

16.02.17

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## Ecology clearance letter – Dubbo Base Hospital (Lot 12 DP 1159243)

Dear Alyssa,

Biodiversity impacts related to the proposed development are to be assessed and documented in accordance with the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA)(OEH 2014), unless otherwise agreed by OEH, by a person accredited in accordance with s142B(1)(c) of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

This letter provides evidence from an accredited biobanking assessor that Lot 12 DP 1159243 does not possess native vegetation communities and application of the FBA is not warranted.

This letter was written by Phillip Cameron an accredited biobanking assessor, he is the Senior Project Manager and Principal Ecologist of OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management. Phillips qualifications include:

- Bachelor of Science (Biology), Macquarie University.
- Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Veterinary and Public Health) University of Queensland.
- Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) EIANZ.
- OEH BioBanking and Bio-certification Assessor: accreditation number 0117 (reaccreditation undertaken and approved in May 2013).
- Lean Six Sigma (Improve Productivity) certificate, University of Sydney.
- OEH Scientific License SL:101087.
- NSW DPI Ethics Approval 11/5475.

Two sources of evidence were reviewed to write this letter:

- Arborist report of all trees and shrubs to be affected by the proposal written by Outback Tree Service Dubbo for TSA Management (The Client) in 2016.
- An ecological assessment for Playmates Cottage in June 2016 which covers the only part of the proposal with potential to possess native vegetation.

The proposal site and its relationship to the Playmates Cottage ecology assessment is shown on **Figure 1**.

The ecologist is a long term Dubbo resident and has also applied local knowledge.

Figure 1: Lot 12 DP 1159243 (yellow fill) and the Playmates Cottage assessed area (blue outline)



Outback Tree Service Dubbo for TSA Management (2016) documents 52 trees and shrubs to be affected by the proposal, of these 12 are identified as native species. Ten are She Oaks (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), one is a Tea tree (*Leptospermum* spp) and the other is a Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.). The She Oaks are not native to Dubbo and the two shrubs are planted (common varieties bought from a nursery). While this native vegetation can provide feeding resources for native fauna, they are not breeding habitat nor part of a functional native vegetation community.

The northern part of Lot 12 DP 1159243 is the most undeveloped and has potential to possess remnant native grassland. In June 2016 the OzArk Principal Ecologist completed an assessment in the blue polygon shown in **Figure 1**. The actual proposal site for Playmates Cottage is in the area not shown with yellow fill within this blue polygon, the larger study area recognised the patch size of the grass community in the area. The Biobanking Assessment Methodology (2014), here after "BBAM (2014)" was applied to determine if native vegetation would be affected by the activity, FBA uses BBAM (2014) as a prerequisite.

Field survey within the light blue polygon shown in **Figure 1** found it consisted of non-native grassland consisting of 11 native and 21 non-native species, giving the flora plot an overall weed burden of 65.63 percent and hence was not identified as a native vegetation community. The Landscape function score was less than 17 hence compulsory use of FBA would not be triggered for the current proposal.

Local experience and knowledge of Lot 12 DP 1159243 confirms there are no native vegetation communities and consequently habitat for the regions listed species, populations or communities within this land and no further ecological assessment is requisite.

If you have any questions feel free to call,

Regards



**Phillip Cameron CEnvP**

Principal Ecologist & Senior Project Manager  
NSW Biobanking accredited

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OzArk and staff acknowledge Traditional Owners and Custodians on the country on which we work