

Fire Operations Plan 2020-2023



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 2020/21 to 2022/2023. 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 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

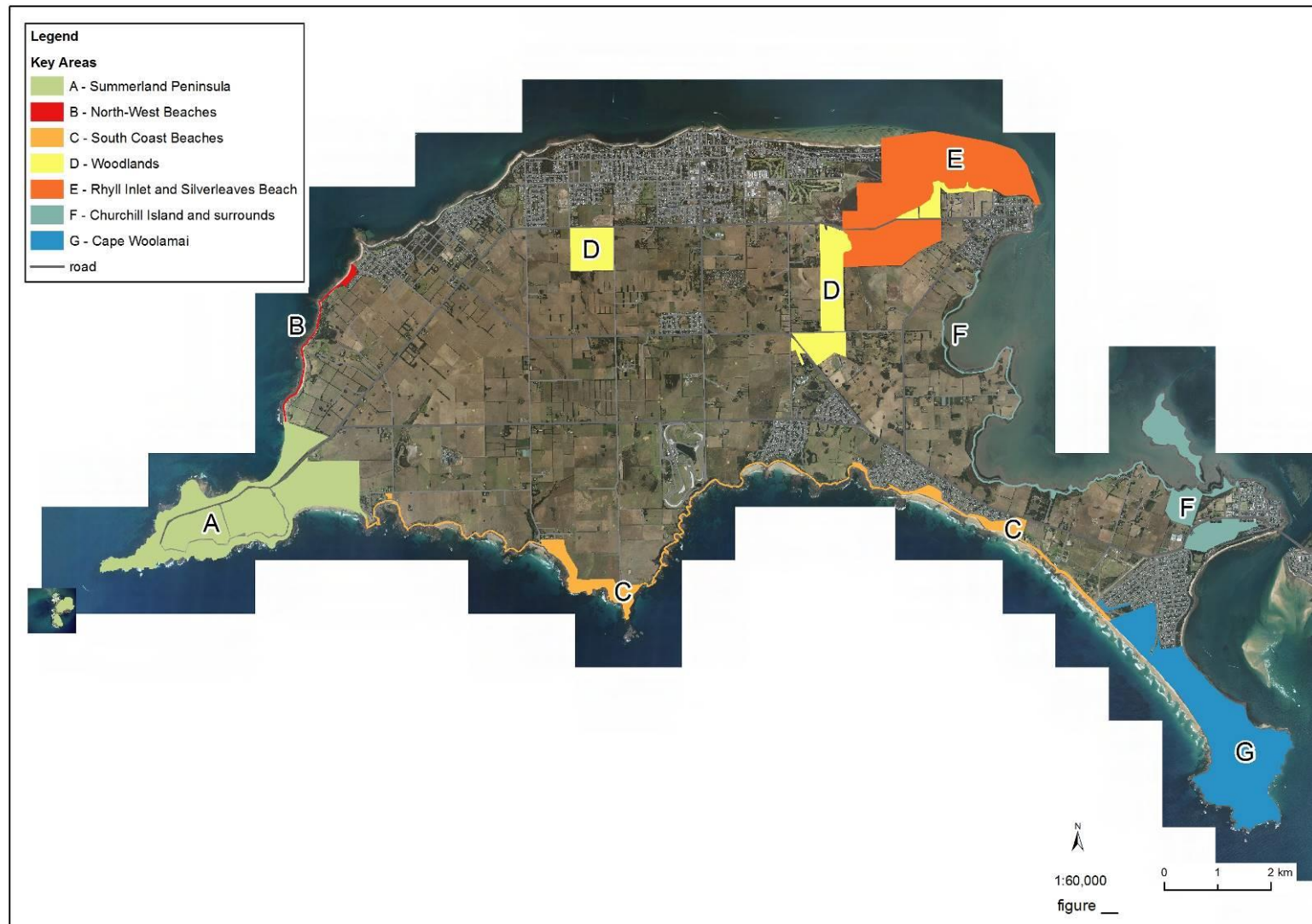
Non burn fuel treatments such as the maintenance and construction of fire control lines, fire access tracks, fuel breaks, fire infrastructure and other fuel management activities are required to support the planned burning program and create areas where bushfire suppression activities can be carried 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 Key Management Areas



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 emergence medicals
- Task Based Assents
- 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 Total Fire Ban Days and/or on Code Red 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 2020 to 2023.

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

- Planned burning;
- Slashing and mowing;
- Mulching;
- Manual thinning; and
- Burn Piles

- APZ - Asset 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).

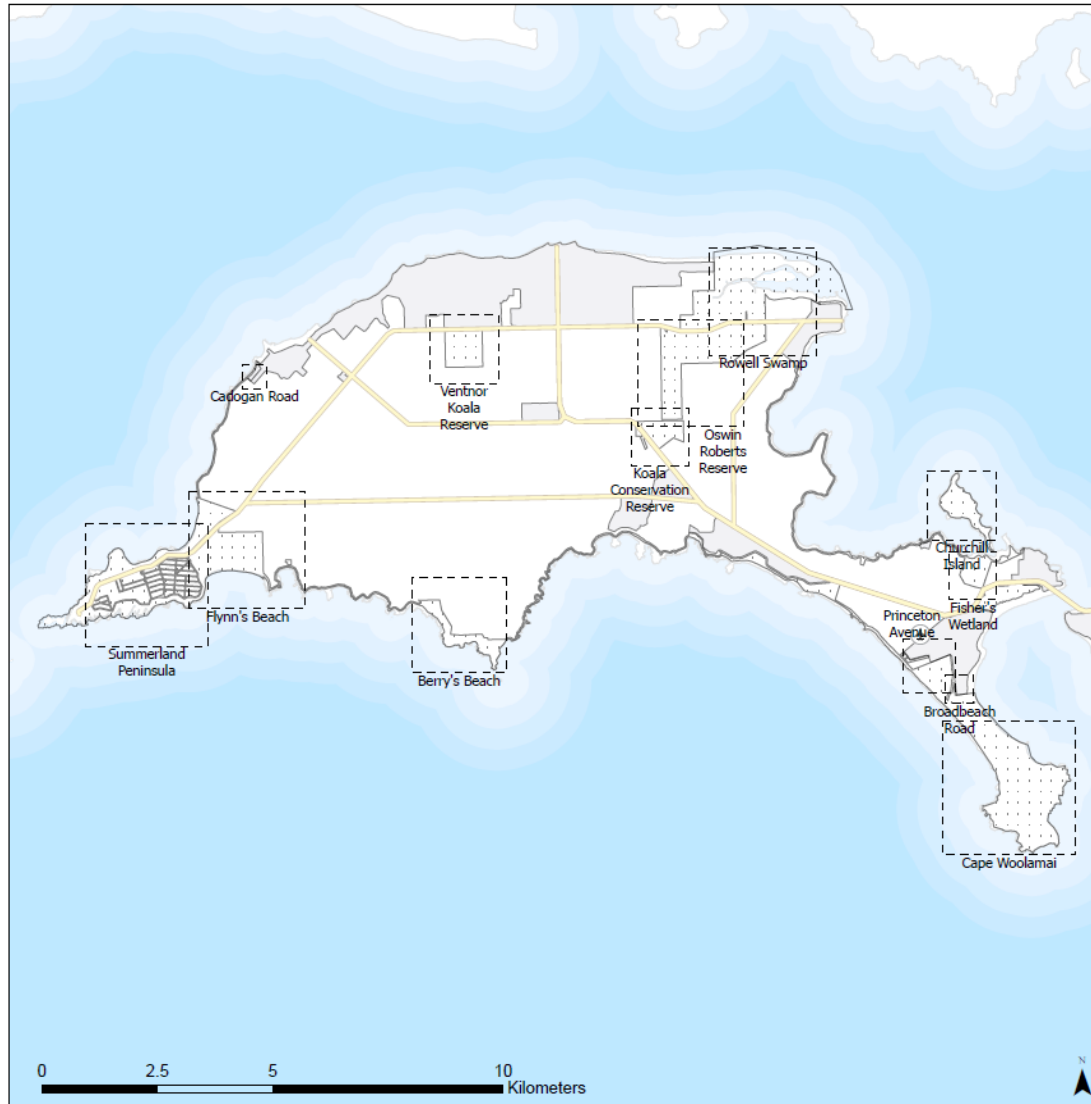
Map 2: FIRE OPERATIONS PLAN OVER View Map 2020-2022

Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Overview

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- Major roads
- Built up areas
- FOP areas
- Parks and reserves
- Phillip Island Nature Park Management Committee

Spatial Reference
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Datum: GDA2020
Projection: Transverse Mercator



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Table 1: Fuel Reduction Burns 2020 - 2022

Year	Season	Key Area	Location	Size (Hectares)	Burn Name	Treatment Objective
2021	Autumn	C	Berry's Beach	1.20	Storm Bay	Ecological
2022	Autumn	A	Kitty Miller Bay	1.42	Kitty Miller	Ecological

2022	Autumn	C	Berry's Beach	2.21	Red Cliff Head A	Ecological
2022	Autumn	D	Oswin Roberts	2.3	South Car Park	Fuel Reduction



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Summerland Peninsula

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| Thinning maintenance | ● Burn piles |
| 2020 | Fire service |
| 2021 | Trail markers |
| 2022 | |
| Fire Operations Plan | Roads |
| 2020 | Highway |
| 2021 | Major road |
| 2022 | Minor road |
| | Lane |
| | Private |
| | Ferry |
| Fire Break Maintenance | Parks and reserves |
| 3m | Phillip Island Nature Park |
| 5m | Management Committee |
| 10m | |
| 15m | |
| 20m | |

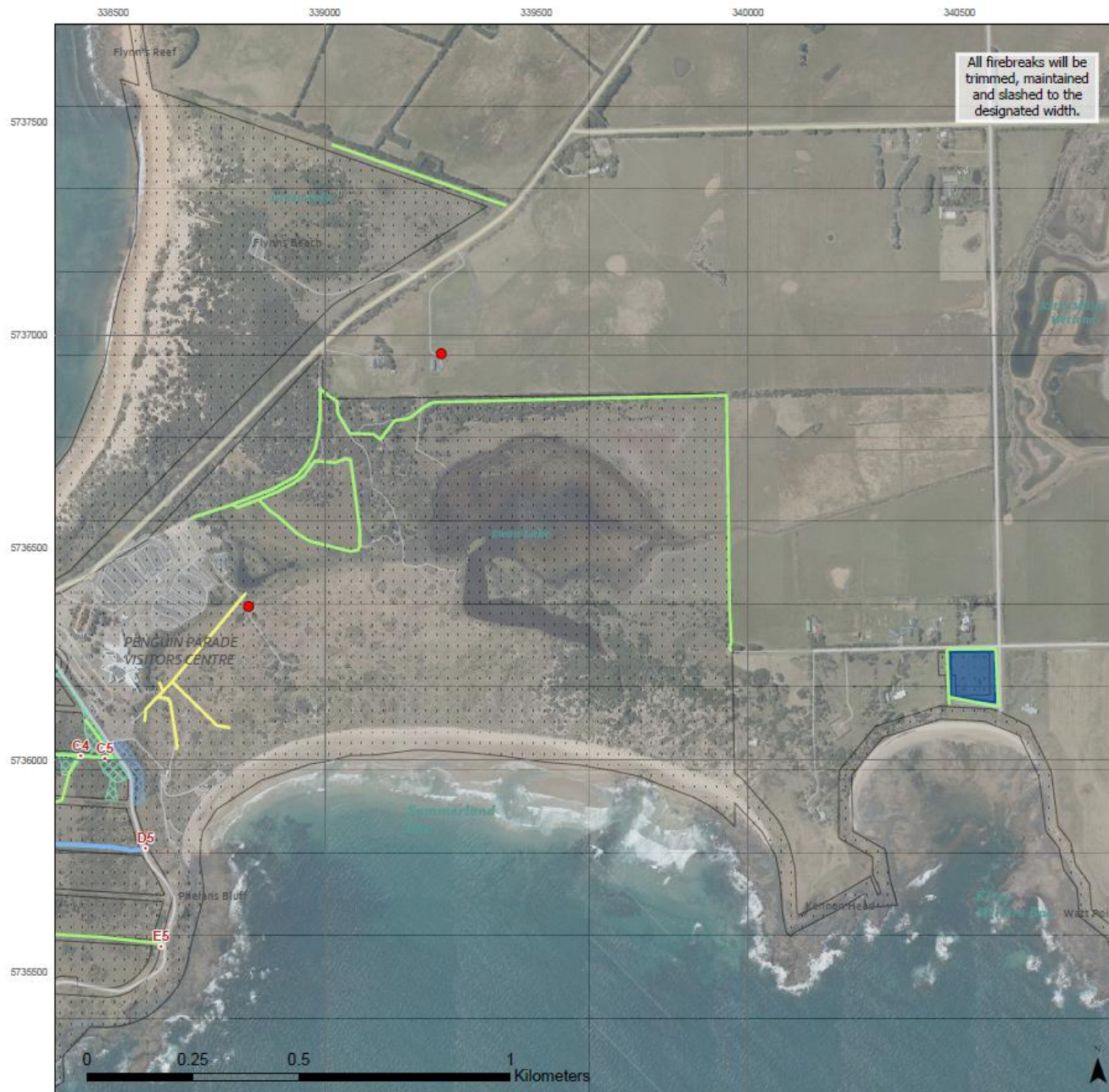
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Map 3: Summerland Peninsula showing fire breaks to be slashed; wet breaks to be maintained.



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Flynn's, Crown Allotment 4, Kitty Miller Bay

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| Thinning maintenance | ● Burn piles |
| ▨ 2020 | — Fire service |
| ▨ 2021 | • Trail markers |
| ▨ 2022 | |
| Fire Operations Plan | Roads |
| ■ 2020 | — Highway |
| ■ 2021 | — Major road |
| ■ 2022 | — Minor road |
| Fire Break Maintenance | — Lane |
| — 3m | — Private |
| — 5m | — Ferry |
| — 10m | Parks and reserves |
| — 15m | ▨ Phillip Island Nature Park |
| — 20m | ▨ Management Committee |

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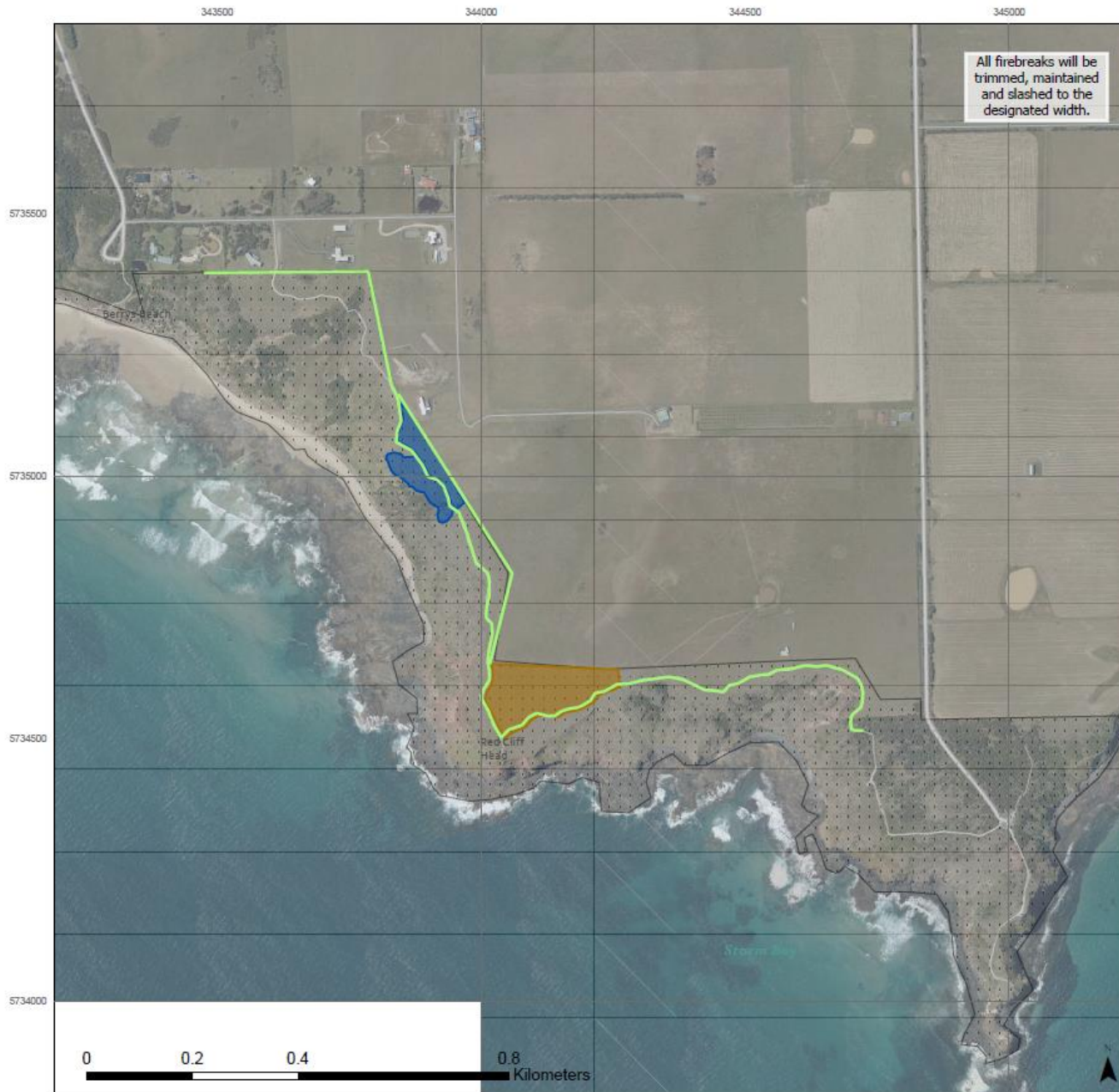


Map 4: Fire breaks to be maintained at Flynn's Beach, Crown Allotment 4 and Kitty Miller Bay.

Key Area C

Burn treatment:

Year	Season	Location	Size (Hectares)	Burn Name	Treatment Objective
2021	Autumn	Berry's Beach	1.20	Storm Bay	Ecological – Eradication of introduced weed species to create short tailed shearwater habitat.
2022	Autumn	Berry's Beach	2.21	Red Cliff Head A	Ecological-Eradication of introduced weed species



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Berry's Beach

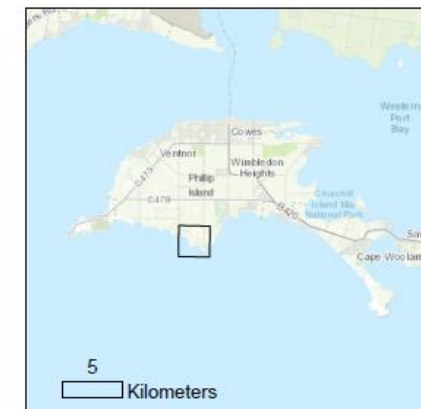
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2022 | Burn piles
Fire service
Trail markers |
| Fire Operations Plan
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2022 | Roads
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Major road
Minor road
Lane
Private
Ferry |
| Fire Break Maintenance
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5m
10m
15m
20m | Parks and reserves
Phillip Island Nature Park Management Committee |

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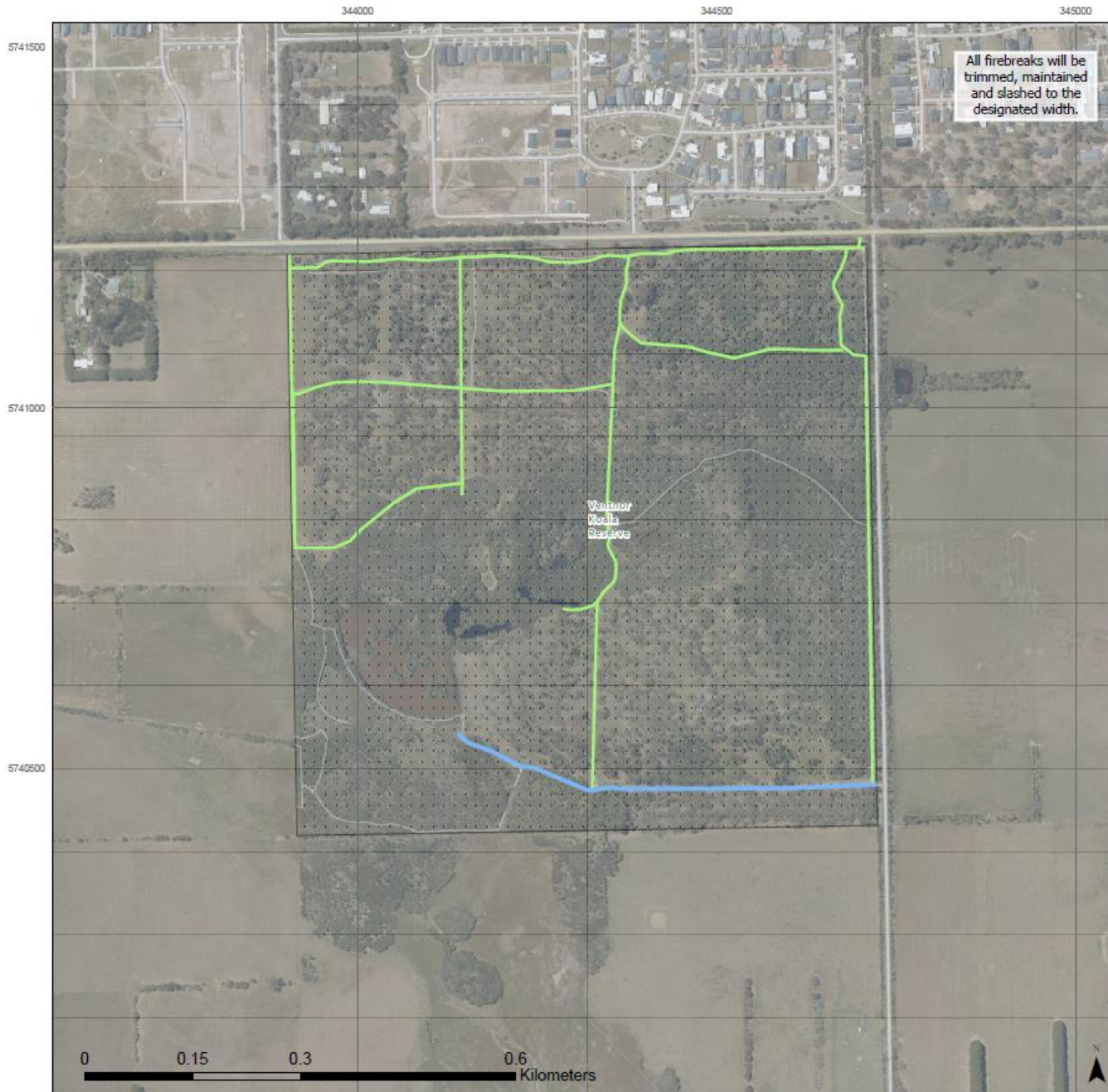
Map 6:

Berrys Beach showing fire break to be slashed annually and proposed ecological burns for 2020- 2022.

Key Area D

Burn treatment:

Year	Season	Key Area	Location	Size (Hectares)	Burn Name	Treatment Objective
2022	Autumn	D	Oswin Roberts	2.3	South Car Park	Fuel Reduction



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Ventnor Koala Reserve

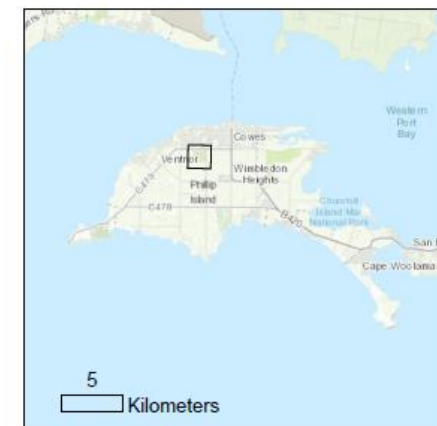
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| Thinning maintenance
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2022 | Burn piles
Fire service
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| Fire Operations Plan
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Major road
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| Fire Break Maintenance
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20m | Parks and reserves
Phillip Island Nature Park
Management Committee |

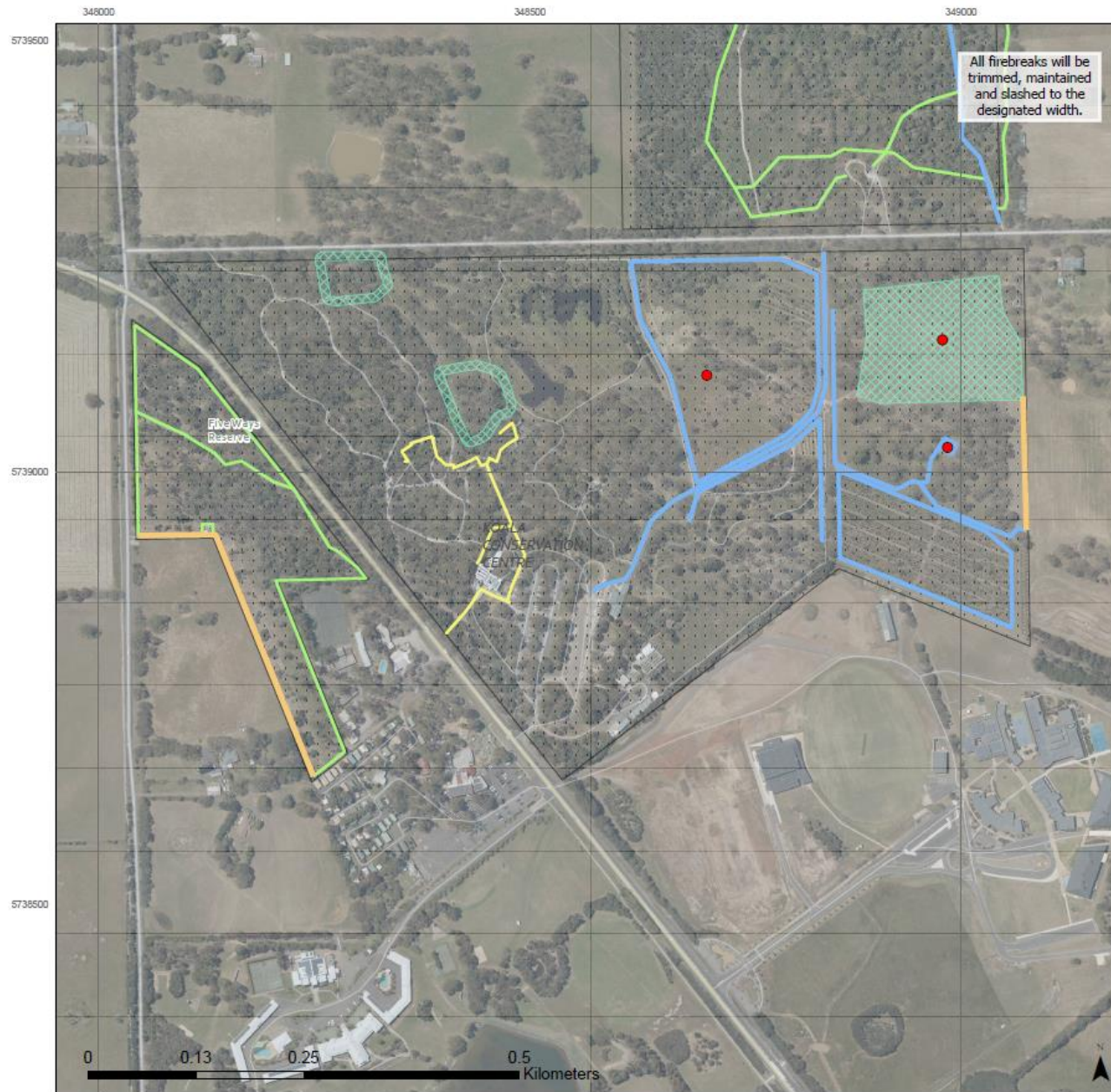
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Map 7: Ventnor Koala Reserve showing fire breaks to be maintained 2020-2023.

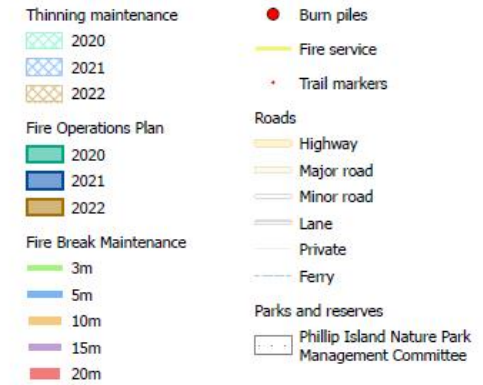


Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Koala Conservation Reserve and Five Ways

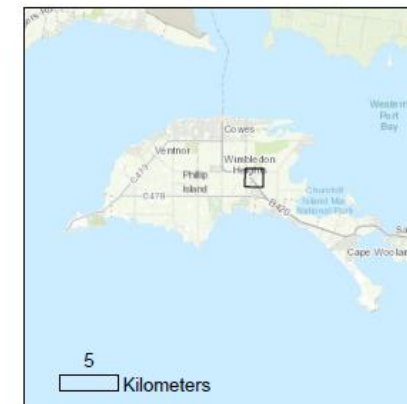
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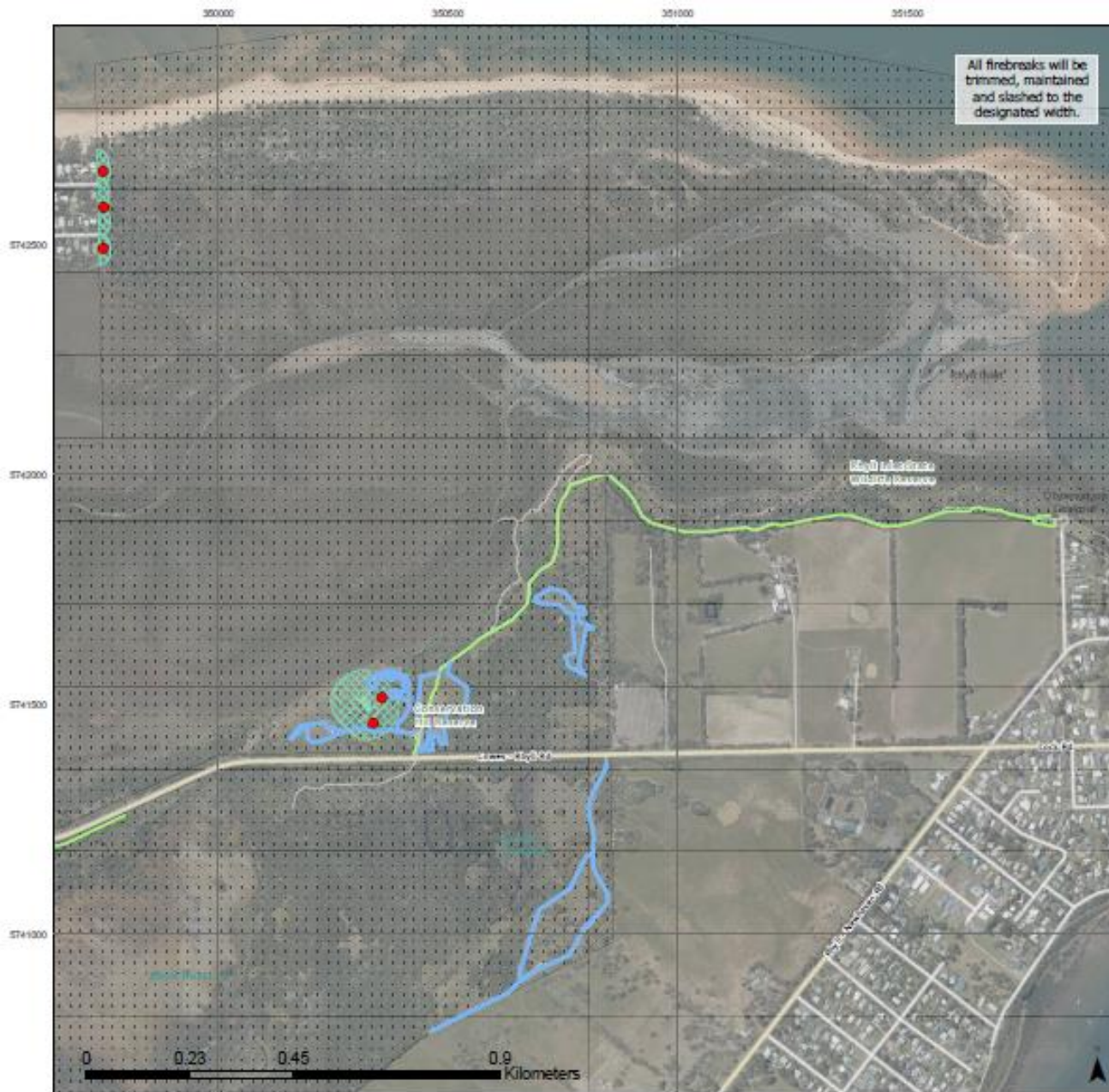
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Map 8: Koala Conservation Reserve and Five Ways Reserve showing fire breaks to be slashed, proposed burn at Five Ways Reserve and annual burn pile in works yard.

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

Key Area E



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan

Silverleaves and Rowell Swamp

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| Thinning maintenance | ● Burn piles |
| 2020 | Fire service |
| 2021 | Trail markers |
| 2022 | |
| Fire Operations Plan | Roads |
| 2020 | Highway |
| 2021 | Major road |
| 2022 | Minor road |
| Fire Break Maintenance | Lane |
| 3m | Private |
| 5m | Ferry |
| 10m | Parks and reserves |
| 15m | Phillip Island Nature Park |
| 20m | Management Committee |

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Map 10: Silverleaves, Rowell Swamp and Rhyll Swamp showing fire breaks to be maintained annually.

Key Area F



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Fire Operations Plan

Churchill Island

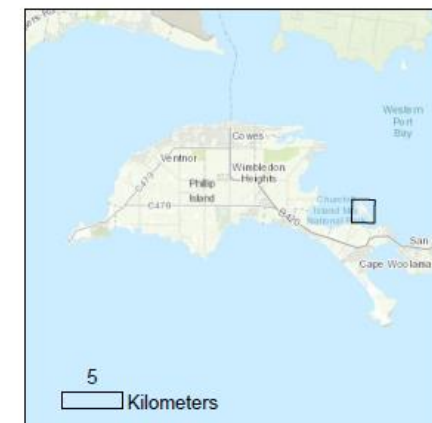
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| <p>Thinning maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 2021 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burn piles Fire service Trail markers |
| <p>Fire Operations Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 2021 2022 | <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highway Major road Minor road Lane Private Ferry |
| <p>Fire Break Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3m 5m 10m 15m 20m | <p>Parks and reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phillip Island Nature Park Management Committee |

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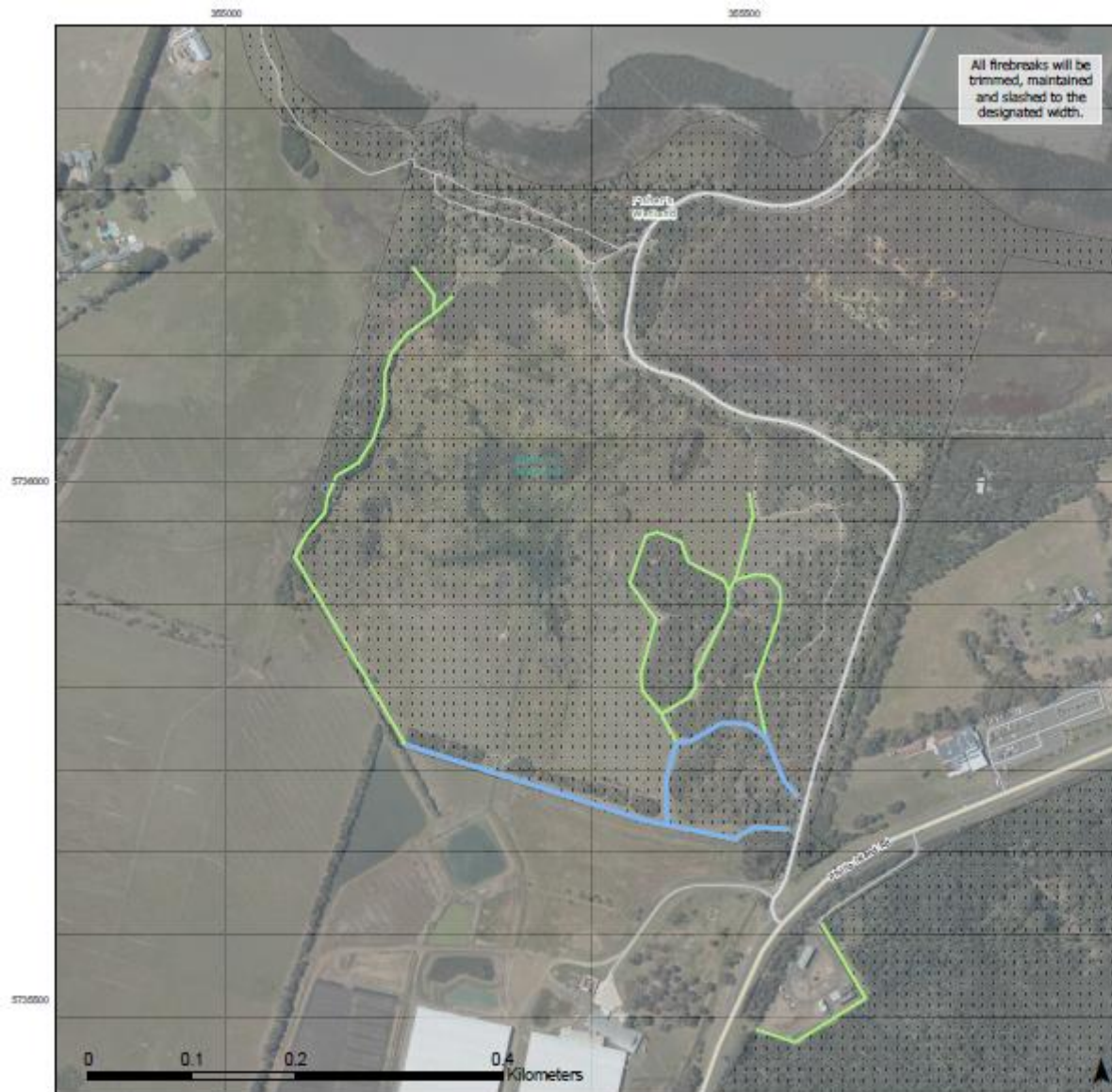


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Map 12: Churchill Island, showing fire breaks to be maintained, Walking Track closed on days of TBA

Key Area G



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Fire Operations Plan

Fishers Wetland

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| Thinning maintenance | ● Burn piles |
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| 2021 | • Trail markers |
| 2022 | Roads |
| Fire Operations Plan | — Highway |
| 2020 | — Major road |
| 2021 | — Minor road |
| 2022 | — Lane |
| Fire Break Maintenance | — Private |
| 3m | — Ferry |
| 5m | Parks and reserves |
| 10m | □ Phillip Island Nature Park |
| 15m | □ Management Committee |
| 20m | |

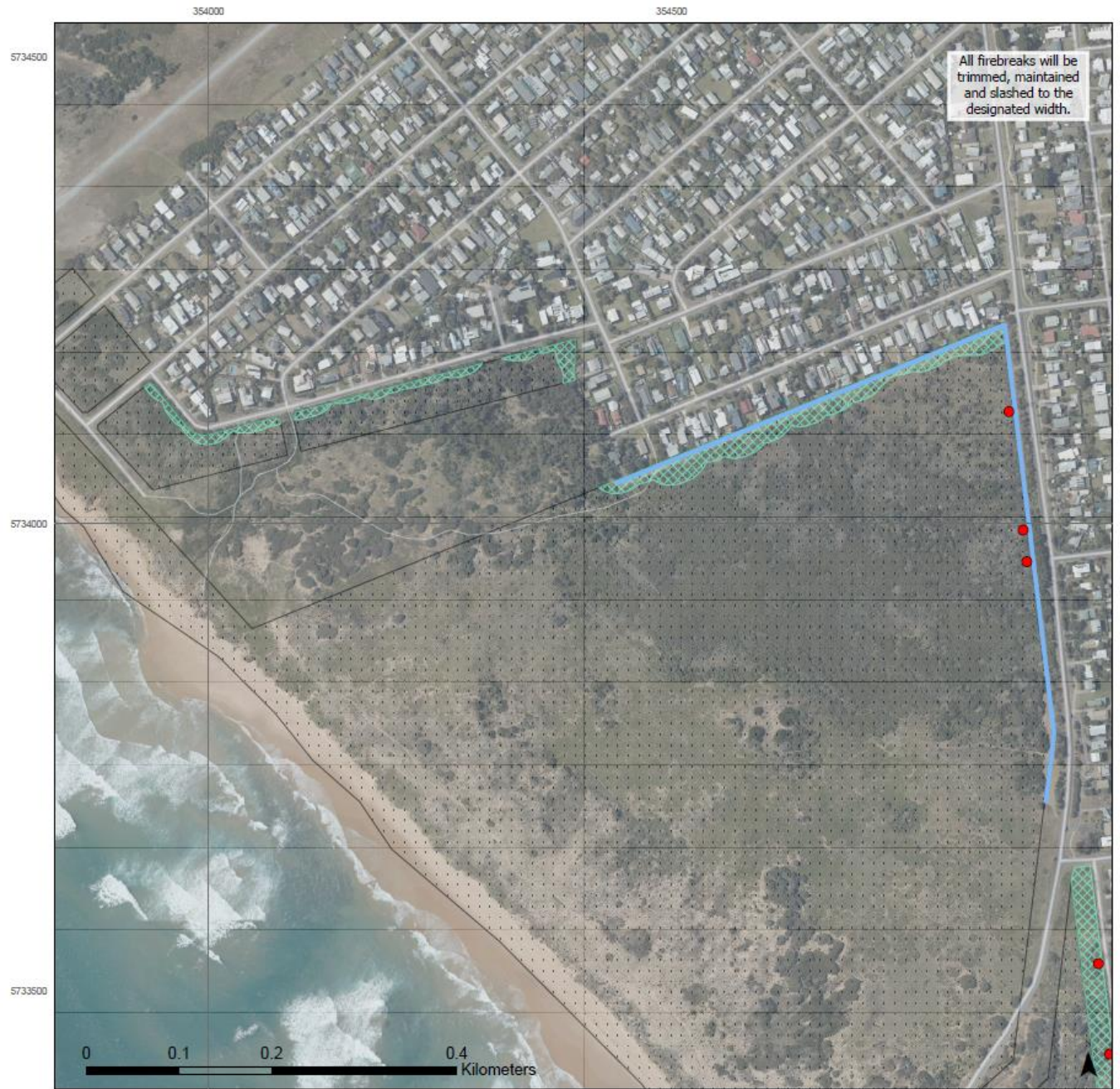
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Map 13: Fishers Wetland & Newhaven Swamp pump station showing fire breaks to be maintained,



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Fire Operations Plan

Cape Woolamai and Princeton Avenue

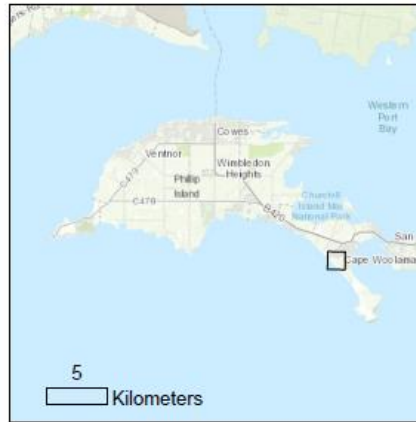
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- Thinning maintenance
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 - 2022
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- Fire Break Maintenance
 - 3m
 - 5m
 - 10m
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 - 20m
- Burn piles
- Fire service
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 - Ferry
- Parks and reserves
 - Phillip Island Nature Park Management Committee

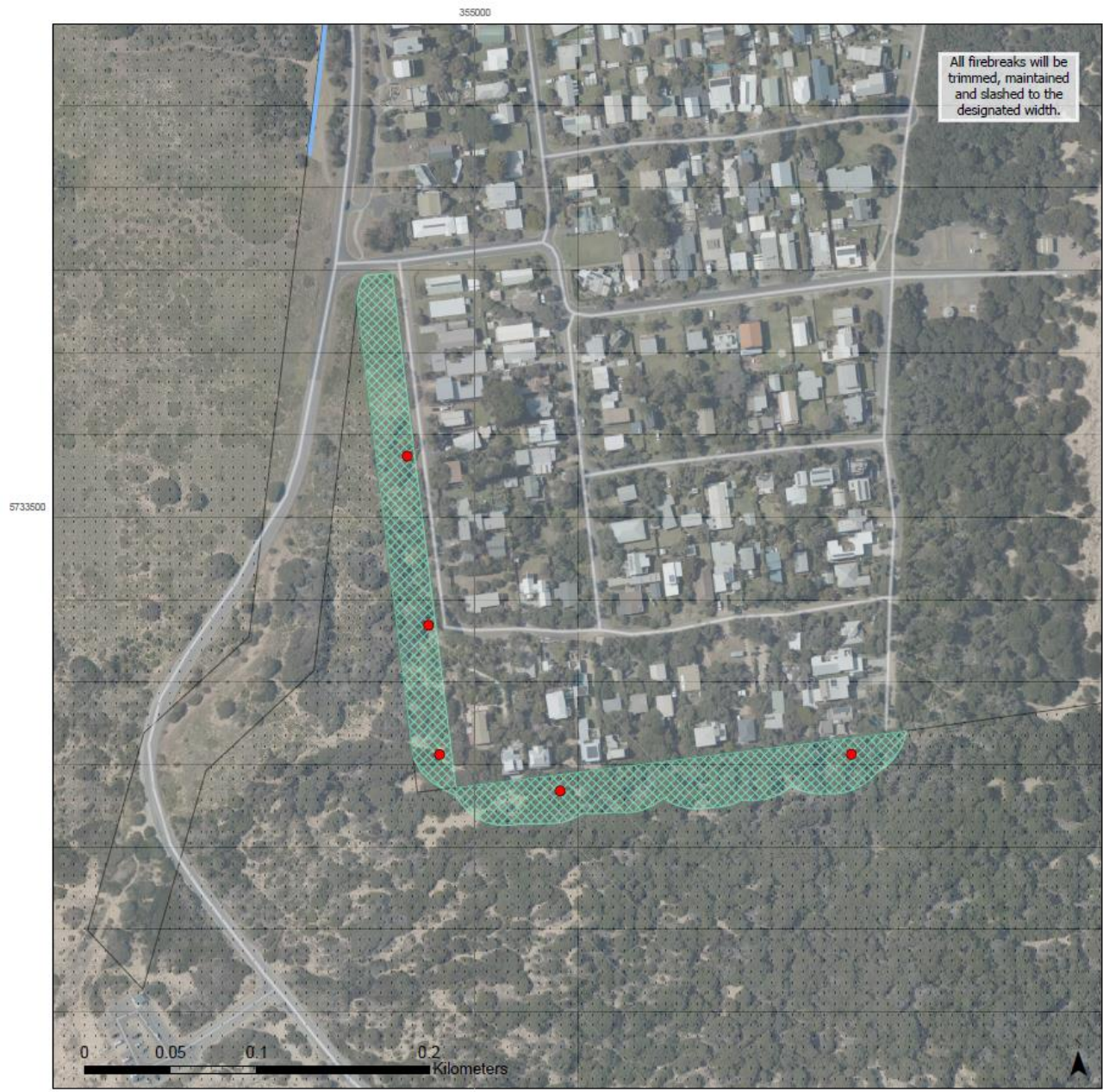
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Map 14: Cape Woolamai (Princeton Avenue Reserve) depicting Asset Protection Zones (APZ) and management segments to be weeded and heap burnt each year to 2022



Phillip Island Nature Parks

Fire Operations Plan Cape Woolamai and Broadbeach Road

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thinning maintenance | ● Burn piles |
| 2020 | — Fire service |
| 2021 | • Trail markers |
| 2022 | |
| Fire Operations Plan | Roads |
| 2020 | — Highway |
| 2021 | — Major road |
| 2022 | — Minor road |
| | — Lane |
| Fire Break Maintenance | — Private |
| 3m | — Ferry |
| 5m | |
| 10m | Parks and reserves |
| 15m | □ Phillip Island Nature Park |
| 20m | □ Management Committee |

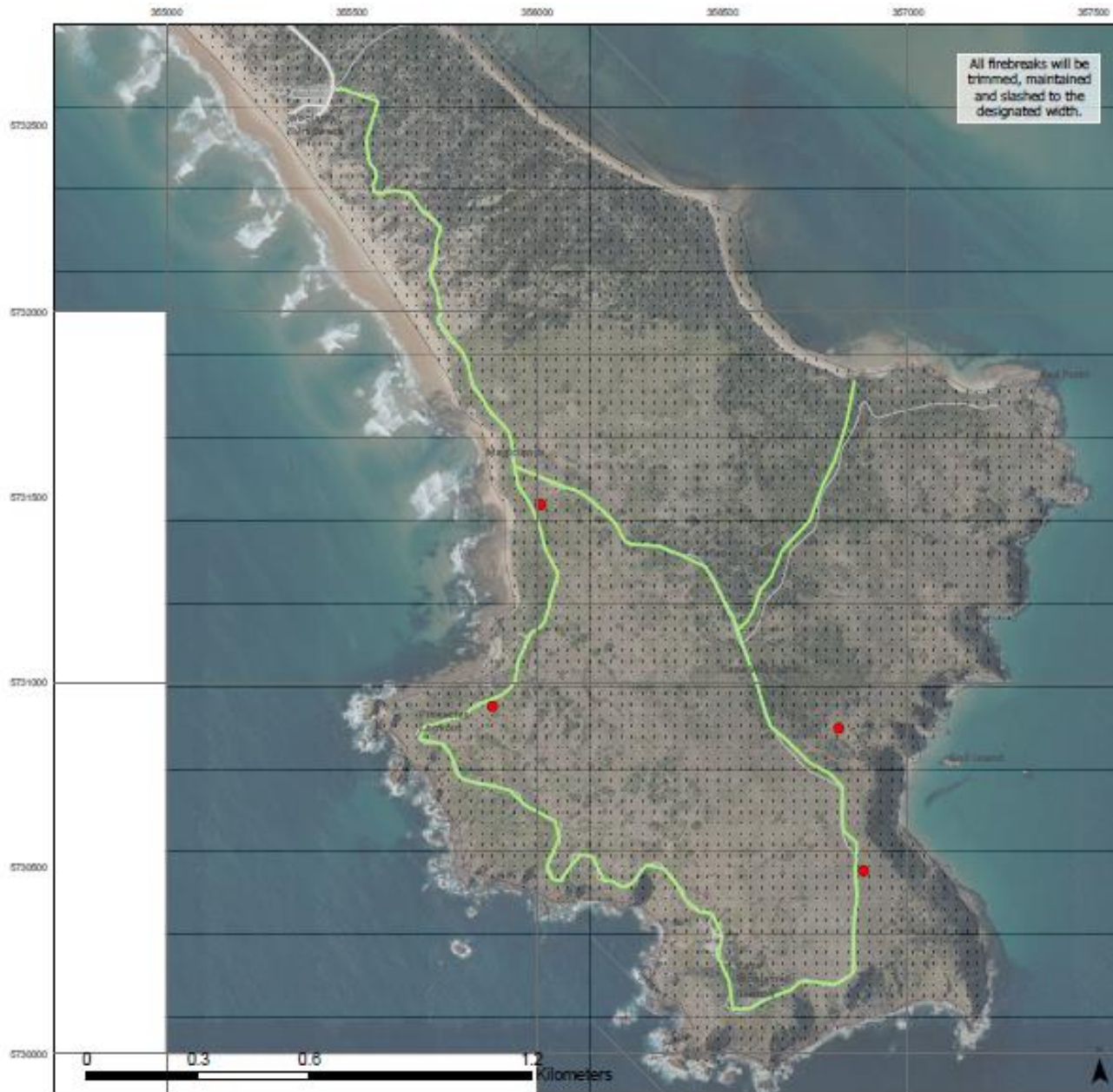
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Map 15: Cape Woolamai showing tracks Asset Protection Zones around Broadbeach and Ritchie's Roads.



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Fire Operations Plan

Cape Woolamai

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| Thinning maintenance | ● Burn piles |
| 2020 | Fire service |
| 2021 | Trail markers |
| 2022 | Roads |
| 2020 | Highway |
| 2021 | Major road |
| 2022 | Minor road |
| Fire Break Maintenance | Lane |
| 3m | Private |
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Map 16: Cape Woolamai showing tracks to be slashed.