



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

DOC17/352267-1
SSD 8019

Ms Diane Sarkies
Senior Planner, Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Ms Sarkies

Mixed Use Development at 50 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Environmental Impact Statement

I refer to your email dated 30 June 2017, seeking comments on the exhibited Mixed Use Development Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) located at 50 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, in the Newcastle local government area. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) understands the EIS is on public exhibition from 6 July 2017 to 21 August 2017.

OEH has undertaken a review of the EIS in relation to threatened biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and flooding / floodplain issues. Details of OEH's assessment are provided in **Attachment A**.

If you require any further information regarding this matter please contact Steve Lewer, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4927 3158.

Yours sincerely

MARK SQUIRES
Acting Director, Hunter Central Coast Branch
Regional Operations Division

Enclosure: Attachment A

ATTACHMENT A

OEH review – mixed use development environmental impact statement (SSD 8019) – Newcastle

OEH has undertaken a review of the EIS titled *50 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle: Environmental Impact Statement for State Significant Development (SSD 8019)* prepared by SJB Planning (and dated 2017). OEH has reviewed the EIS in relation to threatened biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, and flooding / floodplain matters. The following detailed comments are provided.

The proponent should provide a BAR or request an exemption to the FBA

A specific requirement of the OEH's recommended Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) is that biodiversity aspects of the project are to be assessed under the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects. This includes the requirement to comply with the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA - OEH 2014). As part of this process the EIS must include a Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) which assesses the impacts on threatened biodiversity.

OEH concurs with the proponent that the proposed site has been highly modified / disturbed (a graded sealed carpark) however, the proponent has not provided a BAR or requested an exemption to the application of the FBA from OEH. In the absence of a BAR or approved exemption the project does not comply with OEH's SEARs requirements.

Recommendation:

OEH recommends that the proponent either prepares a BAR or requests an exemption to the application of the FBA.

OEH has no concerns with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage

OEH has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement for State Significant Development (SSD 8019) for 50 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, June 2017, with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment identifies that the project area comprises of reclaimed land, with land reclamation occurring in the twentieth century. OEH concurs that prior to the reclamation, the original landform would not have been suitable for occupation by Aboriginal people as it would have been underwater and only exposed at low tide. In the event that any Aboriginal objects may have been redeposited they would have been relocated by flooding and changes in deposition over time. OEH further supports the assessment's conclusions that there is a very low to no potential for Aboriginal objects to be present within any residual landforms that may be present below fill within the project area.

OEH is of the view that the project area has very low to no archaeological potential and there is very low to no likelihood that the proposed works will result in harm to Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal cultural heritage. OEH has no additional concerns with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

OEH has no concerns with respect to flooding

OEH reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement dated June 2017 completed by SJB Planning and the Flooding Assessment dated 9 June 2017 by Northrop. OEH also had discussions with Chadapa Teeraputtanun, The Engineering Development Officer at City of Newcastle Council, who has had significant discussions with the applicant regarding the floodplain management components of this development.

OEH has no concerns with the proposal in its current form with respect to flooding.

References:

OEH (2014) *Framework for Biodiversity Assessment*. September 2014. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Sydney.
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/biodiversity/140675fba.pdf