



Mr Dimitri Gotsis
Planning and Assessment Group
Department of Planning and Environment
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Mr Gotsis

Subject: EES comments on alternative approach to mitigating non-compliance with Condition of Approval D36 - Modification application for Picton High School Redevelopment – SSD-8640 MOD 3 – 480 Argyle Street, Picton

Thank you for your email on 20 December 2021 providing additional information from the Department of Education in relation to the modification application (Mod 3) for Picton High School Redevelopment.

The additional information provided by the Department of Education, dated 17 December 2021, seeks to address previous comments raised by Environment Energy and Science Group (EES) dated 27 April and 28 October 2021 in relation to the proposed alternative approach to mitigating non-compliance with Condition of Approval D36(d) for the subject SSD.

As previously advised, EES does not support amending Condition D36(d) because the condition has not been adhered to. This is not an appropriate response to non-compliance with conditions of approval.

With the above noted, EES has reviewed the additional information and is satisfied EES's previous comments have been considered and addressed. EES's previous comments also included the following recommendations for habitat amelioration:

- Add native plants to the school site to provide natural food sources for birds and butterflies.
- Avoid the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides: there are often very simple, much cheaper, chemical-free alternatives.
- Use leaf mulch on the school site, which is great for worms and tiny bugs.
- Use rocks and logs on the ground to provide habitat for lizards.
- Any pruning of plants at the school site is undertaken gradually to allow native animals to adjust to new conditions.

In response to these recommendations the Department of Education has advised that they will be noted '*for the school to consider operationally during their landscaping maintenance procedures*'. EES considered that it may be appropriate for the Planning and Assessment Group to seek further assurance in the application of these recommendations as their implementation forms part of the approach to mitigating non-compliance.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Shaun Hunt, Senior Conservation Planning Officer via shaun.hunt@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 8275 1617.

Yours sincerely

10/01/22

Susan Harrison
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Biodiversity and Conservation