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SSD 24461956 Jerrabomberra High School BDAR Assessment

I refer to the above State Significant Development which was referred to Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) for review and comment.

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) has been written in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2017, however as transitional arrangements no longer apply, the BDAR will need to be updated to reflect the BAM 2020.

The transitional arrangements are set out in section 6.31 (1) and (2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2017*, which state that the designated period is 12 months for State Significant Development. The transition period started on 22 October 2020, the proponent then had 12 months and 14 days to submit the BDAR. Unfortunately, whilst this BDAR was finalised within the transition period on 15 September 2021, it was not submitted until 8 November 2021 which is beyond the transition period. Please note BDARs are required to be submitted to the Planning Authority within 14 days of the BDAR being finalised by the consultant.

We have reviewed the BDAR and note that the development footprint directly aligns with the previous subdivision development consent for the site. The BDAR concluded that the proposed clearing would generate an offset requirement of nine species credits for the golden sun moth, and that this credit liability has already been paid as part of the subdivision development consent.

BCD have identified some issues with the BDAR which will require clarification and modification of the BDAR. Further detailed comments are provided in Attachment 1.

Please contact Lyndal Walters, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, South East BCD on 02 6229 7157 if you would like to discuss the comments.

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL SAXON
Director South East
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Enc: Attachment 1 – Detailed comments on the BDAR for the Jerrabomberra High School SSD

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BC Act Box-Gum Woodland

The BDAR states that ‘PCT1334 Zone 5 lacks a native overstorey and has a ground storey that is highly modified and dominated by perennial exotic grasses and herbaceous weeds. As such, PCT1334 Zone 5 does not support vegetation which meets the criteria for this TEC under the BC Act.’

Whilst it might be the case that Zone 5 does not meet the definition of box-gum woodland, it does not mean that it is not native vegetation. If there was no native vegetation, zone 5 would need to be re-classified as a different PCT. See advice below on further actions required.

Vegetation zone assessment

As zone 5 of PCT 1334 contains native vegetation as defined in the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, a vegetation integrity score (VIS) must be provided for this zone in accordance with 4.4 of BAM 2020. Native vegetation is not defined by a percentage, only presence. If the VIS is less than 15, then no further assessment is required.

The BDAR will need to be updated to reflect the VIS of zone 5 of PCT, including, but not limited to the following:

- The credit calculation for ecosystem credits – the ‘Area Impact’ is incorrect and should include the 1.79ha of Zone 5 of PCT1334, in addition to the 1.46ha of Zone 4 of PCT 1334.
- Figures showing native vegetation will need to be updated as Zone 5 PCT 1334 contains native vegetation, regardless of whether it meets the definition of box-gum woodland, or percentage of native vegetation.

BCD expect that the BDAR will be updated to reflect the issues raised above and to align with BAM 2020.

Serious and Irreversible Impacts Assessment

The SAIL assessments for box-gum woodland and golden sun moth will need to be updated to reflect the requirements of BAM 2020, noting that there are no longer thresholds specified.

Sections e) and f) of 3.4.2.1 SAIL additional information, provide an estimate figure of 310ha of box-gum woodland reserve that is formally reserved in the IBRA subregion. However, the data used to estimate extent is too old to rely upon and should be updated. This data should take into account the local developments that have resulted in clearing of box-gum woodland, and the cumulative impacts this has had on its extent.

BAM Plot location

The BDAR states that there is not a BAM plot on the development footprint, however *Figure 9 BAM Vegetation Mapping and Survey* shows a BAM plot numbered 1334.4.3. The BDAR should be updated to reflect this.