

Threatened species, populations and ecological communities

An Ecological Assessment of threatened species, populations and ecological communities for the Potts Hill site, was prepared and submitted as supporting documentation for the Potts Hill Site Concept Plan (Eco Logical Australia, May 2008). The information provided below draws upon this assessment.

Eastern Precinct

The majority of the eastern precinct has been highly modified, and is cleared, or dominated by weed species. Planted trees are present along the southern and northern boundaries. No native vegetation communities, threatened flora, or hollow bearing trees are present.

Two highly mobile threatened fauna species, the eastern bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) and grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), have been recorded within the Potts Hill site, and may use planted trees within the eastern precinct for foraging. Searches for the Cumberland Plain Snail were conducted, with no specimens located.

Brunker Road

The majority of the Brunker Road site has been cleared, though a small area of a native vegetation community, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (0.08ha), occurs. Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act), and as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The impact on the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest community was considered in the Ecological Assessment (Eco Logical Australia 2008), which found that with the retention and management of native vegetation on Sydney Water retained land, that the proposal was unlikely to have a substantial adverse impact on endangered ecological communities or threatened species. In addition, an EPBC referral for the Potts Hill project will be submitted to, and discussed with, the Federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

No threatened plants were located in surveys of the Brunker Road site. The eastern bent-wing bat and grey-headed flying fox, which have been recorded within the Potts Hill site, may use the small area of native vegetation for foraging. No hollow bearing trees are present within the Brunker Road site. Searches for the Cumberland Plain Snail were conducted in vegetation adjacent to the Brunker Road site, with no specimens located.

Bagdad Street

The Bagdad Street site has been highly modified, with most of the site dominated by weed species. A small area mapped as creek (riparian) occurs (0.06ha). This vegetation is associated with artificial drainage lines, and consists of some native species (*Typha orientalis*, *Callistemon* sp., *Melaleuca decora* and *Acacia*

parramattensis), as well as weeds (willows, large-leaved privet, blackberry). This vegetation is not an Endangered Ecological Community.

No hollow bearing trees or threatened plants were located in surveys of the Bagdad Street precinct. A threatened plant species, *Acacia pubescens*, is known to be present in the rail corridor to the south of this precinct. The site is not suitable habitat for the Cumberland Plain Snail. The eastern bent-wing bat and grey-headed flying fox, which have been recorded within the Potts Hill site, may utilise vegetation on the site for foraging.

Retained Lands

A total of 47 *Acacia pubescens* (a threatened plant), as well as native vegetation communities, are present in proximity to the Brunner Road site, within land to be retained by Sydney Water. Native vegetation is also present in proximity to the Eastern precinct, within land to be retained by Sydney Water. The process for management of these ecological values by Sydney Water is identified below.

As identified in Eco Logical Australia (2008), Sydney Water is currently in the process of preparing an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that will address all aspects of environmental management within the retained lands of the Potts Hill Site. A Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) will also be prepared for vegetation on the retained lands, and will support and integrate with the EMP. Management actions under the VMP will be funded for a 5 year period, and will focus on the rehabilitation and revegetation of existing and future vegetation to ensure that it reaches an appropriate condition, and provides increased ecological benefits.

Statement of Commitments

Appropriate controls to ensure that works within the Brunner Road site and Eastern Precinct do not impact upon the ecological values within the lands being retained by Sydney Water are identified below:

- No stormwater or drainage is to be directed towards, or into, Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest or Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest retained within Sydney Water lands
- If earthworks are required in proximity to Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest or Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, to be retained within Sydney Water lands, exclusion fencing, signage, and sediment controls are to be utilised so that fill is not spread into the retained vegetation
- Installation or replacement of any perimeter fencing adjacent to Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest or Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest retained within Sydney Water lands, is to seek to minimise disturbance and impact on these communities
- Locally indigenous native species are to be utilised as part of site landscaping