

Weed Management Strategy 2026-2041

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NBES Project Summary	Develop a comprehensive 15-year Weed Management Strategy to provide a structured, long-term strategy for managing invasive plant species across the Sorell municipality.
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Executive Summary

The Sorell Weed Management Strategy delivers an overarching framework to guide strategic, cost effective, cross-tenure and collaborative weed management within the Sorell municipality over the next 15 years. It builds on the broader Sorell Natural Resource Management Strategy 2025-2035 of safeguarding the natural environment and protecting it from invasive species. It also aligns with other Council plans and policies related to natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation including Reserve Management plans. The broad aim of this strategy is to ensure that weed species do not outcompete the native flora and fauna, nor adversely impact the agricultural productivity of the Sorell municipality.

Six strategic objectives are identified. Each objective has a set of goals to steer future weed management towards reducing the level of impacts weeds have on the Sorell municipality.

The Sorell community has a history of being pro-active in tackling weed issues across the municipality. More recently this has been achieved through the development of local reserve specific management plans and their implementation by local volunteer community groups and Council staff, enabling a Council supported, coordinated and sustained level of on-ground outcomes.

Sorell Council manages around 2% of the land within the municipality, whilst over 84% is private freehold land. The challenge facing the implementation of an effective weed management strategy is to develop a 'shared responsibility' culture to achieve weed management outcomes across the whole of the municipality. This is one of the aims of the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019* (BS Act), whilst weeds are declared under the associated *Biosecurity Regulations 2022*.

As with all other regions of Tasmania, the municipality of Sorell is home to a wide range of weeds. Over 370 naturalised introduced plants have been recorded within the Sorell municipality, of which 36 are declared under the *Biosecurity Regulations 2022* and 11 are also listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)[1]. Some of these 370 introduced plants are well established and widespread across the municipality, with impacts ranging from minor to serious. Others are fairly recent introductions currently in small populations. Some of these weeds threaten environmental, economic and social values. As such 50 non-declared environmental weeds of local significance are identified for management in the Sorell Local List with one, sea spurge, identified as eradicable.

Weeds are categorised on management priority and are prioritised into four groups for which distinct management responses are defined. A fifth group includes "Alert List" weed species not identified in the Sorell municipality but identified elsewhere in Tasmania and mainland Australia as a potential threat should they become naturalised. These species would become Priority 1 if recorded in the municipality.

The 4 priority groups are:

1. weeds with a restricted distribution requiring rapid eradication (declared, 1 SLL and alert list weeds)
2. weeds with a limited distribution - eradicate where possible or quarantine (declared weeds)
3. widespread infestations - manage to eradicate isolated areas and contain wider areas to prevent spread (declared weeds)
4. widespread weeds - control and contain where threatening important values – asset protection (declared and SLL weeds)

[1] Based on known records as of April 2025

Glossary

Term	Definition
AWS	Australian Weed Strategy
BS Act	Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*
GBD	General Biosecurity Duty
LGA	Local Government Area
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
NRM	Natural Resource Management
SBLC	Southern Beaches Landcare/ Coastcare group
SLL	Sorell Local List
SWMP	Statutory Weed Management Plan
WAF	Weeds Action Fund
WMS	Weed Management Strategy
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Weed Management Strategy 2026-2041 (Strategy) has been developed for Sorell Council (Council) to guide management and actions relating to the strategic control of weeds within the Sorell municipality. The plan outlines the Council's approach to identifying, prioritising, and controlling weeds, as well as measures to prevent their spread.

The key aim of this Strategy is to:

Implement a weed strategy and action plan across the Sorell municipality that works together with all relevant community, industry and government stakeholders to reduce the economic, environmental as well as human health and amenity impact of weeds.

Sorell municipality covers 58,300 hectares of land, which includes 1,700 hectares of Council managed reserves. Council has made progress on tackling weed issues on Council managed land. This has been achieved through the combined efforts of volunteer community groups and Council staff with strategic planning over local reserves and a funded, coordinated and sustained level of on-ground works.

Despite the achievements that have been made to date and the considerable resources that Council, State and Federal governments have devoted to weed management within the municipality, it is not possible or practical to plan to eradicate all weeds. Strategies that have previously been effective over local bushland reserves will not be effective when applied across the whole municipality, even less effective considering the resources Council are able to commit.

This Strategy and action plan aims to create a strategic approach that prioritises weeds and expands upon current Council and other stakeholder activities by enabling collaborative control of weeds that also protects key assets across the municipality. This involves planning for the enhanced co-operation of all landowners to maximise on-ground resources in order to achieve high level, sustainable weed management outcomes. It also seeks to ensure Council leads by example, supports local community volunteer groups and encourages other stakeholders to get involved.

In addition, the Strategy provides a framework to enable Council, local communities and groups, the agricultural sector and other land managers to work in partnership to identify, prioritise and co-invest to improve the management of highly invasive weeds. By improving communication and strengthening partnerships, collaborative, cross tenure, longer-term and more cost-effective weed management outcomes can be achieved across the Sorell municipality.

1.1. BACKGROUND

Council routinely engages in weed management across the municipality with several ongoing projects. These include the parks and reserves it directly manages, and roadside weed management based on assessment by the Council Works Depot staff.

The Council works crew has Land Improvement Officers (7-8 staff), some with Conservation Land Management Certificate qualifications, as well as a Works Supervisor. They are responsible for maintenance of reserves and Public Open Space. As an example, every Tuesday morning 2-3 staff work at Dodges Ferry Flora Park along with the local community group Southern Beaches Landcare/ Coastcare (SBLC). There is scope for this practice to be replicated by Council for other community groups within the municipality.

During the late 1990s to mid-2000s the Works Supervisor was involved in feathertop (*Cenchrus longisetus*) eradication from the municipality with the only known infestations being at Lewisham and Midway Point. This Class A declared weed has a very limited distribution in Tasmania. Currently only one infestation remains at Lewisham. During 2024/ 25 a Weeds Action Fund grant was obtained to enable follow up control at the property where the landholder is now actively managing their feathertop for longer-term eradication.

During 2009-2013, the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority obtained Australian Government funding for weed control works to protect the Pittwater Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site (PWOL) targeting boneseed and bridal creeper. From 2013-15 the regional NRM organisation, NRM South co-funded an NRM Facilitator with Council and provided on-ground funds to continue to protect PWOL from weeds. The formation of the Friends of PWOL (2013-2015 onwards) in partnership with the Parks & Wildlife Service enabled additional work on weeds at PWOL including African boxthorn and boneseed.

In 2013 the Inala Road/ Dunalley bushfires severely impacted the municipality. In response, NRM South provided funds for weed control works in fire affected areas including Dunalley/ Boomer Bay, Connellys Marsh and Carlton River. These works primarily focused on boneseed and gorse impacting agricultural areas and coastal reserves.

In 2024, Sorell Council received Weeds Action Fund (WAF) funding of $38,395 for targeted grassy weeds such as African lovegrass, serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass and feathertop. In 2022, Council received a $20,000 WAF to assist landowners manage priority weeds on their properties. The Council requested expression of interest from landowners within the municipality, with selected landholders receiving a one-time grant of $5,000. Funding was utilised to manage targeted weeds such as gorse, serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass via a qualified weed contractor. Where these weeds were causing serious impacts, key properties were identified, and property owners were contacted to liaise with the contractor to implement the on-ground control works. WAF has also supported cross tenure collaboration on bridal creeper, including survey and targeted treatment, for Clarence, Sorell and Tasman Councils as well as Paterson's curse for Sorell and Tasman Council.

The municipality has several highly motivated and enthusiastic volunteer community groups. Where possible, Council engages with these groups to support weed management activities in their locality. These community groups run regular working bees that focus on controlling priority weeds, removing litter and taking care of the natural environment. Groups include Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Group, Marion Bay Coastcare Group, Penna Landcare, Penna Wildcare, Sorell Landcare Group, Wildcare Friends of Pittwater Orielton Lagoon and

As part of the development of the consultation draft Strategy, Council sought feedback from the community by both face to face and online methods. Council held five drop-in sessions attended by 59 people as follows – Midway Point 1, Nugent 15, Copping 6, Dodges Ferry 12 and Primrose Sands 25. In addition, 3 people provided email feedback whilst 6 people responded to the questions and answers form. A summary of community feedback is provided in Appendix A.

1.2. Scope and Objective

The strategy aims to deliver a strategic, cross tenure, cost effective, collaborative and longer-term approach to weed management that protects and enhances the environmental condition within the Sorell municipality and improves social and economic outcomes for the broader community. It also aligns with existing reserve management plans, the recently drafted Natural Resource Management (NRM) strategy[2] and Tasmania's Biosecurity Act and Regulations and aims to ensure a coordinated response across the municipality as well as Council procedures.

The Strategy establishes a 15-year framework with five-yearly review cycles to track progress and update priorities based on achievements to date, emerging threats, recent advancements in weed management, and availability of funding. A risk-based prioritisation system will be applied to classify weeds into categories for eradication, containment, or longer-term control, focusing on the stage of weed invasion, and the most invasive and ecologically damaging species.

[2] Sorell Council (2025) Natural Resource Management Strategy

The Strategy aims to partner with local communities, community groups, industry and land managers to identify and control highly invasive weeds in addition to improving communication and partnership between communities, relevant industries and key stakeholders to the Council.

The Strategy includes the following elements:

- Prioritisation of weeds based on their distribution, impact and spread.
- Identification of Council's current and necessary future resources, such as personnel, equipment, and annual budget for weed management.
- Measures to prevent the spread of weeds, such as hygiene and biosecurity.
- Education and awareness campaigns for the community and stakeholders on the importance of weed management and how they can help.
- Weed and hygiene training workshops to improve Council staff, community group and land manager skills to support effective, longer-term integrated weed management.
- A 15-year prioritised Weed Strategy Action Plan.
- Timeline and budget for the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Roles and responsibilities of Council, land managers, volunteer community groups and other stakeholders in implementing the Action Plan.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Action Plan with 5 yearly reviews.
- No spray register for roadside weed management.
- Roadside weed management protocols.
- Inclusion of weeds and hygiene in Council Planning conditions

The successful management of weeds is costly as it requires an ongoing annual budget over many years to successfully achieve eradication or even containment. In addition it is not always possible to eradicate some weeds. All weed management requires continuous and annual monitoring combined with biannual follow up action prior to seed set to ensure the success of any program and the longer-term eradication/ containment of priority weeds. It relies on respectful and supportive collaboration between Council, relevant stakeholders, government agencies and the community in order to achieve cross tenure outcomes over the longer term.

1.3. Development and Structure of the Strategy

This Strategy describes the policy framework and legislative obligations and responsibilities for weed management across the Sorell municipality. It prioritises weed species into groups reflective of National and State classifications whilst including the importance of weeds at the municipal level.

The Strategy is intended to operate for 15 years with a review every 5 years to update the actions and species categorisations.

2. WEEDS, LEGISLATION AND STRATEGIES

2.1. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

There are local, state and federal weed policies and legislation that guide and govern the responsibilities and requirements for weed management in the Sorell municipality. A summary of the hierarchical process that underpins the development of weed strategies within Australia is depicted in Figure 1. A more detailed discussion on each relevant policy and legislation is presented below.

2.1.1. Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*

The Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019* [3] *(BS Act)* aims to protect the state's environment, economy, and human health from the impacts of pests and diseases. The Act provides for the management of biosecurity risks and the regulation of activities that may introduce or spread biosecurity risks.

The Act establishes a biosecurity framework that includes the following key elements:

- The appointment of a Director of Biosecurity to oversee the implementation of the Act.
- The creation of a Biosecurity Tasmania branch within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.
- The development of biosecurity strategies and action plans to identify and manage biosecurity risks.
- The declaration of pests and diseases of concern and the imposition of control measures to manage those risks.
- The regulation of activities that may introduce or spread biosecurity risks, such as the movement of goods and animals, and the importation and keeping of certain species.
- The provision of powers to enter and inspect properties, seize and destroy items, and impose penalties for non-compliance.
- The development of a biosecurity levy to fund biosecurity activities.

2.1.2. Tasmanian *Biosecurity Regulations 2022*

The *Biosecurity Regulations 2022* is the regulatory framework that implements the *BS Act* with the necessary details on how the Act is applied in practice.

The *BS Act* replaced the Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999*. Weeds are declared under the associated *Biosecurity Regulations 2022*. All future compliance and enforcement actions will be conducted under the *BS Act* and the *Biosecurity Regulations 2022*. While the *BS Act* introduces new concepts and terms, the objectives of the Act with regards to declared weeds has not changed. The *BS Act* provides greater flexibility, capacity to recover costs and the potential exists if Councils choose to do so, to broaden their participation in biosecurity related matters such as emergency responses impacting their local government area (LGA). Council has an Authorised Officer under the *BS Act* who is able to enforce the Act where necessary.

2.1.2.1. General Biosecurity Duty

Under the *BS Act* a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) operates as a statutory "duty of care". This means that a person (which includes all levels of government, individuals, and private corporate entities) has to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks including weeds. The GBD supports the principles of shared responsibility. The GBD may involve implementing measures to prevent the spread of weeds beyond property boundaries, ensuring that any equipment or vehicles used on a property are free from weed seeds, and reporting any suspected weed infestations to the relevant authorities.

[3] Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (2024)

2.1.2.2. Weeds of National Significance

Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) are those weed species which have been listed under the *Australian Weed Strategy 2017-2027*. These nationally recognised weeds have significant environmental and economic impact at a national scale[4]. All WoNS are declared weeds in Tasmania regardless as to the presence in the State. Management of WoNS may be supported by nationally funded strategies and programmes. It is expected that State and regional weed management planning will pay particular attention to the management of WoNS. Their presence, however, does not confer any additional requirement on landowners beyond State weed legislation.

2.1.2.3. Declared weeds

The Tasmanian *Biosecurity Regulations 2022* include a list of declared weeds. Statutory weed management plans exist for the majority of listed species. These include a classification of each weed at the municipal level and provide direction as to their management intent and typically includes information such as:

- Identification and description of the weeds present in the area
- Prioritisation of weeds based on their impact and spread
- Methods of control and management, including chemical, mechanical, and biological control
- Measures to prevent the spread of weeds, such as quarantine and biosecurity
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan
- Timeline and budget for the implementation of the plan
- Responsibilities and roles of government agencies, land managers, and other stakeholders in implementing the plan

Currently, there are 147 declared weeds in Tasmania; with 32 declared weeds also listed as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), however, not all declared weeds are present in the State nor in the Sorell municipality.

Class A municipalities for a particular weed are those that are yet to be detected or are limited to isolated and/ or localised infestations that are deemed to be eradicable. Therefore, the objective is the eradication of infestations. There are 21 Class A species recorded in the municipality (as of April 2025).

Class B municipalities are those that host moderate or large and widespread infestations of the declared weed that are not deemed eradicable because the feasibility of effective management is currently low. Therefore, the objective is containment of infestations. This includes preventing spread of the declared weed from the municipality or into properties currently free of the weed or which have developed or are implementing a locally integrated weed management plan for that species. As well there is a requirement to prevent spread of the weeds to properties containing sites for significant flora, fauna and vegetation communities. There are 15 Class B species recorded in the municipality (as of April 2025).

It is acknowledged that there could be a higher number of Class A and Class B species in the Sorell municipality that are not yet discovered as there has not been a comprehensive study to find the number and extent of all declared weed species. It may also be that Class A weeds are now more widespread than when originally declared under the previous *Weed Management Act 1999*. This is especially true for the invasive grasses African lovegrass and Chilean needle grass and potentially for gorse and amsinckia/ hairy fiddleback as well. In addition, the Class B invasive grass serrated tussock has also increased its distribution and abundance across the municipality.

Sorell Council has legal obligation under the *BS Act* to control declared weeds on land it owns and/ or manages. Council's authorised Weed Officer has legal authority to inspect any property and issue a weed notice to the landowner under the *BS Act*.

[4] Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (2016)

2.1.3. Tasmanian *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 2015*

The use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Tasmania is controlled under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1995*. It is a legal requirement that contractors and employees who use these chemicals for weed management are suitably qualified in their application (i.e. Chemcert/ Chemical Handling trained) and are registered with Tasmanian Department of Natural Resource and Environment (NRE) and possess both an NRE Certificate of Currency and Commercial Operators Licence.

2.2. WEED STRATEGIES

Tasmania's Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines [5] are a reference only resource for the state. The Tasmanian Weed Strategy, WeedPlan 1996 [6] is long outdated and no longer active. Similarly, the Southern Tasmania Weed Strategy (2005-2010) revised draft 2011-2016 is now outdated and no longer active. The 2030 NRM Strategy Southern Tasmania mentions weeds as a threat to Land, Water and Biodiversity, however, has no prioritisation nor weed specific detail for prioritising weed management activities across Southern Tasmania. At the municipal level Sorell Council have recently completed their Natural Resource Management Strategy 2025-2035 [7] that highlights the impacts of weeds and the responsibility of Council to enforce weed management. At the local level Council has also recently completed Blue Lagoon Weed Management Plan 2025-2035 [8]. In addition, weed management is addressed in Reserve Management Plans (2024) for five reserves (Dodges Ferry Recreational Reserve, Parnella Reserve, Payeena Reserve, Samuel Thorne Reserve and White Gums Reserve) whilst SBLC and Council have a partnership agreement for the management of Casuarina Reserve.

Figure 1 provides a summary of the hierarchical process that underpins the development of weed strategies within Australia. Weed Strategies are generally based on principles adopted from the Australian Weed Strategy 2017-2027 (AWS) developed by the Invasive Plants and Animals Committee. These principles are outlined below in Section 2.2.1. and have been integrated into the Strategic Objectives of this plan.

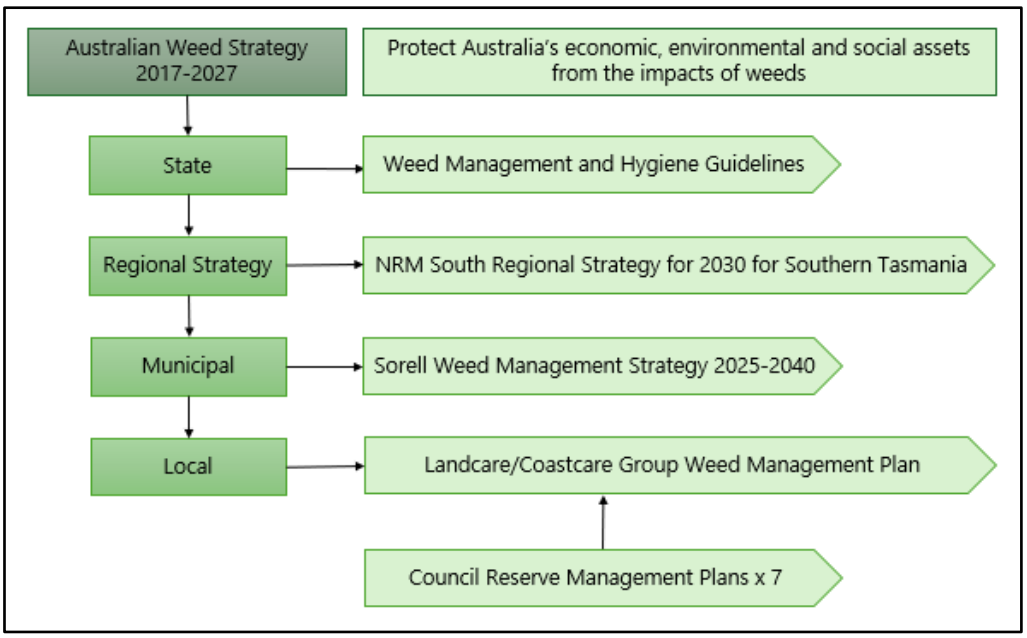


Figure 1: Process that underpins the development of Weed Strategies

[5] DPIPWE (2015)
[6] Tasmanian Weed Management Committee (2005)
[7] Sorell Council (2025a)
[8] Sorell Council (2025b)

2.2.1. Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027

The Australian Weeds Strategy (AWS) 2017 - 2027[9] defines a weed as follows:

> "*A weed is considered to be a plant that requires some form of action to reduce its negative effects on the economy, the environment and human health or amenity.*" [10]

The annual impact of weeds on the Australian economy was estimated to be $4 billion nearly twenty years ago[11] and is now expected to be considerably larger. This cost includes direct weed control, agricultural yield reduction and contamination. This underestimates the true impact of weeds as they exclude the cost to values that are not so easily calculated. For example, impacts to nature conservation, tourism, landscape amenity, poisoning of animals, impacts to waterways, habitat for feral species or impacts to human health such as allergic reactions.

The AWS 2017 – 2027 provides seven guiding principles that should underpin weed management in Australia and guide planning, investment and actions -

1. Effective weed management is a responsibility shared between landholders, community, industry and government.
2. Evidence-based decision-making should underpin the approach to weeds.
3. Risk-based prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective approach for managing weeds.
4. Prioritisation of weed management must be informed by a risk-based approach, considering feasibility, likelihood of success, impact and national significance.
5. Coordination amongst landholders, community, industry and government is necessary to manage weeds at a landscape scale.
6. Sustaining capability and capacity across landholders, community, industry and government is fundamental to effective weed management.
7. Individuals, organisations and industry groups that create risks that may result in a weed entering, emerging, establishing or spreading in Australia have a role in minimising the impacts and contributing to the costs of management.

Successful implementation of this Strategy is underpinned by the following additional principles:

A. Adequate resources are required to coordinate implementation of the Strategy and associated action plans.
B. Communication and coordination with key stakeholders around longer-term actions is essential.
C. Agreed best practice integrated weed management principles are used to control weeds.
D. Developing and implementing appropriate hygiene practices is fundamental.

Sorell Council adopts the roles and responsibilities outlined in the AWS 2017-2027 as below:

- Exercise statutory duties to encourage responsible weed management.
- Manage weed problems on local government land in co-operation with other landowners.
- Assist with the coordination of community weed management programs.
- Represent community interests in weed management.
- Support the activities of local groups undertaking weed management.
- Assist with data collection and information exchange.
- Develop and adopt 'good neighbour' policy, where appropriate, to help reduce the spread and impacts of high risk weed species.
- Support and build public awareness about weed issues.

[9] Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (2017)
[10] Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (2017)
[11] Sinden et al. (2004)

Over time, a weed invasion/incursion consists of sequential phases of introduction, establishment and spread until, in the absence of control, the population can fill its entire potential range. Some species spread slowly, whereas other spread rapidly[12].

The full range of weed management options generally fall into four categories: (1) prevention, (2) eradication, (3) containment and (4) asset protection (Figure 2). The type of weed management depends on the distribution, weed species, invasiveness and cost of management. The earlier weed management is started the better the longer-term possibility of eradication and return on investment. Prevention of any weed in an area is the best approach and early detection of species will significantly reduce the management cost. However, early intervention is not always possible therefore we must prioritise species based on their invasiveness, potential to spread and their primary industry, environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

2.2.2. WeedPlan: Tasmania's Weed Management Strategy 2005

WeedPlan: Tasmania's Weed Management Strategy[13] once guided weed management in Tasmania, however the strategy is well out of date now. Currently there is no overarching weed strategy for Tasmania. Instead, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment has continued to make available the 2015 Weed and Disease Planning Guidelines[14].

2.2.3. Southern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy 2030

The purpose of the Southern Tasmania Natural Resource Management Strategy 2030 is to provide a framework to facilitate sustainable management of natural resources in southern Tasmania[15]. Many of the priorities and actions involve weed management and dealing with invasive species with key threats identified. However, no current or active Weed Management Strategy now exists to replace the previous Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy 2011-2016. This Strategy provided a coordinated approach to weed management in Southern Tasmania.

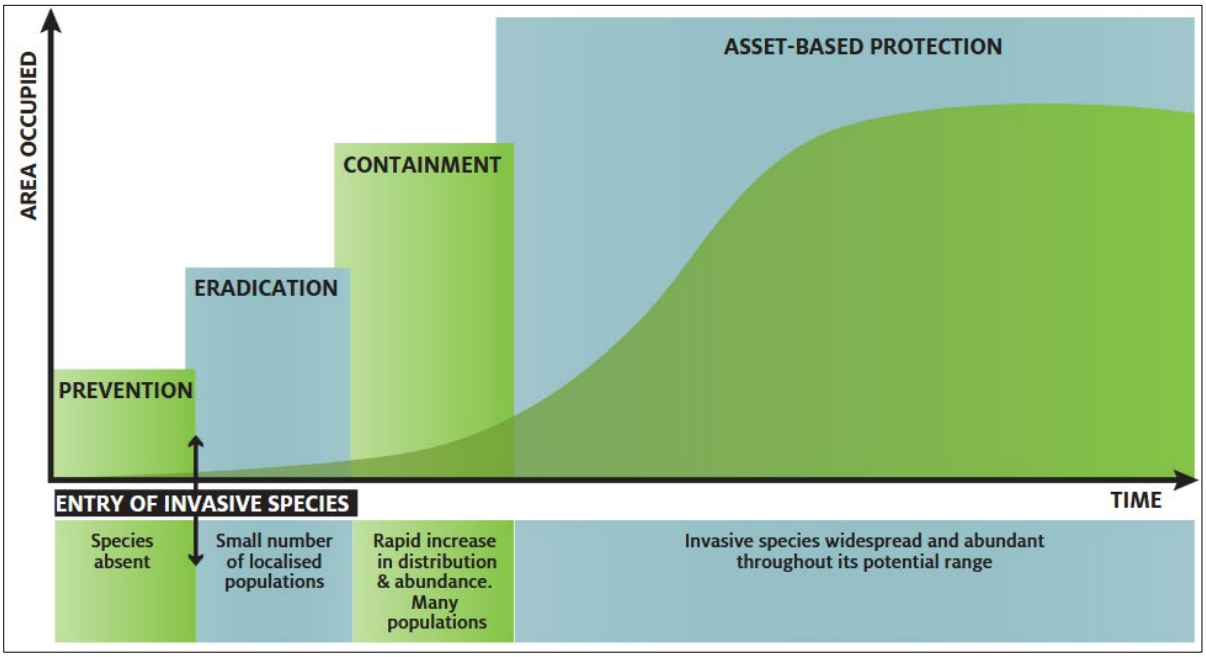


Figure 2: Four stages of weed management (Source: Invasive Plants and Animals Committee 2017)

[12] Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (2017)
[13] Tasmanian Weed Management Committee (2005)
[14] DPIWE (2015)
[15] NRM South (2023)

2.2.4. Sorell Natural Resource Management Strategy 2025-2035

The Sorell NRM Strategy 2025-2035[16] provides the framework to guide the management of land, water, and biodiversity within the Sorell municipality. One of the strategic themes is invasive species management with this weed strategy envisioned in the NRM Strategy. It aligns with the Sorell Council's Strategic Plan 2019-2029 that envisions 'a proud, thriving, and inclusive Southeast Community' built on the values of integrity, unity, respect, and innovation[17]. A central focus of the strategy is biodiversity and the management of invasive species through effective weed management. It also links to this Strategy and Weed Action Plan to deliver more effective use of weed, pest and disease hygiene practices. The vision of the strategy is to see Council and community groups collaborating to manage council land, wetlands and waterways, particularly through activities such as weed and invasive species control.

The strategy also highlights the priority to increase the use of mechanical means for controlling weeds where possible to reduce the application of herbicides and utilising technology to keep aerial imagery and data on the presence of weeds regularly updated.

This Strategy will serve as the guiding framework for these efforts and has been prepared to align with existing reserve management plans and the Sorell NRM Strategy to ensure a coordinated responses across the municipality.

2.2.5. State Roads Weed Management Strategy 2016-26

This State Road Weed Management Strategy[18] was prepared by the Department of State Growth to deliver a strategic and cost-effective approach to weed management within the state road network. To prioritise actions the strategy includes three approaches to managing weeds. A weed led approach prioritises infestations of high risk weed species identified for their potential economic and environmental impact. A site led approach ranks road links (sections approximately 10 km in length) based on abundance of high priority weeds and proximity to priority management areas. A stakeholder led approach aims to provide support to collaborative efforts where stakeholder priorities align with departmental priorities.

2.3. WEED CATEGORIES

2.3.1. Weeds of National Significance

The AWS identifies a list of 32 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) although with some groupings this includes at least 40 plant species. Nomination as a WoNS recognises a species as a priority current and future weed threat to Australia, requiring coordinated and strategic management. At a national level these weeds are considered to have the greatest economic, environmental and sociological impacts. National Strategies have been developed for all WoNS species.

Nine WONS are currently recorded within the Sorell municipality:

- African boxthorn
- blackberry
- boneseed
- bridal creeper
- Chilean needle grass
- English broom
- gorse
- Montpellier broom
- opuntioid cacti
- serrated tussock
- willows including pussy/seeding willow (*Salix cinerea*)

[16] Sorell Council (2025a)
[17] Sorell Council (2024)
[18] Department of State Growth (2016)

2.3.2. National Environmental Alert List

The National Environmental Alert List compiled in 2001 compliments the WoNS list, identifying plants that are in the early stages of establishment with the potential to become a significant threat to biodiversity[19] To date there are 28 species on this list, with 10 being declared under the *BS Act* and 11 recorded from Tasmania. The purpose of their listing is to encourage prioritisation in regional weed management strategies. None of these have been recorded in the Sorell municipality.

2.3.3. Regional High Priority Weeds

Weed priorities for the Southern Region as a whole and for each of the twelve municipalities were identified in 2008[20] to assist with planning and on-ground works. The current list of 30 weeds is now out-dated, and some weeds listed as a regional priority are not necessarily a priority within the Sorell municipality. Consideration of this list has been undertaken as part of the Strategy and incorporated into the weed priorities where relevant.

[19] Weeds Australia (2025)
[20] As part of the 2008 Southern weed mapping project

3. WEEDS OF THE SORELL MUNICIPALITY

Over 370 introduced plants have been recorded within the Sorell municipality (see Appendix B)[21]. Some weed species are widespread, while others are more recent arrivals with small populations that are of more limited threat to environmental, economic and social values.

Of the declared weeds listed under the *BS Act*, 36 have a presence within the Sorell municipality, and 11 of these are also WoNS.

3.1. WEED PRIORITISATION

Weeds have been prioritised into four groups under this strategy for which management responses are defined (Table 1). A priority rating from 1 (highest) to 4 (lowest) with a fifth group of "Alert List" species not identified in the Sorell municipality but identified elsewhere in Tasmania and Australia as a potential threat should they become naturalised. These species would become a Priority 1 if recorded in the municipality.

The following priority classifications are used:

1 – HIGHEST	Newly established "alert list" weeds and Class A Declared weeds with a restricted distribution in the Sorell Municipality. These weeds are of the highest priority and require a **rapid response**. Immediately implement eradication plan when reported. Eradicate within 5 years.
2 - HIGH	Class A Declared weeds with a wider distribution or species that may fit Priority 1 but only have narrow level of impacts within municipality or have been identified as a community priority e.g. sea spurge. For weeds that can be **eradicated** within the term of the action plan (15 years). Asset based protection for *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBCA 1999) Matters of National Environmental Significance – Ramsar listed Pittwater Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site including over 40 migratory species.
3 – MODERATE	Declared and high priority environmental weeds with widespread distribution. For widespread weeds requiring strategic control. Eradication of isolated infestations and **containment** of wider infestations to ensure no further spread within the term of the action plan (15 years).
4 - LOW	Declared weeds and environmental and agricultural weeds that are widespread and require strategic control and containment. **Asset-based protection** including MNES under the *EPBCA 1999*, Tasmanian *Nature Conservation Act 2002,* Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, and impacting listed sites under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.
ALERT LIST	Non-naturalised weed species or WoNS, Declared or weed alert lists elsewhere in Australia. Species not currently present in Sorell but known to occur in Tasmania or that are climate suitable for Sorell. Categorised as **Alert list**. These weeds would be moved to Priority 1 if recorded in Sorell municipality.

Priorities within weed categories can be more nuanced. It may be that a particular population of a weed is a higher priority due to the value that it threatens (e.g. high value asset). For example, asset-based protection for national and state listed threatened species and

[21] Based on weeds data collated from Sorell Council, North Barker database and Natural Values Atlas (as at 14th April 2025).

communities as well as the internationally recognised Pitt Water Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site are high priorities under this Strategy. The general weed priority categorisation is depicted in Figure 3.

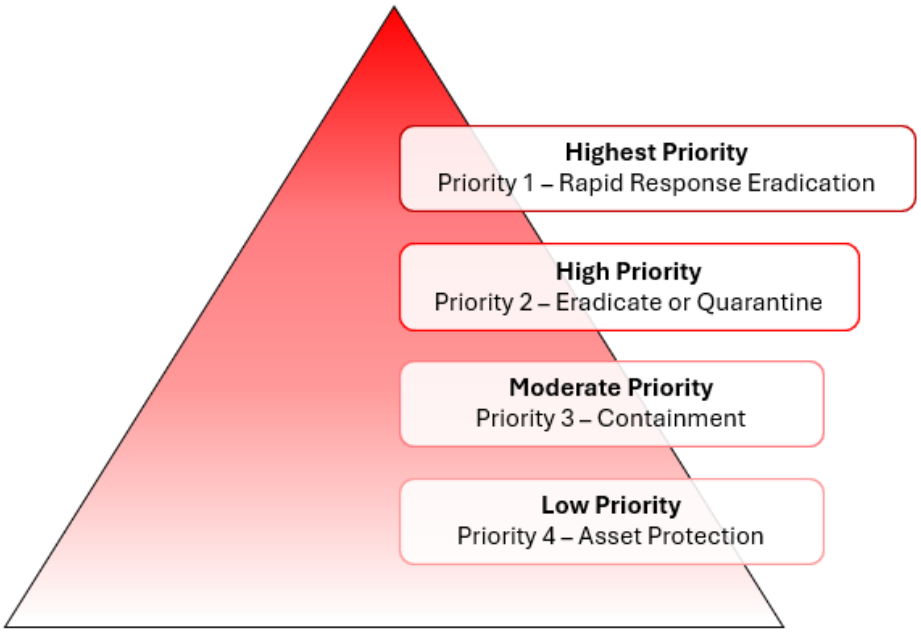


Figure 3: Weed Prioritisation

3.1.1. Prioritisation Method

The prioritisation is largely reflective of the declaration status, although it has been modified slightly to better reflect management goals and current presence/distribution within the municipality. Inherent delays with updating weed classes listed under the *BS Act* has led to fundamental discrepancies with some weeds between their declaration status and their actual presence/distribution within the municipality. This method of a more realistic prioritisation allows the Strategy (and subsequent reviews) to drive the prioritisation process, rather than their declaration under the *BS Act*.

In addition the number of NVA records for each weed species may not accurate, is often disproportionate to current distributions and often reflects weed recording efforts during past weed control programs for a particular weed or protection of particular conservation values.

Table 1 – Weed Categorisation and Priority Weed Action Plan targets

Action Category	Priority	Weed types	Distribution status within Sorell LGA	Description
Short-term Eradication priority	**1**	Newly established "alert list" weeds Declared Class A with localised distribution and sea spurge (SLL) **19 species**	Newly introduced "alert list" weeds, Declared weeds with restricted distributions with statuary eradication requirements.	These species are of the highest priority requiring targeted eradication within 5-7 years or immediate response if subsequently reported. **Actions:** Biannual control during spring and autumn to prevent further seeding. Manage germinating seedbank. Declared weeds • Develop weed specific action plans during the first year of the Strategy, determine eradication feasibility. Alert weeds • Prepare Eradication Plan.

Action Category	Priority	Weed types	Distribution status within Sorell LGA	Description
				• Coordinated rapid response. Immediate mobilisation of staff to eradicate the species. • Register in Council's Weed register and NVA.
Longer term Eradication priority	**2**	Declared Class A weeds with wider distributions **6 species**	Declared Class A weeds with wider infestations or species that may fit Priority 1 but only have narrow level of impacts within municipality or have been identified as a community priority. Asset protection - Pittwater Orielton Lagoon (PWOL) Ramsar site.	Eradicate isolated infestations and contain wider infestations to ensure no further spread within the term of the action plan and protect PWOL (15 years). **Actions:** • Develop weed specific action plans within 5 years. • Implement priority species action plans. • Biannual control, follow up with relevant stakeholders and update Weed register. • Priority work on Environmental weeds that community groups have invested significantly in over the years.
Containment priority	**3**	Class B Declared weeds with localised distributions and high priority SLL weeds **9 species**	For widespread weeds requiring strategic control.	Eradicate isolated infestations and contain wider infestations to ensure no further spread within the term of the action plan (15 years). **Actions:** • Assess to determine priority species. • Develop and implement weed specific action plans for priority species. • Control spread by eradicating localised outlying infestations.
Asset-based protection priority	**4**	Declared weeds with wider distributions and SLL weeds **55 species**	Widespread weeds requiring strategic control and containment where threatening important values – including listings under the *EPBCA 1999*, *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, Tasmanian Reserve Estate, sites listed under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and Class 3 agricultural land.	Control and contain where threatening important values. Protect important municipal assets within term of the action plan (15 years). Assess and evaluate incentives targeting eradication/control by landholders with properties >2ha **Actions:** • Eradicate isolated infestations and contain wider infestations to protect important assets and to identify opportunities to limit further spread within the term of the Strategy (15 years).
Alert list	**Add to Priority 1 list if recorded in Sorell LGA**	Non-naturalised species on WoNS, Declared or weed alert lists.	Species not currently present and/or known to occur in Sorell municipality but known to occur in Tasmania or that are climatically suitable for the municipality.	Non-naturalised weed species or WoNS, Declared or weed alert lists elsewhere in Australia. **Actions:** • Shift to Category 1 • Immediately quarantine area and eradicate weed when reported. • Maintain biannual monitoring & control for a minimum of 7 years.

Action Category	Priority	Weed types	Distribution status within Sorell LGA	Description
				Manage germinating seedbank and other reproductive material.

A summary of weed priority numbers for each category is provided in Table 2. and all priority weeds (1-4) are listed in Table 3 by priority order and a list in alphabetical order is provided in Appendix C. The distribution of priority 1-4 weeds across the Sorell municipality are mapped in Figures 4-7. Appendix D has the regional distribution maps for Category 1 and 2 weeds. A number of non-declared weeds are included in this list as they are considered a high priority due to their invasiveness and are of local importance. These weeds are identified as Sorell Local List (SLL) as discussed further in Section 3.1.2.

Alert List weeds for the Sorell municipality are listed in Appendix E. The list includes declared weeds, WoNS and weeds on the National Environmental Alert List that have not been recorded in Sorell or only have historical records and are not considered to occur within the Sorell municipality at present. No prioritisation has been assigned to these species. In the event that a species from this list should be recorded within the municipality, then the species would be assigned a Priority 1 and added to the list of Sorell Priority 1 Weeds in Table 3.

Table 2: Summary of weed priority numbers by weed type

Weed Type	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	TOTAL
Declared weed (Class A)	17	5	1	0	23
Declared weed (Class B)	1	1	8	5	15
Sorell Local List	1	0	0	50	51
TOTAL	19	6	9	55	89

3.1.2. Sorell Local List (SLL)

There are numerous non-declared weed species that present a serious threat to the municipality. A number of these weeds are known to be invasive and should be strategically recorded and controlled. The list of locally important weeds within the municipality is shown in Table 3. All of these species (51 in total) have been assigned a priority rating of 4 with the exception of sea spurge which has been given a priority rating of 1 due to its current limited distribution, community group action and potential for spread via ocean currents to other areas within and beyond the municipality.

The Vegetation Management Plans for Dodges Ferry, Parnella, Payeena, Samual Thorne and White gums Reserves contain additional non-declared weeds that are not included in the SLL (Appendix F). This is because these weeds are impacting reserve values. Many are common and widespread across the municipality and it is not considered economically feasible for them to be controlled at this level.

Table 3: List of Sorell Priority Weeds by ranking

Note: Species shaded green are listed as declared within the Sorell municipality under the *BS Act*. Species in **BOLD** are listed as WoNS.

Botanical name	**Common Name**	**Declaration Class for Sorell LGA or SLL weed**	**NVA Records**[22]
Priority 1			
Allium vineale	crow garlic	A	2 + Iron Creek
Asphodelus fistulosus	onion weed	A	1 + Old Forcett Rd/Western Hill Rd
Austroderia richardii	Toe-toe pampas grass	A	1
Carduus nutans	nodding thistle	A	1
Carthamus lanatus	saffron thistle	A	21
Cenchrus longisetus	feathertop	A	20
Cortaderia jubata	pink pampas grass	A	1
Cortaderia selloana	silver pampas grass	A	140
Digitalis purpurea	foxglove	A	1
Eragrostis curvula	African lovegrass	A	57
Erica arborea	tree heath	A	8
Erica baccans	berryflower heath	A	1
Euphorbia paralias	sea spurge	SLL	1 + Carlton/ Marion & Lagoon Bay Beaches
Salix cinerea	**seeding willow**	A	Copping roadside
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	B	1
Solanum marginatum	white-edged nightshade	A	1
Solanum triflorum	cut-leaf nightshade	A	1
Urospermum dalechampii	false dandelion	A	2
Xanthium spinosum	Bathurst burr	A	1 Sorell farm[23]
Priority 2			
Amsinckia calycina	hairy fiddleneck	A	5
Asparagus asparagoides	**bridal creeper**	A	117
Carduus tenuiflorus	winged thistle	A	3
Echium plantagineum	Paterson's curse	B	19
Nassella neesiana	**Chilean needle grass**	A	191

[22] As of April 2025
[23] Sandy Leighton pers. comm. 2025

Note: Species shaded green are listed as declared within the Sorell municipality under the *BS Act*. Species in **BOLD** are listed as WoNS.			
Botanical name	**Common Name**	**Declaration Class for Sorell LGA or SLL weed**	**NVA Records[22]**
***Opuntia species* [includes *Austrocylindropuntia* spp. and *Cylindropuntia* spp. and *Opuntia stricta (prickly pear)*] (excluding *O. ficus-indica*)**	**opuntoid cacti**	A	2
Priority 3			
Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera	**boneseed**	B	1223
Cirsium arvense var. *arvense*	creeping thistle	B	52
Cytisus scoparius	**English broom**	B	2
Erica lusitanica	Spanish heath	B	130
Genista monspessulana	**Montpellier broom**	B	45
Lepidium draba	whiteweed	B	12
Lycium ferocissimum	**African boxthorn**	B	1247
Nassella trichotoma	**serrated tussock**	B	821
Ulex europaeus	**gorse**	A	511
Priority 4			
Acacia baileyana	Cootamundra wattle	SLL	3
Acacia howittii	sticky wattle	SLL	2
Acacia provincialis	perennial wattle	SLL	2
Acacia pycnantha	golden wattle	SLL	2
Acacia retinodes	hills wirilda	SLL	2
Aeonium arboreum	tree aeonium	SLL	7
Agapanthus praecox subsp. *orientalis*	African lily	SLL	4
Aloe maculata	soap aloe	SLL	1
Arctotheca calendula	capeweed	SLL	19
Asparagus officinalis	asparagus	SLL	8
Billardiera heterophylla	bluebell creeper	SLL	4
Calamagrostis arenaria	marram grass	SLL	11
Centranthus ruber subsp. *ruber*	red valerian	SLL	1
Carduus pycnocephalus	slender thistle	B	9
Chamaecytisus palmensis	tree lucerne	SLL	6
Coprosma repens	mirror bush	SLL	16
Cotoneaster species	largeleaf cotoneaster	SLL	8
Cotyledon orbiculata	pigs ear	SLL	

Note: Species shaded green are listed as declared within the Sorell municipality under the *BS Act*. Species in **BOLD** are listed as WoNS.

Botanical name	**Common Name**	**Declaration Class for Sorell LGA or SLL weed**	**NVA Records[22]**
Crassula alata var. *alata*	winged crassula	SLL	4
Crassula multicava subsp. *multicava*	fairy crassula	SLL	2
Crassula muscosa var. *muscosa*	clubmoss crassula	SLL	2
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn	SLL	7
Delairea odorata	cape ivy	SLL	1
Dimorphotheca fruticosa	trailing daisy	SLL	8
Dipogon lignosus	dolichos pea	SLL	1
Echium candicans	pride of madeira	SLL	6
Euryops abrotanifolius	winter euryops	SLL	3
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	B	62
Freesia species *(hybrids)*	freesia	SLL	1
Gazania species	gazania	SLL	20
Hakea laurina	pincushion hakea	SLL	1
Hedera helix	ivy	SLL	1
Kniphofia uvaria	red-hot poker	SLL	3
Leptospermum laevigatum	coastal tea tree	SLL	4
Leucanthemum vulgare	ox-eye daisy	SLL	4
Lonicera japonica	Japanese honeysuckle	SLL	1
Marrubium vulgare	white horehound	B	115
Paraserianthes lophantha	Cape Leeuwin wattle	SLL	11
Phormium tenax	New Zealand flax	SLL	32
Pinus radiata	radiata pine	SLL	69
Pittosporum undulatum	sweet pittosporum	SLL	7
Polygala myrtifolia	myrtleleaf milkwort	SLL	4
Psoralea pinnata/ arborea	blue butterfly bush	SLL	1
Rosa rubiginosa	sweet briar	SLL	43
***Rubus fruticosus* spp. agg.**	**blackberry**	B	124
***Salix* species (excluding *S. babylonica, S. x calodendron* and *S. x reichardtii*)**	**willows**	B	11
Sedum album	white stonecrop	SLL	1
Senecio angulatus	creeping groundsel	SLL	5
Senecio elegans	purple groundsel	SLL	1
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom	SLL	7
Sporobolus africanus	ratstail grass	SLL	3

Note: Species shaded green are listed as declared within the Sorell municipality under the *BS Act*. Species in **BOLD** are listed as WoNS.			
Botanical name	**Common Name**	**Declaration Class for Sorell LGA or SLL weed**	**NVA Records[22]**
Thinopyrum obtusiflorum	tall wheatgrass	SLL	1
Typha latifolia	cumbungi	SLL	5
Vinca major	blue periwinkle	SLL	12
Zantedeschia aethiopica	arum lily	SLL	4

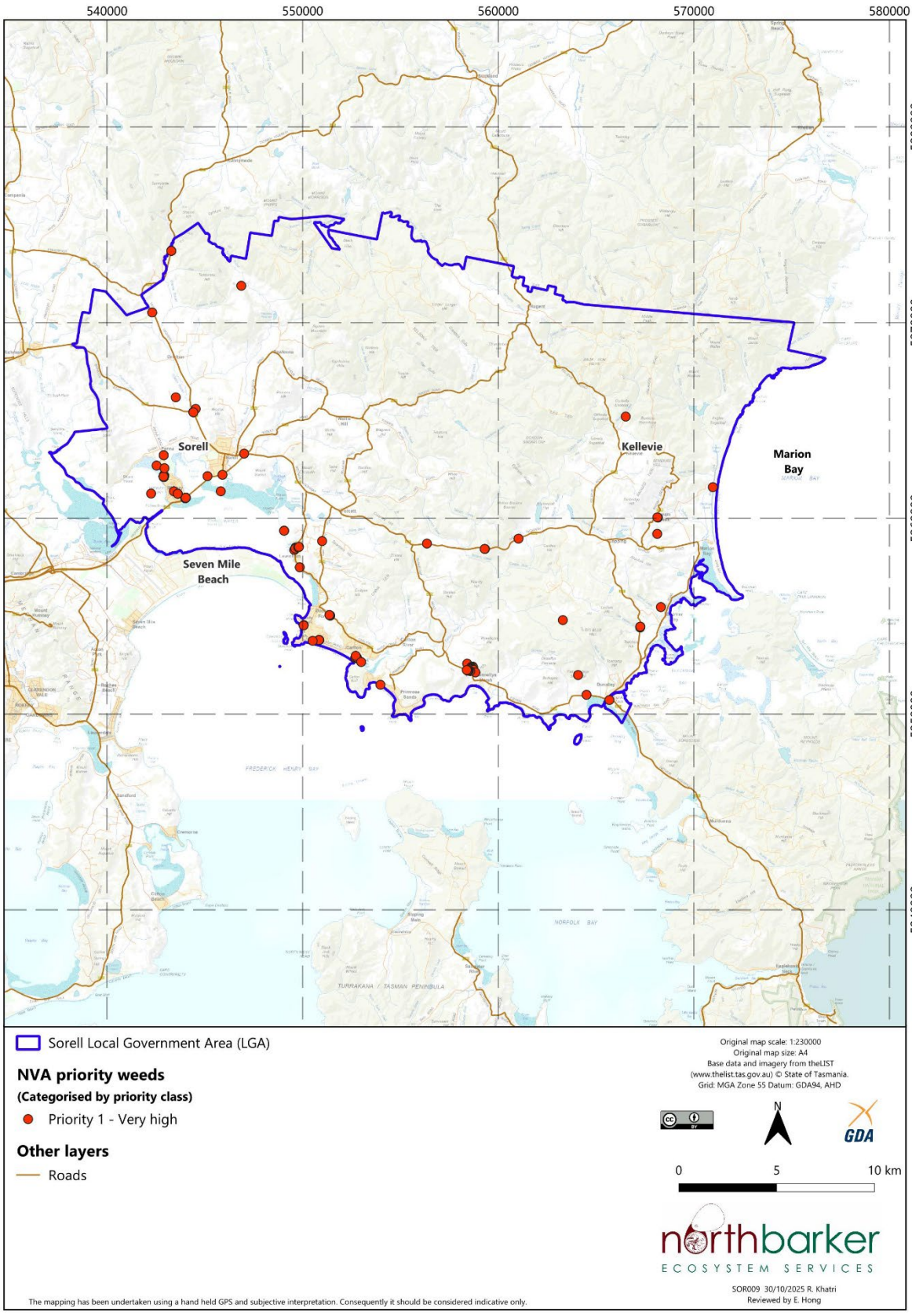


Figure 4: Distribution of Category 1 weeds within the Sorell municipality

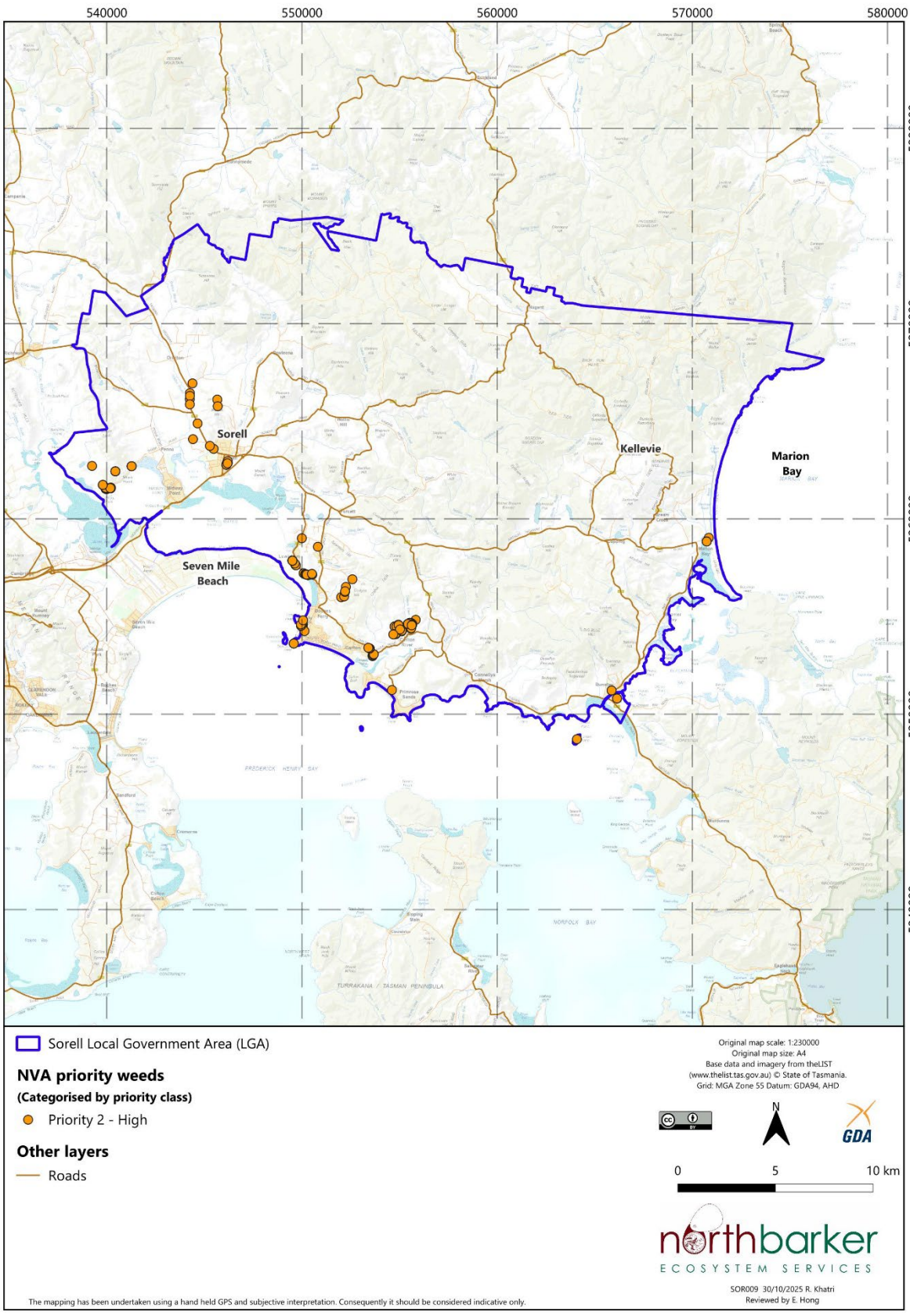


Figure 5: Distribution of Category 2 weeds within the Sorell municipality

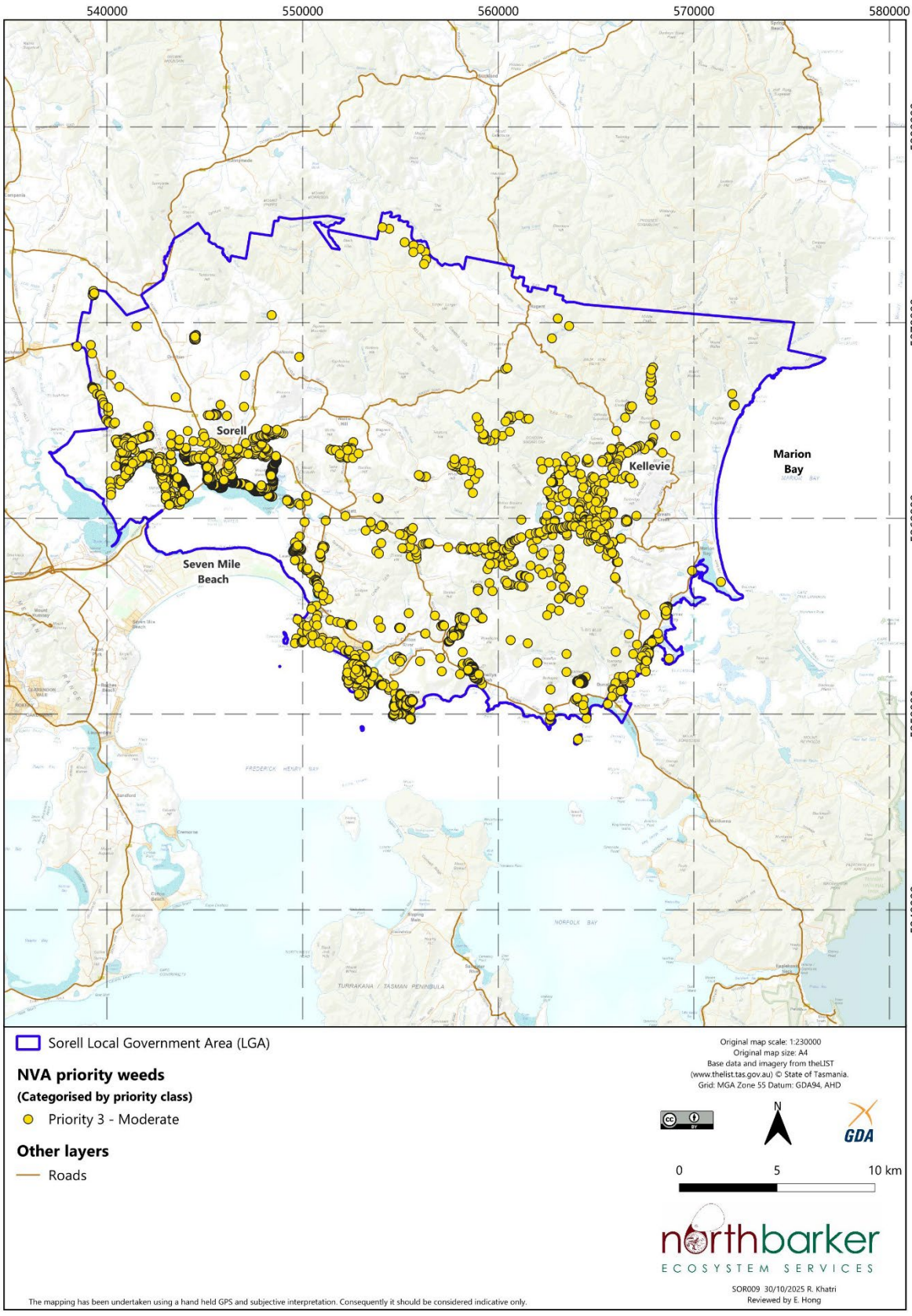


Figure 6: Distribution of Category 3 weeds within Sorell

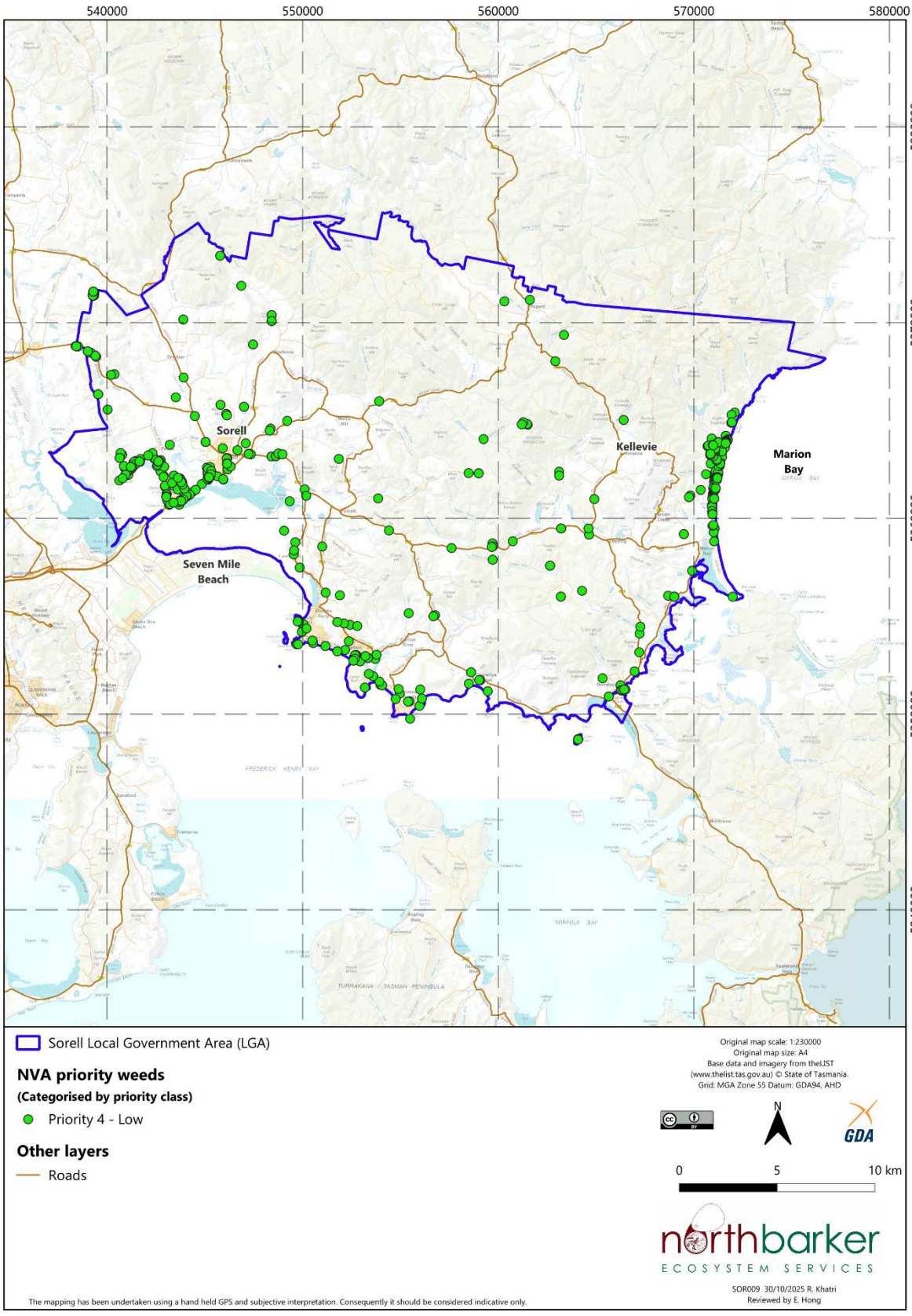


Figure 7: Distribution of Category 4 weeds within Sorell (note: records of all SLL weeds is not representative of actual distribution, as these are all non-declared environmental weeds which are infrequently reported to the NVA)

4. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

This section is an overview of the key issues facing weed management within the municipality that the Strategy will focus on.

Successful weed control will result in bare areas. Bare areas will be rapidly reinvaded by weeds, especially thistles, cape weed, weedy brassicas or similar once weed control has been successfully undertaken. It must be remembered that any integrated approach to weed management will also need to include a revegetation component, whether that is using local native species to revegetate remnant native vegetation and amenity areas to increase biodiversity values or sowing suitable agricultural plants in pasture and/ or field crop situations.

Each of the following seven issues are discussed below:

1. Community expectation
2. Roadside spraying and slashing
3. Community engagement and partnerships
4. Conservation management priorities
5. Implication to agricultural/horticultural productivity
6. Council resources/capacity
7. Climate change

4.1. COMMUNITY EXPECTATION

Community awareness of weeds and their associated impacts within the municipality is increasing. With this, the community's expectation of local, state and federal governments to actively manage these threats is also increasing. Creating this Weed Management Strategy will assist Council with meeting some of these expectations.

As part of this Strategy development, Council will run a series of community workshops to understand community concerns and expectations in relation to managing weeds across the municipality. Feedback from these sessions has been incorporated into the final strategy.

4.2. ROADSIDE SPRAYING AND SLASHING

Roadside vegetation can be defined as any vegetation in a roadway, in most cases from road surface edge to a fence line or property boundary. Management zones of a roadway encompass the road surface (sealed or gravel), including the shoulder which generally extends one metre beyond the edge of road surface, and the road reserve. Roadside vegetation management must be done in a way that maintains road safety, conserves natural values, minimises fire hazards, meets legal and statutory requirements and manages declared weeds including spread prevention.

One of the greatest challenges in managing roadside vegetation is minimising the spread of weeds. This is due to roads being high risk pathways for weed dispersal as traffic and road maintenance machinery can carry weed propagules including seeds and plant rhizomes/runners long distances. Roadsides are suitable for weed establishment as they are frequently disturbed and receive water and nutrient run-off from the road and/or neighbouring properties. The suitability of roadsides for weed establishment can be actively increased by poor management. A holistic approach to managing roadside vegetation, applying environmental best practice, must be done to ensure that management practices do not create further issues such as soil erosion, herbicide resistance, damage to native vegetation, damage to fauna habitat and increased weed issues.

Sorell Council has the obligation to manage roadsides, footpaths, road verges and other public spaces under its jurisdiction. These works are undertaken by Council depot staff as well as external contractors, in accordance with the following Sorell Council policies:

- Mowing/Slashing of Grassed Areas Under Council Management Policy - This policy defines the scope of mowing/slashing operations and sets guidelines for determining intervention levels for mowing/slashing within road reserves.

- Integrated Pest Management Policy – This policy outlines a set of guidelines for the control of pests including weeds through spraying and other methods. It applies to roadside areas under Council's control as well as Council owned/managed reserves and sporting facilities.

Contractor management, knowledge and experience of operational crew, understanding and implementation of appropriate hygiene measures as well as limited Council funding are challenges which Sorell Council face in relation to effective roadside weed management.

See Appendix G for the Roadside Safe Operating Protocol/Procedure.

4.2.1. No Spray Policy

As part of the roadside spraying program, Council manages a No Spray Register which allows local residents to apply for their property frontage to be added to the register. Under Permit conditions for approved applications, landholders are required to undertake control of the vegetation along the frontage of their property for a two-year period, after which Council will contact landholders to see if they want to renew their permit.

Implications to Strategy

- Develop a detailed Roadside Standard Operating Procedure to be used by Council depot staff and contractors as a simple manual for undertaking roadside maintenance activities. SOP to include slashing/mowing methods, spraying methods, hygiene procedures etc.
- Identification of key priority weed infestation sites within the Council Road Reserve network which require specific hygiene measures and targeted weed control and monitoring.
- Develop a 'live' sensitivity map that identifies known significant roadsides (priority vegetation, threatened flora, threatened fauna habitat). Any works to be undertaken in these areas would flag a specific procedure (i.e. NRM Officer inspection to determine level of assessment required).
- Utilise the mapping developed from the two dot points above to section roadside areas which require different management methods and contractor skill levels. For example, areas of high sensitivity and high priority weeds would require more targeted herbicide treatment by highly trained contractors/staff.
- Development of training procedures for Council staff in relation to weed identification and treatment methods.

4.3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

On ground weed work is resource demanding. Successful weed management requires a long-term commitment. Outcomes would be greatly enhanced by fostering community support and building upon relationships and networks with other stakeholders.

4.3.1. Volunteer participation and support

Local groups are becoming increasingly involved in weed management within their community. There are several Landcare and Coastcare Groups that operate predominantly on Council and Crown land with some focus at times on other land tenure throughout the municipality. It is important that works undertaken by these groups are implemented within a strategic framework centrally co-ordinated in Council. Management of volunteer groups and ensuring the activities of Council and local groups are co-ordinated requires a dedicated staff member (NRM Officer). Council recently developed a number of Reserve Management Plans and Weed Management Plans for their reserves to clearly guide future Council and volunteer activities within these reserves. Current volunteer community groups within the municipality include Southern Beaches Landcare/Coastcare Group, Marion Bay Coastcare Group, Penna Landcare, Penna Wildcare, Sorell Landcare Group, Wildcare Friends of Pittwater Orielton Lagoon and Friends of Blue Lagoon.

The Council works crew has Land Improvement Officers (7-8 staff), some with Conservation Land Management Certificate qualifications, as well as a Works Supervisor. They are responsible for maintenance of Reserves and Public Open Space. As an example, every Tuesday morning 2-3 staff work at Flora Park at Dodges Ferry along with the local community group Southern Beaches Landcare/ Coastcare (SBLC). There is scope for similar Council support to be replicated for other community groups within the municipality.

4.3.2. Private property owner participation

The best means to enhance private landholder participation in weed management can be a complex issue. Under the Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019*, Weed Officers are authorised to direct private landholders to control or remove declared weeds on their properties. However, a regulatory approach does not often result in long term increased participation by private landholders. With 84% of municipal land in private landownership, applying a community service approach to weed management independent of tenure provides an opportunity to deliver strategic weed management across the whole of the municipality.

In the past, Sorell Council have received grants through the Weeds Action Fund to assist landowners to manage targeted weeds. This has been done using two approaches, firstly, through expressions of interest and secondly, through targeted identification of specific properties where priority weeds were impacting key natural values and contractors were employed. However, this may not result in the landholder taking on the longer-term weed control needed for successful outcomes.

Another option involves incentives and rewards to rate payers willing to participate in weed management on their land. This may be in the form of rate reductions for agreed weed projects on private property targeting Priority weeds or weeds on the Sorell Local List which are impacting important natural values.

4.3.3. Stakeholder partnerships

In order to provide cost effective weed management, programs need to be integrated across all tenures, private and public, at a landscape scale to minimise reinfestation. There are both State and Federal Government departments and authorities who manage land within the municipality including Property Services, Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Education, Department of State Growth, Department of Housing, TasWater and TasNetworks who share common objectives as well as having statutory land manager responsibilities for managing declared weeds on their land.

Council relies on stakeholder relationships, good work practices and collaborative weed control programs with these agencies or as a last resort, the Council authorised weed officer may serve a notice.

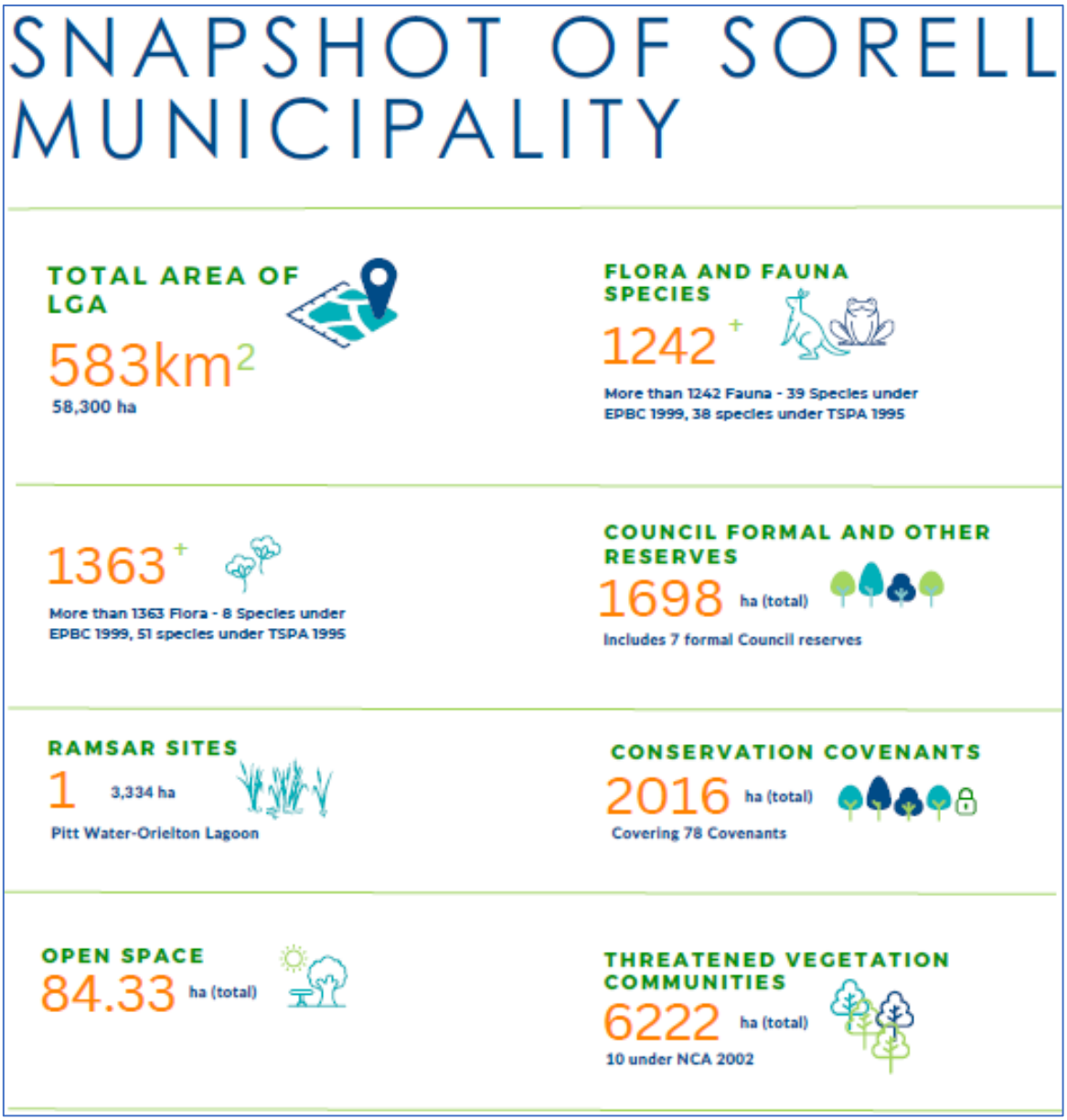
Implications to Strategy:

- Foster co-operative, collaborative projects with the community, government and private landowners to support the development of a shared responsibility towards weed management within the municipality.
- Investigate on-going opportunities to access external grants and develop projects that can be shared across land tenures (i.e. NRM South, Weeds Action Fund, Landcare Tasmania).
- Council to deliver training and support for weed management activities across all volunteer groups.
- Develop a communications strategy that includes fostering collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders (especially private landholders) to enhance resources available for on-ground works. One of the aims of this would be to include better communication and aid individuals and Council in the exchange of information.
- There are a range of options to build shared responsibility for weed management on private land which will require extensive assessment, evaluation and reporting.

4.4. Conservation Management Priorities

Where weed eradication is not possible, containment and asset protection become the priority for widespread weeds. Understanding where important municipal natural value assets are located will assist with co-ordinating and prioritising management of more widespread weeds.

Figure 8 presents a snapshot of Sorell's natural assets facts.



[24]

Figure 8: Snapshot of Sorell municipality natural assets

Reserved land within the municipality comprises 8% of the total area and includes:

- 566 ha of Conservation Area
- 2016 ha of Conservation Covenant (covering 78 covenants)
- 37 ha of Council Reserves
- 1456 ha of Nature Reserve
- 131 ha of Private Nature Reserve

[24] Sorell Council (2025)

Fauna within the municipality include more than 1242 species – 39 species listed under the *EPBCA 1999*, 38 species under the Tasmanian *TSPA 1995*.

Flora within the municipality include more than 1363 species – 8 species listed under the *EPBCA 1999*, 51 species under the Tasmanian *TSPA 1995*.

Threatened vegetation communities cover 6222 ha, with 10 under the Tasmanian *NCA 2002*. These threatened vegetation communities have been mapped within the municipality [25] including:

- *Callitris rhomboidea* forest (NCR) – 70 ha (100% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland on sandstone (DAS) – 1,300 ha (8% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus amygdalina* inland forest and woodland on cainozoic deposits (DAZ) – 40 ha (0% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus brookeriana* wet forest (WBR) – 30 ha (7% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus globulus* dry forest and woodland (DGL) – 2,800 ha (21% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland (DOV) – 400 ha (27% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* forest and woodland on sediments (DTO) – 1,300 ha (2% reserved)
- *Eucalyptus viminalis - Eucalyptus globulus* coastal forest and woodland (DVC) – 40 ha (42% reserved)
- Sphagnum peatland (ASP) – 1900 sqm (100% reserved)
- Wetlands (AWU) – 10 ha (18% reserved)

Under the *EPBC Act 1999* the following are listed as Matters of Environmental Significance for the Sorell municipality –

- part of the Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon RAMSAR site including over 40 migratory bird species.
- Threatened species – 20 plants; 45 birds; 2 insects.
- Four Threatened Ecological Communities - temperate saltmarsh, Tasmanian black gum and brookers gum *Eucalyptus ovata / E. brookeriana* forest, lowland native grassland of Tasmania, Tasmanian white gum *E. viminalis* wet forest.

Implications to Strategy:

- Identify natural values asset protection areas within the municipality
- Co-ordinate strategic control of priority weeds around these areas
- As part of this strategy, a map of key important natural values has been developed (Figure 9). This will allow prioritisation of private properties which should be targeted for priority weed management initiatives.

4.5. Agricultural / Horticultural Productivity

The Sorell area's agricultural history centres on its early role as Van Diemen's Land's "granary" in the early 19th century, driven by wheat farming and export to Sydney after the British settled the region in 1808. While grain remained significant, dairy, wool, and fat lamb production also developed, particularly in surrounding areas like Bream Creek, which later established its own butter factory.

In more recent years the municipality has benefited from annual water allocations as part of the South East Irrigation Scheme enabling diversification into cherries, apples, salad vegetables, wine grapes, apricots, walnuts and olives. As a consequence, some weeds have benefited from an increase in soil moisture.

[25] TNVC 2020 spatial layer

4.5.1. Land capability

Land capability classification is an internationally accepted method of ranking the ability of the land to support a range of broadacre agricultural activities on a sustainable basis. In Tasmania the system comprises seven classes ranked in order of agricultural versatility. Class 1 land is the best and Class 7 the poorest. The majority of the municipality is Class 6 (land marginally suited to grazing due to severe limitations) and Class 5 (land unsuited to cropping and with slight to moderate limitations to pastoral use) and with smaller areas of Class 4 (land well suited to grazing but which is limited to occasional cropping or a very restricted range of crops) and an isolated area of Class 3 (suitable for cropping and intensive grazing) near Bream Creek.

Figure 10 shows the land capability classes across the municipality.

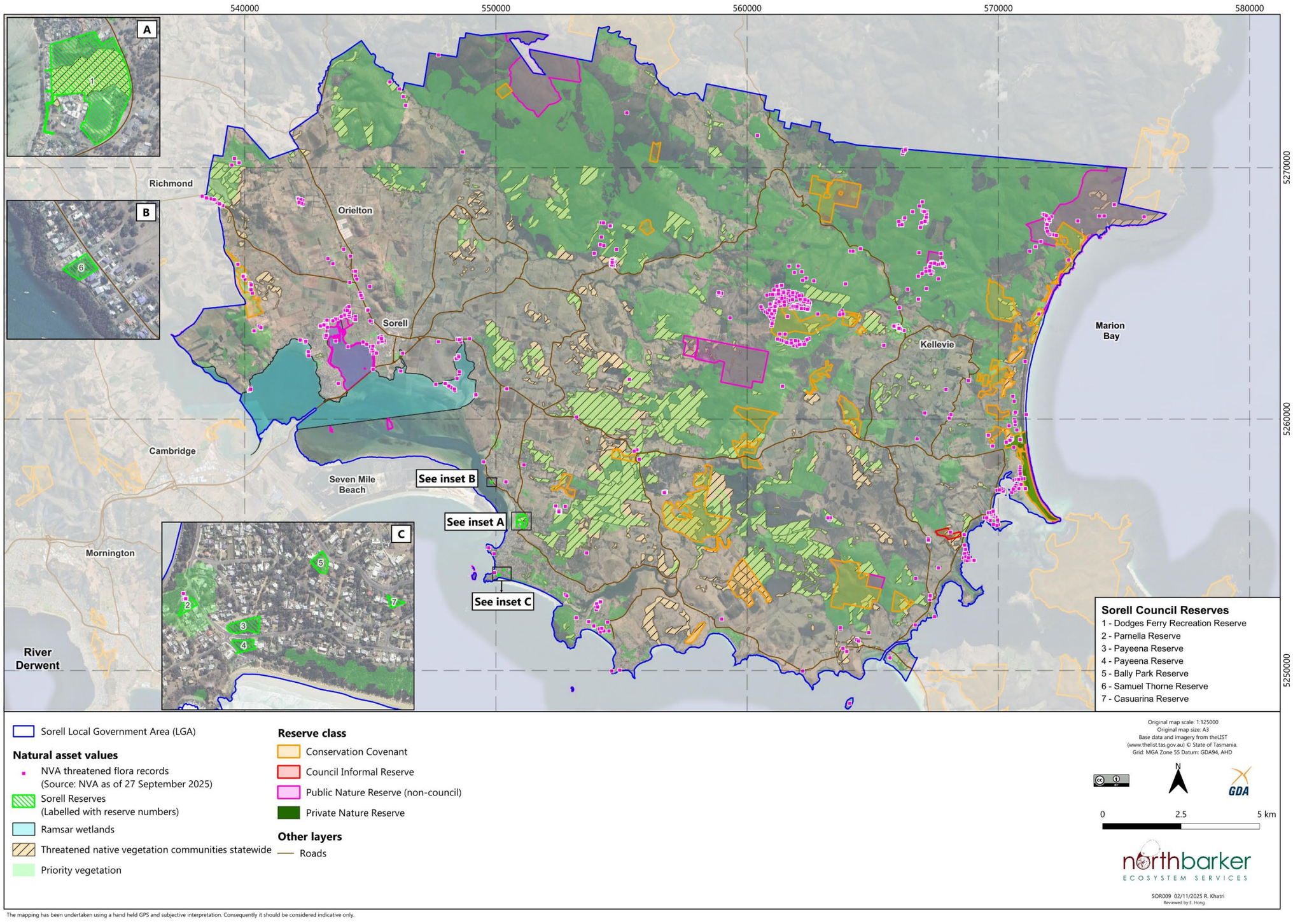


Figure 9: Key important natural values in Sorell municipality

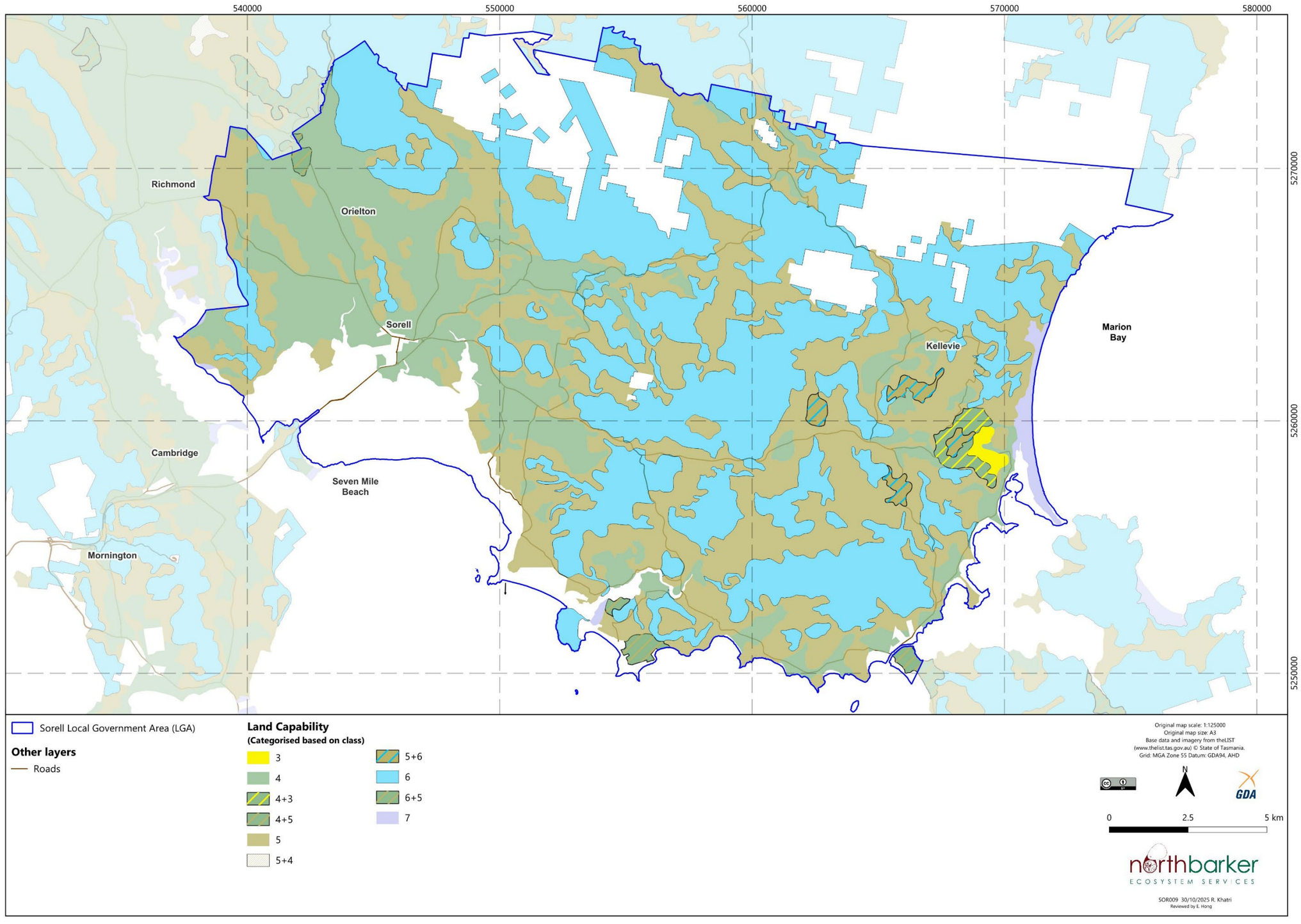


Figure 10: Land capability within the Sorell municipality

4.5.2. Agricultural weeds

4.5.2.1. Priority 1 agricultural weeds (impact grazing, cropping and natural values)

Carduus nutans	nodding thistle
Carthamus lanatus	saffron thistle
Cenchrus longisetus	feathertop
Echium plantagineum	Paterson's curse
Eragrostis curvula	African lovegrass
Nassella neesiana	Chilean needle grass

4.5.2.2. Priority 2 agricultural weeds (impact grazing and cropping)

Allium vineale	crow garlic
Asphodelus fistulosus	onion weed
Amsinckia calycina	hairy fiddleback
Carduus spp.	slender thistle
Cirsium arvense var. *arvense*	Californian thistle
Cortaderia jubata, *C. selloana*	pampas grasses
Nassella trichotoma	serrated tussock
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort
Solanum marginatum	white-edged nightshade
Solanum triflorum	cut-leaf nightshade
Ulex europaeus	gorse
Urospermum dalechampii	false dandelion

Implications to Strategy:

- Develop strategic, collaborative and cross tenure weed programs for Priority 1 weeds to protect grazing and cropping land as well as natural values on agricultural land.
- Seek funding to implement programs.

4.6. Council Resources/Capacity

Council has a discretionary annual budget which is used for weed management on Council managed land. This includes reserves, parks, sporting grounds and roadsides.

Council resources currently include:

- 14 ground works crew staff currently employed
- washdown facilities at the depot
- trailer mounted washdown facilities
- air pressure washers for certain priority weeds such as serrated tussock
- steam weed killer[26] for use in sensitive areas (e.g. around childcare facilities)

Future resources include

- new ute with washdown equipment proposed for 2026
- dedicated weed management officer 0.4 – 0.6 FTE

Council currently only has one Authorised Officer under the *Biosecurity Act 2019*, the NRM Facilitator, to enforce requirements of the Act and associated *Biosecurity Regulations 2022* as well as follow up on complaints relating to declared weeds. Currently Council is only partially meeting its weed inspectoral role obligations. Council's main focus under the Act has been to control declared weeds on Council managed land.

Competing with these obligations is the threat posed by numerous other weeds, some native to Australia, that are not listed under State or Federal legislation. For example, *Leptospermum*

[26] Council staff note that the use of this equipment is currently limited due to the fuel and time required for operation. Alternative approaches to weed management in sensitive areas may need to be considered including organic herbicides or undertaking spraying outside of business hours to reduce risk.

laevigatum coastal tea tree native to the Furneaux islands and the far north coast of Tasmania was introduced to stabilise the sand dunes behind Carlton Beach as well as planted in gardens. It is also a garden escape in Marion Bay village. Both areas have this plant spreading into surrounding coastal vegetation. where it is now an environmental weed outcompeting the native vegetation.

Council faces the difficult task of managing their statutory obligations while also trying to manage emerging weeds which may not be identified in statutory planning (and hence minimising future costs when these emerging weeds become more widespread). Prioritising all known weeds will assist in identifying potential gaps, assist with future funding and aide in the understanding of where to focus time and energy going forward.

The appointment of a part time Weeds Strategy & Planning Officer for a trial period of 12 months would improve strategy delivery and enhance Council weed management obligations and program delivery including facilitating improved community group support and operating as an additional Authorised Officer. They would report to Council in relation to the assessment and evaluation of initiatives associated with priority actions listed in the Weed Action Plan. The role could also oversee the strategic coordination of all Council weed management operations to overcome the current lack of coordination and improve weed hygiene capacity and delivery amongst Council staff.

Implications to Strategy

- Undertake a review of weed prioritisation of statutory weeds and the Sorell Local List to produce agreed ratings (including SLL) and ensure yearly review based on new knowledge or changes to distribution.
- Ensure resources are dedicated to prioritised weeds.
- Provision of additional staff resources to carry out Weed Inspectoral obligations under the *BS Act*.

4.7. Climate Change

The true impact from climate change within the municipality is uncertain and the effects on weeds are even more so. As the climate warms, plants that were not ideally suited to a cool temperate climate may find the transition to a warmer temperate climate to their liking. There is a whole suite of garden plants that currently show no sign of invasiveness but with a warming climate this may change. A drier climate may also see some current weeds becoming less invasive.

In addition feral pollinators may increase their range and have the potential to increase seed formation on previously infertile or partially infertile garden plants that in turn invade adjacent areas. An example is rhododendrons on the west coast and red hot pokers and agapanthus in general being increasingly pollinated by bumble bees, producing fertile seed and invading roadsides and other areas.

Research also suggests that weeds may migrate south from Victoria, and other mainland states. This is also true for native mainland species which are not indigenous to Tasmania and may quickly colonise and act like weeds. An example of this is *Enneapogon nigricans* (black head grass or nine awn grass). This species, a native of Victoria, SA, Qld and NSW was discovered on the Arthur Highway near Gunns Hill and quickly colonised roadside areas and spread along the highway. This area is now subject to ongoing management and monitoring to prevent re-establishment.

It may also be that as the climate changes, Tasmania becomes a refuge for mainland native species that require a cooler temperate climate, and their migration south is part of a natural (albeit human-influenced) evolutionary adjustment as a result of climate change. Vigilance and monitoring of new 'weed' species is required along with advice from relevant bodies including Biosecurity Tasmania, NRE and the Tasmanian Herbarium.

We need to be mindful that over time it may become more difficult to identify what is a native range extension versus a climate induced proliferation of a native species.

Implications to Strategy

- Council's capacity to keep up to date with new science and understanding of the impact of climate change on weed species.
- Council's capacity to remain vigilant and appropriately responsive to potential expansion of sleeper weed populations and other NRE Weed Alerts
- Council's capacity to monitor changes in weed distribution and weed priority in a changing climate and respond to threats as they become apparent.
- Protocol required for when Council encounter a new novel weed, they should consult with Biosecurity Tasmania and seek advice on the need for monitoring and control.

5. STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Six strategic objectives are identified. Each objective has a set of goals to steer future weed management within the municipality towards reducing the level of impacts weeds pose on strategic issues. Strategic actions in the 15 Year Action Plan are not meant to cover every possible action for weed management within the municipality. Actions listed are those deemed important to begin to make progress in future weed management within Sorell Council based on the issues highlighted.

1. Strategic Planning **Prioritise weeds, identify infestation sites and prepare priority weed action plans to effectively implement cost effective weed management based on the limited resources available within Sorell municipality.**
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships **Provide opportunity for partnership between local communities and other stakeholders to effectively manage the weeds within Sorell municipality.**
3. Community Education and Awareness **Ensure effective, respectful and meaningful communication and advocacy for weed management within Sorell municipality.**
4. Best Practice Integrated Weed Management **Ensure Council, contractors and community groups employ best practice integrated weed management.**
5. Risk Management **Minimise and manage risks including:** **(a) Prevent new weed infestations from becoming established within the Sorell municipality.** **(b) Protect Council assets from weeds within Sorell municipality.** **(c) Control and contain site specific weeds through inputs to the planning and application process for new development and subdivisions.** **(d) Include adaptive measures to respond to effects of climate change.**
6. Monitoring and Review **Monitor and evaluate procedures and activities undertaken in the process of implementing this weed management strategy.**

- Objective 1 – Strategic Planning
  - Priority Weed Action Plans
  - Eradicate localised weeds at the early stage of invasion
  - Protect high value assets
  - Reduce impacts of widespread weeds
- Objective 2 – Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships
  - Cross tenure weed dispersal
  - Agency engagement
  - Private landholders and developers
  - Community engagement and partnerships
- Objective 3 – Community Education and Awareness
  - Education
  - Communication
- Objective 4 - Best Practice Weed Management

    - Weed ID Training
    - Chemcert training and volunteer use of chemicals
    - Biological control
    - Hygiene
- Objective 5 – Risk Management
    - Prevention and early detection
    - Planning requirements
    - Enforcement powers
    - Climate change
- Objective 6 – Monitoring and review

5.1. OBJECTIVE 1 – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning at the highest level provides guidance on the principles of weed management. Planning at the implementation scale provides for delivery of outcomes. This also enables strategic, cost-effective use of available budgets and other resources. For instance, in 2025/ 26 Council had a budget of $130,000 for weed management including $90K for implementing the Blue Lagoon Weed Management Plan and $40K to implement this Strategy. Plans need to be pragmatic enough to allow flexibility and be able to accommodate management efforts that are responsive to changing Council and other stakeholder priorities, funding opportunities and community aspirations.

If planning is too tightly constrained by time or aspirations are over-ambitious, then implementation is doomed to fail. Thus, the development and implementation of plans need to be well considered to accommodate flexibility but also clearly direct works in line with strategic priorities and best practice methods. Monitoring should be included in plans to gauge effectiveness and adherence to plans. In this way, implementation plans become a valuable resource as well as a performance management tool.

The greater the level of consistency between the high-level strategic framework and site treatment plans the more likely that success will follow. Consistency between the two levels ensures that managers and practitioners at all levels are working from the same principles toward the same goals.

5.1.1. Priority Weed Action Plans

Weed Action Plans need to be practical, easily accessible documents that provide specific context of the particular weed issue, the distribution of the weed across tenure (maps), infestation density and estimated cost of control on each property/land tenure over a 5-year timeframe. The WAP will also outline monitoring and evaluation requirements to gauge program success over the longer term and to make sure reinfestation does not occur after all the effort and cost has been expended. In this way, a Weed Action Plan is also a useful tool providing the foundation for funding applications.

A Priority Weed Action Plan (WAP) will map all current records of the weed, determine the feasibility of eradication over time as well as provide a timeframe and resources required for eradication. If the weed has both isolated and widespread distributions, then the WAP will also determine containment lines. For low priority weeds, Matters of National Environmental Significance under the *EPBC Act 1999*, National Estate Register (land reserved to be managed for biodiversity conservation), and any Class 3 agricultural land will be used to determine asset protection targets for each weed species.

The Strategy recommends WAPs are developed for the following priority weed categories and within the allocated timeframe –

- Priority 1 weeds – prioritise and develop WAPs in the first year of the Weed Strategy Action Plan.
- Priority 2 weeds – prioritise and develop WAPs in the first five years of the Weed Strategy Action Plan

- Priority 3 weeds - assess and prioritise weeds in the first five years of the Weed Strategy Action Plan.
- Priority 4 weeds – identify priority assets and assess weed impacts in the first year. Prioritise assets for protection within the first five years of the Weed Strategy Action Plan.

The aim of this early planning is to help maximise the chance for success, ensure correct methods are applied to weed management works and to give further thought to the variety of methods of control available and to ensure selection of correct herbicide using label rates.

Some general principles for species specific weed action plans are listed below. These plans need not be complex documents but should provide clear justification for the actions prescribed:

- Action Plans should consider the specific characteristics and threat posed by each weed species and adopt an integrated and sensitive weed management approach minimising off-target damage
- Action Plans should provide clear priorities and achievable goals.
- Widespread species require containment with isolated or localised infestations managed for eradication and other areas managed to protect assets. Areas currently free of these weeds should also be kept free.
- Garden plants that have the potential to spread should be identified. Council could produce a Grow Me Instead brochure for the more common environmental weeds in the Sorell municipality.
- Coastal weeds should not be allowed to establish on beaches (and native coastal communities) that are currently un-infested or only contain light infestations.
- Areas of land managed for nature conservation should be prioritised for as weed species have the potential to displace native plants and communities.

5.1.2. Eradicate localised weeds at the early stage of invasion

The generalised weed invasion curve (Figure 2) shows that prevention and eradication deliver the best return on investment. Once a weed becomes widespread the return in greatly reduced. Eradicate isolated infestations and contain wider infestations to ensure no further spread.

5.1.3. Protect high value assets

Widespread weeds are always going to be present in the municipality, however reducing the impact of these weeds on key ecological, cultural or economic areas is vital for any successful weed strategy. Where and how to manage widespread weeds is important and identifying ecological and economic assets that require protection from widespread weeds is important to ensure resources are not wasted. Key to this objective is ensuring effective and efficient application of Council and stakeholder resources and available budgets towards on ground weed management. Figure 9 shows locations of high value assets within the municipality.

5.1.4. Reduce impacts of widespread weeds

Where resources allow, prioritise widespread weeds and determine feasibility of strategic control. Consider establishing containment lines and protecting high value assets.

- Council to promote an existing policy for providing replacement plants for land owners willing to replace listed weeds growing in gardens.

5.1.5. Weed Planning Officer

The appointment of a 0.4 – 0.6 FTE on a 12-month trial basis would assist the NRM Facilitator and provide direct support for the delivery of high priority strategy actions as well as enabling a second Authorised Officer under the BS Act.

In addition, the role can facilitate the following actions –

- build, strengthen and maintain key relationships to improve weed management outcomes,

- develop partnerships to enable a cross-tenure approach to weed management,
- co-ordinate all Council weed management operations and compliance activities,
- facilitate development and implement the Weeds Communication Strategy,
- undertake a review of incentive that can be implemented to increase weed management on privately owned land,
- assess and ensure compliance with Development Application Condition for a Weed and Hygiene management plan
- apply for all available grants for weed management projects,
- keep abreast of current science in relation to herbicide use such as glyphosate and assist in ensuring Council operations are best practice.

The following key outcomes are identified to achieve the strategic objective:

Objective 1 – Strategic Planning

Actions

a. Council to allocate an annual budget to implement this Strategy over the next 15 years.
b. Review all Category 1-4 weeds to prioritise planning and control activities for the life of the plan.
c. Develop Priority Weed Action Plans for every Priority 1 weed within the first year of Strategy implementation.
d. Eradicate localised declared weeds at the early stage of invasion.
e. Identify priority assets and assess weed impacts during the first five years of the Weed Strategy 15 Year Action Plan.
f. Council to develop and maintain a high value asset register which is assessed on a regular basis as part of routine works.
g. Council to allocate an annual budget for weed management in their Reserves.
h. Council to consider the appointment of a 0.4 – 0.6 FTE Weed Planning Officer on a 12-month trial basis to provide direct support for the delivery of high priority strategy actions.

5.2. Objective 2 –Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships

Table 3 provides a breakdown of land tenure across the Sorell municipality, and this is illustrated in . It highlights the importance of engaging with government agencies as well as private landholders for weed management across the municipality. The relative areas demonstrate the small amount of land within the municipality that Council has direct control over for weed management.

Table 4: Sorell land tenure breakdown

Tenure Class	Area (ha)	%
Authority Crown	24.0	0.04%
Authority Freehold	6.1	0.01%
Casement	988.8	1.84%
Commonwealth	0.07	0.00%
Conservation Area	565.8	1.05%
Conservation Covenant	1996.2	3.72%
Crown Land	82.4	0.15%
Future Potential Production Forest (Crown)	1974.6	3.68%
Historic Site	0.008	0.00%
Inland Water	3.8	0.01%
Local Government	839.1	1.56%

Local Government Act Reserve	36.7	0.07%
Nature Reserve	1456.3	2.71%
Permanent Timber Production Zone Land	4985.2	8.49%
Private Freehold	45262.9	84.31%
Private Nature Reserve	131.1	0.24%
Public Reserve	321.5	0.60%
Tas Water	42.2	0.07%
Total	**58716.9 ha**	

5.2.1. Dispersal

Current distributions (shown in Figures 4-7) suggest weed issues are generated in populated areas and spread linearly along roads and other corridors e.g., transmission lines, with spot invasions resulting from animal and wind dispersal. New weed populations then establish wherever suitable conditions exist, regardless of tenure. Some invasive weed species will even establish in undisturbed bush, especially bird spread seed such as boneseed, African boxthorn etc. Roadside weed management is a particular concern for Council, because of the varied tenures and highly suitable conditions for weed spread and establishment of new weed infestations.

Weeds know no boundaries. In order to provide cost effective weed management that meets landowner expectations, programs need to be integrated across all tenures, private and public. This can also be effective in minimising reinfestation and thus reducing management requirements in the long term.

5.2.2. Agency engagement

Strong outcomes rely on good stakeholder relationships, good work practices and collaborative weed programs with the respective landowners including agencies such as Property Services and the Parks & Wildlife Service. Cross tenure, collaborative and cooperative weed management programs will produce the best longer-term results.

It is acknowledged that all agencies face constraints from their financial budgets. Improved financial outcomes can be gained through cooperative service agreements between stakeholders and mandatory monitoring and secondary treatments (thus reducing future costs through more sustained control).

The collection of data can be resource intensive. Collaborative data collection, and sharing is important and cost-effective way of addressing this issue. All parties are encouraged to send their data to the Natural Values Atlas (NVA). The NVA is the state repository for weed records in Tasmania.

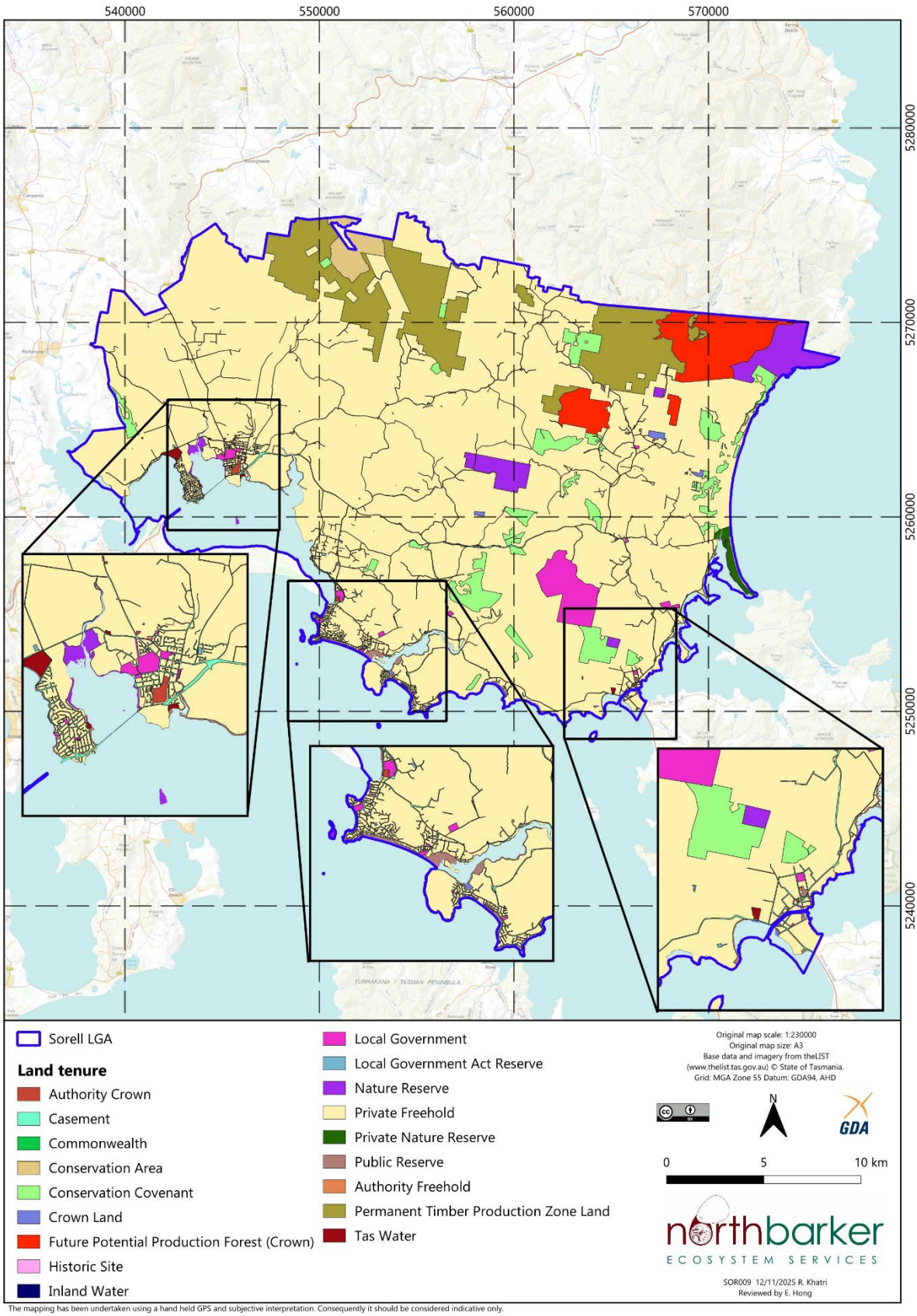


Figure 11: Land tenure across the Sorell municipality

5.2.3. Private landholders

Private land holders manage a significant portion (over 84%) of land in the municipality. Private landowners can be divided between larger agricultural holdings and smaller urban and peri urban residential lots. The nature of weed infestations and priorities vary between these two stakeholder groups. Where possible it is best for private landholders to cooperate as well as, where possible, partner with Council, business and community groups to manage priority weeds and locations. Landowners may become frustrated and disheartened if they perceive "government" is not doing their bit. There is no better way of encouraging a landowner to become involved in weed management than by demonstrating how the issue is taken seriously by Council and other government agencies.

5.2.4. Community engagement and partnerships

The success of a municipal weed management program primarily relies on a facilitator who has technical capacity and available resources and can take responsibility for implementation of the strategic plan's actions. This role is also vital to provide advice and support to existing community groups, foster connections, and to generate funding through external grants or other sources. There are important weed management works being undertaken by landholders, land managers, volunteers and community groups which can be supported and built upon through a broader, strategic weed management program. As Council has limited resources for weed management, collaboration between Council and community groups presents the best opportunity to maximise funding opportunities.

To encourage all stakeholders to be more proactively involved in weed management, it is essential that Council and key stakeholder agencies lead by example. Weed infestations on public land include some of the more visible examples. Likewise, these sites provide opportunities to demonstrate how successful collaborative weed management can be and the role that community groups and other volunteers play in this success.

The following key outcomes are identified to achieve the strategic objective:

Objective 2 – Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships

Actions

a. Create a Sorell Weed Action Group of stakeholders and representatives across the community and local and State Government agencies and land managers.
b. Foster cooperative and collaborative cross-tenure projects with the community, government and private landowners to support the development of a shared responsibility toward weed management within the municipality.
c. Investigate further opportunities for external grants and projects that can be shared across land tenures e.g., Weeds Action Fund, NRM South, Landcare Tasmania.

5.3. Objective 3 – Community Education and Awareness

5.3.1. Education and communication

Community engagement provides an opportunity to educate interested groups and ratepayers. Community education can make an important contribution to the weed control effort. Much can be gained by awareness and an understanding of what is at risk as well as where and why it is at risk. If the ultimate aim of education is an understanding of the local weed management issues and efforts toward solutions, then more people are more likely to participate in the efforts toward the solution. Even if their participation is indirect, i.e., they no longer contribute to the problem. In this context, the spread of understanding, through education, will produce better weed management outcomes than facts and information alone - "engage, experience, understand".

A Weed Communications Strategy can identify implementation of modern communications tools to aid the sharing of weed knowledge and provide educational material including a

dedicated weed webpage as part of the Council website that is kept up-to-date and holds all the relevant weed information. This can include links to other agencies and act as a central page linking to the other tools such as Facebook/Instagram with an ongoing regularly updated blog. A forum could form part of this website also to act as a central communication tool. This is often a good learning tool for others who may simply read the forums and not contribute, aiding dispersal of key information.

The aim for a Weed Communications Strategy is to provide a toolbox guide to ensuring effective dissemination of information throughout the municipality and beyond and to begin fostering renewed interest throughout the community.

Following key outcomes are identified to achieve the strategic objective:

Objective 3 – Education and Communication

Actions

1. Develop a Weed Communications Strategy to increase community understanding of and participation in weed management.
2. Implement community engagement and education projects to raise awareness of weeds and how to manage them promoting a 'shared responsibility' (Weed of the Month, Grow Me Instead, weed walk and talk sessions).
3. Ensure that Council's website and social media pages contain up to date and seasonally relevant weed information. Include current funding opportunities, current projects and available support.

5.4. Objective 4 – Best Practice Integrated Weed Management

Embracing best practice, integrated weed management with enable greater efficiency and effectiveness of weed control activities and will maximise the cost effective use of available resources.

All improvements in efficiency and effectiveness translate directly into savings in time and money. Until an organisation can report that it applies best practice it is not in a place to make effective gains from innovation.

A variety of methods are used in an integrated approach to weed management- the Toolkit approach. These include manual (mattock/ dig out), mechanical (slashing, deep ripping, deep digging of tap roots e.g. gorse, African boxthorn), cultural (ploughing and resowing to reinvigorate pasture), biological (biocontrol agents releases) and chemical (herbicides).

It is recognised that in some instances; herbicides are a vital toolkit component in the weed manager's ability to effectively apply integrated weed management. However, it is also recognised that without effective work planning prior to implementation of weed control/eradication projects, there is potential for the excessive and/ or incorrect application of herbicides for weed management. By researching weed specific options including techniques and approaches, weeds can be targeted in a more strategic and effective way. For example, mechanical removal of outlying areas with site sensitive chemical used to contain larger areas or infestations.

Inappropriate use of herbicides can be counterproductive. For example, broadscale use of non-selective herbicides such as glyphosate can impact non target plants creating bare ground that favours the more aggressive and invasive species to recolonise. Understanding value of selective herbicides and targeted application is critical to long term success. Council should review current herbicide use and investigate alternate uses and application rates.

Council has an Integrated Pest Management policy covering weeds and pests. It includes control of pest plants and animals. Council is responsible for pest management across a range of natural environments, maintained public open spaces, roadsides and buildings.

5.4.1. Chemcert training and volunteer use of chemicals

Council staff, contractors, landholders and volunteers require periodic training to keep up to date with best practices. Where relevant, training should include ChemCert/ chemical handling, equipment use, hygiene principles and practicalities, weed identification, and integrated control techniques.

All Council staff should have ChemCert Accreditation (AQF2 or equivalent) prior to undertaking weed work and this training should be kept up to date. The Weed Planning Officer role should have ChemCert Supervisors Accreditation (AQF3&4) or equivalent [27].

It is recommended that volunteers are limited to 'cut and paint' application of lower toxicity S5 herbicides. Selected volunteers in each volunteer group should be trained to apply S5 Herbicides under ChemCert (AQF2) framework.

5.4.2. Biological control

Biological control can provide an important contribution to any integrated weed management program. It involves the introduction of a living organism to potentially kill or more likely reduce the vigour of the target weed. Typically, these include plant pathogens such as viruses and fungi but more commonly invertebrates such as mites and insects that feed on the plant in its' country of origin. Biological control is most effective where infestations are so extensive as to be prohibitive to manage through other means. An effective biological control agent may prevent or reduce flowering and consequently seed production slowing the spread of the weed and enabling time for other techniques to be adopted to contain and then hopefully contract the infestation.

Biological control agents are identified following extensive field research in the weeds' country of origin. Once suitable candidates are identified, then they are imported under quarantine conditions for host specificity testing in laboratory trials. Once found to be effective and host specific, then the agent is reared at a quarantine facility for a minimum of one generation prior to field trial releases at nursery sites and assessments to determine their impact on the target weed species. Once agents establish in the field and build up to suitable numbers, then samples are collected and transferred to other nursery sites.

Biological control agents that occur or have the potential for use in the Sorell municipality include:

- gorse –gorse soft shoot moth, spider mite, gorse thrip
- horehound – plume moth
- Paterson's curse – flea beetle
- bridal creeper –leaf hopper, rust fungus
- English broom – leaf buckle mite, broom psyllid
- ragwort – flea beetle, crown and stem boring moth and plume moth
- sea spurge – foliar blight fungus trials 2021-24 on west coast, however sea spurge has a limited distribution in the municipality, so other methods are preferable
- boneseed – leaf buckle mite known to be present in Dodges Ferry Recreational Reserve 'Flora Park' and likely other municipal areas.

Currently the Tasmanian Institution of Agriculture no longer runs an active biological control program. Agents can be field collected from sites where they are well established and collectable. Landcare Tasmania and some Councils in Tasmania have collected agents in the recent past.

5.4.3. Hygiene

Hygiene practices need to be considered as part of best practice integrated weed management, for Council staff/ contractors and within the development application planning approvals process for new subdivisions and buildings in the municipality. Council facilities include wash/clean down bay in the Sorell depot where the washdown protocol must be

[27] http://www.chemcert.org.au/

implemented. A new Council ute with mobile washdown/ blower (air compressor) has been proposed for 2025/ 26.

Whilst Council trucks and other machinery are operating away from the depot, an air compressor/ blower would be useful to clean down the main areas on machinery including cab, wheel arches, radiator grill and slasher/ slasher covers.

Best practice clean down when operating vehicles and/ or machinery in a known Chilean needle grass (CNG) infested area is blow down. This is because applying water to CNG seed causes the weed's awn or tail to spin and spiral downwards making the seed head bury into rubbers, under covers and into impossible to access areas.

The main areas on vehicles and machinery that are known to collect weed seed and other propagules include inside the cab, under the wheel arches and in the radiator grill.

Following key outcomes are identified to achieve the strategic objective:

Objective 4 – Best Practice Integrated Weed Management

Actions

a. Identify training requirements and statutory HSE obligations for volunteers and Council workers.
b. Ensure Council weed management practices and operations follow best practice.
c. Review use of herbicides in Council operations.
d. Investigate fitting shovels and air compressors to all Council machinery.
e. ChemCert Accreditation (AQF2 or equivalent) training for Council staff.
f. ChemCert Accreditation (AQF2) to apply S5 Herbicides for selected volunteers in each community group doing weed control works.
g. Support biological control programmes and trials and identify opportunities to coordinate with other traditional means of control.
h. Develop and implement equipment and weed control protocols and processes for Council staff and contractors to guide hygiene practices cross the municipality.
i. Develop work protocols for Council and contractors
   - Safe Operating Protocol for roadside management for Council and contractors to reduce weed spread
   - Weed and Disease Hygiene Plan for Council and contractors
j. Establish training programs for stakeholders across the municipality to
   - enhance weed identification skills
   - increase understanding and use of integrated weed control techniques e.g. cut & paint, depth of taproots for various weeds such as thistles, woody weeds etc.

5.5. OBJECTIVE 5 - RISK MANAGEMENT

5.5.1. Prevention and early detection

Prevention, early detection, eradication and control or containment are the ultimate risk management objectives. The effective mitigation of risks provides an opportunity to protect important places from weed invasion, reduce spread and minimise the resources needed for weed management. Early detection, rapid response and biannual monitoring and control prior to seeding are most likely to eradicate weeds from a site. However, a challenge for early detection is the ability to identify new weeds that managers and/ or Council staff are not currently familiar with.

In this context examples of risk management may include the routine monitoring of public reserves and other assets, as well as selected places at risk of incursions, to ensure that the weed flora is understood and is appropriately prioritised and treated in the works plans. Frequently visited sites accessed by a variety of users act as hubs for the spread of weeds. Notable examples include tips, quarries, show grounds and other public reserves. The obvious

advantage of an investment in monitoring weed free areas is the opportunity for early detection and efficient low cost weed control with longer-term eradication.

5.5.2. Assessment of weeds under Planning Scheme

Weed management conditions are currently included within many development approvals issued by Sorell Council, particularly for subdivisions and larger-scale developments where there is a greater risk of weed spread and disturbance to natural values. Weed hygiene requirements are also applied where appropriate to minimise the introduction and spread of declared and environmental weeds during construction and earthworks.

While the inclusion of weed management conditions is an important mechanism for addressing weed risks associated with development, the effectiveness of these conditions is often dependent on ongoing implementation, monitoring and enforcement. Long-term compliance can be challenging where weed management actions extend beyond the construction phase or require ongoing maintenance over several years. Council resources for enforcement are also often limited.

To improve weed management outcomes associated with development activities, Council could consider opportunities to strengthen the consistency, monitoring and enforcement of existing permit conditions. For developments with a high risk of weed spread, particularly subdivisions, significant developments, or developments adjacent to native vegetation and natural assets, Council may consider requiring the preparation of a Weed and Hygiene Management Plan. Such plans could include:

- Identification and mapping of existing weed infestations;
- Weed hygiene measures to prevent the spread of weeds during construction;
- A costed implementation schedule outlining control and monitoring requirements over a defined management period, typically 5 years;
- Annual monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- Clear responsibilities for implementation and maintenance.

The owner/ developer would then be responsible for plan implementation. When the title(s) are released, the costs for any outstanding weed management actions would then be bonded to Council. Other council e.g. Clarence City Council currently uses a 1.5 multiplier for their weed bond based on the costed implementation schedule in the weed and hygiene management plan. Once the annual weed and hygiene audit is submitted then Council will assess how much of the weed bond will be returned to the owner/developer.

Both Kingborough, Clarence City and to some degree Huon Valley Councils have adopted this general approach. Refer to Appendix H for a summary of Kingborough Council weed management planning provisions, noting however that their current approach for development applications can vary and is generally tailored to the specific proposal and site requirements[28].

In addition, and in order to protect municipal assets, future DA approvals should provide more stringent consideration to the implications of the spread of weeds in areas within or adjacent to native vegetation. The approval to build within these areas should include an assessment and planned response that minimises the threat of weeds on natural values including listed vegetation communities and threatened species.

Appendix I provides a draft Checklist for Consultants and Developers and has been sourced from Clarence City Council with their permission[29].

The capacity for Council to regulate weed management as a condition in planning approval is limited by the Tasmanian Planning Scheme provisions.

[28] Sangster, P. Kingborough Council pers. comm. 14/10/2025
[29] Hazeldine, A. Clarence City Council pers. comm. 6/10/2025

The Natural Assets Code includes opportunities to condition weed management as part of a development approval. This is particularly relevant where a development application is sought on land impacted by an existing weed infestation. A condition could include a requirement to manage the weeds for a defined period, ideally 5 years. There are several examples of how approval conditions to manage weeds can be linked to the Natural Assets Code provisions:

- C7 - Development Standards for Buildings and Works (C7.6) in a Waterway and Coastal Protection Area (C7.6.1) include Performance Criteria P2.1 that must "minimise adverse impacts on natural assets". Weed management can minimise adverse impacts caused by:
  (a) Erosion, siltation and runoff; and to
  (b) Riparian and littoral vegetation.
- P3 - Development involving a new stormwater discharge must minimise adverse impacts by having regard to:
  (c) the need to mitigate and manage any impacts likely to arise from erosion, sedimentation or runoff. This may include on-site weed issues and/or the potential spread of weed seed in discharged water.

  Weed management can mitigate any adverse impacts when weeds are present at a site.
- C7.6.2 Clearance within a priority vegetation area in Performance Criteria P1.2 must have regard to:
  (d) any mitigation measures implemented to minimise the residual impacts on priority vegetation.

  Weed management can mitigate any residual impacts.

5.5.3. Enforcement powers

Under the *BS Act*, an Inspector can be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE). The Inspector is empowered to require a landowner to undertake measures to control, eradicate, reduce spread and reduce the risk of contamination in respect of any declared weed. Although the most effective measures of achieving weed control are collaborative and voluntary, there can be occasion where the unwillingness of a single party to not do the right thing can severely limit outcomes, especially where they require collaboration across land tenures and between several stakeholders.

Weed Inspectors are given powers to enforce the requirements of the *BS Act* and can be employees under local government bodies such as Sorell Council. Council currently has one Weed Inspector, the NRM Facilitator. At Council this needs to be addressed at a general/special Council meeting by requesting the Weed Inspector to action an enforcement notice.

5.5.4. Climate change

Climate change models of weed distributions generally point to a southerly migration of species as southern latitudes warm. For Tasmania this means that the State's biosecurity measures need to include effective measures that minimise the likelihood of "new" weed species penetrating the barriers to importation, both as accidental imports and as permitted imports.

The true impact from climate change within the municipality is uncertain and the effects on weeds are even more so. There is a whole suite of garden plants that currently show no sign of invasiveness but with a warming climate this may change.

In addition, a warming climate has the capacity to increase populations of some pest species. For example, the bumble bee is already causing red hot pokers, agapanthus and some rhododendron cultivars[30] to produce fertile seed, causing these plants to become increasingly

[30] M. Baker Tasmanian Herbarium, pers. comm. (2025)

weedy as garden escapes. If bumble bee numbers continue to increase then the above garden plants will continue to expand their range and impacts.

Following key outcomes are identified to achieve the strategic objective:

Objective 5 – Risk Management

Actions

1. Develop a process for recording and identifying new weed species.
2. Develop a weed alert protocol with Biosecurity Tasmania that includes a process for alerting the community and includes measures such as rapid response procedure for removal when new high-risk weeds are identified within the municipality.
3. Incorporate weed and hygiene management plans into the planning and development application process as an additional permit condition for new submissions.
4. Conduct regular audits and inspections of development and waste disposal sites (high risk entry sites for new infestations).
5. Ensure Sorell Council has adequate resources for appointed Weed Officer(s) under the *BS Act*.
6. Consider having an additional weed inspector appointed under the BSA2019.
7. Review implications from climate change to profile weed threats in Sorell.

5.6. Objective 6 - Monitoring and review

Monitor and evaluate procedures and activities undertaken in the process of implementing this weed management strategy. Improve where necessary.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential to success of any strategy implementation. Feedback from stakeholders and community is also critical. Thus, the strategy should regularly review the implementation plan and make changes as needed. Further, review of the activities after activities are completed by the relevant stakeholder is equally important to ensure that the activity has been effective. Seeking feedback creates a way to evaluate implementation success and improvements can be added from any lessons learned. This can be via a feedback sheet or group discussion. The five yearly strategy review will enable Council to assess delivery and to make any necessary amendments to its priority actions and/or priority species list if review deems it necessary.

The effectiveness of the management plan is dependent on the ability to implement, monitor, respond to information gained, review and update. There is an inherent risk with all strategic planning that relevance and momentum changes with time. Monitoring and evaluation must be incorporated to ensure review and adjustment where necessary. New ideas may originate, current ideas may prove unrealistic. These are normal barriers to success and the ability to respond to these challenges is important.

Performance indicators are useful measures of progress and compliance with plans. Ideally some level of quantitative or measurable performance is required to track progress and identify strengths and weaknesses. A five yearly review is sufficient for evaluation of weed action plan performance indicators to determine how the strategy is tracking.

The following key outcomes are identified to achieve the strategic objective:

Objective 6 – Monitoring and review

Actions

1. Develop a set of performance indicators for measuring success of Priority Weed Action Plans.
2. Review strategy every five years and redraft the Weed Strategy Action Table as needed.

3. Coordinate weed management data and report on annual weed management activity undertaken by Sorell Council, community working groups and other parties.

5.7. SORELL WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 15 YEAR ACTION PLAN

Fulfillment of the 6 Strategic Objectives will steer future weed management within the municipality towards reducing the level of impacts weeds pose on strategic municipal assets and issues.

It will identify a series of discrete and measurable tasks aimed at meeting the strategic objectives of this Strategy. Stakeholder responsibilities for each task will be identified along with a time frame to assist with prioritising the tasks. Actions are costed where practicable to assist with preparing the annual Council budget request and future grant funding applications.

Refer to Table 4 for the Weed Strategy Action Plan.

The Weed Strategy Action Plan is to be reviewed and updated every 5 years.

Table 5 – Sorell Weed Management Strategy 15 Year Action Plan

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
Objective 1: Strategic Planning							
1.1	1 a	Council to allocate an annual budget to implement this Strategy over the next 15 years.	Sorell Council	Annually	Annual budget secured to implement the weed strategy.	$123,500 2026/27	H
1.2	1 b	Review all Category 1-4 weeds based on distribution, NVA records and personal knowledge to prioritise planning and control activities for the next 15 years.	NRM Facilitator/ NRM Committee	2026	Category 1-4 weeds assessed and prioritised.		H
1.3	1 b	Create weed maps for each species in Category 1-2 groups to inform strategic management priorities and community awareness activities.	NRM Facilitator	2026	Priority 1 and 2 weed maps developed.		H
1.4	1 b,c	Review Priority 1 weed list and prioritise preparation of species' Action Plans.	NRM Facilitator	2026 – 2027	Up to 15 Action plans developed.	$15,000	H
1.5	1 c	Begin implementation of Priority 1 Weed Action Plans. Seek funding and collaboration from stakeholders.	NRM Facilitator	2026 onwards	Priority 1 weed action plans funded and being implemented.		H
1.6	1 b,d	Review Priority 2 weed list. Produce management plans for weeds and identify site specific controls to protect key assets.	NRM Facilitator	2027 -2028	5 Category 2 weed action plans developed.	$10,000	H
1.7	1 b,e	Develop a prioritised list of key assets, including identification and mapping of these priority values along roadside areas subject to maintenance works.	NRM Facilitator	2026-2027	Prioritised list of key assets developed for the municipality and maps produced for roadside maintenance works		H
1.8	1 b,e	Protect Pittwater Orielton Lagoon from the threat of weeds	NRM Facilitator, Wildcare Friend of PWOL, PWS, State Growth	2026-2027	PWOL Weed Action Plan developed and annual works underway in Year 2.		H

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
1.9	1 g	Maintain or increase current annual weed management budget for Council owned land, including Reserves.	Sorell Council	Annually	1. All Council Reserves managed for weeds annually. 2. All Council roadsides being managed for weeds annually.	$80,000 Blue Lagoon (Year 2) $10,000 Council Reserves 2026/27	H
1.10	1 h	Council to consider appointing a 0.4 – 0.6 FTE Weed Planning Officer on a 12-month trial period to: 1. Coordinate delivery of high priority Strategy actions. 2. Assess, evaluate and report to Council on actions outlined in Strategy.	Sorell Council	2027-2028	Appointment of a temporary 0.4 – 0.6 FTE Weed Planning Officer as part of Council's Annual Plan budget process	$50,000	H-M
1.11	1 f	Establish regular inspection of high value assets and action immediately if weeds are detected.	NRM Facilitator	Continuous	Protocol established and being implemented annually.	Internal	H-M
1.12	1 b,c,d,g	Apply for funding for any additional weed management resources that are required to control identified widespread weeds that are impacting key assets.	NRM Facilitator	As available	Applications for funding.	Internal	H
1.13	1 d	Develop a containment plan for widespread priority weeds along waterways, roads, tracks, quarries and waste management facilities to minimise ability for spread. Requires collaboration with many other key stakeholders such as Department for State Growth (DSG).	Sorell Council, NRE, DSG, all identified stakeholders	2029	Plan showing target areas and 2 yearly reviews of achievements.		H-M
1.14	1 general	Establish procedure to ensure all Council's weed data is uploaded to the NVA. Ensure NRM field staff communicate weed information to Council's NRM Facilitator. Opportunity for field staff to	Sorell Council (field staff, NRM Facilitator and GIS unit)	Continuous	Weeds databases are up to date	Internal	H

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
		utilise phone apps (e.g. Weedscan or iNaturalist) to upload data. Encourage consultants to record and report declared and non-declared priority weeds identified in this strategy when undertaking surveys for DAs. Investigate opportunities for mandatory reporting of priority weeds to NVA.					
Objective 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships							
2.1	2 a,b	Consider establishing the Sorell Weed Action Group (SWAG) with identified key stakeholders. Alternatively, identify key stakeholders and support/ foster cross-agency relationships (i.e. NRE, NRM South, DSG, TasWater, Tas Networks) and ensure ongoing contact. Involve agencies in cross tenure projects wherever possible.	Sorell Council All relevant agencies	2026 ongoing	SWAG established. OR Documented and cross agency projects established.	Internal	H-M
2.2	2 a,b	Partnership with neighbouring Councils to act collectively against high priority weeds.	NRM Facilitator	Continuous	Partnerships established for high priority weeds and actively collaborating with neighbouring Councils.	Internal	H
2.3	2 c	Investigate options to support funding opportunities/ incentives for private land weed management on acreage.	NRM Facilitator	2026-2027	Funding and incentives for private land managers obtained.	Internal	H-M
2.4	1 e, 2 b	Council to consider incentives options for landholders with conservation covenanted properties.	Council	2026	Potential incentives for private landholders on acreage investigated.	Internal	H-M
2.5	2 b	Continue to regularly engage and assist community groups by: 1. Supporting working bees; and	NRM Facilitator, Council works crew,	Continuous	Council works crew staff attending community group working bees on a monthly basis.	Internal	H

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
		2. Identifying funding sources for community groups and land managers (i.e. WAF projects, NRM South, Landcare Tasmania, Australian Government Grants).	Community groups				
Objective 3: Community Education and Awareness							
3.1	3 a	Develop a Weed Communication Strategy	NRM Facilitator	2026-2027	Sorell Weed Communication Strategy completed.		M
3.2	3 b, 4i	Weed Walk and Talk sessions/workshops on weed ID and control techniques for managing weeds - hand pulling/ manual removal/ Bradley method, cut & paint and spraying with a backpack. Liaise with Biosecurity Tasmania and Tasmanian Herbarium to develop training partnerships.	NRM Facilitator	Annually in early Spring	Weed ID and control workshop held annually.	$3,500	H
3.3	3 b	Run an annual weed forum.	NRM Facilitator	Annually	One weed forum/ year delivered.	Internal ($5k)	M
3.4	2 b, 3 b	Participate in AGM of municipal Coastcare/Landcare groups annually.	NRM Facilitator	Annually in winter	Participated in all NRM community group AGMs.	Internal	H
3.5	3 b	Develop Weed of the Month article for Council's website, local newspaper, Council rates notice and social media pages.	NRM Facilitator	Monthly ongoing	Weed of the Month information distributed across municipality.	Internal	H
3.6	3 b	Develop a Grow Me Instead brochure. Disseminate at Council counter and publish on website and social media pages.	NRM Facilitator/ Community Engagement Officer	2026-2027	Grow Me Instead published and brochure distributed.		M
3.7	3 c	Update weed section on the Council website, include key weeds, best practice management and links to useful information. Maintain to ensure seasonal relevance.	NRM Facilitator/ Communication Officer	2026 then ongoing	Council website and social media pages contain seasonally relevant information.	Internal	H-M

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
3.8	3 general	Maintain a weed observation form on Council website.	NRM Facilitator	Ongoing	Weed available observation form on website.	Internal	M-L
3.9	3 b,c	Utilise social media to promote Council events and publicise progress on weed management projects and promote working bees.	NRM Facilitator/ community groups	Ongoing	Council events and progress on weed management projects promoted via social media.	Internal	H-M
3.10	2, 3 c	Create a weed forum for community groups to post/comment and promote working bees.	NRM Facilitator/ community groups	Ongoing	Weed Forum is well used by community groups.	Internal	M
3.11	3 b,c	Increase engagement of private landholders in weed management.	NRM Facilitator/ Communication Officer	Ongoing	Increased landholder involvement in weed management on their property.	Internal	H-M
3.12	3 b	Consider better signage of weeds within municipality for Priority 1 species as a minimum where they occur along highly visited areas such as roadsides.	NRM Facilitator	Ongoing	The use of roadside weed signage is reviewed.	Internal	L
3.13	3 b	Enable nomination and promote local weed champions.	Sorell Council/ Communication Officer	Annually ongoing	Local Champion awarded annually.	$2,000	M
3.14	3 b	Community awareness program on dumping of garden waste supported by free general waste sites at tips/transfer stations.	NRM Facilitator/ Communication Officer	Ongoing	Dumping of garden waste reduced.		M-L
3.15	3 b	Work with local schools to develop content around weed awareness and what students can do to help.	NRM Facilitator/ Communication Officer	Ongoing	Weed awareness content developed, students engaged.	Internal	M
3.16	3 b	Maintain Council ledger of working bees, design progress tracker and update with Depot works schedule.	NRM Facilitator/ Works Manager	2026-2027 then ongoing	Working bee ledger developed, tracker updated, Works crew staff attend community group working bees.		H

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
Objective 4: Best Practice Management							
4.1	4 a,d,e	Ensure Council staff and volunteers involved in on-ground weed management have undertaken adequate training (appropriate ChemCert or equivalent). Council to provide financial assistance for volunteers to complete chemical handling course.	NRM Facilitator/ HSE Officer	Reviewed annually	PCBU Duty of Care for chemical handing met.	TasTAFE - Subsidised $320.00; Concession: $106.66 National online $380	H
4.2	4 b,i	Keep up-to-date with weed management research and incorporate new techniques where relevant.	NRM Facilitator/ Council Works Manager	Ongoing	Informed about new and innovative weed management and adopting where fit for purpose.	Internal	M
4.3	4 c	Purchase and install vehicle clean down hygiene equipment for Council depot vehicles/ machinery including shovel and air compressor to remove weed seed material.	Council Works Manager	2026-27	Shovels and air compressors fitted to all Council vehicles machinery.	Internal	H-M
4.4	4 g,h	Develop Council Safe Operating Protocol for roadside management to reduce weed spread.	NRM Facilitator/ North Barker	Underway	Council Safe Operating Protocol developed.	$1,500	H
4.5	4 g,h	Develop a Weed and Disease Hygiene Plan for Council and contractors operating within Sorell municipality. Plan should address: • adequacy or efficiency of wash down facilities and procedures (Council depot and development sites where applicable) • hygiene measures for staff, contractors and community groups • Identify high risk pathways or industry groups with high potential to introduce high risk weed species.	Sorell Council, NRE, NRM South	2025-2026	Plan developed. Regular liaison with relevant groups.	$45,000	H-M

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
		Incorporate advice from NRM South Hygiene Guidelines, State hygiene guidelines and industry best practice.					
4.6	4 h	Undertake regular monitoring of and reporting on known roadside weed site treatments.	Council Works Manager/ Works Crew	Ongoing	Roadside weeds monitored and treated prior to seeding.	Internal	H-M
4.7	4 b	Maintain and promote No Spray Register.	Council Works Manager?	Ongoing	No Spray Register promoted in rates notice, Council website and social media pages and register updated regularly.	Internal	H
4.8	4 b	Develop a checklist for best practice weed management including use of herbicide and adopting hygiene measures. Ensure all relevant staff have access to this checklist and understand it. Update checklist with new best practice information when available. Statutory weed management plans should guide the checklist.	NRM Facilitator	2026-2027	Best practice weed management checklist developed and used by Council staff.	Internal	M-L
4.9	4 c	Review use of herbicides in Council operations.	Council Works Manager	2025-2026 and ongoing	Herbicide use review and new approaches adopted.	Internal	M
4.10	4 f	Collaborate with NRE, Biosecurity Tasmania, Landcare Tasmania and other Councils on biological control trials and projects.	NRM Facilitator	Ongoing as opportunities arise	Biocontrol agents sourced and released at suitable locations for longer term weed management for widespread weeds.	Internal	M
Objective 5: Risk Management							
5.1	5 a	Monitor and refine list of "Alert List" weeds for Sorell Council.	NRM Facilitator	Yearly	Sorell weed list of Alert List species.	Internal	M-L
5.2	5 b	Develop partnership with Biosecurity Tasmania, internal Sorell Council process to verify and document new sightings (including a rapid response removal procedure for new high-risk weeds).	NRM Facilitator	2026	Documented process	Internal	M

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
5.3	5 a	Facilitate communication tools to assist the public with reporting potential weed sightings. Improve and promote reporting through the following: • Councils Weed Observation Form (via council's website) • WeedScan app • iNaturalist app	NRM Facilitator	Ongoing	Development of Weed Communication Strategy	Internal	M
5.4	5 d	Undertake weed audits/ inspections and monitor the following: • New building/subdivision sites • Nurseries • Waste disposal sites • quarries	NRM Facilitator	Ongoing	Regular weed inspections at proposed subdivisions, nurseries, waste disposal sites and quarries completed.		M
5.5	5 c	Require Weed & Hygiene Management Plans (WHMP) as a standard condition for all major development applications. WHMP to include a site weed survey plan including management actions with an implementation schedule for 5 years of weed control involving and when required revegetation, with annual monitoring and DA condition compliance at the developer's expense. OR Develop guidelines for weed management conditions in planning control.	NRM Facilitator/ Planning Officer	Ongoing	All major developments including subdivisions and larger rural blocks (>1 ha) required to develop a Weed & Hygiene Management Plan as a DA Permit condition. Annual audit requirements tracked by Council. Requirement notices issued as needed.	Internal	H-M
5.6	5 f	Consider supporting an additional Weed Inspector appointed under the *BS Act*.	Council	2026	Council has 2 Authorised Officers under the *BS Act* .	Internal	H-M
5.7	5 e	Ensure adequate resources to support Statutory Weed Inspector activities.	Council	Annually	Annual budget supports compliance activities.		H

Action Code	Objective	Action	Responsibility	Timing	Performance Indicator	Cost	Priority
5.8	5 g	Keep abreast of impacts from climate change regards the spread of weeds and potential for weeds establishment due to a changing climate. Develop protocol (as per Action 5.2) for consulting with Biosecurity Tasmania when a new novel weed is encountered and seek advice on the need for monitoring and control.	NRM Facilitator	Continuous	Emerging weed threats understood and managed as part of Council's Climate Change impact response.	Internal	M
Objective 6: Monitoring and review							
6.1	6 a	Develop a set of performance indicators to measure success of Priority Weed Action Plans (WAP).	NRM Facilitator	2026-2027	Priority WAP being successfully implemented.	Internal	H
6.2	6 b	Five yearly review of Strategy and 15 year Strategy Action Plan. Ensure adequate resources are available for review.	NRM Facilitator	5 years from its implementation	Assess progress on KPIs outlined in this action table, report on achievements.		H
6.3	6 general	Organise regular meetings with depot and community members to update on the effectiveness of weed control.	NRM Facilitator	Continuous	Effectiveness of Council and community group weed control reported.		Internal
6.4	6 general	Audit subdivision and new development applications and plan regular inspections.	NRM Facilitator/ Consultant	Continuous	New developments have active weed management resulting in minimal weed issues.		Internal
6.5	6 general	Annual review of weed management activities undertaken and data captured.	NRM Facilitator	End of each year	Ensure data is uploaded to NVA Annual meetings attended and weed control outcomes achieved		Internal

6. MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress on the 15-year Weed Strategy Action Plan will be reviewed every five years against performance indicators that will help measure the effectiveness in achieving the strategic objectives. It is anticipated that key actions will be reported by the relevant Council officers as part of the Council reporting process.

After 5 years a report will be provided to Council to summarise implementation and achievement of actions and key performance indicators against outcomes and strategic objectives. Where major issues are highlighted, a full review of the Sorell WMS should be undertaken.

Progress on actions within the weed strategy action plan should form a large part of the performance indicators. It is acknowledged that the practicalities of achieving everything within the Strategy, given the constraints such as budgets and human resources, are difficult. Most actions have a timing to be achieved and performance indicator to aid in evaluating performance against the Strategy.

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APPENDIX A

Weed Strategy Consultation — Feedback Summary

Compiled on 11 November 2025

Below summaries are received community input through the drop-in session and the online feedback form.

5 Drop-in Sessions — Key Feedback by Strategy Objective

Strategy Objective 1 – Strategic planning

Challenges:

- No Partnership with local businesses
- Prevent at planning stages
- Horticulture/nurseries to stop selling non-native or if selling must have warning about its potential to become weed
- Can advocate? liaise with Bunnings/mitre10 and similar businesses to stop selling weeds

Strategic objectives and actions:

- Immediately remove new sightings or if infested in new area

Strategy Objective 2 – Stakeholder engagement and partnership

Strategic objectives and actions:

- Boneseed blitz, social media campaign each august, tips on how to manage, prevent weeds
- School education program- educate the future
- Train local people, share costs

Strategy Objective 3 – Community Education and Awareness

Challenges:

- Proactive communities to report issues related to weeds, report them

Strategic objectives and actions:

- Walk and talk type workshops, community events for locals to identify and teach on how to manage weeds using herbicides/or best course of action
- Provide alternative to weeds for residents

Strategy Objective 4 – Best Practice Integrated Weed Management

Strategic objectives and actions:

- trial - use goat to remove noxious weeds such as gorse, blackberries, use temporary fencing and move as you go
- staged removal
- Ensure council is not contributing to the problem: all council mowing, slashing and contractors require prior washdown, or brush down to reduce spread
- do not mow weed on roadside
- lead by example; remove key weeds (boneseed etc.) from roadsides and others from council road

Strategy Objective 5 – Risk Management

Challenges:

- Inform nurseries of weed species not appropriate in our municipality

Strategy Objective 6 – Monitoring and Review

Strategic objectives and actions:

- encourage citizen science on private land, count type and number of species

Online Form — Priority Weed Species (tally) including Survey Monkey results

Weed species	Mentions
Boneseed	9 + 6
Mirror Bush	8 + 3
Capeweed	4 + 2
Cotoneaster	3
Gorse	2
African Boxthorn	2 + 3
Sweet Pittosporum	2
Spanish Heath	1 + 4
Serrated Tussock	1 + 2

White Weed	1
Freesia	1
Cape ivy	1
Tree Lucerne	1
Willows	1
Radiata Pine	1
Paterson's curse	1
Gazania	2
Agapanthus	2

Objectives:	What the community signalled	Analysis & implications	Risks / gaps
1) Strategic Planning	• Stop weeds at the source (planning controls, nursery/retail practices). • Act rapidly on new sightings and new-area incursions.	• Strong appetite for "prevention-first" policy levers: development conditions, landscape plans with endorsed species lists, and constraints on garden-escape species. • Expectation that Council will advocate with retailers to reduce sales of high-risk ornamentals (mirror bush, sweet pittosporum, etc.).	• Limited direct control over private retail offerings; needs a regional advocacy approach (e.g., LGAT/NRM South alignment). • Without a clear "approved & not-recommended plants" list, compliance and education become inconsistent.
2) Stakeholder Engagement & Partnerships	• Partner with businesses and schools; share costs and skills; run seasonal campaigns with consistent messaging.	• Engagement should be programmatic (e.g., "WeedSmart August" annually) rather than ad-hoc, to build behaviour change. • Schools are a strategic channel—education now reduces garden-escape pressure later.	• Diffuse ownership if campaign roles aren't clear (Council vs Landcare vs NGOs). • Without incentives, businesses may not prioritise weed-safe practices.
3) Community Education & Awareness	• "Walk & talk" sessions, practical how-to guidance, and simple alternatives to common garden escapees. • Clear, easy reporting channels for residents.	• Preference for hands-on formats - demonstrations and site-based learning outperform static brochures. • Replace-not-just-remove: people need to know what to plant instead.	• Fragmented content across platforms; risk of inconsistent advice. • Reporting channels exist but may be unknown or feel "one-way."

4) Best-Practice Integrated Weed Management (IWMS)	• "Lead by example" on roadsides/reserves; avoid mowing through seed heads; enforce hygiene (wash/brush-down) for contractors. • Staged removals; avoid mulching fruiting woody weeds; smart grazing where appropriate	• Community expects Council/contractors to model the standard: hygiene, timing, and method selection matter. • IWMS must be operationalised: SOPs, contract clauses, toolbox talks, and audits.	• Timing/resource constraints can push works into sub-optimal windows, creating spread. • Without audits, hygiene clauses won't shift behaviour.
5) Risk Management	• Map high-risk roads/sites; time works to avoid spread; reduce retail drivers of risk.	• A spatial risk layer can guide scheduling (e.g., avoid mowing through seed heads, treat feeder populations first). • Combining risk mapping with seasonal "no-go" windows will reduce re-work and reputational risk.	• Incomplete or outdated weed distribution data; private-land blind spots. • If risk mapping isn't connected to the works program, it won't influence decisions.
6) Monitoring & Review	• Citizen science on private land; count species and track change over time.	• Community wants to contribute data; success depends on simple tools and feedback loops (i.e., people should see their data used). • Monitoring must inform adaptive management (shift effort to what works).	• Data quality and consistency; privacy on private-land observations. • If feedback loops are weak, volunteer participation declines.

APPENDIX B - Full Record of weeds known from the Municipality

Full list of non-native species recorded in Sorell Council on the Natural Values Atlas from 14/04/2025

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Acacia baileyana	Cootamundra wattle	-
Acacia howittii	sticky wattle	-
Acacia pravissima	ovens wattle	-
Acacia provincialis	perennial wattle	-
Acacia pycnantha	golden wattle	-
Acacia retinodes	hills wirilda	-
Acetosella vulgaris	sheep sorrel	-
Achillea millefolium	yarrow	-
Aeonium arboreum	tree aeonium	-
Aeonium sp.	succulent	-
Agapanthus praecox subsp. *orientalis*	agapanthus	-
Agrostis capillaris	bentgrass	-
Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bent	-
Aira caryophyllea subsp. *caryophyllea*	silvery hairgrass	-
Allium triquetrum	triangular garlic	-
Allium vineale	crow garlic	A
Aloe maculata	soap aloe	-
Amaranthus deflexus	spreading pigweed	-
Amaranthus powellii	green pigweed	-
Amsinckia calycina	hairy fiddleneck	A
Anisodontea capensis	cape mallow	-
Anthoxanthum odoratum	sweet vernal grass	-
Antirrhinum majus	common snapdragon	-
Aphanes arvensis	parsley piert	-
Aponogeton distachyos	cape pondweed	-
Aquilegia vulgaris	columbine	-
Arabidopsis thaliana	thale cress	-
Arctotheca calendula	capeweed	-
Argyranthemum frutescens	shrub marguerite	-
Asparagus asparagoides	bridal creeper	A
Asparagus officinalis	asparagus	-
Asphodelus fistulosus	onion weed	A
Atriplex patula	spear orache	-
Atriplex prostrata	creeping orache	-
Atriplex semibaccata	berry saltbush	-
Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica	cane cactus	A
Austroderia richardii	toe-toe pampas grass	A
Avena barbata	bearded oat	-
Avena fatua	wild oat	-
Bellis perennis	English daisy	-
Beta vulgaris	beet	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Beta vulgaris subsp. *maritima*	sea beet	-
Billardiera heterophylla	bluebell creeper	-
Bothriochloa macra	redleg grass	-
Brassica rapa subsp. *sylvestris*	wild turnip	-
Brassica tournefortii	mediterranean turnip	-
Briza maxima	greater quaking-grass	-
Briza minor	lesser quaking-grass	-
Bromus alopecuros	curly brome	-
Bromus brevis	short brome	-
Bromus catharticus	prairie grass	-
Bromus diandrus	great brome	-
Bromus hordeaceus	soft brome	-
Buglossoides arvensis	sheepweed	-
Cakile edentula	american searocket	-
Cakile maritima subsp. *maritima*	searocket	-
Calamagrostis arenaria	marram grass	-
Calamagrostis epigejos	wood smallreed	-
Capsella bursa-pastoris	shepherds purse	-
Carduus nutans	nodding thistle	A
Carduus pycnocephalus	slender thistle	B
Carduus tenuiflorus	winged thistle	A
Carpobrotus aequilaterus	angled pigface	-
Carpobrotus edulis subsp. *edulis*	yellow pigface	-
Carthamus lanatus	saffron thistle	A
Cenchrus clandestinus	kikuyu grass	-
Cenchrus longisetus	feathertop	A
Centaurea melitensis	malta thistle	-
Centaurium erythraea	common centaury	-
Centranthus ruber subsp. *ruber*	red valerian	-
Cerastium glomeratum	sticky mouse-ear	-
Cerastium vulgare	common mouse-ear	-
Chamaecytisus palmensis	tree lucerne	-
Chamaemelum nobile	chamomile	-
Chenopodium album	fat hen	-
Chenopodium glaucum	pale goosefoot	-
Chenopodium murale	nettleleaf goosefoot	-
Chloris truncata	windmill grass	-
Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. *monilifera*	boneseed	B
Cirsium arvense var. *arvense*	creeping thistle	B
Cirsium vulgare	spear thistle	-
Coleonema pulchellum	diosma	-
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed	-
Coprosma repens	mirror bush	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Cortaderia jubata	pink pampas grass	A
Cortaderia selloana	silver pampas grass	A
Cotoneaster franchetii	grey cotoneaster	-
Cotoneaster glaucophyllus var. *serotinus*	largeleaf cotoneaster	-
Cotoneaster simonsii	khasia berry	-
Cotula coronopifolia	water buttons	-
Cotyledon orbiculata	pigs ear	-
Crassula alata var. *alata*	winged crassula	-
Crassula multicava subsp. *multicava*	fairy crassula	-
Crassula muscosa var. *muscosa*	clubmoss crassula	-
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn	-
Crepis capillaris	smooth hawksbeard	-
Cupressus macrocarpa	monterey cypress	-
Cynodon dactylon var. *dactylon*	couchgrass	-
Cynosurus cristatus	crested dogstail	-
Cynosurus echinatus	rough dogstail	-
Cyperus congestus	dense flatsedge	-
Cyperus eragrostis	drain flatsedge	-
Cyperus sanguinolentus	dark flatsedge	-
Cytisus scoparius	english broom	B
Dactylis glomerata	cocksfoot	-
Delairea odorata	cape ivy	-
Dichanthium sericeum subsp. *sericeum*	silky bluegrass	-
Digitalis purpurea	foxglove	A
Digitaria sanguinalis	summergrass	-
Dimorphotheca fruticosa	trailing daisy	-
Dipogon lignosus	dolichos pea	-
Dipsacus fullonum	wild teasel	-
Drosanthemum candens	rodondo creeper	-
Dysphania pumilio	small crumbweed	-
Echium candicans	pride-of-madeira	-
Echium plantagineum	Paterson's curse	B
Ehrharta calycina	perennial veldtgrass	-
Ehrharta erecta	panic veldt-grass	-
Ehrharta erecta var. erecta	panic veldtgrass	-
Ehrharta longiflora	annual veldtgrass	-
Eleusine tristachya	threespike goosegrass	-
Elytrigia repens	english couch	-
Enneapogon nigricans	bottlewashers	-
Eragrostis cilianensis	stinkgrass	-
Eragrostis curvula	African lovegrass	A
Eragrostis minor	small stinkgrass	-
Eragrostis parviflora	weeping lovegrass	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Eragrostis pilosa	Indian lovegrass	-
Eragrostis tenuifolia	elastic grass	-
Erica arborea	tree heath	A
Erica baccans	berryflower heath	A
Erica lusitanica	Spanish heath	B
Erigeron bonariensis	flaxleaf fleabane	-
Erigeron karvinskianus	seaside daisy	-
Erigeron sumatrensis	tall fleabane	-
Erodium botrys	long heronsbill	-
Erodium moschatum	musky heronsbill	-
Eschscholzia californica	Californian poppy	-
Euphorbia exigua	dwarf spurge	-
Euphorbia helioscopia	sun spurge	
Euphorbia paralias	sea spurge	-
Euphorbia peplus	petty spurge	-
Euryops abrotanifolius	winter euryops	-
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	B
Fraxinus angustifolia subsp. *angustifolia*	narrowleaf ash	-
Freesia sp. (hybrids)	freesia	-
Fumaria muralis subsp. *muralis*	wall fumitory	-
Galium aparine	cleavers	-
Galium divaricatum	slender bedstraw	-
Gamochaeta purpurea	spike cudweed	-
Gastridium ventricosum	nitgrass	-
Gazania rigens	gazania	-
Gazania x *splendens*	coastal gazania	-
Genista monspessulana	Montpellier broom or canary broom	B
Genista stenopetala	madeira broom	-
Geranium dissectum	cutleaf cranesbill	-
Gladiolus tristis	evening gladiolus	-
Gomphocarpus fruticosus subsp. *fruticosus*	swanplant	-
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	rosemary grevillea	-
Hainardia cylindrica	thintail barbgrass	-
Hakea laurina	pincushion hakea	-
Hedera helix	ivy	-
Helminthotheca echioides	bristly oxtongue	-
Hesperocyparis macrocarpa	monterey cypress	-
Hirschfeldia incana	hoary mustard	-
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	-
Holcus mollis	creeping fog	-
Hordeum distichon	two-row barley	-
Hordeum leporinum	long-anther barleygrass	-
Hordeum marinum	sea barleygrass	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Hordeum murinum subsp. *murinum*	shortflower barleygrass	-
Hordeum murinum subsp. *leporinum*	long-anther barleygrass	-
Hordeum vulgare	barley	-
Hypochaeris glabra	smooth catsear	-
Hypochaeris radicata	rough catsear	-
Isolepis levynsiana	fan clubsedge	-
Isolepis setacea	bristle clubsedge	-
Juncus articulatus	jointed rush	-
Juncus bulbosus	bulbous rush	-
Juncus capitatus	capitate rush	-
Juncus gerardii	mud rush	-
Kniphofia uvaria	red-hot poker	-
Lactuca saligna	willow lettuce	-
Lampranthus glaucus	noonflower	-
Lasiospermum bipinnatum	fernleaf daisy	-
Leonotis leonurus	lions ear	-
Leontodon rhagadioloides	cretan weed	-
Leontodon saxatilis	hairy hawkbit	-
Lepidium africanum	common peppercress	-
Lepidium didymum	lesser swinecress	-
Lepidium draba	hoary cress	A
Lepidium latifolium	perennial peppercress	-
Leptospermum laevigatum	coastal tea tree	-
Leucanthemum vulgare	oxeye daisy	-
Limonium sinuatum	wild statice	-
Linaria maroccana	Moroccan toadflax	-
Linaria vulgaris	yellow toadflax	-
Linum bienne	pale flax	-
Linum catharticum	white flax	-
Linum perenne subsp. *anglicum*	blue flax	-
Linum trigynum	French flax	-
Linum usitatissimum	linseed flax	-
Lobularia maritima	sweet alice	-
Lolium perenne	perennial ryegrass	-
Lonicera japonica	Japanese honeysuckle	-
Lupinus angustifolius	narrowleaf lupin	-
Lupinus arboreus	tree lupin	-
Luzula campestris	field woodrush	-
Lycium ferocissimum	African boxthorn	B
Lysimachia arvensis	scarlet pimpernel	-
Malus pumila	apple	-
Malva nicaeensis	mallow-of-nice	-
Malva parviflora	smallflower mallow	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Malva sylvestris	tall mallow	-
Marrubium vulgare	white horehound	B
Medicago arabica	spotted medick	-
Medicago lupulina	black medick	-
Medicago polymorpha	burr medick	-
Medicago sativa	lucerne	-
Melilotus albus	white melilot	-
Melilotus indicus	sweet melilot	-
Mesembryanthemum cordifolium	heartleaf iceplant	-
Modiola caroliniana	redflower mallow	-
Moenchia erecta	erect chickweed	-
Myosotis discolor	changing forgetmenot	-
Myosotis sylvatica	garden forgetmenot	-
Nassella neesiana	Chilean needle grass	A
Nassella trichotoma	serrated tussock	B
Nasturtium officinale	two-row watercress	-
Oloptum miliaceum	smilograss	-
Oxalis articulata	bent woodsorrel	-
Oxalis corniculata subsp. *corniculata*	yellow woodsorrel	-
Oxalis pes-caprae	soursob	-
Panicum hillmanii	witch panic	-
Papaver hybridum	rough poppy	-
Papaver somniferum subsp. *somniferum*	opium poppy	-
Parapholis incurva	coast barbgrass	-
Paraserianthes lophantha	Cape Leeuwin wattle	-
Paraserianthes lophantha subsp. *lophantha*	cape wattle	-
Paspalum dilatatum	paspalum	-
Paspalum distichum	water couch	-
Pelargonium peltatum	ivyleaf geranium	-
Pelargonium x *hortorum*	garden geranium	-
Petrorhagia dubia	velvet pink	-
Phalaris aquatica	Toowoomba canarygrass	-
Phalaris minor	lesser canarygrass	-
Phormium tenax	New Zealand flax	-
Pinus radiata	radiata pine	-
Pittosporum tenuifolium	kohuhu	-
Pittosporum undulatum	sweet pittosporum	-
Plantago coronopus subsp. *commutata*	stout buckshorn plantain	-
Plantago coronopus subsp. *coronopus*	slender buckshorn plantain	-
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort plantain	-
Poa annua	winter grass	-
Polycarpon tetraphyllum	fourleaf allseed	-
Polygala myrtifolia	myrtleleaf milkwort	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Polygonum aviculare	creeping wireweed	-
Polypogon lutosus	perennial beardgrass	-
Polypogon monspeliensis	annual beardgrass	-
Polyscias sambucifolia	elderberry panax	-
Prunella vulgaris	selfheal	-
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn / sloe	-
Psoralea arborea	scented butterflybush	-
Psoralea pinnata	blue butterflybush	-
Puccinellia ciliata	menemen	-
Puccinellia distans	reflexed saltmarshgrass	-
Quercus robur	english oak	-
Ranunculus muricatus	sharp buttercup	-
Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup	-
Raphanus raphanistrum	wild radish	-
Reseda lutea	cutleaf mignonette	-
Reseda luteola	weld	-
Ribes sanguineum	flowering currant	-
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	-
Rosa rubiginosa	sweet briar	-
Rubus fruticosus	blackberry	B
Rubus loganobaccus	loganberry	-
Rubus polyanthemus	blackberry	B
Rubus sp. (blackberry Tasmania)	blackberry	-
Rumex crispus	curled dock	-
Rumex obtusifolius	broadleaf dock	-
Sagina maritima	sea pearlwort	-
Sagina procumbens	spreading pearlwort	-
Salix x *fragilis* nothovar. *fragilis*	crack willow	B
Salix x *reichardtii*	pussy willow	-
Salix cinerea	seeding willow	A
Salvia verbenaca var. *verbenaca*	wild sage	-
Sanguisorba minor	salad burnet	-
Scabiosa atropurpurea	garden pincushion	-
Sedum album	white stonecrop	-
Senecio angulatus	scrambling groundsel	-
Senecio elegans	purple groundsel	-
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	B
Senecio vulgaris	common groundsel	-
Setaria parviflora	slender pigeongrass	-
Setaria viridis	green pigeongrass	-
Silene gallica var. *gallica*	French catchfly	-
Silene gallica var. *quinquevulnera*	spotted catchfly	-
Silybum marianum	variegated thistle	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Sinapis alba	white mustard	-
Sisymbrium orientale	Indian hedge-mustard	-
Sisyrinchium micranthum	blue pigroot	-
Sixalix atropurpurea	mourningbride	-
Solanum marginatum	white-edged nightshade	A
Solanum nigrum	blackberry nightshade	-
Solanum triflorum	cutleaf nightshade	A
Sonchus asper	prickly sowthistle	-
Sonchus oleraceus	common sowthistle	-
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom	-
Spergula arvensis	corn spurrey	-
Spergularia marina	lesser seaspurrey	-
Spergularia rubra	greater sandspurrey	-
Sporobolus africanus	ratstail grass	-
Sporobolus anglicus	common cordgrass	-
Stellaria media	garden chickweed	-
Taraxacum officinale	common dandelion	-
Thinopyrum obtusiflorum	tall wheatgrass	-
Tragopogon porrifolius subsp. *porrifolius*	salsify	-
Trifolium angustifolium	narrowleaf clover	-
Trifolium arvense	haresfoot clover	-
Trifolium campestre	hop clover	-
Trifolium dubium	suckling clover	-
Trifolium glomeratum	cluster clover	-
Trifolium pratense	red clover	-
Trifolium repens	white clover	-
Trifolium subterraneum	subterranean clover	-
Trifolium tomentosum	woolly clover	-
Trifolium vesiculosum	arrowleaf clover	-
Tropaeolum majus	nasturtium	-
Typha latifolia	great reedmace	-
Ulex europaeus	gorse	A
Urospermum dalechampii	false dandelion	A
Urtica urens	stinging nettle	-
Vellereophyton dealbatum	white cudweed	-
Verbascum thapsus	great mullein	-
Verbascum virgatum	twiggy mullein	-
Veronica elliptica	kokomuka	-
Veronica persica	Persian speedwell	-
Veronica serpyllifolia	thyme speedwell	-
Vicia sativa	spring vetch, vetch, common vetch or tare	-
Vicia sativa subsp. *nigra*	narrowleaf vetch	-
Vicia sativa subsp. *sativa*	common vetch	-

SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAMES	BS Act_Class
Vicia tetrasperma	smooth vetch	-
Vinca major	blue periwinkle	-
Vulpia bromoides	squirreltail fescue	-
Vulpia myuros	foxtail fescue	-
Vulpia myuros f. *megalura*	foxtail fescue	-
Xanthium spinosum	Bathurst burr	A
Zantedeschia aethiopica	arum lily	-

APPENDIX C - Sorell Priority Weeds (Alphabetical Order)

The table includes a list of all declared weeds listed under the Tasmania *Biosecurity Act 2019* which have been recorded in Sorell Council. This table also includes other important weeds identified in the Sorell Local List (SLL). This includes environmental weeds which are not listed as declared but which are locally important within Sorell and present a serious threat to the natural values within the municipality.

Priority Rating

A priority rating of 1-4 has been assigned to each species.

Priority 1: Declared weeds or newly introduced "alert list" weeds with a restricted distribution within Sorell LGA, statuary eradication requirement or have been identified as a community priority. Rapid response required.

Priority 2: For species that can be eradicated or quarantined within the term of the action plan (15 years).

Priority 3: For widespread weeds requiring strategic control. Eradicate isolated infestations and contain wider infestations to ensure no further spread within the term of the action plan (15 years).

Priority 4: Widespread distribution of weeds. Requiring strategic control and containment where threatening important values.

Notes:

Shading: Highlighted in shading are declared weeds and those unshaded are SLL weeds.

Bold: indicates Weeds of National Significance (WONS)

NVA Records: records have been taken from the Natural Values Atlas of Tasmania and are current as of 14th April 2025. While records are provided for the SLL weeds it should be noted that the number of records for these species are less accurate than the declared weeds due to an absence of reporting requirements. Future surveys within Sorell should aim to identify the presence and abundance of any SLL weeds in addition to declared weeds. This includes Council land management staff.

Declared weeds and SLL weeds known to occur in Sorell municipality

Botanical name	Common Name	Priority	Declared Class	NVA Records[31]
Acacia baileyana	Cootamundra wattle	4	-	3
Acacia howittii	sticky wattle	4	-	2
Acacia provincialis	perennial wattle	4	-	2
Acacia pycnantha	golden wattle	4	-	2
Acacia retinodes	hills wirilda	4	-	2
Aeonium arboreum	tree aeonium	4	-	7

[31] As of April 2025

Botanical name	Common Name	Priority	Declared Class	NVA Records[31]
Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis	African lily	4	-	4
Allium vineale	crow garlic	1	A	2
Aloe maculata	soap aloe	4	-	1
Amsinckia calycina	hairy fiddleneck	2	A	5
Arctotheca calendula	capeweed	4	-	19
Asparagus asparagoides	**bridal creeper**	2	A	117
Asparagus officinalis	asparagus	4	-	8
Asphodelus fistulosus	onion weed	1	A	1
Austroderia richardii	Toe-toe pampas grass	1	A	1
Billardiera heterophylla	bluebell creeper	4	-	4
Calamagrostis arenaria	marram grass	4	-	11
Carduus nutans	nodding thistle	1	A	1
Carduus pycnocephalus	slender thistle	4	B	9
Carduus tenuiflorus	winged thistle	2	A	3
Carthamus lanatus	saffron thistle	1	A	21
Cenchrus longisetus	feathertop	1	A	20
Centranthus ruber subsp. ruber	red valerian	4	-	1
Chamaecytisus palmensis	tree lucerne	4	-	6
Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera	**boneseed**	3	B	1,223
Cirsium arvense var. arvense	creeping thistle	3	B	52
Coprosma repens	mirror bush	4	-	16
Cortaderia jubata	pink pampas grass	1	A	1
Cortaderia selloana	silver pampas grass	1	A	140

Botanical name	Common Name	Priority	Declared Class	NVA Records[31]
Cotoneaster species	largeleaf cotoneaster	4	-	8
Cotyledon orbiculata	pigs ear	4	-	Boomer/Marion Bay
Crassula alata var. alata	winged crassula	4	-	4
Crassula multicava subsp. multicava	fairy crassula	4	-	2
Crassula muscosa var. muscosa	clubmoss crassula	4	-	2
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn	4	-	7
Cytisus scoparius	**English broom**	3	B	2
Delairea odorata	cape ivy	4	-	1
Digitalis purpurea	foxglove	1	A	1
Dimorphotheca fruticosa	trailing daisy	4	-	8
Dipogon lignosus	dolichos pea	4	-	1
Echium candicans	pride of madeira	4	-	6
Echium plantagineum	Paterson's curse	2	B	19
Eragrostis curvula	African lovegrass	1	A	57
Erica arborea	tree heath	1	A	8
Erica baccans	berryflower heath	1	A	1
Erica lusitanica	Spanish heath	3	B	130
Euphorbia paralias	sea spurge	1	-	1
Euryops abrotanifolius	winter euryops	4	-	3
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	4	B	62
Freesia sp. (hybrids)	freesia	4	-	1
Gazania sp.	gazania	4	-	20
Genista monspessulana	**Montpellier broom**	3	B	45

Botanical name	Common Name	Priority	Declared Class	NVA Records[31]
Hakea laurina	pincushion hakea	4	-	1
Hedera helix	ivy	4	-	1
Kniphofia uvaria	red-hot poker	4	-	3
Lepidium draba	whiteweed	3	B	12
Leptospermum laevigatum	coastal tea tree	4	-	Carlton Beach/Marion Bay village and surrounds
Leucanthemum vulgare	ox-eye daisy	4	-	4
Lonicera japonica	Japanese honeysuckle	4	-	1
Lycium ferocissimum	**African boxthorn**	3	B	1,247
Marrubium vulgare	white horehound	4	B	115
Nassella neesiana	**Chilean needle grass**	2	A	191
Nassella trichotoma	**serrated tussock**	3	B	821
Opuntia* species (includes *Austrocylindropuntia* spp. and *Cylindropuntia* spp. and *Opuntia stricta* (prickly pear)) *(excluding O. ficus-indica)	**opuntioid cacti**	2	A	2
Paraserianthes lophantha	Cape Leeuwin wattle	4	-	11
Phormium tenax	New Zealand flax	4	-	32
Pinus radiata	radiata pine	4	-	69
Pittosporum undulatum	sweet pittosporum	4	-	7
Polygala myrtifolia	myrtleleaf milkwort	4	-	4
Psoralea pinnata/arborea	blue butterfly bush	4	-	1
Rosa rubiginosa	sweet briar	4	-	43
***Rubus fruticosus* agg.**	**blackberry**	4	B	124

Botanical name	Common Name	Priority	Declared Class	NVA Records[31]
Salix cinerea	**seeding willow**	1	A	Copping roadside
***Salix* species (excluding *S. babylonica*, *S.* x *calodendron* and *S.* x *reichardtii*)**	**willows**	4	B	11
Sedum album	white stonecrop	4	-	1
Senecio angulatus	creeping groundsel	4	-	5
Senecio elegans	purple groundsel	4	-	1
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	1	B	1
Solanum marginatum	white-edged nightshade	1	A	1
Solanum triflorum	cut-leaf nightshade	1	A	1
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom	4	-	7
Sporobolus africanus	ratstail grass	4	-	3
Thinopyrum obtusiflorum	tall wheatgrass	4	-	1
Typha latifolia	cumbungi	4	-	5
Ulex europaeus	**gorse**	3	A	511
Urospermum dalechampii	false dandelion	1	A	2
Vinca major	blue periwinkle	4	-	12
Xanthium spinosum	Bathurst burr	1	A	Sorell farm
Zantedeschia aethiopica	arum lily	4	-	4

APPENDIX D – Sub-Regional Maps for Priority 1 and 2 weeds

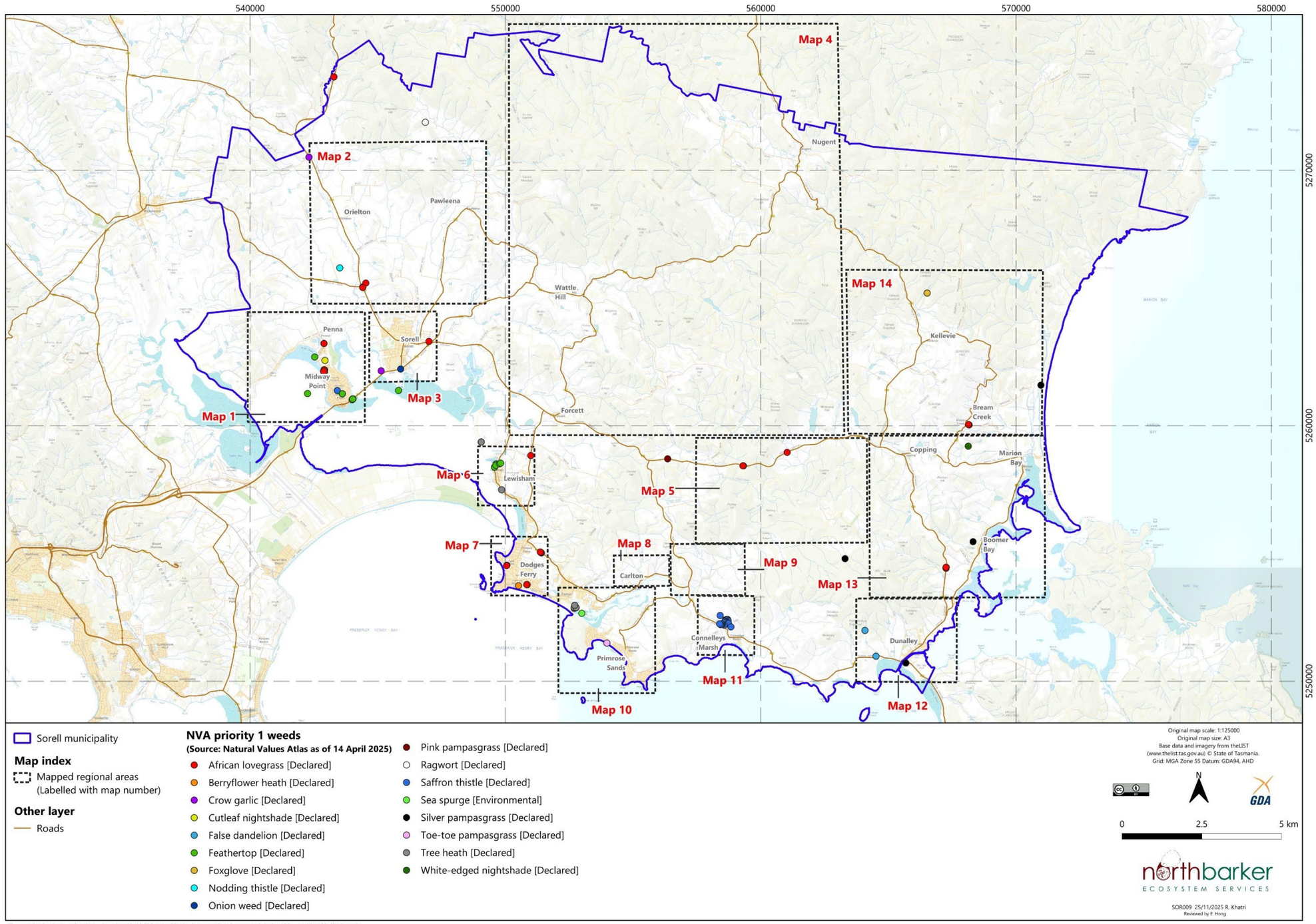


Figure 12: Priority 1 Weeds - Overview Sorell municipality



Figure 13: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 1 Midway Point and Penna

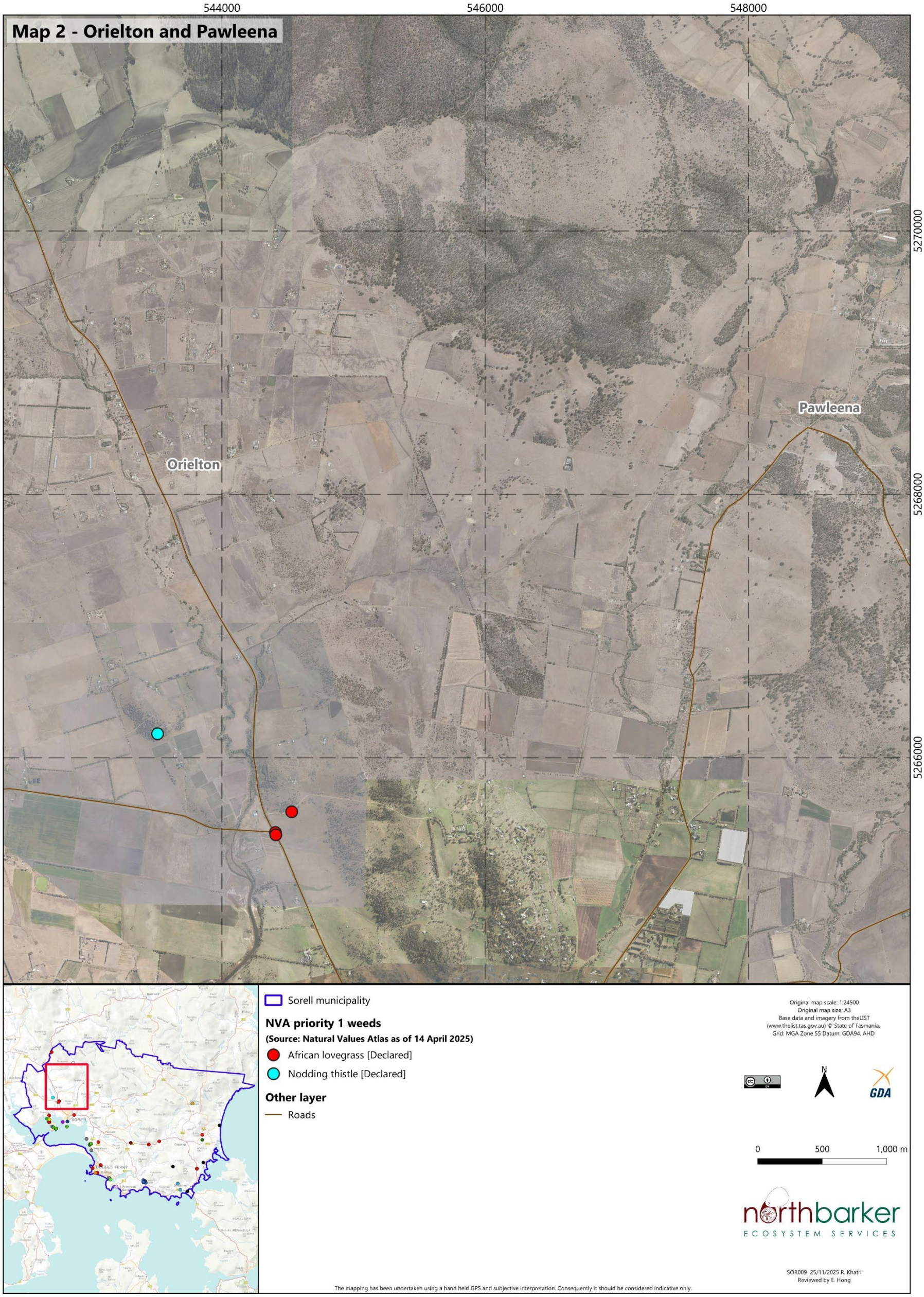


Figure 14: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 2 Orielton and Pawleena

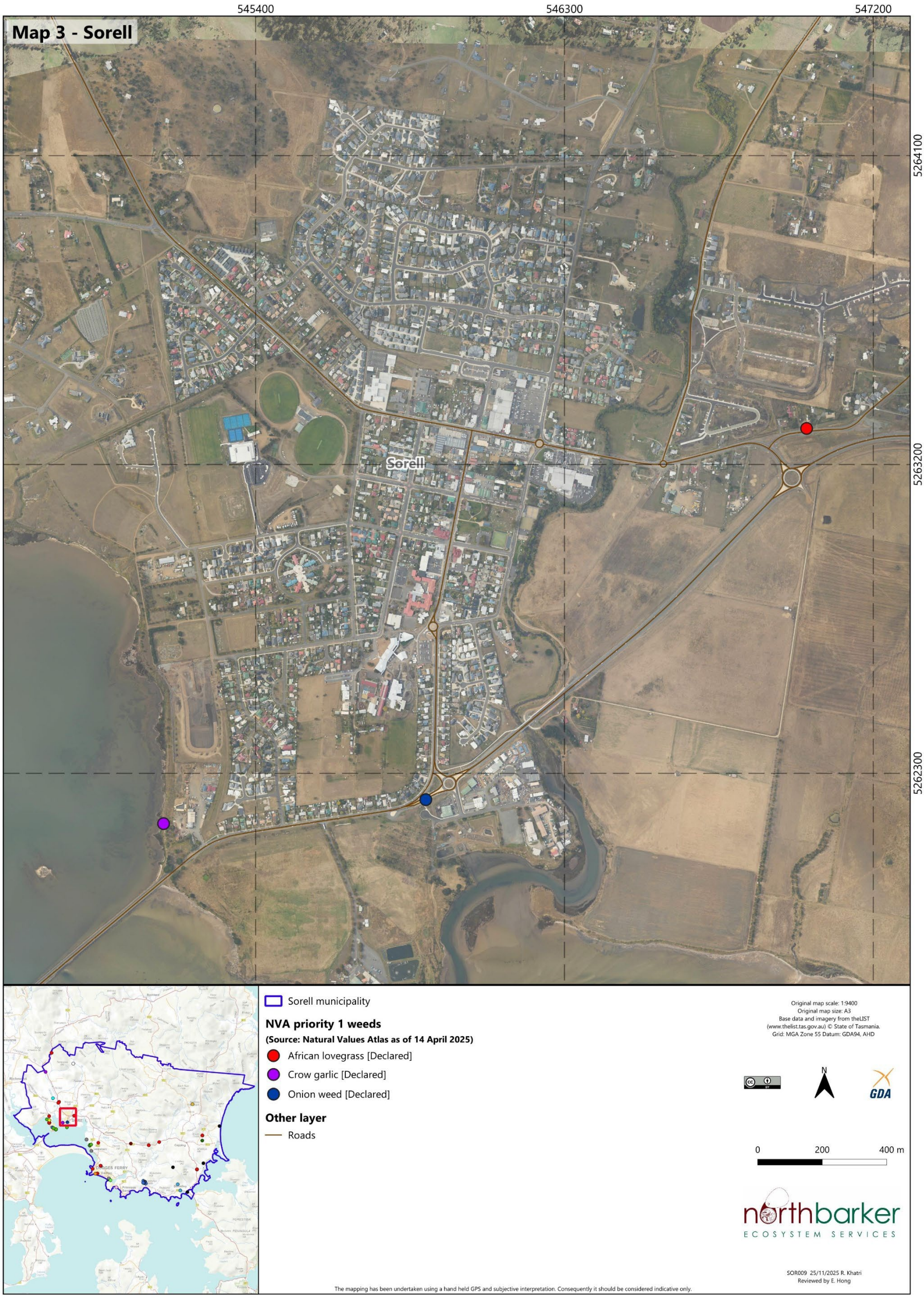


Figure 15: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 3 Sorell

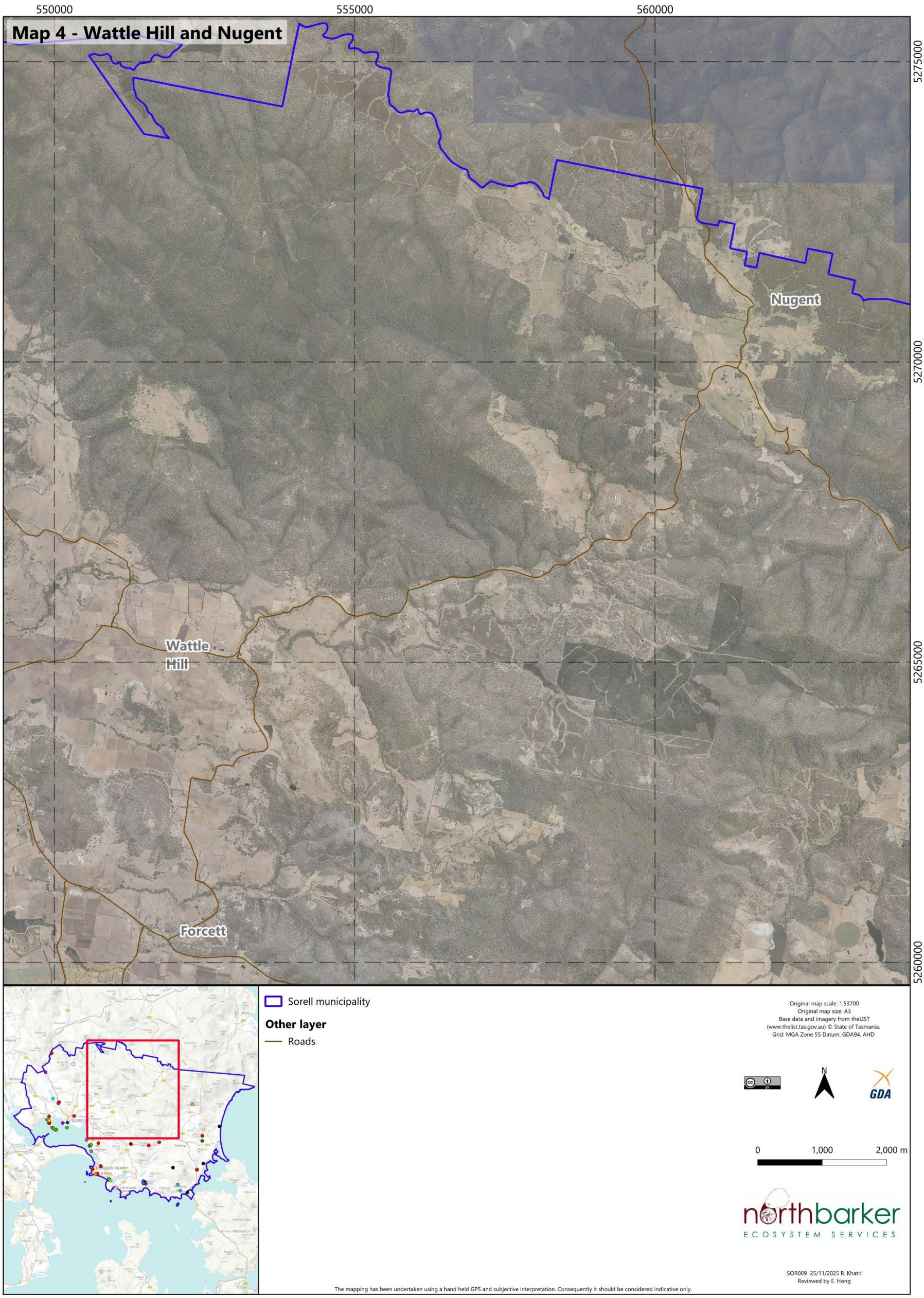


Figure 16: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 4 Wattle Hill and Nugent

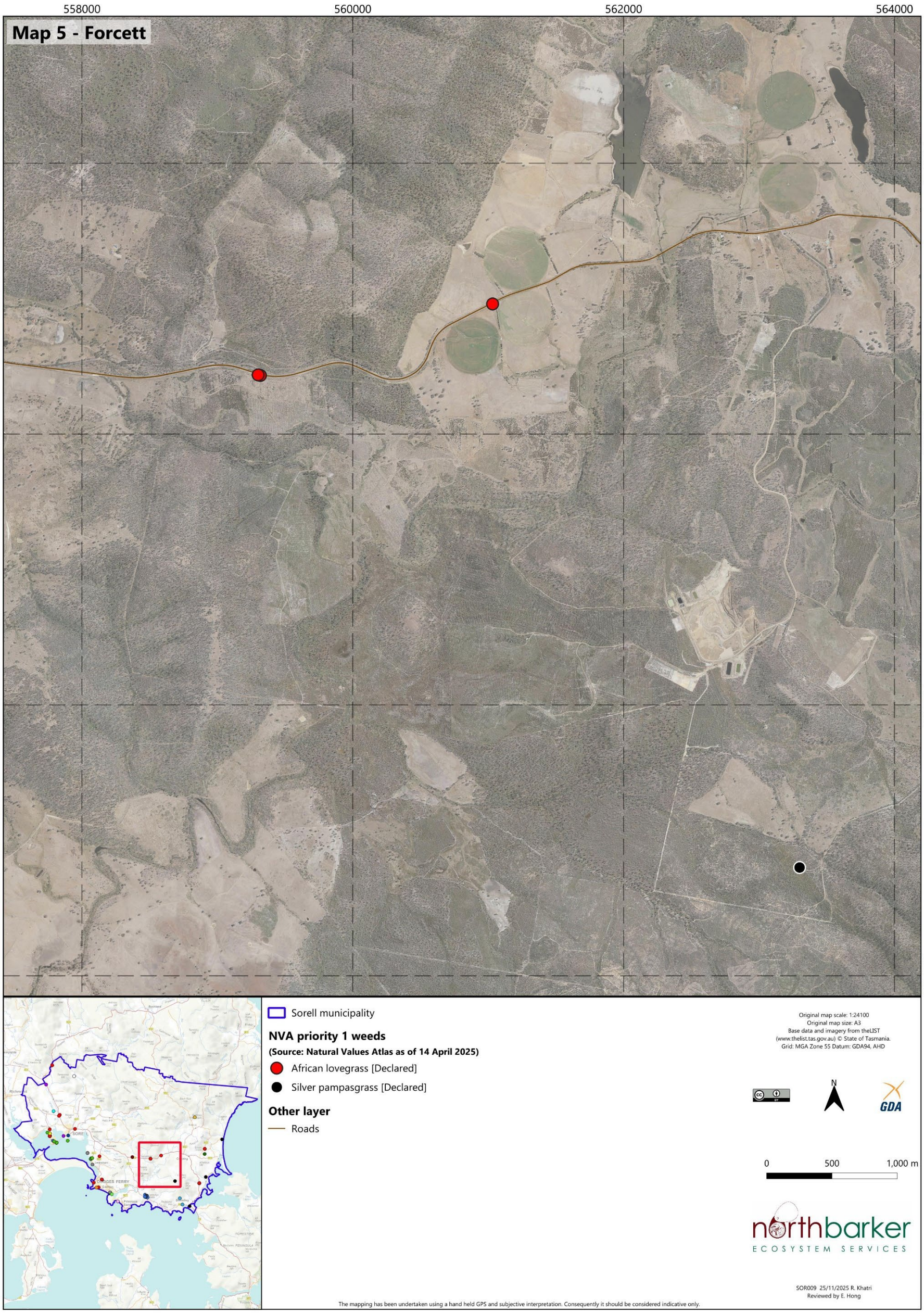


Figure 17: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 5 Forcett



Figure 18: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 6 Lewisham



Figure 19: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 7 Dodges Ferry

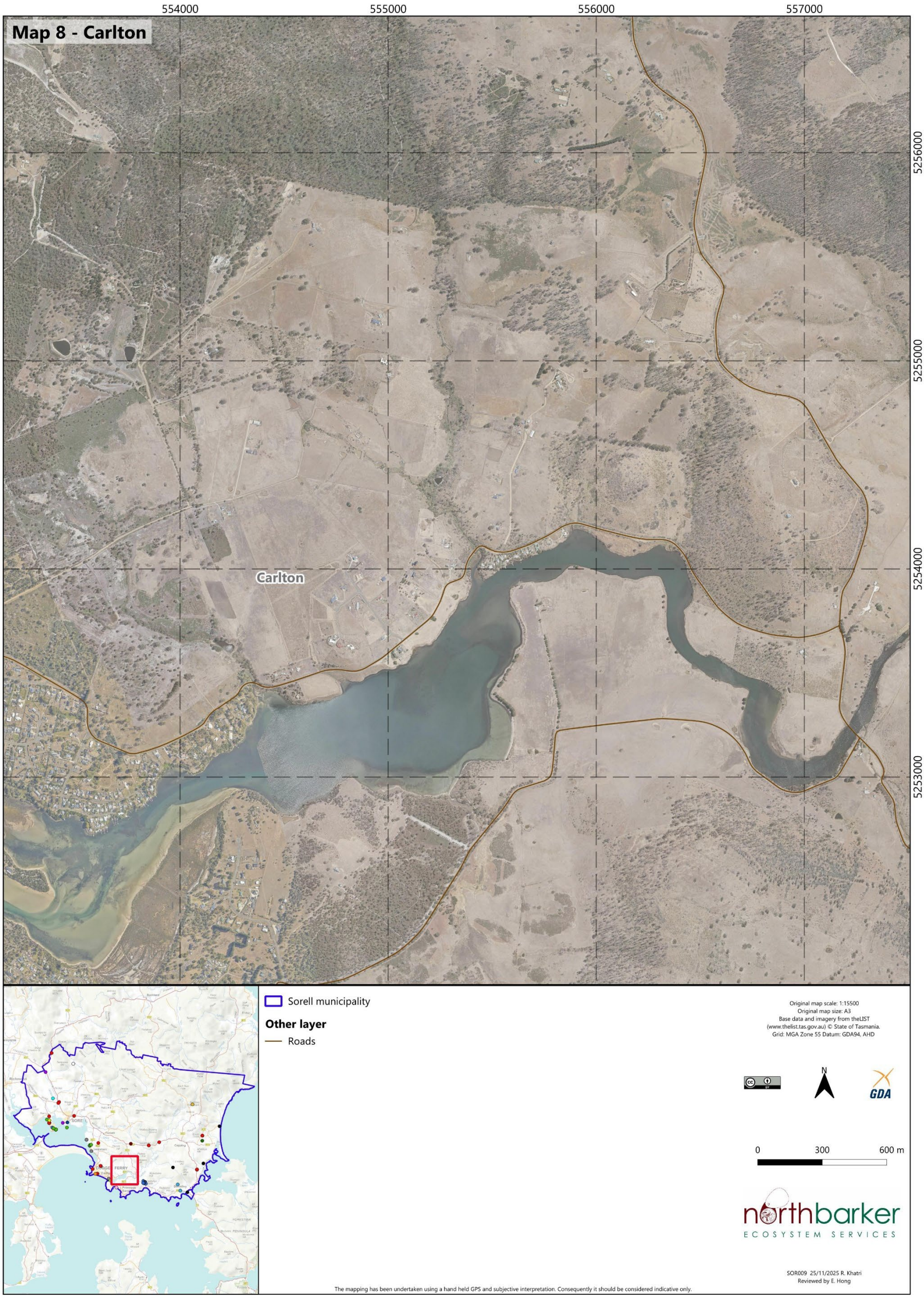


Figure 20: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 8 Carlton



Figure 21: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 9 Carlton River



Figure 22: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 10 Primrose Sands

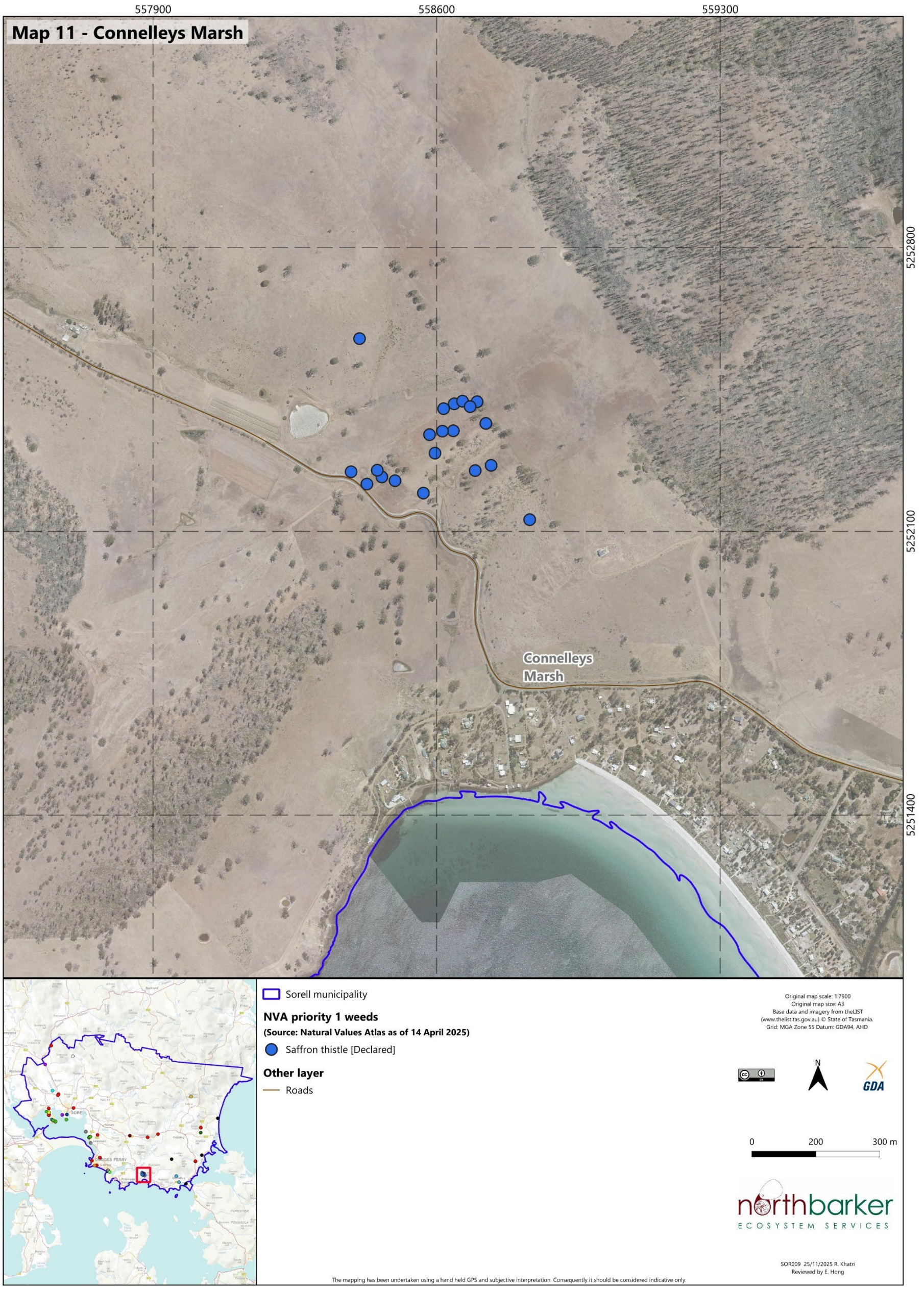


Figure 23: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 11 Connelley's Marsh



Figure 24: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 12 Dunalley

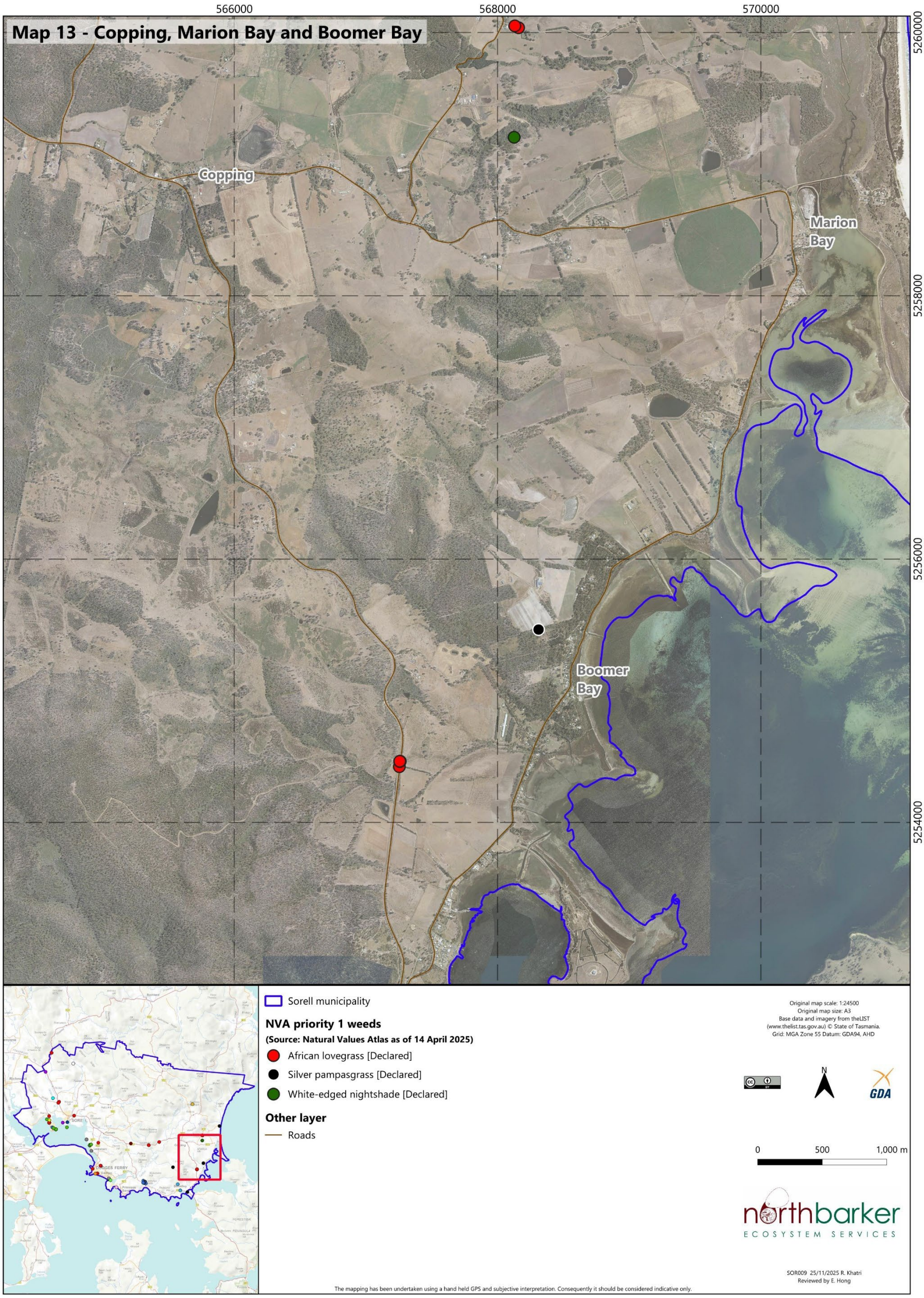


Figure 25: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 13 Copping, Marion Bay and Boomer Bay

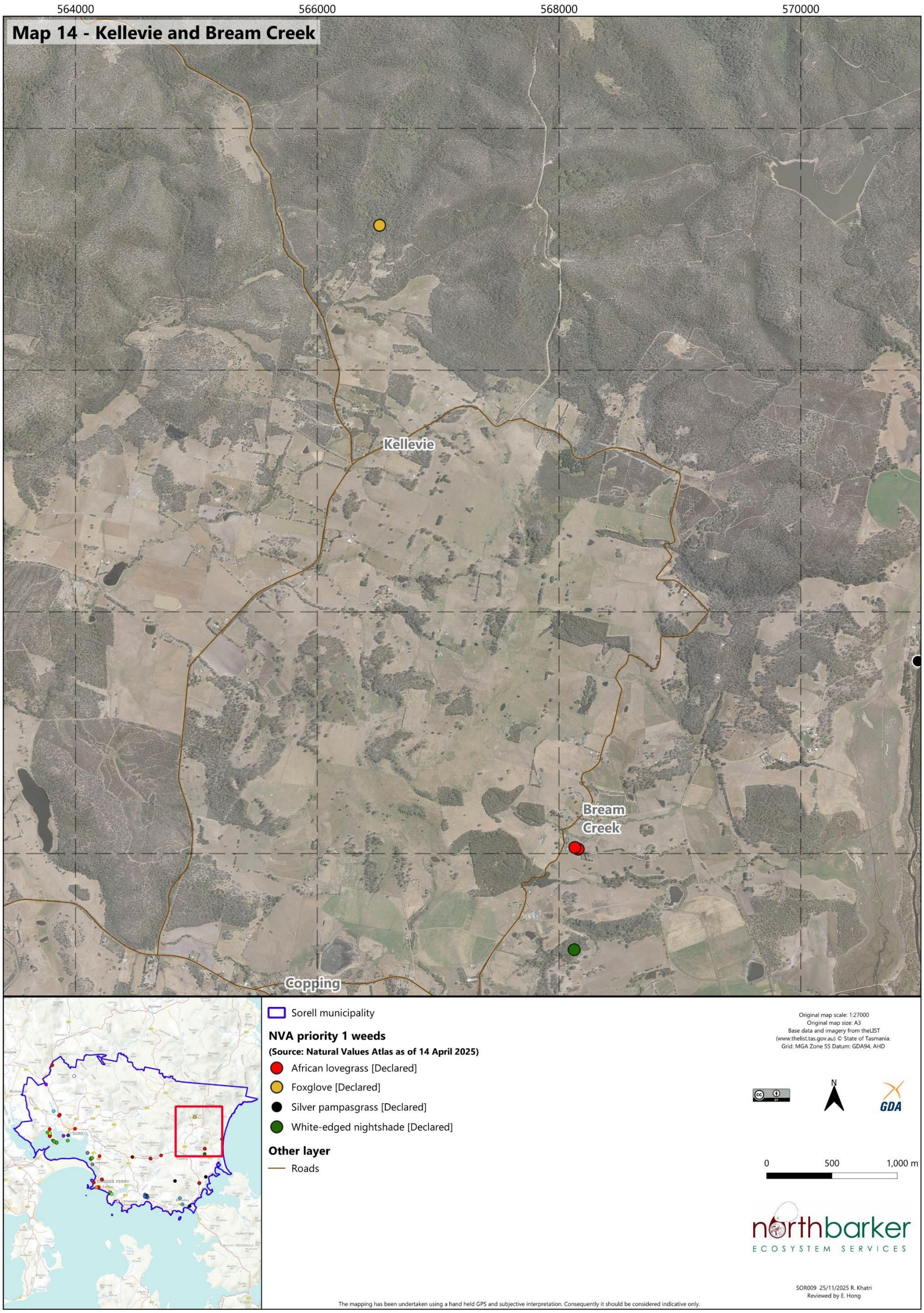


Figure 26: Priority 1 Weeds – Map 14 Kellevie and Bream Creek

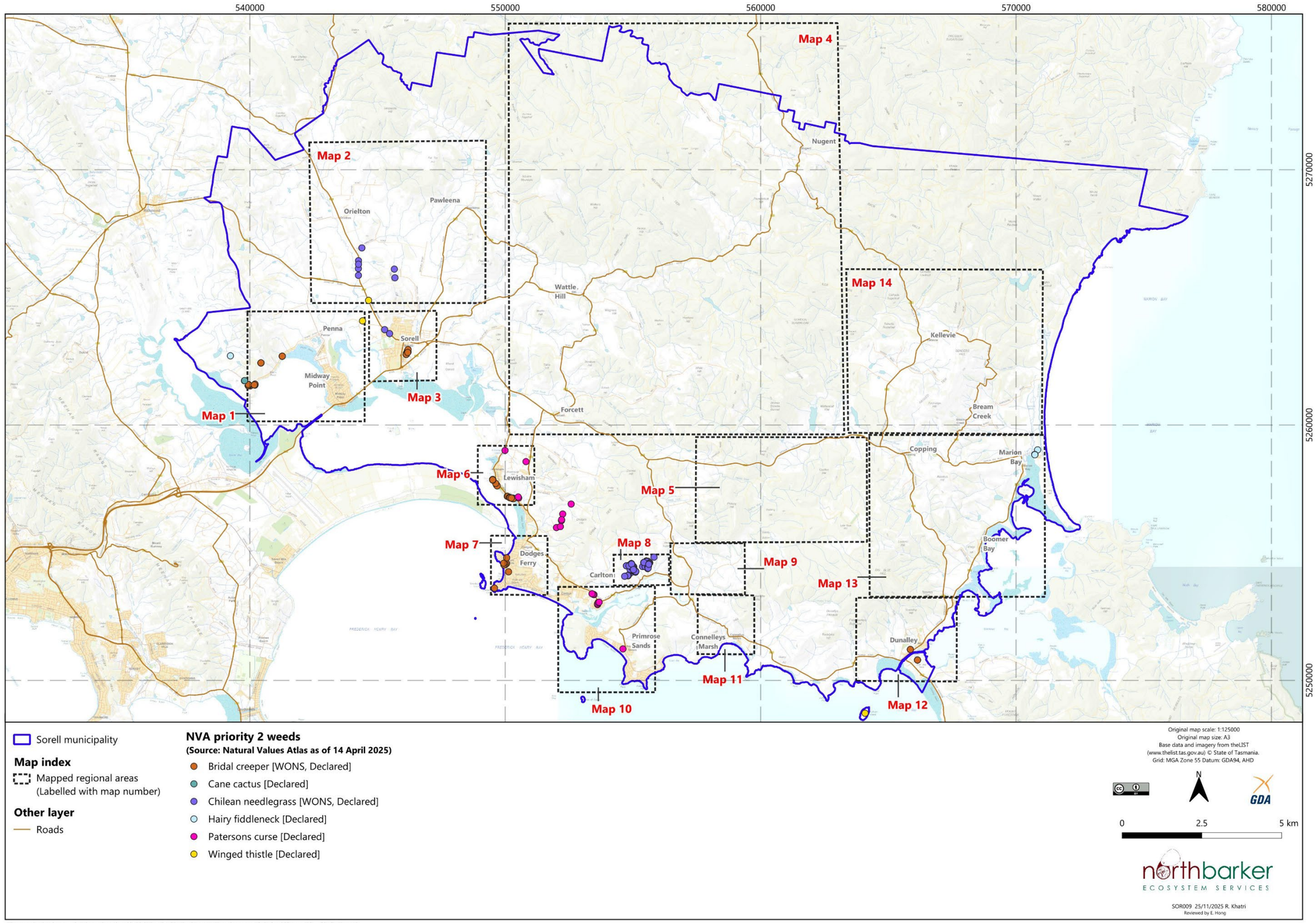


Figure 27: Priority 2 Weeds - Overview Sorell municipality



Figure 28: Priority 2 Weeds - Map 1 Midway Point and Penna

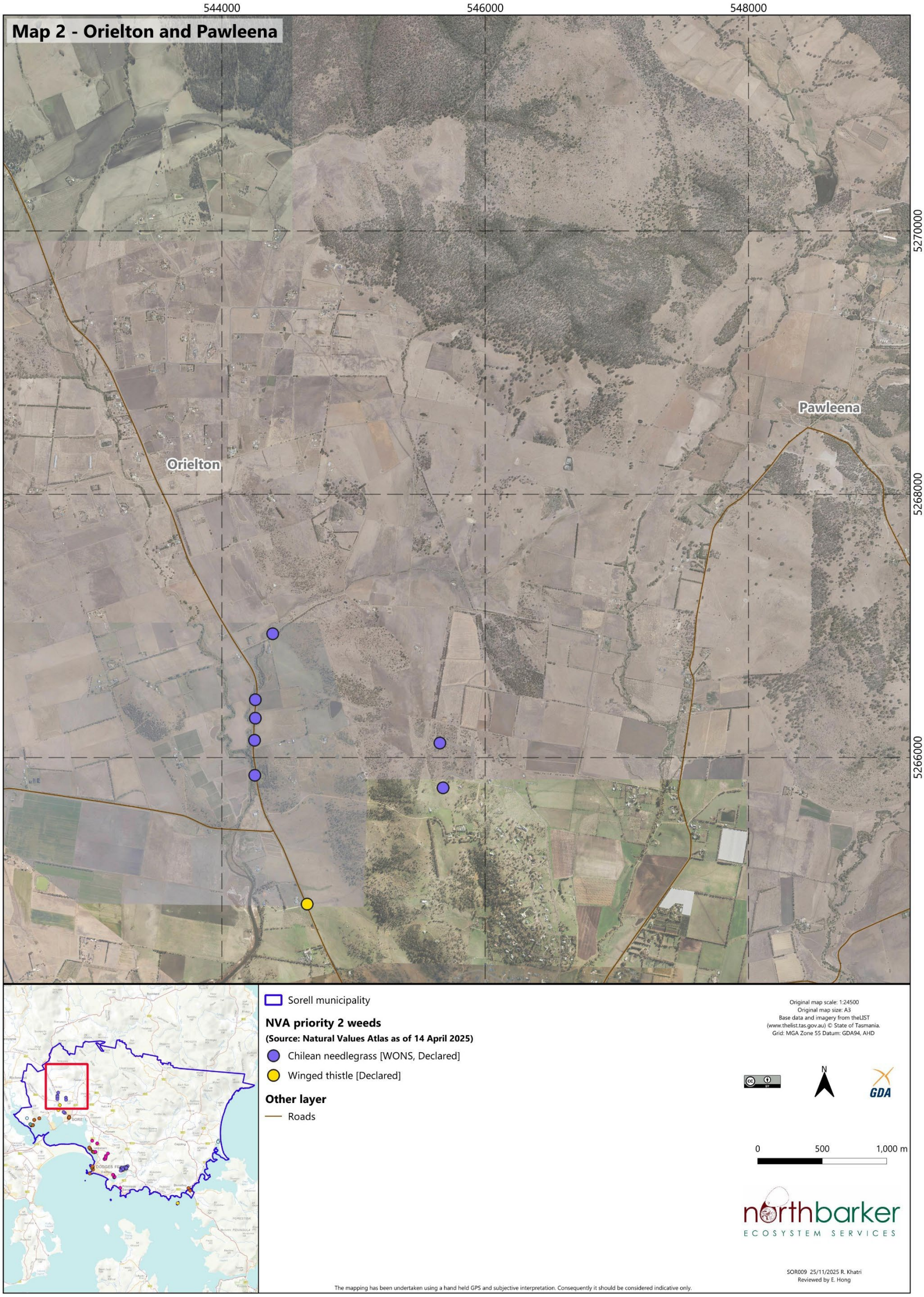


Figure 29: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 2 Orielton and Pawleena



Figure 30: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 3 Sorell

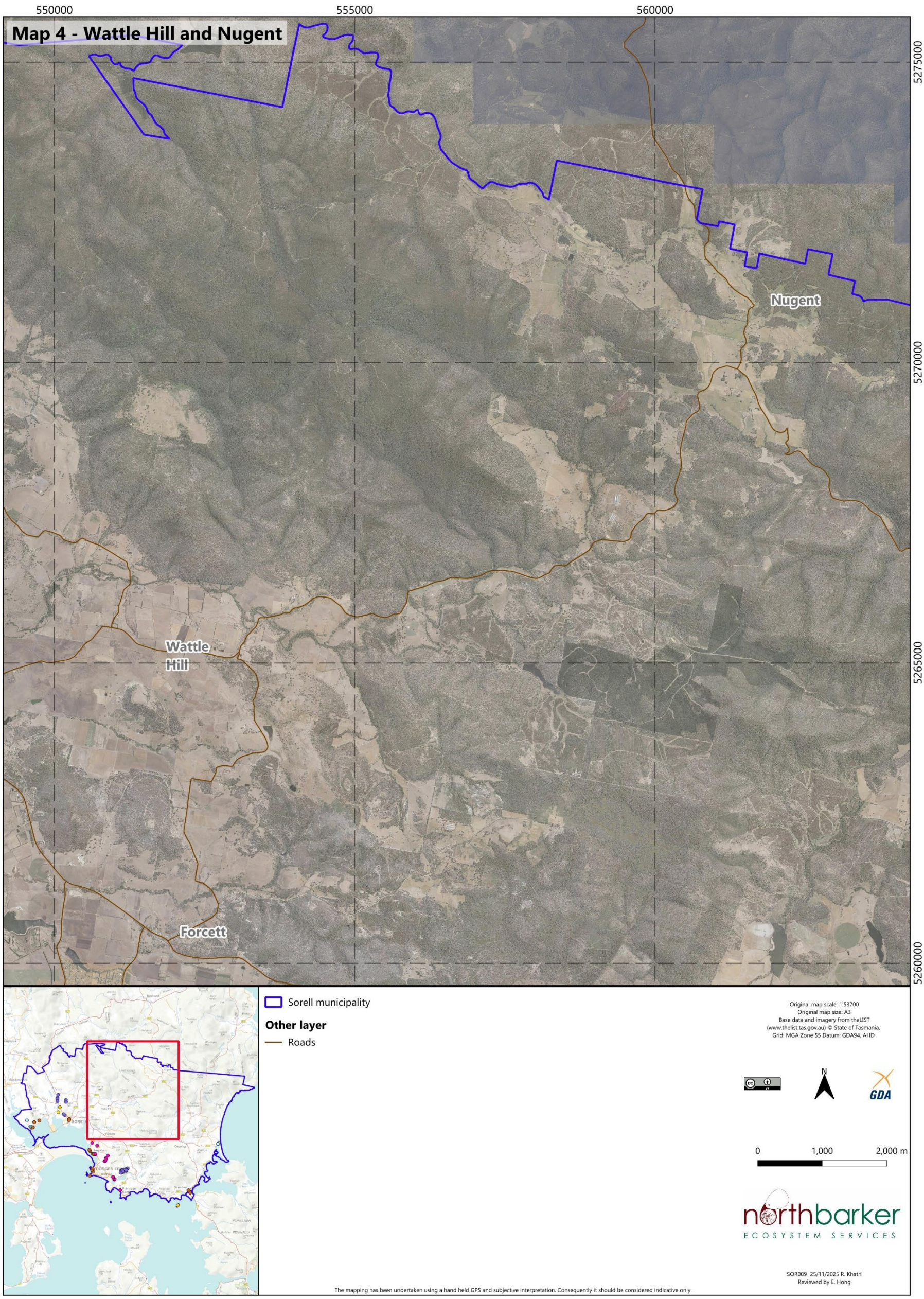


Figure 31: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 4 Wattle Hill and Nugent

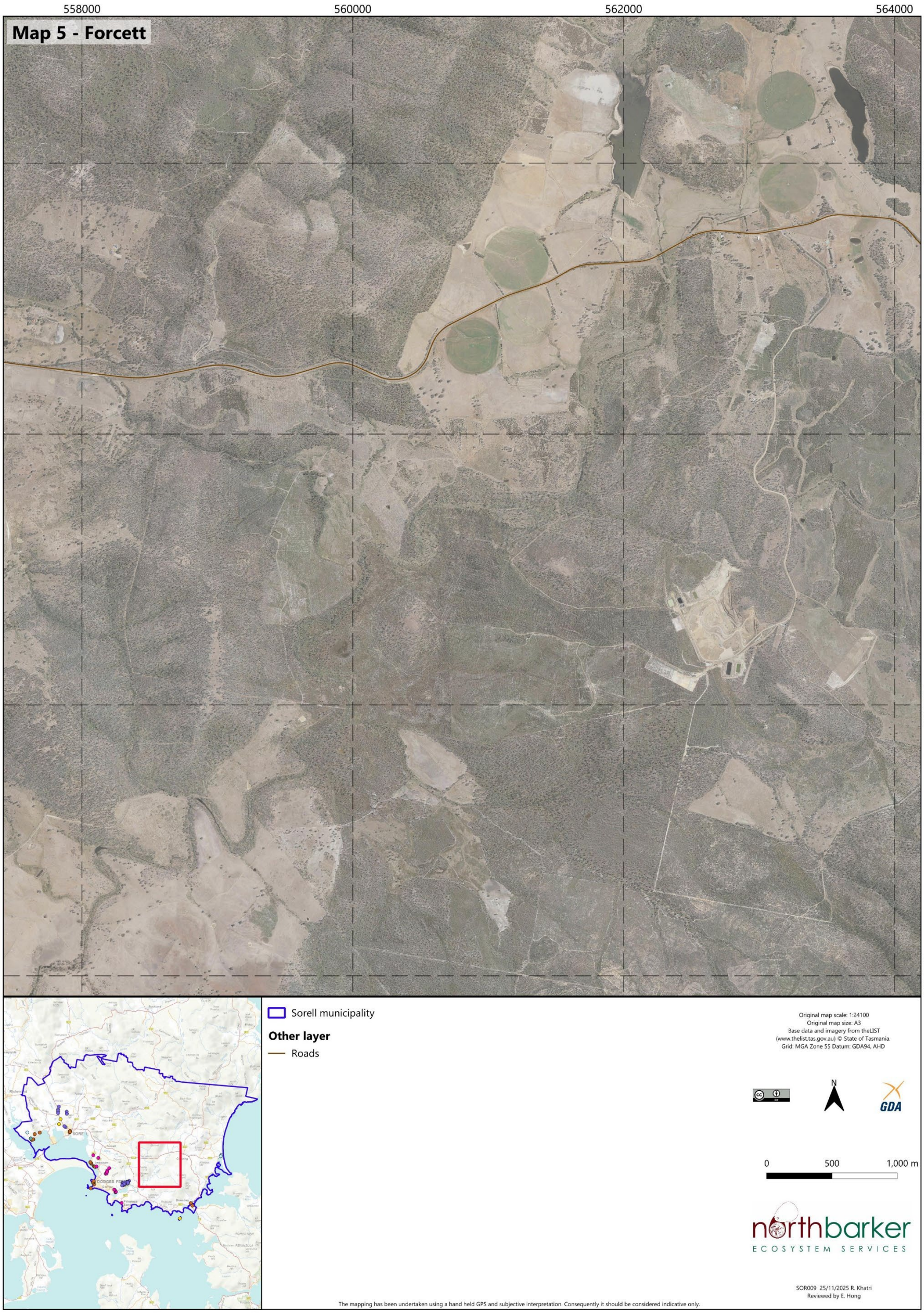


Figure 32: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 5 Forcett

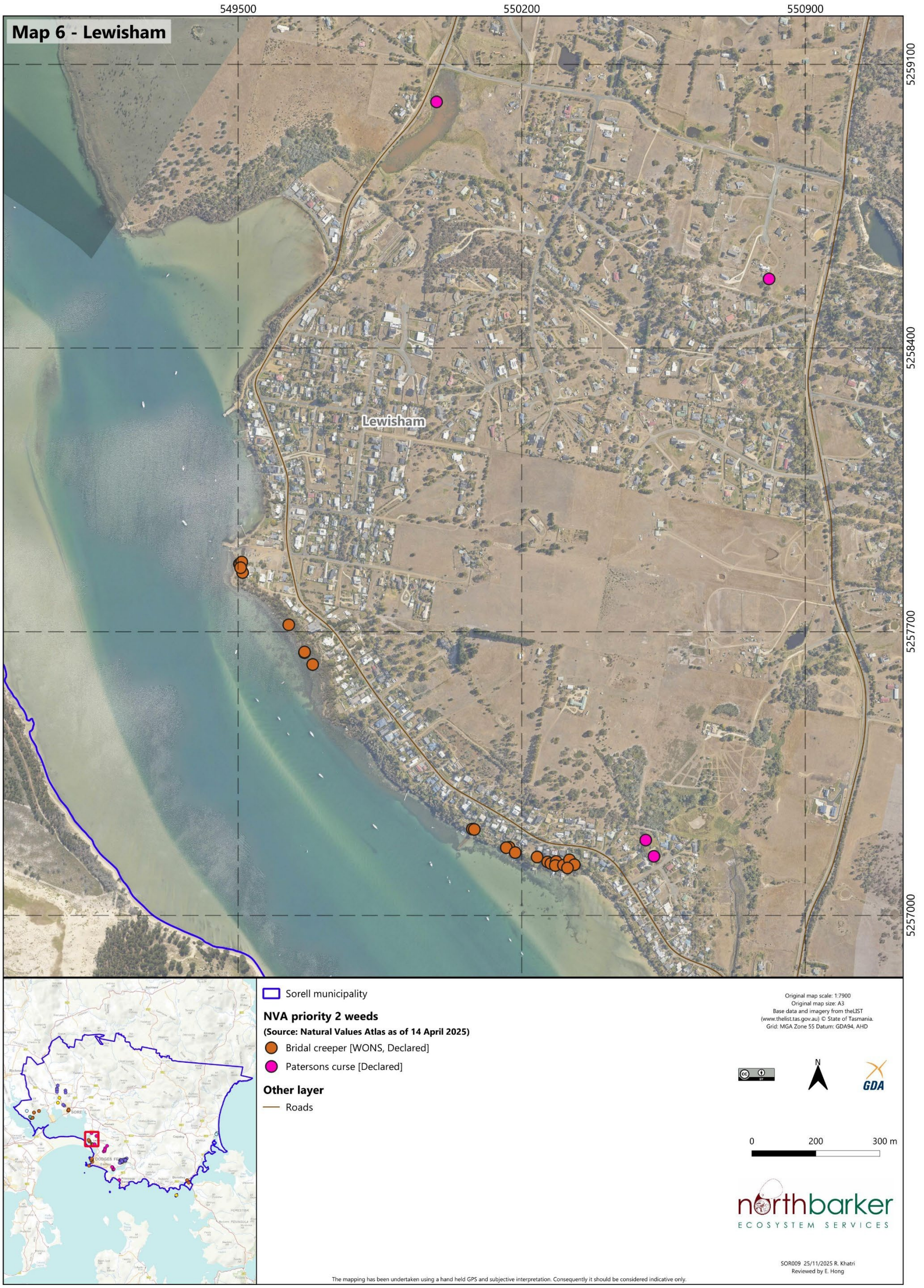


Figure 33: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 6 Lewisham



Figure 34: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 7 Dodges Ferry

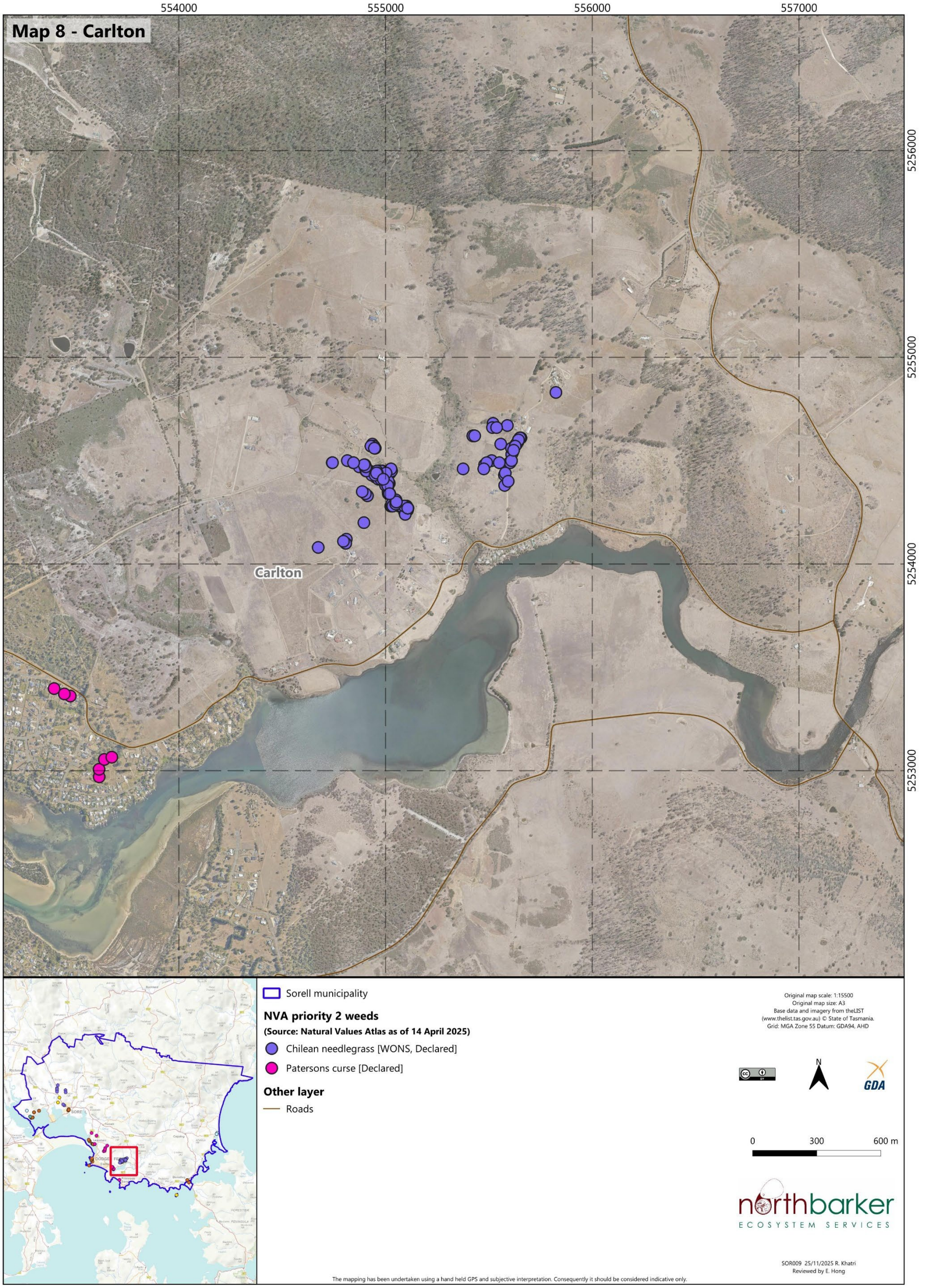


Figure 35: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 8 Carlton



Figure 36: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 9 Carlton River



Figure 37: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 10 Primrose Sands

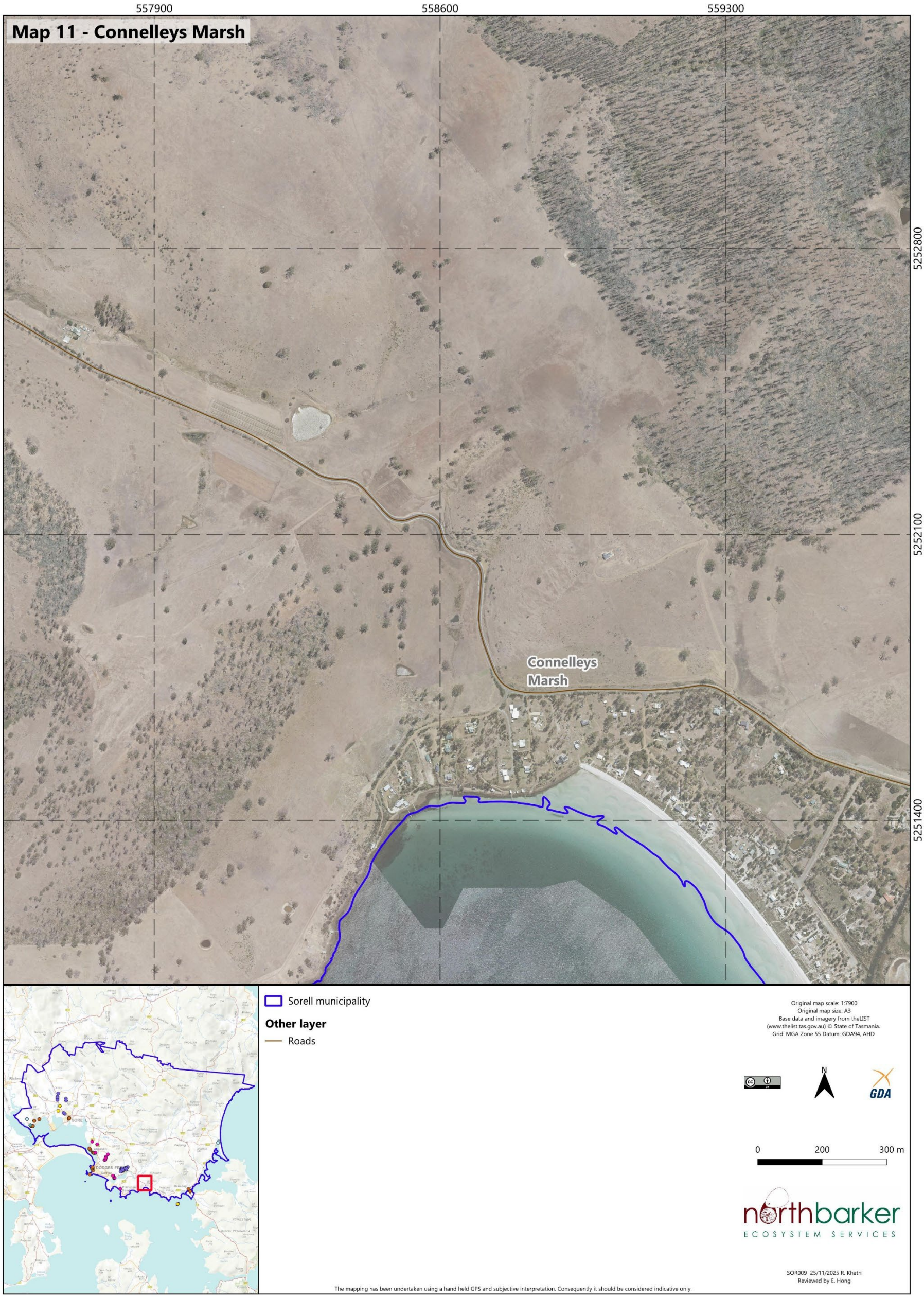


Figure 38: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 11 Connelley's Marsh

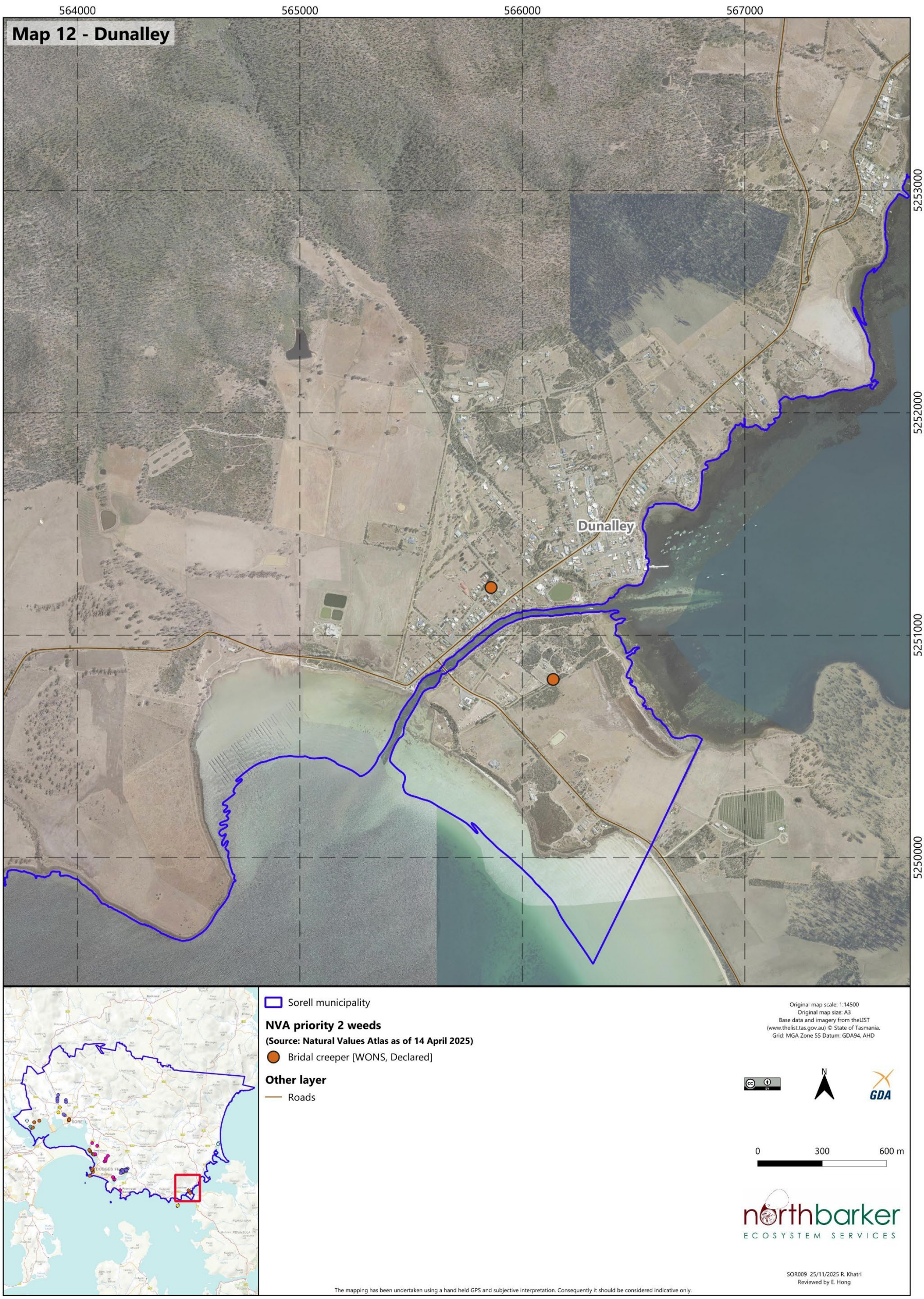


Figure 39: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 12 Dunalley

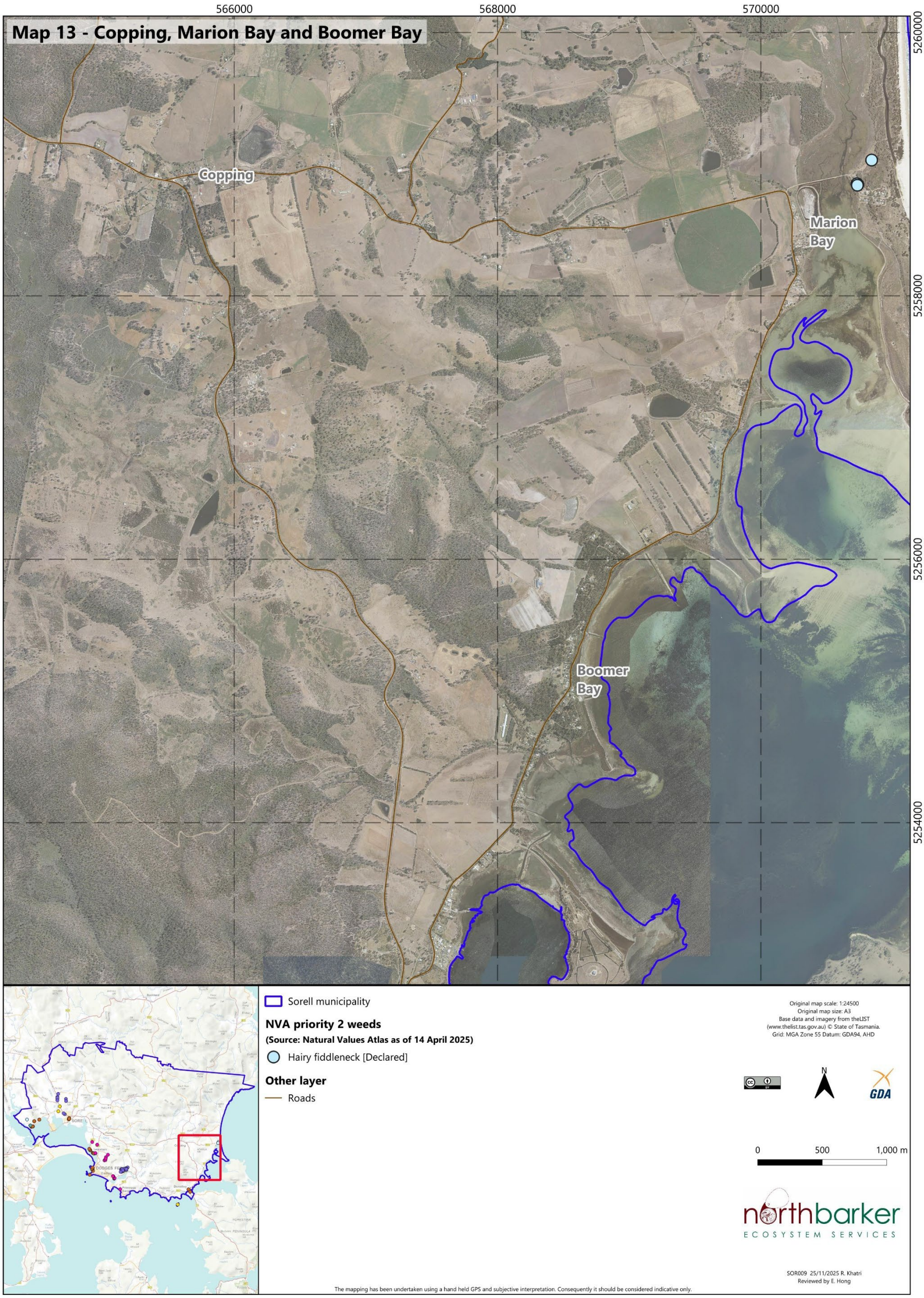


Figure 40: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 13 Copping, Marion Bay and Boomer Bay

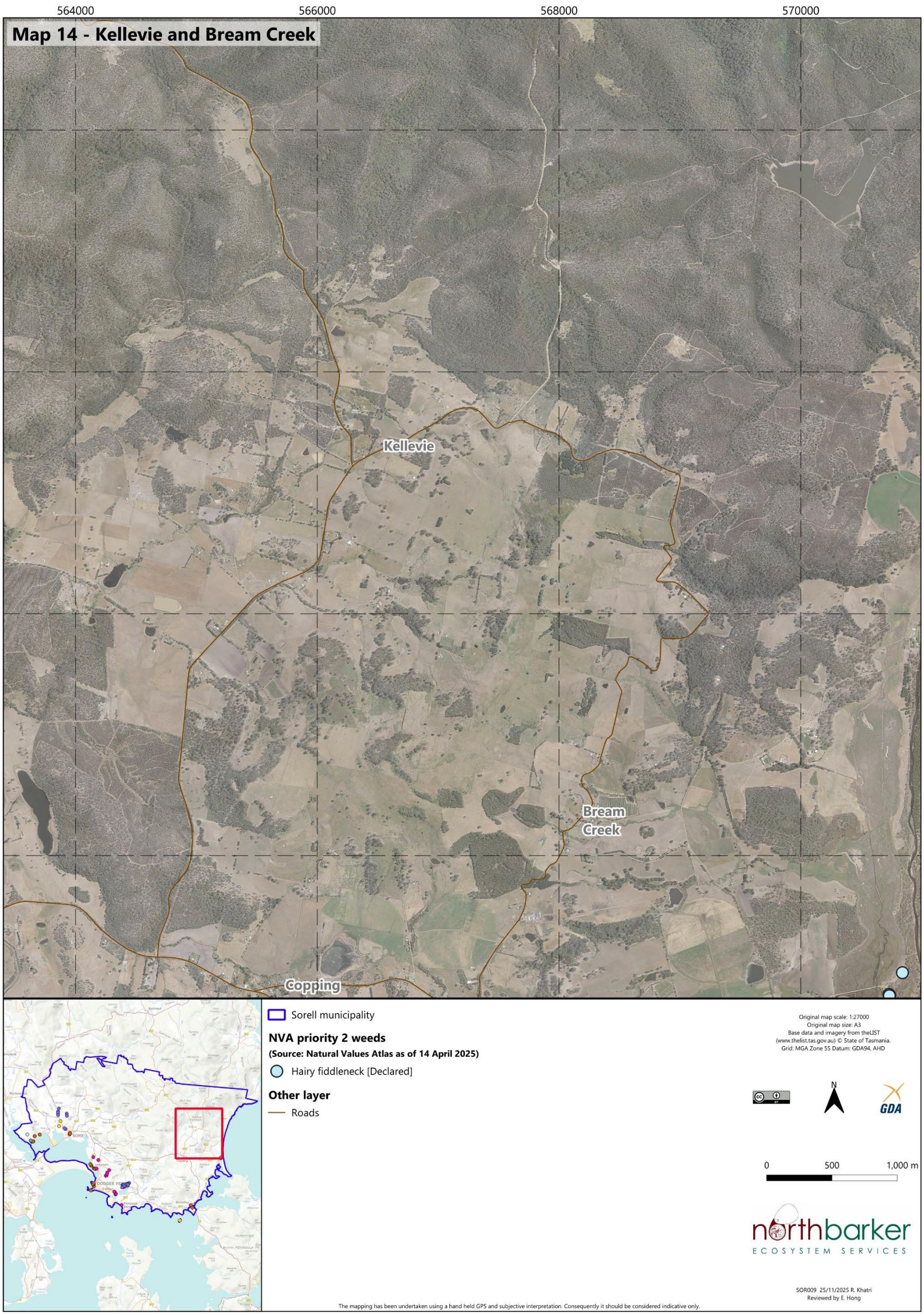


Figure 41: Priority 2 Weeds – Map 14 Kellevie and Bream Creek

APPENDIX E – Sorell Alert List Weeds

Alert List weeds for Sorell municipality

Common Name	Scientific Name
creeping knapweed	*Acroptilon repens*
alligator weed	*Alternanthera philoxeroides*
tumble weed	*Amaranthus albus*
espartillo	*Amelichloa caudata*
stinking mayweed	*Anthemis cotula*
asparagus fern	*Asparagus scandens*
kochia	*Bassia scoparia*
Darwin's barberry	*Berberis darwinii*
African thistle	*Berkheya rigida*
before	*Bifora testiculata*
cabomba	*Cabomba caroliniana*
heather	*Calluna vulgaris*
frosted curls	*Carex albula*
leather leaf sedge	*Carex buchananii*
weeping sedge	*Carex flagillifera*
redbase sedge	*Carex testacea*
spiny burr grass	*Cenchrus incertus*
innocent weed	*Cenchrus longispinus*
African feather grass	*Cenchrus macrourus*
star thistle	*Centaurea calcitrapa*
mallee cockspur	*Centaurea eriophora*
hornwort	*Ceratophyllum demersum*
skeleton weed	*Chondrilla juncea*
karamu	*Coprosma robusta*
common crupina	*Crupina vulgaris*
dodder	*Cuscuta* sp.
artichoke thistle	*Cynara cardunculus*
yellow nut sedge	*Cyperus esculentus*
purple nut grass	*Cyperus rotundus*
white Spanish broom	*Cytisus multiflorus*
datura	*Datura* sp.
false yellow head	*Dittrichia viscosa*
viper's bugloss	*Echium vulgare*
egeria	*Egeria densa*
water hyacinth	*Eichhornia crassipes*
parodi	*Eleocharis parodii*
Canadian pondweed	*Elodea canadensis*
spiny emex	*Emex australis*
horsetail	*Equisetum* sp.
Japanese knotweed	*Fallopia japonica*
bear-skin fescue	*Festuca gautieri*

Common Name	Scientific Name
false cleavers	*Galium spurium*
three-horn bedstraw	*Galium tricornutum*
flax leaf broom	*Genista linifolia*
common heliotrope	*Heliotropium europaeum*
giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
orange hawkweed	*Hieracium aurantiacum* subsp. *carpathicola*
hawkweed	*Hieracium* sp.
hydrilla	*Hydrilla verticillata*
St John's wort	*Hypericum perforatum* subsp. *veronense*
square-stemmed St John's wort	*Hypericum tetrapterum*
holly	*Ilex aquifolium*
oxygen weed	*Lagarosiphon major*
lantana	*Lantana camara*
Elisha's tears	*Leycesteria formosa*
cape tulip	*Moraea* sp.
parrot's feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*
Uruguay needlegrass	*Nassella charruana*
cane needlegrass	*Nassella hyalina*
Texas needlegrass	*Nassella leucotricha*
Mexican feather grass	*Nassella tenuissima*
meadow parsley	*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*
cotton thistle	*Onopordum acanthium*
stemless thistle	*Onopordum acaulon*
prickly pear	*Opuntia stricta*
lesser broomrape	*Orobanche minor*
broomrape	*Orobanche* sp.
creeping yellow cress	*Rorippa sylvestris*
arrowhead	*Sagittaria montevidensis*
sagittaria	*Sagittaria platyphylla*
seeding willow	*Salix cinerea*
pampas lily of the valley	*Salpichroa organifolia*
salvinia	*Salvinia molesta*
holly-leaved senecio	*Senecio glastifolius*
silver-leaf nightshade	*Solanum elaeagnifolium*
apple of Sodom	*Solanum sodomaeum*
rice grass	*Spartina anglica*
witchweed	*Striga* sp.
caltrop	*Tribulus terrestris*
karoo thorn	*Vachellia karroo*
burrs	*Xanthium* sp.[32]
wild rice	*Zizania* sp.

[32] Previous known records of Bathurst burr (*Xanthium spinosum*) adjacent to Sorell Rivulet ("Kidbrook" Sorell). No current records in municipality (pers. com. Sandy Leighton 1 October 2025)

APPENDIX F – Additional Non-declared Weeds from Sorell Reserve Management Plans

1. Dodges Ferry Reserve

lion's tail *Leonotis leonurus*
yellow pigface *Carpobrotus edulis* subsp. *edulis*
snail vine *Vigna caracalla*

2. Parnella Reserve

panic velt grass *Ehrharta erecta*
cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*
lesser quaking grass *Briza minor*

3. Payeena Reserve

hair grass *Aira* sp.
panic velt grass *Ehrharta erecta*
greater quaking-grass *Briza maxima*
brome *Bromus* sp.
cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*
panic veldtgrass *Ehrharta erecta*
harestail grass *Lagurus ovatus*
ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*
common centaury *Centaurium erythraea*
clover *Trifolium* sp.
common vetch *Vicia sativa* subsp. *sativa*
golden everlasting *Xerochrysum bracteatum*
rough catsear *Hypochaeris radicata*
spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
tufted gazania *Gazania linearis*
yellow pigface *Carpobrotus edulis* subsp. *edulis*

4. Samual Thorne Reserve

garden geranium *Pelargonium* X *domesticum*
panic velt grass Ehrharta erecta
cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*
greater quaking-grass *Briza maxima*

5. White gums Reserve

rough catsear *Hypochaeris radicata*
garden geranium *Pelargonium* X *domesticum*
rough catsear *Hypochaeris radicata*
hair grass *Aira* sp.
cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*
panic veldtgrass *Ehrharta erecta*
lesser quaking-grass *Briza minor*
great brome *Bromus diandrus*
kikuyu grass *Cenchrus clandestinus*

APPENDIX G – Sorell Roadside Standard Operating Procedures

6/23/2026

Weed Management Strategy

Weed Hygiene & Management for Council and contractors

Sandy Leighton, North Barker Ecosystem Services for SORELL COUNCIL

Safe Operating Protocol

Weed Hygiene & Management For Sorell Council And Their Contractors

Applies to: All contractors engaged by Sorell Council for Capital works, roadside mowing/slashing and herbicide spraying within the municipality.

Objective: Prevent the introduction and spread of declared and environmental weeds via roadside maintenance activities, while meeting Council service levels and legislative duties.

Reason: Council is responsible for vegetation management within the road reserves and properties it owns/manages. Management methods for the control of vegetation include slashing, burning and the use of chemical herbicides.

The following Safe Operating Protocol is to be used by all Council staff and contractors whilst operating within municipal road reserves, Reserves and other Sorell Council property.

1. Legal and Policy Framework

Tasmanian *Biosecurity Act 2019* (General Biosecurity Duty – GBD).

Biosecurity *Regulations 2022* and relevant Statutory Weed Management Plans.

Sorell Council Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy (2016).

Sorell Council Mowing/Slashing of Grassed Areas under Council Management Policy (2016).

Sorell Council No Spray Policy (2016).

Applicable herbicide labels and APVMA permits (e.g. PER84775) and relevant Codes of Practice.

Contractual condition: Compliance with this SOP, referenced policies/permits, pesticide labels, and WHS legislation is mandatory.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Depot Operating Manager (Council):

Provides pre-start induction covering weed hygiene, site risks and this SOP.

Issues weekly/shift work orders and the map of high-risk road sections (declared weeds).

The NRM officer is to be notified of any works to be undertaken in identified sections of road containing priority natural values. Maintenance works in these areas must be undertaken by specific council staff with appropriate identification skills.

Approves Hygiene Management Plan (HMP) per contractor and reviews logbooks, clean down checklists and clean down ledgers.

Conducts pre-works inspection and post-works sign-off for specified road sections.

2.2 Contractor Company (Principal Contractor):

Nominates a Site Supervisor responsible for implementing this SOP.

Ensures all operators hold required competencies (e.g. ChemCert AQF2 where applicable) and wear appropriate PPE.

Guarantees that all plant (including vehicles and machinery) and equipment are cleaned down and audited prior to coming on site within the municipality, and

that all personnel, including their clothing and footwear, are clean and free from weed propagules (e.g. seeds) and/or dirt.
Maintains clean, fit-for-purpose plant (including all vehicles, machinery and attachments) and implements; ensures clean-down and documentation when leaving one site and prior to entering another.

Vehicle inspection/ clean down checklist forms and ledgers submitted to Council prior to invoice payment.

2.3 Operators/Crews:

Follow the sequence of works, hygiene zones, and clean-down triggers.

Record activities (spray/mow logs, clean-down logs, material movement logs) daily.

Immediately stop work and report any non-conformance (e.g. visible seeds on plant and/ or equipment).

3. Planning and Hygiene Management

3.1 Hygiene Management Plan (HMP)

Contractor level

Each contractor must maintain an HMP that includes:

Weed risk register for Sorell road segments assigned (declared species present; seed set timing).

Hygiene zones (Clean → Buffer → Infested) and traffic flow between zones.

Location of approved clean-down areas/wash bays and effluent capture; method to manage discharge.

Clean-down standards and checklists for vehicles, mowers, slashers, booms, other machinery, PPE and hand tools.

Material hygiene controls (source and disposal of soil, gravel, vegetative waste and seedheads).

Logbooks/templates for: pre-start, equipment inspection, clean-down, spray/mow records, material movements.

Training/competency register and toolbox talk schedule (seasonal weed risks and procedures).

3.2 Work sequencing and timing

Schedule **from clean to dirty** roads/sections; avoid backtracking from infested to clean zones.
Schedule at least one spot spraying at least 2 weeks prior to mowing/slashing in known weed infested roadsides.

Program at least one mowing/slashing, at the latest when flowering and well prior to seed set of target weeds.

Avoid operations in wet conditions that elevate mud/seed transfer or when high winds risk chemical spray drift.

3.3 Mapping of high-risk sections

Council will issue georeferenced PDFs and/or GIS weed maps and lists of road verges where declared weeds are present.

Contractors must:

Review maps at induction and carry copies in vehicles.

Mark on the daily sheet all segments where enhanced hygiene applies.

Identify new weed infestation sites and report.

4. Induction and Pre-Start Requirements

Before commencing works on any shift:

- Attend Council induction (on first mobilisation and refreshers as advised) and daily toolbox talk.
- Review the day's run order, hygiene zones, known weed locations and clean-down points.
- Complete the **Pre-Start Equipment Inspection** (check for soil/seed on undercarriage, decks, radiators, guards, cabs; check spray gear filters, nozzles, hoses; check PPE).
- Ensure spill kits, seed waste bags, stiff brushes, scrapers/crowbars, portable blower/compressed air, and wash-down kit are on the vehicle.

5. Operational Controls – Mowing/Slashing

Cut height & method: Avoid scalping; raise decks when passing through obvious seedheads; do not mulch visible seedheads where feasible – cut, rake and bag where practicable.

Sequence: Complete "Clean" segments first, then "Buffer", then "Infested" segments.

Vehicle hygiene on route: Stay on formed surfaces; avoid unnecessary verge entries in clean zones; avoid driving through slash piles containing seedheads.

Stop-work triggers: If seed contamination is visible inside cab, on decks/undercarriage/tyres, or if entering a clean zone after an infested pass – perform **intermediate clean-down** before proceeding.

6. Operational Controls – Herbicide Spraying

Spot spray to apply herbicides **only** to identified target weeds; blanket spraying is discouraged and causes off-target damage including bared areas that are susceptible to subsequent weed invasion.

Follow label directions and any APVMA permits; ensure products near waterways are registered for aquatic use.

Manage drift: adhere to label weather/wind limits; use coarse droplet nozzles and drift-reducing practices; maintain buffer distances to sensitive areas. If windy then use a spray cone (Figure 1).

Record: product, rate, adjuvants, weather, target species, location, start/finish times, and operator.

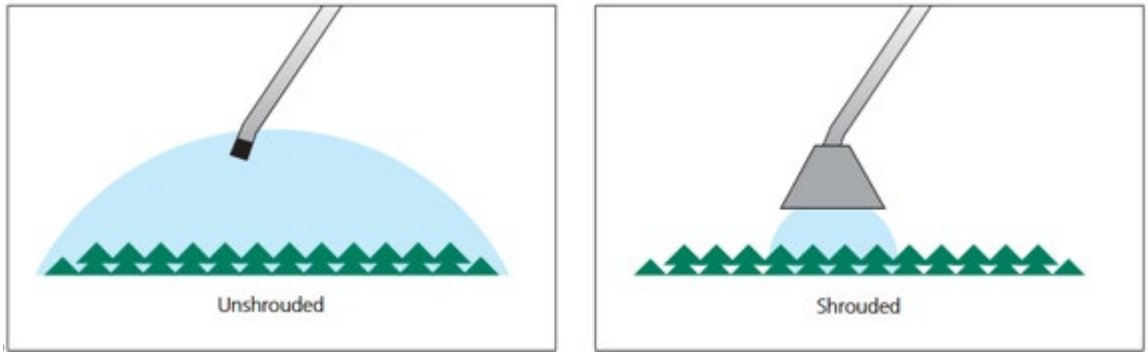


Figure 1: cone over spray nozzle to reduce herbicide drift

7. Clean-Down Protocols

7.1 Triggers for Clean-Down

- Before entering Sorell municipality from external worksites or after working on a known infested road section.
- When moving from Infested Buffer or Clean zones.

- When visible soil/plant material is present on plant, tools or PPE.
- At shift end (minimum: blow-down and brush; full washdown if contamination was encountered).

7.2 Standard Clean-Down Steps (vehicles/plant)

- Park at an **approved clean-down area** (hardstand or temporary mat with effluent containment).
- **Dry removal first:** scrape/brush off clods; remove guards/plates as needed; vacuum/blow out radiators, grills, wheel arches, decks, cabs and footwells.
- **Pressure wash** with clean water from a treated or rainwater source; work underside → wheels/arches → sides → attachments → upper body.
- Inspect and repeat until no loose soil or plant material is evident.
- Manage effluent: do **not** drive through wash effluent; ensure sump/drain capture and dispose per Council direction.
- Log clean-down in the **Hygiene Logbook** (who, what, where, why, photos).

NOTE: If working in a Chilean needle grass (CNG) area do not use water to clean down. Applying water to CNG seed will cause awned seed to lodge deeper into crevasses resulting in it being transported to another site.

7.3 Hand tools & PPE

- Brush/blow soil and seed from tools; wash if contaminated; store clean tools in sealed containers.
- Knock/brush soil from boots; bag and remove seedheads from clothing; launder contaminated clothing.

7.4 Follow species-specific clean-down requirements

General Advice

Learn how to identify the weeds in your contracted area.

Avoid mowing any seeding weeds (woody weeds, annual/perennial weeds) as this will result in transporting them to other work areas across the municipality.

Avoid mowing through mature seedheads; if cut, immediately bag/rake heavy seed material; perform full clean-down before entering clean zones.

If collecting seeding/fruiting material, double bag and DISPOSE IN GENERAL WASTE ONLY.

African boxthorn

- Avoid mowing at all times.
- Large thorns will puncture tractor tyres/innertubes and remain lodged in rubber after repaired.

Amsinckia/ Paterson's curse

- Avoid mowing when flowering/seeding (spring-summer).

Blackberry

- Avoid mowing when fruiting (February to April).
- DO NOT SPRAY blackberry when fruiting, collect heavy fruiting material where practicable.

Creeping weeds with underground runners (Californian thistle/St John's wort/ white weed)

- Avoid close mowing as this may result in underground runners (rhizomes) collecting on slasher deck and further spreading the weeds.

Invasive grasses (African lovegrass, Chilean needlegrass, feathertop, serrated tussock)

- Avoid operating in mature seedheads; if unavoidable, slow speed and raise deck to minimise seed shredding. Bag visible seed material.
- After clean-down carefully inspect for any remaining seed. Remove and bag as required.
- African lovegrass can flower at any time of the year including winter and produces apical seed only.
- Chilean needle grass flowers from November to January annually and produces apical seeds. It also produces stem and basal seeds (cleistogenes).
- Do not mow feathertop
- Serrated tussock flowers from November to February annually and produces apical seed only.

Chilean needle grass

Prioritise air-blow of radiators, grills, decks, undercarriage and cab interiors before removal of all soil and other material. and inspection.

Spanish heath

- Avoid mowing when flowering (winter to early spring) as plants contain large amounts of minute seed that is readily spread along roadsides.

8. Material and Waste Management

Seed/biomass: Double-bag seedheads or high-risk vegetative material and dispose at an approved facility in GENERAL WASTE. Keep bags sealed during transport.

Soils/gravels/water: Do not import materials from infested sources. Keep stockpiles in designated, signed areas; protect from run-on/run-off.

Wash effluent: Use only approved wash bays/temporary sumps. Never discharge into drains, watercourses or soil.

9. Inspections, Assurance and Non-Conformance

9.1 Council inspections

- Pre-works: Depot Operating Manager (or delegate) confirms HMP in place, clean plant on arrival, maps and run order understood, and clean-down gear present.
- During works (spot checks): verify sequencing (clean→dirty), spray drift control, and clean-down after infested sections.
- Post-works: verify road segments and plant are clean; review logs and photos; sign off or raise corrective actions.

9.2 Contractor self-checks

- Supervisor conducts at least one mid-shift hygiene inspection on infested days and records actions.
- Non-conformance (examples: operating without induction; no clean-down after infested section; effluent mismanagement; spread observed):
    - Immediate stop-work, contain and remediate (additional clean-down; re-mow/spray as required; recover dropped material).
    - Notify Depot Operating Manager; complete a corrective action report within 24 hours; attend retraining if directed.
    - Repeated non-conformance may result in removal from site and contractual remedies.

10. Records (minimum)

- Daily Pre-Start Checklist (plant/tools/PPE; maps reviewed; weather; site hazards).
- Spray Records (per label and IPM Policy requirements) and Mow/Slash Logs.
- Hygiene Logbook (clean-down events with location, trigger, method, photos).
- Material Movement Log (source certification/destination of soils, gravel, general waste, seedheads).
- Induction register and toolbox attendance.

Retention: Keep all records for minimum 5 years or as specified by Council.

11. Templates (include in contractor HMP)

11.1 Daily Pre-Start Checklist

Crew & vehicles/plant listed; maps reviewed; PPE present; spill kit; blower/air; pressure-washer; brushes/scrapers; seed bags; camera/phone; wash bay booked if needed.

Plant inspected (undercarriage, decks, belts/guards, radiators, tyres, cab/footwells).

Spray gear checked (filters/nozzles/hoses/calibration). Weather within label limits.

11.2 Clean-Down Checklist

Location (approved hardstand/sump); trigger (entry/exit/zone change/visible contamination/end-of-shift); dry clean (scrape/brush/blow/vacuum); wet wash (underside→wheels→sides→attachments→upper body); inspection passed; effluent captured; photos taken; log completed.

11.3 Hygiene Logbook Page

Date/time; operator; plant ID; road/chainage; trigger; actions; effluent management; disposal location; photos; supervisor sign-off.

11.4 Material Movement Log

Material type; source (incl. quarry/site); destination; certification/weed status; control measures; disposal receipts.

12. Practical Notes & Good Practice

- Keep speeds low in infested sections to minimise seed flick.
- Fit mowers with easy-remove guards for faster cleaning (Figure 2,3); carry ramps to access underside safely.
- Prefer non-chemical methods where effective; use cut-and-paint for woody weeds near waterways.
- Toolbox talks: update crews on seasonal weed risks (e.g. Chilean needle grass seed set) and refresh clean-down technique.



Figure 2: slasher cover to minimise weed seed lodging on slasher deck



Figure 3: slasher cover to minimise weed seed lodging on slasher deck

Appendix 1: Clean down checklists

The Tasmanian Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines (DPIPWE 2015) provide the following checklists for various machinery.

CLEANING/INSPECTION LIST FOR UTILITY/4WD				
Date:		**Site:**		
Vehicle:		**Registration/ID:**		
Area	**Contamination point**	**Inspected**	**Cleaned**	**Method**
Engine bay	Front grill			
	Radiator and other cooling cores or fins			
	Grill or recess under wipers			
	Engine mounts			
	Top of gearbox			
	Battery recess/tray			
	Any recesses on engine or manifold			
	Air cleaner (including element)			
Cabin	Footwells			
	Carpets and mats			
	Seats			
	Tool boxes			
	Air vents			
Wheels and arches	Tyre treads			
	Rims and wheel caps			
	Wheel arches			
	Mud flaps and brackets			
	Brakes			
Tray	Body of tray (especially any recesses)			
	Mats and toolboxes			
	Around fuel tank caps			
Under carriage	Chassis rails			
	Struts and stabilisers			
	Steering components			
	Axels and differentials			
	Spare tyre and mounts			
	Guards			
	Fuel Tank			
Attachments	Bull bar			
Cleaning method: Mechanical (M), Compressed Air (CA), Vacuum (V), High Pressure Water (HPW), Low Pressure Water (LPW)				
Inspected by:		**Signature:**		
Cleaned by:		**Signature:**		

CLEANING/INSPECTION LIST FOR AN EXCAVATOR				
Date:		**Site:**		
Vehicle:		**Registration/ID:**		
Area	**Contamination point**	**Inspected**	**Cleaned**	**Method**
Engine bay	Engine bay floor			
	Fan shroud and radiator cores			
	Air filters (shake/tap filters to determine if clean)			
	Glacier plate (near radiator)			
Cabin	Footwells			
	Carpets and mats			
	Seats			
	Tool boxes			
	Air vents			
Excavation body	Hollow section chassis channels			
	Channels for hydraulic hoses from driven motor			
	Counterweight void spaces			
	Removable track adjuster guards and lubrication points			
	Turret pivot area			
	Arms/booms - pivot points			
Bucket/Blade	Between teeth of adapters			
	Wear plates			
Rear blade (Stabiliser)	Wear plates			
	Hollow section arms			
	Hollow section blade			
Cleaning method: Mechanical (M), Compressed Air (CA), Vacuum (V), High Pressure Water (HPW), Low Pressure Water (LPW)				
Inspected by:		**Signature:**		
Cleaned by:		**Signature:**		

CLEANING/INSPECTION LIST FOR WHEELED LOADERS & COMPACTORS

Date:		**Site:**		
Vehicle:		**Registration/ID:**		
Area	**Contamination point**	**Inspected**	**Cleaned**	**Method**
Engine and running gear	Air cleaner and air filters			
	Air conditioner unit			
	Under and around removable fuel cells			
	Brake assemblies			
Canopy/cabin	Hollow channels			
	Void space between cab and body (bird's nests have been found here)			
	Footwells			
	Carpets and mats			
	Seats			
Body	Feet of adaptors on compactors			
	Hydraulic points			
	Articulation points of hydraulics			
	Counterweight void spaces			
	Between dual wheels			
Bucket/Blades	Blade wear plates			
	Blade teeth and adaptors			

Cleaning method: Mechanical (M), Compressed Air (CA), Vacuum (V), High Pressure Water (HPW), Low Pressure Water (LPW)

Inspected by:		**Signature:**	
Cleaned by:		**Signature:**	

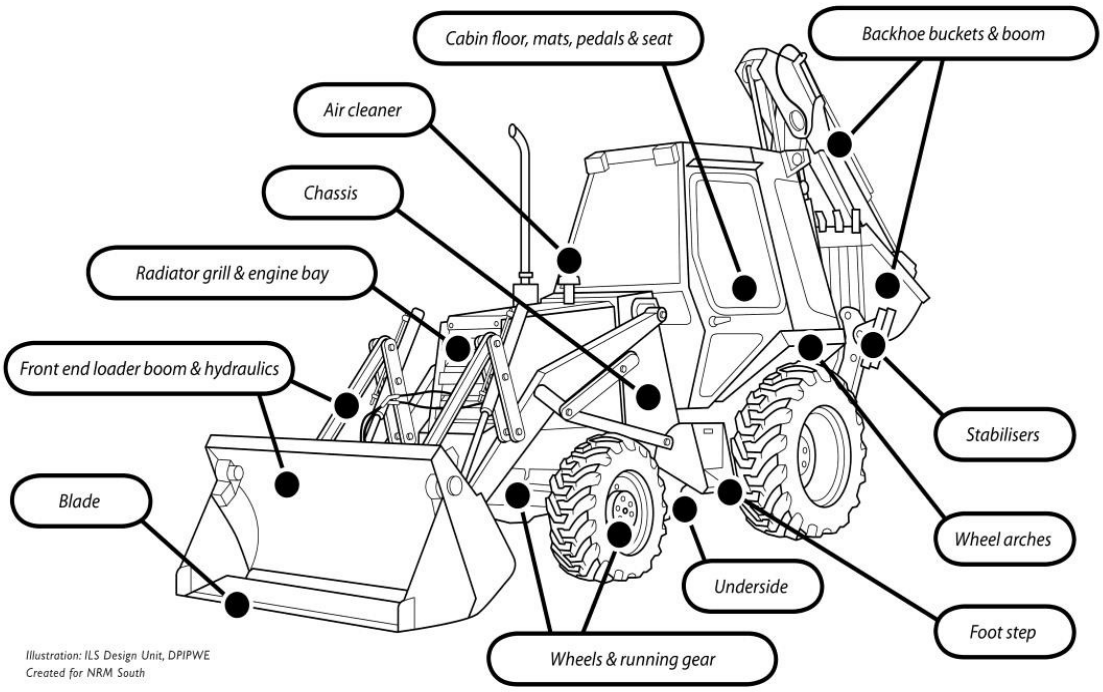


Illustration: ILS Design Unit, DPIPWE
Created for NRM South

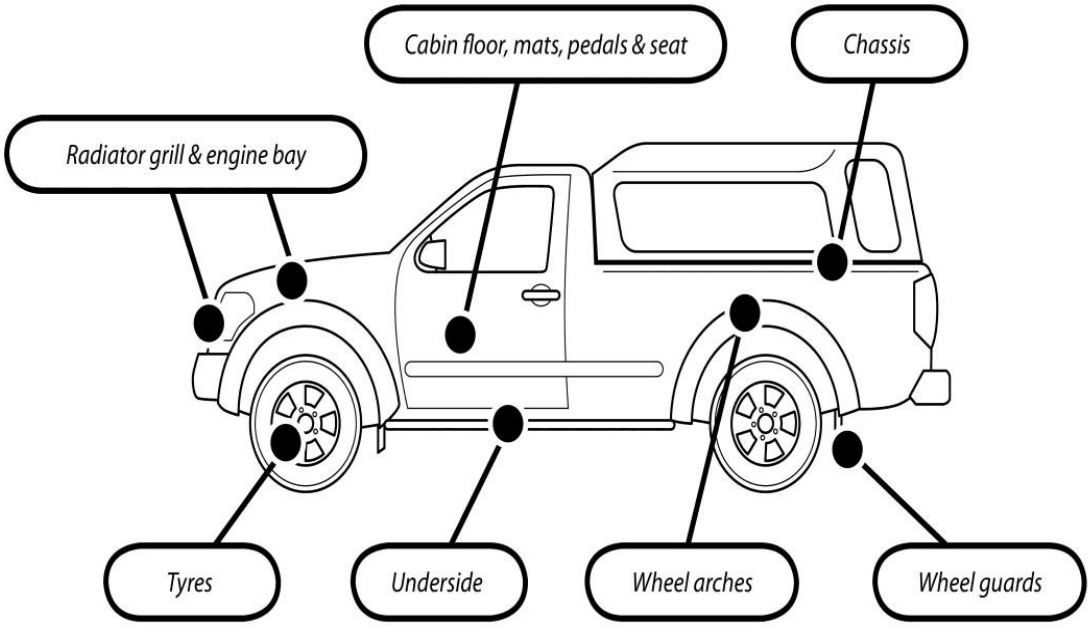


Illustration: ILS Design Unit, DPIPWE Created for NRM South

Appendix 2: Clean down Ledger

A clean-down ledger such as this must be completed following clean-down inspections.

Date	Operator	Machine	Location

APPENDIX H – Kingborough Council Weed Management Planning Provisions – a summary

Weed management bond

A weed management plan with a costed 5 year maintenance program is required as a condition on the permit,

A weed management bond is required to ensure the 5 year maintenance program is completed with an independent compliance process, This ensures that work has been carried out in accord with the Weed Management Plan.

Generally the Plan's implementation is the developer's responsibility, particularly for primary treatment.

When the titles are released, the costs for any remaining outstanding weed management actions must then be bonded to Council. All primary treatment is to be completed prior to commencement of on-site works and then 4 years of follow up.

The bond includes the actual treatment as well as the costs of monitoring and reporting on the treatment ensuring a built-in compliance.

The bond is costed on the basis of market rates and includes administration and CPI. The bond should be sufficient to cover the costs of Council taking over the process and contracting the works and reporting to a contractor/consultant.

Council reserves the right to take over the responsibility for implementing the works

Weed Management Plans implemented by Council

Tn the event that Council takes over the implementation process; the bond is replaced by a payment to Council of all costs associated with Council engaging a contractor.

Permit condition wording

Due to the presence of environmental weeds, prior to the commencement of on-site works, a Weed Management Plan developed by a suitably qualified consultant and to the satisfaction Council's Manager – Development Services must be submitted. This Plan needs to include:

- *timeframes and methods of primary and follow up treatment for all declared and environmental weeds on site;*
- *weed hygiene measures required to ensure the risk of the spread of weeds from the site during clearing and construction is minimised;*
- *a fully costed implementation, monitoring and reporting plan for a minimum of five years (including actions and timeframes).*

Primary treatment of all weeds is required in accordance with this Plan and to the satisfaction of the Manager - Development Services prior to the sealing of the Final Plan of Survey.

Additionally, a weed management bond equivalent to the costs of implementing, monitoring, compliancing and reporting on the weed management plan is to be bonded to Council prior to the commencement of on-site works. This Bond will be refunded upon completion of implementation of the plan to the satisfaction of Council's Manager – Development Services.

Reporting on the progress with respect to the Weed Management Plan outcomes for the site is to be to Council no less than twice a year for a minimum of 5 years.

APPENDIX I – draft Checklist for Developers and Consultants

Weed & Hygiene Management Plan Development Checklist

(for Consultants and Developers):

October 2025

Weed & Hygiene Management Plan Checklist to Satisfy Planning Condition:

- ☐ References any Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and Declared Weeds under the *Biosecurity Act 2019 and associated Biosecurity Regulations 2022*; and refers to their priority rating in *Sorell Weed Strategy 2025-2040* (1-4; and whether they are Class A eradication or Class B containment & control)
- ☐ References any environmental weeds with a focus on those identified on the Sorell Local List (SLL) within the *Sorell Weed Management Strategy 2025-2040*
- ☐ Make reference to any Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) or flora and fauna assessment / Natural Values Assessments, undertaken previously as part of the planning process
- ☐ Identifies initial (primary) treatment, on-going (secondary treatment) management and maintenance of all declared and locally significant weeds – can also include revegetation/competition/mulching options
- ☐ Must include an Action/Implementation Plan which includes a timeframe for weed control implementation and monitoring and reporting for a 5-year period
- ☐ Map of known declared weeds and SLL environmental weeds from site survey
- ☐ Must include a detailed breakdown of ALL estimated costs – including initial works, annual follow-up, annual auditing and reporting for the 5-year period – to be borne by the developer for the life of the WMP or until all lots are sold
- ☐ Outline of responsibilities for implementation, audit, reporting, and compliance
- ☐ Suggested Appendix - Vehicle hygiene ledger / inspection report
- ☐ Suggested Appendix - WMP implementation / hygiene audit form / template

Other Suggested Actions:

- ☐ GPS data from weed survey to be added to Natural Values Atlas by consultant

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