

Roadside Weed and Pest Animal Control Plan

Municipality Details

Municipal District / Council Name:	Colac Otway Shire
Postal Address:	PO Box 283, Colac VIC 3250
Key Contact	
Name:	Kelly Boladeras
Position:	Environment Officer
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Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

The Colac Otway Shire is located in the southwest of Victoria and covers approximately 3,400 square kilometers. It contains both significant and diverse environmental values, from the rugged coastline and tranquil temperate rainforests of the Great Otway National Park, to the endangered grasslands and volcanic lakes and craters of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

The Otway Ranges and Plains characterise the southern half of the shire, where a large proportion of the land is National Park and Forest Park. In contrast, much of the north of the Shire is used for agriculture, with farming, cropping and dairying being the main agricultural activities. The Shire has two main townships; Colac, the largest and major service town where most community support and health services, retail trade and manufacturing businesses are located, and Apollo Bay on the Great Ocean Road, which serves as the major tourism centre. Dotted throughout the Shire are many small and historic towns with active community associations.

Colac Otway Shire Council (Council) is responsible for the management of approximately 1,600km of local road network (equating to 3,200km of roadside). Due to the size of the Shire, the diversity of the roadside vegetation values, the extent of weed infestations and the limited funding available, Council uses a strategic asset-based approach to prioritise the management of roadside weeds. Two approaches are used under this model. The first is the control of weeds located on high conservation value roadsides, and the second is the control of high priority emergent weeds.

To identify road reserves of high conservation value, Council has used its biodiversity database that has been prepared by a qualified independent botanist, using the Roadside Conservation Advisory Committee method. Those road reserves assessed as being of Very High or High conservation value are included in Council's Annual Weed Management Program, as are some linking Medium conservation value road reserves, with the view to improve the quality of the existing vegetation, and therefore enhance habitat and wildlife corridors throughout the Shire. This program involves ongoing data capture of weed species presence and treatments. This enables Council to stay informed of weed infestations and prioritise roads and weed species accordingly for inclusion in the following year's Weed Management Program.

To identify high priority emergent weeds, Council draws on weed infestation records of new and emergent weeds maintained by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and through its networks with other agencies and environmental groups.

Through past State Government funding initiatives and on-going partnerships, Council has worked towards protecting and enhancing approximately 600km of high conservation roadside vegetation through the control of Regionally Prohibited and Regionally Controlled weeds. Similar outcomes have been achieved for pest animals, with 40km of roadsides protected from the impact of rabbits.

The support of the State Government has enabled Council to treat severe infestations of Regionally Controlled weeds such as Blackberry, which is found throughout the Shire and threatens the quality of the Great Otway National Park and surrounding Forest Parks, and Gorse, which threatens agricultural land. While these weeds and others will present on-going management issues for years to come, this support has been crucial in enabling Council to begin reducing the extent of these infestations.

Community Consultation

Council stays informed of priorities for weed and rabbit management through a number of formal and informal avenues. The Environment Officer convenes regular meetings of the Weeds Consultative Committee (WCC), a group representing local agencies including:

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)
- Parks Victoria
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- VicRoads
- Otway Coast Committee
- Greening Australia, and
- Landcare Groups (including the Upper Barwon Landcare Network, Southern Otway Landcare Network, Heytesbury District Landcare Network, Lismore Land Protection Group, and Central Otways Landcare Network).

The function of the WCC is to plan for and aid in the implementation of Council's current and future weed management strategies and projects. The focus is to manage weeds within Colac Otway Shire and to ensure that the risk of spreading weeds through council works is minimized. The WCC also provides a forum to identify opportunities for collaborative projects, and to share weed-related knowledge and resources amongst members. Within this context the objectives of the WCC are:

1. To develop a cohesive working relationship through improved communications between land managers.
2. To assist strategic decisions on Colac Otway Shire resource allocations for weed management.
3. To ensure a more coordinated approach to identifying, prioritising and managing emergent weed issues.
4. To advise Colac Otway Shire's work practices to prevent the spread of existing weeds and minimise the risk of introducing new or potential weeds.
5. To reduce the impact of existing noxious and environmental weeds, and Weeds of National Significance.
6. To protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural resource base.
7. To support and implement actions within existing documents and policies where applicable.
8. To actively approach council and other stakeholders for additional funding for weed control.

Frequent informal communication with pest plant and animal contractors also provides insight in to the management activities being undertaken around the Shire.

Council often receives verbal and written correspondence from community members concerned about weed infestations. The Environment Officer records the details of each correspondence in a spreadsheet to help identify weed hotspots, and subsequently guide and justify future investment towards these areas where appropriate.

The WCC have provided input in the development of this plan.

Stakeholder Consultation

Key stakeholders who have been consulted in the development of this plan:

- Ammie Jackson, Environment and Emergency – Corangamite Shire
- Andrew Gray, Facilitator – Central Otways Landcare Network
- Anna Carrucan, Project Officer – Greening Australia
- Anthony Alfrenko, Otway Coast Committee
- Brittany Anderson, Indigenous Environment Officer - VicRoads
- Craig Clifford, Planning Manager – Otway District – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Craig Clutterbuck, Acting Biosecurity Area manager – Corangamite – Department of Primary Industry
- Gary Summers, Ranger – Western Otways – Parks Victoria
- Geoff Rollinson, Landcare Coordinator – Heytesbury District Landcare Network
- Ian Lane, President – Barongarook Landcare Group
- Karen O'Keefe, Regional Landcare Facilitator – Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Mandy Baker, Facilitator – Upper Barwon Landcare Network
- Mark Robinson, Team Leader Parks & Gardens – Colac Otway Shire
- Mike Nurse, Landcare Manager – Southern Otway Landcare Network
- Robert Bendon, Fire and Land Officer – Otway District – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Rod Eldridge, Landcare Facilitator – Lismore Land Protection Group
- Jill Golland, Project Coordinator – Central Otways Landcare Network

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*

Regional

- *Corangamite Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy*

Local

- *Colac Otway Shire Council's Environment Strategy 2010-2018*
- *Colac Otway Shire Council's Environment Action Plan 2013-2015*
- *Colac Otway Shire Council's Roadside Environmental Management Plan (in draft stage)*

Objectives of the Plan

In participating in the Roadside Weeds and Pests Program funded by DELWP, Council's objective is to strengthen our existing roadside weed and pest management programs. Strategic use of the funds to complement past investments made by Council and State Government will help Council work towards improving the quality of remnant roadside vegetation through effective and proactive management of invasive species. This in turn will assist with preventing the establishment and spread of invasive plant and animal species across the Shire and the region.

Management activities will at all times reflect Council's existing strategic asset-based approach, which is to:

- Prioritise the management of weeds located on high conservation roads; and
- Target high priority environmental and emergent weeds on Council-managed roads.

Investment of funds will be aligned to DEDJTR priorities:

1. Treatment of Regionally Prohibited weeds on Council roadsides.
2. Containment or reduction in area of Regionally Controlled weeds and rabbits aligned to the DEDJTR weed and rabbit compliance project areas where possible.
3. Continuing the treatment of Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited Weeds and rabbits managed as part of previous control plans.
4. Supporting Landcare and other community group investment in weed and pest control projects where those projects align with Council's strategic approach outlined above.
5. Addressing roadside Restricted Weed infestations of concern to the community or are a threat to agricultural or environmental assets, where they align with Council's strategic approach outlined above.
6. Mapping infestations of Regionally Controlled weeds and pests in line with Council's strategic approach outlined above.

Term of Plan

The plan will operate from 7 October 2015 (date of commencement) to 30 June 2017, unless extended or replaced as agreed to by Council and DELWP.

Funding

- RWPP allocation – \$37,162 per year
- Council contribution - \$8,838 per year plus \$5,000 per year for weed mapping
- Council in-kind contribution for project management – \$12,000 per year (estimate)

Table 1: Target Species

PART A: The following target species are declared noxious weeds and pest animals that have been determined to have the greatest coverage on Council's roadside reserves.

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	To support DEDJTR compliance program and complement works on private and public land.
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Regionally Controlled	2	To continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land.
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled	2	To support DEDJTR compliance programs and continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land (i.e. the Pennyroyal Gorse Compliance Project).
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Regionally Controlled	2	To continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land. To support DEDJTR compliance programs and to prevent further spread.
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Regionally Controlled	2	To continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land.
Broom species (including English Broom, Flax-leaf Broom, Cape Broom)	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> , <i>Genista linifolia</i> , <i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Regionally Controlled	2	To continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land.

Part B: The following target species are declared noxious weeds that are either present on Council's roadside reserves or are emerging weeds that require monitoring to ensure they do not encroach in to Colac Otway Shire.

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Controlled	1	To continue to prevent its establishment in Colac Otway Shire, and particularly monitor and control any occurrences in the DEDJTR Serrated Tussock priority area in the north of the Shire.
All other Regionally Prohibited weeds present on Council-managed roadsides	~	Regionally Prohibited	1	To continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land.
All other Regionally Controlled weeds present on Council-managed roadsides	~	Regionally Controlled	2	To continue management efforts made possible through previous State government funding to reduce infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land.
Restricted weeds present on Council-managed roadsides	~	Restricted	3	To work towards reducing infestations throughout the local road network, and complement works on private and public land where these works align with Council's strategic approach.

Table 2: Control Measures and Target Roadsides

Under this Plan, Council will inspect approximately 600km of Medium/Very High/High conservation value roads (1200km of roadside) for the presence of target weeds and undertake appropriate control actions. The 'estimated length of the roadside to be monitored annually over 2 years' is the total length of these roads upon which the target species have been identified in the past. The figures do not reflect the length of roadside infestations that will be sprayed.

As Council does not have access to accurate data of this nature, a cover estimate and weed infestation estimate is provided. (For example, Blackberry has been recorded on roads with total lengths that amount to 300km (600km of roadside), and the cover estimate is approximately 5% of the roadside length. Therefore, Council estimates that there is 30km of blackberry infestation to treat.)

Similarly, with respect to rabbits, Council will inspect those roads within DEDJTR target compliance areas (currently approximately 30km of roads) and undertake appropriate control actions as outlined below.

Common Name ^{1,2}	Control Measures (to be based on accepted best practice management of the target species)	Location of where works will be done (location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan)	Estimate of length of roadside to be treated annually over 2 years (Km = length of road along which both sides are treated. Where only one side is treated halve the figure)	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment	Estimated Cost
Rabbit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fumigate and collapse burrows/warrens Where appropriate, mechanical ripping of warrens 	Roadsides mostly around Beecac within 2014/15 DEDJTR compliance area and to support future DEDJTR compliance programs or support community action.	30km (60km of roadside) Cover estimate: < 1% Infestation estimate: < 0.6km	September - February	\$1,500.00

Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Rotate herbicide group appropriately Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate 	<p>Very High/High/Medium conservation value roadsides predominantly around Irrewillipe, Barongarook, Barwon Downs, Gellibrand, Kwarren, Forrest, Beech Forest, Lavers Hill, Johanna, Apollo Bay and Skenes Creek.</p>	<p>300km (600km of roadside)</p> <p>Cover estimate: 5%</p> <p>Weed infestation estimate: 30km</p>	<p>September - April</p> <p>\$20,000.00</p>
Gorse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Rotate herbicide group appropriately Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate 	<p>Treat roads within DEDJTR compliance project area at Murroon and Whoorel.</p> <p>Very High/High/Medium conservation value roadsides.</p>	<p>25km (50km of roadside)</p> <p>Cover estimate: 2%</p> <p>Weed infestation estimate: 1km</p>	<p>Cut and paint any time of year. Spot-spray any time of year, but especially target from October - March.</p> <p>\$2,460.00</p>
Ragwort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Rotate herbicide group appropriately 	<p>Very High/High/Medium conservation value roadsides predominantly around Johanna, Marengo, Apollo Bay, Gellibrand, Upper Gellibrand, and Kwarren.</p>	<p>30km (60km of roadside)</p> <p>Cover estimate: 5%</p> <p>Weed infestation estimate: 3km</p>	<p>Throughout the year, but target especially from November - April when seeding</p> <p>\$2,300.00</p>

Scotch Thistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Rotate herbicide group appropriately 	Very High/High/Medium conservation value roadsides predominantly around Barongarook, Tomahawk Creek, Barramunga, Cape Horn and Cressy.	25km (50km of roadside) Cover estimate: 2% Weed infestation estimate: 1km	September - December	\$760.00
Broom species (including English Broom, Flax-leaf Broom and Cape Broom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Cut and paint adult plants with a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Rotate herbicide group appropriately 	Very High/High/Medium conservation value roadsides predominantly around Barongarook, Barongarook West, Coram, Irrewillipe East and Yeodene.	15km (30km of roadside) Cover estimate: 1% Weed infestation estimate: 0.3km	English Broom: May – Nov Flax-leaf Broom: March – September Cape Broom: June - November	\$230.00
Serrated Tussock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor to identify and treat new plants encroaching on Shire land from the north. 	Roadsides in Cressy and Wingeel areas.	N/A	Immediately if plant/s found	\$1,112.00

<p>All other declared noxious weeds present on Council roadsides</p>	<p>Dependent on weed species. Where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label • Cut and paint adult plants with a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label • Rotate herbicide group appropriately • Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate 	<p>Very High/High/Medium conservation value roadsides throughout the Shire. Support communities working on other established species.</p>	<p>600km (1200km of roadside)</p> <p>Cover estimate: 0.5%</p> <p>Weed infestation estimate: <6 km</p>	<p>Dependent on species</p>	<p>\$3,800.00</p>
<p>Provision for mapping of Serrated Tussock and other Declared Noxious Weeds to update roadside weed infestation data.³</p>			<p>Autumn and Spring</p>	<p>\$5,000.00</p>	<p>¹Where multiple noxious weeds are to be treated simultaneously in the same locations, only the most common weed species needs to be listed.</p> <p>²Funds may be reallocated in the event that high priority species were detected or where new programs were commenced to support community DEDJTR objectives in alignment with Council's strategic approach. Proposed changes to the plan would be communicated to DEDJTR.</p> <p>³In the event roadside weed mapping does not occur, Council will provide DELWP with further detail regarding the use of these funds.</p> <p>N.B. To complement the works made possible by the DELWP funding, Council has committed funds to treat on municipal roadsides those high threat environmental weeds that are not listed under the CaLP Act but that need to be treated to protect the quality of our high conservation roadsides. These funds are subject to annual budget review.</p>

Maps

Map 1: Proposed location of control works.

Maps 2a-f: Known infestations of Regionally Controlled and Restricted Weeds in Colac Otway Shire.

Map 3: Serrated Tussock – Historical Roadside Records (DEDJTR), and Gorse – Project Area (DEDJTR).

Map 4: Beeac Rabbit Control Project Area (DEDJTR).

Statement of Responsibilities

Council will:

- Publish this approved plan (or approved variation to this plan if relevant) on its website within 28 days of approval and ensure copies are available for public inspection at Council's office/s.
- Coordinate the implementation of this plan on Council managed roadsides in accordance with the investment principles stated in this plan and the control measures specified in Table 2.
- Implement best practice weed hygiene principles and protocols.
- Maintain accurate records sufficient to provide evidence that the plan has been carried out and provide these to DEDJTR on request.
- Obtain approval from DEDJTR before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from DEDJTR to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.
- Provide a completion report to DEDJTR within 30 days from expiry of this plan outlining the outcomes of the control measures undertaken.

Declaration

I declare that I am an authorised representative and the information given on this form is complete and correct.

Key contact

Name: Kelly Boladeras

Date: 09 November 2015

Signature:



Council CEO

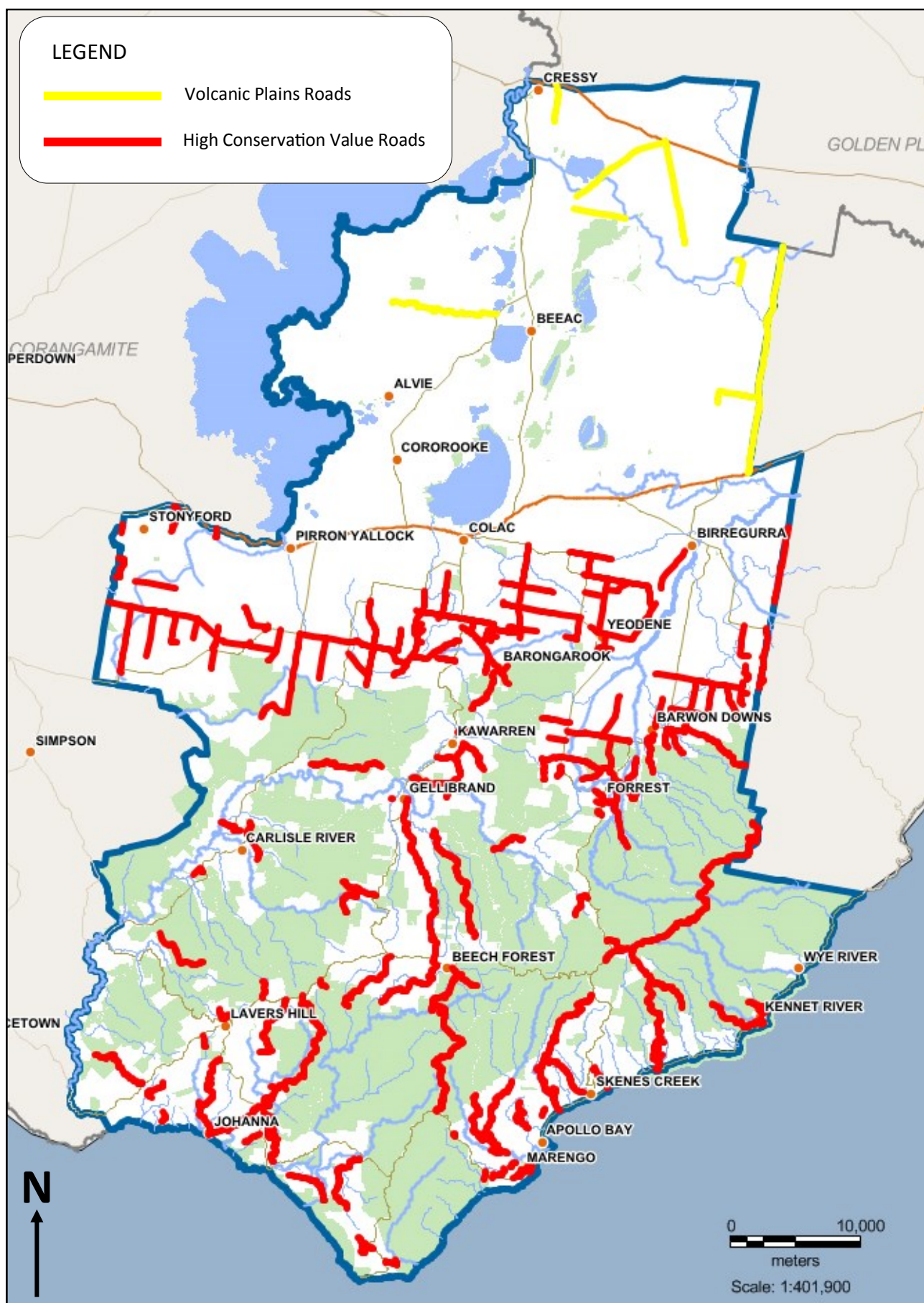
Name: Sue Wilkinson

Date: 19.11.15

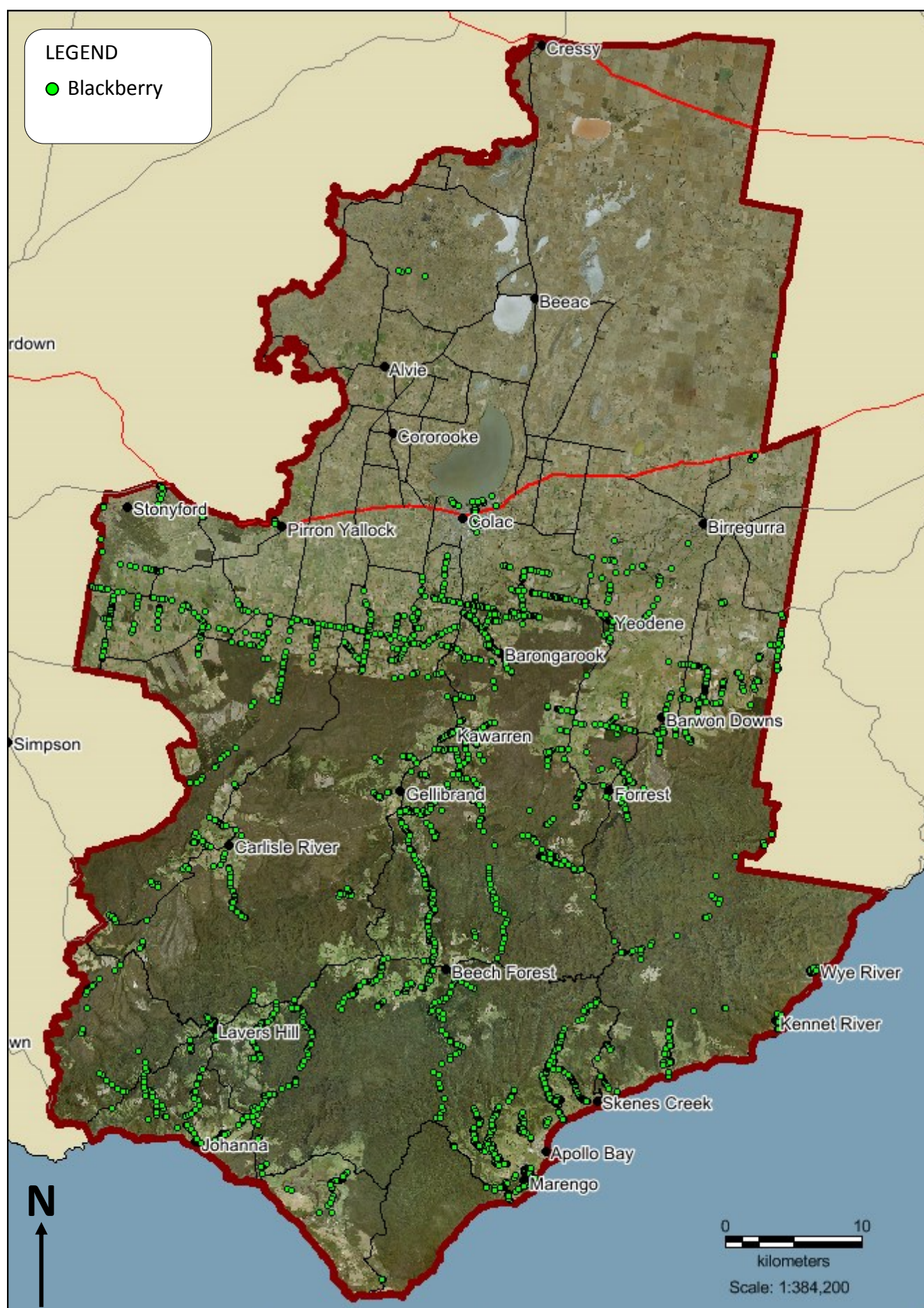
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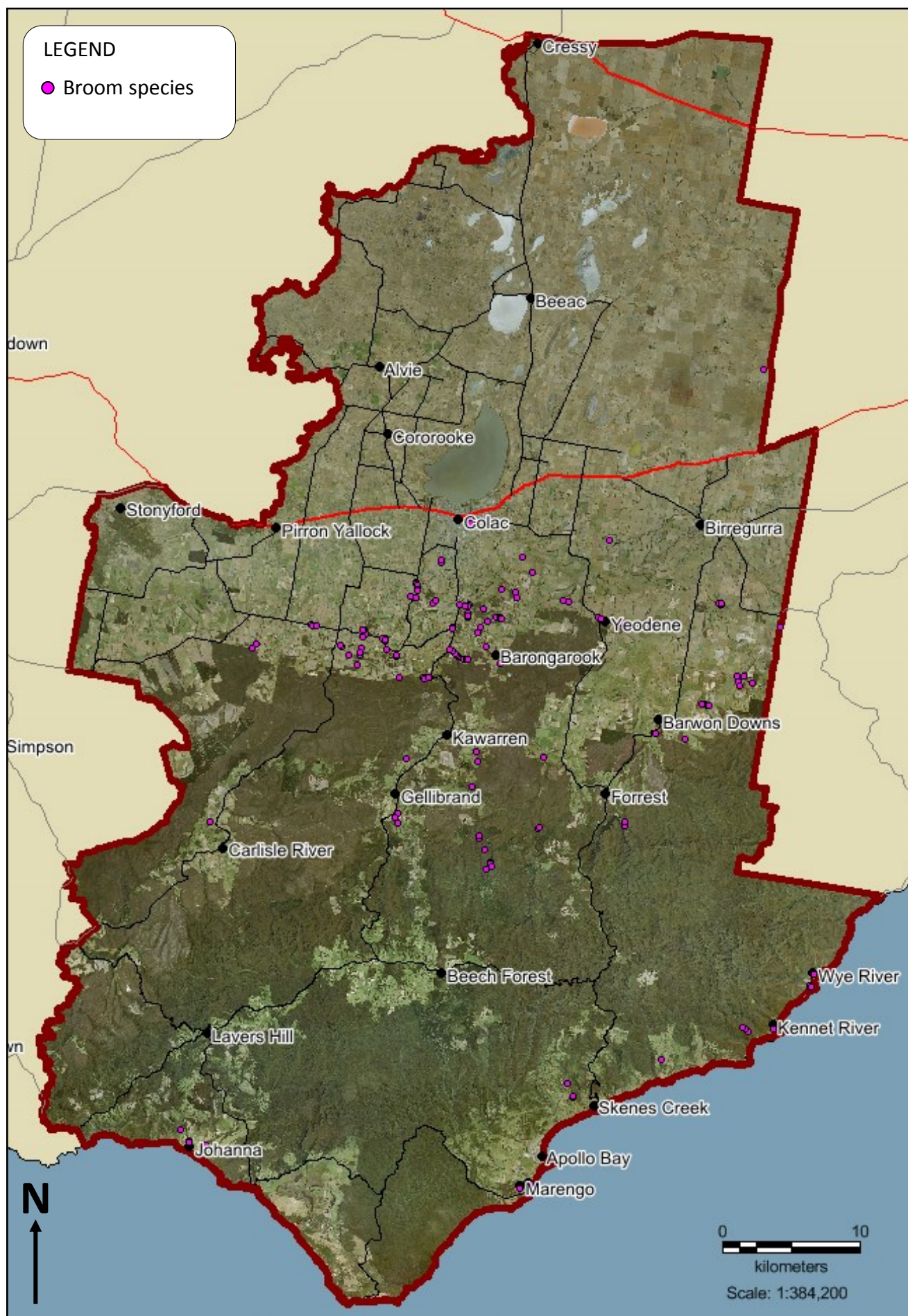
Map 1: Colac Otway Shire Roadside Weed Control Program –
High Conservation Value and Volcanic Plains Packages.



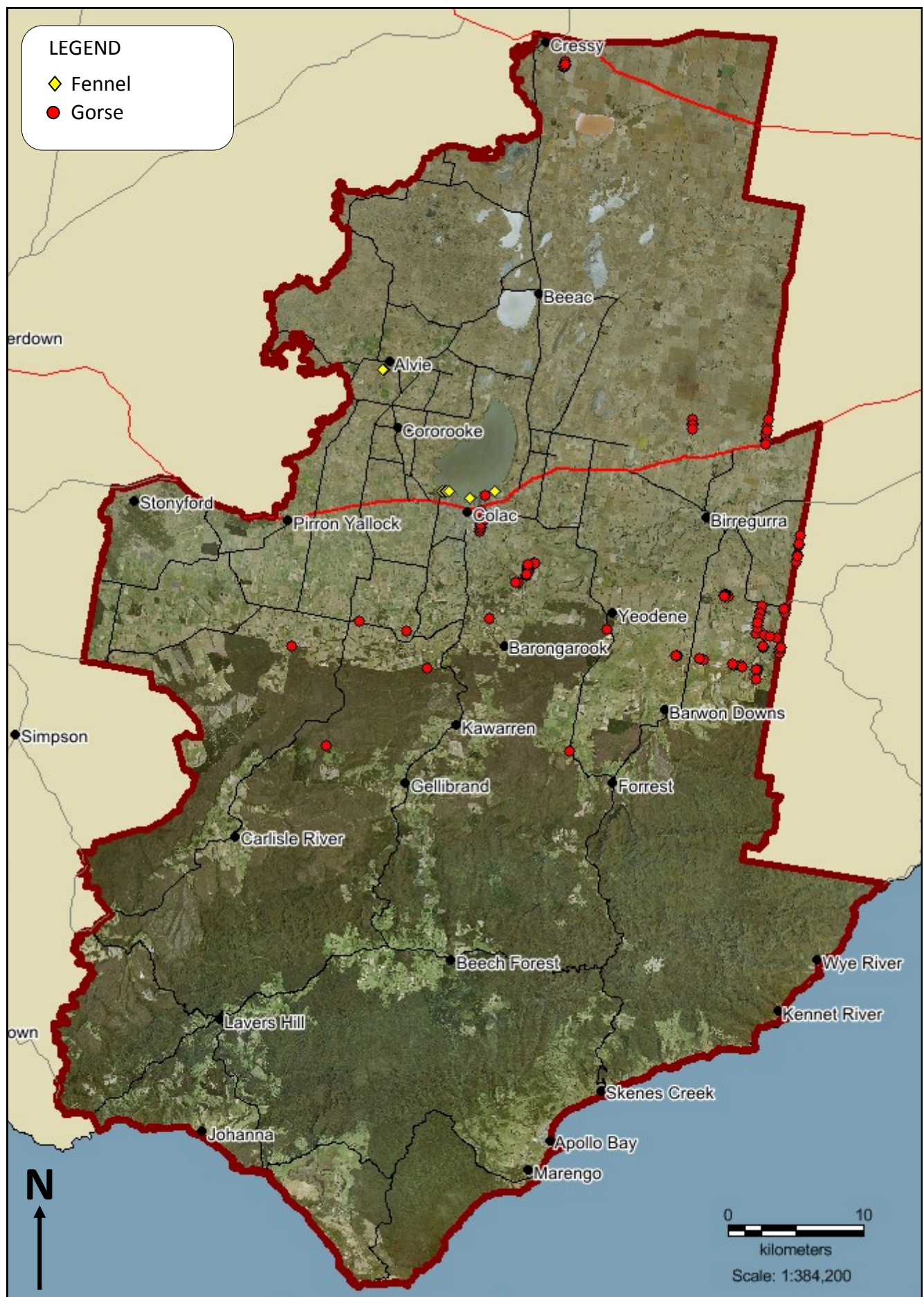
Map 2a: Regionally Controlled weeds in Colac Otway Shire -
Known infestations of Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*).



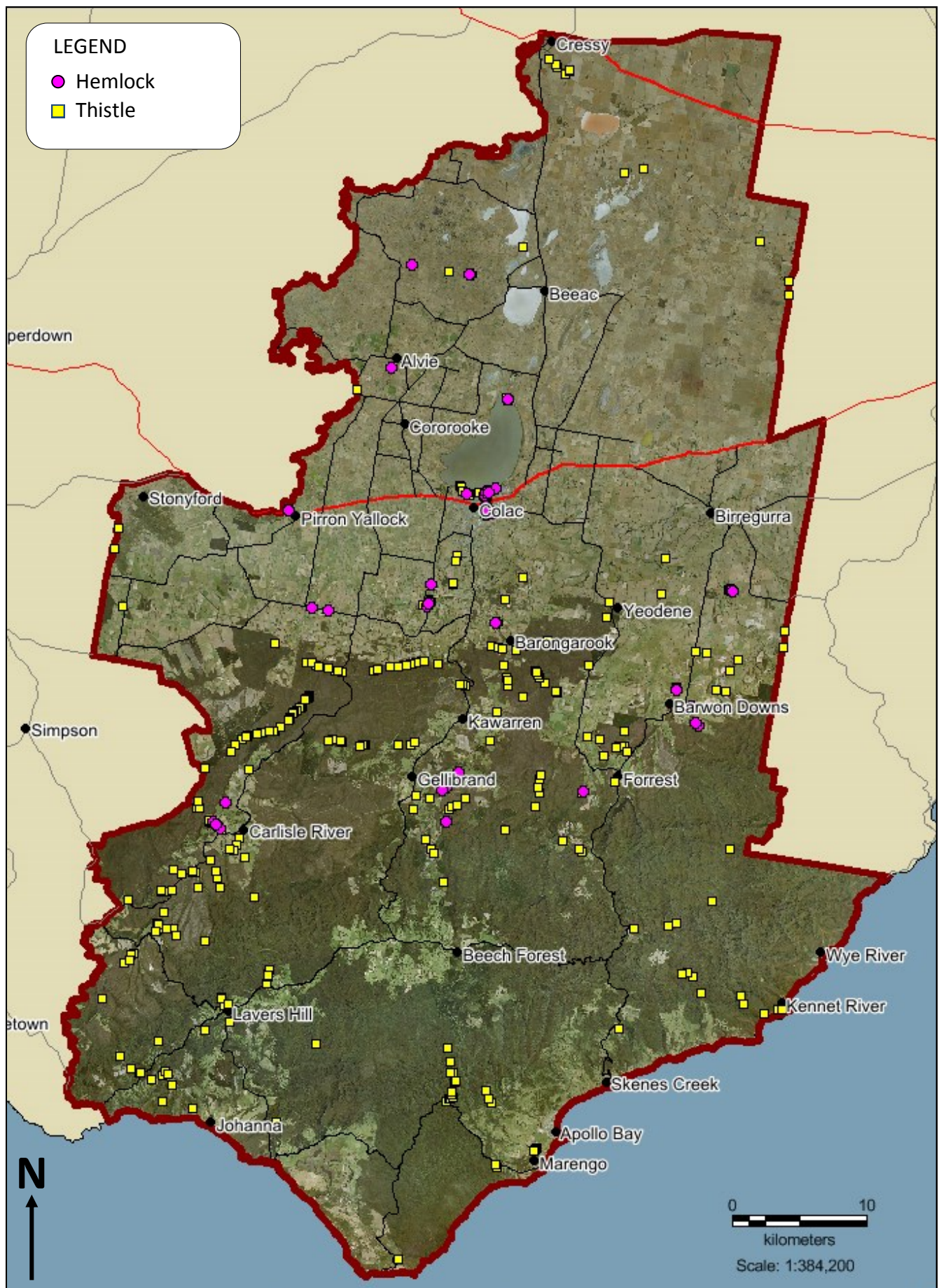
Map 2b: Regionally Controlled weeds in Colac Otway Shire -
Known infestations of Broom spp. (*Cytisus scoparius* & *Genista* spp.).



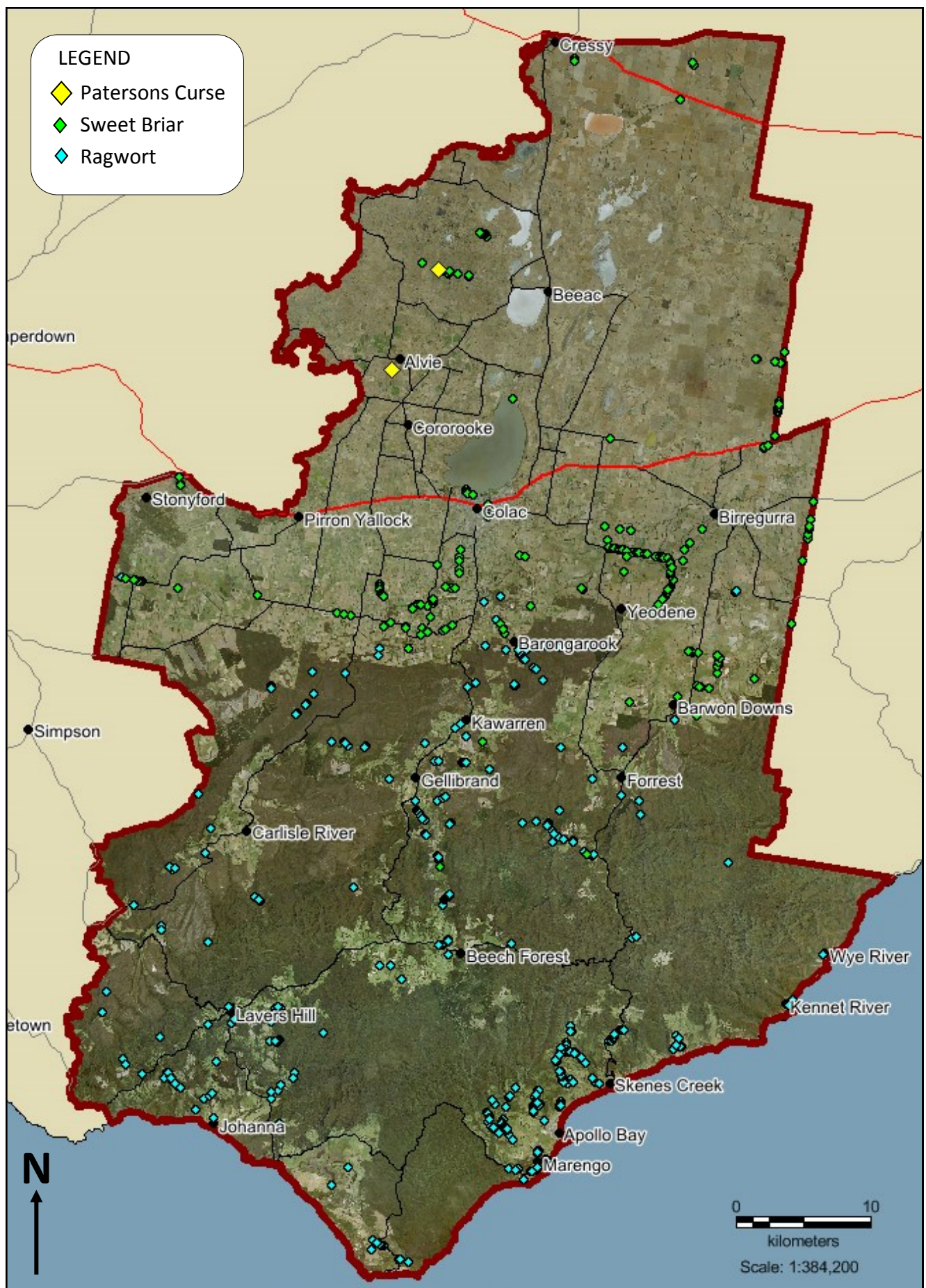
Map 2c: Regionally Controlled weeds in Colac Otway Shire -
Known infestations of Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) & Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).



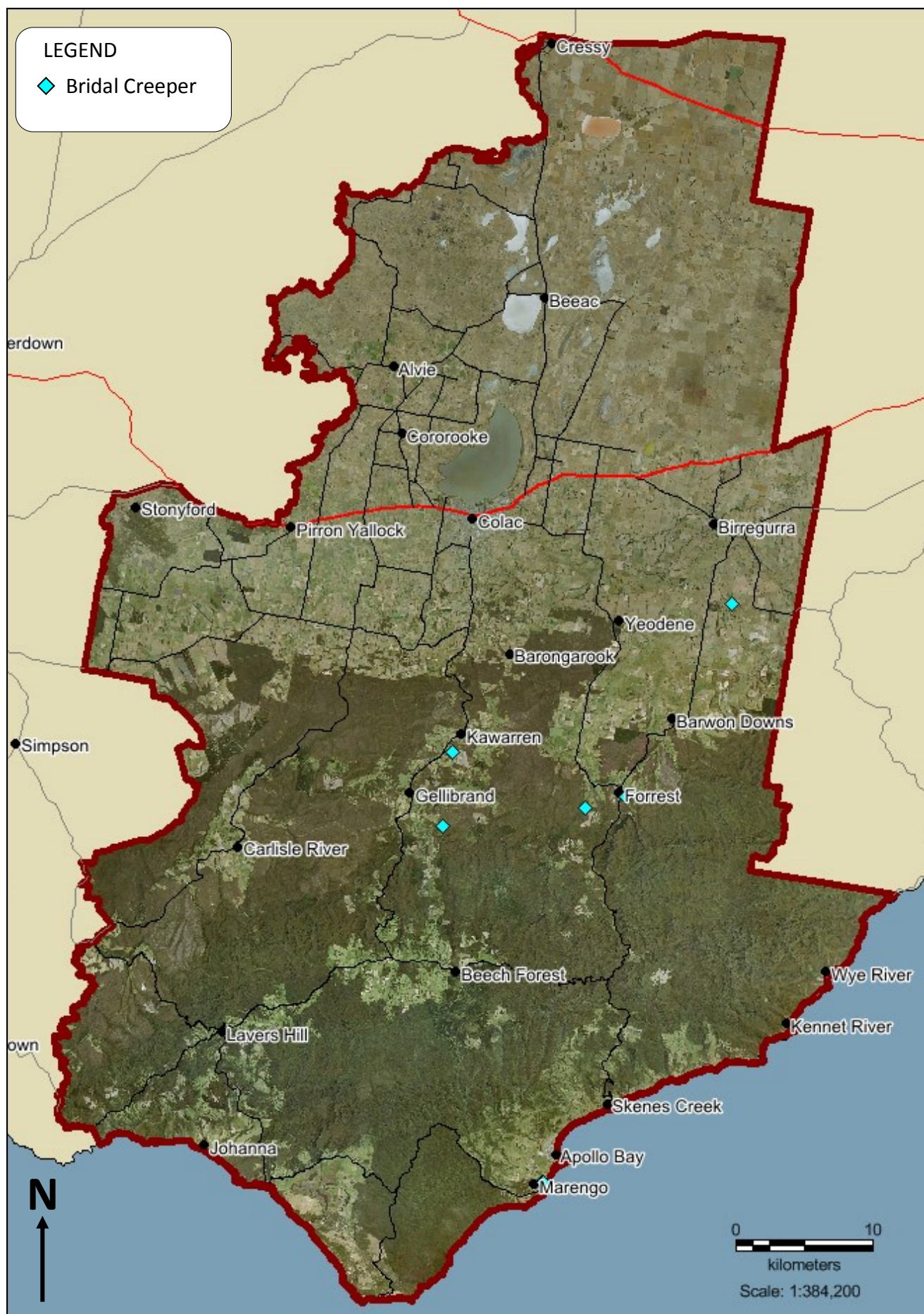
Map 2d: Regionally Controlled weeds in Colac Otway Shire -
 Known infestations of Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) & Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum
 acanthium*).



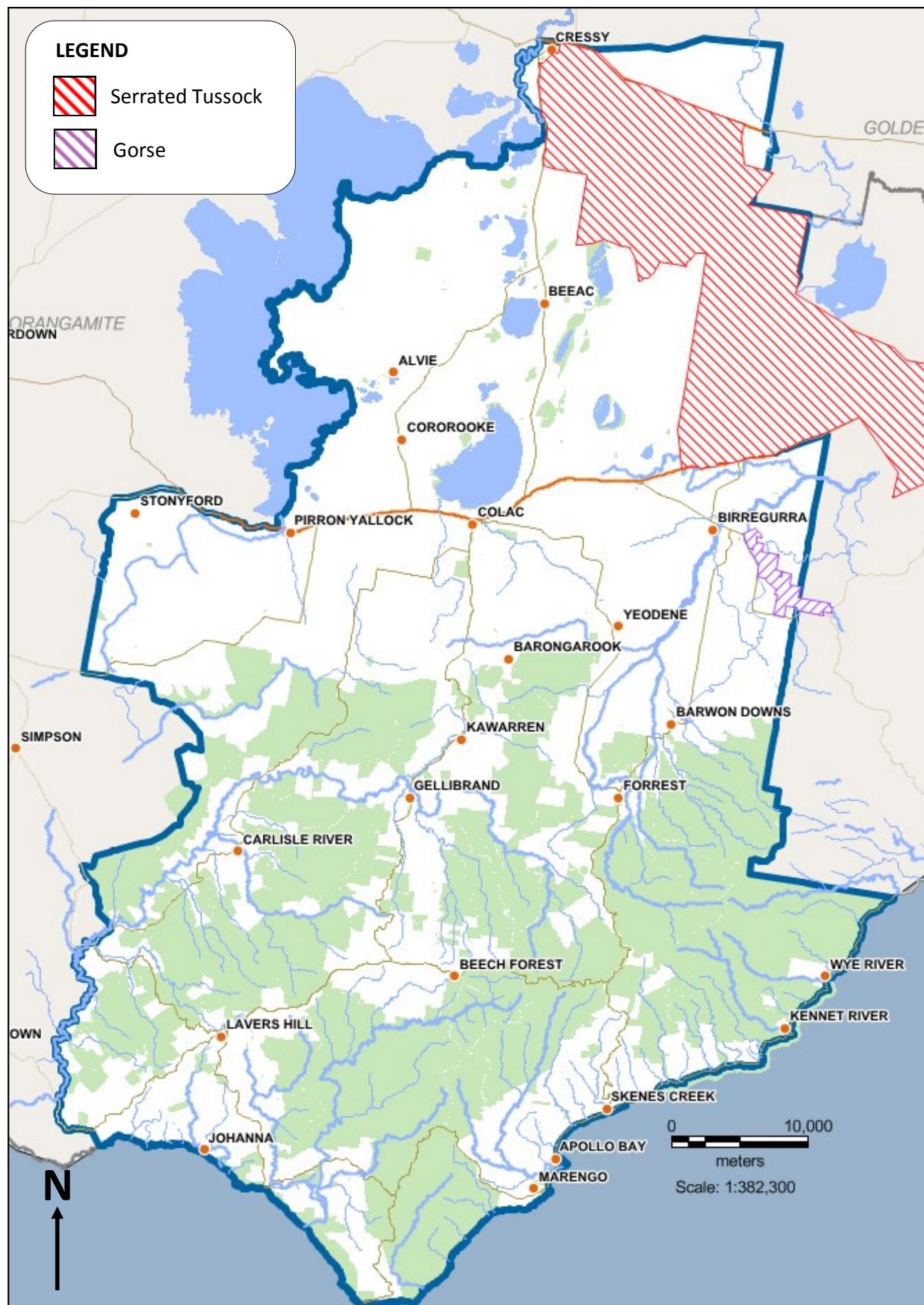
Map 2e: Regionally Controlled weeds in Colac Otway Shire -
Known infestations of Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*), Sweet Briar (*Rosa ruginosa*), & Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).



Map 2f: Restricted weeds in Colac Otway Shire -
Known infestations of Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*).



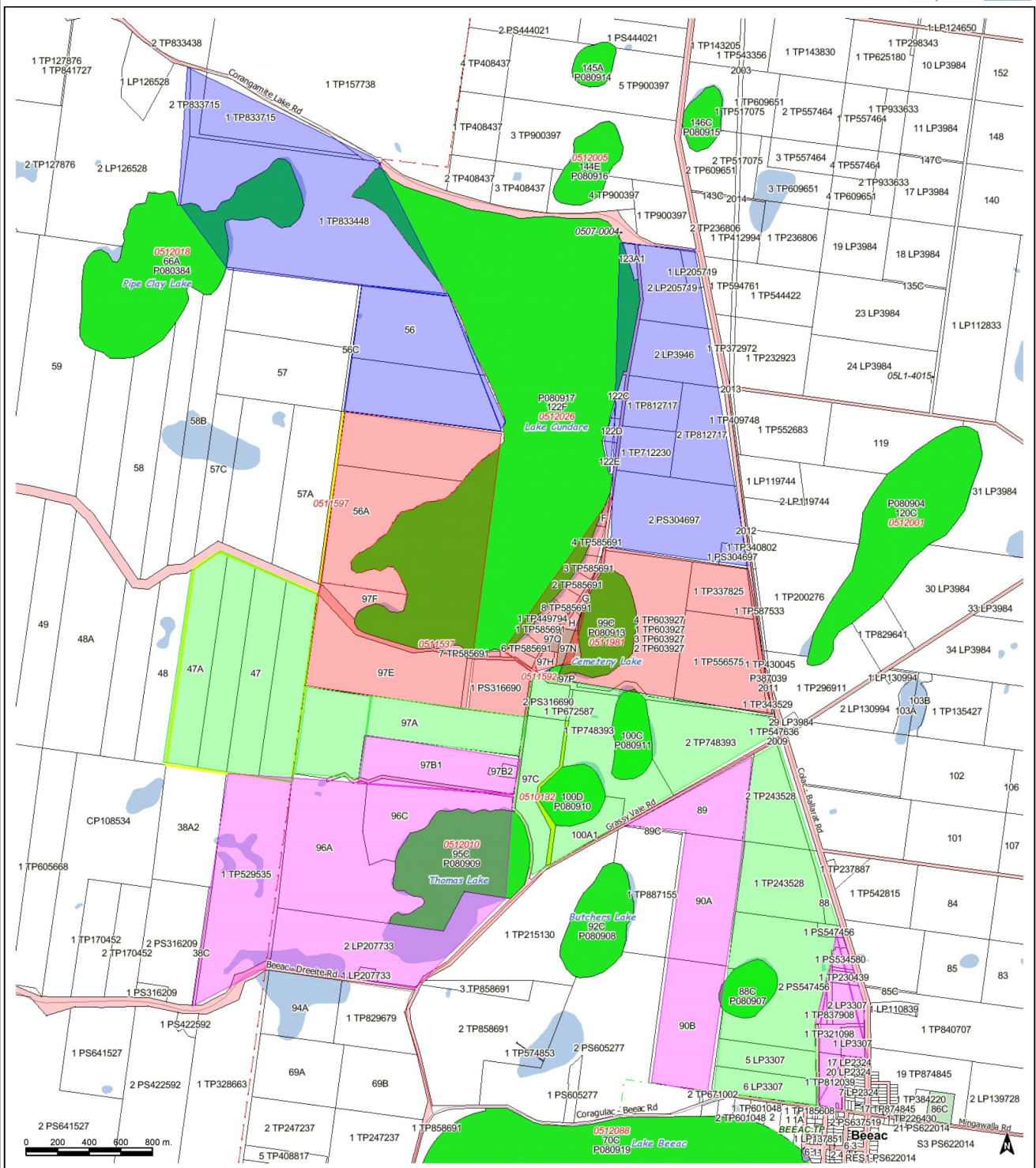
Map 3: Serrated Tussock - Historical Roadside Records (DEDJTR), and Gorse - Project Area (DEDJTR).



(As indicated by blue, red, green and purple shading)

Map created Tue Oct 14 13:58:22 EST 2014

Department of
Environment and
Primary Industries



Legend

Map Scale 1:22,836









Locality Map

- CLM PLAN NOTINGS
- APIARIES
 - Beefarm and Range licences
 - Temporary Apiary Rights
- PARISH BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES
- PROPERTY
- PARCEL
- PIPES
 - Industrial Commercial licences
 - Recreation Amusement licences
 - Occupancy licences
 - Radio TV Telecom site licences

- CROWN PARCELS**
-  Crown land
 -  Vested land
 -  Government Road
- ROADS**
-  Freeway
 -  Highway
 -  Main Road
 -  Main Road (Unsealed)
 -  Collector
 -  Collector (Unsealed)
 -  Local
 -  Proposed

- WATERCOURSES**
-  Named Watercourse
-  **GENERAL**
-  **LEASES**
-  **RIPARIAN**
-  **WATER FRONTAGE**
-  **UNUSED ROADS**
- Government Roads**
-  Dual Status Government Road
-  Government Road

-  **GRAZING**
 **RESERVES_DIR**
 **RESERVES**
WATERBODIES
 Watercourse Area
 Permanent Waterbody
 Wetland Area

Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. This material may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.

Crown Land Manager A3 portrait

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