



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

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SSD 9262

Ms Brendon Roberts
Team Leader – Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
brendon.lroberts@planning.nsw.gov.au

Att.: James Groundwater

Dear Brendon

OEH Review of Environmental Impact Statement: University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Concept Proposal (SSD 9262) – Newcastle City LGA

I refer to your letter dated 30 July 2018, seeking comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Concept Proposal (SSD 9262), on Lots 1, 2 and 3 in DP 1163346, Lot 21 in DP 1165985 and Part Lot 2 in DP 1226145 located at 16 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, in the Newcastle City local government area.

OEH has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement, including relevant appendices, annexures, attachments and parts of the document titled '*Environmental Impact Statement - 16 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus Concept Plan*' (prepared by Ethos Urban Pty Ltd and dated 2 July 2018) in relation to impacts on biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage and flooding.

OEH's recommendations are provided in **Attachment A** and detailed comments are provided in **Attachment B**. If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Steven Cox, Senior Team Leader Planning, on 4927 3140 or via email at rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Sharon Molloy 28/8/2018

SHARON MOLLOY
Director Hunter Central Coast Branch
Conservation and Regional Delivery Division

Contact officer: STEVEN COX
02 4927 3140

Enclosure: Attachments A and B

Attachment A

OEH's recommendations

University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Concept Proposal

Biodiversity

1. DP&E granted a waiver from the requirement to submit a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) on 8 May 2018. No further biodiversity assessment is required and no biodiversity offsetting is required for this project.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

2. OEH will review the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report for the project when it is submitted at a later stage of the project.

Flooding

3. OEH is satisfied with the flooding assessment provided and no further flooding assessment is required.

Attachment B

OEH's detailed comments

University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Concept Proposal (SSD 9262)

Biodiversity

1. OEH is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment

The proponent (care of Urban Ethos) requested a waiver from the requirement to submit a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* in correspondence dated 17 April 2018, on the basis the proposal would not significant impact on biodiversity values as the subject site is devoid of vegetation. OEH was satisfied with the request and agreed no further assessment was required. A waiver from submitting a BDAR was provided to the proponent by the Department of Planning and Environment on 8 May 2018 (Appendix D of the EIS).

Recommendation 1

DP&E granted a waiver from the requirement to submit a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) on 8 May 2018. No further biodiversity assessment is required and no biodiversity offsetting is required for this project.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

2. Further Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will be undertaken

The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment provided to support the University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Concept Proposal (SSD 9296) adequately addresses the Aboriginal cultural heritage potential of the site however it does not provide an assessment of the potential impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural heritage. OEH supports the recommendations provided in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment which includes:

- The preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report and an Archaeological Assessment Report. This process will occur in consultation with Aboriginal people, as per the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW); and
- The identification of cultural heritage values will be guided by the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (DECCW, 2011).

OEH has no additional comments at this stage of the project with respect to the Aboriginal cultural heritage and the proposed concept plan for University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus. OEH will provide further comment when the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report is submitted at a later stage of the project.

Recommendation 2

OEH will review the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report for the project when it is submitted at a later stage of the project.

Flooding

3. **OEH is satisfied with the flooding assessment provided.**

OEH has reviewed the flood assessment provided by Northrop and the Honeysuckle Redevelopment Area Flood Study provided by BMT and is satisfied the project will have no significant adverse off-site impacts.

Recommendation 3

OEH is satisfied with the flooding assessment provided and no further flooding assessment is required.