



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

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SSD 9368

Mr Andrew Beattie  
Team Leader, School Infrastructure Assessments  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Iona Cameron

Dear Mr Beattie

*Andrew*

**Alex Avenue Public School State Significant Development, Farmland Drive, Schofields (SSD 9368)**

I refer to your letter of 25 March 2019 regarding the Development Application (DA) for the above.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) supporting the DA and notes from the Urban Design Report that '*native planting to contribute to the surrounding natural ecology*' is one of the key environmental strategies included in the design to '*foster a culture of environmental sustainability*'. OEH supports this strategy and is encouraged by the Landscape Plans which indicate remnant native eucalypt trees (Narrow-leaved Ironbark [*Eucalyptus crebra*]) in the southern part of the site will be '*retained and protected*'. As detailed in the Flora and Fauna Assessment, these trees are remnants of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) vegetation community which once covered the site. To further improve the biodiversity outcomes of the development, OEH recommends the exotic Kikuyu turf proposed as groundcover in this area be replaced by endemic CPW species.

OEH has no other comments on the EIS.

Please contact Richard Bonner on 9995 6917 or at [richard.bonner@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:richard.bonner@environment.nsw.gov.au) should you have any further queries regarding this advice.

Yours sincerely

*S. Harrison 29/04/19*

**SUSAN HARRISON**

**Senior Team Leader Planning, Greater Sydney  
Communities and Greater Sydney Division**