

King and Yolande Sustainability Review

Biodiversity

Sustainability reviews provide Hydro Tasmania with opportunities to evaluate our operations in the water catchments we use to generate hydropower. Following our recent community information sessions and feedback surveys, we will now take steps to determine the status of a threatened species and review weed management within the King and Yolande catchments.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is important to the West Coast community, as highlighted by respondents of the community consultation survey. Biodiversity issues in the King and Yolande catchments were also a focus of the information review. Biodiversity supports topics that mattered most to survey respondents such as bushwalking, experiencing nature, tourism, bird watching and land conservation.

In the community feedback, weed management was listed as the highest concern, followed closely by threatened species management. Comments on weeds referred directly to species such as pampas grass, gorse, broom and scotch thistle at each of the waterways. Comments on the protection of plants and animals focussed on the King catchment.

Understanding the potential presence and distribution of a threatened crayfish in the Lake Burbury catchment was a knowledge gap highlighted by the information review.

Crayfish survey

The freshwater crayfish (*Ombastacoides parvicaudatus*) is listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

It is not currently state or nationally listed, however historic records exist for the King River valley and searches have not been undertaken since the flooding of Lake Burbury in the early 1990s.

It is unknown whether the species still exists at the site or whether the population is self-sustaining given its highly restricted distribution.

As part of the Sustainability Review, we are undertaking a survey to determine the status of this species in the inflowing, western streams of Lake Burbury. The study will enable us to determine if the species is present, if there is suitable habitat and how current operations may affect the species. The study will be undertaken in April/May 2020 and the findings will help us to determine the need for further investigation in the King catchment.



Lake Burbury: Western shore



King River: Downstream John Butters Power Station

Weed management

We undertake weed management on land we own and manage as part of our Weed Management Program.

A number of weeds have been recorded in the King and Yolande catchments. Weeds declared under the *Weed Management Act 1999* include Elisha's tears, blackberry, gorse, broom, pampas grass, goat willow, ragwort and Spanish heath. The majority of these weeds are located along roadsides. The declaration of weeds enables legal action to be taken against landholders not controlling the weed and for weed management plans to be developed.

There are also a number of non-declared, environmental weeds that have been recorded in the King and Yolande catchments including spear thistle, Cotoneaster, Macrocarpa, foxglove, Fuchsia, Monterey pine, holly, briar and New Zealand flax. Most of these species occur as scattered incidences associated with derelict gardens in the Lake Margaret village. However, foxglove is widespread around the Lake Margaret Power Station.



Declared weed: Pampas grass in the King catchment

We take weed management on our land seriously. As a result, we have a weed management program which targets declared weeds on Hydro Tasmania land. Weeds are also managed in accordance with our West Coast 10 Year Weed Action Plan, which outlines how we prioritise, manage and monitor weeds in our West Coast catchments.

To date, we have taken action on weeds such as blackberry, pampas, Spanish heath, foxglove and Elisha's tears. We will continue to target West Coast weeds in line with the Action Plan and other state-wide weed programs.

As part of the Sustainability Review we will be reviewing, remapping and reprioritising the weed information for the King and Yolande catchments in the West Coast 10 Year Weed Action Plan. We will also be looking to incorporate ways in which we can improve collaboration in weed management on the West Coast amongst major land managers and target on-ground priorities.

Contact us

King and Yolande Sustainability Review Team

Post: GPO Box 355, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia

Email: engagement@hydro.com.au

Call: 1300 360 441 (Local call cost Australia-wide)



Environmental weed: Foxglove at Lake Margaret