

**INFORMATION/CLARIFICATION NEEDED FOR ASSESSMENT OF
THE GUNNS PULP MILL, JULY 2007**

**TERRESTRIAL FLORA AND FAUNA RESPONSE BY GUNNS LIMITED – ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION (ORCHIDS) 16 July 2007**

*Please clarify the area of habitat impacted for the two orchid species *Prasophyllum secutum* and *Caladenia caudata*, and the area of habitat available within the relevant IBRA region?*

For orchid species it is impossible to estimate the area of habitat available at an IBRA Region or State level. Orchids are patchily distributed in the landscape, and the presence of seemingly suitable habitat does not indicate definitive presence, nor give any indication of what population levels may be within a defined area.

Detailed surveys have not located either orchid species within the project area. Habitat types within the project area whilst potentially suitable for these species, are very well represented in the immediate area of the project and will be maintained within the Pulp Mill Site reserve network, existing reserve areas (State Forest and Crown Land) and existing extensive native vegetation areas.

***Prasophyllum secutum* (northern leek orchid)**

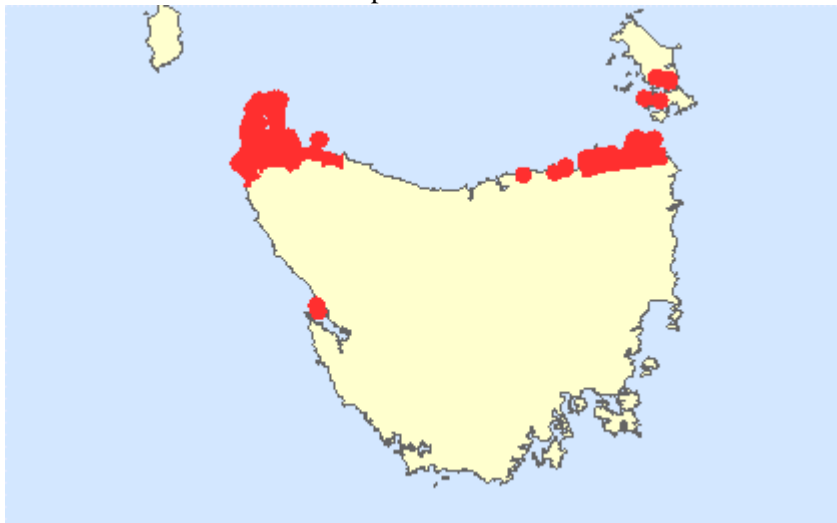
The preferred habitat of this species is dense coastal scrub in the swales of stabilised sand dunes on white to grey sands and sandy loam on the northern and west coasts of Tasmania.

The listing statement for this species indicates that the species occupies less than 10ha in total (based on known localities). The total number of individuals is estimated at 500 individuals, with two large populations (each containing 100-150 individuals), located in the northwest and north, and the remainder of populations estimated between 10-30 individuals. It is thought, given the wide distribution of the species, that more, as yet unknown populations may exist.

The listing statement is available at:

([http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Attachments/SROS-6VJ6QU/\\$FILE/Prasophyllum%20secutum%20listing%20statement.pdf](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Attachments/SROS-6VJ6QU/$FILE/Prasophyllum%20secutum%20listing%20statement.pdf))

The known distribution of the species is detailed on the DEW website



Source DEW website

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=64954

This species was last recorded in the vicinity of the effluent pipeline route on private property at Aerodrome Road in 1971. It has not been recorded since in this locality. No information was recorded on population within this area. The recorded locality is located approximately 300m to the south of the effluent pipeline route (ie the closest point of disturbance), although the accuracy on this record is very poor. Based on the site description of Aerodrome Road, it is possible that the true location may be even further to the south where Aerodrome Road is located.

This species of orchid flowers late spring/early summer only after fire. In the absence of fire it is difficult to assess the likelihood of the species within the project area. Based on the presence of potentially suitable habitat (ie dense coastal scrub) it has been assumed that the species persists in the local area.

No known localities of this species will be disturbed as a result of the project.

The area of *potential* habitat for this species within the project area is approximately 4ha. No accurate mapping of areas of non-forest vegetation within Tasmania is available, however areas of coastal scrub within the Ben Lomond IBRA Region, and therefore also *potential* habitat for this species, would likely be in the tens of thousands of hectares.

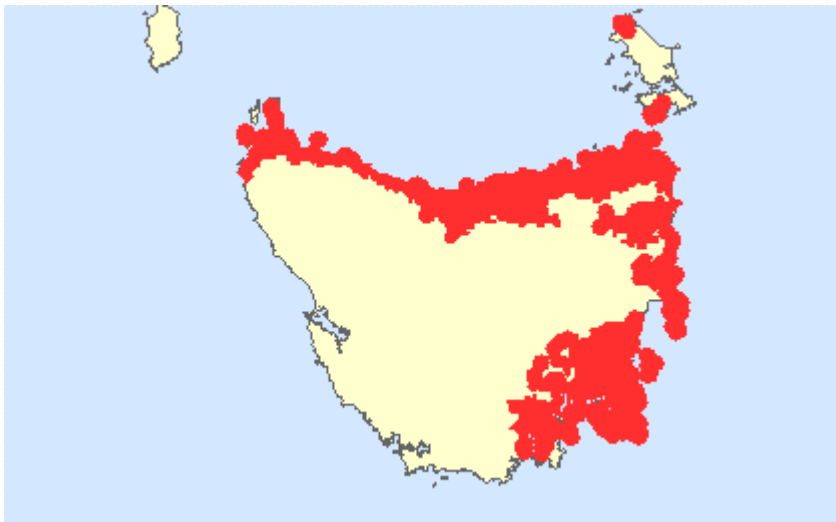
The are of potential habitat to be disturbed as a result of the project is therefore a very small percentage of that available at a IBRA Region level.

***Caladenia caudata* (tailed spider orchid)**

The preferred habitat of this species is dry sclerophyll forest and coastal heathland on the northern and east coasts of Tasmania.

No listing statement is available for this species and no information on population estimates is available.

The known distribution of the species is detailed on the DEW website



Source DEW website

http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=76222.

This species has been recorded in the vicinity of the pulp mill site, with the nearest known occurrence recorded in 1961 (record with a poor accuracy of 5000m). Flowering of this species occurs in spring,

September-October, most often in the initial years following fire but also flowers sporadically in the absence of fire.

Dedicated spring surveys were conducted as a component of the flora assessment, with the aim of capturing spring flowering species, particularly listed orchids. No individuals of this species were located. However, based on the presence of large areas of potentially suitable habitat it is considered possible that the species may be present within the project area.

No known localities of this species will be disturbed as a result of the project.

The area of potential habitat for this species within the project area is approximately 200ha. The area of potential habitat for this species within the Ben Lomond IBRA Region is not possible to accurately estimate, but would be well within the order of tens of thousands of hectares.

The area of potential habitat to be disturbed as a result of the project is therefore a very small percentage of that available at a IBRA Region level.