



BRACKENRIDGE ESTATE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Report: #6

Period: 1 October to 31 October 2024

Date: 31 October 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 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.

Post-burn clean-up of Block 5 (1.68 ha).

The ECO is sourced indigenous Fynbos seedlings and young plants which were planted on the berms in block 5 by members of the EMC with assistance from HfH. Part of the rehabilitation project will include homeowners boarding the block to participate in the rehabilitation process.

The ECO has developed a guide for the homeowners who wish to participate and includes a species list of plants that can be planted, guidelines on how to plant Fynbos, landscaping suggestions and regulations to ensure a successful project.

Once all construction has finished with the reservoir, a roller will be hired to do one final compacting of the new path which will then be covered with wood chippings.

Regrowth has begun in the burnt areas that were not disturbed by the pipeline construction work. A large amount of Bietou bush (*Osteospermum monilifera*) is shooting, which is to be expected as it is a pioneer plant. The amount of Bietou will be managed and some seedlings will be removed. An introduced weed, *Fumaria muralis*, has started to grow and will be removed.

Indigenous species which are starting to grow include the Membrane orchid (*Satyrium membrabaceum*), the Bract orchid (*Disa bracteata*), Coconut storksbill (*Pelargonium grossularoides*) and a Selago species, either *Selago villicaulis* or *Selago corymbosa*, the plants are too young at this stage to distinguish which species.

FIRE MANAGEMENT



Post-burn clean-up of Block 6 (3.00 ha).

The Working on Fire (WoF) team arrived on site on the 7th of October to finish the last of the cutting and stacking work needed for the stack burns in block 6. Once completed, when the stacks are dry and the weather is ideal, the last burn of block 6 will be completed.

Fumaria muralis is also starting to grow in block 6 and will be removed. As with block 5, the Bietou bush will be managed and some seedlings removed. Indigenous species that have been documented by the ECO since the burn include the Bract orchid, Narrow stargrass (*Hypoxis angustifolia*), Coconut storksbill and Eastern kalossie (*Ixia orientalis*).

Pre-burn preparation for Block 1 (11.8 ha).

The next block to undergo a prescribe burn is block 1 which borders properties in Protea Dale and Watsonia Heights. The Southern Cape Fire Association has been on site and taken drone footage of block 1 to begin preparations for the 2025 burn. Once the WoF team has finished in block 6, clearing of the firebreaks in block 1 will commence.

The firebreak will be cut from the boundaries of the following erven and will be four meters wide:

Protea Dale: 8260, 8259, 8258, 8257

Watsonia Heights: 8254, 8253, 8252, 8251, 8250, 8249, 8248, 8247, 8246, 8245, 8244, 8243, 8242, 8241, 8240, 8239, 8238, 8237, 8236, 8235, 8234, 8233, 8232

During the site visit for block 1 the ECO made note that the block has large amounts of Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*), Black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*) and Hakea (*Hakea sericea*).

As with block 5 and block 6, the ECO will do a pre-burn plant species survey which can be compared to the species list developed post-fire to see the impact on plant diversity the prescribed burn has.



Membrane orchid



Bract orchid



Eastern kalossie



Narrow stargrass



Coconut storksbill

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 chairman of the EMC, Chris Meister and his wife Angela, removed a patch of Rooikrans they found along the Milkwood Way walking trail. Once the Rooikrans was cut down they poisoned the stumps with herbicide to prevent regrowth.

Eldred and his team continue to clear the fence line on the Klein Piesang River side, removing Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), Black wood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Rooikrans, Black wattle, cluster pine (*Pinus pinaster*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*).

The ECO continues to develop the Integrated Fire and Invasive Alien management plan.

Removal of Rooikrans from Milkwood Way walking trail.



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.

Walking trails: New signage has been ordered to demarcate the entrances of the paths and the firebreaks. Signage for the path entrances will feature the name of the path in accordance with the map demarcating the different paths on the estate.



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>Cyrtanthus contractus</i>	Common fire lily	
<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	

Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Halleria lucida</i>	Tree fuchsia	
<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

Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine	Invasive
<i>Plecostachys serpyllifolia</i>	Petite-licorice	Endemic to SA
<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	

Appendix C

Block 5 post-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Disa bracteata</i>	Bract orchid	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	Wall fume	Introduced - weed
<i>Pelargonium grossularoides</i>	Coconut stroksbill	
<i>Satryium membranaceum</i>	Membrane orchid	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Selago spp.</i>		

Appendix D

Block 6 post-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Disa bracteata</i>	Bract orchid	Endemic to Fynbos
<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	Wall fume	Introduced - weed
<i>Hypoxis angustifolia</i>	Narrow stargrass	
<i>Ixia orientalis</i>	Eastern kalossie	Endemic to SA
<i>Pelargonium grossularoides</i>	Coconut storksbill	