21 February 2022

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600 Woodstock Avenue Rooty Hill, State Significant Development Project: Soil Nickel Contamination Mitigation Measures for Proposed Landscape Plantings

Dear Tim,

In February 2022, the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment (DPIE) requested further information in relation to nickel contamination identified within 600 Woodstock Avenue, Rooty Hill (hereafter referred to as the 'subject land'). Cumberland Ecology's Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) (REF: 21132 RP1) was updated with an additional mitigation measure in response. The additional mitigation measure can be found in ***Section 8.5.7.1*** of the BDAR and is reproduced below:

a. Nickel Contamination within the subject land

A site contamination assessment was undertaken within the subject land as part of the project. This assessment has identified concentrations of nickel above the adopted ecological investigation criteria for commercial/industrial land use (WSP 2022). Nonetheless, the contamination consultant has concluded that the present nickel concentrations are not considered to present a risk to current vegetation and proposed landscape plantings within the subject land (WSP 2022).

The area of nickel contamination is located within the centre of the subject land under the current buildings and within the footprint of proposed buildings. The nickel contamination occurs down to a depth of approximately 1m (WSP 2022). Whilst there have been no nickel testing locations within the proposed landscaping areas, testing locations closer to the proposed landscaping areas have returned results below the adopted assessment criteria (WSP 2022). The proposed landscape plantings, including the Cumberland Plain Woodland Characteristic trees are located along the outer boundary of the subject land and do not occur within areas of identified nickel contamination. Additionally, the nickel contaminated soil is proposed to be removed via earthwork during the construction phase of the project.

Subsequently, the identified nickel contamination is considered unlikely to result in negative impacts to the proposed landscape plantings within the subject site, including the Cumberland Plain Woodland characteristic trees. Nevertheless, it is recommended that further testing be undertaken throughout the proposed landscaping areas as part of future proposed staged contamination testing following demolition (WSP 2022). At the time of planting, soil within the landscaping area must have nickel concentrations below the adopted ecological investigation criteria. If nickel concentrations exceed the adopted ecological investigation criteria, appropriate ameliorative measures must be implemented under the guidance of a qualified contamination consultant. Additionally, the project landscape plan recommends monitoring of landscape plantings with replacement of any missing unhealthy or dead plants throughout the life of the development which must be undertaken with consideration of the results of future nickel testing undertaken following demolition (Habit8 2022).

We believe that the above mitigation measure is sufficient to prevent potential negative consequences of the nickel contamination upon proposed native landscape plantings within the subject land. If any further information is required, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Michael Davis on 02 9868 1933.

Yours sincerely,

David Robertson
Director
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