

The following comments are also being forwarded to Greg Paine for inclusion in the formal response from DPI.

Key issues for Jervis Bay Marine Park in relation to the development and proposed modification continue to be as raised previously at various stages of the planning approval process. They are as follows:

- The Vincentia District Centre site drains via SEPP14 wetlands into Moona Moona Creek which is within Jervis Bay Marine Park
- Moona Moona Creek is zoned 'sanctuary' under the JBMP zoning plan, is in very good environmental condition and has significant areas of mangroves and saltmarsh.
- Achieving 'best practice' water and water quality management outcomes is essential to ensure that the VDC development does not adversely impact on the marine biodiversity and ecological values of the marine park.

In general:

- The water management and water quality measures implemented need to ensure that water quality from the site is maintained or improved and that the water flow regime is not altered such that it results in degradation of the vegetation in the catchment between the site and the marine park, which will have consequences for water quality in Moona Moona Creek into the future.
- We support retention of natural watercourses and associated riparian corridors wherever possible, and where water management measures are implemented they should mimic natural systems as much as possible.
- Where water management measures are put in place, in particular more complex systems as are associated with this development, secure arrangements must be made for their effective operation and maintenance for the life of the development.

Specifically:

- The present modification proposes to significantly reduce the built footprint of the first phase of the town centre development however the larger area has already been cleared and will potentially remain vacant for an extended period of time before further phases of development occur.
- The environmental obligations for management and rehabilitation of areas of environmental importance associated with this phase of the project should be given full effect regardless of the proposed reduction in built footprint.
- The balance of the cleared area not now required for the modified development is identified as 'temporary vegetated landscape'. Details about how this area will be vegetated and managed need to be identified and incorporated into the Statement of Commitments. As noted above, the area could potentially be vacant for an extended period of time and any approval should include secure arrangements for effective management and maintenance of the area for the life of the development.
- In conjunction with planning for rehabilitation and management of the 'temporary vegetated landscape' the water quality sampling plan should be reviewed. Consideration should be given to increasing the frequency of sampling and/or no. of sampling sites to address the likelihood of increased levels of fines and sediments in surface water, exposed by the extensive site clearing including clearing of the creek bed itself.
- Environmental management and rehabilitation of the cleared land and adjacent environmentally important areas should be addressed as soon as possible to maintain the integrity of the catchment and prevent environmental degradation downstream.

If you have any queries or require any additional information please contact me at JBMP office on 4428 3003.

Regards,

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