



Vegetation Improvement Work

Health Infrastructure is committed to improving and regenerating the vegetated areas on the Tweed Valley Hospital site that border the Coastal Wetlands, many of which are overgrown with non-native and noxious species.

Over the coming months, Lendlease Building, the early works contractor, will undertake a program of works to remove the non-native vegetation and prepare for re-planting of native species on the Tweed Valley Hospital site. Existing native vegetation and the dry stone walls in these areas will be retained through this process.

The vegetation improvement works will be undertaken in accordance with the approved Stage 1 Biodiversity Management Plan, which was prepared in consultation with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Qualified and experienced local bush regeneration contractors have been engaged to undertake these works. The contractors are members of the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators.



The Tweed Valley Hospital Stage 1 Biodiversity Management Plan

The Stage 1 Biodiversity Management Plan is one of the guiding documents informing how the site is managed to ensure successful improvement and regeneration of the site's native flora and fauna.

The objectives of the Biodiversity Management Plan are to:

- Avoid, minimise and mitigate the impact of the project on threatened species and ecological communities
- Enhance existing flora and fauna habitats and corridors that are to be retained
- Control the movement of weeds on and off the site in accordance with the general biosecurity duty of care.

The Tweed Valley Hospital Stage 1 Biodiversity Management Plan is comprised of three sub-plans:

- Vegetation Management Plan
- Fauna Management Plan
- Water Quality Management Plan.

The Stage 1 Biodiversity Management Plan and the three sub-plans are available on the project website: tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au

What will the vegetation improvement works involve?

The approved Stage 1 vegetation improvement works will involve a range of tree removal and weed control measures, including:

- Hand weeding
- Mechanical removal
- Approved herbicide application (e.g. spot spraying, cut and paint, stem injection)
- Mulching.

Following the work to remove the weeds and non-native vegetation, a program of secondary weed control measures will continue in order to control re-growth, and to enable native plant species to re-establish themselves on the site.

What are some of the non-native plant species that will be removed as part of the vegetation improvement works?

A total of 63 native and 51 non-native plant species have been recorded as part of a vegetation survey of the Tweed Valley Hospital site. The non-native species surveyed include High Threat Exotics and three Weeds of National Significance. Weeds of National Significance are based on an Australian Government assessment process that prioritises weeds based on their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts. Examples of the vegetation that will be removed includes:

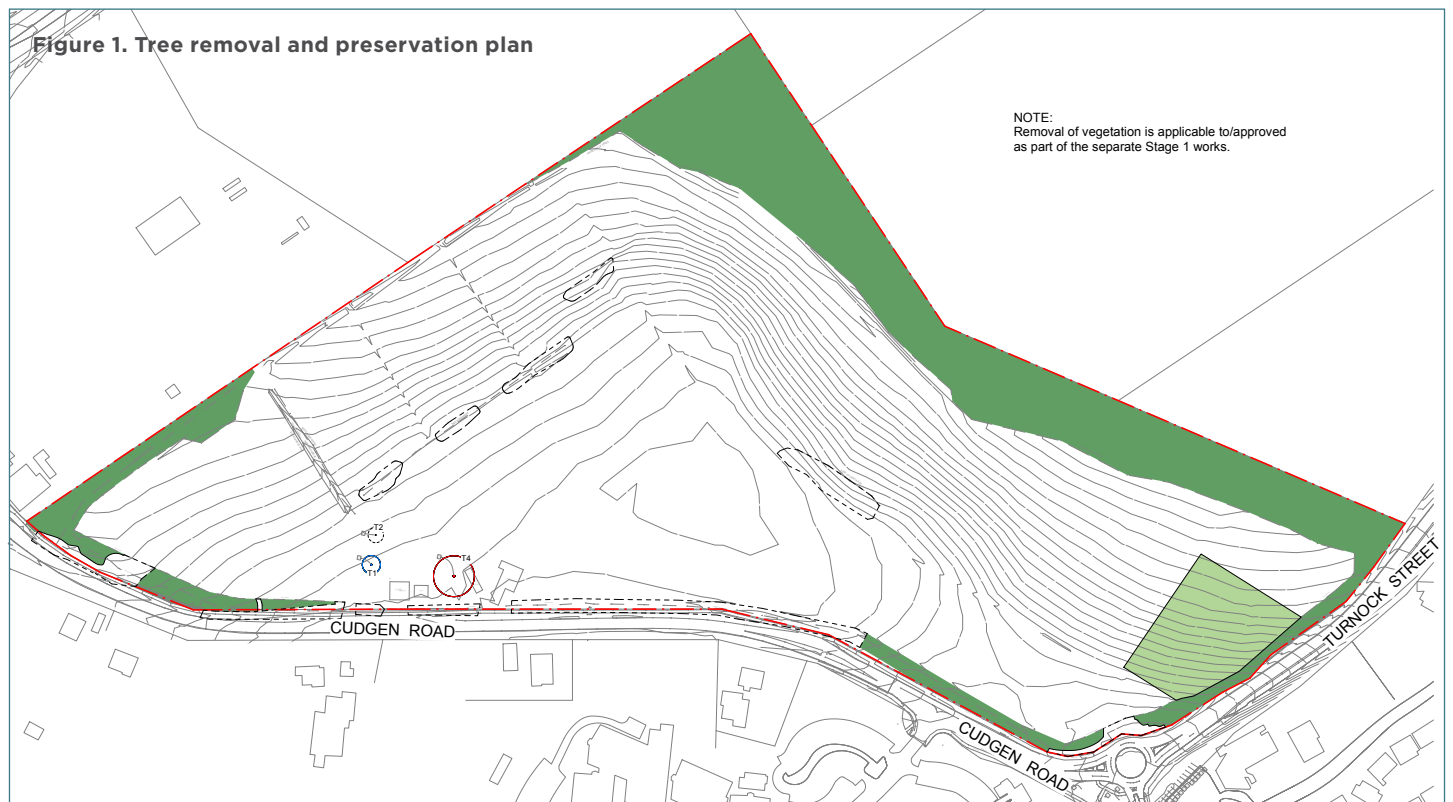
- Slash pine *Pinus elliottii*
- Camphor laurel *Cinnamomum camphora*
- Small leafed privet *Ligustrum sinense*
- Umbrella tree *Schefflera actinophylla*
- Barner Grass *Cenchrus purpureus*

Where will the vegetation improvement works occur?








Clearing of the non-native vegetation will occur along the Cudgen Road boundary, Turnock St (east) and adjoining western and northern property boundaries. The areas of vegetation that will be cleared also include parts of the self-sown windrows, which comprise woody weeds that are classified as High Threat Exotics.



Image 1. Examples of non-native vegetation on the Tweed Valley Hospital site: Barner Grass, Camphor Laurel and Small-leaf Privet.



Legend

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|  | Existing native trees to be retained and exotic species to be removed in accordance with the Biodiversity Management Plan.
(TPZ in accordance with arborist report and AS 4970-2009) |  | Moderate retention value tree - to be retained if possible.
(TPZ in accordance with arborist report and AS 4970-2009) |  | Existing fruit tree orchard to be retained |
|  | Existing trees to be removed (due to development footprint and road works). |  | Moderate retention value tree - to be removed. |  | Site Boundary. |
|  | High retention value tree - to be retained.
(TPZ in accordance with arborist report and AS 4970-2009) | | | | |

Is a replanting program planned and when is this likely to begin?

The replanting program for the site is detailed in the Stage 2 Biodiversity Management Plan included in the Environmental Impact Statement, as part of the Stage 2 State Significant Development application. The Stage 2 State Significant Development application was lodged with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment on 27 September 2019 and the public exhibition period closed on 8 November 2019. However, this document is still available for reference at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/14746.

The Stage 2 Biodiversity Management Plan identifies the native plant species that could be used as part of the replanting program. There are over 200 species of tree / shrub / palm in the recommended plant species list being considered as part of the replanting program and landscape plan. Key considerations include local suitability and availability. The project team is consulting with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Working Group and Community Reference Panel to finalise the landscape plan for the site.

Work to replant the site will commence and continue throughout the Main Works construction stage of the Hospital development. Main Works are scheduled to commence in mid-2020. In addition, the Biodiversity Management Plan includes a five year management plan to manage the regeneration of native vegetation across the Hospital site.

Keeping you informed

The Tweed Valley Hospital team is committed to keeping you informed. For project-related information, subscribe to our community newsletter, *Valley Pulse*, by visiting our website, www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au/News-and-publications/Newsletters.

In addition to our community newsletter, the project team issues community notices to provide important and timely information to the community about the works and changes on and around the site. To subscribe, visit our website www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au/delivery/early-works.

Keep in touch

Project hotline: 1800 992 634

Email: tweedvalleyhospital@health.nsw.gov.au

Web: tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au

