

Zone 2 – Tramway Creek (west of paved bicycle path culvert)		
Soil	Original soil profile intact and with minimal site disturbance along creek as evidenced by the thick stand of native grass <i>Themeda australis</i> and isolated shrubs of <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> . Disturbance and fill is evident in the western sector of the zone closer to the old tram line and present railway line.	
Vegetation Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of all three vegetation units that collectively form the Sydney Coastal Estuarine Swamp Forest Community (SCESFC) Endangered Ecological Community [see Appendix E] • Remnant native grassland community (approximately 1500sqm) on the southern bank of Tramway Creek contiguous to the scrubland vegetation unit of the SCESFC consisting of <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i> • Woody and herbaceous weeds 	
Weed Density	Low to High	Low in the remnant native grassland community Medium in the SCESFC High in the woody weed infestation in the western sector <i>Predominantly herbaceous annual weeds with some woody weed infestation</i>
Habitat Value	HIGH	<p><i>The Determination of the remnant SCESFC as an Endangered Ecological Community cites the conservation value of this area for the preservation of local and regional biodiversity.</i></p> <p>The riparian and grassland zones provide significant habitat diversity and quality for birds, amphibians, reptiles and small native mammals. Abundant bird life was noted in the western sector dominated by lantana and bracken indicating that this environment is presently offering valuable shelter in an otherwise open landscape. Native and exotic plants also provide offer a significant food source.</p> <p>A remnant <i>Eucalyptus robusta</i> (Swamp Mahogany) stand on Tramway Creek near the railway line offers significant habitat potential and food source for a variety of native and migratory birds.</p>
Major Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any encroachments into this Zone may have significant impacts on the health and integrity of the remnant coastal native grassland community and the endangered SCESFC; • Slashing encroachment appears into the edge of the remnant native grassland community; • Compaction by heavy plant equipment on edge of <i>Glochidean ferdinandi</i> (Cheese Tree) stand in the SCESFC; • Approximately half a hectare of native <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (Blady Grass) has been slashed in the western sector; • The dominance of <i>Typha orientalis</i> on the western side of bike path culvert and <i>Phragmites australis</i> on eastern side of the bike path culvert suggests altered flow regime within this watercourse possible due to restrictions by the culvert construction; • The potential impact on this zone by development proposals will be significant for vegetation communities, water flow regimes and water quality and habitat . 	
Contribution to Conservation Value of Sandon Point	SIGNIFICANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The occurrence of the endangered SCESFC flags this Zone as contributing significantly to both regional and local conservation values. The SCESFC is not well represented in the region with the presence of the vegetation units that collectively comprise for the SCESFC are specifically of High Conservation significance.¹⁶ • The thick stands of native grass on the southern slopes • <i>Eucalyptus robusta</i> (Swamp Mahogany) is recorded as uncommon north of Bellambi. • The zone contains a significant number of Aboriginal archaeological sites and relics¹⁷

¹⁶ Sandon Point Flora and Fauna Assessment, Connell Wagner/Sainty and Associates (2001) p 10,18

¹⁷ Navin Officer Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd for Rose Consulting/Stockland Pty Ltd, *Aboriginal Sub-surface Testing Program and Aboriginal Consultation*, October 2001



Plate 8: From Zone 2 looking north-west to Zone 4. Remnant native grassland community in foreground, Sydney Coastal Estuarine Swamp Forest Complex and Tramway Creek in mid-ground.



Plate 9: Zone 2 Slashing impacts on native grassland community with SCESFC and Tramway Creek behind.



Plate 10: Zone 2 Looking east. Bird habitat area in western sector of the zone.



Plate 11: Zone 2 Looking north-west at culvert over Tramway Creek. Note dominance of *Typha orientalis* on left and *Phragmites australis* on right indicating some interference of water flow and/or tidal interchange. Also note uninterrupted green corridor view across Zone 3 and 4 to the Illawarra Escarpment.