

## Flora and fauna assessments

This fact sheet provides information about the assessment of the natural values of land at Lot 3 Techno Park Drive, Kings Meadows, which is planned for development.

### What is Homes Tasmania planning to do with the land?

The 10.46ha site can deliver about 104 lots of land with proposed lot sizes ranging from 330m<sup>2</sup> to 3964m<sup>2</sup>. This will provide opportunities for a range of households, including strata developments, town houses and free-standing homes.

It will include the Council requirement of 5 per cent of the site to be dedicated to public open space.

Homes Tasmania commissioned a range of detailed, professional investigations, including flora and fauna, Aboriginal heritage, traffic and road safety, landslip, and bushfire risk assessments, which all support residential development.

### What about flora and fauna on the land?

Several detailed flora and fauna assessments conducted all confirmed that the land is environmentally degraded and does not contain native flora, fauna or habitats requiring protection.

Grazing from livestock, weed infestation, including blackberries, gorse and English broom, means that there is little capacity for native species like the remnants of a *Eucalyptus Viminalis* to regenerate.

Homes Tasmania commissioned GHD to conduct Significant Impact Tests for the Tasmanian Masked Owl, Swift Parrot and Eastern Barred Bandicoot under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC). This also confirmed the development is unlikely to have a significant impact on habitats as there was little evidence of any of these species on the site. No referral under the EPBA Act for any species is required.

A report commissioned by independent expert David James, a specialist in Tasmanian Masked Owls, concluded there was no evidence of current, recent or past Masked Owl activity on the site.

Mr James inspected 14 trees and 41 tree hollows, visually and with cameras, and found none were appropriate for nesting or roosting currently or in the future due to their inappropriate size and structure. All wildlife-free tree hollows that could provide potential habitat for Masked Owls were covered to prevent future occupation.

The assessments suggested that weeds on the site might offer temporary shelter for Eastern Barred Bandicoots and other small animals. However, the weeds aren't considered high-quality habitat and are unlikely to support more than a small or transient population.

### **What protections are there for wildlife that could be present during construction?**

All wildlife-free tree hollows that could provide potential habitat for Masked Owls were covered during the site inspection to prevent future occupation.

All trees will be inspected for wildlife again before tree removal works commence.

The proposed development will implement a weed removal and management plan during construction and increase biodiversity through tree planting. Mature trees will be retained where possible and a public open space will provide habitat opportunities.

The assessments did suggest that Eastern Barred Bandicoots and other small fauna may temporarily shelter within weeds. Construction works will stage weed removal as recommended to allow animals to safely move on. The site will be continually monitored during development to ensure no unforeseen impacts on wildlife occur.

### **For more information**

Visit our website - [www.homestasmania.com.au/kings-meadows](http://www.homestasmania.com.au/kings-meadows)