

# Cooplacurripa Nature Repair Market – Year 1 Planting Area

PROJECT PLAN

REPLANTING NATIVE FOREST AND WOODLAND ECOSYSTEMS

MAY 2025



## **SILVA CAPITAL PTY LTD**

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## Contents

1. Project Details .....	3
1.1 Proponent Details .....	3
1.2 Project Plan Preparation .....	3
1.3 Additional Stakeholder Details .....	4
2. Indigenous Engagement .....	4
2.1 Description of engagement with relevant Indigenous representatives .....	4
3. Project Outcome .....	5
3.1 How the project outcome is intended to be achieved .....	5
3.2 Nominate restoration targets for the ecosystem condition .....	5
4. Permanent Sampling Plots .....	6
5. Reference Ecosystems .....	7
6. Starting Ecosystem Condition .....	8
7. Starting Values for Ecosystem Condition Indicators .....	9
8. Benchmark Values for Ecosystem Condition Indicators .....	9
9. Threshold Values for Ecosystem Condition Indicators .....	12
10. Proposed Plantings .....	12
11. Natural Regeneration .....	16
11.1 Reliance on natural regeneration .....	16
12. Other Features .....	17
12.1 Covenants and Legal Encumbrances .....	17
12.2 Significant Hydrological Features .....	17
13. Management History and Historic Drivers .....	18
14. Management Activities .....	19
14.1 Thinning .....	19
14.2 Threats to the Project Outcome .....	19
14.3 Duration of the Permanence Period .....	20
15. Climate Change Considerations .....	21
15.1 Potential climate change effects across all activity areas .....	21
15.2 Reducing risk of climate change effects on project outcome .....	22
15.3 Midcoast & Walcha Council - Climate Change Considerations .....	22
16. Threatened Species and Ecological Communities .....	23
17. Assumptions and Limitations .....	25
18. Suitably Qualified Person(s) .....	26

## 1. Project Details

<b>Project name</b>	Silva Capital Cooplacurripa Biodiversity Project No.1
<b>Project ID (if known)</b>	NR001014
<b>Date of project plan</b>	07 May 2025
<b>Project description</b>	<p>Silva Capital Origination Fund ('Silva') acquired the Cooplacurripa Station ('Cooplacurripa') in September 2024 with the main objective of establishing an Environmental Planting (EP) project across the site. Cooplacurripa is a large property, over 23,000 hectares (ha) in extent, west of Taree in the Upper Manning Catchment and is situated on Biripi/Birpai Country. Cooplacurripa is bordered by contiguous natural areas managed by NSW National Parks &amp; Wildlife, Forest Reserves as well as primary production.</p> <p>This project aims to establish forest to enhance landscape connectivity and refugia for species and connect ecosystems for the first time since the last 1880s.</p>

### 1.1 Proponent Details

<b>Name of project proponent(s)</b>	Silva Capital Operating Company Pty Ltd
<b>If there are multiple proponents, the nominee for the project</b>	Not applicable.

### 1.2 Project Plan Preparation

<b>Name</b>	<p><b>Niche:</b> Betha Westall, Jennie Powell &amp; Simon Tweed</p> <p><b>Covalent Land Australia:</b> Martin Campbell, Dan Armstrong, Jay van Rijn, Cuong Tran, Nikki Cronyn</p>
<b>Contact details</b>	<p>Niche: info@niche-eh.com</p> <p>Covalent Land Australia: enquire@covalentland.au</p>

### 1.3 Additional Stakeholder Details

Stakeholder Name	Roles and responsibilities
<b>Silva Capital</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Raf Wood / Brad Mytton</b>, Co-managing Directors: Overall project governance and compliance</li> <li>• <b>Max Buter / Bruce Griffin</b>, Investment Directors: Operational oversight of the project</li> <li>• <b>Roger Cameron</b>, Investment Director: Oversight of Indigenous and Community Engagement</li> </ul>
<b>Covalent Land Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cuong Tran</b>, CEO: Overall project governance and compliance</li> <li>• <b>Jay van Rijn</b>, COO: Operational oversight of the project</li> <li>• <b>Eoghan O'Connor</b>, Head of Operations / Lachlan Cook, Senior Project Manager: Strategic planning and co-ordination of the project</li> <li>• <b>Laura Osmetti</b>, Head of Community Consultation &amp; Engagement: Indigenous and community engagement, relationship management and social performance</li> <li>• <b>Will Miles</b>, Senior Operations Manager / Dan Armstrong &amp; Ben Stevenson, Land Restoration Leads: Implementation and maintenance of the project</li> <li>• <b>Nikki Cronyn</b>, Portfolio &amp; Regulatory Compliance Senior Advisor: Spatial data and regulatory compliance management</li> <li>• <b>Tegan Scott</b>, Geospatial Analyst: Spatial data analysis and mapping</li> </ul>

## 2. Indigenous Engagement

### 2.1 Description of engagement with relevant Indigenous representatives

Contact with both the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council (BLALC) and Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC) has occurred and will be ongoing throughout the project. Any Indigenous knowledge, values or Indigenous data used in the implementation of the project, will be treated in accordance with s29(1)(b-e) of the method.

Silva Capital and Covalent have co-ordinated with Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council (PTLALC) to implement a co-designed cultural heritage induction, cultural heritage finds policy and tree planting monitoring program.



### 3. Project Outcome

The biodiversity outcome for this project is to enhance or protect biodiversity in native species by replanting native forest and woodland ecosystems in the project area on historically cleared land in modified landscapes in a way that will improve the extent and condition of native vegetation or support ecological connectivity.

#### 3.1 How the project outcome is intended to be achieved

Across the development of the Environmental Planting ACCU project and overlapping Replanting Native Forest and Woodland Ecosystems NRM project, we will plant a diverse species mix of up to 34 species in each activity area (see section 10).

Across the activity areas we have used wide-spaced decompaction (rip-lines) following the contour of the landscapes, to maximise plant establishment success – this wider spacing reduces competition for resources, increases access for active land management and facilitates the movement of water across the steep slopes, for the water to ‘pool’ along the decompaction lines as water moves into the creek from any rainfall event.

We will remove livestock from designated activity areas and reinforce the fence-line and creek-line fencing and infrastructure to ensure that grazing will not occur in activity areas until 90% of individual trees that comprise the plantings in the activity area have reached 1.5m in height.

Our specialist delivery partners, Covalent Land Australia, will provide ongoing and active land management outcomes, linked to seasonal weather patterns and forecasts – applying bushfire mitigation strategies in the lead up to the annual bushfire season (typically November – March of each year) are implemented to maximise preparedness and the use of fire as a management activity will be undertaken in accordance with s14(2) of the method (when s14(3) does not apply).

We will have our own station managers on site to look after the requirements of the working farm to ensure land activities do not affect the planting project. Finally, we will use long-term forecasts to help forward plan our seasonal activities, to allow us to have adequate time to implement actions to increase landscape resilience and reduce impacts.

#### 3.2 Nominate restoration targets for the ecosystem condition

**Table 1: Restoration target levels for each activity area**

Activity area ID	Starting condition state	Target Level
AA1 – Eucalypt	Starting state B	Target 2
AA2 – Eucalypt	Starting state C	Target 1
AA3 – Rainforest	Starting state C	Target 1

## 4. Permanent Sampling Plots

**Table 2: Permanent sampling plots for the activity area**

Activity area ID	Sampling plot ID	Location of sampling plot (easting/northing)	Location of permanent markers and centre lines of the plots
AA2	N1	See spatial files	Start: 403065.05, 6518008.06 End: 403022.32, 6518030.44
AA1	N2		Start: 403051.05, 6518570.54 End: 403097.7, 6518550.87
AA2	N3		Start: 402240.17, 6516376.12 End: 402236.04, 6516425.01
AA1	N4		Start: 402793.66, 6515864.85 End: 402756.06, 6515899.94
AA1	N6		Start: 402280.87, 6516826.43 End: 402327.66, 6516812.72
AA1	N7		Start: 402203.51, 6516596.44 End: 402157.02, 6516575.45
AA1	N9		Start: 401978.26, 6516793.43 End: 402017.54, 6516760.97
AA1	S1		Start: 406156.26, 6498597.83 End: 406126.8, 6498560.06
AA2	S3		Start: 404269.66, 6500782.7 End: 404294.28, 6500738.7
AA2	S4		Start: 404452.94, 6498796.17 End: 404464.38, 6498746.86
AA2	S5		Start: 403867.86, 6502190.14 End: 403885.15, 6502145.18
AA2	S7		Start: 404285.74, 6501958.58 End: 404293.43, 6502007.66
AA2	S8		Start: 404051.6, 6502683.94 End: 404033.19, 6502730.89
AA3	S9		Start: 404003.61, 6502359.86 End: 404020.63, 6502311.71
AA3	S10		Start: 403920.26, 6502615.34 End: 403923.38, 6502565.8
AA1	S11		Start: 404337.53, 6500396.72 End: 404360.43, 6500352.03

## 5. Reference Ecosystems

**Table 3: Activity area classifications – IUCN and NVIS**

Activity area	IUCN	NVIS, MVG & MVS
<b>AA1 and AA2</b>	T2.5 Temperate pyric humid forests	<p>MVG 2: Eucalypt Tall Open Forests</p> <p>Overstorey dominance of tall Eucalyptus (greater than 30m and cover between 30 and 70%) with variable understorey.</p> <p>For each PCT provide the dominant growth form, height, cover and species (five species) for all layers/substrata</p> <p>MVS 5: Eucalyptus open forests with a grassy understorey.</p> <p>Descriptions of the PCTs in regard to key elements used to select MVS and MVG are provided below.</p> <p>PCT 3240: A tall to very tall sclerophyll open forest with a mid-stratum of Allocasuarina and soft-leaved shrubs and a ground cover of grasses and graminoids.</p> <p>PCT 3254: A very tall to extremely tall, sparse to mid-dense, grassy or occasionally shrub-grass sclerophyll open forest.</p> <p>PCT 3169: Very tall to extremely tall sclerophyll open forest with a sparse to dense sub-canopy or mid-stratum of small trees and vines. The ground layer is a sparse to dense mix of ferns, forbs, graminoids and grasses.</p>
<b>AA3</b>	T1.1 Tropical/Subtropical lowland rainforests	<p>MVG 1: Rainforests and Vine Thickets; closed forests characterised by trees with dense, horizontally or obliquely-held foliage in the upper layers (typically with greater than 70 per cent foliage cover). May have emergent eucalypts present within its margins or throughout, depending on disturbance history.</p> <p>MVS 2: Tropical or sub-tropical rainforest.</p> <p>Descriptions of the PCTs in regard to key elements used to select MVS and MVG are provided below.</p> <p>PCT 3100: Tall to very tall, mid-dense to dense rainforest, rarely with a very tall to extremely tall sparse sclerophyll canopy or emergent. The tree canopy composition is highly variable.</p>

**Source:** Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Water. 2025. Prescribed Vegetation Classification System. Available from <https://fed.dcceew.gov.au/maps/erin::prescribed-vegetation-classification-system/about> Accessed on 15/4/25

**Source:** Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment & Water. 2025. National Vegetation Information System data products. Available from <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/environment-information-australia/national-vegetation-information-system/data-products> Accessed on 15/4/25

**Table 4: Name of reference ecosystems for each activity area**

Activity area or sub- area ID	Description of reference ecosystem
<b>AA1 – SA1</b>	PCT3240: Lower North Escarpment Red Gum Grassy Forest
<b>AA1 – SA2</b>	PCT3254: Northern Hinterland Tallowwood-Forest Oak Grassy Forest
<b>AA2 – SA3</b>	PCT3240: Lower North Escarpment Red Gum Grassy Forest
<b>AA2 – SA4</b>	PCT3169: Northern Hinterland Tallowwood-Brush Box Wet Forest
<b>AA2 – SA5</b>	PCT3254: Northern Hinterland Tallowwood-Forest Oak Grassy Forest
<b>AA3</b>	PCT3100: Northern Hinterland Baloghia-Dendrocnide Subtropical Rainforest

## 6. Starting Ecosystem Condition

**Table 5: Starting state and ecosystem condition details for each activity area**

Activity area ID	Ecosystem condition state	No. of A1, A2 or A3 plant species	Ground cover provided A1, A2 or A3 plant species	No. of regenerated native plant species*	Cover provided by non-native species**
<b>AA1</b>	B	A-21/ B-22 / C-4	A-59.03%/ B-14.26%/ C-7.15%	4	19.57%
<b>AA2</b>	C	A-19/ B-20 / C-2	A-16.79%/ B-5.91%/ C-0.89%	4	76.41%
<b>AA3</b>	C	A-5 / B-6 / C-3	A-4.17%/ B-3.58%/ C-7.88%	1	84.37%

\* the approximate number of native species in the activity area that have stems that have a diameter at breast height of less than 5 centimetres and that have regenerated from natural sources (such as soil seed stock, root stock or lignotubers) based on both plot survey and observational data during the field assessment.

\*\* the cover provided by non-native plant species in the activity, by life form such as trees, shrubs, vines and grass.



## 7. Starting Values for Ecosystem Condition Indicators

**Table 6: Starting values of each indicator for its ecosystem condition for the activity area**

Activity area	Starting value		
Indicator	AA1	AA2	AA3
canopy height of native vegetation (in metres)	0	0	0
crown cover from native plants in the canopy layer (as a percentage)	0	0	0
crown cover from native plants in the mid-storey layer (as a percentage)	0	0	0
crown cover from plants in the canopy layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0	0	0
crown cover from plants in the mid-storey layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0	0	0
ground cover from sub-category A1, A2 and A3 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	80.43%	23.59%	15.63%
ground cover from sub-category A4 and A5 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	19.57%	76.41%	84.37%
native species richness index by life form (native tree, shrub, vine, grass and herbaceous vascular plant species other than grasses)	48.29%	26.29%*	12.93%

\*Native species richness index by lifeform for AA2 was calculated by averaging the index values for SA3 and SA4.

## 8. Benchmark Values for Ecosystem Condition Indicators

Benchmark values have been determined for each activity area for the project. For AA1 and AA2 the benchmark value was based on Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forests Keith Class (NSW North Coast IBRA; Northern Rivers CMA) which encompasses PCT 3240 and 3254. Benchmark value for North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests Keith Class (NSW North Coast IBRA; Northern Rivers CMA) which encompasses PCT 3254 (AA2– SA5) was not incorporated due to being less than 8% of AA2 and no transects were in this area so will not impact ecosystem condition values for the activity area.

Note: For species richness in the below tables, the vine benchmark was calculated through reference to the PCT's floristic dataset within the NSW Bionet. The proportion of vines present amongst the 'Other' growth form category was calculated from the dataset, taking into account frequency distribution data. E.g. for Eucalypt Tall Open Forest (PCT3240), data indicated that vines accounted for 631 out of 664 species records (95.03%). This was applied to the benchmark value for the vegetation class of 10 species, resulting in 9.5 vines (rounded down to nearest whole number as advised by CER). The herbaceous calculation used the forbs benchmark plus calculation of the proportion of non-vines present within the 'Other' growth form category as per the vines calculation (e.g.  $4 + 4 = 8$  for PCT 3240/Eucalypt Tall Open Forest).

**Table 7: Benchmark values for each indicator and sub-indicator for Activity Area ID AA1 & AA2: SA1, SA2, SA3 & SA5**

<b>Activity area ID: AA1 &amp; AA2: SA1, SA2, SA3 &amp; SA5</b> - Benchmarks for Northern Hinterland Wet Sclerophyll Forests Keith Class (NSW North Coast IBRA; Northern Rivers CMA) which encompasses 3240 & 3254 have been used.													
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Benchmark value</b>												
canopy height of native vegetation (in metres)	20m												
crown cover from native plants in the canopy layer (as a percentage)	32.5%												
crown cover from native plants in the mid-storey layer (as a percentage)	25%												
crown cover from plants in the canopy layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0%												
crown cover from plants in the mid-storey layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0%												
ground cover from sub-category A1, A2 and A3 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	100%												
ground cover from sub-category A4 and A5 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	0%												
native species richness index by life form (native tree, shrub, vine, grass and herbaceous vascular plant species other than grasses)	<table> <tr><td>Trees</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Shrubs</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Vines</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Grass</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>Herbaceous</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>50</b></td></tr> </table>	Trees	10	Shrubs	11	Vines	9	Grass	9	Herbaceous	11	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>
Trees	10												
Shrubs	11												
Vines	9												
Grass	9												
Herbaceous	11												
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>												

**Table 8: Benchmark values for each indicator and sub-indicator for Activity Area ID AA2: SA4**

<b>Activity area ID: AA2: SA4</b> - Benchmarks for North Coast Wet Sclerophyll Forests Keith Class (NSW North Coast IBRA; Northern Rivers CMA) which encompasses PCT 3169 have been used.	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Benchmark value</b>
canopy height of native vegetation (in metres)	20m
crown cover from native plants in the canopy layer (as a percentage)	55%
crown cover from native plants in the mid-storey layer (as a percentage)	52.5%
crown cover from plants in the canopy layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0%
crown cover from plants in the mid-storey layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0%
ground cover from sub-category A1, A2 and A3 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	100%
ground cover from sub-category A4 and A5 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	0%

native species richness index by life form (native tree, shrub, vine, grass and herbaceous vascular plant species other than grasses)	Trees	13
	Shrubs	14
	Vines	13
	Grass	5
	Herbaceous	11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

**Table 9: Benchmark values for each indicator and sub-indicator for Activity Area ID AA3**

Activity area ID: AA3 - Benchmarks for Subtropical Rainforests Keith Class (NSW North Coast; Northern Rivers CMA) which encompasses PCT 3100 have been used.		
Indicator	Benchmark value	
canopy height of native vegetation (in metres)	32.5m	
crown cover from native plants in the canopy layer (as a percentage)	65%	
crown cover from native plants in the mid-storey layer (as a percentage)	50%	
crown cover from plants in the canopy layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0%	
crown cover from plants in the mid-storey layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	0%	
ground cover from sub-category A1, A2 and A3 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	100%	
ground cover from sub-category A4 and A5 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	0%	
native species richness index by life form (native tree, shrub, vine, grass and herbaceous vascular plant species other than grasses)	Trees	19
	Shrubs	10
	Vines	14
	Grass	2
	Herbaceous	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>

## 9. Threshold Values for Ecosystem Condition Indicators

**Table 10: Threshold values for each indicator and sub-indicator for the activity area**

Activity area	Threshold value			
Indicator	AA1 – Target level 2	AA2 – Target level 1: SA3 & SA5	AA2 – Target level 1: SA4	AA3 – Target level 1
canopy height of native vegetation (in metres)	5m	5m	5m	5m
crown cover from native plants in the canopy layer (as a percentage)	10.8%	10.8%	18.3%	21.7%
crown cover from native plants in the mid-storey layer (as a percentage)	8.3%	8.3%	17.5%	16.7%
crown cover from plants in the canopy layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	No more than 10%	No more than 15%	No more than 15%	No more than 15%
crown cover from plants in the mid-storey layer provided by non-native plants (as a percentage)	No more than 10%	No more than 15%	No more than 15%	No more than 15%
ground cover from sub-category A1, A2 and A3 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	90%	23.6%	23.6%	15.6%
ground cover from sub-category A4 and A5 plants as a proportion of total ground cover from category A plants	No more than 14.7%	No more than 76.4%	No more than 76.4%	No more than 84.4%
native species richness index by life form (native tree, shrub, vine, grass and herbaceous vascular plant species other than grasses)	12.5	5.0	5.6	5.8

## 10. Proposed Plantings

Description of the environmental plantings that are proposed to be carried out in the activity area:

- The environmental plantings project will be a mixed species environmental block planting under the generic calibration.
- The planting design seeks to:
  - Tubestock planting of species across all activity areas that are native to the project, are sourced locally and appropriate to the biophysical characteristics of the activity area or sub-area;
  - Plant with the community structures and distributions that are described in pre-clearing PCTs and introduces an appropriate combination of species from the canopy layer, mid-storey layer and ground layer that collectively are capable of achieving forest cover within 25 years after the initial planting (including ecological in-fill plantings) and through natural regeneration;
  - Plant in a block design (multiple rows of contiguous areas) that is likely to result in a structure and composition of a forest that is consistent with the reference ecosystem for the activity area or sub-area;
  - Dominant canopy cover species selected for this project and their physical traits demonstrate each one to be a tree or shrub species that will grow to (and surpass) the 2 metre height requirement of the method. Planting and natural regeneration success will be monitored throughout the project. If

additional strata species representative of reference PCTs are required to be planted, the ecological in-fill clause of the environmental plantings method will be used;

- Planting for the purposes of an environmental project and is consistent with the nominated restoration targets for the ecosystem condition of the activity area.

**Table 11: Details of the proposed planting schedule and method for the activity area**

Activity area ID:	AA1 Eucalypt Tall Open Forest
Species (common name (Scientific name))	<p>Soft Corkwood (<i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i>)</p> <p>Sassafras (<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>)</p> <p>Black Booyong (<i>Heritiera actinophylla</i>)</p> <p>Australian White Birch (<i>Schizomeria ovata</i>)</p> <p>White Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i>)</p> <p>Tallowwood (<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>)</p> <p>Blue Gum (<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>)</p> <p>Brush Box (<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>)</p> <p>Turpentine Tree (<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>)</p> <p>Rough Barked Apple (<i>Angophora floribunda</i>)</p> <p>Broad Leaved Apple (<i>Angophora subvelutina</i>)</p> <p>Cabbage Gum (<i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i>)</p> <p>Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus biturbinata</i>)</p> <p>Blakelys Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>)</p> <p>NE Blackbutt (<i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i>)</p> <p>Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus canaliculata</i>)</p> <p>White Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>)</p> <p>Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>)</p> <p>White Gum (<i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i>)</p> <p>Forest Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>)</p> <p>Spotted Gum (<i>Corymbia maculata</i>)</p> <p>Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>)</p> <p>Northern Grey Ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i>)</p> <p>Broad-leaved White Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus umbra</i>)</p> <p>Spotted Gum (<i>Corymbia variegata</i>)</p> <p>Thick Leaved Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus carnea</i>)</p> <p>Diehard Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus cameronii</i>)</p> <p>Messmate (<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>)</p> <p>Narrow-leaved Peppermint (<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>)</p> <p>Gum Topped Box (<i>Eucalyptus molluccana</i>)</p>



	<p>Forest Oak (<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>)</p> <p>Black Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>)</p> <p>Hickory Wattle (<i>Acacia implexa</i>)</p> <p>Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>)</p>
<b>Activity area ID:</b>	<b>AA2 Eucalypt Tall Open Forest</b>
<b>Species (common name (Scientific name))</b>	<p>Soft Corkwood (<i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i>)</p> <p>Sassafras (<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>)</p> <p>Black Booyong (<i>Heritiera actinophylla</i>)</p> <p>Australian White Birch (<i>Schizomeria ovata</i>)</p> <p>White Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i>)</p> <p>Tallowwood (<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>)</p> <p>Blue Gum (<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>)</p> <p>Brush Box (<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>)</p> <p>Turpentine Tree (<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>)</p> <p>Rough Barked Apple (<i>Angophora floribunda</i>)</p> <p>Broad Leaved Apple (<i>Angophora subvelutina</i>)</p> <p>Cabbage Gum (<i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i>)</p> <p>Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus biturbinata</i>)</p> <p>Blakelys Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>)</p> <p>NE Blackbutt (<i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i>)</p> <p>Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus canaliculata</i>)</p> <p>White Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>)</p> <p>Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>)</p> <p>White Gum (<i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i>)</p> <p>Forest Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>)</p> <p>Spotted Gum (<i>Corymbia maculata</i>)</p> <p>Grey Gum (<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>)</p> <p>Northern Grey Ironbark (<i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i>)</p> <p>Broad-leaved White Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus umbra</i>)</p> <p>Spotted Gum (<i>Corymbia variegata</i>)</p> <p>Thick Leaved Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus carnea</i>)</p> <p>Gum Topped Box (<i>Eucalyptus molluccana</i>)</p> <p>Black Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>)</p>

	<p>Forest Oak (<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>)</p> <p>Hickory Wattle (<i>Acacia implexa</i>)</p> <p>Blackwood (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>)</p>
<b>Activity area ID:</b>	<b>AA3 Rainforest &amp; Vine</b>
<b>Species (common name (Scientific name))</b>	<p>White Mahogany (<i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i>)</p> <p>Tallowwood (<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>)</p> <p>Blue Gum (<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>)</p> <p>Brush Box (<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>)</p> <p>Turpentine Tree (<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>)</p> <p>Forest Oak (<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>)</p> <p>Black Apple (<i>Planchonella australis</i>)</p> <p>Illawarra Flame Tree (<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>)</p> <p>Rosewood (<i>Dysoxylum fraserianum</i>)</p> <p>White Bolly Gum (<i>Neolitisea dealbata</i>)</p> <p>Brush Cherry (<i>Syzigium australis</i>)</p> <p>Sandpaper fig (<i>Ficus coronata</i>)</p> <p>Black Plum (<i>Diospyros australis</i>)</p> <p>Hairy Psychotria (<i>Psychotria loniceroides</i>)</p> <p>Bolwarra (<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>)</p> <p>Rainforest Mat Rush (<i>Lomandra spicata</i>)</p>
<b>Target density (stems per ha)</b>	417 stems per hectare
<b>Site preparation</b>	<p>Decompaction of the soil using dozers fitted with rippers was undertaken during the summer months to break up the soil and grassy layer. This increases the moisture retention during the summer rains. Follow-up herbicide treatment was then undertaken to ensure the decompaction (also known as riplines) were accessible and maintained. These decompaction lines are widely-spaced along contour lines, to reflect the forest structure, allow the plants to have maximum access to water and light to establish once planted. Pursuant to s19(6) of the method, no native vegetation was damaged or destroyed during this process.</p> <p>Historic time-stamped satellite imagery has been reviewed as evidence that native vegetation in the activity areas was not damaged or destroyed by mechanical or chemical means within the last three years, including when under different ownership.</p>
<b>Planting method</b>	Tubestock

## 11. Natural Regeneration

**Table 12: Natural regeneration within each activity area**

Activity area ID	Description of natural regeneration
AA1	Natural regeneration was rare and limited to scattered individuals of seedlings of <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. saligna</i> , <i>E. acmenoides</i> and <i>Angophora subvelutina</i> with a cover of < 0.1% and approximate age of 3 years or less with a cover of < 0.1%.
AA2	Natural regeneration was rare and limited to scattered individuals of seedlings of <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> , <i>E. saligna</i> , <i>E. acmenoides</i> and <i>Angophora subvelutina</i> with a cover of < 0.1% and approximate age of 3 years or less with a cover of < 0.1%.
AA3	Natural regeneration was very rare and limited to the occurrence of one or two <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> individuals with a cover of < 0.1% with approximate age of less than 3 years.

### 11.1 Reliance on natural regeneration

**Table 13: Natural regeneration relied on within each activity area**

Activity area ID	Species name	Location and number of species	Evidence that natural regeneration will not be damaged in the implementation of the proposed plantings
AA3	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	1 observed in S9_Start_RF_E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pioneering species located across widespread, cosmopolitan habitats</li> <li>At Cooplacurripa, will be found in fringing ecotones, often in wetter forest adjacent to more mature rainforest extents</li> <li>Plantings will not impact these areas, as excluded from direct planting and decompaction activities (via machinery)</li> <li>Blackwood is a prolific seeder, also resprouting from suckers, and will be able to take advantage of open areas to reestablish</li> <li>This plant is fire adapted, so any fires planned or unplanned, this species will be able to take advantage of post-fire conditions</li> </ul>
AA3	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	1 observed in S10_Start_RF_E	As above

Activity area ID	Species name	Location and number of species	Evidence that natural regeneration will not be damaged in the implementation of the proposed plantings
AA1	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	1 observed in N4_Start_WSF_N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tall resilient species that occurs widely across Cooplacurripa and east coast of Australia, occurring in a wide habitat range</li> <li>Plantings will not impact this tree as <i>E. tereticornis</i> is being planted as part of the plantings project. It forms a high proportion of the total seedling mix, and therefore, this species will add to the overall genetic diversity of our plantings</li> <li>There is no direct works in the Wet Sclerophyll Forest where this species was recorded, so natural regeneration of this plant will not be impacted</li> <li>This tree is fire adapted, so any fires planned or unplanned, this species will be able to take advantage of post-fire conditions</li> </ul>

## 12. Other Features

### 12.1 Covenants and Legal Encumbrances

**Table 14: Covenants and legal encumbrances in each activity area**

Activity area ID	Description of covenants and legal encumbrances
All Activity Areas	AU512816, Mortgage to Commonwealth Bank of Australia

### 12.2 Significant Hydrological Features

**Table 15: Significant hydrological features in each activity area**

Activity area ID	Description of significant hydrological features
All Activity Areas	There were no hydrological features of significance identified through the Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool (and as defined by the method in section 32) in the project area. However, the below streams are present.
AA1 and AA2	A number of non-perennial and perennial streams (Strahler order 1 and 2) flow across the activity areas as shown in Figure 3.1 and 3.2 (in Site Assessment Report) in the north of the property and Figure 3.3 and 3.4 (in Site Assessment Report) in the south of the property.

AA3	A perennial stream is located on the southern tip of the activity area and there is a Strahler order 3 stream immediately to the west of the activity area as shown in Figure 3.4 (in Site Assessment Report).
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## 13. Management History and Historic Drivers

**Table 16: Description of the management history of each activity area**

Activity area ID	Management history
<b>All activity areas</b>	<p>Cooplacurripa is a long-standing pastoral station, first established by the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) as far back as 1845, but certainly with intensity from the early 1860's, however it wasn't until after the Second World War where larger areas of the station were cleared for primary production. It is purported to be the largest pastoral station east of The Great Dividing Range.</p> <p>The land was comprehensively cleared more than 15 years prior to the application date, and the canopy layer of native trees has been removed/cleared from at least 90% of the land defined at a 10mx10m scale. Majority of this clearing occurred prior to 1985 and therefore there are limitations in providing evidentiary support such as satellite imagery.</p> <p>AACo managed the property until 2012 when it was sold to Rifa to continue livestock operations. Rifa then sold the station to the previous owners (the Bell family) around 2019, before Silva acquired the property from the Bell Family, with that deal being finalised in September 2024.</p>

**Table 17: Historic drivers of change in the project area**

Historic driver	Details of the historic driver
<b>Bushfire</b>	The entire Mid-Coast Region, including Cooplacurripa, was impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfire event, known as the Black Summer Bushfires, that affected much of Australia at the time. NSW NPWS fire severity mapping clearly shows large tracts of the site affected by high severity and high intensity bushfire in the higher elevations where bushfires used the steeper topography to exhibit adverse fire behaviour.
<b>Soil decompaction</b>	Across the Activity Areas (1-3), decompaction of the soil using dozers fitted with rippers was undertaken during the summer months to break up the soil and grassy layer. This had created wide-spaced decompaction (rip-lines) following the contour of the landscapes, to maximise plant establishment success.



## 14. Management Activities

### 14.1 Thinning

Thinning may be used as a management activity during the permanence period of the project. However, there will be no thinning during the 10 years following registration. After the project has been registered for 10 years, no more than 10% of any activity area will be thinned for ecological purposes.

### 14.2 Threats to the Project Outcome

Threats to the project outcome have been observed during the Starting State Assessment and by Covalent during subsequent site visits. Records of pest/weed treatment over past ten years have not been collected or reviewed due to recent acquisition of the property from previous owner.

**Table 18: Threats to the project by activity area**

Activity area ID	List of threats to project outcome	Mitigations of threats to project outcome
AA1 and AA2	Blackberry	Biomass reduction and targeted herbicide treatment.
AA3	Kikuyu Grass	Suppressing Kikuyu Grass growth within planted rows with chemical treatment and maintaining Kikuya Grass along the inter-rows.
AA1, AA2 and AA3	Other invasive weed species	Targeted biomass reduction through use of mechanical and herbicide treatment to keep the weed burden low, especially in the high pasture / modified landscapes.
	Pigs and hares	Targeted humane control of identified pest animals throughout the year. Alignment with neighbouring properties – especially from National Parks & Wildlife and State Forest land for collaborative pest species programs of works.
	Bushfire	A comprehensive Bushfire Mitigation Works Schedule (BMWS) has already been developed for property. The BMWS uses site-based assessment of bushfire potential (fuel loads, structure, fire regime departures and other thresholds) and recommends mitigation strategies matched to that risk profile. The BMWS will be updated annually in the lead up to the bushfire season in NSW (Nov – Mar).

### 14.3 Duration of the Permanence Period

For the duration of the 100-year permanence period the following management activities (including, but not limited to) are proposed to adaptively manage the replanting project to ensure the project outcome is likely to be achieved and maintained:

- Bushfire mitigation and response activities:
  - Improving track network and signage to promote accessibility for emergency vehicles across the property including water point access.
  - Signage of fire trails to provide firefighters with vehicle accessibility information.
  - Slashing near assets (fence lines, tracks, carbon/biodiversity asset perimeter & agricultural) to prevent spread of fire through the surface fuel sources.
  - Planned burns to prevent spread of fire through the surface fuel sources.
  - Use of herbicide to prevent spread of fire through elevated fuel sources.
  - Mechanical removal of branches/limbs within trafficable surfaces to prevent spread of fire through the canopy fuel sources.
- Pest and disease control;
  - The responsible application of herbicides and slashing to remove weed or pasture competition near plantings sites.
  - Humane and permitted control of feral animals identified at the property that are a browsing risk, through various techniques.
- Monitoring and evaluation:
  - Annual field monitoring will occur, in the field and supplemented with routine satellite and/or drone imagery to assess condition of planted vegetation.

## 15. Climate Change Considerations

### 15.1 Potential climate change effects across all activity areas

The Climate Change in Australia – Climate Projections & Analogues tool was investigated to access projected climate changes and application-ready future climate data (applied to observational data) to create a regional summary on future climate and key outcomes as listed below:

- Average temperatures will continue to increase in all seasons (very high confidence). There is very high confidence in continued substantial increases in projected mean, maximum and minimum temperatures in line with our understanding of the effect of further increases in greenhouse gas concentrations.
- More hot days and warm spells are projected with very high confidence. Fewer frosts are projected with high confidence.
- Decreases in winter rainfall are projected with medium confidence. Other changes are possible but unclear. Increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected, with high confidence.
- A harsher fire-weather climate in the future (high confidence).
- On annual and decadal basis, natural variability in the climate system can act to either mask or enhance any long-term human induced trend, particularly in the next 20 years and for rainfall.

When reviewing the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology (2025) Projection Tools – Climate Analogues the most similar vegetation groups to the project region was Taree that had projections under RCP 4.5 in 2050 aligning with northern locations including Kempsey, Lismore, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

NARCLIM2.0 projections provide nation-leading climate model data that span the range of plausible future changes in climate for south-east Australia at a 4km resolution, and for the broader Australasian region at a 20km resolution. Key findings for Hunter region and Cooplacurripa area:

- Warmer average temperatures: 1-4.5 degrees increase in Cooplacurripa
- Hot days to become more frequent, cold days to decrease
- Rainfall to remain variable
- Severe fire weather to increase.

**Source:** CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology. 2025. Projection Tools - Regional Climate Change Explorer – East Coast Slopes. Available from <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/projections-tools/regional-climate-change-explorer/sub-clusters/?current=ECSC&tooltip=true&popup=true> Accessed 2/6/25.

**Source:** CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology. 2025. Projection Tools – Climate Analogues. Available from <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/projections-tools/climate-analogues/analogues-explorer/> Accessed 2/6/25.

**Source:** NSW Office of Environment and Heritage 2025. Vegetation formations maps. Available from <https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/GeoHabitatsearch> 04/06/2025

**Source:** NSW Government. 2024. Adapt NSW – Interactive climate change projections map. Available from <https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/projections-map> Accessed 2/6/25.

## 15.2 Reducing risk of climate change effects on project outcome

Covalent have recommended flora species that have a higher tolerance to climatic changes forecast under an RCP 4.5 scenario. Choosing species with this higher resilience will help provide a buffer to local changes to weather and environmental conditions.

The planting design has been designed to 'mimic' natural forest structure and characteristics, so that it maximises 'climate refugia' for biodiversity.

The use of active land management techniques, ecological and bushfire mitigation fire regimes, in the project area and working with neighbouring stakeholders; like NPWS, State Forest, Midcoast Council and Walcha Council on collaborative land management programs at a landscape/natural resource management regional scale will also help reduce the impact of a changing climate on the project.

**Source:** Timpane-Padgham BL, Beechie T, Klinger T (2017) A systematic review of ecological attributes that confer resilience to climate change in environmental restoration. *PLoS ONE* 12(3): e0173812. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0173812>

**Source:** Prober, S. M., Byrne, M., McLean, E. H., Steane, D. A., Potts, B. M., Vaillancourt, R. E., & Stock, W. D. (2015). Climate-adjusted provenancing: a strategy for climate-resilient ecological restoration. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, 3, Article 65. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2015.00065>

**Source:** Vallejo, V. R., Smanis, A., Chirino, E., Fuentes, D., Valdecantos, A., & Vilagrosa, A. (2021). Enhancing climate change resilience of ecological restoration — A framework for action. *Perspectives in Ecology and Conservation*, 19(3), 187–193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pecon.2021.06.005>

## 15.3 Midcoast & Walcha Council – Climate Change Considerations

Midcoast Council Climate Change Strategy has section on climate change resilience and adaptation plan that includes regional current conditions and projections that align with NSW and Federal government assessments. No recommendations or assessment of land management approaches to reduce climate change risk.

Walcha Council Strategic Plan includes a target to protect and enhance natural and built environment, however, there is no detail in the plan or 2022 State of the Environment Report as to incorporating climate change considerations for land management.

**Source:** Midcoast Council. 2021. Climate Change Strategy. Available from <https://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/About-MidCoast-Council/Plans-strategies-and-policies/Other-strategic-plans/Climate-Change-Strategy> Accessed on 10/6/25

**Source:** Walcha Council. 2022. Walcha 2032 Community Strategic Plan. Available from <https://walcha.nsw.gov.au/council/community-strategic-plan-walcha-2035/> Accessed on 16/6/25

**Source:** Walcha Council. 2022. State of the Environment Report. Available from <https://walcha.nsw.gov.au/environment/state-of-the-environment-report/> Accessed on 16/6/25

## 16. Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

**Table 19: Threatened species and ecological communities by activity area**

Activity area ID	Description
<b>AA1, AA2, AA3</b>	Vegetation observed in AA1 does not align to a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) listed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) or the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).  No threatened species were identified during starting state assessment.
<b>AA3</b>	Vegetation observed in AA3 partially aligns to Lowland Rainforest in the NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregion listed as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) and to Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia listed as Critically Endangered under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).  No threatened species were identified during starting state assessment.

As part of preparing the site assessment report, the Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool was used to determine what threatened species and ecological communities might occur within the project area. Three threatened ecological communities and 49 threatened species were reported as 'may occur' in the project area. It was confirmed that AA3 aligned with the threatened ecological community: Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia, whereas no threatened species were identified on site during surveys. However, survey effort did not focus on threatened species detection and so does not confer that species listed are not present on the site and numerous species could occur.

Many of the threatened fauna listed below which are mobile and wide ranging could occur at the site from time to time (e.g. Glossy Black Cockatoos were reported to occur by members of the Covalent team) and certain fauna may be resident within adjacent areas.

Threatened flora from the below list are unlikely to have gone undetected unless they were rare and/or cryptic across the area assessed.

There were no significant hydrological features of significance identified through the Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool (and as defined by the method in section 32) report in the project area. Listed threatened ecological communities – community likely to occur within area:

- Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia
- New England Peppermint (*Eucalyptus nova-anglica*) Grassy Woodlands
- Subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland of the New South Wales North Coast and South East Queensland bioregions

Listed threatened species – species or species habitat likely to occur within area:

- *Anthochaera phrygia* Regent Honeyeater [82338]
- *Atrichornis rufescens* Rufous Scrub-bird [655]
- *Botaurus poiciloptilus* Australasian Bittern [1001]
- *Calidris acuminata* Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]
- *Calidris ferruginea* Curlew Sandpiper [856]



- *Calyptrorhynchus lathamii lathamii* South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo [67036]
- *Climacteris picumnus victoriae* Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) [67062]
- *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* Red Goshawk [942]
- *Falco hypoleucos* Grey Falcon [929]
- *Gallinago hardwickii* Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe [863]
- *Grantiella picta* Painted Honeyeater [470]
- *Hirundapus caudacutus* White-throated Needletail [682]
- *Lathamus discolor* Swift Parrot [744]
- *Melanodryas cucullata cucullata* South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) [67093]
- *Neophema chrysostoma* Blue-winged Parrot [726]
- *Rostratula australis* Australian Painted Snipe [77037]
- *Stagonopleura guttata* Diamond Firetail [59398]
- *Litoria daviesae* Davies' Tree Frog [78964]
- *Mixophyes balbus* Stuttering Frog, Southern Barred Frog (in Victoria) [1942]
- *Phyloria sphagnicola* Sphagnum Frog [59709]
- *Chalinolobus dwyeri* Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat [183]
- *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus* (SE mainland population) Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) [75184]
- *Notamacropus parma parma* Parma Wallaby [89289]
- *Petauroides volans* Greater Glider (southern and central) [254]
- *Petaurus australis australis* Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) [87600]
- *Phascolarctos cinereus* (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) [85104]
- *Potorous tridactylus tridactylus* Long-nosed Potoroo (northern) [66645]
- *Pseudomys novaehollandiae* New Holland Mouse, Pookila [96]
- *Pseudomys oralis* Hastings River Mouse, Koontoo [98] *Pteropus poliocephalus* Grey-headed Flying-fox [186]
- *Arthraxon hispidus* Hairy-joint Grass [9338]
- *Callistemon pungens* [55581]
- *Coleus nitidus* listed as *Plectranthus nitidus* Nightcap Plectranthus, Silver Plectranthus [91380]
- *Cryptostylis hunteriana* Leafless Tongue-orchid [19533]
- *Cynanchum elegans* White-flowered Wax Plant [12533]
- *Dichanthium setosum* bluegrass [14159]
- *Eucalyptus glaucina* Slaty Red Gum [5670]
- *Eucalyptus nicholii* Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Narrowleaved Black Peppermint [20992]
- *Euphrasia arguta* [4325]

- *Haloragis exalata* subsp. *Velutina* Tall Velvet Sea-berry [16839]
- *Persicaria elatior* Knotweed, Tall Knotweed [5831]
- *Rhodamnia rubescens* Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood [15763]
- *Rhodomyrtus psidioides* Native Guava [19162]
- *Syzygium paniculatum* Magenta Lilly Pilly, Magenta Cherry, Daguba, Scrub Cherry, Creek Lilly Pilly, Brush Cherry [20307]
- *Thesium australe* Austral Toadflax, Toadflax [15202]
- *Vincetoxicum woollsii* listed as *Tylophora woollsii* [40080]
- *Coeranoscincus reticulatus* Three-toed Snake-tooth Skink [59628]
- *Myuchelys purvisi* Purvis' Turtle [89459]
- *Saltuarius moritzi* New England Leaf-tailed Gecko, Moritz's Leaf-tailed Gecko [89490]

Measures to promote or conserve the recovery of threatened species and ecological communities:

Cooplacurripa Station is located in the Upper Manning Catchment and has two main rivers running across the property, the Cooplacurripa and Mummel Rivers – these freshwater rivers support the region's catchment. Destocking and fencing off the access to the rivers to protect habitat along both of the rivers will occur. Species on the proposed planting list are known Koala food trees and will be able to support the existing population once they are mature.

Regular weed and vertebrate pest control will occur throughout all activity areas to reduce exotic flora species competition with native flora species and herbivory of native species by vertebrate pests.


## 17. Assumptions and Limitations

Assumptions used on benchmarking have been detailed in section 8. Assumptions of planting species list and target planting density detailed in section 10 is accurate at the time of Project Plan publication, however variables beyond our control may affect the actual species list received from the nurseries and actual planting density.

## 18. Suitably Qualified Person(s)

**Declaration may be subject to change.**

By signing below, the suitably qualified person or persons declares that implementation of this project plan is likely achieve the project outcome and result in a biodiversity certificate being issued in respect of the project (s36(1)(3) of the method).

<b>Full name of suitably qualified person</b>	Cuong Tran		
<b>Contact details</b>	<a href="mailto:enquire@covalentland.au">enquire@covalentland.au</a>		
<b>Prepared or certified</b>	Prepared:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Certified: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Relevant qualifications or experience</b>	<p>Please refer attached CV in Site Assessment Report.</p> <p>Relevant experience: Research Academic in Fire &amp; Landscape Ecology – Griffith University (2001-2009), SME for the Qld Audit Office – review of state bushfire preparedness and implementation of 2009 Black Saturday Bushfire Royal Commission (2014, QAO Report 10: 2014-15), SME for Qld Fire Regime Guidelines for the QPWS (2012-2013), Healthy Land &amp; Water Science Committee Member (2023-current).</p>		
<b>Signature</b>			
<b>Signature date</b>	07 May 2025		

