

Seaham Quarry Project

Biodiversity Factsheet

December 2023



Building
something
great



A detailed assessment of potential impacts on the biodiversity values of the Project area is being undertaken, in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) (NSW), and as requested in the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). It is being undertaken in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE 2020).

The results of the assessment will be documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report and will form part of the Environmental impact statement (EIS).

In addition, a formal assessment of Matters of National Environmental Significance listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth) is currently underway. The Project was declared a controlled action under section 75 of the EPBC Act on 25 September 2023.

Over the past three years, ecological surveys have been undertaken within the Project area and included:

- vegetation mapping
- vegetation integrity (i.e. condition) assessment
- targeted threatened flora and fauna species surveys.



Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Red Ironbark shrubby open forest



White Mahogany - Spotted Gum - Grey Myrtle forest

Key findings

Flora surveys are now complete and have confirmed there are no threatened flora species within the disturbance footprint.

Vegetation within the Project area consists of a diverse canopy of eucalypt species, open shrub layer and grassy ground layer with a mix of non-woody plants (i.e. native grasses and wildflowers) and small ferns. See map over the page.

Due to past and ongoing disturbance, areas directly adjacent to and within the existing Quarry contain a lower diversity of native species and, a higher diversity and cover of exotic plant species.

Lantana (*Lantana camara*) is a prevalent weed within the Project area, occurring at varying densities.

Two types of forest have been recorded within the proposed disturbance footprint.

- Spotted Gum - Broad-leaved Mahogany - Red Ironbark shrubby open forest

- White Mahogany - Spotted Gum - Grey Myrtle forest.

Targeted threatened species surveys identified the following threatened fauna species within the Project area:

- Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*)
- Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
- Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)
- Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*)
- South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) (no breeding detected)
- Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) (no breeding detected).

Consultation with the Biodiversity Conservation Division is underway to assess the proximity of the Project to the Balickera Canal Tunnel, and presence of threatened microbat species. Targeted surveys in the tunnel are planned for December 2023.

Management/ mitigation measures

Project design

Field investigations have been carried out in parallel with the Project design development. Refinements have been made to the proposed footprint. This includes not proceeding with an extension to the southern ignimbrite (i.e. a type of volcanic rock) pit. This has reduced the footprint by approximately 5.7 hectares of forest vegetation, which was identified as habitat for Koala, Squirrel Glider, and Brush-tailed Phascogale.

Construction and operations

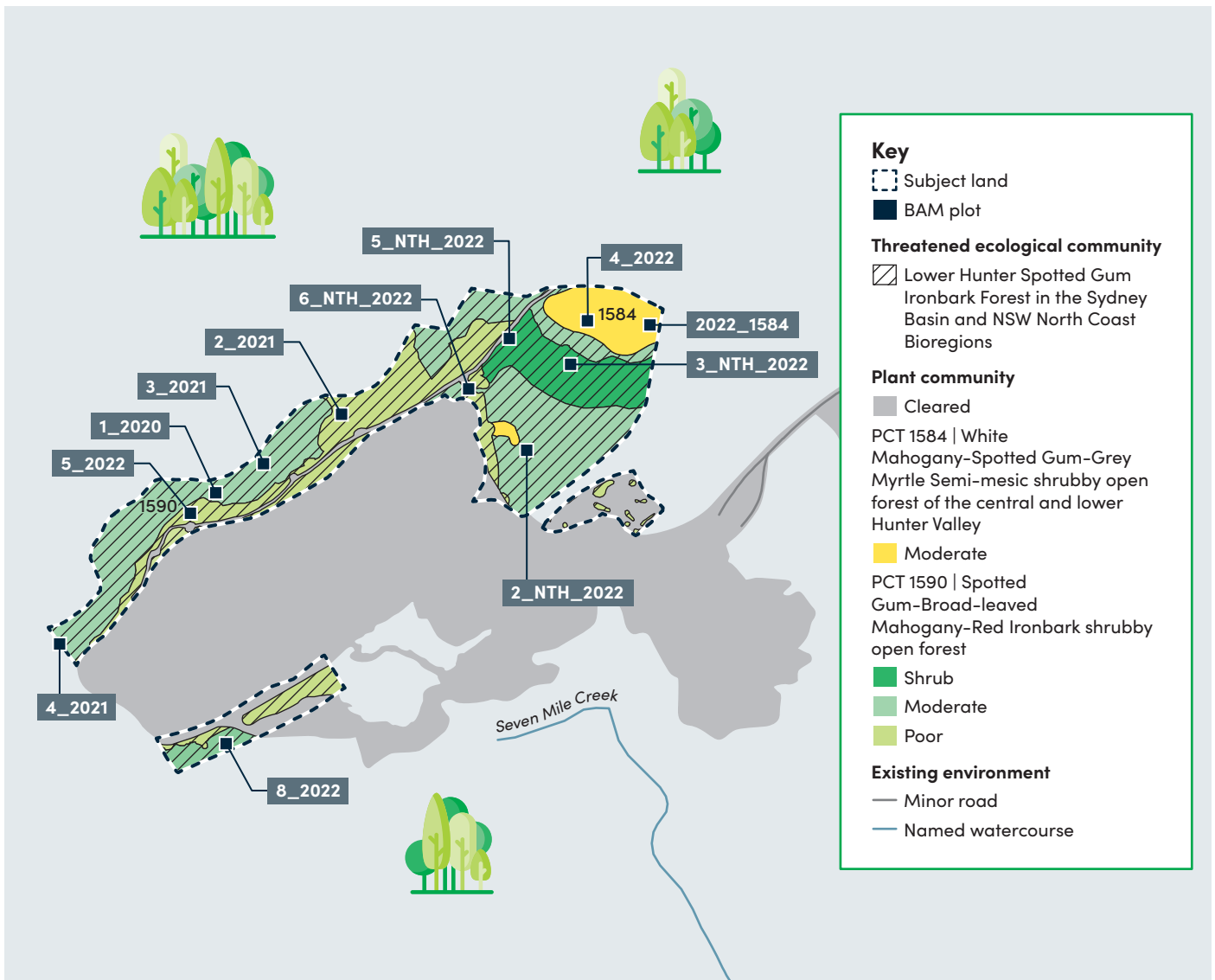
Project impact mitigation measures include, but are not limited to:

- The extent of the approved clearing and disturbance and sensitive areas will be included in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- Preparing a Biodiversity Management Plan, including protocols to monitor and manage the condition and habitat values of retained vegetation and site weed control and management procedures.
- Preparing specific management plans, to monitor and manage water, weed, and construction traffic impacts.

- Installing controls, including fencing and sediment traps, in areas where works will occur in proximity to low lying vegetation or watercourses
- Developing pre-clearance protocols for removing vegetation and native fauna habitat.

Biodiversity offsets

In accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, the remaining biodiversity impacts will be offset by the purchase and/or retirement of biodiversity credits or payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.



Draft plant community types and vegetation zones