



SANDGATE FLORA RESERVE NO. 34

SITE SPECIFIC WORKING PLAN

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This site-specific working describes the important values of an individual flora reserve and identifies site-specific priorities for management. The plan is to be read in conjunction with the Flora Reserve Plan: Background and General Management document, which identifies Forestry Corporation's broad objectives and strategies for managing flora reserves. These two documents together form the flora reserve working plan in line with the requirements of section 25 of the *Forestry Act 2012*.

1. DETAILS OF THE RESERVE

1.1 LOCATION

Sandgate Flore Reserve is situated 35 kilometres west-north-west of the village of Gulargambone in Central Western NSW. The reserve is located on the western boundary of Sandgate State Forest No. 441, and adjoins Tallegar State Forest No. 64 on its southern most corner. Access is by the main Gulargambone- Quambone road to the south eastern corner of Sandgate State Forest, and then a well defined track. See Locality Map in Appendix 1.

1.2 KEY ATTRIBUTES OF THE RESERVE

Under the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserves are set apart for the preservation of native flora.

The reserve possesses the following identified attributes that are to be protected:

- » Flora and fauna that may act as a reference point for assessing the effects of land utilisation of other similar forest stands in the area
- » Flora and fauna that may be used be used for limited scientific studies with the fundamental aim of preservation
- » Scenic values associated with the reserve
- » Cultural significance associated with the reserve

1.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Area

The reserve is rectangular in shape and is roughly 800 metres long by 200 metres wide with an overall area of about 16 hectares.

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Topography

The reserve sits on a slightly rising sand ridge, known locally as ‘sand monkey’. Such features frequently mark the course of old streams. The reserve has an altitude of about 180 metres. Refer to Appendix 1 for topographic map.

Geology and soils

Soil in the reserve is a grey brown sandy loam.

Climate

The climate is characterised by hot summers and cold winters with occasional light frosts. The climate of the reserve is similar to that of Coonamble, which is 30 kilometres to the north east. The mean average rainfall in Coonamble is 500 millimetres which is spread fairly evenly through the year, although autumn and winter are drier than spring and summer.

Vegetation/flora and fauna

The reserve carries a stand of Red Gum (*Eucalyptus dealbata*) and White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) with a dense understorey of advanced Cypress Pine regeneration, originating in the 1950s.

Grass cover is primarily Corkscrew Grass (*Stipa sp.*). Occasional African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) plants, a noxious weed, occur within the reserve.. Appendix 3 and 4 outline a list of flora and fauna species known to occur within the reserve.

1.4 HISTORY

Aboriginal History and Cultural Values

Sandgate Flora Reserve is located within the traditional lands of the Weilwan and Kawambarai people. The flora reserve has potential to contain features that relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Post European Settlement

Harvesting

There is limited information available on the harvesting history within the flora reserve but no harvesting has occurred since the flora reserve was established in 1977.

Fire

Fire has been part of the Australian landscape for at least the last 60,000 years and most forests have experienced fire multiple times over many centuries. Since the area was designated a reserve, efforts have been made to keep the area free from bushfires. In accordance with the provisions of this plan Forestry Corporation may, if necessary, carry out prescribed burning confined to narrow strips around the boundaries of the reserve.

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1.5 CURRENT USAGE

The reserve receives very limited recreational usage. There are no established recreation sites in the forest.

2. SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

Under the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserves are set apart for the preservation of native flora. The main objective of Sandgate Flora Reserve is to enhance and maintain the ecological quality of the existing forest stands, preserve the native fauna in the area, and the cultural heritage of the area.

The objects of management will be to:

- » Preserve the ecological quality of the existing forest stands
- » Preserve the habitat of native fauna species
- » Protect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and cultural values that are identified
- » Preserve the heritage of the area

A supplementary plan may be developed to enable an adaptive management approach to detail further specific actions and activities for outcomes that match the objectives, actions and activities for this flora reserve. Any supplementary plan must be consistent with the identified objectives of this working plan, Forest Management Zoning applicable to the flora reserve and have a review date not exceeding that of the working plan. Supplementary plans must be approved by the General Manager responsible for the flora reserve.

2.2 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The broad management strategies and related actions to preserve native flora and improve the value and extent of habitat in State forest flora reserves are detailed in the Flora Reserve Management Plan: Background and General Management document, which is to be read in conjunction with this plan. Specific additional management strategies applied in this flora reserve may include:

- » Property maintenance, through:
 - establishment and maintenance of appropriate boundary fences, gates and signs
 - removal of unnecessary fencing
 - maintenance of tracks.

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- » Conservation and improvement of habitat, through:
 - maintenance of native vegetation
 - regeneration of cleared or degraded land, through plantings and natural recruitment
 - weed control
 - removal of rubbish
 - management of human disturbance
 - retention of dead timber and other habitat resources
 - fire management
- » Pest control.

The full suite of management measures outlined are expected to provide benefits for all species of flora and fauna in this reserve.

Weeds

As far as practicable, noxious weeds and other exotic species will be eliminated from the reserve..

Trail maintenance

Maintenance of roads and trails is important to enable access to the forest for forest management, firefighting, tourism and recreation. Poorly maintained roads can also transport significant levels of sediment, increasing the turbidity of water within creeks. This consequently reduces habitat quality and aquatic biodiversity and can take significant periods of time to recover. .

Permitted activities

Under the Forest Management Zoning (FMZ) system, Sandgate Flora Reserve No. 34 is zoned FMZ 1 and therefore contributes to the dedicated reserve system in the Western Region.

Management will be consistent with the requirements of JANIS dedicated reserves. The latest operational guide detailing activities not permitted in FMZ1 is published on the Forestry Corporation website.

The following activities may be permitted subject to standard conditions approved by the Regional Manager and consistent with the management objectives for the reserve, codes of practice, forest practices/operational circulars, protocols, licenses and management/recovery plans:

- » scientific studies (e.g., fauna surveys including trapping)
- » maintenance of existing roads and fire trails
- » maintenance of existing recreation facilities and upgrading where necessary to keep pace with demand while protecting the attributes of the reserve

- » limited tree and or limb removal for safety, viewing or construction of facilities in areas used for recreation
- » pest animal and weed control
- » general access for activities such as bush walking, photography and nature study
- » Aboriginal use of forest products consistent with the maintenance of the conservation attributes to be protected in the reserve.)
- » fire management will be undertaken in a manner consistent with maintaining the health of forest ecosystems

The following activities may only be permitted with special conditions:

- » Construction of new roads. Construction will only be permitted in exceptional instances and consistent with the following principles:
 - No practical alternative is available
 - The attributes of the Reserve will not be significantly affected by the road or fire trail
 - Opportunity is provided for public comment on the proposal, obtained through advertising in the local newspaper, either print or online, or by publication on a website considered reasonably likely to come to the attention of members of the local community
 - Ministerial approval is given for the proposal.

Mining

The reserve is exempted from the provisions of the *Mining Act 1992*.

2.3 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The reserve will be administered by Forestry Corporation of NSW's Hardwood Division, Western Region with the authority for decision making delegated to the Regional Manager.

- » The reserve boundaries will be mapped in GIS. The state of the boundary marking will be checked, and if necessary clarified, before any operations are carried out in the vicinity of the reserve
- » Operations in adjacent areas are performed in a manner so as not to cause damage or disturbance to the reserve
- » Forest Permits are issued only for activities consistent with the management objectives for the reserve

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2.4 MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

The region will monitor changes to the key attributes of the reserve and will review the effectiveness of the management strategies designed to protect those attributes and to achieve the management objectives.

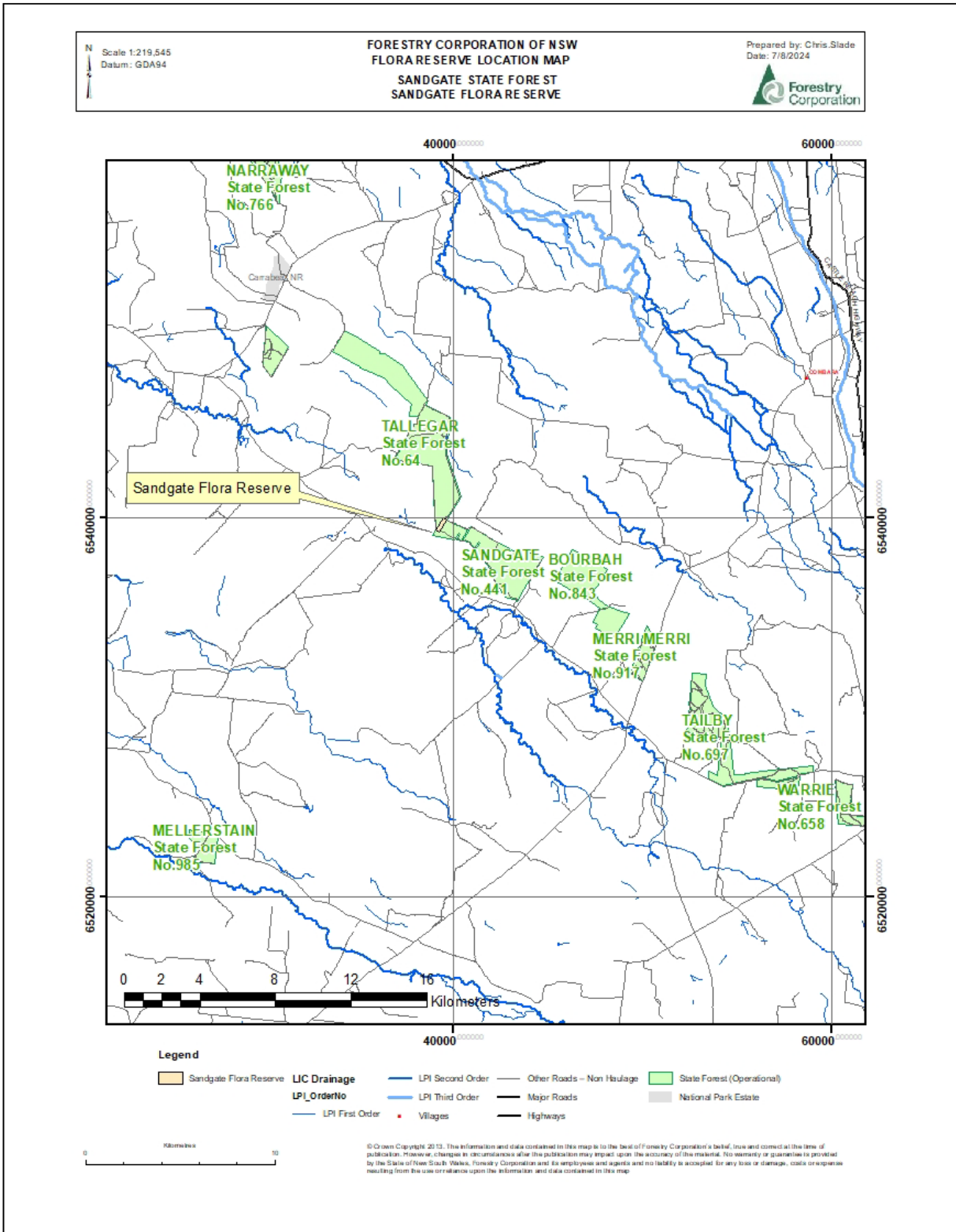
The results of this monitoring, review and management response will be included in annual reporting processes.

The provisions of this working plan will be amended, if necessary, in light of the results of the monitoring program and / or legislative change and with the approval of the Minister administering the *Forestry Act 2012*.

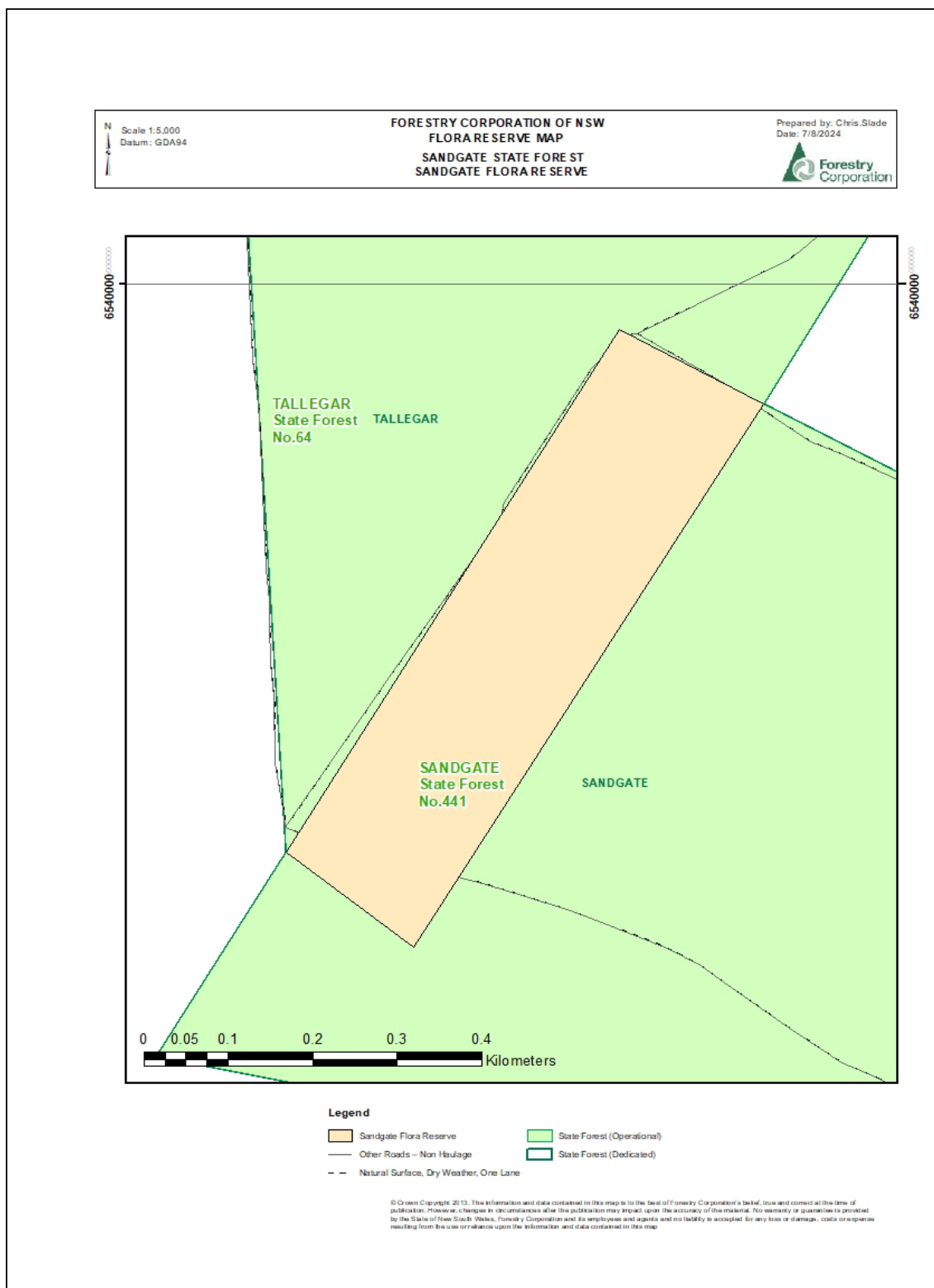
3. LIST OF APPENDICES

- » Appendix 1 – Locality Map
- » Appendix 2 – Topographic and Forest Type Map
- » Appendix 3 – Flora Species List
- » Appendix 4 – Fauna Species List
- » Appendix 5 – Approval and amendments from previous version

APPENDIX 1 – LOCALITY MAP



APPENDIX 2 – TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



APPENDIX 3 – FLORA SPECIES LIST

Flora found within 20000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2024

Scientific name
<i>Acacia deanei</i>
<i>Acacia murrayana</i>
<i>Acacia pendula</i>
<i>Acacia salicina</i>
<i>Alistonia constricta</i>
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>
<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i>
<i>Canthium oleifolium</i>
<i>Capparis mitchellii</i>
<i>Casuarina luehmannii</i>
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
<i>Eucalyptus chlorclada</i>
<i>Eucalyptus dealbata</i>
<i>Eucalyptus populnea</i>
<i>Exocarpus aphyllus</i>
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>
<i>Jasminum lineare</i>
<i>Lycium ferocissium</i>
<i>Lysiana exocarpi</i>
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>viridiflora</i>
<i>Myoporum montanum</i>
<i>Oxalis</i> sp.
<i>Rhagodia hastata</i>
<i>Solanum ferocissium</i> var. <i>Ferocissium</i>
<i>Stipa</i> sp.

APPENDIX 4 – FAUNA SPECIES LIST

Fauna found within 5000m of flora reserve, desktop search undertaken July 2024

Birds	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail
<i>Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu
<i>Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis</i>	Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier

Birds	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella
<i>Aquila audax</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail

Mammals	
Scientific name	Common name
<i>Nyctophilus gouldi</i>	Gould's Long-eared Bat
<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	Gould's Wattled Bat
<i>Nyctophilus geoffroyi</i>	Lesser Long-eared Bat
<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>	Little Forest Bat
<i>Chalinolobus picatus</i>	Little Pied Bat
<i>Ozimops planiceps</i>	South-eastern Free-tailed Bat
<i>Austronomus australis</i>	White-striped Freetail-bat

APPENDIX 5 – APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS FROM PREVIOUS VERSION

In line with section 25 of the *Forestry Act 2012*, flora reserve working plans and any amendments must be approved by the Minister. This plan forms part of the working plans for each of the individual flora reserves listed in section 6.

This plan was approved by The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Western New South Wales

Date of approval: 24/6/25

Version	Changes	Approval details
2.0	» Reference to the <i>Flora Reserve Plan: Background and General Management</i> » Formatting updated	» Approved by The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Western New South Wales, 24/6/25