

Our Ref: SO32-T00009

3 December 2021

Mr Lloyd Eley-Smith
Team Leader – Water Assessments
State Significant Acceleration
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Mr Eley-Smith

Eurobodalla Southern Storage SSD 7089 – Biodiversity Offset Strategy

I refer to your request for information dated 19 November 2021 and its attached correspondence from Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) relating to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy submitted under the conditions of approval for the Eurobodalla Southern Water Storage Project.

Please find attached a revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy that has a revised Figure 1-3 which shows vegetation types consistent with mapping provided in the Biodiversity Assessment Report.

In relation to other comments provided by BCD in its correspondence with State Significant Acceleration (SSA), please be advised that, further to subsequent conversations with SSA and BCD staff, Council's position is as follows:

- Clearing will be limited to the current approved clearing area, with all clearing and construction access to be undertaken from the proposed Southern Storage Access Road, as was agreed with then Office of Environment and Heritage in 2019. No clearing is proposed outside of the permanent works area or inundation areas, and therefore, no additional credits are required.
- Eurobodalla Shire Council wishes to provide offsets for cleared vegetation through a combination of retirement of existing credits, purchasing of credits and payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund, as stipulated in the Biodiversity Offset Strategy. In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement and as referenced above, the land above the inundation area is unable to be cleared. Council will therefore be seeking to implement a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement over this land in due course, however, to ensure project continuity, is not proposing to undertake it as an offset for this specific project.
- Council intends to commence implementation of the Biodiversity Offset Package immediately on approval of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy to ensure not only compliance with the Conditions of Consent but also funding milestones.

I thank you and staff from SSA and BCD for your time over recent weeks in discussing these issues, and trust that the revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy meets all requirements.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information to assist in your review.

Yours sincerely



Harvey Lane
Water & Sewer Project Engineer

cc Mr Mark Wisely – Senior Planning Officer – Water Assessments