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**Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary & Flat Rock Reserve**

**Revised Joint Management Plan 2022**



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# Executive Summary

## Background

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve protect 870 ha of native bushland, and form the largest protected area in the Bagdad area of the Southern Midlands region of Tasmania. Together they provide important conservation of natural values in a region which is recognised nationally as a high priority for conservation (the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot Area).

The Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary (415 ha), owned by Southern Midlands Council, is one of the oldest private reserves in the State, gazetted as a reserve in 1946. Flat Rock Reserve (455 ha) adjoins the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to the north, and is a freehold property purchased by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) in 2006.

Both reserves are jointly managed by the Chauncy Vale Management Committee, comprising representatives of the TLC, Southern Midlands Council, Parks and Wildlife Service, the Chauncy family and the local community.

Historically, the Chauncy family encouraged the use of the land as an outdoor classroom and for scientific research into the natural values of the area. This philosophy has been continued under subsequent council ownership.

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve are open to the general public during daylight hours for recreation activities such as bushwalks, picnics and birdwatching. The reserves are closed to the public during days of High Fire Danger.

Maps of the location, vegetation communities, access and bushwalks and five defined management zones are in Section 1 - Background of the Management Plan.

## Management Summary

The Overarching Objective for management of the two reserves is:

*To identify, conserve, and where necessary, restore the natural, cultural and heritage values of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. To assist people to appreciate the values and to ensure the values are passed on to future generations in as good or better condition than at present.*

Four conservation targets have been recognised for the reserve with specific management actions aimed at minimising threats identified for each target. A summary of the conservation targets, threats and the management actions is listed below.

**Conservation Targets 1-4, summary of management actions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conservation Target 1: Dry forest and woodland vegetation communities** | |
| **Justification:** The reserves support large areas of dry sclerophyll communities, including some vegetation communities that are of conservation significance. A number of threatened plant and animal species are associated with the dry forests and woodlands of the reserve. Some parts of the forest and woodland communities can be classified as old growth, resulting in high habitat values. | |
| Source of threat / risk | Recommended management actions |
| Climate Change | Mitigation – . Large bushland reserves such as Flat Rock and Chauncy Vale play a crucial role in carbon sequestration. Protection and enhancement of the natural vegetation is hence an important contribution. Maintain and enhance the vegetation communities, including with appropriate revegetation projects, on the reserve to contribute to drawing CO2 from the atmosphere. s |
| Inappropriate fire regime | FInalise the whole-of-reserve(Chauncy Vale and Flack Rock) fire management plan, including developing the ecological objectives and delineating the Ecological Protection Zones (EPZ) and Asset Protection Zone (APZ) with input from TLC, P&WS, the Tasmania Fire Service, and the aboriginal community . Conduct ecological burns to maximise structural and species diversity, and reduce fuel loads consistent with the finalized fire management plan.  As fires occur, map fire boundaries and keep records of fire frequency, intensity and timing. |
| Introduction of weeds and pathogens | Install signage at the Chauncy Vale visitor shelter and Flat Rock Reserve entrance highlighting the potential for weeds and root rot fungus (Phytophthora cinnamomi) to be brought into the reserves via dirty or muddy vehicles or footwear.  Develop a weed reporting program, including identification of a contact person, for visitors to assist with identification of weed establishment or spread.  Develop and implement a concise prioritized weed control strategy (action plan) for the properties.  Control and rehabilitate weed infestations promptly where these are identified. |
| Soil erosion | Assess the track network at Flat Rock Reserve and rehabilitate tracks not required for management or emergency use.  Restrict vehicle use to management purposes only, or otherwise requiring written permission, and install signage and solid physical barriers to restrict illegal vehicle access.  Identify erosion sites along all streams and intermittent waterways in the reserves, identify appropriate stabilisation techniques (e.g. porous check dams) and implement where necessary. |
| Hunting & illegal collections | Maintain and enforce ban on private hunting in the reserves, with the exception of conservation hunting organized and supported by the Southern Midlands Council and TLC. This includes surveillance of peregrine falcon nesting sites – as egg theft has occurred in the past. |
| Firewood collection and waste disposal | Maintain ban on firewood collection and waste disposal, and install signage to inform of bans.  Remove rubbish as it is found and record large rubbish sites to allow future removal of rubbish |
| Browsing and feral animals | Browsing pressure by feral and native herbivores appears to have increased at the reserve, anecdotally reducing the diversity and changing the structure of the understory. . Implement a monitoring system to inform a feral pest control strategy for feral pests (inc. fallow deer and goats). |
| Lack of baseline data, including tree decline or dieback related to climate change | Build on the flora and fauna surveys undertaken on Flat Rock incorporating Chauncy Vale. Improve knowledge of diversity, composition, and structure of the vegetation. Verify mapped vegetation communities, identify old growth forest patches, and identify key habitat features.  Document, record and/or map eucalypt dieback in the reserve and if necessary discuss management options to address this situation. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conservation Target 2: Browns Caves Creek & tributaries** | |
| **Justification:** The Browns Caves Creek is in excellent condition and supports flora and fauna communities unique to the area. | |
| Source of threat / risk | Recommended management actions |
| Trampling by visitors | Maintain the current network of walking tracks to a standard where erosion does not occur.  Encourage visitors to keep to the walking tracks and avoid trampling riparian vegetation. |
| Climate change | Tasmanian climate modelling predicts changed rainfall patterns, including potentially large damaging flood events and longer dry spells with periods of low flow. Determine the most effective interventions, which may include: revegetation, protection of assets or stream bank stabilization. When planning new assets, the location in relation to impact from extreme flood events should be a consideration. |
| Stream-bank erosion | Streambank erosion is evident at a number of locations within the Visitor Services Area and the Natural Area. Document and map this erosion and develop rehabilitation or control options on a case by case basis. |
| Management of weed, Phytophthora and feral animals | Develop and implement a concise prioritized weed and feral pest control strategy (action plan) for the properties.  Control weed infestations promptly where these are identified. |
| Inappropriate fire regime | FInalise the whole-of-reserve(Chauncy Vale and Flack Rock) fire management plan, including developing the ecological objectives and delineating the Ecological Protection Zones (EPZ) and Asset Protection Zone (APZ) with input from TLC, P&WS, Tasmania Fire Service, and the aboriginal community . Conduct ecological burns to maximise structural and species diversity, and reduce fuel loads consistent with the finalized fire management plan.  As fires occur, map fire boundaries and keep records of fire frequency, intensity and timing. |
| Lack of baseline data on biodiversity, including tree decline/dieback | Encourage volunteers and experts to undertake flora and fauna surveys to establish baseline data on the composition and conservation status of species and communities. This may potentially be undertaken in the format of a ‘Bioblitz’ involving groups such as field naturalists or Birdlife Tasmania.  Document, record and/or map eucalypt dieback in the reserve and if necessary discuss management options to address this situation. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conservation Target 3: Raptor populations & threatened fauna** | |
| **Justification:** The eastern parts of the cliffs at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary provide important breeding and roosting habitat for raptors, including peregrine falcons.  Sandstone caves at Chauncy Vale also provide important habitat for the Tasmanian Devil (Endangered – EPBC Act & TSP Act) and Masked Owl (Endangered –TSP Act, Vulnerable – EPBC Act). | |
| Source of threat | Recommended management actions |
| Disturbance by visitors | Maintain ban on all visitation to known raptor nesting sites during the breeding season (1 August to 30 November each year).  Encourage experts to monitor the success rate of breeding raptors at the two reserves.  Erect signage and surveillance at appropriate locations informing of sms video surveillance of the nesting areas to deter those who have a vested interest in ensuring peregrines don’t breed, e.g. pigeon fanciers  Maintain ban on firewood collection at both reserves. |
| Firewood collection | Maintain ban on firewood collection and removal of dead stags and wood (habitat) within the reserve. |
| Inappropriate fire regime | FInalise the whole-of-reserve(Chauncy Vale and Flack Rock) fire management plan, including developing the ecological objectives and delineating the Ecological Protection Zones (EPZ) and Asset Protection Zone (APZ) with input from TLC, P&WS, Tasmania Fire Service, and the aboriginal community . Conduct ecological burns to maximise structural and species diversity, and reduce fuel loads consistent with the finalized fire management plan.  As fires occur, map fire boundaries and keep records of fire frequency, intensity and timing. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conservation Target 4: Cultural heritage** | |
| **Justification:** Chauncy Vale has a long and well-recorded history of European use, with some sites on the property particularly recognised for their cultural heritage value, including Browns Caves, the Chauncy family house, Day Dawn, and garden and their surrounding areas. These sites are also an integral part of the Chauncy family legacy. The area is also thought to have been used extensively by Aboriginal people. | |
| Source of threat / risk | Recommended management actions |
| Fire | Maintain emergency water supplies and fire-fighting equipment within close proximity to the buildings in the reserves to standards required by the local planning scheme or the Tasmania Fire Service.  Undertake annual fire drill involving caretaker, council staff and the local TFS brigadeto ensure efficient response during an actual fire.  Maintain fire breaks and reduce fuel loads in the Asset Protection Zones around all buildings by slashing grass and low shrubs and clearing all fallen timber within 30 m of all buildings early each summer. |
| Inappropriate visitation | Ensure appropriate levels of ‘presence’ within the reserve by caretaker and staff to deter any inappropriate intentions by those who may wish to damage assets on site.  Monitor the condition of Browns Caves for damage or loss of integrity resulting from inappropriate visitation or vandalism. Where necessary, take actions to prevent this from occurring. |
| Infrequent maintenance | Regularly monitor the condition of built infrastructure at the reserves and maintain to acceptable specifications and safety standards. |
| Lack of available resources for maintenance and repairs | Council to retain appropriate insurance to cover any repairs required from damage to buildings and associated infrastructure.  Collect visitor entry donations to be used for the purpose of maintaining Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and seek other funding opportunities. |
| Inappropriate management of cultural connections | Actively engage with appropriate community user groups and the Aboriginal community to help rebuild connections.  Ensure that wider community retains representation on the Chauncy Vale Management Committee and that objectives of the Management Plan are considered before management decisions are made.  Hold a regular Open Day to promote the cultural significance of Chauncy Vale to the broader community.  Update the educational resource for use by school groups and promote this to schools around Tasmania.  Ensure that displays and/or interpretative/educational material include the history and the historic cultural heritage significance of Chauncy Vale. |

**Education and Interpretation**

In their gifts of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to the municipality, Anton and Heather Chauncy expressed a desire for the property to be used freely by educational and other groups for the study of the natural environment. Management actions specifically to further this objective are listed below and apply equally to Flat Rock Reserve now that the reserves are adjoining and managed cooperatively.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Management Action |
| Lack of resources for education, interpretation and research opportunities | * Consider engagement of an Education and Interpretation Officer for Chauncy Vale and if this isn’t possible, collaborate with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to run community based monitoring or interpretation programs, preferably annually. |
| * Encourage or facilitate scientific studies based on the natural and cultural resources of the two reserves. |
| * Develop contemporary interpretation resources for visitors to Chauncy Vale and Flat Rock Reserve, for instance web based or QR code accessed. |
| * Update the educational resource for use by school groups and promote this to schools in the Southern region. |
| * Source funding for specific environmental engagement projects that could be undertaken by schools and special interest groups. |
| * Maintain and improve reserve infrastructure and tracks to ensure the public have safe access to the reserves in order to facilitate connection and engagement with nature. |

**Recreation and Tourism**

The primary management objective in relation to recreation and tourism visitation to the reserves is to: Provide opportunities for the public to visit and undertake recreational activities safely at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve, in accordance with the conservation objectives of the Management Plan. Management actions specifically to further this objective are listed below

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Management Action |
| Inadequate infrastructure and support for maintaining recreation and tourism opportunities | * Consider grant funding or resources to employ an Education and Interpretation Officer - or at least collaborate with the TLC to utilise their expertise in targeted reserve interpretation field days. |
| * Consider and implement multiple ways in which reserve users may access information about the reserves, particularly on-line resources. |
| * Provide current interpretation material in the visitor services area to introduce visitors to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. Update this information as necessary. |
| * Maintain a visitation services area for use by day visitors. Improve this area as appropriate and ensure facilities are safe and functional. Consider options for low-key overnight stays. |
| * Ensure walking tracks are well marked and well maintained. |
| * Consider the possibility of overnight stays by self- sufficient vans, without pets, within the visitor services area only. |
| * Employ a resident volunteer caretaker, or equivalent mechanism, to interact with visitors, undertake basic maintenance and to keep an eye on public use and visitation. |
| * No visitors will be permitted to enter or remain in the reserves during days of High Fire Danger. |
| * Maintain emergency water supplies and fire-fighting equipment within close proximity to the buildings in the reserves to standards required by the Tasmania Fire Service. |
| * The Management Committee to liaise with the Tasmania Fire Service and P&WS regularly to determine and undertake any track and hazard reduction works required to minimize the possibility of uncontrolled bushfires. |
| * Ensure facilities are safe for users and that new facilities meet acceptable specifications and or standards. |
|  | * Identify hazards in the visitor precinct and along walking tracks, in particular dangerous trees, and manage the hazards accordingly. |

**Management roles and responsibilities**

The Chauncy Vale Management Committee is an official committee under the Southern Midlands Council, with the purpose of administering and managing Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. The roles and membership of the committee, including representatives of the Southern Midlands Council, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Parks and Wildlife Service, the Chauncy family and the local community, are outlined in Section 2.8 of the Joint Management Plan.

**Plan Review**

This management plan uses an adaptive management process, which involves review of the objectives of the plan at regular intervals - recommended every two years. Such reviews may lead to minor amendments to the plan. Full reviews, including public consultation, are recommended at least every ten years from the original publication date of this management plan.

## Acknowledgement

This review of the joint management plan was written by Graham Green of Southern Midlands Council with input from Cath Dickson (Tasmanian Land Conservancy) and Ian Marmion (Parks & Wildlife Service). It is an update of the original joint management plan written by Denna Kingdom and Phil Cullen formerly of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

**Cover photo:** The caves escarpment (foreground) at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Mt Wellington from the Western Lookout at Flat Rock Reserve (photo, Matt Newton 2006)

# Background Report

## 1.1 Introduction

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve protect 870 ha of native bushland, and form the largest protected area in the Southern Midlands region of Tasmania. Together they provide important conservation of landscape and natural values in a region recognised nationally as a high priority for conservation – the Midlands Biodiversity Hotspot Area.

The Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary (415 hectares) is one of the oldest private reserves in the State comprising the whole of the property of the late Anton and Nan Chauncy. The Sanctuary was the home of children’s writer Nan Chauncy and her family. Chauncy Vale was gazetted as a private wildlife sanctuary in 1946, with the Chauncy family managing the land for its conservation values. The wildlife sanctuary was also recognised for its education value, with schools encouraged to visit the property as part of outdoor and environmental education programs. The Sanctuary is currently owned by Southern Midlands Council thanks to successive bequests to local government by Anton Chauncy and by his daughter Heather Chauncy.

Flat Rock Reserve (455 ha) adjoins the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to the north, and is a freehold property purchased by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) in 2006. The Chauncy Vale Management Committee identified this land for protection of forest communities as well as to create a continuous link of natural vegetation between the Wildlife Sanctuary and the Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area. Flat Rock Reserve was acquired with funding from the Private Forests Reserve Program, a grant from the Commonwealth Government’s National Reserve System Program (NRS) and a donation by the previous land owner.

Both reserves are managed co-operatively by a special committee of the Council, the Chauncy Vale Management Committee, which comprises representatives from the TLC, Southern Midlands Council, Parks and Wildlife Service, the Chauncy family and the local community. Decision making by the Management Committee is guided by the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan 1993 (a statutory management plan under the Nature Conservation Act 2002).

After the purchase of Flat Rock Reserve by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy in 2006, the new Chauncy Vale Flat Rock Reserve Joint Management Plan (2010) was developed to cover the combined reserves and to integrate management objectives and actions between the two reserves.

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve are located in the Southern Midlands Municipal Area approximately 40 kilometres north of Hobart along the Midland Highway and 4 kilometres east of Bagdad (refer to Map 1).

### Access

Access to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is at the end of Chauncy Vale Rd, Bagdad. Within Chauncy Vale a formed gravel road proceeds a further 0.5 kilometres to picnic shelters a meeting room, picnic areas and walking track access points. The majority of the Sanctuary is only accessible by foot, but certain areas of the northern and southern boundaries are accessible by vehicular tracks from neighbouring properties, including through Flat Rock Reserve.

Access to the Flat Rock Reserve entrance is approximately 5.5km along East Bagdad Road from the Midland Highway junction. A locked boom gate and signage mark the entrance point to the reserve. Vehicle access along old 4wd tracks is restricted for management purposes only. Many vehicle tracks were created on the Flat Rock property over the years, it is intended that most of these will closed and rehabilitated now that it is a reserve.

Several bushwalking routes have been developed and marked through Flat Rock Reserve, generally following the old 4wd tracks. Walkers primarily access these bushwalking routes from Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary (see Map 2).

The Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Statutory Management Plan (1993) divided the reserve into five separate zones for management purposes. The original management zones are shown in Map 3 although current conservation targets in this ‘Joint Management Plan’ are not specifically linked to theses zones.

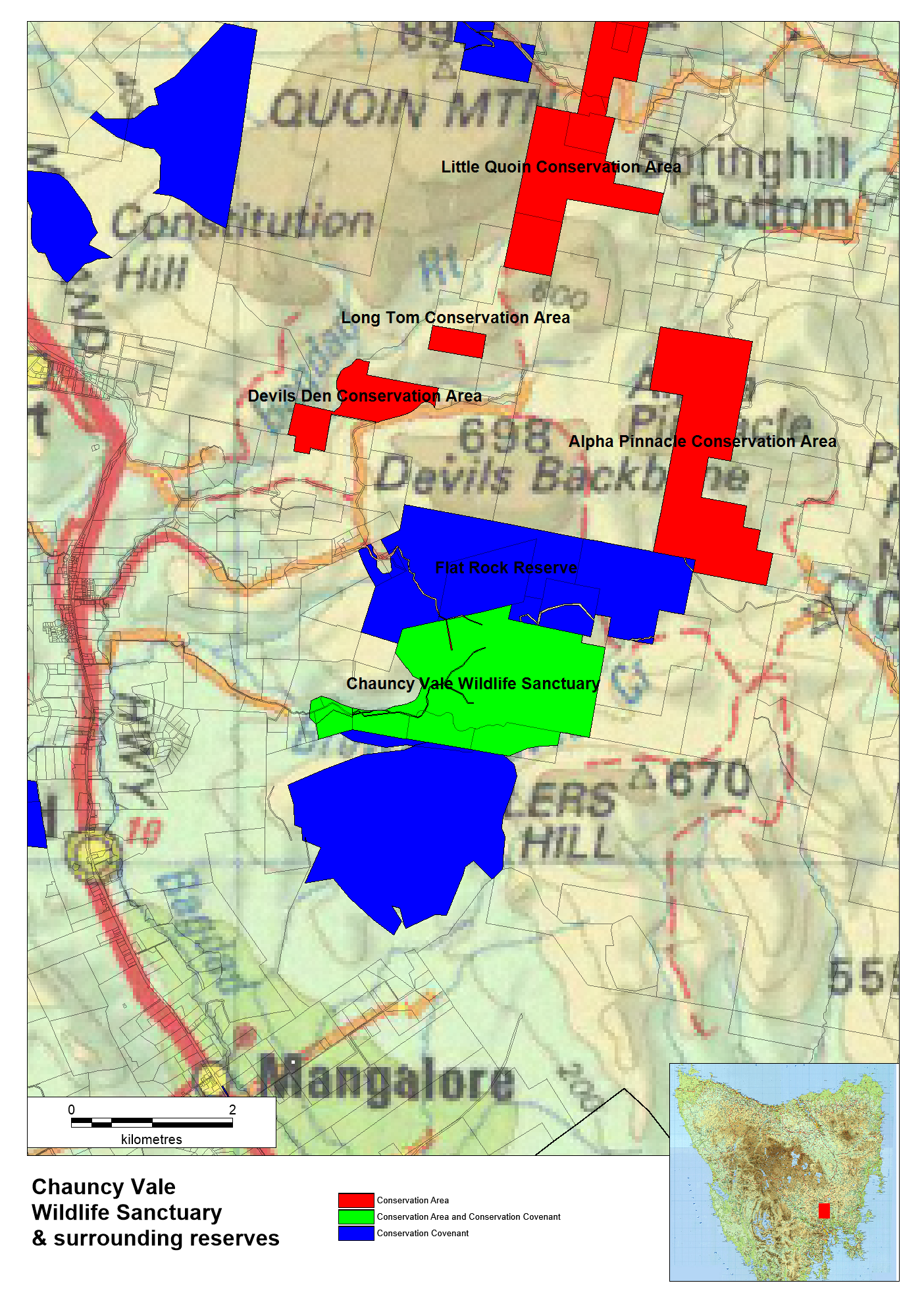
The zones are however useful for defining usage and access, for example, the public does not have right of access to *Zone 1 – Private, Caretaker and Management Area* to ensure privacy and security for the on-site caretaker. The public is also prohibited from *Zone 5 – Restricted Area* during the months of August through to November to protect breeding sites for raptorial birds.

***Public Access Policy Statement***

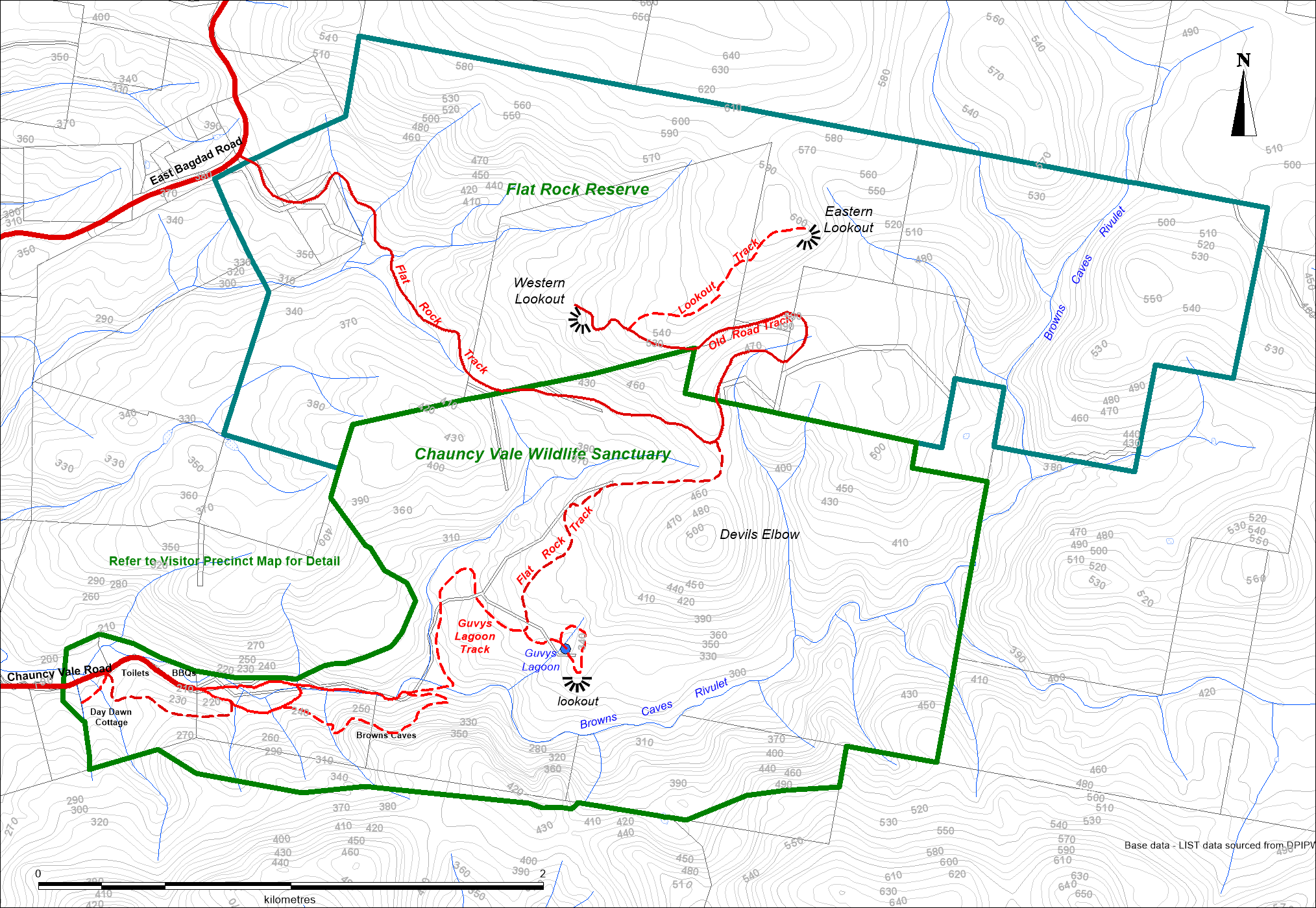
The Southern Midlands Council supports controlled public access to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, for the purposes of conservation education, non-destructive scientific studies based on natural and cultural resources, and passive recreation for visitors and tourists. This is in keeping with the wishes of the Chauncy family in their gift of Chauncy Vale to the municipality.

As a community-based organisation, the Tasmanian Land Conservancy strongly supports public involvement in the management of the Reserve and will not unreasonably refuse public access in future where such access preserves or enhances the natural values of the Reserve. However, the TLC will refuse access where this may result in a detrimental impact on the values of the Reserve.

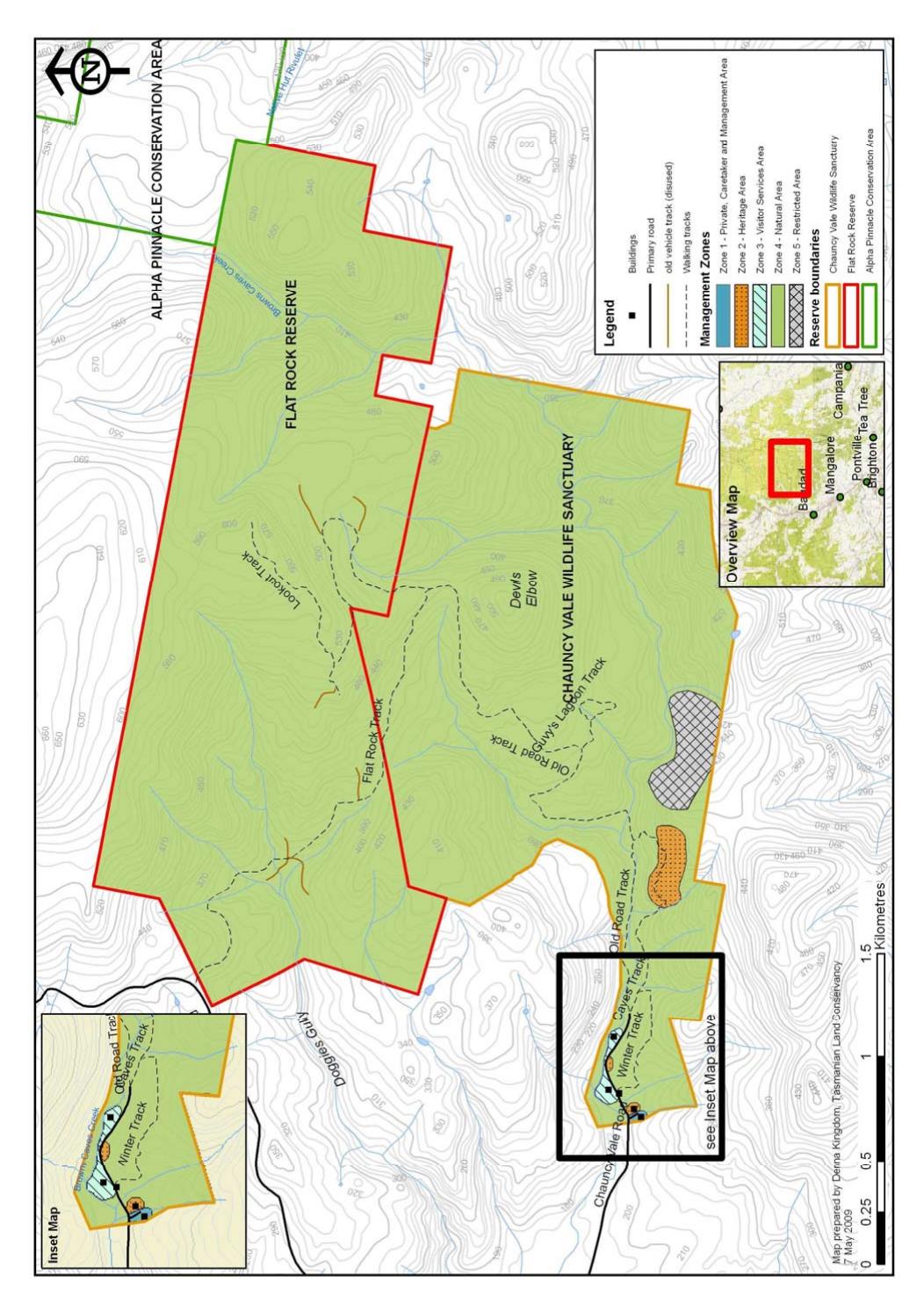
**Map 1 – Location of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve**



**Map 2 – Access to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve**



**Map 3 – Management Zones at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve**

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### Tenure and ongoing ownership

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary (415 hectares) on six titles is owned by Southern Midlands Council and is managed as a Conservation Area under the provisions of the *National Parks & Reserves Management Act 2002*. A Conservation Covenant was registered over the majority of the Sanctuary in 2010 to provide more comprehensive protection and restriction of activities that have the potential to degrade the values of the reserve.

Flat Rock Reserve is a 455 ha property of freehold land on eight titles owned by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. A Conservation Covenant was registered on the titles of the Reserve in 2008 which requires the landowner to maintain its conservation values under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. Safeguards also exist beyond the TLC’s ownership of the Land and the perpetual covenant on title. Should the TLC cease to operate or otherwise need to transfer ownership of the Land, then both the TLC’s constitution and its funding agreement with the Australian Government’s National Reserve System (NRS) Program require that the Reserve be transferred to another organisation with similar objectives.

In accordance with its policy for permanent reserves the TLC will seek the proclamation of the area as a Private Sanctuary under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* in order to ensure that the regulations under that Act can be applied to the Reserve. This will also help to ensure that Flat Rock Reserve and the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary can be managed consistently for conservation.

A Mineral Exploration License for geothermal energy is held by Kuth Energy over both Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. This license occupies approximately 20% of Tasmania. No other mining leases are held over either property.

## Background to the Reserves

### 1.2.1 Management History

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the oldest private conservation areas in Tasmania. Most of the reserve was gazetted on 3 July 1946 as a Private Wildlife Sanctuary under the *Animals and Birds Protection Act 1928*. The property was used and managed by Tasmanian Aboriginal people prior European settlement, then by bushrangers and early settlers, was later farmed and was the home of the acclaimed author of children’s stories, Nan Chauncy.

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary was bequeathed to the Municipality of Brighton by Nan Chauncy’s husband Anton, in 1988. The Sanctuary was extended through a later gift to the Council by their daughter Heather Chauncy of two further blocks, being the paddock and house where Nan wrote her books.

The status of the reserve was changed to Conservation Area after the land was bequeathed to Brighton Council. As a result of municipal council amalgamations, the land is now owned by Southern Midlands Council.

The Chauncy family encouraged the use of the land as an outdoor classroom and for purposes of non-destructive scientific research; this use has been ongoing under subsequent council ownership. An educational guide for school teachers focusing on the natural environment at Chauncy Vale was developed in 1992 with assistance from the council and used extensively for some time. A display of the property’s historic heritage is also promoted, with the Chauncy family house, Day Dawn, opened to the public on a regular basis.

A caretaker’s cottage was built near the entrance to the Wildlife Sanctuary in 1993 with the view to resident caretakers being the primary interface with the general public and contributing to the responsible use of the reserve.

The Wildlife Sanctuary today is a core of relatively unchanged natural environment in a surrounding mosaic of mixed land-use. The purchase of Flat Rock Reserve, adjoining the Wildlife Sanctuary to the north, has extended the protection of conservation values in the area. Flat Rock Reserve also provides a continuous link of natural vegetation managed for conservation from Chauncy Vale to Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area.

Flat Rock was previously owned by a logging company, with parts selectively harvested in the 1960s and 1970s. The area has been historically extensively used by the public as a source of free firewood, free rubbish dump, hunting site and four-wheel driving. These activities are no longer permitted and rehabilitation of previously degraded sites has been undertaken.

Day Dawn Cottage, the original Chauncy family house, is now used as a museum showing where Nan’s books were written and the unique lifestyle the Chauncys lived in what was once a relatively remote location. The contents of Day Dawn Cottage, including paintings and furniture, are on loan to Southern Midlands Council from Heather Chauncy.

The former Friends of Chauncy Vale assisted with the management of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. They worked towards the development of infrastructure, including the walking track network.

### Cultural Heritage

For thousands of years, aboriginal communities lived in and around the Chauncy Vale area. It is understood that there was a route through to the east coast for the Big River tribe via the East Bagdad and Browns Caves Creek valleys. The caves may have also provided shelter for aboriginal people.

One aboriginal heritage site has been recorded in the Sanctuary. However, it is possible that other sites exist, as comprehensive aboriginal heritage surveys have yet to be undertaken at the reserves. Numerous indigenous artefacts were located in the Sanctuary by Anton and Nan Chauncy; these artefacts were donated to the Tasmanian Museum in the 1980s.

European exploration in the Bagdad area was first recorded in 1807. The land around Browns Caves Rivulet was first settled in the 1820s by John Espie and G. Butler who purchased 2000 acres around this time. A road from Bagdad to Campania through the Browns Caves Rivulet valley was surveyed as an access road from the Midlands to the Coal River Valley and partly built in the late 1870s, although this was never completed. Parts of this road are still used as a walking track past the old Hutchins School hut at Chauncy Vale and through to Flat Rock Reserve.

Nan Chauncy’s family (the Masterman’s) permanently settled in the valley now known as Chauncy Vale in 1914. Nan and Anton made the valley their home in 1938 and lived there for the rest of their lives. Nan died in 1970 and Anton in 1988.

Chauncy Vale was the real life setting for one of Nan Chauncy’s books, ‘They Found a Cave’, and the bushland environment provided inspiration for many of her other books. She was undoubtedly the best known Tasmanian writer of children's books and her books were about Tasmania. Nan Chauncy won the Children's Book of the Year Award three times in 1958, 1959 and 1961, the Boys' Club of America Award in 1961 and was named in the Hans Anderson Award honours list.

Chauncy Vale, including Day Dawn and the associated outbuildings, are registered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register for their cultural significance.

### Geology, geomorphology & soils

Chauncy Vale and Flat Rock are located in hilly terrain between the valleys of the Coal River and the Bagdad Rivulet. The highest peaks in the region are formed by weathering resistant dolerite and include Quoin Mountain, Alpha Pinnacle, the Devil's Back-bone and Long Tom. The valleys in this landscape are relatively deeply incised and sandstones and mudstones are exposed on lower slopes. In some places these rocks are mantled by extensive dolerite talus deposits.

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is located in a steep-sided east-west valley formed by Browns Caves Rivulet. The creek flows down from the east and widens into broader creek flats towards the western end of the valley. The creek has cut through a Jurassic dolerite sill to expose underlying Tertiary sandstones and Permian mudstones. This fault formed a steep scarp in which the sandstone caves have been eroded out of comparatively soft rock, probably by earlier fluvial action or wind erosion. The northern slopes are characterised by steeper hills with dolerite caps and steep slopes covered by dolerite scree.

Four main soil types have been identified in the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. Light, fine shallow soils developed on the Permian mudstones occur in the southern part of the Sanctuary. These are interspersed with deeper sandy soils which derive more from the Triassic sandstones and having slightly higher clay content. North of the fault line soils are predominantly dolerite derived loam and clay loam, while the river flats have young alluvial soils.

### Climate

Low rainfall is typical in this region, with high annual variability. The mean annual precipitation for the nearby settlement of Mangalore is 530 mm.

Summer is typically characterised by warm to hot days (average 25 degrees) and winter by cool to cold days (average 12 degrees). Frosts are frequent in winter and can lie for several days at a time on the shaded river flats. Snowfall is uncommon, however, in the winter of 2020 heavy low level snow damaged many small trees and saplings across the reserves.

There is considerable micro-climate variation at Chauncy Vale and Flat Rock, due to the steep and incised nature of the topography. Valley floors along creek lines can be cool to cold year round whilst north facing slopes can be very warm and dry in winter.

### Hydrology

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and most of Flat Rock Reserve are within the catchment of Browns Caves Rivulet. The flow of the rivulet fluctuates greatly. Drought conditions are becoming more frequent and it is now common for the rivulet to lose its surface flow and for the pools to dry up, something that wasn’t observed when the Chauncy’s lived on site from 1914 (H Chauncy pers. Comm.).

The eastern half of Flat Rock Reserve also forms part of the catchment of Browns Caves Rivulet, while the western half is the upper catchment for Doggies Gully. These two watercourses flow into Bagdad Rivulet below the reserves.

Two small spring-fed lagoons, Guvy’s Lagoon and another known as The Tarn, on the southern boundary, also occur at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. Guvy’s Lagoon is shallow and often dries up completely, whilst The Tarn has until recently been a permanent water supply.

### Vegetation

The vegetation on Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve is a mosaic of different vegetation communities determined by a range of factors including substrate, topography, aspect, altitude and soil depth. Twelve native vegetation communities are identified in the reserves from TASVEG4 vegetation mapping. The TASVEG4 vegetation remains to be verified by field work and hence the areas presented below are indicative only. The vegetation communities are shown in Map 4 and summarised in Table 1.

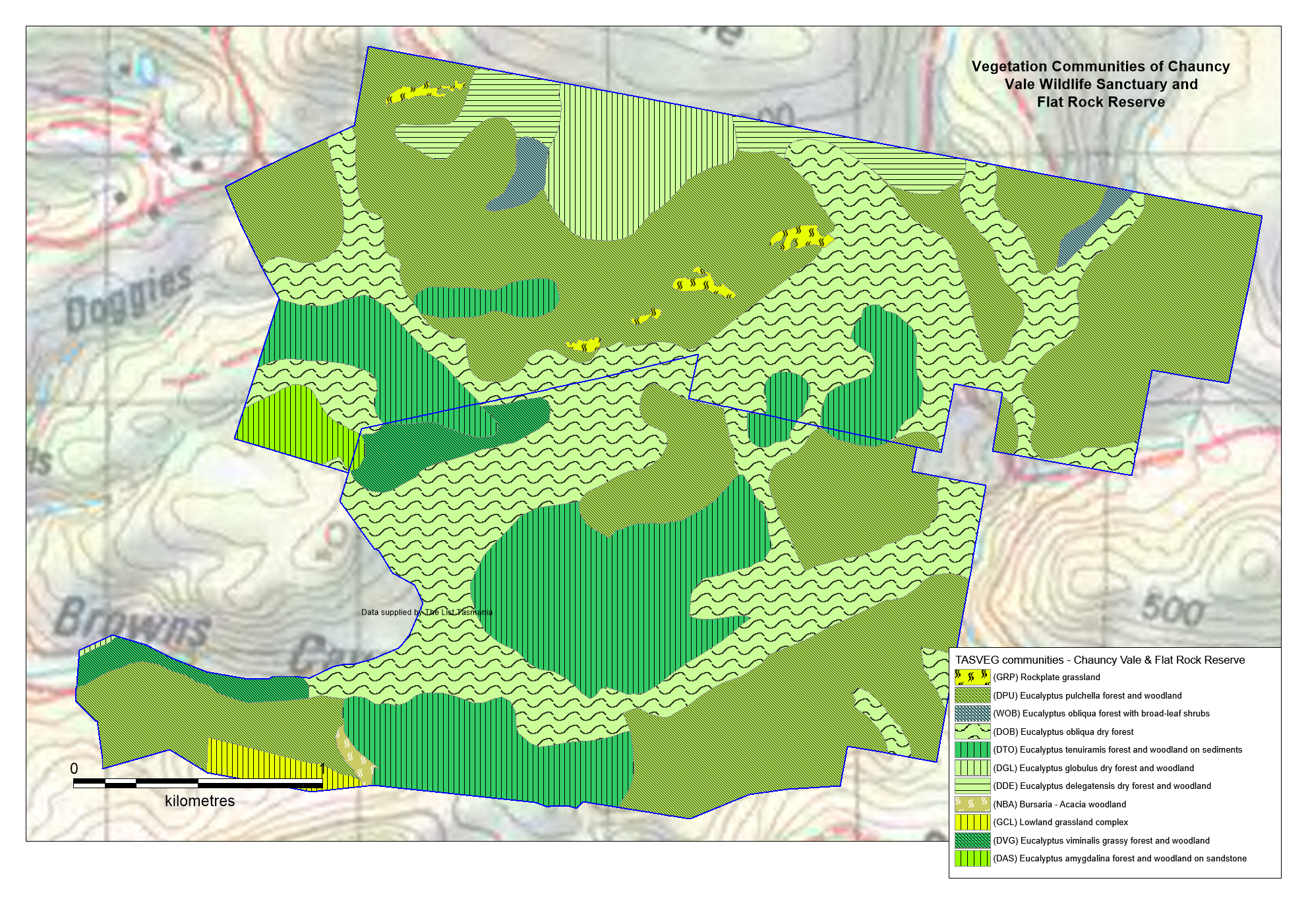
Most of the vegetation (97%) falls into the category of dry sclerophyll forest ranging from dry grassy woodland communities dominated by white peppermint (*Eucalyptus pulchella*) on exposed dolerite sites, to silver peppermint (*E. tenuiramis*) woodlands with a heathy understory on exposed mudstone and sandstone sites. On the lower slopes and gullies, forests dominated by blue gum (*E. globulus*), stringybark (*E. obliqua*), and white gum (*E. viminalis*) occur. The understory varies from grassy on dry, north facing slopes through dry sclerophyll shrubs to wet sclerophyll shrubs in protected south facing sites.

In the visitor precinct of Chauncy Vale, the original Chauncy family house, Day Dawn, contains exotic colonial plants, such as lilac, rosemary and jasmine, with spring bulb beds.

#### Table 1. Vegetation communities (TASVEG4 analysis) present at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vegetation community as mapped in TASVEG4** | **TASVEG**  **code** | **Approximate area (ha)** | **Community Status** |
| *E. pulchella* (white peppermint)forest & woodland | DPU | 355 |  |
| *E. obliqua* (stringybark)dry forest | DOB | 261 |  |
| *E. tenuiramis* (silver peppermint)forest & woodland on sandstone | DTO | 150 | Threatened |
| *E. globulus* (blue gum)dry forest & woodland | DGL | 33 | Threatened |
| *E. delegatensis* (gum-topped stringybark) dry forest & woodland | DDE | 22 |  |
| *E. viminalis* (white gum)grassy forest & woodland | DVG | 20 |  |
| *E. amygdalina* forest and woodland on sandstone | DAS | 10 | Threatened |
| Lowland grassland complex | GCL | 7 |  |
| Rockplate grassland | GRP | 5 |  |
| *E. delegatensis* forest with broad-leaf shrubs | WDB | 4 |  |
| *E. obliqua* (stringybark)forest with broad-leaf shrubs | WOB | 3 |  |
| *Bursaria – Acacia* woodland & scrub | NBA | 2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Map 4 – Vegetation communities (TASVEG4) at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve**



**Stringybark (*E. obliqua)* dry forest (DOB)**

Forest dominated by brown-topped stringybark occurs in gullies and on south-facing slopes on both dolerite and sandstone substrates. The canopy is generally composed of stringybark with occasional eucalypts from adjacent vegetation communities present. The understorey is generally shrubby comprising the following species: silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), prickly box (*Bursaria spinosa*), native cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*), prickly beauty (*Pultenaea juniperina*), native cranberry (*Astroloma humifusum*), sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*), bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) and tussock grasses (*Poa* spp.).

**White peppermint (*E. pulchella*) forest and woodland (DPU)**

Forest and woodland dominated by white peppermint occurs on dolerite and is a common vegetation community on the reserves. On the drier, most exposed sites the canopy is almost completely dominated by white peppermint, although occasional other Eucalypt species occur.

The understorey in white peppermint forest and woodland varies from grassy to shrubby depending on aspect and soil depth. The following species are commonly found: silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), prickly box (*Bursaria spinosa*), native cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*), prickly beauty (*Pultenaea juniperina*), native cranberry (*Astroloma humifusum*), peachberry heath (*Lissanthe strigosa*), sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*), bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) and tussock grasses (*Poa* spp.).

**Peppermint forest and woodland on sandstone (*E. tenuiramis and E. amygdalina*)**

Forest dominated by the threatened vegetation communities, silver peppermint and black peppermint, occupies most of the sandstone substrate on Flat Rock Reserve and Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, except the gullies. The diversity and density of the understorey varies with soil depth and exposure and is characterized by a range of low shrub and heath species. Occasional large shrubs are present such as banksia (*Banksia marginata*), silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), prickly box (*Bursaria spinosa*) and black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*). Species common in the understorey include: sticky Boronia (*Boronia anenemifolia*), groundsel daisies (*Senecio* spp.), native cranberry (*Astroloma humifusum*), golden shaggypea (*Oxylobium ellipticum*) and tussock grasses (*Poa spp.*).

**Blue gum (*E. globulus*) dry forest and woodland (DGL)**

Forest dominated by blue gum occurs predominantly on a south-facing slope in the central north of Flat Rock Reserve, with a small area also occurring on Chauncy Vale. Other Eucalypt species occur as a sub-dominant species in this community. The understorey is characterized by *Poa* tussock grasses and small trees and shrubs such as: blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), prickly beauty (*Pultenaea juniperina*), guitar plant (*Lomatia tinctoria*), prickly box (*Bursaria spinosa*), dollybush (*Cassinia aculeata*), daisybush (*Olearia* spp.), sagg (Lomandra longifolia) and bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*).

**White gum (*E. viminalis*) grassy forest and woodland (DVG)**

White gum grassy forest and woodland occurs on the river flats of Browns Caves Creek at the western end of the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. The understorey is dominated by silver wattle regrowth over silver tussock (*Poa labillardierei*), but also contains occasional small trees and shrubs, including blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), dogwood (*Pomaderris apetala*), currajong (*Asterotrichion discolor*), native currant (*Coprosma quadrifida*) and prickly moses (*Acacia verticillata*).

**Gum-topped stringy bark (*E. delegatensis*) dry forest and woodland (DDE)**

Forest and woodland dominated by gum-topped stringy bark occurs at higher elevations in Flat Rock Reserve.

In places, there is a dense understorey of the wet shrub species: dogwood (*Pomaderris apetala*), musk (*Olearia argophylla*), blanket bush (*Bedfordia salicina*) and currant bush (*Coprosma quadrifida*). Ground cover is limited under this canopy, but mother shield fern (*Polystichum proliferum*) is relatively common.

**Brown-topped stringy bark (*E. obliqua*) forest with broad-leaf shrubs (WOB)**

A small area of wet forest dominated by stringy bark occurs in a steep gully on Flat Rock Reserve. As well as the dominant brown-topped stringy bark, the canopy also includes the occasional gum-topped stringy bark and blue gum, including old growth elements. There is a dense understorey of typical wet forest species dominated by dogwood (*Pomaderris apetala*), blanket bush (*Bedfordia salicina*) and silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). A range of other wet forest shrubs occur at low densities, including the occasional currajong (*Asterotrichion discolor*), native olive (*Notelaea ligustrina*), stinkwood (*Zieria arborescens*), currant bush (*Coprosma quadrifida*) and soft tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*).

**Grasslands**

Grasslands occurs on shallow soils over dolerite bedrock on higher areas of Flat Rock Reserve and on the escarpment above Browns Caves. The grasslands are dominated by *Poa* tussocks with a range of small herbaceous species including hill daisy (*Brachyscome aculeata*), thyme guinea flower (*Hibbertia serpyllifolia*), native cranberry (*Styphelia humifusa*), and peachberry heath (*Lissanthe strigosa*).

### Flora

No comprehensive flora surveys have been undertaken at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, although many enthusiasts have passed on the details of their personal flora observations at from the site. These observations have been compiled into a list of flora recorded on Flat Rock and Chauncy Vale (see Appendix 1). Twenty three long-term ecological monitoring (LTEM) sites have be stratified across Flat Rock. The LTEM sites have both fauna cameras and vegetation transects that have been monitored in 2014 and 2018.

Two flora species listed as threatened under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 2002* and/or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have been observed at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and/or Flat Rock Reserve.

These species are listed in Table 2 below.

#### Table 2: Threatened flora observed previously at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species name | Common name | Status | Comments |
| Cyrtostylis robusta | large gnat orchid | Rare (TSPA) | Recorded at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary in the hills to the north of Browns Caves. |
| Pellaea calidirupium | hotrock fern | Rare (TSPA) | Recorded near Browns Caves at Chauncy Vale |

### Fauna

The native vegetation around Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve supports a wide range of fauna associated with dry sclerophyll forests and damp gullies within them. Browns Caves Creek contains near-permanent springs and pools within a relatively pristine environment. Therefore the aquatic fauna associated with these water bodies is likely to be of considerable significance.

A list of the fauna species so far recorded from the reserves is presented in Appendix 2. TLC conduct long-term ecological monitoring (LTEM) – consisting of 23 fauna cameras (and also bird song meters) in place on Flat Rock Reserve to monitor native occupancy and activity scores for Tasmania devils and spotted tailed quolls. Data from the LTEM will inform increasing detail of fauna activity on the reserve with monitoring sites planned to be added to Chauncy Vale.

The cliffs along the southern boundary of Chauncy Vale provide excellent habitat for the nesting of predatory birds. In the previous management plan, human access to this area was completely restricted in the breeding months (August to November inclusive) each year, to allow for undisturbed breeding.

Seven fauna species listed as threatened in the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 2002* and/or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have been observed at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. A further three threatened species are likely to be present at the reserves, based on the presence of suitable habitat, however these have not been recorded. All of these species are listed in Table 3.

#### Table 3: Threatened species recorded or likely to be present at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species name | Common name | Status | Comments |
| Sarcophilus harrisii | Tasmanian devil | Endangered (TSPA, EPBCA) | Populations at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary have been the focus of occasional scientific studies since the mid 1970s. Excellent den habitat at the caves. Recorded on LTEM surveys at Flat Rock 2014 & 2018, and opportunistic surveys at Chauncy Vale up to current. |
| Dasyurus maculatus ssp. maculatus | spotted-tailed quoll | Rare (TSPA),  Vulnerable (EPBCA) | *Recorded on LTEM surveys at Flat Rock 2014 & 2018,* |
| Dasyurus viverrinus | eastern quoll | Endangered (EPBCA) | Recorded within 5km and suitable habitat is present. |
| Perameles gunnii | eastern barred bandicoot | Vulnerable (EPBCA) | Observed at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary |
| Tyto novaehollandiae ssp. castanops | Tasmanian masked owl | Endangered (TSPA, EPBCA) | Nesting and roosting habitat in the caves |
| Aquila audax ssp. fleayi | wedge-tailed eagle | Endangered (TSPA, EPBCA) | Nest site recorded at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, although it is not known if this nest is still active. |
| Accipiter novaehollandiae | grey goshawk | Endangered (TSPA) | Observed at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. |
| Litoria raniformis | green and golden frog | Vulnerable (TSPA, EPBCA) | Observed in the springs and pools of Browns Creek at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary |
| Lathamus discolor | swift parrot | Endangered (TSPA, EPBCA) | Not yet recorded at either reserve, although recorded within 5km and suitable habitat is present. |
| Pseudomoia pagenstecheri | tussock grass skink | Vulnerable (TSPA) | Not yet recorded at either reserve, although recorded within 5km and suitable habitat is present. |

### Environmental degradation

***Introduced species***

Introduced animal species are present in the reserves, including rabbits, cats, fallow deer, goats and European wasps. In 2021 sightings of feral goats began to increase and there is concern that they are becoming established in the reserves. Strategies to control the goat population include trapping and culling.

Feral species cause damage whether it be physical impact on the flora, or predation upon native species. It is important that a monitoring and reporting system be implemented in order to inform the best way to minimize the numbers and further proliferation of feral species.

Several introduced plant species are present at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. A small infestation of broom (*Genista monspessulana*) is present along the boundary near the entrance of Flat Rock Reserve; this infestation was removed in 2007 and ongoing management continues to occur. Co-operation with neighbouring landowners will ensure that this infestation is successfully eradicated. Several gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) plants have been removed from areas near Browns Caves Rivulet in the past, however these have not been present in recent years. Californian & Scotch thistles have been problematic on creek flats to the west of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and are now spreading up the valley within Chauncy Vale, although control measures are undertaken every spring/summer. Proliferation of cape weed in the farming country to the west of Chauncy Vale means that it is likely to spread into the reserve. Outbreaks of this weed will need to be managed vigilantly as it has the capacity to invade extensive areas of ground within the reserve when bare soil is exposed during periods of drought.

Areas around the buildings and paddocks at Chauncy Vale have many introduced species, including pasture grasses, ornamental trees and cottage garden plants. None of these species are currently spreading and hence do not require any intervention currently, however, this needs to be monitored.

***Inappropriate fire frequency***

The bushland in the reserves has always been the subject of periodic fires. In the past, these have generally been confined to the tops of the hills, although two intentionally lit fires have burnt through the valleys from properties to the west. Fire has not been used in the past on Chauncy Vale for hazard reduction or maintenance of ecological diversity, and its use was prohibited under the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan 1993. Anecdotal reports suggest fire was utilised frequently in the Flat Rock woodlands prior to it becoming a reserve. This was to minimize regeneration of woody species and to stimulate grass growth for stock.

It is now recognised that seasonal burning is important to both reduce fuel loads and also to stimulate regeneration of eucalypts and other species in dry sclerophyll woodland communities. This is complicated by the need to protect old/large eucalypts, hence care is needed.Variable seasonal conditions, inaccessibility to large areas of the reserve, and consideration of potential impact on neighbouring properties, has meant that the practicalities of controlled burns has proven difficult. Trial low intensity burns were undertaken at Jacks Flat in the winter of 2020. These burns successfully reduced fuel load and stimulated regeneration of white gums.

As detailed earlier in this management plan, a specific fire management plan (in draft in 2022), will inform the approach to controlled burns in the reserves in the future.

***Disease***

The only disease known from the reserves is the Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease, which affects the Tasmanian devil populations throughout much of Tasmania. Potential exists for the introduction of other diseases, either through natural causes or through visitation and management activities. Of some concern is the root rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi,* which causes dieback and/or death of selected native plant species, particularly those of the Proteaceae and Ericaceae families. These families include heaths and banksias. Root rot fungus is transported via the transfer of infected soil from one place to another, which can be prevented by simply ensuring that items that may carry soil, including vehicles, boots, tools and camera tripods, be washed prior to entering the reserve.

***Inappropriate human activities***

Native bushland in the Bagdad area is commonly used for firewood harvesting, recreational four-wheel driving and trail-bike riding, hunting and dumping rubbish. Vandalism of the buildings and their surrounds at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is also a concern. Unrestricted and unmonitored, these activities can cause significant environmental degradation to the conservation values of the reserves.

These activities have been successfully restricted at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. Appointment of caretakers from 1993 who live on-site is the main reason this has occurred. Incursions at Flat Rock Reserve have proven more difficult to bring under control as the area was routinely subject to these activities prior to it becoming a reserve. However, vehicle access has now been restricted with the installation of a boom gate at the East Bagdad Road entrance.

Locals report that the former owners permitted the free collection of existing fallen timber for firewood, following selective timber harvesting undertaken in the 1980s. However, neighbors recall several individuals using the property for extensive firewood harvesting, falling standing trees and removing truckloads of split firewood on a regular basis. These activities also extended into Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, despite the installation of signage and trenches across vehicle tracks at the boundary of the reserve.

Four sites at Flat Rock Reserve, all within 1 km of East Bagdad Road, were extensively used as illegal rubbish dump sites, with much of this rubbish removed mechanically by the former owners as part of the purchase agreement by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. Other smaller rubbish dump sites further into the property have since been discovered and largely removed by TLC.

Recreational four-wheel driving, trail-bike riding and hunting were also evident at Flat Rock Reserve. Vehicle use and poor location of vehicle tracks relative to the slope and soil types has resulted in erosion along many vehicle tracks at the reserve. These activities are not permitted at Flat Rock Reserve, and the re-installation of the boom gate at the entrance to the property has restricted access by trucks and four-wheel drives. Trail-bike riders are still known to access the property by riding around the boom gate or via a neighboring property.

### Visitation

Visitation to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is actively encouraged. Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is used mainly for day visits by bushwalkers, families having a picnic, and educational and special interest groups. Entry is by gold coin donation. Bookings are taken by groups wishing to visit Day Dawn Cottage museum or to use the meeting room.

Visitation to Flat Rock Reserve is permitted under the same general restrictions as Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. No visitation is permitted during days declared as a Total Fire Ban (by the Tasmania Fire Service).

Restricted overnight visitation is currently permitted at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, subject to several conditions. Overnight visitors must be self-contained campervans and may not bring domestic animals into the reserve. Other overnight visitation may be considered and approved by the Chauncy Vale Management Committee if conservation values are not impacted and management issues can be adequately addressed.

### Adjacent land use

The main land use surrounding the Reserve is private land, most of which is rough wooded country used as residential allotments, forestry and some grazing. Reserved land also abuts the Reserve with a conservation covenant on the southern boundary and Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area at the northeast boundary (refer to Map 1). There has been considerable clearing for farming and residential development on land to the west of the Reserve in the Bagdad Rivulet valley.

## 1.3 Legal Requirements for Management

1. **Tasmanian *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002.*** Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is gazetted as a Conservation Area under this Act, requiring management to be in keeping with the objectives of management for a Conservation Area.
2. **Covenant under the *Tasmanian Nature Conservation Act 2002.*** The Tasmanian Land Conservancy has placed a covenant over Flat Rock Reserve aimed at ensuring the protection of its conservation values. Southern Midlands Council has also had a conservation covenant registered over most of the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. The conditions of the covenants have been incorporated into this Plan.
3. ***Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*** provides protection to listed threatened species. It is an offence to knowingly destroy or disturb a listed species without a permit.
4. ***Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*** is relevant due to the presence of species listed under the Act within the reserve. This Act recognises that listed threatened and migratory species are matters of National Environmental Significance; and introduces an environmental assessment and approval regime for actions that are likely to have a significant impact on listed threatened and migratory species. The implication of this listing for management is that the Tasmanian Land Conservancy or Southern Midlands Council cannot take an action that will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on species listed under the Act without written approval.
5. ***Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*** seeks to protect Aboriginal relics from any kind of disturbance from anyone who reasonably knew their activity was disturbing a relic. A permit is required from the Director of the Parks and Wildlife Service to disturb a relic.
6. ***Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*** recognises Chauncy Vale as having historic cultural heritage significance to Tasmania through its permanent entry on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. The Act requires that an owner or applicant must obtain approval from the Tasmanian Heritage Council prior to carrying out any works or development that may affect the historic cultural heritage significance of a place.
7. A planning overlay ‘The Chauncy Vale Specific Area Plan’ applies to the Reserve. The purpose of this Specific Area Plan is to ensure that development in and around the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary maintains the natural heritage values and cultural heritage values of the sanctuary.
8. **Conditions on funding by the Australian Government’s National Reserve System Program.** This program provided funding for part of the purchase of Flat Rock Reserve provided by the Australian Government. This funding is governed by a financial agreement imposing the following important conditions:

* The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) must establish Flat Rock Reserve as a Private Protected Area for Nature Conservation purposes and must not use the Reserve (or permit the Reserve to be used) for any purpose other than a Protected Area;
* The TLC must enter into a Restrictive Covenant with the State Government that is attached to the Land Title and by which the organisation agrees not to use the Reserve, or allow any other person to use the Reserve, for any purpose other than a Protected Area;
* Management actions must be defined by a Plan of Management that follows principles and standards established by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Water Resources;
* The TLC must not transfer or agree to transfer the Reserve to any party without the agreement of the Commonwealth; and
* The Commonwealth will only sanction transfer of the Reserve to another party, whether private or government, under strict conditions ensuring its ongoing protection and management as a Protected Area.

# 2. Reserve Management

## 2.1 Overarching Objective

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve are managed with intention that:

* ensures the protection of its natural and cultural heritage features, and
* encourages its use for education and passive recreation purposes.

These intentions were also expressed in the wishes of Anton Chauncy and Heather Chauncy in their respective bequest and donation of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to the municipality.

Furthermore, the funding received from the Australian Government’s National Reserve System to assist with the purchase of Flat Rock Reserve required that it be managed in accordance with IUCN Category IV: Habitat/Species Management Area. A protected area under this category is managed mainly for conservation through management intervention so as to ensure the maintenance of habitats to meet the requirements of specific species.

Southern Midlands Council and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), as landowners of the two reserves, honour these expectations and, accordingly, have adopted the following overarching objective:

*To identify, conserve, assist people to appreciate and, where necessary, restore the natural and cultural heritage values of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve, and to ensure these values are passed on to future generations in as good or better condition than at present.*

This objective guides management of the Reserves and provides a basis from which more detailed management objectives and prescriptions have been derived.

## 2.2 Identification of conservation targets and restoration of values

This section identifies how Southern Midlands Council and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy aim to achieve the overarching objective.

A conservation assessment model known as “Conservation by Design”, developed by The Nature Conservancy in the United States, was used to determine the priority of conservation values. This process determines which values are recognised as ‘Conservation Targets’, becoming the focal points for management of the Reserves.

The conservation assessment model assists in the identification of processes threatening the conservation of each target, and the sources of threatening processes, ranking both of these for each conservation target. The use of this model ensures that the limited resources for management of the two reserves can be directed towards management actions that will deliver the greatest conservation outcomes.

Conservation targets are prioritised based on their regional, state or national significance, using information such as the level of threat to an identified value (at statewide and/or national scale), habitat value and ecological function. This prioritisation allows comparison between conservation targets across reserves, enhancing the conservation outcomes of available resources. Table 2 outlines the priorities associated with each conservation value.

The ‘Severity of Threat Source’ rating was determined by an analysis of the likelihood of the threat occurring from a described source, and the probable consequence of that threat upon each conservation target. The matrix in Table 3 was used to prioritise the source of threats and management actions for each conservation target.

***Table 2: Prioritisation of conservation targets***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Value** | **Priority** | **Justification** |
| Dry forest and woodland communities | HIGH | The reserves support large areas of dry sclerophyll communities, including some vegetation communities that are of conservation significance. Some threatened plant and animal species are associated with the forests and woodlands of the reserve. Areas of the forest and woodland communities can be classified as ‘old growth’, resulting in high habitat values, including nesting places for wedge-tailed eagles. |
| Browns Caves Rivulet | MODERATE | The Browns Caves Rivulet is in good condition and plays an important role in supporting flora and fauna communities. |
| Raptor populations | MODERATE | The eastern parts of the cliffs at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary provide important breeding and roosting habitat for raptor birds, including peregrine falcons. |
| Cultural heritage | HIGH | Chauncy Vale has a long and well-recorded history of European use, with some sites on the property particularly recognised for their cultural heritage value, including Browns Caves, “Day Dawn” house and garden and their surrounding areas. These sites are also an integral part of the Chauncy family legacy. The area is also thought to have been used extensively by Aboriginal people. |

***Table 3: Matrix for prioritisation of management actions***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Significance of conservation target | | |
| High | Moderate | Low |
| Severity of threat source | High | High | Moderate | Low |
| Moderate | Moderate | Low | Very low |
| Low | Low | Very low | None |

## 2.3 Conservation Target 1 - Dry Sclerophyll Forest & Woodland Communities

**Conservation Significance: *HIGH***

Dry sclerophyll forest and woodland communities occupy approximately 840 hectares, equivalent to 96.5% of the combined area of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. Of the six identified dry sclerophyll communities within the reserves, the silver peppermint forest and woodland on sandstone (137 ha) is of particular significance as it is a threatened vegetation community in Tasmania and just 24% of this community is currently present in secure reserves. Additionally, the mapped patch sizes in the reserves are relatively large, all exceeding 35 hectares, which is important in terms of the communities maintaining diversity and ‘ecosystem function’.

The dry woodland communities are critically important habitat for a range of fauna species that occupy the reserves. Some species require old-growth elements such as large trees and hollow logs on the ground - these provide nesting sites and den sites. Although old growth elements are known to be present in the reserves, an important priority is to map the extent of old growth forest patches and habitat features to inform and prioritise management decision making in the future.

### Key threatening processes and sources of threats

Loss of structural diversity, and possibly species diversity, is a threatening process in the dry sclerophyll forest and woodland communities. This can be caused by a number of factors, including: changing rainfall patterns; longer dry spells; heatwaves (climate change effects); inappropriate fire regimes; disease/dieback, establishment of weeds; soil erosion; and browsing. These factors are outlined below.

i) Climate Change – Chauncy Vale and Flat Rock Reserve is becoming drier as part of a changing pattern affecting much of eastern and southeastern Tasmania. Rainfall patterns are unpredictable and the area is now characterized by extended dry spells, water stress and drought. It is now common to observe no water flow in the rivulets of the reserves for long periods, e.g. 12 months or more. Dieback in all age classes of trees is currently being observed in the white peppermint and white gum community, and this is likely related to the changing climate.

ii) Inappropriate fire regimes – fires more frequent or intense than the forest communities are adapted to can result in a loss of structural and species diversity. This can be caused by trends towards younger age classes of eucalypts, reduced volume or lack of seed set in eucalypts and the favouring of pioneering species such as silver wattle and black wattle. Reduction in old growth elements (large trees used for nesting and/or with hollows, and hollow logs on the ground) occurs with greater fire frequency and intensity. Reduction in old growth elements results in reduced habitat for hollow-using species such as masked owl, swift parrot, Tasmanian devil, quoll and reptiles.

iii) Weed invasion can result in a reduction of natural biological diversity in situations where they out-compete native species. Weed species present of most concern in the reserves are Californian thistle on the river flats of Chauncy Vale, and broom in Doggies Gully at Flat Rock Reserve. There is potential for establishment of other significant weeds such as gorse and cape-weed, and vigilance is required to manage any observed incursions.

iv) Browsing and feral animals – browsing of regenerating native flora seedlings or saplings is an issue in relation to maintaining forest structure, a variety of age classes, and for biodiversity. Ecological shift driven by climate change is leading to more frequent and longer dry spells. Additional to the direct effect of this change is the mounting pressure on the flora due to browsing by native herbivores who are more stretched for food resources more often. Excessive browsing of the flora can result in minimal ground cover more often. This leaves steep hillsides vulnerable to soil loss and provides favourable conditions for colonisation by weed species that take advantage of bare ground to establish. The weeds of concern are those that are well adapted to very dry conditions and are unpalatable to herbivores, for example, cape weed.

Introduced species such as fallow deer, goats and rabbits add to the pressure on the flora and can intensify damage through browsing and physical damage to a wider range of plants. These feral pest species have been observed in the reserves and may be difficult to control in steeper more remote areas. It is difficult to ascertain whether feral animals are becoming more established within the reserves or whether they are transient.

v) Phytophthora - Root rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* has the potential to impact upon some plant species within the reserves. Must vulnerable to impact are species within the Proteaceae family such as *Banksia marginata*, and some heath species in the family Ericaceae. Tasmanian eucalypts are not susceptible to *Phytophthora*.

vi) Soil erosion - can impact upon hydrology, native seed set and regeneration, and as mentioned previously, can provide conditions where weeds tend to flourish. Within the reserves, minor soil erosion has mostly occurred on and near vehicle tracks, associated with past ‘wood hooking’, and along some creek lines.

vii) Firewood collection & waste disposal – ‘wood hooking’ is a threatening process that has been of particular concern historically at Flat Rock Reserve. This has resulted in the removal of dead ‘stags’ and fallen limbs. Uncontrolled access for wood collection degrades habitat resources for wildlife, is another way in which weeds can be brought into the reserves, and can create soil disturbance.

Disposal of waste within Flat Rock Reserve, prior to its purchase by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, has generally been limited to car bodies and household rubbish at sites near East Bagdad Road. As well as being an eyesore, this waste has the potential to leach toxic elements into the water catchment, and cause physical harm to wildlife.

viii) Baseline data - a lack of baseline data providing spatial information about the extent, structure and species composition of the vegetation communities is an issue. It is difficult to know what to prioritise protecting without having a clear idea of the important habitat and species assets of the reserves. Of particular relevance would be the mapping of old growth forest patches, identification of significant habitat features and also regular monitoring of species diversity. Compiled data enables changes to be tracked over long periods of time and is crucial for informing management priorities and decision making.

### 2.3.2 Conservation Objective & Actions

To maintain structural and species diversity in the dry sclerophyll forest and woodland communities.

### 2.3.3 Management Actions

| Threatening process | Source of threat | Management Action | Priority | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Loss of structural and species diversity | Climate Change | * Mitigation – Play a role in drawing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through revegetation projects. Large bushland reserves such as Flat Rock and Chauncy Vale play a crucial role in carbon sequestration. Protection and enhancement of the natural vegetation is hence a very important contribution. | High | Ongoing |
| * Adapt – it is very difficult to intervene in the changes to the natural environment caused by large scale global system changes. Some species are already struggling to survive whilst others are being favoured. Targeted action such as revegetation with appropriate species that are resilient to change is important in counteracting tree dieback and maintaining species diversity. | High | Ongoing |
| Inappropriate fire regime | * Develop a whole-of-reserve fire management plan, with input from the Tasmania Fire Service, the aboriginal community, P&WS and TLC. Burns conducted to maximise structural and species diversity, maintain old growth characteristics and reduce fuel loads. | Medium | Completed in 2022 |
| * As fires occur, map fire boundaries and keep records of fire frequency, intensity and timing. | Medium | Ongoing |
| Introduction of weeds | * Install signage at the Chauncy Vale walker registration booth and Flat Rock Reserve entrance highlighting the potential for weeds to be brought into the reserves via dirty or muddy vehicles or boots, clothing, tools, etc. | Medium | Not yet complete |
| * Develop a weed reporting program, including identification of a contact person, for visitors to assist with identification of weed presence or spread. | Low | Not yet complete |
| * Control and rehabilitate weed infestations promptly where they are identified. | High | Ongoing |
| Soil erosion | * Assess the track network for soil erosion occurrence or potential. | High | Ongoing |
| * Close and rehabilitate unnecessary tracks and repair necessary tracks showing signs of erosion. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Restrict vehicle use on Flat Rock Reserve to management purposes only, or otherwise requiring written permission from the Management Committee. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Restrict vehicle use at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to existing formed tracks. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Install solid physical barriers where vehicles gain illegal access to the reserves. | High | Complete |
| * Maintain neighbour relationships to ensure vehicles do not access Flat Rock or Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary via neighbouring properties. | Medium | Ongoing |
|  | * Identify erosion sites along all streams and intermittent waterways in the reserves, identify appropriate stabilisation techniques (e.g. porous check dams) and implement where necessary. | High | Ongoing |
| Hunting and collecting | * Maintain and enforce ban on hunting in the reserves. This includes surveillance of peregrine falcon nesting sites – as egg theft has occurred in the past. | High | Ongoing |
| Firewood collection | * Maintain ban on firewood collection at both reserves. | High | Ongoing |
| * Install signage at Flat Rock Reserve access points to inform of the ban on firewood collection. | Medium | Complete |
| Browsing and feral animals | * Browsing pressure by native herbivores may be driven by broad scale ecological drivers such as climate change and will create its own checks and balances. However, a monitoring or reporting system is required to inform a control strategy for feral pests such as fallow deer and goats as they have potential to cause damage to flora and biodiversity loss. | High | Monitoring is required, control will be necessary |
| Disposal of waste | * Remove rubbish as it is found. Record large rubbish sites to allow future removal of rubbish. | Medium | Partly complete, ongoing |  |
| Lack of baseline data & tree dieback | * Conduct flora and fauna surveys. Improve knowledge of diversity, composition, and structure of the vegetation. Verify mapped vegetation communities, identify old growth forest patches, and identify key habitat features. * Document, record and/or map eucalypt dieback in the reserve and if necessary discuss management options to address this situation. | High | Short-term priority |

## 2.4 Conservation Target 2 – Browns Caves Creek

***Conservation Significance:* MODERATE**

Browns Caves Creek is one of the focal points for visitors to the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. The creek runs alongside the main visitation area (see Map 3 Chauncy Vale Management Zones), with short walks focused around and along the creek.

Being a semi-permanent water source in an otherwise dry region, Browns Caves Creek provides an important refuge for fauna and flora. The creek is lined with a narrow band of riparian vegetation that increases and supports the ecological diversity of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and provides resources for the local fauna.

### Key threatening processes and source of threats

As a focal point for visitation, there is potential for impact on the conservation values of Browns Caves Creek. This may include damage to riparian vegetation, the physical impact of visitor access at some sites, or the introduction of weeds or pathogens on footwear or clothing.

As for the dry sclerophyll forests, climate change is a key threatening process for Browns Caves Creek. As mentioned previously, changing rainfall patterns, particularly affecting southeastern Tasmania, have resulted in extended periods of time where there is no surface flow in the creek system. Modelling from the Climate Futures for Tasmania Program points to a future in which dry spells will become longer and when rainfall events do occur they will increase in intensity. This has significant implications for the ecology and structure of the creek system and may result in changing species composition and increased erosion pressure during large rainfall events.

### 2.4.2 Conservation Objective and Actions

The primary conservation objective in relation to Browns Caves Creek is to maintain it in as near natural condition as possible into the future by observing, managing and addressing threats whilst maintaining the potential for visitor interaction with the environment.

### 2.4.3 Management Actions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Source of threat | Management Action | Priority | Status |
| Loss of species diversity | Trampling by visitors | * Maintain the current network of walking tracks to a standard where erosion is monitored and managed. | High | Ongoing |
| * Encourage visitors to keep to the walking tracks and avoid trampling riparian vegetation and stream banks. | High | Ongoing |
| *Climate change* | * Revegetate in appropriate locations to stabilise stream banks and assist with maintaining riparian vegetation species diversity. | High | Ongoing |
| Impact from domestic animals | * Do not allow domestic animals in either Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary or Flat Rock Reserve. | High | Ongoing |
|  | * Control feral animal populations as required. | Medium | Not yet required |
|  | Managementof weeds | * Control and rehabilitate weed infestations promptly when they are identified, in particular: thistles, cape weed, broom and gorse. | High | Ongoing |
|  | Inappropriate fire regime | * Develop a whole-of-reserve fire management plan. | High | Draft complete as at 2021 |
|  | * Undertake low intensity patch burns in winter with input and assistance from appropriate authorities. | High | Commenced |
|  | * As fires occur, map fire boundaries and keep records of fire frequency, intensity and timing. | Medium | Ongoing |
|  | Lack of baseline data on biodiversity and condition | * Encourage volunteers and experts to undertake flora and fauna surveys to establish baseline data on the composition and conservation status of species and communities. This may potentially be undertaken in the format of a ‘Bioblitz’ or similar citizen science activities. | Medium | Ongoing |
| Changed flow regimes & erosion | Climate change | * Large flood events outside the realms of what has previously been witnessed are a matter of when rather than if. According to climate modelling for Tasmania, longer dry spells, hence periods of low flow, are also to be expected. The most effective interventions are yet to be determined, but once they are, action such as revegetation, protection of assets or stream bank stabilization may be pertinent. Also, in planning new assets, location in relation to impact from extreme flood events should be a consideration. | Medium | Ongoing |
| Stream-bank erosion | * Streambank erosion is evident at a number of locations within the Visitor Services Area and the Natural Area. Document and map this erosion and develop rehabilitation or control options on a case by case basis. | Medium | on a needs basis |

## 2.5 Conservation Target 3 – Raptor Populations

Conservation Significance: HIGH

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve provide important feeding and roosting habitat for raptors. There are known active wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*) nests and the ‘eastern cliffs’ provide key breeding sites for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*). Access to the breeding areas is restricted during breeding season (see Map 3 Chauncy Vale Management Zones).

### 2.5.1 Key threatening processes and source of threats

Failure of birds to breed, loss of habitat, and deliberate destruction of eggs are the key threatening processes in regard to maintaining raptor populations. The main source of the threat is the physical disturbance of nesting sites, birds and eggs during the breeding season.

### 2.5.2 Conservation Objective & Actions

To maintain habitat for, and the breeding success of, raptor populations.

### 2.5.3 Management Actions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Source of threat | Management Action | Priority | Status |
| Breeding failure of raptors | Disturbance by visitors during the breeding season | * Maintain ban on all visitation to known raptor nesting sites during the breeding season (1 August to 30 November each year). | High | Ongoing |
| * Erect signage and surveillance at appropriate locations informing of sms video surveillance of the nesting areas to deter those who have a vested interest in ensuring peregrines don’t breed, e.g. pigeon fanciers. | High | Commenced - ongoing |
| * Encourage experts to monitor the success rate of breeding raptors at the two reserves. | Low | Ongoing |
| Loss of habitat | Firewood collection | * Maintain ban on firewood collection at both reserves. | High | Ongoing |
| * Install signage at Flat Rock Reserve access points to inform of ban on firewood collection. | Medium | Not yet complete |
| Inappropriate fire regime | * Develop and implement a whole-of-reserve fire management plan with input from appropriate expertise. | Medium | Draft completed as at 2022 |
| * As fires occur, map fire boundaries and keep records of fire frequency, intensity and timing. | Medium | Ongoing |

## 2.6 Conservation Target 4 – Cultural Heritage

Conservation Significance: HIGH

Flat Rock Reserve and Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary form a large area of reserved land as a result of the Chauncy family’s commitment to nature conservation. The Chauncy family home, Day Dawn Cottage is a notable example of European cultural heritage in the reserve and is open to visitation as a museum/memorial to the family. The area’s physical and historical features provided inspiration for Nan Chauncy’s children’s stories, including the expansive bushland and its wildlife, the indigenous habitation of the landscape and the mysterious nature of the sandstone caves.

Three specific sites at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary are recognised on the Tasmanian Heritage Register for their important cultural significance with the Chauncy family and Nan Chauncy’s books. These areas are Day Dawn Cottage (the former Chauncy family house and gardens), the Shrine, and the Western Caves (see Map 3 Chauncy Vale Management Zones).

Evidence of indigenous habitation and usage has been observed and it is likely that the reserves contain indigenous heritage sites that are yet to be identified and documented.

### 2.6.1 Threatening processes and source of threats

Loss, alteration or deterioration of the physical features associated with the cultural heritage of Chauncy Vale is a threatening process. This may result from inappropriate development in the surrounding areas or from physical damage (e.g. fire, vandalism), or inadequate maintenance. Lack of available resources or will to maintain and repair heritage listed structures may also result in gradual deterioration of physical cultural heritage features.

Another potential threatening process is loss of connection between Nan Chauncy’s stories and the physical features of Chauncy Vale that provided the inspiration for the stories.

### 2.6.2 Conservation Objective & Actions

Ensure that the cultural significance of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is maintained and promoted into the future. Endeavour to establish connections with traditional owners and to build knowledge about the country, it’s usage and traditional management, and the significance of the country to them.

### 2.6.3 Management Actions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Source of threat | Management Action | Priority | Status |
| Loss or alteration of physical heritage features | Fire | * Maintain emergency water supplies and fire-fighting equipment within close proximity to the buildings in the reserves to standards required by the Tasmania Fire Service. | High | Ongoing |
| * Maintain fire breaks and reduce fuel loads around all buildings by slashing grass and low shrubs and clearing all fallen timber within 30 m of all buildings. | High | Ongoing |
| Inappropriate visitation | * Ensure appropriate levels of ‘presence’ within the reserve by caretaker and staff to deter any inappropriate intentions by those who may wish to damage assets on site. | High | Ongoing |
| * Monitor the condition of the Browns Caves for damage or loss of integrity resulting from vandalism or thoughtless actions by visitors. Where necessary, take actions to prevent damage and rehabilitate if necessary. | High | Ongoing |
| Infrequent maintenance | * Regularly monitor the condition of built infrastructure at the reserves and maintain to an acceptable standard. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Seek advice and approval from the Tasmanian Heritage Council and Southern Midlands Council prior to any maintenance work. | Medium | Ongoing |
| Lack of available resources for maintenance and repairs | * Council to retain appropriate insurance to cover any repairs required from damage to buildings and associated infrastructure. | High | Ongoing |
| * Collect visitor entry donations to be used for the purpose of maintaining assets in the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. | High | Ongoing |
| Loss or misinterpret- ation of the cultural significance of Chauncy Vale | Inappropriate management of cultural connections | * Ensure that wider community retains representation on the Chauncy Vale Management Committee and that objectives of the Management Plan are considered before management decisions are made. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Document the contents of Day Dawn Cottage and maintain this information on a register held by Southern Midlands Council and Heritage Tasmania. | High | Complete |
| * Hold annual regular Open Day to promote the cultural significance of Chauncy Vale to the broader community. | High | Ongoing |
| * Endeavour to establish connections with traditional owners, build knowledge about the country, traditional management, and the significance of the country to traditional owners. | High | Ongoing |
| * Ensure that displays and/or interpretative/educational material include the history and the historic cultural heritage significance of Chauncy Vale. | Medium | Ongoing |
|  |  | * Update the educational resource for use by school groups and promote this to schools around Tasmania. | Medium | Ongoing |

# Education & Recreation

## 3.1 Education & Interpretation

In their gifts of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary to the municipality, Anton and Heather Chauncy expressed a desire for the property to be used freely by educational and other groups for the study of the natural environment. Schools, bushwalkers and other members of the general public regularly visit Chauncy Vale. An educational guide for school teachers focusing on the natural environment at Chauncy Vale was developed in 1992 and remains a useful resource. The interpretation shelter at Chauncy Vale provides comprehensive information to all age groups regarding the natural history, cultural history and significance of the reserve.

School groups, mostly of primary school age, continue to use Chauncy Vale as a destination, with varying objectives for their visits. Some take a tour of Day Dawn Cottage, whilst others visit purely for recreational purposes. Whilst current resources for visitors are adequate and have stood the test of time, there is always opportunity for review and to develop more contemporary resources as times and expectations change.

### 3.1.1 Threatening processes & source of threats

Potential loss of resources to maintain infrastructure, maintain interpretation resources or run programs is an area of potential concern. Currently, resources provided by Southern Midlands Council, and through donations, fulfil basic requirements, however significant upgrades or new programs do require additional resources which may be sought from grant opportunities, but these are never assured.

### 3.1.2 Objectives

* There is opportunity to think laterally and develop contemporary resources and attractions for young people in order to continue the vision of the Chauncy family for the reserve to serve as a place for study of, and interaction with, the natural environment.
* Provide educational and research opportunities focused on the natural history, ecological sustainability, and cultural heritage of Chauncy Vale and Flat Rock Reserve.
* There is potential, resources allowing, for Chauncy Vale to have a part time education officer to develop programs, update resources and to organise targeted research projects which may include community engaged data collection surveys. If specific resources are not available, collaboration with scientific monitoring and interpretations staff at the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, and access to their networks, presents a possible opportunity.

### 3.1.3 Management Actions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Source of threat | Management Action | Priority | Status |
| Lack of resources for education, interpretation and research opportunities | Lack of resources and inadequate promotion of opportunities | * Consider engagement of an Education and Interpretation Officer for Chauncy Vale and if this isn’t possible, collaborate with the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to run community based monitoring or interpretation programs, preferably annually. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Encourage or facilitate scientific studies based on the natural and cultural resources of the two reserves. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Develop contemporary interpretation resources for visitors to Chauncy Vale and Flat Rock Reserve, for instance web based or QR code accessed. | High | Ongoing |
| * Update the educational resource for use by school groups and promote this to schools in the Southern region. | Medium | Not yet completed |
| * Source funding for specific environmental engagement projects that could be undertaken by schools and special interest groups. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Maintain and improve reserve infrastructure and tracks to ensure the public have safe access to the reserves in order to facilitate connection and engagement with nature. | High | Ongoing |

## 3.2 Recreation & Tourism

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve may used for recreational day visits by school groups, children’s play groups, special interest groups and members of the general public. Campervans are permitted to stay overnight in designated parking areas at Chauncy Vale.

The designated visitor services area at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary lies between the Chauncy Vale Road entry and the Burnt Gate. Some basic facilities are provided to support visitation, including: public shelters, a meeting room, toilets, gas barbeques, bushwalking tracks, and a walker registration booth. An interpretations shelter highlighting the natural and cultural heritage features of Chauncy Vale is located at the eastern end of the visitor services area.

A range of bushwalks are options for visitors. The most popular of these is the Caves Loop which takes in Brown’s Caves, Brown’s Caves Creek and Eve’s Bath. Longer bushwalks include; Guvy’s Lagoon and lookout; and Flat Rock Reserve, where the Eastern and Western lookouts are popular destinations. A woodland walk specifically for small children is a recently added attraction at Chauncy Vale.

Prior to reservation, Flat Rock had historically been used for recreational purposes such as four-wheel driving, hunting, horse and trail-bike riding. Each of these activities is generally considered incompatible with the objective of preserving the natural values of the land, and as such, they are no longer permitted.

### 3.2.1 Conservation Objective

Provide opportunities for the public to visit and undertake recreational activities safely at Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve, in accordance with the conservation objectives of the Management Plan.

### 3.2.2 Threatening processes & source of threats

Failure to maintain acceptable standards of facilities, interpretation and infrastructure required for recreation opportunities may compromise visitor experience, elevate public safety concerns, and in time lead to a decline in the number of people visiting the reserve. This threatening process may occur due to lack of resources, infrequent maintenance, or lack of awareness of acceptable safety standards.

### 3.2.3 Management Actions

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Threatening process | Source of threat | Management Action | Priority | Status |
| Inadequate infrastructure and support for maintaining recreation and tourism opportunities | Inadequate interpretation | * Consider grant funding or resources to employ an Education and Interpretation Officer - or at least collaborate with the TLC to utilise their expertise in targeted reserve interpretation field days. | Medium | Ongoing |
| * Consider and implement multiple ways in which reserve users may access information about the reserves, particularly on-line resources. | High | Ongoing |
|  | * Provide current interpretation material in the visitor services area to introduce visitors to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve. Update this information as necessary. | High | Ongoing |
| Inadequate facilities and resources | * Maintain a visitation services area for use by day visitors. Improve this area as appropriate and ensure facilities are safe and functional. Consider options for low-key overnight stays. | High | Ongoing |
| * Ensure walking tracks are well marked and well maintained. | High | Ongoing |
| * Consider the possibility of overnight stays by self- sufficient vans, without pets, within the visitor services area only. | Low | Implemented |
| Failure to meet acceptable safety standards | * Employ a resident volunteer caretaker, or equivalent mechanism, to interact with visitors, undertake basic maintenance and to keep an eye on public use and visitation. | High | Ongoing |
| * No visitors will be permitted to enter or remain in the reserves during days of High Fire Danger. | High | Ongoing |
| * Maintain emergency water supplies and fire-fighting equipment within close proximity to the buildings in the reserves to standards required by the Tasmania Fire Service. | High | Ongoing |
| * The Management Committee to liaise with the Tasmania Fire Service and P&WS regularly to determine and undertake any track and hazard reduction works required to minimize the possibility of uncontrolled bushfires. | High | Ongoing |
| * Ensure facilities are safe for users and that new facilities meet acceptable specifications and or standards. | High | Ongoing |
|  |  | * Identify hazards in the visitor precinct and along walking tracks, in particular dangerous trees, and manage the hazards accordingly. | High | Ongoing |

## Management Roles & Responsibilities

### 3.3.1 Chauncy Vale Management Committee

The Chauncy Vale Management Committee was initially formed under the Local Government Act 1962 to administer and manage Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary on behalf of former owners, Brighton Council. It is now an official committee of Southern Midlands Council.

The Management Committee is responsible for:

* Advising Southern Midlands Council and Tasmanian Land Conservancy on the appropriate means to manage Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve, and undertake this management on their behalf;
* Promoting Chauncy Vale as a conservation area and as a living memorial to Nan and Anton Chauncy, and promote Flat Rock Reserve as a conservation reserve;
* Determining access requirements of both reserves, including risk management for insurance and other purposes;
* Encouraging and co-ordinating the use of the reserves locally, statewide and nationally by providing formal links with local groups, relevant government departments and other groups as necessary;
* Developing a means by which the wider community can make use of the reserves and assist with their development within the scope of the Management Plan;
* Continuing to foster the support of a volunteer community group, in the format of the former Friends of Chauncy Vale, to assist in the management of the reserves;
* Providing advice in any review of this management plan; and
* Authorising any suitable person to act as an ‘authorised person’ to carry out its instructions.

The membership of the Chauncy Vale Management Committee should include:

* Up to two councillors from Southern Midlands Council;
* Up to two representatives of the Chauncy family;
* One representative from the Tasmanian Land Conservancy;
* The Caretaker;
* Two representatives from the local community; and
* One representative from the Parks and Wildlife Service.

The roles of these representatives are outlined below.

### Southern Midlands Council

Southern Midlands Council is the owner of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary. This ownership was transferred from Brighton Council following local government amalgamations in 1993. The council also has legal responsibility for managing the Wildlife Sanctuary as the Managing Authority under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

Southern Midlands Council has the following roles for management of the Wildlife Sanctuary:

* Carry out the wishes of Anton and Heather Chauncy in their separate gifts of the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary land, and family buildings to the municipality;
* Restore and maintain Day Dawn Cottage, insure the house and any material displayed, and develop a heritage program through its Chauncy Vale Management Committee;
* Encourage, through its Management Committee, heritage research, interpretation and educational programs, subject to the principles of the Burra Charter and the input of a professional archaeologist, where necessary;
* Maintain access to Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary for the people of Tasmania;
* Maintain the property and appropriate insurance;
* Ensure that any legal obligations for management are dealt with in accordance with the objectives of the Management Plan.

Each year, Council will consider allocating funds to Chauncy Vale from its annual budget, with such funds subject to annual audit by the State Audit Department. Funding may also be sought from relevant grant schemes, as appropriate. Administrative support to the Management Committee will be provided by Southern Midlands Council.

### Tasmanian Land Conservancy

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC) is the owner of Flat Rock Reserve. The TLC and Southern Midlands Council manage Flat Rock Reserve in conjunction with the Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary co-operatively through the Chauncy Vale Management Committee. In practice, this means that TLC will take the lead management for Flat Rock and Southern Midlands Council the lead management for Chauncy Vale, both in partnership with the Management Committee.

TLC management of Flat Rock Reserve, may include the co-ordination of contractors, consultants and volunteers, where required to implement the management actions outlined in this Management Plan. Relevant experts from the TLC Board will also be requested to assist with management wherever possible.

Funding for reserve management is sourced from public donations and, wherever possible, from grants supplied by government or philanthropic organisations.

The TLC aims to act as a good neighbour to all parties and, where possible, undertake co- operative or complementary management where both parties seek a similar outcome (e.g. weed control, fire management and public access). Insofar as it is practical, the TLC will ensure that management of the Reserve does not have a detrimental impact on any adjoining land.

### 3.3.4 Friends of Chauncy Vale

The Friends of Chauncy Vale was initially formed to assist in the management of Chauncy Vale by providing a human resource network for realising the objectives of the Management Plan. This included: developing opportunities for the public to become involved in and learn from ‘hands on’ conservation projects; and fundraising to support the maintenance and development of Chauncy Vale.

In 2015 the Friends of Chauncy Vale disbanded but has the potential to be reinstated in the future should the need arise.

### Education Representative

In the past this role has been undertaken by a staff member from Bagdad Primary School, although it may be taken on by any person with formal connections to a school, university or other education institution. The role of the education representative is to advise and assist the Management Committee in issues relating to education, interpretation and promotion of school and other educational group visits.

### Community Representative

Up to two interested members of the community are responsible for ensuring that local views are represented on the Management Committee. Community representatives are required to disseminate information about Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary into the broader community and encourage other members of the community to become involved in Chauncy Vale.

### Chauncy Family Representative

The role of the Chauncy family representative in the management of Chauncy Vale is to advise and assist in the management of the cultural heritage values of Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, and assist in the interpretation of these values.

### Parks & Wildlife Service

Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is gazetted as a Conservation Area under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002.* The Parks and Wildlife Service have responsibility for ensuring that reserves gazetted under this Act are managed according to their objectives listed in the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. The Parks and Wildlife Service have also committed to provide advice and assistance in managing Chauncy Vale, where resources allow.

The Parks and Wildlife Service also have an interest in Flat Rock Reserve as a neighbour, with Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area adjacent to this land. Interest has been flagged by the Parks and Wildlife Service in working with the TLC and Southern Midlands Council to manage Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area collectively with Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary and Flat Rock Reserve.

# Plan Review

An adaptive management process is widely recognized as the most appropriate form of conservation management. In implementing an adaptive management process, the progress towards meeting the objectives of this plan will be reviewed by the Management Committee at regular intervals, ideally every two years. Such reviews may lead to minor amendments to the plan that will not require public consultation.

A full review of the plan will occur ideally every five to ten years. A full plan review will involve public input prior to the intended publication of the new management plan.

# Appendix 1: Flora species list

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Family | Scientific name | Common name | Status\* |
| APIACEAE | Daucus glochidiatus | wild carrot |  |
| APIACEAE | Hydrocotyle sp. |  |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Bedfordia salicina | blanket bush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Brachyscome aculeata | hill daisy |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Brachyscome decipiens | field daisy |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Brachyscome spathulata subsp. glabra | blue daisy |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Cassinia aculeata | dolly bush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Cymbonotus preissianus | austral bears-ears |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Coronidium scorpioides | curling everlasting |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Lagenophora stipitata | blue bottledaisy |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Leptorhynchos squamatus | scaly buttons |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Olearia argophylla | musk |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Olearia floribunda | flowery daisybush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Olearia phlogopappa | dusty daisybush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Olearia lirata | shrubby daisybush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Olearia viscosa | viscid daisybush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Ozothamnus obcordatus | yellow everlastingbush |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Podolepis jaceoides | showy copperwire daisy |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Senecio hispidulus | rough fireweed |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Senecio pinnatifolius | common coast groundsel |  |
| ASTERACEAE | Solenogyne gunnii | Gunns flatherb |  |
| BRASSICACEAE | Cardamine sp. |  |  |
| CAMPANULACEAE | Lobelia simplicaulis | narrow lobelia |  |
| CAMPANULACEAE | Wahlenbergia sp. | blue bells |  |
| CARYOPHYLLACEAE | Cerastium sp. |  |  |
| CARYOPHYLLACEAE | Scleranthus biflorus | knawel |  |
| CASUARINACEAE | Allocasuarina duncani | conical sheoak |  |
| CASUARINACEAE | Allocasuarina littoralis | black sheoak |  |
| CASUARINACEAE | Allocasuarina monilifera | necklace sheoak |  |
| CHENOPODIACEAE | Rhagodia nutans | saltbush |  |
| CLUSIACEAE | Hypericum gramineum | small st johns-wort |  |
| CONVOLVULACEAE | Convolvulus angustissimus | Australian bindweed |  |
| CONVOLVULACEAE | Dichondra repens | kidneyweed |  |
| DILLENIACEAE | Hibbertia riparia | erect guineaflower |  |
| DILLENIACEAE | Hibbertia serpyllifolia | thyme guineaflower |  |
| DILLENIACEAE | Hibbertia hirsuta | hairy guineaflower |  |
| DROSERACEAE | Drosera sp. | sundew |  |
| ERICACEAE | Acrothamnus montanus | snow beardheath |  |
| ERICACEAE | Acrotriche serrulata | ants delight |  |
| ERICACEAE | Cyathodes glauca | purple cheeseberry |  |
| ERICACEAE | Epacris impressa | common heath |  |
| ERICACEAE | Leptecophylla juniperina | prickly beauty |  |
| ERICACEAE | Leucopogon ericoides | pink beardheath |  |
| ERICACEAE | Lissanthe strigosa | peachberry heath |  |
| ERICACEAE | Richea procera | lax candleheath |  |
| ERICACEAE | Styphelia adscendens | golden heath |  |
| ERICACEAE | Styphelia humifusa | native cranberry |  |
| EUPHORBIACEAE | Beyeria viscosa | pinkwood |  |
| EUPHORBIACEAE | Amperea xiphoclada | broom spurge |  |
| EUPHORBIACEAE | Poranthera microphylla | small poranthera |  |
| FABACEAE | Aotus ericoides | golden pea |  |
| FABACEAE | Bossiaea cinerea | showy bossia |  |
| FABACEAE | Bossiaea cordigera | wiry bossia |  |
| FABACEAE | Bossiaea obcordata | spiny bossia |  |
| FABACEAE | Bossiaea prostrata | creeping bossia |  |
| FABACEAE | Bossiaea riparia | leafless bossia |  |
| FABACEAE | Daviesia latifolia | hop bitterpea |  |
| FABACEAE | Daviesia ulicifolia | yellow spiky bitterpea |  |
| FABACEAE | Hovea heterophylla | winter purplepea |  |
| FABACEAE | Indigofera australis | native indigo |  |
| FABACEAE | Oxylobium ellipticum | golden shaggypea |  |
| FABACEAE | Platylobium obtusangulum | common flatpea |  |
| FABACEAE | Pultenaea juniperina | prickly beauty |  |
| FABACEAE | Pultenaea pedunculata | matted bushpea |  |
| FABACEAE | Pultenaea daphnoides | heartleaf bushpea |  |
| GERANIACEAE | Geranium solanderi | southern cranesbill |  |
| GERANIACEAE | Pelargonium australe | cranesbill |  |
| GOODENIACEAE | Goodenia lanata | trailing native primrose |  |
| GOODENIACEAE | Goodenia ovata | hop native primrose |  |
| HALORAGACEAE | Gonocarpus teucrioides | forest raspwort |  |
| HALORAGACEAE | Gonocarpus tetragynus | common raspwort |  |
| HALORAGACEAE | Haloragis heterophylla | variable raspwort |  |
| LAMIACEAE | Prostanthera lasianthos | christmas bush |  |
| MALVACEAE | Asterotrichion discolor | Tasmanian currajong |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia mearnsii | black wattle |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia melanoxylon | blackwood |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia verticillata | prickly moses |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia dealbata | silver wattle |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia genistifolia | spreading wattle |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia riceana | arching wattle |  |
| MIMOSACEAE | Acacia leprosa | varnished wattle |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus globulus | blue gum |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus obliqua | stringybark |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus ovata | black gum |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus rubida | candlebark |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus viminalis | white gum |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus pulchella | white peppermint |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus tenuiramis | silver peppermint |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus amygdalina | black peppermint |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Eucalyptus delegatensis | gum-top stringybark |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Euryomyrtus ramosissima | rosy heathmyrtle |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Leptospermum lanigerum | woolly tea tree |  |
| MYRTACEAE | Leptospermum scoparium | prickly tea tree |  |
| OLEACEAE | Notelaea ligustrina | native olive |  |
| PITTOSPORACEAE | Bursaria spinosa | prickly box |  |
| PLANTAGINACEAE | Plantago varia | variable plantain |  |
| POLYGALACEAE | Comesperma volubile | blue lovecreeper |  |
| PROTEACEAE | Banksia marginata | silver banksia |  |
| PROTEACEAE | Lomatia tinctoria | guitar plant |  |
| RANUNCULACEAE | Clematis aristata | mountain clematis |  |
| RANUNCULACEAE | Clematis gentianoides | ground clematis |  |
| RANUNCULACEAE | Ranunculus lappaceus | woodland buttercup |  |
| RHAMNACEAE | Pomaderris elliptica | yellow dogwood |  |
| RHAMNACEAE | Pomaderris apetala | dogwood |  |
| RHAMNACEAE | Spyridium obovatum | oval-leaf dustymiller |  |
| ROSACEAE | Acaena novae-zelandiae | buzzy |  |
| ROSACEAE | Rubus parvifolius | native raspberry |  |
| RUBIACEAE | Coprosma hirtella | coffee berry |  |
| RUBIACEAE | Coprosma quadrifida | native currant |  |
| RUBIACEAE | Galium australe | coast bedstraw |  |
| RUTACEAE | Boronia anemonifolia | sticky boronia |  |
| RUTACEAE | Correa reflexa | common correa |  |
| RUTACEAE | Eriostemon sp. |  |  |
| RUTACEAE | Philotheca verrucosa | fairy waxflower |  |
| RUTACEAE | Zieria arborescens | stinkwood |  |
| SANTALACEAE | Exocarpos cupressiformis | native cherry |  |
| SANTALACEAE | Leptomeria drupacea | native broom |  |
| SAPINDACEAE | Dodonaea filiformis | fine-leaved hop-bush |  |
| SAPINDACEAE | Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spathulata | native hop |  |
| SCROPHULARIACEAE | Derwentia derwentiana | native speedwell |  |
| SOLANACEAE | Solanum laciniatum | kangaroo apple |  |
| STACKHOUSIACEAE | Stackhousia monogyna | candles |  |
| STYLIDIACEAE | Stylidium graminifolium | trigger plant |  |
| THYMELAEACEAE | Pimelea humilis | dwarf riceflower |  |
| THYMELAEACEAE | Pimelea ligustrina | tall riceflower |  |
| THYMELAEACEAE | Pimelea nivea | bushmans bootlace |  |
| TREMANDRACEAE | Tetratheca labillardierei | glandular pinkbells |  |
| VIOLACEAE | Viola betonicifolia | showy violet |  |
| VIOLACEAE | Viola hederacea | ivyleaf violet |  |
| MONOCOTS | | | |
| CYPERACEAE | Carex appressa | tall sedge |  |
| CYPERACEAE | Gahnia grandis | cutting-grass |  |
| CYPERACEAE | Lepidosperma laterale | variable swordsedge |  |
| CYPERACEAE | Ficinia nodosa | clubsedge |  |
| CYPERACEAE | Lepidosperma sp. | swordsedge |  |
| IRIDACEAE | Diplarrena moraea | white flag iris |  |
| JUNCACEAE | Juncus pauciflorus | loose-flower rush |  |
| JUNCACEAE | Juncus gregiflorus |  |  |
| JUNCACEAE | Luzula sp. | woodrush |  |
| JUNCACEAE | Juncus pallidus | pale rush |  |
| LILIACEAE | Bulbine bulbosa | golden bulbine-lily |  |
| LILIACEAE | Dianella revoluta | spreading flaxlily |  |
| LILIACEAE | Dianella tasmanica | forest flaxlily |  |
| LILIACEAE | Drymophila cyanocarpa | turquoise berry |  |
| LILIACEAE | Thysanotus patersonii | twining fringelily |  |
| LILIACEAE | Wurmbea dioeca | early nancy |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Acianthus pusillus | small mosquito orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Caladenia atrata | dark caladenia |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Caladenia caudata | tailed spider orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Caladenia fuscata | dusky caladenia |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Caladenia gracilis | musky finger orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Caleana major | flying duck orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Chiloglottis gunnii | tall bird orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Chiloglottis reflexa | autumn bird orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Chiloglottis triceratops | three-horned bird orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Corybas diemenicus | stately helmet orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Cyrtostylis reniformis | small gnat orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Cyrtostylis robusta | large gnat orchid | r |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Diuris pardina | leopard orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Diuris sulphurea | tiger orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Eriochilus cucullatus | parsons bands |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Gastrodia sesamoides | short potato orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Glossodia major | wax-lip orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Microtis arenaria | notched onion orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Microtis unifolia | common onion orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Pterostylis alata | striped greenhood |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Pterostylis melagramma | black striped greenhood |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Pterostylis foliata | slender greenhood |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Pterostylis nutans | nodding greenhood |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Pterostylis pedunculata | maroonhood |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Pterostylis stenochila | greenlip greenhood |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Thelymitra cyanea | veined sun orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Thelymitra ixioides | dotted sun orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Thelymitra juncifolia | large-spotted sun orchid |  |
| ORCHIDACEAE | Thelymitra pauciflora | slender sun orchid |  |
| POACEAE | Austrostipa sp. | Spear grass |  |
| POACEAE | Agrostis sp. |  |  |
| POACEAE | Austrodanthonia sp. | Wallaby grass |  |
| POACEAE | Poa labillardierei | silver tussock grass |  |
| POACEAE | Poa sp. |  |  |
| POTAMOGETONACEAE | Potamogeton tricarinatus |  |  |
| XANTHORRHOEACEAE | Lomandra longifolia | sagg |  |
| PTERIDOPHYTES | | | |
| ADIANTACEAE | Adiantum aethiopicum | maidenhair fern |  |
| ADIANTACEAE | Cheilanthes sieberi | mulga fern |  |
| ADIANTACEAE | Pellaea calidirupium | hotrock fern | r |
| ADIANTACEAE | Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia | rock fern |  |
| ASPLENIACEAE | Asplenium flabellifolium | necklace fern |  |
| ASPLENIACEAE | Pleurosorus rutifolius | blanket fern |  |
| ASPLENIACEAE | Asplenium bulbiferum | hen and chicken fern |  |
| BLECHNACEAE | Blechnum nudum | fishbone water fern |  |
| BLECHNACEAE | Blechnum wattsii | hard water fern |  |
| BLECHNACEAE | Blechnum minus | soft water fern |  |
| DENNSTAEDTIACEAE | Pteridium esculentum | bracken |  |
| DICKSONIACEAE | Dicksonia antarctica | tree fern |  |
| DRYOPTERIDACEAE | Polystichum proliferum | mother shield fern |  |
| DRYOPTERIDACEAE | Rumohra adiantiformis | shield hare’s foot fern |  |
| HYMENOPHYLLACEAE | Hymenophyllum cupressiforme | common filmy fern |  |
| LINDSAEACEAE | Lindsaea linearis | screw fern |  |
| POLYPODIACEAE | Microsorum pustulatum | kangaroo fern |  |
| LICHEN |  |  |  |
|  | Cladia aggregata |  |  |
| LIVERWORTS |  |  |  |
|  | Anthoceros laevis |  |  |
|  | Bazzania involuta |  |  |
|  | Cephaloziella exiliflora |  |  |
|  | Cephaloziella hirta |  |  |
|  | Chiloscyphus echinellus |  |  |
|  | Chiloscyphus latifolius |  |  |
|  | Chiloscyphus muricatus |  |  |
|  | Chiloscyphus semiteres var. semiteres |  |  |
|  | Frullania aterimma |  |  |
|  | Frullania clavata |  |  |
|  | Frullania falciloba |  |  |
|  | Frullania pentapleura |  |  |
|  | Heteroscyphus fissistipus |  |  |
|  | Heteroscyphus knightii |  |  |
|  | Heteroscyphus limosus |  |  |
|  | Heteroscyphus varians |  |  |
|  | Jamesoniella colorata |  |  |
|  | Lepidozia laevifolia |  |  |
|  | Lepidozia ulothrix |  |  |
|  | Lunularia cruciata |  |  |
|  | Marsupidium surculosum |  |  |
|  | Metzgeria furcata |  |  |
|  | Plagiochila strombifolia |  |  |
|  | Radula buccinifera |  |  |
|  | Radula tasmanica |  |  |
|  | Riccardia bipanatifida |  |  |
|  | Symphogina podophylla |  |  |
|  | Temnoma pulchellum |  |  |
|  | Temnoma townrowii |  |  |
|  | Tylimanthus tenellus |  |  |
| MOSSES |  |  |  |
|  | Acaulon integrifolium |  |  |
|  | Acrocladium chlamydophyllum |  |  |
|  | Acrophyllum dentatum |  |  |
|  | Amphidium cyathicarpum |  |  |
|  | Anomodon tasmanicum |  |  |
|  | Atrichum androgynum |  |  |
|  | Barbula calycina |  |  |
|  | Barbula crinita |  |  |
|  | Barbula luteola |  |  |
|  | Barbula unguiculate |  |  |
|  | Bartramia hampei |  |  |
|  | Bartramia ithyphylla |  |  |
|  | Blindia magelanica |  |  |
|  | Blindia robusta |  |  |
|  | Brachythecium rutabulum |  |  |
|  | Breutelia affinis |  |  |
|  | Bryum billardieri var. billiardieri |  |  |
|  | Bryum caespiticium |  |  |
|  | Bryum campylothecium |  |  |
|  | Bryum clavatum |  |  |
|  | Bryum pseudotriquetrum |  |  |
|  | Camptochaete gracilis |  |  |
|  | Campylopus bicolour var. ericeticola |  |  |
|  | Campylopus clavatus |  |  |
|  | Campylopus introflexus ssp. Pudicus |  |  |
|  | Campylopus pyriformis |  |  |
|  | Camptochaete gracilis |  |  |
|  | Ceratodon purpureus |  |  |
|  | Chamberlainia salebrosa |  |  |
|  | Dicranoloma billardieri var. billardieri |  |  |
|  | Dicranoloma dicarpum |  |  |
|  | Dicranoloma menziesii |  |  |
|  | Dicranoweisia microcarpa |  |  |
|  | Didymodon australasiae |  |  |
|  | Didymodon subtorquatus |  |  |
|  | Didymodon torquatus |  |  |
|  | Distichophyllum microcarpum |  |  |
|  | Ditrichum cylindricarpum |  |  |
|  | Ditrichum difficile |  |  |
|  | Drepanocladus aduncus |  |  |
|  | Fabronia australis |  |  |
|  | Fissidens asplenioides |  |  |
|  | Fissidens leptoclados |  |  |
|  | Fissidens pungens |  |  |
|  | Fissidens rigidulus |  |  |
|  | Frullania probosciphora |  |  |
|  | Grimmia laevigata |  |  |
|  | Grimmia pulvinata |  |  |
|  | Grimmia trichophylla |  |  |
|  | Gymnostomum calcareum |  |  |
|  | Hedwigidia ciliata |  |  |
|  | Hedwigidium integrifolium |  |  |
|  | Hypnodendron vitiense enifo.australe |  |  |
|  | Hypnum chrysogaster |  |  |
|  | Hypnum cupressiforme var. cupressiforme |  |  |
|  | Hypnum cupressiforme var. filiforme |  |  |
|  | Hypnum cupressiforme var. lacunosum |  |  |
|  | Isopterygium limatum |  |  |
|  | Lembophyllum divulsum |  |  |
|  | Leptotheca gaudichaudii |  |  |
|  | Leptotheca gaudichaudii var. gaudichaudii |  |  |
|  | Lembophyllum divulsum |  |  |
|  | Macromitrium archeri |  |  |
|  | Macromitrium microstomum |  |  |
|  | Mielichhoferia bryoides |  |  |
|  | Neckera pennata |  |  |
|  | Orthodontium lineare |  |  |
|  | Orthotrichum rupestere |  |  |
|  | Orthotrichum tasmanicum |  |  |
|  | Orthotrichum tasmanicum var. tasmanicum |  |  |
|  | Philonotis tenuis |  |  |
|  | Pleuridium nervosum |  |  |
|  | Polytrichum juniperinum var. australe |  |  |
|  | Pottia tasmanica |  |  |
|  | Ptychomnium aciculare |  |  |
|  | Racomitrium crispulum |  |  |
|  | Racomitrium crispulum var. tasmanicum |  |  |
|  | Racopilum convolutaceum |  |  |
|  | Rhaphidorrhynchium amoenum |  |  |
|  | Rhaphidorrhynchium jolliffii |  |  |
|  | Rhizogonium novae-hollandiaea |  |  |
|  | Sematophyllum contiguum |  |  |
|  | Sematophyllum homomallum |  |  |
|  | Shistidium apocarpum |  |  |
|  | Tayloria ocoblepharum |  |  |
|  | Thamnobryum pumilum |  |  |
|  | Thuidium furfurosum |  |  |
|  | Thuidium laeviusculum |  |  |
|  | Tortilla knightii |  |  |
|  | Tortula muralis |  |  |
|  | Tortula princeps |  |  |
|  | Trachyloma planifolium |  |  |
|  | Triquetrella papillata |  |  |
|  | Weissia controversa |  |  |
|  | Wijkia extenuata |  |  |
|  | Weymouthia mollis |  |  |
|  | Zygodon intermedius |  |  |
|  | Zygodon menziesii |  |  |
|  | Zygodon minuts |  |  |
| FUNGI |  |  |  |
|  | Amanita xanthocephala |  |  |
|  | Ateralla drummondii |  |  |
|  | Discinella terrestris |  |  |
|  | Geastrum sp. | Earthstar |  |
|  | Ileodictyon gracile | lattice fungus |  |
|  | Omphalotus nidiformis | ghost fungus |  |
|  | Morchella elata | black morel |  |
|  | Mycena interrupta | pixies parasol |  |
|  | Peziza vesiculosa |  |  |
|  | Ramaria lorithamnus |  |  |
|  | Stereum ostrea |  |  |
|  | Trametes versicolor |  |  |
|  | Tremella mesenterila |  |  |
|  | Tremella fuciformis |  |  |
|  | Lepista nuda | wood blewit |  |

# Appendix 2: Fauna species list

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Family | Scientific name | Common name | Status# |
| MAMMALS |  |  |  |
| BURRAMYIDAE | Cercartetus lepidus | little pygmy possum |  |
| BURRAMYIDAE | Cercartetus nanus | pygmy possum |  |
| DASYURIDAE | Dasyurus maculatus | spotted-tail quoll | r/VU |
| DASYURIDAE | Dasyurus viverrinus | eastern quoll | EN |
| DASYURIDAE | Sarcophilus harrisii | Tasmanian devil | e/EN |
| FELIDAE | Felis catus | domestic cat | i |
| LEPORIDAE | Oryctolagus cuniculus | European rabbit | i |
| MACROPODIDAE | Macropus giganteus | forester kangaroo |  |
| MACROPODIDAE | Macropus rufogriseus | Bennett’s wallaby |  |
| MACROPODIDAE | Thylogale billardierii | Tasmanian pademelon |  |
| MURIDAE | Hydromys chrysogaster | water rat |  |
| MURIDAE | Pseudomys fuscus | broad-toothed mouse |  |
| MURIDAE | Pseudomys higginsi | long-tailed mouse |  |
| MURIDAE | Rattus lutreolus | swamp rat |  |
| ORNITHORHYNCHIDAE | Ornithorhynchus anatinus | platypus |  |
| PERAMELIDAE | Isoodon obesulus | southern brown bandicoot |  |
| PERAMELIDAE | Perameles gunnii | eastern barred bandicoot | VU |
| PETAURIDAE | Petaurus breviceps | sugar glider |  |
| PHALANGERIDAE | Trichosurus vulpecula | brush-tailed possum |  |
| POTOROIDAE | Bettongia gaimardi | Tasmanian bettong |  |
| POTOROIDAE | Potorus tridactylus | long-nosed potoroo |  |
| PSEUDOCHEIRIDAE | Pseudocheirus peregrinus | ringtail possum |  |
| TACHYGLOSSIDAE | Tachyglossus aculeatus setosus | echidna |  |
| VESPERTILIONIDAE | Chalinolobus gouldii | Gould’s wattled bat |  |
| VESPERTILIONIDAE | Chalinolobus morio | chocolate wattled bat |  |
| VESPERTILIONIDAE | Falsistrellus tasmaniensis | Tasmanian pipistrelle (bat) |  |
| VOMBATIDAE | Vombatus ursinus | common wombat |  |
| BIRDS |  |  |  |
| ACCIPITRIDAE | Accipiter fasciatus | brown goshawk |  |
| ACCIPITRIDAE | Accipter cirrhocephalus | collared sparrowhawk |  |
| ACCIPITRIDAE | Accipiter novaehollandiae | grey goshawk | e |
| ACCIPITRIDAE | Aquila audax fleayi | wedge-tailed eagle | e/EN |
| AEGOTHELIDAE | Aegotheles cristatus | owlet nightjar |  |
| ALAUDIDAE | Alauda arvensis | common skylark | i |
| ALCEDINIDAE | Dacelo novaeguineae | laughing kookaburra | i |
| ANATIDAE | Anas superciliosa | black duck |  |
| ANATIDAE | Chenonetta jubata | maned duck |  |
| APODIDAE | Hirundapus caudacutus | white-throated needle-tail |  |
| ARDEIDAE | Egretta novaehollandiae | white faced heron |  |
| ARTAMIDAE | Artamus cyanopterus | dusky woodswallow |  |
| CACATUIDAE | Calyptorhynchus funereus | yellow-tailed black cockatoo |  |
| CACATUIDAE | Cacatua galerita | sulphur-crested cockatoo |  |
| CAMPEPHAGIDAE | Coracina novaehollandiae | black-faced cuckoo-shrike |  |
| CHARADRIIDAE | Vanellus miles | masked lapwing |  |
| CINCLOSOMATIDAE | Cinclosoma punctatum | spotted quail-thrush |  |
| COLUMBIDAE | Phaps chalcoptera | common bronze-wing pigeon |  |
| CORVIDAE | Corvus tasmanicus | forest raven |  |
| CRACTICIDAE | Cracticus torquatus | grey butcher bird |  |
| CRACTICIDAE | Strepera versicolor arguta | clinking currawong |  |
| CRACTICIDAE | Strepera fuliginosa | black currawong |  |
| CRACTICIDAE | Gymnorhina tibicen | Australian magpie |  |
| CUCULIDAE | Chrysococcyx basalis | Horsefield’s bronze-cuckoo |  |
| CUCULIDAE | Chrysococcyx lucidus | shining bronze cuckoo |  |
| CUCULIDAE | Cacomantis flabelliformis | fantailed cuckoo |  |
| CUCULIDAE | Cuculus pallidus | pallid cuckoo |  |
| ESTRILDIDAE | Stagonopleura bella | beautiful firetail |  |
| FALCONIDAE | Falco berigora | brown falcon |  |
| FALCONIDAE | Falco peregrinus | peregrine falcon |  |
| FRINGILLIDAE | Carduelis carduelis | European goldfinch | i |
| FRINGILLIDAE | Carduelis chloris | European greenfinch | i |
| HIRUNDINIDAE | Hirundo neoxena | welcome swallow |  |
| HIRUNDINIDAE | Petrochelidon nigricans | tree martin |  |
| MALURIDAE | Malurus cyaneus | superb fairy-wren |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris | eastern spinebill |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Anthochaera paradoxa | yellow wattlebird |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Lichenostomus flavicollis | yellow-throated honeyeater |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Manorina melanocephala | noisy miner |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Melithreptus validirostris | strong-billed honeyeater |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Melithreptus affinis | black-headed honeyeater |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Phylidonyris novaehollandiae | New Holland honeyeater |  |
| MELIPHAGIDAE | Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera inornata | crescent honeyeater |  |
| MONARCHIDAE | Myiagra cyanoleuca | satin flycatcher |  |
| PACHYCEPHALIDAE | Colluricincla harmonica | grey shrike-thrush |  |
| PACHYCEPHALIDAE | Pachycephala olivacea | olive whistler |  |
| PACHYCEPHALIDAE | Pachycephala pectoralis | golden whistler |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Acanthiza chrysorrhoa | yellow-rumped thornbill |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Acanthiza ewingii | Tasmanian thornbill |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Acanthiza pusilla | brown thornbill |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Sericornis frontalis | white-browed scrubwren |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Sericornis humilis | Tasmanian scrubwren |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Pardalotus punctatus | spotted pardalote |  |
| PARDALOTIDAE | Pardalotus striatus | striated pardalote |  |
| PASSERIDAE | Passer domesticus | house sparrow | i |
| PETROICIDAE | Melanodryas vittata | dusky robin |  |
| PETROICIDAE | Petroica multicolor | scarlet robin |  |
| PETROICIDAE | Petroica phoenicea | flame robin |  |
| PETROICIDAE | Petroica rodinogaster | pink robin |  |
| PHALACROCORACIDAE | Phalacrocorax melanoleucos | little pied cormorant |  |
| PHASIANIDAE | Coturnix pectoralis | stubble quail |  |
| PHASIANIDAE | Coturnix australis | brown quail |  |
| PHASIANIDAE | Pavo sp. | peacock | i |
| PODARGIDAE | Podargus strigoides | tawny frogmouth |  |
| PSITTACIDAE | Glossopsitta concinna | musk lorikeet |  |
| PSITTACIDAE | Lathamus discolor | swift parrot | e/EN |
| PSITTACIDAE | Platycercus caledonicus | green rosella |  |
| RALLIDAE | Gallinula mortierii | Tasmanian native hen |  |
| RHIPIDURIDAE | Rhipidura fuliginosa | grey fantail |  |
| STRIGIDAE | Ninox novaeseelandiae | southern boobook |  |
| STURNIDAE | Sturnus vulgaris | common starling | i |
| TURDIDAE | Turdus merula | common blackbird | i |
| TYTONIDAE | Tyto novaehollandiae | masked owl |  |
| ZOSTEROPIDAE | Zosterops lateralis | silvereye |  |
| AMPHIBIANS | |  |  |
| HYLIDAE | Litoria ewingii | brown tree frog |  |
| HYLIDAE | Litoria eniformis | green and golden frog | v/VU |
| MYOBATRACHIDAE | Crinia signifera | common froglet |  |
| MYOBATRACHIDAE | Limnodynastes dumerilii | eastern banjo frog |  |
| MYOBATRACHIDAE | Limnodynastes tasmaniensis | spotted marsh frog |  |
| MYOBATRACHIDAE | Pseudophryne semimarmorata | southern toadlet |  |
| REPTILES |  |  |  |
| AGAMIDAE | Rankinia diemensis | mountain dragon |  |
| ELAPIDAE | Notechis scutatus | tiger snake |  |
| ELAPIDAE | Austrelaps superbus | lowland copperhead |  |
| ELAPIDAE | Drysdalia coronoides | white-lipped snake |  |
| SCINCIDAE | Pseudemoia pagenstecheri | tussock skink | v |
| SCINCIDAE | Tiliqua nigrolutea | blotched blue-tongue lizard |  |
| SNAILS |  |  |  |
|  | Elsothera ricei |  |  |
|  | Paralaoma caputspinulae |  |  |
|  | Laomavix collisi |  |  |
|  | Allocharopa legrandi |  |  |
|  | Planilaoma luckmanii |  |  |
|  | Prolesophanta parvissimia |  |  |
|  | Discocharopa mimosa |  |  |
| INSECTS |  |  |  |
| APIDAE | Bombus sp. | bumblebee | i |
| ARANEIDAE | Arkys walckenaeri |  |  |
| ARANEIDAE | Arkys sp. |  |  |
| ARANEIDAE | Dolophones sp. |  |  |
| ARANEIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| ARANEIDAE | Unknown sp. 2 |  |  |
| CLUBIONIDAE | Clubiona sp. B |  |  |
| CLUBIONIDAE | Clubiona sp. H |  |  |
| CORINNIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| DESIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| DESIDAE | Unknown sp. 2 |  |  |
| DESIDAE | Unknown sp. 3 |  |  |
| DICTYNIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| GNAPHOSIDAE | Trachycosmus sp. |  |  |
| GNAPHOSIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| GNAPHOSIDAE | Unknown sp. 2 |  |  |
| GNAPHOSIDAE | Unknown sp. 3 |  |  |
| HAHNIIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| LAMPONIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| LINYPHIIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| LINYPHIIDAE | Unknown sp. 2 |  |  |
| LYCOSIDAE | Venatrix pictiventris |  |  |
| MITURGIDAE | Miturga agelenina |  |  |
| MITURGIDAE | Miturga velox |  |  |
| NICODAMIDAE | Novodamus nodatus |  |  |
| OONOPIDAE | Orchestina sp. |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Cephalops sp. 49 |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Chalarus sp. |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Collinias sp. |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Eudorylas sp. 1B (sp. nov.) |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Eudorylas sp 2A (sp. nov.) |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Eudorylas sp 59 (sp. nov.) |  |  |
| PIPUNCULIDAE | Tomosvaryella sp. |  |  |
| PRODIDOMIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Lycidas sp. |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Opisthoncus parcedentatus |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Unknown sp. 2 |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Unknown sp. 3 |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Unknown sp. 4 |  |  |
| SALTICIDAE | Unknown sp. 5 |  |  |
| STIPHIDIIDAE | Stiphidium facetum |  |  |
| TETRAGNATHIDAE | Tetragnatha sp. |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Acraspisa sp 1. |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Acraspisa sp 2. |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Acupalpa sp 1. |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Agapophytus quatiens |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Belonalys occulta |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Bonjeania actuosa |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Ectinorhynchus phyciformis |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Ectinorhynchus variabilis |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Parapsilocephala bifasciata |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Parapsilocephala sp. 1 |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Parapsilocephala sp. 2 |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Parapsilocephala elegans |  |  |
| THEREVIDAE | Laxotela whitei |  |  |
| THERIDIIDAE | Achearanea sp. |  |  |
| THERIDIIDAE | Euryopis sp. |  |  |
| THERIDIIDAE | Phoroncidia sp. |  |  |
| THERIDIIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |
| THERIDIIDAE | Unknown sp. 2 |  |  |
| THERIDIIDAE | Unknown sp. 3 |  |  |
| THOMISIDAE | Diaea sp. |  |  |
| THOMISIDAE | Sidymella sp. |  |  |
| VESPIDAE | Vespula germanica | European wasp | i |
| ZODARIIDAE | Unknown sp. 1 |  |  |