



Our ref: DOC19/661604
Senders ref: SSD 9394

Ms Ania Dorocinska
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Industry Assessments
ania.dorocinska@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Dorocinska

Subject: Baiada integrated poultry processing facility SSD 9394

Thank you for your email dated 23 July 2019 seeking comment from North West Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) on the proposed Baiada integrated poultry processing facility.

BCD understands that the proposal includes a poultry processing plant, childcare space, new access driveway and car park, site landscaping and screening vegetation.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

BCD note that a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) recorded three Aboriginal sites within the boundary of the project area and a further six sites in close proximity. The three sites within the project area were stone artefacts that were removed for analysis in 1998 under a consent permit.

The cultural heritage assessment for the proposal found no Aboriginal heritage sites or objects on the development site.

Biodiversity offset

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) has been prepared in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method.

The proposed facility would require clearing of a total of 1.34 hectares of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland on flats and hills in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion (PCT 599). Two condition states for PCT 599 were identified:

1. Remnant patches – a total of 0.83 hectares would be impacted by the proposal. This community conforms to the threatened ecological community (TEC) White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum.
2. Planted trees – a total of 0.51 hectares would be impacted by the proposal. This community does not conform to the TEC.

The BDAR concludes that the proposal will generate an offset credit requirement of 20 ecosystem credits.

Targeted surveys for all but three species credit species have been conducted, with no threatened species being recorded on the site. Three species have been discounted; Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot only generate species credits if the site is within a mapped important area, and Glossy Black-Cockatoo requires feed trees to be present on the site. This is in accordance with the BAM. As a result, no species credits were generated for the project.



The BDAR and environmental impact statement identify that ecosystem offsets are required. While both documents state that a suite of PCTs other than PCT 599 could be utilised to offset this PCT under the offset rules, there is no offset strategy presented for the proposal.

Recommendation

The proponent is required to offset 20 ecosystem credits of PCT 599 in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Landscaping

The EIS states that significant landscaping is proposed to be implemented. This will consist of formal plantings and gardens in and around the processing plant and screening vegetation along access roads, internal manoeuvring areas and along the Oxley Highway frontage.

The landscaping concept plan (appendix 5) shows an intent to landscape with exotic and non-indigenous species. BCD recommends that species used for landscaping and screening be commensurate with PCT 599 and be germinated from locally sourced seed.

Recommendation

Plant species used for landscaping and screening be commensurate with PCT 599 and be germinated from locally sourced seed.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Liz Mazzer, Conservation Planning Officer, via liz.mazzer@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6883 5325.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Christie'.

Peter Christie

Director
North West, Biodiversity and Conservation

19 August 2019