

24 February 2016

**PAC Determination – Integra Mining Complex
Modification to Biodiversity Offset Strategy (MP 08_0101 MOD 4 & 08_0102 MOD 4)**

1. BACKGROUND

The Integra Mining Complex (Integra) is located approximately 10 kilometres north west of Singleton within the Singleton Local Government Area. Integra is regulated by a single consolidated Ministerial project approval granted on 26 November 2010, which governs both the Integra Underground Coal Project (MP 08_0101) and the Integra Open Cut Project (MP 08_0102).

The consolidated project approval has been modified three times since 2010 to allow:

- an extension to an overburden emplacement and associated infrastructure relocation;
- removal of the requirement to install an overland conveyor for transportation of run-of-mine coal from the underground surface facilities to the coal handling and preparation plant; and
- an extension of time to September 2014 to secure biodiversity offset areas.

Operations at Integra have been under care and maintenance since July 2014 for the underground operations and since August 2014 for open cut operations.

In August 2015, it was announced that Vale Australia, the Proponent, had agreed to sell Integra to Glencore Coal Assets Australia (Glencore) and the Bloomfield Group. On 18 December 2015, Integra was transferred to Glencore. Glencore is in the process of transferring the open cut mine to the Bloomfield Group and will retain the underground mine.

2. PROJECT MODIFICATION

In May 2014, the Proponent lodged an application to modify the consolidated project approval to change the composition of the approved Biodiversity Offset Strategy for the mine, specifically to:

- remove the Western and Supplementary Biodiversity Areas;
- reduce the size of the Northern and Southern Biodiversity Offset Areas and modify the boundaries of the Martins Creek Biodiversity Offset Area; and
- include two new biodiversity offset areas (collectively referred to as the Appletree Flat Biodiversity Offset Area), located approximately 30 kilometres west of the mine and comprising private inholdings within the Wollemi National Park.

This modification follows the completion of exploration works which revealed that the Northern, Southern, Western and Supplementary biodiversity offset areas overlie a significant coal resource comprising 43 million tonnes of thermal and coking coal. The proposed modifications would ensure the mine's biodiversity offset strategy did not sterilise potential future access to these coal resources, subject to a separate application and a full merit assessment.

3. DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Department's Assessment Report assesses the merits of the proposal, its statutory context, public and agency submissions and the Proponent's response to submissions. The report provides particular consideration to threatened vegetation communities, threatened fauna species, biodiversity values, the management and long term security of the biodiversity offset areas and the final landform plan for the mine.

PAC Determination Report: Integra Mining Complex Biodiversity Offset Strategy Modification 4, Singleton LGA

The Department considers that the Proponent has investigated all reasonable and feasible options in its development of an alternative offset strategy and that the modification is justified in this instance to avoid the sterilisation of a significant coal resource. The Department notes that the modification does not in itself propose any mining or physical disturbance to the approved biodiversity offset areas.

The Department concludes that the proposed, revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy adequately satisfies the offset requirements in the project approval and would improve or maintain the biodiversity values of the region over the medium to long term.

The Department recommends that the current application to modify the project approval be approved, subject to conditions, under section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

4. DELEGATION TO THE COMMISSION

On 17 November 2015, the subject project modification was referred to the Planning Assessment Commission for determination under Ministerial delegation of 14 September 2011, as more than 25 objections from members of the public were received.

For this determination, Mr David Johnson, Mr Paul Forward and Dr Marcus Lincoln-Smith constituted the Commission for this project. Mr David Johnson chaired the Commission.

5. COMMISSION'S MEETINGS, SITE VISIT AND CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Briefing from the Proponent and Site Inspection

On 10 December 2015, the Commission met with the Proponent and undertook a site inspection. The Commission was briefed on the background of the project and the company, the proposed modifications to the biodiversity offset areas and the company's views on the Department's Assessment Report.

During the site inspection, the Commission viewed parts of the proposed Northern, Southern, Bridgman and Martin's Creek biodiversity offset areas.

A summary of the meeting and site inspection is attached in **Appendix 3**.

5.2 Public Meeting

On 11 December 2015, the Commission held a public meeting at the Singleton Youth Venue to provide the community with an opportunity to comment on the application, prior to determination. A total of nine speakers presented to the Commission. A list of speakers is provided in **Appendix 1**.

The speakers were opposed to the modification for a number of reasons, including:

- that the offsets did not provide a like-for-like replacement of the vegetation communities impacted by mining;
- that the mine is in breach of its conditions as the offset strategy has not been finalised;
- that the cumulative loss of vegetation in the Hunter Valley is leaving some vegetation communities critically endangered; and
- the potential impacts from any future mining of the approved biodiversity offset areas on the environment and on public health.

A summary of the issues raised at the public meeting is provided in **Appendix 2**.

5.3 Further Discussions with the Department and OEH

On 17 December 2015, the Commission conducted a teleconference with representatives from the Department and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). The Commission sought further information about the two Appletree Flat sites proposed to form part of the biodiversity offset areas, including the biodiversity value of the sites and confirmation that National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and/or the OEH had inspected the sites and supported their suitability as offsets; the long term land tenure arrangements preferred by NPWS; and any comments on the Department's proposed conditions of approval. A summary of the teleconference is provided in **Appendix 3**.

In correspondence dated 11 February 2016, the OEH advised that NPWS officers inspected the sites in January 2016 to confirm the value of the areas and management actions required to be undertaken prior to any transfer. The OEH confirmed that NPWS is interested in the land being incorporated into Wollemi National Park, subject to the Proponent providing sufficient funding for the ongoing management of the lots and that the transfer is approved by the Minister of the Environment. The correspondence from OEH is attached in **Appendix 4**.

6. COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION

The Commission has given careful consideration to the information provided by the Proponent and the Department, comments from government agencies, and all written and verbal submissions from the public in this determination.

6.1. Suitability of Offsets

The Commission heard concerns that the Appletree Flat biodiversity offset area (BOA) does not provide like-for-like habitat for many of the threatened fauna species impacted by the mine. Under the 2010 project approval, nine threatened species were required to be provided for in the offsets, including the Eastern Bent-wing Bat, Eastern Freetail Bat, Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail Bat, Grey-headed Flying Fox, Brush-tail Phascogale, Squirrel Glider, Grey-browed Babbler, Speckled Warbler and the Brown Treecreeper.

Although the Appletree Flat BOA does not provide habitat for these nine species, the Commission is of the opinion that the area is of significant biodiversity value to the region. The Appletree Flat BOA is located within a significant area of habitat conservation and contains habitat for threatened species, including the Speckled Warbler, Varied Sitella and the Turquoise Parrot. The area is also likely to provide habitat for the Eastern Bentwing Bat, recorded on site by the Proponent, and the Squirrel Glider.

The Commission notes that the revised on-site offsets (the Northern, Southern, Bridgeman and Martin's Creek BOAs) would continue to provide habitat for all the threatened species required to be offset under the project approval. The Commission is satisfied that the Appletree Flat BOAs, in addition to the on-site offset areas, would provide suitable habitat for threatened species. The Commission also notes that this modification does not in itself propose any physical disturbance to any of the existing on-site biodiversity offset areas to be removed from the former offset strategy and that the biodiversity values associated with these areas would not be affected by this modification. Any future mining or associated activity proposed for these former offset areas would be the subject of future applications and environmental assessments.

At the public meeting, the Commission heard that the revised offsets will result in a reduction of 11 hectares of *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC and 3.7 hectares of *Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest* EEC. The Commission notes that existing condition 42(a) requires the biodiversity offset strategy to provide at least 140 hectares of *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC (or a suitable equivalent) and 6 hectares of *Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest*

(or a suitable equivalent) to offset the impacts of the mining projects. The revised offsets provide 202.8 hectares of *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC and 49.7 hectares of *Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest*, satisfying these conditions.

The Commission is satisfied that the revised biodiversity offset package is in line with current OEH offsetting policy and meets the existing project approval in regards to the areas of offsets to be provided.

6.2. Revegetation, Restoration and/or Protection of Endangered Ecological Communities

Some speakers at the public meeting raised concern about the revegetation, restoration and/or the protection of the *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* Endangered Ecological Community (EEC). The Commission notes that the Department's recommended condition 44A requires the Proponent to commission a suitably qualified, independent person approved by the Secretary to conduct an audit of all biodiversity areas subject to regeneration, restoration and/or protection as *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC. The audit is to be conducted by 31 December 2020 with a report to be submitted to the Secretary within 6 months of completing the audit for approval.

To enable further monitoring of the effectiveness of the management measures undertaken to regenerate and/or restore these biodiversity areas, the Commission has required that the Proponent undertake a second audit of the biodiversity areas by 31 December 2025. A second audit would also enable the auditor to provide more informed recommendations on any additional management measures to better regenerate, restore and protect the EEC.

The Commission notes that on 7 May 2015, the *Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland* was listed as a critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). A number of speakers raised concern that the *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC, identified within the site, is a component of this community and that further consideration must be given to the EPBC Act. Given that the subject modification application does not propose any physical disturbance to the *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC, the protection requirements under the EPBC Act do not apply to this proposal. The Commission notes that any future proposal for works within an area containing the CEEC would be subject to a full environmental assessment, with consideration given to the EPBC Act.

6.3. Long Term Conservation of Appletree Flat Biodiversity Offset Area

The Proponent has proposed to dedicate the Appletree Flat BOA as a conservation reserve under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. In correspondence to the Commission dated 11 February 2016, the OEH indicated that it would be interested in this land being transferred to NPWS and gazetted as part of Wollemi National Park, subject to conditions. The OEH advised that the transfer of lots would:

- reduce management issues, such as difficulty with access, inappropriate use of roads and trails and incursions of domestic stock into park;
- offer further protection for Wollemi National Park which is World Heritage listed as The Greater Blue Mountains Area;
- increase in the area of 'Greater Blue Mountains Important Bird Area' under reservation;
- simplify the prescribed burning process through having a single tenure;
- improve connectivity of Aboriginal country and provide greater protection of any sites present;
- provide opportunity for Aboriginal community to manage country;
- reserve Lowland Rainforest in NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregion Endangered Ecological Community;

- reserve habitat for threatened species known to occur (e.g. Spotted-tailed Quall) and a number of other species that occur in the vicinity of the lots;
- reduce the number of park neighbours to negotiate with; and
- reduce inholding boundaries by 1.1 km (Lot 13) and 2.8 km (Lot 14).

In order to facilitate the long term conservation of the Appletree Flat BOA to achieve the above outcomes, the Commission has conditioned that the Proponent include an offer to transfer the Appletree Flat BOA to the OEH and provide sufficient funding for the ongoing management of the lots as part of the biodiversity offset strategy.

7. COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The Commission has carefully considered the proposed modification, the Department's Assessment Report and the relevant considerations under Section 79C of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Commission heard from the Proponent, the OEH and members of the public during its various briefings, meetings, inspections and the public meeting.

The Commission is of the view that the revised biodiversity offset strategy will provide suitable habitat for the nine threatened species required to be offset under the 2010 project approval. The Commission notes that the biodiversity offset areas proposed to be removed from the biodiversity offset strategy will not be physically impacted by this modification, and will continue to provide habitat for threatened fauna species.

The Commission notes that the revised biodiversity offset strategy will also provide more than the 140 hectares of *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC (or a suitable equivalent) and 6 hectares of *Central Hunter Swamp Oak Forest*, as required under condition 42(a) of the existing project approval. In order to enable further monitoring of the regeneration, restoration and/or protection of the *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC, the Commission has required the Proponent to conduct a second independent audit of the biodiversity areas by December 2025. A second audit would also enable a better evaluation of the effectiveness of the regeneration, restoration and/or protection works over the five year period.

The Commission notes that there would be a number of benefits should Appletree Flat BOA be incorporated into Wollemi National Park, including improved connectivity of Aboriginal country, improved biodiversity values for the region and improved ability of NPWS to manage the area. In order to facilitate the transfer of Appletree Flat BOA to NPWS, the Commission has required the Proponent to include an offer to transfer the Appletree Flat BOA to the OEH and provide sufficient funding for the ongoing management of the lots as part of the biodiversity offset strategy.

The Commission has determined to accept the recommendation that approval be given to this application. Consequently, consent is granted subject to conditions, as amended by the Commission.



Mr David Johnson
**Member of the Commission
Chair**



Mr Paul Forward
Member of the Commission



Dr Marcus Lincoln-Smith
Member of the Commission

Appendix 1

List of speakers

Planning Assessment Commission Meeting

Integra Mining Complex Biodiversity Offset Strategy Modification 4, Singleton LGA

Date & Time: Friday 11 December 2015

Place: The Singleton Youth Venue, Cnr Pitt & Bathurst Street, Singleton

1. Deidre Olofsson
2. Steve Phillips (Lock the Gate Alliance)
3. Charmian Eckersley
4. Bev Smiles (Hunter Communities Network)
5. Tony Lonergan
6. Wendy Wales (Nature Conservation Council)
7. Wendy White
8. Jan Davis (Hunter Environment Lobby)
9. Wendy Bowman

Appendix 2

Issues raised at the public meeting

Environmental Issues

- Should the approved biodiversity offset areas be mined, wildlife habitat will be destroyed.
- Wildlife may not be able to be released in the proposed biodiversity offset areas (BOAs) because the habitat is not like-for-like.
- The *Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland* was recently listed as a critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) under the EPBC Act and no consideration has been given to this legislation.
- The proposed Appletree Flat BOAs were unlikely to ever be mined.
- There is a shortfall in biodiversity credits for some species.
- Water resources within the Hunter need protection from mining activity.
- The revised offsets propose a reduction of *Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest* EEC and *Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest* EEC.

Economic Impacts

- A cost benefit analysis for the loss of threatened species has not been undertaken.
- The estimated value of the coal underneath the approved biodiversity offset areas has not been assessed. The value of these resources would have changed since 2012.

Comments on the company

- Integra was placed in care and maintenance, resulting in a loss of jobs within the community.
- The company drilled the biodiversity offset areas (BOA) for coal without an exploration licence.
- The company may not be able to adhere to conditions of consent.
- Employment could be generated by rehabilitating the existing mine.
- The mine is in breach of its conditions as the offset strategy has not been finalised.

Assessment Process

- The Department does not mention the company's instances of non-compliance with existing conditions and licences.
- Conditions are able to be changed.
- The application should be referred to the Federal government to assess potential impacts on the CEEC.
- Condition 44A does not specify repercussions for the Proponent if they are unable to meet these requirements.
- The Department has not considered the long term impacts of mining.
- The method used by the OEH for calculating the biodiversity offset areas is inadequate.

Other

- There will be cumulative noise, visual, health, climate change and air quality impacts should further mining be undertaken.
- The approved biodiversity offset areas currently provide a buffer for noise and other impacts from the mine.
- Water collected in voids could rise and contaminate water bodies.
- Historic villages are being destroyed by mining.

Appendix 3 Commission's Meetings

Notes of meeting with the Proponent and site inspection – 10 December 2015

Meeting note taken by: Jade Shepherd	Date: Thursday, 10 December 2015	Time: 3:15pm
Project: Integra Mining Complex Modification 4		
Meeting place: Integra Open Cut Office		
Attendees: <u>Commission Members:</u> David Johnson (chair), Paul Forward, Marcus Lincoln-Smith <u>Commission Secretariat:</u> Jade Shepherd and Megan Webb <u>The Proponent:</u> Shane Flint, Environment Health & Safety Principal (Vale) Chris Quinn, Environmental Advisor (Integra) Jason Thomas, Operations Manager (Integra) Luke Stewart, Director (EMM) Katie Whiting, Ecology Services Manager (EMM) Garry Bailey, General Manager of Mining Development (The Bloomfield Group) John Hindmarsh, Senior Environmental Officer (Rix's Creek)		
The purpose of the meeting: For the Proponent to brief the Commission on the project and for the Commission to undertake a site visit.		
<u>Briefing</u> • The Proponent provided background to the proposed modification, including: - o The history of the project approval and subsequent modifications; - o Current situation of the sale and operations of Integra mine; - o Consultation undertaken with government agencies and the community; and - o Issues raised in submissions received by the Department on the proposed modifications. • The Proponent provided differences between the approved and proposed BOAs, including the total native vegetation in offsets, the total offset area and overall offset ratios. • The Proponent agrees with the Department's conclusions and recommendations. <u>Site Visit</u> • The Commission visited the site of the proposed mine and viewed the Northern, Southern, Bridgman and Martin's Creek BOAs.		

Documents: PowerPoint Presentation
Meeting and site visit closed: 5:30pm

Notes of meeting with the Department and OEH – 17 December 2015

Meeting note taken by: Jade Shepherd	Date: Thursday, 17 December 2015	Time: 9:45am
Project: Integra Mining Complex Modification 4		
Meeting place: Planning Assessment Commission Office and via telephone		
Attendees: <u>Commission Members:</u> David Johnson (chair), Paul Forward, Marcus Lincoln-Smith <u>Commission Secretariat:</u> Jade Shepherd and Megan Webb <u>The Department of Planning and Environment:</u> Howard Reed – Director, Resource Assessments Hamish Aiken – Team Leader, Resource Assessments <u>Office of Environment and Heritage:</u> Richard Bath – Senior Team Leader Planning Robert Gibson – Biodiversity Conservation Officer		
The purpose of the meeting: For the Commission to request further information about the proposed biodiversity offset areas.		
- The Commission advised that speakers at the public meeting noted that the Central Hunter Valley Eucalypt Forest and Woodland was recently listed as a critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> 1999. The Department indicated that the application does not propose any physical disturbance to the CEEC and therefore the EPBC is not applicable for this proposal. The Department advised that should any future application for the site be lodged, a full merit assessment of the impacts of that application on this community would need to be undertaken. - The Commission advised that speakers at the public meeting raised concern about the suitability of the proposed biodiversity offset areas (BOAs). The OEH indicated that although the proposed BOAs are not like-for-like, they are suitable offsets under the interim biodiversity offset policy for major projects. - The Commission queried if National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) or OEH had conducted a site visit of Appletree Flat sites. The OEH indicated that a number of site visits had been conducted and that it would provide details of these to the Commission. - The Commission sought advice from the OEH on the long term arrangements preferred by NPWS. The OEH indicated that NPWS would be happy to take on the site, especially because the site would have a relatively low maintenance cost. The OEH also advised the NPWS would likely incorporate the		

parcels into their existing management program.

- The Commission queried if any of the recommended conditions of consent need to be amended to enable NPWS to take over the site. The OEH advised it would review the conditions.
- The Commission asked about the rehabilitation and maintenance requirements for the Appletree Flat sites, how any associated costs would be managed and the likely timing requirements for any transfer to the National Parks estate.
- In relation to the onsite offset areas, OEH advised it has not had significant recent involvement with the site. It was agreed that more active revegetation, including three year milestones and consideration of seasonal conditions would be helpful in progressing activities on the onsite offset areas.

Documents: The Commission agreed to follow up with a written request for clarification on the Appletree Flat sites. This correspondence was subsequently sent on 11 February 2016 (Appendix 4).

Meeting closed: 10:45am

Appendix 4

Correspondence



Contact : Jade Shepherd
Phone : 02 9383 2114
Fax : 02 9299 9835
Email : jade.shepherd@pac.nsw.gov.au

Mr Richard Bath
Senior Team Leader Planning
Hunter Central Coast Region
Regional Operations Group
Office of Environment and Heritage
Locked Bag 1002
DANGAR NSW 2309

18 December 2015

Dear Mr Bath,

**Additional Information on Integra Mining Complex Biodiversity Offset Strategy Modification
(MP 08_0101 MOD 4 & MP 08_0102 MOD 4)**

Thank you for meeting with the Commission via telephone conference yesterday regarding the above proposal, which has been referred to the Planning Assessment Commission (the Commission) for determination.

As discussed at the meeting, the Commission seeks clarification on the conservation value of the two Appletree Flat sites proposed to form part of the Biodiversity offset areas for the Integra mining complex. Advice on the significance of these properties to National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and any details you may be able to provide on the site inspections carried out by NPWS and/or the Office of Environment and Heritage, of the Appletree Flat Biodiversity Offset Area sites, would be greatly appreciated.

The Commission also seeks advice on the long term land tenure arrangements preferred by NPWS. The Proponent has suggested it would be happy to dedicate the land to NPWS, or to retain it. Is NPWS interested in taking on the sites as part of the National Park and if so, what costs and management measures need to be resolved, prior to the Proponent transferring this land?

Finally, the Commission would appreciate any comments you may have on the Department of Planning and Environment's proposed conditions of approval, including those relating to the proposed onsite offset areas.

The Commission would appreciate your advice on these matters as soon as possible.

Should you have any enquiries on the above, please call Jade Shepherd on 02 9383 2114 or email jade.shepherd@pac.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Johnson
Member NSW Planning Assessment Commission

cc. Mr Howard Reed
Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

DOC15/521645-3

Mr David Johnson
NSW Planning and Assessment Commission
GPO Box 3415
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Jade Shepherd

Dear Mr Johnson

RE: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INTEGRA MINING COMPLEX BIODIVERSITY OFFSET STRATEGY MODIFICATION (MP 08-0101 MOD 4 & MP 08-0102 MOD 4)

I refer to your letter dated 18 December 2015 seeking clarification of the conservation values of the two Appletree Flat sites (Lots 13 and 14 DP753776) that are proposed to form part of the biodiversity offset areas for the Integra Mining Complex. The following advice has been provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in response to specific questions raised in your letter.

Significance of these properties to NPWS

Lots 13 and 14 are bounded on three sides by Wollemi National Park and are classified as inholdings. Inholdings present a number of management issues such as difficulty with access, inappropriate use of roads and trails, and incursions of domestic stock into park as they are often unfenced. Incorporating them into park reduces these issues.

Other values for NPWS include:

- further protection for Wollemi National Park which is World Heritage listed as The Greater Blue Mountains Area
- increase in the area of 'Greater Blue Mountains Important Bird Area' under reservation
- simplifies the prescribed burning process through having a single tenure
- improves connectivity of Aboriginal country and provides greater protection of any sites present. There are a number of recorded Aboriginal sites within five kilometres (km) of both lots and it is possible that sites may be identified within these lots
- provides opportunity for Aboriginal community to manage country
- reserves Lowland Rainforest in NSW North Coast and Sydney Basin Bioregion Endangered Ecological Community
- reserves habitat for threatened species known to occur (e.g. Spotted-tailed Quoll) and a number of other species that occur in the vicinity of the lots
- reduces the number of park neighbours to negotiate with
- reduces inholding boundaries by 1.1 km (Lot 13) and 2.8 km (Lot 14).

On-site inspections

NPWS officers inspected the Appletree lots in January 2016 to confirm the values and the management actions required.

Preferred long term land tenure arrangements

NPWS is interested in the land being transferred to NPWS and gazetted as part of Wollemi National Park, conditional on:

- the proponent providing sufficient funding for the ongoing management of the lots; and
- the approval of the Minister for the Environment. (This is required for all land transfers to NPWS).

(As these lots are inholdings, that is, surrounded on three sides by park, they may be gazetted without first seeking the approval of other agencies as is usually required).

Costs and management measures which require resolution prior to transfer

NPWS is seeking funds for the ongoing management of this offset in perpetuity, calculated to be \$1,308,243. NPWS has estimated the management costs using the BioBanking funding tool. This method estimates the amount that needs to be invested so that the returns on this investment can provide sufficient annual funding in perpetuity. An alternative to this approach is to enter a formal BioBanking agreement and then transfer the land to NPWS with the agreement attached.

NPWS will not require any works prior to transfer.

You have also requested advice on any proposed conditions of approval, including those relating to the onsite offset areas. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) recommended to the Department of Planning and Environment a number of approval conditions in a letter dated 10 June 2014 (Ref: DOC14/84219-1). OEH has no additional advice on these matters.

Yours sincerely



11 FEB 2016

RICHARD BATH

Senior Team Leader Planning, Hunter Central Coast Region
Regional Operations

Contact officer: ROBERT GIBSON
4927 3154