



Karen Harragon  
Director, Social and Other Infrastructure  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attn: Andrew Beattie

20 June 2019

Dear Karen

**Mainsbridge School for Specific Purposes (SSD 8792): Section 4.55(1) Modification Application**

The Department of Education (DoE) is seeking to modify Condition B31 of the development consent for the Mainsbridge School for Specific Purposes (SSD 8792) under section 4.55(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The proposed modification is required to correct a minor error in Condition B31 of the development consent regarding the quantum of biodiversity credits required to offset the impacts associated with clearing 0.4 ha of Forest Redgum on-site.

DoE has reviewed the Department of Planning and Environment's Assessment Report for the project and notes the assessment concluded the amended Biodiversity Development Assessment Report accurately identifies the biodiversity impacts of the proposal and recommended conditions requiring "*the purchasing of five ecosystem and five species credits to offset the removal of Forest Redgum and impacts on the Southern Myrtosis*". As the above credit requirements were not carried over into the conditions of consent, DOE seeks approval to re-word Condition B31 to clarify the ecosystem and species credit requirements for the project.

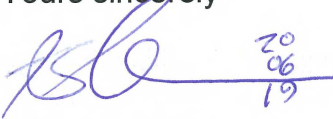
In addition, DOE notes Condition B31 requires the purchase and retirement of ecosystem and species credits prior to any clearing or construction works occurring on site. Whilst DOE agrees the proposal generates the need to offset the impacts of vegetation clearing on-site, DOE is seeking consent to enable the impacts of the proposal to be offset either prior to vegetation clearing, or within 8 weeks of the commencement of construction (whichever occurs sooner).

This would ensure all credits are purchased and retired prior to the removal of Forest Redgum occurring on-site, as per the intent of the condition. Further, the proposed modifications would enable the efficient delivery of the project by enabling other works to commence on-site whilst biodiversity credits are either sourced from the market, or equivalent funds are paid to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. The proposed modifications to Condition B31 are outlined below:

B31. ~~Prior to any clearing or construction works~~ or within 8 weeks of commencement of construction, whichever occurs sooner, the Applicant must purchase and retire **five** ecosystem and **five** species credits to offset the removal of the Forest Red Gum ecosystem and Southern Myotis habitat on site. The Forest Red Gum and Southern Myotis credits must be determined in accordance with the OEH's Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA) and the Biobanking Assessment Methodology 2014 (BBAM).

DOE looks forward to working with the Department to resolve the matters outlined above. Should you require any additional information or a meeting, please feel free to contact me on 0419 775 541, or via email at [Brian.McKeon@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Brian.McKeon@det.nsw.edu.au).

Yours sincerely



Brian McKeon  
**Senior Project Director**  
**Schools Infrastructure NSW**