Raptor Nest

Management Plan

North West Transmission Development

TN Doc Number: NWTD-EP-PL-104

MIDA Act approval: MIPP-2026-01

EPBC Act approval: EPBC 2022/09247

Approval Holder: Tasmanian Networks Pty Ltd
ABN: 24 167 357 299
Location of Action: North-west Tasmania



TASMANIAN
PLANNING COMMISSION

Endorsed

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1. Document History

1.1 Current Document Authoriser

Title	Name
General Manager – Major Projects Transmission	Craig Gosney

1.2 Revision History

Rev	Date	Author	Authoriser	Details of Amendment
0	20/04/2026	Biodiversity Maintenance Australia (BMA) J Wiersma and Dr P Bell	Craig Gosney	First draft
1	27/04/2026	Genus/GHD	Craig Gosney	Amendments to first draft (formatting) and response to DCCEEW feedback on timing for approval of the plan
2	15/5/2026	Genus/BMA	Craig Gosney	Responding to TN comments, removing declaration of accuracy as directed by TN.
3	27/07/2026	IES Jason Wiersma (Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd)/Genus	Craig Gosney	Comprehensive revision of the RNMP in response to DCCEEW and TPC review comments including restructuring to align with DCCEEW Environmental Management Plan Guidelines, revised risk assessment, performance criteria, management controls, commitments register, monitoring framework, reporting, auditing and species ecology,
4	25/08/2026	IES Jason Wiersma (Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd)/Genus	Craig Gosney	Final revisions addressing DCCEEW and TPC review comments

2. Declaration of accuracy

I Richard Sheather in my position at TasNetworks as Project Director, designate Genus Infrastructure (NSW) Pty Ltd (Genus) to prepare, manage and implement the Raptor Nest Management Plan on my behalf.

In making this declaration, I am aware that section 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) makes it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents to specified persons who are known to be performing a duty or carrying out a function under the EPBC Act or the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth). The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed:	
Full name:	Richard Sheather
Position:	Project Director
Organisation:	TasNetworks
Date:	

3. Introduction

The North West Transmission Developments (NWTD) Project has been approved under both the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and the Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999 (MIDA Act). Approval conditions require the preparation and implementation of a Raptor Nest Management Plan (RNMP) to avoid, minimise and manage impacts to protected raptors and their nesting habitat during construction of the Action.

This RNMP has been prepared for Stage 1 of the NWTD Project to satisfy the requirements of EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 and MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01. The Plan documents the environmental management measures, monitoring requirements and compliance framework that will be implemented by the approval holder to protect listed raptor species during construction.

Purpose

The purpose of this RNMP is to establish the environmental management framework that will be implemented to avoid, minimise and manage impacts to protected raptor species and their nesting habitat during construction of the NWTD Project.

The Plan establishes the requirements for pre-construction surveys, nest identification and verification, implementation of management controls and exclusion distances, monitoring of nest activity, specialist assessment, and adaptive management during construction.

Protected matters addressed by this Plan include the following raptor species and their nesting habitat where they may occur within, or adjacent to, the Action area:

- Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle *(Aquila audax fleayi)*
- White-bellied Sea Eagle *(Icthyophaga leucogaster)*
- Grey Goshawk *(Tachyspiza novaehollandiae)*
- Tasmanian Masked Owl *(Tyto novaehollandiae castanops)*

3.1 Scope of this Raptor Nest Management Plan

This RNMP applies throughout all relevant stages of the Project where activities have the potential to impact protected raptor species or their nesting habitat, including:

- pre-construction surveys and investigations;
- site establishment and temporary works;
- construction activities; and
- rehabilitation of temporary works areas.

This RNMP will remain in effect for the duration of construction and will be reviewed and updated in response to changes in project activities, environmental conditions, monitoring outcomes or regulatory requirements.

Construction activities undertaken in proximity to raptor nests will be managed in accordance with the applicable management constraint periods, species-specific management controls and the advice of the relevant specialist.

3.2 Project Description

This RNMP has been prepared to form part of the CEMP and applies to construction activities where there is potential for disturbance to listed threatened raptor species and their nesting habitat. Construction activities undertaken under the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) include:

- Construction of new double-circuit 220 kV overhead transmission lines (OHTLs) from Palmerston Substation to Hampshire Substation and from Hampshire Substation to Burnie Substation.
- Construction of a new double-circuit 220 kV OHTL from the New Hampshire–Burnie OHTL in the Stowport area to a new switching station at Heybridge (HB), also referred to as the HB Spur East or HB Spur.
- Upgrading existing access tracks and construction of new access tracks.
- Establishment of winch and brake sites, laydown areas, tower assembly areas and associated site facilities.
- Upgrades to the existing Palmerston, Sheffield and Burnie substations.
- Dismantling and removal of the existing single-circuit 220 kV OHTLs between Palmerston and Sheffield substations and Sheffield and Burnie substations.
- Modification of two sections of the existing 110 kV OHTL between Sheffield and Burnie, including relocating and replacing towers with poles.
- Undergrounding sections of the 22 kV overhead distribution network where the proposed 220 kV OHTLs cross existing 22 kV distribution lines.

Construction activities include pre-construction surveys and site establishment, vegetation clearing, earthworks, tower foundation construction, tower erection, conductor stringing (including helicopter operations), and site rehabilitation.

The Project is located across multiple local government areas in north-west Tasmania, including the Northern Midlands, Meander Valley, Kentish, Central Coast and Burnie municipalities.

This RNMP applies to construction-phase activities only and is implemented in conjunction with the CEMP and the Flora and Fauna Management Subplan (FFMSP), which provide the overarching environmental management framework for the Project. The RNMP establishes the specific management measures required to avoid, minimise and manage impacts to protected raptors and their nesting habitat during construction.

3.3 Regulatory Framework and Approvals

The NWTD Project has been approved under both EPBC Act MIDA Act. This RNMP has been prepared to address the approval conditions relating to the protection and management of threatened raptor species and their nesting habitat during construction.

The Project is approved under the EPBC Act, approval 2022/09247. Conditions 5, 8, 9 and 10 require the preparation, approval and implementation of a Raptor Nest Management Plan that is consistent with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Guidelines and establishes commitments, management measures, monitoring, performance indicators, trigger values, corrective measures and reporting mechanisms to achieve the required environmental outcomes.

The Project is approved under the MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01. This Plan has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of MIDA Act approval conditions 25, 26 and 27 relating to the protection of raptor nests, implementation of exclusion distances and management controls, and the preparation and implementation of a Raptor Nest Management Plan.

This RNMP forms part of the CEMP and should be read in conjunction with the FFMSP and other relevant project management plans. Together, these documents establish the environmental management framework for implementation of the Project during construction.

While the EPBC Act approval specifically includes requirements relating to the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and Tasmanian Masked Owl, this RNMP also addresses the broader raptor management requirements of MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01, including the White-bellied Sea Eagle and Grey Goshawk.

3.4 Approval Condition Compliance Mapping

Tables 1 and 2 provide a cross-reference between the applicable approval conditions and the corresponding sections of this Plan. This condition mapping demonstrates how each approval requirement is addressed and provides traceability between the approval conditions and the environmental management measures, monitoring, reporting and compliance commitments documented throughout the RNMP

EPBC Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
5	All commitments made in plans, including environmental outcomes, management measures, corrective measures, trigger values and performance indicators must be SMART and based on referenced or included evidence of effectiveness. All plans must be consistent with the Environmental Management Plan Guidelines, and must include: a) details of the relevant protected matters and a reference to the EPBC Act approval condition(s) to which the plan refers; b) a Table of commitments made in the plan to achieve measurable environmental outcomes, and a reference to exactly where these commitments are detailed in the plan; c) commitments capable of ensuring that the environmental outcomes are achieved; d) reporting and review mechanisms to demonstrate compliance with the commitments made in the plan; e) an assessment of risks relating to achieving the environmental outcomes and risk management strategies and mitigation measures that will be applied to address identified risks; f) impact avoidance, mitigation and repair measures, and the timing of those measures; g) a monitoring program, which must include: i) performance indicators; ii) trigger values for corrective measures;	a) Section (Protected Matters – Species Ecology) b) Table 11 (Commitments Register) c) Table 10 (Management Controls) and Table 11 (Commitments Register) d) Section Reporting, Monitoring, Audit and Review(Reporting, Monitoring, Audit and Review) e) Section (Potential Environmental Impacts and Risks) f) Table 10 (Management Controls) g) 1. Table 9 (Performance Criteria for the RNMP) 2. Table 13 (Plan specific Raptor Management Triggers and Responses) 3. Table 12 (Raptor Monitoring Activities) 4. Table 13 (Plan specific Triggers and Responses) h) Section (Reference Documents)	a) Species ecology section within the approved RNMP. b) Commitments Register. c) Management Controls Register and implementation records. d) Survey reports, monitoring reports, GIS mapping and specialist assessment records. e) Preliminary Risk Assessment (Table 8). f) Management control implementation records, environmental inspection records and site verification records. g) 1. Performance Criteria for the RNMP (Table 9). 2. Plan specific Triggers and Responses (Table 13). 3. Monitoring reports, specialist assessment records and inspection records. 4. Incident reports, corrective action records and environmental inspection records.

EPBC Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
	iii) the timing and frequency of monitoring, ensuring monitoring is capable of detecting trigger values and changes in the performance indicators; iv) proposed corrective measures if trigger values are reached; and h) references to other relevant plans or conditions of approval (including Tasmanian Approval).		h) Approved reference documents and project methodologies listed in Section 9.
8	To mitigate harm to Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle and Tasmanian Masked Owl the approval holder must submit to the department, for the Minister's approval, a version of the Raptor Nest Management Plan required by condition 27 of the Tasmanian Approval. The approval holder must not commence the Action within Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle potential nesting habitat or Tasmanian Masked Owl potential nesting habitat unless the Minister has approved the Raptor Nest Management Plan in writing.	This plan	Ministerial approval
9	The RNMP must be prepared by a suitably qualified eagle specialist and a suitably qualified owl specialist. The Raptor Nest Management Plan must be consistent with Fauna Technical Note 1 and must include: a) the results of passive acoustic monitoring of potential habitat of the Tasmanian Masked Owl to detect possible nests, and nest tree surveys in identified habitat, all undertaken in spring and completed no more than 3 months prior to submitting the plan for approval; b) a commitment to undertake additional acoustic surveys of potential habitat of the Tasmanian Masked Owl to detect possible nests,	a) Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology (Appendix C), Section 7.5 Survey Program. b) Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology (Appendix C) Table 10 (Management Controls); Table 11 (Commitments Register). c) Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology (Appendix C).	a) Acoustic survey reports; GIS mapping; field records. b) Spring acoustic survey reports; GIS mapping; field records. c) Survey methodology and assessment report. d) Management controls documented in the RNMP. e) Commitments Register and management records.

EPBC Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
	undertaken in spring and completed no more than 6 months prior to commencing any construction; c) the methodology used to survey for Tasmanian Masked Owl nests and analysis of whether this methodology was sufficient, consistent with latest guidance and scientific knowledge, to reliably detect the presence of all Tasmanian Masked Owl nests; d) details of how, and clear commitments that, the approval holder will ensure that no machinery is used within: i. 150 m of any active Tasmanian Masked Owl nest; ii. 1 km of any active Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle nest during the eagle management constraint period if it is at all possible that any part of the machinery could be seen from the nest; or iii. 500 m of any active Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle nest during the eagle management constraint period if it is impossible that any part of the machinery could be seen from the nest; e) a commitment to not clear or harm any tree that contains a Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest; f) the locations of all Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests or potential nests identified in searches in potential habitat undertaken within three months prior to submitting the plan for approval; g) the locations of all hollows with an entry diameter of 15 cm or greater located during surveys of all habitat within 150 m of any area to be cleared or otherwise modified as part of the Action; h) a commitment to undertake searches for Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests in all potential habitat within 1 km of the Action area,	d) Section (Protected Matters – Species Ecology); Table 10 (Management Controls). e) Table 10 (Management Controls) (M7); Table 11 (Commitments Register). f) Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment and Appendix A Nest Register and EPZs. g) Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology, Section Survey Program. h) Risk Assessment; Table 10 (Management Controls); Table 11 (Commitments Register); Table 12 (Monitoring Activities). i) Table 10 (Management Controls); Table 12 (Monitoring Activities). j) Table 10 (Management Controls). k) Table 10 (Management Controls).	f) Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment report; GIS nest database. g) Hollow assessment records; GIS mapping. h) Eagle survey reports; annual survey records; Commitments Register. i) Site inspection records; permit-to-work records; specialist approvals. j) Environmental inspection records; monitoring records; incident records. k) Environmental inspection records; monitoring records; incident records.

EPBC Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
	including any temporary helicopter take-off and landing areas, at least once each year until the completion of all construction; i) a commitment to undertake monitoring of all known Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests within 1 km of the Action area; j) measures to be implemented to prevent any works being undertaken within any raptor nest exclusion distance; k) measures to be implemented to mitigate the potential for noise or vibration to impact breeding at any raptor nest despite works occurring outside the exclusion distances.		
10	The approval holder must commence implementing the approved Raptor Nest Management Plan no later than when first commencing any part of the Action within Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle potential nesting habitat or Tasmanian Masked Owl potential nesting habitat and must continue to implement the Raptor Nest Management Plan at least until the completion of construction.	a) Section (Management Controls). b) Section (Reporting, Monitoring, Audit and Review). c) Table 10 (Management Controls). d) Table 11 (Commitments Register). e) Table 12 (Monitoring Activities).	a) Management control implementation records. b) Monitoring records and specialist assessment reports. c) Environmental inspection reports. d) Commitments Register. e) Monitoring reports, audit records and document control records.

Table 1 EPBC Act approval conditions and response

MIDA Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
25	No operation of machinery within: 1. 100 m of an active Grey Goshawk nest; 2. 150 m of an active Tasmanian Masked Owl nest; 3. 500 m, or 1 km where there is direct line-of-sight during the management constraint period, of an active Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle or White-bellied Sea Eagle nest.	Section (Protected Matters – Species Ecology). Table 10 (Management Controls). Table 11 (Commitments Register).	M1–M6 (pre-construction surveys and specialist verification). GIS mapping; survey records; photographs; daily inspection records. Specialist assessment reports.
26	Where a known Grey Goshawk, Tasmanian Masked Owl, Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle or White-bellied Sea Eagle nest occurs within 500 m of construction activities, works must be undertaken in accordance with an approach prepared by a relevant specialist.	Section (Environmental Performance Criteria, Commitments and Management Controls) Section (Reporting, Monitoring, Audit and Review) Table 11 (Commitments Register)	M5 (Implementation of management controls). Specialist assessment reports. GIS mapping. Nest register. Environmental inspection records. Monitoring records. Construction hold point records (where applicable).
27	Prior to the commencement of works, a RNMP must be submitted to and approved by the Commission. The Plan must have regard to Forest Practices Authority Fauna Technical Note No. 1 (2024) and Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania advice on Tasmanian Masked Owl nest tree monitoring and must include: 1. Details of the prohibition on using machinery within specified distances of active raptor nests as set out in Condition 25. 2. Results of Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle nest searches in potential habitat.	Introductory requirement a) This RNMP. b) Section (Introduction). c) Table 11 (Commitments Register – C1). 1. a) Table 10 (Management Controls). b) Table 11 (Commitments Register). 2. a) Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment.	Introductory requirement C1 (Commission approval prior to commencement). Approval letter. Document control register. a) Management control records. Permit-to-work records. Inspection records. b) Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment report.

MIDA Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
	3. Results of Grey Goshawk nest searches in potential habitat undertaken within 12 months before construction commences. 4. Results of additional acoustic surveys of potential Tasmanian Masked Owl habitat completed no more than six months prior to construction works and undertaken in spring. 5. Assessment of habitat within 150 m of areas to be cleared or modified for hollows with an entry diameter of 15 cm or greater. 6. Details of proposed Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Tasmanian Masked Owl and Grey Goshawk nest monitoring, activity checks and exclusion areas. 7. Requirement for annual Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle nest searches in potential habitat within 1 km of the site, including temporary helicopter take-off and landing areas, until construction is complete. 8. Requirement for annual monitoring of known Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle nests within 1 km of the site. 9. Actions to prevent works occurring within exclusion areas established for listed raptor nests. 10. Measures to mitigate potential noise and vibration impacts on listed raptor nests where construction occurs outside the line-of-sight between 500 m and 1 km of an active nest	b) Table 12 (Raptor Monitoring Activities). 3. Stage 1 does not include the identified potential Grey Goshawk habitat to which this requirement applies. Accordingly, this RNMP is not seeking to satisfy Condition 27.3. Pre-construction Grey Goshawk habitat assessment and targeted nest searches are nevertheless being undertaken within the relevant Stage 1 survey area. a) Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology. b) Table 12 (Raptor Monitoring Activities). a) Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology. b) Table 12 (Raptor Monitoring Activities). 4. a) Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology. 5. a) Section (Protected Matters – Species Ecology). b) Table 10 (Management Controls). 7. a) Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment.	GIS nest database. Survey records. c) Grey Goshawk survey report. GIS habitat mapping. Survey records. d) Acoustic monitoring reports. GIS records. Field records. e) Habitat assessment report. Hollow assessment records. GIS mapping. f) Management mapping. GIS layers. Specialist assessment. g) Annual survey reports. Nest register. Monitoring records. h) Monitoring reports. Inspection records. Specialist assessments. i) Management control implementation records. Inspection reports. Audit records. j) Noise and vibration management procedures. Inspection records. Environmental monitoring records.

MIDA Act Condition	Summary of condition requirement	RNMP section / Table	Evidence/Records
		b) Table 12 (Raptor Monitoring Activities). 8. a) Table 12 (Raptor Monitoring Activities). 9. a) Table 10 (Management Controls). b) Table 11 (Commitments Register). 10. a) Table 10 (Management Controls). b) Section (Environmental Performance Criteria, Commitments and Management Controls).	

4. Objectives

The objectives of this RNMP are to:

- meet the requirements of EPBC Act Approval EPBC 2022/09247, including Conditions 5, 8, 9 and 10;
- be consistent with DCCEEW EMP Guidelines;
- meet the requirements of MIDA Act permit MIPP-2026-01, including Conditions 25, 26 and 27;
- establish management measures to avoid, minimise and manage impacts to Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey Goshawk and Tasmanian Masked Owl, and their nesting habitat, during construction of the Project;
- establish clear environmental commitments, management controls, monitoring, reporting, trigger values and corrective actions that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART), and capable of demonstrating compliance with the applicable approval conditions; and
- effectively implement the requirements of the CEMP and the FFMSP for the protection of threatened raptor species during construction.

5. Environmental Management Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for implementing this RNMP are summarised in Table 3.

Role	Responsibility
Approval holder / Project Director	• Overall accountability for resourcing, implementation and effectiveness of this RNMP, and for ensuring auditable evidence of compliance with approval conditions.
Construction Manager	• Ensure construction personnel comply with approved raptor management controls, cease works when a stop-work or hold-point requirement under this RNMP is triggered, and implement environmental directions issued by the Environmental Manager or the relevant specialist. • Understands the requirements of this RNMP and ensures construction activities are undertaken in accordance with its requirements to minimise impacts on protected raptors and nesting habitat.
Environmental Manager	• Coordinate implementation of this RNMP, maintain compliance records, communicate management controls, liaise with the relevant specialist and verify compliance with approval conditions. • Investigates complaints raised by stakeholders or incidents raised by workers, regulators or the community, including review of monitoring data, the effectiveness of mitigation measures and any required corrective actions.

Role	Responsibility
	• Ensures there is adequate demarcation of all Ecological Protection Zones (EPZs) relevant to this RNMP. • Maintains records of inspections, investigations and corrective actions associated with this RNMP. • Communicates updates to this RNMP, complaints, incidents and investigation outcomes to TasNetworks, in accordance with the Project's environmental reporting and incident notification requirements. • Makes complaint and incident records available to relevant authorities when requested. • Prepares induction material to inform personnel of the requirements of this RNMP. • Notifies the TasNetworks Environmental & Sustainability Team of incidents in accordance with the project incident notification requirements.
TasNetworks E&S Team	• Receive notification of unplanned works undertaken within an EPZ. • Receive notification of incidents and non-compliances associated with implementation of this RNMP. • Review specialist advice and management decisions when requested by the Environmental Manager or Approval Holder under project governance arrangements.
Relevant Specialist (Refer to Glossary)	• Relative to their area of expertise • Undertakes nest surveys and assessments, determines nest status and risk, provides written management advice and clearance when specialist clearance is required under the management controls of this RNMP, and supports independent, auditable compliance with approval conditions. • Responsible for establishing and clearly demarcating EPZs using GPS, flagging tape, bunting or other approved field delineation methods. • Responsible for determining nest activity status and advising when EPZs or management controls should be established, modified or removed following monitoring. • Has authority to direct, modify or temporarily halt construction activities where there is a risk of disturbance to an active raptor nest.

Role	Responsibility
	• Provides specialist advice following unexpected nest discoveries, changes in nest status or incidents involving protected raptors. • Reviews monitoring results and recommends adaptive management measures with the specific trigger for adaptive management.
All workers	• Comply with raptor nest management controls, cease works and report suspected raptor nests or non-compliances to site supervision and the Environmental Manager immediately.

Table 3 Responsibilities for the RNMP

5.1 Relevant Specialists

Refer to the Glossary for the EPBC approval definitions of Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE), Suitably Qualified Eagle Specialist (SQES) and Suitably Qualified Owl Specialist (SQOS). Responsibilities under this RNMP are undertaken by the relevant suitably qualified specialist in accordance with those definitions.

6. Environmental Training and Communication

6.1 Training and Inductions

Training and communication relating to this RNMP will be undertaken in accordance with the training and awareness requirements outlined in the CEMP and FFMSP. This approach ensures a consistent understanding of environmental obligations, management controls and response procedures across the project workforce.

- All personnel involved in clearing, ground disturbance or construction activities will receive project induction training that includes the requirements of this RNMP, delivered as part of the CEMP and FFMSP induction process.
- Targeted environmental awareness training will be provided to relevant personnel (e.g. supervisors, machinery operators and environmental staff) and will include:
  - identification of raptor nests, nesting habitat and species-specific management requirements;
  - EPZ requirements, exclusion distances and management controls;
  - stop-work, hold point and notification procedures;
  - unexpected nest discovery protocols;
  - roles and responsibilities under this RNMP, the FFMSP and the CEMP.
- Briefings or toolbox talks will be undertaken by the relevant specialist prior to clearing or other high-risk activities where raptor nests or nesting habitat has been identified.

6.2 Communication

Raptor nest management requirements will be communicated through established CEMP and FFMSP communication mechanisms, including:

- site inductions;
- pre-start meetings and toolbox talks;
- environmental alerts or notices; and
- signage where EPZs or other management controls are in place.

Updates to known nest locations, EPZs, exclusion distances or management controls will be communicated to relevant personnel in a timely manner through site supervision and the Environmental Manager.

6.3 Training Records

Records of inductions, toolbox talks and targeted training relevant to raptor nest management will be maintained in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP record management requirements.

Training records will be made available for audit and compliance reporting purposes.

7. Emergency Contacts and Procedures

Emergency contacts, incident response arrangements and escalation procedures for the Project are defined in the CEMP.

In the event of an environmental emergency, incident or unanticipated impact affecting protected raptor species or their nesting habitat (including disturbance to an active nest, unauthorised entry into an EPZ, injury or mortality of a protected raptor, or the discovery of an unrecorded nest), all relevant construction activities within the affected area shall cease immediately and the response, notification and reporting procedures specified in the Emergency Response and Incident Management section of the CEMP will be implemented.

The management controls, incident response requirements and reporting obligations applicable to raptor-related incidents are detailed in Table 10 (Management Controls), Table 11 (Commitments Register) and Section 8 (Reporting, Monitoring, Audit and Review).

Site-specific emergency contact details will be maintained and made available to all personnel in accordance with the CEMP and reviewed periodically to ensure currency.

8. Potential Environmental Impacts and Risks

8.1 Plan-specific Triggers and Responses

Construction activities associated with the NWTD Project have the potential to result in direct and indirect impacts to protected raptors and their nesting habitat if not appropriately managed. Disturbance to active nests, nesting habitat or breeding behaviour may result in nest abandonment, breeding failure, injury or mortality.

Potential environmental impacts and risks relevant to raptor nest management include:

- disturbance to active raptor nests during vegetation clearing, earthworks, access track construction, tower assembly, conductor stringing, helicopter operations or other construction activities;
- disturbance arising from construction noise, vibration, increased human presence or machinery operation, particularly during the breeding season;
- unanticipated discovery of active or previously unrecorded raptor nests during construction activities;
- inadequate establishment, maintenance or implementation of EPZs, exclusion distances or other management controls;
- failure to implement approved management controls, hold points, EPZs, exclusion distances or specialist recommendations during construction activities.
- disturbance associated with low-level aerial activities, including helicopter operations and UAV use, particularly where undertaken within occupied raptor territories or near active nests.

Without effective management, these impacts may result in non-compliance with EPBC Act Approval EPBC 2022/09247, MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01 and adverse outcomes for protected raptors and their nesting habitat.

These potential impacts are managed through the commitments, management controls, monitoring requirements, trigger values and corrective actions described throughout this RNMP. The Plan emphasises early identification of

nests and nesting habitat, implementation of EPZs, pre-construction surveys, specialist assessment, stop-work and hold-point procedures, and adaptive management in response to monitoring outcomes, unexpected discoveries, incidents or changes in nest status.

8.2 Risks Assessment

The risk assessment methodology is presented in Tables 4–7, while the Preliminary Risk Assessment is summarised in Table 8. The assessment identifies the major environmental hazards, potential impacts, management measures, trigger values, performance indicators and corrective actions required to manage environmental risks during construction. Plan-specific trigger values and corrective actions are presented in Table 13.

The Preliminary Risk Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Project risk management framework and is consistent with DCCEEW EMP Guidelines, which require defined environmental outcomes supported by measurable commitments, management measures, trigger values, performance indicators, monitoring requirements and corrective actions.

8.3 Risk Matrix

Project-specific environmental risks associated with raptor management have been assessed using the risk assessment framework adopted in the approved CEMP and consistent with DCCEEW EMP Guidelines. The risk assessment methodology and Preliminary Risk Assessment are presented in Tables 4–8. Plan-specific trigger values and corrective actions are presented in Table 13.

Notifications, incident classification, escalation and external reporting will be undertaken in accordance with the incident and non-conformance management procedures set out in the CEMP and FFMSP.

A Preliminary Risk Assessment for key construction activities that have the potential to impact raptors or their nesting habitat is summarised in Table 8. The risk assessment is based on the risk matrix shown in Tables 5–8, which are consistent with DCCEEW EMP Guidelines. An inherent risk rating and a residual risk rating, following implementation of the management controls described in this RNMP, are assigned to each identified hazard.

Likelihood	Consequences				
	1 (Minor)	2 (Moderate)	3 (High)	4 (Major)	5 (Critical)
A (Highly likely)					
B (Likely)					
C (Possible)					
D (Unlikely)					
E (Rare)					

Table 4 Risk Matrix Based on DCCEEW EMP Guidelines

Risk Rank	Description
Tolerable	Risk reduction not required
Risk reduction required	Risk reduction measures need to be implemented so that risk is as low as reasonably practicable
Unacceptable	Risk is too great for activity to proceed

Table 5 Risk rating key and acceptability

Ranking	Qualitative measure of likelihood	Description
A	Highly likely	Is expected to occur in most circumstances
B	Likely	Will probably occur during the life of the project
C	Possible	Might occur during the life of the project
D	Unlikely	Could occur but considered unlikely or doubtful
E	Rare	May occur in exceptional circumstances

Table 6 Likelihood of risk

Ranking	Qualitative measure of consequence	Description
1	Minor	Minor incident of environmental damage that can be reversed
2	Moderate	Isolated but substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts
3	High	Substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts
4	Major	Major loss of environmental amenity and real danger of continuing
5	Critical	Severe widespread loss of environmental amenity and irrecoverable environmental damage

Table 8 summarises the principal environmental risks associated with raptor management during the Project and the corresponding management controls described in Table 10. Residual risk ratings assume that all management controls specified in this RNMP are fully implemented.

	Major Environmental Hazard Event	Potential Risks to Environment and People	Risk ranking Pre-management			Risk Mitigation Measures (Table 10)	Residual risk rating		
			Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking		Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking
1	Required desktop assessment, survey planning or pre-construction surveys are not completed before construction commences.	• Active raptor nests remain unidentified. • Required management controls are not established or implemented. • Disturbance to breeding raptors and nesting habitat. • Nest abandonment, breeding failure, injury or mortality of protected raptors. • Non-compliance with EPBC Approval EPBC 2022/09247 and MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01.	C	3	High	M1, M2, M4	D	3	Moderate
2	A previously unidentified active raptor nest, nesting habitat or hollow-bearing tree is discovered during construction activities.	• Disturbance to breeding raptors and nesting habitat. • Temporary cessation or modification of construction activities. • Construction delays. • Additional specialist assessment required. Regulatory non-compliance if not managed appropriately.	C	3	High	M3, M5, M6, M12	D	3	Moderate

	Major Environmental Hazard Event	Potential Risks to Environment and People	Risk ranking Pre-management			Risk Mitigation Measures (Table 10)	Residual risk rating		
			Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking		Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking
3	Construction activities occur within an EPZ, exclusion distance or approved management area without authorisation.	• Disturbance to breeding raptors and nesting habitat. • Nest abandonment, breeding failure, injury or mortality of protected raptors. • Damage to nesting habitat. • Regulatory non-compliance.	C	3	High	M5, M6, M7, M10	D	3	Moderate
4	Helicopter construction activities disturb breeding raptors or nesting habitat.	• Disturbance to breeding behaviour during sensitive breeding stages. • Nest abandonment or breeding failure. • Injury or mortality of protected raptors. • Regulatory non-compliance.	D	3	Moderate	M5, M8, M11	D	3	Moderate
5	Drone operations disturb breeding raptors or nesting habitat.	• Disturbance to breeding behaviour. • Aggressive territorial interactions. • Injury to protected raptors or loss of aircraft. • Regulatory non-compliance.	C	3	High	M5, M9, M11	D	3	Moderate
6	Approved management controls, hold points or environmental protection measures are not implemented or maintained.	Construction proceeds without approved management controls. habitat. • Nest abandonment, breeding failure or mortality. • Regulatory non-compliance. • Disturbance to breeding raptors and nesting	C	3	High	M5, M6, M7, M10	D	3	Moderate

	Major Environmental Hazard Event	Potential Risks to Environment and People	Risk ranking Pre-management			Risk Mitigation Measures (Table 10)	Residual risk rating		
			Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking		Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking
7	Required nest monitoring, seasonal verification or specialist inspections are not completed.	• Changes in nest occupancy, breeding status or management requirements are not detected. • Inappropriate management controls remain in place or are released prematurely. • Disturbance to breeding raptors. • Nest abandonment or breeding failure. • Regulatory non-compliance.	C	3	High	M11, M14	D	3	Moderate
8	Changes to nest occupancy, breeding status or management controls are not communicated or implemented.	• Construction proceeds using outdated or inappropriate management controls. • Increased likelihood of unauthorised works within management areas. • Disturbance to breeding raptors. • Regulatory non-compliance.	C	3	High	M5, M10, M11, M14	D	3	Moderate
9	Incorrect determination of nest occupancy or breeding status results in inappropriate management controls being applied.	• Active nests are not afforded appropriate protection. • Disturbance to breeding raptors. • Nest abandonment, breeding failure or mortality. • Regulatory non-compliance.	C	3	High	M4, M5, M11	D	3	Moderate

	Major Environmental Hazard Event	Potential Risks to Environment and People	Risk ranking Pre-management			Risk Mitigation Measures (Table 10)	Residual risk rating		
			Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking		Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking
10	Unexpected discoveries, environmental incidents or non-compliances are not managed in accordance with this RNMP.	• Increased environmental impact. • Continued disturbance to protected raptors or nesting habitat. • Escalation of environmental impacts or incidents. • Regulatory investigation or enforcement action.	C	3	High	M12, M13	D	3	Moderate
11	Construction activities result in injury or mortality of a protected raptor.	• Loss of an individual protected raptor. • Reduced breeding success and potential adverse local population impacts. • Regulatory investigation or enforcement action. • Non-compliance with EPBC Approval EPBC 2022/09247 and MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01.	D	4	High	M5, M7, M8, M9, M10, M11, M13	E	4	Moderate

Table 8 Preliminary Risk Assessment Summary

9. Protected Matters – Species Ecology

This RNMP addresses the raptor species and nesting habitat protected under the EPBC Act approval and the MIDA Act approval. The Plan applies to the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi),* White-bellied Sea Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucogaster)*, Grey Goshawk *(Accipiter novaehollandiae)* and Tasmanian Masked Owl *(Tyto novaehollandiae castanops),* each of which has distinct breeding ecology, nesting habitat requirements and sensitivities to disturbance.

The objective of this RNMP is to identify known nests, candidate nests, potential nesting habitat and hollow-bearing trees prior to construction, verify nest occupancy and breeding status at the appropriate stage of each species' breeding cycle, and implement management controls that avoid or minimise disturbance to breeding raptors and their nesting habitat. Where breeding activity is confirmed, EPZs, exclusion distances and other management controls are established in accordance with the relevant approval conditions and maintained until a relevant specialist determines that they can be modified or removed following documented assessment.

The following sections summarise the breeding ecology, nesting habitat, breeding behaviour and management considerations for each species and provide the ecological basis for the survey methodologies, monitoring requirements and management controls described throughout this RNMP.

9.1 Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle

The Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle *(Aquila audax fleayi)* is endemic to Tasmania and is listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and *the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP Act). It is Australia's largest bird of prey and occupies a wide range of forested and agricultural landscapes throughout Tasmania. The species ecology and management approach adopted in this RNMP have regard to the *Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan 2006–2010*, including the identified threats associated with disturbance to breeding birds and nesting habitat.

Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles typically construct large stick nests in mature eucalypts located within extensive areas of native forest, although nests may also occur in isolated paddock trees where suitable habitat remains. Individual territories often contain several alternate nests that may be used in different breeding seasons. As a result, both active and inactive nests require consideration during project planning and construction activities.

Breeding generally occurs between July and January, although breeding may extend into late February in some years. During this period, breeding adults are particularly sensitive to disturbance, especially during courtship, incubation and the early nestling stages. Disturbance during these stages may result in nest abandonment, reduced breeding success or breeding failure.

Suitable nesting habitat occurs within parts of the North West Transmission Developments Project area. Management of this species therefore focuses on identifying nests prior to construction, verifying breeding status at appropriate stages of the breeding cycle, and implementing species-specific management controls that avoid or minimise disturbance during construction.

9.2 White-bellied Sea Eagle

The White-bellied Sea Eagle *(Icthyophaga leucogaster)* is listed as Vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP Act). Although not listed under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), it is protected under approval MIPP-2026-01 and managed under this RNMP.

White-bellied Sea Eagles occur throughout coastal Tasmania and along major inland rivers, lakes and reservoirs where suitable foraging habitat is available. Nests are typically constructed in large mature trees, often overlooking

coastal environments or large waterbodies, and breeding territories may contain several alternate nests that are used intermittently over successive breeding seasons.

White-bellied Sea Eagles generally breed slightly earlier than Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles, with courtship and nesting typically commencing earlier in winter and young often fledging before Christmas. However, for the purposes of this Project, the management constraint period is the same as that applied to Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles in accordance with MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01. This precautionary approach provides a consistent management framework for both eagle species while encompassing the full period during which breeding birds may be sensitive to disturbance. Breeding adults are particularly sensitive to disturbance during courtship, incubation and chick rearing, and disturbance during these stages may result in nest abandonment, reduced breeding success or breeding failure.

Suitable nesting habitat occurs within parts of the North West Transmission Developments Project area. Management requirements for White-bellied Sea Eagles are generally consistent with those applied to Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles, including pre-construction surveys, breeding-season monitoring and implementation of species-specific management controls, unless otherwise specified.

For Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle nests, line-of-sight (viewshed) modelling is undertaken to determine whether construction activities or proposed infrastructure are visible from the nest location where this is necessary to establish the applicable management controls. Viewshed modelling forms part of the technical assessment used to establish applicable management controls and recognises that visibility from the nest and visibility from proposed infrastructure may differ due to terrain, elevation and structure height. This assessment supports application of the prescribed 500 m exclusion distance and 1 km line-of-sight management controls in accordance with the applicable Project approval conditions.

9.3 Grey Goshawk

The Grey Goshawk *(Tachyspiza novaehollandiae)* is listed as Endangered under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP Act). Although not listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), it is protected under MIDA Act approval MIPP-2026-01 and managed under this RNMP.

In Tasmania, the Grey Goshawk occurs at low densities and is typically associated with mature native forests, particularly along riparian corridors, drainage lines and other moist forest environments that provide suitable nesting habitat.

Grey Goshawks construct stick nests high within the canopy of mature trees, commonly adjacent to creeks, rivers and other drainage features where suitable nesting habitat occurs. Nest locations are often difficult to detect due to dense vegetation and the species' secretive behaviour. Consequently, desktop habitat assessment and targeted ground-based nest searches provide the most effective means of identifying potential nesting habitat and nests prior to construction.

Breeding generally occurs between October and January. Breeding birds are sensitive to disturbance associated with construction activities, particularly during courtship, incubation and chick rearing. Disturbance during these stages may result in nest abandonment, reduced breeding success or breeding failure.

Suitable nesting habitat occurs within parts of the North West Transmission Developments Project area. Management therefore focuses on targeted identification of nesting habitat, verification of breeding activity and implementation of species-specific management controls to avoid disturbance during construction.

9.4 Tasmanian Masked Owl

The Tasmanian Masked Owl *(Tyto novaehollandiae castanops)* is listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSP

Act). It is Tasmania's largest owl and occupies a range of forested environments where suitable nesting hollows and foraging habitat occur. The species ecology and management approach adopted in this RNMP have regard to the Conservation Advice for Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian Masked Owl), including the importance of protecting nesting habitat and minimising disturbance to breeding birds.

Tasmanian Masked Owls rely on large tree hollows for nesting, typically selecting mature or senescent eucalypts containing deep hollows with suitably sized entrances. Suitable nesting habitat is generally associated with older forests supporting large hollow-bearing trees, although individual nest trees may also occur within remnant vegetation in modified landscapes. Because suitable nest hollows are often concealed and difficult to detect from the ground, targeted hollow assessments and acoustic surveys provide the most effective means of identifying potential nesting habitat and nest trees prior to construction.

Breeding generally occurs between September and January, although the timing and duration of breeding may vary depending on seasonal conditions and food availability. Breeding birds are sensitive to disturbance in the vicinity of active nest trees, particularly during incubation and chick rearing. Disturbance during these stages may result in nest abandonment, reduced breeding success or breeding failure.

Suitable nesting habitat occurs within parts of the North West Transmission Developments Project area. Management therefore focuses on identifying suitable nesting hollows and breeding sites, confirming occupancy, and implementing species-specific management controls to avoid disturbance during construction.

10. Environmental Performance Criteria, Commitments and Management Controls

10.1 Performance Criteria

Table 9 establishes performance criteria for the NWTD construction works.

Criterion	Description
1	100% of Project disturbance areas subject to the required desktop assessment, pre-construction surveys and species-specific verification prior to commencement of relevant construction activities.
2	EPZs, and management controls established, modified and released only following documented assessment by a relevant specialist.
3	No avoidable disturbance to active raptor nests or breeding raptors resulting from construction activities.
4	All management controls specified in Table 10 are implemented and complied with throughout construction.
5	Construction activities within EPZs, outside the management constraint period, commence only following completion of applicable hold points and implementation of all required management controls.
6	Nest monitoring, compliance inspections, environmental monitoring, reporting and project records are completed and maintained during construction in accordance with this RNMP.
7	Unexpected raptor nests, and hollow-bearing trees are managed in accordance with the stop-work, specialist assessment and approved management procedures specified in this RNMP.

Table 9 Performance Criteria for the RNMP

10.2 Management Controls

Table 10 outlines the management controls and procedures implemented to avoid or minimise disturbance to breeding raptors and nesting habitat during all stages of the Project. These controls establish the requirements for pre-construction assessment, species-specific verification, implementation of EPZs, exclusion distances, monitoring and construction activities in accordance with the Project approvals.

EPZs, exclusion distances and other approved management areas will be spatially defined following identification and assessment of nests, nesting habitat and hollow-bearing trees by the relevant specialist. Approved management mapping will be maintained throughout the Project and updated following surveys, specialist assessments, changes in nest status or revisions to construction planning. Current mapping will be communicated to relevant project personnel to support implementation of the management controls described in this RNMP.

Appendix A presents the current Project constraint mapping prepared from specialist surveys and assessments completed for the Project. In satisfaction of Condition 9(f) of the EPBC Act approval, this reflects the current register of nest locations resulting from all previous eagle nest searches, the most recent of which was conducted in May 2026 (as required, outside the breeding season). The maps should be read in conjunction with the management controls described in this RNMP, applicable management constraint periods and species-specific exclusion distances. Constraint mapping will be updated following specialist assessments of changes to construction planning where those assessments or changes alter the applicable management controls or constraint areas.

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
Pre-construction Planning			
M1	Desktop assessment, review of existing records and survey planning a) Prior to the commencement of pre-construction field surveys, a relevant specialist shall undertake a desktop assessment of the Project disturbance footprint and surrounding area to identify i. known raptor nests, ii. existing survey records, iii. potential nesting habitat and other ecological constraints relevant to the Project. b) The desktop assessment shall incorporate relevant databases, previous survey records, aerial imagery, vegetation mapping, topographic information and other available spatial datasets to determine survey requirements, identify areas requiring field verification and establish survey priorities. The findings shall be documented and used to identify areas requiring field verification to establish interim management controls and inform construction planning prior to works commencing. c) The desktop assessment shall be reviewed and updated where additional ecological information becomes available during the Project.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 FFMSP Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist
Pre-construction verification			
M2	Pre-construction raptor surveys, habitat assessment and identification of potential nesting habitat and nest structures a) A relevant specialist shall undertake pre-construction field surveys to identify raptor nests, potential nesting habitat and nest structures within 1 km of the Project disturbance footprint for eagles, 100 m for Grey Goshawk and 150 m for Tasmanian Masked Owl, in accordance with the Project approvals and applicable fauna technical notes and assessment methodologies. b) Surveys shall be undertaken using species-specific survey methods prepared by the	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and	Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	relevant specialist, appropriate to the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey Goshawk and Tasmanian Masked Owl, in accordance with the relevant Project approvals and applicable fauna technical notes. Survey findings, including known nests, candidate nests, potential nesting habitat, hollow-bearing trees and any recommendations for further investigation, shall be documented and provided to the Environmental Manager prior to commencement of construction activities.	nest management Fauna Technical Note No. 12: Goshawk habitat categories Fauna Technical Note No. 17: Identifying masked owl habitat	
M3	Interim management of known, candidate and potential nests, hollows and nesting habitat (assumed active nests) EPZs a) Known nests, candidate nests, potential nesting habitat, hollow-bearing trees and other nesting features identified during desktop assessment or field surveys shall be managed as requiring protection until their status has been verified by the relevant specialist. Candidate trees identified as potential Tasmanian Masked Owl nesting habitat shall be retained and an interim 150 m machinery exclusion shall apply until the required field verification and passive acoustic monitoring have been completed, the results assessed by the relevant specialist and the applicable management requirements confirmed. b) EPZs with interim management controls shall be established where a known nest, candidate nest, potential nesting habitat, hollow-bearing tree or other nesting feature could be affected by construction activities prior to completion of species-specific assessment. The location and status of all known and potential nesting features shall be documented, incorporated into Project mapping and communicated to relevant personnel prior to works commencing. c) Construction activities shall not proceed where EPZs with interim management controls apply until further assessment has been completed by a relevant specialist at the relevant time of year and the Environmental Manager has authorised progression	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP FFSMP Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	in accordance with this RNMP.		
M4	Species-specific verification of nest occupancy, breeding status and management requirements using appropriate survey methods at the relevant time of the year a) A relevant specialist shall undertake species-specific pre-construction assessment of known nests, candidate nests, potential nesting habitat and hollow-bearing trees to verify nest occupancy, breeding status and the appropriate management requirements. b) Verification shall be undertaken using survey methods appropriate to each species, including nest observations, helicopter surveys, drone inspections, call playback, passive acoustic monitoring or other approved survey techniques, at the appropriate stage of the breeding cycle. c) Survey findings shall be documented and used to confirm whether management controls are required, modified or released. Construction activities shall not proceed where specialist verification is required until the Environmental Manager has received the documented assessment and authorised works in accordance with this RNMP. d) Until the results of the species-specific nest activity assessments are available, all nests must be assumed to be active and managed as such.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management Fauna Technical Note No. 12: Goshawk habitat categories Fauna Technical Note No. 14: Nest identification Fauna Technical Note No. 17: Identifying masked owl habitat	Relevant specialist
M5	Establishment, modification and release of EPZs and other management controls following specialist assessment a) Following completion of species-specific assessment, the relevant specialist shall establish, modify or release EPZs or other management controls in accordance with the relevant approval conditions and the findings of the assessment. b) Management controls shall reflect the species, nest status, breeding status, stage of the breeding cycle and the nature of the proposed construction activities. c) Any changes to management controls shall be documented, incorporated into project mapping and communicated to the Environmental Manager and relevant	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP FFMSP Wildlife Interactions Standard (WIS) Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	construction personnel before works commence or recommence. d) Management controls shall remain in place until the management constraint period ends or the relevant specialist has documented that they can be modified or removed in accordance with this RNMP, whichever occurs first.	Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management Fauna Technical Note No. 12: Goshawk habitat categories Fauna Technical Note No. 14: Nest identification Fauna Technical Note No. 17: Identifying masked owl habitat	
M6	Establish relevant management controls prior to commencement of construction activities within an EPZ Prior to commencement of construction activities in an EPZ, the Environmental Manager must verify that EPZs have been incorporated into the Project GIS, demarcated on the ground in accordance with the recommendations of the relevant specialist and all workers involved in construction activities in an EPZ have been inducted regarding the obligations and responsibilities under this RNMP. Where management controls have not been satisfied, construction activities shall not proceed until the outstanding requirements have been completed and documented.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP FFMSP Environmental Risk Management Standard (ERMS)	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist
Construction			
M7	HOLD POINT: Permit-to-work No machinery will be used in an EPZ during a management constraint period unless nest inactivity is confirmed by a relevant specialist, management controls are implemented and a permit-to-work has been issued. a) The Environmental Manager, based on advice from a Suitably Qualified Eagle Specialist, must verify that any tree that contains a Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP FFMSP ERMS WIS	Construction Manager / Environmental Manager

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	will not be cleared or harmed during construction activities. b) HOLD POINT: Prior to use of machinery in an EPZ, the Environmental Manager, based on the advice of a relevant specialist, must confirm and document nest activity status for all raptor nests with an EPZ affected by construction activities. For EPZs with active raptor nests (or assumed active nests), until the management constraint period has ended, no machinery will be used within: i) 150 m of any active Tasmanian Masked Owl nest, ii) 100m of any active Grey Goshawk nest, iii) 1 km of any active Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle nest during the eagle management constraint period if it is at all possible that any part of the machinery could be seen from the nest, or iv) 500 m of any active Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle nest during the eagle management constraint period; and shall only proceed following assessment by a relevant specialist, implementation of the required management controls, completion of all applicable hold points and the issue of a permit-to-work by the Environmental Manager. c) All workers shall comply with all approved environmental controls, permit-to-work requirements and any additional restrictions specified by a relevant specialist or the Environmental Manager.		
M8	Helicopter and aerial construction activities shall be undertaken in accordance with the flight procedures prepared in consultation with a relevant specialist a) Helicopter operations (excluding for nest activity assessments) shall not occur within EPZs during the management constraint period. b) Flight paths, staging areas, temporary helicopter landing sites and aerial work practices will be planned in consultation with the relevant specialist and incorporate any additional management measures, operational restrictions or modifications	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP WIS Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management	Construction Manager / Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	required by the relevant specialist to minimise disturbance to raptors. c) All management measures required to minimise risks to eagles shall be communicated to the helicopter operator and relevant construction personnel before aerial operations commence.		
M9	No conductor stringing by drone within an EPZ during the eagle management constraint period Drone operations for conductor stringing shall not occur within Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed or White-bellied Sea Eagle related EPZs during the Tasmanian Wedge-Tailed Eagle Management Constraint Period. Drone operations for conductor stringing shall be undertaken by a minimum two-person team comprising a suitably qualified drone operator and a separate relevant specialist responsible for observing eagle activity and advising on the implementation of raptor management controls.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 WIS Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management	Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist
M10	Construction activities within EPZs undertaken only in accordance with specialist approval and this RNMP All works shall be undertaken in accordance with the conditions of the specialist assessment, approved management controls, permit-to-work requirements and any applicable hold points. All workers shall comply with all operational restrictions, environmental controls and site-specific management requirements communicated by the Environmental Manager or relevant specialist. Where works occur outside the applicable exclusion distances and have the potential for noise or vibration to impact breeding at a raptor nest, mitigation measures identified by the relevant specialist shall be implemented in accordance with Condition 9(k) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247. Where site conditions change or activities differ from those assessed, works shall cease and be referred to the Environmental Manager and relevant specialist for review prior to recommencement.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP FFMSP ERMS WIS	Construction Manager / Environmental Manager

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
M11	Ongoing nest monitoring, seasonal verification and modification of management controls throughout construction a) Nest monitoring shall be undertaken throughout the construction period in accordance with the species-specific management controls, commitments and monitoring requirements specified in this RNMP. No additional Grey Goshawk or Tasmanian Masked Owl habitat searches shall be undertaken during construction unless otherwise required by the Project approvals or directed by the relevant regulator. b) A relevant specialist shall assess and document nest occupancy, breeding status and breeding outcomes, when necessary to establish, modify, verify or release species-specific management controls under this RNMP. Assessments shall be undertaken at the appropriate stage(s) of each species' breeding cycle and at a frequency commensurate with the management requirements for the site. Management controls shall be modified where the documented specialist assessment identifies that existing controls are no longer appropriate to the confirmed nest status, breeding status or applicable approval requirements. c) Annual Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest searches and monitoring of known Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests within 1 km of the Project site, including temporary helicopter take-off and landing areas, shall be undertaken in accordance with EPBC Approval 2022/09247 and the monitoring program specified in this RNMP. d) EPZs or other management controls shall only be established, modified or released based on the advice of the relevant specialist. e) For Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles and White-bellied Sea Eagles, management constraints shall remain in place for the duration of the management constraint period unless a relevant specialist confirms that breeding has not occurred, the breeding attempt has failed or breeding has concluded. Where breeding activity is considered likely to remain ongoing at the end of the management constraint period,	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management	Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	management controls shall remain in place until the breeding attempt has concluded and the relevant specialist confirms in writing that the relevant management controls can be modified or removed. f) For Grey Goshawk and Tasmanian Masked Owl, breeding status shall be verified when necessary to determine the applicability, continuation, modification or release of species-specific management controls, using the survey and monitoring methods specified in this RNMP. Management controls shall remain in place for the duration of the management constraint period unless a relevant specialist confirms that breeding has not occurred, the breeding attempt has failed or breeding has concluded. Where breeding activity is considered likely to remain ongoing at the end of the management constraint period, management controls shall remain in place until the breeding attempt has concluded and the relevant specialist confirms in writing that the relevant management controls can be modified or removed. g) Newly identified nests shall be incorporated into the Project GIS, nest register and other relevant spatial datasets, and management mapping shall be updated following specialist assessment to reflect the applicable management controls.		
M12	Unexpected discovery of nests or potential nesting habitat managed in accordance with stop-work procedures, specialist assessment and approved management responses a) Where a previously unidentified raptor nest, nest structure, hollow-bearing tree or potential nesting habitat is discovered during construction activities, works with the potential to disturb the feature shall cease immediately within the affected area in accordance with the stop work procedure in the FFMSP. b) The discovery shall be reported to the Environmental Manager, who shall notify TasNetworks (1 hour rule) and the relevant specialist (within 24 hours). c) Interim EPZs or other appropriate management controls shall be established, as	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP FFMSP ERMS WIS	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	determined by the Environmental Manager in consultation with the relevant specialist, until the feature has been assessed and the appropriate management response determined. d) The relevant specialist shall determine the species, occupancy status, breeding status and any management requirements before recommending whether works can recommence, be modified or remain restricted. e) Construction activities shall not recommence until the required management controls have been implemented and any applicable hold points have been satisfied.		
M13	Environmental incidents, non-compliances and disturbances managed through stop-work procedures, corrective actions, reporting and specialist review a) Where an environmental incident, non-compliance or disturbance has the potential to impact a raptor nest, nesting habitat or an approved management control, the relevant construction activity shall cease immediately in accordance with the Stop work procedure in the FFMSP and the incident shall be reported to the Environmental Manager. b) The Environmental Manager shall notify TasNetworks (1 hour rule) and the relevant specialist (within 24 hours) and implement any immediate measures recommended by the specialist to prevent further disturbance or environmental harm. c) The incident shall be investigated to determine the cause, extent of any impact and the corrective actions required. Construction activities shall not recommence until corrective actions have been implemented, the incident has been closed in accordance with the Project's environmental management procedures, and any applicable hold points have been satisfied. d) Examples include entry into an EPZ contrary to approved management controls; disturbance to a nest or identified nesting resource; failure to implement approved management controls; clearing or disturbance contrary to the requirements of the	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP ERMS WIS	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	Project approvals or this RNMP; or failure to cease works following the discovery of a previously unidentified nest or nesting resource.		
Monitoring and Close-out			
M14	Compliance inspection, environmental monitoring, reporting and maintenance of project records undertaken during construction a) Compliance inspections, environmental monitoring and record keeping shall be undertaken throughout the construction period to verify that the requirements of this RNMP are being implemented and remain effective. b) Monitoring shall include verification of compliance with EPZs, management controls, permit-to-work requirements, hold points and any site-specific management measures. c) The Environmental Manager shall ensure that monitoring records, specialist assessments, approvals, inspection records, incident reports, corrective actions and other relevant documentation are maintained as part of the Project's environmental management system. Any deficiencies identified through inspections, monitoring or audits shall be addressed in accordance with the Project's environmental management procedures.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP ERMS DCCEEW EMP Guidelines	Environmental Manager
M15	Post-construction review and formal close-out of management controls following completion of construction activities a) Following completion of construction activities, the Environmental Manager, in consultation with the relevant specialist, shall undertake a review of the implementation and effectiveness of this RNMP. b) The review shall consider the outcomes of nest monitoring, compliance inspections, environmental incidents, corrective actions, specialist assessments and any modifications to management controls implemented during construction. c) Project records shall be finalised and retained in accordance with the Project's environmental management procedures and applicable approval conditions.	EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 MIPP-2026-01 CEMP ERMS DCCEEW EMP Guidelines	Environmental Manager & Relevant specialist

ID	Specific control	Relevant reference/guideline	Responsibility
	d) EPZs and other project-specific management controls established under this RNMP shall only be formally closed following confirmation that construction activities have been completed and all management requirements have been satisfied.		

Table 10 Management Controls

10.3 Commitments Register

Table 11 outlines the commitments required during implementation of this RNMP to meet the EPBC Act approval and MIDA Act approval requirements for the Project.

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
C1	The Approval Holder will ensure desktop assessments, review of existing records and survey planning are completed before relevant construction activities commence. In accordance with Condition 10 of EPBC Approval 2022/09247, the Approval Holder will commence implementing this RNMP no later than when any part of the Action first commences within Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle potential nesting habitat or Tasmanian Masked Owl potential nesting habitat and will continue to implement the RNMP until completion of construction.	Desktop assessment and survey planning completed and RNMP implemented in accordance with Condition 10.	Before relevant construction commences and continuously until completion of construction.	Approval Holder/Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist	Desktop assessment, GIS outputs, survey planning records, construction commencement records and RNMP implementation records	M1, RM1
C2	The Approval Holder will ensure species-specific field surveys and habitat assessments are completed for all areas requiring assessment prior to	Required species-specific surveys and habitat assessments completed, including Condition 9(b)	Prior to disturbance within each relevant work area; Condition	Relevant specialist	Survey reports, passive acoustic monitoring records, eagle nest-search	M2, RM2

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
	disturbance. In accordance with Condition 9(b) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247, additional acoustic surveys of Tasmanian Masked Owl potential habitat to detect possible nests will be undertaken in spring and completed no more than six months prior to commencing any construction and methodology complies with Condition 9(c) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247.	Tasmanian Masked Owl acoustic surveys in accordance with a Condition 9(c) methodology consistent with latest guidance and scientific knowledge, to reliably detect the presence of all Tasmanian Masked Owl nest. (Appendix C); and annual Condition 9(h) Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest searches.	9(b) Tasmanian Masked Owl acoustic surveys undertaken in spring and completed no more than six months prior to commencing any construction; Condition 9(h) Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest searches undertaken at least once each year until completion of all construction.		records, GIS data and field records.	
C3	The Approval Holder will ensure known and potential nesting features are subject to interim management controls until verified by a relevant	Interim management controls established and maintained until verification. No tree	At all times throughout construction.	Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist	Permit-to-work, GIS mapping, management records,	M3, RM3

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
	specialist. In accordance with Condition 9(e) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247, the Approval Holder will not clear or harm any tree that contains a Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest.	containing a Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest cleared or harmed.			inspection records, nest records, specialist assessment	
C4	The Approval Holder will ensure species-specific verification of nest occupancy, breeding status and management requirements is completed using appropriate survey methods before management decisions are implemented.	Species-specific verification completed.	Prior to implementation or modification of management controls	Relevant specialist	Nest activity assessment reports, verification records, specialist assessment, survey records	M4, RM3
C5	The Approval Holder will ensure EPZs and other management controls are established, modified or released only following documented specialist assessment.	EPZs, exclusion distances and management controls established, modified or released following documented specialist assessment.	Following specialist assessment and prior to relevant works	Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist	Permit-to-work, GIS mapping, specialist approval, management records	M5, RM4
C6	The Approval Holder will ensure all applicable hold points, specialist approvals and management	Hold points, specialist approvals and management requirements completed	Prior to commencement of relevant	Environmental Manager	Permit-to-work, site inspections, environmental	M6, RM4, RM5

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
	requirements are satisfied before authorising construction within EPZs.	prior to works.	construction activities		inspection records, audit records	
C7	The Approval Holder will ensure that no machinery is used within: (i) 150 m of any active Tasmanian Masked Owl nest; (ii) 1 km of any active Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest during the eagle management constraint period if it is at all possible that any part of the machinery could be seen from the nest; or (iii) 500 m of any active Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest during the eagle management constraint period if it is impossible that any part of the machinery could be seen from the nest, in accordance with Condition 9(d) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247.	No machinery used within the exclusion distances specified in Condition 9(d).	Throughout construction whenever the applicable Condition 9(d) restrictions apply.	Construction Manager / Environmental Manager	Site inspections, environmental inspection records, audit records	M7, RM4
C8	The Approval Holder will ensure helicopter and aerial construction activities comply with approved flight procedures and specialist management	Helicopter operations comply with approved management controls.	Throughout aerial construction activities	Construction Manager / Environmental Manager	Flight records, approvals, inspection records	M8, RM5, RM9

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
	requirements.					
C9	The Approval Holder will ensure drone operations are undertaken in accordance with approved management controls and project-specific operational procedures.	Drone operations comply with approved management controls.	Throughout drone operations	Environmental Manager / Construction Manager	Flight logs, briefing records, inspection records	M9, RM5
C10	The Approval Holder will ensure construction activities within EPZs proceed only in accordance with documented specialist approvals and management controls. The Approval Holder will ensure measures are implemented to mitigate the potential for noise or vibration to impact breeding at any raptor nest where works occur outside the applicable exclusion distances, in accordance with Condition 9(k) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247.	Construction activities comply with documented specialist approvals and management controls, including applicable noise and vibration mitigation measures outside exclusion distances.	Throughout construction	Construction Manager / Environmental Manager	Site inspections, permit-to-work records, specialist advice and audit records	M10, RM4, RM5

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
C11	The Approval Holder will ensure all known Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests within 1 km of the Action area are monitored during construction in accordance with the monitoring requirements of this RNMP.	All known Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests within 1 km of the Action area monitored and results documented.	During each eagle management constraint period throughout construction.	Relevant specialist	Monitoring reports, nest activity assessment records, specialist assessments and Project GIS.	M11, RM6
C12	The Approval Holder will ensure unexpected discoveries of raptor nests or hollow-bearing trees are managed in accordance with approved stop-work procedures and specialist assessment requirements.	Unexpected discoveries managed in accordance with approved procedures.	Immediately following discovery	Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist	Incident records, assessment reports, management records	M12, RM7
C13	The Approval Holder will ensure environmental incidents, non-compliances and disturbance to active raptor nests are managed through approved reporting, investigation and corrective action processes and adaptive management measures are incorporated into this RNMP and implemented.	Environmental incidents investigated and corrective actions implemented.	Following identification of an incident or non-compliance.	Environmental Manager	Incident reports, corrective action register, audit records	M13*

ID	Commitment	Measure	Timing	Responsibility	Evidence / Record	Corresponding Management Control (Table 10) and Monitoring Activity (Table 12)
C14	The Approval Holder will ensure compliance inspections, environmental monitoring, reporting and project records are maintained throughout construction.	Compliance inspections, monitoring, reporting and records completed.	Throughout construction	Environmental Manager	Inspection records, monitoring reports, document control system	M14*
C15	The Approval Holder will ensure a post-construction review is completed and management controls are formally closed only after all requirements of this RNMP have been satisfied.	Close-out completed and documented (Yes/No)	Following completion of construction	Environmental Manager / Relevant specialist	Close-out report, document control records, final specialist assessment	M15*

Table 11 Commitments Register

*Refer to Table 14 for reporting

10.4 Reporting, Monitoring, Audit and Review

This Plan adopts the reporting, auditing and review framework established under the CEMP and FFMSP, to ensure consistency in environmental incident management, compliance reporting and audit processes across the project (MIDA Act Condition 60).

10.5 Survey Program

The survey program described in this RNMP comprises desktop assessment, species-specific field surveys, nest verification and seasonal monitoring undertaken by a relevant specialist. Survey requirements are aligned with the relevant approval conditions and are designed to identify, verify and monitor raptor nests, nesting habitat and hollow-bearing trees that may require management during construction of the Project.

During construction, surveys for Grey Goshawk and Tasmanian Masked Owl will be undertaken in accordance with the Project-specific technical methodologies, while annual eagle surveys will be undertaken in accordance with the Project specific Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment.

Raptor related surveys completed for the Project, include:

- annual Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle nest searches undertaken since 2019,
- current expanded raptor nest surveys associated with the Project disturbance footprint,
- viewshed analysis for all existing and newly identified eagle nests,
- eagle nest activity assessment (annually since 2019),
- pre-construction habitat assessments for Grey Goshawk and Tasmanian Masked Owl,
- pre-construction ecology surveys for the notified corridor, 22kV construction activities and access tracks.

Surveys underway at the time writing this RNMP include:

- Nest search of potential Grey Goshawk habitat within 120m of the notified corridor, 22kV construction activities and access tracks
- Candidate hollow verification surveys and passive acoustic monitoring activities for Tasmanian Masked Owl's within 180m of the notified corridor, 22kV construction activities and access tracks

Tasmanian Masked Owl field verification and passive acoustic monitoring were underway at the time of preparation of this RNMP. The locations of hollow-bearing trees identified through the survey program are being progressively documented and incorporated into the Project GIS as field verification is completed. Passive acoustic monitors have been deployed at selected candidate nesting sites and require completion of the prescribed monitoring period before results can be assessed. Until the required surveys and specialist assessment are complete, candidate trees identified as potential Tasmanian Masked Owl nesting habitat will be retained and construction activities involving machinery will not occur within 150 m of those trees. These interim controls will remain in place until survey results have been assessed by the relevant specialist and the applicable management requirements confirmed.

The raptor survey and monitoring program, and the indicative timing of each survey component, are presented in Figure 1. The Grey Goshawk habitat searches and Tasmanian Masked Owl hollow verification surveys will be completed prior to commencement of construction activities within the relevant survey areas, in accordance with the Project approvals. Construction in these areas will be managed based on the outcomes of those surveys together with implementation of the relevant management controls and any breeding status assessments required under this RNMP.

Eagle nest searches and breeding activity assessments will be undertaken on an annual basis in accordance with this RNMP and Project approvals.

Raptor survey program during	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
construction												
Eagle nest search												
Eagle breeding activity												
Grey Goshawk breeding activity												

Figure 1 Raptor survey and monitoring program

10.6 Monitoring

Monitoring will be undertaken during construction to verify the effectiveness of management controls, confirm compliance with approval conditions and determine whether management controls remain appropriate based on documented specialist assessment.

Monitoring activities include verification of management controls, compliance inspections, seasonal nest monitoring, incident response and environmental auditing. Monitoring requirements, responsibilities and associated records are summarised in Table 12.

Label	Monitoring activity	Method	Timing	Responsibility	Record	Linked commitments (Table 11) / triggers (Table 13)
RM1	Pre-construction desktop assessment and survey planning	Desktop assessment, review of existing records, aerial imagery, GIS analysis and survey planning	Prior to commencement of relevant construction activities	Environmental Manager / relevant specialist	Desktop assessment, GIS outputs, survey planning records	C1/R1
RM2	Pre-construction species-specific field surveys	Species-specific field surveys undertaken in accordance with the Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment (as per Condition 9(f)) and the appended Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology (as per Condition 9(b)). Grey Goshawk surveys will be undertaken in accordance with the Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology. Survey results will be documented and incorporated into Project GIS and management controls.	Prior to disturbance within each relevant work area	relevant specialist	Survey reports, GIS data, field records	C2/R1
RM3	Species-specific nest verification	Nest occupancy and breeding status will be verified using the species-specific survey methods prescribed by this RNMP and the relevant appended survey methodologies. Tasmanian Wedge-	Prior to implementation or modification of management controls and during the	relevant specialist	Verification records, specialist nest activity assessment, monitoring records	C3, C4/R2, R5

Label	Monitoring activity	Method	Timing	Responsibility	Record	Linked commitments (Table 11) / triggers (Table 13)
		tailed Eagle verification will be undertaken in accordance with Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management. Tasmanian Masked Owl verification will use the survey methods specified in the Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology, including passive acoustic monitoring and nest-tree assessment applicable to the survey objective. Results will be documented by the relevant specialist and used to confirm applicable management controls.	species-specific survey or breeding period prescribed by this RNMP or the applicable survey methodology.			
RM4	EPZ and management control compliance monitoring	Inspection of EPZs, exclusion distances, management controls and approved work areas, including compliance with the machinery exclusion distances specified in Condition 9(d) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247.	Prior to relevant works and throughout construction.	Environmental Manager / relevant specialist	GIS mapping, inspection records and management records.	C5, C6, C7 / R3, R5
RM5	Construction compliance monitoring	Site inspections to verify construction activities comply with approved management controls,	Throughout construction	Construction Manager / Environmental	Environmental inspection records, site inspection reports, audit records,	C7, C10 / R3, R4, R5

Label	Monitoring activity	Method	Timing	Responsibility	Record	Linked commitments (Table 11) / triggers (Table 13)
		permit-to-work requirements, hold points and specialist recommendations.		Manager	permit-to work	
RM6	Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest monitoring	All known Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests within 1 km of the Action area will be monitored by the relevant specialist in accordance with Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management. Nest occupancy and breeding status will be recorded and monitoring results used to confirm the continued application or modification of management controls.	During each eagle management constraint period throughout construction, in accordance with the monitoring requirements of this RNMP.	Relevant specialist	Nest monitoring reports, specialist assessments, nest activity records and GIS updates.	C11/R5
RM7	Unexpected discoveries and incident monitoring	Inspection, specialist assessment, incident reporting and implementation of corrective or adaptive management measures	Immediately following an unexpected discovery or identification of an environmental incident.	Environmental Manager / relevant specialist	Incident reports, assessment records, corrective action records	C12, C13 / R2, R4, R5
RM8	Tasmanian Masked	Tasmanian Masked Owl monitoring will be undertaken in accordance	In spring and completed no	Relevant specialist	Passive acoustic monitoring records, survey results,	C2 / R1, R5.

Label	Monitoring activity	Method	Timing	Responsibility	Record	Linked commitments (Table 11) / triggers (Table 13)
	Owl monitoring	with the Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology. Monitoring will include passive acoustic monitoring and nest-tree assessment in accordance with the survey requirements and objectives specified in that methodology. Results will be assessed by the relevant specialist and used to confirm nest status and applicable management controls.	more than six months prior to commencing any construction, in accordance with Condition 9(b) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247.		specialist assessment and GIS updates.	
RM9	Annual Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest searches	In accordance with Condition 9(h) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247, searches for Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nests will be undertaken at least once each year until completion of all construction in all potential habitat within 1 km of the Project disturbance footprint, including any temporary helicopter take-off and landing areas associated with the Action.	At least once each year until completion of all construction, in accordance with Condition 9(h) of EPBC Approval 2022/09247	Relevant specialist	Eagle nest-search reports, field records, specialist assessment and GIS updates.	C2/R1, R5

Table 12 Raptor Monitoring Activities

The trigger values, immediate actions and corrective actions applicable to implementation of this RNMP are presented in Table 13. Where a trigger value is reached, the immediate action will be implemented and the identified corrective actions completed and documented before the matter is closed out or affected works recommence, as applicable.

Risk	Trigger value/risk	Immediate action	Corrective action / prevention	Verification/record/ reporting mechanism
R1	Construction activities commence before required desktop assessment, surveys or specialist verification are completed.	Stop work, implement incident response procedures in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP, notify Environmental Manager and the relevant specialist.	Complete required assessments, establish management controls and obtain approval before recommencing works.	Survey reports, specialist assessment, hold point register and document control records. Report through internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting, where applicable.
R2	Previously unidentified raptor nest, active raptor nest, potential nesting habitat, or hollow-bearing tree is discovered during construction.	Stop relevant works in the affected area, implement incident response procedures in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP, notify the Environmental Manager and the relevant specialist.	Undertake specialist assessment, determine species, nest or hollow status, occupancy status and applicable exclusion distance, establish or modify EPZs and management controls, update GIS records, and obtain approval before recommencing works.	Specialist assessment, GIS updates, management records and incident records. Report through internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting, where applicable.
R3	Construction activities occur within an EPZ without authorisation.	Stop relevant works, notify the Environmental Manager, implement incident response procedures in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP, and notify the relevant specialist	Investigate cause, implement corrective actions, review EPZs, exclusion distances, access controls and communication processes, and retrain personnel where investigation identified inadequate understanding or implementation of the applicable management controls	Incident report, corrective action register and inspection records. Report through internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting, where applicable.
R4	Environmental incident, non-compliance or disturbance to breeding raptors or nesting	Stop work, notify Environmental Manager, implement incident response procedures in	Investigate the incident, implement corrective actions, review applicable management controls and update	Incident investigation report, corrective action records and inspection records. Report through internal environmental

Risk	Trigger value/risk	Immediate action	Corrective action / prevention	Verification/record/ reporting mechanism
	habitat.	accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP and notify the relevant specialist.	procedures where the investigation identifies that existing procedures or controls were inadequate.	reporting and regulatory compliance reporting, where applicable.
R5	Required monitoring is not completed within the specified timeframe, or monitoring identifies a change in nest occupancy, breeding status or management requirements.	Notify the Environmental Manager and relevant specialist. Maintain existing management controls until the monitoring requirement is completed or the monitoring result has been assessed.	Complete the required monitoring or specialist assessment, review the applicable management controls and implement any modifications identified by the relevant specialist before affected works proceed.	Monitoring records, specialist assessment, GIS updates and management records. Report through internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting, where applicable.

Table 13 Trigger values and corrective actions

10.7 Reporting

10.7.1 Internal Reporting

The Environmental Manager will prepare internal environmental reports in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP. Internal reporting will document implementation of this RNMP and provide the Construction Manager and Project Director with current information on raptor management activities, monitoring outcomes and compliance.

Internal reporting will include, where applicable:

- implementation of the management controls identified in Table 10;
- completion of desktop assessments, species surveys and species-specific verification activities;
- establishment, modification and removal of EPZs and exclusion distances;
- monitoring outcomes, including seasonal nest activity assessments and construction compliance inspections;
- unexpected discoveries, incidents, non-conformances and corrective actions;
- recommendations, approvals and construction clearances provided by the relevant specialist; and
- outstanding actions or hold points required before construction activities may proceed.

Internal reporting will be undertaken in accordance with the environmental reporting framework established under the CEMP.

10.7.2 Regulatory Reporting

Regulatory reporting will demonstrate compliance with the EPBC Act approval, the MIDA Act approval and the commitments identified in Table 11. Reporting will be prepared in accordance with the Project approval conditions and the reporting requirements established under the CEMP and FFMSP.

Compliance reporting will demonstrate implementation of the management controls (Table 10), commitments (Table 11) and monitoring program (Table 12), together with the environmental outcomes achieved during the reporting period. Reporting will provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the requirements of the Project approvals have been implemented and that any incidents, non-conformances or corrective actions have been appropriately managed.

In accordance with EPBC Act approval Condition 5 and MIDA Act approval Condition 45(a)(iii), compliance reporting will demonstrate implementation of the commitments and achievement of the environmental outcomes specified in this RNMP. Reporting will include, where applicable:

- implementation of the commitments identified in Table 11;
- completion of desktop assessments, species surveys and species-specific verification undertaken before disturbance activities;
- establishment and management of EPZs and exclusion distances;
- implementation of management controls during construction activities;
- results of seasonal monitoring and construction compliance inspections;
- records of unexpected discoveries, incidents, non-conformances and corrective actions;
- outcomes of investigations and any adaptive management measures implemented;
- approvals, hold points and construction clearances issued by the Environmental Manager and relevant specialist under the management controls and commitments specified in this RNMP; and
- evidence demonstrating compliance with the Project approvals.
- Supporting records include:
- survey reports and specialist assessments;
- GIS mapping and spatial datasets;

- inspection and monitoring records;
- photographic records;
- approvals and clearance documentation;
- incident and non-conformance records;
- corrective action records; and
- correspondence with regulatory agencies relating to implementation, compliance, incidents, approvals or amendments under this RNMP.

All reporting and associated records will be prepared and maintained in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP to ensure records are accurate, complete, traceable and auditable.

The reporting mechanisms applicable to the commitments in Table 11 are summarised in Table 14.

Commitment	Reporting mechanism	Evidence / record
C1	Internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting	Desktop assessment, GIS outputs, survey planning and RNMP implementation records
C2	Survey reporting and regulatory compliance reporting	Survey reports, PAM records, annual eagle nest-search records and GIS
C3	Internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting	Permit-to-work, GIS, inspection and specialist assessment records
C4	Specialist survey/verification reporting	Specialist verification and nest activity assessment records
C5–C10	Internal environmental reporting and regulatory compliance reporting, including incident and non-compliance reporting in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP, as applicable.	Permit-to-work records, GIS mapping, specialist advice and approvals, inspection records, flight records, management records and audit records.
C11	Seasonal nest monitoring reporting and regulatory compliance reporting	Nest monitoring reports, activity assessments and GIS
C12–C13	Incident and corrective-action reporting	Incident records, investigation reports and corrective-action records
C14	Compliance and monitoring reporting	Inspection records, monitoring reports and document control system
C15	Project close-out reporting	Close-out report, final specialist assessment and document control records

Table 14 Commitment reporting mechanisms

10.8 Auditing

The Environmental Manager will coordinate audits in accordance with the CEMP and FFMSP audit program to verify implementation of this RNMP and compliance with the Project approvals.

Audits will include:

- implementation of the management controls identified in Table 10;
- implementation of the commitments identified in Table 11;

- review of monitoring activities, trigger values and corrective actions identified in Tables 12 and 13;
- review of desktop assessment records, species surveys, species-specific verification and monitoring records;
- verification that EPZs, exclusion distances and hold points have been correctly established and implemented;
- verification that construction activities comply with approved management controls and specialist recommendations;
- review of incidents, non-conformances, corrective actions and associated records; and
- verification that corrective actions have been implemented and closed out.

Audit findings will be documented and managed through the environmental audit and continuous improvement processes established under the CEMP.

10.9 Review and Continuous Improvement

This RNMP will be implemented, reviewed and updated throughout the Project to ensure it remains consistent with the EPBC Act approval 2022/09247, the MIDA Act approval and any approved amendments.

The RNMP will be reviewed following monitoring activities, activation of trigger values or corrective actions, audits, incidents, non-conformances, changes to Project activities or construction methodologies, updated ecological information, or changes to approval conditions that affect implementation of this Plan.

Where revisions to the RNMP are required, the Plan will be updated in accordance with the relevant approval requirements. Where the applicable Project approval conditions require regulatory approval of a revised RNMP, the updated Plan will be submitted to the relevant regulator for approval prior to implementation. Following approval, the revised RNMP will be implemented, and all relevant personnel will be advised of the changes through the Project's environmental management processes, including inductions and toolbox meetings where the changes affect construction activities, work practices or environmental management requirements.

11. Reference Documents

Title	Reference/link
Regulator Permits	
Major Infrastructure Project Planning Permit Granted under the *Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999* and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*	Permit number: MIPP-2026-01 North West Transmission Upgrades Project - Palmerston to Hampshire Section - Final Report and permit, 10 March 2026
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	EPBC Act Permit number EPBC 2022/09247
EPBC Act approval Correction Notification	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2026). Correction Notification – Remaining North West Transmission Developments for electricity network, North West Tasmania, Tasmania (EPBC 2022/09247).
TasNetworks Protocols	
Environmental Risk Management Standard (ERMS)	Environmental Risk Management Standard, R0002759377, TasNetworks, July 2025.
Wildlife Interactions Standard (WIS)	Wildlife Interactions Standard, R0002849257, TasNetworks, July 2025.
Environmental Standard for Vegetation Management and Clearing	Environmental Standard for Vegetation Management and Clearing, TasNetworks, July 2025.
Forest Practices Authority Guidelines	
Forest Practices Code 2020*	Forest Practices Authority 2020. *Forest Practices Code*. Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.
Fauna Technical Note No. 1: Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management	Forest Practices Authority 2023, *Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management*, Fauna Technical Note No. 1, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart.
Fauna Technical Note No. 12: Goshawk habitat categories	Forest Practices Authority 2010, *Goshawk habitat Categories*, Fauna Technical Note No. 12, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.
Fauna Technical Note No. 14: Nest identification	Forest Practices Authority 2010, *Nest identification*, Fauna Technical Note No. 14, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.
Fauna Technical Note No. 17: Identifying masked owl habitat	Forest Practices Authority 2014, *Identifying masked owl habitat*, Fauna Technical Note No. 17, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.
Threatened Fauna Adviser	Forest Practices Authority. *Threatened Fauna Adviser*.

Title	Reference/link
Other relevant guidelines	
DCCEEW EMP Guidelines	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2024, *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines*, Version 1.2.
Threatened Species Link	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. *Threatened Species Link.*
Natural Values Atlas	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. *Natural Values Atlas.*
Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan	Threatened Species Section (2006). *Threatened Tasmanian Eagles Recovery Plan 2006–2010*. Department of Primary Industries and Water, Hobart.
Conservation Advice for Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian Masked Owl)	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2010). *Conservation Advice for Tyto novaehollandiae castanops (Tasmanian Masked Owl).* Australian Government, Canberra.
Related project plans/CEMP subplans	
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	North West Transmission Developments Construction Environmental Management Plan.
Flora and Fauna Management Subplan (FFMSP)	North West Transmission Developments Flora and Fauna Management Subplan.
Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment	Wiersma, J. 2026. *Eagle Nest Survey and Risk Assessment – North West Transmission Developments Stage 1 (Palmerston–Hampshire).* Prepared for Genus Infrastructure.
Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology (Appendix C)	Methodology for Assessment of Grey Goshawk Nesting Habitat within the North West Transmission Developments Project Corridor. Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd (IES), Jason Wiersma, June 2026.
Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology (Appendix C)	Methodology for Assessment and Management of Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat within the NWTD MIDA Act Project Corridor. Jason Wiersma Biodiversity Maintenance Australia Pty Ltd, April 2026
North West Transmission Developments DA/EIS information	
Ecology Baseline Characterisation and Impact Assessment (NWTD EP-DA-502)	Entura 2025. Ecology Baseline Characterisation and Impact Assessment. Remaining North West Transmission Developments, Part E – Attachments and appendices, Appendix B. NWTD EP-DA-502
Management Measures (NWTD-EP-DA-610)	TasNetworks 2025. Management measures. Remaining North West Transmission Developments, Part E – Attachments and appendices, Attachment 10. NWTD-EP-DA-610

12. Glossary

Term	Definition
Action	The approved action under EPBC Act approval 2022/09247 (Remaining North West Transmission Developments for electricity network, North West Tasmania).
Active nest	A nest confirmed by a relevant specialist to be occupied or being used by a protected raptor species.
Candidate nest	A nest identified during desktop assessment or field surveys that requires species-specific verification to determine its status.
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	The Construction Environmental Management Plan prepared for the Project that establishes the overarching environmental management framework for construction activities.
DCCEEW	Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
Eagle management constraint period	As defined in the Project EPBC approval: means the period commencing on 1 July and ending on 31 January in the same financial year, unless a shortened or lengthened period of this name is determined (identified annually in November) and publicly advised by the Forest Practices Authority in writing
Ecological Protection Zone (EPZ)	An area established in accordance with Planning Permit MIPP-2026-01 where management controls and/or exclusion requirements apply to protect environmental values during construction. For the purposes of this RNMP, EPZs are established around identified raptor nests and other protected nesting resources in accordance with the Project approvals.
Environmental Manager	The person responsible for implementing theenvironmental management requirements of the Project, including this RNMP.
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).
EPBC Act approval	Approval EPBC 2022/09247 issued under the EPBC Act for the Project.
Exclusion distance	A species-specific distance from an active nest within which construction activities are restricted in accordance with the Project approvals and this RNMP.
Hold point	A mandatory point in the construction process at which work cannot proceed until specified environmental requirements or approvals have been completed.

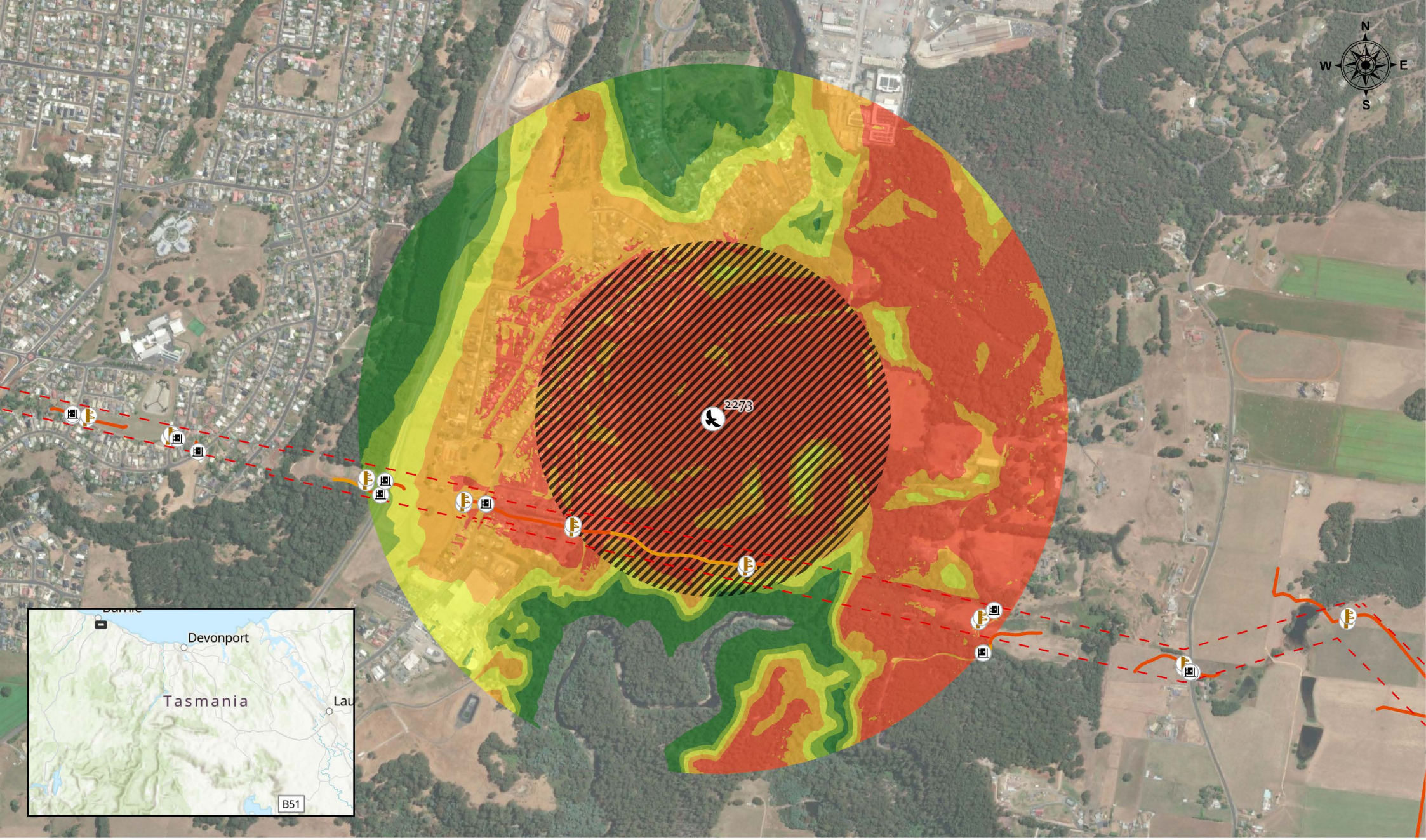
Term	Definition
Known nest	A nest previously identified through historical records, desktop assessment or field surveys and included within the Project nest database.
Management control	A mandatory requirement or procedure implemented to avoid or minimise impacts to protected raptor species and nesting habitat, as identified in Table 10 of this RNMP.
Management constraint period	Means, – Eagles: the Eagle management constraint period as defined in this RNMP. – Tasmanian Masked Owl: the period commencing on 1st September and ending on the 31st January in the same financial year unless otherwise advised by a Suitably Qualified Owl Specialist. – Grey Goshawk: the period commencing at the beginning of the third week of September and ending on 31st January in the same financial year, unless otherwise advised by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist.
MIDA Act	*Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999* (Tas).
MIDA Act approval	Planning Permit MIPP-2026-01 issued under the MIDA Act for the Project.
Monitoring	Activities undertaken to verify implementation of management controls, assess nest status, evaluate compliance and measure the effectiveness of this RNMP.
NWTD	North West Transmission Developments Project.
Permit-to-work	An authorisation issued by the Environmental Manager to the Construction Manager that verifies implementation of relevant management measures and completion of relevant hold points in this RNMP.
Potential nesting habitat	Habitat identified through desktop assessment or as defined by the relevant Project approval as being suitable for nesting by the relevant protected species. The term is used to guide survey effort and implementation of species-specific management requirements under this RNMP.
Raptor	Includes: – Grey Goshawk; and – As defined in the Project EPBC Act approval: either or both Tasmanian Masked Owl and Tasmanian wedge-tailed Eagle.
Raptor Nest Management Plan (RNMP)	This document, which establishes the management controls, commitments and monitoring requirements to avoid or minimise impacts to protected raptor species and nesting habitat during implementation of the Project.

Term	Definition
Suitably qualified ecologist	As defined in the Project EPBC Act approval: means a person who has relevant professional qualifications and: – at least 3 years of work experience writing and implementing management plans for the habitat of protected matters, – has implemented and reported on management plans for the habitat of protected matters, and can demonstrate the implementation of those plans achieved the desired habitat quality for habitat of protected matters, and – can give authoritative assessment and advice on offset management to improve the habitat quality of the habitat of protected matters using relevant protocols, standards, methods and literature.
Suitably qualified eagle specialist	As defined in the Project EPBC Act approval: means a person who has attended and passed an eagle management course organised or approved by the Forest Practices Authority with at least 5 years' experience in Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle nest surveying and management.
Suitably qualified owl specialist	As defined in the Project EPBC Act approval: means a person with at least 5 years' experience in Tasmanian Masked Owl nest surveying and management.
Relevant specialist	Means a specialist with the skills and experience to meet the following definition(s) in the EPBC Act approval relative to their area of expertise: – Suitably qualified eagle specialist – Suitably qualified owl specialist – Suitably qualified ecologist
Use of machinery	With respect to EPZs: means use or transport (not including public roads) of plant and equipment directly involved in vegetation clearing, earthworks, access track construction, tower construction (including crane operations and conductor stringing). Use of machinery does not include transport of plant or equipment on public roads, drone use (except for conductor stringing) or use or use of light vehicles.

Appendices

Appendix A

Nest Register and EPZs



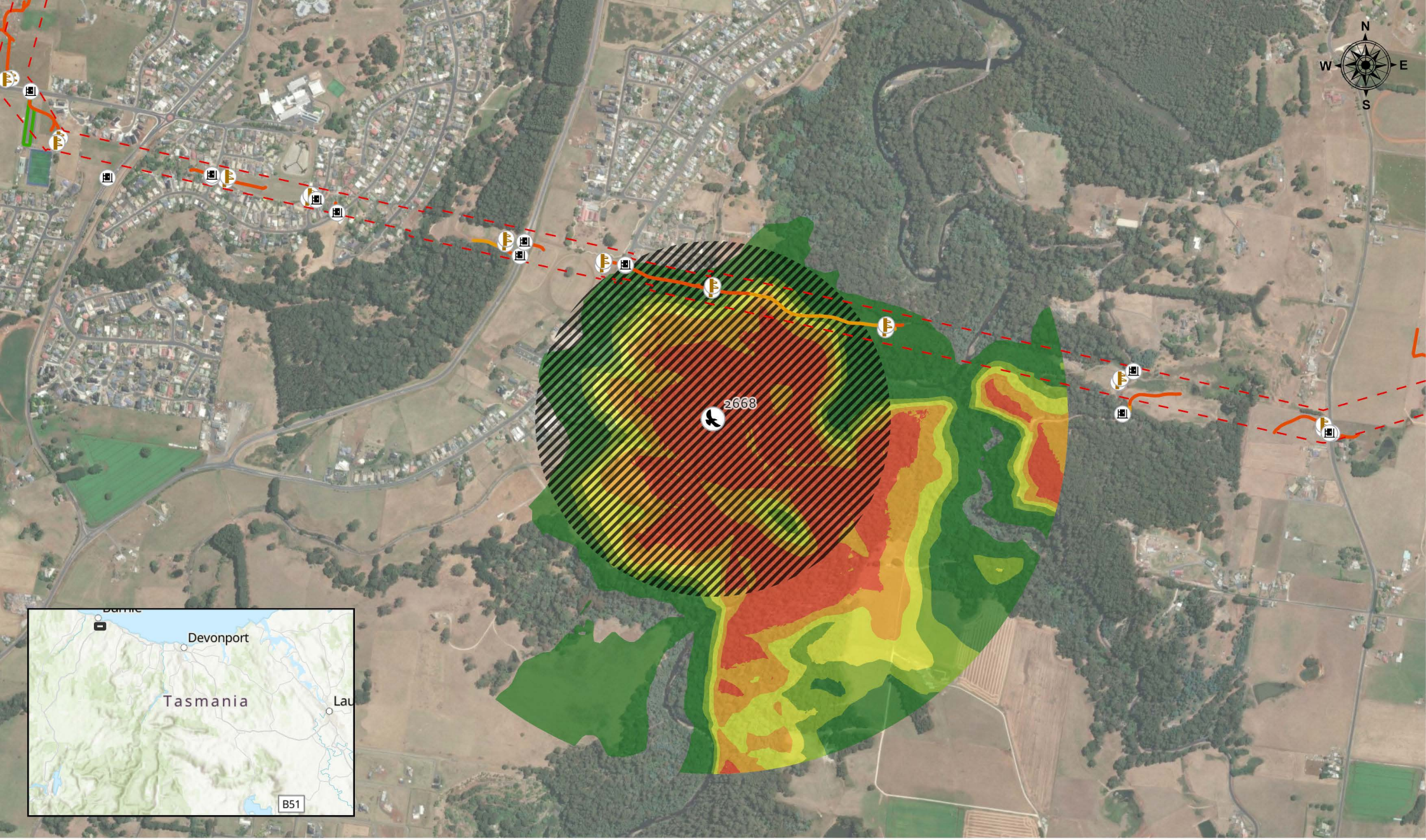
GENUS

- Notified Corridor
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- Towers
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NWTD - CEMP Condition 27
Raptor Nest Management Plan

Produced date: 7/24/2026 11:19 AM
PCS: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55 (WKID: 28355)

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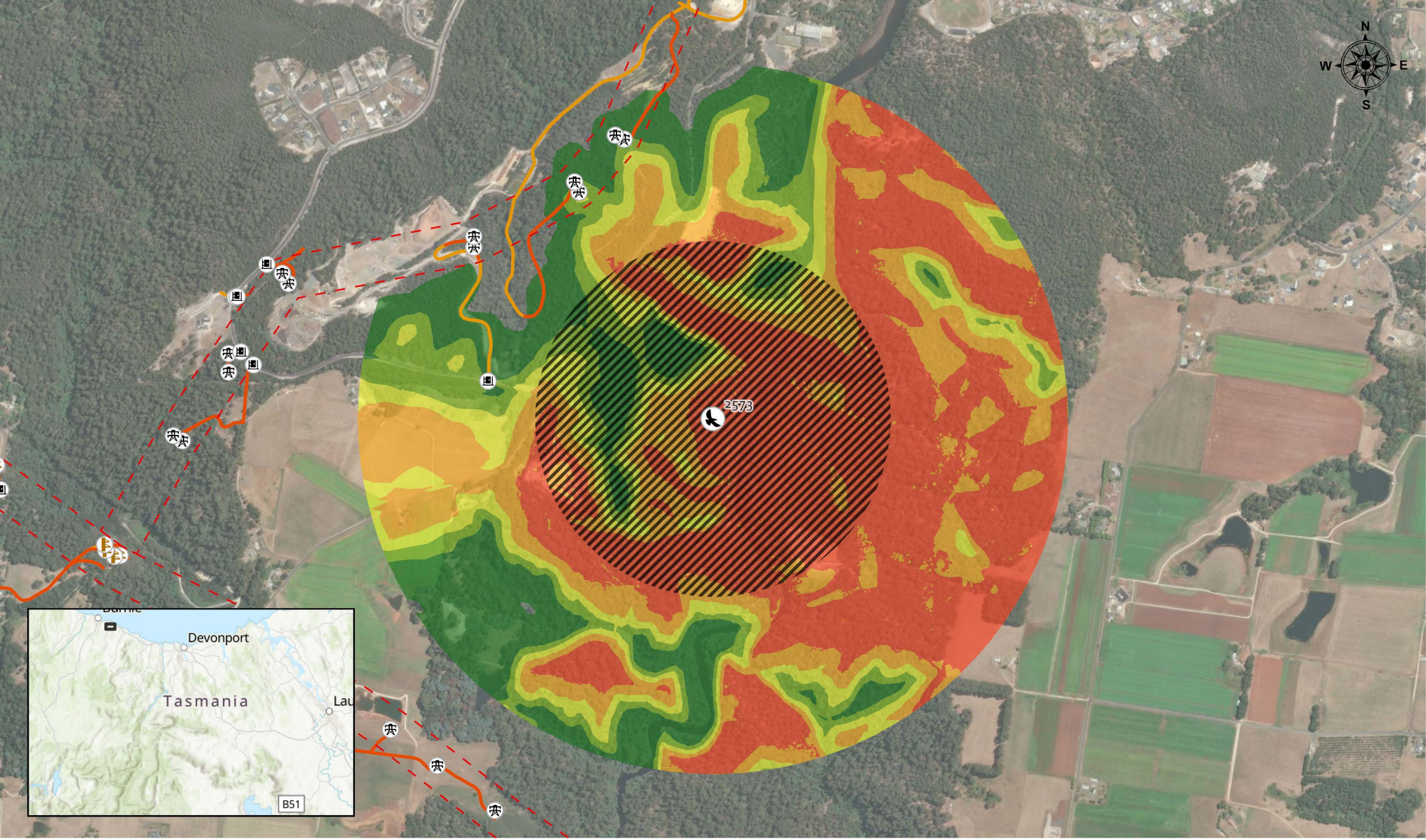
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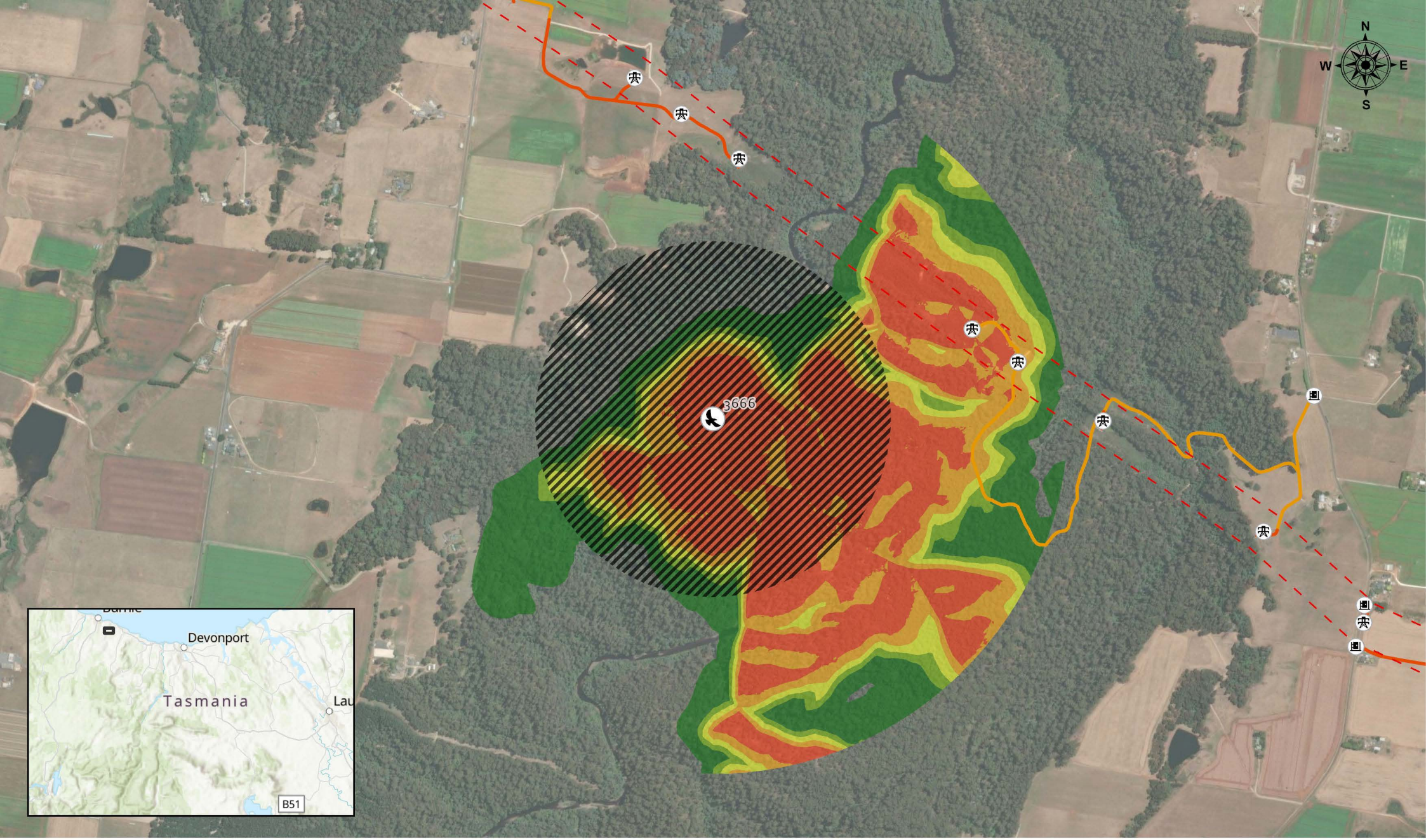
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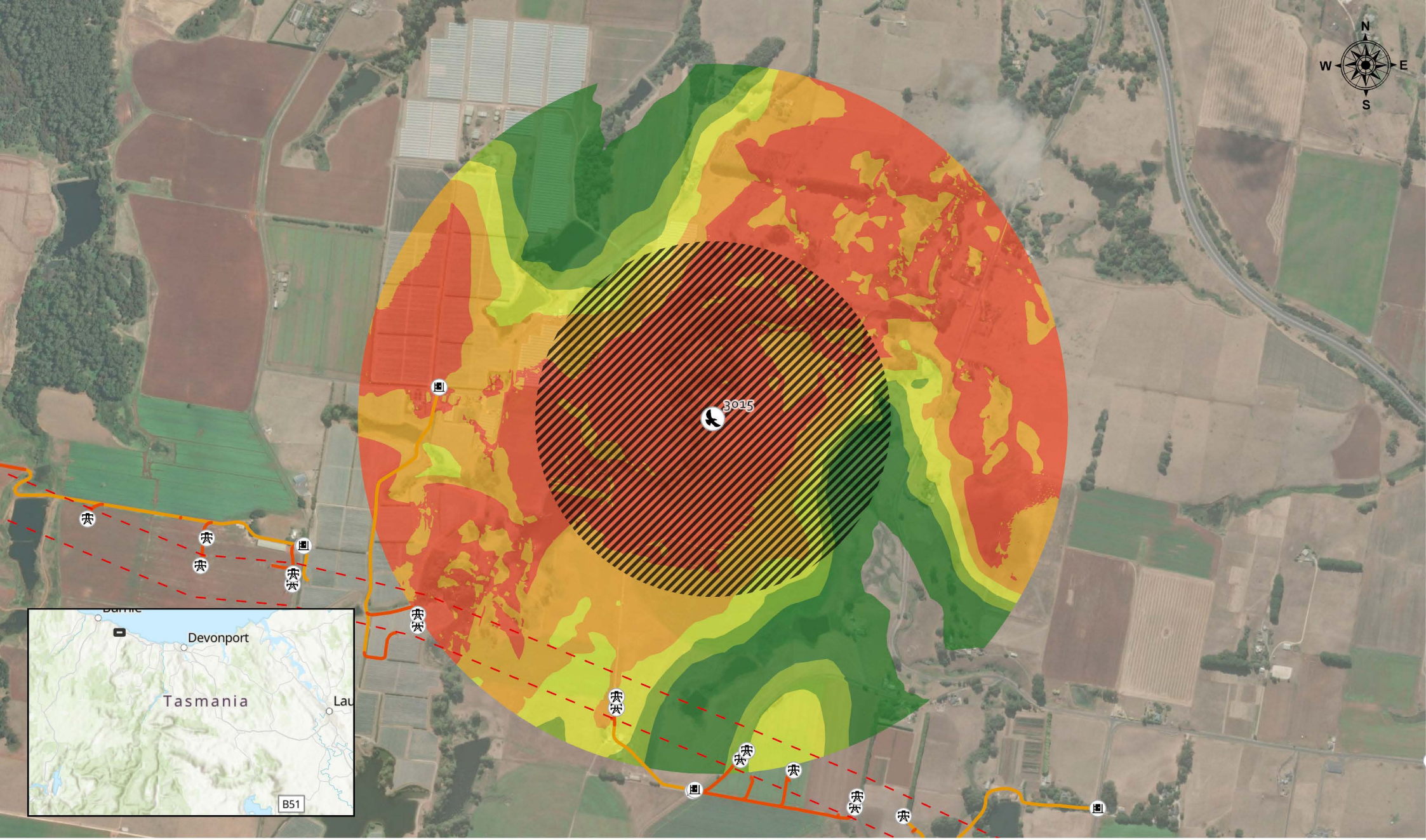
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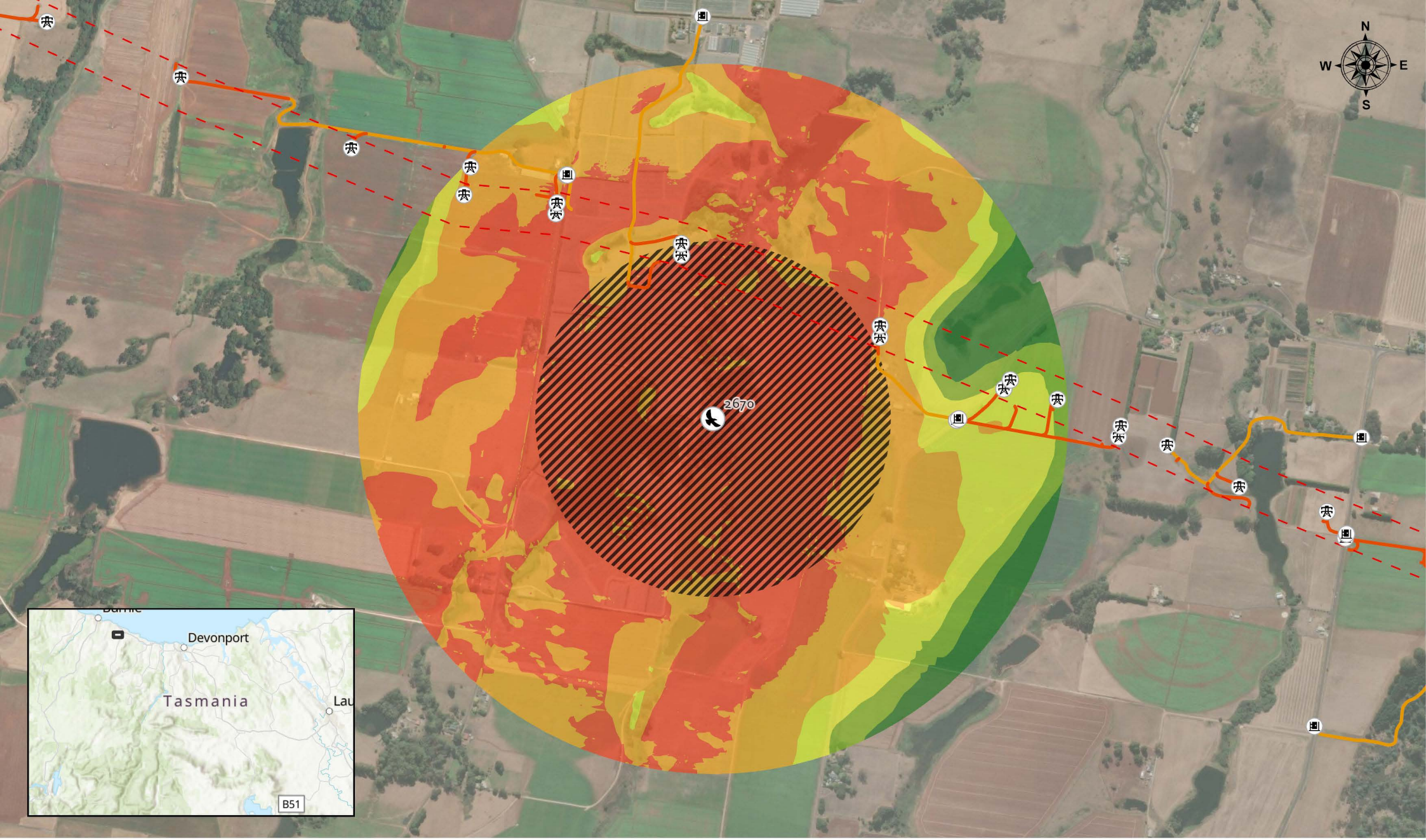
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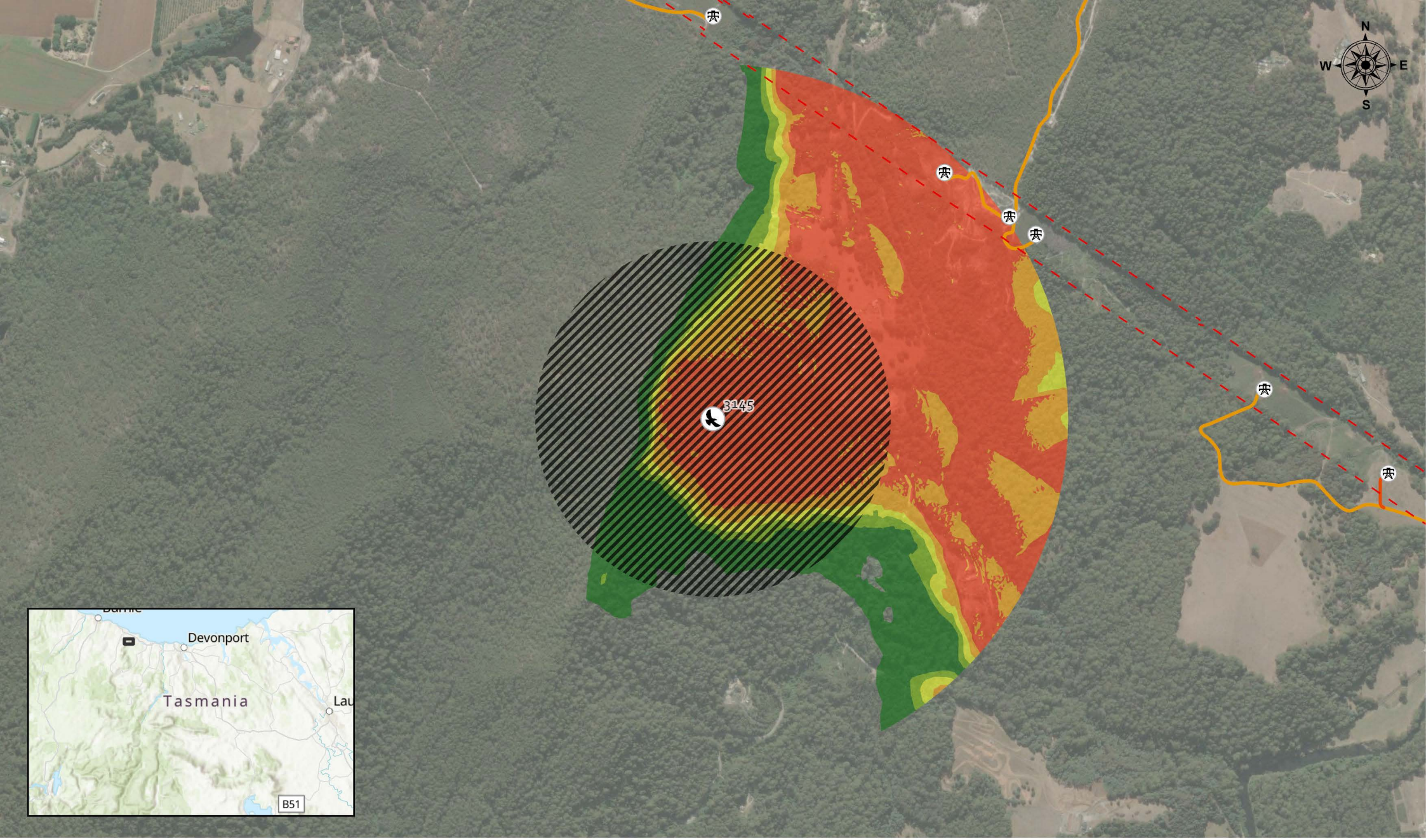
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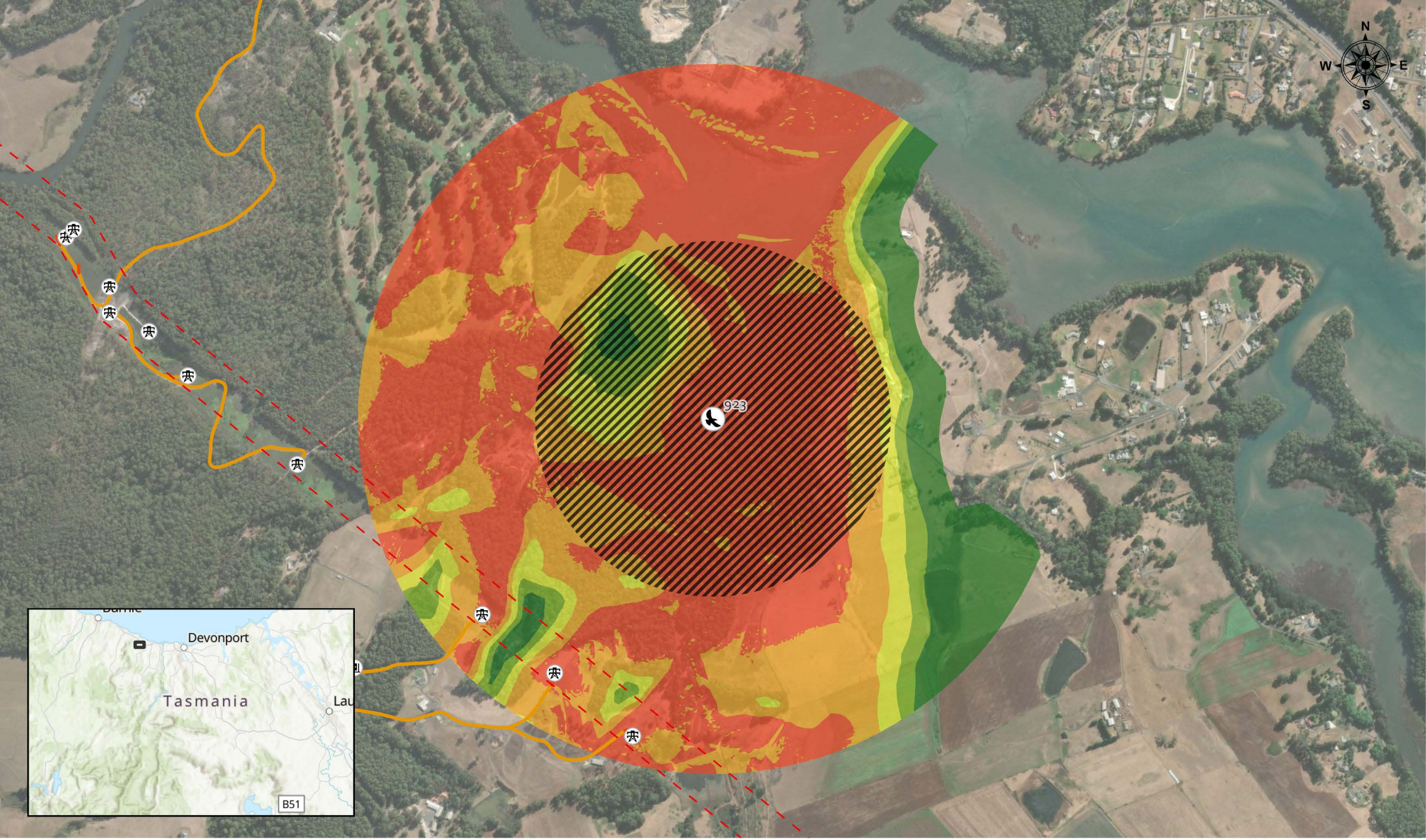
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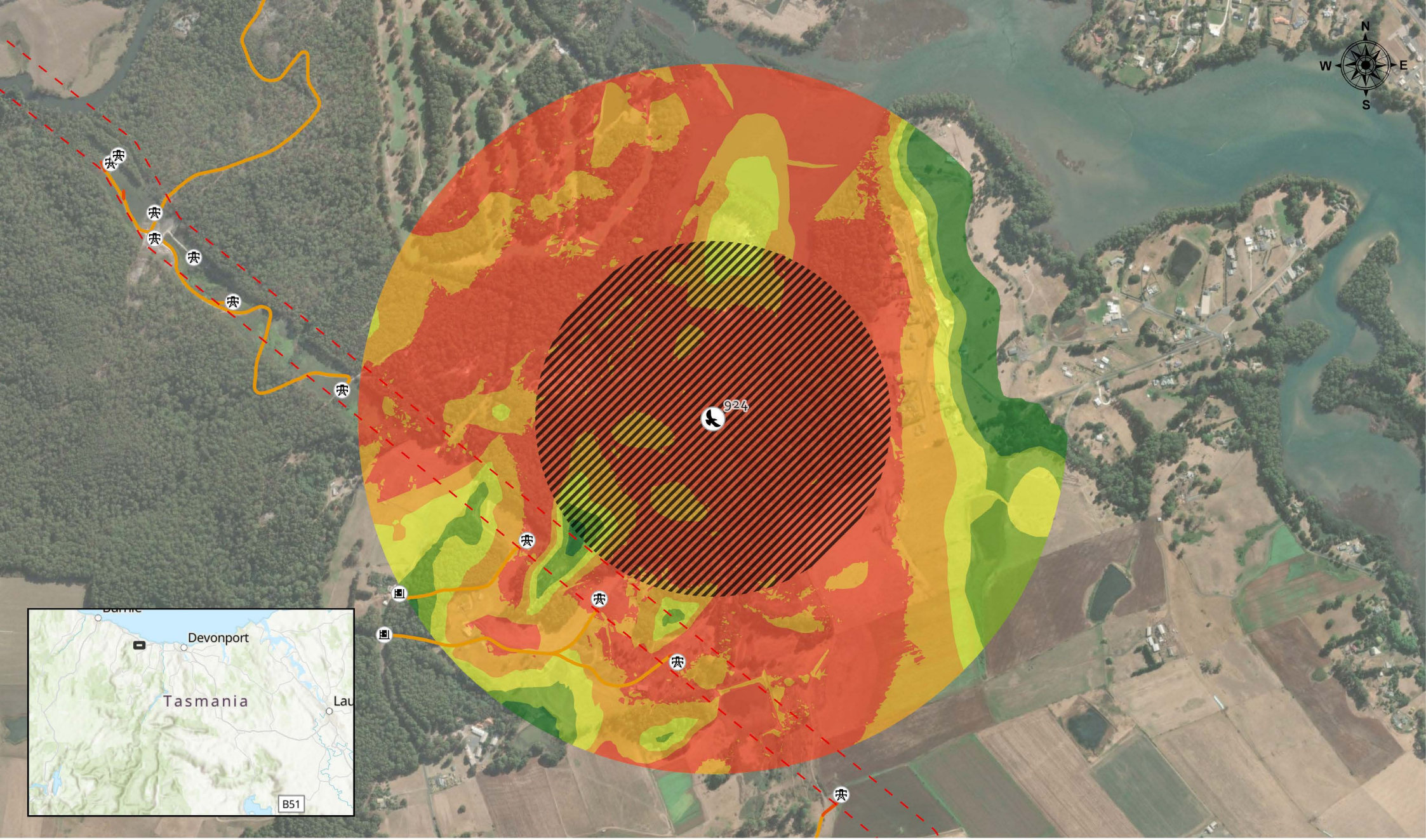
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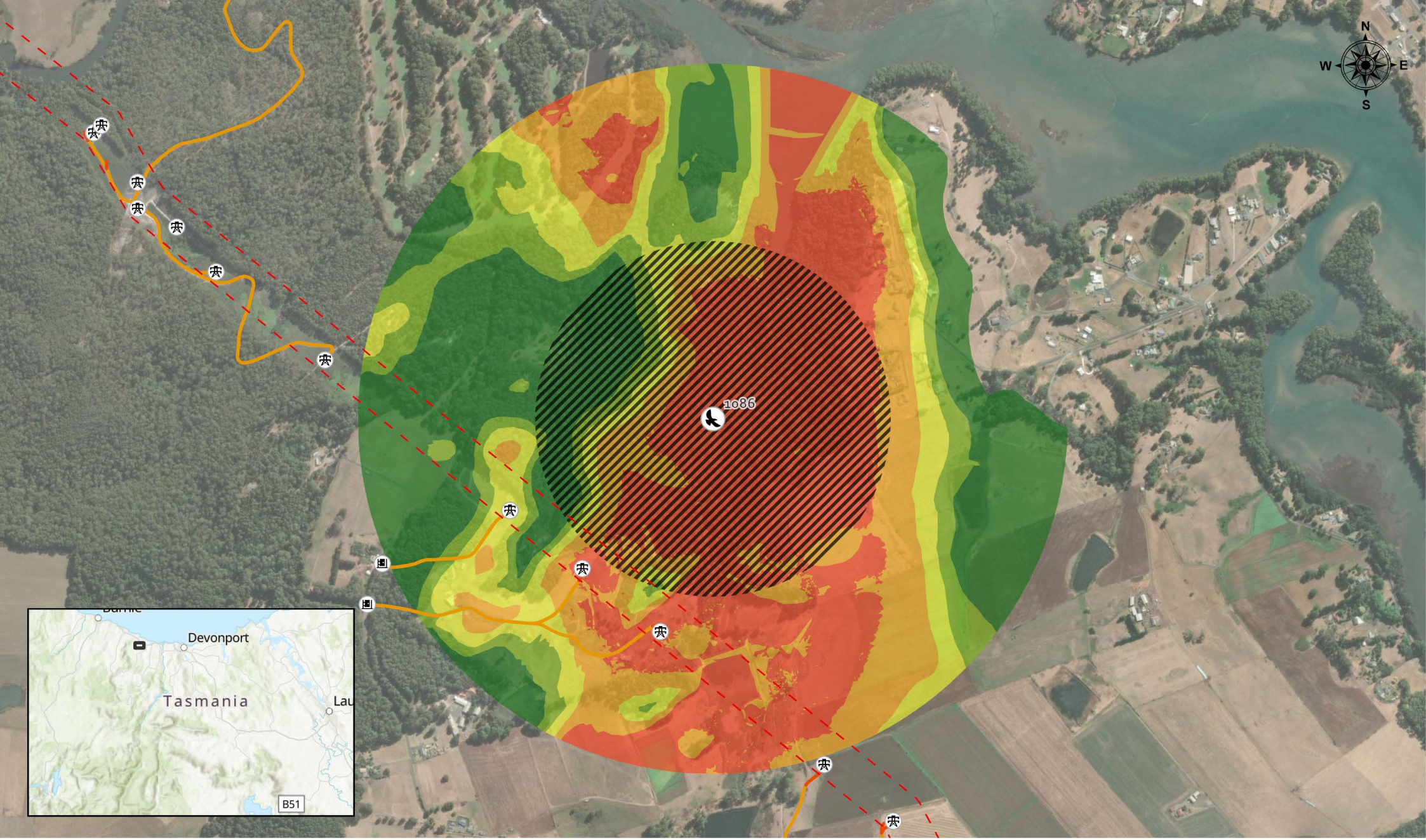
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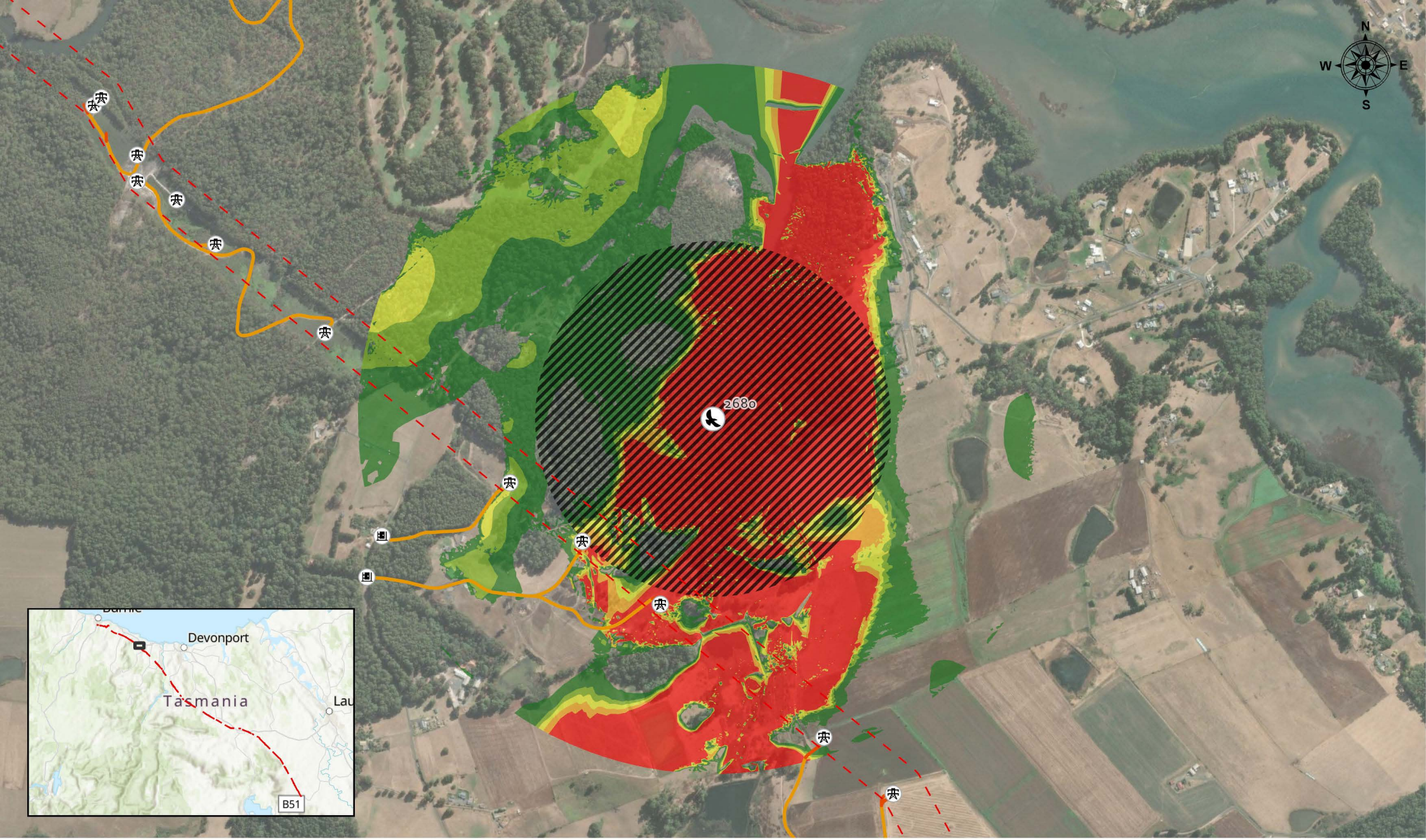
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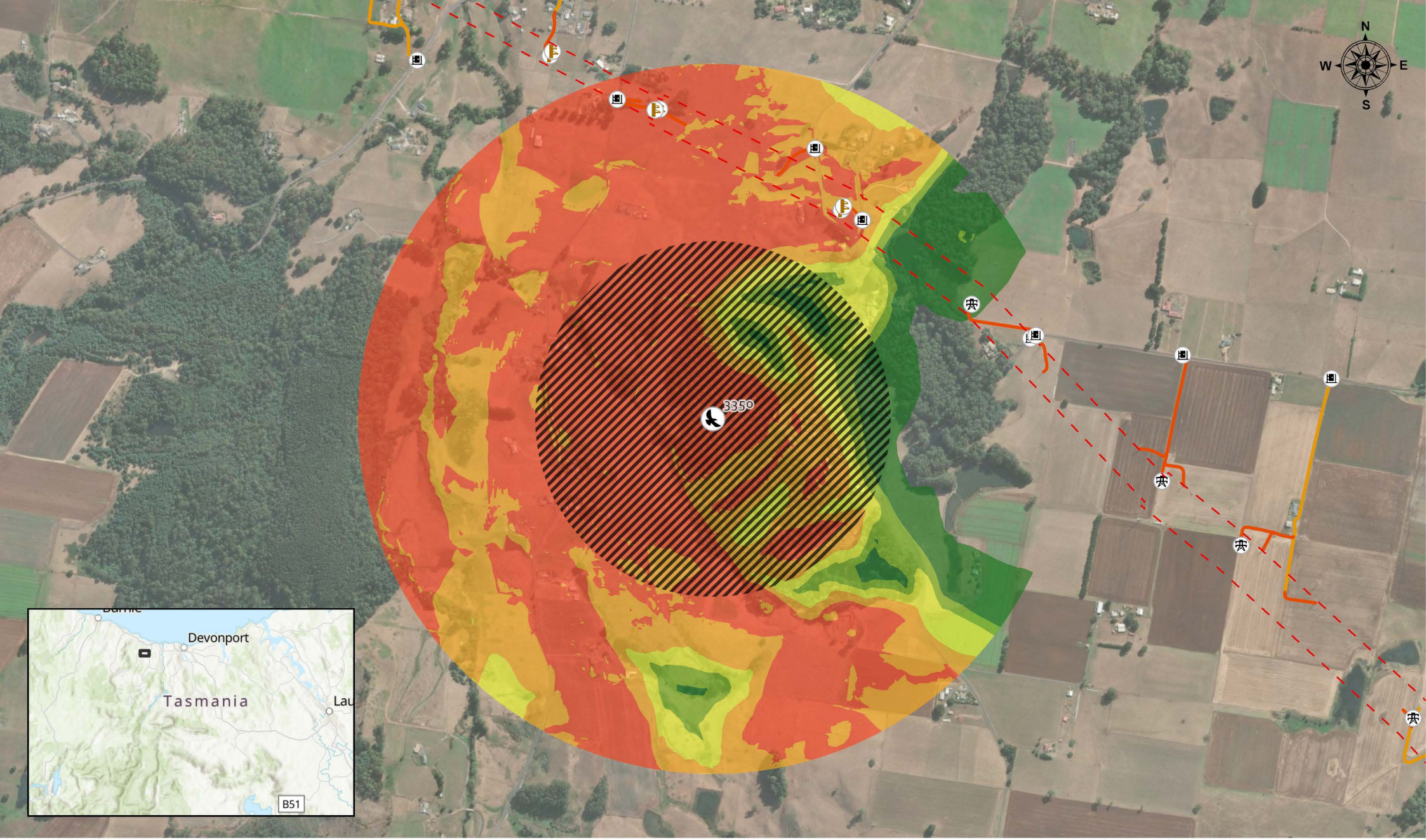
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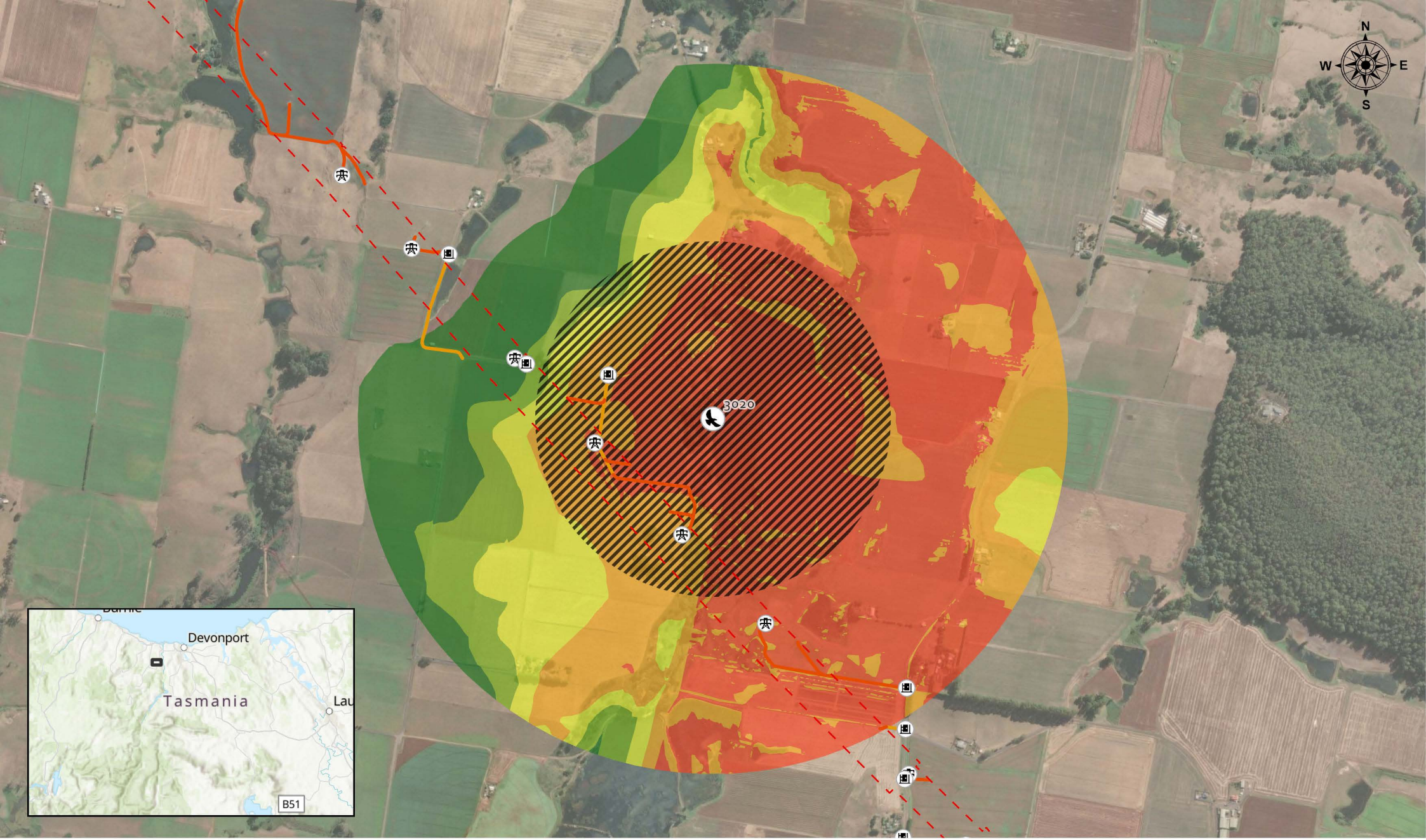
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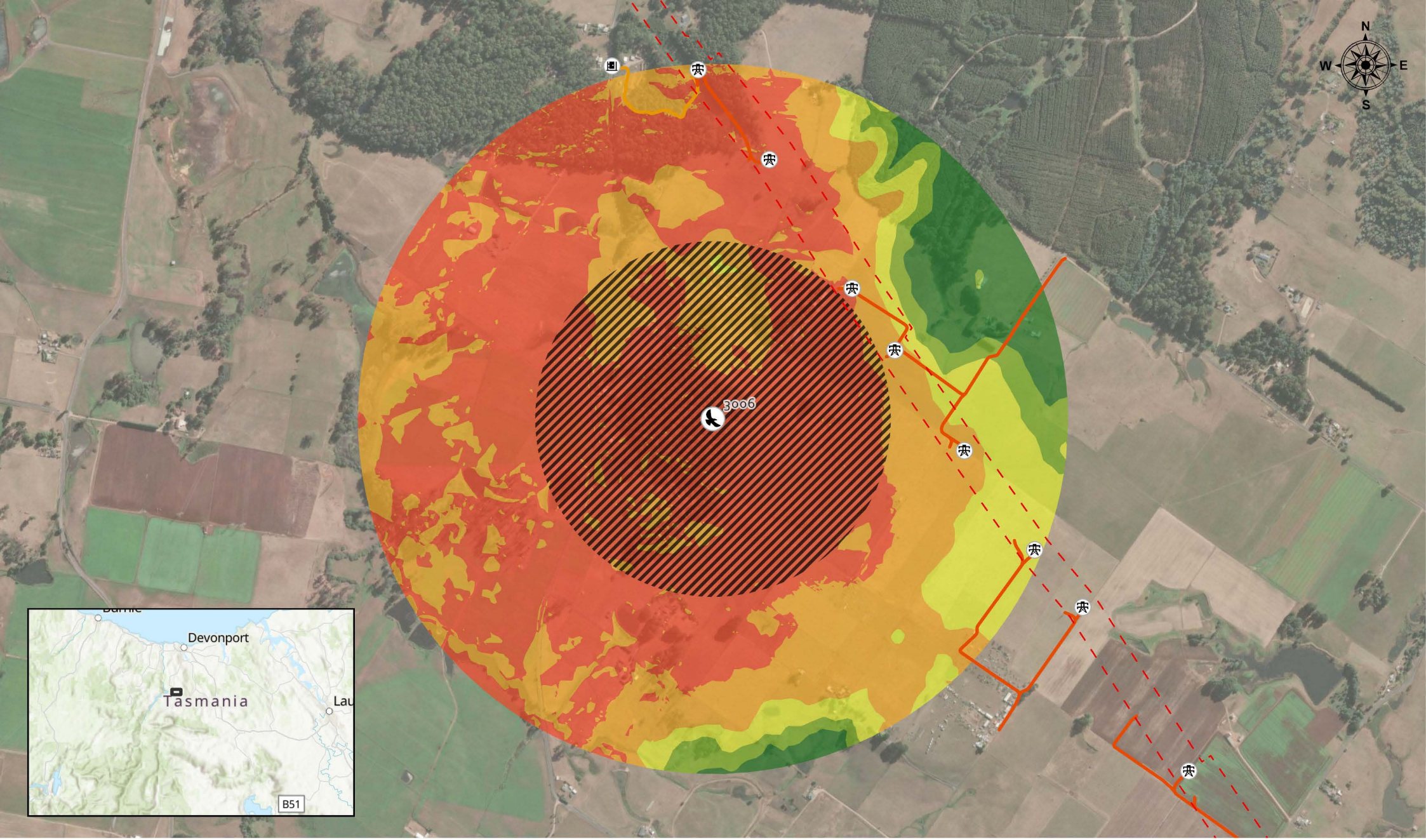
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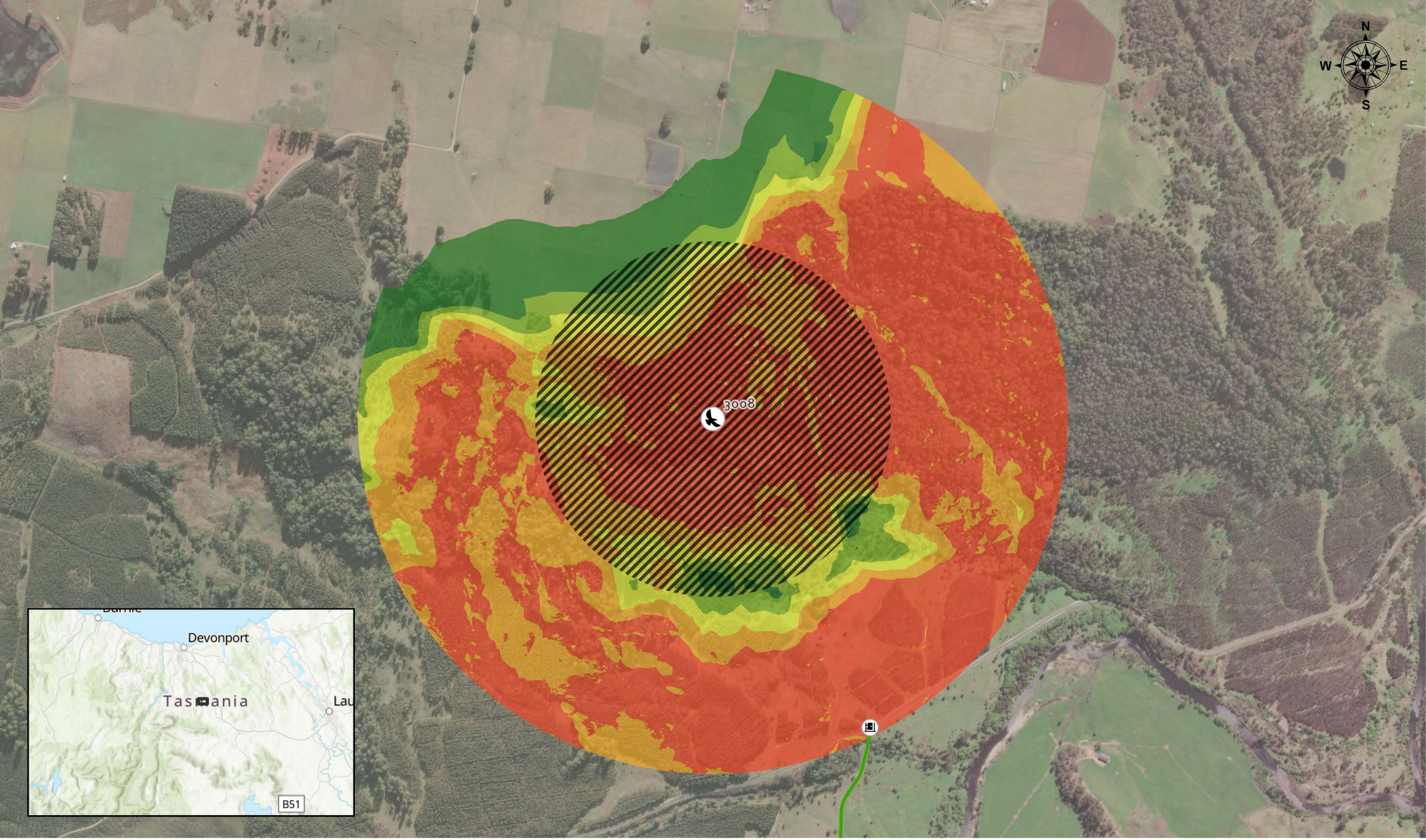
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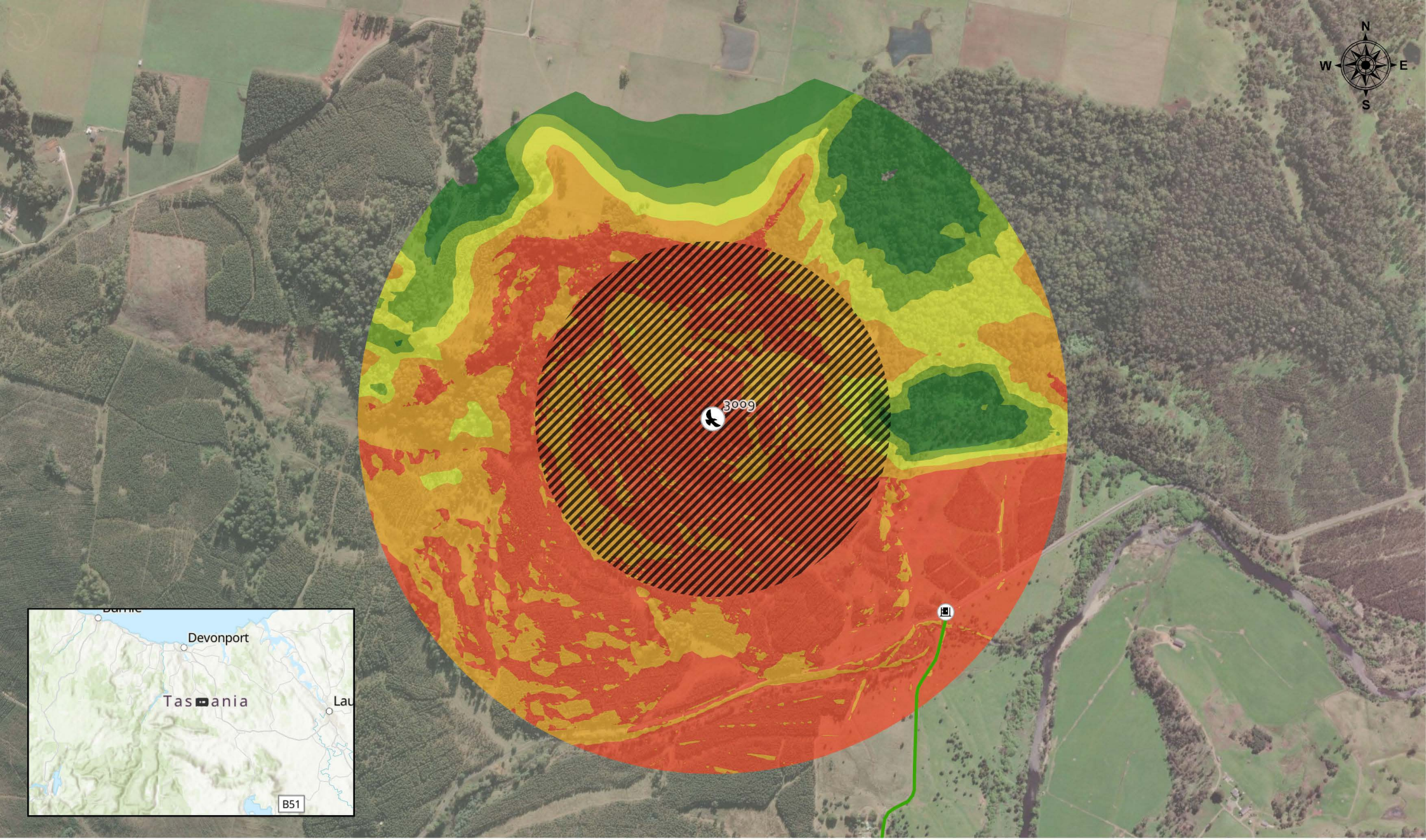
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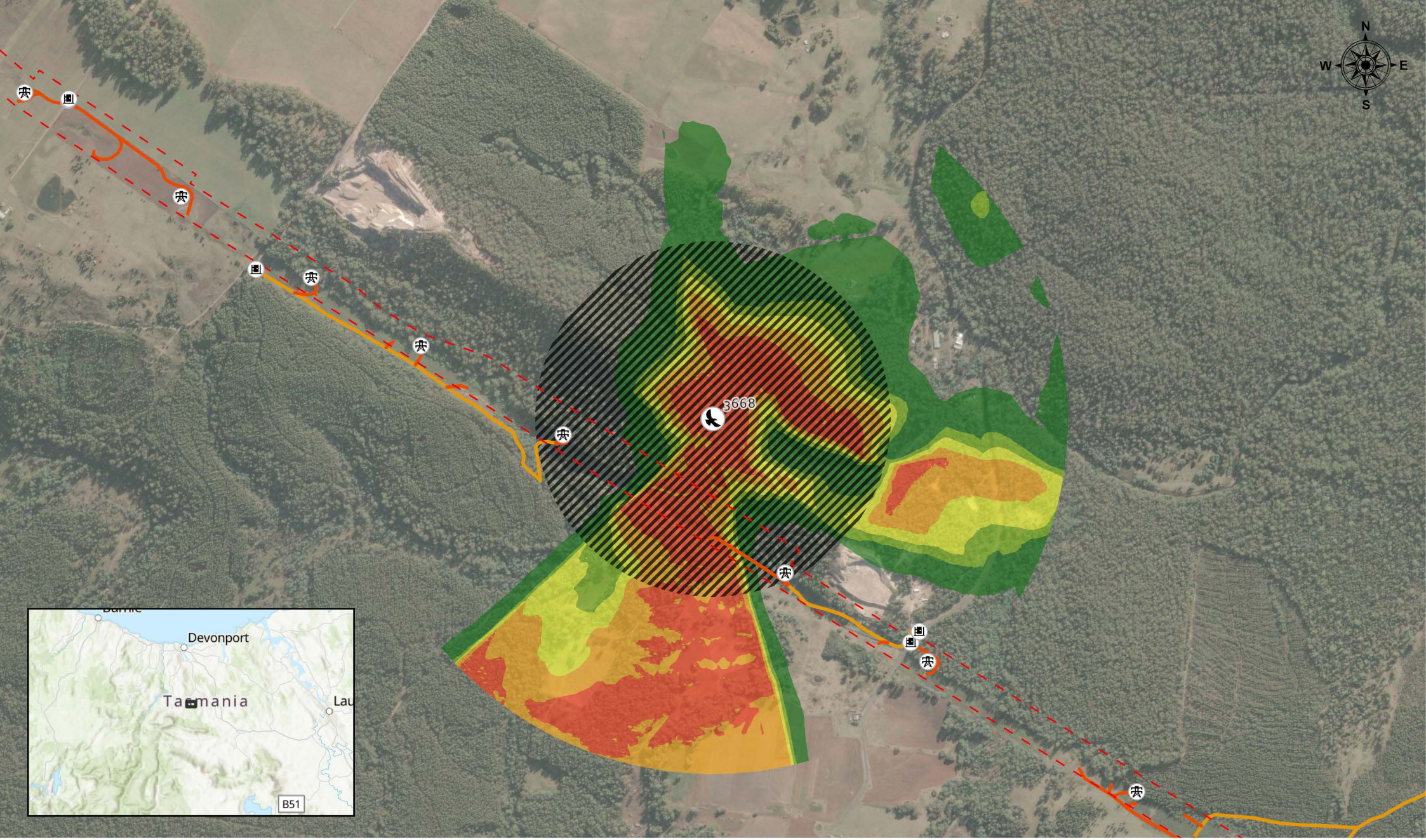
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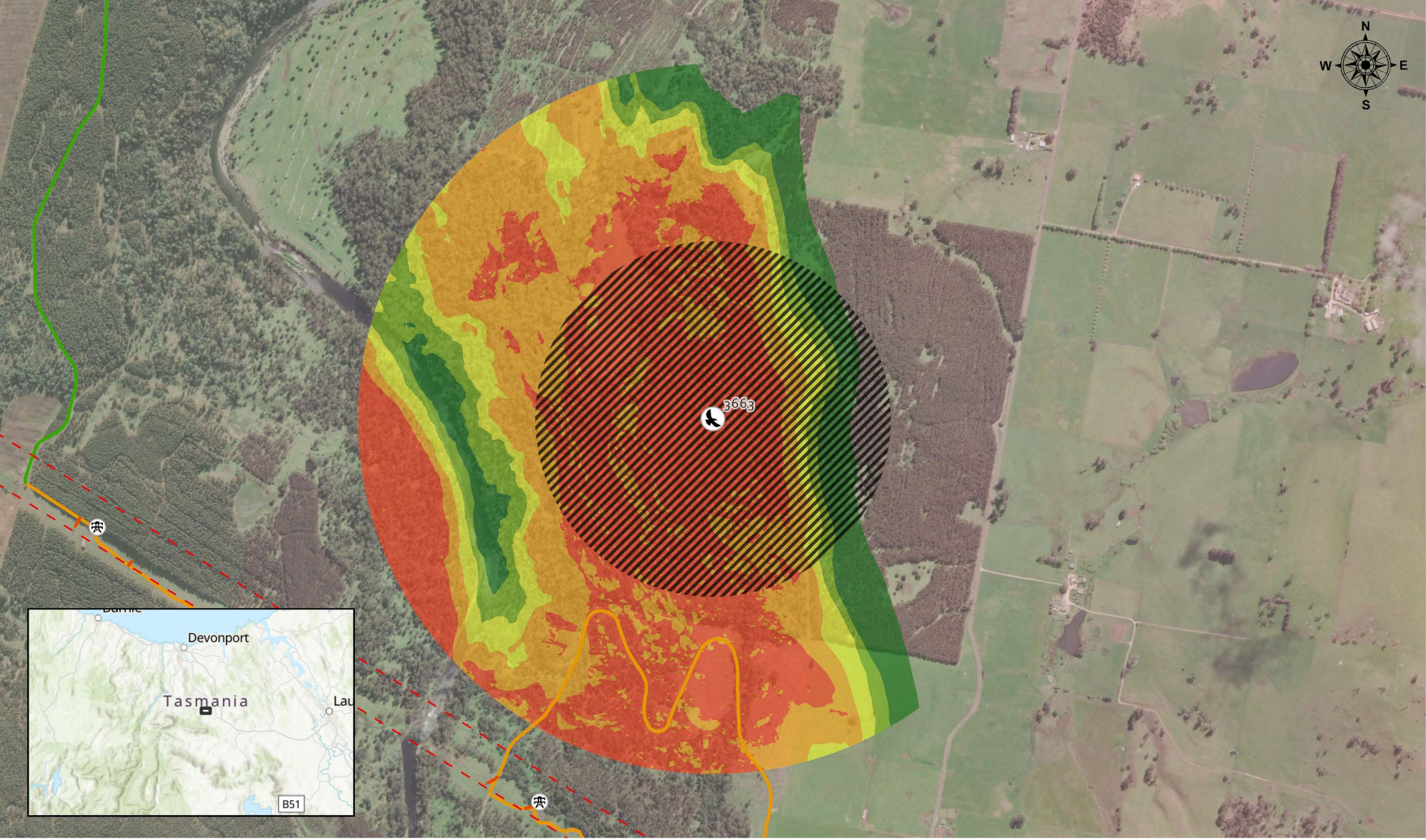
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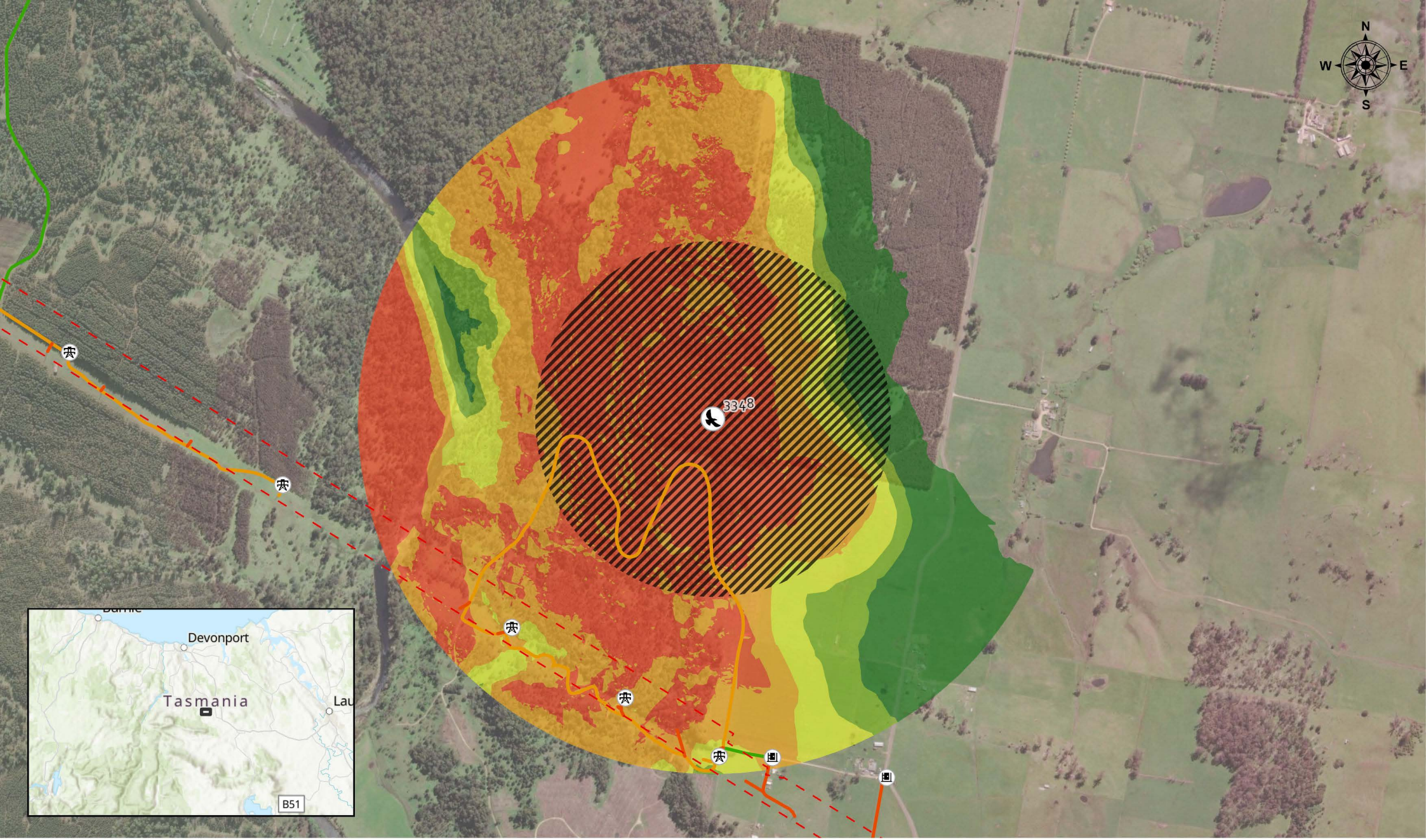
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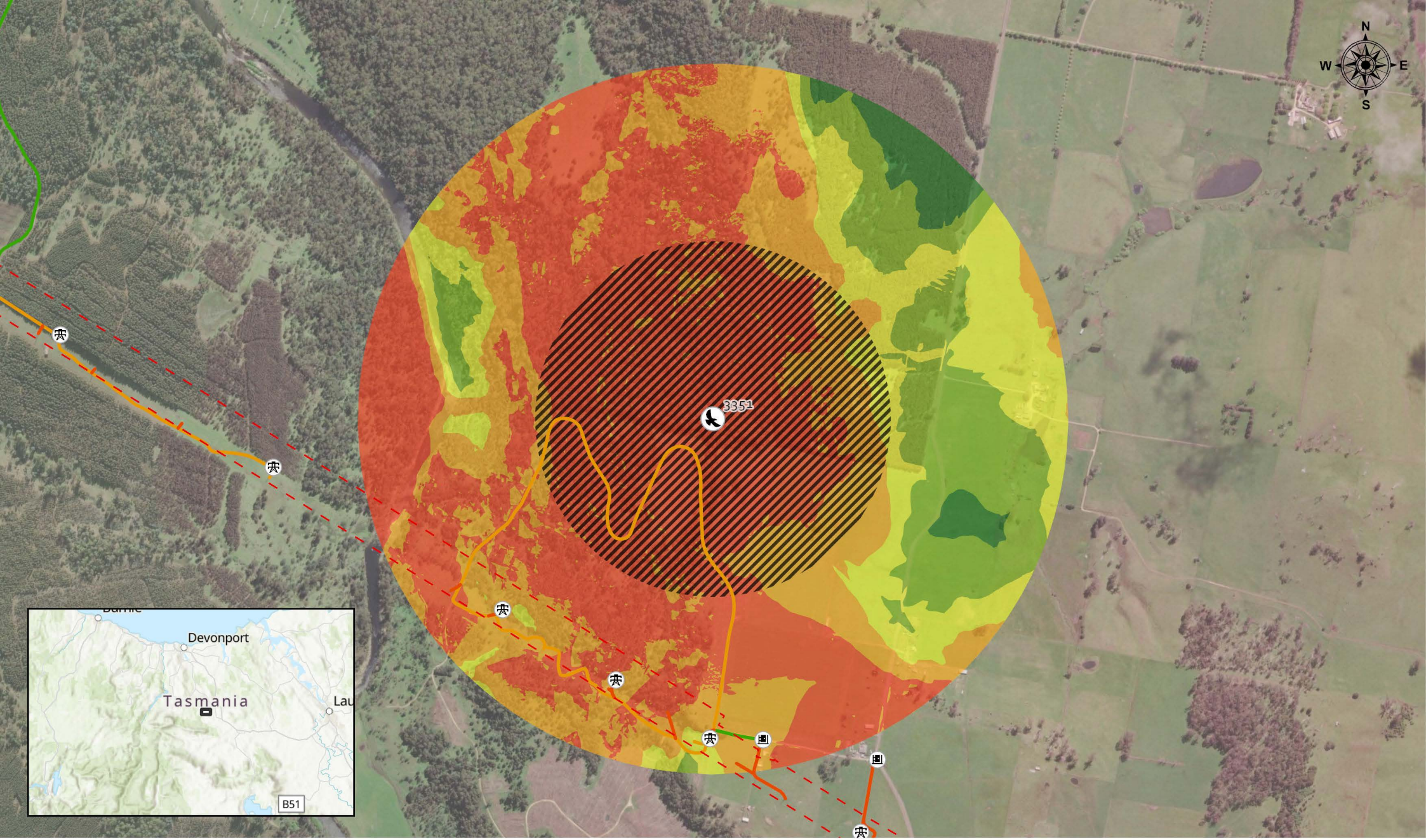
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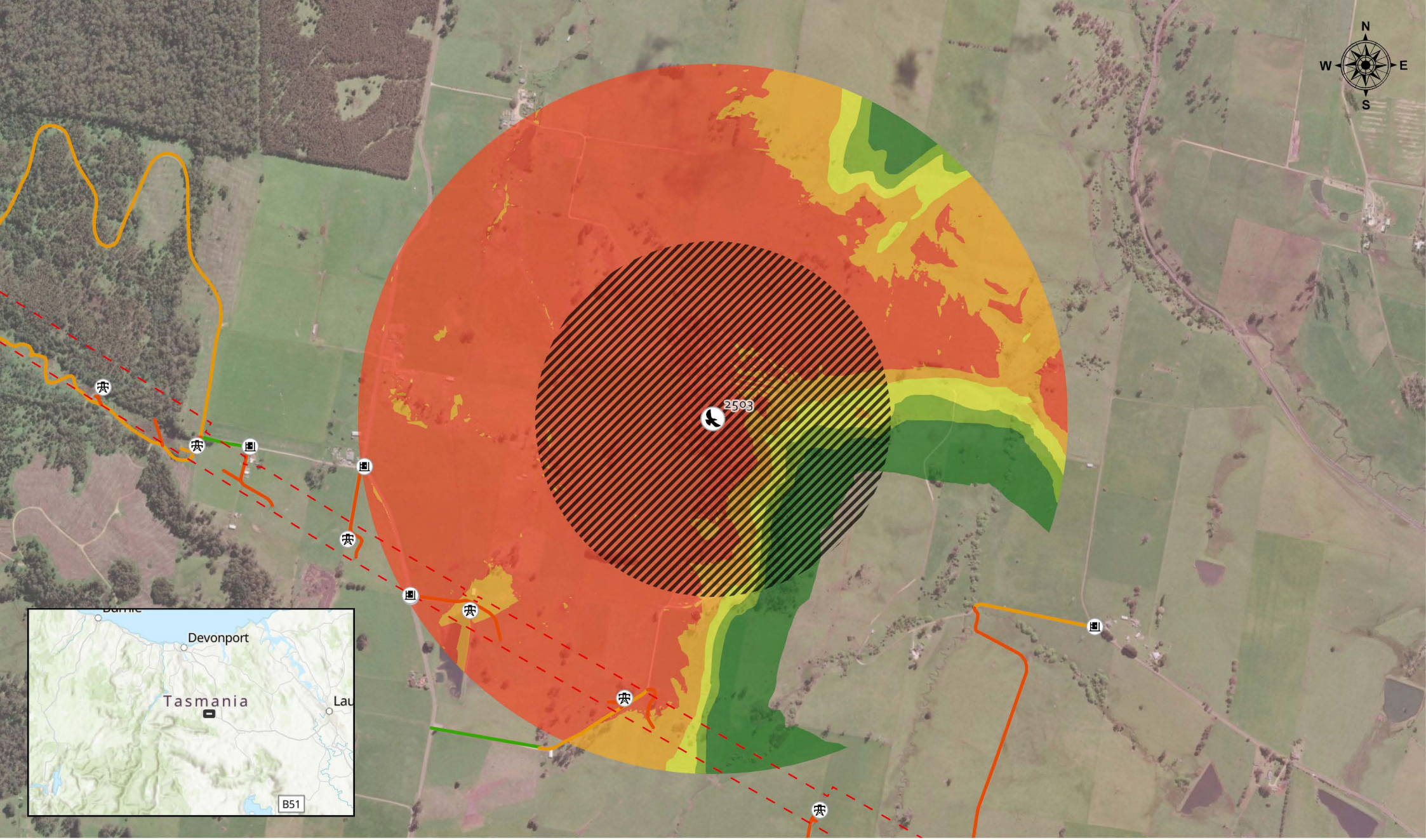
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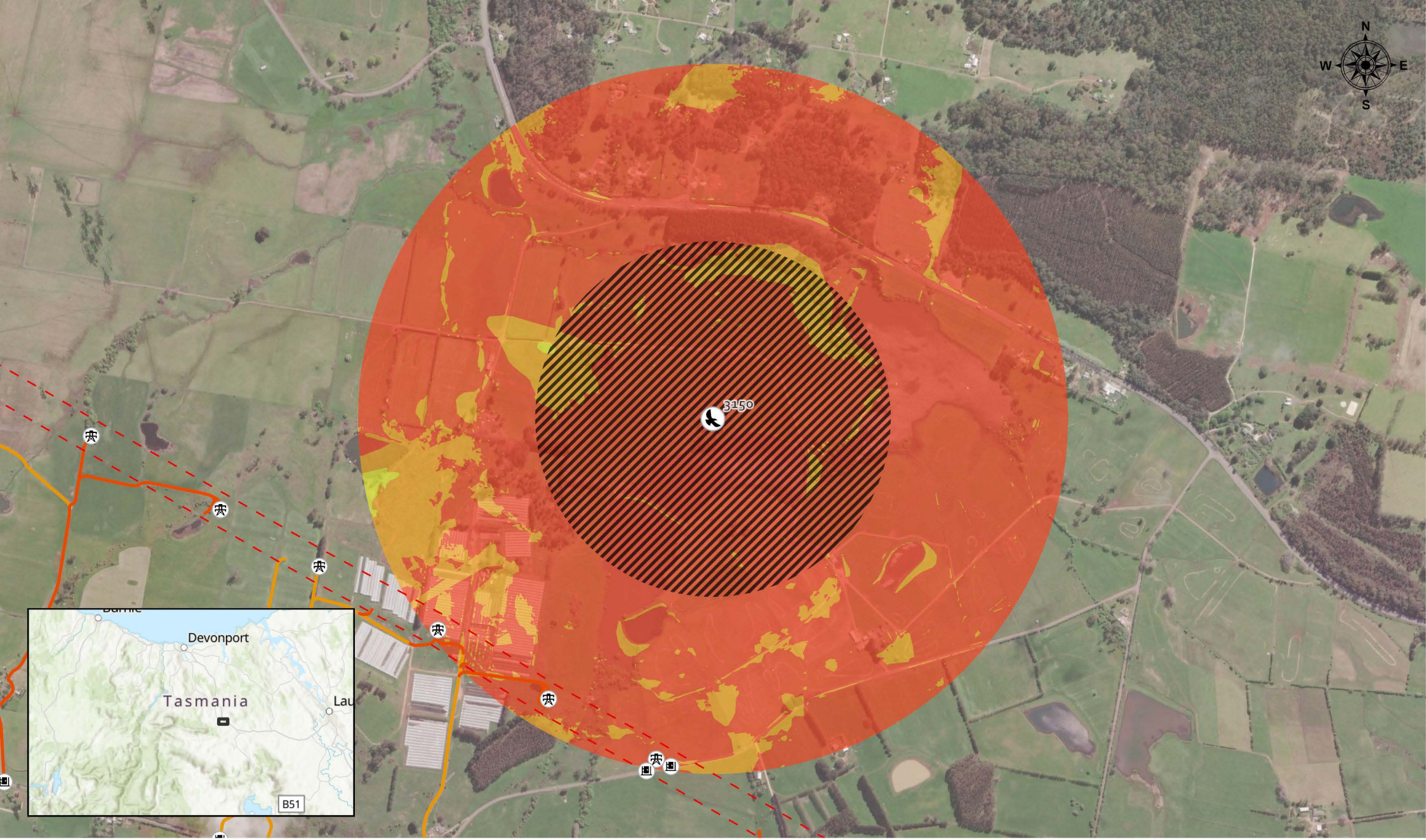
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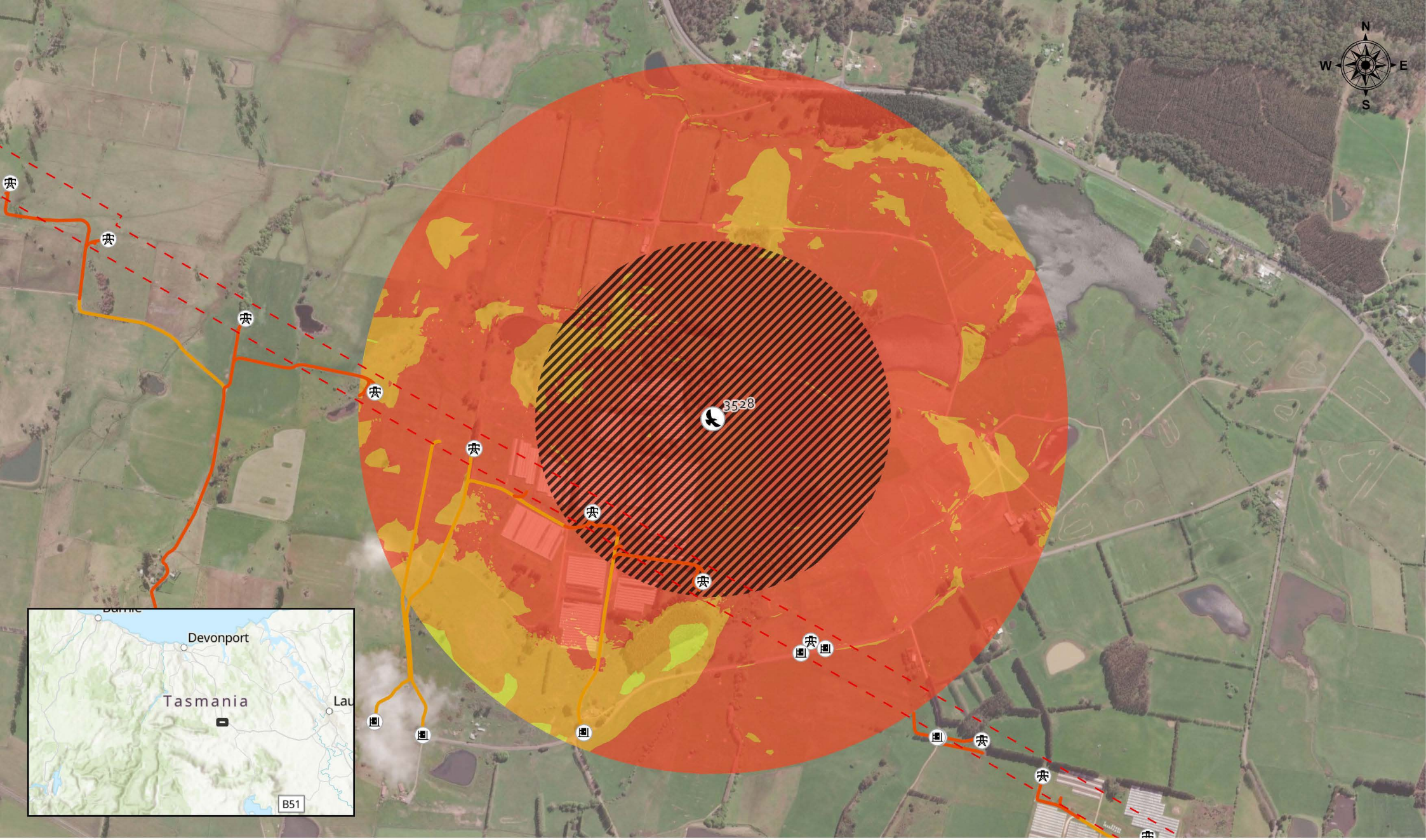
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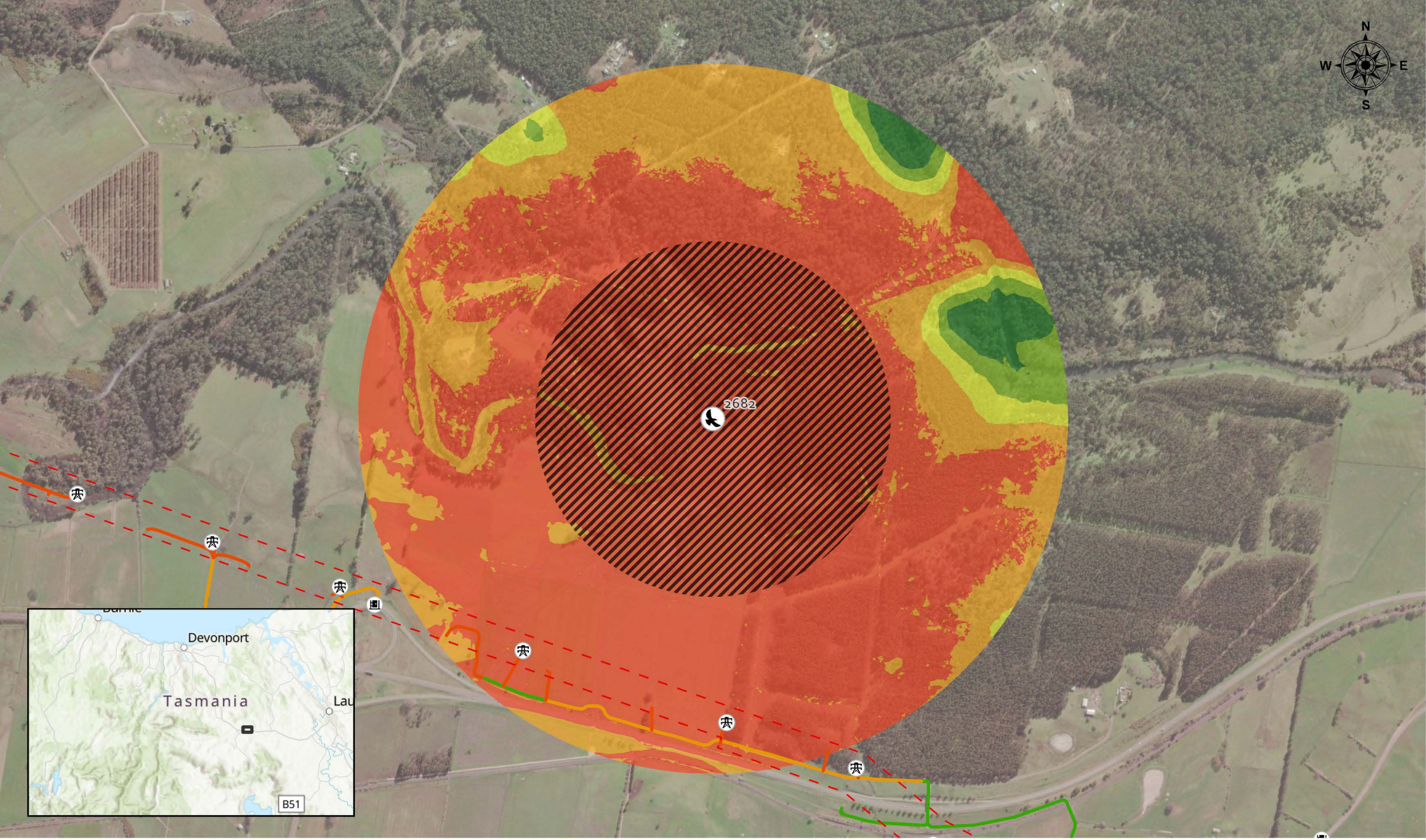
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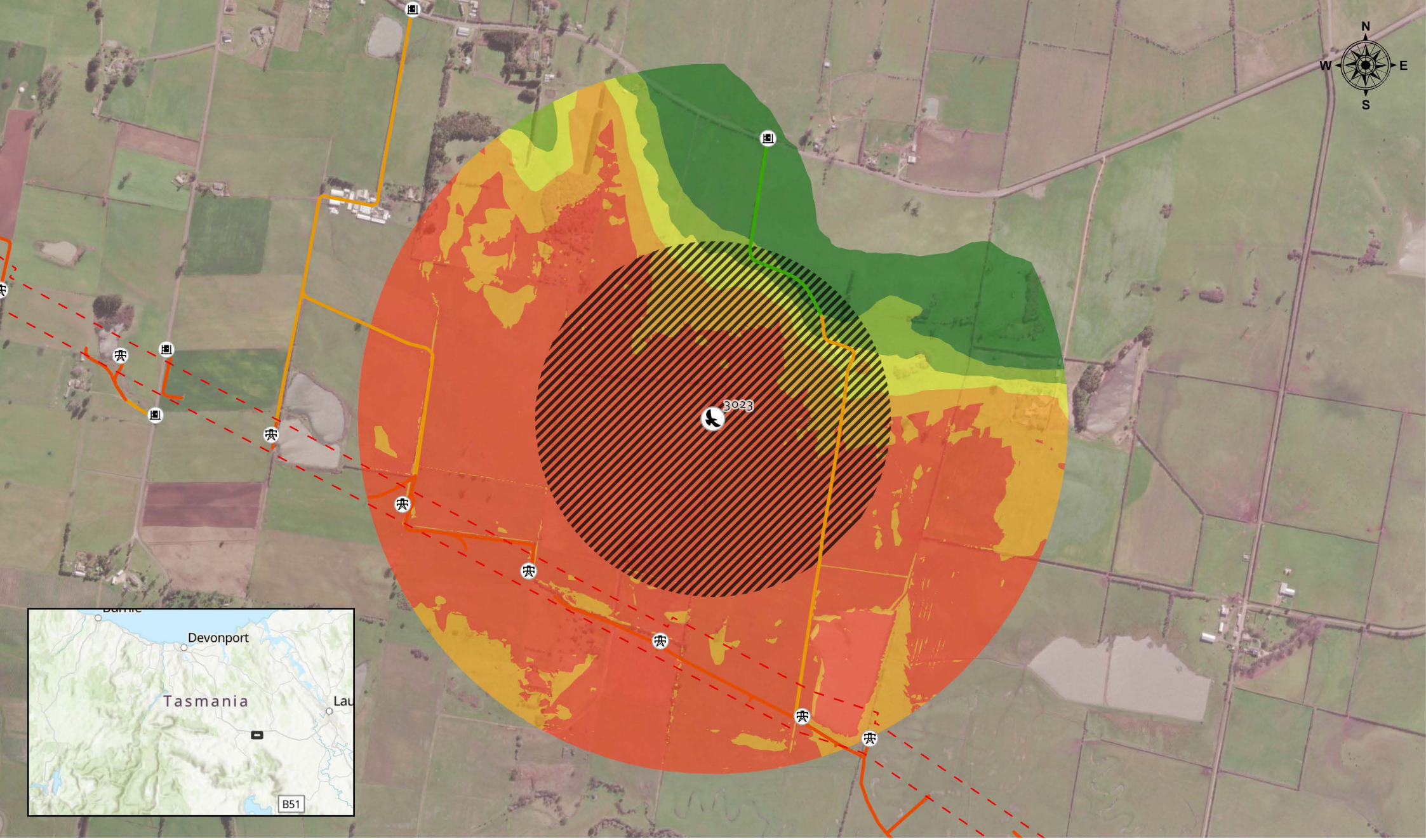
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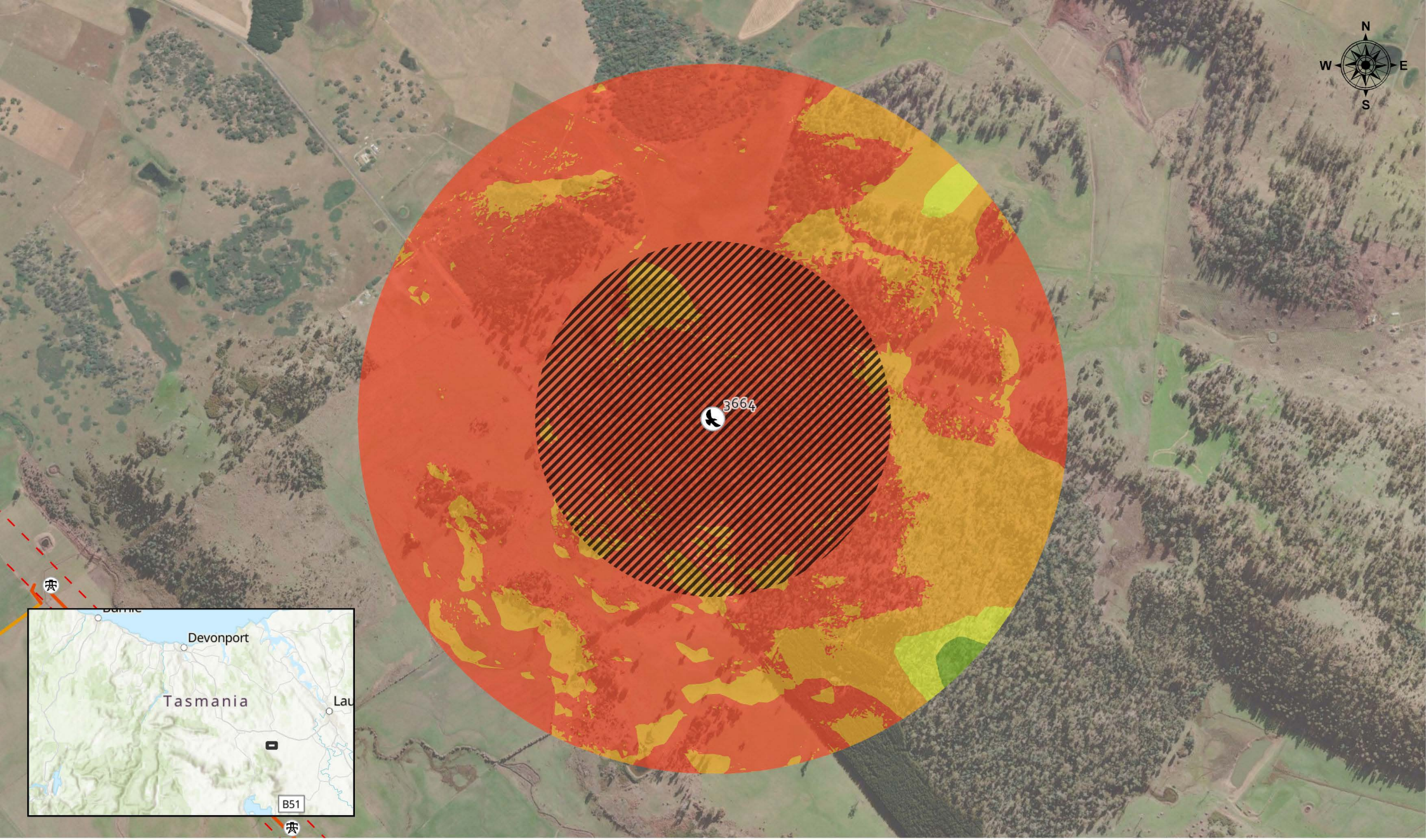
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Raptor Nest Management Plan

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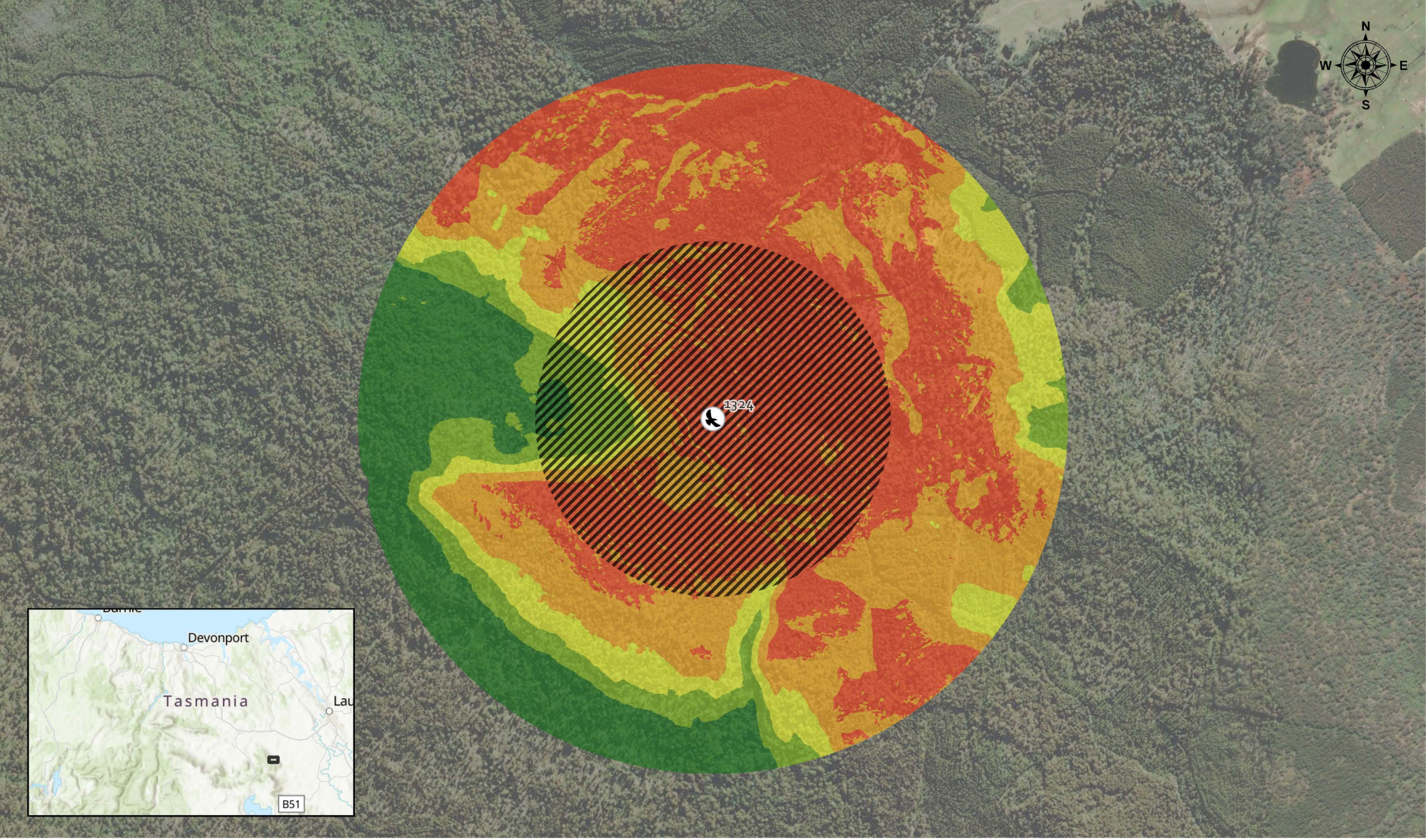
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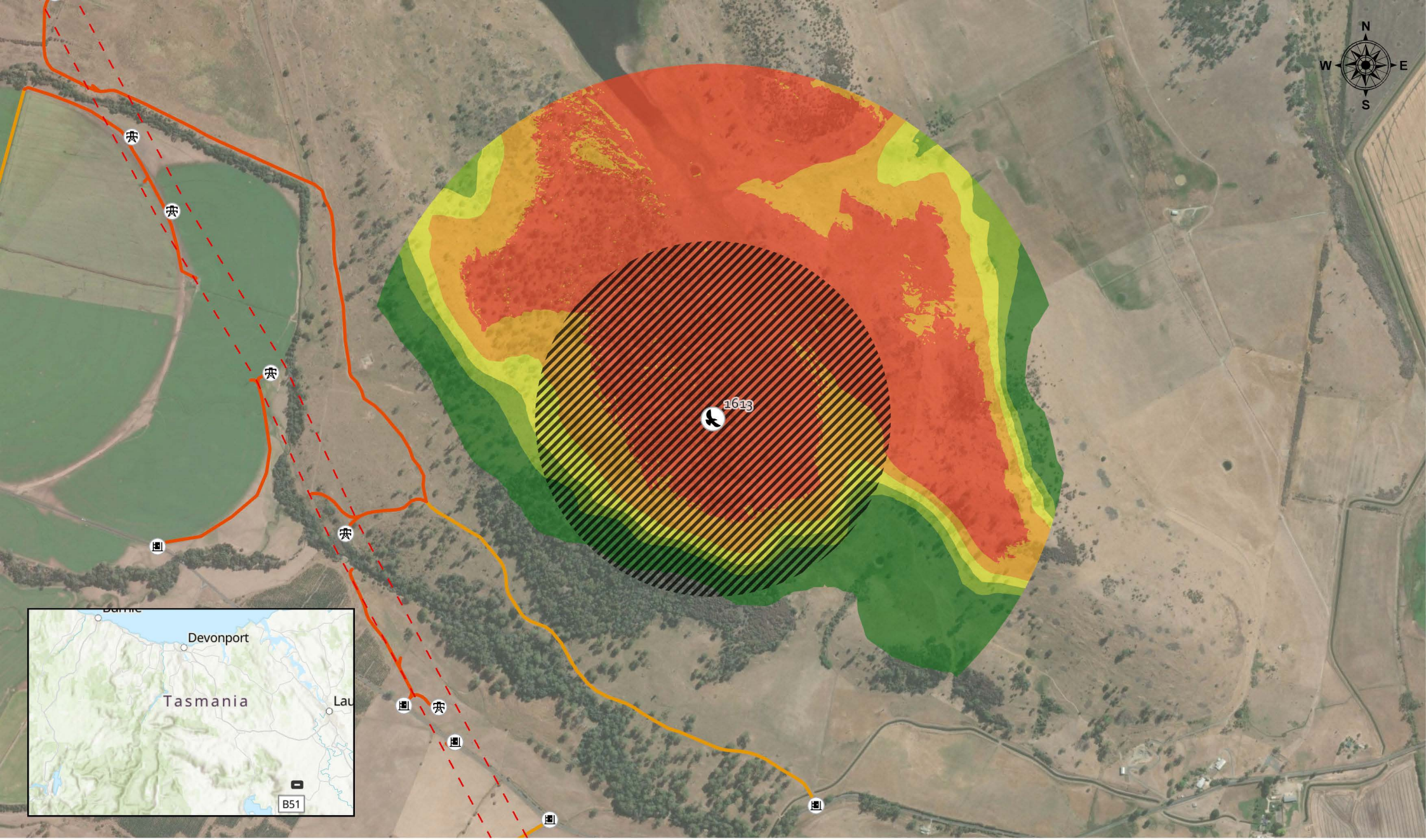
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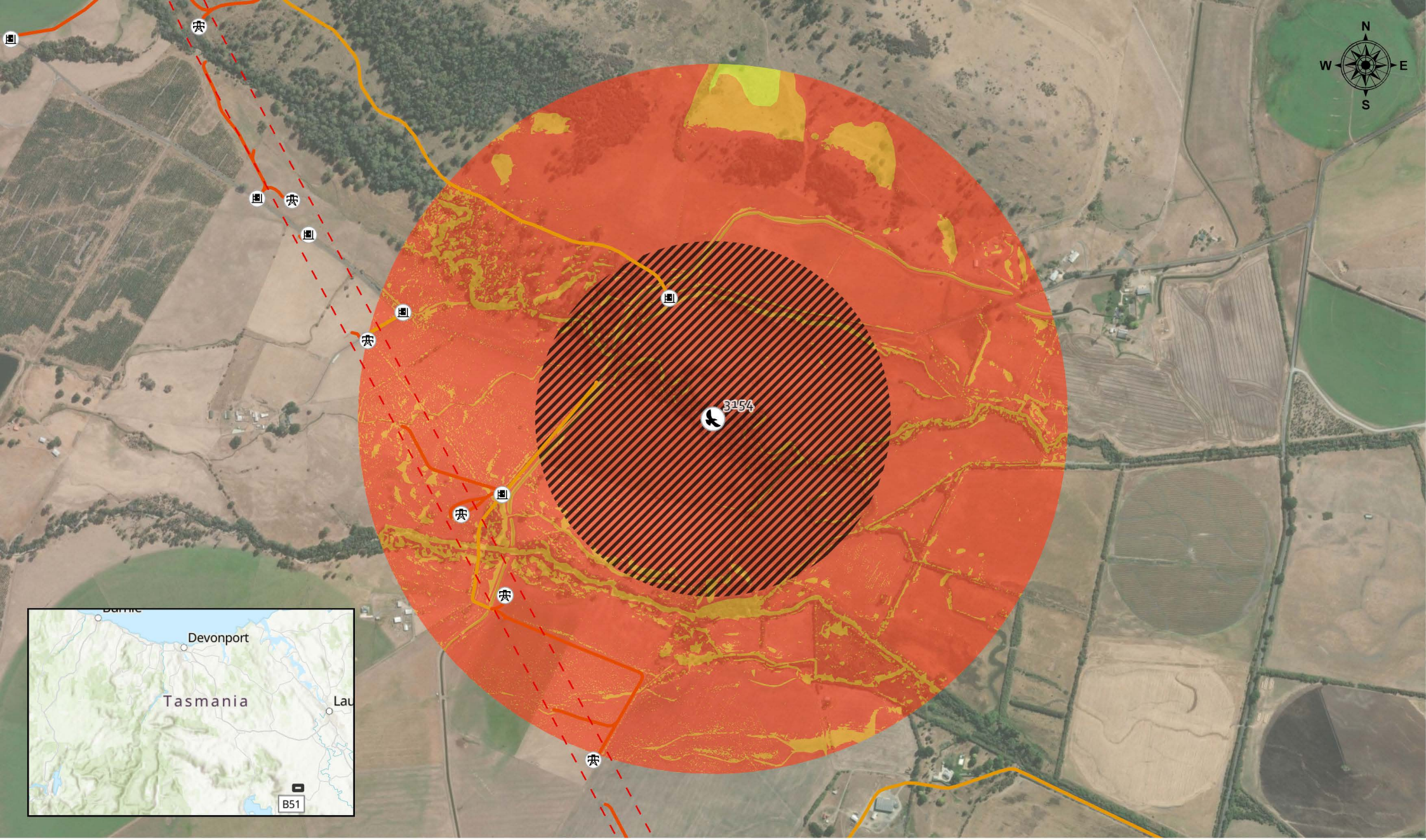
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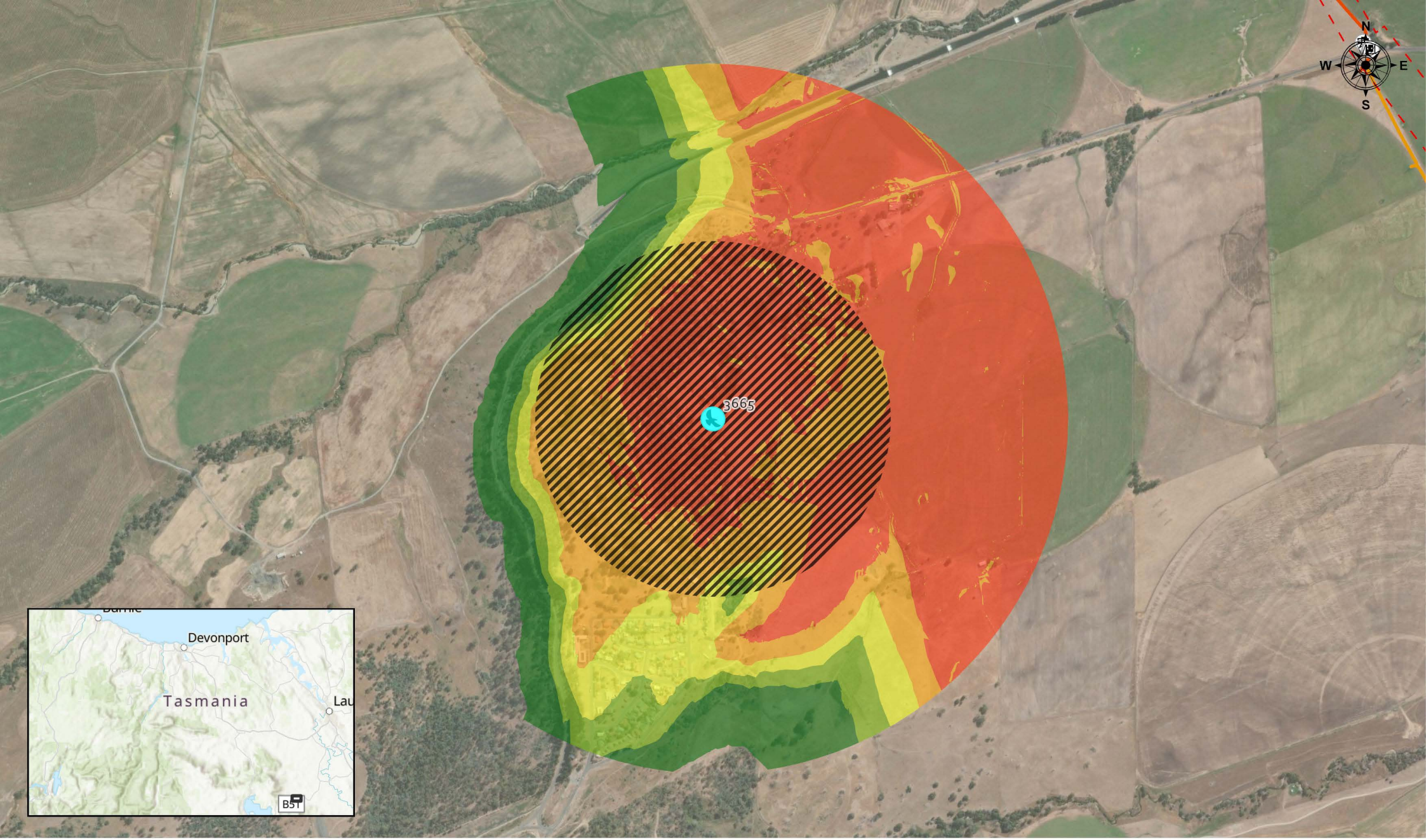
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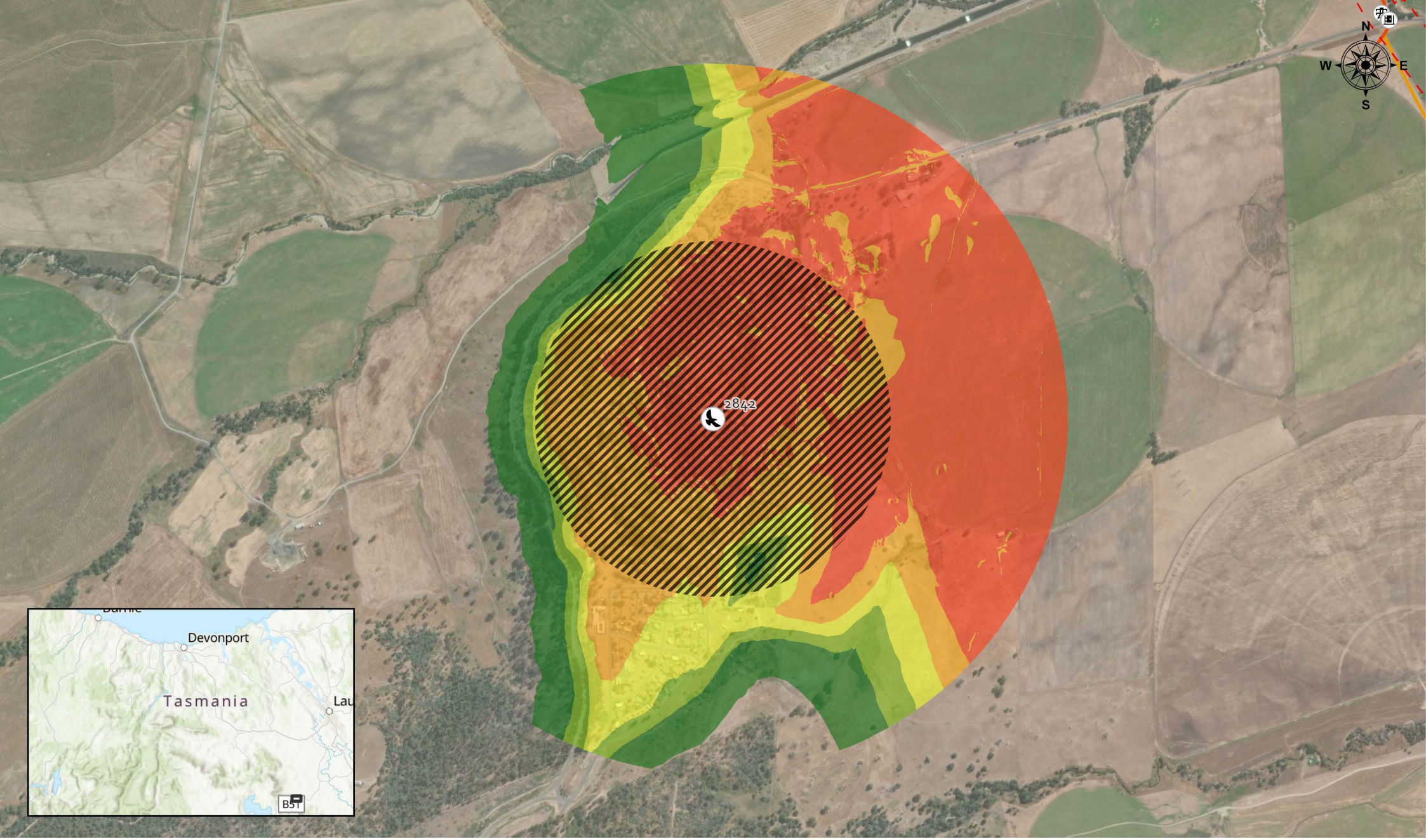
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Appendix B

CVs of Suitably Qualified Specialists

Raptor Nest Management Plan – Stage 1 North West Transmission Developments Project

EPBC 2022/09247

This appendix provides curriculum vitae information relevant to the specialist roles identified in the Raptor Nest Management Plan. The information is focused on qualifications and experience relevant to Tasmanian raptor ecology, survey, monitoring and management.

B.1 Jason Wiersma – Director / Principal Ecologist, Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd

Jason Wiersma is Director and Principal Ecologist of Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd (IES). He is a Tasmanian raptor ecologist with more than 30 years of experience in research, field survey, monitoring and conservation management of birds of prey. His work has focused particularly on Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey Goshawk and Tasmanian Masked Owl.

Qualifications

BSc, Zoology/Geography – University of Tasmania

BSc (Hons), Zoology – University of Tasmania

Adjunct Researcher – University of Tasmania

A-class Bird Banding Authority – Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

Relevant professional experience

Director / Principal Raptor Ecologist, Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd (IES) (2026–present) – current role providing specialist raptor survey, assessment, monitoring and management advice for infrastructure and development projects.

Former Raptor Specialist, Forest Practices Authority (2007–2026) – specialist raptor ecology, survey design, aerial nest searching and assessment, conservation management, operational advice, research, monitoring, training and development/application of raptor survey and management approaches.

Earlier wildlife and research roles with Tasmanian Government, CSIRO and Australian National University included raptor population ecology, sea-eagle, goshawk and owl work, bird banding and field research.

International field experience over multiple seasons involving Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle research in the United States.

Eagle expertise relevant to the RNMP

Extensive experience locating, assessing and monitoring Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle nests, including helicopter-based nest surveys and breeding activity assessment.

Long-term involvement in development and application of nest-management approaches for Tasmanian eagles in forestry, infrastructure and development settings.

Captured 68 free-ranging Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles from known territories for GPS tracking and toxicology assessments and has extensive experience in eagle trapping, handling and telemetry.

Provided specialist evidence and advice on development impacts and management of Tasmanian eagles, including environmental assessment and regulatory contexts.

Research supervision and collaboration on Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle movement, habitat use, toxicology and conservation research, including multiple peer-reviewed publications co-authored with Dr James Pay arising from GPS telemetry, morphometric, contaminant and power-line collision-risk research.

Tasmanian Masked Owl and forest-owl expertise

Undertook Tasmanian Masked Owl survey, assessment and management work during employment with the Forest Practices Authority.

Delivered owl survey and management training with Phil Bell, including training relevant to Tasmanian Masked Owl ecology, habitat assessment and field survey.

Has supervised or co-supervised University of Tasmania postgraduate research on Tasmanian Masked Owls, including projects by Michael Todd, Adam Cisterne and Jack Service.

Worked with Phil Bell and others on Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement forest-owl research commencing in the mid-1990s, culminating in the 1997 report 'Predicting essential habitat for forest owls in Tasmania'.

Practical experience in identification and assessment of potential Masked Owl nesting habitat and hollows and in application of field survey and management responses.

Selected research supervision

Michael Todd – PhD research on Tasmanian Masked Owl ecology.

Tierney O'Sullivan – Honours research on Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles.

James Pay – PhD research on Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles.

Adam Cisterne – PhD research on Tasmanian Masked Owls.

Jack Service – Honours/PhD research on Tasmanian Masked Owls.

Selected publications and technical outputs

Wiersma, J. & Koch, A. (2012). Assessing eagle breeding activity via nest characteristics. Corella 36(2): 38–44.

Wiersma, J. (2010). White-bellied Sea-Eagle chapter in The Eagle Watchers. Cornell University Press.

Bell, P.J., Mooney, N. & Wiersma, J. (1997). Predicting essential habitat for forest owls in Tasmania. Report to the Tasmania RFA Environment and Heritage Technical Committee.

Pay, J.M., Katzner, T.E., Hawkins, C.E., Koch, A.J., Wiersma, J.M., Brown, W.E., Mooney, N.J. & Cameron, E.Z. (2021). High frequency of lead exposure in the population of an endangered Australian top predator, the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle (Aquila audax fleayi). Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 40(1): 219–230. https://doi.org/10.1002/etc.4914.

Pay, J.M., Katzner, T.E., Hawkins, C.E., Barmuta, L.A., Brown, W.E., Wiersma, J.M., Koch, A.J., Mooney, N.J. & Cameron, E.Z. (2021). Endangered Australian top predator is frequently exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides. Science of the Total Environment 788: 147673. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.147673.

Pay, J.M., Katzner, T.E., Wiersma, J.M., Brown, W.E., Hawkins, C.E., Proft, K.M. & Cameron, E.Z. (2021). Morphometric sex identification of nestling and free-flying Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagles (Aquila audax fleayi). Journal of Raptor Research 55(4): 539–551. https://doi.org/10.3356/JRR-20-115.

Pay, J.M., Patterson, T.A., Proft, K.M., Cameron, E.Z., Hawkins, C.E., Koch, A.J., Wiersma, J.M. & Katzner, T.E. (2022). Considering behavioral state when predicting habitat use: Behavior-specific spatial models for the endangered Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle. Biological Conservation 274: 109743. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2022.109743.

Pay, J.M., Cameron, E.Z., Hawkins, C.E., Johnson, C.N., Koch, A.J., Wiersma, J.M. & Katzner, T.E. (2025). Fine-scale spatial risk models to predict avian collisions with power lines. Journal of Applied Ecology 62(8): 1820–1830. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.70076.

The qualifications and experience above demonstrate extensive specialist expertise in Tasmanian eagle ecology, nest survey and assessment, breeding activity assessment and management, together with substantial experience in Tasmanian Masked Owl ecology, survey and research.

B.2 Dr Phil Bell – Conservation Ecologist

Dr Phil Bell is a conservation ecologist with a PhD in conservation ecology and more than 30 years of professional experience in biodiversity research, threatened species survey, recovery planning and management. His experience includes extensive research and applied conservation work on the Tasmanian Masked Owl.

Qualifications and professional standing

Doctor of Philosophy – School of Zoology, University of Tasmania (1995).

Honours in Zoology – School of Zoology, University of Tasmania (1983).

Bachelor of Science (Botany and Zoology) – University of Tasmania (1982).

University Associate – School of Natural Sciences, University of Tasmania.

A-class Bird Banding Authority – Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

Relevant professional experience

Director, Biodiversity Maintenance Australia (2016–present) – ecological consultancy specialising in research, planning and management of biodiversity assets and threatened species.

Project Officer – Owl Conservation, Birds Australia (1996–1997).

Senior and management roles in threatened species conservation with Tasmanian Government, including Senior Zoologist, Manager Threatened Species Section and Manager Save the Tasmanian Devil Program.

Senior Ecologist, Forest Practices Authority (2004–2005).

Member of multiple threatened species scientific and technical advisory groups, including the Tasmanian Threatened Species Scientific Advisory Committee.

Tasmanian Masked Owl expertise relevant to the RNMP

Long-term research on the distribution, abundance, habitat use, roosting behaviour, diet, calling behaviour, detection and conservation management of the Tasmanian Masked Owl.

Project Officer – Owl Conservation for Birds Australia, including Tasmanian owl conservation work.

Technical supervision of postgraduate research on Tasmanian Masked Owl ecology, including research by Michael Todd, David Young and Adam Cisterne.

Research and publication on passive acoustic monitoring and detection of Tasmanian Masked Owls.

Prepared a 2026 review of Tasmanian Masked Owl conservation ecology and bioacoustics to inform contemporary survey and management guidelines for the Forest Practices Authority.

Co-author of the 1997 report 'Predicting essential habitat for forest owls in Tasmania' with N. Mooney and J. Wiersma.

Selected Tasmanian Masked Owl publications and technical outputs

Gros, C., Bell, P. & Webb, M.H. (2026). Passive acoustic monitoring of Tasmanian masked owls and swift parrots: An effective tool for conservation actions. Austral Ecology.

Gros, C., McNamara, K.K., Bell, P.J. & Webb, M.H. (2023). Detection of the endangered Tasmanian Masked Owl Tyto novaehollandiae castanops using passive acoustic monitoring. Corella 47: 56–64.

Todd, M.K., Kavanagh, R.P., Spencer, C.P., Bell, P.J., Mooney, N.J. & Munks, S.A. (2025). Importance of rodents and bandicoots in the diet of the Tasmanian Masked Owl. Australian Journal of Zoology.

Todd, M.K. et al. (2018). Environmental variables, detection probability and site occupancy of Tasmanian nocturnal birds, including the Tasmanian Masked Owl. Australian Journal of Zoology.

Todd, M.K. et al. (2017). Calling behaviour of the Tasmanian Masked Owl. Australian Journal of Zoology.

Young, D., Bell, P.J. & Mooney, N. (2020). Home range, habitat use and diet of the Tasmanian Masked Owl. Australian Field Ornithology.

Young, D., Bell, P.J. & Mooney, N. (2020). Roosting behaviour of the Tasmanian Masked Owl. Australian Field Ornithology.

Bell, P.J. & Mooney, N. (2002). Distribution, habitat and abundance of Masked Owls in Tasmania. In Ecology and Conservation of Owls.

Bell, P.J. & Mooney, N. (1997). The distribution and abundance of Masked Owls in Tasmania. Tasmanian Bird Report 25.

Bell, P.J. (2026). Review of the conservation ecology and bioacoustics of the Tasmanian Masked Owl to inform development of contemporary survey and management guidelines. Report to the Forest Practices Authority.

The qualifications, research record and applied conservation experience above demonstrate specialist expertise in Tasmanian Masked Owl ecology, survey methodology, passive acoustic monitoring, habitat assessment and management.

Specialist review confirmation

Jason Wiersma and Dr Phil Bell have reviewed the final revised RNMP and confirm their agreement with the changes relevant to their respective specialist roles and the requirements of EPBC Approval 2022/09247.

Appendix C

Grey Goshawk Habitat Assessment Methodology and Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat Assessment Methodology

Methodology for Assessment of Grey Goshawk Nesting Habitat within the North West Transmission Developments Project Corridor



Prepared for: **Genus Infrastructure Pty Ltd**

Prepared by**: Jason Wiersma Integrated Ecological Solutions Pty Ltd**

(05/06/2026)

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Appendix A 10

1.0 Purpose and Regulatory Context

1.1 Project Background

This methodology has been developed to address planning approval requirements relating to the identification and assessment of Grey Goshawk (*Tachyspiza novaehollandiae*) nesting habitat within the NWTD MIDAA Project Corridor.

The methodology provides a framework for identifying potential Grey Goshawk nesting habitat, locating candidate nests, and undertaking follow-up assessment where required to determine species identity and breeding activity. The approach has been developed to support pre-construction survey requirements and provide information necessary to inform project planning and implementation.

Under the project approvals, Grey Goshawk nests occurring within specified distances of proposed construction activities may require assessment and management. Active Grey Goshawk nests are subject to a 100 m no-machinery exclusion distance, while nests occurring within 500 m of construction activity may require further specialist assessment in accordance with the relevant approval conditions.

This methodology establishes a practical and defensible approach for locating nests and determining whether additional assessment is required.

1.2 Species Background

The Grey Goshawk is a medium-sized forest raptor endemic to Australia. Tasmania supports a significant component of the species' national population and the species is listed as threatened under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Grey Goshawks occur throughout much of Tasmania but generally occur at low densities and occupy relatively large breeding territories. The species nests in trees, constructing stick nests that may be used repeatedly over multiple breeding seasons. Breeding pairs commonly maintain more than one nest within a territory and may alternate between nests over time before returning to previously used nest sites.

Grey Goshawk nesting habitat has traditionally been associated with wet forest, rainforest, blackwood-dominated communities and riparian vegetation. However, more recent research and field observations indicate that the species utilises a broader range of forest and woodland habitats where suitable nest trees, nesting conditions and foraging opportunities occur. Nest locations are frequently associated with riparian corridors, drainage lines, wet gullies, watercourse junctions and mature trees within both forested and modified landscapes.

The species is sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season and loss or disturbance of nesting habitat has the potential to affect breeding success. Consequently, identification of nesting habitat and active nests is an important component of environmental assessment and construction planning for large infrastructure projects occurring within potential Grey Goshawk habitat.

2.0 Survey Framework

The survey framework provides a structured approach for identifying potential Grey Goshawk nesting habitat, locating candidate nests and undertaking follow-up assessment where required. The methodology combines desktop habitat assessment, targeted field surveys and breeding-season verification to ensure survey effort is directed toward areas most likely to support Grey Goshawk nesting activity.

The survey methodology is based on the following principles:

- compliance with project approval requirements;
- reliable identification of candidate Grey Goshawk nests;
- use of desktop assessment to prioritise field survey effort;
- targeted assessment of habitat features most likely to support nesting activity;
- staged assessment incorporating breeding-season verification where required;
- application of specialist ecological judgement; and
- transparent documentation of survey outcomes and limitations.

The methodology recognises that Grey Goshawk nests can be difficult to detect and that nest structure alone is not always sufficient to confirm species identity outside the breeding season.

3.0 Survey Method

3.1 Survey Rationale

Grey Goshawk nest detection differs from surveys undertaken for Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagle because nests are generally smaller, may occur beneath dense canopy and are frequently associated with riparian or drainage features where visibility is limited.

Historical habitat descriptions developed by the Forest Practices Authority remain useful for identifying habitat likely to support nesting activity. However, observations from north-west and southern Tasmania, together with more recent research, indicate that Grey Goshawks utilise a broader range of habitats than originally recognised. While vegetation community remains an important consideration, nest placement appears to be strongly influenced by a combination of forest structure, proximity to drainage features, availability of suitable nest trees and local landscape characteristics.

Accordingly, habitat assessment and field survey effort should focus on landscape features and habitat attributes commonly associated with Grey Goshawk nesting activity, including:

- riparian corridors;
- drainage lines;
- wet gullies;
- watercourse junctions;
- mature eucalypts;

- mature blackwood;
- wet forest;
- mixed forest;
- forest edges; and
- mature trees within modified landscapes.

Grey Goshawks frequently maintain more than one nest within a breeding territory and may alternate between nests over time before returning to previously used nests. Consequently, historical nest records should be considered indicators of breeding territories rather than isolated nest locations.

3.2 Desktop Habitat Assessment

A desktop assessment will be undertaken using available GIS datasets to identify and prioritise potential nesting habitat.

Relevant datasets may include:

- TASVEG vegetation mapping;
- aerial imagery;
- LiDAR-derived products where available;
- watercourse mapping;
- drainage lines and drainage depressions;
- Digital Elevation Models;
- Natural Values Atlas records;
- previous project survey records; and
- known Grey Goshawk nest records.

Survey effort will be prioritised toward habitats and landscape features most likely to support nesting activity. Habitat modelling and published research will be used to guide survey effort but will not be used to exclude areas from assessment where suitable nesting habitat occurs.

3.3 Known Nest Records

Known nest records, including Natural Values Atlas records and nests identified during previous surveys, will be reviewed during the desktop assessment.

Where known Grey Goshawk nests occur, additional survey effort should be directed toward the surrounding area. Grey Goshawks may maintain multiple nests within a breeding territory and may shift between nests over time.

Survey effort should therefore include assessment of:

- adjacent drainage systems and watercourse corridors;
- riparian vegetation and associated wet gullies;

- watercourse junctions;
- nearby mature trees and potential nest stands; and
- areas where repeated Grey Goshawk activity has been observed.

3.4 Field Survey Methods

The primary survey method involves targeted ground-based searches of potential nesting habitat identified during the desktop assessment.

Survey effort should include:

- systematically inspect suitable habitat;
- search mature trees capable of supporting stick nests;
- inspect riparian vegetation and drainage features;
- utilise tracks and forest edges to improve canopy visibility;
- record searched areas using GPS; and
- document all candidate nest structures.

Helicopter-based surveys undertaken for eagle nest searching may provide supplementary information and have previously resulted in the detection of Grey Goshawk nests. However, helicopter surveys are not considered sufficient as a standalone survey method because Grey Goshawk nests are comparatively small and may be concealed beneath dense canopy.

Behavioural Observations

Behavioural observations can provide an effective means of locating Grey Goshawk nests, particularly during the breeding season.

Where Grey Goshawks are detected, surveyors should record:

- calls;
- territorial interactions;
- repeated flight paths;
- prey delivery;
- repeated attendance to particular forest patches; and
- defensive behaviour.

Where practical, bird movements may be followed using roads, tracks or vantage points to identify likely nesting areas.

Call playback may also be used where appropriate to assist with assessment of candidate nests and potential breeding territories. This technique involves broadcasting pre-recorded Grey Goshawk calls from a suitable location and observing any behavioural response. Territorial adults will often investigate or respond to the call, providing an effective means of confirming territory occupancy, locating birds and assessing potential nest use. Where undertaken, call playback should be used in a targeted and limited manner to minimise disturbance.

Information provided by landholders, local residents, project personnel and other observers may assist in directing survey effort toward areas where Grey Goshawk activity has been observed.

4.0 Identification of Grey Goshawk Nests

Where nest structures consistent with Grey Goshawk are identified, the following information should be recorded:

- GPS location;
- nest tree species;
- nest height;
- nest position within the tree;
- nest dimensions and condition;
- surrounding vegetation type;
- proximity to watercourses and drainage features;
- proximity to proposed construction activities;
- evidence of recent use; and
- photographs where practicable.

Forest Raven nests and nests of other raptor species may be structurally similar to Grey Goshawk nests. Accordingly, nests should not be attributed to Grey Goshawk unless supporting evidence is available.

Candidate nests identified outside the breeding season should not be assumed to be Grey Goshawk nests. Where species identity cannot be confirmed, nests should be recorded as candidate nests pending further assessment. This approach reduces the risk of incorrectly attributing nests to Grey Goshawk and ensures that management decisions are based on verified species records.

5.0 Follow-Up Assessment of Potential Nests

Where candidate nests are identified within areas relevant to proposed works, follow-up assessment may be undertaken to determine species identity and breeding status.

Assessment methods may include:

- targeted ground observations;
- behavioural observations;
- breeding-season monitoring;
- passive observation from suitable vantage points; and
- other methods considered appropriate by a suitably qualified raptor specialist.

Selection of follow-up methods will depend on site conditions, accessibility, likelihood of occupancy and proximity to proposed works.

5.1 Breeding-Season Verification

Breeding-season verification may be required where species identity or occupancy cannot be determined from initial surveys.

For the purposes of breeding-season verification, surveys should generally be undertaken between October and January when occupancy, breeding activity and species identity can be most reliably determined.

Evidence supporting confirmation of an active Grey Goshawk nest may include:

- adult attendance;
- incubation behaviour;
- brooding behaviour;
- prey delivery;
- nestlings;
- recently fledged juveniles;
- territorial behaviour; or
- other observations sufficient to confirm occupancy.

Where evidence remains inconclusive, additional observations may be required.

6.0 Survey Limitations and Assumptions

All ecological survey methods have inherent limitations.

The methodology recognises that:

- not all nests will be visible from the ground;
- detectability varies with vegetation structure and visibility;
- some nests may not be attributable to species outside the breeding season;
- habitat models do not capture all occupied habitat;
- access constraints may limit survey coverage; and
- Grey Goshawks may utilise alternate nests within a breeding territory.

Despite these limitations, the methodology provides a practical and proportionate approach for identifying Grey Goshawk nests within the project corridor.

7.0 Access Constraints

Survey coverage will be undertaken to the maximum extent practicable, subject to operational safety requirements and landholder access permissions.

Any areas that cannot be surveyed will be documented transparently so that survey limitations can be considered during subsequent assessment and decision-making.

8.0 Data Recording and Reporting of Survey Outcomes

Survey outcomes will be recorded in a manner that supports transparent assessment and repeatability.

Where candidate nests are identified, information will be incorporated into project GIS systems and relevant environmental databases.

Reporting will typically include:

- survey coverage;
- habitat assessed;
- candidate nest locations;
- photographs;
- breeding-season verification outcomes;
- survey limitations; and
- recommendations for further assessment where required.

9.0 Survey Timing and Seasonal Considerations

Initial nest searches may be undertaken outside the breeding season to identify candidate nest structures and potential breeding territories.

However, species identity and confirmation of breeding activity often require assessment during the breeding season when Grey Goshawk behaviour, occupancy and reproductive activity can be observed.

Accordingly, surveys may be undertaken in a staged manner, comprising initial nest searches followed by breeding-season verification where required.

10.0 Summary of Survey Approach

This methodology provides a practical and reliable framework for identifying Grey Goshawk nests and potential breeding territories within the NWTD Project corridor.

The approach combines desktop habitat assessment, targeted ground-based nest searches and breeding-season verification where required to ensure that potential Grey Goshawk nesting habitat and candidate nests are identified in a consistent and defensible manner.

The methodology recognises that Grey Goshawk nests can be difficult to detect, may occur within a broad range of forest and woodland habitats, and are frequently associated with riparian corridors, drainage features, wet gullies and mature nesting trees. It also recognises that nest structure alone may not be sufficient to confirm species identity outside the breeding season and that follow-up assessment may be required where candidate nests are identified.

The staged survey approach ensures that:

- potential Grey Goshawk nesting habitat is systematically assessed;

- known nest records and breeding territories are appropriately considered;
- candidate nests are identified and documented;
- breeding-season verification is undertaken where required;
- survey limitations and uncertainties are transparently documented; and
- survey outcomes can be used to support project planning and compliance with relevant approval requirements.

The methodology reflects current knowledge of Grey Goshawk nesting ecology in Tasmania and provides a practical and proportionate approach for assessing potential impacts associated with large linear infrastructure developments.

11.0 Relevant Guidance and Reference Documents

The methodology described in this document has been developed with reference to established guidance relating to the identification and assessment of nesting habitat for threatened raptor species in Tasmania and the conduct of ecological surveys to support development planning and environmental assessment.

Key guidance documents and reference sources informing this methodology include:

• Major Infrastructure Permit MIPP-2026-01.

• EPBC Approval 2022/09247.

• Forest Practices Authority 2023, *'Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management'*, Fauna Technical Note No. 1, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.

• Forest Practices Authority 2010, *'Goshawk habitat Categories'*, Fauna Technical Note No. 12, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.

• Forest Practices Authority 2010, *'Nest Identification'*, Fauna Technical Note No. 14, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.

• Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas), *Survey Guidelines for Development Assessments*.

• Young, D.A. and Kirkpatrick, J.B. 2025, 'Nest site selection by an endangered raptor, the Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*), in a hostile anthropogenic landscape', *Emu – Austral Ornithology*, vol. 125, no. 1, pp. 14–23. https://doi.org/10.1080/01584197.2024.2403533.

• Young, D.A., Harwin, S. and Kirkpatrick, J.B. 2025, 'Regional-scale predictive model identifies restricted nesting habitat of the Grey Goshawk *Tachyspiza novaehollandiae* in Tasmania', *Australian Field Ornithology*, vol. 42, pp. 93–106. http://dx.doi.org/10.20938/afo42093106.

This methodology also reflects current professional practice for staged assessment of Grey Goshawk nesting habitat within large linear infrastructure projects. The approach incorporates historical habitat guidance, contemporary published research, and specialist field experience relating to Grey Goshawk habitat use, nest-site selection, alternate nest use and breeding territory characteristics within Tasmania.

Appendix A

GIS Habitat Prioritisation Method

Data Sources

The habitat prioritisation assessment may utilise the following spatial datasets:

- TASVEG Version 5.0 vegetation mapping (LIST Tasmania);
- Rivers, Streams and Creeks feature dataset (LIST Tasmania);
- Waterbodies feature dataset (LIST Tasmania);
- transmission infrastructure and access track alignments;
- known Grey Goshawk nest records where available; and
- other relevant spatial datasets where available.

Habitat Prioritisation Process

Potential Grey Goshawk nesting habitat may be prioritised using a GIS-based assessment undertaken within the 500 m Grey Goshawk assessment area surrounding the proposed transmission alignment and access tracks.

The assessment may comprise the following steps:

1. Transmission infrastructure and access tracks are buffered by 500 m to define the Grey Goshawk assessment area.
2. Relevant vegetation, watercourse and waterbody datasets are clipped to the assessment area.
3. Waterbody features may be converted to line geometry and incorporated into the watercourse dataset where required.
4. Watercourse and drainage features may be buffered to identify habitat associated with streams, drainage lines and riparian systems. A 60 m buffer may be applied as a practical habitat prioritisation tool to identify habitat immediately associated with watercourses and riparian vegetation, where Grey Goshawk nests are frequently encountered in Tasmania.
5. TASVEG vegetation mapping may be clipped to the riparian assessment area to assist with habitat prioritisation.
6. Vegetation communities considered highly unlikely to support Grey Goshawk nesting activity may be excluded from further assessment. These may include:
   - urban areas;
   - miscellaneous urban land;
   - water;
   - sand and mud; and
   - hardwood plantations.
7. The resulting habitat layer may be used to guide and prioritise field survey effort.

Interpretation

The habitat model is intended as a survey prioritisation tool and should not be used as the sole basis for excluding potentially suitable habitat from assessment.

Additional desktop review and field verification may be required for modified vegetation communities, including agricultural land and permanent easements, where remnant trees, riparian vegetation, paddock trees, shelterbelts or small forest patches may continue to provide suitable Grey Goshawk nesting habitat.

Professional judgement should be applied throughout the assessment process. Habitat modelling is intended to focus survey effort toward areas most likely to support nesting activity and does not replace field assessment of potentially suitable habitat.

Methodology for Assessment and Management of Tasmanian Masked Owl Habitat within the NWTD MIDAA Project Corridor



Prepared for: **Genus Infrastructure Pty Ltd**

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1.0 Purpose and Regulatory Context

This methodology has been developed to address planning approval requirements relating to the identification and management of raptor nesting habitat within the project corridor (NWTD MIDAA). In particular, the approval requires assessment of habitat within 150 metres of areas to be cleared or modified to identify hollow-bearing trees with an entrance diameter of 15 centimetres or greater, which may provide nesting habitat for Tasmanian Masked Owl.

The approval also requires that where a nest of a Grey Goshawk, Tasmanian Masked Owl, Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, or White-bellied Sea Eagle occurs within 500 metres of construction activity, works must be undertaken in accordance with an approach prepared by a suitably qualified raptor specialist.

These requirements establish two distinct management thresholds:

- 150 metres — assessment of habitat for hollow-bearing trees and protection of active nests
- 500 metres — requirement to prepare a specialist management approach where a nest is present

This methodology has been developed to ensure that potential nesting resources are reliably identified within the defined assessment distance and that any relevant nests can be managed in accordance with these approval conditions.

A review of previous survey methods identified potential limitations in the detection of suitable nesting resources, particularly large hollow-bearing trees dispersed across modified landscapes. The revised survey approach integrates targeted aerial assessment into existing survey operations to improve detection of potential nesting habitat, particularly for Tasmanian Masked Owl, and to ensure compliance with these requirements in a practical and proportionate manner.

2.0 Survey Framework

2.1 Target Species

The survey methodology addresses four threatened raptor species relevant to the project area:

- Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle
- White-bellied Sea Eagle
- Tasmanian Masked Owl
- Grey Goshawk

Targeted survey effort is directed toward eagle nest identification and the detection of potential masked owl nesting habitat. Grey goshawk nests are documented where observed incidentally during routine aerial survey activities, and known nests recorded in the Natural Values Atlas (NVA) may be re-surveyed to confirm presence or absence where relevant to proposed works.

The survey is not designed as a targeted search for grey goshawk nests.

2.2 Guiding Principles

The survey methodology is based on the following principles:

- Compliance with planning approval requirements
- Reliable identification of nesting resources within defined assessment distances
- Integration of survey activities with existing aerial operations
- Proportionate application of survey effort relative to ecological risk
- Transparent documentation of survey outcomes
- Staged follow-up assessment where required

The approach recognises that large hollow-bearing trees suitable for nesting are relatively uncommon and that identification of individual nesting resources, rather than broad habitat classification, is the primary objective.

3.0 Survey Method

3.1 Overview

The primary method for identifying potential masked owl nesting habitat is systematic visual inspection of vegetation using helicopter-based survey integrated into existing aerial survey operations undertaken for raptor nest assessment and infrastructure planning.

This approach allows efficient inspection of large areas and improves the likelihood of detecting suitable nesting resources within the defined assessment corridor.

Survey effort focuses on vegetation occurring within the applicable management corridor associated with proposed works, with increased inspection intensity applied where clearing or disturbance is proposed.

3.2 Identification of Potential Nesting Trees

The survey aims to identify trees that may provide suitable nesting habitat for Tasmanian Masked Owl, particularly those containing large hollows capable of supporting breeding individuals.

Key characteristics of potential nesting trees include:

- Large basal diameter
- Structural maturity or senescence
- Presence of visible hollows
- Hollow entrance diameter approximately 15 cm or greater
- Stable tree structure capable of supporting nesting

The presence of a single suitable hollow may represent a viable nesting resource regardless of surrounding vegetation condition or habitat classification.

Accordingly, survey effort focuses on identifying individual trees with suitable structural features rather than attempting to predict nesting habitat using vegetation modelling alone.

In areas supporting a high density of potential nesting trees, it may not be practical or necessary to describe every individual tree during aerial survey. In these situations, clusters of vegetation containing multiple potential nesting trees may be mapped as habitat patches. These areas can then be subject to targeted follow-up assessment, including ground-based inspection or use of remotely piloted aircraft (e.g. drone), to identify and characterise individual trees with large potential nesting hollows where required.

3.3 Survey Coverage and Intensity

Survey coverage is undertaken across vegetation occurring within the defined assessment corridor associated with proposed works.

In addition to the 150 metre habitat assessment requirement, aerial survey is undertaken across vegetation within 500 metres of proposed works to support identification of potential nesting resources, including large hollow-bearing trees that may require further assessment to determine whether they are being used for nesting.

Within areas where clearing or disturbance is proposed, survey intensity is increased to ensure that trees are adequately assessed for the presence of potential nesting hollows.

This may include:

- Reduced spacing between survey passes
- Closer inspection of individual trees
- Additional observation time where necessary to confirm structural features

All accessible vegetation within the assessment corridor is inspected irrespective of mapped vegetation type or perceived habitat suitability.

3.4 Helicopter-Based Survey Rationale

Helicopter-based survey provides an effective platform for identifying hollow-bearing trees across extensive linear infrastructure corridors.

The aerial perspective allows inspection of tree trunks and major limbs from multiple viewing angles, improving the likelihood of detecting suitable nesting hollows that may not be visible from ground level.

The method also allows:

- Rapid coverage of large areas
- Consistent viewing conditions

- Reduced reliance on ground access
- Efficient identification of dispersed nesting resources

The helicopter survey is undertaken as part of existing aerial operations and does not involve prolonged hovering or repeated passes over individual trees beyond what is necessary to confirm structural features.

4.0 Incidental Identification of Grey Goshawk Nests

While the primary focus of aerial survey is the identification of eagle nests and potential masked owl nesting habitat, grey goshawk nests may also be recorded where encountered incidentally during survey operations.

Where a nest structure consistent with grey goshawk is observed:

- The location is recorded using GPS
- Photographic documentation is obtained where practicable
- The nest is mapped relative to the project corridor

Known nests recorded in the Natural Values Atlas (NVA) may be re-surveyed to confirm presence or absence where they occur within the project footprint or area of potential disturbance.

Follow-up assessment of confirmed nests is undertaken only where required under relevant approval conditions and regulatory direction.

5.0 Follow-Up Assessment of Potential Nesting Trees

Where potential nesting trees are identified within areas of proposed disturbance, additional assessment may be undertaken to determine the likelihood of nesting use and appropriate management response.

Follow-up assessment methods may include:

- Passive acoustic monitoring
- Call playback surveys
- Targeted ground inspection
- Visual observation during dusk or night periods

Selection of follow-up methods is based on:

- proximity to proposed works
- likelihood of nesting use
- operational constraints
- regulatory direction

5.1 Follow-Up Assessment During the Breeding Season

Follow-up ground-based assessment of potential nesting trees may be undertaken outside or during the breeding season where required to support project planning and management decisions. These activities are generally of short duration and can be conducted with minimal disturbance when appropriate precautions are applied and in accordance with relevant approval conditions.

Routine inspection of vegetation to identify potential nesting trees or assess hollow size and structure may be undertaken by suitably trained personnel. These activities typically involve visual assessment from the ground and do not require direct interaction with the hollow or tree structure.

More intrusive assessment methods, including climbing of hollow-bearing trees, close inspection of potential nesting hollows, or investigation of potential nesting activity during the breeding season, are undertaken only by, or under the direction of, a suitably qualified raptor specialist. These methods are not used where there is reasonable evidence that a Tasmanian Masked Owl is actively nesting. In such circumstances, assessment is deferred until breeding activity has concluded unless otherwise directed by the relevant regulator.

Where confirmation of nesting status is required, that determination is made by, or under the direction of, a suitably qualified raptor specialist using methods appropriate to the level of risk and site conditions.

Where confirmation of nesting status is required during the breeding season, lower-disturbance methods are used in the first instance. These typically include visual observation from the ground or passive acoustic monitoring. The use of remotely piloted aircraft (UAV) may be considered where additional information is required and can be obtained safely from an appropriate distance. UAV deployment is undertaken cautiously and only where it is unlikely to result in disturbance to a potential nest site. More intrusive techniques, such as climbing of hollow-bearing trees or close inspection of the hollow entrance, represent the highest level of disturbance and are used only as a last stage of investigation.

Observers remain alert to behavioural indicators of nesting activity, including adult owls appearing at the hollow entrance or exhibiting defensive behaviour. Where such behaviour is observed, the observer withdraws from the immediate area and no further disturbance is undertaken at that time.

This staged approach allows necessary information to be obtained to support project decision-making while ensuring that disturbance to breeding owls is avoided or minimised.

6.0 Survey Limitations and Assumptions

All ecological survey methods have inherent limitations; however, the selected methodology represents the most effective and proportionate means of detecting large hollow-bearing trees across extensive areas within practical time and safety constraints.

The approach recognises that:

- Not all hollows can be detected visually
- Detection probability varies with vegetation structure and visibility
- Ground access may be limited in some areas

Despite these limitations, helicopter-based survey provides a high level of detection efficiency relative to alternative approaches and represents the most practical method for achieving consistent coverage across the project corridor.

7.0 Access Constraints

Survey coverage is undertaken to the maximum extent practicable, subject to operational safety requirements and landholder consent.

In rare circumstances, aerial survey may not be possible over individual land parcels due to access restrictions.

These areas are expected to represent a small proportion of the overall corridor and are not anticipated to materially affect the effectiveness of the survey program or the identification of potential nesting resources at the population scale.

Any areas not directly surveyed are identified and documented transparently to ensure that survey coverage and potential limitations can be clearly understood during subsequent assessment and decision-making.

8.0 Data Recording and Reporting of Survey Outcomes

Trees identified during aerial survey as containing potential nesting hollows are recorded to ensure that survey observations are transparent, repeatable, and capable of supporting subsequent assessment and decision-making.

Where individual potential nesting trees can be readily distinguished, each tree is recorded as a discrete observation. In areas supporting a high density of potential nesting trees, where individual recording may not be practical or necessary during aerial survey, clusters of vegetation containing multiple potential nesting trees may be recorded as mapped habitat patches. These areas can then be subject to targeted follow-up assessment to identify and characterise individual trees where required.

For recorded trees or mapped habitat patches, the following information is typically documented:

- Geographic coordinates using onboard GPS equipment
- Photographic record of representative trees and visible hollow features
- Date and time of observation
- Brief description of tree structure and hollow characteristics, or;
- Preliminary classification of suitability

Recorded locations are incorporated into project mapping systems to support planning and assessment activities, including identification of potential interaction between nesting resources and proposed construction works.

Survey results are documented in project reporting to provide a clear record of survey coverage, identified habitat features, and any follow-up assessment undertaken where required.

9.0 Survey Timing and Seasonal Considerations

Survey timing is determined by the requirement to undertake aerial survey activities prior to the Eagle Management Constraint Period (1 July to 31 January in most years), when eagles are generally less territorial. Identification of potential masked owl nesting habitat is integrated into these scheduled survey operations rather than undertaken as a standalone survey program. The scheduled survey period typically occurs outside the primary breeding periods for large raptors and masked owls, and the likelihood of disturbance to breeding birds during aerial survey is therefore generally low. Where additional assessment is required for specific trees or locations, the timing of those activities may be planned with consideration of seasonal sensitivity and operational practicality.

10.0 Summary of Survey Approach

This methodology provides a practical and reliable framework for identifying potential masked owl nesting habitat and managing associated nest-related risks within the project corridor.

The approach integrates aerial survey with targeted follow-up assessment to ensure that:

- potential nesting resources are reliably identified
- planning approval requirements are met
- disturbance risk is minimised through staged assessment methods
- survey effort remains proportionate to ecological risk and operational requirements

The methodology reflects current best practice for assessing nesting habitat across large linear infrastructure projects and provides a transparent and defensible basis for identifying and managing potential impacts on threatened raptor species.

11.0 Relevant Guidance and Reference Documents

The methodology described in this document has been developed with reference to established guidance relating to the identification and management of nesting habitat for threatened raptor species in Tasmania and the conduct of ecological surveys to support development planning and environmental assessment.

Key guidance documents informing this approach include:

- Forest Practices Authority 2014, ‘Identifying masked owl habitat’, Fauna Technical Note No. 17, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.
- Forest Practices Authority 2023, ‘Eagle nest searching, activity checking and nest management’, Fauna Technical Note No. 1, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart
- Forest Practices Authority 2010, ‘Goshawk habitat Categories’, Fauna Technical Note No. 12, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart, Tasmania.

- Forest Practices Authority 2010, 'Nest identification', Fauna Technical Note No. 14, Forest Practices Authority, Hobart.
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas). *Survey Guidelines for Development Assessments*

This methodology also reflects current professional practice for staged assessment of potential nesting habitat across large linear infrastructure projects.



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