

12.5 HALLSTON

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

Hallston Landcare Group was formed in 1989 and aims to promote sustainable agricultural production to all landowners including foresters. The group encourages the control of weeds and pests and promotes the protection and enhancement of waterways, remnant vegetation and biodiversity. The Group aims to promote Landcare and encourage participation with the wider Hallston community.

The group covers 7926 ha, with large patches of remnant vegetation surrounded by agricultural land.

GROUP AIM

Building on existing projects to protect remnants and link with previous revegetation projects. Blackberries and willows are a major issue.

STEPS TO GET THERE

- Identify areas for willow control and future grant opportunities
- Work with local landholders to create a link between Hallston bush and the north of the group
- Contact neighbours with information about the project
- Work with project officers to undertake projects on Landcare and non Landcare members' properties to build on past projects.

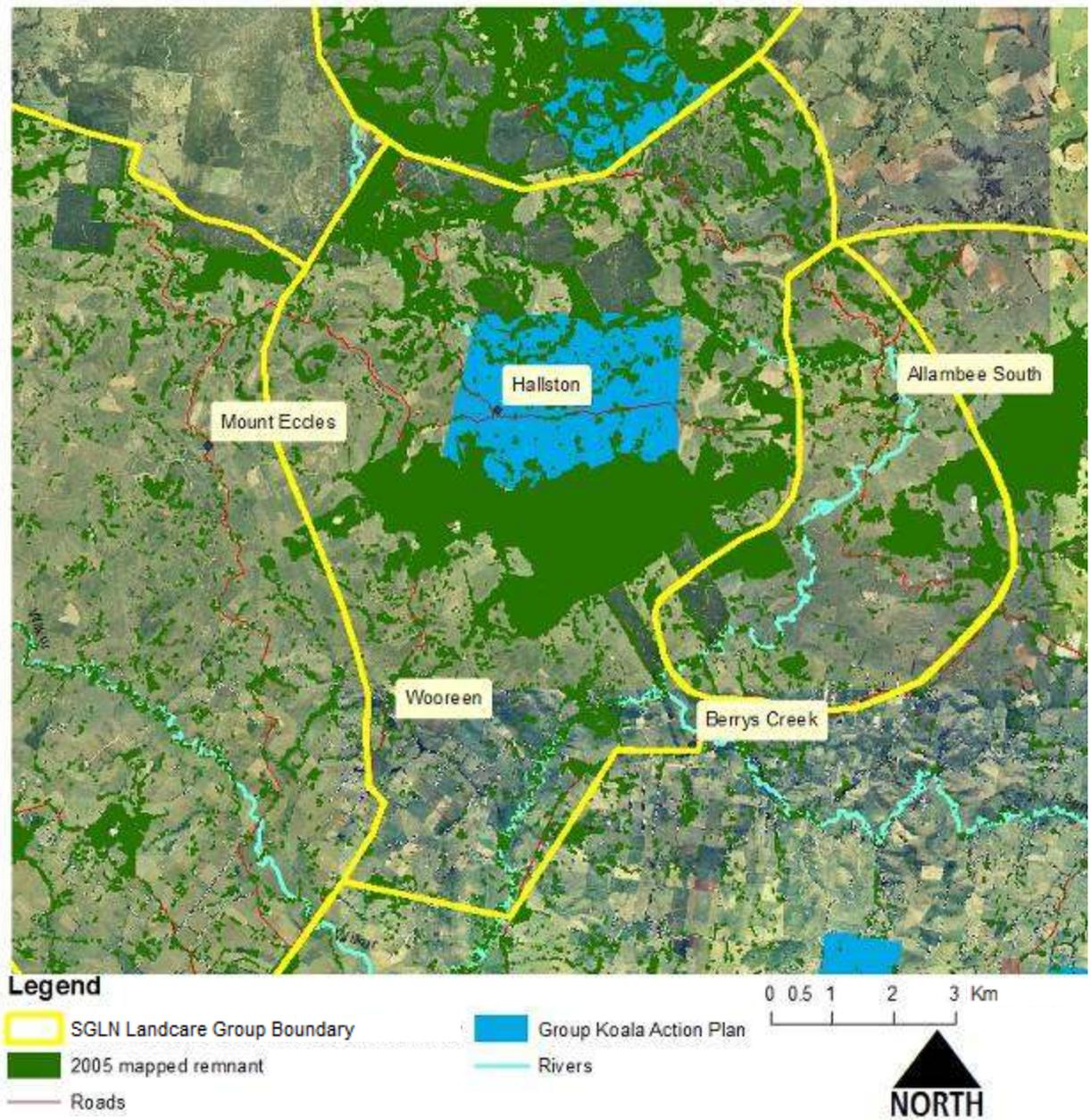


Figure 21: Hallston Koala Action Plan

12.6 MARDAN MIRBOO NORTH

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

The Mardan/Mirboo North Landcare Group was formed in 2002 and was recently classified as "thriving" with 34+ very active member families. The Mardan-Mirboo North Landcare Group aims to actively promote best practice in restoration of indigenous vegetation, creating a sustainable future with the broader community. Their primary goal is to celebrate planting more trees.

The group covers 23,361 ha and is characterised by mainly agricultural land with a few fragmented remnants.

GROUP AIM:

Linking existing remnant vegetation and existing revegetation efforts across 11 properties to create a corridor from Barool to Tarwin River

STEPS TO GET THERE

- Map existing revegetation and fenced remnants as a starting point for corridors to build on
- Identify key areas of willow control
- Identify key areas of revegetation
- Members to contact non-members and talk about project and possibility of assistance and how to get involved
- Members to assist with planting (tree bees), fencing and weed control

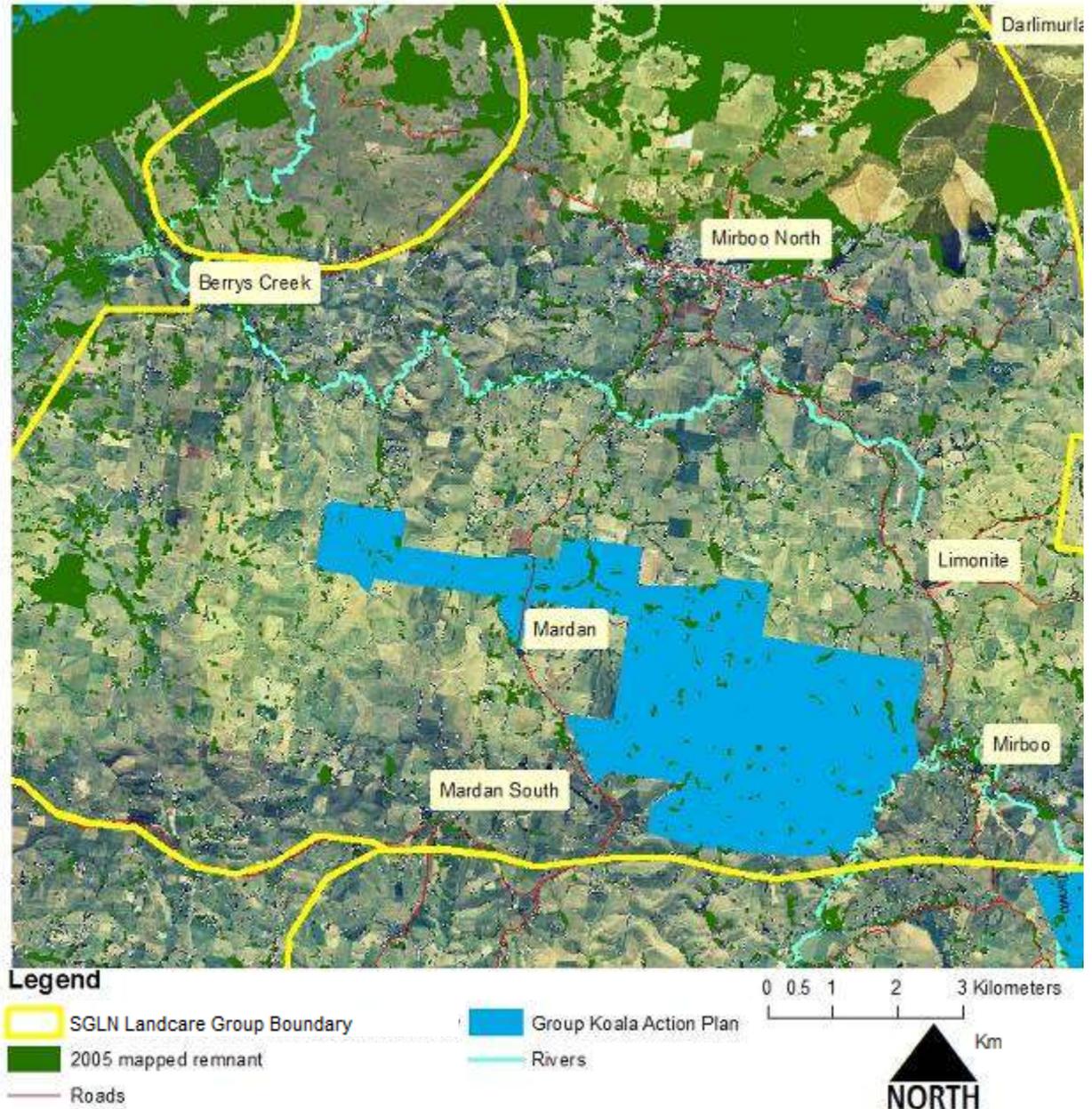


Figure 22: Mardan/Mirboo North Koala Action Plan

12.7 MT ECCLES/ WILD DOG VALLEY

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

The Mt Eccles /Wild Dog Valley Landcare Group was formed in 1997 and aims to promote a sustainable and productive environment through education, awareness, and community involvement in Landcare activities for a long-term future.

The group covers 11,942 ha and is characterised by agricultural land with a few fragmented remnants.

GROUP AIM

Connecting Hamann's Bush to the Hallston Bush.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

- Identify key areas for revegetation and remnant protection.
- Contact property owners who have missing patches along the biolinks
- Landcare members to contact neighbours with information about the project
- Work with Landcare project officer to undertake projects on Landcare and non Landcare member's properties to build on past projects

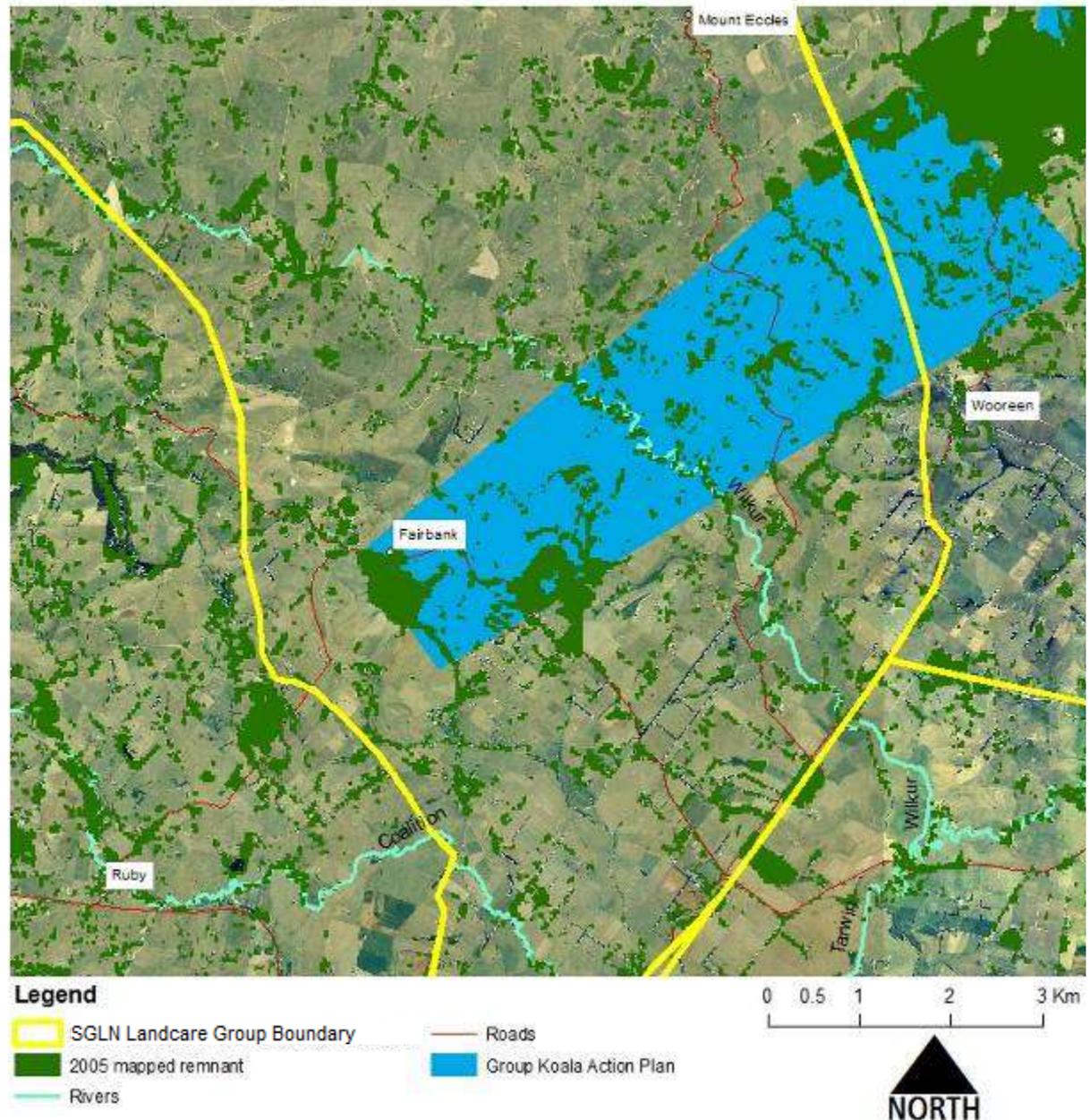


Figure 23: Mt Eccles/ Wild Dog Valley Koala Action Plan

12.8 NERRENA

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

The Nerrena Landcare Group was formed in 1995 and aims to protect and enhance the natural assets of the area, through action, community participation, education and awareness.

The group covers 32,524 ha and is characterised by agricultural land with a few fragmented remnants.

GROUP AIM

Working with the missing properties between Beilbys Bush and other significant remnants.

STEPS TO GET THERE

- Identify property owners who have missing patches along the biolinks
- Contact neighbours with information about the project
- Work with Landcare project officers to undertake projects on Landcare and non Landcare member's properties to build on past projects



Legend

 SGLN Landcare Group Boundary

 2005 mapped remnant

 Roads

 Group Koala Action Plan

 Rivers

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 3.6 Km



Figure 24: Nerrena Koala Action Plan

12.9 TARWIN VALLEY

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

The Tarwin Valley Landcare Group was formed in 2011 and is located in the previous areas of the Jindinook and Stony Creek Landcare groups. The driving force of Landcare in the area has always been the continual development of links along the east branch of the Tarwin River and its tributaries.

The group covers 24,524 ha and is characterised by agricultural land with a few fragmented remnants.

GROUP AIM

Continuing previous works along the east branch of the Tarwin River connecting from Stony Creek to remnant bush in the Foster North area, along to Dumbalk North. This plan will be called Blinky's links.

STEPS TO GET THERE

- Identify property owners who have missing patches along the biolinks
- Landcare members to contact neighbours with information about the project
- Work with Landcare project officer to undertake projects on Landcare and non Landcare member's properties to build on past projects

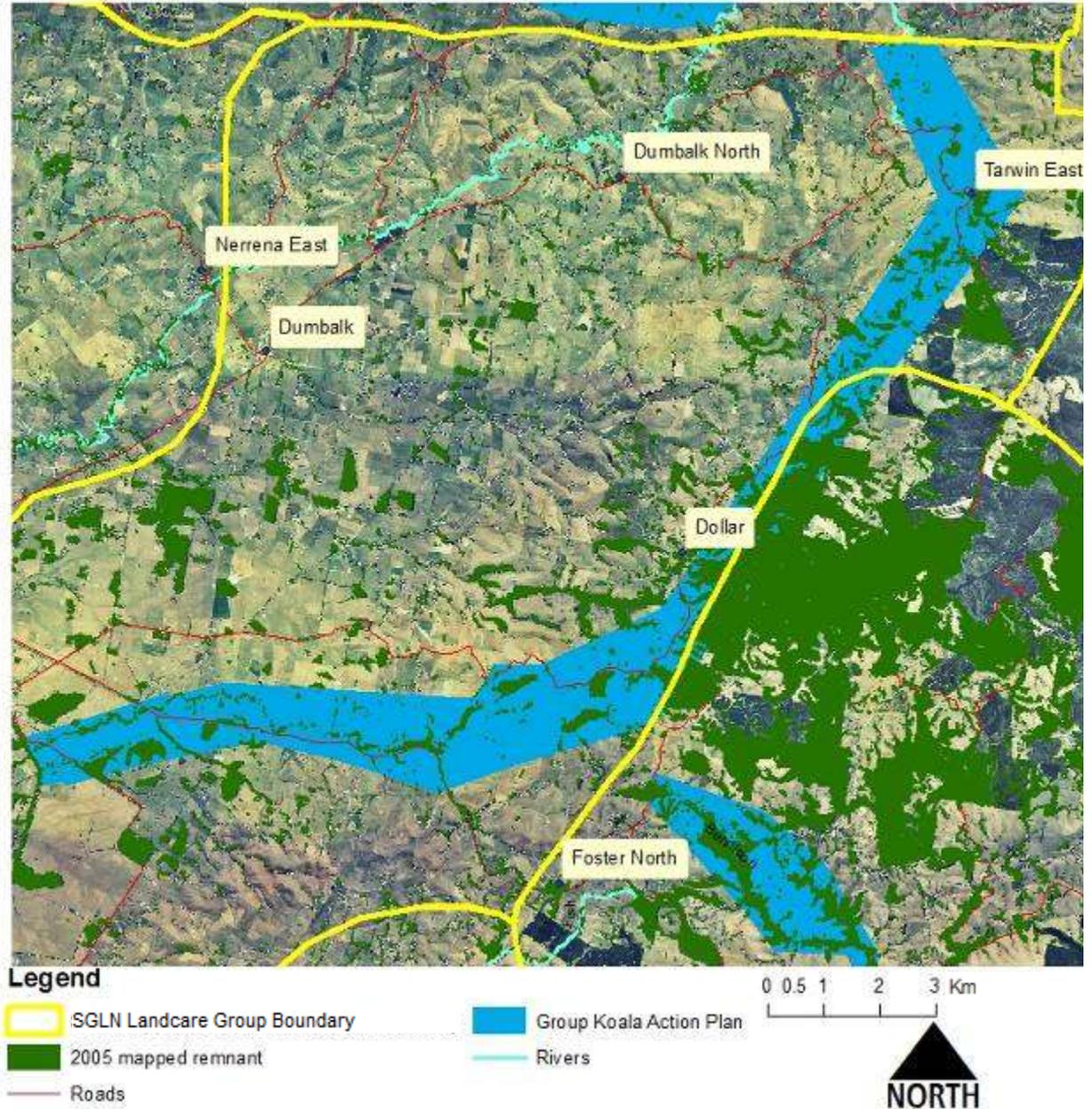


Figure 25: Tarwin Valley Koala Action Plan

13. SOUTH GIPPSLAND LANDCARE NETWORK ACTION PLAN

NETWORK AIM

The overall aim of this project is to protect, enhance and restore vegetation in South Gippsland as part of a strategic Network wide attempt to improve Strzelecki Koala Habitat.

STEPS TO GET THERE

- Work with Landcare groups to create individual action plans for their area.
- Undertake a desktop study and work with DSE to identify areas of important remnant and areas of potential connectivity.
- Undertake a desktop study and work with DSE to identify criteria for ranking onground sites.
- Collate group action plans, key remnant corridor areas and remnant assets to create a proposed landscape wide biolinks.
- Give funding and support to projects that support this overall link.

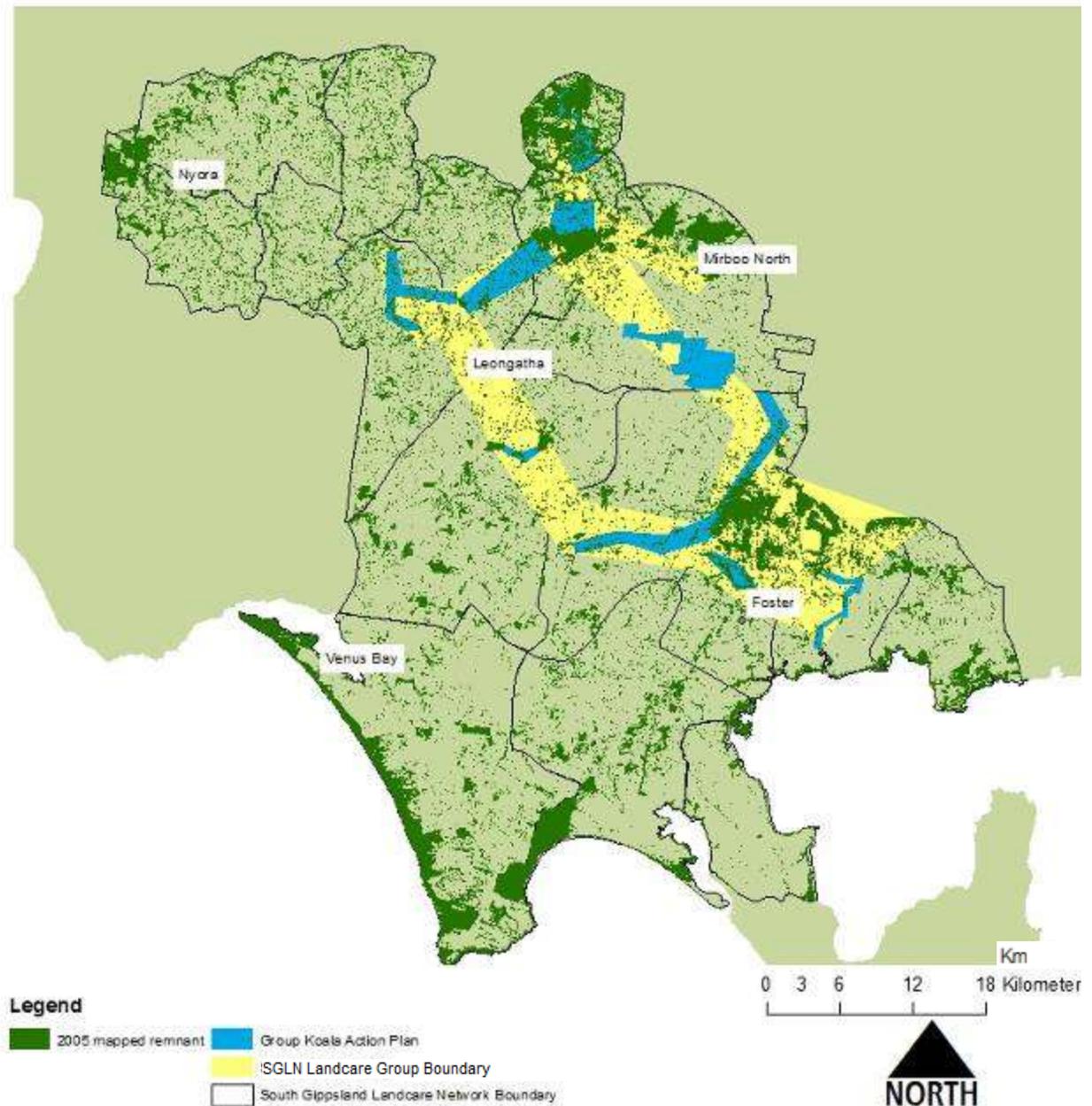


Figure 26: SGLN Koala Action Plan

14. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Below is the procedure for project implementation.

14.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

All landholders are to express interest in a project either through a written application form or online via the South Gippsland Landcare Network website. This should occur when requests for expression of interest are open. For further information on this please refer to our communications plan (page 54).

14.2 SITE VISIT

Project officers will undertake a site visit to assess all expression of interest. Suitable project boundaries will be mapped and assessed using the Habitat Hectares assessment method. All project officers should be trained in using Habitat Hectares assessment prior to commencing the project.

Additionally, landholders will be asked:

What type of landholder are they?

- Active volunteer
- New volunteer
- Inactive

Is it the 1st project in the area?

- Yes
- No

How is the landholder supported?

- Landcare Group supporting
- No community support

Links to previous proposed project

- Yes
- No

Please see the appendix 3 for detailed descriptions of each section.

14.3 ENSYM

Upon completion of the site visit the project officer should immediately enter the site details into Ensym following the correct naming procedure.

14.4 SCORING

Upon completion of all projects, projects will be ranked against one another using the score provided by Ensym. Remnant and revegetation projects are to be independently assessed.

The most highly ranked revegetation and remnant protection projects will be funded.

14.5 APPROVALS

Upon approval, management plans should be sent to the successful landholders to sign and return to the South Gippsland Landcare Network. This should be done within two weeks. Project officers should contact landholders in this period and organise to revisit the farm if required to pick up management plans, drop off gate sign and confirm photo-point monitoring. Landholders will receive 50% of the cost of the project upon receipt of the management plan.

Landholders who were not successful will be informed one week after all management plans are returned.

14.6 COMPLETION

At the beginning of July landholders will be sent a project report to assess the project's process.

Upon completion of their project, landholders should send a photopoint, any receipts and an invoice for the final 50% of the project. All projects should be completed by the end of September the year of commencing the project.

15. COMMUNICATION PLAN

The aim of this communication plan is to promote the importance of the Strzelecki Koala and the Friends of Strzelecki Koala program to a range of audiences.

As the program is multi-faceted (community education, onground works, schools program) a range of messages need to be communicated to a range of audiences.

This plan determines firstly what messages need to be communicated. They are:

- Information about the importance of the Strzelecki Koala.
- How the FOSK program can help the Strzelecki Koala.
- Information to landholders wishing to undertake onground works.
- Information about the Sowing Seeds School Program.
- Information about the online mapping and community ecologist program.

Secondly, the plan determines the channel of method of delivery this (as well as the reportable deliverable). These are altered depending on evidence in the past of the best techniques for engagement. For instance, engaging landholders has been seen to be achieved best through direct EOI mail outs, whilst dynamic, online techniques work best for engaging new and younger community members.

Lastly the plan highlights who is the intended audience. This varies greatly depending on the message.

●● AS THE PROGRAM IS MULTI-FACETED (INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION, ONGROUND WORKS, SCHOOLS PROGRAM) A RANGE OF MESSAGES NEED TO BE COMMUNICATED TO A RANGE OF AUDIENCES ●●

WHO IS FOSKY THE KOALA?

Fosky the Koala is the mascot of the Friends of Strzelecki Koala program and is a crucial part of the communication plan

Fosky is brought along to events, schools visits and information dissemination sessions enabling our audience to better remember, understand and identify the Network.

Fosky is also important at events as the costume is bright and colourful and catches people's attention, especially audiences not traditionally associated with Landcare such as children and those living in town. Attracting a wide range of audience is a very important component of the the Friends of Strzelecki Koala program.

The costume also recognises the importance of children and their influence over their parents in understanding and learning new messages and ideas. By teaching children the importance of Strzelecki Koalas, we are also hopefully planting seeds for future works.



Figure 27: Fosky hanging out at the Mirboo North Arty Gras

| Message | Deliverable | Description | Channel | Audience | Frequency |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sowing Seeds School Program | Creation of School Activity Manual | Document describing the Schools program broken down into 3 units (P-20 (3-6) (7-8) describing school activities | Website: www.fosk.org.au | South Gippsland teachers | Once. Update as required. |
| | Creation of a Schools and Education Page on SGLN website | Website page containing information on our schools program and containing links to activity manual document, follow up documents etc. | Website: www.fosk.org.au | South Gippsland students | Update as required. |
| | Creation of follow up documents for teachers to follow up from visit | Document explaining how teachers can follow up after visit from Fosky (please see box on page 52). | Handed out to teachers after visit, Page on www.fosk.org.au | South Gippsland teachers | Once. Update as required |
| Strzelecki Koala and the FOSK program | Habitat for Life Friends of Strzelecki Koalas General Information Brochure and membership | Document highlighting the H4L FOSK Project, explaining all aspects of the project | Handed out at field days and information sessions, in welcome packs | General community | Once. Update as required |
| | Creation of community pack (folder) | Folder bringing together all relevant information | Handed out at field days and information sessions | General community | Once. Update as required |
| | Friends of Strzelecki Article in SGLN newsletter | Newsletter with update of program and other Koala information | Send to FOSK members via post or E-news if requested | Friends of Strzelecki Koala Members | 4 times a year |
| | Creation of school information showbag (eco-bag) | All school students will receive a school info bag to contain: *You had a visit from Fosky today sheet *Facts and info sheet *Rulers *Membership form | Handed out at all school visits and stalls and events. | General community | Update as required. |
| | Media releases, Twitter, Facebook | Newspaper articles on events and other updates | Sentinel times, Leongatha Star, Foster Mirror | General community | Prior and after each event as required |
| Landholders wishing to undertake onground works | EOIs | General EOIs sent out to all members of the South Gippsland Landcare Network asking for expressions of interest for projects | Send to all Landcare members, advertised in local newspapers, advertised on Network notes | South Gippsland landholders | Once a year |
| | Landholder grant guidelines | Document explained guidelines of participating in project | Handed out to successful landholders, Page on www.fosk.org.au | South Gippsland landholders | Once. Update as required |
| | Gate Signs | Promotion of project to be placed on front gates of successful property's | Handed out to successful landholders | Approved landholders | Once a year |
| | Group Koala Action plans | Each target group will complete a simple Koala action plan looking at group areas and working our key linkages and biolinks, looking at key targets. All data will contribute to the project plan | Project Officers to assist each target group with creation of plan. These are to placed in plan, as well as on www.fosk.org.au | South Gippsland Landcare groups | Once. Update as required |
| Information about the citizen ecologist program | Online Computer map | Online computer map which encourages the community to record sightings of Koalas in South Gippsland | Page on www.fosk.org.au | Engaged community | Once. Update as required |
| | Media releases, Twitter, Facebook | Newspaper articles on events and other updates | Sentinel times, Leongatha Star, Foster Mirror | General community | Prior and after each event as required |

16. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation allows for continual improvement of the project processes and procedures allowing for improvement of not only this program, but future South Gippsland Landcare Network programs.

Monitoring of the program will consist of:

- Site information entered into Ensym by the project officer
- Social information about the landholder entered into Ensym by the project officer
- Project information including when the management plan is returned, when the final invoice is returned and copies of the photopoints entered into an SGLN database by the relevant project officers
- A database of schools participating in the program entered into a database by the relevant project officers
- A database of communication and extension activities to be updated ongoing throughout the year including number of attendees to events, number of reporting's of koalas to the website and the types and numbers of communications.

Evaluation will focus on:

- Are we on track to reach our targets we set out to? If not, why?
- Is our communication and outreach program working? If not, how can we change?

●● ARE WE ON TRACK TO REACH OUR TARGETS WE SET OUT TO? IF NOT, WHY? ●●



Figure 28: An iFarm computer mapping training course held in Bena