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23rd August 2006,

David Hunter Principal Consultant Coomes Consulting P.O. Box 305 South Melbourne Vic 3205

Dear David,

RE: Barlings Beach subdivision revisited

Coomes Consulting requested that **ngh**environmental map the extent of 'significant vegetation' including the Coastal Swamp Forest and Mature Dune Complex within the north eastern corner of the Barlings Beach proposed sub-division area. This followed on from a request in correspondence from Charlie Bell of the NSW Department of Natural Resources dated 16 May (Reference BR0305). In order to carry out this work the site was visited by Nick Graham-Higgs and Jackie Miles in the company of the surveyor Jason Hay (of Coomes Consulting) on the 2nd and 3rd August 2006.

During the site visit the vegetation boundaries were marked with surveyors fluorescent tape and pegged with white wooden stakes to allow for Jason Hay of Coomes Consulting to survey these boundaries. The area mapped included the wetland area which occurs along the drainage line in the north-western section of the site and the small dune on its eastern edge. This area includes two mature vegetation communities, defined as "Coastal Swamp Forest" and "Mature Dune Complex" in the letter from DNR. Both these two communities have been listed as Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 subsequent to the original impact assessment for this subdivision which was undertaken in 2002. The community referred to by DNR as "Coastal Swamp Forest" is listed as an EEC under the name Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions, and those parts of "Mature Dune Complex" which are dominated by eucalypts, usually bangalay (Eucalyptus botryoides), have been listed as Bangalay Sand Forest of the NSW Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions. The majority of the vegetation in the north-west corner of the site and along the drainage line consists of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, situated on low-lying ground. There is a narrow strip of mature Bangalay Sand Forest on an old dune on the eastern side of the wetland close to George Bass Drive. East of this is regenerating Dune Complex vegetation. The pegged line is between the edge of the Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest EEC and regenerating Dune Complex vegetation in the southern part of this area and between mature and regenerating Bangalay Sand Forest in the north-eastern part of the area. The two EECs abut George Bass Drive near the culvert opposite the Bevian Road junction.

The boundary of the surveyed vegetation communities is included in the attached map.

sydney

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While undertaking this work a population of a threatened plant species, *Persicaria elatior*, listed as Vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, was found in the wettest part of the wetland immediately east of the culvert under George Bass Drive. This area is outside the area proposed for development, and the development is unlikely to have a notable impact on the population. This plant appears to colonise wetlands when water levels recede during droughts, and to persist only in the soil seedbank between such events (J. Miles, pers. obs.), which may explain why it was not detected during surveys conducted on the site in 2002. It has also been recently recorded persisting in retained wetlands within the greater Batemans Bay area, in close proximity to houses. The number of plants present on this site appears to be in excess of 200, densely clustered in several patches within an area of about 50 x 10 metres. All plants are relatively small and have commenced flowering, but the area in which they are located has been flooded by recent rains, so it is uncertain whether the plants will be able to survive and produce seed when partially submerged.

If you require clarification of the work undertaken, please call me on 6494 7771.

Yours sincerely W

Nick Graham-Higgs

Director **ngh**environmental



BARLINGS BEACH COSTAL SWAMP FOREST

BARLINGS BEACH COMMUNITY Rev Drg No 150324G03 EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL coomes consulting