



19 October 2020

Mr Trent Scrivener - Project Manager  
Richard Crookes Constructions  
Level 3, 4 Broadcast Way, Artarmon NSW 2064

Re: Validity of BDAR Waiver for Alexandria Park Community School Redevelopment

Dear Mr Scrivener

The redevelopment of the Alexandria Park Community School is a State Significant Development (SSD) which involves not only the redevelopment of the existing school buildings but the modification of the future football field to allow for community usage out of school hours. Development Consent SSD 8373 was issued on 11 February 2019.

Where the removal of native vegetation (trees, shrubs, or understorey species) forms part of the Development Application, a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is required by the Consent Authority.

However, the removal of landscape species considered to be exotic or introduced specimens do not require a BDAR (see Attachment 1). Accordingly, a Waiver was requested and was granted because it was concluded that there was no biodiversity on the site that would be impacted (see *Technical Studies: Flora & Fauna Survey for the Proposed Redevelopment of Alexandria Park Community School, Alexandria* (Revision 3, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018).

Subsequently, the project design was amended to address the widening of the football field, which will require the removal of a further 8 trees – all planted exotic specimens. Modification 4.55 was submitted by Urbis Planning to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE). The Department has responded requesting clarification of a number of items, including the validity of the existing BDAR Waiver.

Given that the additional 8 trees are all introduced specimens, and are not local native species, further assessment under a BDAR is not required. The criteria for a BDAR are attached to this letter.

Therefore, in my opinion, the Modification's increased biodiversity impact does not required assessment in a BDAR, prepared under section 7.17 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.



**Judie Rawling** (BA, DipEd, DipEnvStud, MEnvSt Certified Practising Ecological Consultant  
Managing Director UBM Ecological

## **Attachment 1:**

### **BC Act Biodiversity Offsets Scheme**

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) prescribes three (3) thresholds above which the impacts of a Part 4 (*EP&A Act*) development must be assessed (and offsets calculated) in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) prepared by an accredited assessor using the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM).

Breaches of these thresholds can be avoided by considering the following points at the planning stage (*i.e.* avoid, minimise, mitigate, and manage impacts):

- 1. The development footprint must not encroach on an area designated 'Biodiversity Value'.**
- 2. Based on the minimum Lot size associated with the proposed development (being less than 40 and greater than 2 ha), the area of native vegetation cleared must amount to less than 0.5 ha.**
- 3. Assessments of Significance must identify no (0) significant impacts for any threatened entities known or likely to occur within the development footprint.**

Where the Biodiversity Values Map threshold is not breached but the clearing threshold is, and subsequently the BOS is triggered, the Proposal is eligible to be assessed under the Streamlined Assessment Module of the BAM.