

Attention:

Belinda Scott

NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Your Ref:

12-DEC-05-MOD1

Our Ref:

Z12/58819

File:

ESP-070.03.001

Date:

12 April 2012

Dear Mrs Scott,

EXHIBITION OF MODIFICATION REQUEST FOR LAKE ILLAWARRA ENTRANCE WORKS MOD1 (12-DEC-05-MOD1)

I refer to your letter dated 5 March 2012 seeking comments from Wollongong City Council regarding the proposed modification to the Lake Illawarra Entrance Works (12-DEC-05-MOD1).

Wollongong City Council (WCC) has reviewed the application documentation proposing to modify the requirement to construct compensatory nesting habitat for the endangered Little Tern.

Whilst the “preferred option” outlined in the Lake Illawarra Authority (LIA) Project Review and Supporting Information recommends a sensible approach to the management of shorebird habitat, WCC suggests that the current management requirement to reconstruct alternative habitat at the beginning of the breeding season should remain in place until it can be clearly demonstrated that suitable habitat for Little Tern and other nesting shorebirds is available, and is being utilised by the species. Only then, should the requirement to recreate compensatory habitat be examined.

Given the conservation status of the species and the importance of the provision of suitable breeding habitat, WCC is of the opinion that the negatives identified should not be used to negate the requirement to construct suitable nesting habitat for endangered shorebirds. The area involved is small and in the context of the lake and coastline, represents only a small disruption to the recreational amenity and use of the lake.

WCC welcomes the opportunity to work with the LIA and other stakeholders to manage suitable shorebird habitat and looks forward to working together to protect important habitat for threatened species.

Please contact me should you require further information.

This letter is authorised by

Tony Miskiewicz

Environment Planning Manager

Wollongong City Council

Direct Line (02) 4227 7574