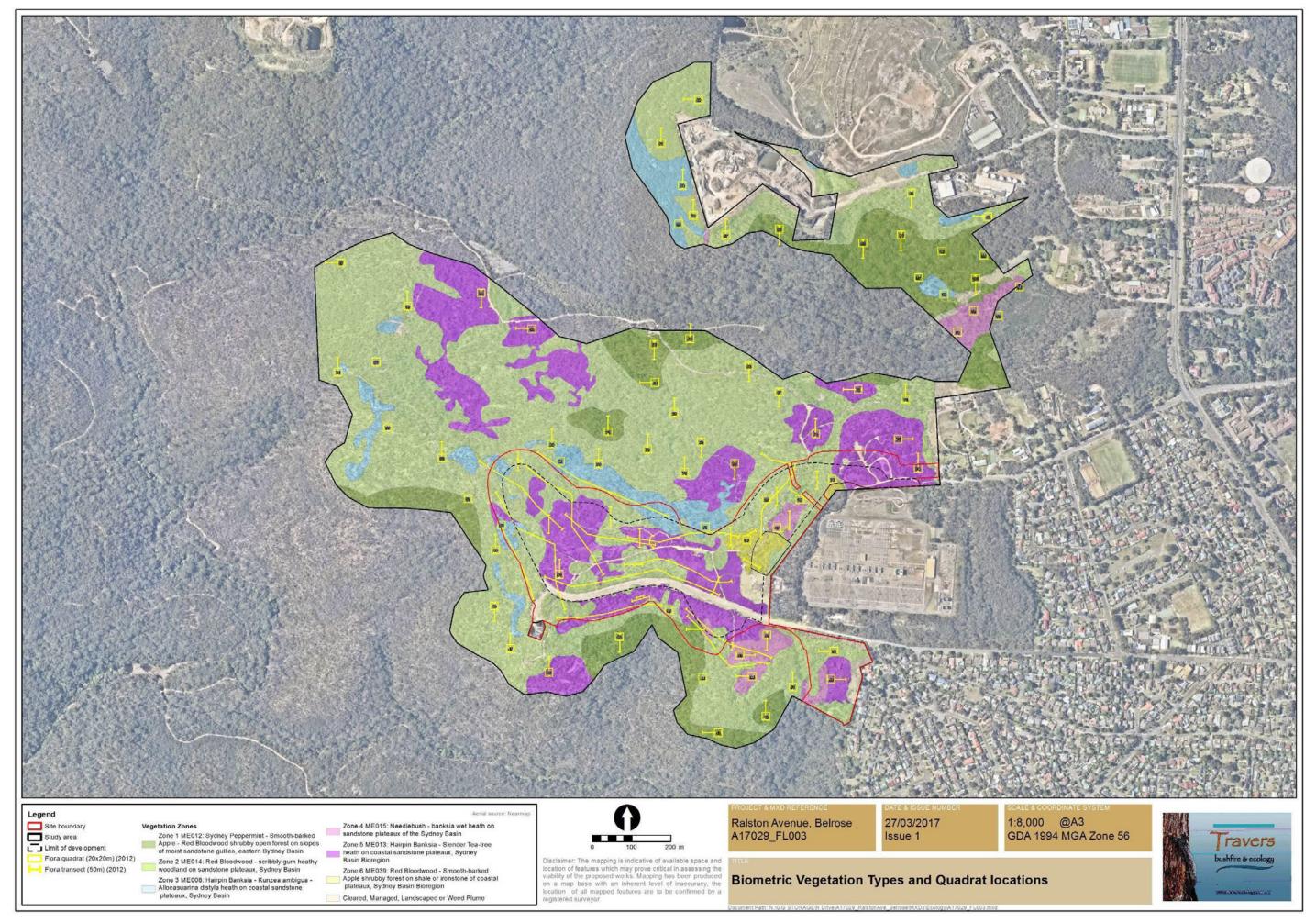


Figure 3c – Biometric vegetation types

Ecological Assessment– Ralston Avenue, Belrose