

To DEWLP staff,

RE: Update on case reference number: 2017-0002 – Basin Creek, East Gippsland

Further investigations carried out by Owen Hanson of Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO) and Elfi Schieren and Harry Radford of W-Tree Progress & Promotion Association (WTPPA) within the Basin creek catchment, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of January 2017 resulted in new detections of crayfish most likely to be in the East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish group.

The Crayfish locations recorded on the survey in coupes 810-501-0009 and 810-501-0006 are displayed on the map below. Crayfish were unable to be identified to the species level, however physical characteristics suggest they are most likely to be in East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish group.

Crayfish species detected in 'Search Site 1' along the western boundary of coupe 810-501-0009 occur in a stream that is not depicted on the map below. Water and suitable habitat for the species is present in this area despite the absence of a modelled stream in the 'Watercourse network 1:25,000 'Vic Map Hydro' spatial data set. The locations of water pools and the points along the un-modelled stream are displayed on the map below as blue squares. The locations of crayfish species likely to be in the Orbost Spiny Crayfish group are displayed as the blue stars along the course of the un-modelled stream.

The un-modelled stream adjacent to and within coupe 810-501-0009, is within 1km of the *Euastacus diversus* (Crayfish 3) detection detailed in the report submitted to DELWP on Friday 13th (2017-0002). This un-modelled stream is suitable habitat for *Eusatacus diversus* and should therefore be included in the required 100m buffer extending 1km upstream and down stream from the *Euastacus diversus* (Crayfish 3) detection detailed in case 2017-0002.

As the un-modelled stream occurs within coupe 810-501-0009 and logging in that coupe is likely to have commenced, this matter requires urgent action to ensure VicForests logging operations are compliant with the regulatory framework.

VicForest must not commence logging within these coupes until DEWLP has:

- 1. Completed an investigation scrutinising VicForests' compliance to the Code of Practice and application of the precautionary principle.**
- 2. Thoroughly evaluated the distribution and status of *Euastacus diversus* and species within the East Gippsland Spiny Group within the Basin creek catchment through targeted surveys and consultation with experts.**
- 3. Implemented the legally required protections of 100m buffers on each stream bank extending 1km up and down the stream from detection sites.**

Figure 1 - Search Site 1: Western boundary of VicForest logging coupe 810-501-0009

Crayfish site 1 (Photos)	55 H 613039 5861108
Crayfish site 2	55 H 613035 5861112
Crayfish site 3	55 H 613038 5861140
Crayfish site 4	55 H 613057 5861142
Crayfish site 5	55 H 613067 5861191
Crayfish site 6	55 H 613092 5861199
Crayfish site 7	55 H 613095 5861229
Crayfish site 8	55 H 613186 5861255

Figure 2 - Search Site 2: Eastern boundary of VicForest logging coupe 810-501-0006

Crayfish site 1 (Photos)	55 H 612948 5860301
Crayfish site 2	55 H 612947 5860286



Photos: Crayfish on western boundary of coupe 810-501-0009 (search site 1)

Location: 55 H 613039 5861108

Date: 14/01/17 **Time:** 6:56pm



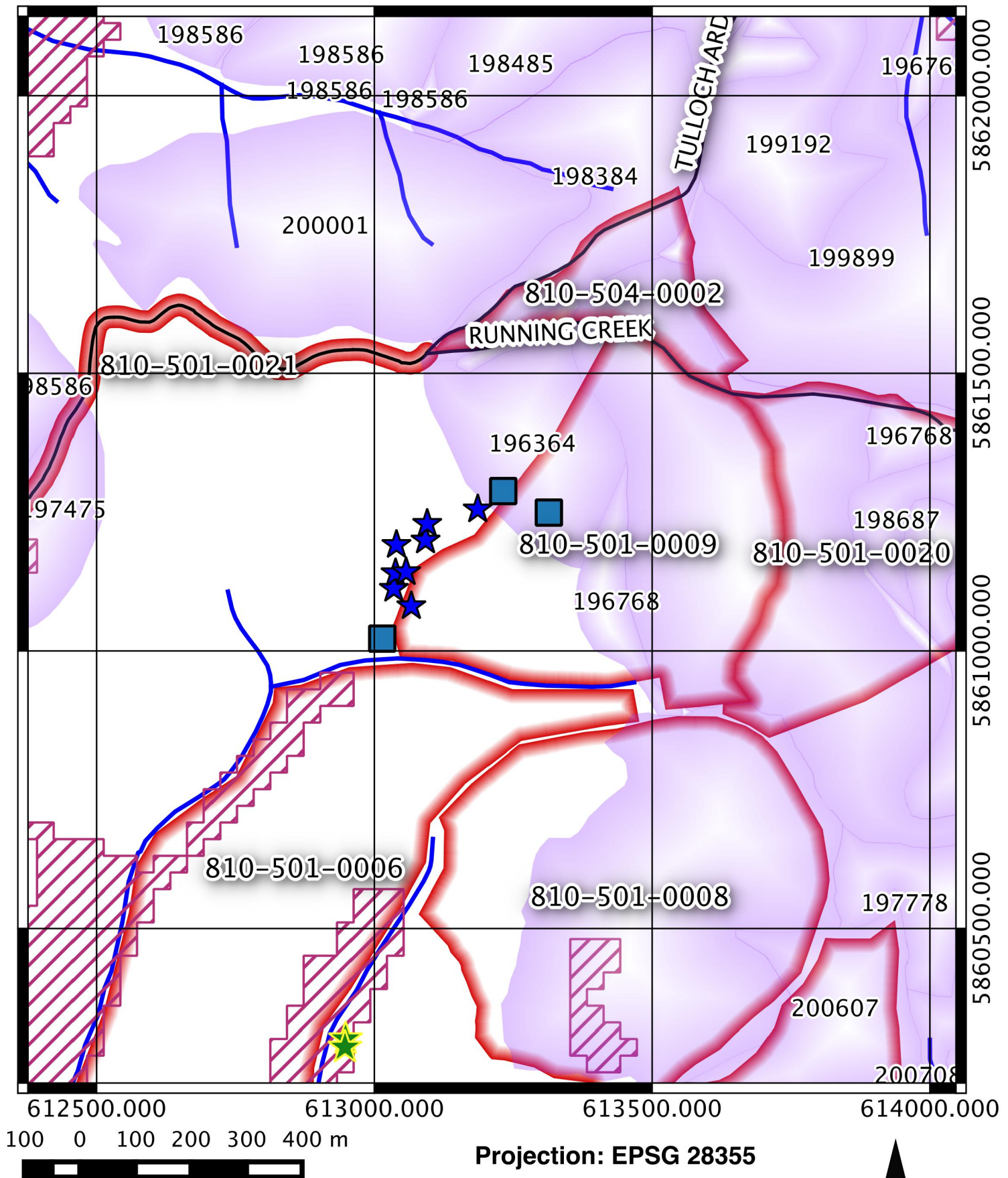
Photos: Crayfish on eastern boundary of coupe 810-501-0006 (search site 2)

Location: 55 H 612948 5860301

Date: 15/01/17 **Time:** 11:36pm



Basin creek coupes 810-501-0009, 810501-0006 context map



Legend

- Water in unmodelled stream
- ★ Crayfish (search site 1)
- ★ Crayfish (search site 2)
- Logging history
- Modelled Old Growth (2009)
- Watercourses
- Roads
- VicForests coupe boundary