

Operation Mangatawai Kaimanawa Forest Park Central North Island NZ

Peter Zimmer

Group Support Officer

LandSAR NZ

New Zealand Land Search And Rescue Incorporated



Te Reo Greeting

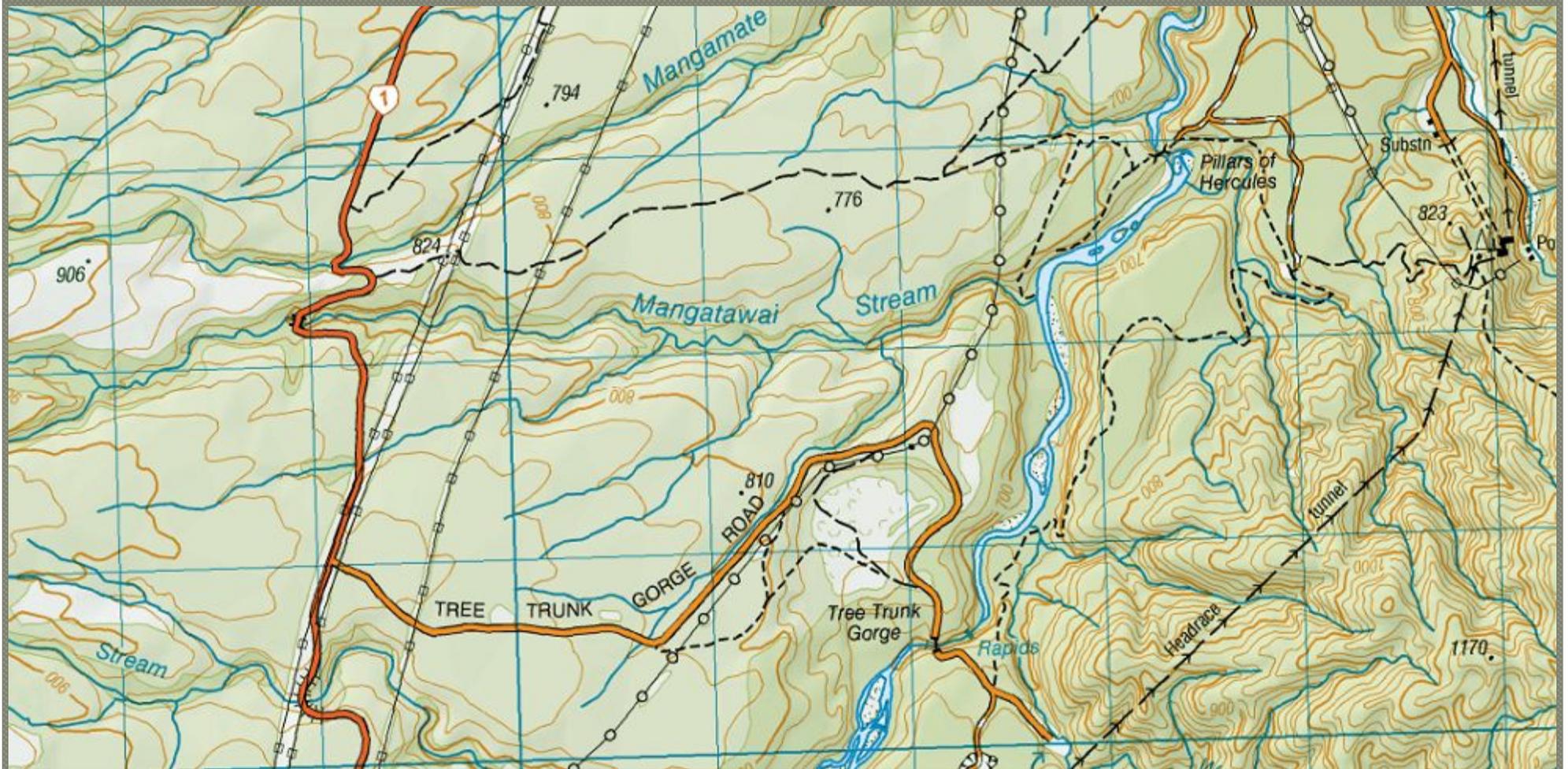
- Kia ora (hello)
- Ko Erbeskopf te maunga (mountain)
- Ko Nahe te awa (river)
- Ko Air NZ te waka (arrival)
- Ko Tiamana te iwi (home country)
- Ko Hunsrueck te hapu (home region)
- Ko Birkenfeld te kainga (home town)
- Ko Helmut toku papa (father)
- Ko Inge toku mama (mother)
- Ko Uwe toku tuakana (older brother)
- Ko Peter ahau (ahau = I am)

Operation Mangatawai

13 August – 09 September 2017

Please respect: PCA, Coroner Inquest Pending

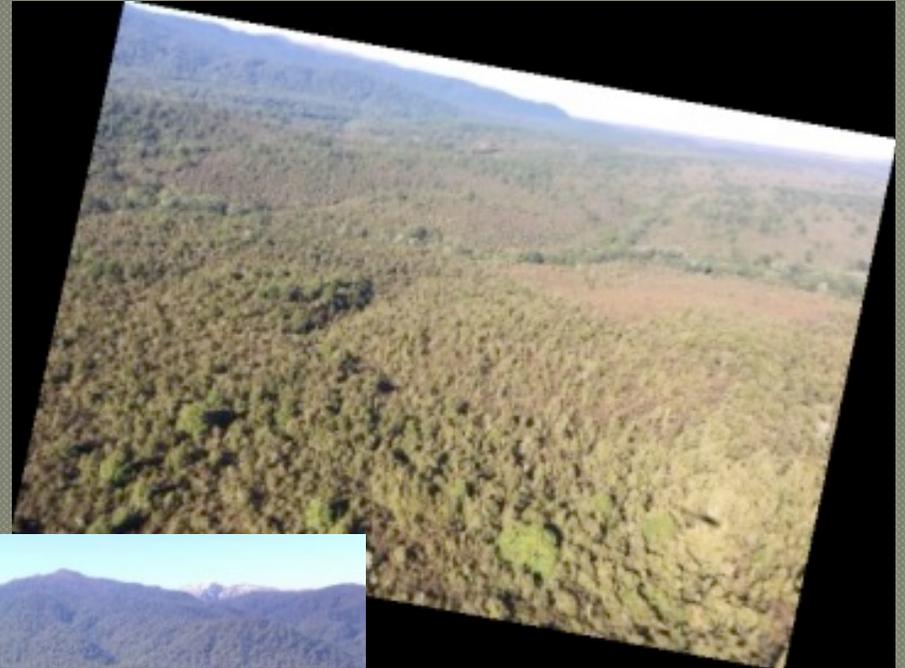
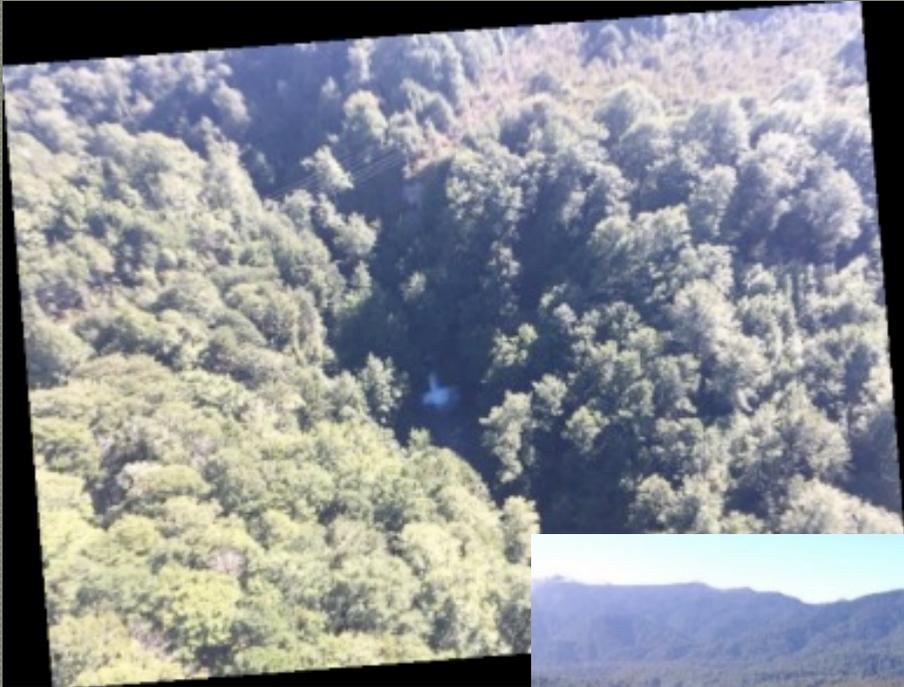




Subalpine scrub



Subalpine Scrub



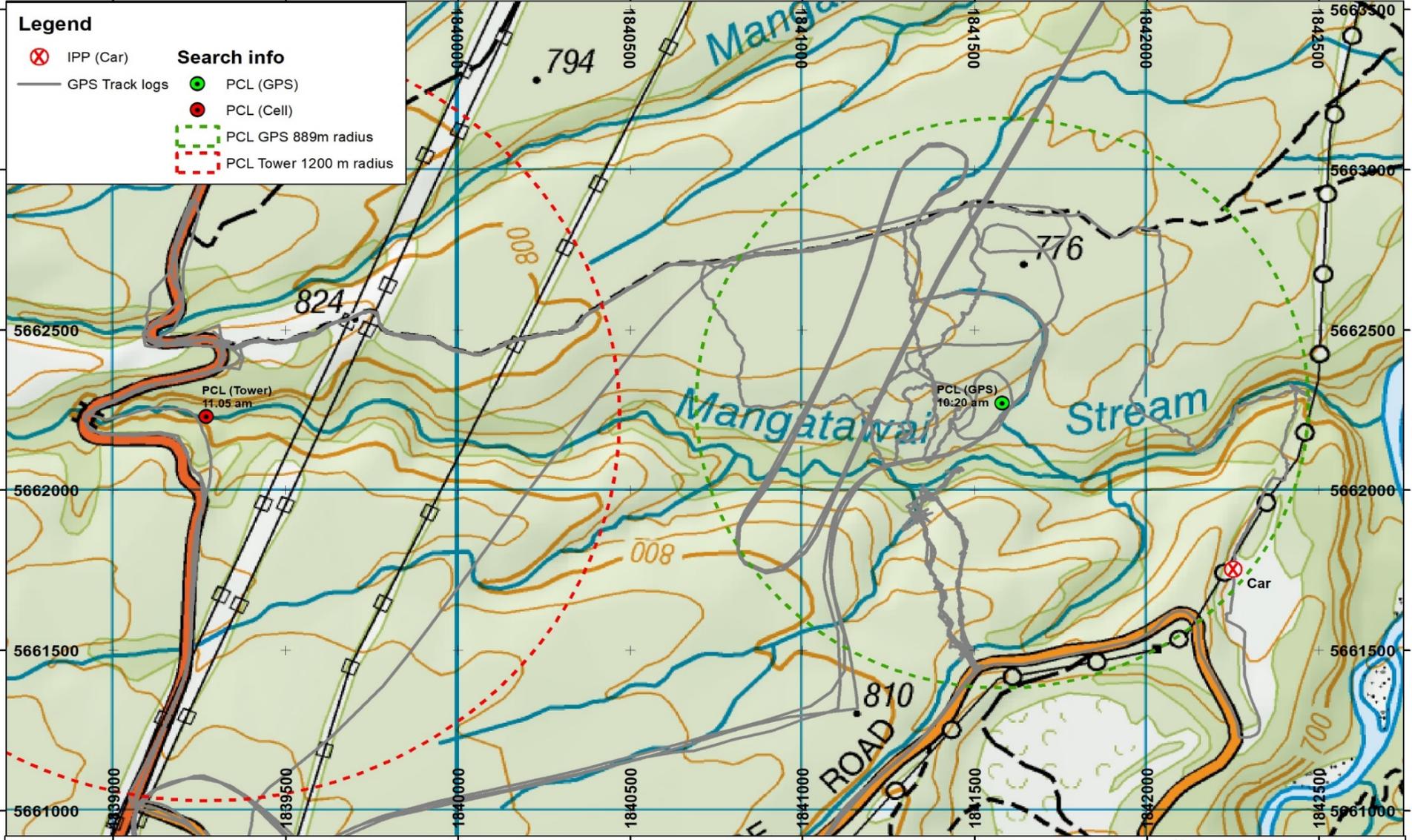
SAROP MANGATAWAI

- Search for two men in their twenties.
- Stolen car pursued along Desert Road SH 1.
- Car abandoned 300 metres along a track near the end of Tree Trunk Gorge Road.
- Fled on foot into bush where they spent the night lost on Saturday 12 August.

Day 1 – Sunday 13 August 2017

- Police receive 3 emergency calls from both men.
- Probable Caller Location (PCL) established a priority search area.
- 2 Police SAR teams deployed by helicopter, later joined by Police SAR dog and handler, voices were heard near PCL.
- Aerial search with Infrared Camera after dark, possible sighting / established a position of interest. → Team of 7 Police SAR personnel and dog were tasked to investigate.
- Family Liaison appointed.





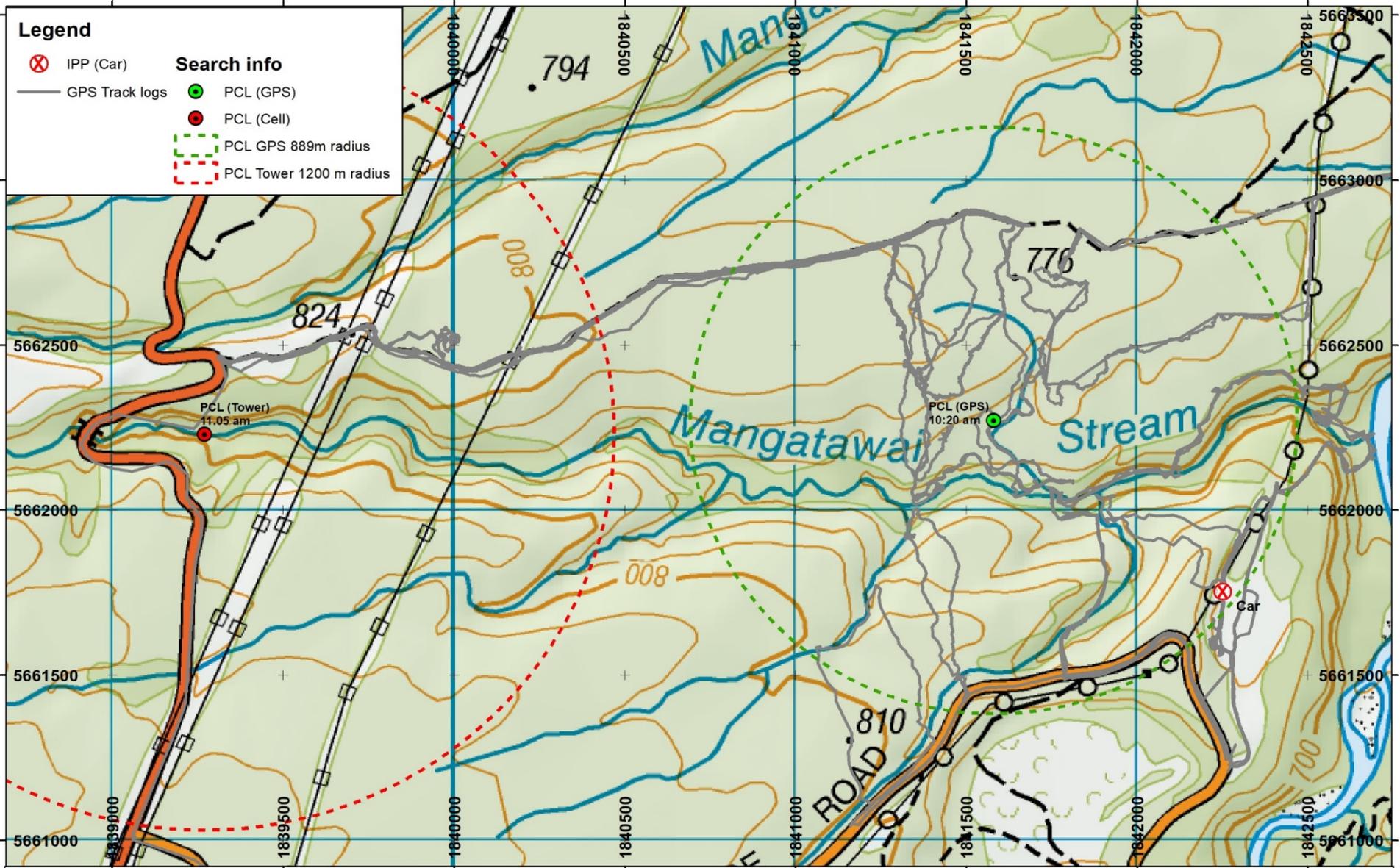
Mangatawai Search
Day 1 - Sunday - 13 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3

Day 2 – Monday 14 August 2017

- Incident Control Point (ICP) established at Taupo Police Station and a Forward Base at Turangi Police Station.
- 5 Police SAR Teams with 2 dogs deployed.
- One “experienced” LandSAR team deployed.
- Location of car confirmed.
- Fire site found with discarded clothing, meth pipe and lighter.
- Red glove found several metres away from fire; shoe, singlet and t-shirt found 300m northeast.



Mangatawai Search
Day 2 - Monday- 14 August 2017

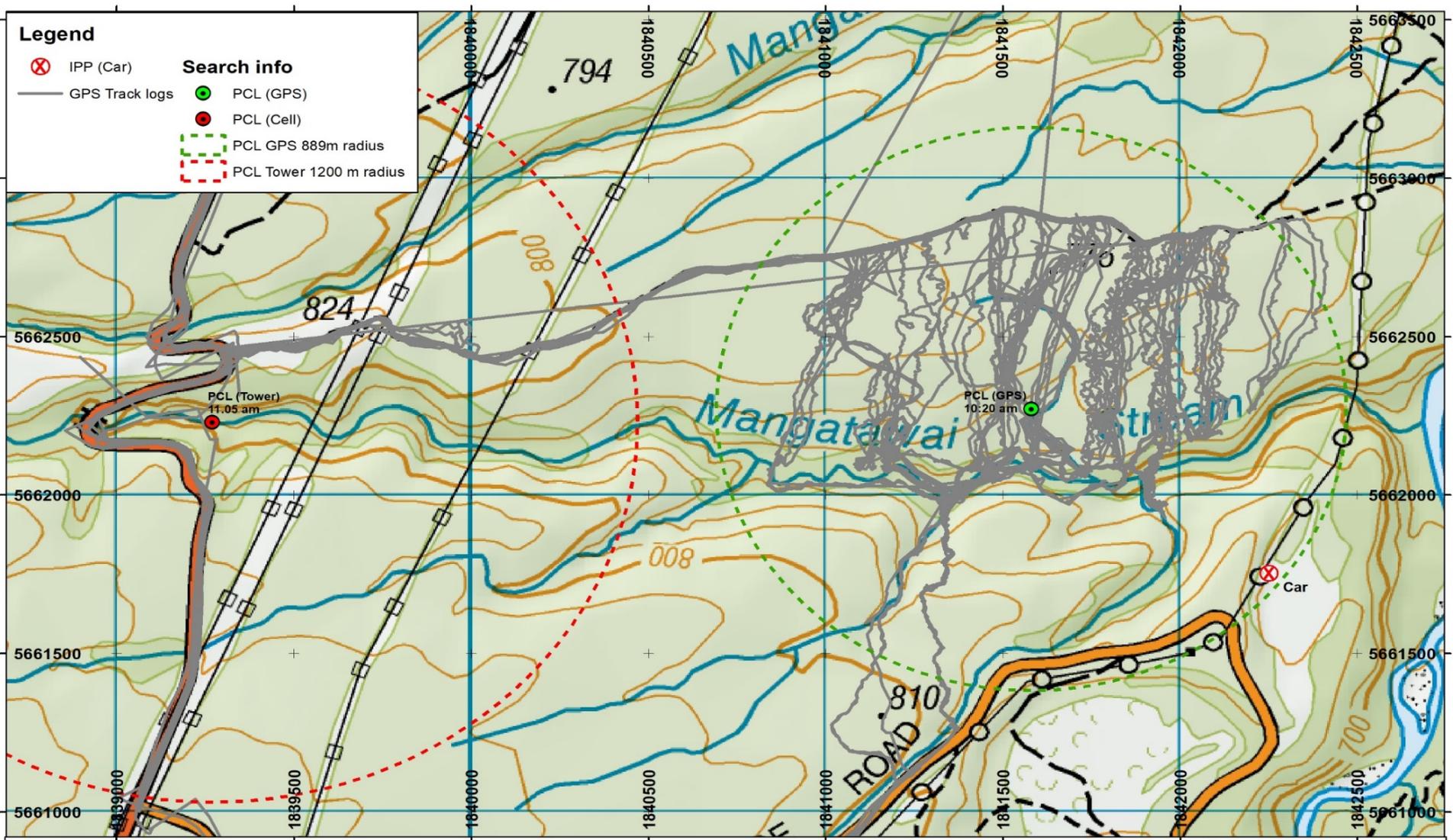
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1
Kilometers
N
W E
S
1:10,000 at A3

Day 3 – Tuesday 15 August 2017

- Briefing at Taupo Police Station at 0800, briefing at Turangi Police Station at 1000, and Whanau briefing at 1100 at Turangi Police Station.
- Search continues with 11 LandSAR Teams deployed with several Police SAR staff amongst them.
- Mobile phone pouch found northwest of fire site.
- Second fire site found 80m east of the first - socks, gas canister and aluminium can discarded nearby. Coca cola bottle found northeast.
- Clothing identified by Whanau (family).

Legend

- ⊗ IPP (Car)
- GPS Track logs
- PCL (GPS)
- PCL (Cell)
- ⬡ PCL GPS 889m radius
- ⬡ PCL Tower 1200 m radius



Mangatawai Search
Day 3 - Tuesday 15 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3

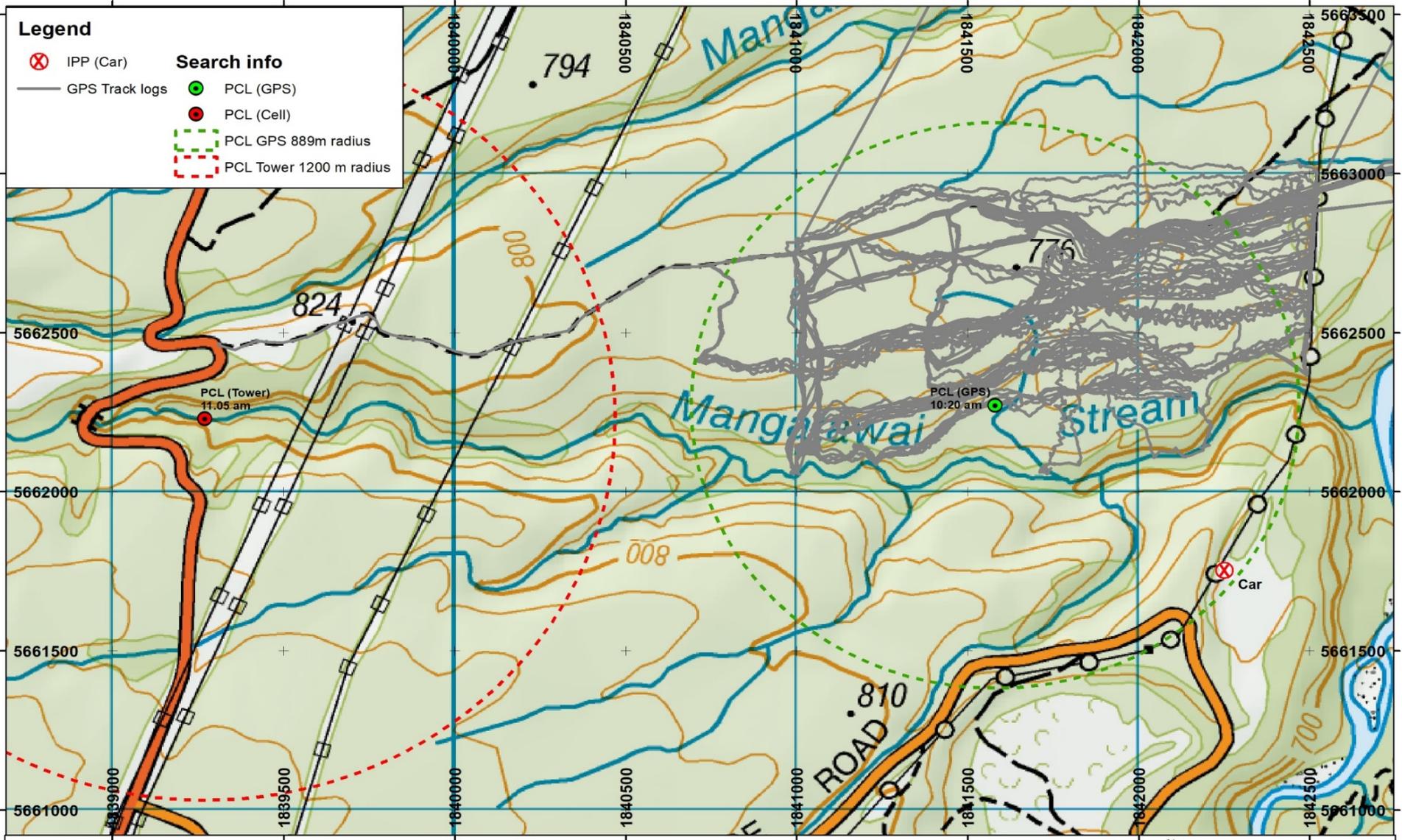
Day 4 – Wednesday 16 August 2017

- Briefing process same as on Day 3.
- 12 LandSAR Teams deployed (including search dog, several Police staff and 11 NZ Defence Force personnel).
- Items collected from first fire site.
- Lots of rubbish found – left by Whanau (family) and associates on previous day.
- Cell phone found.

Legend

- ⊗ IPP (Car)
- GPS Track logs
- PCL (GPS)
- PCL (Cell)
- ⋯ PCL GPS 889m radius
- ⋯ PCL Tower 1200 m radius

Search info



Mangatawai Search
Day 4 - Wednesday 16 August 2017

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1
Kilometers

1:10,000 at A3

Day 5 – Thursday 17 August 2017

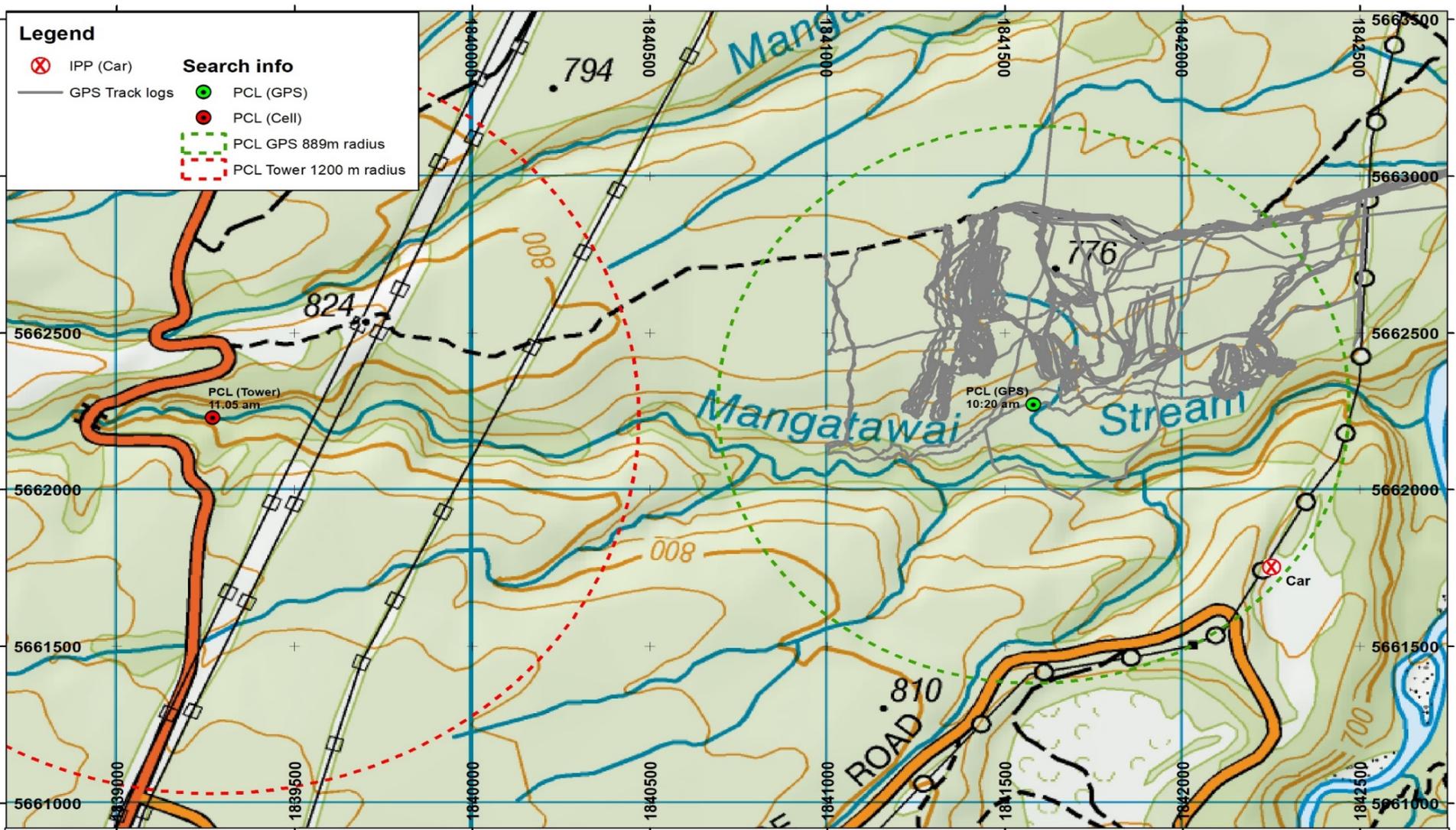
- Briefings at same places as on previous days.
- 6 LandSAR teams deployed with Police staff and 13 NZDF personnel.
- Boot print, muesli wrapper and Leki walking pole found.
- No fresh clues.

Legend

- ⊗ IPP (Car)
- GPS Track logs

Search info

- PCL (GPS)
- PCL (Cell)
- ⋯ PCL GPS 889m radius
- ⋯ PCL Tower 1200 m radius



Mangatawai Search
Day 5 - Thursday 17 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3

Day 6 – Friday 18 August 2017

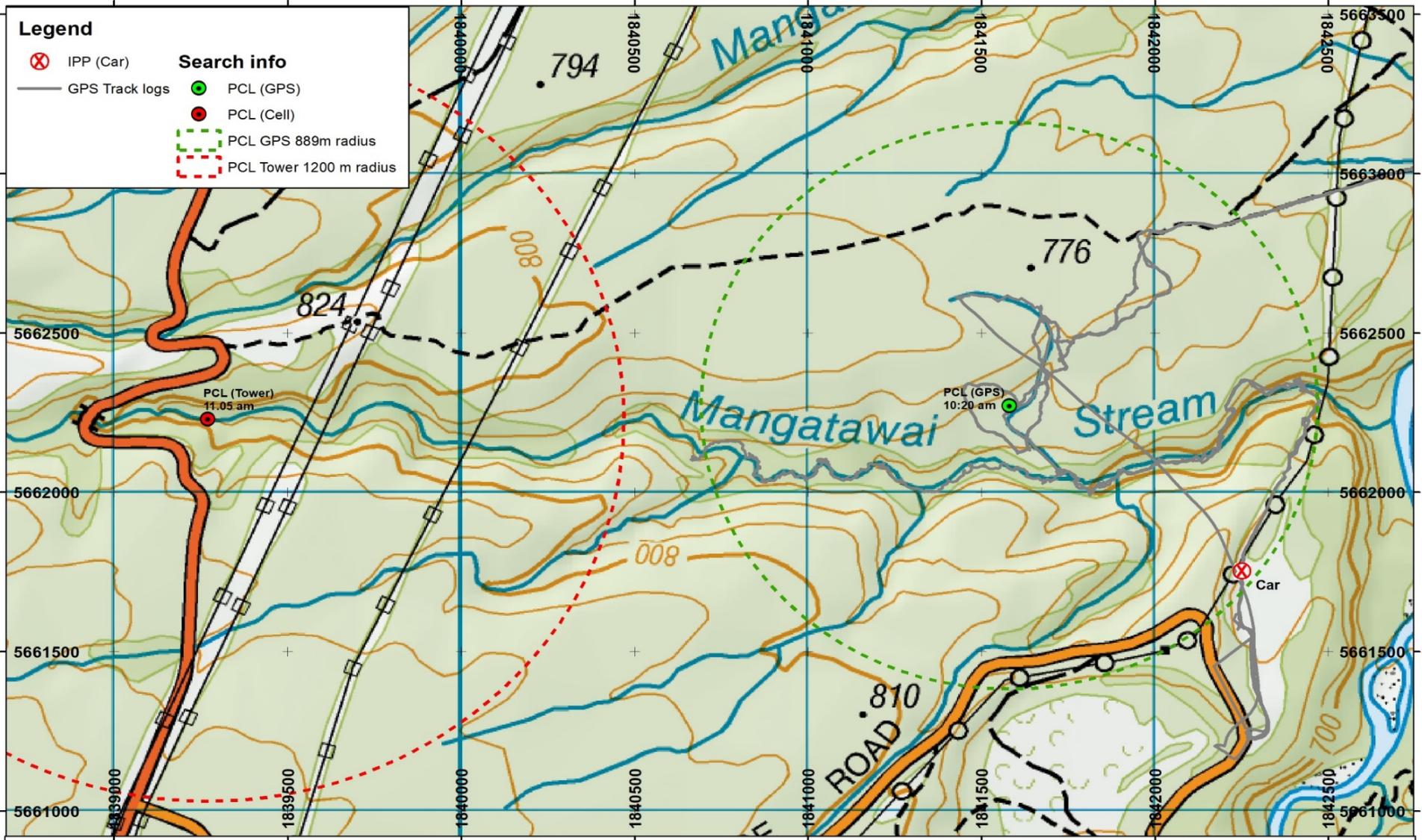
- 4 divers from Police National Dive Squad deployed by helicopter to search Mangatawai Stream and northern tributary. Accompanied by Police SAR personnel.
- Major Charmaine Tate from NZ Defence Forces joins Incident Management Team for the day. Advice received on survivability and likely capabilities.
- Divers find a pair of white gumboots and pants with debit card in pocket.
- One LandSAR team deployed to place care package at fire site.
- Voices heard from Whanau in search area.



Legend

- ⊗ IPP (Car)
- GPS Track logs
- PCL (GPS)
- PCL (Cell)
- ⋯ PCL GPS 889m radius
- ⋯ PCL Tower 1200 m radius

Search info



Mangatawai Search
Day 6 - Friday 18 August 2017



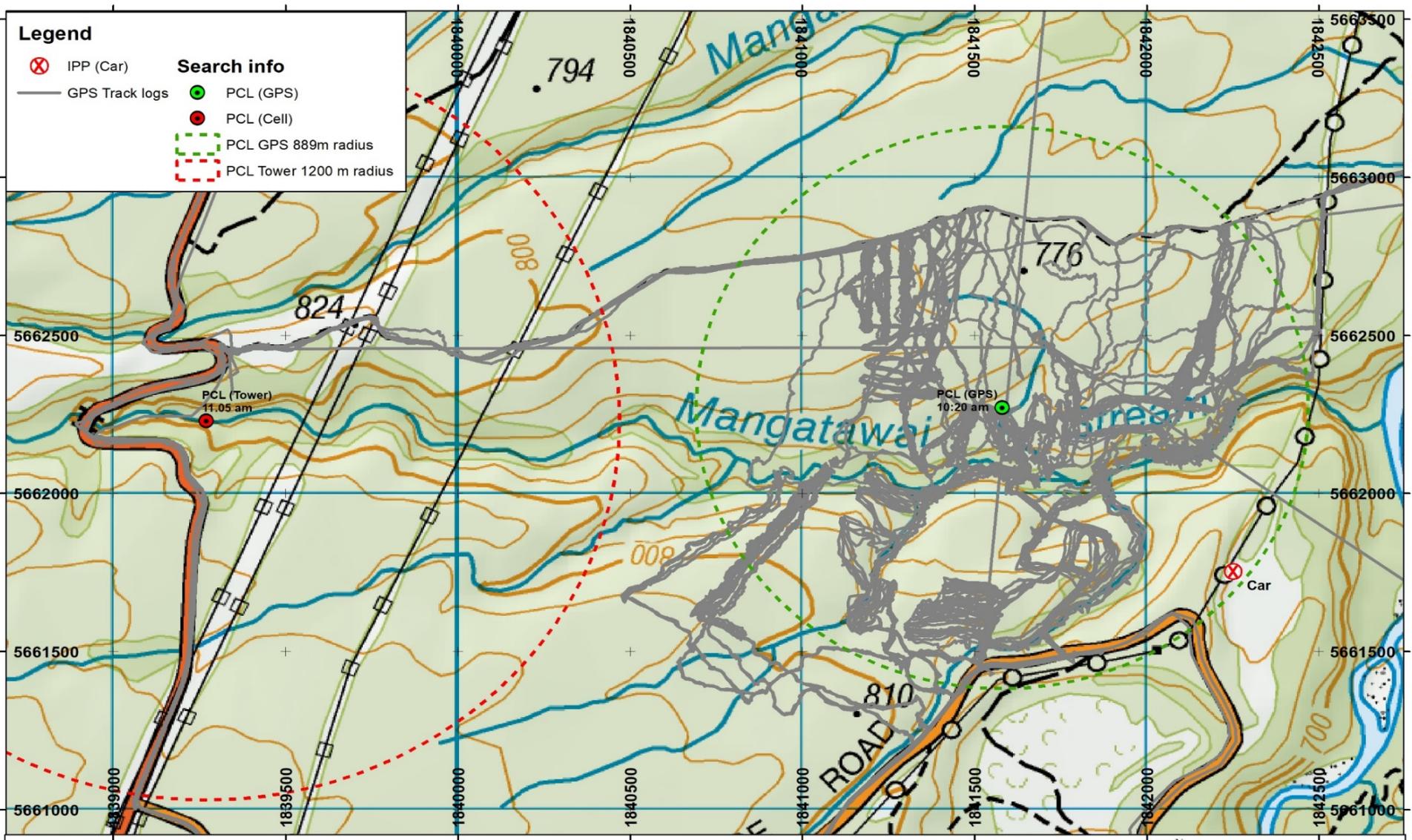
1:10,000 at A3

Day 7 – Saturday 19 August 2017

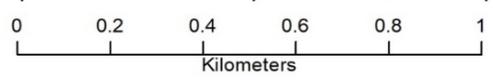
- Briefing again at Taupo Police Station at 0800 and Turangi at 1000.
- 16 LandSAR teams with Police deployed.
- Total 101 people on SAROP – 83 in field.
- Volunteers and Police from afar afield as Auckland, Wellington, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Waikato, Horowhenua, Manawatu, Ruapehu, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Whanganui.
- Radio Scanner found near cell phone location.
- Divers search Mangatawai Stream below waterfall.

Legend

- ⊗ IPP (Car)
- GPS Track logs
- PCL (GPS)
- PCL (Cell)
- ⋯ PCL GPS 889m radius
- ⋯ PCL Tower 1200 m radius



Mangatawai Search
Day 7 - Saturday 19 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3

Day 8 – Sunday 20 August 2017

- Briefing at Taupo Police Station at 0700.
- 9 LandSAR Teams and Police deployed. 48 in field and 16 in management team.
- Panadol packet found in bush south of Mangatawai Stream.
- No fresh clues.
- **Existence of second PCL near Desert Road recognised by IMT.**

OPERATION NAME

DATE Sunday 20. 8.17

INCIDENT CONTROLLER

Barry S

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

DEPUTY CONTROLLER

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

SAFETY AND RISK
Richie S.

INTELLIGENCE
Steve W

PLANNING
Mike W.

OPERATIONS
Dave C.

LOGISTICS
Ross H

PUBLIC INFORMATION
Tony J.

WELFARE

INVESTIGATOR

RADIO OPERATOR

ON SCENE COORDINATOR

PERSONNEL
Kate G

IWI
Walwick

FAMILY LIAISON
Tere / Brian

INFORMATION
Karen

TRANSPORT

MEDIA

VOLUNTEERS

MAPPING
Jim / Heather

CATERING
Angela

COMMUNITY

STAFF

Team 9
chris D
Jim B
Tairape

AIR SUPPORT

TEAM/BOAT 1
Dion P *
Graeme R
Jeremy M *
Bart S *
Sheralee C
Magesh J *
Yvette C *
Kirsten C *

TEAM/BOAT 2
Tom L *
Malcom I *
Rob C *
Derek R *
Colin W *
breth D *

TEAM/BOAT 3
Nick G *
Philip A *
Aaron H *
Robert H *
Steve S *
Will F *

TEAM/BOAT 4
David H *
Fiona B
Andrew R
Julie M

TEAM/BOAT 5
Kyle M *
Robert A
Dan P
Fiona C

TEAM/BOAT 6
Piriangaa Ruketi *
Logan J
Paul G
Paul T
Hayden B

TEAM/BOAT 7
Mike H *
Hadley B
Stuart W
Craig S

TEAM 8
David B *
Jeff F *
Andrew S *
Taylor M *
Pawla L *
Rob W *
Nicole B *

Wtgn Wag

Wang Tpo/Tgi

Auck Tpo

H6

Auck

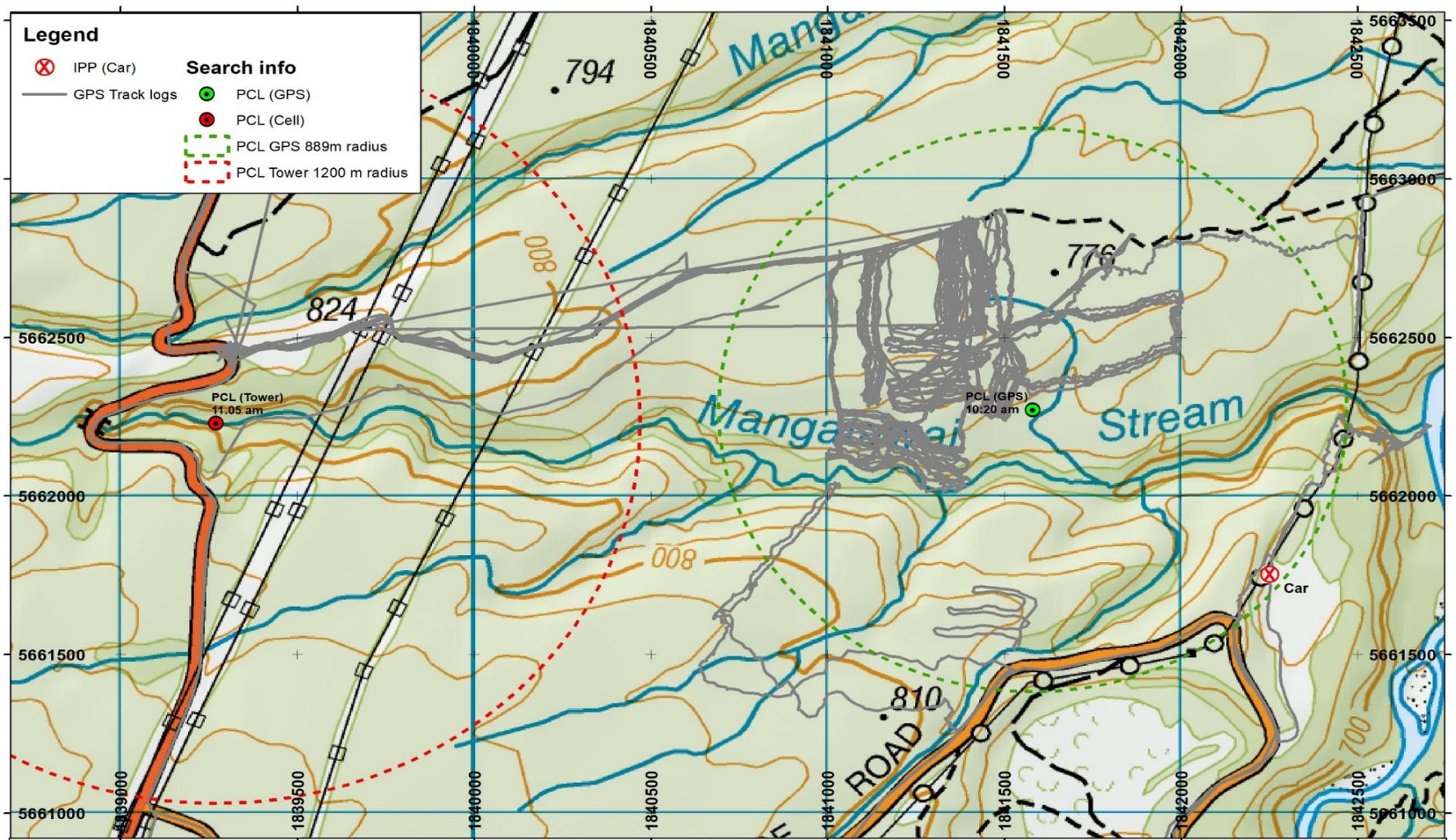
Auck

H6

H6 Horo PN

Legend

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 - ⬡ PCL Tower 1200 m radius
- Search info**



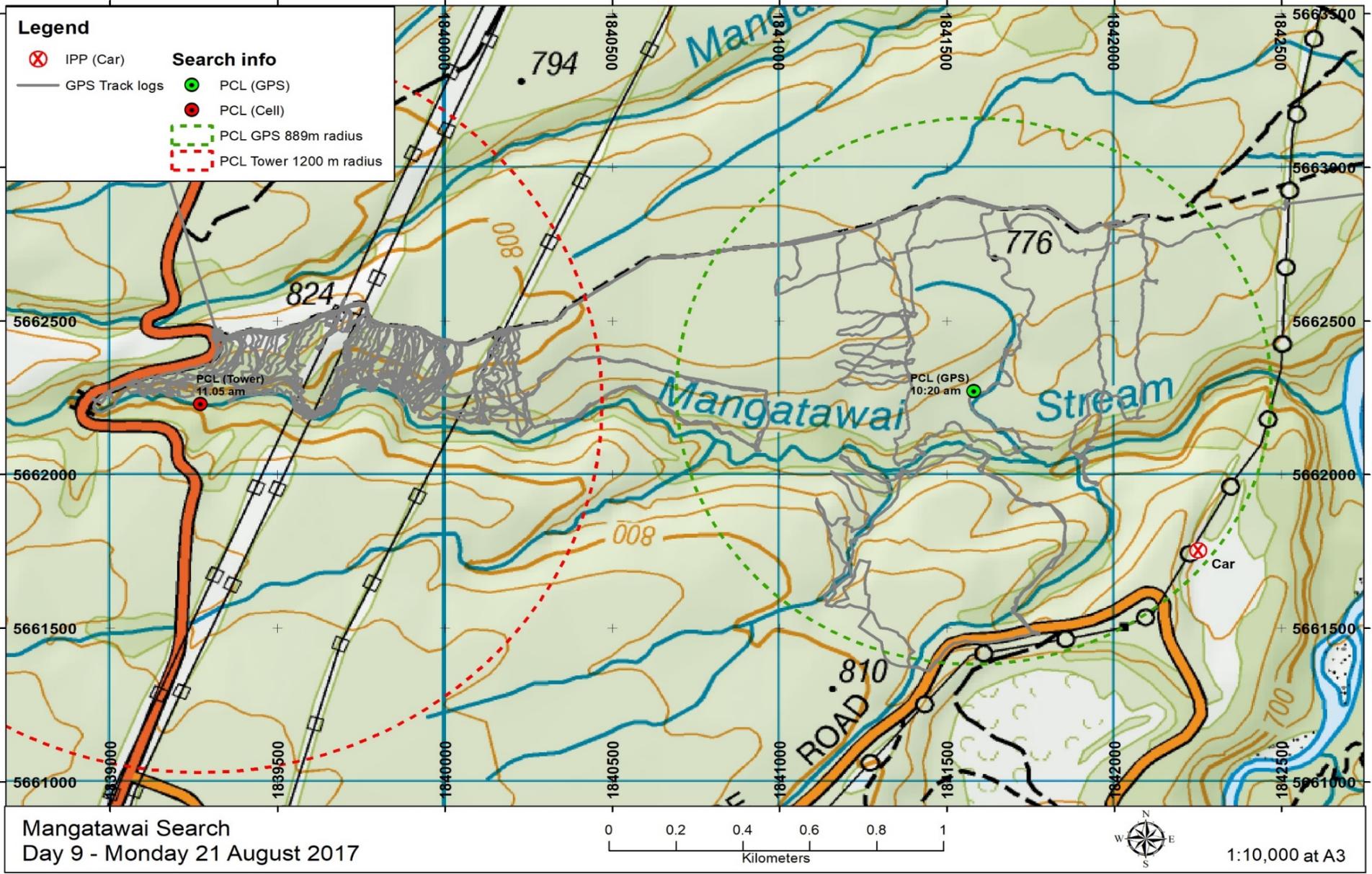
Mangatawai Search
Day 8 - Sunday 20 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3

Day 9 – Monday 21 August 2017

- **2 LandSAR Teams deployed in proximity of Mangatawai Stream downstream from Desert Road and around Pylons.**
- **One Police SAR dog and handler and Police SAR person deployed in similar area.**
- **No fresh clues discovered.**
- **Technical advice from PNHQ sought on PCL characteristics.**



Mangatawai Search
Day 9 - Monday 21 August 2017

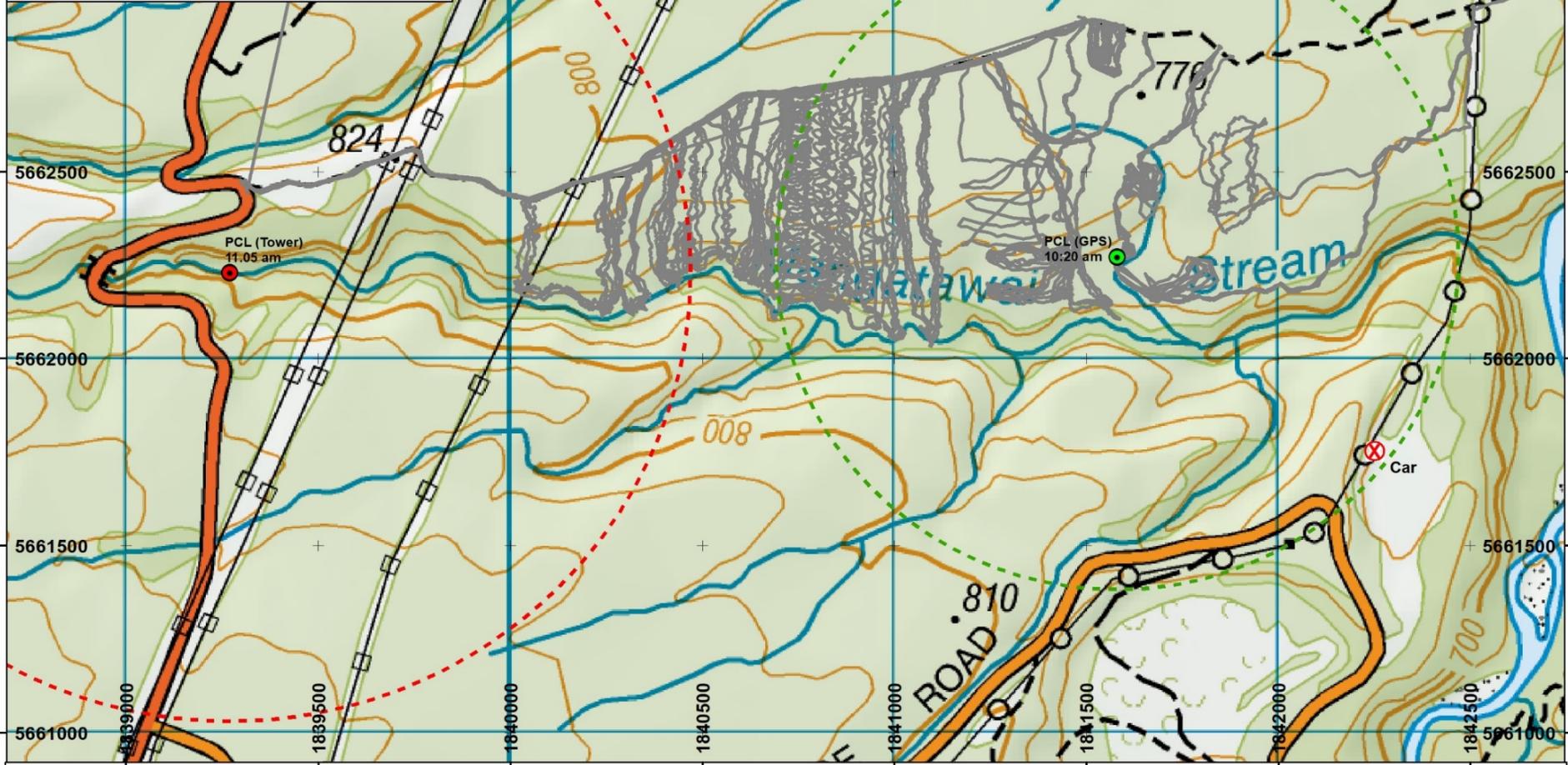
Day 10 – Saturday 26 August 2017

- Briefing at Taupo Station at 0730 and Turangi at 0830
- **Karakia at Turangi at 0900**
- Rahui explained by Ngati Tuwharetoa
- Search of area between Pylons and first PCL
- No fresh clues found

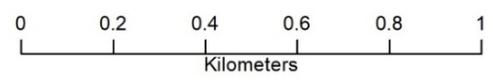
Legend

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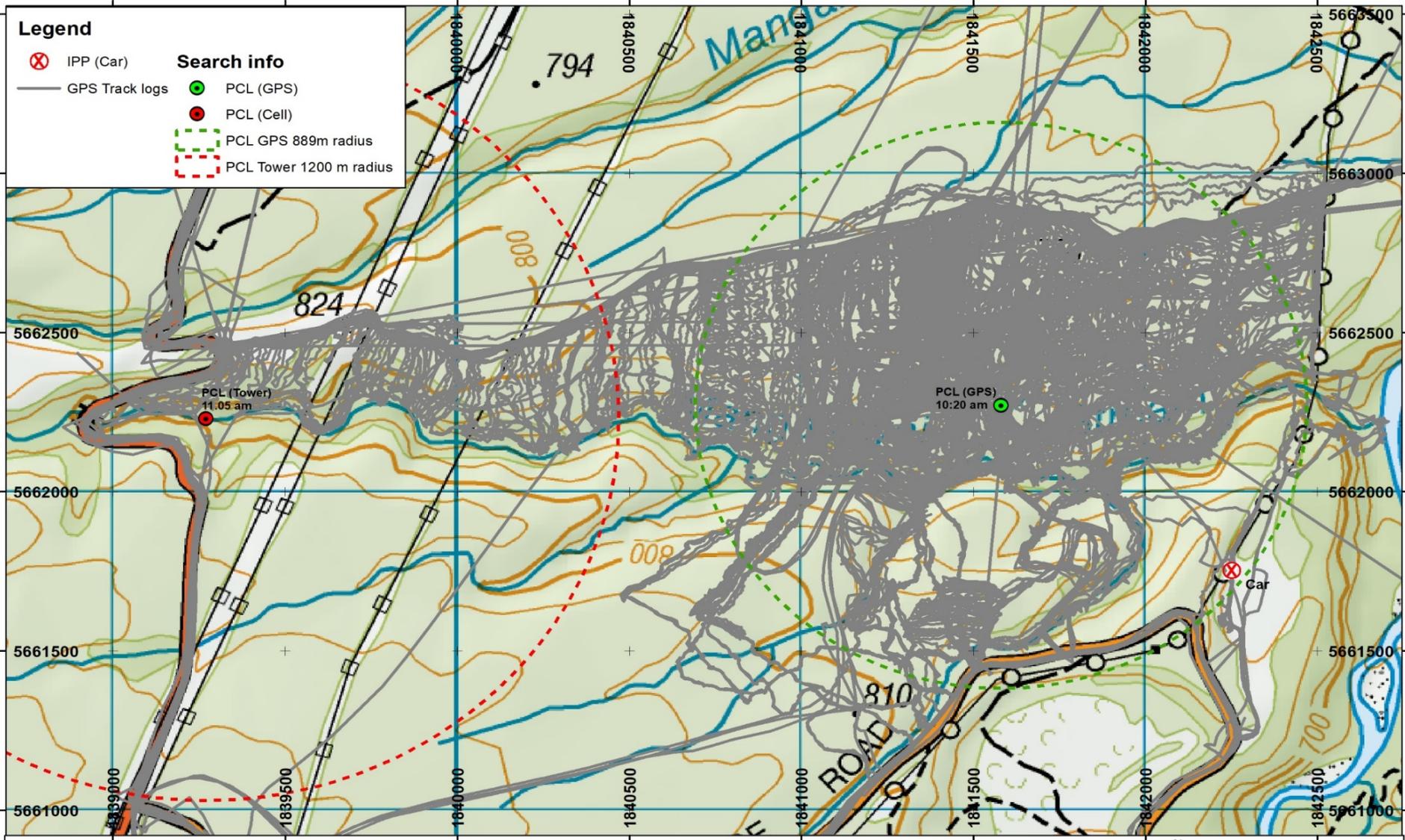
Search info



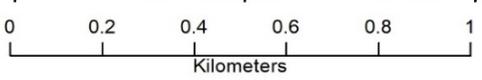
Mangatawai Search
Day 10 - Saturday 26 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3



Mangatawai Search
 Sunday 13 August 2017 - Saturday 26 August 2017



1:10,000 at A3

Day 11 & 12 - Monday 28 August 2017, Tuesday 29 August 2017

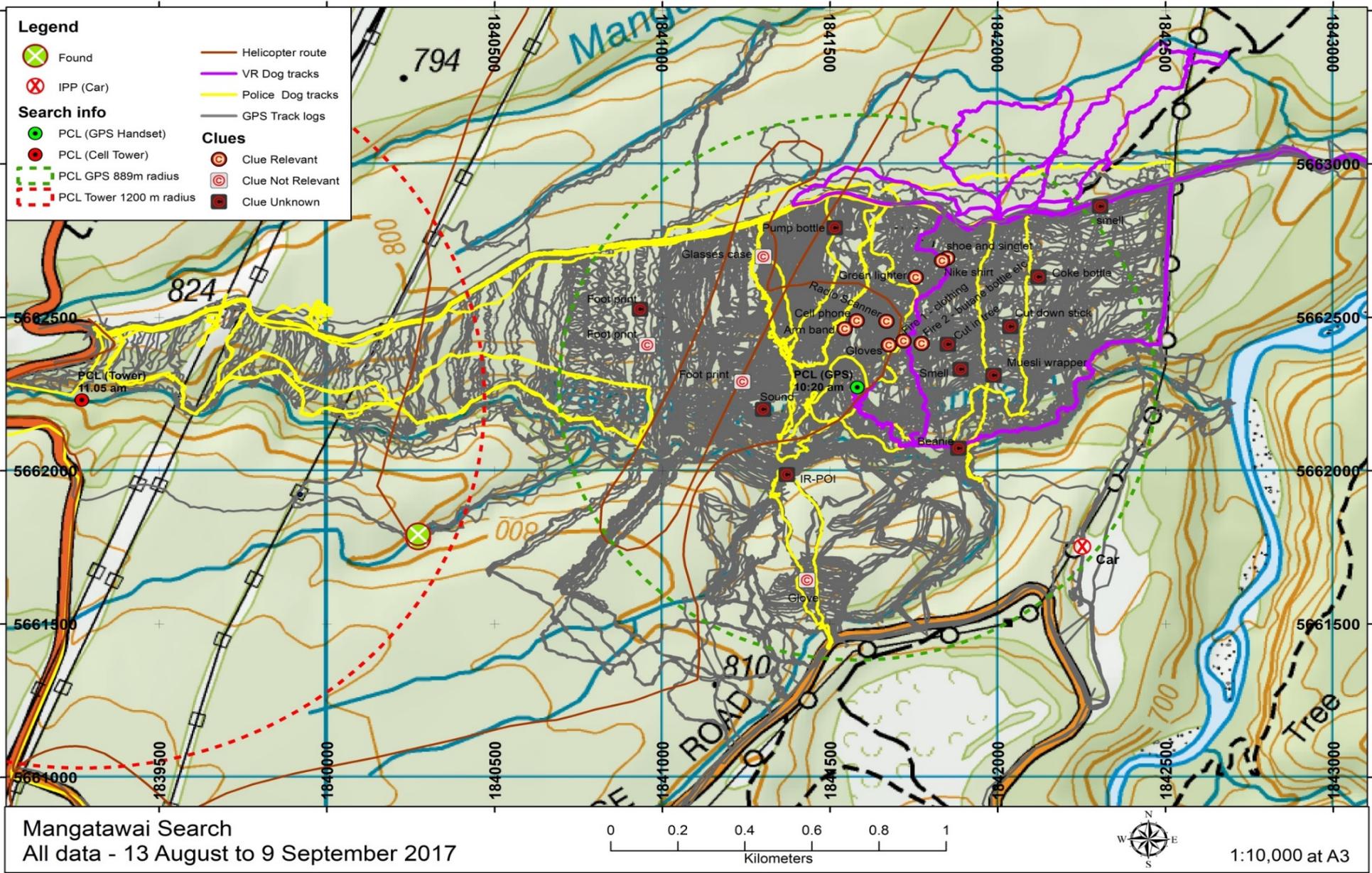
- 3 Police Victim Recovery dogs deployed in high probability areas for next 2 days.
- Nothing of interest found.
- Family and Iwi liaison continues.
- Planning and Intelligence continues.

Day 13 – 08 September 2017

- One Police team search tributary north of MTB track near pillars.
- Planning for search of remaining tributaries next day.

Day 14 – 09 September 2017

- 3 Police and LandSAR teams search tributaries at western end of search area and area of interest to south of Mangatawai.
- Bodies of the missing men found in south western tributary of Mangatawai Stream. One man was in the stream, the other man was 20 metres away in the bush.
- Approximately 1.5 Km from original PCL.



Teamwork

- LandSAR NZ volunteers from all over the North Island.
- NZ Police (SAR management, field and family liaison).
- NZ Defence Forces helping out.
- Ngati Tuwharetoa very important support role with community and family liaison, spiritual and mental well-being of family, whanau, community and the searchers.

Iwi Relationships

- Kaitiaki – Guardianship of the land
- Rahui / Tapu – restricting access, provide time to heal and recover; blessing missing men, their families and the searchers (no female searchers during Rahui / Tapu)
- Whaka Noa – lifting the Tapu / Rahui
- Tangata Whenua – people of the land and a locality, people of a tribe
- Marae – meeting house with carvings used for tribal events

Opportunities for improvements – my opinion

- GPS use during SAROP (data lost)
- Mobile phone forensics (legal aspects)
- Search linear features (cover the basics)
- Lost person behaviour (LPB) – “on the run”.
- Don’t plan alone (refresh the collective thinking)
- Think simple (back to basics – LPB)
- Consider survivability (those guys would have been moving initially to get out)
- Different outcome???

I like to thank Dave Comber for his support.

Thank you very much for listening to my presentation.

Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou Katoa

Are there any questions?

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LandSAR NZ

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