

Defoliation of *Melaleuca raphiophylla* by native Sawflies on Peaceful Bay
Road, 28 February 2019

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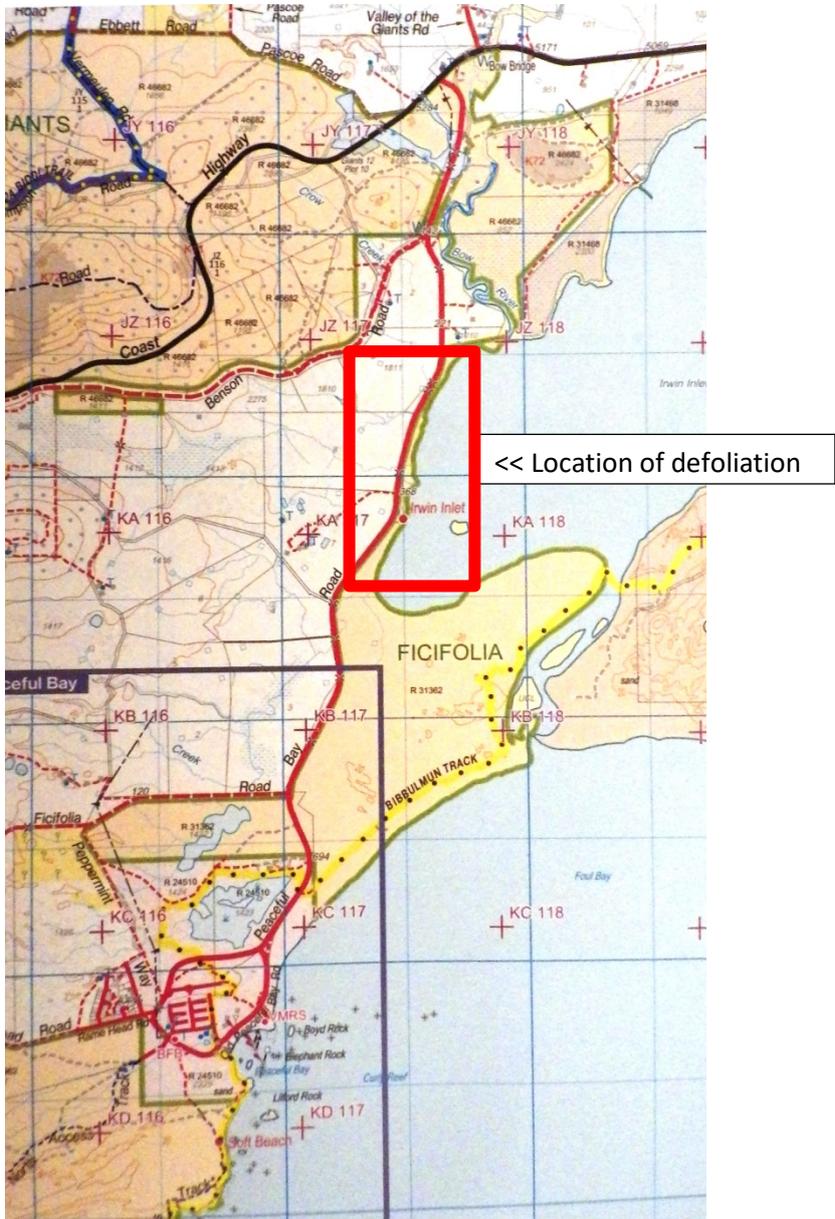
Predisposing conditions:

Narrow remnant edge of vegetation adjacent to pasture and road with marked ecotonal changes across short distances. Some nutrient enrichment from pasture? Brackish? shallow water table.

Prognosis:

Naturally occurring Pterygophorinae sawfly which are phytovores on *Melaleuca* spp. have escaped normal population controls such as parasitoids and are causing defoliation of *Melaleuca raphiophylla*. *M. raphiophylla* is an important component of biomass cover on this Irwin Inlet margin and chronic extensive loss of tree cover may lead to opportunities for weed incursion into the conservation estate on the east side of the Peaceful Bay road. This defoliation needs further monitoring.

Location of defoliation: Along Peaceful Bay Road adjacent to Irwin Inlet



Symptoms: About 30% of *Melaleuca raphiophylla* trees affected by almost complete defoliation



Causal Agent: Pterygophorinae sawfly larvae.



Intact leaves:



Regenerating axillary buds:

