

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REPORT

DETECTION OF A NEW (not yet described) EAST GIPPSLAND SPINY CRAYFISH (*Euastacus sp.*)

PIKES SADDLE – ARTE RIVER CATCHMENT – KUARK FOREST

VicForests Logging coupe 830-507-0023

Abstract

This preliminary investigation report records the presence of a significant Spiny Crayfish (*Euastacus sp.*) from the “East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish Group” encountered in a preliminary investigation of threatened species values within and/or adjacent to VicForests scheduled and now active logging coupe 830-507-0023.

Further details arising from this preliminary investigation are provided below.

Status of Site

Coupe 830-507-0023 has been logged in part with logging currently ongoing as at 25/01/2016.

Date of Investigation

24/01/2016

Surveyors

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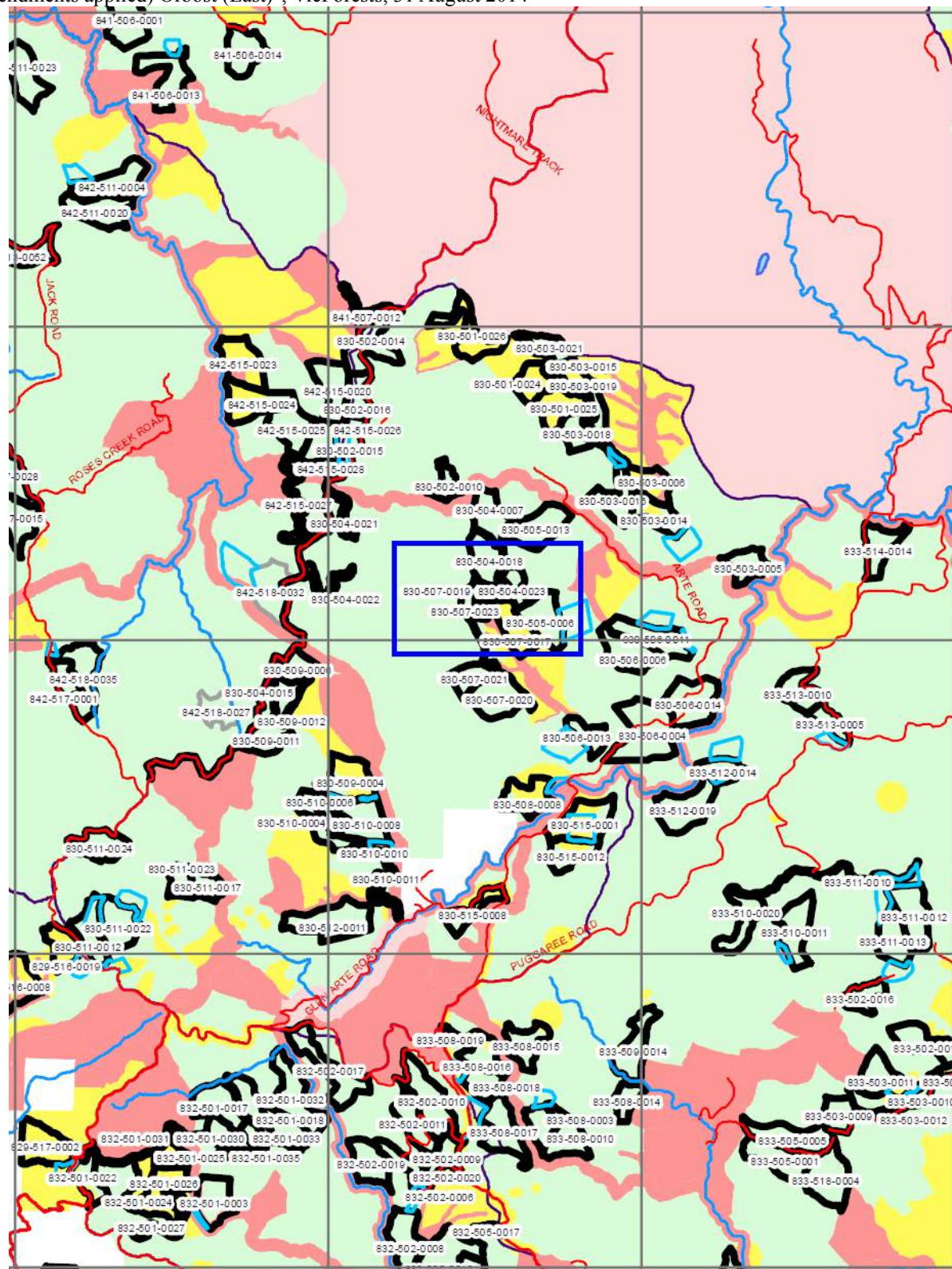
Date of report

25/01/2016

Location details

Within and nearby to VicForests scheduled logging coupe 830-507-0023 along Pikes Hill Road (Pikes Saddle) in the “Kuark Forest Block” of East Gippsland.

Figure A. Detail from: "Approved Timber Release Plan Map – 2013-2016 Change Map; August 2015 (with all approved amendments applied) Orbost (East)", VicForests, 31 August 2014



* Investigation location within blue box.

Method Used and Results 1 (Summary)

Equipment Used (All surveys)

- Head-torch
- Digital Camera
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
[Garmin GPSMAP 62s]

Method used/Results Summary – Walking search/inspection of creeks for Euastacus sp. [25/01/2016]

1. On the 24 January 2016, from around 01:00am surveyors walked up a small stream flowing within the southern border of VicForests logging coupe 830-507-0023 searching for the presence of *Euastacus* species.
2. At the following locations: 55 H 657416 5845373 and 55 H 657373 5845381 two separate small *Euastacus* sp. individuals were observed moving through two separate small pools in the stream.
3. Photographs were taken of these *Euastacus* sp. individuals with the process of identifying each species commencing on site as per the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's "survey standard" "10-Spiny-Cray-Euastacus-spp-Survey-Standards-FINALv1.0_2MAY11" as published on their website.
4. In field species identification confirmed that the individuals encountered were from within the "East Gippsland Spiny Cray Group (EGSCGroup)".
5. Subsequent inquiries have further confirmed that the *Euastacus* sp. are in fact from a new species of Spiny Crayfish as yet undescribed.
6. Photographs of the new species of East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish encountered are provided in the Results 2. section as Figure 1. and further location details are provided in the maps of Results 3. below.

Results 2 – New Species of East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish; Figures 1(a-d).

Figure 1(a). Individual #01



Figure 1(b). Individual #01



Results 2 – New Species of East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish; Figures 1(a-d).

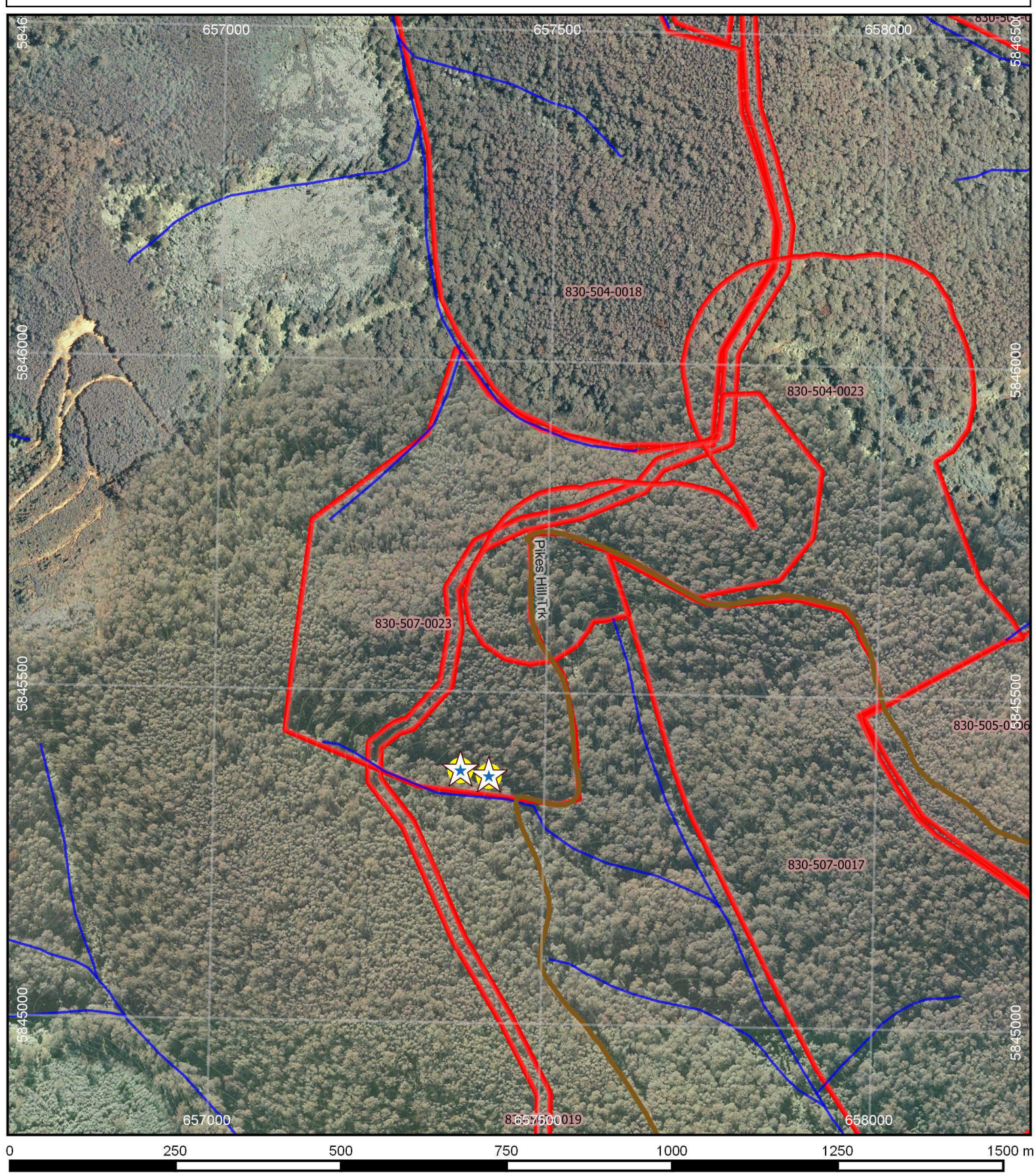
Figure 1(a). Individual #02








Figure 1(b). Individual #01



Results 3. Figure 2. Pikes Saddle (830-507-0023) - New species of Euastacus (from the East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish Group) detection locations; Scheduled Logging (VicForests Timber Release Plan, August 2015); Aerial Imagery



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------------|
|  | New species of Euastacus
(from the East Gippsland Spiny Crayfish Group)
detection locations |  | Scheduled Logging Coupes
(VicForests, TRP)
[Approved_TRP_August_2015] |  | Watercourses |
| | |  | Roads |  | Contours |

Projection: EPSG: 28355
GDA94/MGA Zone 55

Map Scale:
1:7,500



25 January 2016