



Long Footed Potoroo detection report

Coupe 830-509-0011 – Kuark Forest

Report date: 11/01/2017

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Introduction:

Forest within VicForests proposed logging coupe 830-509-0011 was surveyed for the presence of the endangered long footed potoroo. Remote cameras were deployed in two separate locations. Images and videos of long footed potoroos were captured at both camera locations on multiple nights. The long footed potoroo detections detailed in this report require amendments to the Forest Management Zoning Scheme and the creation of a 150 hectare Special Management Zone with 50 hectares of retained habitat.

Methods:

A Reconyx fauna camera (GECO RX01) was deployed by David Caldwell on January 8th 2016. The camera was set to take 5 photo images at rapid fire with no delay. Time settings were set to 12 hour time. A scent lure of oats, peanut butter, honey and truffle oil was positioned inside a steel cage mounted on a post in front of the camera to attract animals to the camera site. A large old tree was selected as a recognisable background in the images the camera took.

A Garmin 64s GPS unit was used to record the camera location

55H 0653975/5843303 (GDA 94) (MGA/Zone 55)

A 4 GB SD card was used to record images. Camera location, date, bait used and other details were recorded on a data sheet. The camera was retrieved on March 12th and a laptop was used to transfer images from the SD card to an external hard drive.

A second Reconyx fauna camera (GECO RX03) was deployed by Ed Hill at a separate location within coupe 830-509-0011 on June 13th 2016. The camera was set to take one still image followed by 30 seconds of video. Time settings were set to 24 hour time. A scent lure of peanut butter, oats and honey was positioned inside a steel cage mounted to a post in front of the camera to attract animals to the camera site. A large old tree was selected as a recognisable background.

A Garmin 64s GPS unit was used to record the camera location at

55H 0654129/5843520 (GDA 94) (MGA/Zone 55)

A 4 GB SD card was used to record images taken by the camera. The camera was retrieved on November 11th 2016 and a lap top was used to transfer images from the SD card to an external hard drive.

Results:

Camera GECO RX01 recorded Long footed potoroos eight times. Other species recorded were Swamp wallaby, Mountain Brushtail possum, Lyrebird, Bassian thrush and feral cats.

Figure 1: Long footed potoroo images from camera GECO RX01

| Date | Time (12 hour) | Camera name | Image file name |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 24/1/2016 | 11:36:13 PM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0307.jpg |
| 24/1/2016 | 11:36:16 PM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0310.jpg |
| 29/1/2016 | 10:56:19 PM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0348.jpg |
| 15/02/2016 | 12:38:38 AM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0442.jpg |
| 15/02/2016 | 12:38:50 AM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0447.jpg |
| 15/02/2016 | 12:38:52 AM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0449.jpg |
| 28/02/2016 | 10:27:14 PM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0662.jpg |
| 01/03/2016 | 12:36:11 AM | GECO RX01 | IMG_0715.jpg |

Photo: Test photo taken by camera GECO RX01 on day of deployment at 55H 0653975/5843303 (GDA 94) (MGA/Zone 55)



Photos: Long footed potoroo images recorded by camera GECO RX01

Location: 55H 0653975/5843303 (GDA 94) (MGA/Zone 55)



Results:

Camera GECO RX03 recorded long footed potoroos 22 times. Other species recorded were Swamp wallaby, antechinus, Mountain brushtail possum, Lyrebird, Bassian thrush, Kookaburra, Wombat, feral deer and feral cat.

Figure 2: Long footed potoroo images from camera GECO RX03

| Date | Time (24 hour) | Camera name | Image file name |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 18/06/2016 | 00:51:14 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0009.JPG |
| 25/06/2016 | 21:50:04 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0033.JPG |
| 27/06/2016 | 23:45:02 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0037.JPG |
| 04/07/2016 | 23:41:16 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0049.JPG |
| 08/07/2016 | 19:42:17 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0059.JPG |
| 19/07/2016 | 22:12:10 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0071.JPG |
| 22/07/2016 | 19:23:26 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0081.JPG |
| 28/07/2016 | 22:23:07 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0093.JPG |
| 30/07/2016 | 18:33:45 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0099.JPG |
| 31/07/2016 | 19:40:03 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0103.JPG |
| 05/08/2016 | 23:32:50 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0127.JPG |
| 08/08/2016 | 02:40:46 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0139.JPG |
| 05/09/2016 | 20:38:34 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0191.JPG |
| 06/09/2016 | 03:06:00 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0193.JPG |
| 19/09/2016 | 19:50:17 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0211.JPG |
| 26/09/2016 | 20:04:53 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0227.JPG |
| 07/10/2016 | 21:14:27 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0237.JPG |
| 13/10/2016 | 19:33:36 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0273.JPG |
| 24/10/2016 | 23:46:30 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0323.JPG |
| 31/10/2016 | 21:48:30 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0349.JPG |
| 01/11/2016 | 21:06:00 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0357.JPG |
| 11/11/2016 | 00:01:19 | GECO RX03 | RCNYX_0429.JPG |

Photo: Test photo taken by camera GECO RX03 on day of deployment at 55H 0654129/5843520 (GDA 94) (MGA/Zone 55)



Photos: Long footed potoroo images recorded by camera GECO RX03

Location: 55H 0654129/5843520 (GDA 94) (MGA/Zone 55)



Discussion:

The large number of images of long footed potoroos captured by the cameras suggests the area of forest within coupe 830- 509 -0011 is regularly used by the species. Diggings were observed at several locations within the coupe, one contained uneaten truffles and truffle skins (photo below).



Camera GECO RX03 was in the field for approximately 5 months and recorded long footed potoroos throughout this period. Images and video on this camera that were recorded in the early stages of the survey (July-August) show long footed potoroos approaching the scent lure. Videos and images that were captured towards the end of the survey period (September - November) show long footed potoroos passing by the camera site without stopping to investigate the scent lure.

The scent from the lure may have become faint after two months in the field, however long footed potoroos images were captured up until the day the camera was retrieved on November 11th.

This suggests that the forest within coupe 830 - 509 -0011 is regularly used by long footed potoroos.

Other significant forest values within coupe 830-509-0011:

A number of other significant forest values were observed in coupe 830-509-0011 during the survey period. Many large old trees with circumferences between 7 -10m occur throughout the proposed logging area. The forest within the coupe is high quality old growth forest with no logging history.

The rare and threatened *Pittosporum* hybrid, *Pittosporum undulatum* subsp. *X emmettii* occurs within the coupe and is threatened by proposed logging.

This species is listed as rare on the Advisory List of Rare Plants in Victoria (DEPI 2014, p 36). This species is known from very few locations in East Gippsland.

Photos:

Large old trees within coupe 830-509-0011 between 7 and 10m circumference

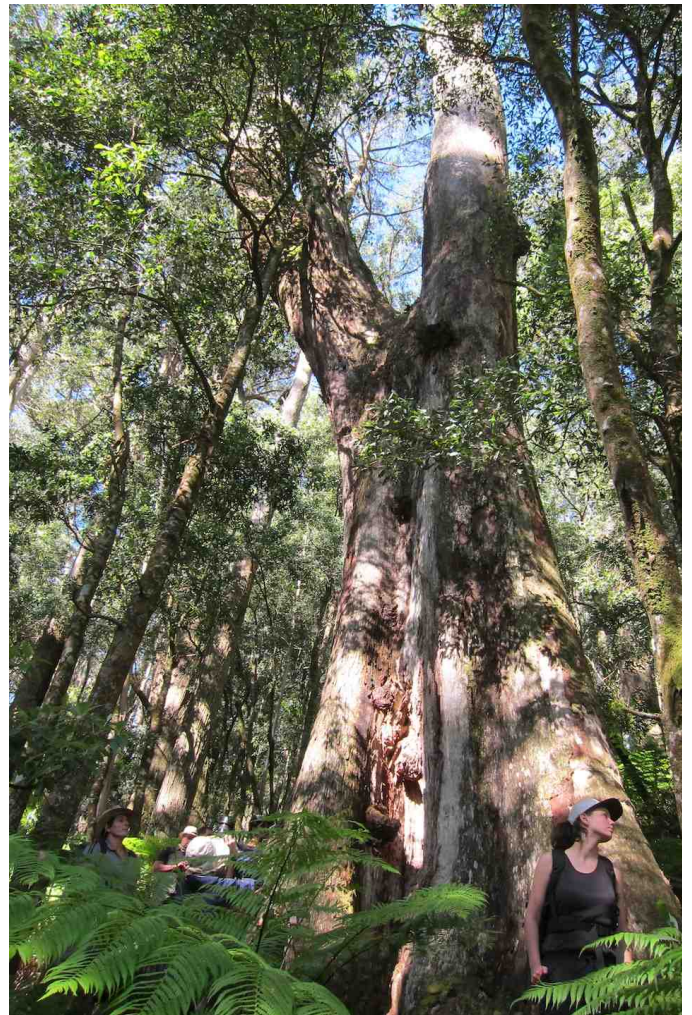


Photo:

Rare and threatened *Pittosporum undulatum* subsp. *X emmettii*

GPS location: 55H 0653948 / 5843343 (GDA 94 MGA/ZONE 55)



Recommendations:

Goongerah Environment Centre makes the following recommendations to the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning.

- **Ensure the required 50 hectares of retained long footed potoroo habitat encompasses both detection sites detailed in this report**
- **Investigate the presence of unmapped old growth forest within coupe 830-509-0011 and ensure that all large old trees in the area are protected.**
- **Ensure adequate protection of *Pittosporum undulatum* subsp. *X emmettii* plants within proposed logging coupe**
- **Establish a Mt. Kuark big tree reserve extending from Greens road to the summit of Mt. Kuark.**
- **Add large old trees in the Mt. Kuark area to the East Gippsland giant trees register.**
- **Direct VicForests not to log coupe 830-509-0011 whilst the DELWP review of protections for large old trees takes place**

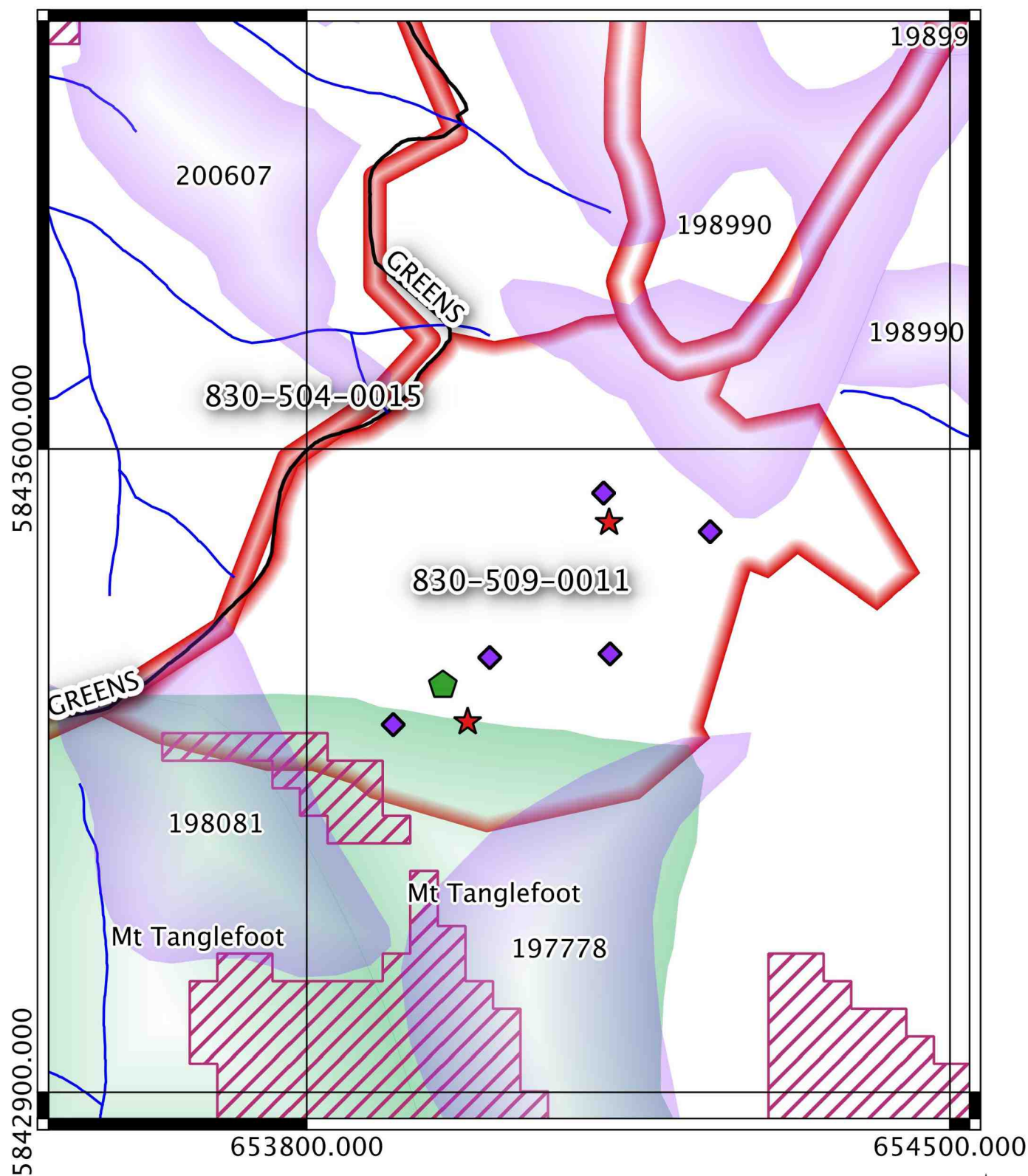


Photos:










Giant Mountain grey gum within coupe 830-509-0011 (left)

Giant Messmate within coupe 830-509-0011 (above)

Coupe 830-509-0011 context map - Mt. Kuark, East Gippsland



Legend

-  Logging History
-  Camera location
-  Large old tree
-  *Pittosporum undulatum* subsp. *X emmettii*
-  Modelled old growth (2009)
-  Watercourses
-  Roads
-  Rainforest Site of Significance
-  VicForests coupe boundary

Map scale 1:3000

**Projection: EPSG 28355
GDA 94/MGA Zone 55**

