2022 Rehabilitation Report

Holcim Quarry Mt Shamrock





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Report Scope

This report addresses all revegetation and maintenance works carried out by Naturelinks over the period of 2022. Works were undertaken in the following areas depicted in Figure 1: Phase A & B (Teal), 0.8 Hectare (Green), Southern Extraction (Red), South-East Extraction (Blue), Extraction (Orange), Phase C (White), Landslip (Pink), 1.2 Hectare (Magenta), Paddock Replacement (Peach) and Net Gain (Yellow). This report outlines issues encountered and management challenges identified throughout the rehabilitation process. Following this a summary of proposed future management actions is detailed.



Figure 1: Scope of report and individual sites at Holcim Mt Shamrock Quarry.



Revegetation Approach

Holcim Quarry Mt Shamrock falls within State of Victoria's Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) 16 Lowland Forest, and species for revegetation are selected based on this EVC.

However, for the following sites South East Extraction, Southern Extraction, .8 Hectare and 1.2 Hectare, we perceive that site conditions fall outside EVC 16. These sites are north and north-east facing with dry conditions with exposure to high winds, whereas Lowland Forests typically exist in areas of high soil fertility and relatively high rainfall. Indeed, in early years of revegetation survival of many species was low. Consequently, Naturelinks sought to expand species diversity to accommodate these site conditions to select a more dry tolerant species range.

To determine relevant dry tolerant species Naturelinks previously undertook desktop analysis using the Victorian Government "Naturekit" website.

(<u>https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit</u>) and located several parcels of native vegetation for all three EVC's 16, 45 and 128 within 5 km of Mt Shamrock. Naturelinks conducted on-ground species surveys in two reference areas containing these EVCs:

- RJ Chambers Flora and Fauna Reserve Lowland Forest EVC 16 vegetation, and Shrubby Foothill Forest EVC 45 within 5 km of Mt Shamrock at RJ.
- Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve Grassy Forest EVC 128

Species in these EVC's which were also found existing in similar conditions as that found at Mt Shamrock (considering slope, soil type and aspect) were considered appropriate for future planting lists. Species from EVC's 128 and 45 were sought due to their existence within a broader category of Dry Forests, a category which Lowland Forest does not fall within.

All seed and tube stock for revegetation are sourced locally (within 5 km).



Works & Management Recommendations

South-East Extraction Area

The South-East extraction area consists of two sections depicted in Figure 2; (a) in blue and (b) in pink. In 2022 66 indigenous species and 54 weed species were recorded.

2022 Works

Planting survival has showed continued improvement due to an expanded range of dry tolerant species (Table 1). Naturelinks has continued targeted infill planting to expand diversity range with mostly shrubs such as Common Rice-flower *Pimelea humilis,* Austral Indigo *Indigofera australis, and* Mountain Grevillea *Grevillea alipina*. Expanded native species coverage by undertaking exotic weed control and planting small number of dry tolerant shrub species to the east of area B ridgeline and back slope.



Figure 3: Southern Extraction areas of note

Broad-leaf weeds including Sow Thistle (Sonchus spp), Fleabane (Conyza spp), Wild Radish (Raphanus raphanistrum) have been treated through herbicide application with knapsacks. These works are a continuation of restoration



Figure 2: South-East Extraction areas A (blue) and B (pink). Boot hold point (red)

works undertake in previous years. Area marked red (Figure 3) which in 2020 and 2021 was subject to an incursion of Pigeon Grass (Setaria sp.) has now been partially reinvaded by Toowoomba Canary Grass (*Phalaris aquatica*). This area has now again being brush cut and targeted weed spraying has commenced to encourage native grass species to replace exotics using best land management techniques.

Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) infestations located west of the access road towards the bottom of the slope has increased despite

herbicide application since 2021, (area in pink in Figure 3). In response Chilean Needle Grass herbicide control has intensified with treatment undertaken earlier in the season before seeding has taken place.



Table 1. List of species planted South-Eastern Extraction in 2022.

Species	Common Name	No.
Ampera xiphoclada var. xiphoclada	Broom Spurge	25
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea	25
Epacris impressa	Common Heath	50
Eucalyptus baxteri	Brown Stringybark	25
Grevillea alpina (Southern Hills Form)	Mountain Grevillea	50
Indigofera australis	Austral Indigo	25
Pimelea flava ssp. flava	Yellow Rice-flower	25
Pimelea humilis	Common Rice-flower	50
Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius	Rosemary Everlasting	25
Total		300

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for the south-eastern extraction area include:

- Continued herbicide application to Chilean needle grass.
- Continued slashing and selective herbicide application to perennial exotic grasses.
- Maintain broadleaf-selective herbicide application.
- Continuation of plantings of dry-tolerant mid and lower story species along ridgeline and back slope to expand revegetation zone and reduce weed coverage (Table 2).

Species	Common Name
Acacia dealbata ssp. dealbata	Silver Wattle
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Astroloma humifusum	Cranberry Heath
Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Eucalyptus dives	Broad-leafed Peppermint
Eucalyptus radiata	Narrow-leafed Peppermint
Leptospermum myrsinoides	Heath Tea-tree
Lomandra longifolia var. exilis	Cluster-headed Mat-rush
Persoonia juniperina	Prickly Geebung
Poa labillardierei var. labillardierei	Common Tussock-grass

Southern Extraction Area

Southern Extraction is a North facing slope that starts from the viewing area that adjoins South Eastern Extraction to its east and .8 hectare reveg to its west. In 2022 57 indigenous species and 47 weed species were recorded.



Figure 4: Southern Extraction

2022 Works

Control of Toowoomba Canary Grass has been undertaken by brush cutting to the ground with herbicide spraying targeting regrowth 4 - 6 weeks later, with a 50% success rate. This led to an increase in annual grassy weed growth as expected but an overall biomass reduction was still achieved. The increase in annual grassy weeds growth will be addressed in the following year.

Chilean Needle Grass continues to be treated with herbicide which expanded coverage from the previous year. This could be explained by the reduced visibility of Chilean Needle Grass germinates by annual grassy weed growth, precluding herbicide treatment during germination period. However, Chilean Needle Grass were successfully targeted during their mature stage before seeding has taken place, and it is expected that the seed bank would see a reduction from previous years.

Broadleaf weed control continued from previous gains with Wild Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum* specifically targeted.

Infill planting of dry tolerant species continued increasing diversity as well as indigenous canopy and understory coverage. Austral Indigo Indigofera australis, Yarra Burgan Kunzea leptospermoides and Silky Tea-tree Leptospermum myrsinoides were added to species range for the site.

Species	Common Name	No.
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	25
Indigofera australis	Austral Indigo	25
Kunzea leptospermoides	Yarra Burgan	25
Leptospermum myrsinoides	Heath Tea-tree, Silky Tea-tree	25
Total		100

Table 3. List of species planted within Southern Extraction in 2022.



Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for the Southern extraction include:

- Continue targeting of *Phalaris aquatica* via slashing and follow up herbicide application in 2023 to encourage native germination
- Continual management of broad-leaf exotic species with selective herbicide application.
- Continual management of Chilean needle grass via herbicide application.
- Plant additional drought tolerant species (Table 4).

Table 4. List of recommended species for planting within the Southern Extraction Area in 2023.

	0
Species	Common Name
Astroloma humifusum	Cranberry Heath
Banksia spinulosa var.	Hairpin Banksia
cunninghamii	
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Eucalyptus baxteri	Brown Stringybark
Eucalyptus dives	Broad-leafed Peppermint
Lomandra longifolia var. exilis	Cluster-headed Mat-rush
Persoonia juniperina	Prickly Geebung
Pimelea flava ssp. flava	Yellow Rice-flower
Pultanea gunnii ssp. gunnii	Golden Bush-pea
Pultenaea scabra	Rough Bush-Pea
Poa labillardierei var.	Common Tussock-grass
Labillardierei	



Extraction Site

The Extraction site is south facing starting from the ridgeline of the northern side of the quarry through to the base of current operational area. This is the first zone that Naturelinks direct seeded with native grass and planted. Extraction is the wettest of the revegetation zones with the wettest area marked in pink (Figure 5). However, a small rise south of the main access track that divides the site in half opposite and to the east of the cargo container is somewhat drier. Although not as dry as the revegetation zones to the south of the quarry, this areas conditions sits between the two and thus the species range chosen for revegetation varies accordingly. In 2022 77 indigenous species and 56 weed species were recorded.



Figure 5: Extraction area, Mt Shamrock Quarry

Works 2022

Broad leaf exotic species have been successfully managed in previous years thus requiring minimal management in 2022. Small amounts of thistle species (Sonchus *spp*), Wild Radish (Raphanus *raphanistrum*) and Blackberry *Rubus fructose agg.* required herbicide treatment.

Exotic grass species prevalent within the site include Toowoomba Canary Grass (Phalaris aquatica), Cocksfoot (Dactylis glomerata), Caterpillar Grass (Paspalum dilatatum) and Kikuyu (Chenchrus clandestinum).

Plantings focused on increasing diversity in the area above the main access track that divides the site into top and bottom sections. Species selected were those adapted to wetter conditions with the exception of Chocolate Lilies Arthropodium stictum, Wattle Mat-rush *Lomandra filiformis ssp, filiformis* and Wattle Mat-rush *Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea* which were planted at a small open area at the top of the site (Table 5).

Species	Common Name	No.
Ampera xiphoclada var. xiphoclada	Broom Spurge	25
Anthropodium strictum	Chocolate Lily	50
Correa reflexa var. lobatus	Powelltown Correa	25
Epacris impressa	Common Heath	25
Lomandra filiformis ssp, filiformis	Wattle Mat-rush	25
Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea	Wattle Mat-rush	25
Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius	Rosemary Everlasting	25
Polyscias sambucifolia ssp. 3	Elderberry Panax	50
Total		250

Table 5. List of species planted within the Extraction Area in 2022



Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for the Extraction area include:

- Planting of small dry tolerant shrubs on rise below main access track (Table 6).
- Targeting broad leaf exotic species and blackberry with herbicide application by knapsack.

Table 6. List of recommended species for planting in the Extraction Area in 2023.

Species	Common Name
Pimelea humilis	Common Rice-flower
Pultenaea scabra	Rough Bush-Pea
Pultanaea gunnii ssp. gunnii	Golden Bush-pea

Phase A & B Site

The Phase A and B site encompasses a planted area bordering the outer quarry fence-line to act as a visual barrier as well as a screen for noise and dust pollution.



2022 Works

Weed control focusing on thistle species and blackberry was undertaken prior to planting. A Chilean Needle Grass infestation located behind the quarry is encroaching into a section of Phase A & B. This could be the likely source of other quarry infestations in the managed zones. .

Evidence of Deer are continuing to cause damage to softwood trees and shrubs particular Banksia species. Damage includes removing bark or damaging and breaking the main stem. It has been noted that damage by deer and visual sightings are noticeably increasing.

250 trees were planted in areas with die off from the northern end planting southward. Previous years' planting have been subjected to damaging grazing by deer and collision of guarded trees by Kangaroos. Large guards had been mounted with a single stake which provided insufficient protection, many being found scattered and broken throughout planting zone. To address this, a second stake was used to lessen damage by deer and kangaroos which appears to of been largely successful. This will be monitored over the next year.

Species	Common Name	No.
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle	100
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	50
Eucalyptus baxteri	Brown Stringybark	50
Eucalyptus radiata	Narrow-leaf Peppermint	50
Total		250



Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for Phase A & B include:

- Follow up annual targeted herbicide application of Chilean Needle Grass with the aim of eventual elimination is recommended.
- Conduct off site survey on Holcim owned properties to better understand infestations of Chilean Needle Grass encroaching on Phase A & B's future impact on rehabilitation.
- Herbicide application targeting blackberry in this area is recommended in the autumn of 2023.
- Continued managing thistle species by herbicide application using knapsack and tanker spray units.
- Additional plantings to be undertaken on the northern end of site to bolster screening for nearby stakeholders (Table 8).
- Recommend deer impact to be independently assessed by a pest management consultant and that repair of external fencing to be considered.
- Expand species diversity by planting a small number of over storey species (Table 8).

Table 8. List of recommended species for planting Phase A & B area in 2023

Species	Common Name
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle
Eucalyptus baxteri	Brown Stringybark
Eucalyptus dives	Broad-leafed Peppermint
Eucalyptus goniocalyx	Long Leafed Box, Bundy
Eucalyptus Radiata ssp. radiata	Narrow-leafed Peppermint)



Phase C Site

The Phase C site comprises of disturbed remnant and revegetated areas that border the Extraction site to the west. The most significant remnant areas include:

A small open area (yellow in Figure 7) northeast of Extraction where many Slender Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*) and Common Onion-orchid (*Microtis unifolia*) persist.

Gully north of the graveyard (orange in in Figure 7). Due to a wet winter and Spring in 2022, the gully provided a breeding ground for large numbers of native frogs. Additionally Just north of the gully are two remnant adult Rough Tree-ferns (Cyathea australis) (Blue markers in in Figure 7) and a single remnant Clover Tree (*Goodia lotifolia*) (Green marker in Figure 7).

Other remnant vegetation includes two areas shown in red (Figure 7) containing scattered Tall Sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma elatius*) east of graveyard and north of Extraction.

Prevalent exotic species include Blackberry (Rubus fruticosus agg.), and Thistle species.

In 2022 51 indigenous species and 76 weed species were recorded.



Figure 7: Phase C, Mt Shamrock Quarry



Works 2022

Weed control in 2022 was undertaken by a combination of tanker and pack spraying for broadleaf weeds and blackberry. Woody weeds were targeted by pack spraying when small or cut and painted when larger. At the southern tip of the site marked in blue and to the south of the area marked in red (Figure 7), larger woody weeds too big for cut and paint remain. Some of these woody weeds border access roads that are actively used by mining vehicles and will be left for safety and visual screening purposes. But treatment of larger woody weeds requiring chain sawing which can be done safely and without undermining visual screening; works to be undertaken in 2023.

Planting was undertaken with wet tolerant eucalypt species in area marked in red to increase canopy cover. The rest of the plantings were in and around the gully, marked in orange with wet tolerant eucalyptus and shrub species. Lilies, sedges and grasses suited to season flooding, were located in and around the area of the gully which after heavy rain fills with water. This area provides habitat for several frog species.

Species	Common Name	No.
Bursaria spinosa ssp. Spinosa	Sweet Bursaria	25
Cyperus lucidus	Leafy Flat-sedge	50
Dianella tasmanica	Tasman Flax-lily	25
Eucalyptus cephalocarpa	Silver-leafed Stringybark. Mealy Stringybark	50
Eucalyptus ovata var. ovata	Swamp Gum	75
Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius	Rosemary Everlasting	25
Poa ensiformis	Purple-sheath tussock-grass	50
Total		300

Table 9. List of species planted Phase C in 2022

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for Phase C include:

- Continue control of broadleaf weeds and blackberry with herbicide.
- Chainsaw large woody weeds in area marked in blue and to the south of the area marked in red (See Figure 7).
- Increasing species diversity by planting a small number of Powelltown Corea reflexa var. *lobatus* (Table 10).

Table 10. List of recommended species for planting in the Phase C area in 2023

Species	Common Name
Correa reflexa var. lobatus	Poweltown Correa



0.8 Hectare Revegetation Site

The 0.8 Ha site is north facing slope adjacent to the Southern Extraction Zone (see fig 8). In 2022 38 indigenous species and 33 weed species were recorded.



Figure 8: 0.8Ha Revegetation Area

2022 Works

The area was direct seeded and first round of planting was undertaken in 2021. Survival rates overall for the first year for trees and shrubs was substantial with the exception of some areas in the top third (southern end), where conditions are drier and the top soil layer appears to be thinner. Second year infill plantings appear to be doing well, with the addition of a number of species better suited to more stabilised site conditions.

Losses were relatively high for Cluster-headed Mat-rush Lomandra longifolia var. exilis planted during winter 2022 due to accidental overspray from broadleaf control. Usually lilies and grasses are planted unguarded to limit labour and material costs. To address this issue in the early years of weed management, where broadleaf weed growth is high, they will be guarded in the same way as trees and shrubs.

Broadleaf weed control is progressing on target. Native grass coverage predominantly by Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma spp.*) now dominates the understory and produced a high volume of seed over the Christmas 2022 period, which is likely to germinate next winter.



	8	
Species	Common Name	No.
Acacia implexa	Lightwood	50
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood	50
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	25
Acacia stricta	Hop Wattle, Straight Wattle	50
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia	25
Eucalyptus Radiata ssp. Radiata	Narrow-leafed Peppermint	50
Eucalyptus dives	Broad-leafed Peppermint	25
Eucalyptus goniocalyx	Long Leafed Box, Bundy	25
Eucalyptus oblique	Messmate	25
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp.	Manna Gum	25
Viminalis		
Kunzea leptospermoides	Yarra Burgan	25
Lomandra longifolia var. exilis	Cluster-headed Mat-rush	200
Total		625

able 11. List of species planted within the 0.8 Hectare Revegetation Area in 2022

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for 0.8 hectare include:

- Continue targeting broadleaf exotic species with herbicide application.
- Continue expanding species diversity in particular shrub species more adapted to stabilised conditions (Table 12).
- Lily plantings to be double staked and guarded in the same way as trees and shrubs

able 12. Est of recommended species for planang in the oto ricetare recegedation and in 2025					
Species	Common Name	No.			
Acacia Verticillata ssp.	Prickly Moses	25			
Verticillata					
Cassinia longifolia	Long-leaf Cassinia	25			
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea	25			
Dianella admixta	Spreading Flax-lily	50			
Eucalyptus radiata	Narrow-leafed Peppermint	25			
Grevillea alpina (Southern Hills	Mountain Grevillea	25			
Form)					
Leptospermum myrsinoides	Silky Tea-tree	25			
Lomandra longifolia var. exilis	Cluster-headed Mat-rush	100			
Pimelea humilis	Common Rice-flower	25			
Pultanaea gunnii ssp. gunnii	Golden Bush-pea	25			
Total		350			

Table 12. List of recommended species for planting in the 0.8 Hectare Revegetation Area in 2023



Landslip Sites

The Landslip sites for 2022 were three separate sites, the largest Mass 4 containing a small natural seasonal spring, south of the quarry in a fenced area surrounded by former grazing paddocks. The second Mass 5 is located a hundred meters to the south east of Mass 4 in an openly grazed paddock, is a circular scarp. The third Mass 13 is a small circular failure measuring about 2 meters across to the west of the quarry.



Figure 9. Mass 4

2022 Works

Mass 4: Revegetation of a range of deep rooted grasses, lily and wet tolerant eucalyptus and shrub species within, above and below circular failure and natural spring was undertaken. This site was covered in dense mostly exotic grassy vegetation that required extensive brush cutting to be undertaken prior to planting. There are several thickets of Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus agg.* and Spear Thistle *Cirsium valgare* expanding into the site.

Mass 5: Planting of a small number of deep rooted grass species in circular failure and above. This site was more easily accessible by vehicle and site conditions were more favourable. Vehicular access allowed plantings to be thoroughly watered so plant survival rates are expected to be higher.

Mass 13: Planting of a small number of deep rooted grass species in circular failure and above. This site was extremely dry as works were undertaken very late in the planting season due to site access issues with unseasonably wet spring and early summer. Survival of plantings is uncertain at this stage.



Table 13. List of native tree, shrubs, lily and grass species planted within the Landslip area in 2022.

Location	Species	Common Name	No.
Mass 4	Acacia verticillata ssp. verticillata	Prickly Moses	50
	Coprosama quadrifida	Prickly Currant-bush	25
	Eucalyptus cephalocarpa	Silver-leafed Stringybark	15
	Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum	15
	Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed Mat-rush	100
	Poa ensiformis	Sword Tussock-grass	50
	Poa Labillardierei	Common Tussock-grass	150
	Solanum aviculare	Kangaroo Apple	
Mass 5	Poa Labillardierei	Common Tussock-grass	150
Mass 13	Poa Labillardierei	Common Tussock-grass	50
Total			605

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for Landslip plantings include:

- Due to extremely late planting monitor plant survival and possible plant replacement in 2023.
- Herbicide treatment of blackberry stands and Spear Thistles Mass 4.



Net Gain Site

The Net Gain Site comprises two offset zones located on the "Donson" property adjacent to the quarry. It contains a Northern and Southern section. This is the most diverse area of all sites with the highest amount of remnant vegetation. In 2022 I20 indigenous species and 90 weed species were recorded.



Figure 10: Net Gain North and South, Mt Shamrock Quarry



2022 Works

Planting was undertaken of wet tolerant tree species at two locations to suppress exotic understory weed growth and expand canopy cover (Table 14). The first was undertake through the bottom part of Northern Zone and the second along creek-line sections of Southern Zone.

Leafy Flat-sedge Cyperus lucidus was planted along the eastern edge of the boggy area, adjacent to the creekline bottom half of Southern Zone. A single plant had been previously recorded a number of years ago, now absent from the site although a small number of remnant plants can now be found in the bottom section of Phase C.

Several invasive weed species continue to be of concern and have been the focus of weed control activities. Monitoring will continue through this area.



Figure 11: Bishops Weed (blue), St Augustine grass (orange), Japanese Honeysuckle (green)

Bishop's weed (*Ammi visnaga*) is prevalent in the SW corner of Southern Section west of the spillway (Figure 9.). Prolific seeding and germination mean the weed requires regular herbicide application. So far Naturelinks has managed to limit the species spread but eradication has proved difficult.

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is prevalent in the Northern Section and germinates can be difficult to spot within the undergrowth.

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is confined to the northern section top swamp area, it is difficult to access except in dry conditions. Herbicide application and hand weeding has produced positive results although it is unlikely to be eliminated as yet. (Figure 9.).

St. Augustine grass (Stenotaphrum secundatum) is prominent within the bottom NE corner of Northern section (Figure 9.). This weed was sprayed with herbicide by tanker with follow up spraying to be undertaken in the early months of 2023 when it is the most accessible by vehicle.

Damage by Deer has worsened now they appear to be the source of the largest negative environmental impact for the site. Small Trees and shrubs are now regularly being lost to deer activity and potential reduction of biodiversity if remedial actions are not taken in the near future may be a real possibility.



Northern Acacia melanovylon Blackwood	
Section	25
Eucalyptus cephalocarpa Silver-leafed Stringybark	25
Eucalyptus ovata var. ovata Swamp Gum	50
SouthernCyperus lucidusLeafy Flat-sedgeSection	50
Eucalyptus cephalocarpa Silver-leafed Stringybark	25
Eucalyptus ovata var. ovata Swamp Gum	25
Total	225

Table 14. List of understory species planted within the Net Gain area in 2022.

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for Net Gain include:

- Managing problem exotic species with herbicide application and hand-weeding including Bishop's Weed (*Ammi visnaga*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and St. Augustine Grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*).
- Increasing species diversity by planting a small number of Powelltown Corea, *Corea reflexa var. lobatus* (Table 15).
- Recommend deer impact to be independently assessed by a pest management consultant.

Location	Species	Common Name
Northern Section	Correa reflexa var. lobatus	Powelltown Correa
Southern Section	Correa reflexa var. lobatus	Powelltown Correa

Table 15. List of recommended species for planting in the Net Gain area in 2023.



1.2 Hectare Revegetation Site

The 1.2 Ha site is directly to the west .8 Revegetation Site sharing similar environmental conditions such as north facing, mostly dry with occasional high winds. In 2022 31 indigenous species and 24 weed species were recorded.



Figure 12. 1.2 Hectare site

2022 Works

Preliminary weed control prior to direct seeding was undertaken in two spray runs, the first in late 2021 and the second in June 2022. Initial spreading of topsoil layer covered only part of the site with additional topsoil being spread only a few months before direct seeding and planting. The later section only received a single preparatory weed spray resulting in a much higher weed seed bank. The ground for this second area was soft and ideally still needed time to settle before direct seeding and planting was to be undertaken.

This led to a much higher weed growth post direct seeding and more challenging planting due to soft ground. How much the higher rate of disturbance caused during planting and the increased weed growth has adversely affected the germination rates of direct seeded grasses for this area remains uncertain.

Direct seeding included 20% weeping grass (*Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides*) and 80% Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma spp.*) seed at 40kg/Ha. *Rytidosperma species* included ~50% of setaceum, caespitosum, duttonianum, racemosum & fulvum and 50% of geniculatum, caespitosum, pilosum & setaceum. Sterile rye and native wallaby grass species from direct seeding have successfully germinated at the site.

Previously plantings in Southern and SE Extraction which had similar dry conditions had a low survival rate in some areas for the first year. Given this experience that as a site matures conditions become more favourable and plant survival increases, our first-year plantings done at this site were deliberately sparse. They will then be supplemented by an equally sized second-year planting in



2023. Our method is to plant the most robust, dry tolerant and fast-growing species are to be planted first, with each additional year increasing native diversity and density.

So far survival rates for 2022 planting appear to be high, winter and early summer were extremely wet. Small sections toward the western end of site have had their guards removed while leaving both stakes in the ground. This is unlikely due to Kangaroo activity as they typically collide with planting breaking stakes and leaving guards damaged nearby. It is assumed that the guards are being removed by deer most likely with their antlers. So far the any potential damage to the actual plantings appear minimal. Monitoring for future impact however is needed.

Dealing with broadleaf weeds and accessing this site to tanker spray during the wetter months will likely pose the greatest challenges in managing this site.

Species	Common Name	No.
Acacia implexa	Lightwood	50
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle	200
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood	200
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle	100
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	100
Acacia stricta	Hop Wattle, Straight Wattle	200
Allocasuarina littoralis	Black Sheoak	100
Eucalyptus baxteri,	Brown Stringybark	250
Eucalyptus dives	Broad-leafed Peppermint	250
Eucalyptus goniocalyx	Long Leafed Box, Bundy	20
Eucalyptus oblique	Messmate	100
Eucalyptus Radiata ssp. Radiata	Narrow-leafed Peppermint	300
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. Viminalis	Manna Gum	100
Hakea decurrens ssp. Physocarpa	Bushy Needlewood	100
Hakea Ulcina	Furze Hakea	100
Total		2170

Table 16. List of tree and shrub species planted in 1.2 Hectare Revegetation Area in 2022.

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for 1.2 Hectare Revegetation Site include:

- Keeping broadleaf weeds controlled via selective herbicide application by spray tanker. Site access by vehicle with attached trailer mounted tanker may be challenging during the wetter months. Continue to work with Quarry management about improved vehicle track access.
- Undertake second round of planting similar to the first broadening species diversity and increasing indigenous tree and shrub coverage (Table 17).
- Recommend deer impact to be independently assessed by a pest management consultant.



able	17. List of	recommended	species for	or planting	in 1.2	Hectare	Revegetation	Site in 2023.
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Species	Common Name
Acacia genistifolia	Spreading Wattle
Acacia Verticillata ssp. Verticillata	Prickly Moses
Banksia marginata	Silver Banksia
Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Cassinia aculeata	Dogwood
Cassinia longifolia	Long-leaf Cassinia
Correa reflexa var. reflexa	Common Correa
Daviesia latifolia	Hop Bitter-pea
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf bitter-pea
Eucalyptus baxteri,	Brown Stringybark
Eucalyptus dives	Broad-leafed Peppermint
Eucalyptus goniocalyx	Long Leafed Box, Bundy
Eucalyptus oblique	Messmate
Eucalyptus Radiata ssp. Radiata	Narrow-leafed Peppermint
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. Viminalis	Manna Gum
Kunzea leptospermoides	Yarra Burgan
Leptospermum myrsinoides	Silky Tea-tree

Paddock Replacement

This site encompasses 5 separate paddock areas that are grazed by cattle. Stock proof fencing has been erected around 150 approximately 1.5 m² quadrants in which *Eucalyptus* were originally planted in 2018.



Figure 13. Paddock Replacement zones



2022 Works

Approximately 30 Eucalyptus had perished and needed to be replaced. A mixture of Messmate *Eucalyptus obliqua* and Manna Gums *Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. viminalis* were chosen as they are some of the largest Eucalyptus species indigenous to the area, and due to their size, likely providing the greatest amount of shelter for stock and habitat for wildlife.

A number of stock-proof quadrants had been damaged. Some require sections of wire, pine posts and frame replacement.

Like the Landslip plantings, a very wet winter and early summer limited site access by vehicle and a high risk of car bogging led to planting being undertaken very late in the season. All plants were generously watered, but combined with a number of damaged quadrants survival of some plantings is uncertain.

Table 18. List of Eucalyptus species planted in Paddock Replacement site 2022.

Species	Common Name	No.
Eucalyptus obliqua	Messmate Stringybark	15
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp. Viminalis	Manna Gum	15
Total		30

Future Management Recommendations

The recommendations for Paddock Replacement Site include:

- The repair of damaged quadrants to exclude cattle.
- Potential replacement of a small number of dead plantings in 2023.



Fauna considerations and concerns

Only fauna of high conservation value or may pose a negative environmental impact are mentioned here. A full list of fauna observed by Naturelinks staff have been added as attachments.

Introduced species

- Sambar Deer, *Rusa unicolor* are observed to adversely impact some sites. Naturelinks recommend that deer impact be independently assessed by a pest management consultant.
- European Hare *Lepus europaeus* are occasionally seen but appear to have no noticeable negative environmental impact.
- European Rabbit Oryctolagus cuniculus are occasionally seen but appear to have no noticeable negative environmental impact. Twice, young animals have been observed that are in poor health, and they seem not to be aware of close human presence. They appear to be visually impaired, and may in fact be diseased.
- Red fox Vulpes vulpes are occasionally seen or their tracks observed. Their environmental impact remains uncertain.

Indigenous species

- Eastern grey kangaroo *Macropus giganteus* a decade ago were rarely seen but are now abundant. Collision with guarded trees and shrubs is a big issue in most managed areas. Fence repair may reduce this issue, in particular in Phase A & B. Grazing does not yet appear to be a serious problem.
- At least One Peregrine Falcon had been observed nesting in the box in 2022.
- *Callocephalon fimbriatum*, Gang-Gang Cockatoo have been observed at the quarry for a number of years. Recently the species' conservation status has been elevated to Endangered. In 2022 they were regularly seen and heard both at the Net Gain site and around the Quarry.



Aspects and Impacts Assessment

Table 19. Aspects and Impacts Assessment – Mt Shamrock

Activity	Aspect	Impacts	Controls
Working onsite	Naturelinks- owned vehicles, trailers, powered plant (electric / petrol), hand tools and PPE (footwear etc.) entering and exiting site	Spread weed seed, pathogens & weed propagules into and out of site	 All Naturelinks employees are to be trained on Hygiene HSEP Crew leaders are to clean down all vehicles, trailers, powered plant (electric / petrol), hand tools and PPE (footwear etc.) before entering site Crew leaders are to complete site-specific inspection before entering site "HSE Daily Inspection Checklist - Holcim - Mt Shamrock" which includes questions about hygiene Before exiting the site, crew leaders are to complete site-specific inspection "HSE Exit Inspection Checklist - Holcim - Mt Shamrock" If vehicles, trailers, powered plant (electric / petrol), hand tools and / or PPE (footwear etc.) need to be cleaned contact site contact to be provided with access to wash down area See Table 14: List of noxious weeds in West Gippsland region
			Detailed Controls by area
			Landslip
			Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Blackberry, Slender Thistle, Spear Thistle, Variegated Thistle
			Actions taken to reduce risk: Walk into site from adjacent paddock eliminating contamination risk for vehicle from weed seed. Manually clean all petrol-driven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough cleaning to be undertaken in designated quarry wash down area as required.
			Paddock replacement
			Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Blackberry, Ragwort (potential), Slender Thistle, Spear Thistle, Variegated Thistle
			Actions taken to reduce risk: Avoid driving in areas where seeding thistles are present, manually clean all petrol driven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required. Do not remove Ragwort from site; any hand-weeded ragwort is to be left <i>in situ</i> ; any seed head with viable seed is to be buried where possible.



Phase A&B

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Blackberry, Chilean Needle Grass, Hawthorn, Ragwort (potential), Slender Thistle, Spear Thistle, Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Site is only to be accessed from cleared track within quarry fence-line by using periodical access gates with the exception of two areas with double gates in which a cleared access area is maintained. Manually clean all petrol-driven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required. Do not remove Ragwort from site; any hand-weeded ragwort is to be left *in situ*; any seed head with viable seed is to be buried where possible.

Any Chilean Needle Grass discovered is to be sprayed immediately with herbicide where possible; no hand weeding of Chilean Needle Grass is to be undertaken. Avoid using any hand or petrol-driven plant in or near identifiable plants including planting.

I.2 hectare

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Spear Thistle, Stinkwort, Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Manually clean all petroldriven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required.

.8 Hectare

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Blackberry, Spear thistle, Stinkwort, Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Manually clean all petroldriven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required.

Southern Extraction

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Blackberry, Chilean Needle Grass, Spear Thistle, Stinkwort, Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Manually clean all petroldriven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required. Any Chilean Needle Grass discovered is to be sprayed



immediately with herbicide where possible; no hand weeding of Chilean Needle Grass is to be undertaken. Avoid using any hand or petrol-driven plant in or near identifiable plants including planting.

South East Extraction

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Blackberry, Chilean Needle Grass, Slender Thistle, Spear Thistle, Stinkwort, Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Manually clean all petroldriven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required. Any Chilean Needle Grass discovered is to be sprayed immediately with herbicide where possible; no hand weeding of Chilean Needle Grass is to be undertaken. Avoid using any hand or petrol-driven plant in or near identifiable plants including planting.

Extraction/Phase C

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Angled Onion (potential), Blackberry, Crack Willow, Flax-leaf Broom, Gorse, Hawthorn, Ragwort, Slender Thistle, Spear Thistle, Soursob, Stinkwort, Sweet Briar, Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Manually clean all petroldriven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required. Do not remove Ragwort from site, any hand-weeded ragwort is to be left *in situ*; any seed head with viable seed is to be buried where possible.

Do not leave designated access tracks with vehicle, do not drive over any flowing weeds growing on tracks. Clean any disturbed mud that may accumulate underneath the wheel arch before leaving site at designated wash down area.

Net Gain

Noxious weeds West Gippsland region present or potential: Angled Onion, Blackberry, Bridal creeper, Crack Willow, Flax-leaf Broom (nature strip only), Garden Asparagus, Hawthorn, Maderia Vine (nature strip only), Ragwort, Slender Thistle, Spear Thistle, St John's Wort, Stinkwort, Soursob

Variegated Thistle

Actions taken to reduce risk: Manually clean all petroldriven plant and hand tools of loose soil and visible weed

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				 seed. More thorough clean to be undertaken in designated wash down quarry area as required. Do not remove Ragwort from site, any hand-weeded ragwort is to be left <i>in situ</i>; any seed head with viable seed is to be buried where possible. Park vehicle near main access gate only for northern section, leave car in nearby paddock or gate entrance for southern section. Limit all driving unless necessary in northern section. Clean any disturbed mud that may accumulate underneath the wheel arch before leaving site at designated wash down area.
	Controlling weeds	Use of herbicide to control weeds	Incorrect use of herbicide on plant species Off-target damage Herbicide entering waterways	 All employees who use herbicides are trained in its correct use and hold a Chemcert license, or are under direct supervision while in training, by a Chemcert holder. Restricted use chemicals are to be only used by those staff holding an Agricultural Chemical User's Permit (ACUP) Herbicides are carefully selected to each species; see Table 13. List of herbicides used at Holcim – Mt Shamrock Alternative methods to herbicide spraying to be considered by Holcim and quoted by Naturelinks Hand weeding: Useful for high quality areas and when working near sensitive species. Inefficient for large areas, time consuming. Cut and paint: used for woody weeds when not small. Can be used for small infestations of blackberry in high quality areas or around sensitive species. Can be labour intensive depending on scale. Brush-cutting/slashing: Useful for biomass control and maintaining access to tracks and areas with high weed load. Can be used to target annual weedy grasses to prevent seeding depending on site conditions and season. Can be cost effective in the right circumstance. Grazing: Cattle or goats in areas with high weed load and low-quality native vegetation. Environmentally friendly, requires adequate fencing so not suitable to some situations. May require additional permits. Goats will likely be the more effective particularly for control of blackberry. Fire: Historically this method has been ruled out by Quarry management. Naturelinks does have the relevant licenses, Insurance, training, equipment to undertake controlled burns.



Table 20. List of herbicides used at Holcim – Mt Shamrock							
Herbicide	Usage	Species Controlled	Application	Notes			
Weedmaster Duo ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 360 g/L Glyphosate	Commonly used across the site Control of grass and broadleaf weed species via backpack spray and tanker spray. Occasionally combined with other herbicides for specific hard to kill weeds Control of woody weeds	Agapanthus, Blue Periwinkle, Holly, English Ivy, Ragwort, Madeira Vine, Willow sp., Pitiosporum, Hawthorn, Prunus sp, Chilean Needle grass, annual and perennial grasses, broadleaf weeds were off target damage risk is low.	Cut and paint of woody weeds (both with hand tools and chainsaw) Backpack spay and tanker spray application	Fast acting, non- selective, cost effective, is inactivated immediately in the soil and does not provide residual weed control			
Kamba M ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS: 340 g/L MCPA, 80g/L DICAMBA	Commonly used across the site. For broadleaf specific weeds when off target damage to native grass species is to be avoided via backpack spray and tanker spray.	Broadleaf weed species	Backpack spray or tanker spray	Average field half life of dicamba is 14 days. Average field half life of MCPA is 7 days.			
Associate Herbicide ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 600g/kg METSULFURON METHYL	Occasionally used across the sites when targeting particularly hard-to- kill broadleaf weeds, some woody weeds and weeds with tuberous root systems, will not harm grass via backpack spray or tanker spray (rarely). Occasionally combined with other herbicides for specific hard to kill weeds	Bridal Creeper (Asparagus spp.), Angled Onion, Soursob (and other Oxalis spp.), Spanish Heath, Blackberry (occasionally only but can be used all year round)	Backpack spray or tanker spray	Associate will remain in the soil for a period of time. The persistence of Associate in the soil is dependent on various environmental conditions e.g. soil pH, temperature, soil moisture and organic matter. Wet, warm, acid soils high in organic matter favour breakdown of Associate in the soil. It should be noted that Associate does not provide a commercially acceptable level of soil residual weed control.			



Maca 600 (most widely known by brand name Garion)Control of mile Hawthorn and Prunus spp, Bria Briar RoseBackacks rpray or tanker sprayCost effective, every effective and fast acting on blackberry (Spring to mid- Atturm), avoid spraying mear waterways, selective broadleaf herbicide specifically designed for control of Asteracea and takes spray (rarely).Backpack spray or tanker sprayCost effective, every effective and fast acting on blackberry (Spring to mid- Atturm), avoid spraying mear waterways, selective broadleaf herbicide specifically designed for control of Asteracea and take affective and takes action action action action action action action action action actio	ŧLĮ	NKO				
Lontrel Advanced ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 600g/L CLOPYRALIDSemi-selective broadleaf herbicide specifically designed for control of Asteraceae and pea family but also effective against some other broadleaf families while leaving other families unharmed, will not harm grass via pack spray (rarely).Thistles, Fleabane, Bristly Ox- tongue, Stinkwort (Dittrichia graveolens), Cat's ear, Plantain, Aster weed, Broom cat's ear, Plantain, Aster weed, Broom sp., Vetch, Clover, Capeweed. Can harm Acacia species and herbicide can hare a detrimental effect on these species (e.g., tanker spraying)Backpack spray or tanker spray Cat's ear, Plantain, Aster weed, Broom sp., Vetch, Clover, Capeweed. Can harm Acacia species when sprayed in high volumes and herbicide can hare a detrimental effect on these species (e.g., tanker spraying)Backpack spray or tanker spray Cat's ear, Plantain, Aster Withholding periods: Do not graze or cut for stock food for 7 days after application. Acacia species (rarely).Local understory species not harmed by overspray: Bidgee wite browded, Cat's ear, Plantain, Aster weed, Broom cat's praying)Local understory species not harmed by overspray: Bidgee wite species Conservent, Kidney Weed, Native raspberry, Australian Hounds- to species (rarely).Conservent cationCan harm Acacia species (can hare species (e.g., tanker spraying)Local understory species on harmed by overspray: Bidgee wite hourseal to species days after application.Conservent conservent advance and Advance and Advance and Advance and <br< th=""><th rowspan="2"></th><th>Maca 600 (most widely known by brand name Garlon) ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: TRICLOPYR</th><th>Control of Blackberry spp., Broom, young Hawthorn and Prunus spp, Briar Rose via pack spray or tanker spray</th><th>Blackberry spp., Broom, young Hawthorn and Prunus spp, Briar Rose</th><th>Backpack spray or tanker spray</th><th>Cost effective, very effective and fast acting on blackberry (Spring to mid- Autumn), avoid spraying near waterways, selective but will burn grass at high rate. Should not be used when temperature may exceed 30 degrees as this product can evaporate and move through the air and harm nearby vegetation.</th></br<>		Maca 600 (most widely known by brand name Garlon) ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: TRICLOPYR	Control of Blackberry spp., Broom, young Hawthorn and Prunus spp, Briar Rose via pack spray or tanker spray	Blackberry spp., Broom, young Hawthorn and Prunus spp, Briar Rose	Backpack spray or tanker spray	Cost effective, very effective and fast acting on blackberry (Spring to mid- Autumn), avoid spraying near waterways, selective but will burn grass at high rate. Should not be used when temperature may exceed 30 degrees as this product can evaporate and move through the air and harm nearby vegetation.
		Lontrel Advanced ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 600g/L CLOPYRALID	Semi-selective broadleaf herbicide specifically designed for control of Asteraceae and Fabaceae (daisy and pea family) but also effective against some other broadleaf families while leaving other families unharmed, will not harm grass via pack spray and tanker spray (rarely).	Thistles, Fleabane, Bristly Ox- tongue, Stinkwort (<i>Dittrichia</i> graveolens), Cat's ear, Plantain, Aster weed, Broom spp., Vetch, Clover, Capeweed. Can harm Acacia species when sprayed in high volumes and herbicide can have a detrimental effect on these species (e.g., tanker spraying)	Backpack spray or tanker spray	Local understory species not harmed by overspray: Bidgee widgee and Sheep's Burr, Kidney Weed, Native raspberry, Australian Hounds- tongue. Withholding periods: Do not graze or cut for stock food for 7 days after application. Low toxicity to fish, birds, honeybees, livestock, earthworms and aquatic organisms. Was not used for the 2022 work period partially due to concerns raised by quarry audit. As alternative herbicides are available and the prevalence of weeds which Lontreal Advance and Apparent Chlopyralid use is preferred is currently low.



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	Apparent Clopyralid 300 ACTIVE CONSTITUENT: 300g/L CLOPYRALID	Semi-selective broadleaf herbicide specifically designed for control of Asteraceae and Fabaceae (daisy and pea family) but also effective against some other broadleaf families while leaving other families unharmed, will not harm grass via pack spray and tanker spray (rarely).	Thistles, Fleabane, Bristly Ox- tongue, Stinkwort (<i>Dittrichia</i> graveolens), Cat's ear, Plantain, Aster weed, Broom spp., Vetch, Clover, Capeweed. Can harm Acacia species when sprayed in high volumes and herbicide can have a detrimental effect on these species (e.g., tanker spraying)	Backpack spray or tanker spray	Local understory species not harmed by overspray: Bidgee Widgee and Sheep's Burr, Kidney Weed, Native raspberry, Australian Hounds- tongue. Selective herbicide, useful for herbicide rotation, relatively expensive, less harmful to waterways than alternatives with the exception of Associate, residual in soil and thatch. Withholding periods: Do not graze or cut for stock food for 7 days after application. Was not used for the 2022 work period partially due to concerns raised by quarry audit. As alternative herbicides are available and the prevalence of weeds which Lontreal Advance and Apparent Chlopyralid use is preferred is currently low.



Tabl

е	21	. List	of	noxious	weeds	in	West	Gibbsland	l region
	~ '	. LISU	4	nonious	weeds		I CSC	Cippsiulid	region

Species	Туре	Risk of Spreading	Method of potential seed or propagules dispersal by Naturelinks staff
Angled Onion	Restricted Weeds	Low	Loose Seed
Blackberry	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Medium	Fruit
Bridal Creeper	Restricted Weeds	Low	Fruit
Chilean Needle Grass	Restricted Weeds	High	Soil (may contain seed) Loose Seed
Flax-leaf Broom	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Medium	Loose Seed
Garden asparagus	Restricted Weeds	Low	Fruit
Gorse	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Low	Loose Seed
Hawthorn	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Low	Fruit
Ragwort	Regionally Controlled Weeds	High	Soil (may contain seed) Airborne Seed
Maderia Vine	Restricted Weeds	Medium	Vegetation
Slender Thistle	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Medium	Soil (may contain seed) Airborne Seed
Spear Thistle	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Medium	Soil (may contain seed) Airborne Seed
St John's Wort	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Low	Loose Seed
Stinkwort	Restricted Weeds	Medium	Soil (may contain seed) Airborne Seed
Sweet Briar	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Low	Fruit
Soursob	Restricted Weeds	Low	Soil (may contain seed) Loose Seed
Variegated Thistle	Regionally Controlled Weeds	Medium	Soil (may contain seed) Airborne Seed
Crack Willow	Restricted Weeds	Low	Vegetation

Attachments

Indigenous Flora of Holcim Pakenham Introduced and Weed Species Mammals Observed Reptile and Frog Observations Bird Observations