



BRACKENRIDGE ESTATE

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Report: # 2

Period: 1 June to 30 June 2024

Date: 30 June 2024

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## OVERVIEW

The aim of this report is to document the deliverables agreed upon between the Homeowners Association (HOA), the Environmental Management Committee (EMC) and the newly appointed Environmental Control Officer (ECO) to ensure the proper management of Brackenridge.

The report will be updated every month by the ECO, detailing the action plans for each deliverable, what has been achieved, what still needs to be completed and any recommendations for both estate management and homeowners.

All environmental management on the estate will be done in accordance with the Environmental Audit conducted by Professor Patricia Holmes in October 2023 and the updated Environmental Management Plan drawn up in October 2023.

Any new environmental concerns that are discovered during maintenance, or any changes found regarding the guidelines of the environmental audit, will be communicated in this report.

Any concerns or questions that homeowners may have in reference to environmental management can be addressed to either the General Manager or the ECO.

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**ACTION POINT:** Prescribed burns.

**RELEVANCE:** Regeneration and maintenance of endangered Garden Route Shale Fynbos; help circumvention of wildfires.

**DELIVERABLES:** Invasive alien control, fire belt cutting, permits, fuel reduction, prescribed burn, mopping up.

- Please refer to EMP, page 9 - 12 for more details.

## **Pre-burn preparation for Block 5 (1.68 ha).**

On the 3rd and 6th of June the Environment Conservation Officer (ECO) inspected block 5 to determine if any more pre-burn preparation is required by the fire team.

**Invasive alien control:** Upon second inspection young Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*) was discovered near the water reservoir construction site. It was removed by the ECO with a tree popper.

**Fire belt cutting:** All fire belts surrounding block 5 have been completed by the Working on Fire (WoF) team in compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (NVFFA), which was undertaken on the 6th, 7th, 10th and 11th of June.

**Fuel reduction:** The WoF team have been made aware of the areas in block 5 which needs to be cut lower to ensure there is a uniform burn and this will be done before the burn day.

## **Pre-burn preparation for Block 5 (1.68 ha).**

The ECO walked the fire breaks in Block 5 with Steve Ritky on the 6th of June. It was observed that in certain sections of the fire break, homeowners have removed Fynbos without permission. The fire team will again have to brush pack these areas to ensure that there is enough fuel to ensure the fire delivers a uniform burn.

The fire team, ECO, EMC and HOA request homeowners to refrain from altering the habitat outside of their boundaries. There is a certain procedure that needs to be followed to ensure fire break preparation is done correctly and in line with the NVFFA.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support in this matter.

## **Pre-burn preparation for Block 6 (3.00 ha).**

On the 3rd - 6th of June the ECO conducted an inspection of block 6 to determine if any more pre-burn preparation is required by the fire team.

**Invasive alien control:** The Pine (*Pinus* sp.) has been removed and Lantana (*Lantana camara*) will burn with the fire and then monitored post-burn. On the 4th of June the ECO began removal of Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) from block 6 with a tree popper. The trees that could not be removed by means of a tree popper, were cut down the following day and the stumps poisoned with assistance from Eldred's team.

**Fire belt cutting:** All fire belts surrounding block 6 have been completed by the fire team in compliance with the NVFFA. The WoF team have begun clearing the fire breaks of regrowth in preparation for the burn.

**Fuel reduction:** The WoF team have begun cutting tall bushes and trees down and moving dry brush to areas in block 6 that will require more brush packing.

The Milkwood (*Sideroxylon inerme*) trees will not be affected by the fire.

Concerns have been raised regarding the effect the block burns will have on the wildlife living on the estate. The ECO is currently arranging the following:

- **Tortoises**: A walk through block 5 and 6 will be arranged for the second week of July before the scheduled burn the following week. This will be led by the ECO and any residents who would like to assist are welcome.

The ECO has the following recommendations for block 5 and block 6.

**Fixed-point photography:** ·The ECO has spoken to Steve Ritky who is happy to take drone photographs of block 5 and 6 every two months.

**Species lists:** The ECO has added two more species to the species list for block 6, *Athanasia dentata* and *Helichrysum foetidum*.

**Post-burn:** The ECO has purchased two new tree poppers and has sourced a supplier for Kaput 100 Gel. She will commence alien clearing training with the Home from Home team during the week of the 15th July.

·The ECO will arrange the tilling of the compacted soil in block 5 to be done within the first week post-burn.

The ECO will walk block 5 and 6 post-burn to identify any potential areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion.

**ACTION POINT:** Control growth and spread of invasive plant species.

**RELEVANCE:** Restoration of native ecosystems.

**DELIVERABLES:** Invasive alien control, Integrated Fire and Alien Species Management Plan.

- Please refer to EMP, page 13 for more details.

The ECO along with Eldred's team removed the black wattle from zone 6 and the Home from Home team assisted the ECO with the removal of some larger Port Jackson trees along the Watsonia Heights traverse.

The Integrated Fire and Alien Species Management Plan is currently being developed by the ECO.



## Removal of wattle in block 6.



## Removal of Port Jackson along Watsonia Heights traverse.



**ACTION POINT:** Maintain open spaces to standard specified in the approval of the site development plan.

**RELEVANCE:** Open spaces are aesthetically pleasing and ecologically viable.

**DELIVERABLES:** maintenance of roads, services and pedestrian network, erosion control, waste, and litter control.

- Please refer to EMP, page 14 - 15 for more details.

**Pedestrian network:** On the 6th of June the ECO marked out a path to be cut by the Home from Home team to open a path along the Watsonia Heights Traverse, linking the current fire breaks. The path was marked out with string and wooden pegs at a width of 1m, in some areas 1.5m.

On the 7th of June, the Home from Home team assisted the ECO with cutting the marked out path, successfully opening the path to make it easier for residents to enjoy the Watsonia Heights Traverse.



OPEN SPACES



# Appendix A

## Block 5 pre-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Rooikrans	Invasive
<i>Buddleja salciifolia</i>	Sagewood	
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Asian pennywort	
<i>cf Carpobrotus</i>	Sourfig	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Gnidia</i>	Cape saffron	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Restio</i>	True Cape reeds	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Satyrium</i>	Satyr orchid	Awaiting ID
<i>Chironia baccifera</i>	Christmas berry	Endemic to SA
<i>Chloris gayana</i>	Rhodes grass	
<i>Cliffortia stricta</i>	Staid Cape rose	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Colpoon compressum</i>	Cape sumach	
<i>Erica canaliculata</i>	Hairy grey heather	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Eriocephalus africanus</i>	Wild rosemary	Endemic to SA
<i>Euryops virgineus</i>	Virgin true-eye	Endemic to SA
<i>Haemanthus sanguineus</i>	Smooth bloodlily	Endemic to SA

# Appendix A

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Fume everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum foetidum</i>	Stinking everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	Silver everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Hippia frutescens</i>	Scrambling stinkals	Endemic to SA
<i>Leucadendron salignum</i>	Common sunshine conebrush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia acuta</i>	Pointy blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia pungens</i>	Stink blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Osteospermum monolifera</i>	Bietou bush	Endemic to WC
<i>Oxalis imbricata</i>	Tile sorrel	Endemic to SA
<i>Passerina corymbosa</i>	Common gonna	Endemic to SA
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	Invasive
<i>Podalyria burchelli</i>	Hairy Cape sweetpea	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago canescens</i>	Skinny bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago corymbosa</i>	Stiff bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Seriphium plumosum</i>	Common snake bush	
<i>Sersia lucida</i>	Blinktaaibos	

# Appendix B

## Block 6 pre-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Anthanasia dentata</i>	Geel Blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Aspalathus ciliaris</i>	Fringe Cape gorse	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Asaragus asparagoides</i>	Bridal asparagus	
<i>Burchellia bubalina</i>	Wild pomegranate	
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Asian pennywort	
<i>cf Anthospermum</i>		Awaiting ID
<i>cf Asteriodae</i>	Daisy	Awaiting ID
<i>cf Carpobrotus</i>	Sourfig	Awaiting ID
<i>Chironia baccifera</i>	Christmas berry	Endemic to SA
<i>Cliffortia stricta</i>	Staid Cape rose	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Colpoon compressum</i>	Cape sumach	
<i>Diospyros dichrophylla</i>	Poison star apple	
<i>Erica canaliculata</i>	Hairy grey heather	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Erica peltata</i>	Shield heath	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	Common cross berry	
<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree fuchsia	

# Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Helichrysum cymosum</i>	Fume everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum foetidum</i>	Stinking everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	Silver everlasting	Endemic to SA
<i>Hippia frutescens</i>	Scrambling stinkals	Endemic to SA
<i>Hypoxis villosa</i>	Shaggy star grass	
<i>Leucadendron salignum</i>	Common sunshine conebush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia acuta</i>	Pointy blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Metalasia pungens</i>	Stink blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Monopsis unidentata</i>	Wild violet	Endemic to SA
<i>Nidorella ivifolia</i>	Oven bush	
<i>Nidorella ulmifolia</i>	Ulm vleiweed	
<i>Osteospermum monolifera</i>	Bietou bush	Endemic to WC
<i>Oxalis imbricata</i>	Tile sorrel	Endemic to SA
<i>Oxalis purpurea</i>	Purple sorrel	Endemic to SA
<i>Passerina corymbosa</i>	Common gonna	Endemic to SA
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	Invasive
<i>Plecostachys serpyllifolia</i>	Petite-licorice	Endemic to SA



# Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Podalyria burchelli</i>	Hairy Cape sweetpea	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Psoralea axillaris</i>	Violet-flash fountain bush	Endemic to SA
<i>Rapanea melanophloeos</i>	Cape beech	
<i>Selago canescens</i>	Skinny bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago corymbosa</i>	Stiff bitterbush	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Seriphium plumosum</i>	Common snake bush	
<i>Sersia lucida</i>	Blinktaaibos	
<i>Sideroxylon inerme</i>	White milkwood	Protected
<i>Struthiola hirsuta</i>	Shaggy Cape spray	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Tarchonanthus littoralis</i>	Coastal camphor bush	Endemic to SA
<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>	Cape honeysuckle	
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Coastal rosemary	