

## Coal River Gorge Nature Reserve

The Coal River Gorge is a spectacular and rugged incised gorge 3 km long with sandstone bluffs and cliffs cutting down 180 metres into the underlying bedrock. The gorge provides spectacular scenery in an area that has largely been cleared for agricultural production. The Nature Reserve of 209 hectares (Figure 1) was originally proclaimed as a State Reserve in 1970. A management plan for the Reserve, produced by the Parks and Wildlife Service, was released in 1998.



The Coal River Gorge Nature Reserve is a stronghold for the 'listed' vegetation community - *Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland on sandstone. No threatened species have been recorded in the Reserve, however, this may simply be an artefact of the area's inaccessibility and relatively low visitation. The Reserve does provide important habitat for a diversity of species, particularly birds. Threatened fauna records near the Reserve are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Coal River Gorge Nature Reserve

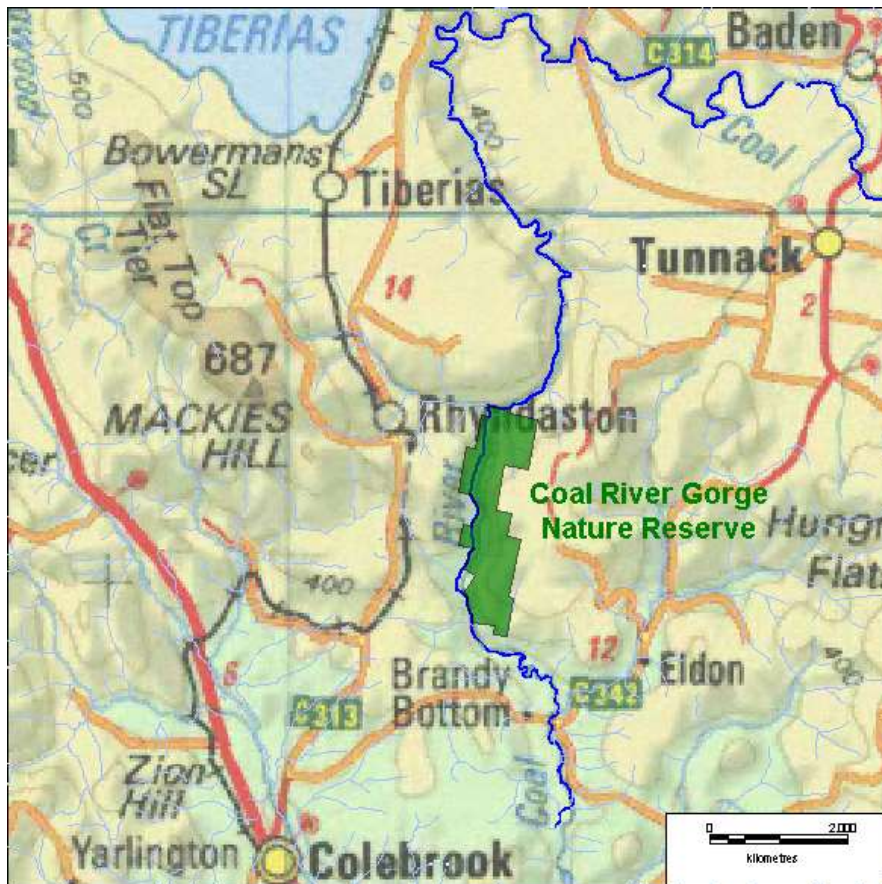
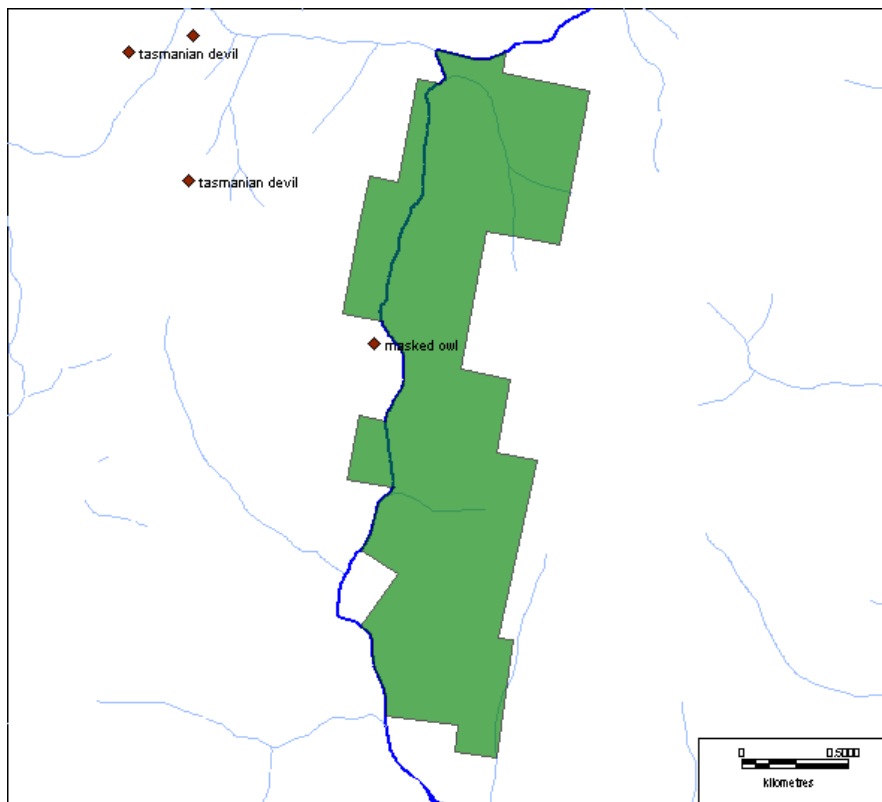


Figure 2: Threatened species records near the Coal River Gorge Nature Reserve



## *Access*

Coal River Gorge is rarely visited as there is no obvious public access or formed walking tracks in the area. One option to get to the gorge is from the end of Youngs Road in Rhyndaston, however some private land needs to be traversed initially.

The gorge is only 3 kilometres long however it is best to allocate a day as it is steep and rough walking in places. At the southern end of the gorge it is a steep climb up to the road that heads north back to Rhyndaston.