

Status of *Callitris* in Starr Swamp, Trigg Dunes and Jeanes Prisk Reserve, Karryinup, City of Stirling

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All reserves were inspected on foot on 29-June-2012.

Starr Swamp

On the eastern side of Starr Swamp in the road reserve along both sides of Marmion Avenue there are a series of planted *Callitris* trees, most probably *C. verrucosa*.

Intermixed with these trees are a large series of enrichment plantings carried out by ? Main Roads. Species planted here include:

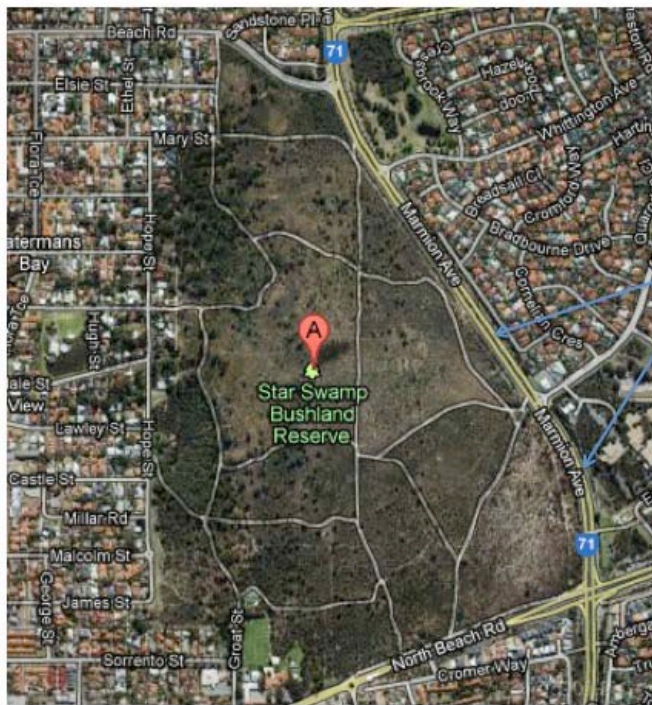
Banksia ashbyi
Banksia attenuata (Northern Sandplains form)
Banksia hookeriana
Banksia prionotes
Banksia sceptrum
Banksia victoriae
Callistemon citrinus
Callitris verrucosa
Calothamnus quadrifidus
Chamelaucium uncinatum
Banksia (Dryandra) sessilis
Eucalyptus ?macrandra
Eucalyptus caesia subsp. *caesia*
Grevillea crithmifolia

Part of the road reserve was burnt in 2007. This has resulted on the deaths of a number of planted species and the subsequent germination of variable numbers of seedlings.

The most prolific of which is Geraldton Wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*) , which has now seeded prolifically and numerous wildlings are present along the verge and marginally over the boundary fence and in Starr Swamp Reserve.

Both *Banksia hookeriana* and *Banksia sceptrum* have seeded to produce flowering plants. There are only 5 of the former but over 20 of the latter. The former are just inside Starr Swamp. This is the first time I have recorded these species as self sown. However, *Banksia hookeriana* does hybridise with the local native *B. prionotes* (Keighery, G.J. (1985). Possible Hybrids between *Banksia hookeriana* and *B. prionotes* (Proteaceae). Western Australian Naturalist **16**: 87-90) so removal of these wildlings would be safe practice .

Callitris verrucosa (Figure 1 and 2) is seeding on both sides of Marmion Avenue and is definitely not native to Starr Swamp and should be removed.



A number of plantings
Callitris along the western
Side of Marmion Ave
have seeded.
Young plants have
grown in the Reserve.

FIGURE 1: STAR SWAMP RESERVE

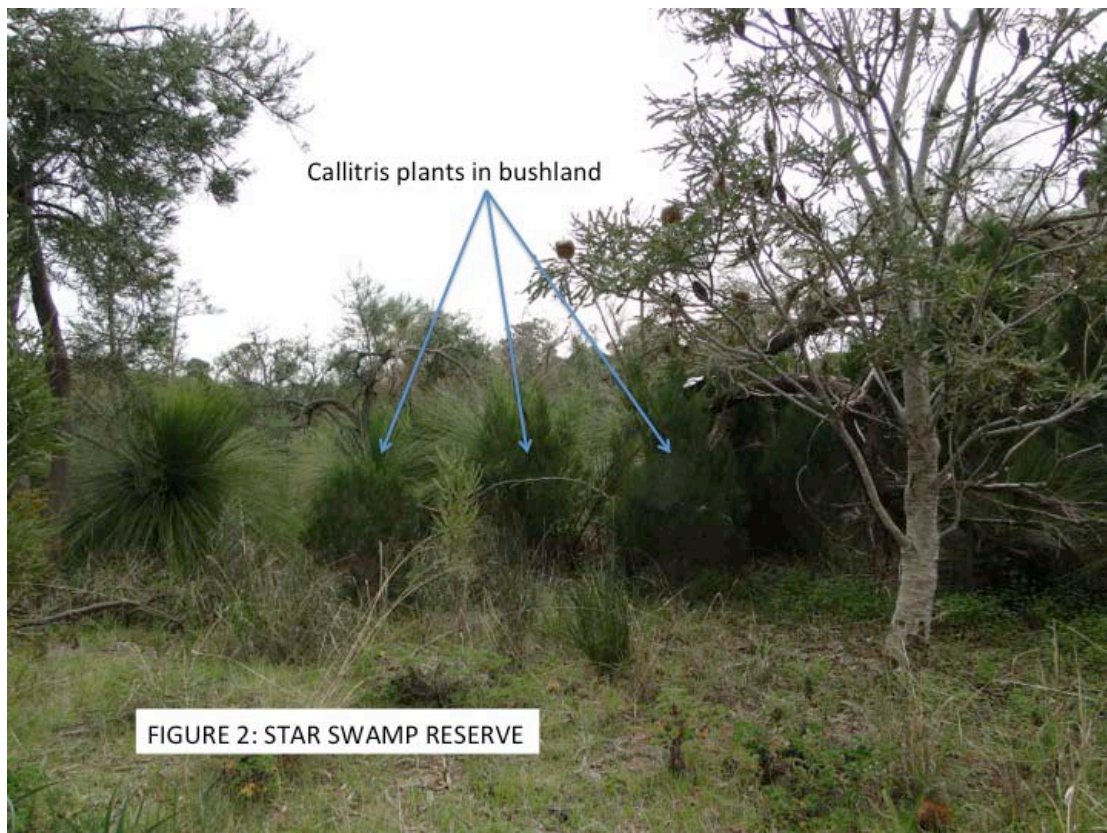


FIGURE 2: STAR SWAMP RESERVE

Trigg Dunes

Along the walk trail that is on the summit of the tall dune on the south side of Karryinup Road there have been scattered plantings of *Callitris*, probably a mixture of *C. preissii* and *C. verrucosa*. These original plantings have either died or were killed by the wildfire in 2002 and have now seeded prolifically down slope towards Karryinup Road. It seems highly unlikely that any of these plants are native to this part of Trigg Dunes. These plants should be removed before they seed

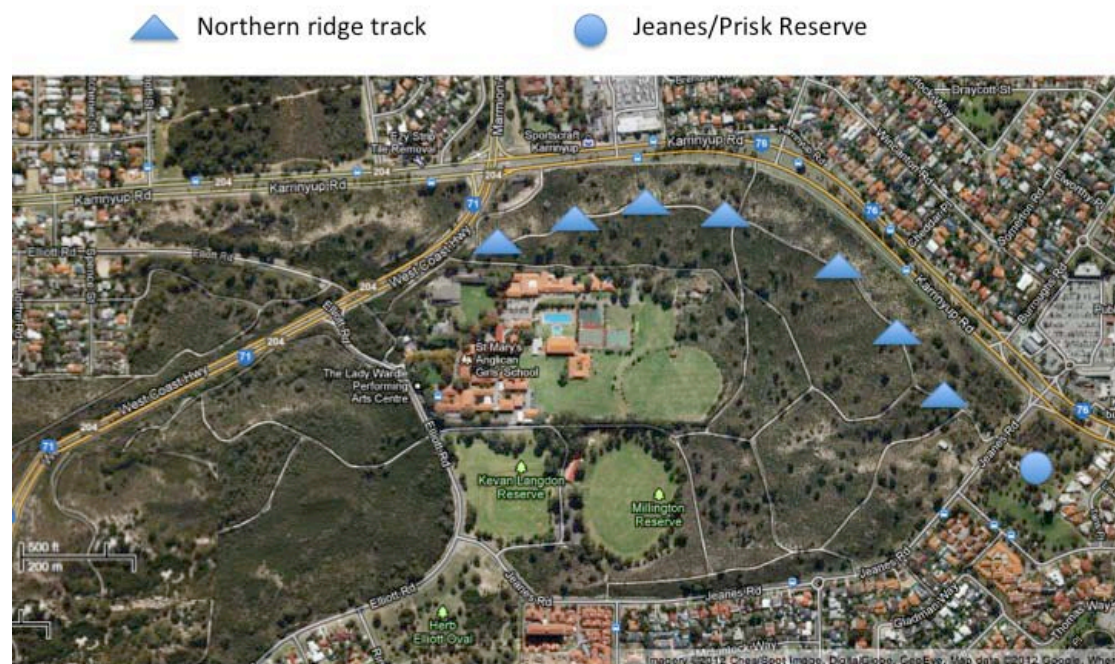


FIGURE 3: TRIGG DUNE RESERVE



Northern ridge track

FIGURE 4: TRIGG DUNE RESERVE



Northern ridge track looking south, no Callitris

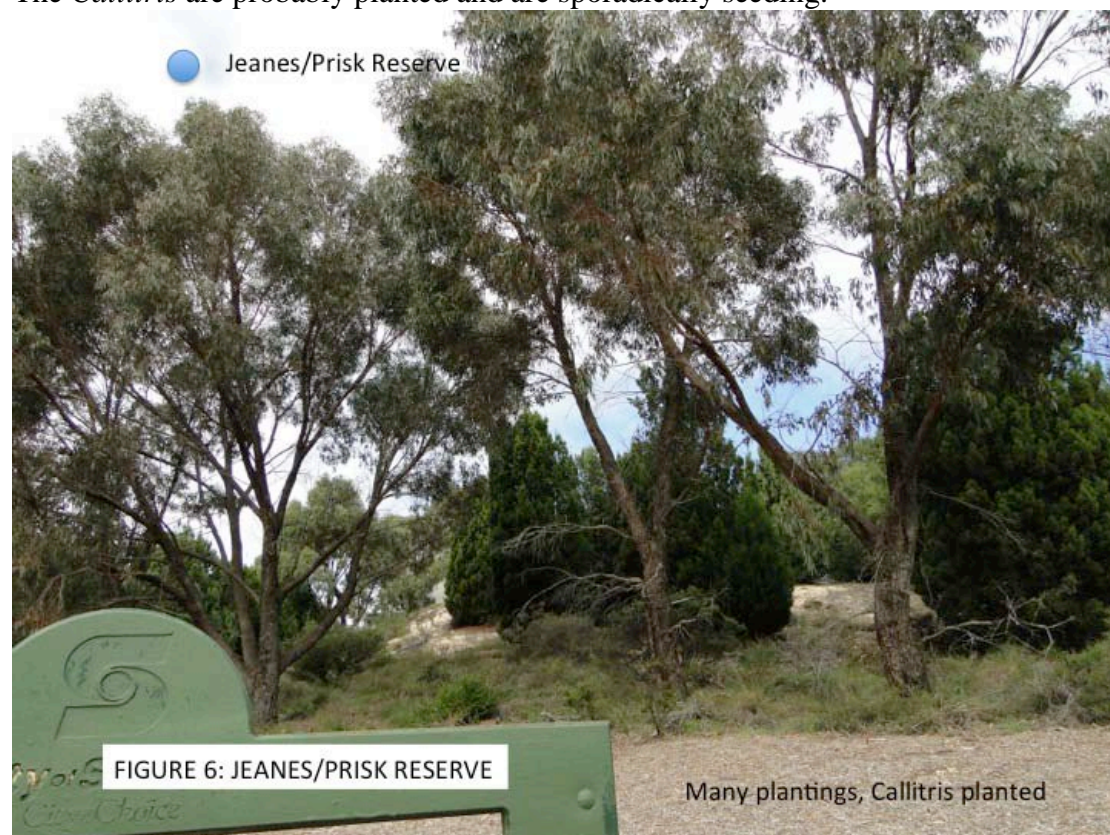


Jeanes Prisk Reserve

On the tall dune at the rear of the bushland portion of this reserve there are several very large *Callitris* trees, and others in the lawned park by the Water Tower. It is tempting to see these as native but there are numerous native and exotic plantings (*Agonis flexuosa*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Eucalyptus megacornuta*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Eucalyptus ? utilis* and *Melaleuca nesophila*) from regions far removed from the local area surrounding the stand. These plantings and the *Callitris* appear to be of a similar age and size to those planted along Marmion Avenue from Karrinyup Road to North Beach road.

More recent plantings of *Acacia lasiocarpa*, *Banksia prionotes* and Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) are more local but still mainly from the limestone soils to the west.

The *Callitris* are probably planted and are sporadically seeding.



Conclusions

Callitris is not native to Starr Swamp, nor are the trees in Trigg Dunes south of Karryinup Road or probably in Jeanes Prisk Reserve. Removal of the Geraldton Wax from Starr Swamp and the *Callitris* wildlings from Trigg Dunes is the Priority as they could alter the structure of the existing plant communities. There is no hurry to do anything in Jeanes Prisk.