

Environmental Consulting Options Tasmania

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED PULP MILL AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE FOOTPRINT FOR THE PRESENCE OF
CALADENIA CAUDATA, *PRASOPHYLLUM SECUTUM*, *GLYCINE*
LATROBEANA AND *EPACRIS EXSERTA* (PERMIT CONDITION 25)
PART 2: WATER PIPELINE AND EFFLUENT PIPELINE ROUTES

ADDENDUM 4: Additional survey for *Caladenia caudata* near
Williams Creek, October 14 2008

Environmental Consulting Options Tasmania (ECOtas) for
Gunns Limited
20 OCTOBER 2008

Mark Wapstra
28 Suncrest Avenue
Lenah Valley, TAS 7008

ABN 83 464 107 291
email: mark@ecotas.com.au
web: www.ecotas.com.au

business ph.: (03) 62 513 212
personal ph.: (03) 62 283 220
mobile ph.: 0407 008 685

Additional survey for *Caladenia caudata* near Williams Creek

This report should be read as a formal addendum *Assessment of Proposed Pulp Mill and Associated Infrastructure Footprint for the Presence of Caladenia caudata, Prasophyllum secutum, Glycine latrobeana and Epacris exserta (Permit Condition 25): Part 2 – Water Pipeline and Effluent Pipeline Route* (ECOtas 2008).

That report recommended that:

“Additional surveys of the revised infrastructure footprint between Williams Creek and Fourteen Mile Creek for *Caladenia caudata* are recommended. This is because the species is known from the Williams Creek catchment close to the revised infrastructure footprint. This site is in similar vegetation (open grassy rocky dry sclerophyll forest and woodland) burnt in 2006 as the infrastructure footprint south of Williams Creek. The survey would need to be undertaken in early October to mid November to coincide with the flowering period of the *C. caudata*”.

The report included a map indicating the specific areas recommended for supplementary survey (copied below, now referred to as Figure 1), which was used as the basis for the present survey.

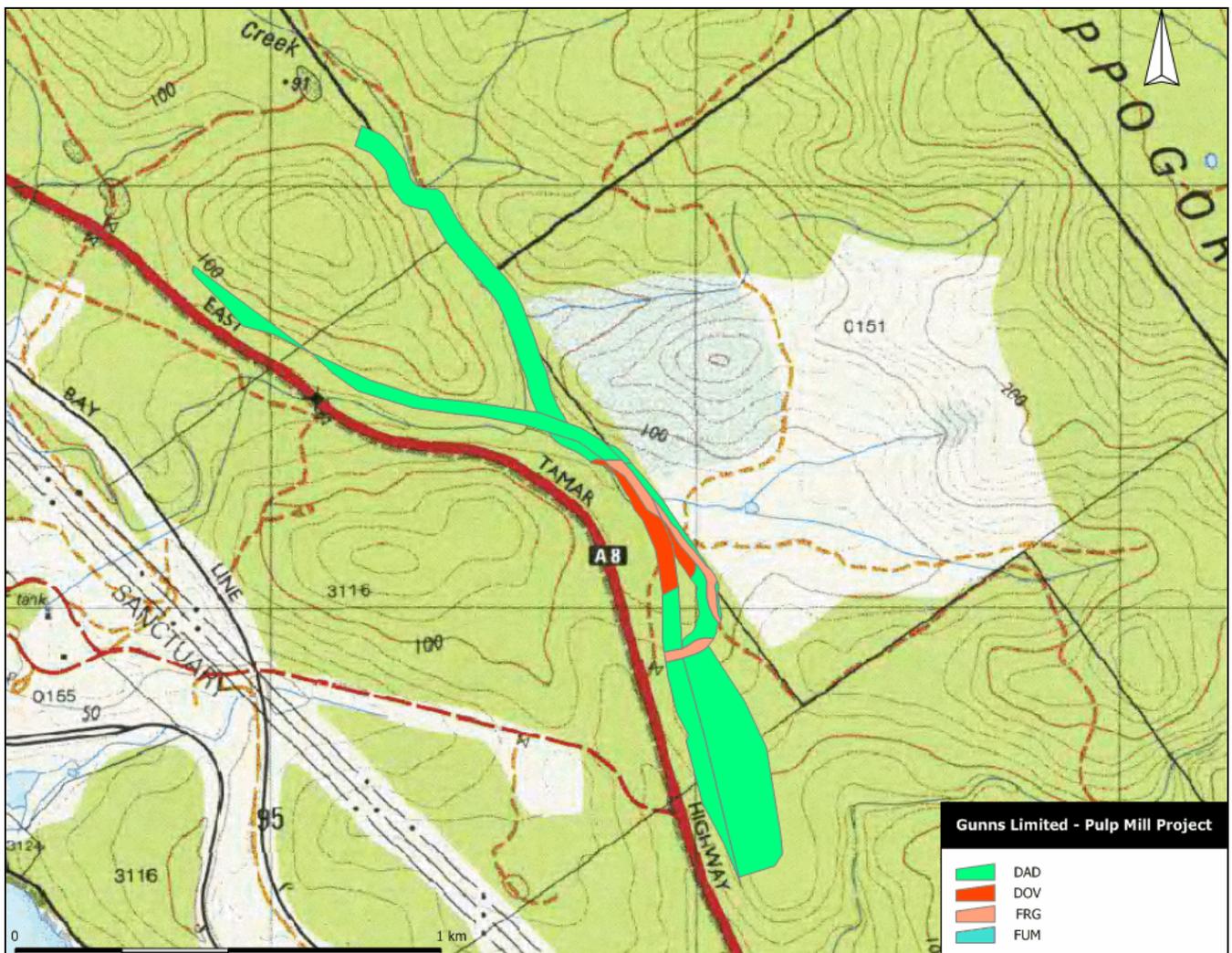


Figure 1. Areas recommended by ECOtas (2008) for supplementary assessment for possible presence of *Caladenia caudata*. Codes refer to vegetation types present.

On 14 October 2008, the entirety of the polygons shown in Figure 1 were surveyed for the presence of *Caladenia caudata* by Mark Wapstra. Approximately 5 person hours were spent on the survey, using the methods previously described (see ECOtas 2008) i.e. meandering criss-crossing on-foot transects across the approximate positions of the target polygons but survey area expanded to adjacent areas where potential habitat noted.

No additional individuals of *Caladenia caudata* were detected as a consequence of this survey. I am confident that individuals were not overlooked because the survey was intensive and deliberately targeted the most likely micro-sites (i.e. open grassy areas with gentle slopes and sparse canopy cover, similar to the habitat of the previously reported site near Williams Creek – ECOtas 2007) but also assessed less likely micro-sites (e.g. rockier areas on steeper slopes). In addition, some of the areas covered by these polygons have been previously surveyed as part of ECOtas (2008) i.e. both that survey and the present one were deliberately meandering across and over the extent of the possible positions of the pipeline and other infrastructure elements so some overlap has probably occurred (noting that all “new” areas of the footprint have now been entirely surveyed for *Caladenia caudata*).

The present survey also coincided with the flowering period of *Caladenia caudata* in the northern Tasmanian part of its range (it flowers earlier in southern Tasmania). This statement is based on the author’s assessment of the Henry Somerset Orchid Conservation Area near Latrobe (a well known locality for *Caladenia caudata* in northern Tasmania) on 13 October 2008 (i.e. the day before the present survey), where the species was found to be at full anthesis and easily detected. In addition, the previously reported location for *Caladenia caudata* near Williams Creek (ECOtas 2007) was also assessed on 14 October 2008, where a single individual was located at one of the exact sites previously reported (eastern site).

Much of the area assessed as part of the present survey is superficially suitable for *Caladenia caudata* (i.e. fairly open, quite recently burnt, woodland and forest on gentle to moderate well-insolated slopes). The absence of the species, however, may simply be due to the often highly localised nature of the distribution of many orchid species i.e. they do not occur in all areas of potential habitat. It is reasonable to conclude that the additional infrastructure footprint area assessed as part of the present report do not support populations of *Caladenia caudata*.

REFERENCES

- ECOtas (2007). *Assessment of Proposed Pulp Mill and Associated Infrastructure Footprint for the Presence of Caladenia caudata, Prasophyllum secutum, Glycine latrobeana and Epacris exserta (Permit Condition 25). Part 1: Pulp Mill, Solid Waste Disposal, Reservoir and Workers' Accommodation Facility Areas: ECOtas for Gunns Limited 16 November 2007.*
- ECOtas (2008). *Assessment of Proposed Pulp Mill and Associated Infrastructure Footprint for the Presence of Caladenia caudata, Prasophyllum secutum, Glycine latrobeana and Epacris exserta (Permit Condition 25): Part 2 – Water Pipeline and Effluent Pipeline Route: ECOtas for Gunns Limited 8 July 2008.*