

13 November 2019

Mr Richard Jamieson
City of Launceston
PO Box 396
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Cc Fiona Ranson and Danielle Denning

Dear Richard, Fiona and Danielle

Thank you for taking the time to meet with staff of Heritage Tasmania on 30 October 2019 to discuss the proposed expanded boundary for the Cataract Gorge replacement entry in the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

The Cataract Gorge is unrivalled as Tasmania's greatest example of a Victorian pleasure ground set in the context of a natural reserve. It is renowned equally as an attraction and peaceful oasis in the city as it is for the wildness of the South Esk in flood. Improving the current information held in the Heritage Register for the Cataract Gorge is an important step forward in highlighting the significance of this cultural landscape.

As you are aware, the Heritage Council has held-off on permanently entering the proposed replacement entry for the Gorge in the Heritage Register to enable further discussion with you on the boundaries of the entry. I understand that these discussions focused on three key questions raised by the City of Launceston. Each of them are addressed below and I hope help to inform your feedback on this proposal.

1. Rationale for the proposed expanded boundary

Seven submissions were received by the Tasmanian Heritage Council in response to public notification of the proposed replacement entry for Cataract Gorge. These submissions all highlighted the unique significance of the Gorge resulting primarily from the combination of an historic recreational area within a largely natural landscape, and recommended extension of the advertised boundary to protect this significance.

In response to these recommendations, Heritage Tasmania reviewed the advertised boundary (see Attachment 1), as well as the recommendation contained in some of the public submissions to combine the entries for Duck Reach and the Gorge.

Protecting Tasmania's Historic Environment

Heritage Tasmania conducted a three dimensional spatial analysis of the advertised boundary (see Attachment 2). Completing this exercise highlighted that, from three of the four key viewing points throughout the Gorge, the advertised boundary was too narrow to take in significant viewsheds. Extending the boundaries marginally to the first ridge line, and where appropriate aligning to existing title boundaries as per preferred Heritage Council practice, more accurately recognized the aesthetic experience of a historic recreational area nestled within a natural landscape. The proposed boundary is represented in a two-dimensional boundary map at Attachment 3.

In reaching this decision, Heritage Tasmania also concluded that:

- recommendations contained in the public submissions to extend the boundary to the original Register of the National Estate (RNE) entry boundary or to Trevallyn Dam could not be supported as the significance of the additional land mass is of natural and Aboriginal heritage value which is beyond the remit of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*, and is protected under the *Trevallyn Nature Recreation Area Management Plan 2008* in accordance with Part 3 of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*; and
- while Duck Reach is adjacent and set within the same natural landscape, the history and significance of this site is quite distinct to the recreational area of the Gorge and should remain a separate entry.

I also understand that during the discussion with Heritage Tasmania staff, the focus of the revised entry on the aesthetics of the Gorge landscape was also raised. This is supported by the introduction in 2014 of an aesthetics criteria to the Heritage Act – “the place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics”. Other entries subsequently revised by the Heritage Council to acknowledge their unique aesthetic qualities include Patterdale and Nile Farm (Glover landscape) and Saltwater River Probation Station on the Tasman Peninsula.

Cataract Gorge has long been acknowledged as possessing an aesthetic quality “probably not surpassed in the world”. It has and continues to be the subject of the work of numerous artists and photographers, and as evidenced by the submissions received, has a strong and special meaning to the Launceston and broader Tasmanian community.

2. Managing regular maintenance and fire management programs in the reserve

Heritage Tasmania has anticipated that this would be a consideration for the City of Launceston and in previous discussions with the Cataract Gorge Committee noted the possibility of the Heritage Council providing a certificate of exemption to assist in streamlining approval processes.

Certificates of Exemption were established in the Heritage Act during the 2014 amendments. Since then the Heritage Council has offered owners and managers of complex places a certificate of exemption to provide approval for day-to-day maintenance activities; work aligned with existing conservation and other management plans (e.g. bushfire maintenance); and other key works matters. Comparable examples include maintenance of bridges, hydro power stations, sporting ovals and museums. Other works mentioned during our discussion included track maintenance, way-finding signage and emergency removal of trees. These are able to be included within a

certificate of exemption if the works are in accordance with the Heritage Council's *Works Guidelines*. It is also noted that s35(3) of the Heritage Act makes provision for completing works without approval where the works were "both as to nature and extent, reasonably necessary for the purposes of responding to the emergency".

Heritage Tasmania would work with the City of Launceston to establish the breadth of maintenance and other cyclical work for which approval could be given through a certificate of exemption.

As mentioned at our meeting, this offer is also available for other Heritage Register entries such as City Park.

3. Public consultation on the proposed expanded boundary

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* does not have the same prescriptive advertising requirements as LUPAA. The Heritage Act requires that the Heritage Council:

1. must give notice on the provisional basis to the owner and planning authority, and publish a local public notice (as defined in the Act);
2. consider any objection or submission made; and
3. enter or not enter the place on a permanent basis in the Heritage Register.

The need to readvertise the proposed revised boundary has been discussed at length. It was concluded that, while the boundary is proposed to be expanded, it is not a substantial change to the entry as it does not draw in additional features, aesthetic values or owners not previously addressed in the provisional registration.

The Heritage Council would appreciate any comments that the City of Launceston, as custodians and managers of the Gorge, may wish to provide by 29 November 2019. This will allow the Heritage Council to consider the matter further at its last meeting for the year, on 10 December 2019.

Annita Waghorn, Registration Manager, remains our primary contact and is available to attend a further meeting to present this rationale to other representatives of the City of Launceston, and to help address any additional questions that arise. Annita may be contacted on 6165 3707 or via email at annita.waghorn@heritage.tas.gov.au.

I trust that this information is helpful and we welcome your feedback.

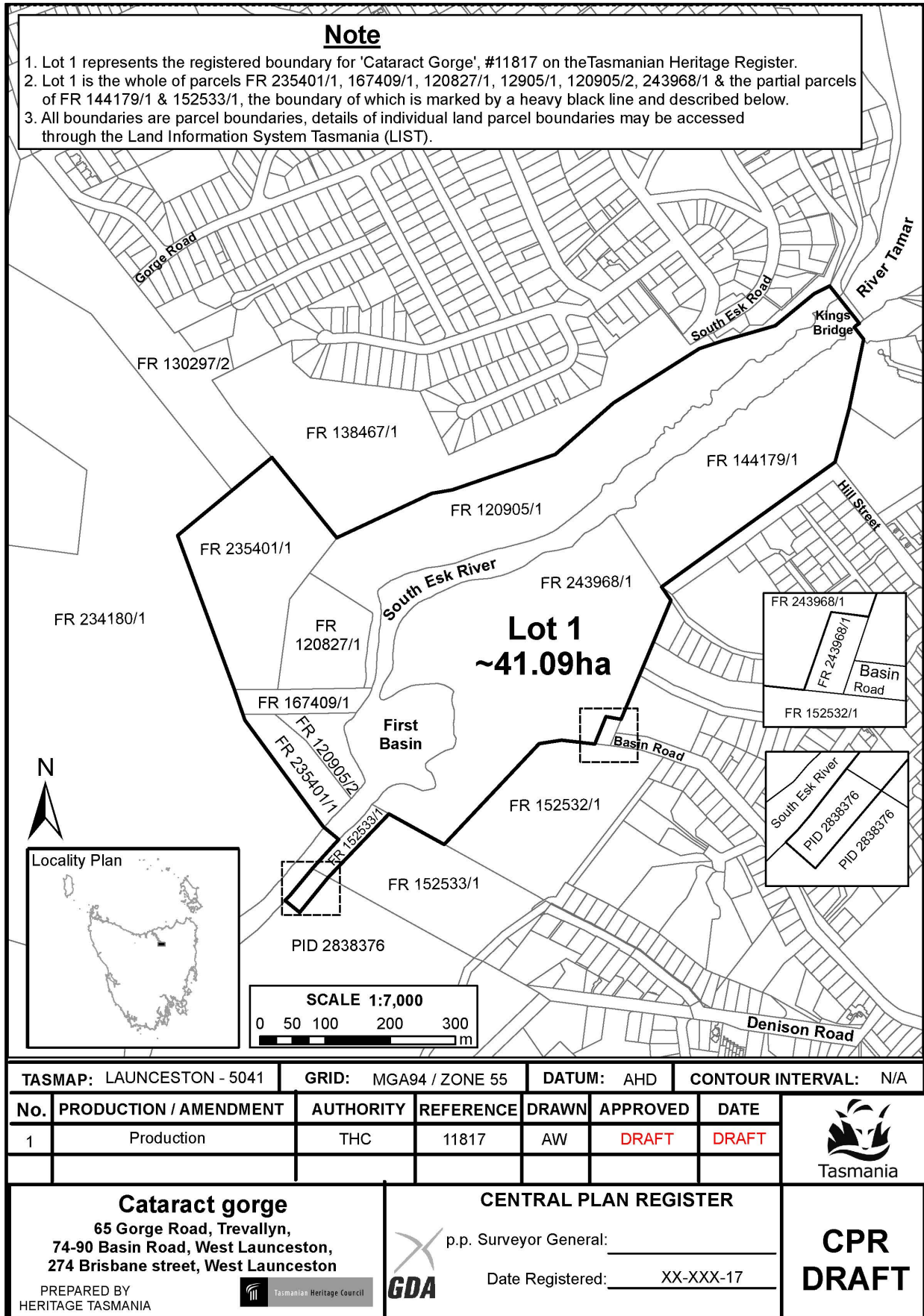
Yours sincerely



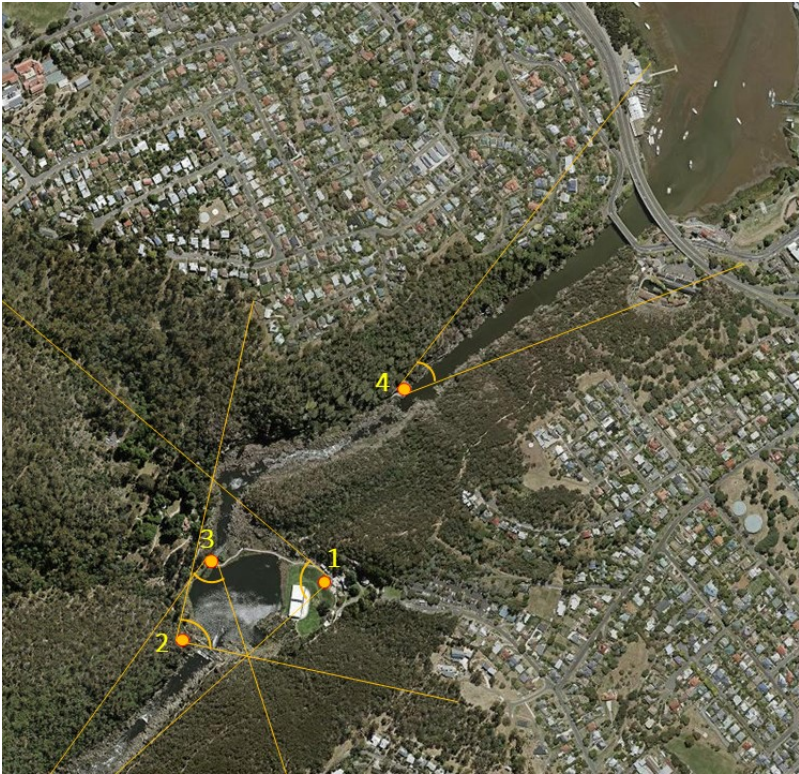
Pete Smith
Director

Encl. (x3)

Attachment 1: Advertised Boundary

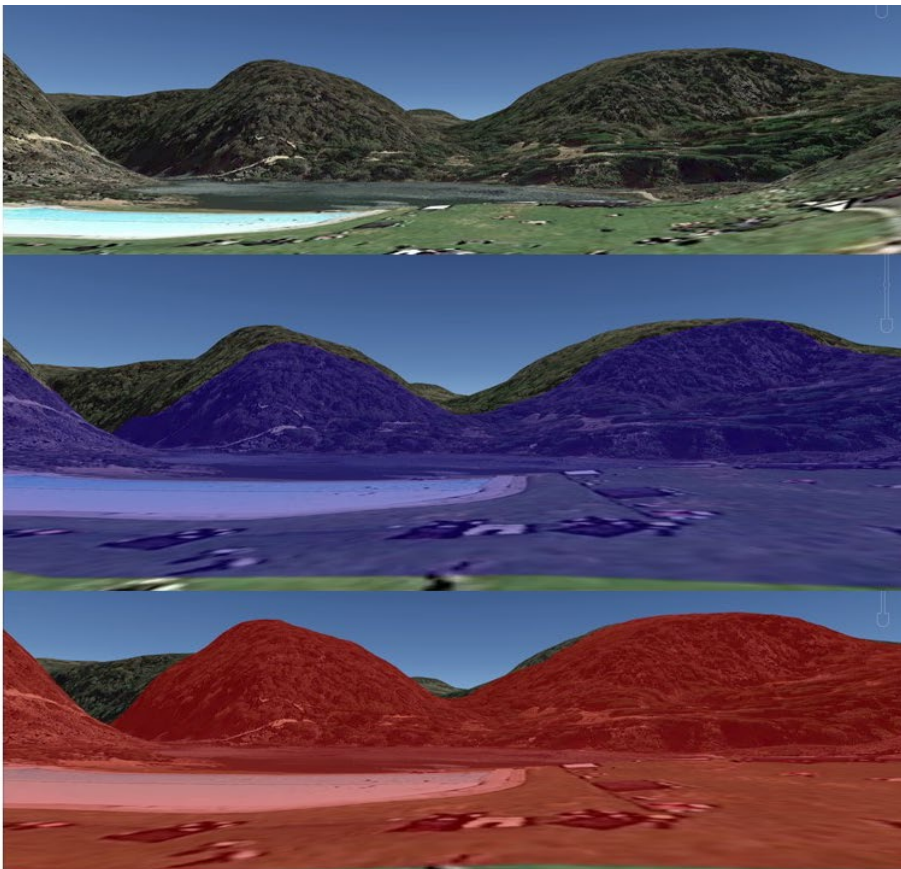


Attachment 2: Viewshed Analysis



Viewshed analysis Viewpoints

1. First Basin from the swimming pool.
2. First Basin from Alexandra Lookout.
3. Alexandra Bridge from the Lower Weir.
4. King's Bridge from Viewing Platform 1.



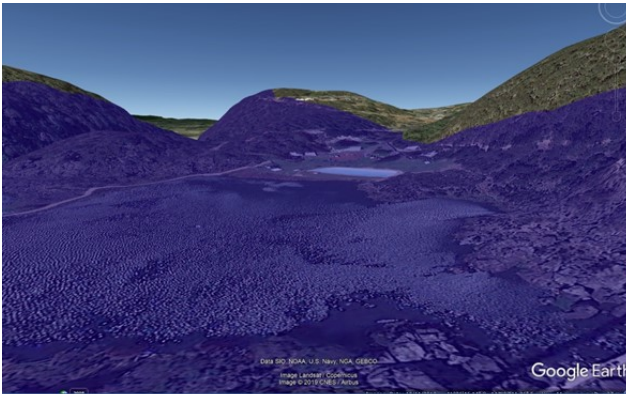
Viewshed analysis

1. First Basin from the swimming pool

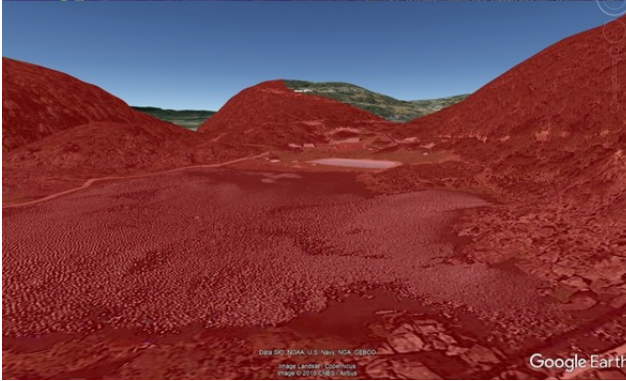
Blue – Provisional Boundary

Red - Proposed Boundary

View shed analysis
2. First Basin from Alexandra Lookout

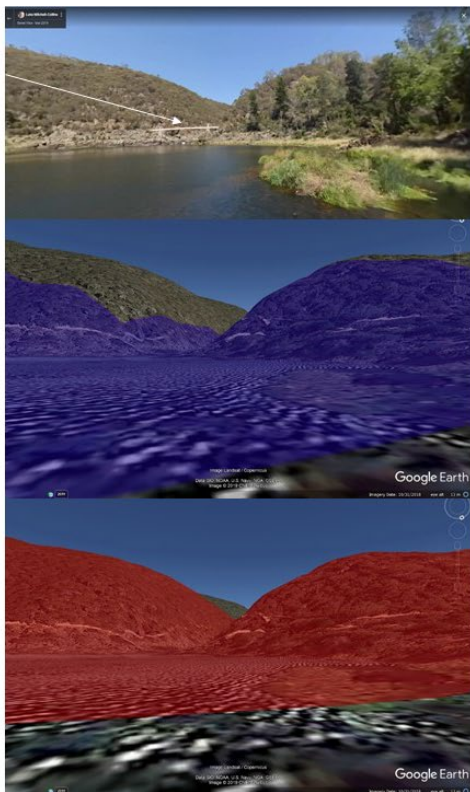


Blue – Provisional Boundary



Red - Proposed Boundary

Alexandra Bridge
(Suspension Bridge)



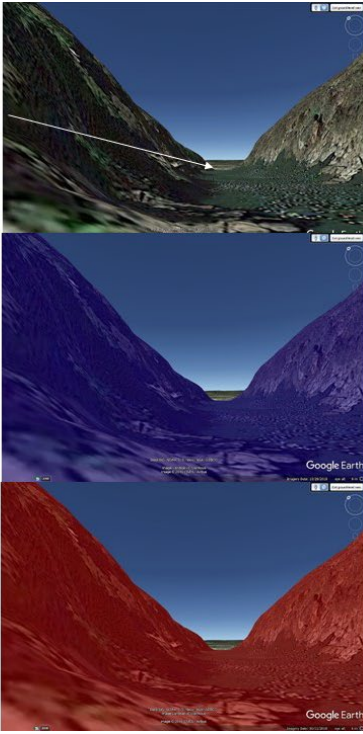
View shed analysis

3. First Basin & Suspension Bridge from the Lower Weir

Blue – Provisional Boundary

Red - Proposed Boundary

Kings Bridge



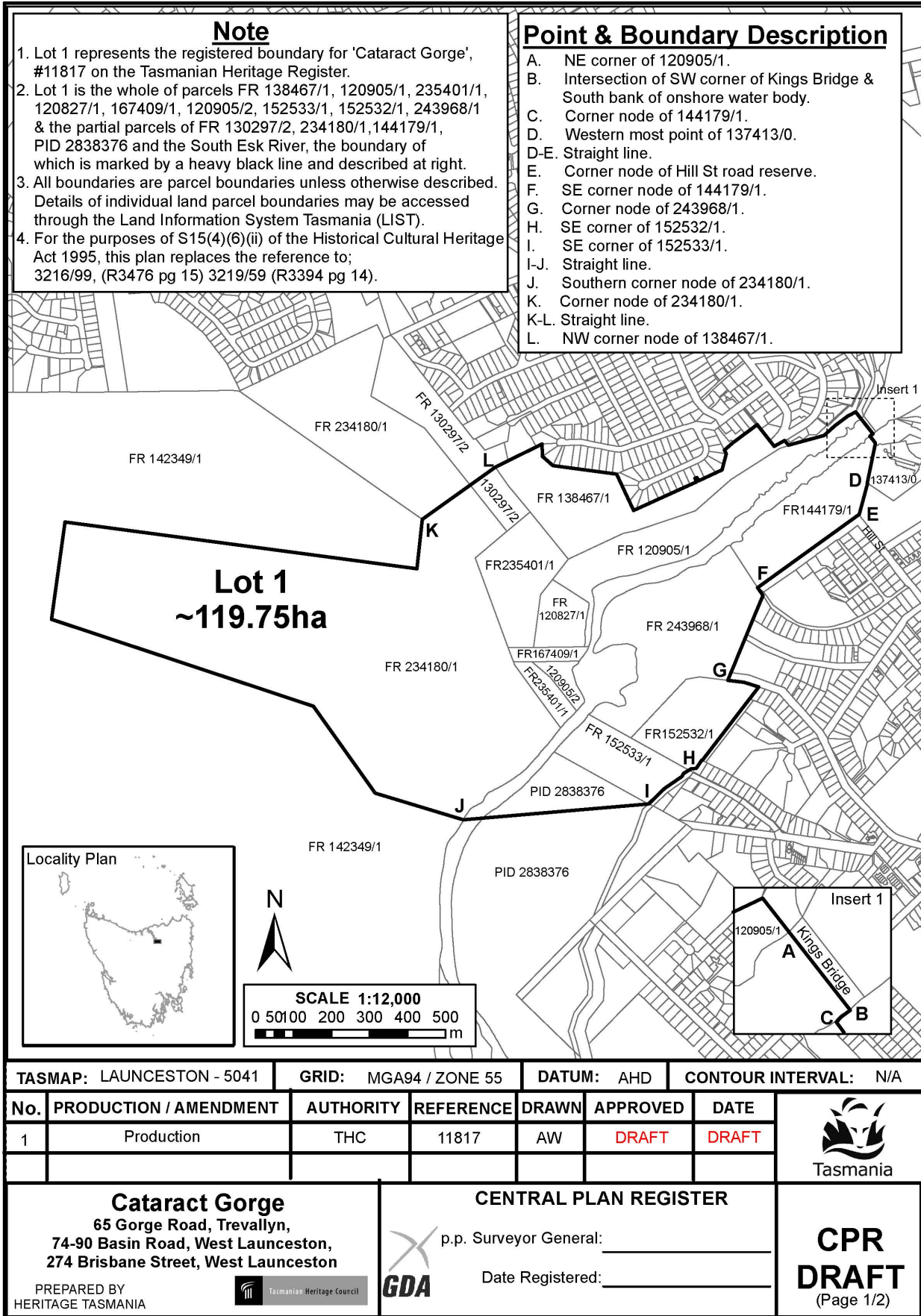
View shed analysis

4. Northern extent of the Cataract Gorge from Viewing Platform 1

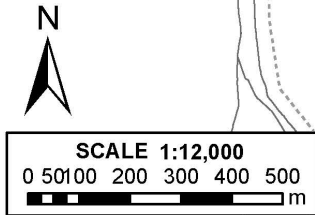
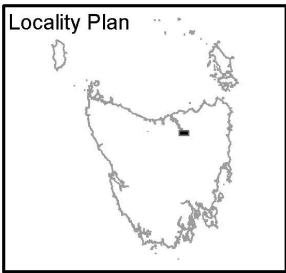
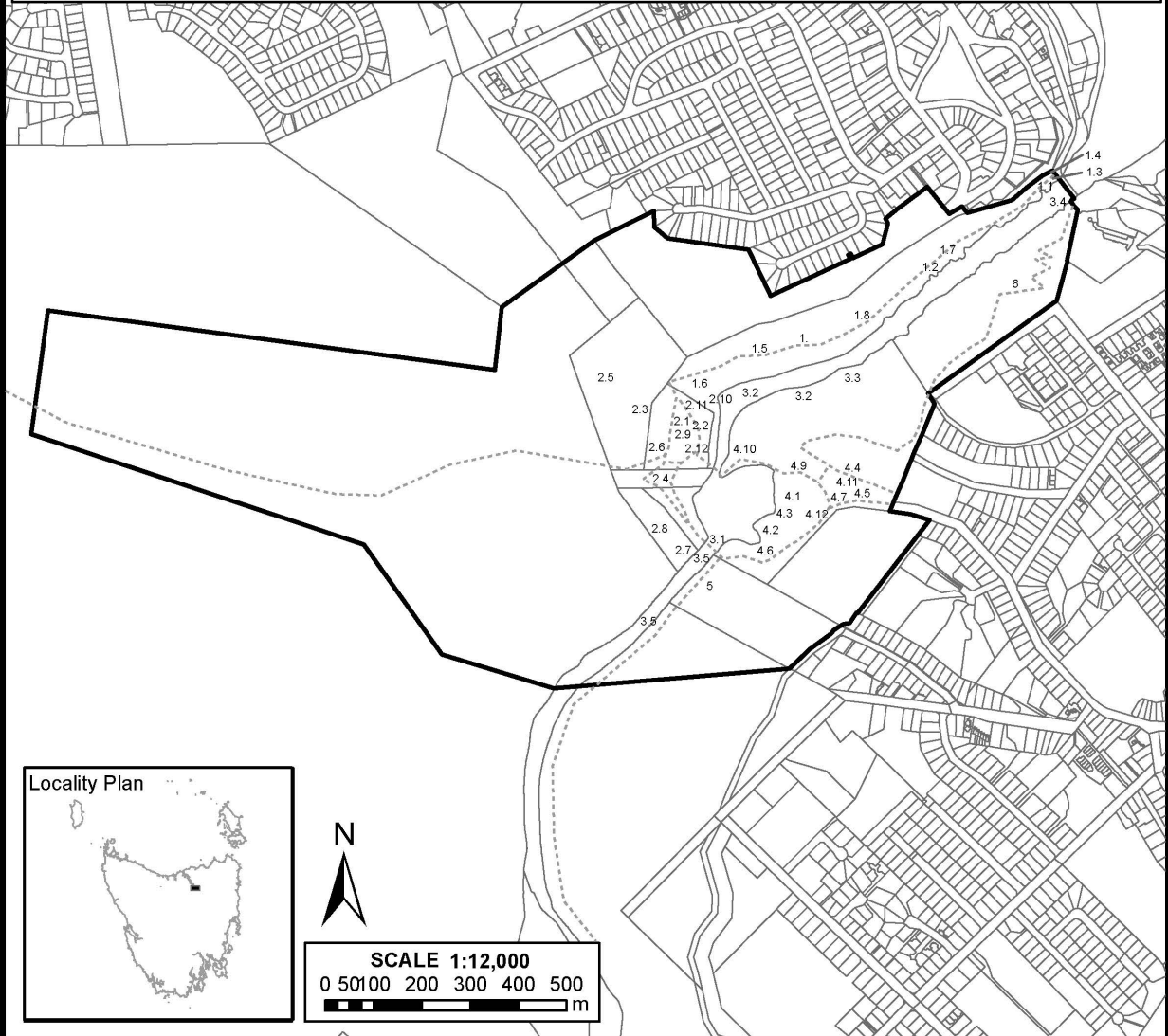
Blue – Provisional Boundary

Red - Proposed Boundary

Attachment 3 – Proposed Revised Boundary



Precinct 1. Main Walk	Pecinct 2. Cliff Grounds	Precinct 3. River Area	Precinct 4. First Basin	Precinct 5. Duck Reach Track
1. Walkway	2.1 Band Rotunda	3.1 Alexandra Suspension Bridge	4.1 Washermen's Huts	Precinct 6. Zig Zag Track
1.1 Caretakers Cottage	2.2 Tea Rooms	3.2 Weir (Richie's Dam)	4.2 Native Gardens	
1.2 Duchess Hut	2.3 Fairy Dell	3.3 John Walker's Flour Mill Site	4.3 Swimming Pool	
1.3 Toll House	2.4 Tree Hut	3.4 Wooden Jetty Site	4.4 Giants Grave Track	
1.4 Entrance Shelter	2.5 Eagles Eyrie Lookout	3.5 Middle & Top Weirs	4.5 Caretaker's Cottage	
1.5 The Crows Nest	2.6 Daffodil Walk		4.6 Change Sheds	
1.6 Crusoe Hut	2.7 Alexandra Lookout		4.7 Bowen Elm Tree	
1.7 Picnic Rock	2.8 Cataract Lookout		4.8 Drinking Fountain (in storage)	
1.8 Viewing Area #1	2.9 Wishing Well		4.9 Shelter Shed	
	2.10 River Path & Foundations		4.10 Gully Paddock	
	2.11 Cliff Grounds Path		4.11 Basin Kiosk	
	2.12 Tea Room Garages		4.12 Pump Sheds	



TASMAB: LAUNCESTON - 5041	GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55	DATUM: AHD	CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A
---------------------------	-----------------------	------------	-----------------------

No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE
1	Production	THC	11817	AW	DRAFT	DRAFT



Cataract Gorge
65 Gorge Road, Trevallyn,
74-90 Basin Road, West Launceston,
274 Brisbane Street, West Launceston

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE TASMANIA

CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER

p.p. Surveyor General: _____

Date Registered: _____

**CPR
DRAFT**
(Page 2/2)