

MARTINS CREEK – BONANG ROAD

MARTINS CREEK FOREST BLOCK

Report on *Potorous longipes* detection and Proposed FMZ changes

Abstract

Potorous longipes, the Long Footed Potoroo was detected incidentally whilst driving on the Bonang Road in the Martins Creek area. Details of this detection are contained within this report.

Further notes are made concerning the proposed East Gippsland Forest Management Zone amendments including that a proposed Special Protection Zone has recently been clear-fell logged within the last three months.

***Potorous longipes* sighting location details**

Along the Bonang Road in the Martins Creek area.

Location
55H 0642157 // 5860845
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

Date and time of sighting

Saturday 28th August 2010
Approximately 7:00pm

Surveyor

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Author

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Date

04/10/2010
(4 pages)

Location details

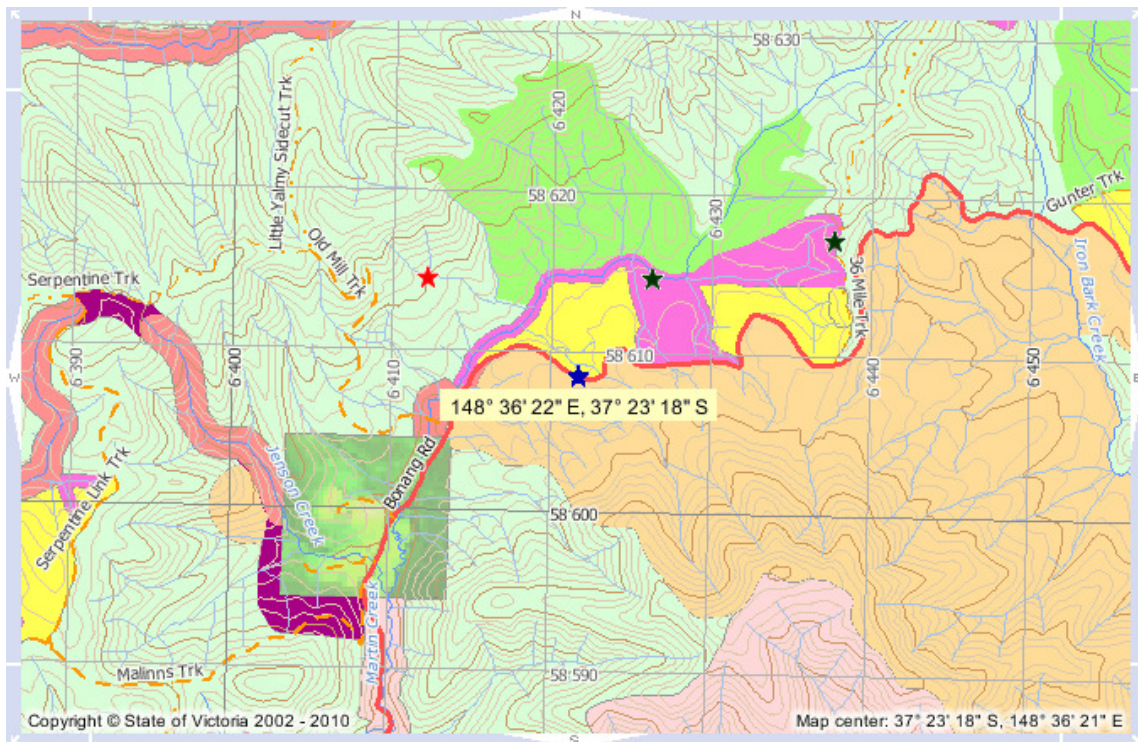
Along the Bonang Road in the Martins Creek area. Between the intersections of the Bonang Road and Old Mill Track and the Bonang Road and 36 Mile track.

LFP Sighting Location;
55H 0642157 // 5860845
(GDA94, UTM/UPS)

Maps Key:

- ★ *Potorous longipes* sighting¹
- ★ *Potorous longipes* remote camera detection²
- ★ *Potorous longipes* DSE online maps records³

Figure 1: Site displayed on; DSE Forest Explorer Online 4.1 map system showing “East Gippsland FMZ changes and Draft” layers (<http://nremap-sc.nre.vic.gov.au/MapShare.v2/imf.jsp?session=45925>, 22/09/10)



Notes relevant to LFP and SPZ issue:

- Shaded Light Green at map centre indicates LFP Special Management Zone becoming General Management Zone
- Shaded Light Purple indicates recent inclusion of LFP retained habitat area
- Shaded Yellow indicates remaining LFP SMZ
- Shaded Dark Purple indicates GMZ becoming Special Protection Zone

¹ Detection plotted on DSE Forest Explorer Online 4.1 map system showing “East Gippsland FMZ changes and Draft” layers. Location value is approximate to that recorded on the GPS held at the time of marking and what could be mapped on this program.

² Detection previously submitted to the Department within the report “OLD MILL TRACK - Report of *Potorous longipes* detections”, Lincoln, A., 19/072010

³ Records taken from DSE online map system: Biodiversity Interactive Map 3.1.

Sighting Information

Driving south on the Bonang a small mammal was spotted in the middle of the road. After pulling over and walking up to the mammal, within 5 metres, the mammal was identified as *Potorous longipes*. This identification was made consequent to the surveyor's recent and extensive experience viewing this mammal on remote camera video footage in East Gippsland and specifically the Martins Creek area. This species had been recently detected approximately 1km from this location by remote camera footage and *Potorous longipes* is known to inhabit the area. The potoroo was apparently stunned by the headlights as the car passed it and pulled over. After briefly viewing the animal and retrieving a digital camera from the car the potoroo began to move off the road down the bank to the north side of the road. A still image of the potoroo was taken as it intermittently moved away and then was lost in the dark and under storey vegetation. This image is here presented as figure 2.

Figure 2:



SPZ Issue

The proposed Special Protection Zone to the left of the map image in Figure 1, the dark purple GMZ to SPZ section of 7.42 hectares beneath the "Serpentine Trk" title, has recently been clear fell logged as a VicForests logging coupe scheduled as 836-510-0006.

It is difficult to imagine how the proposed SPZ will conserve the "biodiversity values" as proposed and how this clear-felled SPZ will contribute to the proposed SPZ changes' "Linear Reserve Network". The area immediately to the south is a continuation of the clear-fell logging, and the area to the north is scheduled to be clear-fell logged also.

Discussion Potorous longipes encounter:

As a result of this detection a further 50ha retained habitat SPZ within a 150ha SMZ will need to be added to plans to alter the proposed FMZ amendments.

Also not illustrated on the map contained within this report is the need to apply the same LFP FFGA Action Statement prescriptions to the remote camera detection marked by the red star to ensure protection for the endangered Long Footed Potoroo population at this site.

As the full extent of the resident LFP population is not known, further surveys will be required in the area to better understand this fact before any plans are proceeded with to destroy the species' habitat.

SPZ change issue:

Plans to incorporate recently clear-felled state forest into the SPZ network that has the purpose of conserving threatened species and biodiversity values is obviously a concern that needs rectifying.

This concern is further exacerbated by the fear that other areas proposed to be included into the SPZ network may also have been clear-felled or unsuitable for the purposes of their design.

Is the responsibility to ground truth these proposed changes impacting on sustainable management of state forests that of volunteer community surveyors?

It seems more logical that this responsibility should fall to that party authorizing that areas of state forest be available for serious and irreversible damage. In this case that party would be the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

To understand the appropriateness of these proposed changes the Department will need to conduct on the ground investigations in to each of their proposed changes to ensure firstly that they are not planning, or approving the planning of, detrimental changes to biodiversity values that require protection, and secondly, that they are not including unsuitable forest in to the Special Protection Zone network.

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04/10/10