

Our Ref: 08092022_4795_RtS_Biodiversity

9 September 2022

Steven Crick
Senior Team Leader Planning
Hunter Central Coast Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation Division

Dear Steven

RE: John Hunter Hospital Health and Innovation Precinct Project (SSD-9351535 MOD2) – Vegetation Clearing

We refer to the document dated 2 September 2022 entailing the recommendations from Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD). The recommendations from BCD are reproduce below in bold text with our responses in italics. The following attachments have been provided (as separate files) to accompany this letter

Attachment 1: Revised BDAR

Attachment 2: Phase 1 Biodiversity Management Plan

Attachment 3: Scanned survey sheets

Attachment 4: Excel spreadsheet of floristic data

1. **BCD recommends the accredited assessor allocates the BAM-C file to the Hunter Central Coast Regional Planning Team so it can be reviewed.**

Robert Gibson has been added as a case party and the case has been submitted to the consent authority.

2. **BCD recommends further details are provided of the new local record of *Corybas dowlingii* in relation to the Subject Land and what this means for the assessment.**

Table D1 in Appendix D already acknowledges the recent identification of the species in the vicinity of the Development Footprint and documents the targeted searches that were completed across the Development Footprint for this species and the result, which was that this species was not detected within the Development Footprint.

Section 5.1.2. of the BDAR has been updated to state that the species was not detected in the Development Footprint and therefore does not generate credits or

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require offsets. Figure 5.2. has been updated to show where this species was identified by BCD and verified by Umwelt in June 2022.

3. BCD recommends that details of proposed adaptive management strategies are provided.

An adaptive management plan was prepared in accordance with Section 8.5 of the BAM and approved for the overarching JHHIP Project. This plan remains relevant for the MOD2 Enabling Works Project and will be adopted for adaptive management strategies within the Development Footprint. The existing plan is attached to this letter.

4. BCD recommends that measures to mitigate or manage impacts on biodiversity values for which there is a risk of failure are identified and described to meet the requirements of the BAM 2020.

Phase one of the development has been completed under an existing management plan with the same mitigation measures and controls as identified in this BDAR. Notwithstanding, Table 6.1. has been updated to outline the controls that have a risk of failure, and measures to be taken should failure occur.

5. BCD recommends that existing maps are revised, or new maps are prepared that show all features required by the BAM.

The entirety of the area shown on all maps is covered by the same IBRA region, IBRA Sub-region and Mitchell Landscape, being the Sydney Basin IBRA region, the Wyong IBRA sub-region, and the Gosford – Cooranbong Coastal Slopes Mitchell Landscapes. It is therefore not possible to show boundaries for these at a relevant scale. Rather than showing the two IBRA layers and Mitchell Landscapes layer on each map and cluttering the figures, each map identifies the IBRA and Mitchell Landscape detail below the legend.

Cadastral has been added to all maps.

6. BCD recommends the accredited assessor provides the GIS shapefiles used for maps in the BDAR.

Revised GIS files have been provided to Robert Gibson and the huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au team email.

7. BCD recommends the accredited assessor provides copies of the vegetation plot data sheets cited in the BDAR.

Plot data sheets have been attached to this letter.

8. BCD recommends that the relevant experience of all staff involved in the production of the BDAR is provided in order to meet the requirements of the BAM 2020.

Section 1.5 of the BDAR provides the details of all the accredited assessors involved in writing the BDAR. All assessors have more than ten years' experience and have all been recently re-accredited under the BAM.

9. BCD recommends that the BDAR includes a definition of the 'subject land' as per the BAM 2020.

Wording in Section 1 has been amended to include definition of subject land, thereafter referred to as 'Development Footprint'.

- 10. BCD recommends a map showing the extent of native vegetation is provided that is at no more than 1:10,000 scale in order to meet requirements of the BAM 2020.**

Relevant figure has been altered in revised report.

- 11. Provide more information on the species habitat polygons.**

*This recommendation refers to 'any species measured by count' (as provided in the letter dated 2 September 2022). No candidate species measured by count were detected within the Development Footprint. As stated in the BDAR, the species polygons were produced using the polygons from the approved RP2J biodiversity assessment (GHD) for *Tetratheca juncea* (area) and using woody PCT boundaries for the squirrel glider (area).*

- 12. BCD recommends that additional information is provided about candidate species so that the BDAR meets the requirements of the BAM 2020.**

Table D-1 of the BDAR does identify species that have been assumed present or excluded because of important habitat or degraded habitat. For all other species, Table D-1 identifies the survey method, including targeted survey, that was completed. Additional text, specifically stating the process used has been added for completeness to the revised BDAR.

- 13. BCD recommends that Table 5.1 is updated to include weather data for the surveys conducted on 29 June 2022.**

Table 5.1. has been updated to include weather for 29 June 2022.

- 14. BCD recommends that BAM vegetation field plot data is presented in MS-Excel format to meet the requirements of the BAM.**

The vegetation plot data in MS-Excel format has been provided with this letter.

- 15. BCD recommends all maps from the BDAR are provided as jpeg files.**

JPEG images of all figures have been provided to Robert Gibson and the huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au team email.

We trust that the responses provided above, in conjunction with the Revised BDAR and other attachments, sufficiently addresses the concerns of BCD.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Corry
Principal Ecologist and Accredited BAM Assessor