



Office of Environment & Heritage

DOC18/931568
SSI 7127 MOD 1

Mr Glenn Snow
Director, Transport Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Fadi Shakir

Dear Mr Snow

The Northern Road Upgrade – Glenmore Park to Bringelly State Significant Infrastructure Project (SSI 7127)

I refer to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) request for comments from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the proposed modification to the above project.

OEH has reviewed the Modification Assessment (MA) and understands it entails replacing approved twin bridges at Adams Road and with an at-grade intersection.

In relation to the biodiversity issues associated with the modification, OEH notes the statement in the MA that *'the absolute impact in hectares and the proportional impact in terms of the extent of the TEC (Cumberland Plain Woodland Threatened Ecological Community) within the broader locality are considered negligible'* and therefore, the opinion that the modification *'is likely to result in a minor effect on biodiversity values and, as such, does not warrant a BDAR (biodiversity development assessment report) ...'*. This opinion is based on an assessment of biodiversity values prescribed in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)* and *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (BC Reg)*.

As highlighted in the MA, clause 30A (2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 2017* requires a BDAR be submitted with the modification unless *'the authority or person determining the application for modification ... is satisfied that the modification will not increase the impact on biodiversity values'* (c. 30A (2)(c)).

While supporting the approach taken by the proponent to assessing the impacts on biodiversity values, OEH notes the modification will result in the removal of an additional 0.27 ha of native vegetation: 0.03 ha of which is Cumberland Plain Woodland Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on shale of the southern Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion vegetation, a listed critically endangered ecological community. OEH recommends this be considered by the DPE in determining whether the modification will increase impacts on biodiversity values. OEH also recommends consideration be given to how the biodiversity impacts of the modification could be addressed in the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and Biodiversity Offset Package required by the original approval.

Should you have any queries regarding this advice, please contact Richard Bonner on 9995 6917 or richard.bonner@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

S. Harrison 19/12/18

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