

### **BRACKENRIDGE ESTATE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT**

Report: #9

Period: 1 March to 31 March 2025

Date: 31 March 2025

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	3
Fire management	4
Invasive Alien Control	5
Open spaces	7
Appendix A	9
Appendix B	11
Appendix C	14
Appendix D	15

#### **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.

#### <u>Pre-burn preparation for Block 1 (11.8 ha).</u>

The Working on Fire (WoF) team completed cutting down tall vegetation to waist height as well as cutting down the alien vegetation. The fire break had regrowth of grass and larger shrubs since it was cut in January. Home from Home assisted with cutting back the grass, removing the larger shrubs and removing stumps.

An additional two tracer lines will be laid out in block 1 to protect two forest patches that have been identified. This will be done before the scheduled burn in April.



#### **INVASIVE ALIEN CONTROL**

**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 local alien invasive species (AIS) clearing team have completed removing AIS in section four and section five. These sections contained large specimens of pine, Black wattle, Rooikrans and Port Jackson.

Due to their size, the team could not cut down some of the large specimens and instead ring barked and poisoned them. This will prevent further growth and the trees will die over a period of time.

The HOA, Environmental Control Officer and Environmental Management Committee are very happy with the work ethic and precision of the team and they hope to be able to use their skills for future areas earmarked for clearing.

In block 6 there was an area of young Black wattles that the AIS clearing team removed in February. This area has had a regrowth of wattle which will need to be addressed. We will wait for the seedlings to reach a certain height after which we will spray them with herbicide. This is the most effect way to tackle the situation.

AIS follow up will continue in block 5 and 6 and block 1 will be added to the rotation once it has been burnt.

We would like to thank the homeowners of 3 Erica Heath who removed three large Port Jackson from their property. If homeowners are concerned that they may have AIS on their property, please contact the ECO and she will due an inspection for you and assist you with the removal process.

Alien invasive removal by 3 Erica Heath.







#### **OPEN SPACES**

**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.

At the beginning of the month Eldred and his team dropped pile of bark chip at the entrances of some of the pathways. The Home from Home team have spread the chips along the beginning of each path to neaten up the entrances of the pathways.

Most of the signage for the pathways, fire-breaks and maintenance roads has been put up by Eldred's team. These signs designate areas for walking, running and cycling, as well as the fire-breaks. Some of the signs have meanwhile shown defects due to sun damage; these will be replaced in due course.

Eldred has placed more compost along the side of the reservoir and Ricky and his team have planted more Bitou. All sides of the reservoir have now been covered, apart from the entrance, which needs to remain open for access.

### **OPEN SPACES**

Wood chips at pathways.









# Appendix A

### Block 5 pre-burn plant species list

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

## Appendix A

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

# Appendix B

### Block 6 pre-burn plant species list

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

## Appendix B

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Halleria lucida	Tree fuchsia	
Helichrysum cymosum	Fume everlasting	Endemic to SA
Helichrysum foetidum	Stinking everlasting	Endemic to SA
Helichrysum petiolare	Silver everlasting	Endemic to SA
Hippia frutescens	Scrambling stinkals	Endemic to SA
Hypoxis villosa	Shaggy star grass	
Leucadendron salignum	Common sunshine conebush	Endemic to Fynbos
Metalasia acuta	Pointy blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
Metalasia pungens	Stink blombos	Endemic to Fynbos
Monopsis unidentata	Wild violet	Endemic to SA
Nidorella ivifolia	Oven bush	
Nidorella ulmifolia	Ulm vleiweed	
Osteospermum monolifera	Bietou bush	Endemic to WC
Oxalis imbricata	Tile sorrel	Endemic to SA
Oxalis purpurea	Purple sorrel	Endemic to SA
Passerina corymbosa	Common gonna	Endemic to SA

## Appendix B

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

# Appendix C

### Block 5 post-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Disa bracteata	Bract orchid	Endemic to Fynbos
Fumaria muralis	Wall fume	Introduced - weed
Hibiscus trionum	Flower-of-an-hour	
Pelargonium grossularoides	Coconut stroksbill	
Satryium membranaceum	Membrane orchid	Endemic to Fynbos
Selago spp.		
Senecio pterophorus	Garden Route ragwort	

## Appendix D

### Block 6 post-burn plant species list

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Dipogon lignosus	Cape sweet pea	
Disa bracteata	Bract orchid	Endemic to Fynbos
Fumaria muralis	Wall fume	Introduced - weed
Hibiscus trionum	Flower-of-an-hour	
Hypoxis angustifolia	Narrow stargrass	
lxia orientalis	Eastern kalossie	Endemic to SA
Pelargonium grossularoides	Coconut storksbill	
Senecio pterophorus	Garden Route ragwort	