

PRESIDENT PRIVATE HOSPITAL ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

THREATNED SPECIES REPORT As per BDAR Waiver SSD 103320 (Bats and other Mammals)

Client: Macquarie Health Corporation

Architect: Imagescape Design Studios

Inspection Date: 2 April 2020

Report prepared by Callum Hockey B Sc. Environmental Biology UTS, Environmental Biologist and Urban Ecologist.

Introduction

There are many native animals that inhabit an urban environment. Essentially native animals have co evolved with the urban dynamic allowing them to co inhabit and somewhat thrive as part of the urban ecology.

Dwellings such as domestic homes, industrial buildings and commercial premises provide a perfect habitat and niche for native animals, some of which may be threatened or protected. Dilapidation of buildings, cracks, holes and voids and surrounding vegetation allow animals to occupy such dwellings.

Many animals may live or roost in urban dwellings. Their existence may be permanent or transient. Different species of bats including Micro bats, Birds, Brushtail Possums and Ringtail Possums are just a few examples.

Removal of dwellings and their associated potential urban habitats can have a severe and negative impact on animals that may inhabit or roost in such dwellings. Niche displacement and death often results.

As part of the President Private Hospital Additions and Alterations a number of dwellings have been proposed for demolition.

Aim of Inspection and Report

The aim of this inspection and report is to determine if any significant animals live, roost or partially inhabit any of the dwellings proposed for demolition as part of the President Private Hospital Alterations and Additions and provide any further recommendations, as necessary.

Methodology

In order to properly investigate both nocturnal and diurnal animal activity within dwellings it is essential that a multifaceted inspection regime be established. In addition it is critical that inspections are conducted at differing times allowing the investigative process to properly establish both permanent and transient occupation. With this in mind the following inspection process was established:

1. **Visual Inspection** – a visual inspection was conducted to all proposed dwellings. The visual inspection included all internal areas, external areas, all voids (roof and sub floor where applicable) and external areas concentrating on cracks, crevices and harbourage caused by minor dilapidation.
2. **Thermal Image Detection** – a Flex thermal image camera was used to scan all dwellings including voids to pick up thermal signals of potential bodies that may occupy voids or cracks, crevices and harbourages that may not be seen via the visual inspection
3. **Baton XD Bat Scanner** – used to detect potential bat calls.

In addition, inspections were carried out at different times in order to observe different species, help establish permanent or transient occupation and to discover potential roosting.

The following inspection schedule was initiated:

- **Inspection 1** – was conducted between 8:00 am and 10:30 am
- **Inspection 2** – was conducted between 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm.

Note: Inspections were carried out on 2nd April 2020.

It should be noted that dwellings that had attachments or “outbuildings” were also investigated. The dwellings that were inspected are as follows:

65 Hotham Road – Hotham House



Photo 1 – Hotham House

63 Hotham Road – Administration Building



Photo 2 – Administration Building

Existing Hospital and Cottage – Rehab Centre



Photo 3 – Cottage Rehab Centre

2 Bidurgal Street – Existing Residential Building



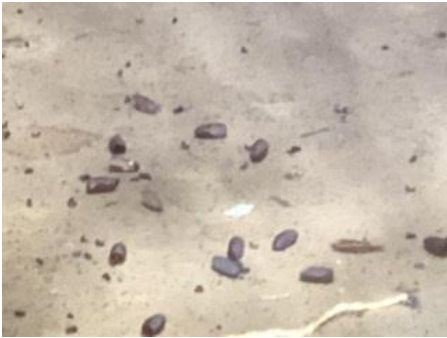
Photo 4 – Residential Building


4 Bidurgal Street – Existing Residential Building



Photo 5 – Residential Building

Observations and Findings

Location:	Findings:
65 Hotham Road (Hotham House)	Findings- Visual Inspection 1 and 2 did not find any significant current animal activity. However, brush tail possum droppings were found throughout the roof cavity. The scat did not appear to be fresh or recent. The Thermal Inspection found no thermal signatures. The Baton XD did not locate any bat signals. The evidence suggests that currently no significant animal activity exists to Hotham House despite previous Brush Tail Possum activity.
63 Hotham Road (Administration Building)	Findings- Visual Inspection 1 and 2 did not find any significant current animal activity. The Thermal Inspection found no thermal signatures. The Baton XD did not locate any Bat signals. The evidence suggests that currently no significant animal activity to 63 Hotham – Administration Building.
Existing Hospital and Original Cottage (Rehab Centre)	Findings- Visual Inspection 1 and 2 did not find any significant current animal activity. However, brush tail possum droppings were found throughout the roof cavity. The scat did not appear to be fresh or recent. The Thermal Inspection found no thermal signatures. The Baton XD did not locate any bat signals. The evidence suggests that currently no significant animal activity exists to Existing Hospital and Original Cottage despite previous Brushtail possum activity.
2 Bidurgal Street (Existing Residential Dwelling)	<p>Findings- Visual Inspection 1 and 2 found a live Brushtail Possum residing in the roof cavity. Fresh scat also accompanied the observation. Both Thermal inspections found thermal signature in the shape of a brushtail possum. The Baton XD did not locate any bat signals. The inspection indicated that the rear eave of the structure had fallen away and is indicative of a potential entry point. The evidence clearly indicates the presents of a Brush Tail Possum to 2 Bidurgal Street.</p>  <p>Photo 6 showing fresh Brushtail Possum scat in roof cavity of 2 Bidurgal Street.</p>

	 <p>Photo 7 showing collapsed eave and entry point to the rear of 2 Bidurgal Street.</p>
<p>4 Bidurgal Street (Existing Residential Dwelling)</p>	<p>Findings- Visual Inspection 1 and 2 did not find any significant current animal activity. The Thermal Inspection found no thermal signatures. The Baton XD did not locate any Bat signals. The evidence suggests that currently no significant animal activity to 4 Bidurgal Street</p>

Summary and Recommendations

Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) currently inhabits the main dwelling at 2 Bidurgal Street. It is considered essential that at least 7-10 days before any proposed demolition of this building that a possum cage be used to trap and relocate the possum. As demolition is proposed re locating the possum outside regularly guidelines is strongly recommended.

If demolition is a considerable time away and the possum is trapped it is strongly recommended that the eave to the rear section of the dwelling is rectified. This will stop further entry or re- entry of the possum/s.

As it stands there is no evidence to suggest that outside of 2 Bidurgal Street any dwelling has significant animal activity. There is no evidence to support any bat roosting.

As situations can change rapidly and animals could inhabit dwellings overnight, it is recommended that an additional visual inspection of all premises is conducted no more than 7-10 days prior to scheduled demolition of any of the investigated dwellings.