Scenic Protection Assessment: North East Tasmania

by Geoscene International
for the North East Bioregional Network, Tasmania

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(A Division of Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd)

Prepared for the North East Bioregional Network, Tasmania

March 2019

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1 Introduction

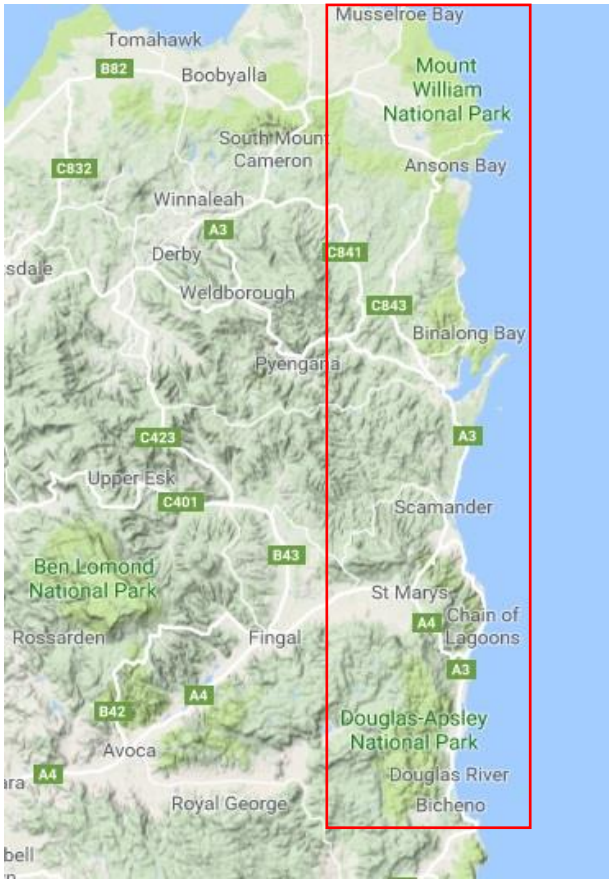
1.1 Project Context and Aim

This summary reference provides a brief guide to scenic protection assessment and mapping prepared for a region of North East Tasmania (refer to Figure 1) on behalf of the North East Bioregional Network (NEBN) of Tasmania (http://www.northeastbioregionalnetwork.org.au/) by Geoscene International (a division of Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd http://www.scenicspectrums.com.au/). The region covers an area of roughly 20 km by 200 km or 400,000 ha, extending along the Tasmanian coastline from the town of Bicheno in the south to Musselroe Bay in the north and inland 15km to 20km.

The area is located primarily within the Break O'Day Council area, however, extends southward into the Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council area and northward into the Dorset Council area. It includes a combination of public and private lands, including such public reserves as Mount William National Park, the Bay of Fires Conservation Area, Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area, Doctor's Peak Forest Reserve, Little Beach State Reserve, Break O'Day Forest Reserve and Douglas-Apsley National Park.

The principal objective of the assessment is to identify areas that that potentially should be considered for inclusion in the Local Council's revised Local Planning Schemes (LPS) under Tasmania's new Scenic Protection Code (SPC) as Scenic Protection Areas. The Scenic Protection Code[1] has been established as a new Planning Scheme overlay control as part of the 2015 amendments to Tasmania's 2015 Land Use Planning and Approvals Act, 1993 (LUPAA), which provides for a single state-wide planning scheme for Tasmania, known as the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS)[2].

Figure 1 Scenic Protection Assessment Project Area



[1] Tasmanian Planning Commission, 2017. Guideline No. 1, Local Provisions Schedule (LPS): zone and code application. Hobart, Tasmania. (October).

[2] Tasmanian Planning Commission, 2017. Tasmanian Planning Scheme: State Planning Provisions. Hobart, Tasmania.

For the purposes of providing more detailed map displays, the regional area analyses have also been mapped for four sub-regional areas (Area 1, Area 2, Area 3, and Area 4) as shown in Map 1.

The assessment utilises the SPC Assessment Methodology developed by Inspiring Place and Geoscene International during 2018 for the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority (STCA)[3]. This SPC Assessment Model (refer to Figure 2) has been adapted from Geoscene's Visual Evaluation Model (VEM)[4].

The procedure assesses, maps and establishes '*Scenic Values*' and associated '*Management Objectives*' as set out by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) under *Guideline No.1 Local Provisions Schedule (LPS)*: Zone and code application (October 2017). The Scenic Protection Code may be optionally applied as '*Scenic Protection Areas*' or '*Scenic Road Corridors'* by Local Government within their LPSs. The Planning Schemes for the three Local Council areas involved are currently being updated along with the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. However, it is understood that Break O'Day, Dorset, and Glamorgan-Spring Bay Councils do not plan to utilise the Scenic Protection Code as an overlay, at least not in their initial Planning Scheme revisions, which are likely to be submitted to the TPC for review by the end of 2019 or early 2020.

The North East Bioregional Network and others are of the view that Scenic Protection Codes and scenic assessment procedures are needed as part of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the Local Planning Schemes to support and maintain Tasmania's world renown reputation as an area of beautiful scenery, including natural mountains, forests, lakes, rivers and coastlines. This is in keeping with Brand Tasmania and the promotion of the North East Region and other areas of Tasmania as key tourism regions that display the '*Clean and Green*' and, in places, the '*Natural Wilderness*' images that have come to underpin Tasmania's tourism and agricultural produce marketing themes and images.

1.2 SPC Application as an Overlay within the LPS

Guideline No. 1 indicates that the SPC "*scenic protection area overlay, and the scenic road corridor overlay may only be applied in the following zones:*

(a) Rural Living Zone;
(b) Rural Resource Zone;
(c) Agriculture Zone;
(d) Landscape Conservation Zone;
(e) Environmental Management Zone; or
(f) Open Space Zone."

Although not yet delineated by the relevant Councils, the new zones have been converted from the existing Interim Planning Scheme zones of North East Region Council's, using the following assumed transitions:

(a) Rural Living Zone = (new) Rural Living Zone
(b) Rural Resource Zone = (new) Rural Zone
(c) Significant Agriculture Zone = Agriculture Zone
(d) Open Space Zone = Open Space Zone."
(e) Environmental Management Zone = (new) Environmental Management Zone or (new) Landscape Conservation Zone

[3] Inspiring Place and Geoscene International, 2018. Guidelines for Scenic Values Assessment Methodology and Local Provisions Schedules in the Scenic Protection Code. prepared for the Southern Technical Reference Group, Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, September 2019, 115 pp.

[4] Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd, 2005. Scenic Spectrums' Visual Evaluation Model (SS-VEM). Copyright © 2005 by Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd and Dennis N. Williamson.

Map 1[5] Index Map for Sub-Region Areas

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION

Index Map

LEGEND

- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3
- Area 4

Acknowledgement: Land Tasmania Data

Prepared for: North East Bioregional Network
By: Geoscene International
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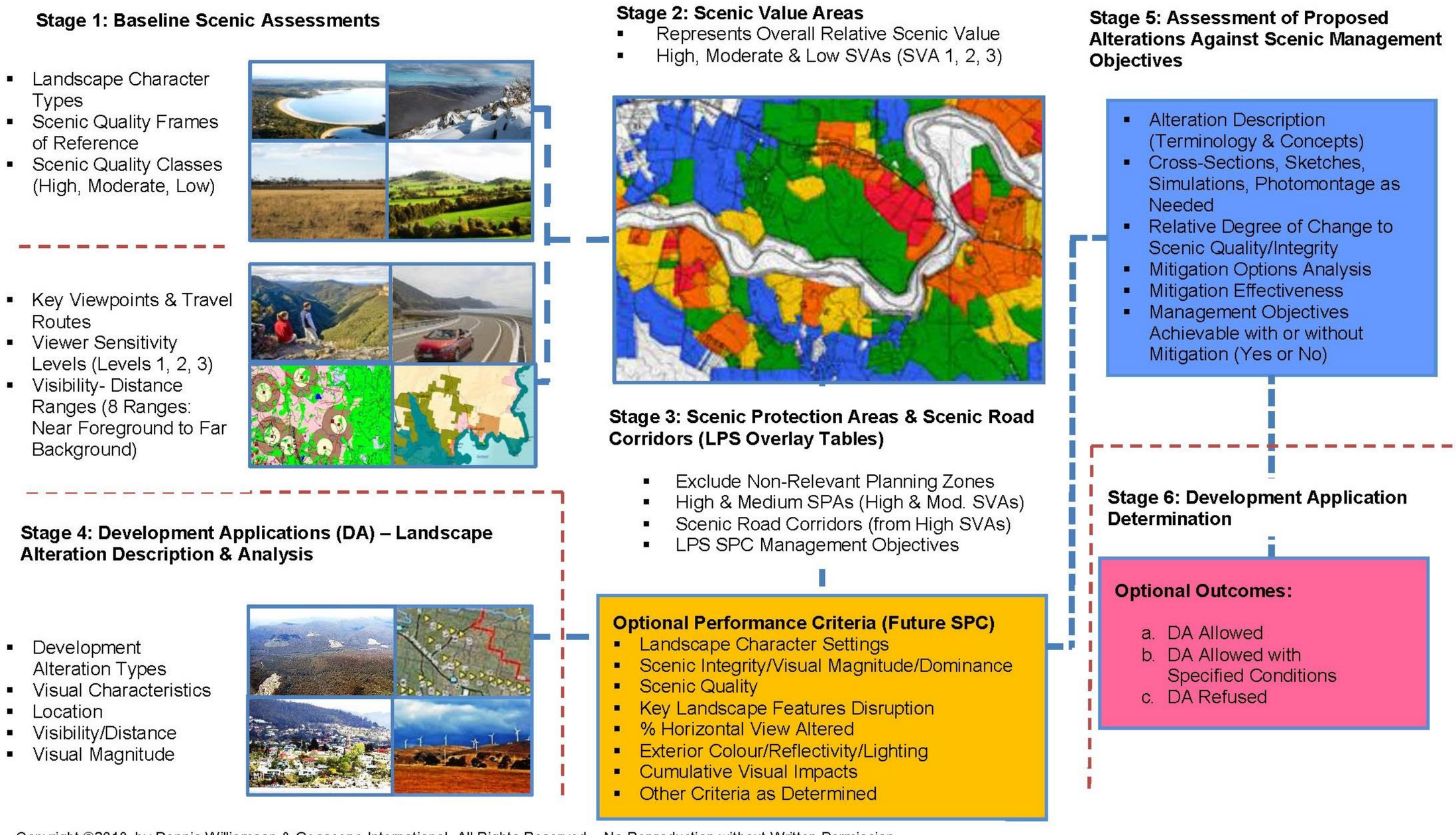
April 2019

N

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

[5] Note: Map numbers provided in this report match those map numbers associated with the map file numbers in the OneDrive link provided to the North East Bioregional Network. Not all maps prepared are presented in this document. Hence, the numbering of maps in this map is not sequential, but selective. Refer to the OneDrive link or to other sources for all maps as may be provided by the North East Bioregional Network.

Figure 2 SPC Assessment Flow Chart



2 Methodology Applied

2.1 Limitations of Methodology Application

Application of the methodology shown in Figure 2 to desktop analysis and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping by Geoscene International. The North East Bioregional Network (Todd Dudley), Google Earth and the internet have been the source of on-ground reference photography. The GIS analysis has also been limited using GIS 10 m topographic contour data sourced from the State of Tasmania's Land Tasmania Data GIS files. Other GIS data files for such factors as roads and walking tracks, hydrology and land use zones have also been drawn from this source. Visibility-Distance Range analyses have utilised a 10m contour Digital Elevation Model (DEM) without any analyses of vegetative screening due to the changing nature of vegetative cover (due to bushfires, timber harvests, etc.).

2.2 Methodological Stages Funded and Applied in this Assessment

NEBN has provided funding for application of the Stage 1 Baseline Scenic Assessments and mapping as shown in Figure 2. Geoscene International has contributed additional work to complete the methodology through the Stage 2 Scenic Value Areas and through the Scenic Protection Areas of Stage 3 (excluding the assessment and mapping of Scenic Road Corridors). GIS maps for the various analyses stages have been prepared by Geoscene International and have been made available to NEBN via a OneDrive folder for download. Only selected maps have been be included in this summary report, with the others made available upon request to NEBN.

The Stages and key elements of the methodology shown in Figure 2 that have now been completed for this project include the desktop analysis and GIS mapping for the following:

Stage 1:

- Key viewpoints
- Viewpoint sensitivity levels
- Visibility/viewing distance zones (GIS 10m Terrain DEM)
- Landscape character types
- Key scenic features
- Scenic quality

Stage 2:

- Scenic value areas (high, moderate and low)

Stage 3:

- Exclude non-relevant planning zones
- Scenic protection areas (high and medium)

2.3 Viewer Sensitivity Levels within the North East Region

All roads, walking tracks and key viewpoints of the project region have been classified according to their Viewer Sensitivity Levels, as per the guidelines shown in Table 1. The results for this assessment are shown for the region in Map 2 (download Maps 3-6 for greater detail).

Examples of Level 1 roads and viewpoints include:

- Tasman Highway (Great Eastern Drive)
- Ansons Bay Road
- Elephant Pass Road
- Apsley Gorge Track
- Leeaberra Track.

Examples of Level 2 roads and viewpoints include:

- Catos Road
- Upper Scamander Road
- Moulting Bay Track.
- St. Patrick's Head Track

Table 1 Viewer Sensitivity Levels for Travel Routes and Use Areas[7]

SENSITIVITY LEVEL 1 (High)	**High Viewer Numbers Moderate Scenic Concerns**	▪ Freeways and State Highways with <500 vehicles/day. ▪ Main Sealed Roads with <75 vehicles/day. ▪ Interstate Passenger Rail Lines with Daily Daylight Service ▪ Urban Residential Areas
	Low to High Viewer Numbers, High to Very High Scenic Concerns[6]	▪ Recreation, Cultural or Scenic Sites and Viewpoints of National or State Significance. ▪ Classified Tourist Roads ▪ Walking Tracks of National Significance ▪ Rail Lines of Cultural, Historic or Scenic Significance ▪ Navigable Waterways of National or State Recreation Significance
SENSITIVITY LEVEL 2 (Moderate)	**Moderate Viewer Numbers – Moderate Scenic Concerns**	▪ Main Sealed Roads with more than 50 vehicles /day ▪ State Passenger Rail Lines with Daily Rural Town Service ▪ Roads with >35 vehicles/day, but Planned for Recreation/Tourism Promotion within 5 years
	Low-Moderate Viewer Numbers Moderate to High Scenic Concerns	▪ Rural Residences (without Historic/Cultural or Associated Tourism Businesses) ▪ Recreation, Cultural or Scenic Sites and Viewpoints of Regional or Local Significance ▪ Navigable Waterways of National or State Recreation Significance ▪ Walking Tracks of Regional or High Local Significance
SENSITIVITY LEVEL 3 (Low)	**Low Viewer Numbers Moderate Scenic Concerns**	▪ Land Management Roads with Occasional Recreation Traffic up to 10 vehicles/day ▪ Walking Tracks of Moderate Local Significance ▪ State Passenger Rail Lines with Less than Daily Rural Town Service
	Low Viewer Numbers Low to Moderate Scenic Concerns	▪ Land Management Roads with Infrequent Recreation Traffic ▪ Walking Tracks with Infrequent Recreation Usage ▪ Other Low use and Low Concern Viewpoints and Travel Routes

6 Note: The criterial developed for the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority (STCA), the following types of viewpoints were also categorised as Viewer Sensitivity Level 1 (and for Level 2 in some instances):
- Viewpoints to or from All Statutory Protected Areas under the National Reserve System
- Viewpoints to or from National Heritage List Sites and Commonwealth Heritage List Sites
- Viewpoints to or from the following Non-Statutory Sensitive Land Use Designations:
- Australian National Landscapes
- National Trust Classified Landscapes
- Previous Register of the National Estate (RNE)
- Historic Rural Homesteads/Residences on the State or Local Government Heritage List
- Rural Residences with Associated Tourism Businesses

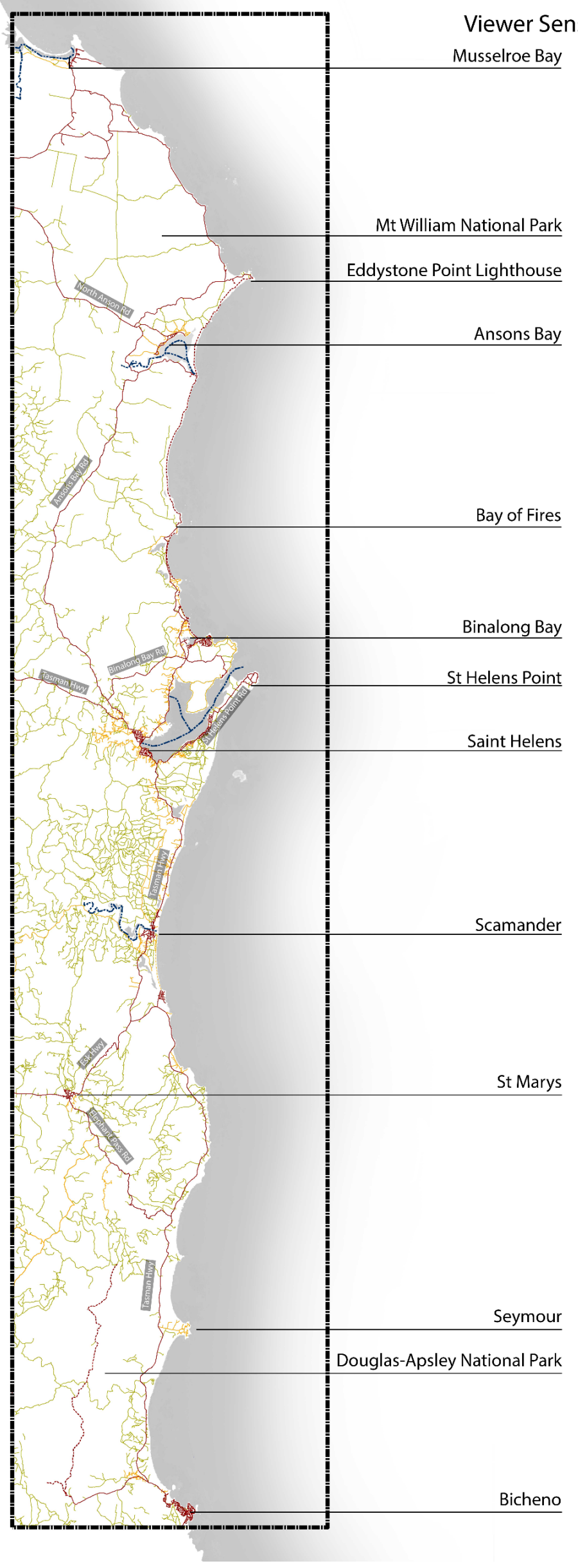
These criteria were not always applied to the North East Tasmania Region in this assessment in order to provide some degree of hierarchy in sensitivity to viewpoints within the designated or non-statutory reserves and landscapes, as well as due to not conducting field reviews and analyses of these types of viewpoints or areas.

7 Source: Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd, adapted from Williamson, Dennis and Calder, Stuart, 1979. Visual Resource Management of Victoria's Forests: A New Concept for Australia.

Map 2 Region Viewer Sensitivity Levels for Travel Routes and Use Areas

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION

Viewer Sensitivity Levels for Travel Routes and Use Areas



LEGEND

Study Area Boundary

Sensitivity Level 1(High)

Roads

Walking Tracks/Beach

Water Routes

Sensitivity Level 2(Moderate)

Roads

Walking Tracks/Beach

Sensitivity Level 3(Low)

Roads

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0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

N

Examples of Level 3 roads and viewpoints include:

- Tramway Road
- Seaton Tramway Track
- Portions of Scamander Walk
- Others (not assessed).

2.4 Visibility Distance Ranges within the North East Region

Visibility Distance Ranges were also mapped for all designated Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 travel routes and use areas (download Maps 7 – 9 for greater detail).

The visibility analysis has been based on a terrain-only GIS viewshed analysis (i.e., using 10 m contours without consideration of vegetative screening, given the mutability of this factor due to timber harvests, bush fires, etc.) and the Visibility Distance Zones indicated in Table 2.

Along with alteration size, distance of view has a direct bearing on the relative visual magnitude (size) of landscape alterations. Using the '*Rules of Combination*' approach, the criteria for Viewer Sensitivity Levels and Visibility Distance Zones may be adjusted as required. However, the criteria recommended have been developed and tested in a wide range of Australian case studies over the past 20 years and have been found to work well.

It is best if all Local Government Councils of the STCA and the Tasmanian Planning Commission have unity and consistency in the criteria used across Tasmania.

Map 10 from the OneDrive archive shows the Region Composite Visibility – Distance Zones (with greater detail for Areas 1 – 4 available for download in Maps 11- 14).

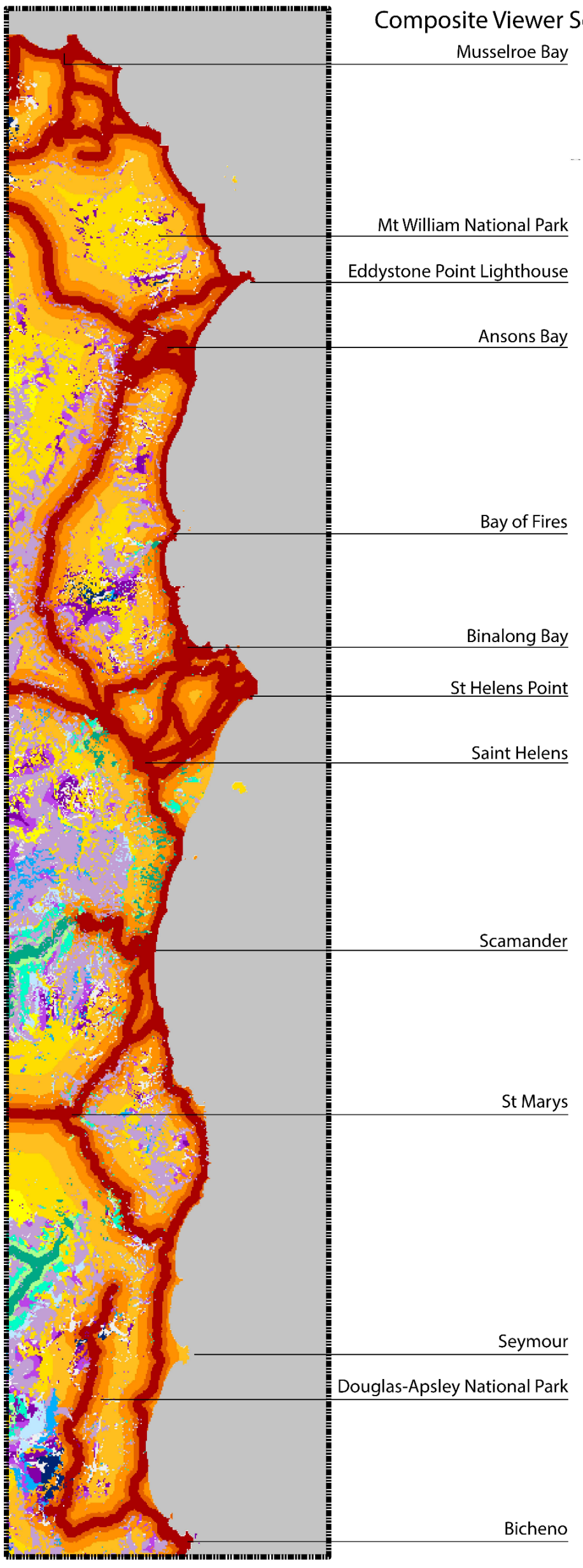
Table 2 Visibility Distance Ranges

Distance of View	Distance Ranges	Relative Visual Magnitude
0 - 500 m	Near Foreground (NF)	Zone of Greatest Visual Influence
500 m – 1 km	Mid Foreground (MF)	
1 - 2 km	Far Foreground (FF)	
2- 4 km	Near Middleground (NM)	
4- 8 km	Far Middleground (FM)	
8 - 12 km	Near Background (NB)	
12 – 20km	Mid Background (MB)	
20-32+km	Far Background (FB)	Zone of Least Visual Influence

Map 10 Region Visibility – Distance Range Combination

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION

Composite Viewer Sensitivity Level Distance Zone Combinations



LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Sea
- Not Visible Areas
- Level 1 Near Foreground
- Level 1 Mid Foreground
- Level 1 Far Foreground
- Level 1 Near Middleground
- Level 1 Far Middleground
- Level 1 Near Background
- Level 1 Mid Background
- Level 2 Near Foreground
- Level 2 Mid Foreground
- Level 2 Far Foreground
- Level 2 Near Middleground
- Level 2 Far Middleground
- Level 2 Near Background
- Level 2 Mid Background
- Level 3 Near Foreground
- Level 3 Mid Foreground
- Levele 3 Far Foreground
- Level 3 Near Middleground

Acknowledgement: Land Tasmania Data

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May 2019

N

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

2.5 Landscape Character Types of the North East Region

Landscape Character Types (LCTs) represent broadscale areas of land with common distinguishing visual characteristics. LCT classification is predominantly based on landforms or physiography in combination with major landcover patterns created by combinations of vegetation, water, and land use.

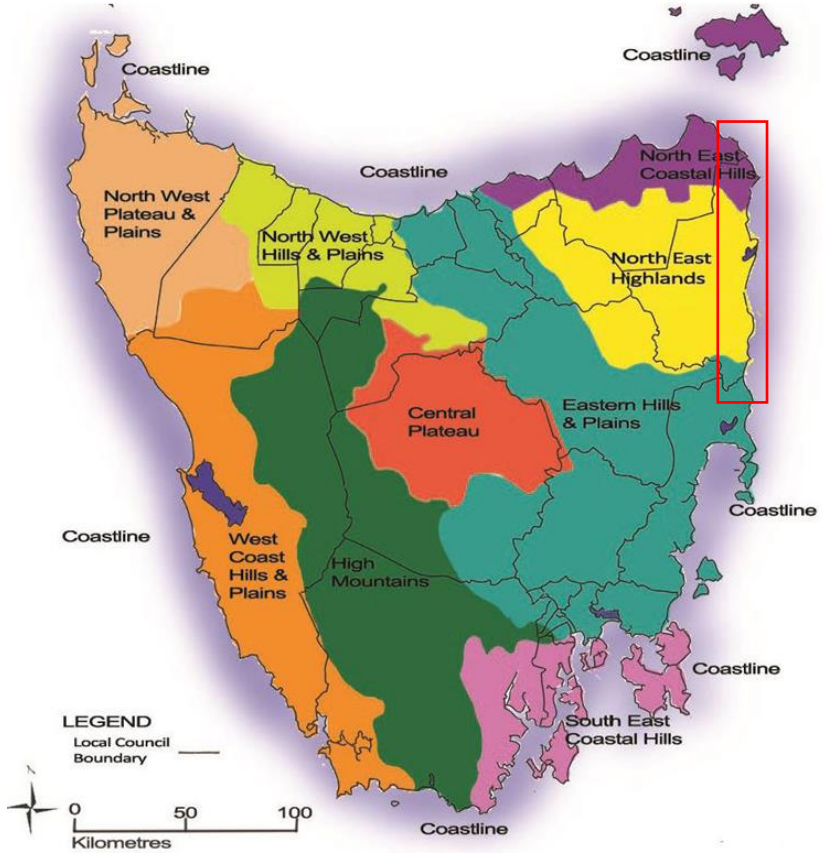
Ten LCTs have been delineated in Tasmania by the Forestry Commission Tasmania[8], 1990). These are as shown In Figure 3, along with Local Government boundaries. Four of those LCTs occur in the North East Tasmania project area, including: Coastline LCT, Eastern Hills & Plains LCT, North East Highlands LCT, and North East Coastal Hills LCT.

Each LCT would normally have its own Scenic Quality Frame of Reference for the assessment and classification of High, Moderate and Low Scenic Quality Areas.

In relation to the North East Region assessment, the Coastline LCT is treated as separate from the inland LCTs, as displayed in its Frame of Reference in Table 3.

The three inland LCTs are similar enough to each other that Geoscene International has combined their individual Scenic Assessment Frames of Reference into a single Frame of Reference for the North East Hills and Plains Landscape Area, as shown in Table 4.

Figure 3 Landscape Character Types of Tasmania[9]



[8] Forestry Commission Tasmania, 1990. A Manual for Forest Landscape Management. Hobart, Tasmania.

[9] Source: Geoscene International, 2018. Adapted from Forestry Commission Tasmania, 1990. A Manual for Forest Landscape Management. Hobart, Tasmania, p. 160 and Tasmanian Local Government Areas, http://thinkbigworklocal.com.au/local-national-and-international-careers/tasmanian-councils/.

Table 3 Scenic Quality Frame of Reference for Coastline Landscape Character Type

Landscape Component	Scenic Quality Classification		
	High	**Moderate**	**Low**
Landform	▪ Coastlines with combinations of irregular edges, islands, embayments and estuaries. ▪ Visually distinctive rocky headlands and shorelines with colourful rock formations and/or highly dissected or steep slopes with cliffs. ▪ Hill/mountain peaks, ridges and dune formations of distinctive form or elevation that become focal points when viewed from coastal viewpoints. ▪ White sand beaches that are either extensive or smaller but stand out in combination with other distinctive coastal landforms, vegetation, waterforms, cultural heritage or natural wildlife features. ▪ Unusual or distinctive formations such as caves, blowholes, stacks, sand spits, peninsula's, isthmuses etc.	▪ Regular coast edges with little contrast in form and colour, including sandy beaches or rocky shorelines with only moderate colour, dissection and steepness. ▪ Rounded hills, ridges and peaks that are not visually dominant and are surrounded by more landforms of similar type. ▪ Broad coastal slopes that are steep, but stable. ▪ Smaller sandy or rocky beaches with less dramatic or visually dominant formations.	▪ Expanses of very indistinctly dissected or coloured coastal landforms with repeated common visual characteristics. (Note: Such features are rarely found along most coastal areas.)
Vegetation	▪ Strongly defined and visually distinctive areas of mangrove and coastal wetlands. ▪ Strongly defined patterns due to combinations of eucalypt forest, ti-tree scrub, and coastal dune, estuarine and wetland/lowland vegetation that stand out visually over small to moderate areas (not repeated over extensive areas). ▪ Distinctive displays of seasonal colour. ▪ Wind-shaped, gnarled or dwarfed specimen stands of vegetation that are unusual in form, colour or texture.	▪ Forest, woodland or scrub cover, combined with natural openings and/or streamside vegetation in patterns that offer some visual relief, but may extend over large areas. ▪ Combinations of eucalypt forest, ti-tree scrub, and coastal dune, estuarine, and wetland/lowland vegetation that occur repeatedly over extensive areas. ▪ Some contrast created by seasonal colour, but not outstanding.	▪ Extensive areas of similar single vegetation types such as ti-tree or dune grasses, and very slight variation in texture and colour.
Waterform	▪ Unusual wave characteristics due to blowholes, sea caves and rock channels. ▪ Large 1st and 2nd Order streams, rivers and estuaries with permanent flow. ▪ Freshwater features such as coastal waterfalls, moderate to large coastal lagoons (or a series of lagoons) and distinctive tidal entrances.	▪ Common ocean shoreline character and wave characteristics. ▪ Smaller 2nd Order or lower order freshwater streams with continuous flow. ▪ Smaller shallow coastal lagoons and wetlands.	▪ Freshwater streams with only intermittent flow.
Cultural Heritage Features (Visual Only)	▪ Very prominent and extensive visual influence of cultural heritage features reflecting local European and Aboriginal history through built forms and structures (e.g., middens, scar trees, buildings, bridges, boats in marinas, piers, wharves and boat sheds, stone walls, fences, gates, etc.). ▪ Very prominent and extensive visual influence of contemporary cultural features and built forms of high scenic value to the community.	▪ Moderate visual presence and influence of cultural heritage features reflecting local history through built forms and structures. ▪ Moderate visual presence and influence of contemporary cultural features and built forms of high scenic value to the community.	▪ Little to no visual presence and influence of cultural heritage features as reflected through built forms and structures. ▪ Visually dominant urban/industrial structures, plantations, timber harvests, or mining, or utilities without trees and/or bare soil
Native Wildlife Features (Visual Only)	▪ Areas with a high and consistent (year around or seasonally) visual presence of native fauna (e.g., kangaroos, quolls, sea-eagles, hawks, and other raptor and waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians, whales, dolphins, seals, sea turtles, shark, etc.).	▪ Areas with a moderate or occasional visual presence of native fauna (e.g., kangaroos, quolls, sea-eagles, hawks, and other raptor and waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians, whales, dolphins, seals, sea turtles, shark, etc.).	▪ Areas with a low or infrequent and irregular visual presence of native fauna.

Table 4 Scenic Quality Frame of Reference for North East Hills and Plains Landscape Area

Landscape Features	Scenic Quality Class		
	High	**Moderate**	**Low**
Landform Features	▪ Well defined, isolated and/or visually distinctive mountain and hill ridges, peaks or hills elevated above adjacent landforms that present distinctive form and colour contrast that become focal points. ▪ Steep, complex hill systems. ▪ Well-defined V-shaped or highly incised valleys tending to deep gorges or with visually distinctive river terraces. ▪ Large cliffs, rock faces or rock outcrops that are visually prominent or dominate the surrounding landscape.	▪ Undulating and/or rounded and rolling hills that are not visually distinctive in the surrounding landscape. ▪ Undulating plains. ▪ Moderate to gently dissected V-shaped or U-shaped open valleys lacking in distinctive configuration, colour, and elevation changes. ▪ Visually evident, but not distinctive or dominant rock outcrops and cliffs.	▪ Significant expanses of rolling hills or flat plains with indistinct dissection by rivers and streams and not dramatically defined by adjacent landforms (generally 0% to 10% slope).
Vegetation Features	▪ Strongly defined stands of or combinations of eucalypt forest, naturally appearing open grasslands and scattered exotic trees (coniferous or deciduous) seen as distinctive vegetative patterns, colours and textures across the landscape. ▪ Areas with dramatic displays of seasonal colour. ▪ Rainforest and vigorous stands of wet sclerophyll forest that introduce distinctive patterns and textures.	▪ Open and/or scattered eucalypt forest combined with natural openings and species mix in patterns that offer some visual diversity and irregular, natural-appearing or blended (not sharp or straight) edges. ▪ Visually evident vegetative patterns and patchwork effects of colour, texture and form created by adjacent land uses commonly occurring within the LCT. ▪ Expanses of roadside or riparian vegetation similar in structure and colour to that commonly found within the LCT, but seldom distinctive.	▪ Extensive areas of similar natural vegetation with infrequent patterns or forest openings. ▪ Large forest and woodland clearings with straight or unnatural appearing shapes and edges. ▪ Plantation landscapes (featuring native eucalypt trees or exotic coniferous species) where natural variations in vegetative heights and patterns have been replaced by trees planted in rows, resulting in blocks of land with similar texture and high contrast in vegetative heights and textures between adjacent plantation blocks.
Waterform Features	▪ Large 1st and 2nd Order streams, rivers and estuaries with permanent flow. ▪ Large to medium waterfalls. ▪ Large and moderate sized natural lakes, ponds and wetlands. ▪ Large reservoirs.	▪ Smaller 2nd Order or lower order freshwater streams with continuous or intermittent flow. ▪ Small natural lakes, ponds, waterfalls and wetlands. ▪ Medium sized reservoirs.	▪ No natural waterforms. ▪ Small farm dams and reservoirs.
Cultural/ Heritage Features (Visual Only)	▪ Very prominent, unique or extensive visual influence of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage features reflecting local history through built forms and structures such as middens and scar trees, farm buildings, kilns, stone walls, fences etc. with traditional/historic architecture styles that visually enhance the landscape. ▪ Very prominent and extensive visual influence of contemporary cultural features and built forms of positive or high scenic value to the community. ▪ Visually distinctive variations in vegetative pattern created by contrasting land uses such as woodlands, tree rows, hedgerows, feature trees, paddocks, croplands, orchards, vineyards, and plantations creating patchwork effects of colour, texture and form that are visually prominent over moderate to small areas of the landscape.	▪ Moderate visual presence and influence of cultural heritage features reflecting local history through built forms and structures such as farm buildings of architectural styles not particularly unique or notably positive within the surrounding landscape. ▪ Moderate visual presence and influence of contemporary cultural features and built forms of high scenic value to the community.	▪ Little to no visual presence and influence of cultural heritage features as reflected through built forms and structures. ▪ Visually dominant urban/industrial structures, plantations, timber harvests, or mining, or utilities without trees and/or bare soil
Native Wildlife Features (Visual Only)	▪ Areas with a high and consistent (year around or seasonally) visual presence of native fauna (e.g., kangaroos, quolls, wallabies, wombats, quolls, wallabies, eagles, hawks, and other raptor, reptiles and amphibians, waterfowl and native birds.	▪ Areas with a moderate or occasional visual presence of native fauna (e.g., kangaroos, quolls, wallabies, wombats, quolls, wallabies, eagles, hawks, and other raptor, reptiles and amphibians, waterfowl and native birds).	▪ Areas with a low or infrequent and irregular visual presence of native fauna.

2.6 The Coastline Landscape Character Type

The Coastline LCT varies in width and in range of landforms, vegetation and waterforms according to the physiography and hydrology of different areas.

Rocky headlands and capes, rock platforms and rock cliffs of varying geology and heights occur. Between the headlands are embayments and coves with sandy beaches and sand dunes. The coastline also includes coastal lagoons and estuaries with sand and mud flats, saltmarsh and wetlands. Islands, peninsulas, isthmuses, and sandy spits are also key features of this LCT

Vegetation varies from low coastal wetland rushes, and heaths to ti-tree thickets and higher forms of paperbark and eucalypt woodlands and forests. Agricultural paddocks and some croplands or orchards may fringe the coastal zone. Many smaller coastal and villages (e.g., Bicheno, St. Helens and Bicheno) have been established on the coastal interface.

2.7 North East Hills and Plains Landscape Area

For this assessment, the North Eastern Hills and Plains LCT is the inland area of the North East Region. As indicated above, this area comprises three of Tasmania's Landscape Character Types: Eastern Hills & Plains LCT, North East Highlands LCT, and North East Coastal Hills LCT.

In the South from approximately the Douglas River to Bicheno, the Eastern Hills & Plains are an area of low rainfall with extensive low plains (with agricultural grazing paddocks) transitioning toward the northwest to woodlands and forests on mountain tiers and surgarloaves to the east and the south. Douglas Apsley National Park is a featured public reserve in this area.

The North East Highlands LCT extends from approximately the Douglas River northward to The Gardens area at the southern tip of the Bay of Fires coast and inland to State Forest and limited agricultural grazing areas in the Doctor's Peak Forest Reserve vicinity. This is an area of steep to undulating mountains and hills with some visually prominent and rocky mountain peaks, particularly in the areas west of the Little Beach and Four Mile Creek area. The vegetation represents a diversity from rainforest and mixed forest in sheltered areas to drier forests on the northern aspects. There are numerous rivers and streams, but generally with low flow.

In the north, the North East Coastal Hills LCT is an area of generally flat to rolling terrain of a coastal plain which experiences low rainfall. Mount William, which is quite low in elevation compared to many of the mountains and hills further south, still manages to stand out above the surrounding coastal plain. The granitic-based soils are relatively infertile, supporting coastal sclerophyll woodlands and heathlands. Much of this area was used as agricultural grazing land in the past, before Mt. William National Park was established. Erosion of granite has led to an extensive area of aeolian sand hills and dunes, as well as striking white sand beaches from the Bay of Fires northward to Musselroe Bay. Red-orange lichen grows profusely on granite boulders found along the coastal shoreline, giving the hypothetical appearance of coastal bays on fire. There are numerous lower order intermittent streams in the area.

2.8 Scenic Quality Class Assessment and Mapping

The Scenic Quality Class assessment has applied the Scenic Quality Frames of Reference criteria based on Google Earth satellite image analysis, supplemented by on-ground images provided by NEBN and others acquired via Google Earth and elsewhere on the internet. On-ground scenic quality assessments have not been possible due to budget limitations. Because of this, there has been a limited application of the

Cultural Heritage Features criteria and no application of the Native Wildlife Features criteria.

The resulting Region Scenic Quality Class Assessment is displayed in Map 15 (with greater detail for Areas 1 – 4 available for download in Maps 16-19).

2.9 Scenic Value Area Assessment and Mapping

Scenic Value Areas (SVAs) reflect the overall importance of specific areas of the landscape or seascape based on the combination of the Viewer Sensitivity Levels, Visibility Distance Ranges and Scenic Quality Classes assessed in relation to areas of landscape as viewed from Key Viewpoints within different Distance Zones. The SVA applying to those distances at which proposed developments would be potentially visible are highlighted within Table 5.

In Table 5, Scenic Value Areas 1, 2 and 3 (High, Moderate and Low) are indicated by the matrix boxes shaded in red, yellow and grey, respectively. The sequence of Viewer Sensitivity Level/Visibility Distance Range combinations shown in the left-hand column, from top to bottom, reflect the priority selection in cases where the same area is viewed from two or more different viewpoints with different Viewer Sensitivity Levels and Visibility Distance Zones. In such cases, whichever combination that applies and is listed above all the others in the left-hand column should be selected as the top priority for assessment of the Scenic Value Area. This assumes that the area evaluated has a constant assessed Scenic Quality Class.

For example, if the same High Scenic Quality Class area is visible in relation to viewpoints that reflect the 2FF combination and the 3NF combination, then the 2FF combination would be assigned to that area. This would result in a SVA1 instead of a SVA2 assessment for the area. However, if two different areas were both seen from viewpoints that reflect the 2FF combination, but one area has been assessed as a High Scenic Quality Class and the other area has been assessed as a Moderate Scenic Quality Class, then SVA1 would be applied to the first area and SVA2 would be applied to the second area.

Map 20 shows the Region Scenic Value Areas, utilising GIS spatial analysis to combine the various factors as indicated in Table 5 to delineate the correct High, Moderate and Low Scenic Value Areas (SVA1, SVA2 and SVA3).

2.10 Relevant New Planning Zones

As discussed in Section 1.2, Scenic Protection Areas may only be applied within the following relevant new Planning Zones (as currently translated from the previous Interim Planning Scheme Zones:

(a) Rural Living Zone = (new) Rural Living Zone
(b) Rural Resource Zone = (new) Rural Zone
(c) Significant Agriculture Zone = Agriculture Zone
(d) Open Space Zone = Open Space Zone."
(e) Environmental Management Zone = (new) Environmental Management Zone or (new) Landscape Conservation Zone

These interpreted relevant Zones are displayed in Map 25. Those zones that are not relevant are shown as white (blank) polygons on the map.

Table 5 Scenic Value Area (SVA) Matrix

Viewer Sensitivity Level – Visibility Distance Ranges	Scenic Quality Class		
	High	Moderate	Low
1NF (0 m – 500 m)	SVA1	SVA1	SVA2
1MF (500 m – 1 km)	SVA1	SVA1	SVA2
1FF (1 km – 2 km)	SVA1	SVA2	SVA2
1NM (2 km – 4 km)	SVA1	SVA2	SVA2
1FM (4 km – 8 km)	SVA1	SVA2	SVA2
2NF (0 – 500 m)	SVA1	SVA2	SVA2
2MF (500 m – 1 km)	SVA1	SVA2	SVA2
2FF (1 km – 2 km)	SVA1	SVA2	SVA2
3NF (0 m – 500 m)	SVA2	SVA2	SVA2
1NB (8 km – 12 km)	SVA2	SVA2	SVA3
1MB (12 km – 20 km)	SVA2	SVA2	SVA3
1FB (20 km – 32 km)	SVA2	SVA2	SVA3
2NM (2 km – 4 km)	SVA2	SVA2	SVA3
2FM (4 km – 8 km)	SVA2	SVA2*	SVA3
3MF (500 m – 1 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
2NB (8 km – 12 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
2MB (12 km – 20 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
2FB (20 km – 32 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
3FF (1 km – 2 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
3NM (2 km – 4 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
3FM (4 km – 8 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
3NB (8 km – 12 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
3MB (12 km – 20 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
3FB (20 km – 32 km)	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3
NV - Not Visible	SVA2	SVA3	SVA3

NOTES:

- Column 1 codes represent a combination of the Viewer Sensitivity Level (1 - High, 2 - Moderate, 3 - Low) and the Visibility Distance Zones (NF - Near Foreground, MF - Mid Foreground, FF - Far Foreground, NM - Near Middleground, FM - Far Middleground, NB - Near Background, MB - Mid Background, FB - Far Background, and NV - Not Visible).

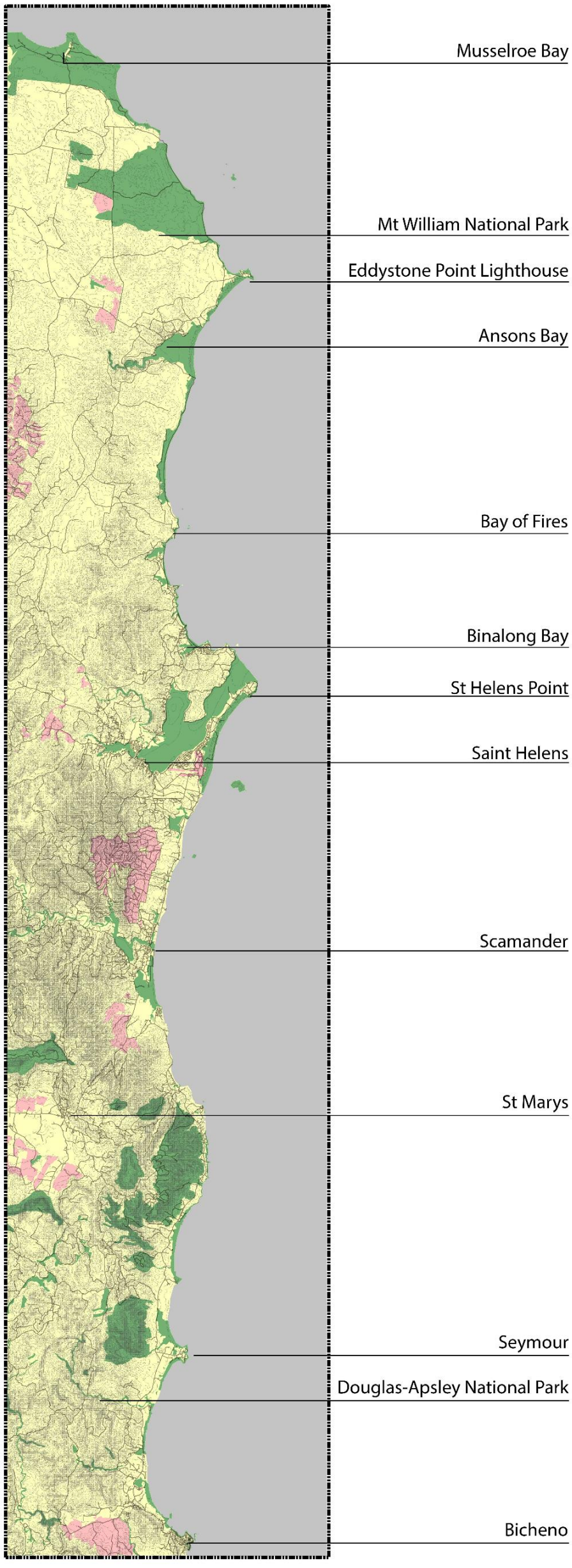
- Columns 2 - 4 show assigned Scenic Value Areas (SVA1 - High Scenic Value Area, SVA2 - Moderate Scenic Value Area, and SVA3 - Low Scenic Value Area). The Scenic Value Areas vary by row according to the combination of Viewer Sensitivity Level/Visibility Distance Zone and Scenic Quality Class. In Tasmania, only the SVA1 and SVA2 areas are applied to the Scenic Protection Code within the relevant Planning Zones as per the Code guidelines.

* For the 2FM (4 km – 8 km)/Moderate Scenic Quality combination, the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority was given the choice to select SVA2 or SVA3. To avoid confusion, this has been limited to SVA2 for this application.

Map 15 Region Scenic Quality Class Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION

Overall Scenic Quality Class Assessment



LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Sea
- High Scenic Quality
- Moderate Scenic Quality
- Low Scenic Quality
- Roads
- Contour Line

Prepared for: North East Bioregional Network
By: Geoscene International
(Division of Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd)

May 2019

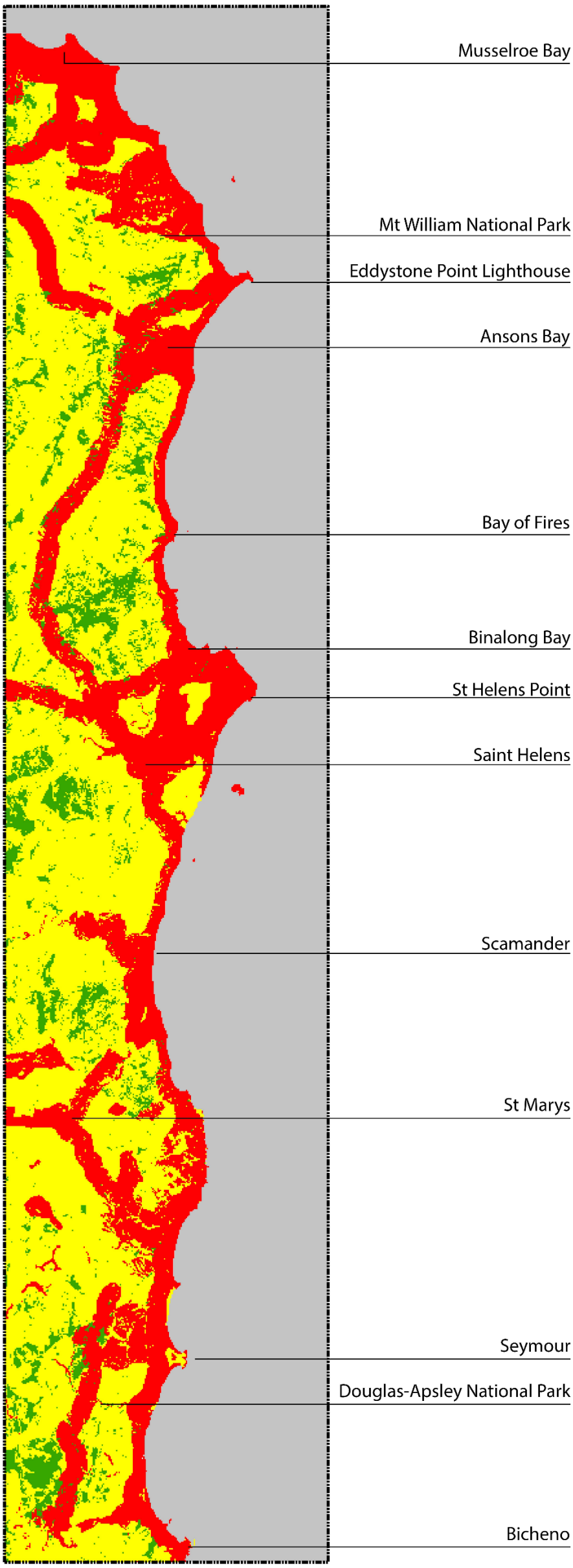
N

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

Map 20 Regional Scenic Value Area Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION

Scenic Value Areas



LEGEND

- Scenic Value Area 1 (High)
- Scenic Value Area 2 (Moderate)
- Scenic Value Area 3 (Low)
- Sea
- Study Area Boundary

Acknowledgement: Land Tasmania Data

Prepared for: North East Bioregional Network
By: Geoscene International
(Division of Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd)

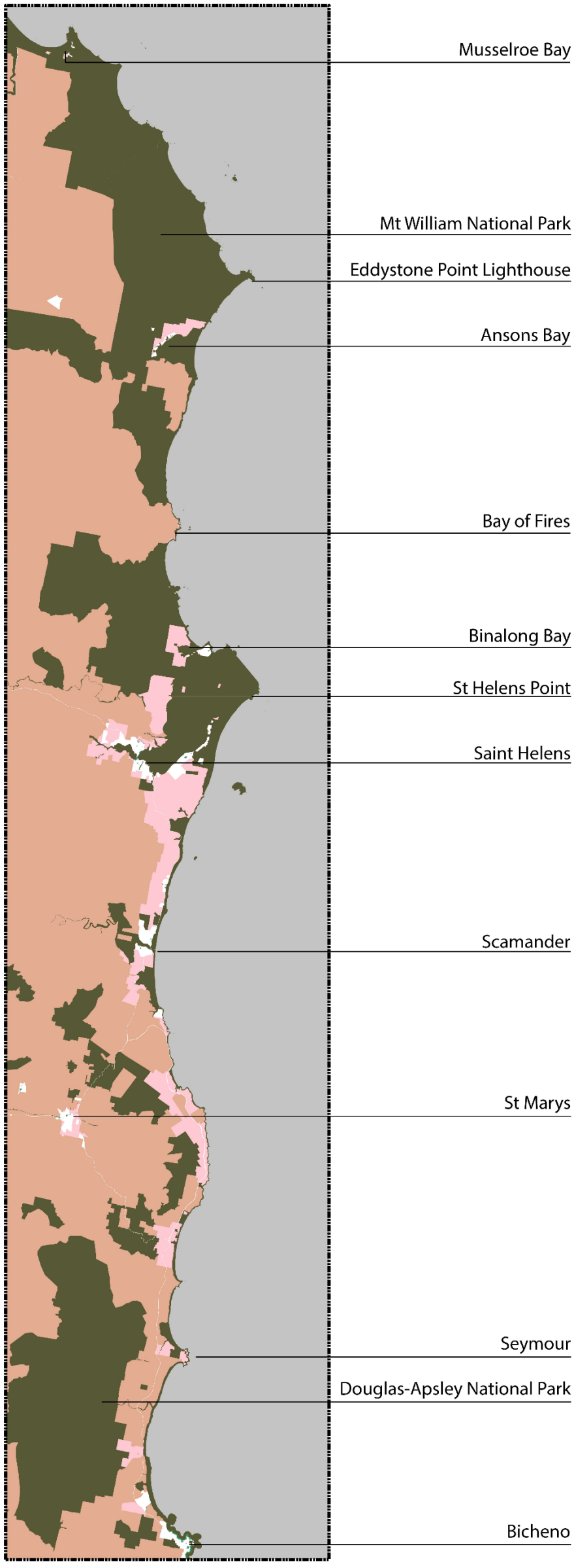
May 2019

N

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

Map 25 Relevant New Planning Zones (Estimated Based on Previous Zones)

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION



SPC Relevant Planning Zones

LEGEND

- Rural Living Zones
- Open Space Zones
- Rural Zones
- Environmental Management Zones
- Planning Zones Not Relevant
- Sea
- Study Area Boundary

Acknowledgement: Land Tasmania Data

Prepared for: North East Bioregional Network
By: Geoscene International
(Division of Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd)

May 2019

N

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

2.11 Scenic Protection Area Assessment

The Scenic Value Areas should be used as the basis for designating the SPC overlays for Scenic Protection Areas and for Scenic Road Corridors.
For this project, only prospective Scenic Protection Areas have been assessed and mapped, due to complications with the TPG's definition of Scenic Road Corridors and the lack of field reviews of the North East Region.

Scenic Road Corridors (Clause 8.6.2 Development within a scenic road corridor) were recommended to the Southern Tasmania Councils Authority (STCA) to consist of only one category, delineated based on the High Scenic Value Areas (SVA1) only. However, at present, the SPC definitions limit such designations to an area extending up to 120 m from the private property frontages (away from the selected scenic road) or, alternatively when there are no private property frontages, an area extending up to 120 m from the edge of the scenic road pavement. The STCA had planned to suggest amendments to this definition to the Tasmanian Planning Commission, however, the outcome of this process is currently unknown.

Scenic Protection Areas (Clause C8.6.1 – Development within a scenic protection area, as per the SPC) will consist of two categories of protection:

- Scenic Protection Area 1 (SPA1 - High Scenic Value and Protection); and
- Scenic Protection Area 2 (SPA2 - Medium Scenic Value and Protection).

These Scenic Protection Areas are a direct geographic transfer from the Scenic Value Area maps (Maps 20 – 24) within the relevant planning zones, as shown in Map 25.

In the North East Region, there are very few areas that are not within SPC-relevant (new) Planning Zones. This means that by direct transfer an extensive area would be classified within Scenic Protection Area 2 (SPA2 - Medium Scenic Value and Protection). As Local Government Councils are able to apply their own discretion as to whether all portions of the High and Medium Scenic Value Areas are translated into Scenic Protection Areas, Geoscene recommends that this SPA2 area be reduced somewhat by excluding Scenic Value Area 2 areas that have been assessed as of Low Scenic Quality and all Scenic Value Area 3 areas.

This is shown in Table 6 and could be further informed through community consultation. It may be for example, that the community would also see the exclusion of SPA2 areas that are potentially visible from Viewer Sensitivity Level 3 travel routes and use areas, or which are not visible. However, Geoscene has retained these areas within the SPA2 at this time because it is considered that areas of High Scenic Quality areas should be afforded some level of scenic protection, even if they are not currently viewed by high numbers of observers or lower numbers of the public who may have high levels of concern for scenic values.

Those areas within the entire North East Region currently recommended for consideration as Scenic Protection Area 1 or Scenic Protection Area 2 are shown Map 26. The more detailed presentations of this assessment are displayed in greater detail for the sub-regional Areas 1 – 4 in Maps 27 – 30. Once again, Local Government Councils can apply their own discretion as to what sections of roads the Scenic Road Corridor overlay should be applied, and community consultation may also assist in this consideration.

Table 6 Scenic Value Area Matrix with Areas Recommended for Scenic Protection Area Exclusion

Viewer Sensitivity Level – Visibility Distance Ranges	Scenic Quality Class		
	High	Moderate	Low
1NF (0 m – 500 m)	SVA1	SVA1	
1MF (500 m – 1 km)	SVA1	SVA1	
1FF (1 km – 2 km)	SVA1	SVA2	
1NM (2 km – 4 km)	SVA1	SVA2	
1FM (4 km – 8 km)	SVA1	SVA2	
2NF (0 – 500 m)	SVA1	SVA2	
2MF (500 m – 1 km)	SVA1	SVA2	
2FF (1 km – 2 km)	SVA1	SVA2	
3NF (0 m – 500 m)	SVA2	SVA2	
1NB (8 km – 12 km)	SVA2	SVA2	
1MB (12 km – 20 km)	SVA2	SVA2	
1FB (20 km – 32 km)	SVA2	SVA2	
2NM (2 km – 4 km)	SVA2	SVA2	
2FM (4 km – 8 km)	SVA2	SVA2*	
3MF (500 m – 1 km)	SVA2		
2NB (8 km – 12 km)	SVA2		
2MB (12 km – 20 km)	SVA2		
2FB (20 km – 32 km)	SVA2		
3FF (1 km – 2 km)	SVA2		
3NM (2 km – 4 km)	SVA2		
3FM (4 km – 8 km)	SVA2		
3NB (8 km – 12 km)	SVA2		
3MB (12 km – 20 km)	SVA2		
3FB (20 km – 32 km)	SVA2		
NV - Not Visible	SVA2		

COMBINATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE SVA2 CLASSIFICATION

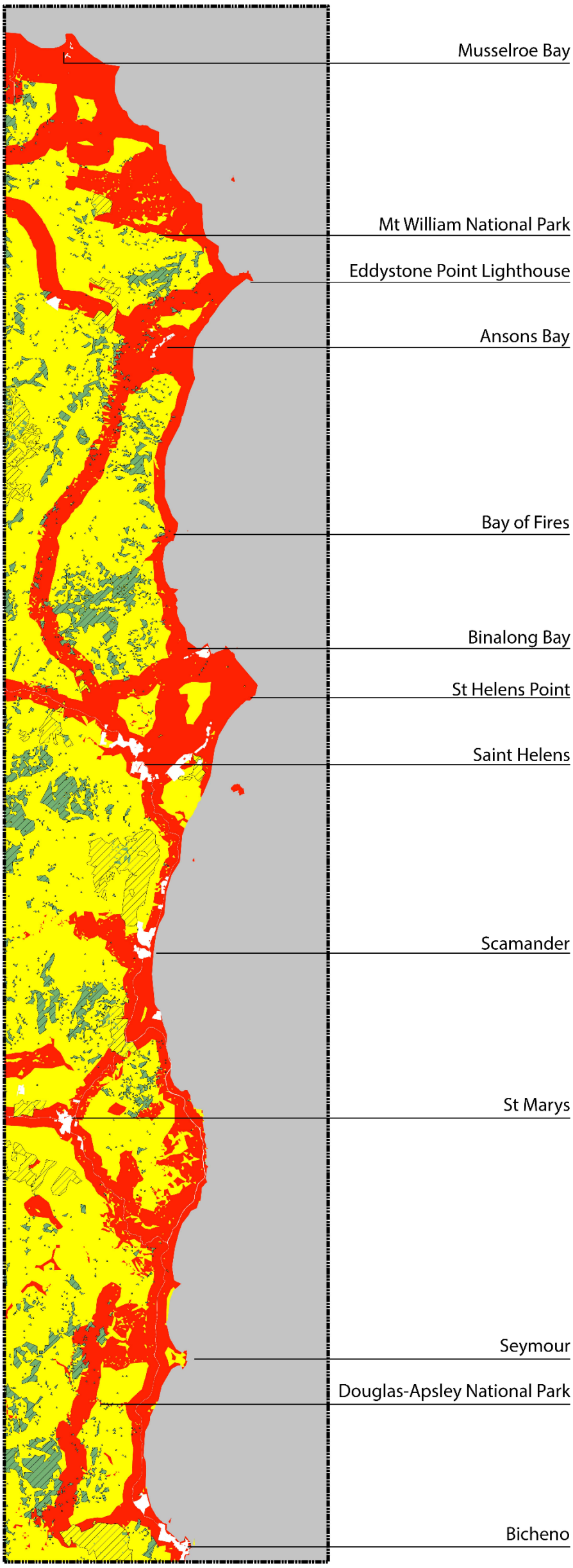
COMBINATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE SVA2 CLASSIFICATION

NOTES:

- Column 1 codes represent a combination of the Viewer Sensitivity Level (1 - High, 2 - Moderate, 3 - Low) and the Visibility Distance Zones (NF - Near Foreground, MF - Mid Foreground, FF - Far Foreground, NM - Near Middleground, FM - Far Middleground, NB - Near Background, MB - Mid Background, FB - Far Background, and NV - Not Visible).
- Columns 2 - 4 show assigned Scenic Value Areas (SVA1 - High Scenic Value Area, SVA2 - Moderate Scenic Value Area, and SVA3 - Low Scenic Value Area). The Scenic Value Areas vary by row according to the combination of Viewer Sensitivity Level/Visibility Distance Zone and Scenic Quality Class. In Tasmania, only the SVA1 and SVA2 areas are applied to the Scenic Protection Code within the relevant Planning Zones as per the Code guidelines.

Map 26 Regional Scenic Protection Area Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA COASTAL REGION



Scenic Protection Areas

LEGEND

- Scenic Protection Area 1 (High)
- Scenic Protection Area 2 (Medium)
- Scenic Protection Area 3 (Low)
- Planning Zone Exclusion Areas
- Excluded Scenic Value Areas
- Sea
- Study Area Boundary

Acknowledgement: Land Tasmania Data

Prepared for: North East Bioregional Network
By: Geoscene International
(Division of Scenic Spectrums Pty Ltd)

May 2019

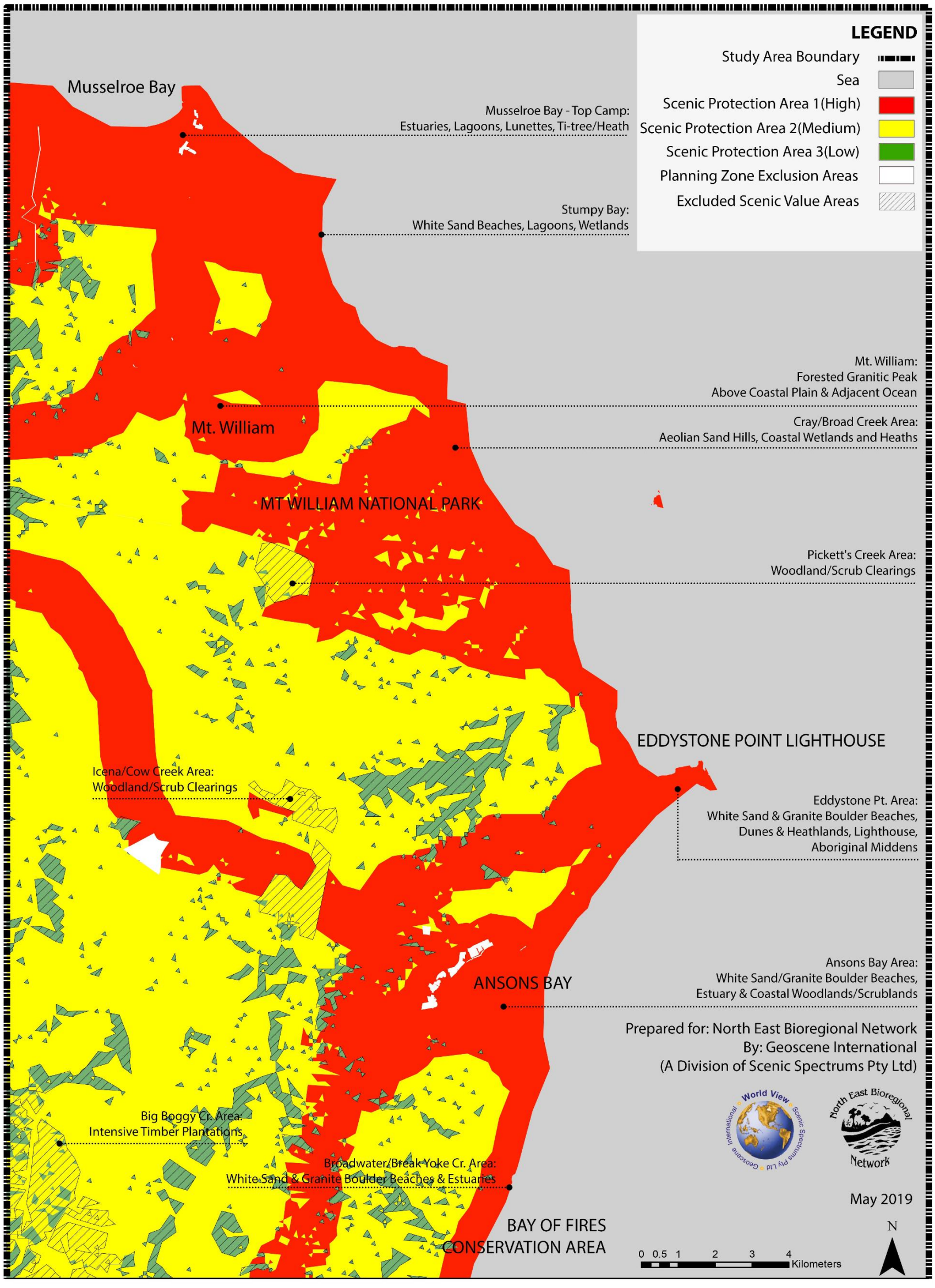
N

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

Map 27 Area 1 Scenic Protection Area Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA - AREA 1

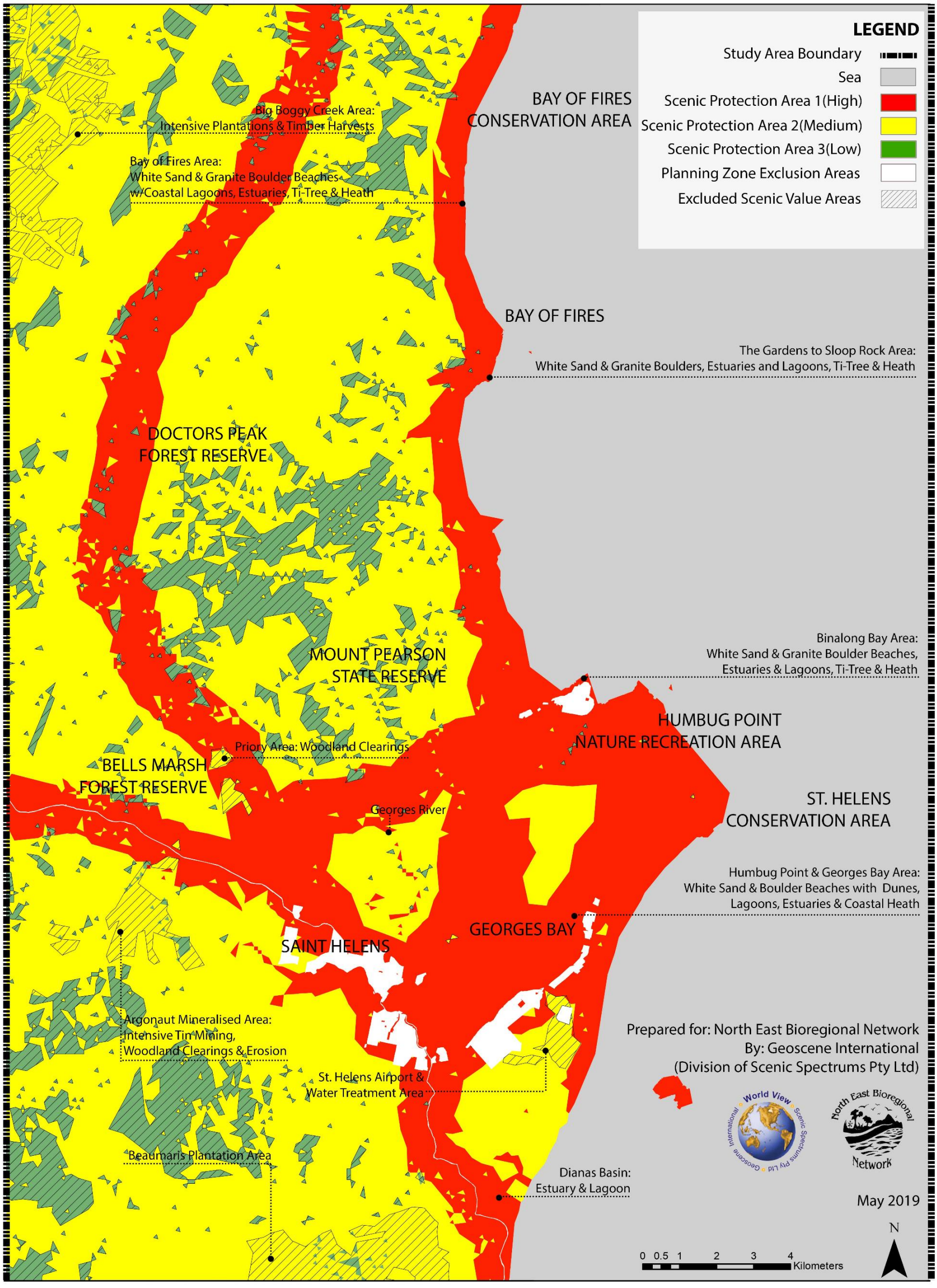
Scenic Protection Areas



Map 28 Area 2 Scenic Protection Area Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA - AREA 2

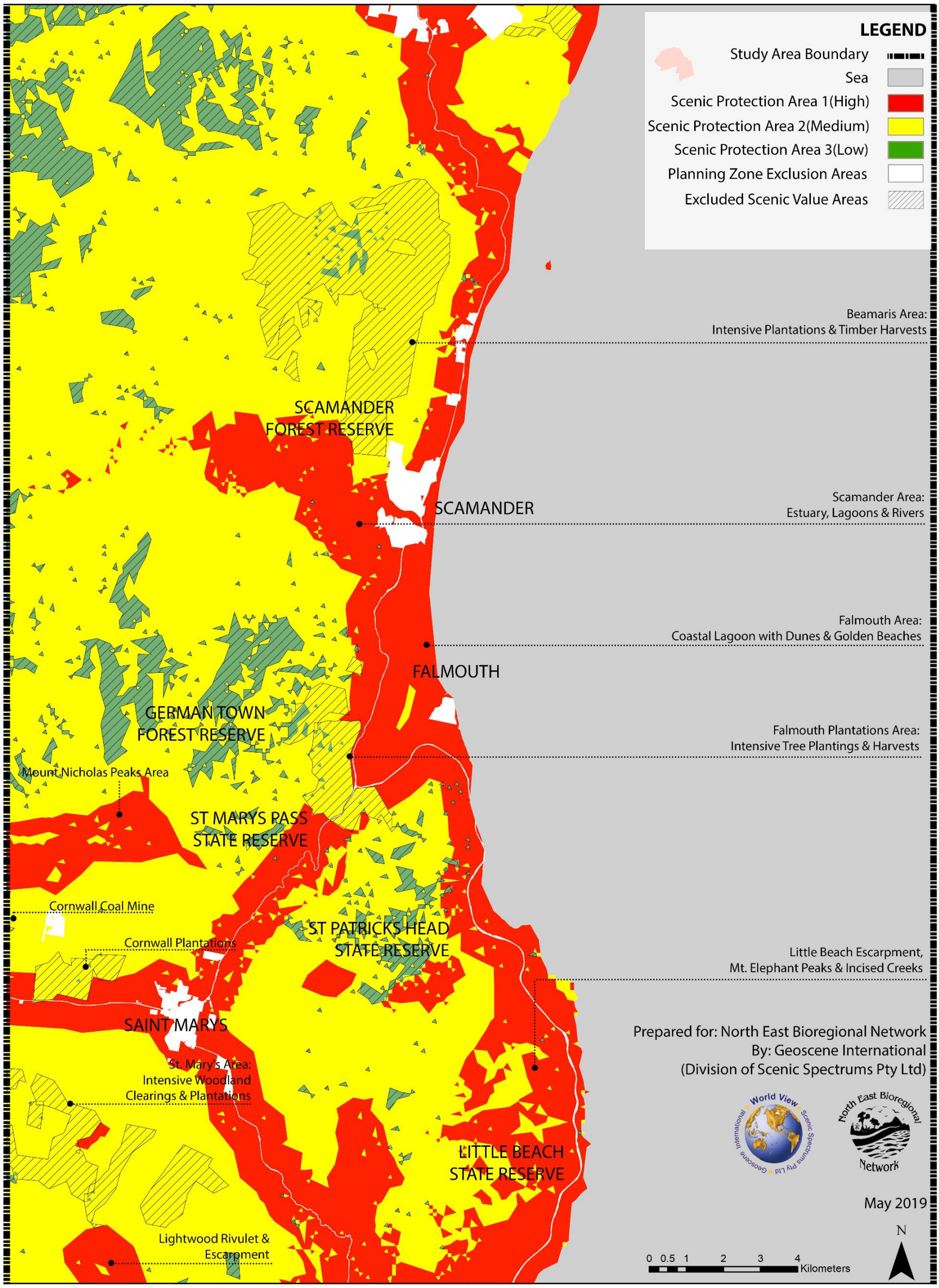
Scenic Protection Areas



Map 29 Area 3 Scenic Protection Area Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA - AREA 3

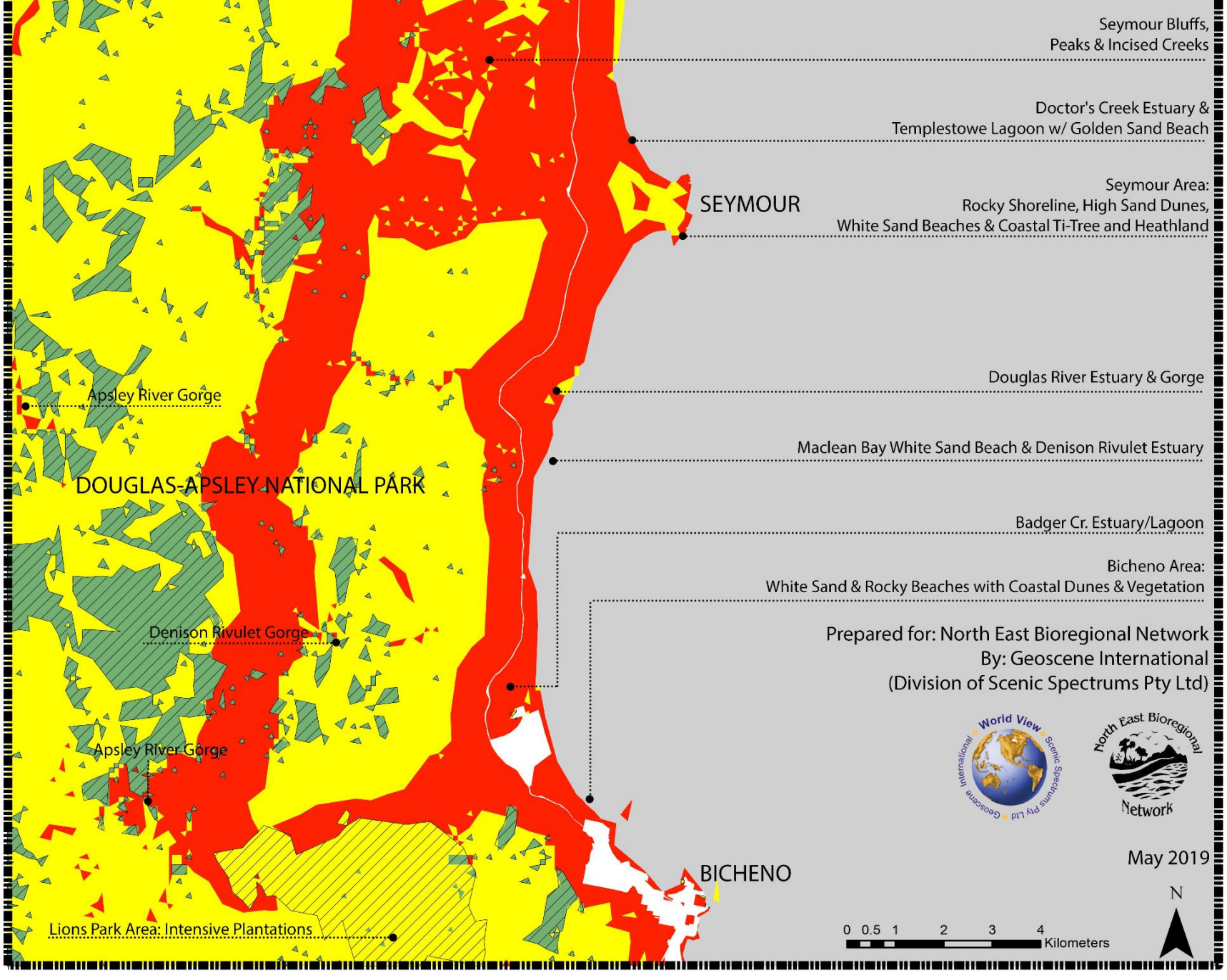
Scenic Protection Areas



Map 30 Area 4 Scenic Protection Area Assessment

SCENIC PROTECTION ASSESSMENT: NORTH EAST TASMANIA - AREA 4

Scenic Protection Areas



3.0 Conclusions and Further Stages of Work

This Scenic Protection Assessment of the North East Tasmania region has completed Stage 1 - 3 desktop analysis and GIS mapping of the baseline visual components to arrive at Scenic Protection Areas for consideration in any future application of the Scenic Protection Code. This provides an initial basis for NEBN's future discussions with the relevant Local Councils regarding the inclusion and application of the Scenic Protection Code within the coastal and hinterland region of North East Tasmania.

Subsequent stages of work to provide further refinement of the Scenic Protection Areas and application by Councils within Local Planning Schemes under the SPC include:

1. **Stage 1** (optional)**:**
   - Further field review and photography for refinement of the Scenic Quality Assessments (if considered necessary).

2. **Stage 2** (optional):
   - Adjustments to mapping Scenic Value Areas post further Stage 1 field review

3. **Stage 3:**
   - Adjustments to the final new Planning Zones of relevance to the Code (when available from the three Local Councils concerned);
   - Develop SPC Management Objectives for the new Local Planning Schemes;
   - Develop visual performance standards/criteria, potentially including the following types of criteria that will vary from more restrictive to less restrictive relative to the designated Visual Significance Zones. Potential criteria for example may include:
     - Landscape Character Continuum
     - Scenic Integrity/Visual Magnitude
     - Scenic Quality
     - Key Landscape Features Disruption
     - % Horizontal View Altered
     - Exterior Colour/Reflectivity/Lighting
     - Cumulative Visual Impacts
     - Other criteria as determined.
   - Prepare the text and tables for the SPC code for recommendation as part of the new Local Planning Schemes;

4. **Stage 4**:
   - Development Applications (DA) – Landscape Alteration Description and Analysis.

5. **Stage 5**:
   - Assessment of Proposed Alterations against SPC Management Objectives.

6. **Stage 6**:
   - Development Application Determinations (DA Allowed, DA Allowed with Specified Conditions, or DA Refused)

As Geoscene International has done for the STCA during 2018, training workshops for NEBN, Council staff and other community organisations could be provided to ensure they have a full understanding of visual assessment terminology and how to apply the SPC Assessment Model and the Visual Performance Standards/Performance Criteria to various proposed landscape alterations in the future.