

8 August 2021

To whom it may concern,

## **RE: RESPONSE TO DPIE RTS COMMENTS**

- 1. It is recommended high density native vegetation beds are planted on disturbed surfaces to reduce the risk for future weed impacts.*

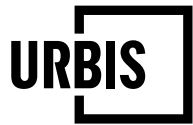
Revegetation of road projects is typically undertaken with planting out and seeding of large areas of disturbed land. This can be an expensive and sometimes not entirely successful process. Our design approach is predominately based on natural revegetation given the locality is almost entirely within a dense native forest. This approach adopts a natural process of regeneration harnessing the resources that are inherent in and adjacent to the new road corridor.

The natural regeneration process will mitigate environmental impacts on land disturbed by road construction works using an environmentally sustainable, time-efficient and cost-effective process. The approach aims to restore native ecosystems by recreating conditions conducive to the recruitment and successful establishment of adjacent indigenous trees, shrubs, and groundcovers.

A critical component of the approach is the recovery and reuse of site materials, including seed, soil and mulched material from cleared vegetation. By carefully stripping and stockpiling site topsoils and mulched vegetation, we were able to reconstruct the natural soil profile to preserve not just the fertility and seedbank of the existing topsoil, but the depth and formation of subsoils required to support the plant communities that are characteristic of the locality. The mulched site vegetation provides not only a valuable additional seed source but, by blending with the topsoil, an essential and highly effective erosion protection measure in all areas with exposed soil.

The benefits of this approach are:

- Reuse of the available site resources without the need to import new materials from outside the site
- Use of mulched timber as an extremely effective erosion control on batters
- Natural re-establishment of local indigenous vegetation communities
- Dramatic reduction in need for nursery-grown plants and sowing with imported seed
- Reduced establishment and ongoing maintenance costs
- Minimal manual work
- Dramatic reduction of the usual proliferation of invasive weed species through the landscape
- Establishment of a long-term and robust landscape with significant species diversity
- Use of on-site materials, resulting in a smaller carbon footprint



This natural revegetation method has successfully been implemented on Glenugie Highway upgrade, (amongst numerous other projects), which is an exemplar project from the Roads and Maritime Services, for a native forest adjoining a new road corridor. Part of the projects success was the restricted growth of weeds, maintaining soil stability and protecting water quality in the adjoining watercourses. Not only did it cost less to construct than traditional methods, but ongoing maintenance works are lower too<sup>1</sup>.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phil James  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sesl.com.au/revegetation-of-pacifi-highway>