

Conservation Action Plan

Somersby mintbush (*Prostanthera junonis*)

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Site details

AIS site	AIS-E0-063, AIS-E0-064, AIS-E0-065, AIS-E0-066
Site location	An area of 452 hectares in Brisbane Water National Park
NPWS contact	Project Officer, Threatened Species, Hunter Central Coast Branch

Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for Somersby mintbush	Somersby mintbush is an endangered, low spreading shrub up to one metre in diameter and 10-30 centimetres high, although it can grow up to one metre high in dense vegetation where branches can weave up through other vegetation. Leaves are oval in shape, dull green above and paler below. Flowers are eight to twelve millimetres long and pale mauve to almost white with brown spots in the throat. The species is restricted to the Somersby Plateau, occurring on both Somersby and Sydney Town soil landscapes. Plants can be found on undulating country over weathered Hawkesbury sandstone, ranging from open forest, low woodland and open scrub in both disturbed and undisturbed sites.

Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Inappropriate fire regimes	Inappropriate fire frequency and intensity that limits recovery and regeneration may lead to decline or extinction of Somersby mintbush at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g. whisky grass) to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is impaired may lead to Somersby mintbush population decline at the site.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	Infection by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> resulting in mortality of individual plants.
Disturbance	Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities (e.g. track maintenance) and visitor use that lead to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals at the sites. This risk is exacerbated by the restricted distribution and small population size at this site.

Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the Somersby mintbush within 12 months of the adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas - implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas - integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. • Implement fire management consistent with the guidance.
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on the Somersby mintbush, by targeted application of physical and chemical weed control.
Pathogens, diseases and microorganisms	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement hygiene protocols as outlined in the DPIE Hygiene Guidelines (as published April 2020), as varied by any written advice from the Secretary from time to time for the purposes of this declared area.

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where required, delineate sites by signs, threatened species marker posts or barriers and install structures around juvenile plants to minimise impacts from authorised or unauthorised visitor use.
	AIS-E0-063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether infrastructure maintenance is having an adverse impact on Somersby mintbush plants. If adverse impacts are observed implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide use near sites. If required, develop and implement appropriate guidance for staff, utility managers and contractors about appropriate maintenance practices that minimise impacts to the Somersby mintbush.

Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are taken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the Somersby mintbush population	Population estimate	Design, and implement every five years, monitoring to generate an estimate of the number of mature plants and seedlings of Somersby mintbush in the population.

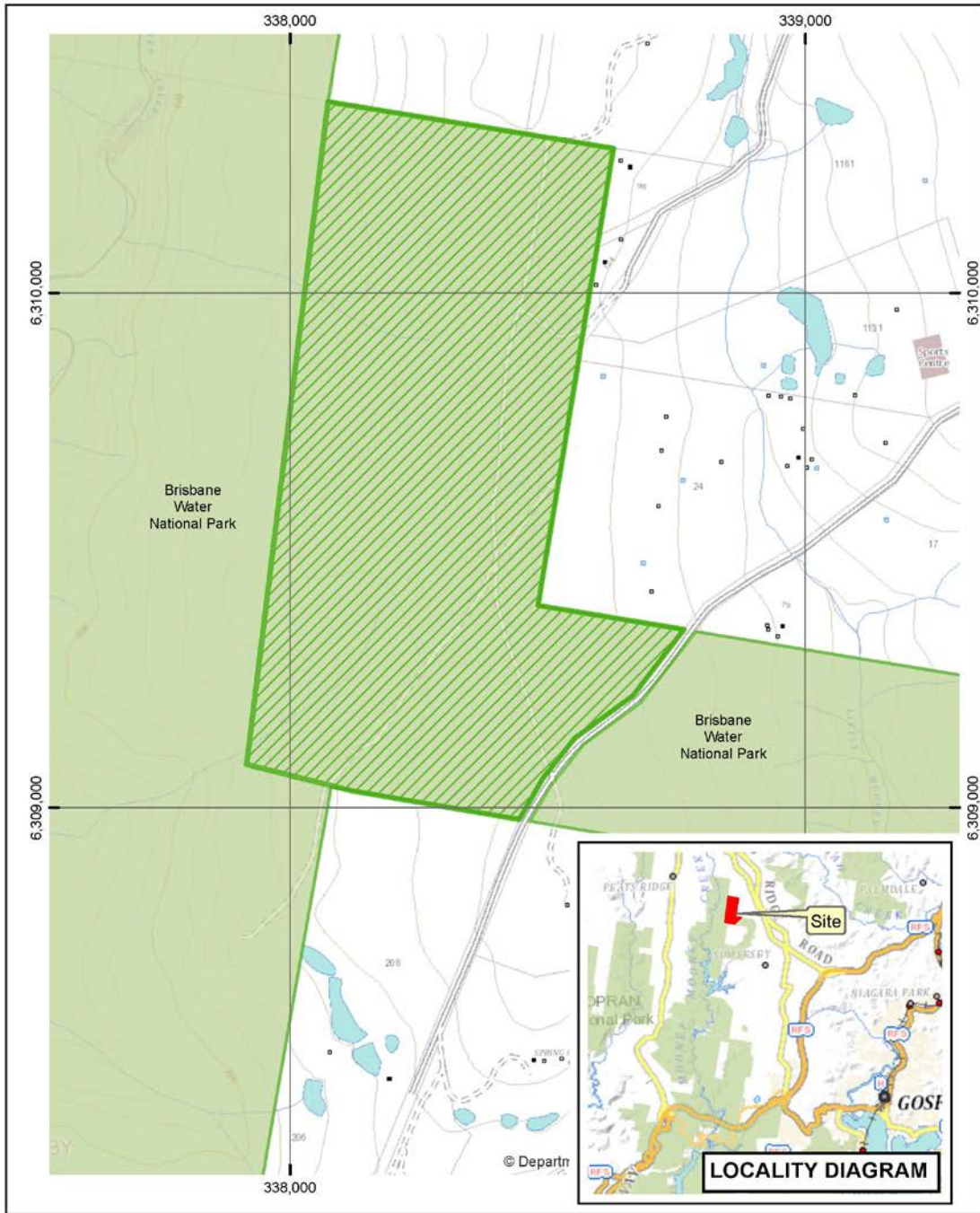
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.

Evaluation of conservation action plans

This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified assets (Reg. 78H).

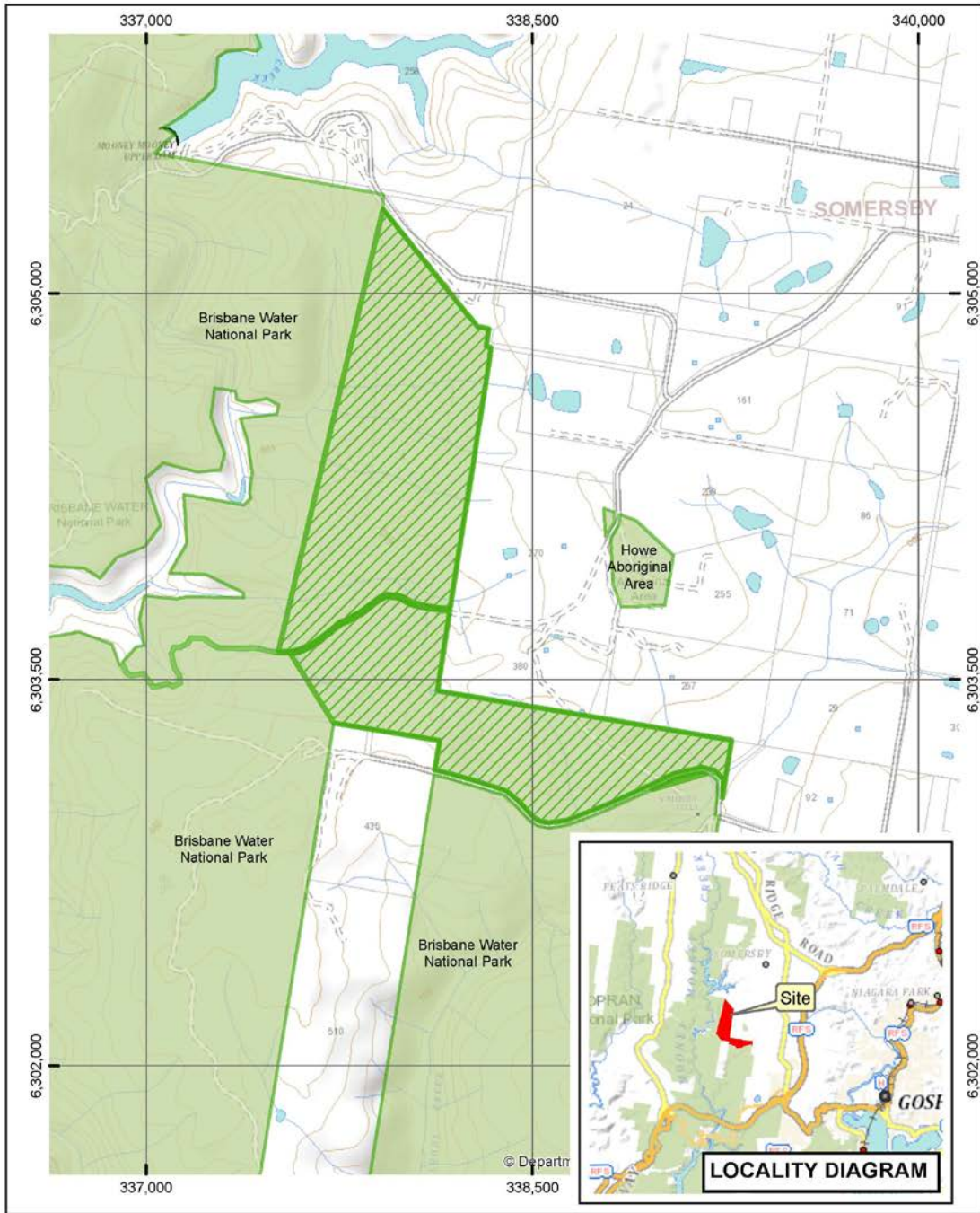
The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

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<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declared Land NPWS Estate 	<p>AIS-E0-063 Asset of Intergenerational Significance Somersby mintbush <i>(Prostanthera junonis)</i> Brisbane Water National Park</p> <p><small>Copyright of Department of Planning Industry and Environment. This map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The Department and its employees disclaim liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of this map and any consequences of such acts or omissions.</small></p>	<p>N 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 km</p>
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Legend

-  Declared Land
-  NPWS Estate

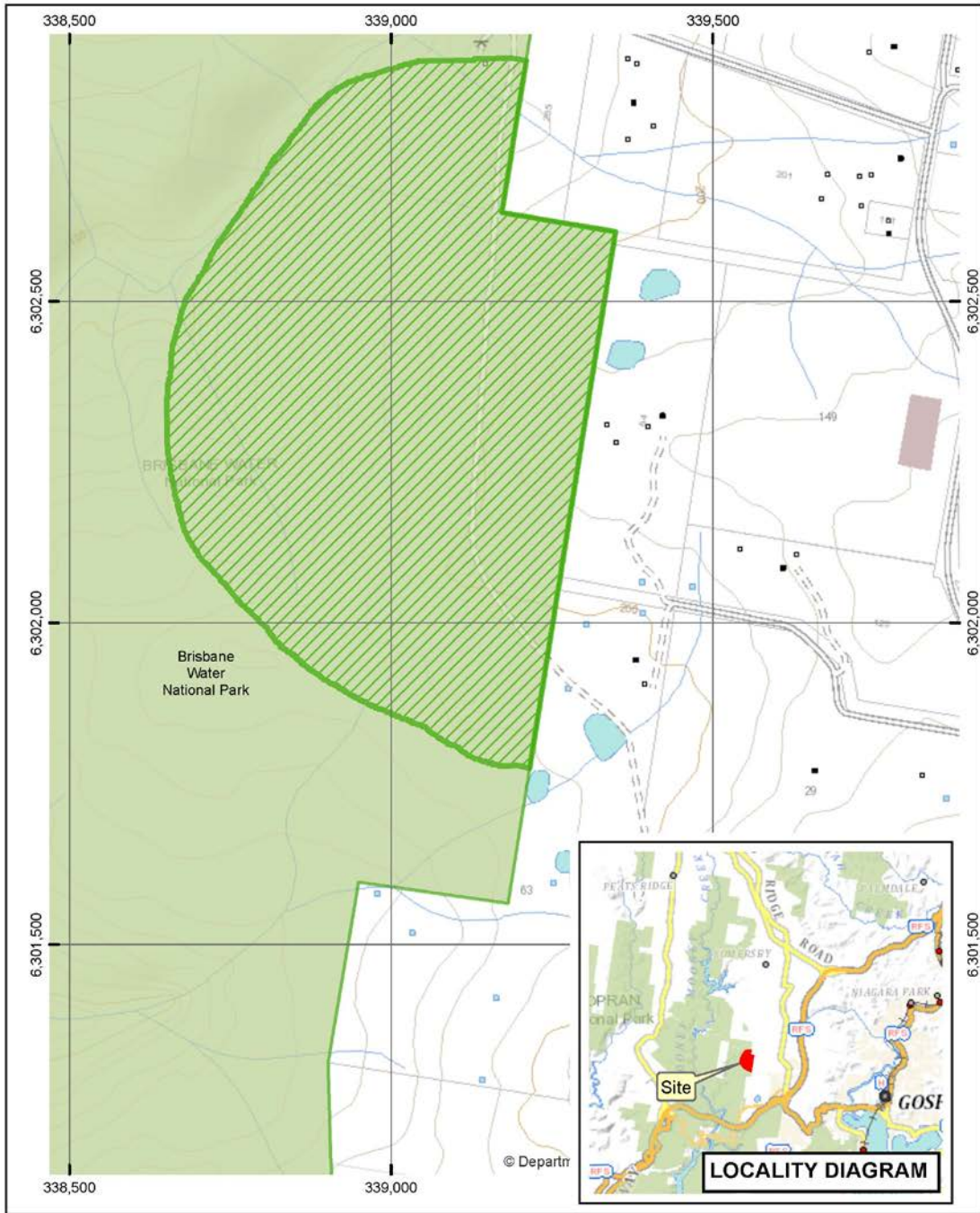
AIS-E0-064
Asset of
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Legend

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-  NPWS Estate

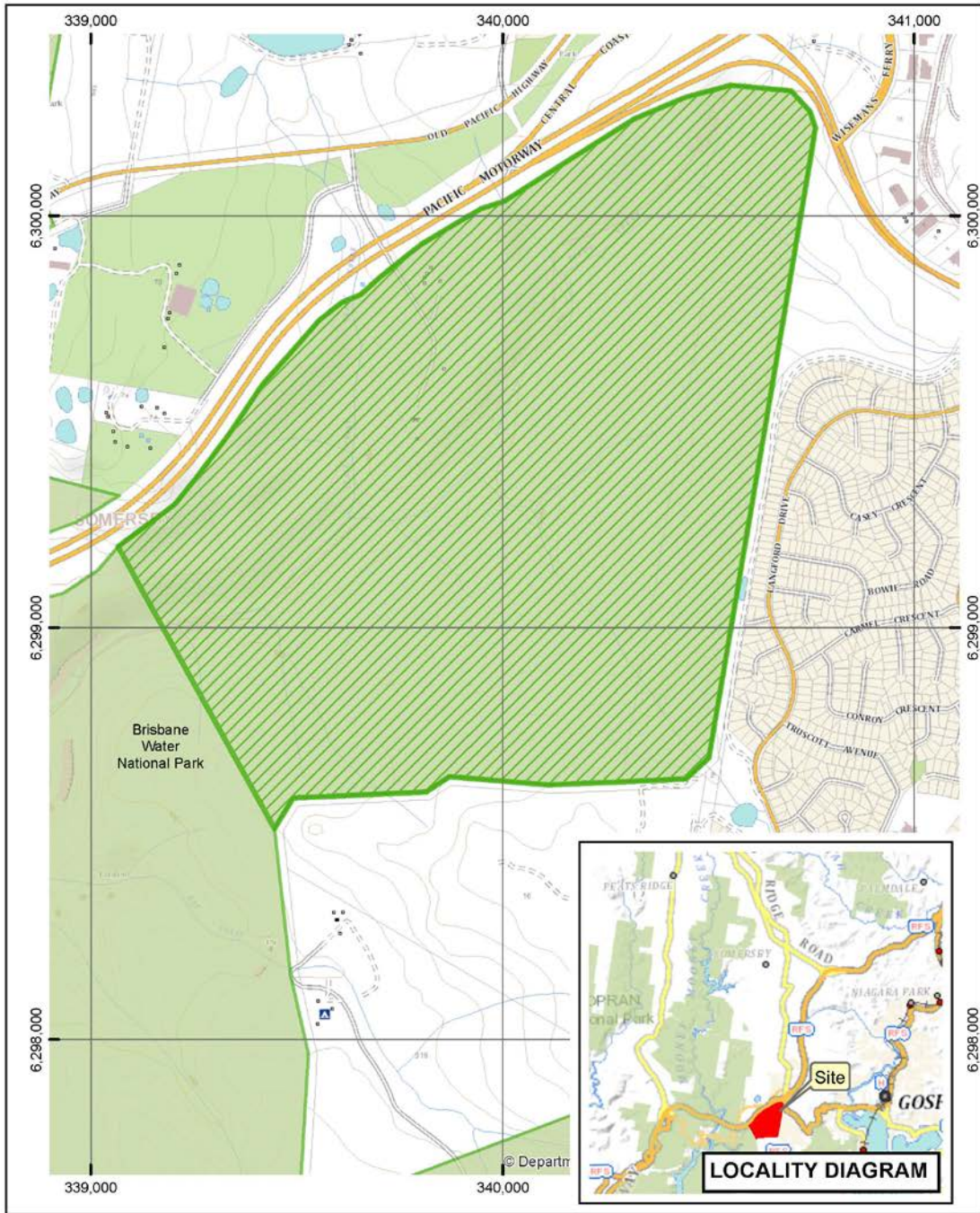
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Legend

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Date prepared	July 2022
Date approved	25 July 2022
Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage
Due for review	July 2027

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