

Fire Operations Plan 2021-2024



Fire operations actions

This document contains the fire prevention and preparedness works to be conducted within the Phillip Island Nature Parks (the Nature Parks) over the next three years for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24. These activities are carried out to achieve the objectives of the Nature Parks Ecological Burn and Wildfire Mitigation and Management Plan 2016-21 and the Bass Coast Municipal Fire Management Plan 2018 – 2021.

This plan only applies to land managed by Phillip Island Nature Parks – see Map 1. Other Crown Land on Phillip Island managed by Bass Coast Shire Council or Melbourne Water is not included in this plan.

Fire operations are separated in to two categories:

- Fuel-reduction or Planned Burning
- Non-burn Fuel Treatments

Planned Burns

Planned burning involves the controlled application of fire during periods of lower fire risk to create an area of reduced fire fuels (twigs, bark, leaves, grass, etc) and/or promote positive ecological outcomes such as weed control or habitat modification.

It is important to understand that planned burning operations do not stop or eliminate the risk of bushfires. However, firefighters have a much better chance of managing bushfires in areas where burns have been carried out.

Non-burn Fuel Treatments

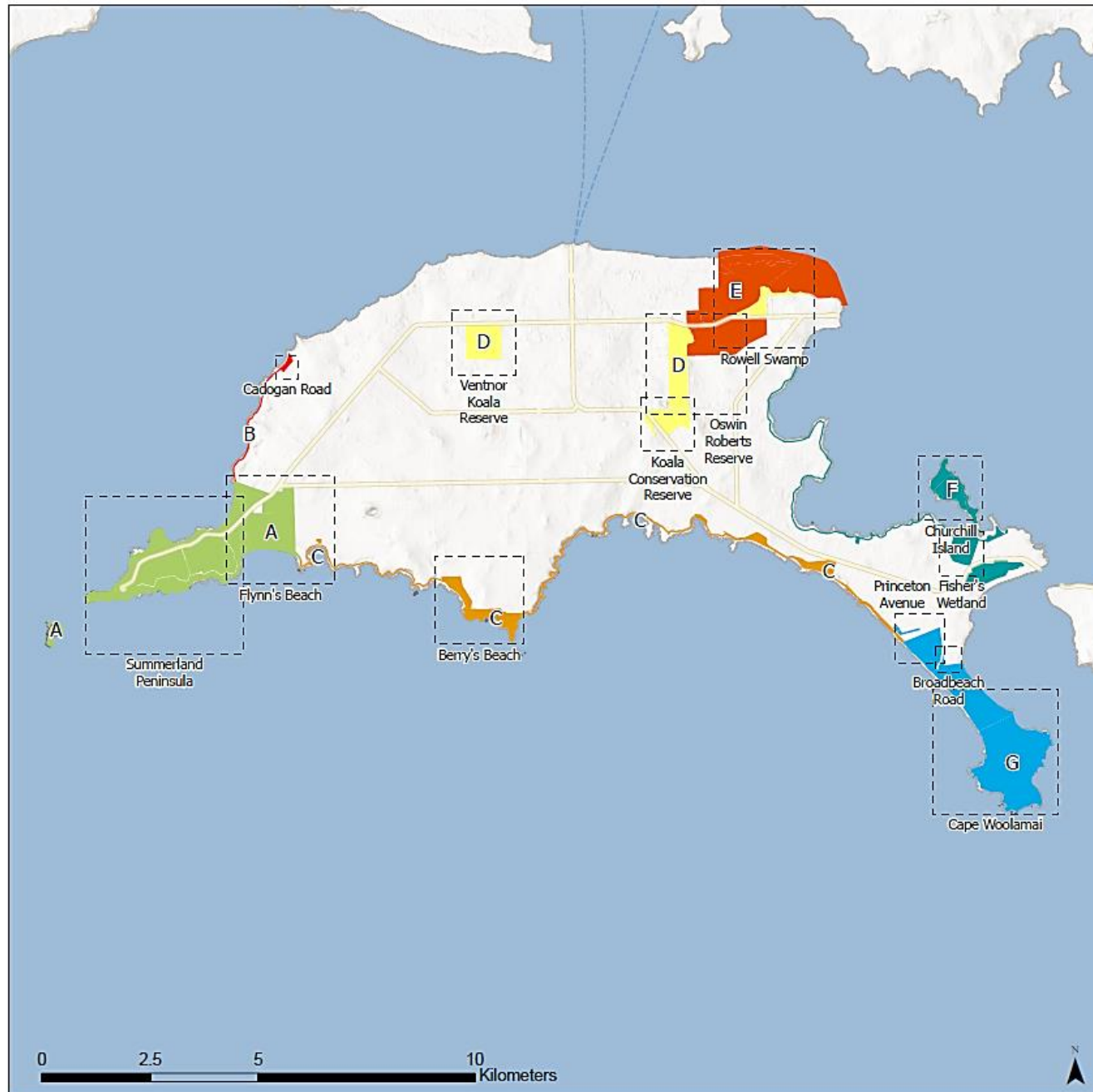
Non burn fuel treatments such as the maintenance and construction of fire control lines, fire access tracks, fuel breaks, fire infrastructure and other fuel management activities are required to support the planned burning program and create areas where bushfire suppression activities can be carried if conditions are suitable. Treatments to achieve these works can include slashing, pruning, or mulching.

Treatment Objectives

Objectives for all planned burns and non-burn fuel treatments fall under three categories:

- **Asset Protection:** To provide the highest level of localised protection to human life and property and key community assets
- **Fuel Reduction:** To reduce the speed and intensity of bushfire to protect assets including human life, property and biodiversity assets
- **Ecological:** Management of land for particular values such as improving habitat for Shearwaters by reducing weed cover and biomass.

Map 1: Phillip Island Nature Parks Fire Operations Plan Overview map 2021-2024



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan 2021-2024

Overview

MAP TEMPLATE: H. Schinagl v1.0; Updated 19/11/2019
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--- FOP areas

Key Areas

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F
- G

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Summary of annual works program

Spring

- Maintain and slash all firebreaks and fuel breaks within the Nature Park, including the following areas with staff responsible:

Locations
Summerland Peninsula (Key Area A)
Koala Conservation Centre, Fiveways Reserve and Ventnor Koala Reserve, Oswin Roberts and Conservation Hill (Key Area D)
Ventnor (Cadogan Ave) (Key Area B)
Berrys Beach (Key Area C)
Churchill Island, Fishers Wetland and Newhaven Wetlands (around Western Port Water pump station) (Key Area F)
Cape Woolamai, Cape Woolamai "Princeton Ave" & "Broadbeach Ave". (Key Area G)
Silverleaves east, Rowell and Rhyll Wewtlands (Key Area E)

- Clear around Summerlands wet firebreak and test
- Conduct training exercise for staff
- Fit for emergency medicals
- Task Based Assessments
- Audit fire equipment and PPE
- Service slip-on units
- Conduct any planned burns as per approved FOP
- Distribute media release on planned burns

Summer

- Conduct media release on general fire prevention and preparedness
- Patrol the park to ensure compliance with park regulations, in particular 'no fires' in the park
- Maintain and slash all fire breaks
- Close relevant areas to the public on high fire danger days as per the Nature Parks 'Severe Weather and Reserve Closure Policy'
- Conduct any planned burns as per approved FOP

Autumn

- Conduct any planned burns as per approved FOP
- Maintain and slash all firebreaks and fuel breaks

Winter

- Maintain and slash all firebreaks and fuel breaks where possible
- Prepare Draft Fire Operations Plan
- Consult internal and external stakeholders on Draft FOP
- Prepare final FOP for CEO endorsement

Fire Operations maps and tables

The following maps and tables illustrate where planned burning and other fire prevention works will take place within the Nature Park from 2022 to 2024.

These works are shown in the key to each map and include

- Planned burning;
- Slashing and mowing;
- Mulching; (Small to medium-sized pieces of wood formed by cutting or chipping)
- Manual thinning; and
- Burn Piles: (Burning of cut and stacked vegetation usually weeds or fallen timber in Assert Protection Zones)
- APZ: Assert Protection Zone - BMO (Bushfire Management Overlay) & AS 3959. Both the BMO and AS 3959 identify the separation needed for various combinations of vegetation and slope classes to reduce radiant heat to a specific level of radiant heat (Bushfire Attack Level or BAL).

Table 1: Fuel Reduction Burns 2022 - 2024

Year	Season	Key Area	Location	Size (Hectares)	Burn Name	Treatment Objective
2022	Autumn	A	Kitty Miller Bay	1.42	Kitty Miller	Ecological

Key Area A



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Summerland Peninsula

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- Trail markers
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Map 2: Summerland Peninsula showing fire breaks to be slashed; wet breaks to be maintained.



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Flynn's, Crown allmt 4, Kitty Miller Bay

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Map 3: Fire breaks to be maintained at Flynn's Beach, Crown Allotment 4 and Kitty Miller Bay.

Key Area B



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Ventnor - Cadogan Avenue

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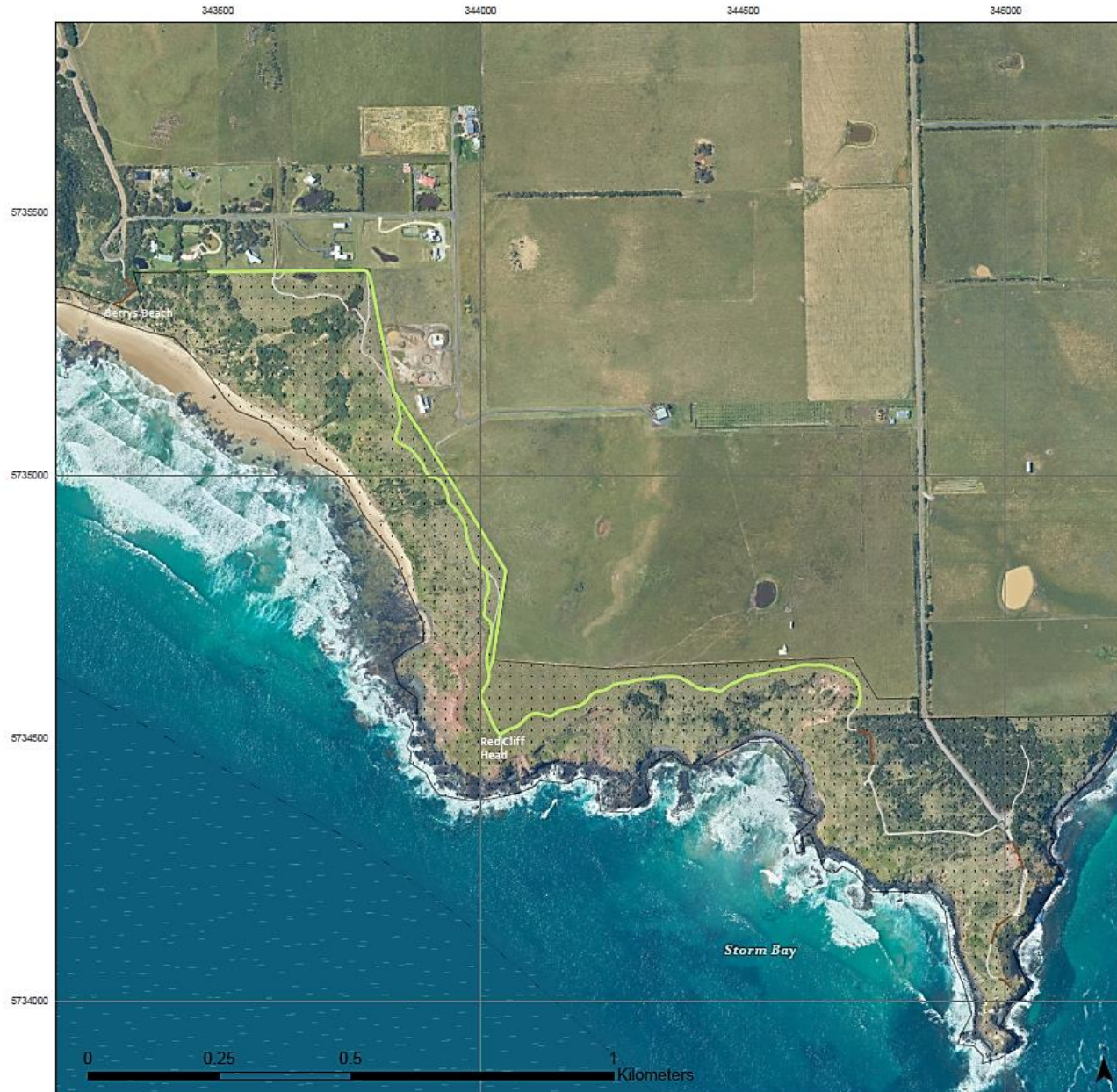


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Map 4: Ventnor (Cadogan Ave) showing fire break to be maintained annually.

Key Area C



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Berry's Beach

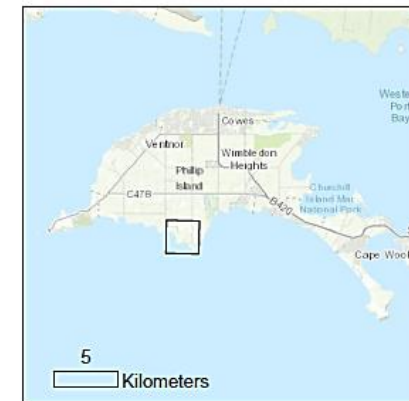
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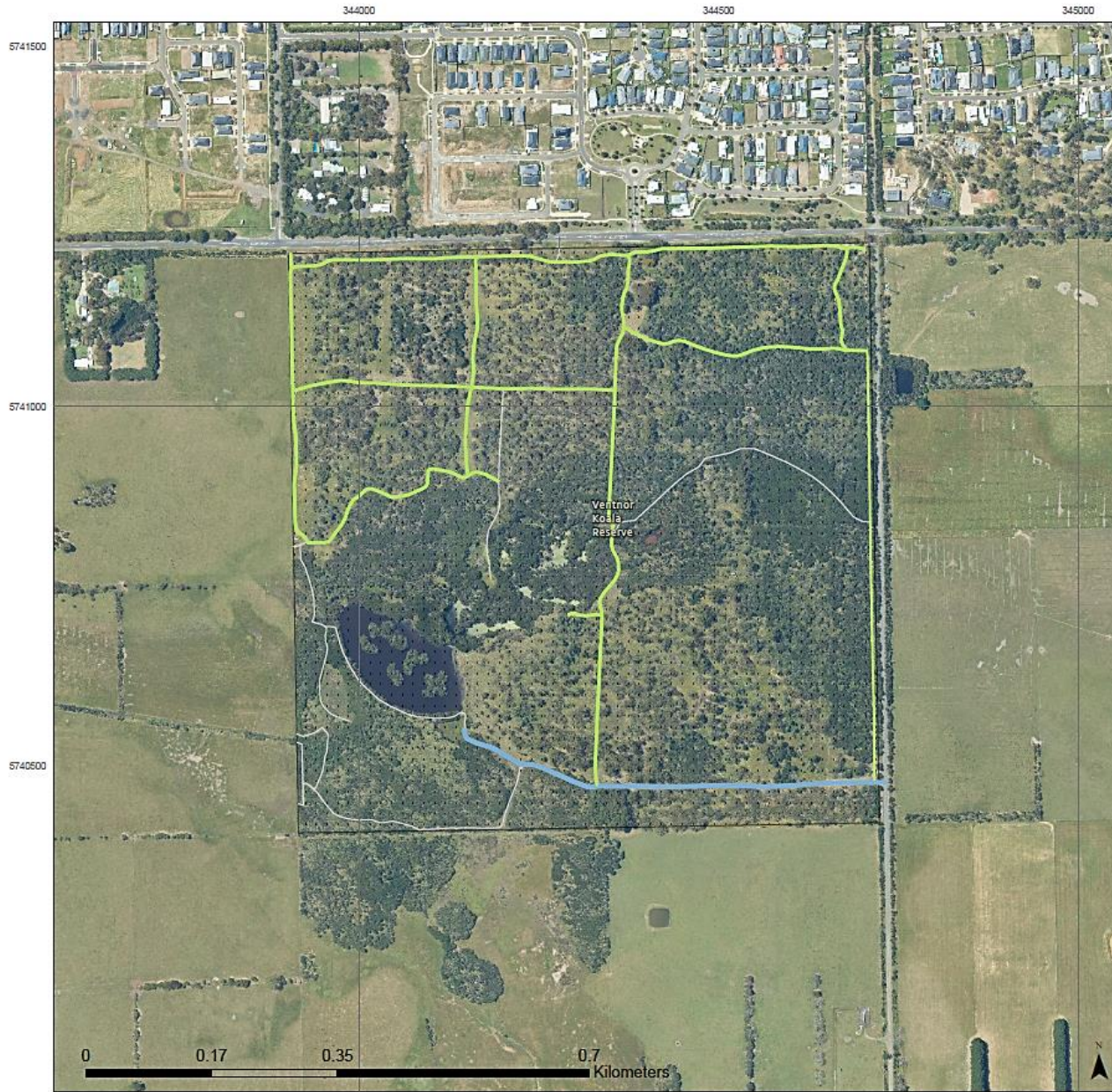


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Map 5: Berrys Beach showing fire break to be slashed annually.

Key Area D



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Ventnor Koala Reserve

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Map 6: Ventnor Koala Reserve showing fire breaks to be maintained 2021-2024



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Koala Conservation Reserve and Five Ways

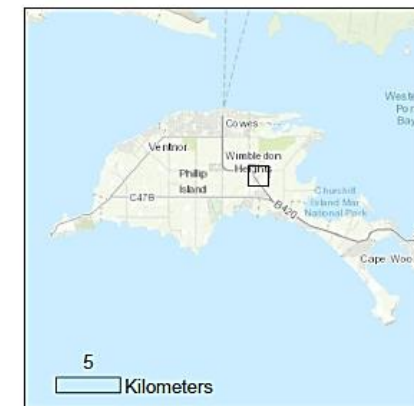
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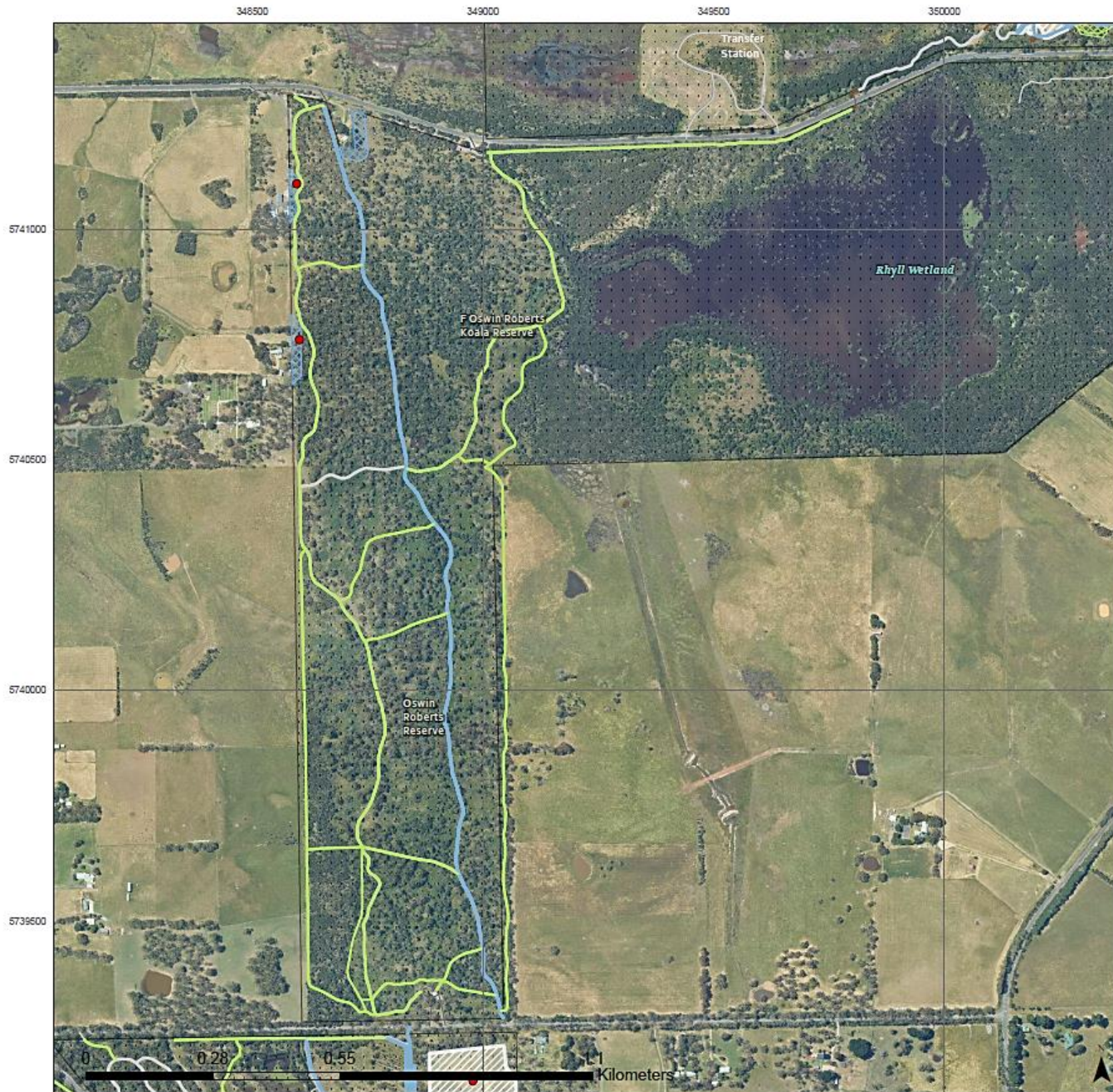


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Map 7: Koala Conservation Reserve and Five Ways Reserve showing fire breaks to be slashed and annual burn piles.

Koala Conservation Reserve woodland walk closed on days of Total Fire Ban.



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Oswin Roberts Reserve

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Map 8: Oswin Roberts Reserve showing fire breaks and tracks to be maintained annually 2021 and 2024. Oswin Roberts Reserve closed on days of Total Fire Ban
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Key Area E



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Silverleaves and Rowell Swamp

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Map 9: Silverleaves, Rowell Swamp and Rhyll Swamp showing fire breaks to be maintained annually.

Key Area F

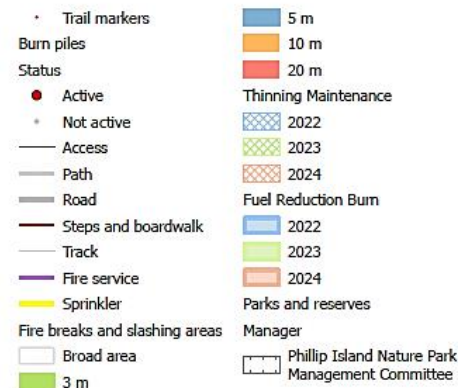


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Churchill Island

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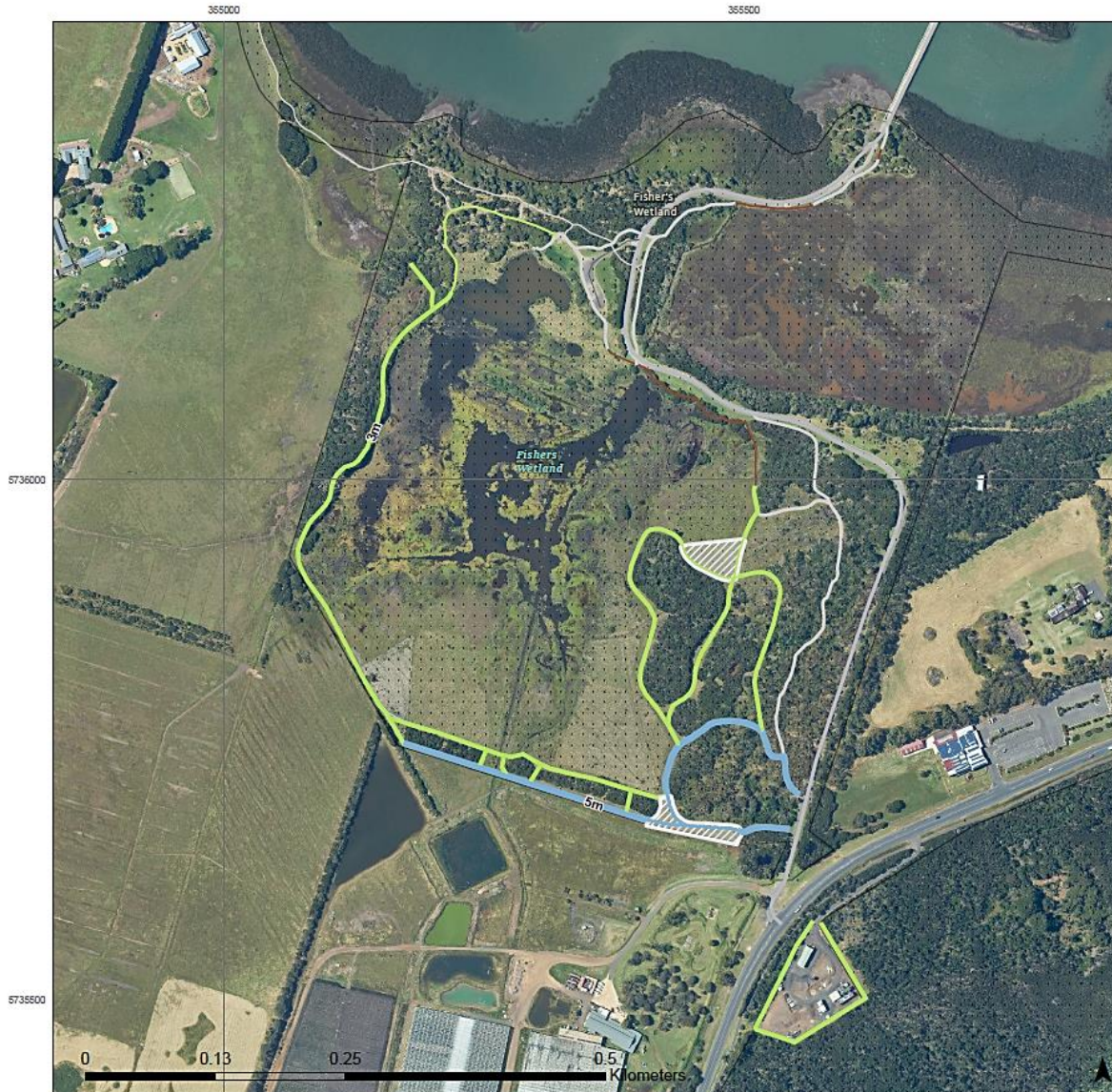


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Map 10: Churchill Island, showing fire breaks to be maintained and annual burn pile, Walking Track closed on days of TBA

Key Area G



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Fishers Wetland

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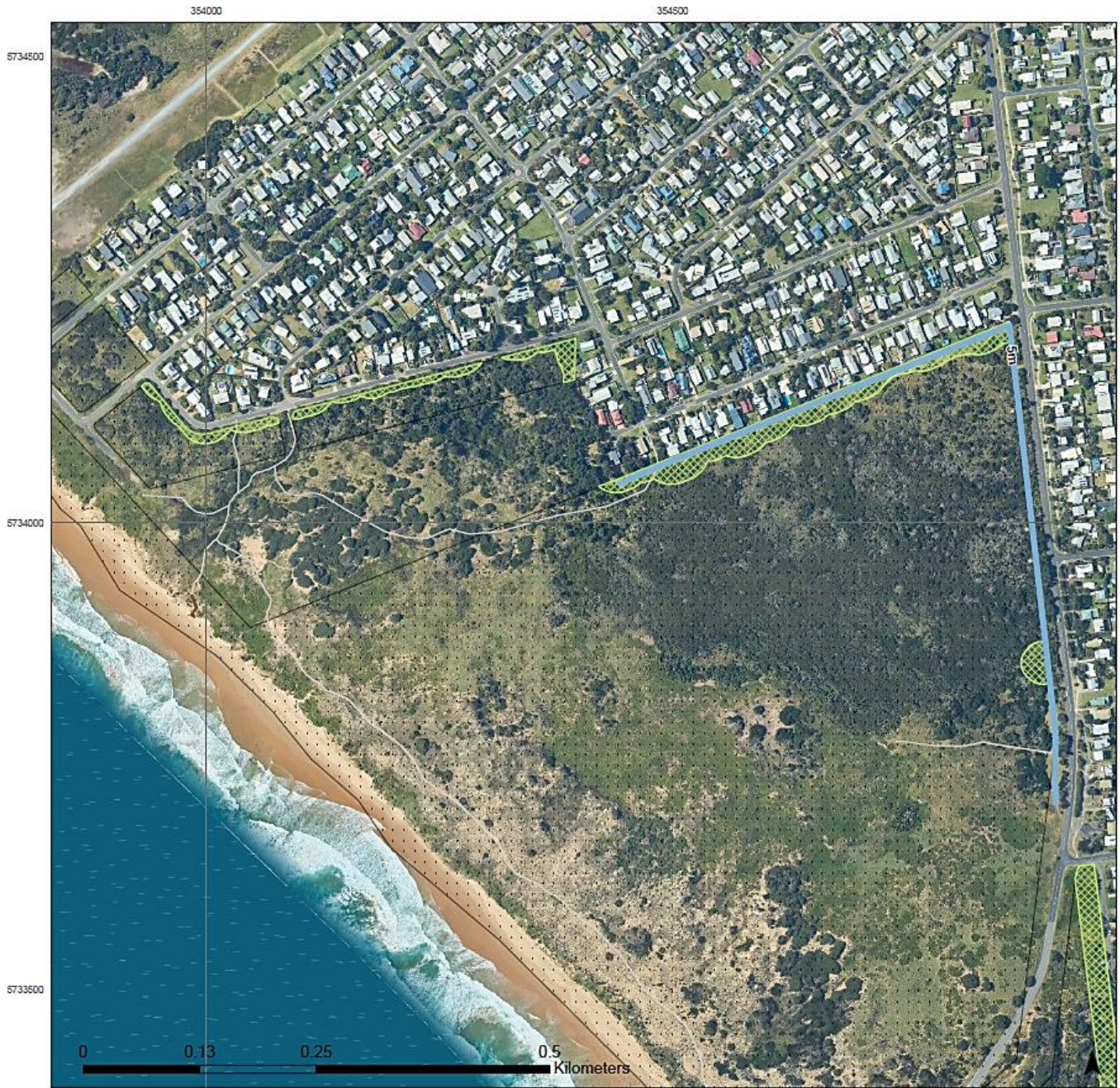
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Map 11: Fishers Wetland & Newhaven Swamp pump station showing fire breaks to be maintained,



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Cape Woolamai and Princeton Avenue

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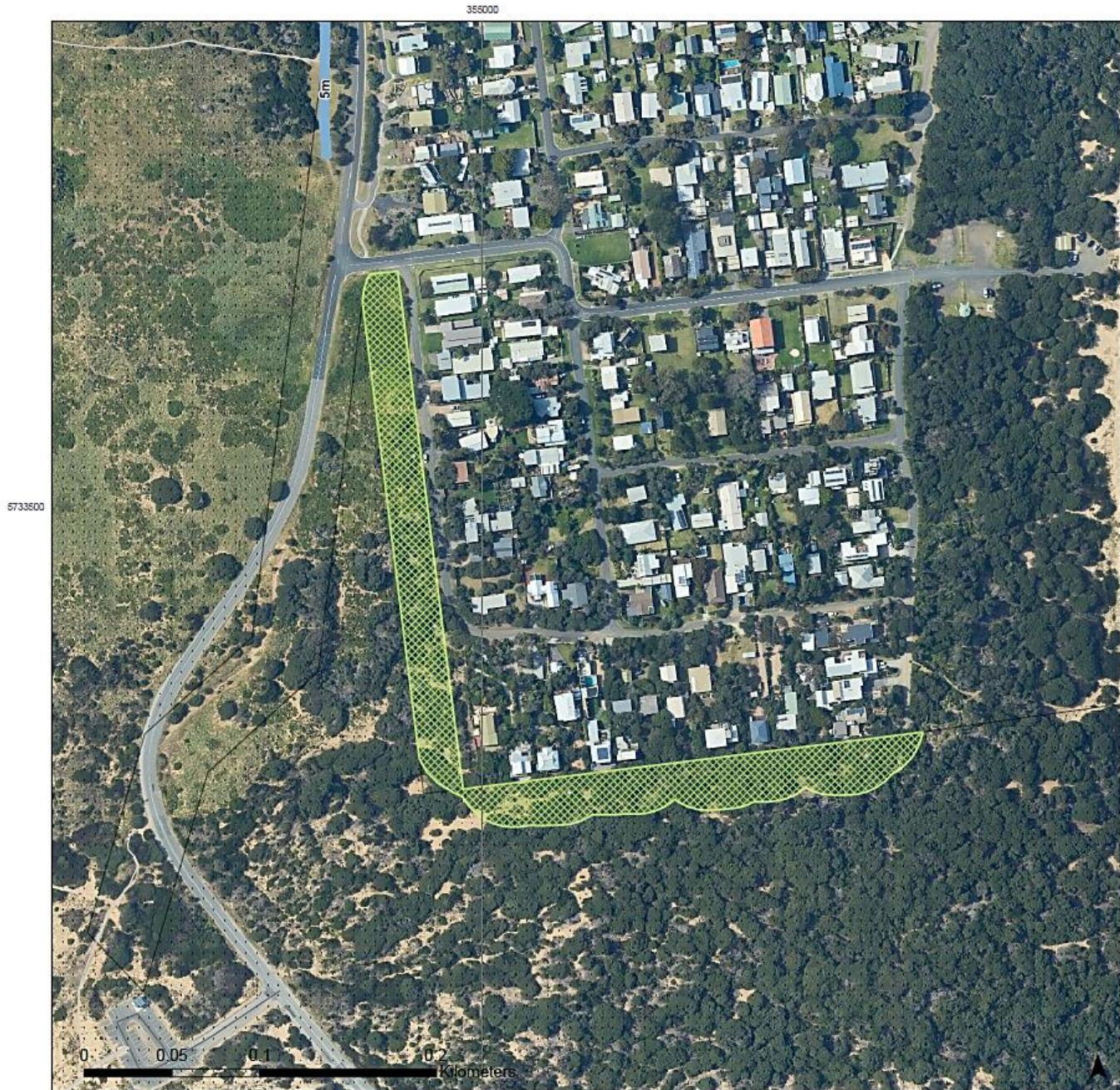
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Map 12: Cape Woolamai (Princeton Avenue Reserve) depicting Asset Protection Zones (APZ)
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Cape Woolamai and Broadbeach Road

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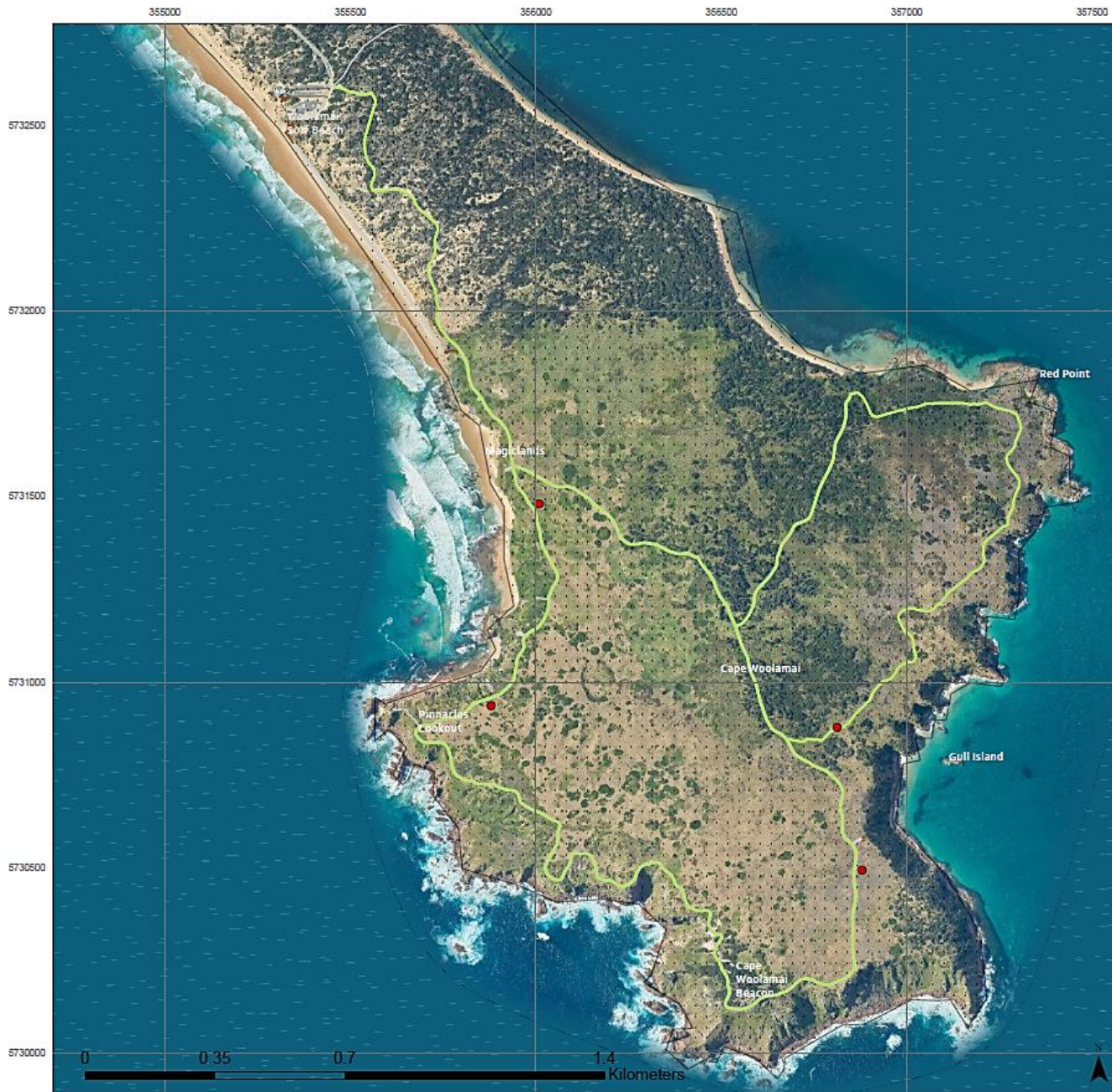
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Map 13: Cape Woolamai showing tracks Asset Protection Zones around Broadbeach and Ritchie's Roads.



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Cape Woolamai

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Map 14: Cape Woolamai showing tracks to be slashed and annual burn piles