



Department of Planning and Environment

Mr Scott Lawrence
Environmental Manager
Transport for NSW – Northern Project Office
PO Box 576
Grafton NSW 2460

06/04/2022

Dear Mr Lawrence

Coffs Harbour Bypass (SSI 7666) Direction to cease the salvage translocation of *Fontainea sp.* Coffs Harbour

I refer to recent discussions and correspondence with the Department regarding the proposed translocation of known and newly identified threatened species under the Coffs Harbour Bypass approval SSI 7666.

I understand that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) intend to commence the salvage translocation of the Rusty Plum and *Marsdenia longiloba* (Slender Marsdenia) in March this year, to be followed by the *Pittosporum sp.* Coffs Harbour and *Fontainea sp.* Coffs Harbour, planned for April 2022.

The Department appreciates that there has been ongoing consultation between TfNSW and the Department's Biodiversity and Conservation – North-East Branch (BCD) concerning the management measures for threatened species.

I note from BCD's letter dated 1 March 2022 that it currently considers the salvage translocation of *Fontainea sp.* to propose a high risk to the entire population. Therefore, BCD has recommended to the Department that the mature tree located at Kororo Hill proposed for salvage translocation be retained in situ for as long and as close to the time of impact. This has the advantage of extending the propagation trail and cultivating a more secure insurance population before salvage translocation.

Having considered all these matters carefully and while acknowledging the efforts of TfNSW to date, the Department also considers that the inclusion of *Fontainea sp.* within the Threatened Species Management Plan and the Pittosporum and Fontainea Management Plan is not appropriate as the impact of the species is not likely to occur until mid-2023 or later.

As nominee of the Planning Secretary, I direct TfNSW to cease the salvage translocation of the individual mature *Fontainea sp.* Coffs Harbour and any seedlings and juveniles located at Kororo Hill, under Condition A4 of SSI 7666. Further, at the earliest, the species is to remain in-situ until 30 April 2023.

Supplementary to the above direction, I require TfNSW to undertake the following, according to Condition A4:

- continuation of the propagation trail of the *Fontainea sp.* Coffs Harbour, at least until the salvage translocation of the species located at Kororo Hill occurs;
- additional seedlings and cuttings of the *Fontainea sp.* Coffs Harbour for the propagation trail should be obtained at a suitable time of year (between August to October) and taken from new growth;
- all seedlings and cuttings of the *Fontainea sp.* should be kept in a nursery setting for 18-24 months before the permanent planting;
- soil material surrounding *Fontainea sp.* tree at Kororo Hill should be transferred to the receival site at the time of translocation;
- consult with BCD to identify appropriate supplementary measures for the offset of Slender Marsdenia, *Pittosporum sp.* and *Fontainea sp.* in-lieu of offsets;
- provide both BCD and the Department with all data sheets relating to the targeted flora surveys for *Fontainea sp.* carried out in April, August and November 2021; and
- revise the Threatened Species Management Plan and the Pittosporum and Fontainea Management Plan to exclude reference to *Fontainea sp.*

You are reminded that if there is any inconsistency between management plans and the conditions of approval, then the requirements of the conditions of approval will prevail.

Please ensure that you make the documentation publicly available on the project website.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Lee McCourt on lee.mccourt@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Todd-Jones', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Todd-Jones
A/Director
Infrastructure Management

As nominee of the Secretary

Encl. BCD letter to TfNSW, dated 1 March 2022