

1.0 Background

Googong Township Proprietary Limited (GTPL) – a partnership between Canberra Investment Corporation (CIC) and Mirvac, is responsible for the development of the new Googong Township that will be located in the Canberra region, around seven kilometres south of Queanbeyan in NSW. The new Googong Township will be home to about 16,000 people and developed over the next 25 years. The township is designed around an integrated water cycle (IWC), with a dedicated water recycling plant (WRP) that will reduce the consumption of potable water in the community by around 60 per cent and recycle the township's water for non-potable use.

The Googong Township Water Cycle Project Environmental Assessment (November, 2010) (EA) was prepared under (the now repealed) Part 3A of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) to assess the impacts of construction and operation of infrastructure for the potable water, recycled water and sewage systems required to service the township.

Concept Approval for the ultimate development (Stage 1 and Stage 2) and a Project Approval for Stage 1 of the Googong Township IWC Project were granted by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission, under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on 24 November 2011.

In particular, Condition of Approval (CoA) B14 states:

The Proponent shall establish and maintain in perpetuity a dedicated area of land on the project site for the conservation of the Pink-tailed Legless Lizard (Aprasia parapulchella) as outlined in the plan prepared in accordance with condition D9 and shown in Appendix 2.

GTPL wish to modify the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Conservation Area (PTWL Conservation Area) boundary and in so doing also request a modification to CoA B14 with specific reference to Appendix 2. An updated figure showing the amended PTWL Conservation Area boundary is attached with this document (Attachment A) and is proposed to replace the existing figure in Appendix 2. Details surrounding the proposed change are provided in the next section.

2.0 Proposed change

The PTWL Conservation Area was created to enable a qualitative and quantitative long-term net-benefit to the PTWL habitat within the vicinity of the Googong Township. The PTWL Conservation Area encompasses habitat that is considered to be of 'Very High', 'High' and 'Medium' quality, as outlined in Section 2.1.2 of the *Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Protection and Management Plan* (Rev 4, dated April 2014).

CoA D9 requires GTPL to prepare and implement the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Protection and Management Plan that has been prepared by Biosis with the most recent version (Rev 4) approved by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment on 20 May 2014 and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment on 10 June 2014.

However, as part of detailed neighbourhood planning for Neighbourhood 1B, it was determined that some alterations to the form and extent of the PTWL Conservation Area boundary (as currently approved) would be required to enable a workable interface between the PTWL Conservation Area and the adjacent Neighbourhood 1B development.

The proposed alterations to the PTWL Conservation Area boundary, provided as Attachment A, will result in some changes in PTWL habitat extents which are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Changes in habitat extents due to the proposed PTWL Conservation Area boundary alterations

| PTWL habitat quality | Habitat extent added (ha) | Habitat extent removed (ha) | Difference in habitat extent (ha) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Very High | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| High | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Medium | 2.04 | 1.71 | +0.33 |
| Low | 0.00 | 0.33 | -0.33 |
| Non-habitat | 3.18 | 1.17 | +2.01 |
| Total | 5.22 | 3.21 | +2.01 |

The proposed boundary alterations will result in a similar extent of PTWL habitat being conserved within the PTWL Conservation Area. The net loss of low quality PTWL habitat will be offset by the net gain of the same area of medium quality habitat; medium quality habitat being of considerably higher value to the PTWL than low quality habitat.

GTPL has submitted the amended Pink-tailed Worm-lizard Protection and Management Plan (Rev 5) for approval by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment (pending) and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (in consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage). It is understood that the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's approval of the amended plan may be issued following the processing of this modification.