

SITE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (SEMP)

Falls Creek Summit to Gully Mountain Bike Trail

Prepared by Biosis Pty Ltd

A Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is a document detailing the potential environmental impacts of a proposed use and/or development and the ways that these impacts may be reduced by management strategies and practices. The provision of a SEM is triggered under Schedule 2 of the Comprehensive Development Zone contained within the Alpine Resorts Planning Scheme.

OBJECTIVES OF A SEM

The objectives of a SEM are to address environmental, planning scheme and rehabilitation requirements and ensure that applicants are accountable for preventing or mitigating any environmental impacts.

THE PROCESS

A SEM must be endorsed by the responsible authority (the Minister for Planning) prior to the commencement of any buildings or works. Endorsement may include approval by the relevant Resort Management Board (Alpine Resorts Victoria- Falls Creek (ARV-FC)) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

SUBMISSION

Ensure that you submit the following as part of your SEM package:

Part A - SEM Cover Form, including supporting attachments such as photographs and reports, if required – SEE ATTACHED

Part B - Site Construction Management Plan, including a detailed drawing identifying environmental measures referenced in the SEM Cover Form and documentation addressing the performance standards – SEE MAP ATTACHED

Part C - Site Rehabilitation Plan detailing site rehabilitation and site monitoring requirements – See Part C

Attachment 1 – Removable Structures - Locations and Plans

Attachment 2 - Falls Creek Alpine Resort Work Practice – Works in Hawkweed Sites (FCRM 2021)

Please note:

The planning scheme may require additional information to be attached to fully describe the site and works such as:

- Geotechnical Reports (GHD 2024) – See Planning Report Attachments.
- Fauna and Flora Reports (Biosis 2024) - See Planning Report Attachments.
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan (Bligh Gilding Consulting) – See Planning Report Attachments.

Special requirements apply to buildings and works carried out in Hawkweed areas within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort

A copy of the endorsed SEM must be kept on site at all times during the construction period.

Failure to comply with a SEM can result in enforcement action.

Document control

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Internal reviewer	CE
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PART A

SITE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Falls Creek Summit to Gully Mountain Bike Trail

Site Location

The project site is located within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort, approximately 18 kilometres east of Harrietville and approximately 30 kilometres south-east of Bright. The trail will commence at the Falls Creek Summit and extend downhill to Gully chairlift bottom station. Access to the site is from the Bogong High Plains Road, east of the project site. Existing buildings are located outside of the site to the southeast. These buildings form the Falls Creek Resort and include ski field facilities, entertainment facilities, and associated accommodation.

Project Description

ARV-FC intends to undertake buildings and works and vegetation removal for the purpose of constructing a mountain bike trail from Summit to Gully in Falls Creek.

The Summit to Gully trail will be approximately 1.8 kilometres and will consist of a downhill mountain bike trail from the Summit of Falls Creek to Gully chairlift bottom station. The trail will link rock garden sections of higher flora vulnerability and predominantly follow existing ski run areas. The trail is proposed to include two removable built features.

The project will involve both hand and machine construction methods. This includes the use of elevated structures and sensitive design responses at waterway and bog crossings that will avoid and minimise impacts on aquatic habitats and surrounding riparian vegetation. These measures will include construction using clear span elevated structures, or where footings are required in wet areas low impact footing installation techniques (e.g. pneumatic drilling) will be used. Several berm structures are proposed at sharper corners along the proposed trail, and two removable jumps are proposed towards the southern margin of the trail (Attachment 1).

The trail construction methods and design responses intend to minimise vegetation and habitat impacts. Construction of the trail will generally require the permanent removal and/or lopping of vegetation along a 1.0 metre trail corridor. The track will have an approximate width of 600 millimetres and construction will involve the removal of the top layer of vegetation and topsoil. The extent of native vegetation to be removed for this project is 0.375 hectares. No large trees are to be removed.

The mountain bike trail will add to the amenity of the area by providing more outdoor recreational activities for tourists in the green season. This promotes 'all seasons' visitation to the Falls Creek Alpine Resort.

Project Management

Alpine Resorts Victoria Falls Creek (ARV-FC) are the project proponent and have led the design and planning phases of the project.

The construction phase of the project will be managed by personnel from ARV-FC, and they will be contactable on a 24-hour basis during the works.

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Project Manager:

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If the Project Manager is not on site during works a Site Supervisor must be appointed.

The Project Manager or Site Supervisor must:

- Be present at a site induction.
- Ensure all personnel (including contractor/sub-contractors) are aware of contents of SEMP.
- Be available for on-site meetings when required.
- Ensure compliance with the SEMP.

Construction Schedule

An indicative construction schedule is outlined in Table 1; these timeframes will be subject to change and dependent on obtaining planning approval. It is proposed to commence the proposed works in November 2024.

Table 1: Construction schedule

Stage	Date/timing
Commence mark out	November 2024
Complete works	6 weeks
Contingency for schedule overrun	Not applicable
Site rehabilitation	During construction, place cut material and soil sods along trail edges in suitable locations to reduce erosion and encourage natural regeneration. Remedial works will be undertaken in the form of surface hardening (using rock or similar) to reduce erosion in unstable areas.

Construction will be halted where severe weather conditions are forecast or experienced (e.g. fire, flood, severe thunderstorm or wind warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology).

A site induction will be held consistent with standards outlined in the accompanying CMP prior to the commencement of the project.

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Construction Techniques/Activities

It is understood the trail will be constructed from a combination of:

- Standard benching (machine), a 1.7t excavator will be utilised in the lower parts of the trail.
- Standard benching (hand), which will be utilised in sensitive, rocky and/or very steeply sloping areas of the trail. Hand building techniques are preferred in the upper sections of the trail above the aqueduct where there tends to be more rock exposed at the surface making accessibility difficult for a machine.

Construction activities at waterway and bog crossings will include using clear span elevated structures, or where footings are required in wet areas, low impact footing installation techniques (e.g. pneumatic drilling). Several berm structures are proposed at sharper corners along the proposed trail, and two removable jumps are proposed towards the southern margin of the trail (Attachment 1). These are to be constructed with locally sourced materials and removed during the ski season.

Construction of the trail will generally require the permanent removal and/or lopping of vegetation along a 1 metre trail corridor. The track will have an approximate width of 600 millimetres and construction will involve the complete or partial removal of vegetation and topsoil. The extent of native vegetation to be removed for this project is 0.375 hectares. Where the trail follows existing walking tracks, ski runs or power line easements, no vegetation removal will be required. No large trees are to be removed.

Construction Phases

The following recommendations to minimise environmental impacts during planning, pre-construction, construction and post-construction phases of the project must be complied with:

Planning and pre-construction

- Ground disturbance outside of the designated project footprint is to be avoided. Allowance will be made towards the end of the trail, in existing disturbed sites of the ski field for all storage areas and services. Any ancillary areas will be located in existing disturbed sites in the ski-field.
- Protect all areas of native vegetation adjacent to the project footprint by inducting all personnel to the No-Go zones, protective fencing and other management actions indicated in the SEMP. Exclusion fencing in the form of star pickets and bunting or similar (must be highly visible), must be installed before work commences and remain in place until all construction activities are completed.
- Appropriate sediment management must be installed before work commences in order to protect waterways and other sensitive environments in surrounding areas.
- Ensure all environmental constraints are clearly communicated to construction personnel and incorporated into the workforce induction program.
- Trail 'micro-siting' mapping and marking out must be completed using appropriate Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to ensure the approved alignment is achieved during construction.
 - Micro-siting mapping and marking out will involve a detailed pre-construction walk of the approved trail alignment with a technical specialist and members of the trail construction team. The proposed trail has been aligned to minimise disturbance of habitat for Mountain Pygmy-possum, Broad-toothed Rat and Guthega Skink, to avoid impacts on Alpine Bog communities and threatened aquatic fauna habitats where possible, and must be marked out in its entirety before construction commences. The

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trail will be surveyed for any previously undetected threatened species habitats and patches of threatened ecological communities.

- Micro-siting will be conducted with the assistance of a suitably qualified fauna expert to ensure the avoidance of high value threatened species habitat. They will also ensure that the proposed positions for the elevated structures or rock armouring with large voids or PVC pipes will provide habitat connectivity for ground-dwelling mammals and reptiles.
- Micro-siting will be conducted to ensure that areas of Alpine Bogs, rocky outcrops, and sedgy/grassy habitat have been avoided or impacts minimised.
- Areas where elevated structures or rock armouring with large voids or PVC pipes are to be used to overcome minor habitat fragmentation for Broad-toothed Rat are to be clearly marked out and mapped using appropriate GPS technology.
- Areas where clear span elevated structures are required to cross waterways or the threatened Alpine Bogs community are to be clearly marked out and mapped using appropriate GPS technology.
- If any realignment options are identified that will further avoid and minimise impacts to sensitive areas, these are to be mapped and discussed with ARV-FC and DEECA.

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Construction

- Hand and machine construction of the trail from high elevation to low elevation. This must be undertaken in a sensitive manner to avoid disturbing native vegetation outside of the impact area.
- Elevated structures or rock armouring with large voids or PVC pipes are to be used to minimise environmental impacts to threatened communities and species, and sensitive waterways.
 - This is particularly important in areas of Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens, a threatened ecological community listed on the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1988* (EPBC) that intersect the proposed trail. All areas containing the community will be spanned by elevated structures. Damage to the community outside of the construction footprint will be managed through construction techniques.
- No vehicles are to enter the project area. Enforce access tracks so disturbances from foot traffic are minimal.
- All contractors will be inducted by the project manager prior to commencing works.
- Prevent access to No-Go zones for all construction personnel and equipment.
- Relocate any existing rocks that are currently providing habitat for fauna to the edge of the trail to ensure they can continue to provide habitat. Loose boulders exposed in the batter face must be removed and can be used as rock armouring at the base of the batter slope. Loose boulders must not be left at the crest of slopes.
- Manage works to minimise discharge of sediments and other pollutants.
 - Additional suitable sediment control measures are provided in Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA 1991) and Guideline for Environmental Management: Doing it right on subdivisions, Temporary environmental protection measures for subdivision construction sites (EPA 2004).

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- Refuel vehicles and equipment, and store chemicals and other equipment on stable surfaces and not within 30 metres of a waterway or associated waterbody (e.g. a dam, drainage line). These activities need to occur in the site compound in the existing developed areas of the ski field.
- Maintain all protective fencing or markers in good repair for the duration of the works period.
- Maintain all sediment control measures in good repair and regularly inspected to ensure adequate performance for the duration of the works period.
- Monitor for weed establishment during trail construction and adhere to hygiene procedures for all vehicles, equipment and PPE.
- Place cut material and soil sods along trail edges in suitable locations to reduce erosion and encourage natural regeneration.
- Minimise any changes to surface water flows.

Post-construction

- Monitor natural regeneration and weed establishment along the trail edges.
- Sediment control measures are to remain installed for 1 month post construction. Removal will occur only if there are no sedimentation issues.
- Monitor the condition of elevated platforms, rock armouring and PVC pipe to ensure they are working as intended.
- An assessment by a geotechnical practitioner is recommended following construction to assess whether the trail is downslope of any potential high risk rockfall hazards that may require remediation.
- Follow-up monitoring of this area is required under the existing *Mountain Bike Trail Management Plan* (TMP) (Falls Creek Resort Management 2020).
- A schedule of monitoring for reptile activity and mortality will be established during the first season of trail use to ensure any impacts to reptiles are understood and to inform whether any curtailment in trail use is warranted in the event that mortality thresholds are exceeded.
 - A Reptile Survey Protocol produced by Biosis on 19 July 2024 is appended to the Falls Creek TMP. This protocol outlines the methodology for reptile monitoring over the first season of trail use.

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Environmental Risks

Each environmental risk is described below in Table 2 with relevant responses.

Table 2: Environmental risk, Falls Creek Summit to Gully Mountain Bike Trail project

<u>Risk</u>	<u>Measures to address risk</u>
<p>1. Local erosion and sedimentation</p>	<p>Sensitive trail construction methods will be utilised throughout the project. Measures such as placement of cut material and soil sods along trail edges in suitable locations will be applied to reduce erosion. Where possible fill should be used to level the trail, rather than excavation.</p> <p>If excavation is required within estimated tree protection zones it must be minimised to no more than 100 millimetres depth where practicable or undertaken by hand or other root sensitive methodology to minimise the impact to tree roots.</p> <p>Trail design is focused on minimising erosion risk.</p> <p>Construction is not to take place after heavy rainfall events and surface water is to be redirected from trail slopes.</p> <p>Rock armouring will be used to promote stability and limit erosion where soft or boggy soil is exposed. It is also to be used where excavation works are to be undertaken in steep sections of the trail to stabilise cut batters.</p> <p>Strict sediment controls in the form of coir logs will be in place to protect sensitive waterways.</p> <p>RECEIVED Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 16/08/24</p> <p>Sediment control measures will be checked and maintained after rainfall events greater than 10 mm in a 24-hour period. These measures are to remain installed for 1 month post construction to ensure there are no sedimentation issues.</p>
<p>2. Disturbance or removal of native vegetation</p> <p>ADVERTISED PLAN</p>	<p>The project has been designed to minimise impacts on the most sensitive values by aligning the trail down existing ski runs where possible and through sub-alpine environments with less exposure and lower biodiversity/landscape values. Trail 'micro-siting' mapping and marking out will occur to ensure the approved alignment is achieved during construction.</p> <p>Vegetation to be removed comprises understorey vegetation within the disturbed context of a ski resort. All vegetation in the resort is of relatively high condition due to the intact nature of the landscape so avoiding high condition vegetation was not viable for this project.</p> <p>Roots greater than 80 millimetres diameter must not be damaged/severed without the approval of a qualified arborist.</p> <p>If excavation is required within estimated tree protection zones it must be minimised to no more than 100 millimetres depth where practicable or undertaken by hand or other root sensitive methodology to minimise the impact to tree roots.</p>

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No excavation must occur within the structural root zone of a tree. These can nominally be considered as:

- Trees <150mm diameter: SRZ 1m radius²
- Trees >150mm<250mm diameter: SRZ 1.5m radius³
- Trees >250mm<400mm diameter: SRZ 2.3m radius
- Trees >400mm<600mm diameter: SRZ 2.7m radius
- Trees >600mm<800mm diameter: SRZ 3m radius
- Trees >800mm diameter: SRZ 3.5m radius

If excavation must occur inside the SRZ it must be undertaken by hand or other sensitive methodology and in the presence of a qualified arborist.

Access/egress to the work areas will be via Bogong High Plains Road. Vehicle movements will be restricted within the ski run areas. No new access tracks will be created.

Contractors on site are to be inducted with the SEMP to ensure that the disturbance footprint and No-Go zones are adhered to.

Vegetation protection exclusion fencing in the form of star pickets and bunting or similar will be used as marked in the CMP. These will be installed to delineate the No-Go zone outside of the impact area. Appropriate signage such as 'Environmental Protection Area' will be installed.

Parking will be located in a pre-existing parking lot as marked in the CMP so as to not disturb existing vegetation.

Place cut material and soil sods along trail edges in suitable locations to encourage natural regeneration.

3. Introduction of weeds and soil pathogens

Prior to works commencing any machinery, equipment and PPE introduced into the Resort will be washed down to remove soil and weed seeds, using a wash down facility approved by ARV-FC. All equipment that has been previously contaminated with soil material will be washed down off-site with Phytoclean anti-fungal solution prior to works commencing.

Soil disturbance and subsequent weed invasion will be minimised through construction management and follow up weed control. Controlling the introduction and spread of weed species in ecologically sensitive areas is of particular importance, especially those species associated with MTB/walking track edges in the resort.

Ongoing monitoring will be required to manage the establishment of weeds once the trail is operational under the existing resort TMP. Weed removal procedures are outlined in the TMP.

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4. Management of Hawkweed *Hieracium* species during construction

The project Flora and Fauna Assessment (Biosis 2024) did not record any Hawkweed in the project area. Any Hawkweed sites outside the project area will be No-Go Zone during the construction period. Procedures as documented in Section 7 of the Works in Hawkweed Sites Work Practice (FCRM 2021) and the Falls Creek Alpine Resort Hawkweed Work Practice (HWP) (Attachment 2) must be adhered to.

The Flora and Fauna Assessment recommends the implementation of the TMP, Hawkweed buffers and work standard for the entire Falls Creek Trail Network.

Buildings and works are being supervised by ARV-FC and will follow the HWP. This means all machinery, plant, tools and footwear will be washed down in accordance with the Fall Creek Alpine Resort Hawkweed Work Practice at the ARV-FC machinery shed designated washdown facility.

Equipment hygiene procedures from the Work Practice include:

- All vehicles, machinery, equipment and footwear must be washed down after removing contaminated soil or working in a known Hawkweed site.
- Machinery and tools must be washed down onsite directly after removing contaminated soil or before moving to a different location if they have been accessing a Hawkweed site.

- Areas to be washed down include all parts of machinery of tools that have come into contact with contaminated soil including machinery and vehicle tyres. All soil and vegetation must be washed from the vehicle.
- Footwear must be washed down prior to leaving a known Hawkweed site, including developed areas of the Falls Creek Resort.

Soil or plant materials will not be removed from the site.

Procedures for soil remaining onsite from the HWP include:

- Clearly mark all Hawkweed plants onsite.
- Ensure that no material stockpiles, access routes, waste receptacles or equipment storage are placed on or within a 2 metre radius of marked Hawkweed site.
- Erect protective fencing to clearly mark the boundary within 2 metres of each Hawkweed Site. The fencing will form the threshold of the exclusion zone surrounding the site.
- No pedestrian machine or plant access is permitted in the exclusion zone.
- Ensure that access to the site remains open and safe for weekly monitoring by either ARV-FC or Park Victoria staff.

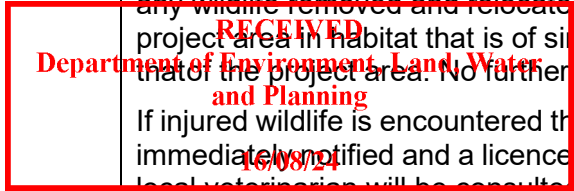
If a new Hawkweed plant is found during works then work in the area will cease and ARV-FC notified immediately for

	<p>follow up. Hawkweed plants found on or near the trail will be managed by ARV-FC in conjunction with DEECA, as per the TMP.</p>
<p>5. Destruction of threatened flora or their habitats. Impacts to threatened ecological communities.</p>	<p>The project footprint to be used has been assessed by a professional ecologist to minimise impacts to significant flora species. Avoidance and minimisation measures have been applied when designing the alignment of the trail. Measures to minimise any residual risk of the proposed works have been incorporated into this SEMP to ensure that the risk of adverse environmental impacts is mitigated.</p> <p>Priority has been given to minimising disturbance of habitat for Mountain Pygmy-possum, Broad-toothed Rat and Guthega Skink, and aligning the trail to avoid impacts on Alpine Bog communities and threatened aquatic fauna habitats where possible.</p> <p>Trail 'micro-siting' mapping and marking out must be conducted with the assistance of a suitably qualified fauna expert to ensure the avoidance of high value threatened species habitat.</p> <p>Elevated structures or rock armouring with large voids or PVC pipes will be used to overcome minor habitat fragmentation created by trail construction in areas of habitat for Broad-toothed Rat.</p> <p>Areas where elevated structures or rock armouring with large voids or PVC pipes are to be used to overcome minor habitat fragmentation for Broad-toothed Rat are to be clearly marked out and mapped using appropriate GPS technology.</p> <p>Impacts to riparian vegetation and waterways will be avoided and minimised by use of clear span elevated structures to cross all waterways and installation of strict sediment controls and appropriate trail drainage close to waterways. The elevated structures must be used on all flowing and all mapped waterways (including ephemeral first order tributaries) depicted on the VicMap Hydro 1:25,000 layer. The primary sediment control is coir logs. Where footings are required in wet areas low impact installation techniques (e.g. pneumatic drilling) will be used.</p> <p>All areas containing the threatened Alpine Bogs community will be spanned by elevated structures. Damage to the community outside of the construction footprint will be managed through construction techniques, including building structures sequentially off the platform, to avoid driving machines on the community. Exclusion fencing in the form of star pickets and bunting or similar will be installed as marked in the CMP to enforce the No-Go zone in sensitive areas. The elevated structures will not affect physical or functional connectivity between occurrences of the community.</p> <p>Micro-siting will be conducted to ensure that areas of Alpine Bogs, rocky outcrops, and sedgy/grassy habitat have been</p>

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	<p>avoided or impacts minimised.</p> <p>Areas where clear span elevated structures are required to cross waterways or the threatened Alpine Bogs community are to be clearly marked out and mapped using appropriate GPS technology.</p> <p>If any realignment options are identified that will further avoid and minimise impacts to sensitive areas, these are to be mapped and discussed with ARV-FC and DEECA.</p>
<p>6. Disturbance or injury to terrestrial wildlife</p>	<p>Impacts to wildlife will be reduced due to rock armoured construction and the high proportion of hand construction techniques.</p> <p>The schedule of monitoring for reptile activity and mortality as stated in the Reptile Survey Protocol produced by Biosis on 19 July 2024 will be established and adhered to during the first season of trail use. This is to ensure any impacts to reptiles are understood and to inform whether any curtailment in trail use is warranted in the event that mortality thresholds are exceeded.</p> <p>Any wildlife found within the project footprint at the start of each workday will be encouraged to exit the area or be removed by a licenced wildlife handler. DEECA Hume Region (Natural Environment Program) will be notified that day via email (humeregion.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au) of any wildlife removed and relocated within proximity of the project area in habitat that is of similar or better quality to that of the project area. No further than 100 meters away.</p> <p>If injured wildlife is encountered the project manager will be immediately notified and a licenced wildlife handler/carer or local veterinarian will be consulted.</p> <p>Wildlife mortality is to be avoided, however where wildlife mortality occurs DEECA Hume Region (Natural Environment Program) will be notified within three months via email (humeregion.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au) of any wildlife mortality.</p> <p><i>Wildlife Victoria – ph. 1300 094 535</i></p>
<p>7. Bushfire</p>	<p>Project works will not take place on days of total fire ban (TFB). No fires will be lit for cooking or warmth by the contractor within or near the construction corridors.</p> <p>Cigarette smoking also poses a risk of bushfire ignition and is not permitted within the project area.</p> <p>ARV-FC have prepared a resort wide Municipal Fire Management Plan approved by the CFA that will be complied with.</p>
<p>8. Pollution and litter</p>	<p>All litter and materials introduced to the construction area will be removed on a daily basis, this includes items such as flagging tape, contractor equipment and materials packaging.</p>



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	<p>All refueling shall be conducted at the site compound in existing developed areas of the ski field. No refueling is to occur within the trail alignments. Machinery servicing and oil changes will not be performed on-site, and any maintenance will be conducted in the ARV-FC machinery workshop. Bulk fuels and oil will be stored in the ARV-FC workshop/depot.</p>
<p>9. Landslip or other geotechnical incident.</p>	<p>Erosion control is important in Alpine areas. The vegetation must be stripped only where necessary during site preparation. If vegetation removal is required in the buffer zone to the trail it should be cut or slashed to allow the root structure to remain to assist in limiting erosion.</p> <p>Loose boulders exposed in the batter face must be removed and can be used as rock armouring at the base of the batter slope. Loose boulders must not be left at the crest of slopes.</p> <p>Construction is not to take place after heavy rainfall events and surface water is to be redirected from trail slopes.</p> <p>No excessive excavation is to occur when working near waterways or gully systems.</p>
<p>10. Disturbance or removal of Aboriginal Heritage.</p>	<p>The evaluation undertaken as part of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) prepared for this project (Attachment 7 of Planning Report) has determined that it is unlikely that Aboriginal heritage values will be impacted by the proposed activity.</p> <p>A copy of the CHMP will be available on-site during works, so that it can be referenced if required during the course of the project.</p> <p>In the event that any items of Aboriginal cultural heritage are discovered during the works, the contingency plans detailed in the CHMP must be adhered to.</p>

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Site Environmental Values

The study area supports shrubland, heathland, wet heathland and sub-alpine woodland, as well as a combination of predominantly introduced vegetation adjacent to areas of previous disturbance and on ski runs. Native vegetation is represented by four EVCs including Alpine Grassy Heathland EVC 1004, Sub-alpine Shrubland EVC 42, Sub-alpine Woodland EVC 43 and Sub-alpine Wet Heathland EVC 210. These EVCs occur in various condition states as a result of current and historical land use.

One threatened ecological community is present, Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens Community, which is listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). This community is synonymous with the Alpine Bog Community which is listed under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act).

The geology of the project area is predominantly underlain by the East Kiewa Granodiorite and Ome Metamorphic Complex migmatites along the proposed alignment. The Summit to Gully Mountain Bike Trail may traverse the Cobungra Granite in a localised domain towards the lower portion of the alignment. The upper section of the proposed trail is generally located above rocky outcrops. A small section of the trail passes below and in close proximity to these outcrops.

The project site contains multiple fauna habitat elements including rocky outcrops, tussock-forming grasses, seasonally wet areas and woodland areas supporting an intact canopy and areas of dense shrubby understorey.

Confirmed habitat for Broad-toothed Rat *Mastacomys fuscus mordicus* which is listed as endangered under the EPBC Act and the FFG Act. Indirect evidence (scats) and direct evidence (camera trap images) of Broad-toothed Rat was recorded within the study area. Confirmed habitat for Tussock Skink *Pseudemoria pagenstecheri* which is listed as endangered under the FFG Act. The species was recorded during targeted surveys and suitable habitat occurs throughout the study area. Confirmed habitat for 17 flora species listed under the FFG Act and potential habitat for 15 EPBC Act and FFG Act listed fauna species.

Schedule 1 to Clause 42.01 Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) specifically provides protection to the Mountain Pygmy-possum *Dunnamys parvus*, listed as threatened on Schedule 2 of the FFG Act. Mapped habitat for the Mountain Pygmy-possum is present in the project site. While the study area does not support a known population of Mountain Pygmy-possum, the species may use the study area when dispersing between areas of core habitat.

Mortality of wildlife during works is a potential impact to the biodiversity values. With the implementation of this document, fauna species are unlikely to be impacted within the project footprint.

Crossings of Fryingpan Aqueduct and unnamed tributaries of Rocky Valley Creek intercept the trail. Two threatened aquatic invertebrates, the Stonefly *Riekoperla intermedia* and Alpine Stonefly *Thaumatoperla alpina*, are likely to occur within, or a short distance downstream, of these waterways. The bedrock (migmatite to granodiorite) in the Falls Creek area forms a fractured rock aquifer system, where groundwater is stored and transmitted through fractures, joints and discontinuities in the basement rock mass. Long-term groundwater monitoring suggests groundwater levels fluctuate significantly as a result of seasonal rainfall variations and environmental conditions. Groundwater is thought to discharge into creeks and into localised alpine swamps and bogs which are relatively frequent across the resort area and may be encountered within the lower portions of the trail.

There has been no previously recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage discovered within the project area. Previous studies documented extensive prior ground disturbance throughout areas of the Falls Creek Alpine Resort used for prior and current alpine recreation. The desktop assessment undertaken for the CHMP (Attachment 7 of the Planning Report) indicated that if any Aboriginal

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cultural heritage was present, it would be low density artefact distribution of quartz flaked objects in a disturbed context.

The project site has been subject to disturbances such as ski-field and hydro-electricity infrastructure development, hydrological modification and road and track building. Parts of the study area were severely burnt in the 2003 alpine fires. The project site also supports combination of predominantly introduced vegetation adjacent to areas of previous disturbance and on ski runs.

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Project Monitoring

The environmental risks associated with construction will be monitored on a regular basis, as required. The Project Manager and Site Supervisor will be responsible for undertaking a general daily assessment of positive and negative impacts during the construction program and appropriate photographic records will be kept. Specialist advice on environmental issues will be sought as required from a suitably qualified environmental professional during the construction period.

The Project Manager will supply an informal report to DEECA during the construction phase. This report will take the form of an email or phone call, and cover issues such as:

- Construction progress.
- Timelines.
- Any environmental issues encountered.
- Responses implemented to address issues.
- Dated photographs of key issues and responses.

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The construction monitoring program for identified environmental risks is outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Site and environmental risk monitoring, Falls Creek Summit to Gully Mountain Bike Trail

Risk	Monitoring response	Frequency of monitoring	Responsibility
1. Local erosion and sedimentation	<p>Visual inspections of installation/maintenance of sediment controls (coir logs) and placement of cut material and soil sods along trail edges.</p> <p>In sensitive areas photo points can be established to monitor levels of sedimentation entering the waterways.</p> <p>Erosion of trail surface will be monitored during trail assessments.</p>	<p>Daily during works and after rainfall events greater than 10 mm in a 24-hour period.</p> <p>Controls to remain installed for 1 month post construction and are to be monitored weekly during this time.</p> <p>Following this period, monitoring will occur in accordance with the TMP.</p>	Project Manager or Site Supervisor
2. Disturbance or removal of native vegetation	<p>Visual inspection and photo record of installed exclusion fencing and the condition of native vegetation pre- and post-works.</p> <p>Vegetation disturbance is to be kept strictly to the 1 metre trail corridor.</p>	Daily inspections and pre- and post-photographs	Project Manager and Site Supervisor

<p>3. Introduction of weeds and soil pathogens</p>	<p>Visual inspections of machinery, equipment and PPE during work to ensure hygiene protocols are followed.</p> <p>Follow up visual inspections to detect weed germination and signs of soil pathogen infection. Especially important in ecologically sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Daily during works and monthly for 1 year after construction completion.</p> <p>Following this period, monitoring will occur in accordance with the TMP.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>4. Introduction of Hawkweed <i>Hieracium</i> species during construction</p>	<p>Visual inspections of machinery, equipment and PPE during work to ensure hygiene protocols are followed.</p> <p>Visual inspections to detect weed germination.</p> <p>Hawkweed plants found on or near the trail during inspections that are deemed to increase the risk of spread caused by trail users will be managed by ARV-FC in conjunction with DEECA.</p>	<p>Daily during works and monthly until April 2025. Final inspections are required in November and December of 2025 to detect weed germination.</p> <p>Following this period, monitoring will occur in accordance with the HWP and TMP.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>5. Destruction of threatened flora or their habitats. Impacts to threatened ecological communities.</p>	<p>Visual inspections of the constructed elevated structures or rock armouring used to overcome minor habitat fragmentation and avoid impacts to riparian vegetation, waterways and all areas containing the threatened Alpine Bogs community. These inspections are to ensure the structures are working as intended.</p> <p>Visual inspections of installation/maintenance of sediment controls.</p> <p>Visual inspections to detect weed invasion in areas of threatened flora.</p>	<p>Daily during construction and monthly for 1 year after construction completion.</p> <p>Following this period, monitoring will occur in accordance with the TMP.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>

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6. Disturbance or injury to terrestrial wildlife	<p>Visual inspections by the Project Manager daily during works. Any wildlife found within the project footprint at the start of each workday will be encouraged to exit the area or be removed by a licensed wildlife handler.</p> <p>Visual inspection of rock armouring structures.</p> <p>Four site inspections post construction to monitor reptiles as outlined in the Reptile Survey Protocol.</p>	<p>Daily</p> <p>Following this period, monitoring will occur in accordance with the TMP and the Reptile Survey Protocol.</p>	Project Manager
7. Bushfire	Visual inspections to ensure the work site remains smoke free.	As required	Site Supervisor
8. Pollution and litter	Visual inspections of storage and machinery/equipment lay down areas.	Daily	Site Supervisor
9. Failure of rehabilitation works	Follow up visual inspections of rehabilitation works to assess the success of soil and vegetation stabilisation.	<p>Weekly during construction and monthly for 1 year after construction completion.</p> <p>Following this period, monitoring will occur in accordance with the TMP.</p>	Project Manager

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Declaration

I agree to ensure that:

- ✓ All site and environmental protection measures outlined within the approved SEMP will be adhered to.
- ✓ All endorsed plans will be adhered to.
- ✓ All site rehabilitation and revegetation works will be undertaken in accordance with the approved SEMP.
- ✓ Prior to construction personnel commencing work, the site supervisor will ensure:
 - ✓ An appropriate site induction has been undertaken.
 - ✓ Equipment/Plant will be serviced off-site.
 - ✓ All equipment will be cleaned and free of vegetation, soil and seed prior to being brought on to the site.
 - ✓ Approval from the Resort Management Board will be obtained prior to any out-of-hours work occurring. Written notification will be provided to local residents when out-of-hours work is occurring.
- ✓ Provision of new service connections and upgrading of existing services will be undertaken in a timely manner with minimal on-site and off-site impacts and with prior approval of the RMB and services providers.
- ✓ Advice will be obtained from the 'Dial Before You Dig' service to determine the location of existing services onsite.

Full Name: Fred Weir

Signature



Date: 16/08/2024

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PART B

SITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Falls Creek Summit to Gully Mountain Bike Trail

One map book addressing the CMP requirements for the project is attached to the end of this document and the relevant requirements have been noted in the list below. These CMP maps accompany the SEMP and will be provided to the contractor.

The Site Construction Management Plan must include the following information and address all the Performance Standards within Part B:

a) Construction zone

The proposed works include the construction a mountain bike trail at the Falls Creek Resort. The Summit to Gully trail will be approximately 1.8 kilometres and will consist of a downhill mountain bike trail from the Summit of Falls Creek to Gully chairlift bottom station. The trail will link rock garden sections of higher flora vulnerability and predominantly follow existing ski run areas.

b) The location of:

- o neighbouring buildings (including setbacks) – Not relevant.
- o surrounding street network – Vehicle access provided on CMP map, existing roads and access tracks to be used.
- o waterways – Indicated on CMP maps.
- o site access points– Indicated on CMP maps.
- o surface water drainage – Not required.
- o vegetation/trees – The construction footprint is identified on the CMP. Removal of 0.375 hectares of vegetation to occur. No large trees are to be removed. A No-Go area is clearly identified on the CMP and protection fencing is to be used to delineate this zone.
 - o on site/off site: Native vegetation identified on the CMP.
 - o to be retained and protected - All vegetation outside of the impact area (1 metre trail corridor) to be retained.
 - o to be removed or lopped – Full and partial removal indicated on the CMP map.

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c) Proximity to areas such as:

- o rare or threatened species habitat – Indicated on CMP map.
- o soil and geotechnical hazards - Not applicable.
- o any other significant sensitive natural features – Threatened Alpine Bogs indicated on CMP map.

d) Easements – Not applicable.

e) Existing service locations and protection measures – Not applicable.

f) Storage areas for:

- o construction vehicles – Only applicable for parking and access of vehicles. Indicated on CMP map.
- o construction materials – Site compound indicated on CMP map.
- o waste – Not applicable.
- o stockpiles – Not applicable.

g) Location of any temporary site offices/lunchrooms (if applicable) – Not required.

h) Topography/slope of the land – Indicated on CMP maps, 1:25k topography layer.

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- i) Sediment control measures – See CMP maps and sediment control section of SEMP.
- j) Stormwater drainage measures – Not required.
- k) Staging of works (if applicable) – No official stages, however works are to proceed in a linear method.
- l) Location of onsite green waste storage – Indicated on CMP map.
- m) Location of onsite vehicle wash down location – Not applicable, to be done off-site at locations approved by ARV-FC if machinery from outside of the resort is to be used.

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PART B - SITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Site Induction

An induction must be undertaken by the site supervisor as required by the responsible authority. Prior to the commencement of any building or works the site supervisor is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate induction is provided to all construction personnel in conjunction with the ARV-FC.

Construction Zone and Vehicle Access

- Prior to the commencement of any building or works, the extent of the construction zone, including pedestrian, vehicle and machinery access must be clearly defined both on the plan and physically on the site.
- All buildings and works must be confined to the defined construction zone.
- Access should be confined to designated access tracks and pathways, and as far as practical utilise existing disturbed areas. Access must not be over adjoining leasehold sites. Access areas, both vehicular and pedestrian, must be stabilised to prevent sediment loss (e.g. with crushed rock).
- If using porous materials (e.g. crushed rock) it should be contained by edging or boxing. Where suitable, porous material should be free of fines to allow for free drainage and to minimise the risk of sediment transport.
- Vehicular and machinery maintenance is not to occur on site.

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Threatened Species

- The presence of rare/vulnerable/threatened species should be recognised on site and the necessary protection measures put in place.
- If any threatened species are identified on the site, as listed in *the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), there are specific requirements that must be met which are outside the planning permit or associated assessment process. These requirements must be defined and adhered to as applicable.
- If the FFG Act is triggered, consultation with DSE is required and if the EPBC Act is triggered, consultation with the relevant Federal Government department is required.

Easements and existing service locations

- Contact the 'Before you Dig Australia' service (phone 1100 or web www.1100.com.au) and the relevant RMB to identify where all existing services and infrastructure are located on site.
- Contact the relevant service utility/planning authorities to determine what measures need to be implemented to best protect the asset. (For Information regarding Telstra: Telstra Network Integrity Services 1800 810 443).

Storage Areas for Building Materials and Waste Storage (on and off site)

- The storage of all equipment, waste and building materials must be contained within the areas defined on the Construction Management Plan.
- Construction areas must be kept free of litter at all times.
- Adequate and appropriate waste bins must be provided on site, with locations to be determined in conjunction with the relevant RMB. If waste bins are to be located off site, written approval from the RMB is required.
- Waste must be transported to an appropriate off-site transfer station, recycling centre or land fill, to be determined in consultation with the relevant RMB.
- Waste is to be collected when waste bins are full.

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- Waste is to be reduced by selecting, in order of preference, avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling methods. Construction should involve the reuse of materials and the recycling of waste wherever possible.
- No waste may be disposed of on site.
- Chemicals and fuels stored on site must be kept to a minimum. If stored on site, bunds must be installed to reduce the potential damage caused by spills.
- All equipment, construction materials and waste must be removed from the site as part of site cleanup works.
- Preparation of a Waste Management Plan in conjunction with the relevant RMB is encouraged to help achieve compliance with the relevant performance standards.
- No fire is to be lit on site without RMB approval.

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Sediment Control Measures

- Sediment run-off controls and drainage around all construction areas must be established prior to commencement of any building or works.
- Sediment traps must be designed, installed and maintained to maximise the volume of sediment trapped from the site during construction.
- A mulch of fibre matting, shredded plant material from the site or certified weed free sterile straw, preferably from a pasture fescue crop, must be maintained on exposed areas until adequate plant cover is produced.
- Grading, excavation and construction must not proceed during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Sediment control measures must have a size and capacity to withstand the flow of a one in five-year storm event.
- All sediment control measures must be maintained during construction and inspected prior to (and after) rain events to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Topsoil must be kept separate from sub-soil when stockpiling soil and covered with an appropriate fabric to minimise loss and sedimentation.
- All loads of soil being taken off site for disposal must be covered.
- Drainage is to be returned to previously existing flow paths, except where specified by a separate drainage report.
- All stockpiles of soil, sand, fertiliser, cement or other fine, loose material must be placed in locations away from drainage lines, roadside channels and culverts unless adequately protected from erosion by diversion drains, bunds or similar works. All stockpiles must be covered.

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Stormwater Drainage Measures

- Any water to be pumped from the site should be filtered before release to ensure that no sediment or weed seeds enter the stormwater system. Energy dissipation measures also need to be in place to guard against potential scouring.
- Natural drainage patterns must not be altered post construction, except through an approved drainage plan.
- Cut-off or intercept drains must be established during construction to redirect stormwater away from cleared areas and slopes to stable (vegetated) areas.
- Stormwater collected by impervious surfaces during construction must be drained via sediment traps to the road drainage system where possible.
- Drip line drainage, including energy dissipation measures, must be installed under eaves to minimise erosion caused by raindrop action and snow shedding.

Management of Pests and Animals

- All construction vehicles and equipment must be cleared of soil and organic matter to remove seeds prior to arriving on site to prevent the introduction and/or spread of weeds and pathogens.
- Site inspections must be conducted by the site supervisor during and after construction to identify weed species requiring control.
- Building work that uses transported gravel and soil must be monitored to prevent the introduction of exotic species.
- No animals (including dogs) are permitted on site without the prior written consent of the relevant RMB.

Management of Hawkweed (*Hieracium Species*) (Falls Creek Only)

All external works within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort must be assessed for the presence of Hawkweed in conjunction with the RMB's Natural Resource Manager. A Works Practice, in accordance with the Works in Hawkweed Sites Procedures, must be provided as part of the SEMP.

Contact the Natural Resource Manager, Falls Creek Resort Management for a copy of the Hawkweed Sites Procedures.

Hieracium plants, parts of plants and soil containing seed must not be removed from the construction site(s) without a current permit issued under *the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Failure to obtain a permit may result in legal action.

Hieracium sightings must be reported to DPI on telephone 136 186. For information regarding hawkweeds and their identification contact DPI on 136 186 or go to:

[http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/LinkView/7157B82C7ECBF5CCCA2575BE0024551C2B72296A5108C4FFCA25734F0009F96F/\\$file/hawkweed.pdf](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/LinkView/7157B82C7ECBF5CCCA2575BE0024551C2B72296A5108C4FFCA25734F0009F96F/$file/hawkweed.pdf)

Further Guidance:

Department of Sustainability and Environment

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/index.htm>

Guidelines for Minimising Soil Erosion and Sedimentation from Construction Sites in Victoria, compiled under the guidance of the Land Disturbance Working Party; by R.J. Garvin, M.R. Knight, T.J. Richmond

Water Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines for Alpine Environments, Dec 2005

EPA's publication 275 'Construction Techniques for Sediment and Pollution Control', available online: www.epa.vic.gov.au, link – Publications and Library

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PART C

SITE REHABILITATION PLAN

This section outlines the steps that will be taken to stabilise and rehabilitate the project area during and after construction. A description of the rehabilitation process is outlined below.

Type of soil stabilisation to be used on disturbed areas

During construction, place cut material and soil sods along trail edges in suitable locations to reduce erosion and encourage natural regeneration. Remedial works will be undertaken in the form of surface hardening (using rock or similar) to reduce erosion in unstable areas as per the TMP.

Location of on-site replanting (if applicable), indicating the species and number to be used and approximate area (in square metres) of ground cover species

No replanting is required.

Schedule of works to undertake:

Soil stabilization

Daily during construction with ongoing management as per the TMP.

Maintenance and extent of monitoring and follow-up works on site

The works area will be monitored monthly for the first 12 months after commissioning (unless under snow). Following this monitoring will be undertaken as per the TMP.

Further Guidance:

Department of Sustainability and Environment

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse/index.htm>

The Australian Alps Rehabilitation Manual, available online:

<http://www.australianalps.environment.gov.au/publications/research-reports/rehabilitation.html>

Rehabilitation Guidelines for the Resort Areas of Kosciuszko National Park August 2008, available online:

http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/knp_resortrehab.htm (*This is a NSW publication, but it has valuable information that can be applied to the Victorian alpine areas)

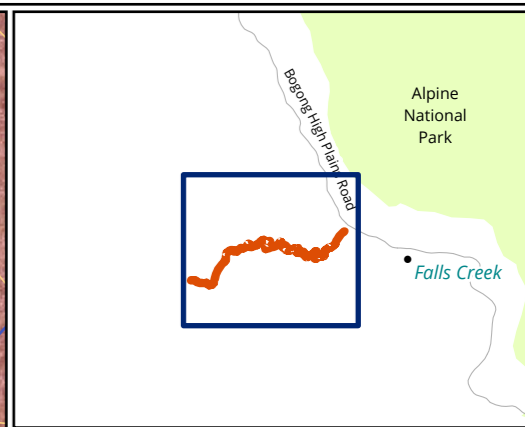
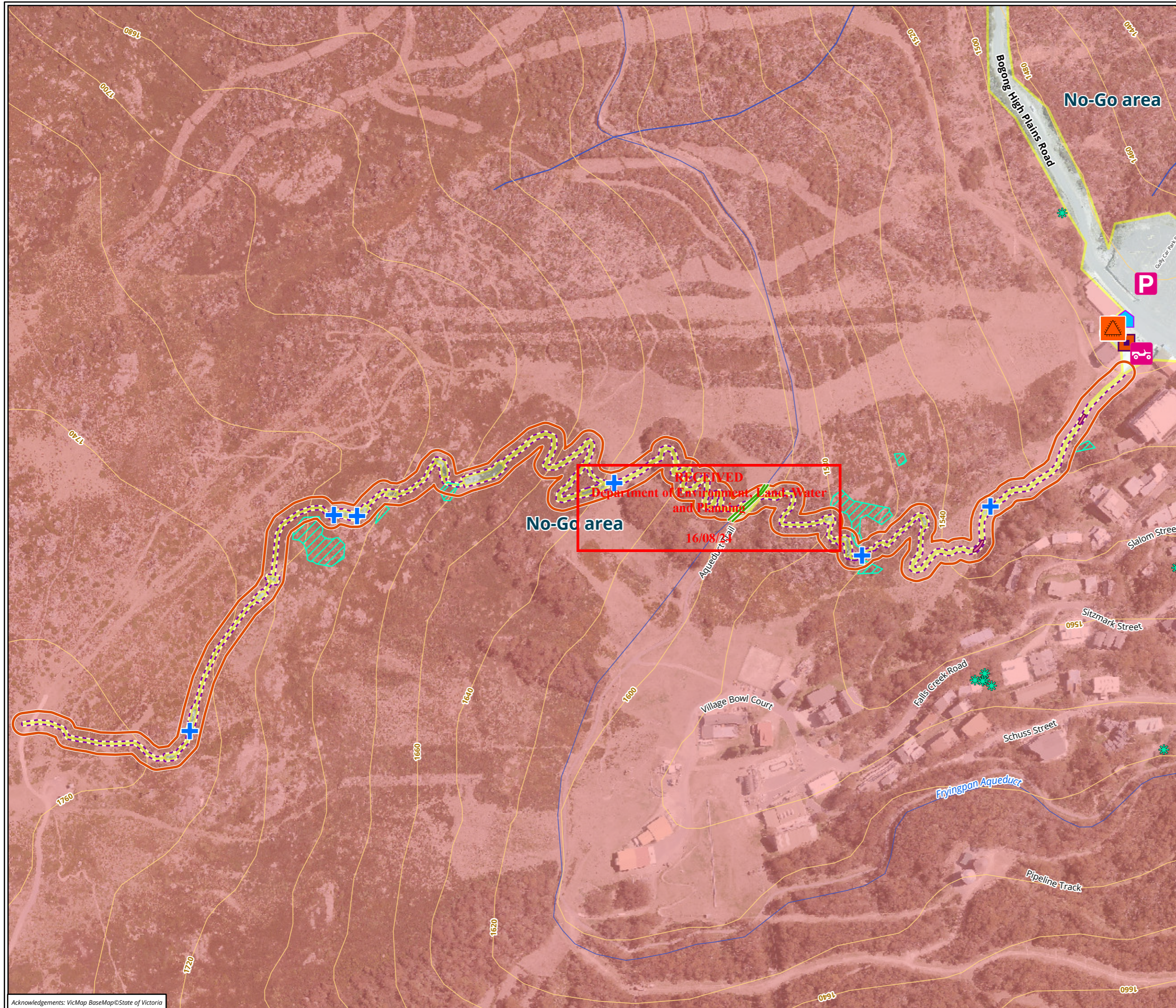
Contact the relevant RMB for indigenous plant suppliers and advice.

Note: Site rehabilitation is separate to any native vegetation offset requirements for native vegetation removal authorised by the planning permit.

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Legend

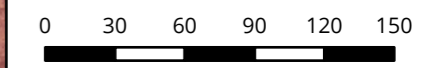
- Study area
- ✱ Hawkweed infestation
- Threatened ecological community (EPBC)**
- Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
- Design features**
- Removable structure
- Construction features**
- + PVC / rock armour tunnel installation
- Sealed rubbish and recycle bins
- Site access
- Site facility - temporary
- Stockpile site
- Vehicle/plant parking
- Coir log
- Exclusion fencing
- No-Go Area

Elevation

- Contour 10 m interval

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Figure 1.0 Construction management plan: overview

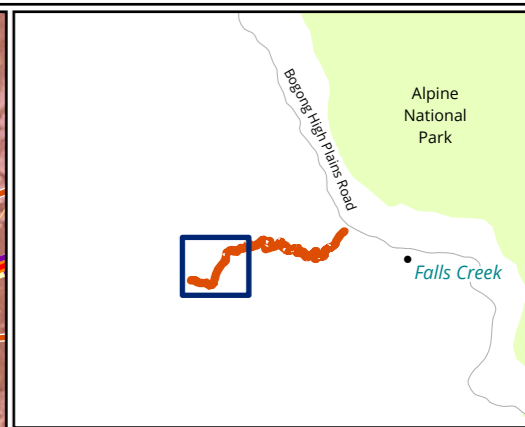
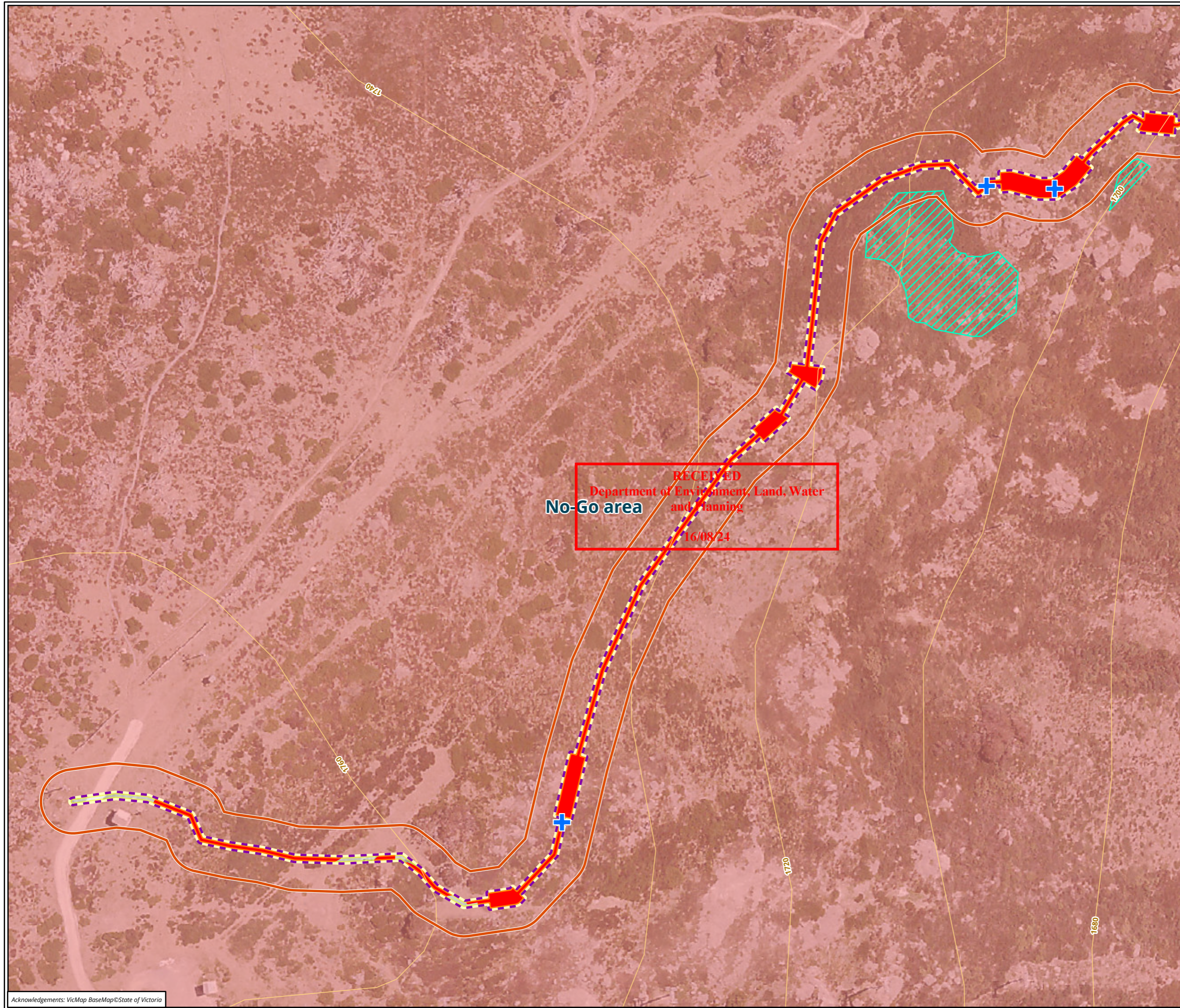


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Date: 31 July 2024,
Prepared for: HH, Prepared by: SP, Last edited by: spanter
Layout: 38727_SEMP_F1_CMP
Project: P:\38700s\38727\Mapping\38727_Falls_Creek_MTB_Summit_Gully_planning.aprx

Acknowledgements: VicMap BaseMap © State of Victoria



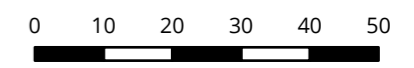
Legend

- Study area
- Threatened ecological community (EPBC)**
- Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
- Patch vegetation permitted to be removed**
- Full removal
- Construction features**
- + PVC / rock armour tunnel installation
- Exclusion fencing
- No-Go Area
- Elevation**
- Contour 10 m interval

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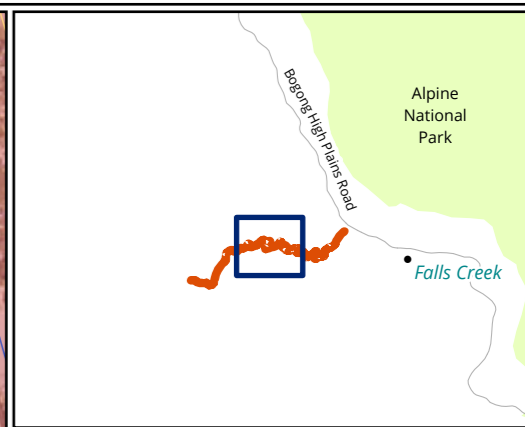
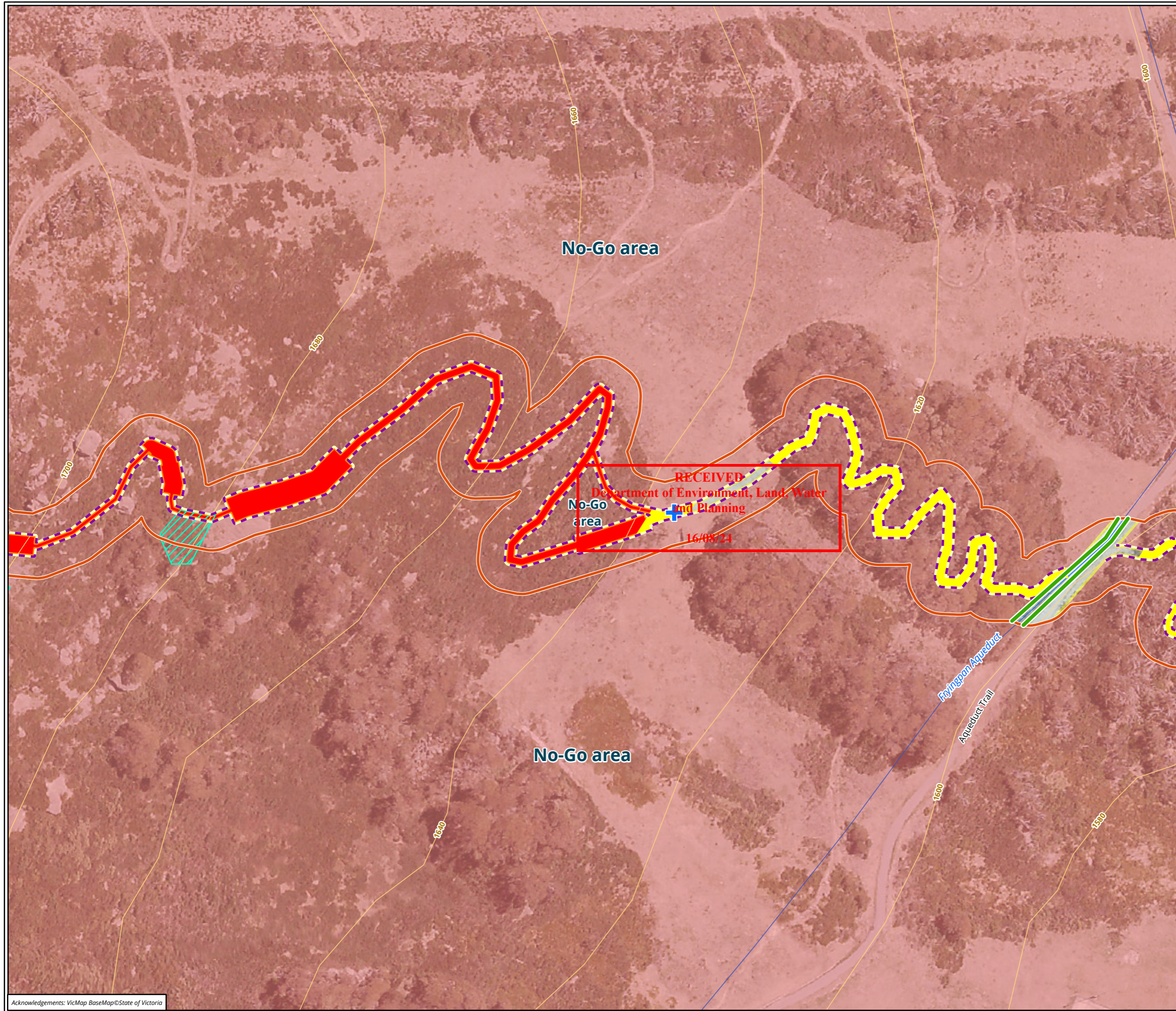
Figure 1.1 Construction management plan: west



Scale: 1:1,100 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 38727,
 Date: 31 July 2024,
 Prepared for: HH, Prepared by: SP, Last edited by: spanter
 Layout: 38727_SEMP_F1_CMP
 Project: P:\38700s\38727\Mapping\
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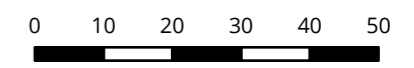


Legend

- Study area
- Threatened ecological community (EPBC)**
- Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
- Patch vegetation permitted to be removed**
- Full removal
- Partial removal
- Construction features**
- + PVC / rock armour tunnel installation
- Coir log
- Exclusion fencing
- No-Go Area
- Elevation**
- Contour 10 m interval

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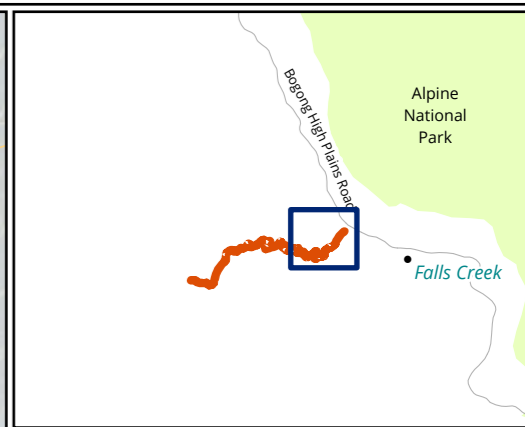
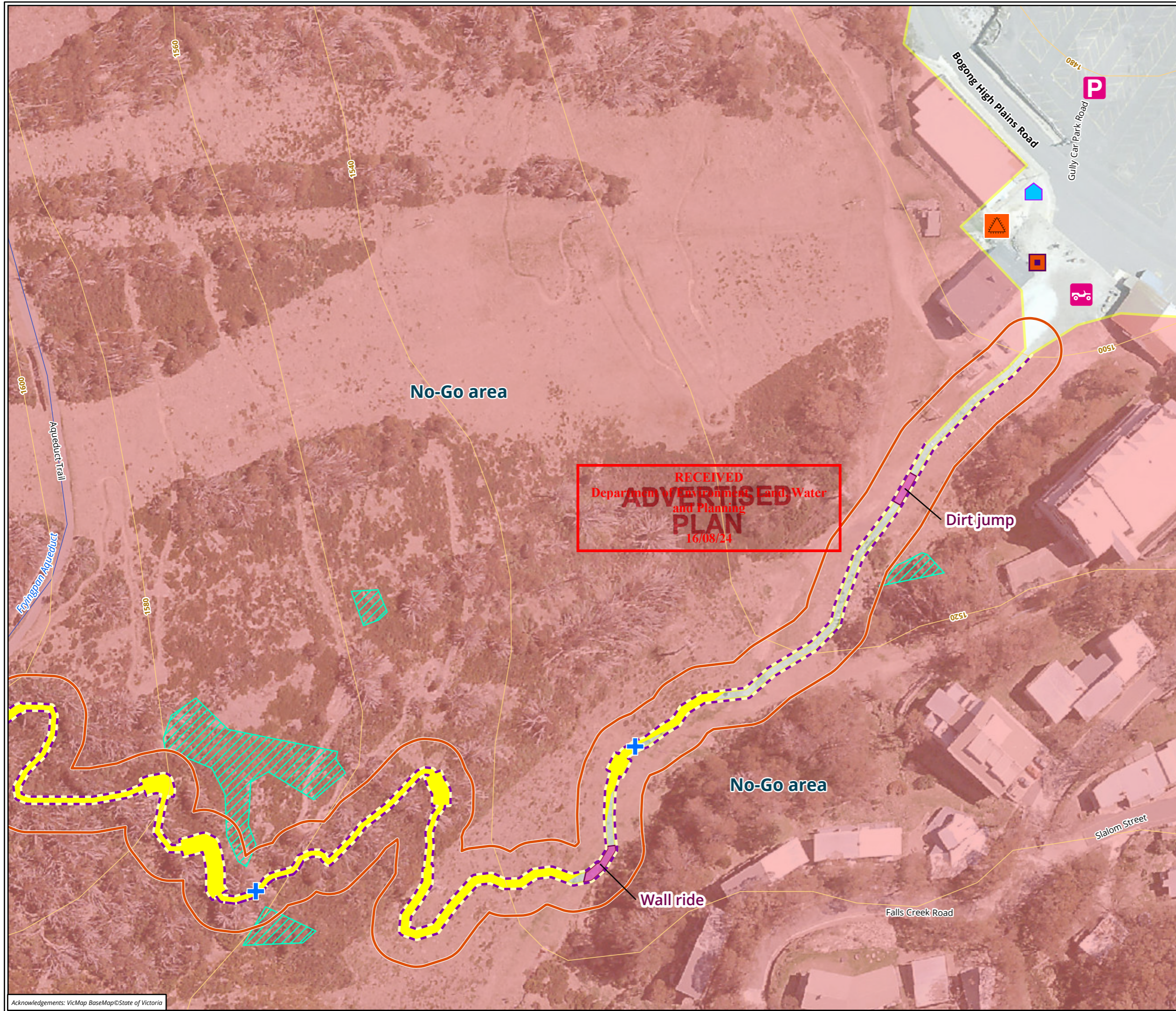
Figure 1.2 Construction management plan: centre



Scale: 1:1,100 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55



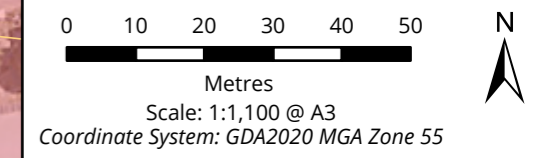
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Legend

- Study area
- ✱ Hawkweed infestation
- Threatened ecological community (EPBC)**
- Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens
- Patch vegetation permitted to be removed**
- Partial removal
- Design features**
- Removable structure
- Construction features**
- + PVC / rock armour tunnel installation
- Sealed rubbish and recycle bins
- Site access
- Site facility - temporary
- Stockpile site
- Vehicle/plant parking
- Exclusion fencing
- No-Go Area
- Elevation**
- Contour 10 m interval

Figure 1.3 Construction management plan: east



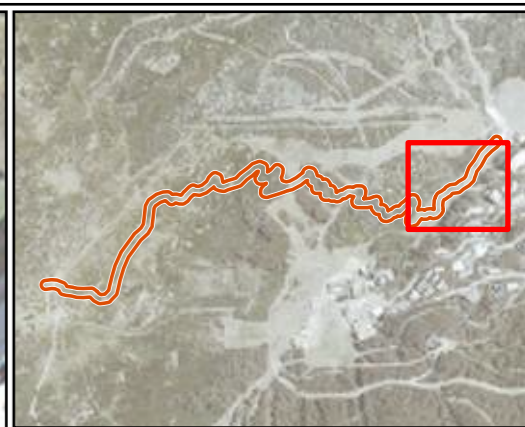
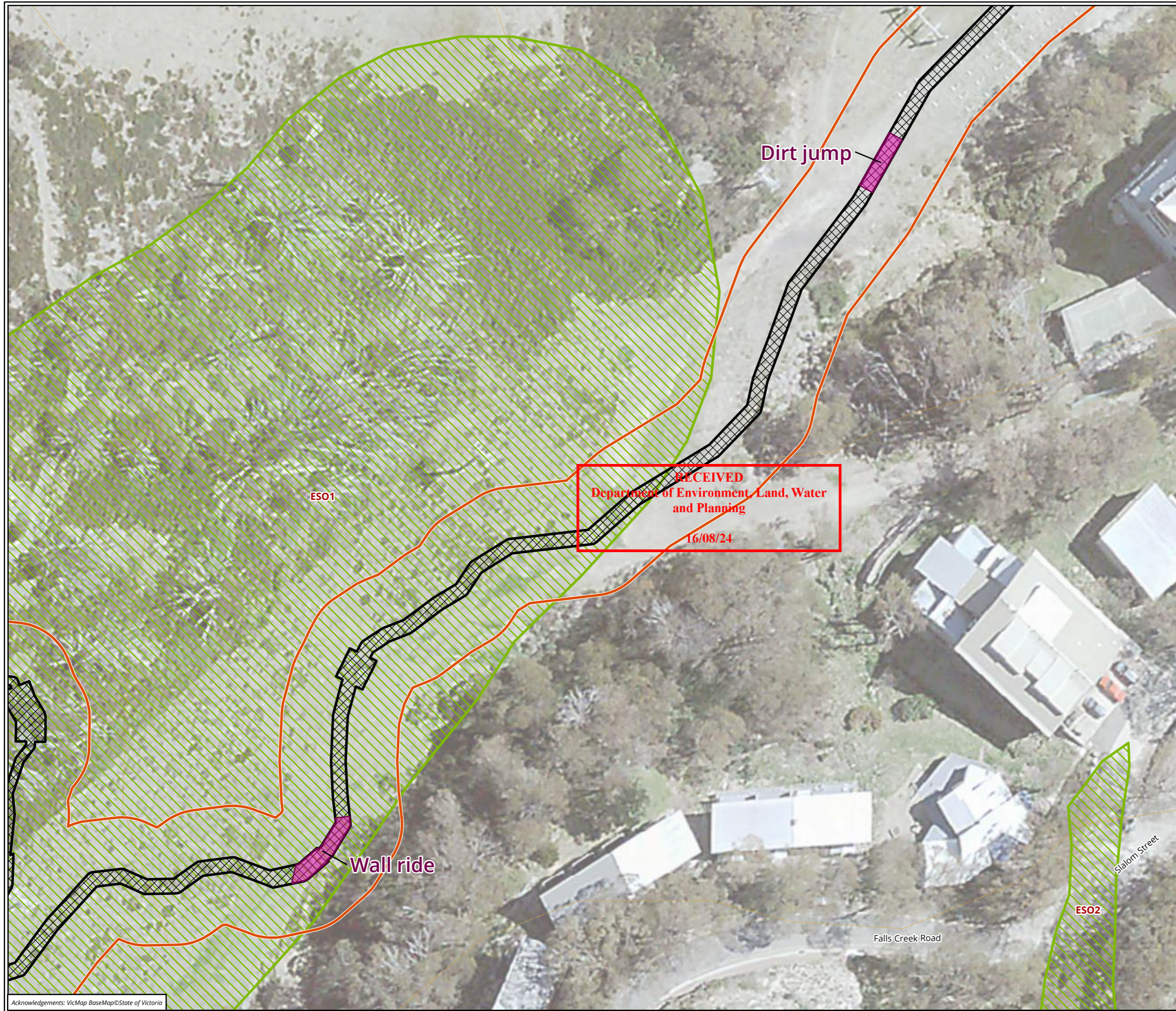
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**ATTACHMENT 1:
Removable Structures – Locations and Plans**

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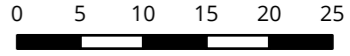
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- Legend**
- Study area
 - Removable structures
 - Impact area
 - Environmental Significance Overlay

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Figure 1 Location of removable structures


 0 5 10 15 20 25
 Metres
 Scale: 1:600 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55



Matter: 38727,
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 Prepared for: SH, Prepared by: GO, Last edited by: gologhlin
 Layout: 38727_F1_RemovableStructures
 Project: P:\38700s\38727\Mapping\
 38727_Falls_Creek_MTB_Summit_Gully_planning.aprx

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Removable Structures



Figure 1 Removable Structure – Wall Ride



Figure 2 Removable Structure – Dirt Jump

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**ATTACHMENT 2:
Falls Creek Alpine Resort Work Practice – Works in Hawkweed Sites**

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Work Practice LM 6.03

Works in Hawkweed Sites

Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board ('the Board')

1. Scope

This work practice applies to any individual, group of individuals, contractors, sub-contractors, organisations or businesses carrying out works within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort.

2. Definitions

Falls Creek Alpine Resort - the area defined as Falls Creek Alpine Resort under the *Alpine Resorts Act 1983*.

Falls Creek Resort Management - as defined under the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997*.

Hawkweed - refers to the two known species of hawkweed occurring in Falls Creek Alpine Resort, *Pilosella aurantiacum* (orange hawkweed) and *Pilosella piloselloides* (king-devil hawkweed) and any other species of hawkweed that may be found within the Resort.

Hawkweed site - refers to any previous hawkweed records identified on Parks Victoria's database, recent known records not yet included in this database, or physical plants.

Works that impacts on a hawkweed site - work that will disturb or remove soil or vegetation found within 2m of a hawkweed site.

Topsoil - Soil in the top 30cm of the soil profile.

The Resort - the area defined as Falls Creek Alpine Resort.

Works - refers to any action that will impact upon a Hawkweed site.

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3. Introduction

Hawkweeds are perennial herbs from the Asteraceae (daisy) family. The scientific name for hawkweeds has recently changed from the genus *Hieracium* to *Pilosella*, however *Hieracium* is still referred to in the legislation. Hawkweed can spread quickly and has had severe negative consequences on environmental and agricultural values in both New Zealand and North America. The entire genus is prohibited entry into Australia by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS), and the genus is listed as a State Prohibited Weed in Victoria.

Three species of hawkweed are known to exist in the Australian Alps, orange hawkweed (*P. aurantiacum*), king devil hawkweed (*P. piloselloides*) and mouse-ear hawkweed (*P. officinarum*). To date, only orange and king devil hawkweed have been found within Falls Creek Resort. The ability to produce large amounts of seed, combined with stoloniferous growth results in rapid vegetative spread and dispersal via wind and animals. As known populations are relatively small it is possible that if appropriate resources are allocated Hawkweeds can be eradicated from the Victorian Alps not too far into the future. Early detection and treatment are essential to achieving this goal of eradication.

All three species are managed under the Falls Creek Hawkweed Eradication Project, which is a partnership between Parks Victoria, the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Falls Creek Resort Management Board.

4. Purpose

This work practice outlines the appropriate management of known hawkweed sites during development or disturbance within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort. The purpose of this work practice is to ensure that the spread of hawkweeds via translocation of contaminated soil, machinery, or the disturbance of living plants or dormant seeds is nullified during developments or works.

Work Practice LM 6.03

Works in Hawkweed Sites

5. Responsibilities

Records of hawkweed sites within the Falls Creek Alpine Resort will be added to the Parks Victoria database. Information on all new sites and alterations to existing sites should be communicated directly to FCRM Land Management who will then contact the Hawkweed control manager at the Parks Victoria Mt. Beauty office.

Identification of new sites at any time is the responsibility of everyone living, working or visiting the resort.

6. Procedures/Practice Guidelines

All works that disturb soil within Falls Creek Alpine Resort must be authorised by the Director Economic Development and Land Management, Falls Creek Resort Management prior to the commencement of works. Falls Creek Resort is effectively a contaminated area for hawkweed. All outside works within the Resort must be assessed for the presence of hawkweed and any soil disturbance within the Resort will be treated as assumed contaminated soil. The method of disturbance and movement of soil must be approved by the Director Economic Development and Land Management prior to works commencing. Hawkweed sites need to be identified during the planning and application phase of projects that require permit applications to be submitted to the Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Information on hawkweed sites and how this works practice applies can be obtained by contacting Falls Creek Resort Management.

All works that occur within the Resort must include this Work Practice in Site Environmental Management Plans (SEMP's) that are submitted to DELWP or if not required under the planning scheme to be discussed with an FCRM representative. Those works that will occur in an area that contains a Hawkweed site must further describe how the works are likely to impact on the known sites within the works area. The protocols to be followed will depend on the type and location of the works. The site foreman must be inducted with the Works in Hawkweed Sites Work Practice prior to works commencing by an FCRM representative. All staff working on site must be inducted by either the site foreman or by a FCRM representative.

If a new Hawkweed plant is found during works then work in this area needs to cease and the FCRM land management team notified immediately for follow up.

When undertaking works in the Resort the following procedures must be followed:

6.1 For works where a Hawkweed site is present but not directly disturbing the known hawkweed site (i.e., no soil disturbance within 2m of a hawkweed site):

- Retain any Hawkweed site markings and avoid disturbance to these areas
- Enable maintained access to the Hawkweed site for regular monitoring. Ensure the hawkweed site is not to be covered by materials/ equipment etc.

6.2 For soil disturbance and removal from anywhere within the Resort: Where soil is to be moved to an alternate location

- Area of soil to be removed and location must be approved by a FCRM representative prior to the works commencing
- Remove soil using either machinery or hand tools and place in transport vehicle. There must be no incidental spreading of soil on the site during removal. When possible, lay out plastic sheeting or a similar impervious material on the bed of the transport vehicle.
- Cover the soil on the transport vehicle with plastic or a similar impervious material to ensure no soil is lost during transportation.

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- Return the transport vehicle to the worksite and follow the equipment hygiene procedure.
- Wash down the plastic or covering material as per the equipment hygiene procedure.
- For large projects that excavate deep into the subsoil, the risk of contaminated Hawkweed soil will be considered as part of the SEMP with individual case-by-case details to be specified regarding the washing down, the staging of soil material and the movement of soil to locations outside of the Resort. Topsoil is to be treated as the highest priority for minimising weed spread.
- If soil is moved off mountain the receiver of the soil should be notified that the soil has come from a Hawkweed contaminated area. After soil is emptied the truck should be washed down following the hygiene procedure below.
- If soil is proposed for use in another location within the Resort, then the risk of Hawkweed spread will be assessed by FCRM and the movement pathway logged by FCRM's Environment Officer.

6.3 For soil disturbance and removal from anywhere within the Resort: Where soil will remain on site

- Ensure PV have clearly marked any known hawkweed plants onsite. Ensure that no material stockpiles, access routes, waste receptacles or equipment storage are placed on or within a two (2) metre radius of a marked hawkweed site.
- Maintain excavated/ disturbed topsoil on site and ensure it is marked and can be accessed by Hawkweed eradication staff, or maintain excavated/ disturbed topsoil on site and bury to a depth of at least 30cm,
- Ensure that access to the site remains open and safe for monitoring by either FCRM or PV staff.

7. Equipment Hygiene

- All vehicles, machinery, equipment and footwear must be washed down with water after working with contaminated soil or working in a known hawkweed site.
- Machinery and tools must be washed down onsite or as soon as reasonably practicable (in some instances FCRM crews may select to transport covered equipment to the triple interceptor washdown bay at the FCRM workshop) immediately after working with contaminated soil or before moving to a different location if they have been accessing a Hawkweed site. Areas to be washed down include all parts of machinery or tools that have come into contact with contaminated soil including machinery and vehicle tyres. The area of washdown should be bunded to prevent seed spread due to water runoff, suitable bunding may include silt bags or silt fencing. All soil and vegetation must be washed from the vehicle.
- Footwear must be washed down prior to leaving a known hawkweed site. Hawkweed sites are marked with orange flags and/or flagging tape.
- Trucks that have transported soil off the mountain should wash down their vehicle at an appropriate washdown bay after emptying loads of soil.

8. Reporting

All works that impact on hawkweed sites must be reported to Parks Victoria and the database updated accordingly.

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9. Monitoring

Sites that have had soil removed during construction will remain on the hawkweed database and will be continued to be monitored as in accordance with the weekly annual monitoring program.

10. Other references and related documents

State of Victoria. 2019. Hawkweed. www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

11. Regular review of this Work Practice

The Board will review this Work Practice where required, to keep up-to-date with changes to laws, government policy, etc.

Authorisations and Document Parameters

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