

M2G Planting (Tree & Shrub) Monitoring Report

Construction Corridor (Autumn 2016)

Prepared for
Icon Water

July 2016



DOCUMENT TRACKING

Item	Detail
Project Name	M2G Planting Monitoring: Autumn 2016
Project Number	14CANECO-0013
Project Manager	Matthew Dowle Level 1, 101 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000
Prepared by	Tom O'Sullivan
Reviewed by	Matthew Dowle
Approved by	Matthew Dowle
Status	FINAL
Version Number	1
Last saved on	13 July 2016
Cover photo	Selection of planting rehabilitation photos from the M2G pipeline corridor (Tom O'Sullivan, 2014)

This report should be cited as 'Eco Logical Australia and Bluegum Ecological Consulting July 2016. *M2G Planting Monitoring Report*. Prepared for Icon Water.'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document has been prepared by Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd and Bluegum Ecological Consulting with support from Icon Water.

Disclaimer

This document may only be used for the purpose for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the contract between Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd and ACTEW Water. The scope of services was defined in consultation with ACTEW Water, by time and budgetary constraints imposed by the client, and the availability of reports and other data on the subject area. Changes to available information, legislation and schedules are made on an ongoing basis and readers should obtain up to date information.

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report and its supporting material by any third party. Information provided is not intended to be a substitute for site specific assessment or legal advice in relation to any matter. Unauthorised use of this report in any form is prohibited.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Study area	1
1.3	Study aims	1
1.4	Planting regime	1
2	Methods	3
2.1	Monitoring regime	3
2.2	Selection of monitoring sites	3
2.3	Survey techniques.....	3
2.4	Key Performance Target	4
3	Results	5
3.1	Overview	5
3.1.1	Monitoring site TSP1	10
3.1.2	Monitoring site TSP2.....	11
3.1.3	Monitoring site TSP3.....	12
3.1.4	Monitoring site TSP4.....	13
3.1.5	Monitoring site TSP5.....	14
3.1.6	Monitoring site TSP6.....	15
3.1.7	Monitoring site TSP7	16
3.1.8	Monitoring site TSP8.....	17
3.1.9	Monitoring site TSP9.....	18
3.1.10	Monitoring site TSP10.....	19
3.1.11	Monitoring site TSP11	20
3.1.12	Monitoring site TSP12.....	21
3.2	Weeds.....	22
3.3	Threatened plants	22
3.4	Threatened fauna.....	22
3.5	Main Observations	22
3.6	Key Performance Targets	22
3.7	Replanting.....	22
3.8	Comments & Suggested Actions.....	22
4	Conclusion.....	23

References	24
Appendix 1: Figures	25
Appendix 2: Floristic data – tree & shrub plantings	30

List of figures

Figure 1: Location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the western section of the M2G construction corridor.	26
Figure 2: The location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the central-western section of the M2G construction corridor.	27
Figure 3: The location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the central-eastern section of the M2G construction corridor.	28
Figure 4: The location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the eastern section of the M2G construction corridor.	29

List of tables

Table 1: Species and quantity planted within the M2G construction corridor and structure sites during spring 2011 and autumn 2012.	2
Table 2: Tree and shrub (TSP) monitoring sites within the construction corridor and structure sites.	3
Table 3: Summary of tree and shrub monitoring results for the autumn 2015 monitoring period.	6
Table 4: Comparison of tree and shrub monitoring results from all sessions.	8
Table 5: Tree and shrub planting data from twelve sample sites: spring 2014 monitoring session.	30

Plates

Plate 1: Monitoring Site TSP1.	10
Plate 2: Monitoring Site TSP2.	11
Plate 3: Monitoring Site TSP3.	12
Plate 4: Monitoring Site TSP4.	13

Plate 5: Monitoring Site TSP5. 14

Plate 6: Monitoring Site TSP6. 15

Plate 7: Monitoring Site TSP7. 16

Plate 8: Monitoring Site TSP8. 17

Plate 9: Monitoring Site TSP9. 18

Plate 10: Monitoring Site TSP10. 19

Plate 11: Monitoring Site TSP11. 20

Plate 12: Monitoring Site TSP12. 21

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
BGGW	Box Gum Grassy Woodland
BWA	Bulk Water Alliance
EMP	Ecological Monitoring Sub-plan
ERG	Environment Reference Group
HLPS	High Lift Pump Station
LLPS	Low Lift Pump Station
LRTEMP	Landscape Rehabilitation and Terrestrial Ecology Management Plan
M2G	Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project
ORMP	Offset Rehabilitation Management Plan

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Eco Logical Australia (ELA) was commissioned by Icon Water (formerly ACTEW Corporation) to deliver terrestrial ecological services as required by the environmental approval process for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project (M2G). A component of that service is to provide post-construction rehabilitation monitoring in accordance with the Landscape Rehabilitation Management Plan (LRMP) for the M2G project, which has been undertaken by Blue Gum Ecological Consulting on behalf of ELA.

The following report examines the results of the autumn 2016 monitoring survey for rehabilitation planting within the M2G construction corridor and structure sites. This is the eighth in a series of bi-annual surveys documenting the progress of tree and shrub plantings.

1.2 Study area

The study area extends from the Low Lift Pump Station (LLPS) at Angle Crossing on the Murrumbidgee River to the discharge facility at Burra Creek; situated near the intersection of Williamsdale and Burra Roads. The pipeline construction corridor is approximately 12 km in length (**Figures 1-4, Appendix 1**).

The study area falls within the Williamsdale (8726-4N) 1:25,000 Map Sheet and is part of the South-east Highlands Bioregion (Commonwealth of Australia 2012).

1.3 Study aims

The original aim of the study was to monitor representative sub-sets of both herbaceous and woody rehabilitation planting, however, it became increasingly difficult to discriminate between planted and non-planted herbaceous specimens and this component of the monitoring program was discontinued in spring 2014¹. Monitoring of woody plantings (trees and shrubs) has continued without interruption.

1.4 Planting regime

Almost 5,000 woody seedlings, comprising nine native tree and eleven native shrub species², were planted within the M2G construction corridor and structure sites during spring 2011 and autumn 2012 (**Table 1**). In addition, 19 non-native tree and shrub species were planted in the eastern sections of the construction corridor at the request of landowners.

As was reported previously an additional 1,300 woody seedlings were planted prior to spring 2015, of these approximately 158 specimens were located at monitoring sites.

Species selection and planting distribution were guided by former vegetation type, spatial characteristics and vegetation lost as a result of construction. Additional woody plantings were included as part of compensatory measures for habitat loss as well as for amenity.

¹ Concurrent plot-based monitoring of herbaceous *seeding* (as well as data collection of *non-seeded* regenerative growth) was unaffected and the results are presented in a separate report.

² Since the original planting at least two other native genus have been added: *Dodonaea* and *Grevillea*.

Table 1: Species and quantity planted within the M2G construction corridor and structure sites during spring 2011 and autumn 2012.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Total plantings pipeline corridor	Total plantings structures	Total
Native tree				
<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	Blakely's Red Gum			
<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	Apple Box			
<i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	Brittle Gum			
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box			
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	Red Box			
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum			
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark Gum			
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum			
<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>	Black Cypress Pine			
Sub-total		624	148	772
Native shrub				
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Water			
<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>	Spreading Wattle			
<i>Acacia rubida</i>	Red Stemmed Wattle			
<i>Acacia siculiformis</i>	Dagger Wattle			
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia			
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Hairy Bursaria			
<i>Leptospermum myrtifolium</i>	Myrtle Tea Tree			
<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i>	River Tea Tree			
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan			
<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	Shiny Cassinia			
<i>Indigofera australis</i>	Austral Indigo			
Sub-total		3,016	1,055	4,071
Non-native tree/shrub				
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm			
<i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigiata'	Upright English Oak			
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	European Chestnut			
<i>Populus spp.</i>	Poplar (TBC)			
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear			
Sub-total		19	-	19
Total native trees/shrub		3,640	1,203	4,843
Total non-native tree/shrub		19	-	19

2 Methods

2.1 Monitoring regime

Permanent monitoring sites were established and are sampled on a bi-annual basis (autumn and spring/summer).

The current monitoring survey was conducted in March 2016.

2.2 Selection of monitoring sites

Twelve tree and shrub monitoring sites were selected from approximately 80 planting arrays within the M2G construction corridor and structure sites (**Figures 1 – 4, Appendix 1**). Six sites (TSP 1-6) are situated in the ACT and six (TSP 7-12) in NSW (**Table 2**).

The spatial arrangement of sampling sites was influenced by the original placement of planting arrays (most of which were located in areas of former native vegetation), which resulted in fewer sampling sites in the eastern non-native section of the construction corridor than in the central and western sections. Sample sites were also selected to include variations in slope and aspect, soil moisture and vegetation types.

Sample sites were marked with a red-tipped wooden stake, at which grid co-ordinates and photographs were taken.

Table 2: Tree and shrub (TSP) monitoring sites within the construction corridor and structure sites.

Site ID [^]	Approx. chainage from LLPS	Co-ordinates	Jurisdiction	Property
TSP1	250	691345 - 6060236	ACT	PCS (Murrumbidgee R. corridor)
TSP2	1025	691964 - 6060519	ACT	PCS (Murrumbidgee R. corridor)
TSP3	1350	692256 - 6060605	ACT	Icon leasehold
TSP4	1900	692592 - 6060707	ACT	Icon leasehold
TSP5	2325	693226 - 6060578	ACT	Icon leasehold
TSP6	2650	693528 - 6060505	ACT	Icon leasehold
TSP7	3040	693927 - 6060542	NSW	Smith
TSP8	4975	695663 - 6060392	NSW	Loneragan
TSP9	5475	696175 - 6060305	NSW	Loneragan
TSP10	6425	697084 - 6060204	NSW	Johanson
TSP11	9300	699277 - 6061925	NSW	Latimer
TSP12	11900	701346 - 6063099	NSW	Discharge facility

2.3 Survey techniques

A simple quantitative sampling method was used to measure tree and shrub planting success. Specimens were counted, identified to at least genus level and their health determined according to the following criteria:

- *Good Health* - indicated by vigorous growth, fully leaved with expected colouration for that species;

- *Poor Health* - stems or leaves discoloured, foliage limited or easily dislodged, specimen may appear stunted or heavily browsed;
- *Dead* - absence of leaves, stem or leaves entirely discoloured or desiccated with no visible living vegetative material.

2.4 Key Performance Target

The current Key Performance Target (KPT) for tree and shrub plantings is **90%** survival rate, which was arbitrarily set by the BWA and the planting contractor in early 2012. Unfortunately, the KPT provided in the M2G Landscape Rehabilitation and Terrestrial Ecology Management Plan (LRTEMP) does not explicitly refer to a **90%** target.

A previous recommendation to reduce the KPT to 70% is yet to be endorsed.

3 Results

3.1 Overview

The total sample population was **739**, of which **365 (49.4%)** specimens were in good health, **74 (10.0%)** in poor health and **300 (40.6%)** either dead or missing (**Table 3**). Overall, there was a **2.8%** improvement in specimen health from the previous spring monitoring session, but this was offset to some extent by a **1.4%** increase in dead and missing specimens.

Seven sites (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 & 11) exhibited improved specimen health, four sites (6, 7, 9 and 12) declined and one site (8) showed no change (**Chart 1**).

Although total planting health improved slightly no site met the current 90% KPT. Two sites (7 & 8) had more than **80%** of plantings in good health (although these sites account for less than 5% of the total sample population), and Site 6, which previously achieved 95.7% after recent replanting, has had a significant decline in planting health falling to **49.1%** (**Chart 1**).

Consistent with previous results planting success was higher in NSW (**68.5%**) than in the ACT (**38.2%**) (**Chart 1**), though the trend for the ACT has improved slightly.

Extrapolating the current results to the total planted population (**Table 1**) would yield approximately **2,392** plantings in good health, **484** in poor health and **1,966** dead or missing. Given a sample error of +/- 5%, the total number of plantings in good health could vary from **2,635** to **2,150**.

Details of each monitoring site are provided in Sub-Sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.12, below (*Note: bracketed numbers in the central column provide results from the previous spring 2015 monitoring period*). Full data sets are provided in **Table 5** in **Appendix 2** with comparisons from previous results in **Table 4** and **Chart 2**.

Table 3: Summary of tree and shrub monitoring results for the autumn 2016 monitoring period. Sites 1 to 6 occur in the ACT and 7 to 12 in NSW.

Site ID	Seedling Health				Total Plantings	% Health		Additional Plantings prior to spring 2015
	Good	Poor	Dead*	Combined Poor/Dead*		Good	Poor/Dead*	
TSP1	30	11	51	62	92	32.6	67.4	Unknown ^A
TSP2	67	2	58	60	127	52.7	47.3	
TSP3	31	8	56	64	95	32.6	67.4	33
TSP4	9	4	63	67	76	11.8	88.2	4
TSP5	13	1	5	6	19	68.4	31.6	16
TSP6	28	15	14	29	57	49.1	50.9	55
Total ACT	178	41	247	288	466	38.2	61.8	
TSP7	20	4	0	4	24 (23)	83.3	16.7	7
TSP8	8	0	1	1	9	88.9	11.1	
TSP9	12	6	6	12	24	50.0	50.0	
TSP10	97	10	32	42	139	69.7	30.3	20 ^B
TSP11	8	1	3	4	12	66.7	33.3	
TSP12	42	12	11	23	65	64.6	35.4	23 ^B
Total NSW	187	33	53	86	273	68.5	31.5	
Total plantings	365	74	300	374	739 (738)			
Av. per site	30.4	6.2	25.0	31.2	61.6			
%	49.4	10.0	40.6	50.6	100.0			

() = previous total as at spring 2015

* = Includes missing specimens

^A = included an undetermined number new plantings post-spring 2015

^B = estimate

Chart 1: Proportion of plantings in good health at each site during all monitoring periods. ACT sites = TSP 1-6 and NSW sites = TSP 7-12.

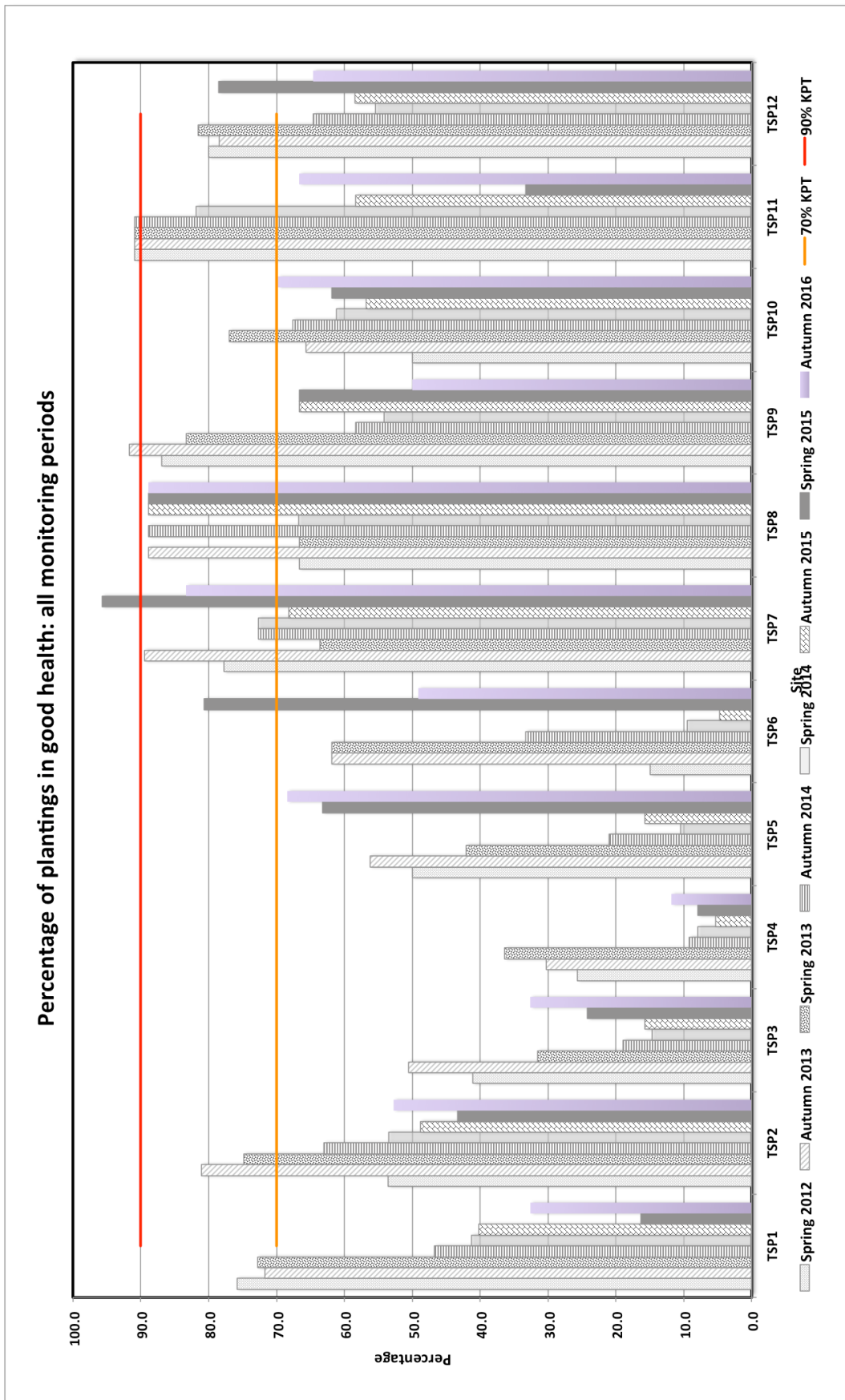
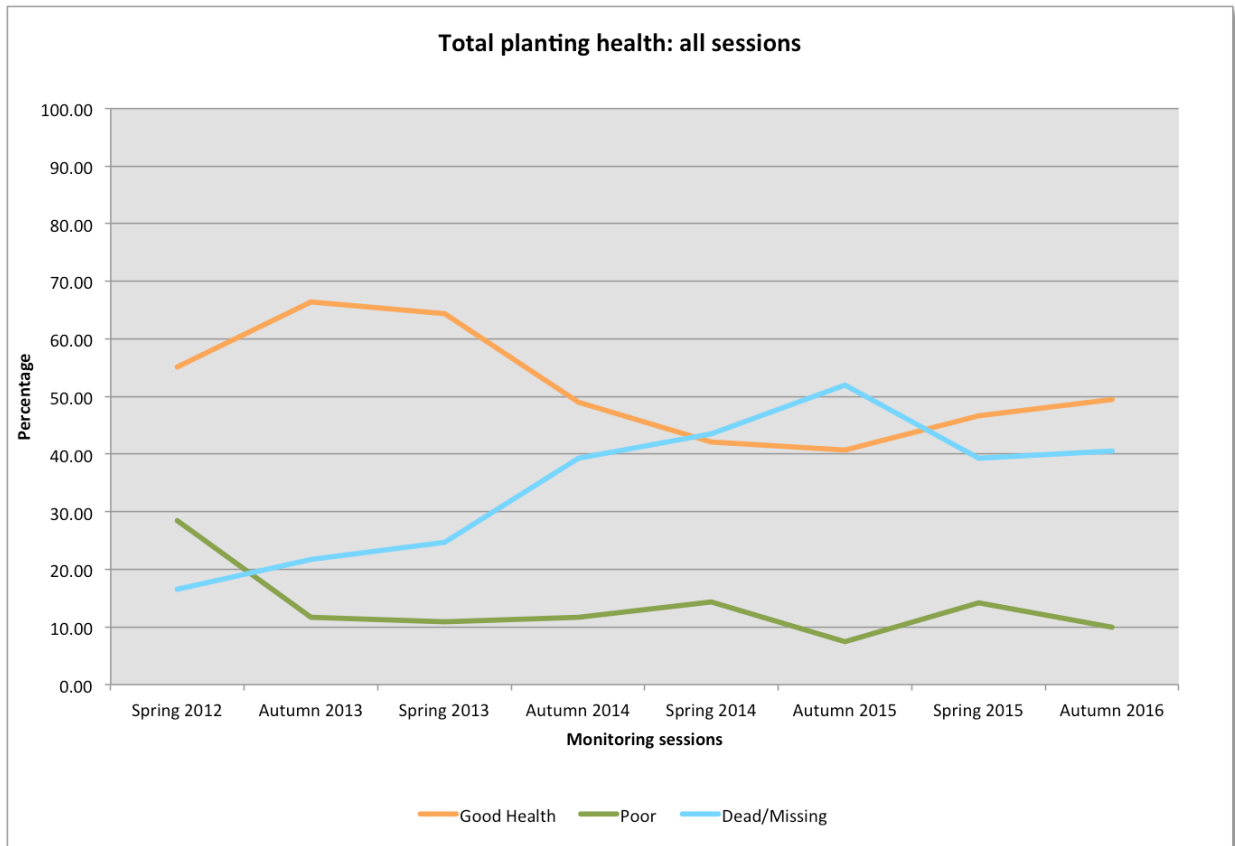


Table 4: Comparison of tree and shrub monitoring results from all sessions.

Monitoring period	Seedling Health			Poor/Dead* Combined	Total Plantings	New Plantings
	Good	Poor	Dead*			
Spring 2012						
Total number	364	188	109	297	661	-
Av. per site	30.3	15.7	9.1	24.8		
%	55.1	28.5	16.5	45.0		
Autumn 2013						
Total number	458	81	150	231	689	-
Av. per site	38.2	6.7	12.5	19.2		
%	66.5	11.7	21.8	33.5		
Spring 2013						
Total number	451	76	173	249	700	-
Av. per site	37.6	6.3	14.4	20.7		
%	64.4	10.9	24.7	35.6		
Autumn 2014						
Total number	343	82	275	357	700	-
Av. per site	28.6	6.8	22.9	20.7		
%	49.0	11.7	39.3	35.6		
Spring 2014						
Total number	295	100	305	405	700	-
Av. per site	24.6	8.3	25.4	33.7		
%	42.1	14.3	43.6	57.9		
Autumn 2015						
Total number	285	52	364	416	701	-
Av. per site	23.8	4.3	30.3	33.7		
%	40.7	7.4	51.9	59.3		
Spring 2015						
Total number	344	105	289	394	738	158
Av. per site	28.7	8.8	24.1	32.8		
%	46.6	14.2	39.2	53.4		
Autumn 2016						
Total number	365	74	300	374	739	? (TSP1)
Av. per site	30.4	6.2	25	31.2		
%	49.4	10.0	40.6	50.6		

* Includes missing specimens

Chart 2: Total planting health across all monitoring periods.



3.1.1 Monitoring site TSP1

Jurisdiction	ACT	TSP1 Situated within the Murrumbidgee River Corridor immediately W and NW of the HLPS, about 250 m from the LLPS.
Co-ordinates	691345 – 6060236	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	8	Planting health improved by 16.3% with 32.6% of plantings currently in good condition. Contained an undetermined number of new plantings.
Specimen health		
Good	30 (15)	Recommendation: Provide sufficient maintenance for remaining specimens.
Poor	11 (25)	
Dead / Missing	50 (52)	
Total plantings	92	



Plate 1: Monitoring Site TSP1. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.2 Monitoring site TSP2

Jurisdiction	ACT	TSP2 is located within the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, about 1,025 m from the LLPS.
Co-ordinates	691964 – 6060519	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	5	Planting health improved by 9.4% with 52.7% of plantings currently in good condition. Replanting was not undertaken at this site. Recommendation: Provide sufficient maintenance for remaining specimens.
Specimen health		
Good	67 (55)	
Poor	2 (14)	
Dead / Missing	58 (58)	
Total plantings	127	



Plate 2: Monitoring Site TSP2. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.3 Monitoring site TSP3

Jurisdiction	ACT	TSP3 is located within the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, about 1,350 m from the LLPS.
Co-ordinates	691964 – 6060519	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	6 (5)	Planting health improved by 8.4% with 32.6% of specimens currently in good condition. Recommendation: Provide sufficient maintenance for remaining specimens.
Seedling health		
Good	31 (23)	
Poor	8 (18)	
Dead / Missing	56 (54)	
Total plantings	95	



Plate 3: Monitoring Site TSP3. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.4 Monitoring site TSP4

Jurisdiction	ACT	TSP4 is located about 1,900 m from the LLPS within the ACT.
Co-ordinates	692592 – 6060707	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	3	Planting health improved by 3.9% with 11.8% of specimens currently in good condition.
Seedling health		
Good	9 (6)	<i>Note: Most plantings either perished or were removed prior to autumn 2014.</i>
Poor	4 (6)	
Dead / Missing	63 (64)	
Total plantings	76	Recommendation: Additional planting is not recommended for this site.



Plate 4: Monitoring Site TSP4. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.5 Monitoring site TSP5

Jurisdiction	ACT	TSP5 is located about 2,325 m from the LLPS within the ACT.
Co-ordinates	693226 – 6060578	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	4 (3)	Planting health increased by 5.2% with 68.4% of specimens currently in good condition.
Seedling health		
Good	13 (12)	Recommendation: Provide sufficient maintenance for new plantings
Poor	1 (2)	
Dead / Missing	5 (5)	
Total plantings	19	



Plate 5: Monitoring Site TSP5. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.6 Monitoring site TSP6

Jurisdiction	ACT	<p>TSP6 is located about 2,650 m from the LLPS - west of and adjacent to the Monaro Hwy within the ACT.</p> <p>Significant decline in planting health, falling from 80.7% in spring 2015 (following replanting) to 49.1% during the current survey.</p> <p>Recommendation: Provide sufficient maintenance for new plantings.</p>
Co-ordinates	693528 – 6060505	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	4 (3)	
Seedling health		
Good	28 (46)	
Poor	15 (5)	
Dead / Missing	14 (6)	
Total plantings	57	



Plate 6: Monitoring Site TSP6. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.7 Monitoring site TSP7

Jurisdiction	NSW	TSP7 is located about 3,040 m from the LLPS within the Smith property, NSW.
Co-ordinates	693927 – 6060542	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	4 (4)	There was a 12.4% decline in planting health, falling from 95.7% in spring 2015 (when replanted) to 83.3% during the current survey. Recommendation: Provide sufficient maintenance for new plantings.
Seedling health		
Good	20 (22)	
Poor	4 (0)	
Dead / Missing	0 (1)	
Total plantings	24 (23)	

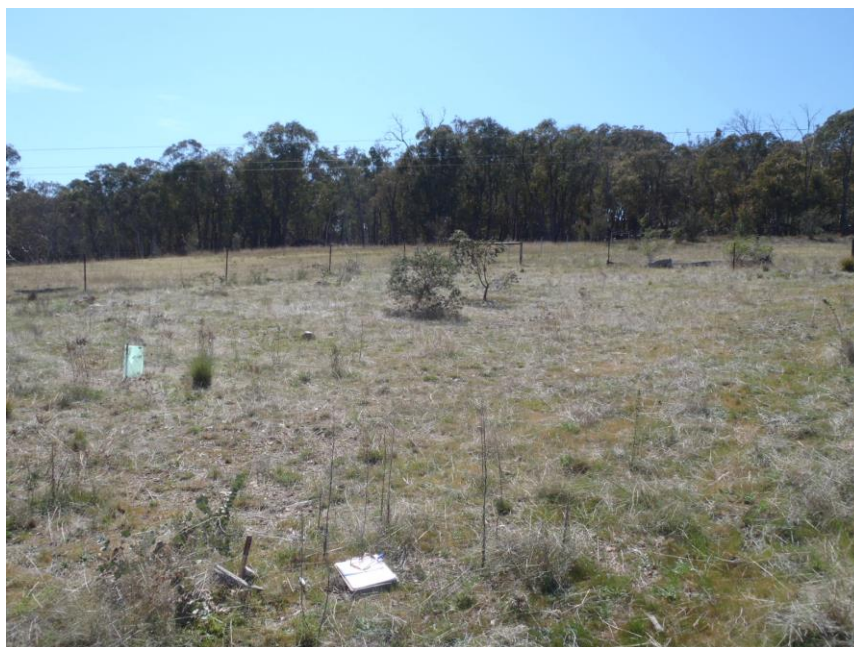


Plate 7: Monitoring Site TSP7. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.8 Monitoring site TSP8

Jurisdiction	NSW	TSP8 is located about 4,975 m from the LLPS within the Lonergan property, NSW.
Co-ordinates	695663 – 6060392	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	2	The proportion of specimens in good health remained constant at 88.9% . Tree heights range from 1m – 4 m. Replanting was not undertaken at this site. Recommendation: Provide sufficient planting maintenance.
Seedling health		
Good	8 (8)	
Poor	0 (0)	
Dead / Missing	1 (1)	
Total plantings	9	



Plate 8: Monitoring Site TSP8. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.9 Monitoring site TSP9

Jurisdiction	NSW	<p>TSP9 is located about 5,475 m from the LLPS within the Lonergan property, NSW.</p> <p>Planting health declined by 16.7% with 50.0% of specimens currently in good condition. At least two plantings had significant lerp infestation with other plantings engulfed by rank pasture grass, which may have a limiting effect on future planting success.</p> <p>Recommendation: Provide sufficient planting maintenance; i.e. reduce the density of groundcover herbage.</p>
Co-ordinates	696175 – 6060305	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	3	
Seedling health		
Good	12 (16)	
Poor	6 (6)	
Dead / Missing	6 (2)	
Total plantings	24	



Plate 9: Monitoring Site TSP9. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.10 Monitoring site TSP10

Jurisdiction	NSW	TSP10 is located about 6,425 m from the LLPS within the Johanson property, NSW.
Co-ordinates	697084 – 6060204	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	8	Planting health increased by 7.8% with 69.7% of specimens currently in good condition.
Seedling health		
Good	97 (86)	
Poor	10 (20)	Some tree guards remain choked with herbage, which may have a limiting effect on planting health.
Dead / Missing	32 (33)	
Total plantings	139	Recommendation: Provide sufficient planting maintenance.



Plate 10: Monitoring Site TSP10. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.11 Monitoring site TSP11

Jurisdiction	NSW	TSP11 is located about 9,300 m from the LLPS within the Latimer property, NSW.
Co-ordinates	699277 – 6061925	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	3	Planting health increased by 33.4% with 66.7% of plantings currently in good condition. It seems that some specimens previously identified as poor have exhibited some recovery with one specimen previously identified as dead exhibiting basal growth.
Seedling health		
Good	8 (4)	Most plantings were engulfed by pasture grass, which may have a limiting effect on planting health.
Poor	1 (4)	
Dead / Missing	3 (4)	
Total plantings	12	Recommendation: Provide additional planting maintenance, in particular, reduce the density of groundcover vegetation.



Plate 11: Monitoring Site TSP11. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.1.12 Monitoring site TSP12

Jurisdiction	NSW	TSP12 is located about 11,900 m from the LLPS near the discharge facility, NSW.
Co-ordinates	701346 – 6063099	
No. of tree & shrub species planted	4	Planting health decreased by 13.9% with 64.6% of specimens currently in good condition. Recommendation: Provide sufficient planting maintenance.
Seedling health		
Good	42 (51)	
Poor	12 (5)	
Dead / Missing	11 (9)	
Total plantings	65	



Plate 12: Monitoring Site TSP12. The image on the left is from spring 2015 and the right autumn 2016.

3.2 Weeds

Noxious species and broad-leaf weeds such as *Conyza* sp. (Fleabane), *Verbena bonariensis* (Purple-top), *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's Wort) and *Echium vulgare* (Viper's Bugloss) have a wide distribution within the construction corridor and are discussed in greater detail in the M2G Seeding (Plot) Monitoring Report, Autumn 2016.

Groundcover smothering of plantings was observed in the eastern and central sections of the corridor, particularly at Sites 9, 10 and 11, which are associated with non-native pasture.

3.3 Threatened plants

No new observations to report.

3.4 Threatened fauna

No new observations to report.

3.5 Main Observations

- plantings in good health increased from **46.6%** to **49.4%**
- plantings in poor health declined from **14.2%** to **10.1%**
- dead or missing plantings increased slightly from **39.2%** to **40.6%**
- Planting success in NSW continues to outperform the ACT, with **68.5%** and **38.2%**, respectively, in good condition.

3.6 Key Performance Targets

Recommendations to lower the KPTs to 70% were proposed in the autumn 2015 report.

3.7 Replanting

Apart for TSP 1, there was no other indication of additional replanting post-spring 2015.

3.8 Comments & Suggested Actions

Planting maintenance should be improved, particularly watering at exposed or elevated situations, and reducing the amount of smothering herbage around plantings on properties associated with non-native pasture.

As previously stated, the current KPT (90%) is considered onerous and would require continued long-term re-planting and maintenance strategy to keep pace with anticipated losses, and ultimately the current target may never be achieved. In our opinion the KPT should be reduced to a more realistic and achievable target of 70%.

4 Conclusion

The current monitoring survey was conducted in March 2016 and marks the eighth successive seasonal monitoring survey since the commencement of the study in spring 2012. The study measured the performance of rehabilitation planting using a simple quantitative method to determine planting success or failure.

The current survey found **365** (49.4%) specimens to be in good health, **74** (10.0%) in poor health and **300** (40.6%) either dead or missing. This result represents a modest **2.8%** improvement in specimen health compared to the previous monitoring period.

Proposed actions include, improved planting maintenance and reduce the current KPT of 90% to 70%.

References

Eco Logical Australia (March 2011). *Summary of existing vegetation condition – Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Project*. Prepared for Bulk Water Alliance Joint Venture.

Blue Gum Ecological Consulting (July 2012) *Rehabilitation Planting Monitoring Report (Spring 2012): M2G Construction Corridor*. Prepared for EcoLogical Australia Pty Ltd.

Commonwealth of Australia (2012). *Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia, Version 7*. Map produced by ERIN for the National Reserved System Section, Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

LRTEMP (2014). *Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer: Landscape Rehabilitation & Terrestrial Ecology Management Plan*. Version 2 (January 2014). ACTEW Corporation Ltd.

Appendix 1: Figures

Figures 1 – 4 display the locations of the tree and shrub monitoring sites within the M2G construction corridor:

- **Figure 1:** Western section
- **Figure 2:** Central-western section
- **Figure 3:** Central-eastern section
- **Figure 4:** Eastern section

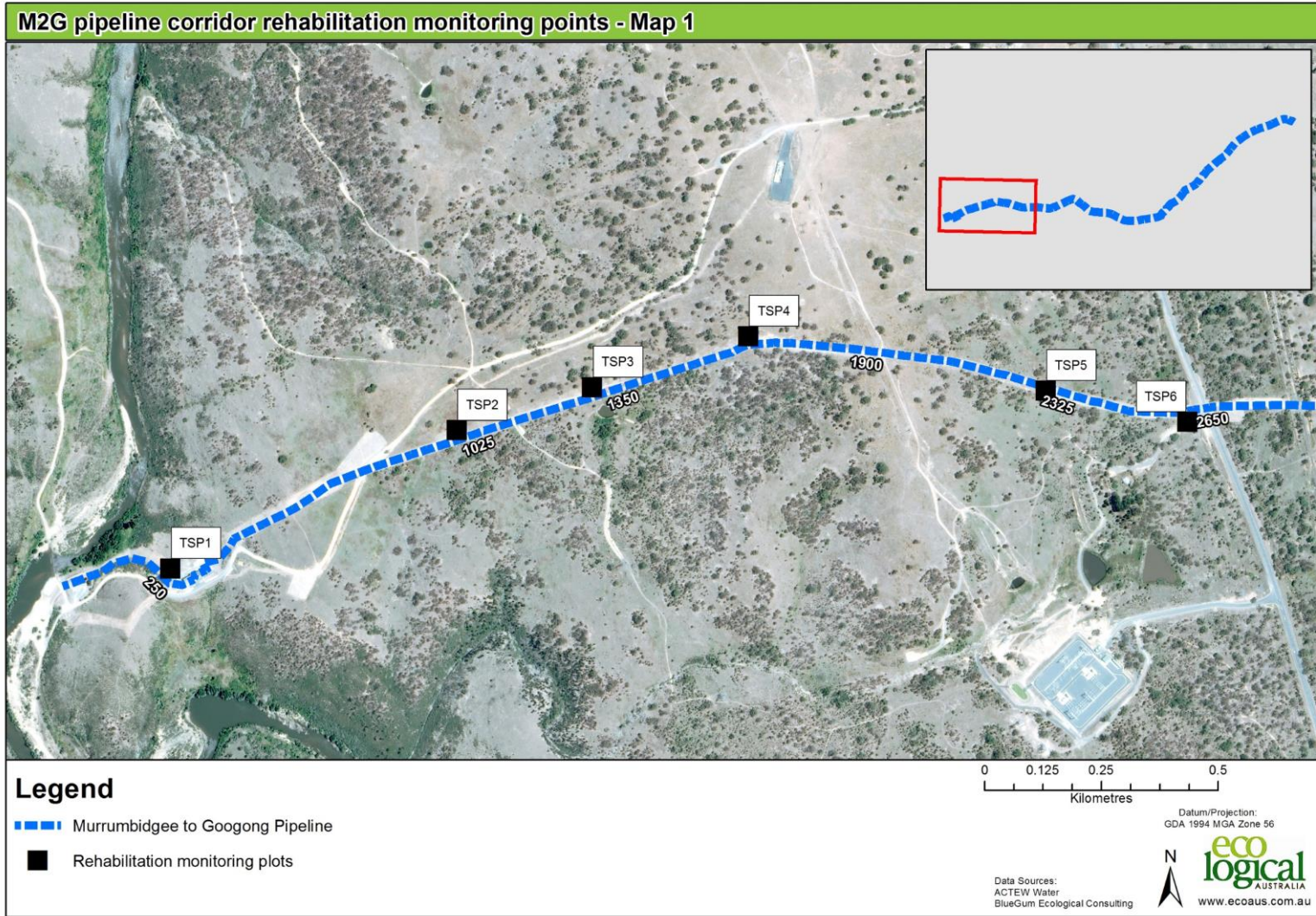


Figure 1: Location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the western section of the M2G construction corridor.

M2G pipeline corridor rehabilitation monitoring points - Map 2

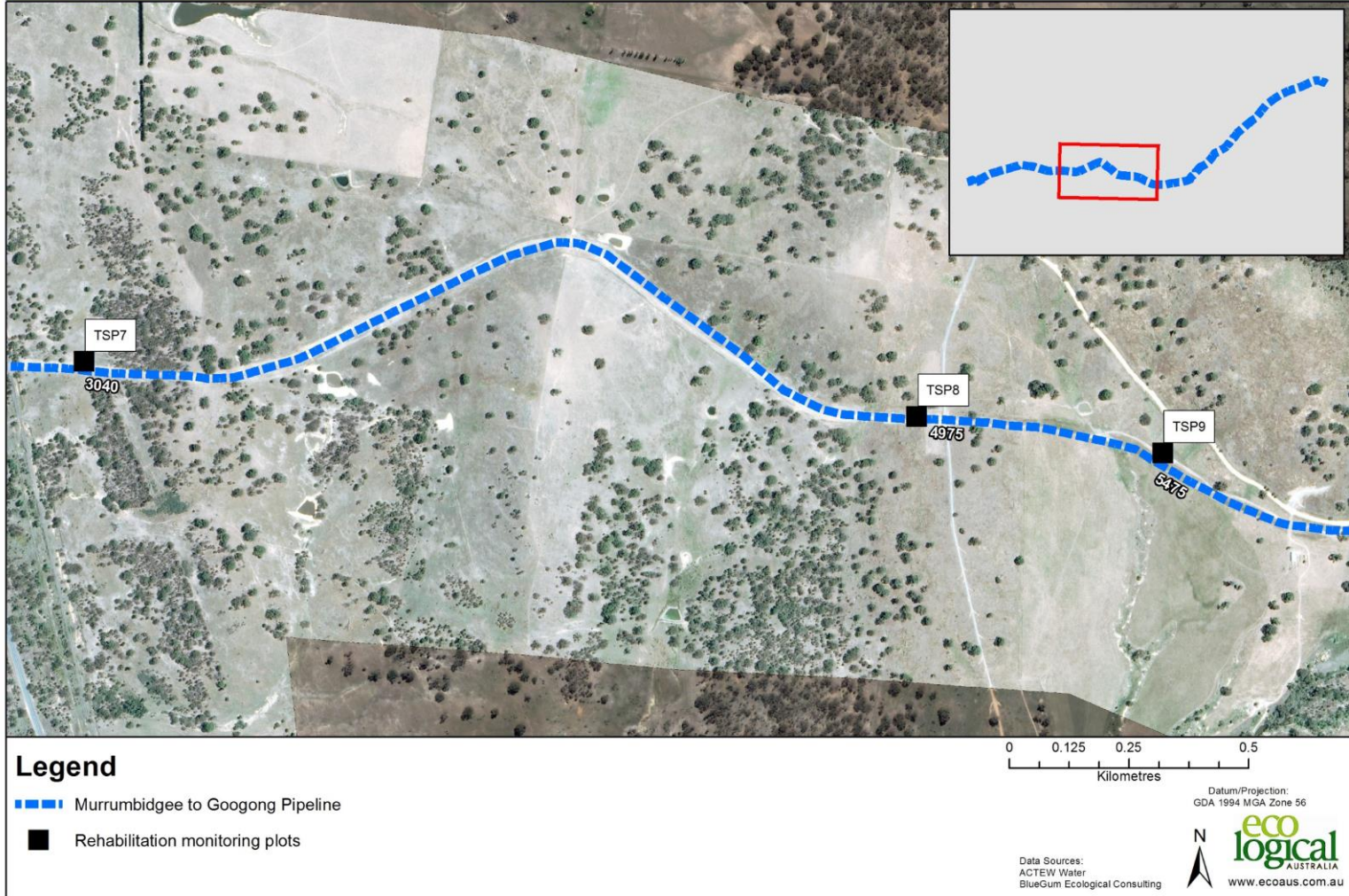
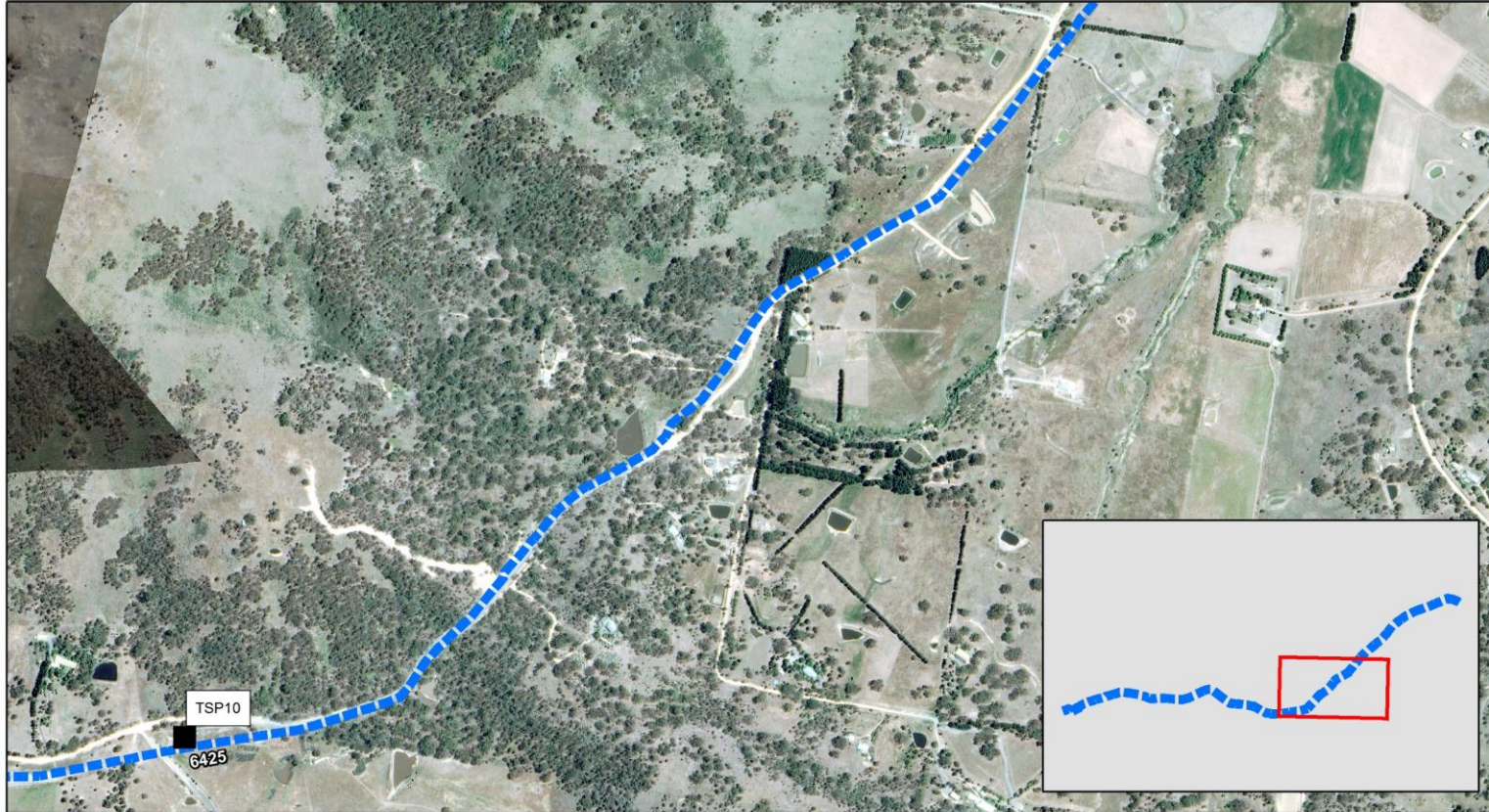


Figure 2: The location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the central-western section of the M2G construction corridor.

M2G pipeline corridor rehabilitation monitoring points - Map 3



Legend

- Murrumbidgee to Googong Pipeline
- Rehabilitation monitoring plots

0 0.125 0.25 0.5
Kilometres

Datum/Projection:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Data Sources:
ACTEW Water
BlueGum Ecological Consulting



eco
logical
AUSTRALIA
www.ecoaus.com.au

Figure 3: The location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the central-eastern section of the M2G construction corridor.

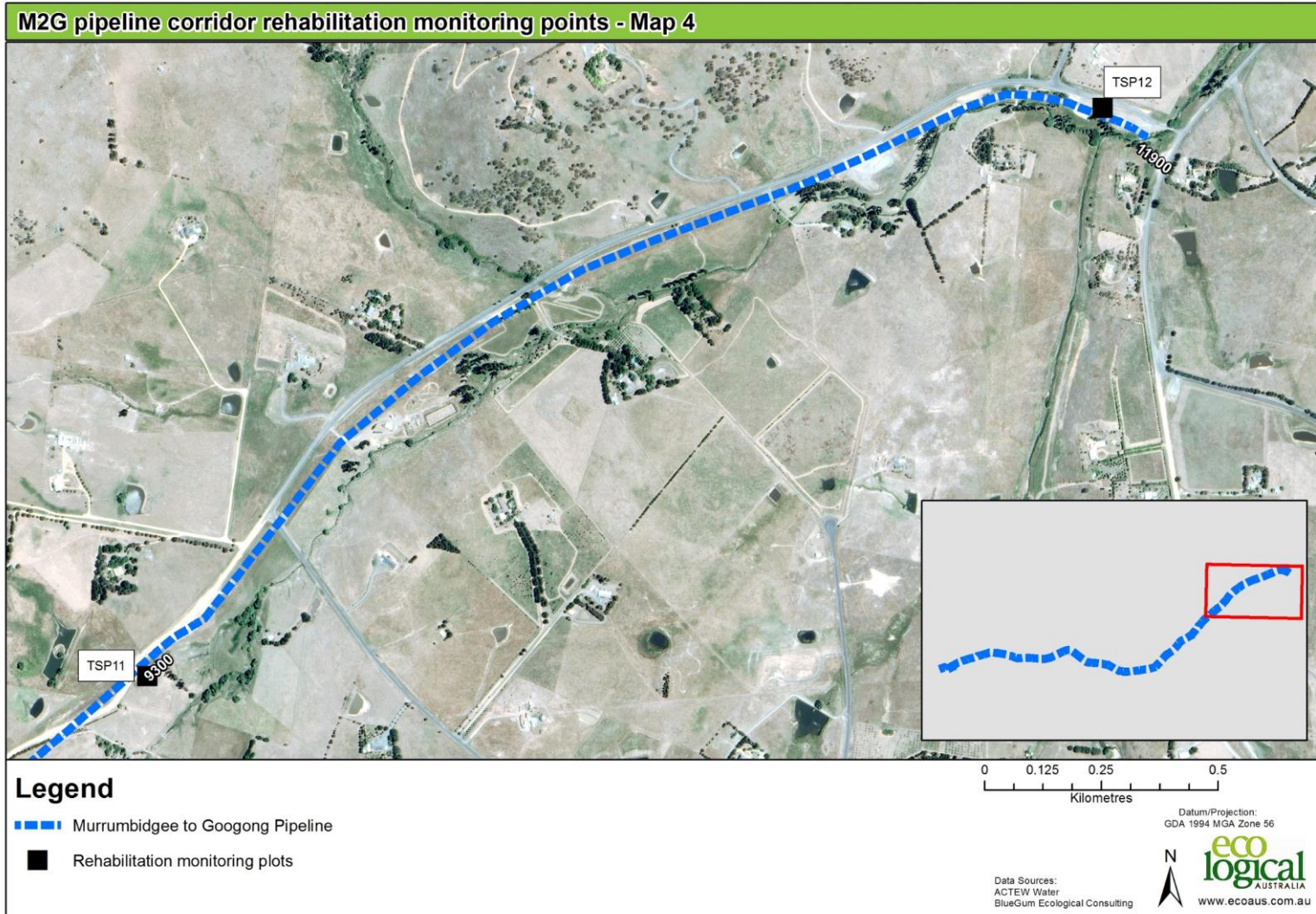


Figure 4: The location of tree and shrub monitoring sites within the eastern section of the M2G construction corridor.

Appendix 2: Floristic data – tree & shrub plantings

Table 5: Tree and shrub planting data from twelve sample sites: autumn 2016 monitoring session.

- Figures in the dead column are not necessarily species specific.

Site ID	Species	Good Health	Poor Health*	Dead	Missing	Total	New Plantings
TSP1	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	10	6	1		17	
TSP1	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	2	1			3	
TSP1	<i>Cassinia sp.</i>	5	2			7	
TSP1	<i>E. mannifera</i>	5	1			6	
TSP1	<i>E. melliodora</i>	7	1			8	3?
TSP1	<i>Unknown Euc.</i>					-	
TSP1	<i>Grevillea sp.</i>					-	
TSP1	<i>Hakea sp.</i>	1				1	
TSP1	<i>Leptospermum sp.</i>					-	
TSP1	<i>Unknown</i>			3	47	50	
Total		30	11	4	47	92	3?
% good						32.6%	
% poor/dead/missing						67.4%	
TSP2	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	51	2	3	1	57	
TSP2	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	6				6	
TSP2	<i>Cassinia sp.</i>					-	
TSP2	<i>Grevillea sp.</i>	5				5	
TSP2	<i>Kunzea sp.</i>					-	
TSP2	<i>Leptospermum/Kunzea sp.</i>	5				5	
TSP2	<i>Unknown</i>				54	54	
Total		67	2	3	55	127	0
% good						52.7%	
% poor/dead/missing						47.3%	
TSP3	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	21	5			26	
TSP3	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	4				4	
TSP3	<i>Dodonaea sp.</i>	4				4	
TSP3	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	1				1	
TSP3	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>		1			1	
TSP3	<i>Leptospermum/Kunzea sp.</i>	1	2		2	5	
TSP3	<i>Unknown</i>			5	49	54	
Total		31	8	5	51	95	?
% good						32.6%	
% poor/dead/missing						67.4%	

Site ID	Species	Good Health	Poor Health*	Dead	Missing	Total	New Plantings
TSP4	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	8	3	1		12	
TSP4	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>					-	
TSP4	<i>Dodonaea sp.</i>	1	1			2	
TSP4	<i>Leptospermum sp.</i>					-	
TSP4	<i>Unknown</i>				62	62	
Total		9	4	1	62	76	
% good						11.8%	
% poor/dead/missing						88.2%	
TSP5	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	5	1	1		7	
TSP5	<i>Cassinia sp.</i>	5				5	
TSP5	<i>Dodonaea sp.</i>	2				2	
TSP5	<i>E. bridgesiana</i>	1				1	
TSP5	<i>E. dives*</i>					-	
TSP5	<i>E. melliodora</i>					-	
TSP5	<i>Unknown</i>			1	3	4	
Total		13	1	2	3	19	
% good						68.4%	
% poor/dead/missing						31.6%	
TSP6	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	9	9			18	
TSP6	<i>Dodonaea sp.</i>	6	1			7	
TSP6	<i>E. blakelyi</i>					-	
TSP6	<i>E. bridgesiana</i>	5	2			7	
TSP6	<i>E. melliodora</i>	8	3			11	
TSP6	<i>Unknown Eucalyptus</i>			1			
TSP6	<i>Unknown</i>			7	6	13	
Total		28	15	8	6	57	
% good						49.1%	
% poor/dead/missing						50.9%	
TSP7	<i>E. blakelyi</i>	2				2	
TSP7	<i>E. bridgesiana</i>	7	1			8	
TSP7	<i>E. melliodora</i>	8	3			11	
TSP7	<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	1				1	?
TSP7	<i>E. dives</i>					-	
TSP7	<i>Unknown Eucalyptus^A</i>	2				2	
TSP7	<i>Unknown</i>					-	
Total		20	4	0	0	24 (23)	?
% good						83.3%	
% poor/dead/missing						16.7%	
TSP8	<i>E. mannifera</i>	3				3	
TSP8	<i>E. melliodora</i>	5				5	
TSP8	<i>Leptospermum sp.</i>					-	
TSP8	<i>Unknown</i>				1	1	
Total		8	0	0	1	9	0
% good						88.9%	

Site ID	Species	Good Health	Poor Health*	Dead	Missing	Total	New Plantings
% poor/dead/missing						11.1%	
TSP9	<i>E. blakelyi</i>	4	1			5	
TSP9	<i>E. melliodora</i>	7	5			16	
TSP9	<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	1				1	
TSP9	<i>Unknown</i>			3	3	6	
Total		12	6	3	3	24	0
% good						50.0%	
% poor/dead/missing						50.0%	
TSP10	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	23	2			25	
TSP10	<i>Callistemon sp.</i>	11				11	
TSP10	<i>Dodonaea sp.</i>	2				2	
TSP10	<i>E. blakelyi</i>	1				1	
TSP10	<i>E. bridgesiana</i>	5				5	
TSP10	<i>E. mannifera</i>	6	2	1		9	
TSP10	<i>E. melliodora</i>	13	2			15	
TSP10	<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	36	4			40	
TSP10	<i>Unknown Eucalyptus</i>						
TSP10	<i>Unknown</i>			6	25	31	
Total		97	10	7	25	139	
% good						69.7%	
% poor/dead/missing						30.3%	
TSP11	<i>E. blakelyi</i>	2		1		3	
TSP11	<i>E. bridgesiana</i>	3	1			4	
TSP11	<i>E. melliodora</i>	3				3	
TSP11	<i>Unknown</i>				2	1	
Total		8	1	1	2	12	0
% good						66.7%	
% poor/dead/missing						33.3%	
TSP12	<i>Acacia sp.</i>	17	8			25	
TSP12	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	8	1			7	
TSP12	<i>Cassinia sp.</i>					1	
TSP12	<i>Dodonaea sp.</i>	3				3	
TSP12	<i>E. mannifera</i>	2	2			5	
TSP12	<i>E. melliodora</i>	2				1	
TSP12	<i>E. polyanthemos</i>		1			1	
TSP12	<i>Leptospermum/Kunzea</i>	10				10	
TSP12	<i>Unknown</i>			6	5	7	
Total		42	12	6	5	65	
% good						64.6%	
% poor/dead/missing						35.4%	
TOTAL		365	74	40	260	739	

^A = Unknown eucalypt, probably *E. bridgesiana*

**HEAD OFFICE**

Suite 4, Level 1
2-4 Merton Street
Sutherland NSW 2232
T 02 8536 8600
F 02 9542 5622

SYDNEY

Level 6
299 Sussex Street
Sydney NSW 2000
T 02 8536 8650
F 02 9264 0717

ST GEORGES BASIN

8/128 Island Point Road
St Georges Basin NSW 2540
T 02 4443 5555
F 02 4443 6655

CANBERRA

Level 2
11 London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601
T 02 6103 0145
F 02 6103 0148

NEWCASTLE

Suites 28 & 29, Level 7
19 Bolton Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
T 02 4910 0125
F 02 4910 0126

NAROOMA

5/20 Cauty Street
Narooma NSW 2546
T 02 4476 1151
F 02 4476 1161

COFFS HARBOUR

35 Orlando Street
Coffs Harbour Jetty NSW 2450
T 02 6651 5484
F 02 6651 6890

ARMIDALE

92 Taylor Street
Armidale NSW 2350
T 02 8081 2681
F 02 6772 1279

MUDGEES

Unit 1, Level 1
79 Market Street
Mudgee NSW 2850
T 02 4302 1230
F 02 6372 9230

PERTH

Suite 1 & 2
49 Ord Street
West Perth WA 6005
T 08 9227 1070
F 08 9322 1358

WOLLONGONG

Suite 204, Level 2
62 Moore Street
Austinmer NSW 2515
T 02 4201 2200
F 02 4268 4361

GOSFORD

Suite 5, Baker One
1-5 Baker Street
Gosford NSW 2250
T 02 4302 1220
F 02 4322 2897

DARWIN

16/56 Marina Boulevard
Cullen Bay NT 0820
T 08 8989 5601

BRISBANE

PO Box 1422
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006
T 0400 494 366

1300 646 131
www.ecoaus.com.au