

APPENDIX C

**A pictorial record of Native Forest, Pagodas and
Rehabilitation pertinent to the
Proposed Modifications of
Cullen Valley and Invincible Mines
April 2014**

APPENDIX C(a)

**A pictorial record of
Native Forest and Pagoda Heritage
within the
Cullen Valley Proposed Modification Area
in Ben Bullen State Forest
(Plus examples of current rehabilitation)**

APPENDIX C(b)

**A pictorial record of
Native Forest and Pagoda Heritage
within the
Invincible Proposed Modification Area
in Ben Bullen State Forest
(Plus examples of current rehabilitation)**

**A pictorial record of
Native Forest and Pagoda Heritage
within the
Cullen Valley Proposed Modification Area
in Ben Bullen State Forest
April 2014
(plus examples of current rehabilitation)**



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*For Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness and Lithgow Environment Group
April 2014*

FOREWORD

Brian Marshall

The two photo-booklets are produced separately as hard copies or sequentially for electronic transmission.

The photo-booklets are an attempt to convey some of the ecological values impacted by the Coalpac Modifications proposed for the Cullen Valley and Invincible coal mines near Cullen Bullen at the foot of the western escarpment of the Blue Mountains. One covers the proposed Cullen Valley Modifications, the other deals with Modifications at Invincible; each has a map of the proposal at the beginning.

The proposed Modifications involve more open cut and highwall mining in the publicly-owned Ben Bullen State Forest. The Cullen Valley proposal is for one open cut with highwall mining on three sides and bounded to the west by the existing Cullen Valley mine. The Invincible proposal is more fragmented. It comprises three open cuts separated and partly bound by eight sections of highwall mining, and abutted on the western side by the existing Invincible workings.

Each of the booklets has four subsections: one covers native forest in the proposed open cut areas, the second shows native forest in the highwall areas, the third features pagoda landscapes potentially impacted by highwall mining, and the fourth focuses on existing rehabilitation. Open cuts totally destroy native forest and all associated habitat. Examples of rehabilitation are given because the company claims to mitigate its actions by rehabilitating the areas of destroyed landform and native forest. But a cosmetic veneer will never replicate what has been trashed!

It is intensely disturbing that the Modifications will partly destroy and otherwise impact the area recognized by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DP&I) and also a Planning Assessment Commission Review Report (PACRR) as having a unique landscape (termed the Ben Bullen Pagoda Land System - BBPLS) and significant levels of biodiversity.

The PARR recommended that¹ *"...the pagodas and the associated escarpments be considered natural features of special significance and that they be fully protected from any mine-induced impacts."*

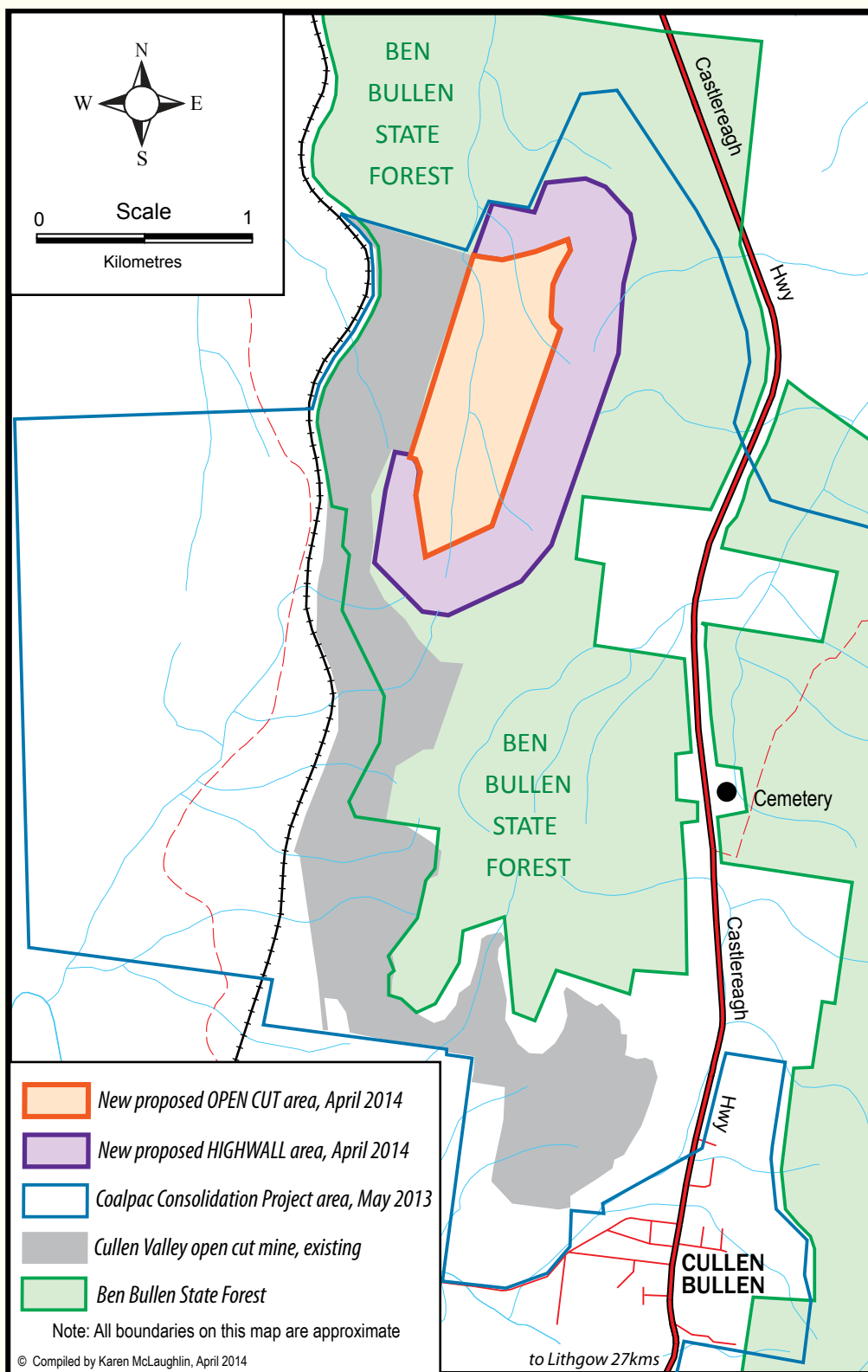
The DP&I noted²: *"...the project site is properly characterised as a 'pagoda landform complex'. This landform comprises a complex arrangement of habitats characterised by a convoluted line of towering rock faces that give way to rocky steep slopes and these in turn give way to forested slopes and valley floors dominated by various eucalypt vegetation communities. All components contribute to the overall significance of the pagoda landform complex, and any impacts to components of the landform complex have the potential to compromise the significance of the landform complex as a whole."*

The photos in the open cut and much of the highwall areas are within the slopes and valley part (*Tablelands Grassy Woodland Complex Unit*) of the BBPLS, whereas those featuring pagodas and cliff-lines are within the *Ben Bullen Range Pagoda Unit*. The photos aim to show the general nature of the native forest and the scenic value of the pagodas, rather than to identify vegetation mapping units or species. So although some scenes may have a general title or a species may be named, formal identification is not intended and would require more detailed fieldwork.

¹ https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/public/a7891537218338b99edc7515628f6485/11.%20Coalpac%20Consolidation%20Project_%20PAC%20Review%20Main%20Report.pdf

² https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/public/b508bc887566a110f8140a9d94e982c9/3.%20Coalpac%20Consolidation%20Project_Director-General%27s%20Report_Initial%20Addendum%20Report.pdf

Coalpac Cullen Valley modified proposal area (in Ben Bullen State Forest) April 2014



Native Forest in the open cut proposal area

Pages 1 - 9



tableland scribbly gum woodland



persoonia marginata





area to be open cut



area to be highwalled

area to be open cut



native forest to be open cut











Native Forest in the highwall proposal area

Pages 10 - 12





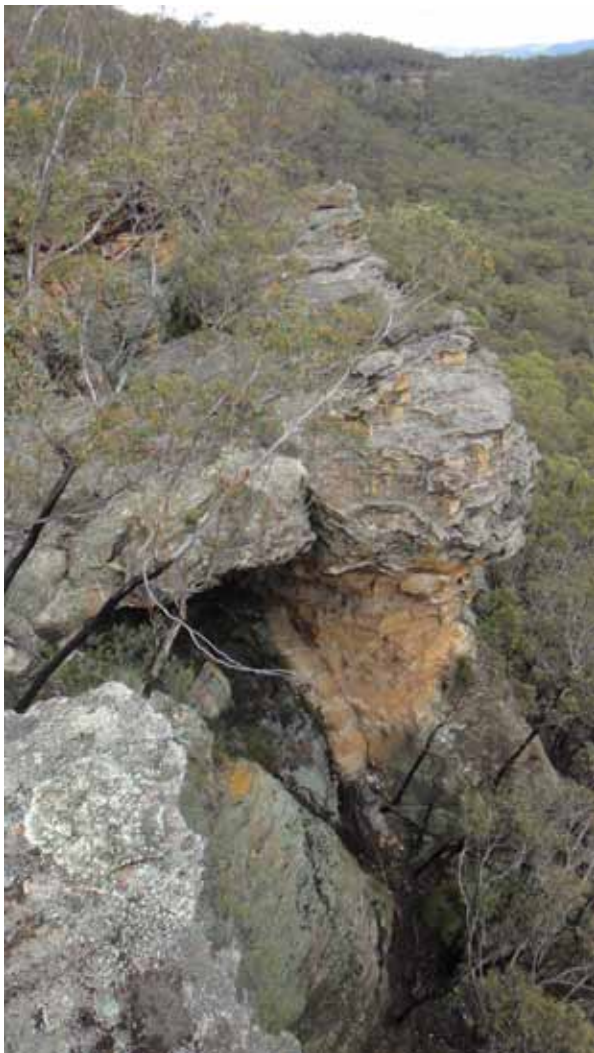


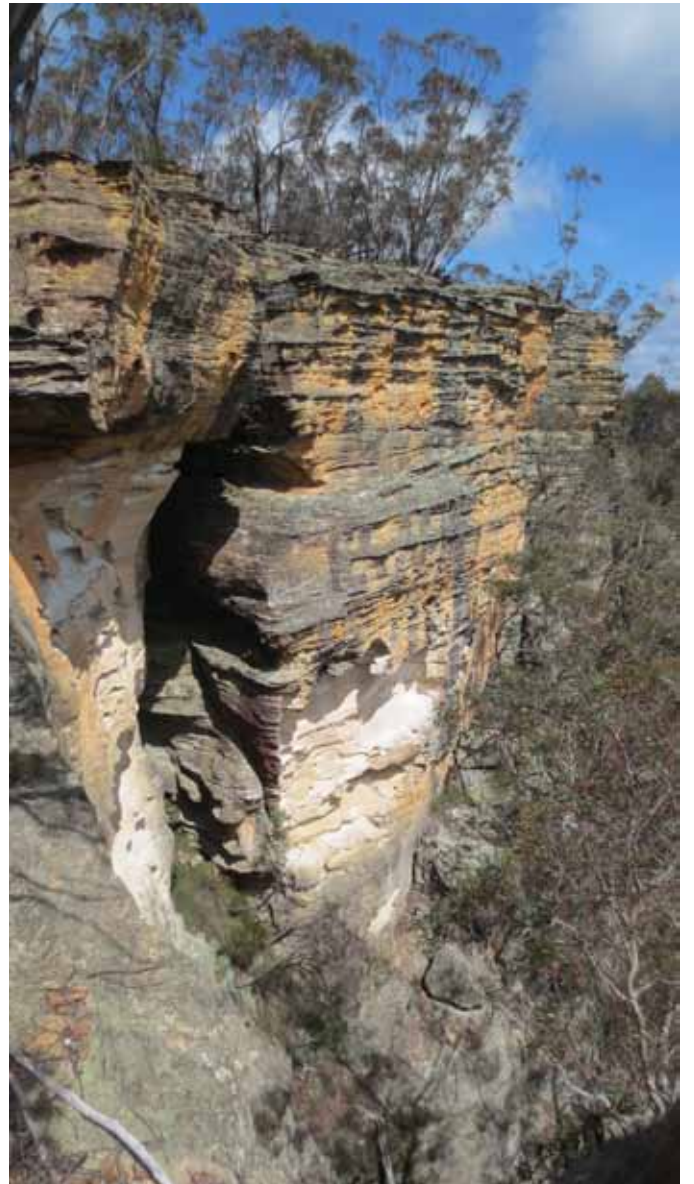
Pagoda landscapes in the highwall proposal area

Pages 13- 19













Julie Favell Ben Bullen State Forest



Julie Favell Ben Bullen State Forest



Julie Favell Ben Bullen State Forest



Existing rehabilitation VS native forest to be destroyed

Pages 20 - 23

(Note that all photos were taken in 2014)



replanted 2009 - no ground cover evident



replanted 2009



replanted 2009



**A pictorial record of
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Invincible Proposed Modification Area
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April 2014
(plus examples of current rehabilitation)**

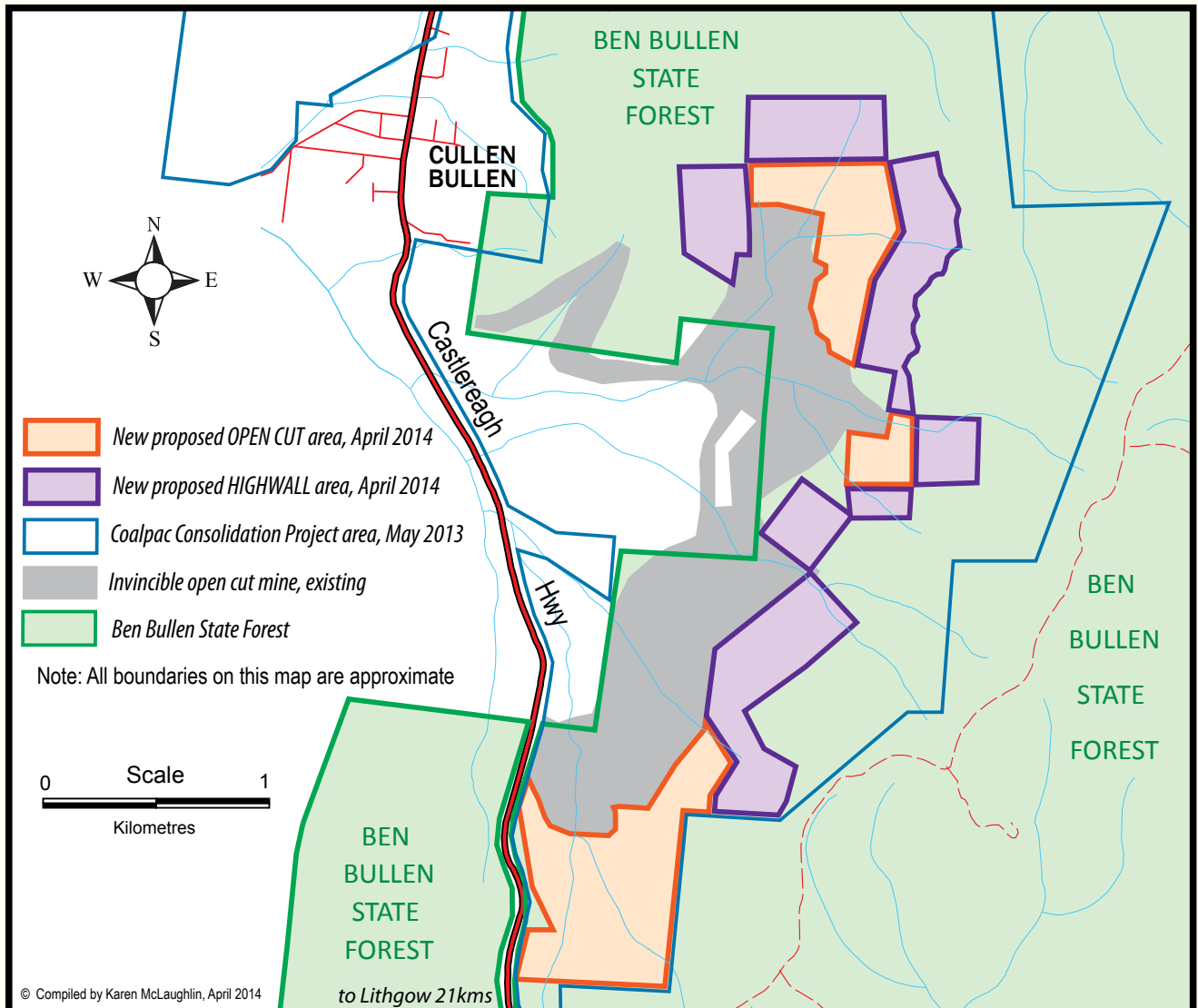


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Coalpac Invincible modified proposal area (in Ben Bullen State Forest)

April 2014



Native Forest in the open cut proposal area

Pages 1 - 6



Eucalyptus cannonii



Eucalyptus cannonii



wombat hole in open cut area





exposed Blue Mountains shrubby woodland



tablelands slopes grassy forest





grassy woodland in alluvial flat

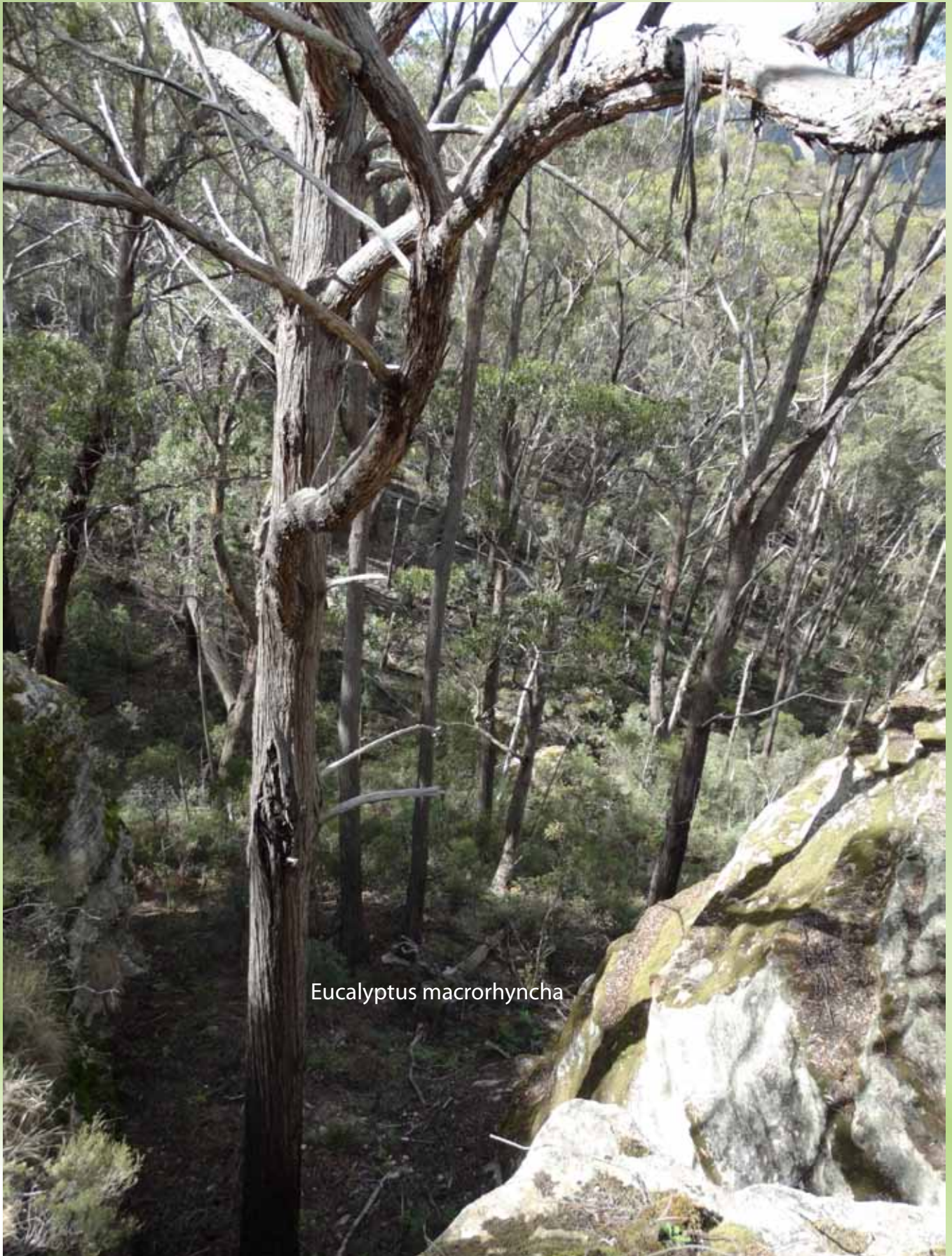


weeping geebung



Native Forest in the highwall proposal area

Pages 7 - 8



Eucalyptus macrorhyncha



scribbly woodland on slope



Pagoda landscapes in the highwall proposal area

Pages 9 - 14



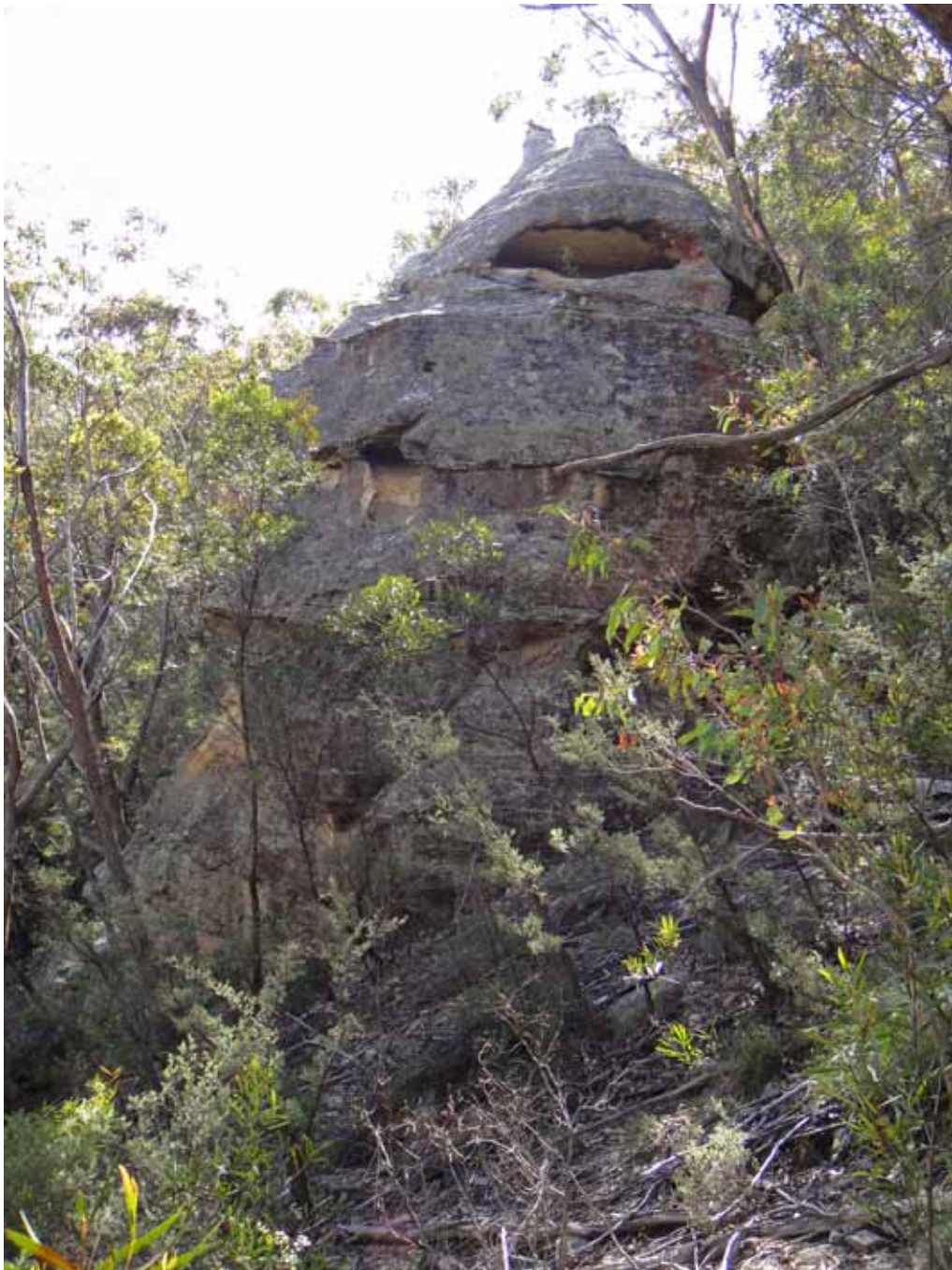


highwall mining area under these spurs





Lyrebird's nest in wall







Existing rehabilitation VS native forest to be destroyed

Pages 15 - 18

(Note that all photos were taken in 2014)



replanted 2008



Replanted 2008 - sparse ground cover evident



