

The Management Units (MUs)

The aerial photographs and information on the vegetation, physical properties and infrastructure were used to divide the Woodland it into a number of Management Units (MUs), each having particular management requirements.

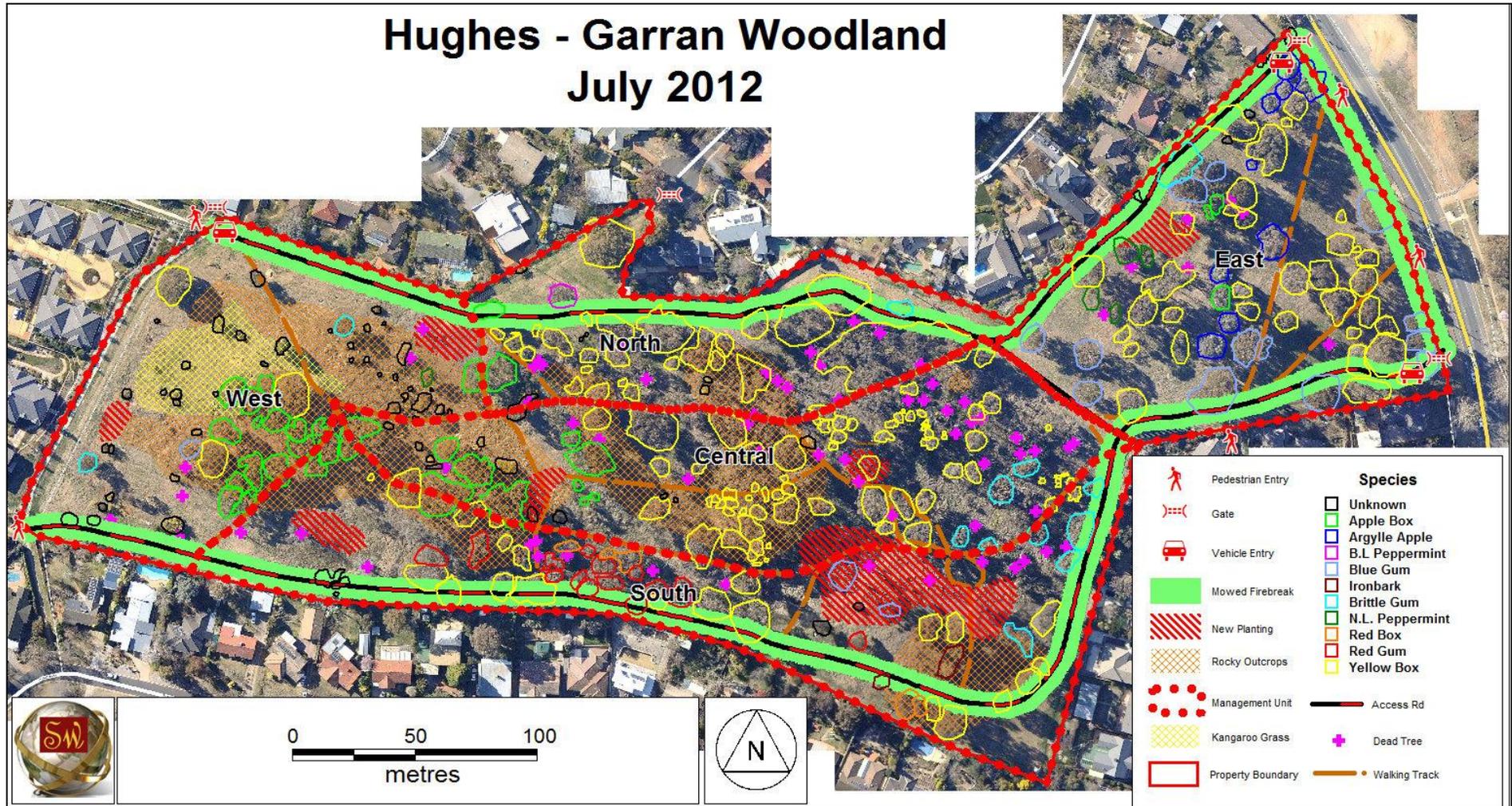


Figure 7. An enhanced aerial photograph showing the trees, grassland, plantings, physical and infrastructure features.

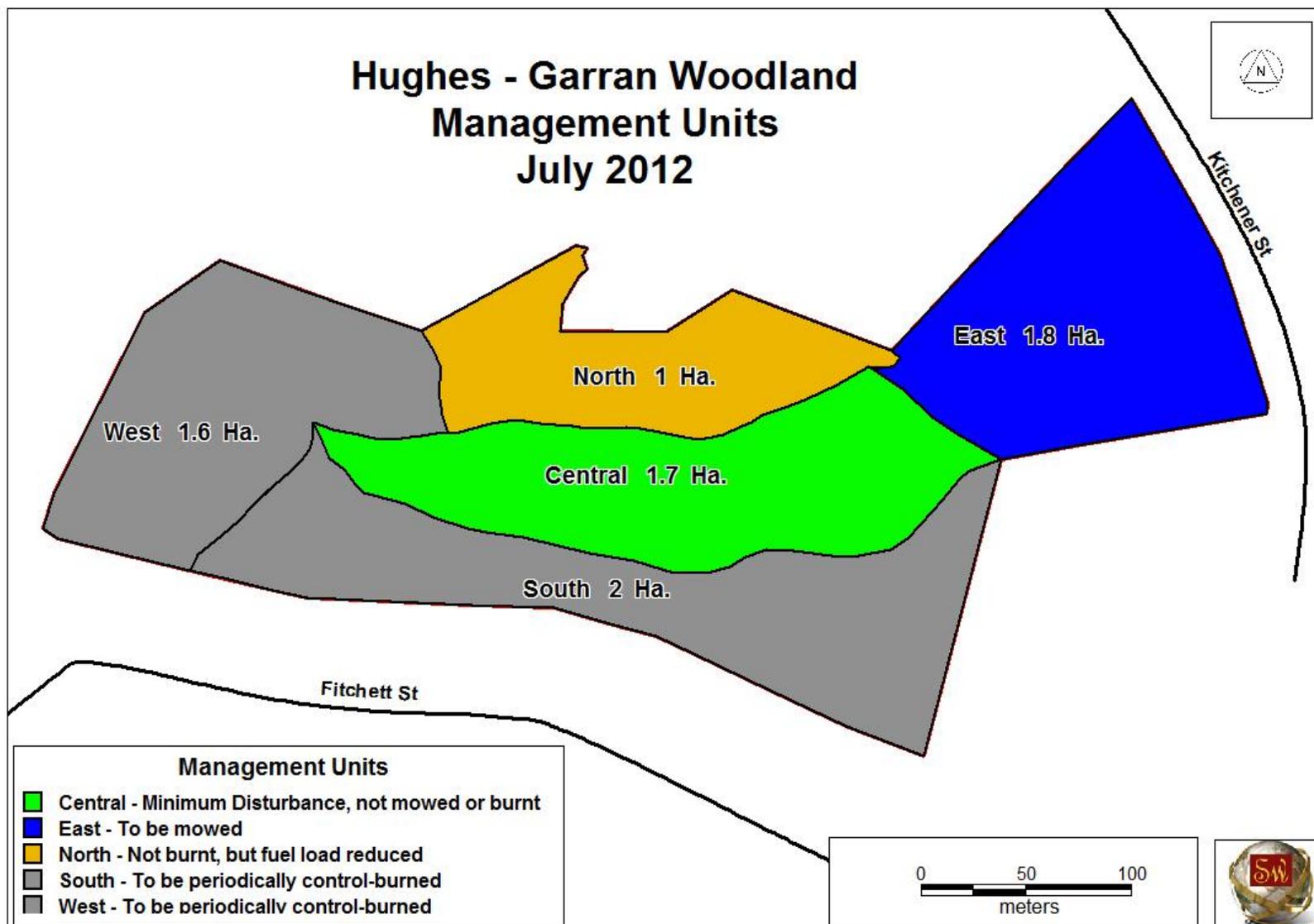


Figure 8. A diagrammatic representation of the five different MUs. Each has a different management requirement and utilises walking tracks and service roads to define their boundaries.

WEST Management Unit

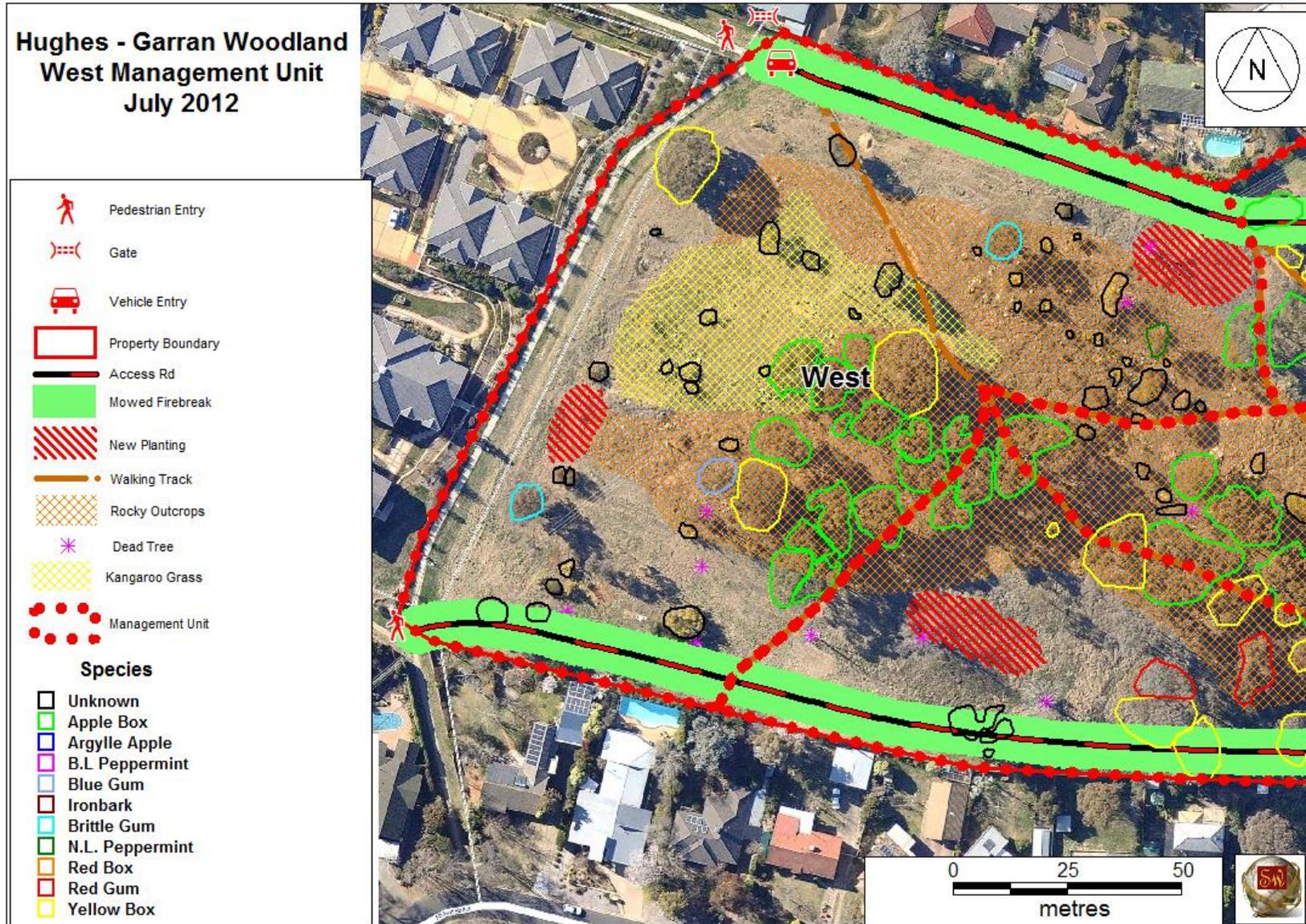


Fig 9. Map of West Management Unit.

WEST Management Unit

Flora & Fauna:

Vegetation cover: Open forest 10%, Woodland 20%, Grassland 70%.

Trees: Apple box (*E. bridgesiana*), yellow box (*E. melliodora*), occasional ribbon gum (*E. viminalis*).

Height: 15m.

Health: Fire damage, particularly on the SW face. Dead trees. Ribbon gum in poor condition due to fire, drought and being off-site.

Understory: An occasional cassinia (*Cassinia* sp.) bush. A few bushes of grevillia (*G. rosmarinifolia*) towards eastern end of the MU (considered an environmental weed in some jurisdictions but is not declared or considered noxious by any state government authorities).

Ground cover: Good cover of kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*), some spear grasses (*Austrostipa bigeniculata* and *A. scabra*).

Weeds present: Woody weeds largely under control except for the dense stand of Cootamundra wattle (*A. baileyana*). Heavily weed infested area around outer borders of the MU.

Recent plantings: Ground cover and shrubs planted in 2011 in two rocky areas - 4 hardenbergia (*Hardenbergia violacea*) and 3 *Dillwynia sericea* on the western face and 7 *Oxylobium ellipticum* in plantings on the eastern edge of the MU.

Fauna: Lizards, birdlife. The occasional fox and rabbit.

Rare/significant plants & animals: The area of grassland contains a variety of native species within a rocky patch, which provide habitat for small animals including lizards. The grassland should be retained, and existing kangaroo grass should be enhanced (ecological burning, brushcutter and selective weeding, possibly by hand). Native ground cover to be encouraged in rocky areas.



Figure 10. West MU has great views of Phillip and the mountains. The considerable area of native kangaroo grass has recently been burnt by a mild fire to regenerate the grass.

Physical Characteristics

Soil/Surface rock: Most of the MU is very rocky except for SW corner. In the absence of rock, soils are sandy clay loams over clay; A horizon 30 to 40cm deep. Further details in Appendix 2, page 47.

Service roads, walking tracks: Service road on southern and northern boundaries, vehicle access on western side, other boundaries defined by walking tracks which can be traversed by small 4x4 vehicles. See Fig. 6, page 16.

Access: Vehicle access via locked gate off Wisdom St. Pedestrian access from western end of Fitchett St. and Boake Pl.

Power line: Running SW across MU.

Management

Fuel management: This MU is to be control burnt by the ACT Government during 2012–13 for both fire fuel management and ecological for enhancement of the native grassland.

Fire break: A 10m wide break should be mowed by the TAMS along the southern and northern sides of this MU.

Track maintenance: Group maintains walking tracks, mowing and removing understory from 5m either side of tracks. Service road along northern boundary is eroding.

Tree maintenance: A few trees on SW face fire damaged and require maintenance.

New plantings: Two separate areas to be mowed/slashed by Group.

Weed management: Woody weeds visually monitored and controlled by Group using glyphosate and cut and daub. Cootamundra wattle to be partially removed. Emphasis is placed on weeding areas of kangaroo and spear grasses. Other exotic grassy weeds include couch grass, wild oats etc.

Wildlife habitat: Wattles provide some habitat for small birds but these will gradually be removed and replaced by appropriate shrubs such as *Cassinia* sp. and *Bursaria spinosa*. Nesting boxes could be installed to increase habitat. Blue tongue lizards.

Comment

Regular mowing of the southern and northern boundaries should be implemented as this MU is close to Fitchett St houses and the MU is to be control burnt.

Pedestrian access on the northern side is scheduled to be upgraded.

This rocky, west facing MU does not favour planting; existing native ground cover should be encouraged. The kangaroo grass in particular should be maintained weed free, burnt every 4-5 years and extended.

SOUTH Management Unit

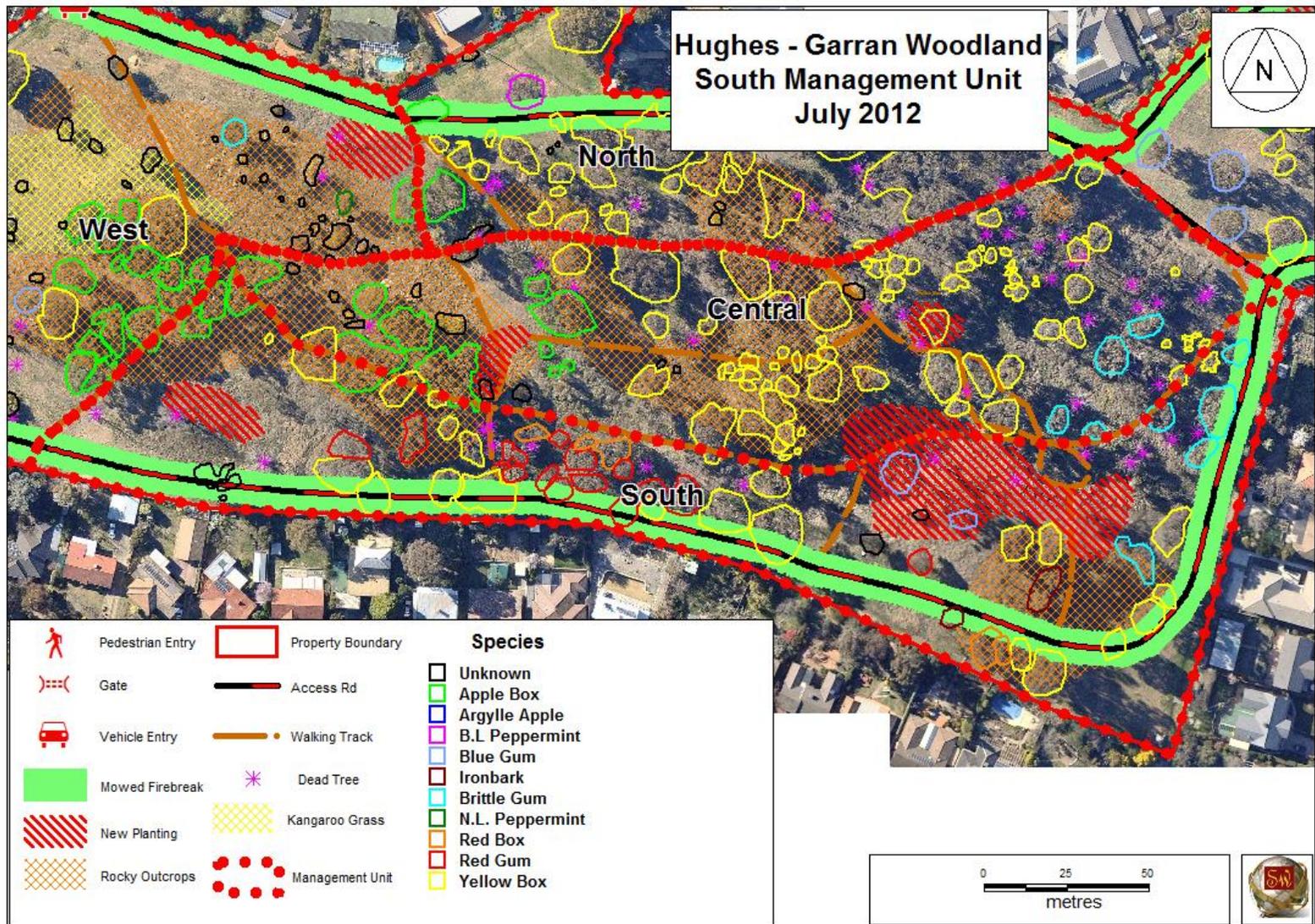


Fig 11. Map of South Management Unit.

SOUTH Management Unit

Flora & Fauna

Vegetation cover: Crown cover; Open forest 10%, Woodland 50%, Grassland 40%.

Trees: Red box (*E. polyanthemos*), apple box (*E. bridgesiana*), Blakely's red gum (*E. blakelyi*), blue gum (*E. bicostata*), Argyle apple (*E. cinerea*), yellow box (*E. melliodora*).

Height: 15 – 20m.

Health: Limited fire damage, excessive density along southern border.

Understory: Occasional *Cassinia* bush, some tree regeneration in open areas.

Ground cover species: Heavily weed infested grassed area close to houses. Contains a rocky patch with speargrass.

Weeds present: Woody weeds, eg black locust or false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) largely under control, a few green wattle (*A. decurrens*). Groundcover weeds include vinca, couch grass, thistles, wild oats, etc.

Recent plantings: In grassland at east end of MU, 4 iron bark, 2 apple box, 11 Wee Jasper grevilleas (*Grevillea iaspicula*) and 3 knife-leaved wattle (*Acacia cultriformis*). In the grassed area at the western end, 7 yellow box and 1 apple box.

Fauna: Little evidence of native animals other than birdlife. The occasional fox and rabbit. Rosellas nesting in hollows of 2 blue gums.

Rare plants & animals: n/a

Physical Characteristics

Soil/Rock: Rock at eastern end of the MU. Mostly sandy clay loam A horizon over clay B horizon. Deep moist soils in valley supports a luxuriant ground cover of weeds. Further details in Appendix 2, page 47.

Service roads, walking tracks: Service road on southern side. Other boundaries defined by walking tracks which only can be traversed by smaller 4x4 vehicles.

Access: No direct access from outside park.



Figure 12. Dense grass and trees close to the houses along Fitchett St. requires the attention of both householders and ACT Government.

Management

Fuel management: MU to be control burnt by Dept. during 2012–13 for fire fuel management purposes.

Fire break: Both grass and trees are very close the backs of houses on Fitchett St. A 10m wide break should be mowed by TAMS along the southern border of this MU.

Track maintenance: Group maintains walking tracks, mowing and removing understory from 5m either side of tracks.

Tree maintenance: Some thinning of overly dense stands desirable.

New plantings: Three separate areas to be mowed/slashed by Group.

Weed management: Woody weeds visually monitored and controlled by Group using glyphosate and cut and daub. Some St John's wort controlled by spraying.

Wildlife habitat: Some opening up of dense stands along southern border would improve tree growth and nesting hollows. If shrubs are planted they should be limited in height and protected by the Group. Nesting boxes could be installed to increase habitat.

Comment

The close proximity of heavy grass cover and trees to the houses along the southern boundary means it is important that this fire break is well maintained. Selected trees close to the houses should be removed and stumps ground to facilitate mowing.

The heavily weed infested grassland on moist, fertile soils is a major challenge.



Figure 13. Wee Jasper grevilleas flourishing on a rocky knoll towards the eastern end of MU South.