



Bushfire Response to Slope & Vegetation Issues

Prepared by John Travers

March 2018

Introduction

- This document responds to the slope and vegetation matters raised by RFS.
- Blackash have not provided evidence of their field work for slope and vegetation. The proponent undertook hundreds of documented hours and independent surveys.
- The RFS came to the site with the Applicant and myself in August 2015. They saw the slope gradients first hand and agreed to our position. There was doubt. Thus their current position is not supportable and or explainable.
- The applicant engaged two independent bushfire experts to review slope and vegetation position. They agreed that these were correct.

John Travers

Bushfire Issue No 1

The RFS states that slopes are in excess of 18 degrees within the APZ and as a result the vegetation can not be managed

Response:

This is incorrect. The following pages (8-32) provide detailed slope analysis from survey captured data of each of the 24 Transects. It shows;

- The registered surveyors Long Sections
- The vegetation formation type
- The location of the APZ
- A photo of areas that are 18 degrees or higher, typically this is either a short sandstone ledge or a short escarpment.

Note: An explanatory page to explain how the information has been portrayed is provided.

Bushfire Issue No 2

The vegetation within the hazard is all forest

Response:

The vegetation has been mapped extensively by *Travers bushfire & ecology* and checked by *Eco Logical Australia* and the predominate vegetation using *PBP* methodology is tall heath.

Despite that we used forest to assess the bushfire attack as a precautionary measure to remove any concerns regarding the predominate vegetation classification and to add robustness to the use of the data.

Bushfire Issue No 3

Transgrid vegetation creates a bushfire congestion point which can cause denial to safe evacuation

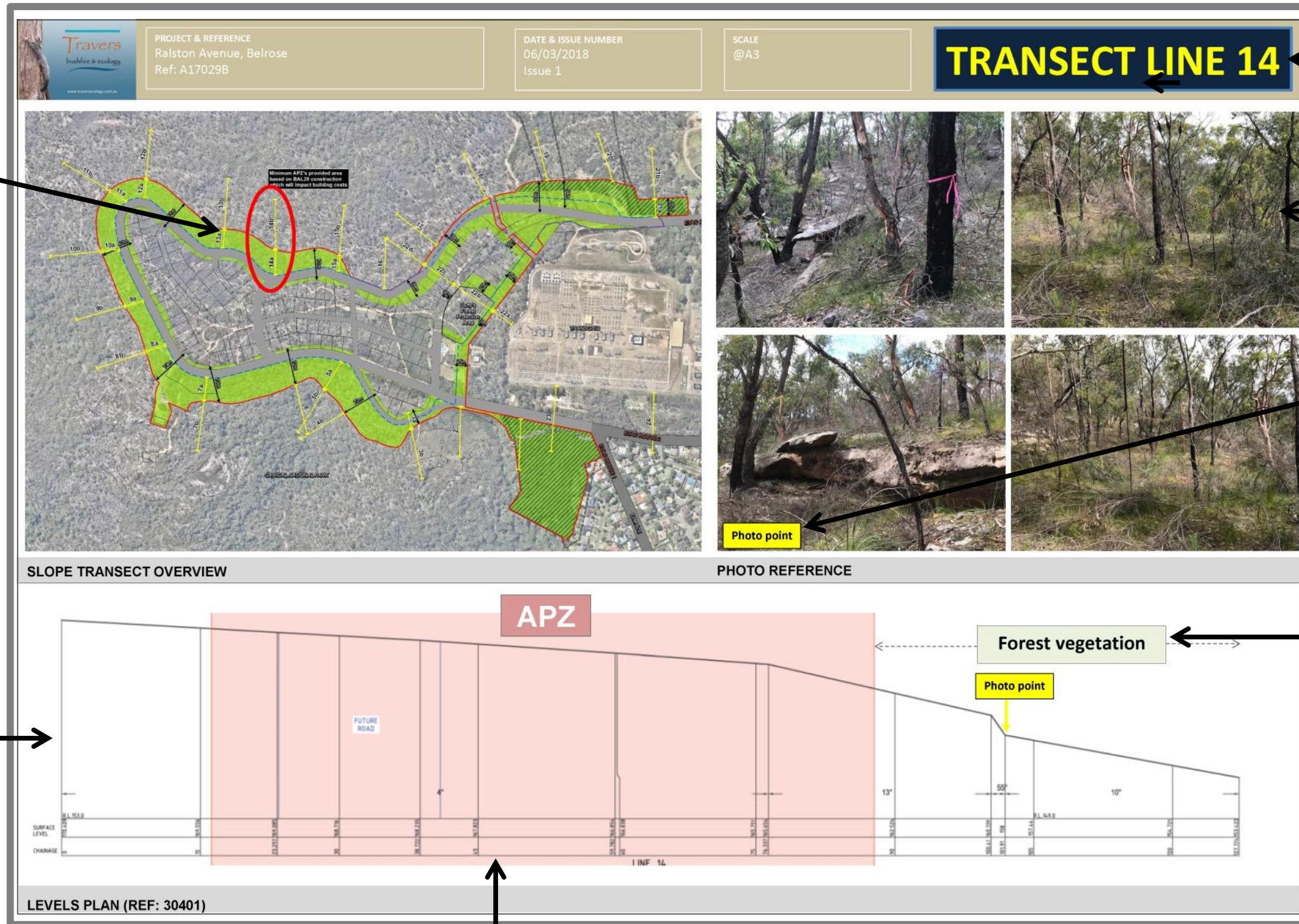
Response:

Any roadside vegetation management can be dealt with at DA stage in several ways e.g:

- Agreement with Transgrid and that legal agreement converted into our extensive Fuel Management Plan;
- A Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) can be built on site as shown in purple hatching below. This site is based on the RFS methodology to determine the NSP (and as explained in our bushfire report April 2017). A NSP offers an above *PBP* standard bushfire evacuation response for subdivisions.



EXPLANATORY SHEET FOR FOLLOWING FIGURES



The red circle denotes the location of the transect relevant to the plan

Denotes the transect line number

Actual photos taken along the transect line

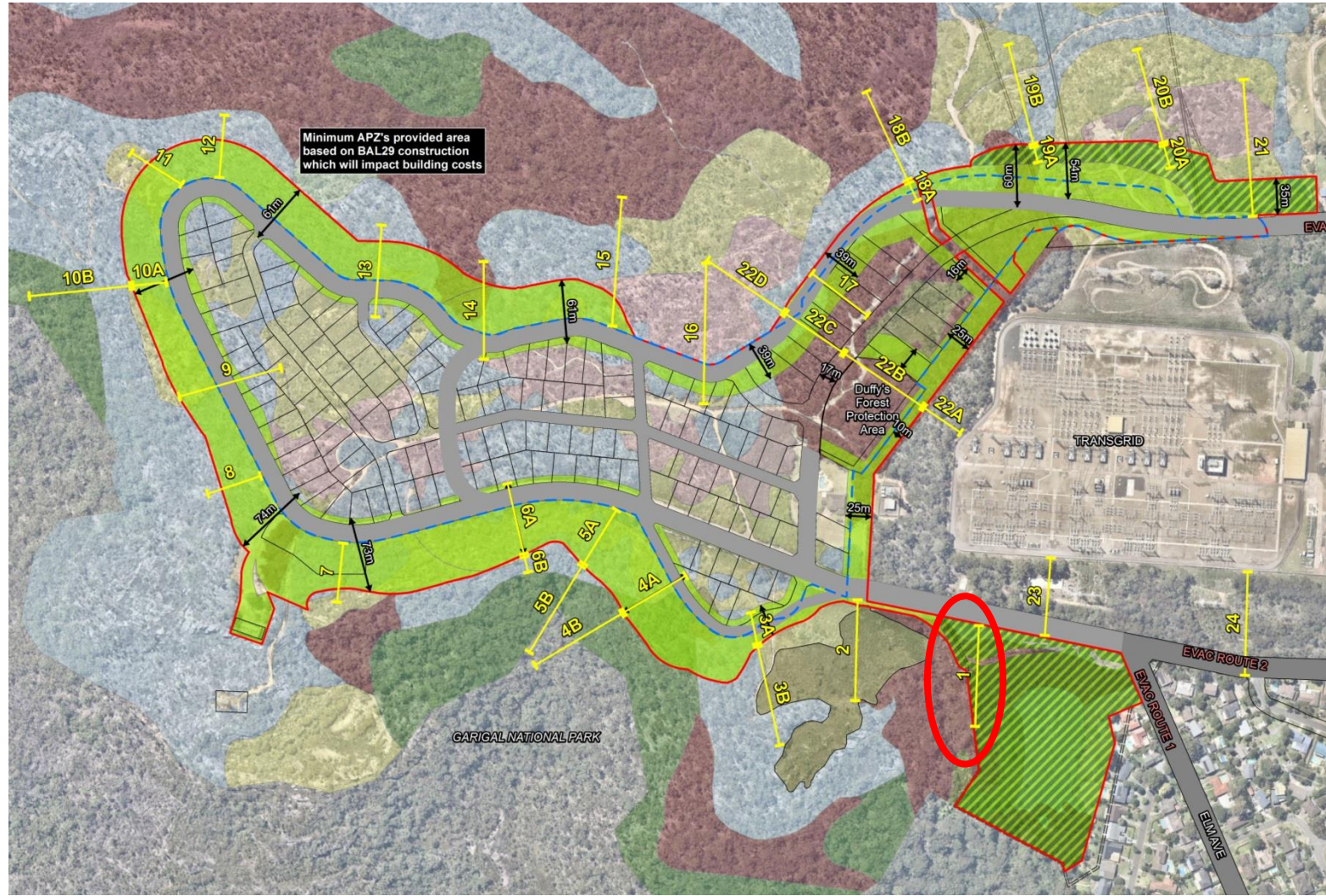
Photo taken at specific 'photo point' along transect

The slope 'long section' represents the transect surveyed (i.e. Transect Line 14) and the length of the transect

This describes the bushfire hazard outside of the APZ

The pink area represents the proposed APZ. Any slopes exceeding 18 degrees are provided with commentary (i.e. sandstone escarpments)

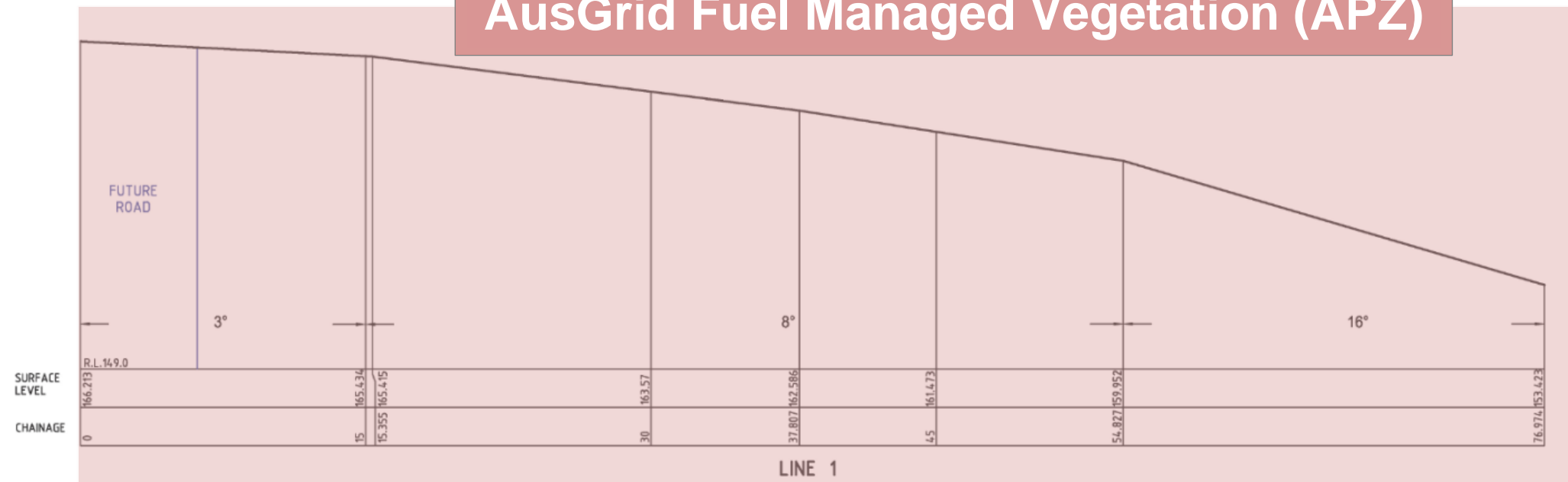
TRANSECT LINE 1



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

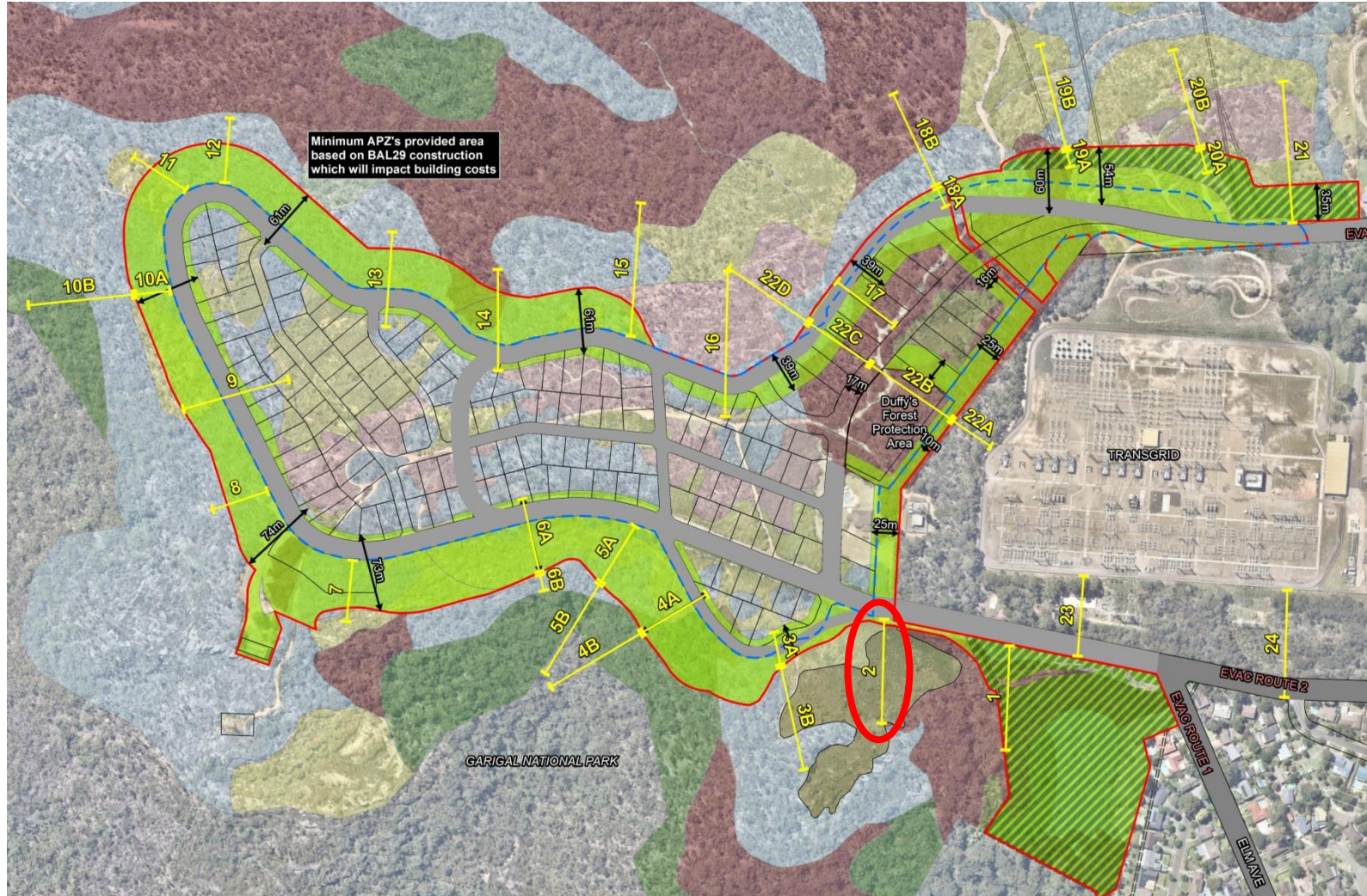
PHOTO REFERENCE

AusGrid Fuel Managed Vegetation (APZ)



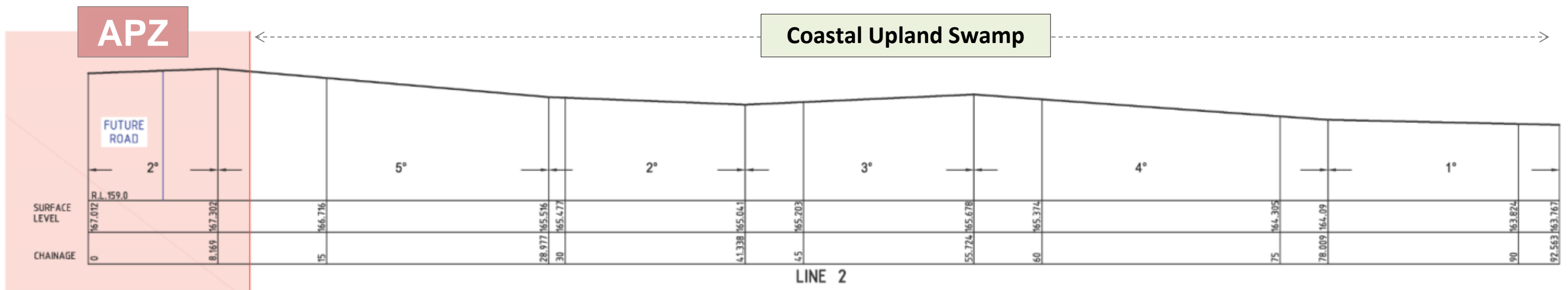
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TRANSECT LINE 2



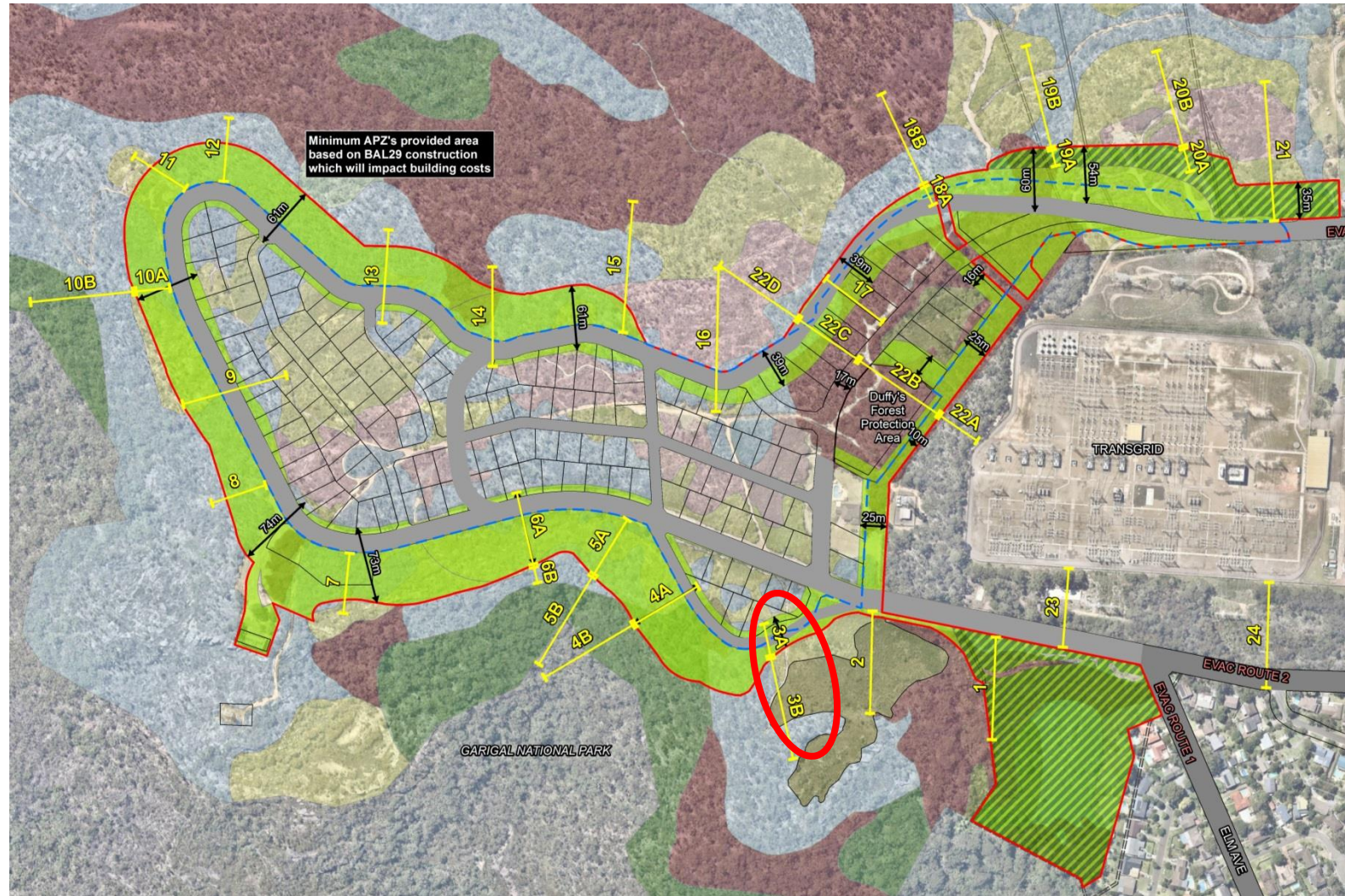
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



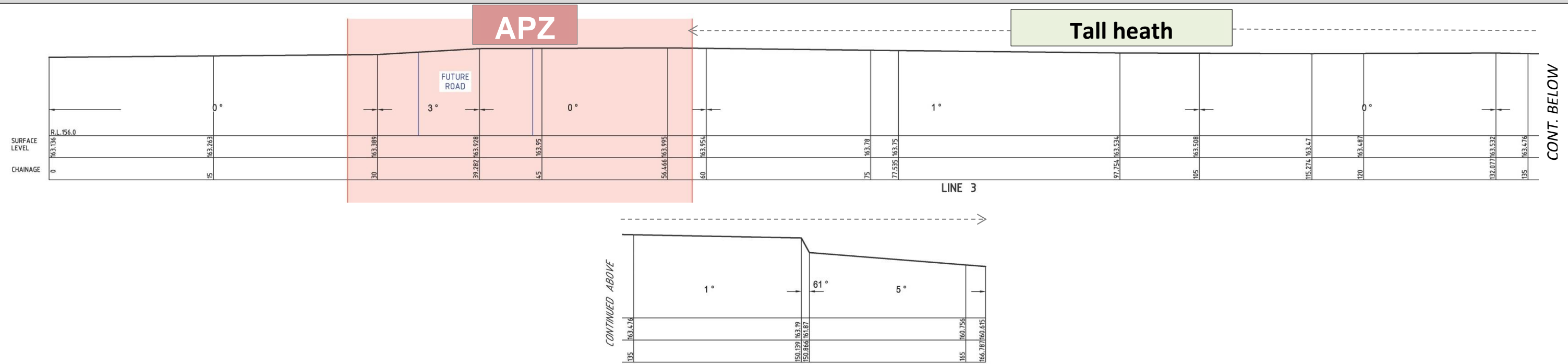
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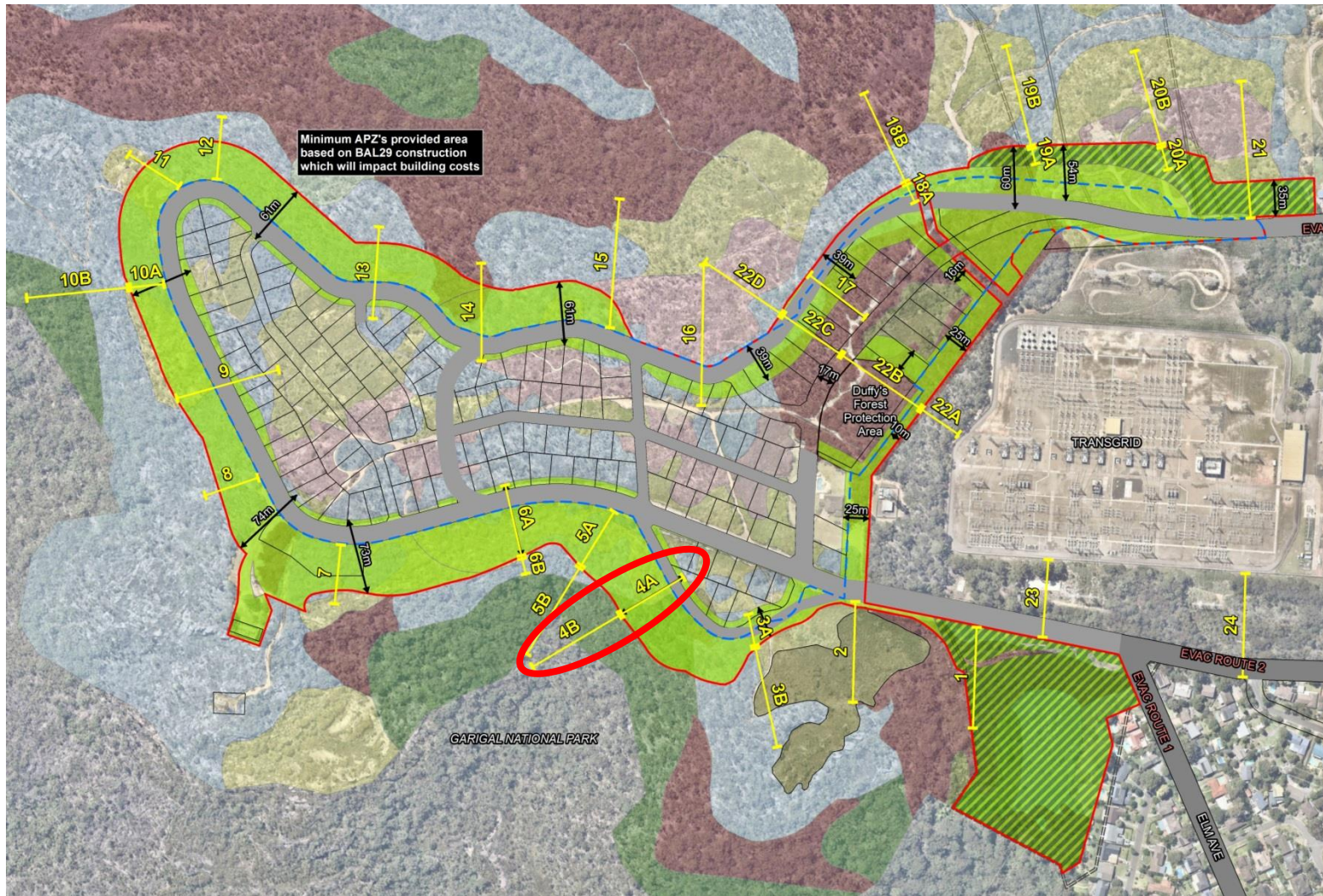
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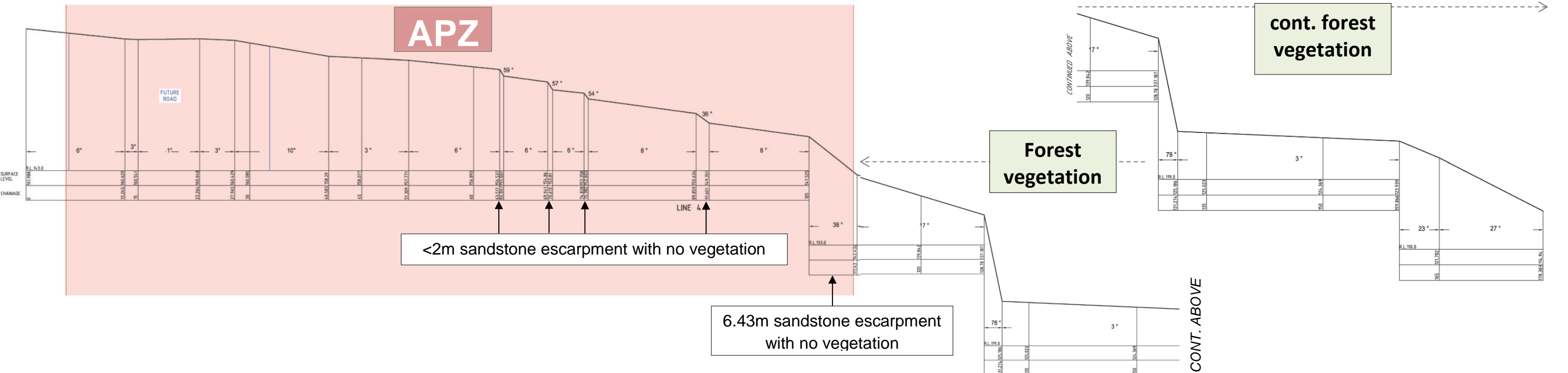
CONT. BELOW

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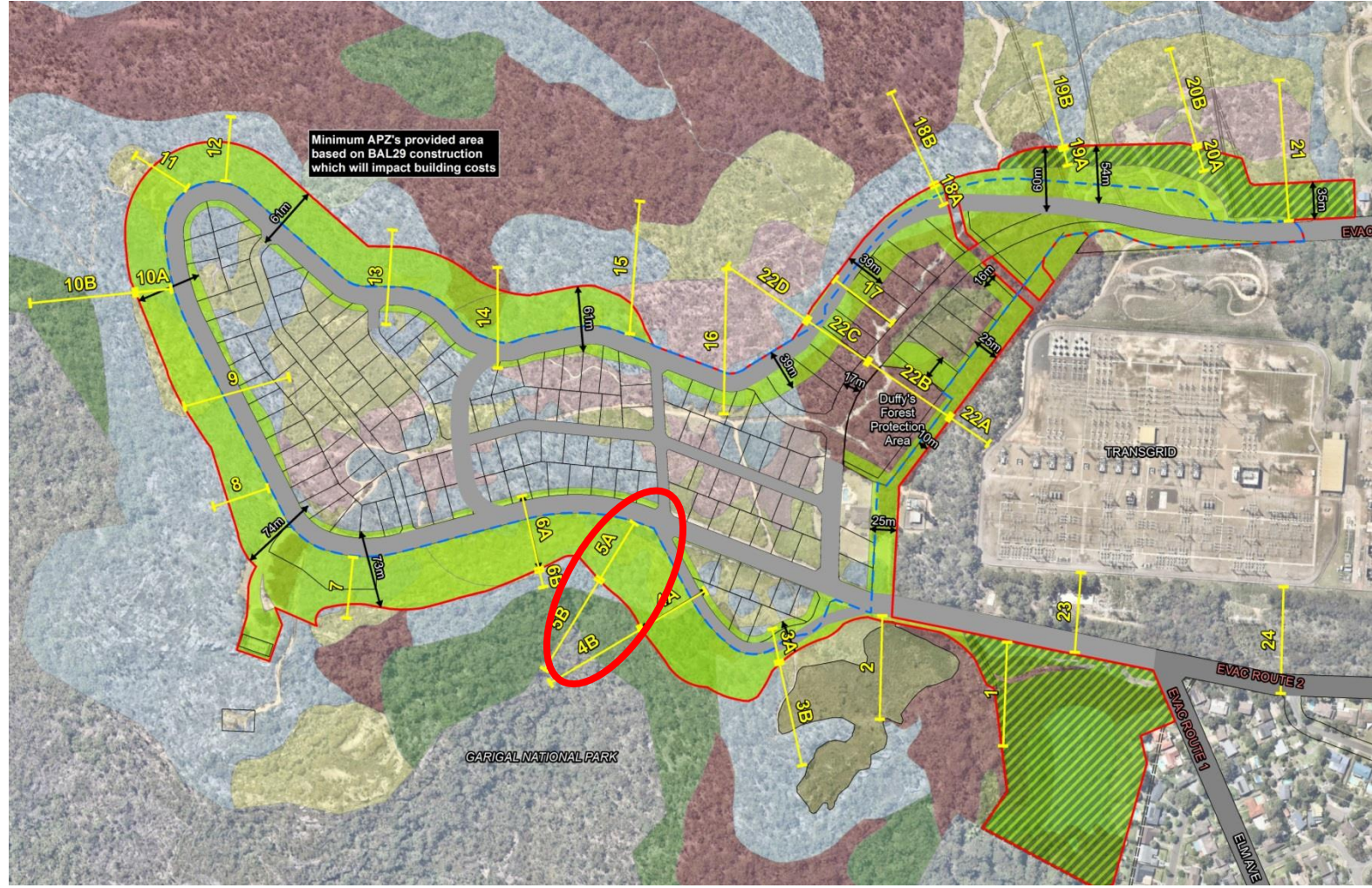
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



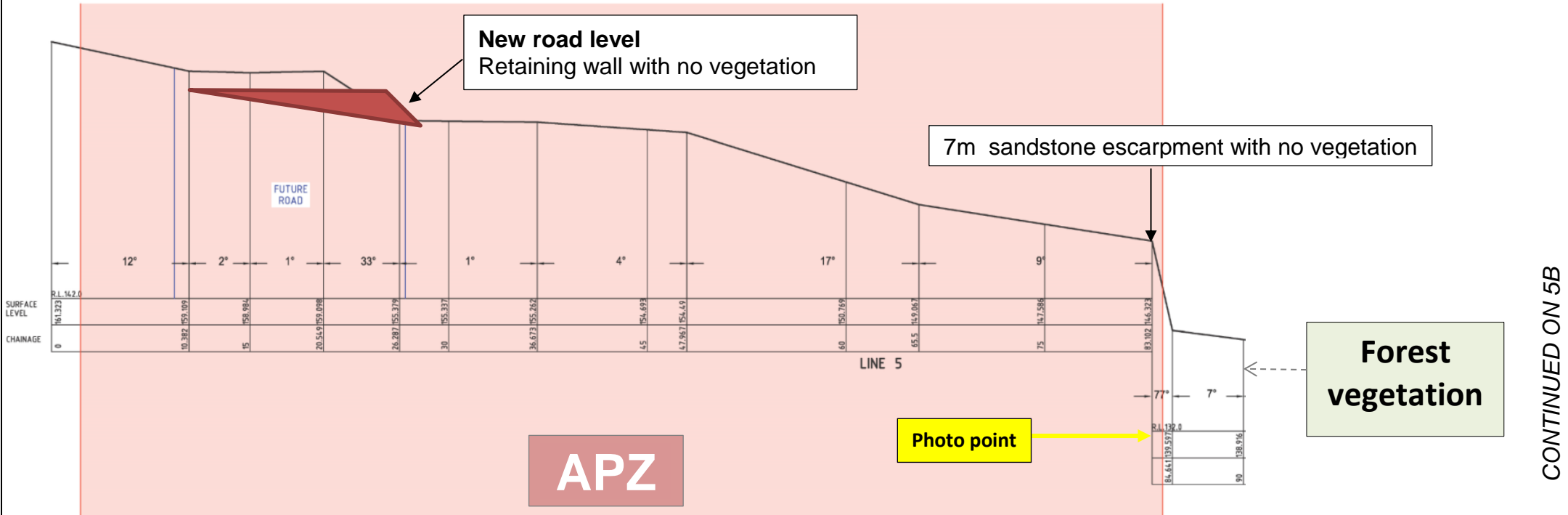
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TRANSECT LINE 5a



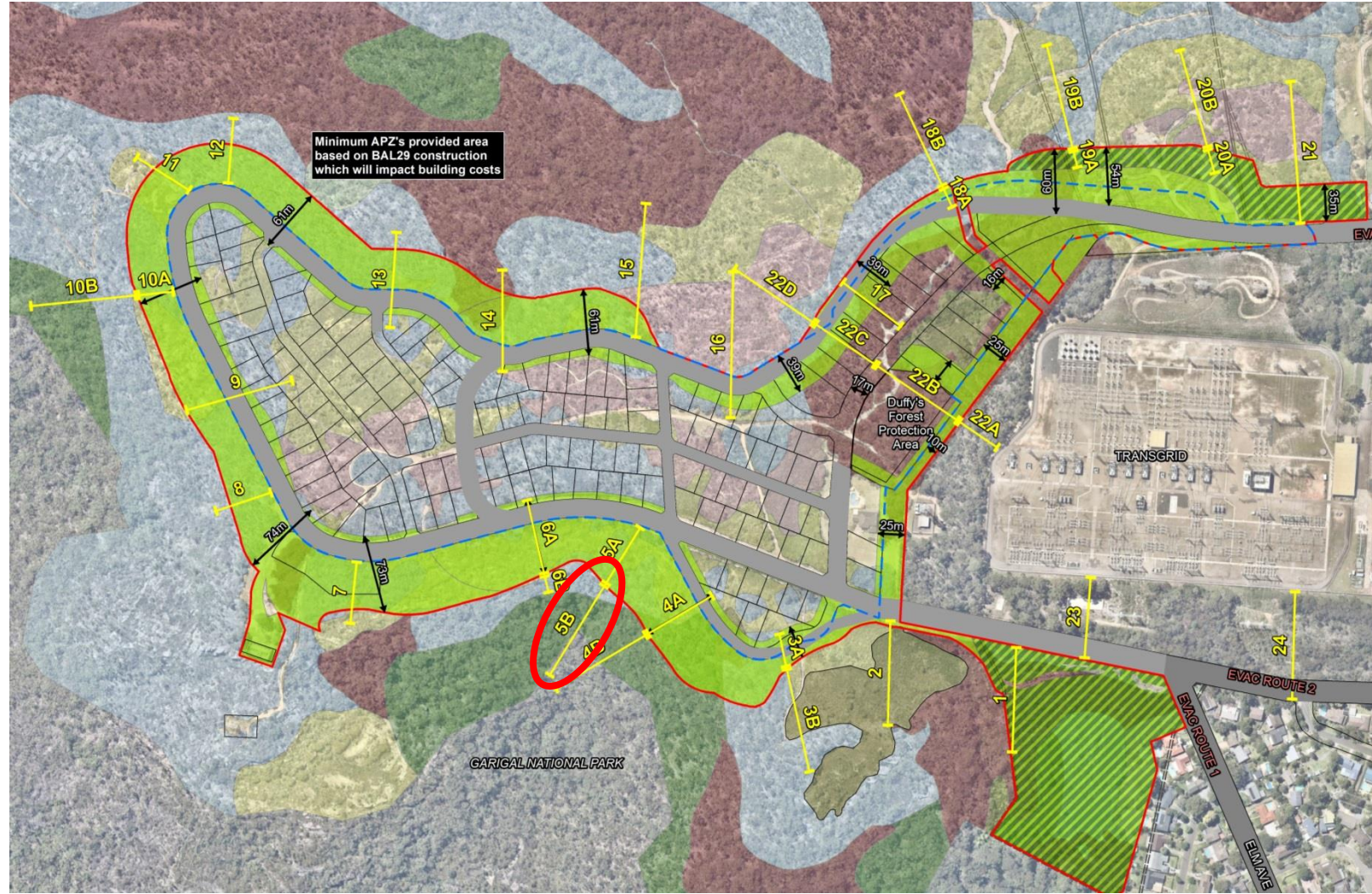
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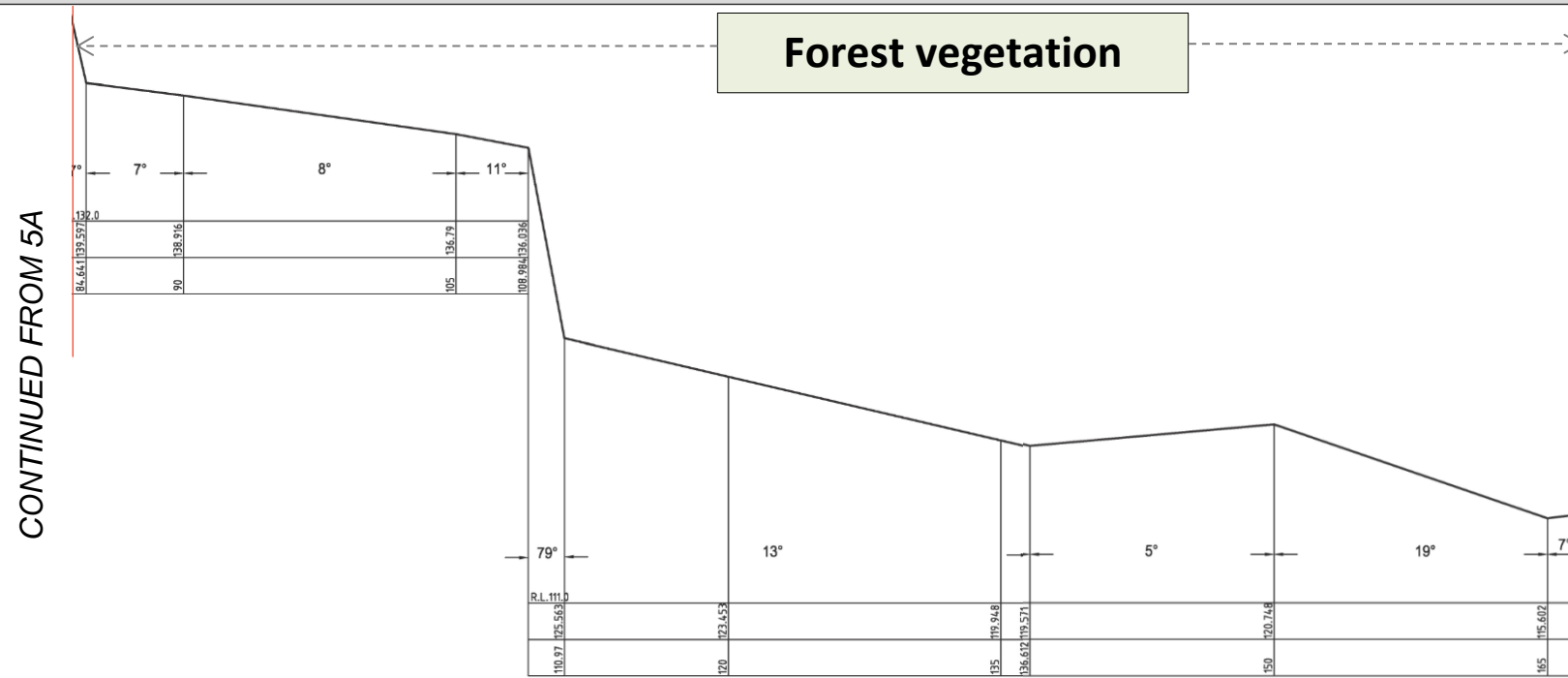
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TRANSECT LINE 5b



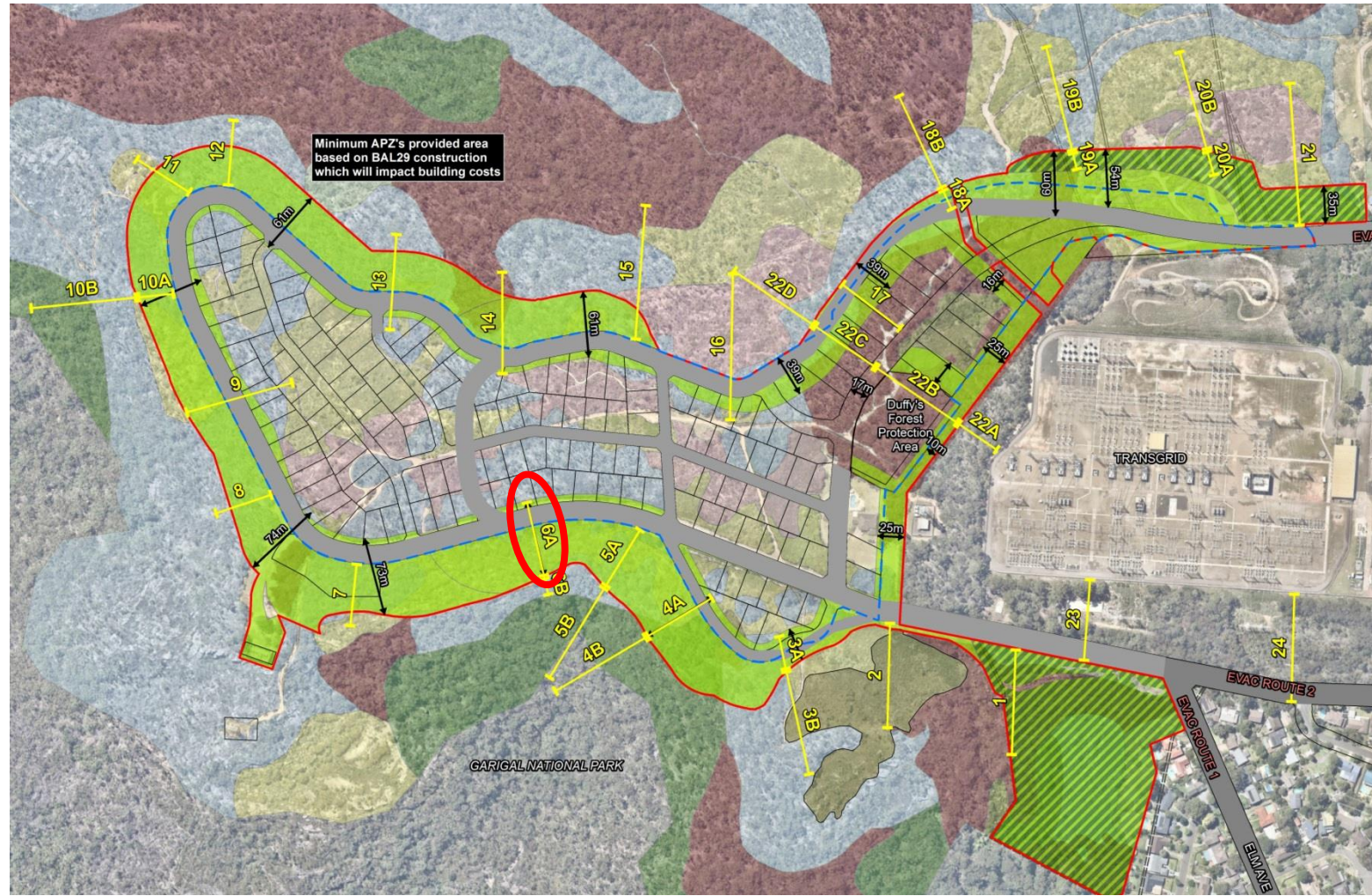
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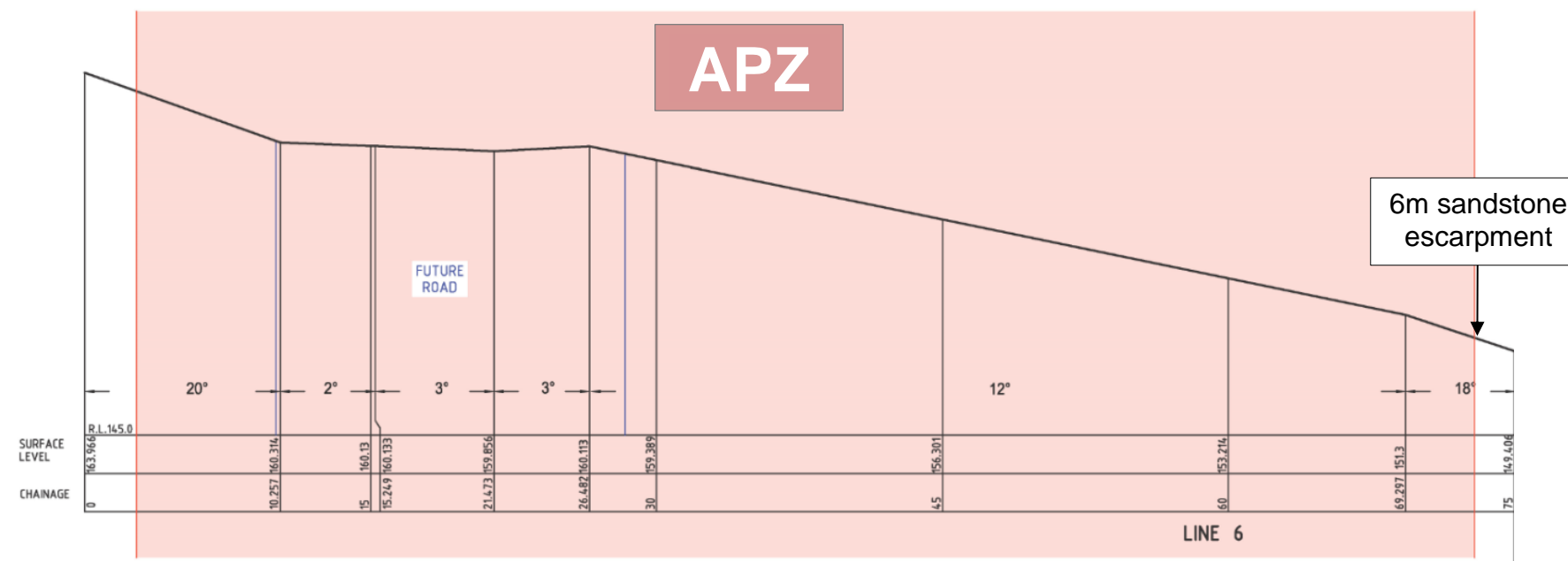
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TRANSECT LINE 6a



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

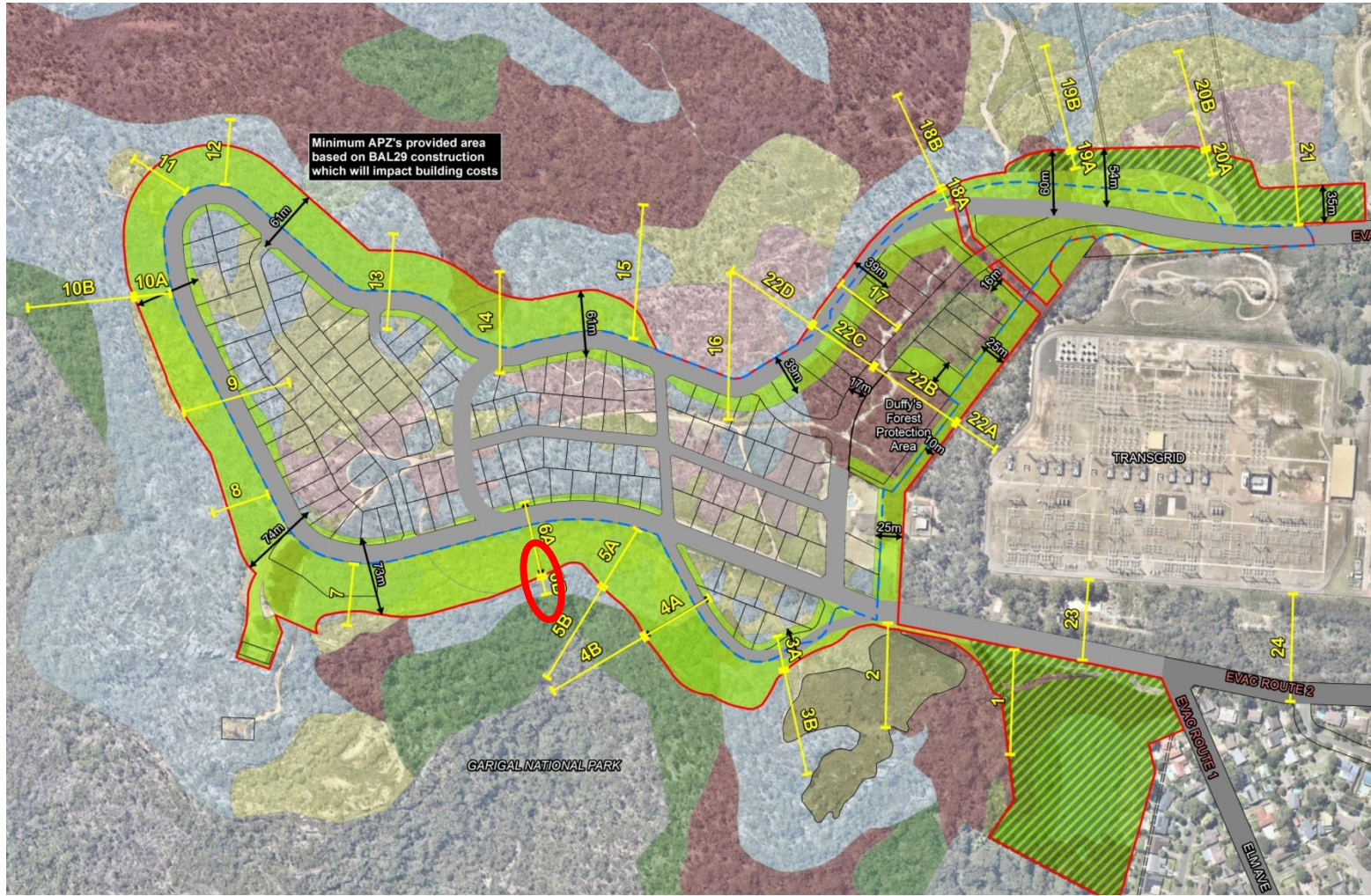
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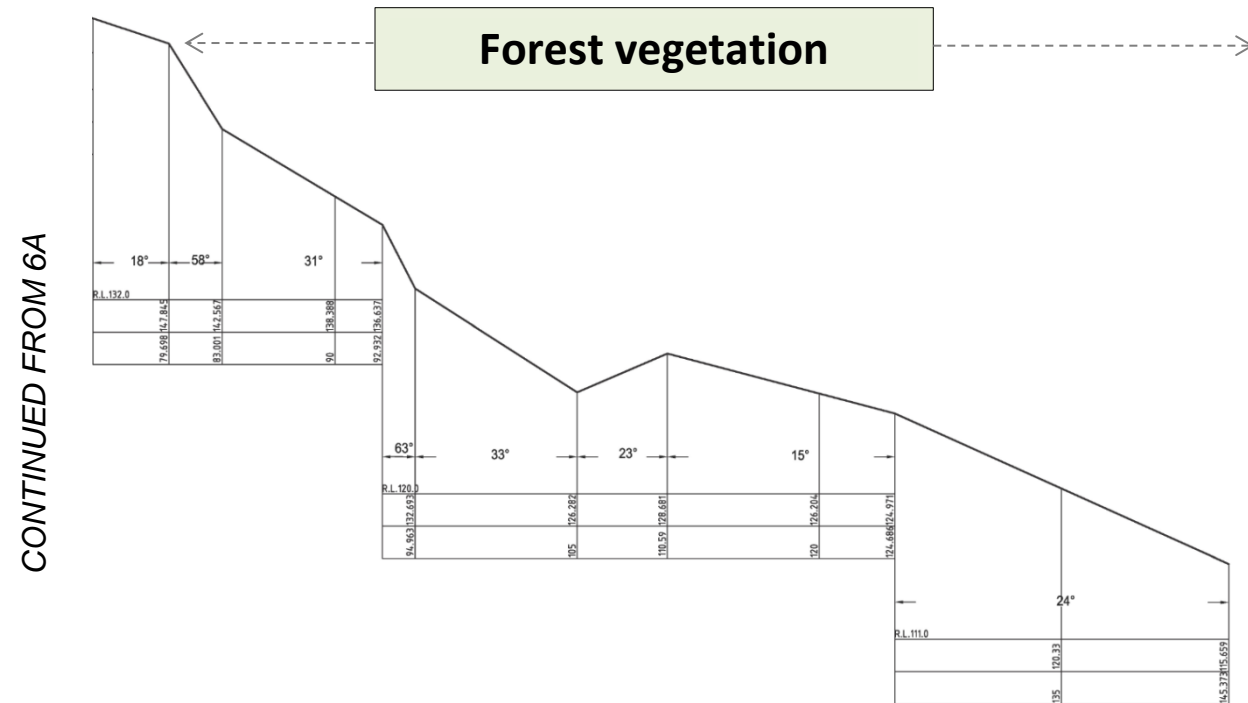
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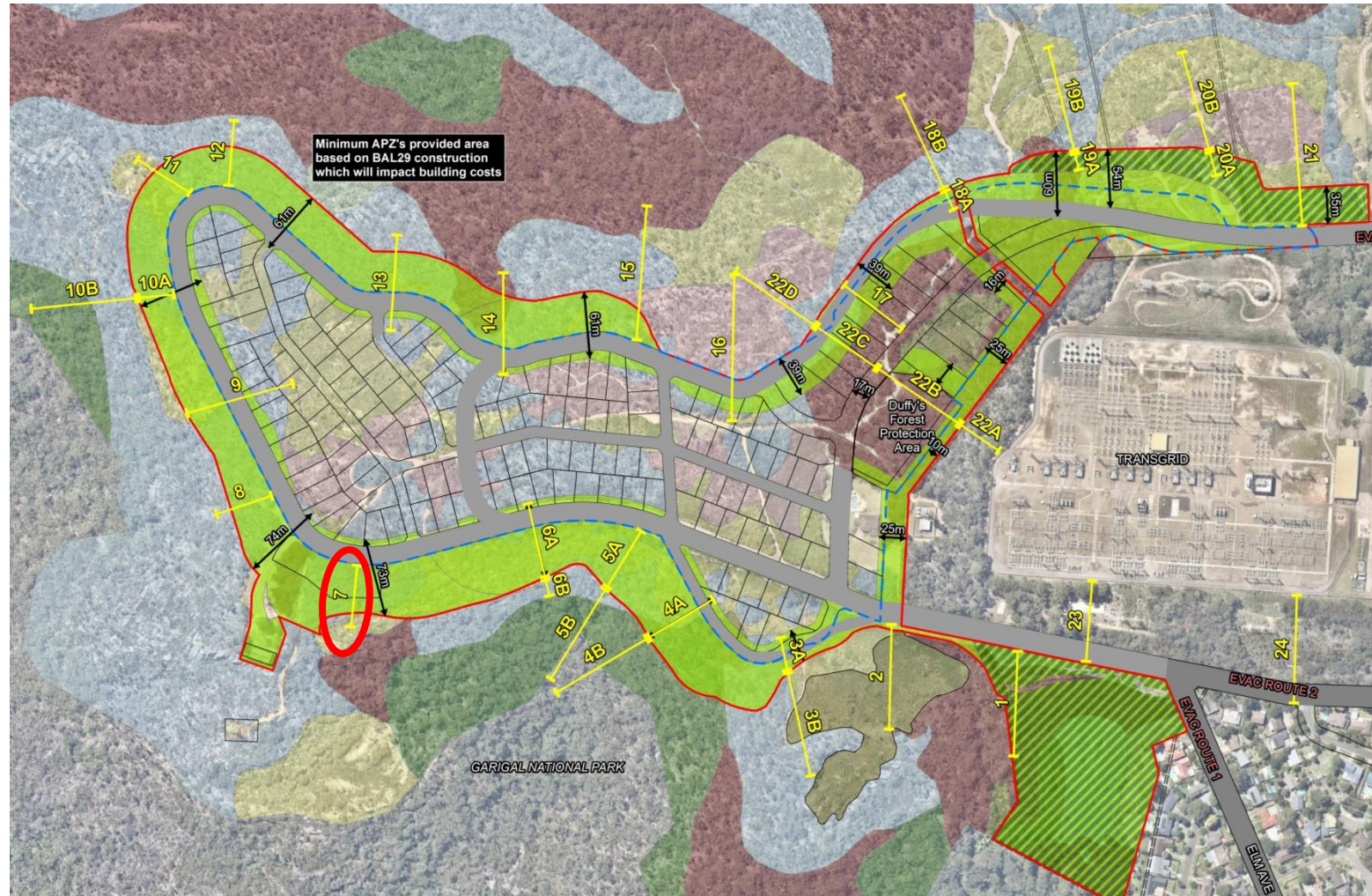


SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

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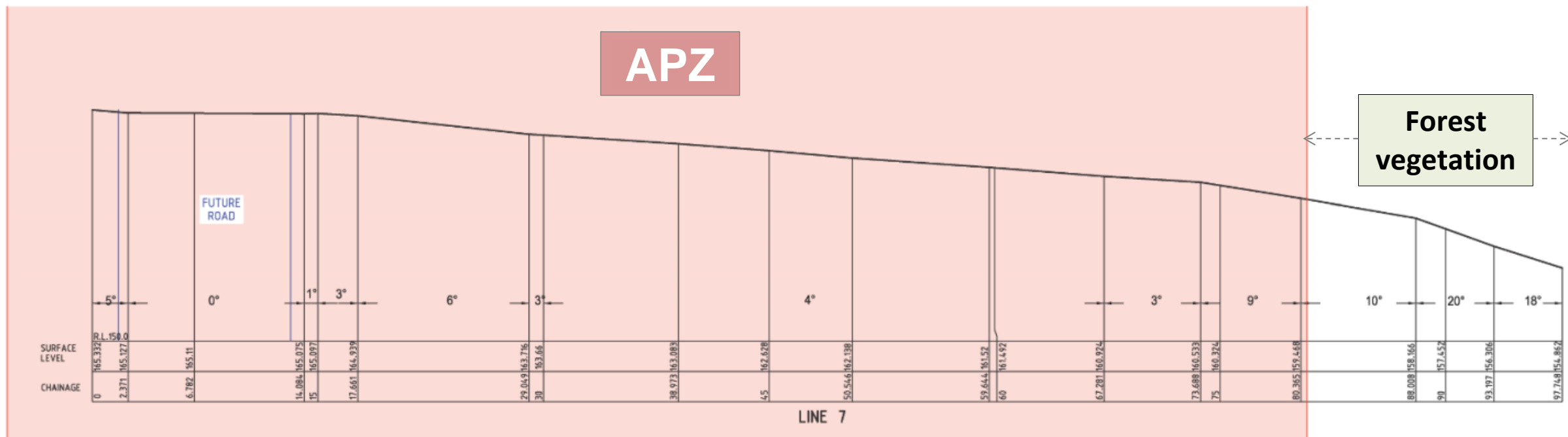


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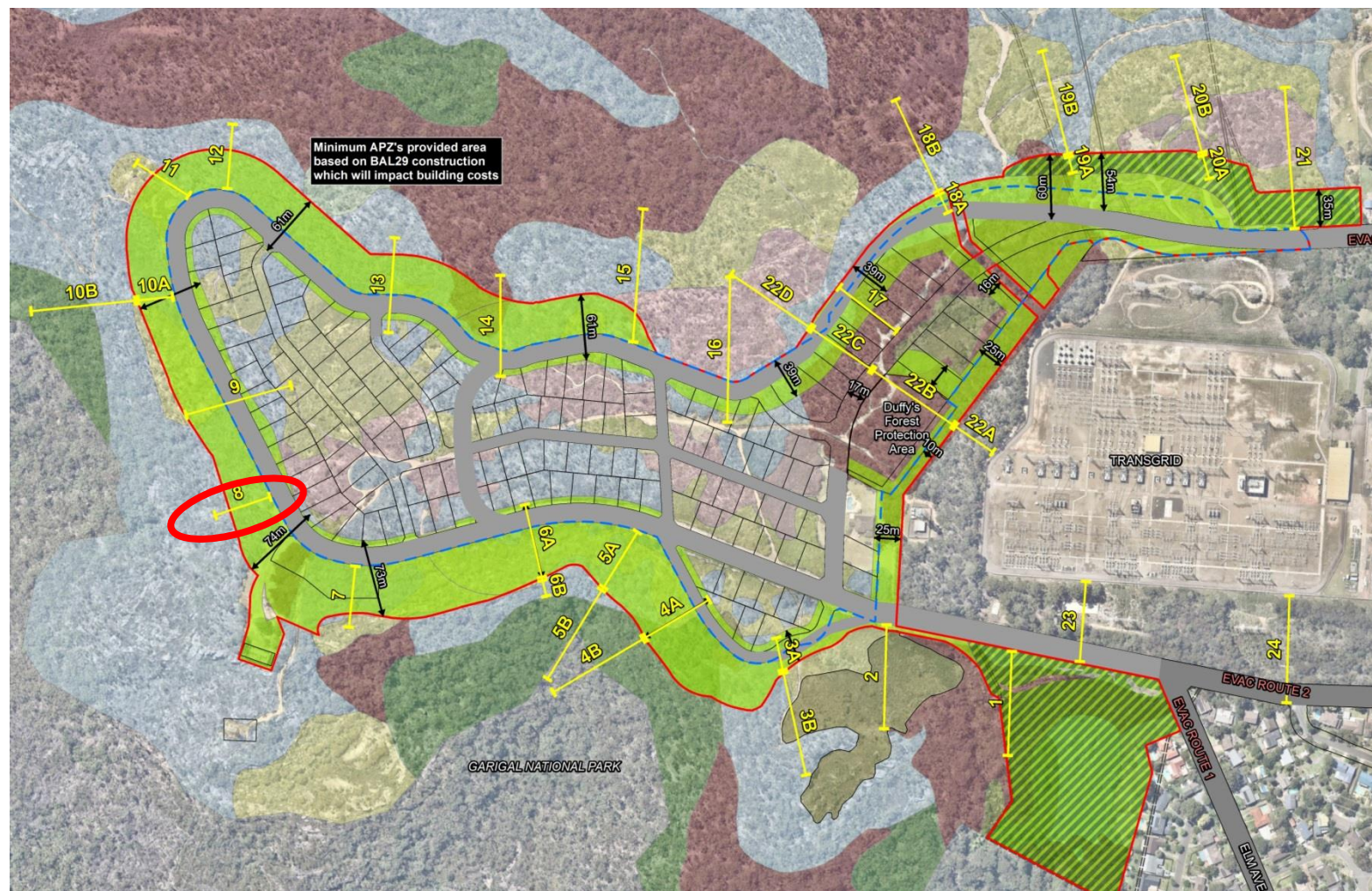
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

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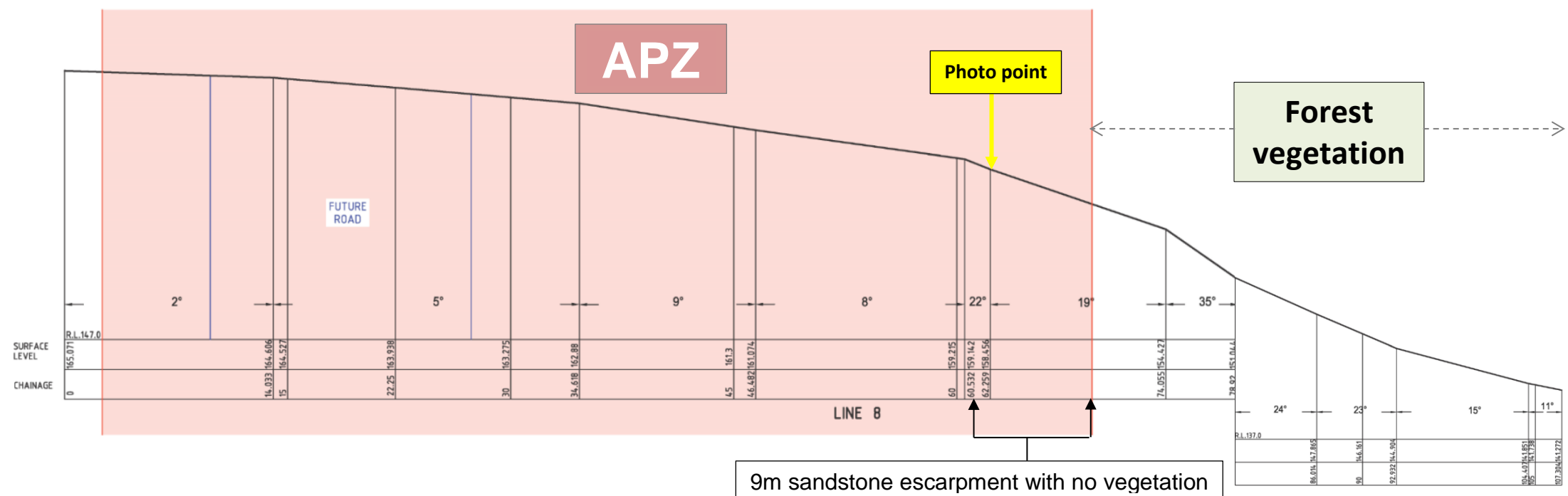
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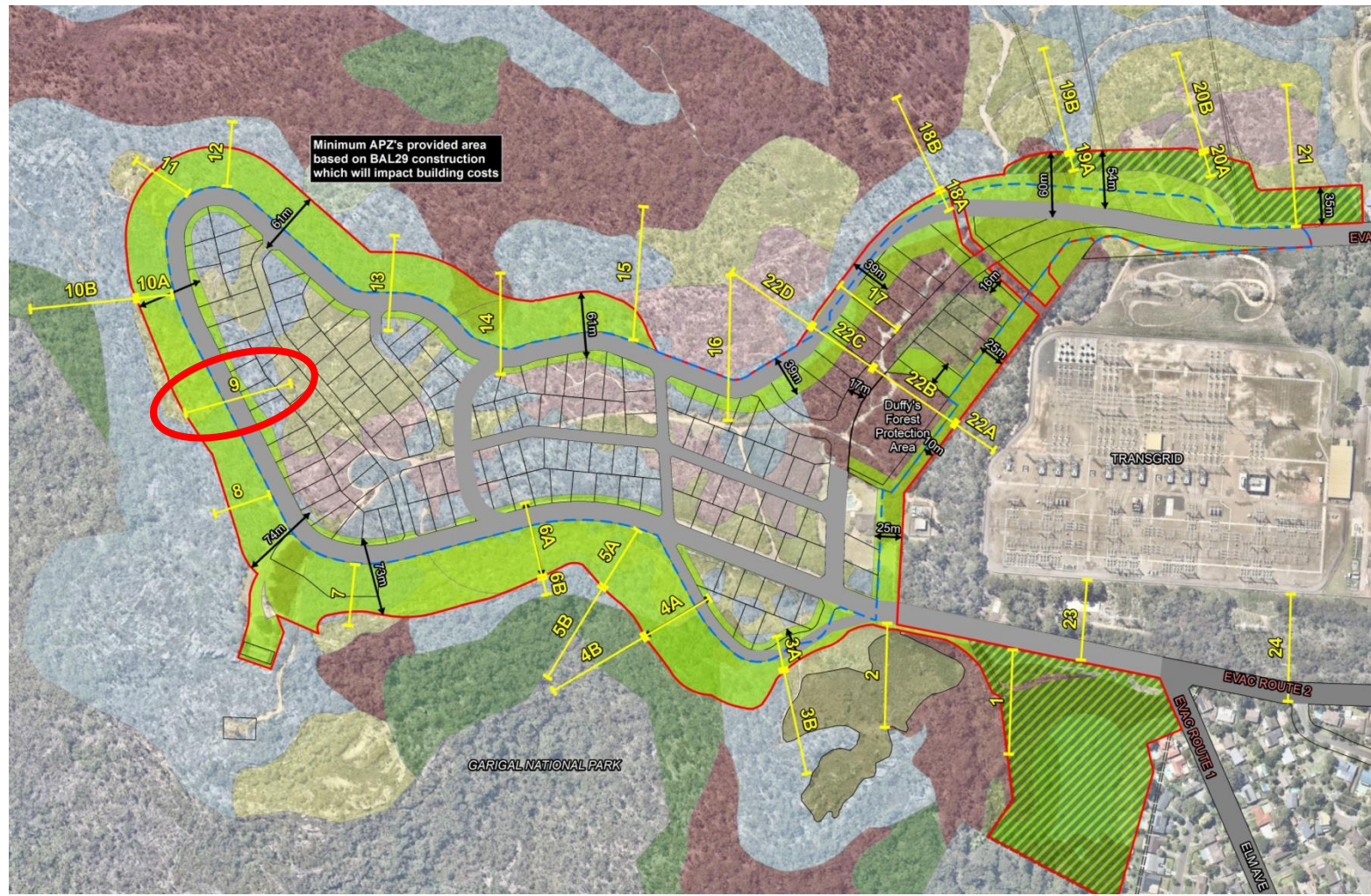
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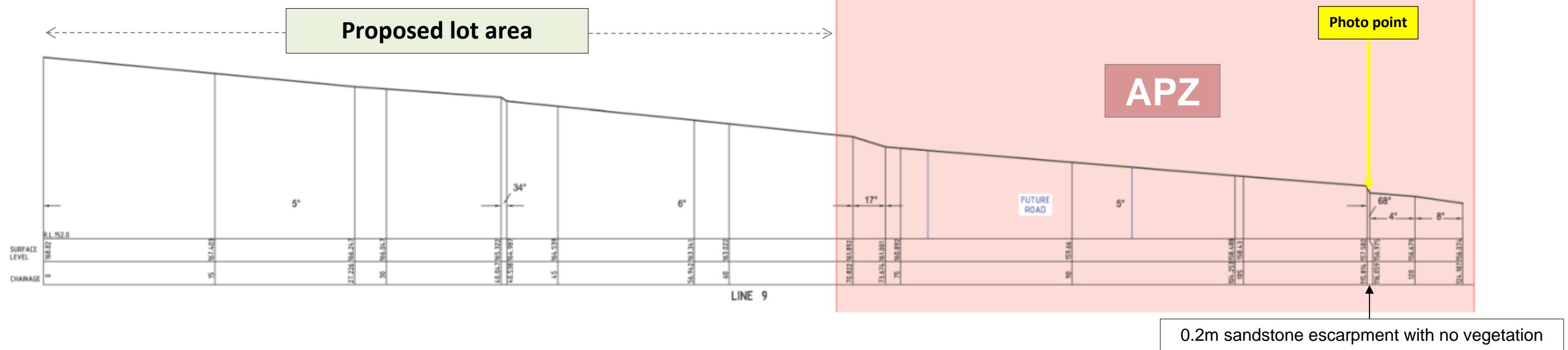
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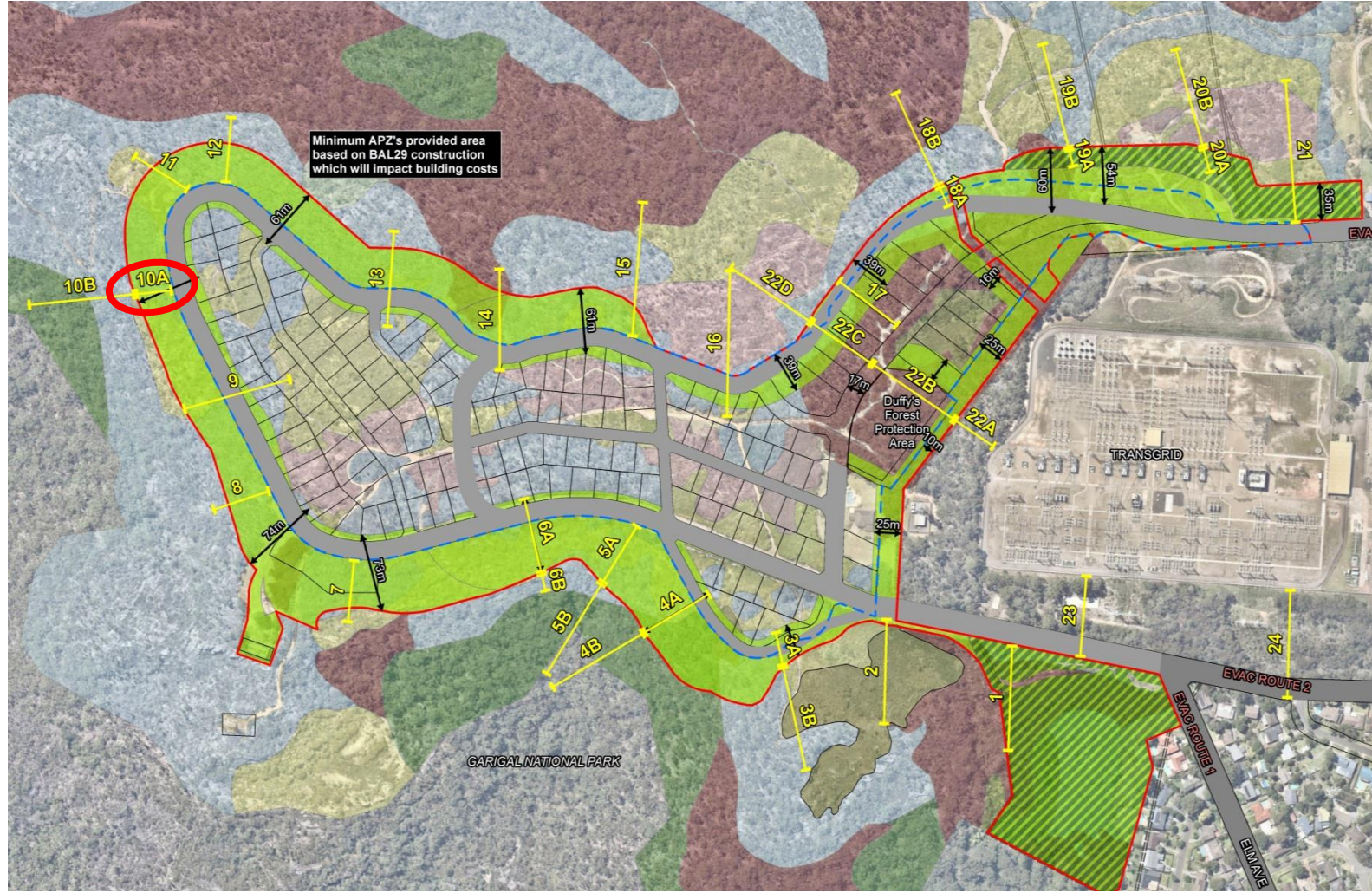
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

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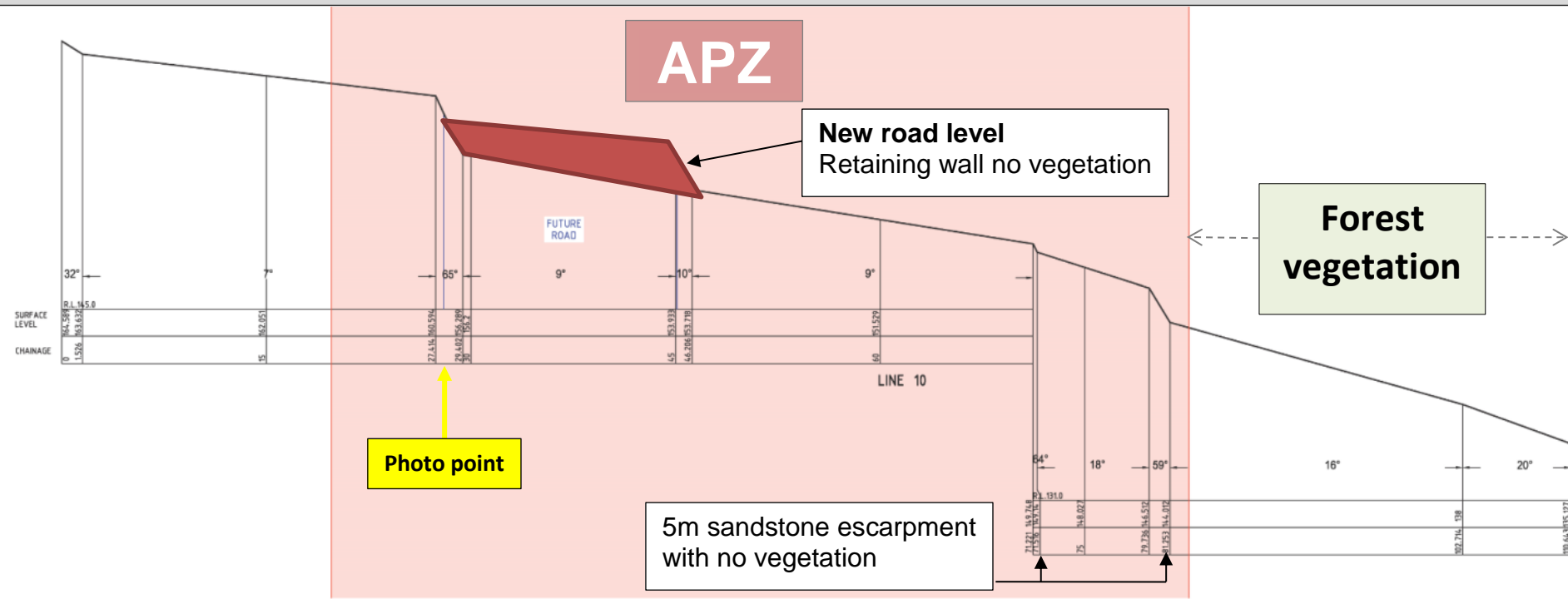
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TRANSECT LINE 10a



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

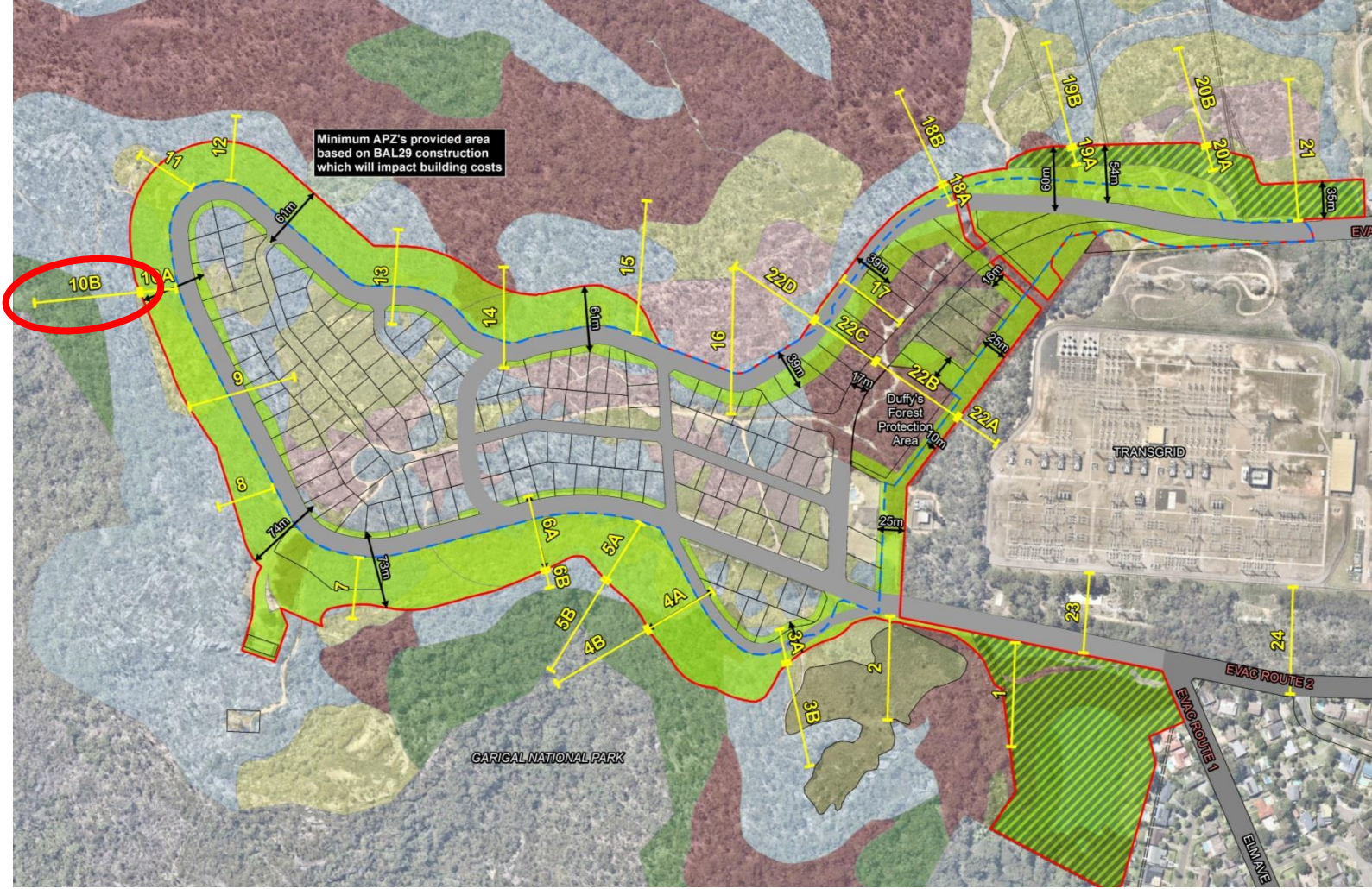
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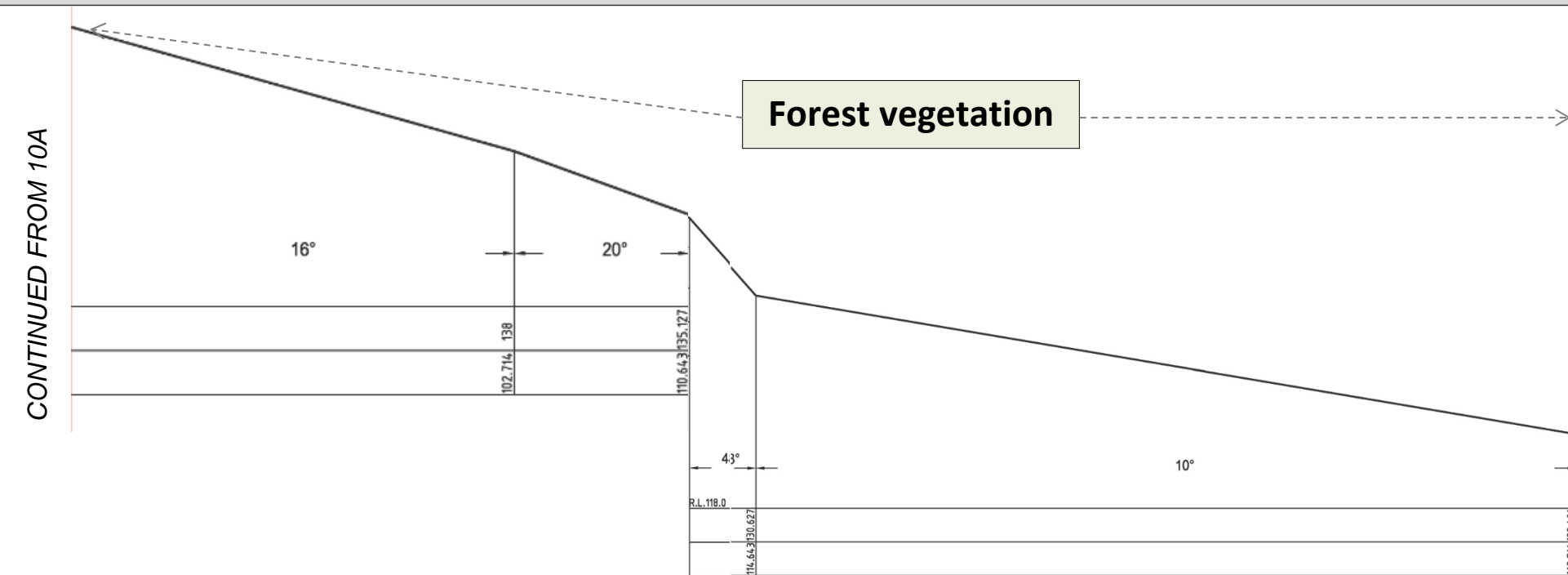
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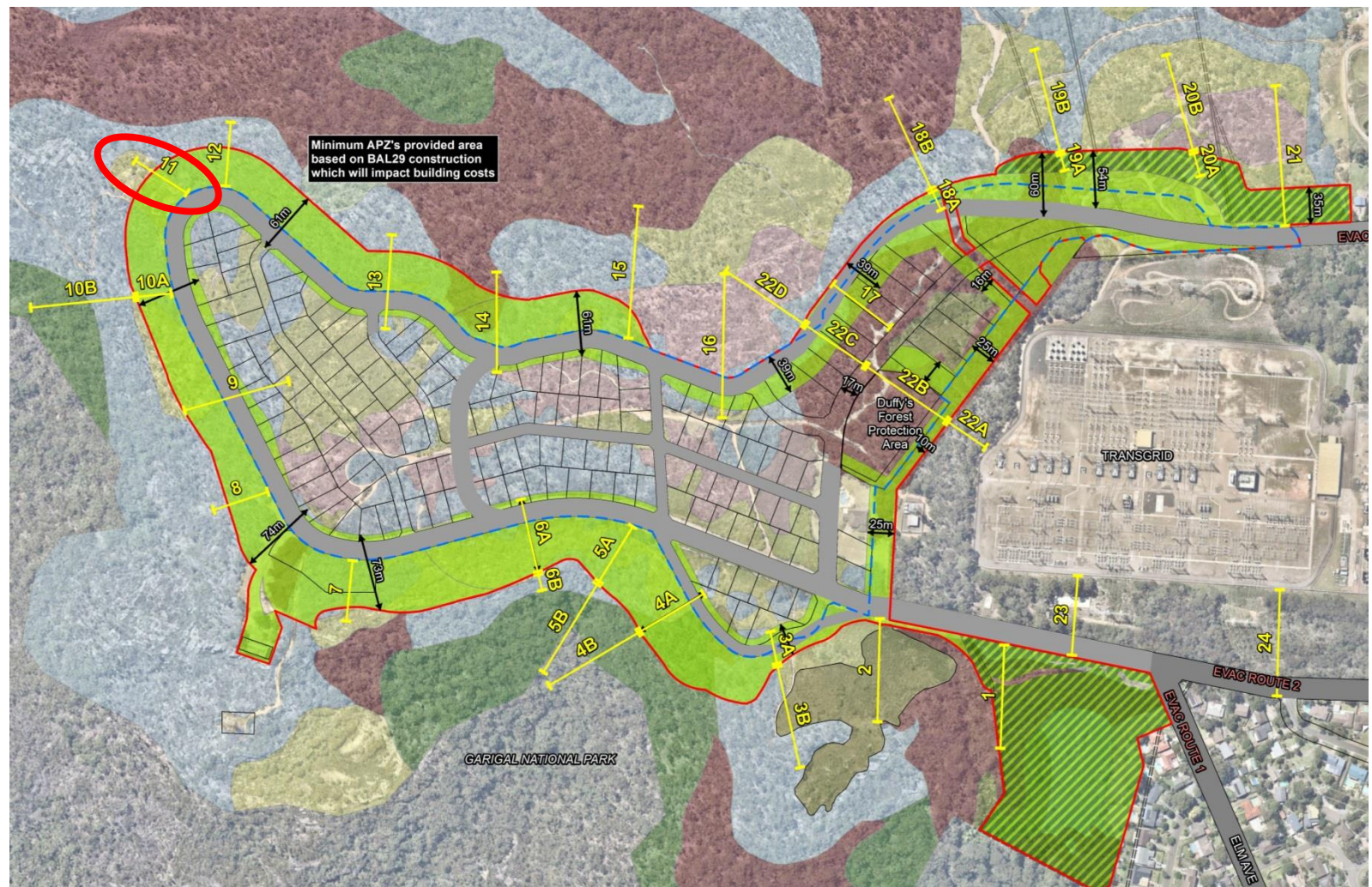


SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE

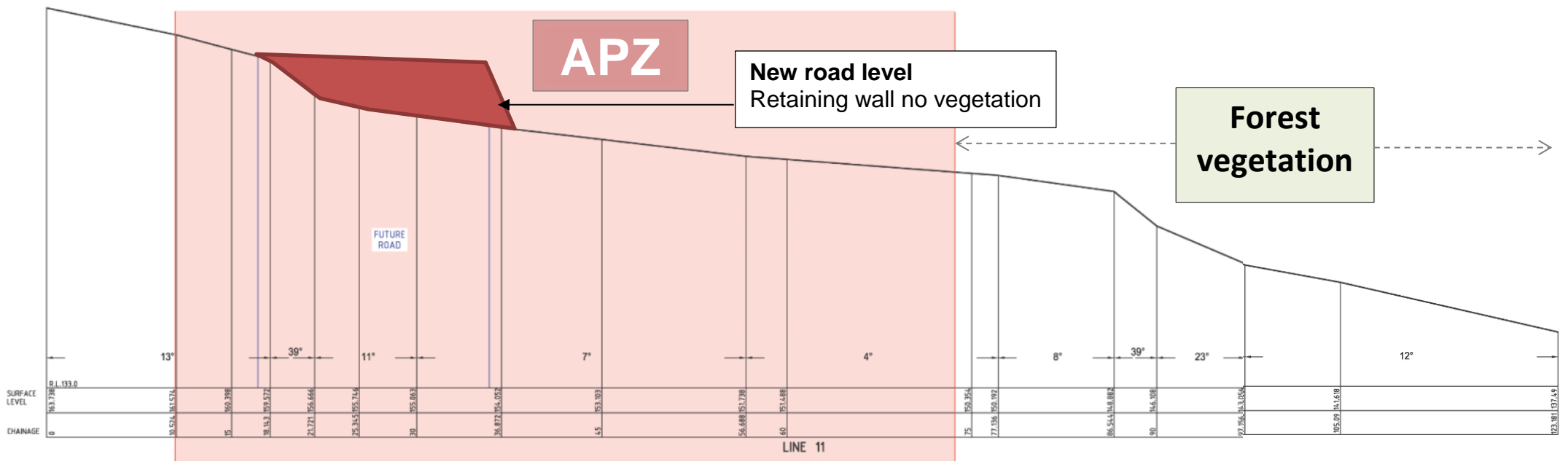


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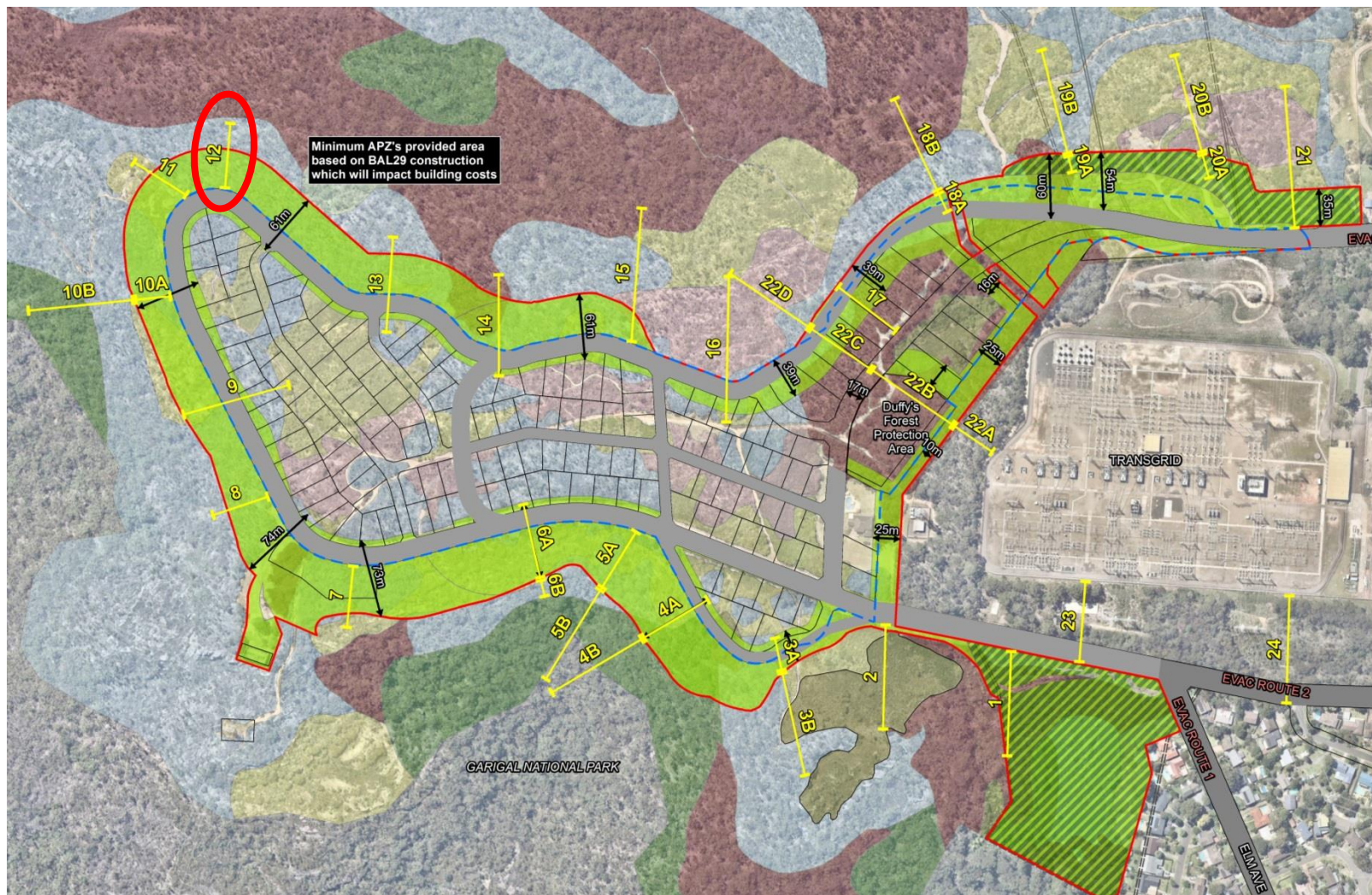
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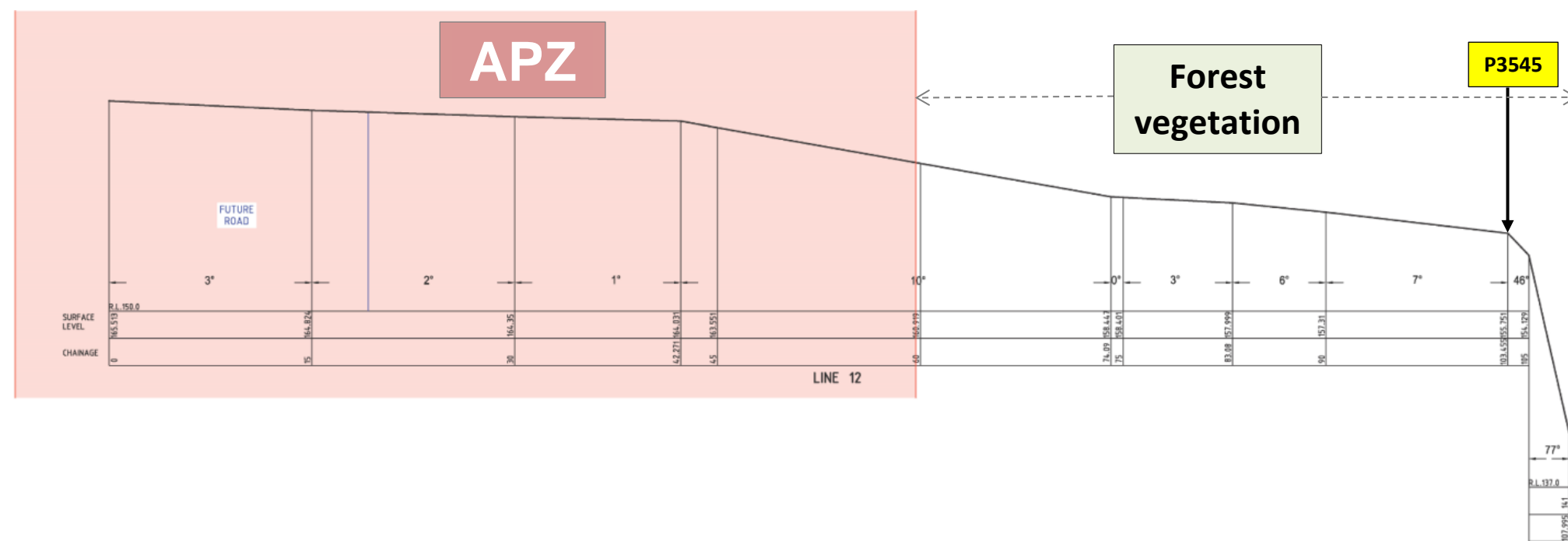
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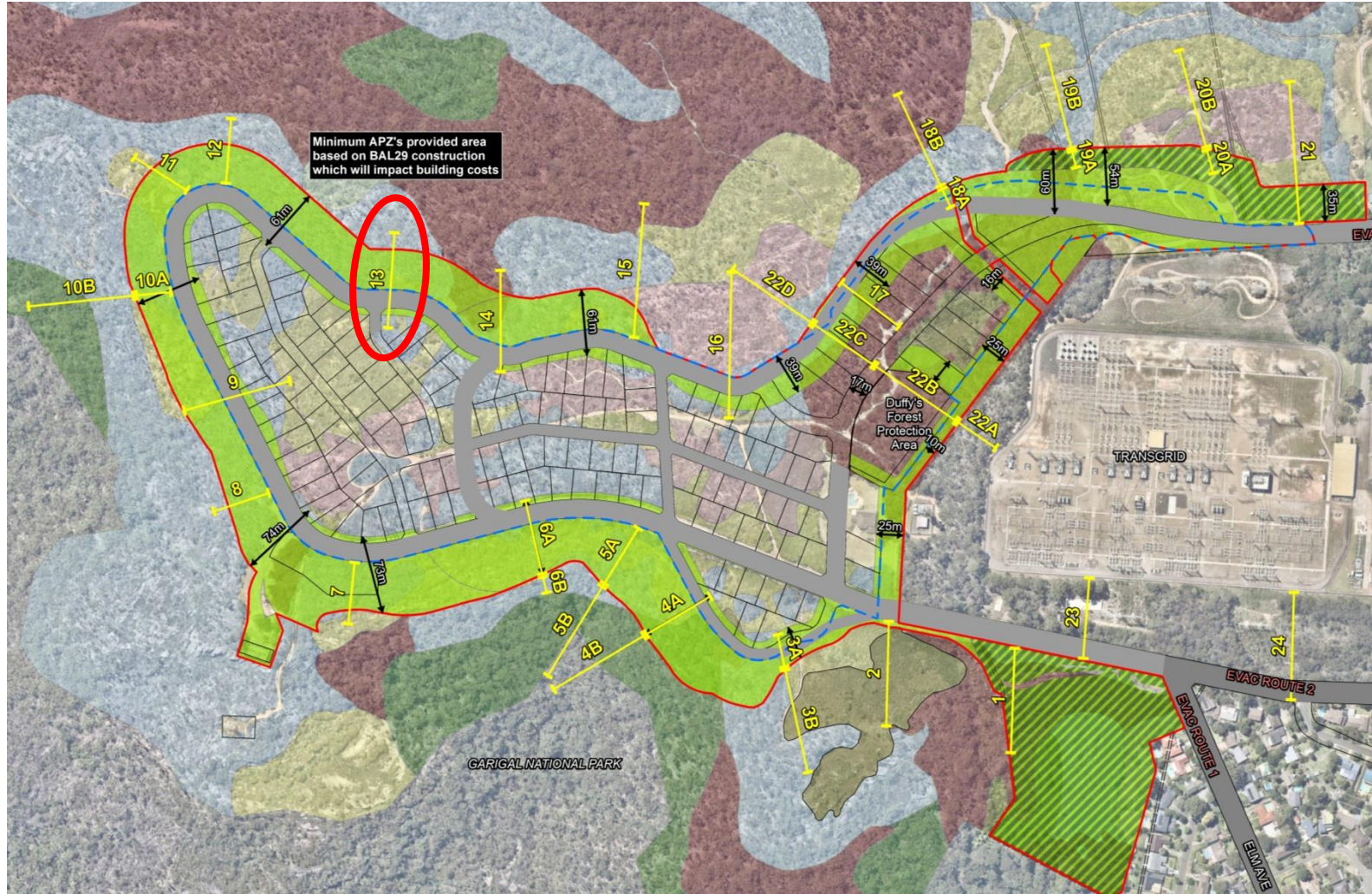
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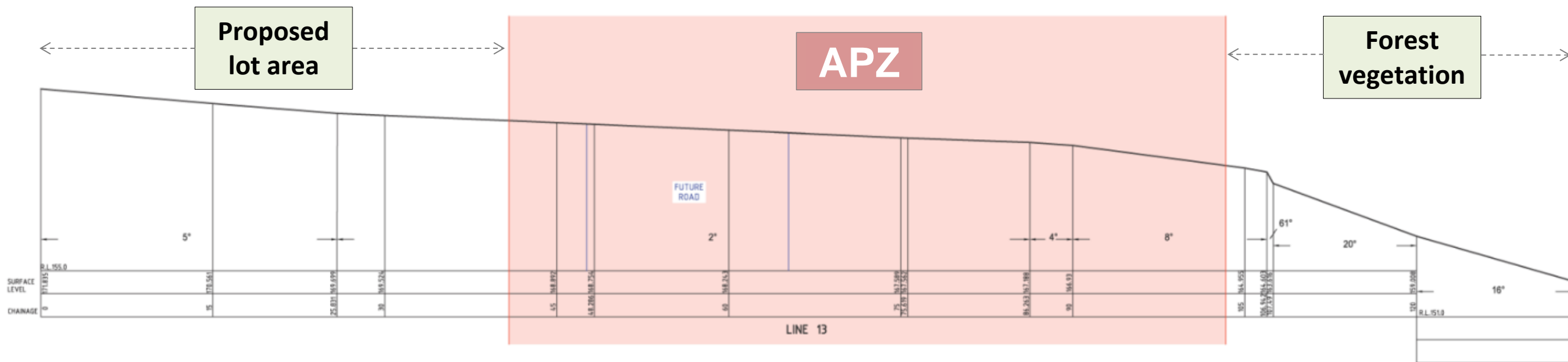
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TRANSECT LINE 13



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



LEVELS PLAN (REF: 30401)

TRANSECT LINE 14

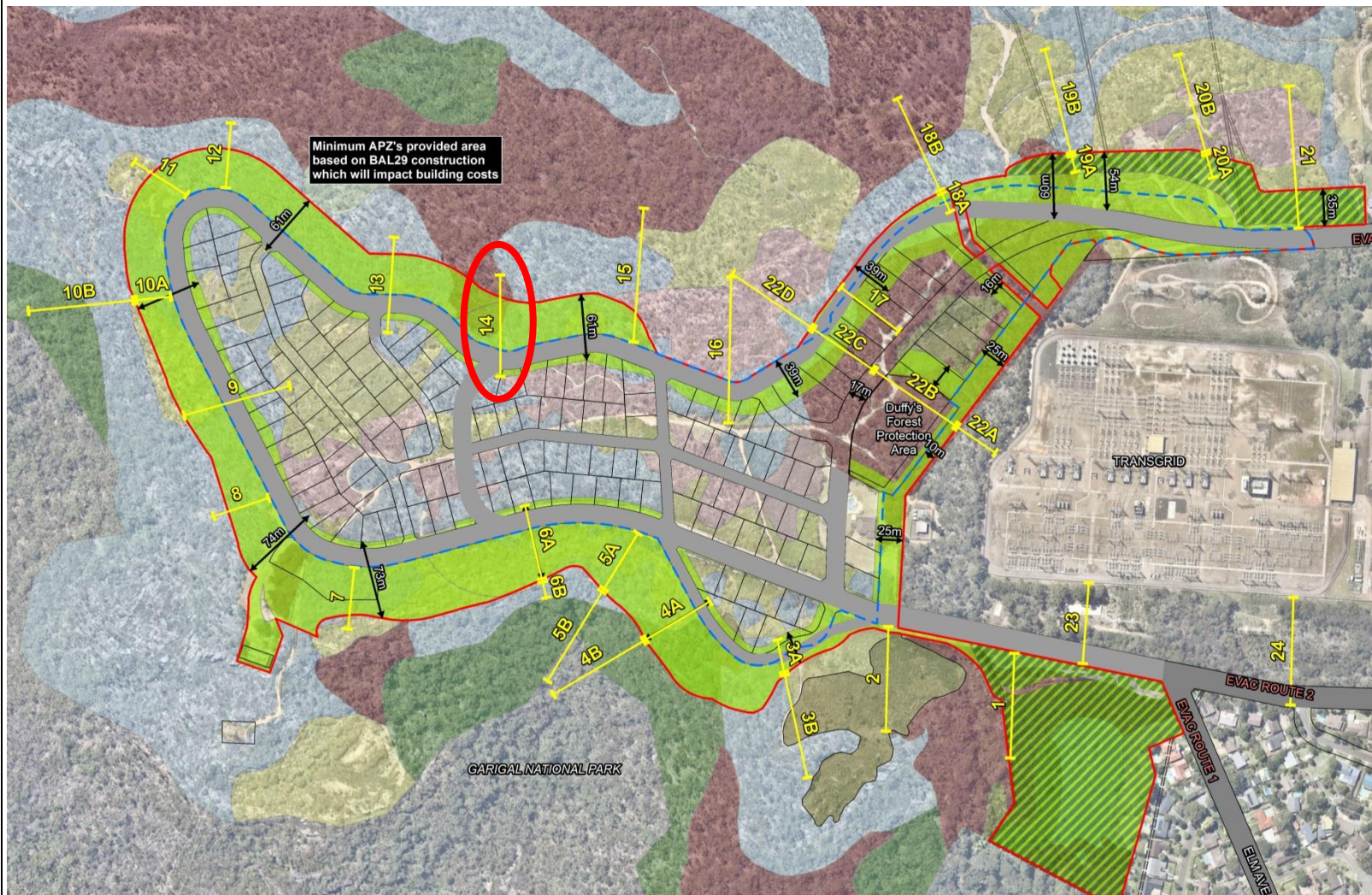
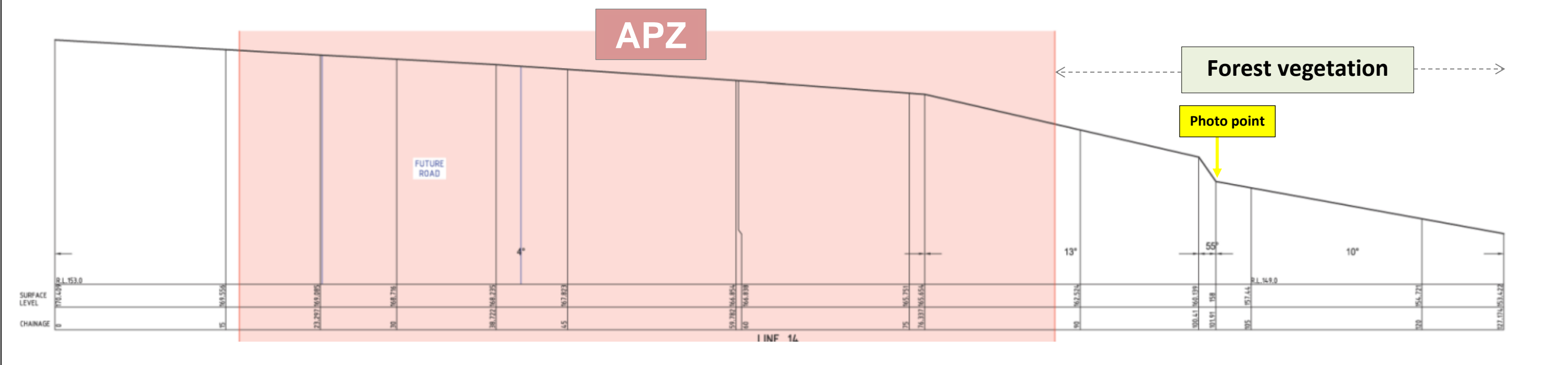


Photo point

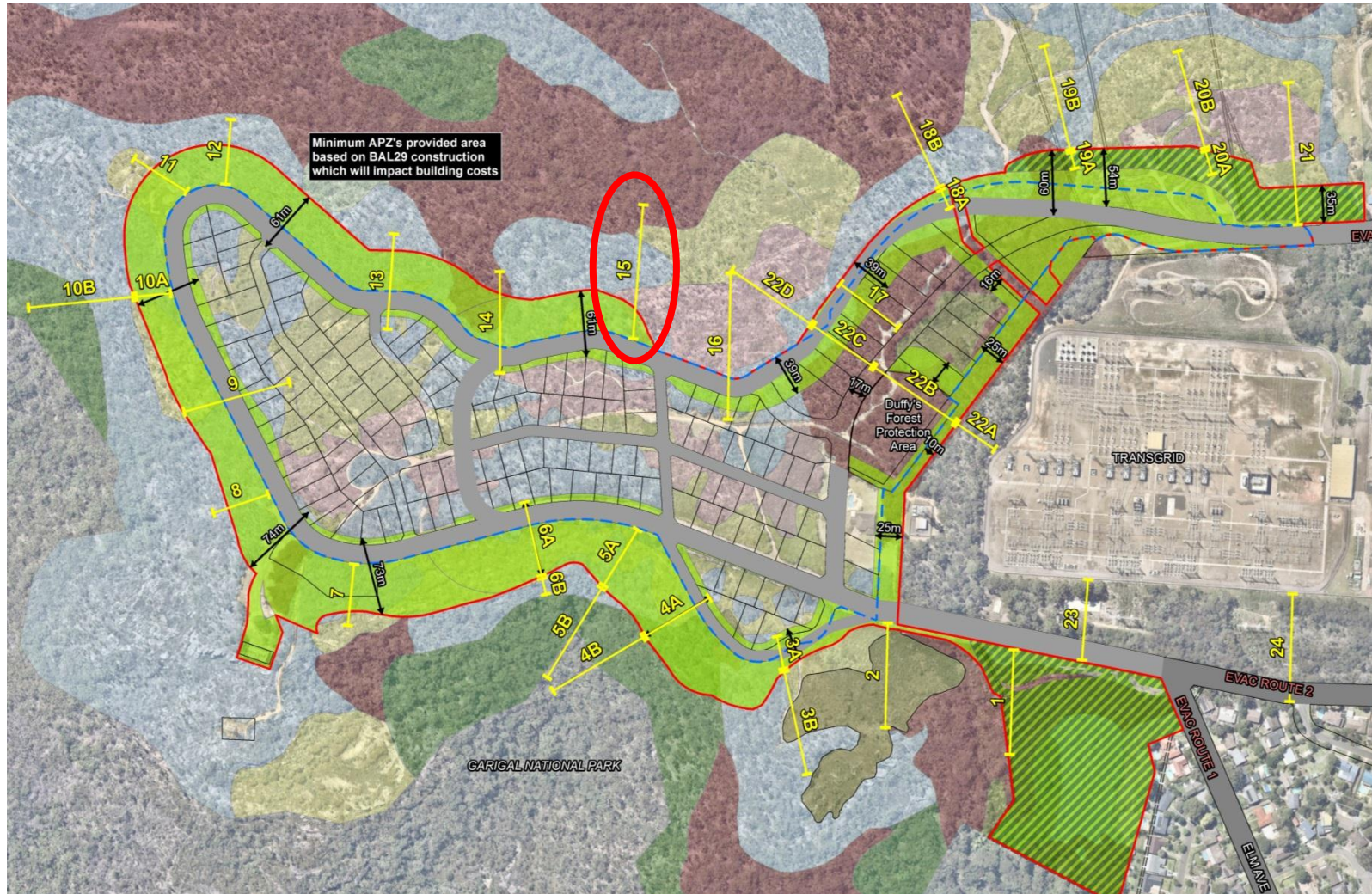
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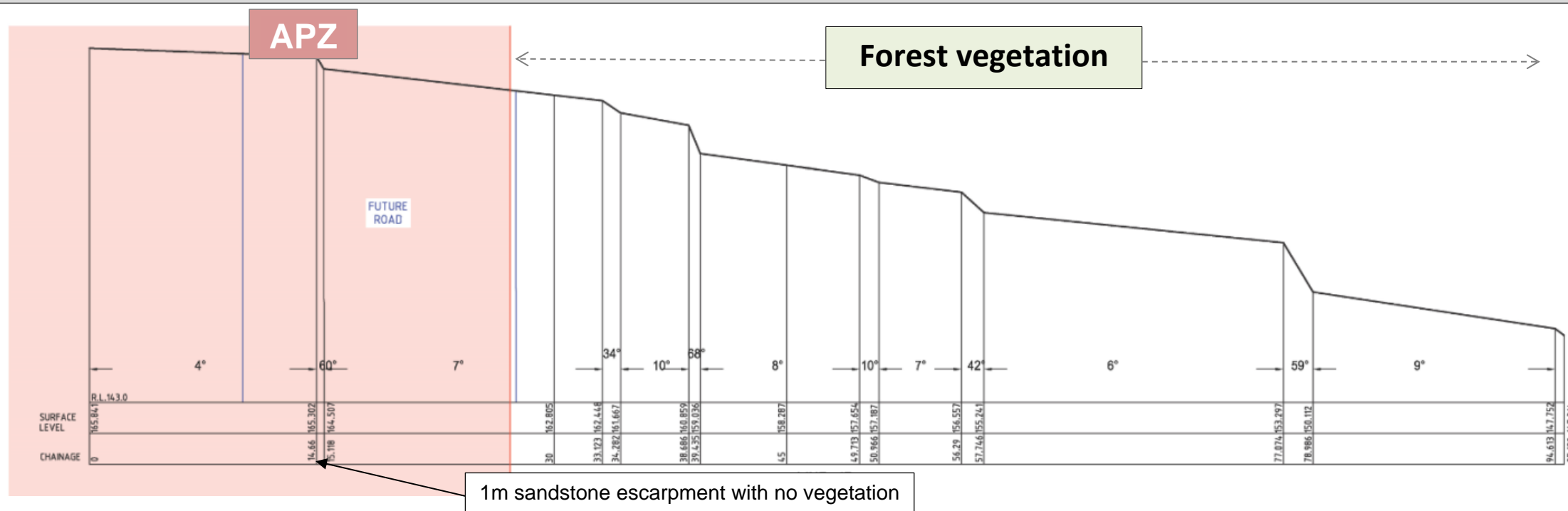
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TRANSECT LINE 15



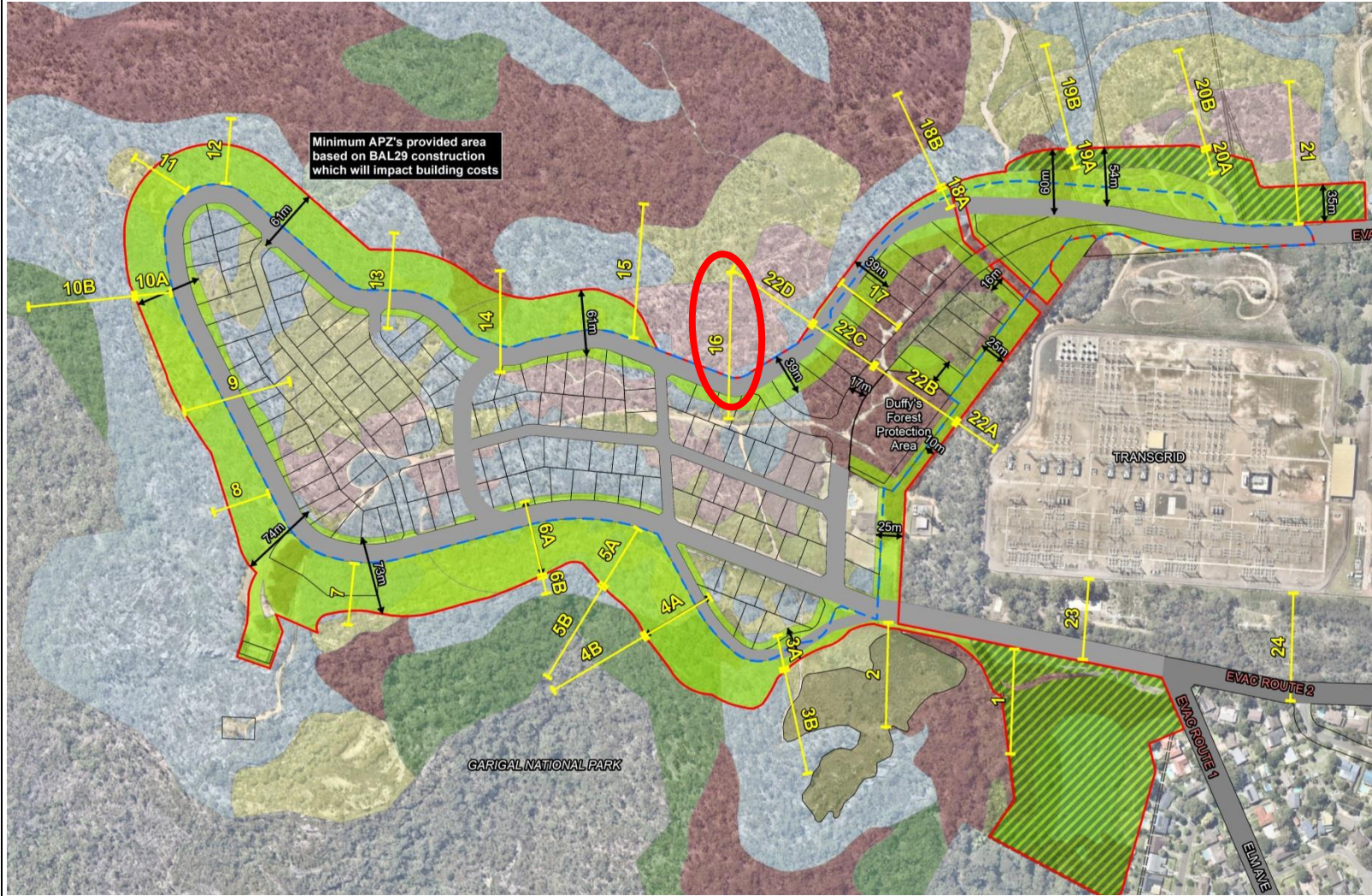
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



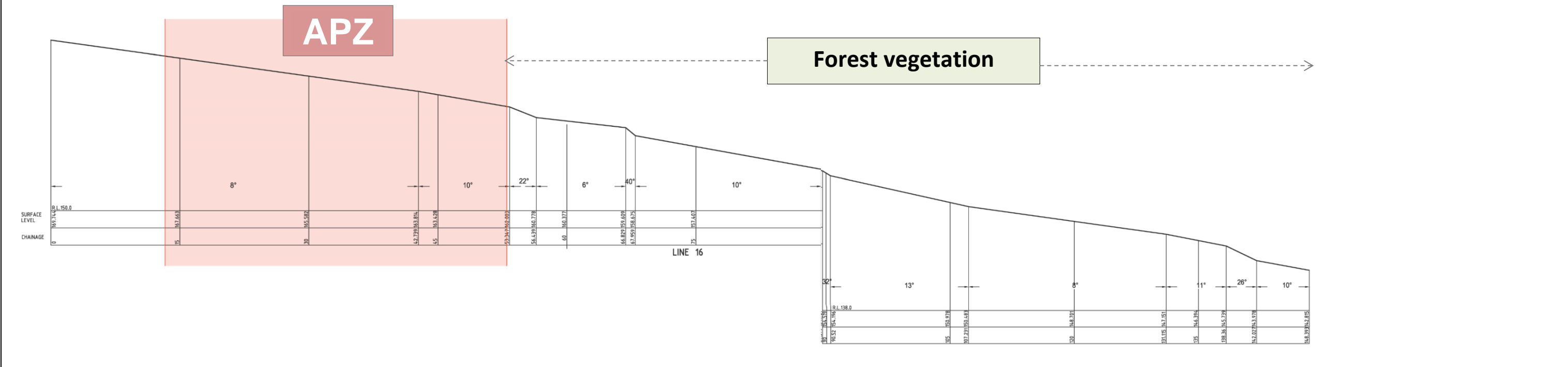
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TRANSECT LINE 16



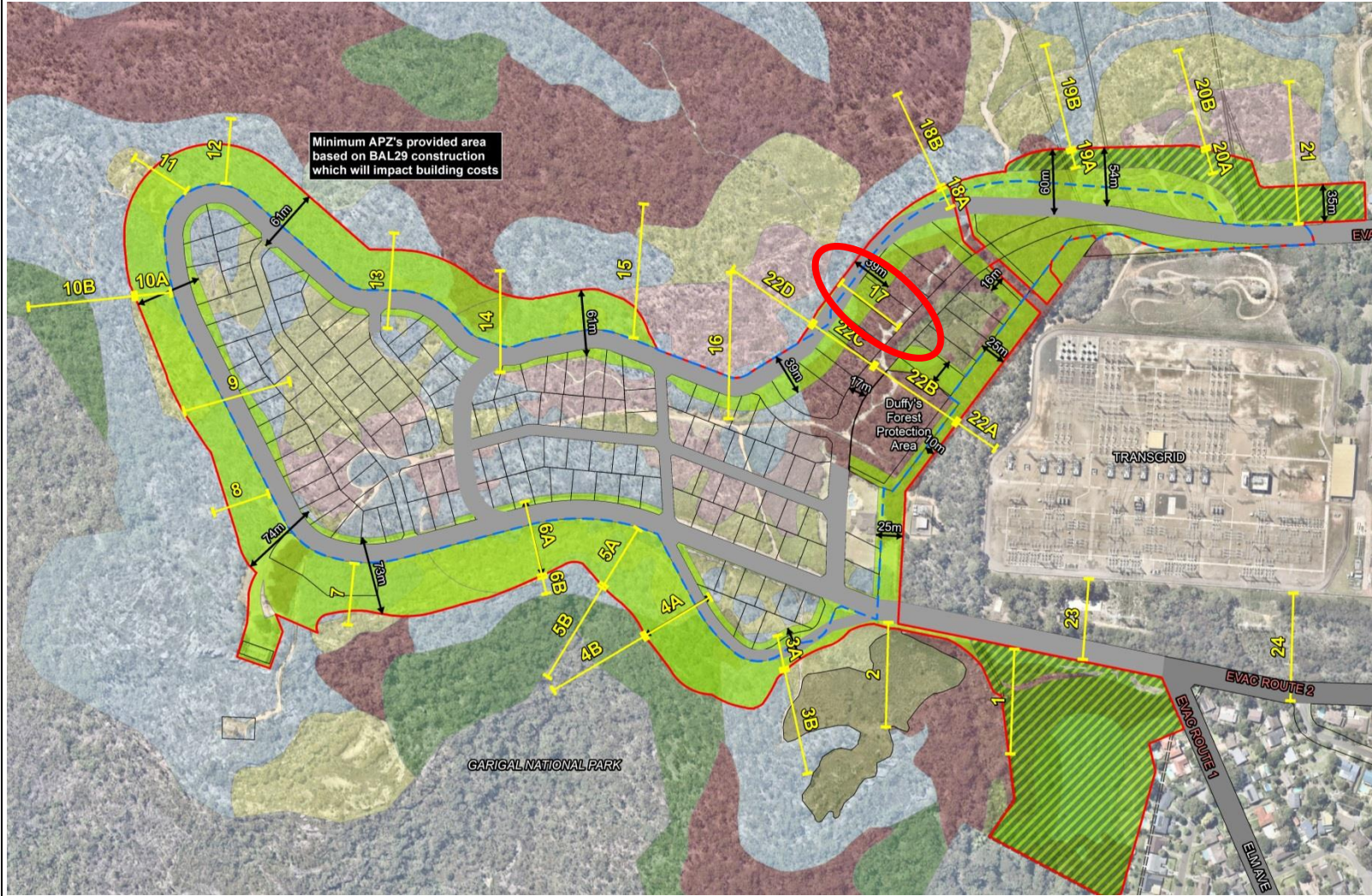
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

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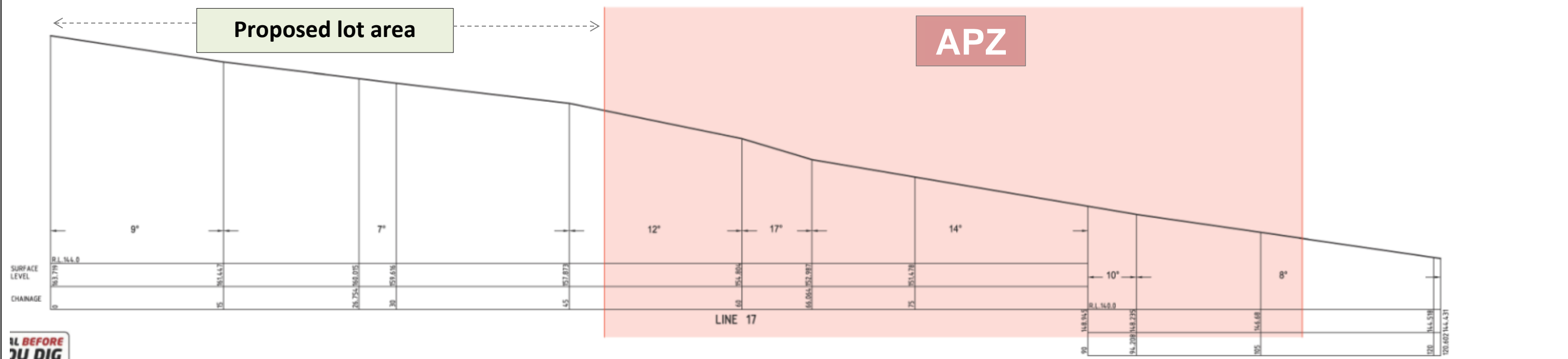
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TRANSECT LINE 17



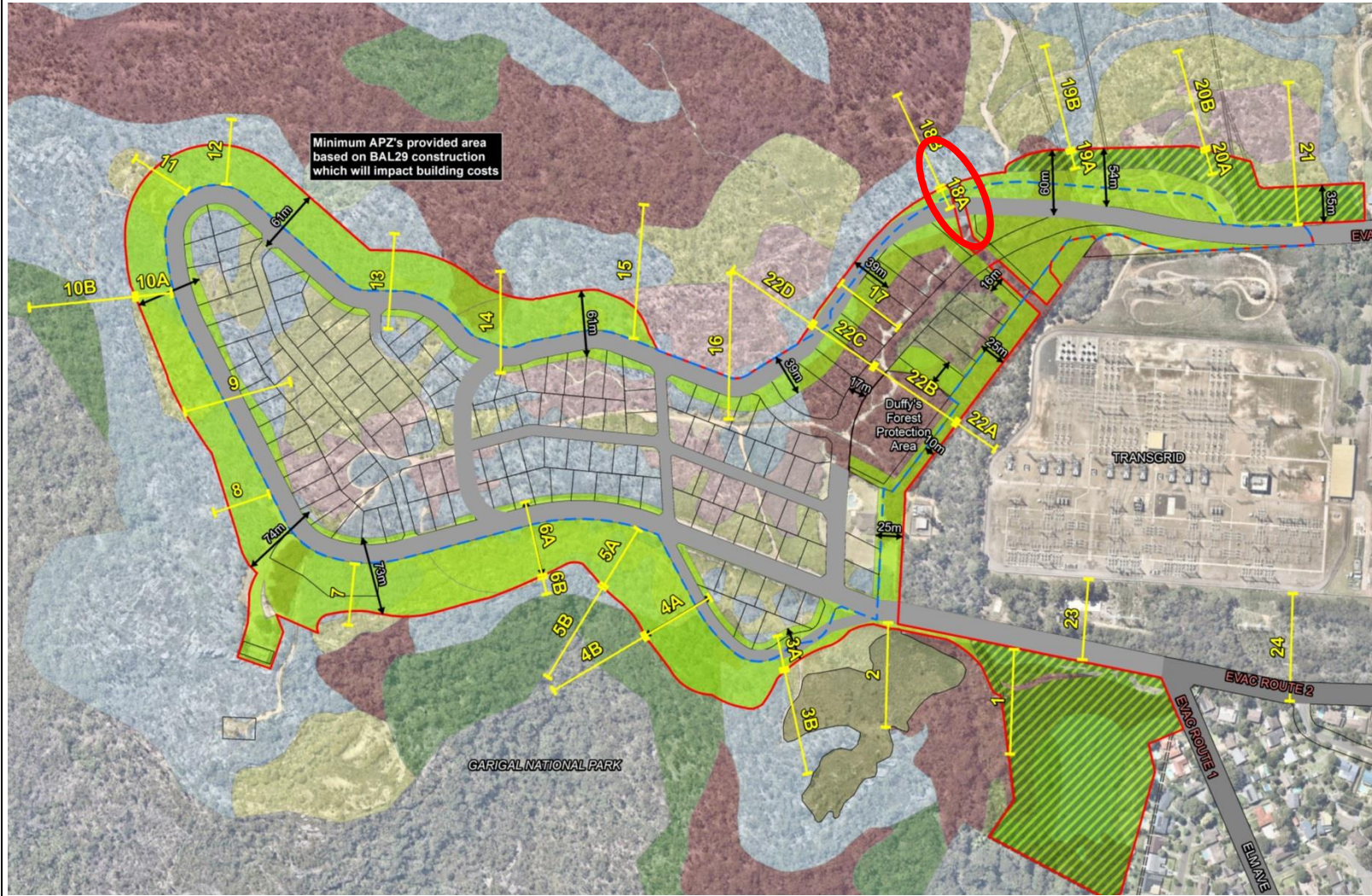
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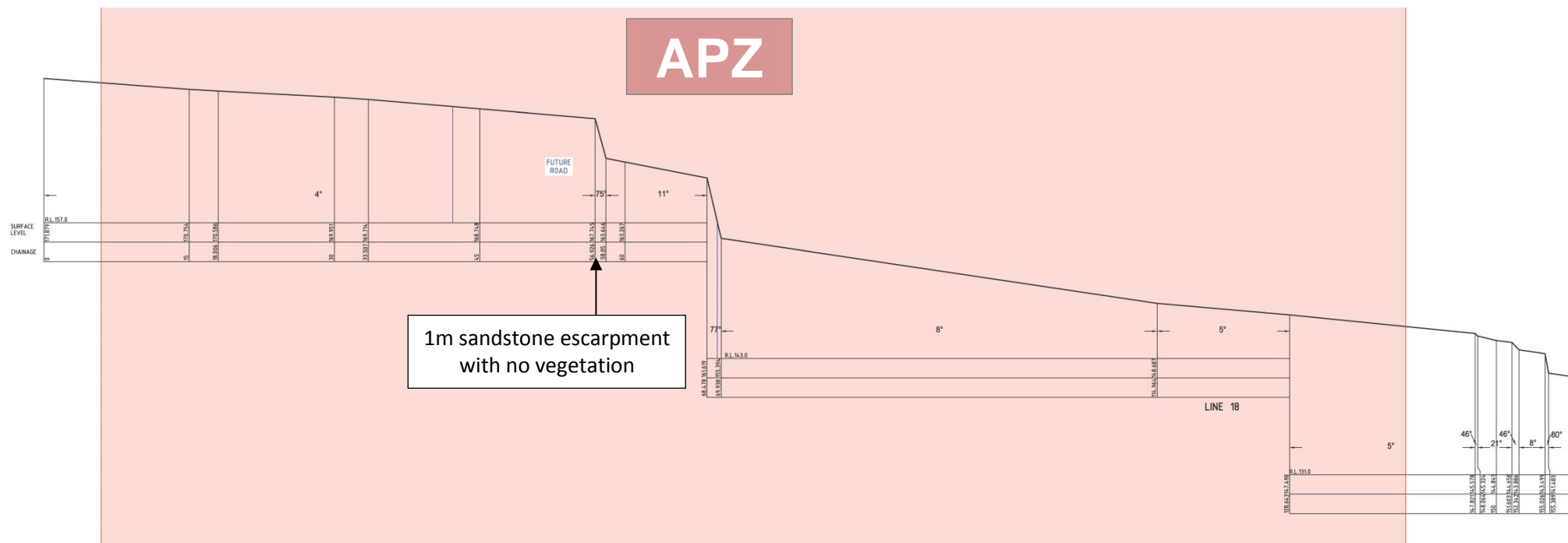
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TRANSECT LINE 18a



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

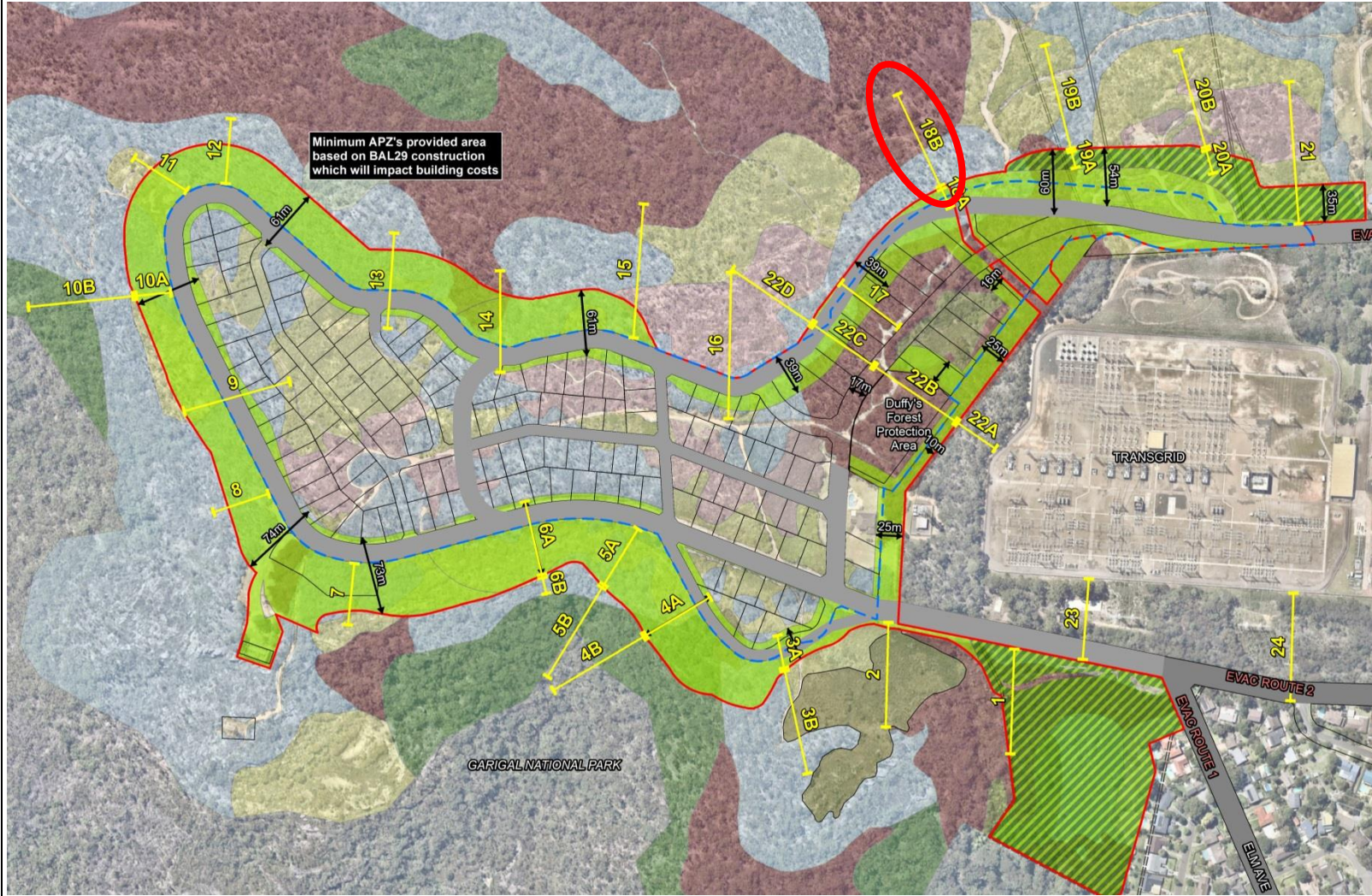
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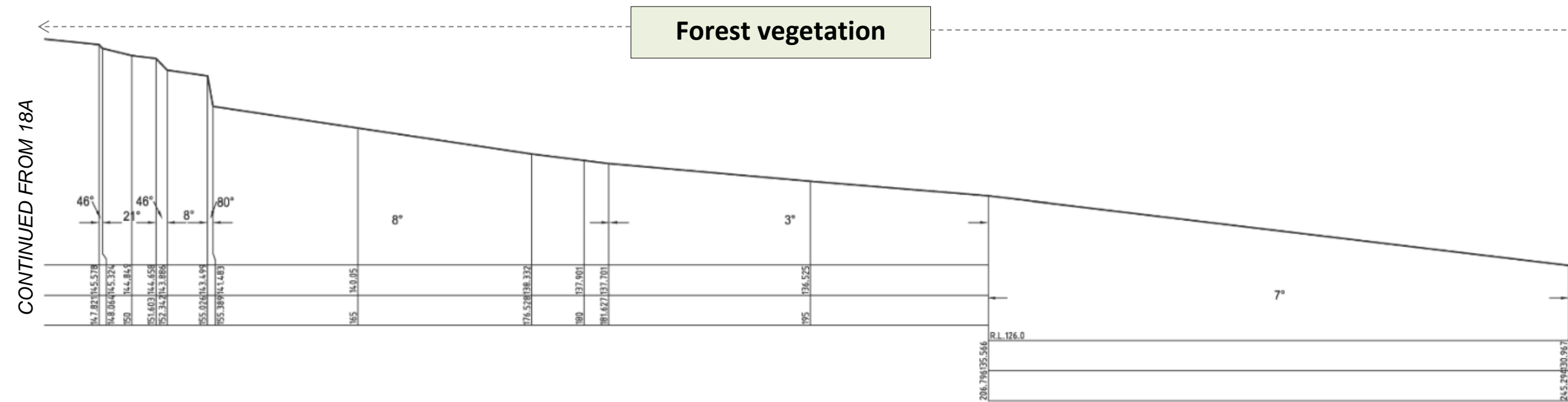
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TRANSECT LINE 18b



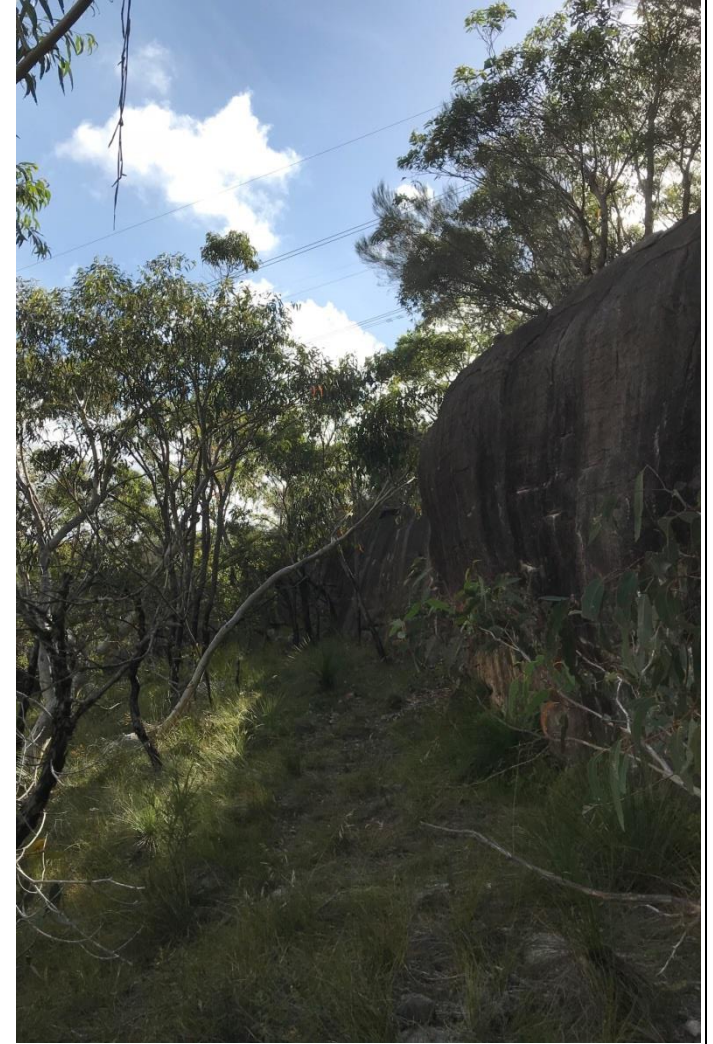
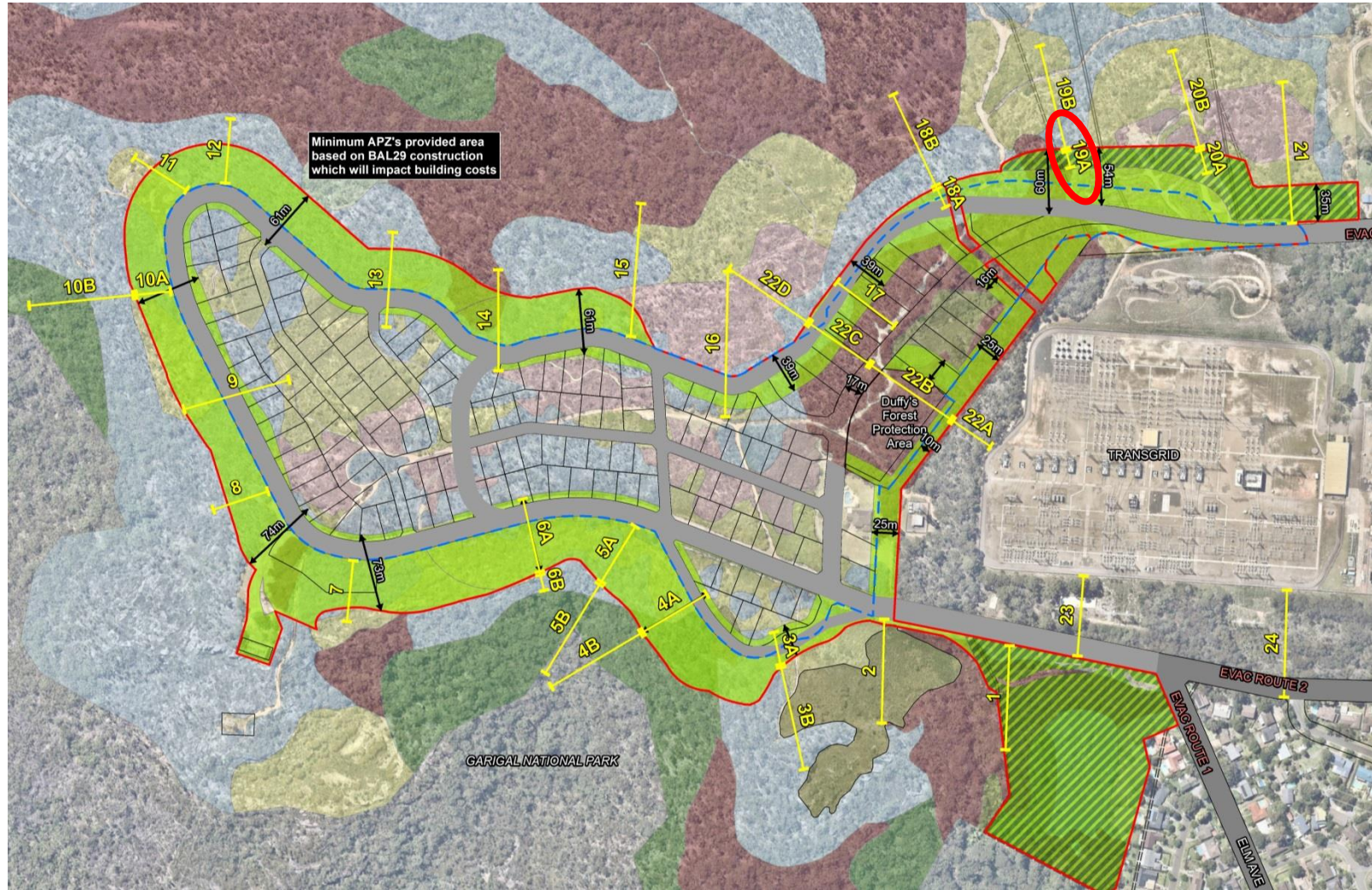
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

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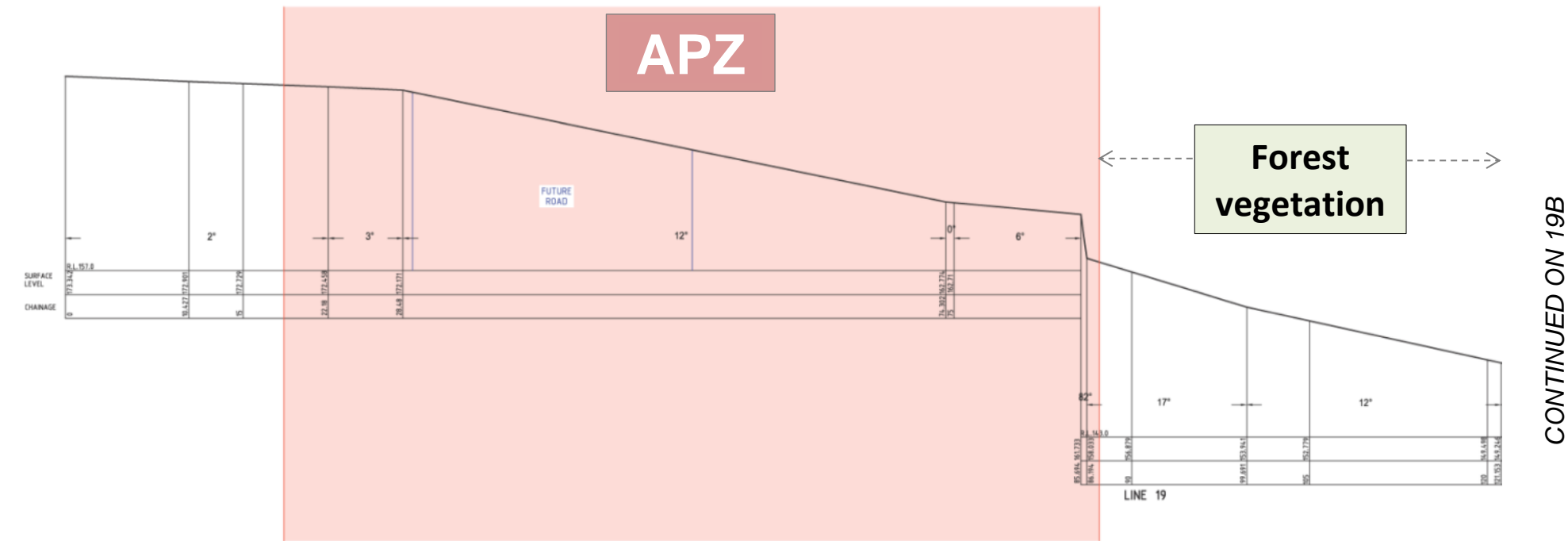
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TRANSECT LINE 19a



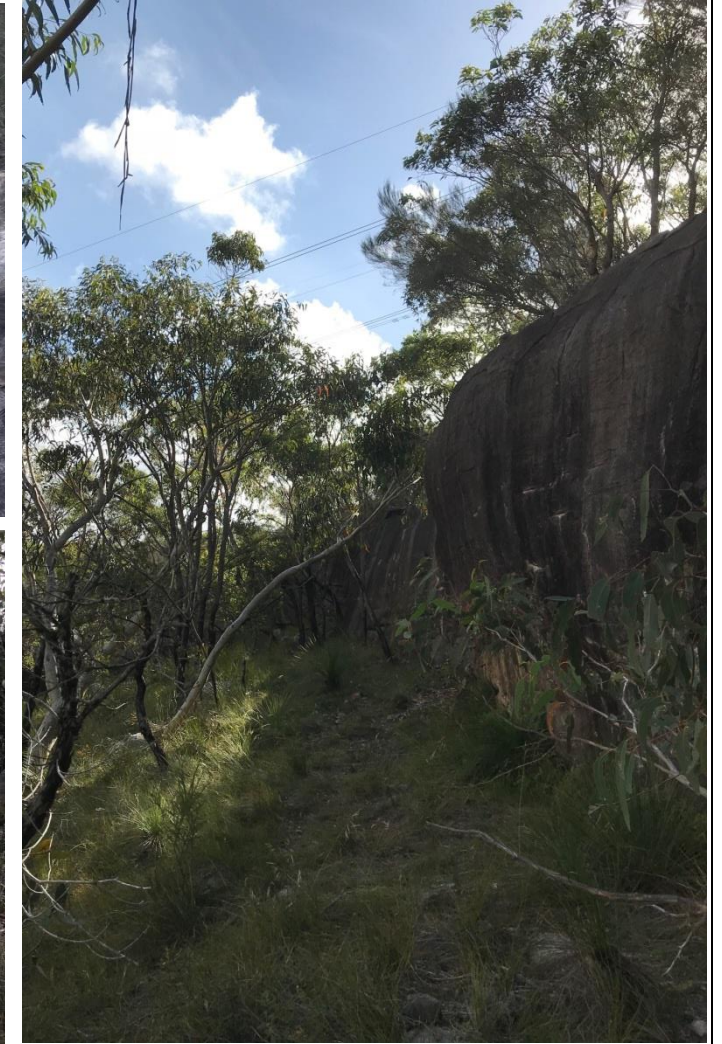
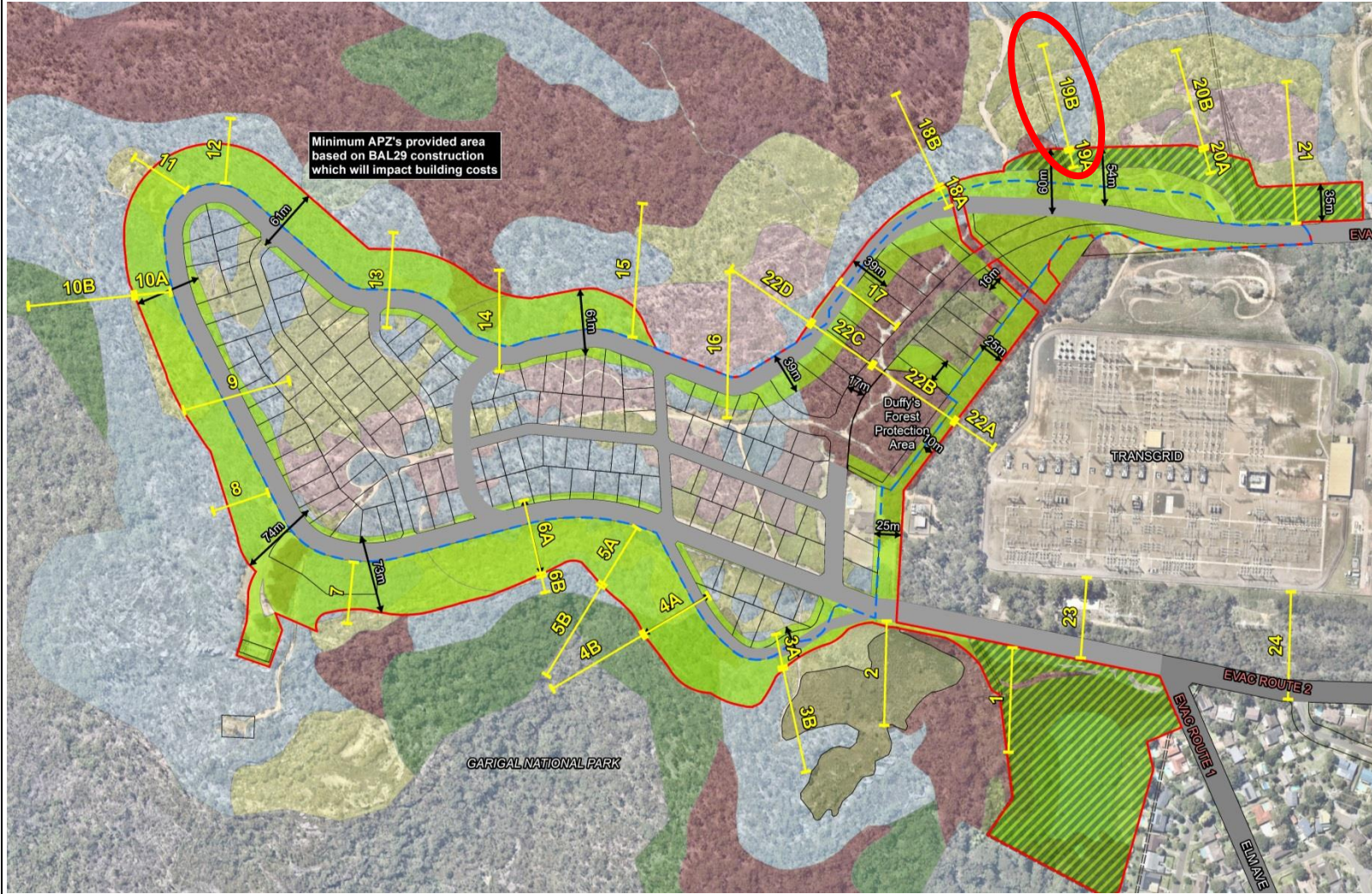
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



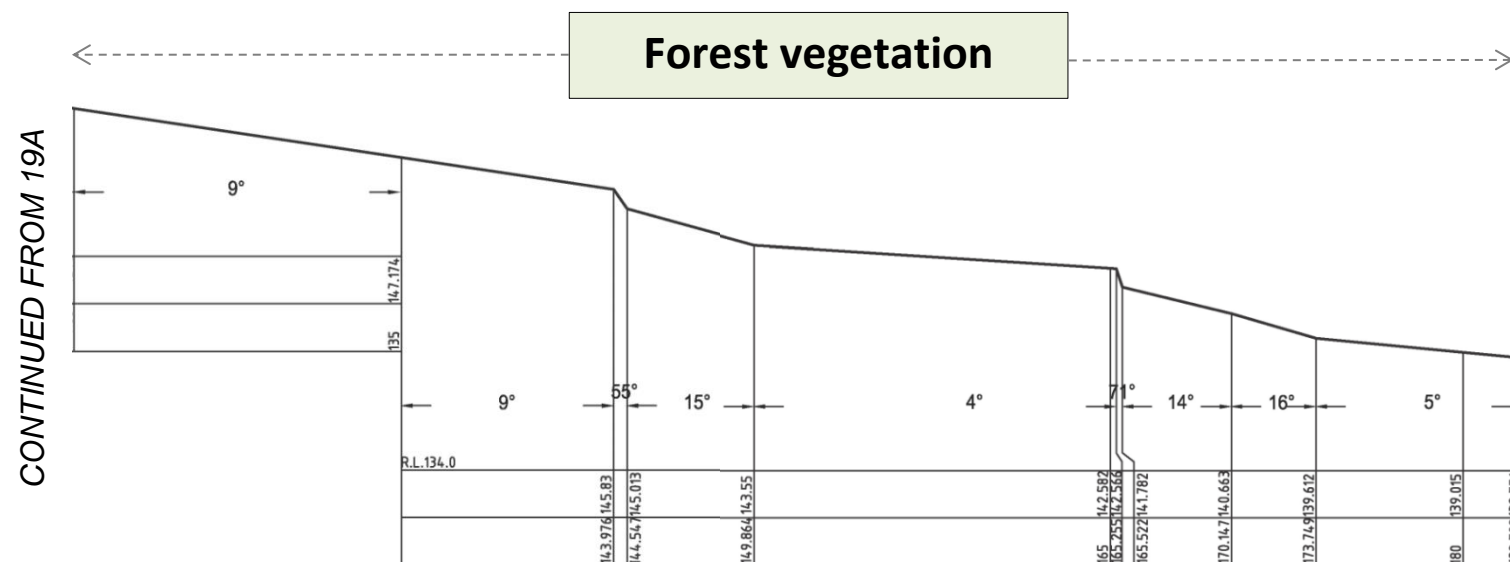
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TRANSECT LINE 19b



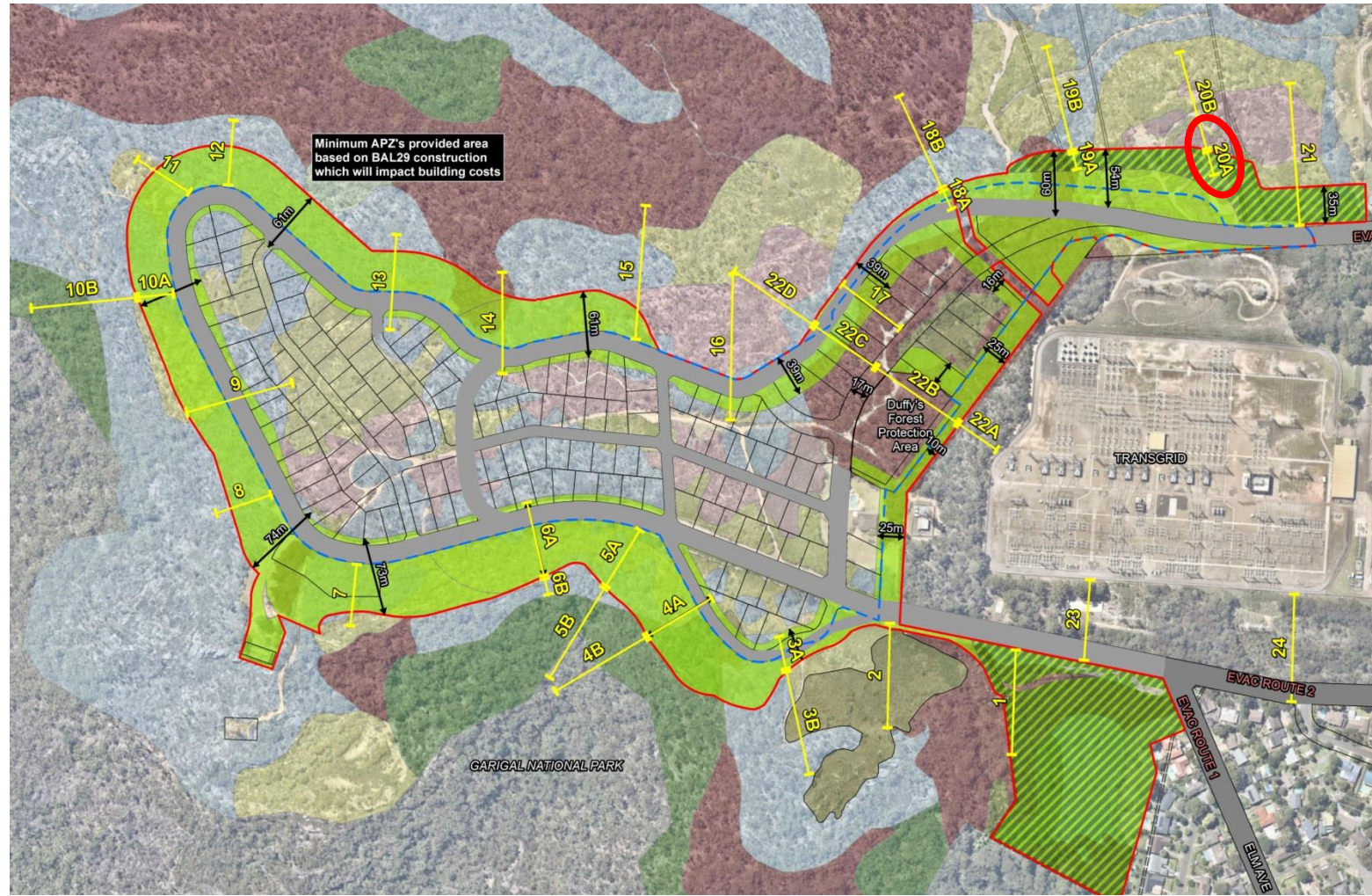
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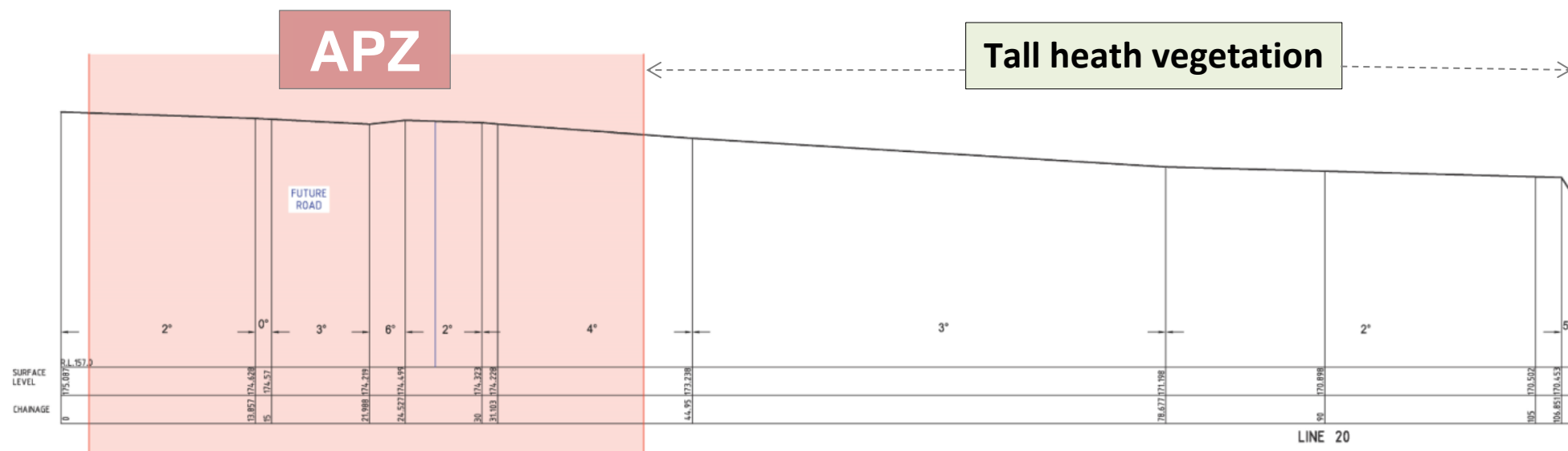
LEVELS PLAN (REF: 30401)

TRANSECT LINE 20a



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

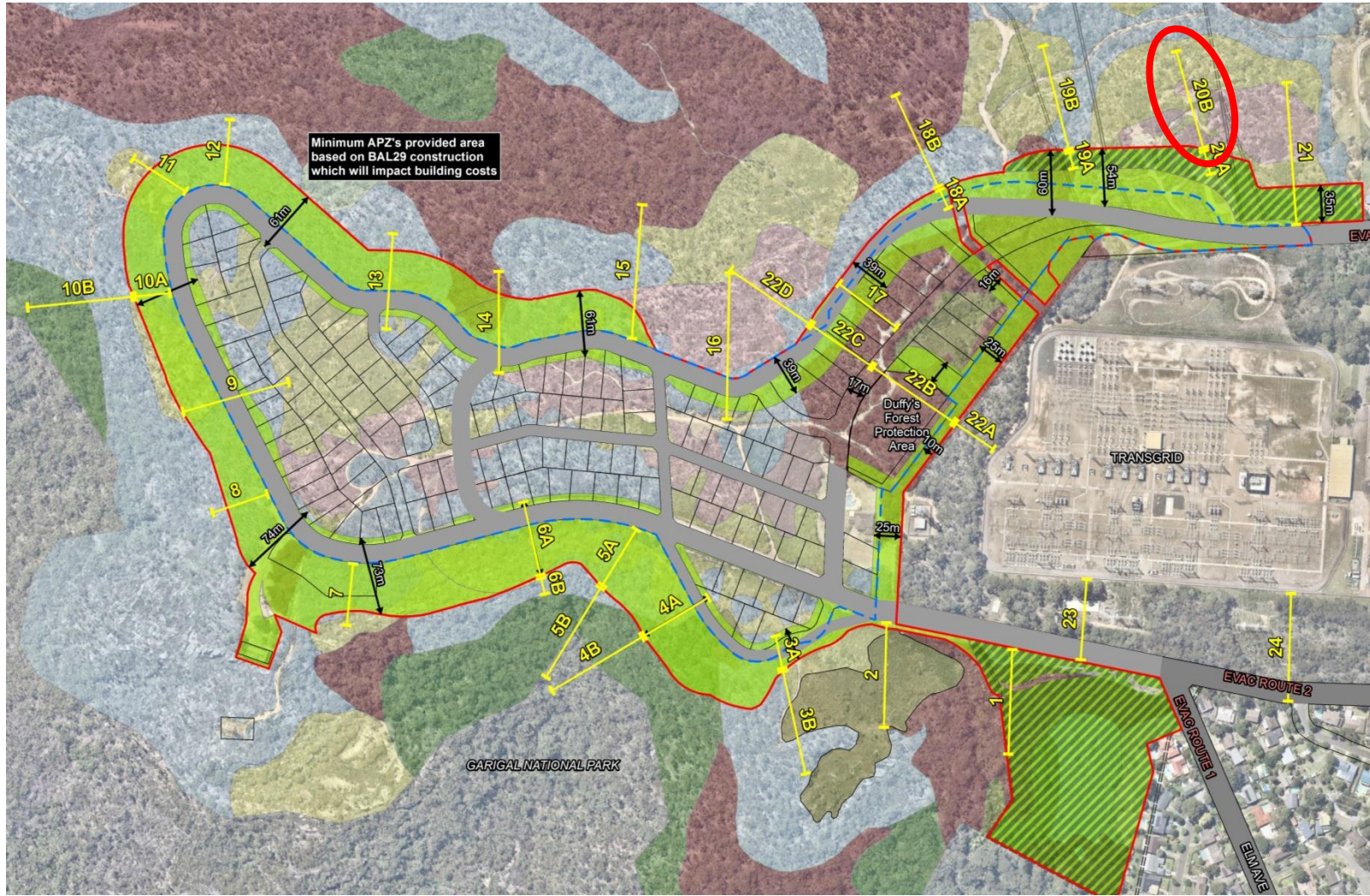
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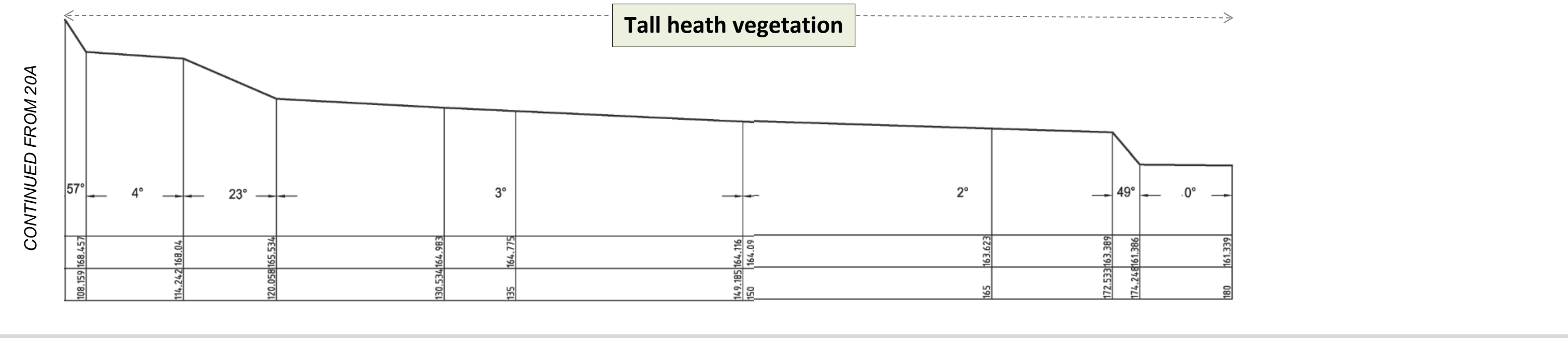
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TRANSECT LINE 20b



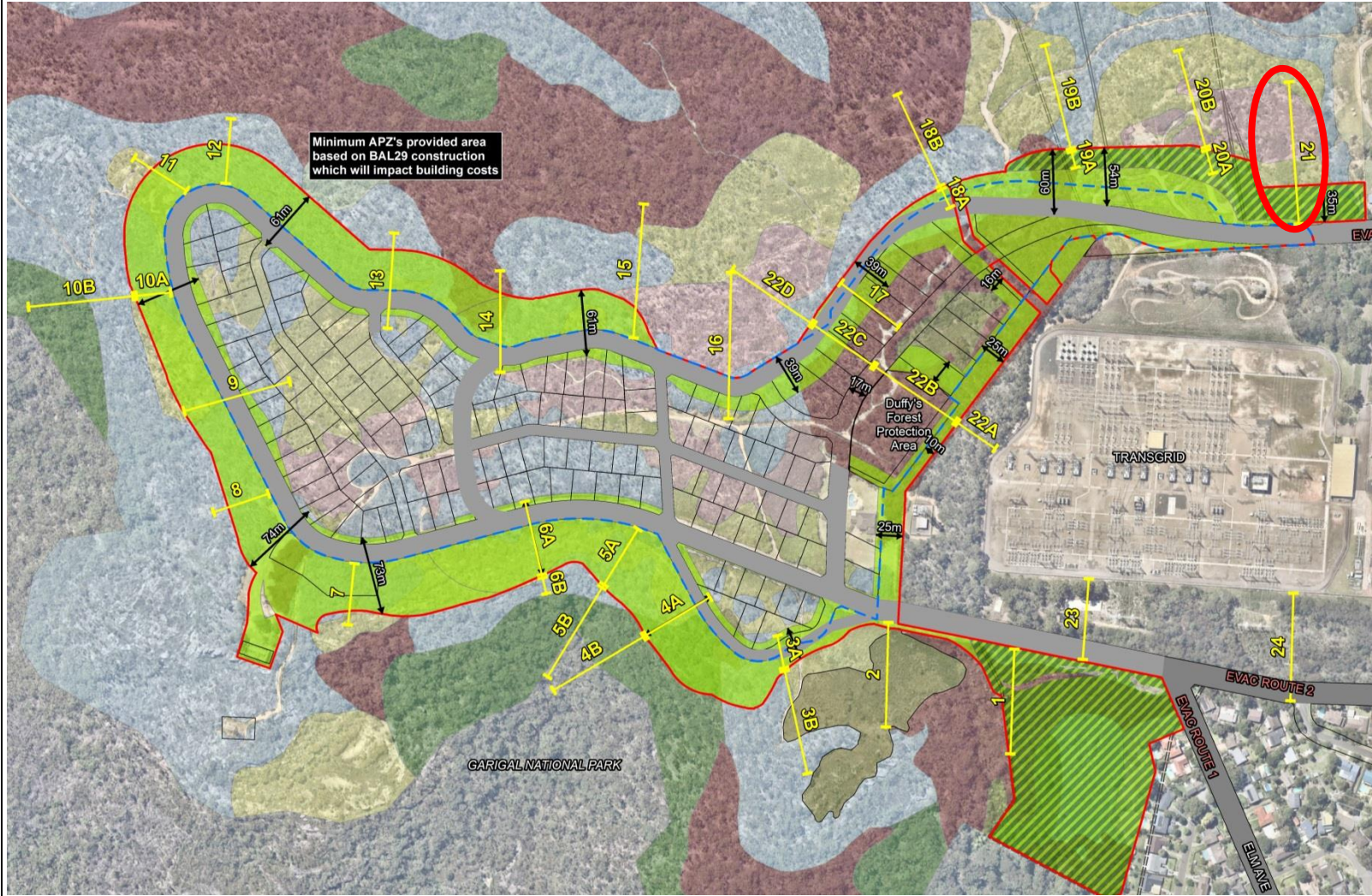
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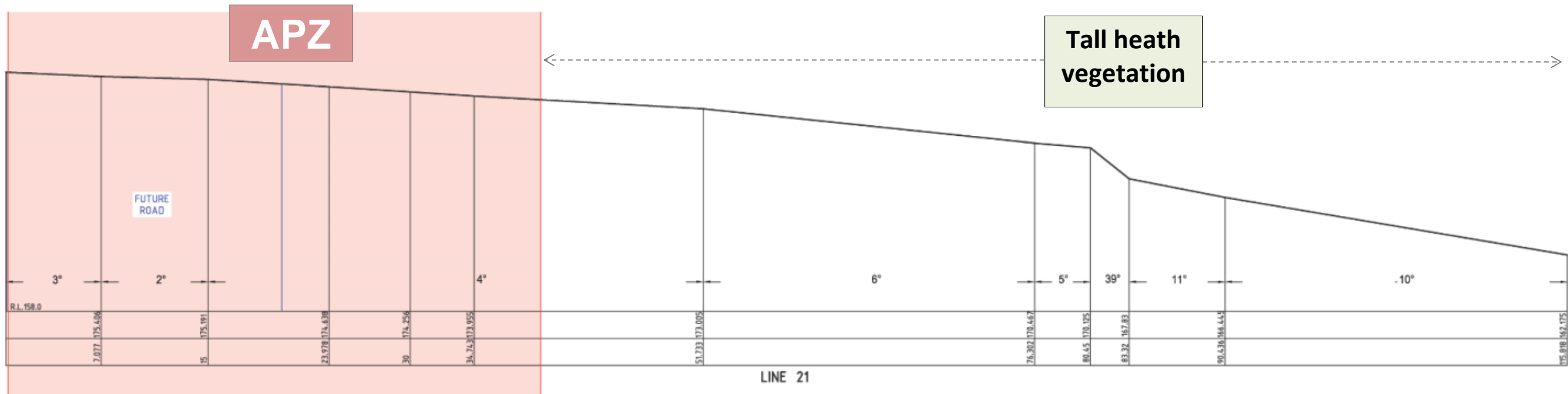
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TRANSECT LINE 21



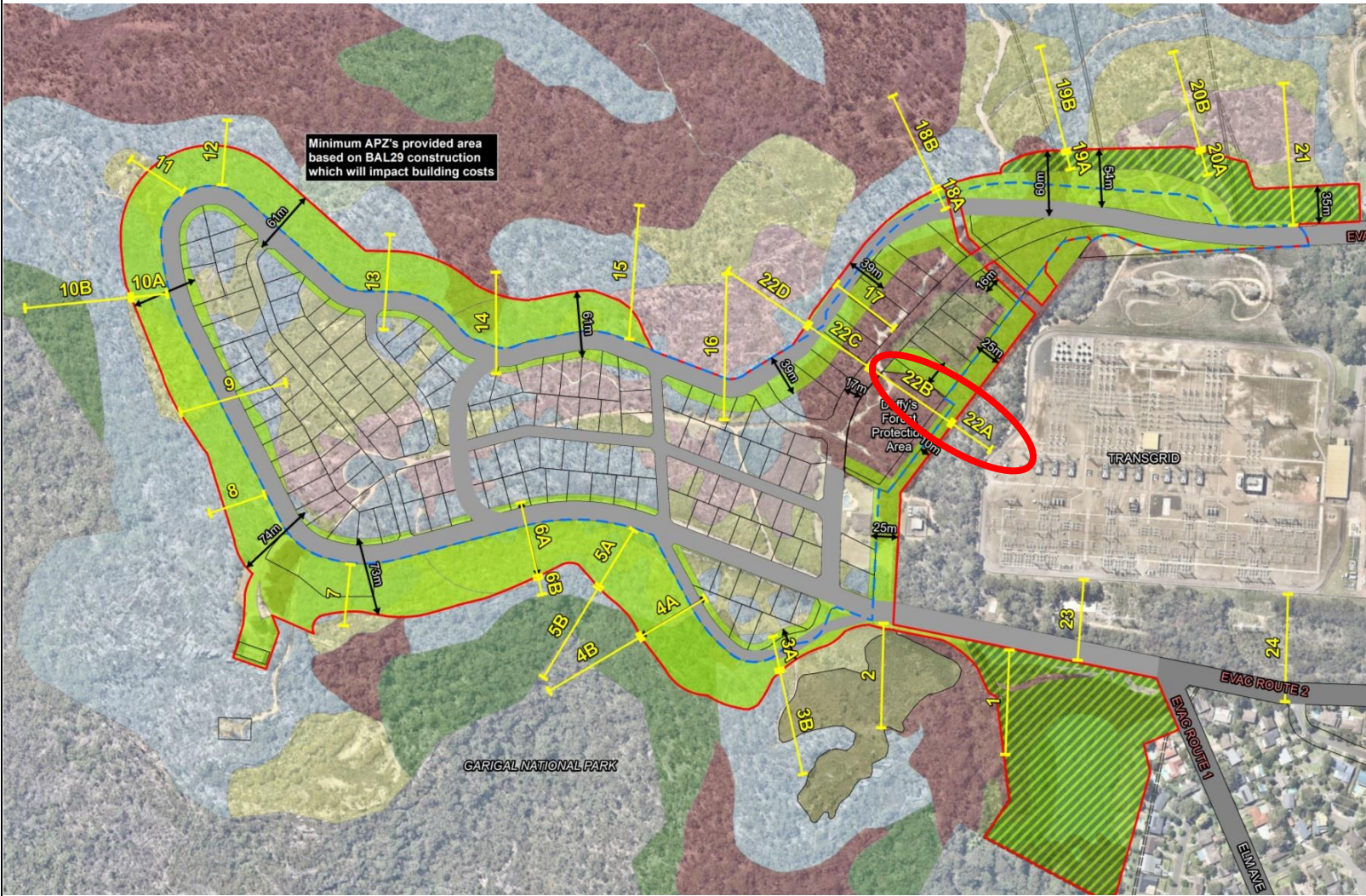
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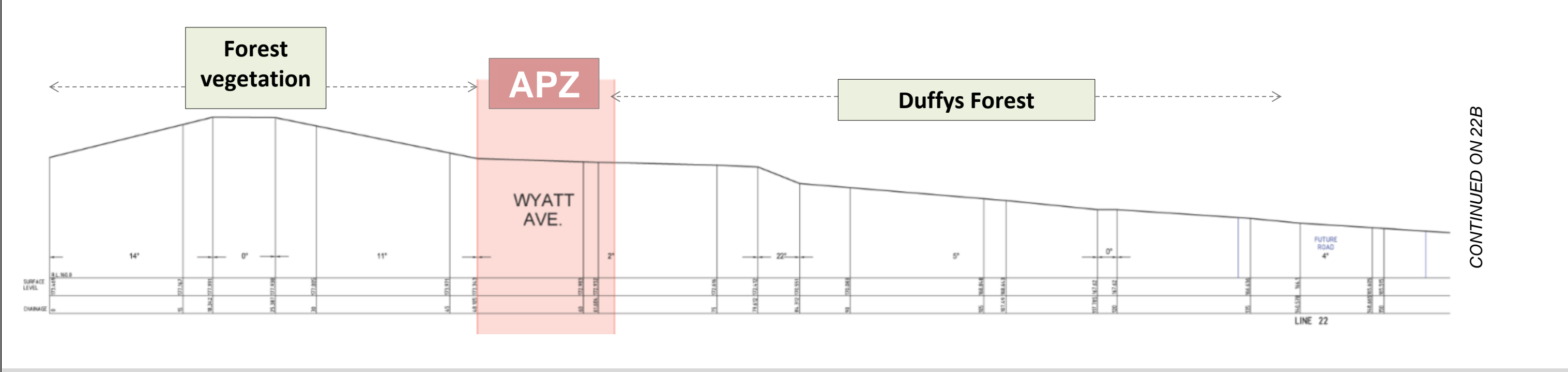
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TRANSECT LINE 22A & B



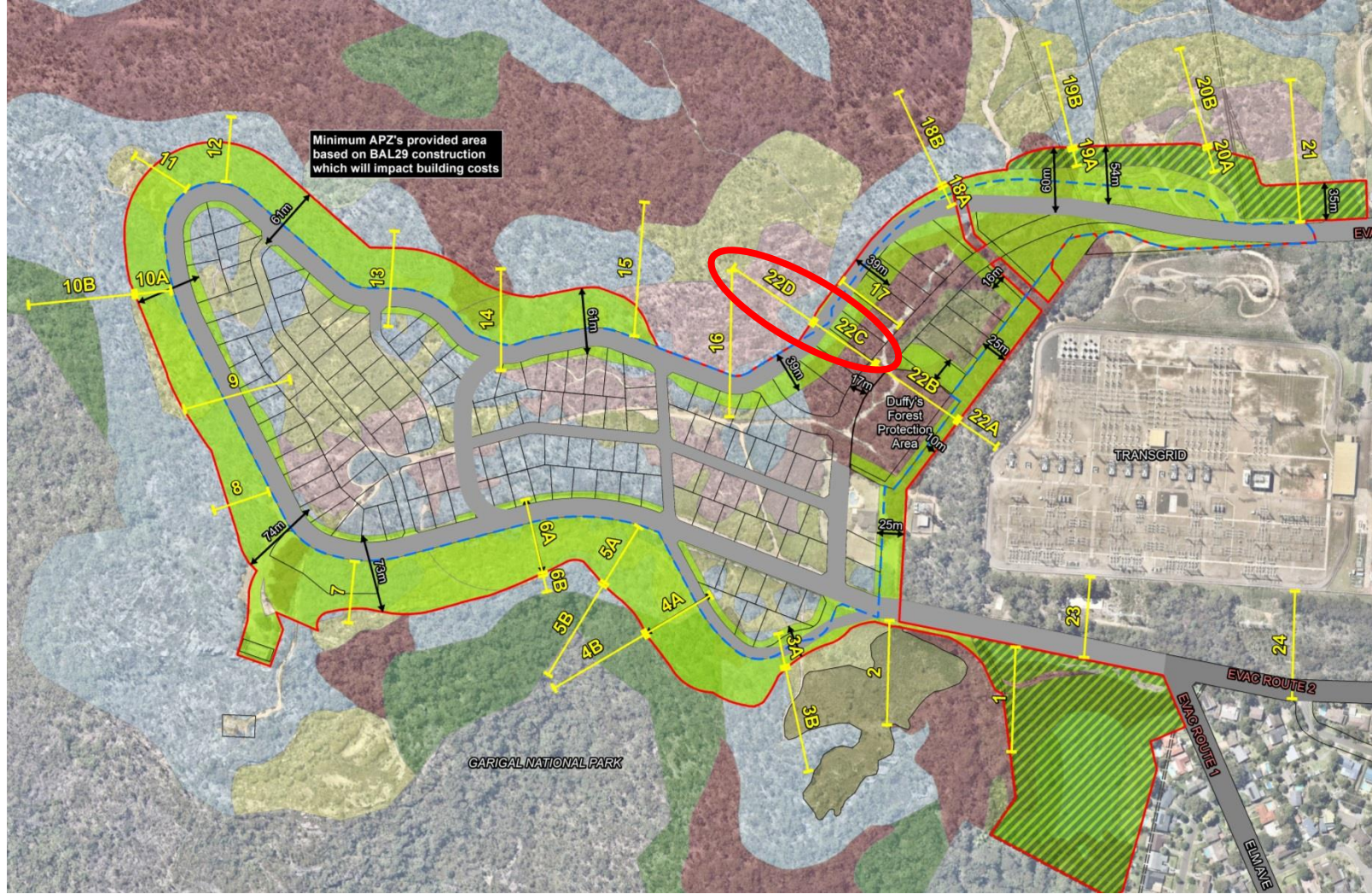
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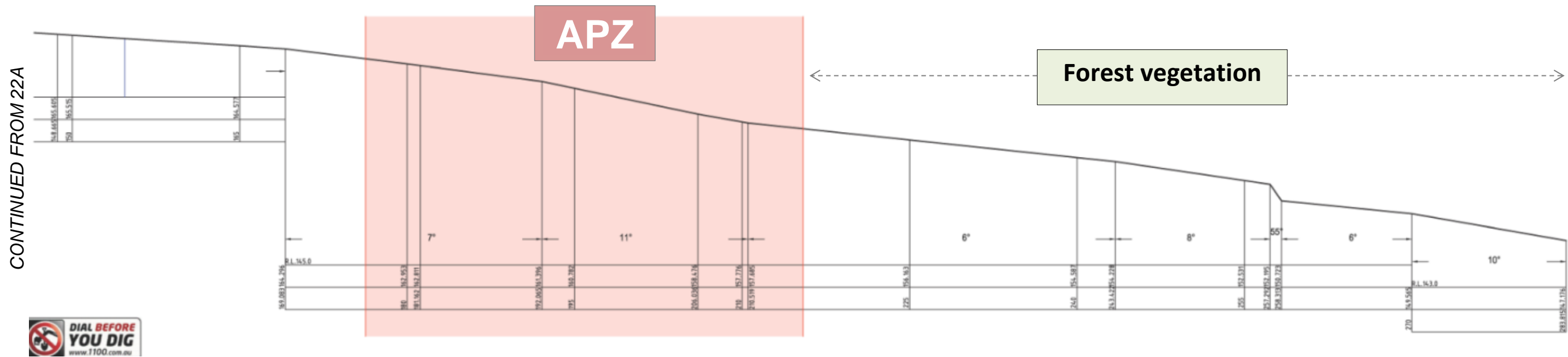
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TRANSECT LINE 22C & D



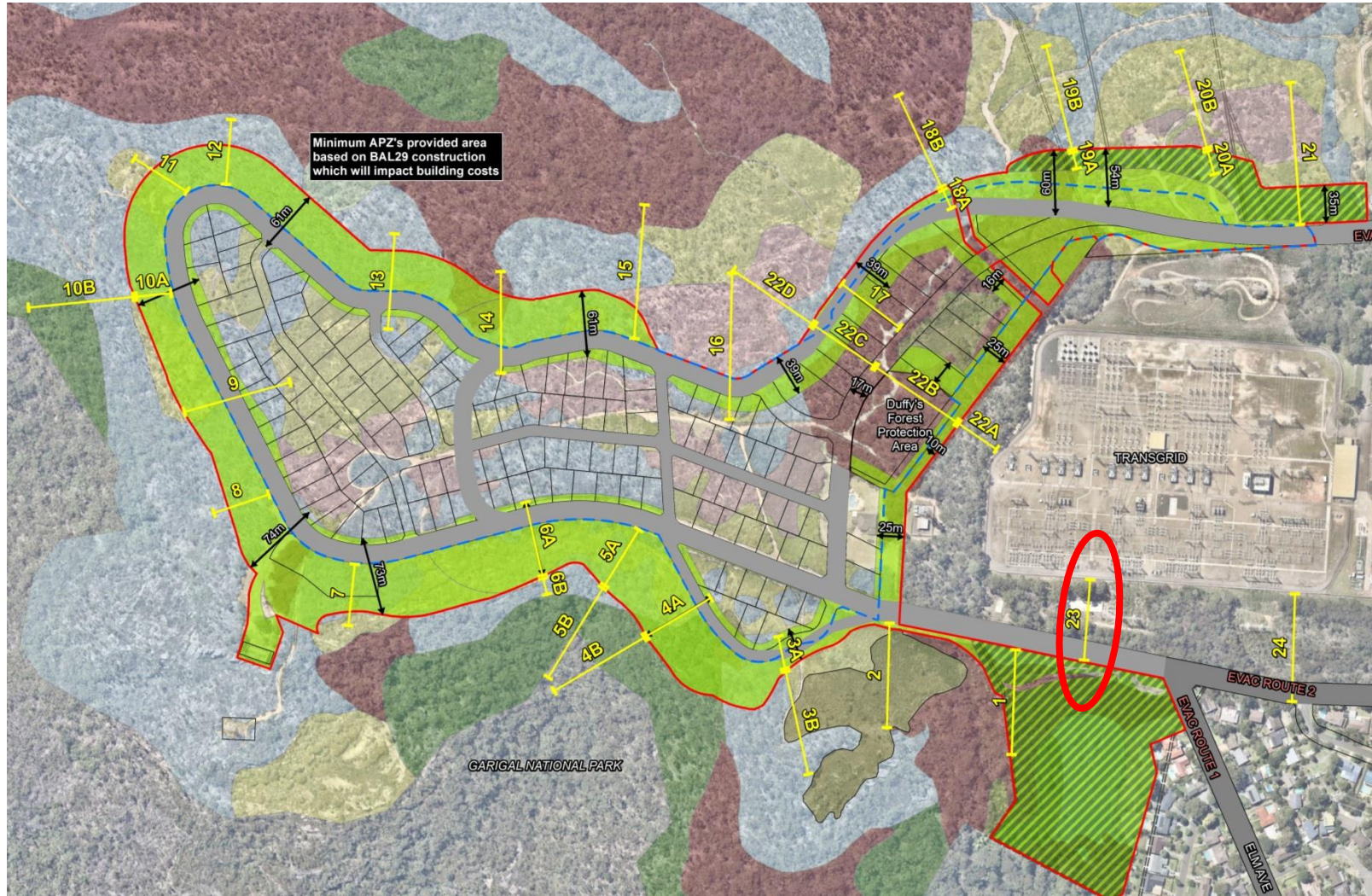
SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



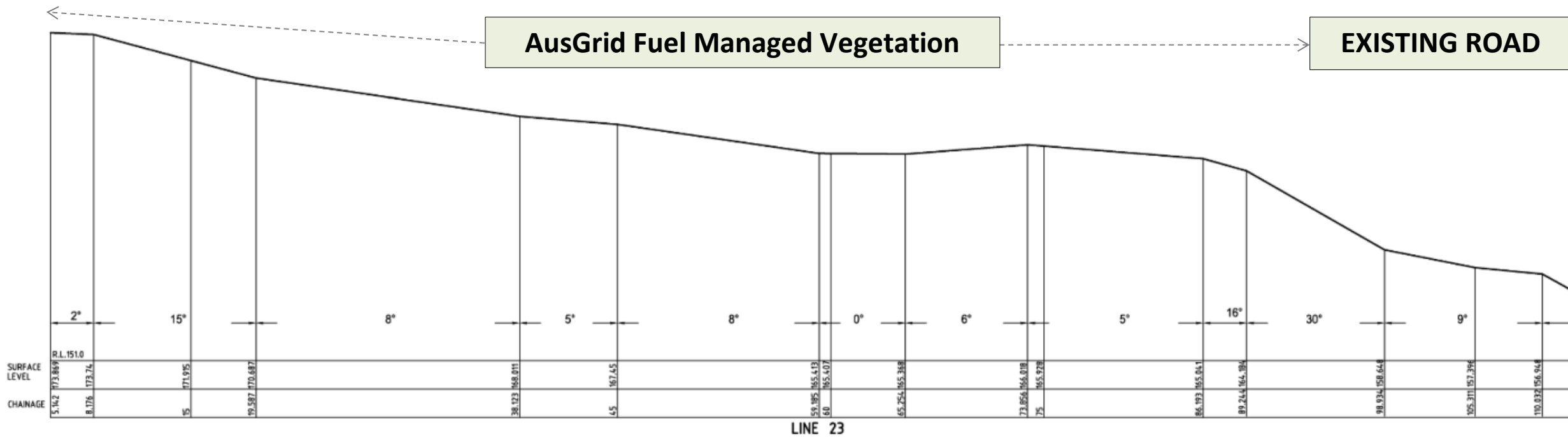
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TRANSECT LINE 23



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

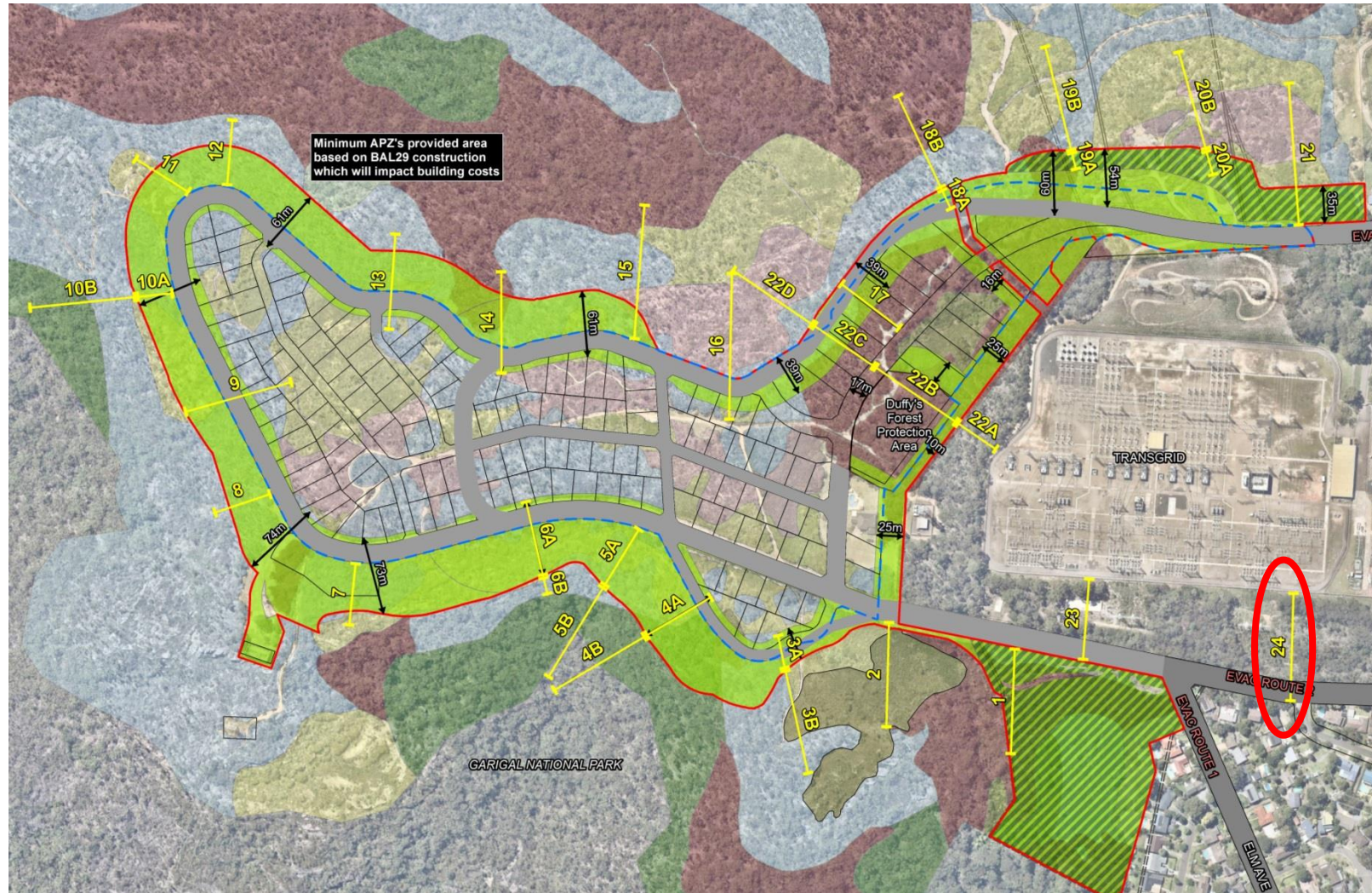
PHOTO REFERENCE



AusGrid Fuel Managed Vegetation (APZ)

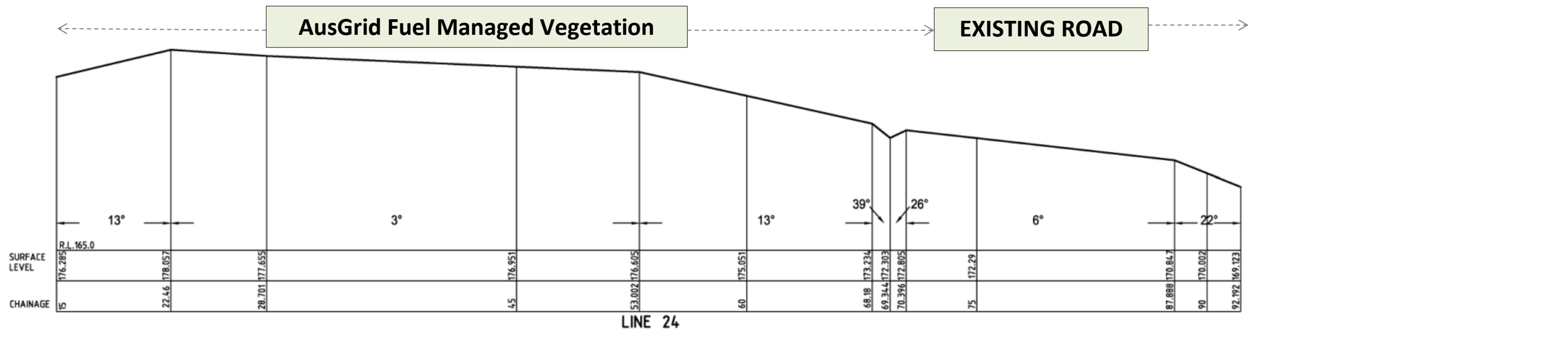
LEVELS PLAN (REF: 30401)

TRANSECT LINE 24



SLOPE TRANSECT OVERVIEW

PHOTO REFERENCE



LEVELS PLAN (REF: 30401)