



Our ref: DOC21/25242

Your ref: MP06_0295-Mod-14

Emily Murray
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Planning and Assessment Group
Resource Assessments
emily.murray@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Murray

Cadia Valley Operations MOD 14 – ‘Paddock’ trees identified as species credit species habitat – additional advice

I refer to the response provided by BCS on 18 February 2020 on the proposed Cadia Valley Operations Modification 14.

‘Issue 5’ of that response presented the BCS concerns regarding the application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) 2017 ‘paddock’ tree streamlined assessment module where some paddock trees were assessed as providing suitable species credit habitat for species confirmed present in on-site surveys. BCS indicated (Recommendation 5.1) that further advice would be provided on how to address this issue, in the context of the site and the BMS 2020ⁱ conclusions.

As previously noted, it appears at least one of the superb parrot sightings on the site may have been in a tree assessed under the paddock tree module. BMS (2020) indicated that this species was nesting within the development site and subsequently assessed the majority of the paddock trees as providing suitable superb parrot breeding habitat as defined in the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC). These trees were included in the superb parrot species polygons.

Squirrel gliders were also recorded on the development site in the BMS (2020) fauna surveys, but not specifically in the paddock trees. Based on habitat assessment and information in the TBDC, BMS (2020) included some paddock trees on the site within the squirrel glider species credit polygons.

Considering the information presented in the project’s Biodiversity Development Assessment Report and BMS (2020), together with advice supplied by BAM Support, BCS recommends that:

- a) species credits are calculated for any paddock trees assessed as providing suitable superb parrot and squirrel glider species credit habitat in accordance with s.6.4, Step 5 of the BAM (2017) “*Determine the area or count and location of suitable habitat for a species credit species*”.
- b) the assessor contacts BAM Support (BAM.support@environment.nsw.gov.au) to obtain instructions on the best method for calculating species credits where the paddock tree module has been used to calculate ecosystem credits.
- c) if the land surrounding the paddock trees is demonstrated to be Category 1 - Exempt land within the meaning of the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (‘Issue 2’ in the previous BCS response), this should be taken into account in defining the final species credit polygons used to calculate species credits associated with the loss of the paddock trees. In the event of any overlap between an identified paddock tree species credit buffer and Category 1 land, the Category 1 land would be removed from the species polygon for the purpose of calculating species credits.

BCS requests that this advice is provided to the proponent as an update to Recommendation 5.1 in the BCS comments dated 18 February 2020.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Erica Baigent, Conservation Planning Officer, via erica.baigent@environment.nsw.gov.au or (02) 6883 5311.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samantha Wynn".

Samantha Wynn
Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate

2 March 2021

ⁱ BMS (2020) *Cadia Valley Operations Processing Rate Modification – Baseline Fauna Survey Report*. Report prepared by Biodiversity Monitoring Services for Newcrest Mining Limited, December 2020. Appendix E of Cadia Valley Operations – Processing Rate Modification Biodiversity Assessment Report, 7 December 2020