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**ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR A PLANTED MAGENTA LILLY
PILLY HEDGE AT NO. 3 MURRAY ROSE AVENUE, HOMEBUSH**

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Dear Grant,

This letter provides an addendum to the Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment for 7 Parkview Drive, Homebush (Cumberland Ecology 2009) (approved under Part 3A of the *NSW Planning and Assessment Act 1979*), and the subsequent addendum letter to support a development application (DA) for Stage 2 of the project, known as No. 3 Murray Rose Avenue, Homebush (letter by Cumberland Ecology dated 22 August 2012). The current DA for No. 3 Murray Rose Avenue, Homebush is referred to hereafter as the 'subject site'.

The arborist report (Hunter Horticultural Services, 2012) for the proposed development identified a planted *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly) hedge in a narrow garden bed adjoining the existing carpark in the north east of the subject site. The Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment (Cumberland Ecology 2009) identified planted garden bed vegetation as not naturally occurring, and therefore no individual species assessments were conducted, and were not considered necessary. However, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) have requested that a formal Assessment of Significance (Seven Part Test) is conducted for the removal of the *Syzygium paniculatum* which is listed as endangered under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

A site inspection was conducted by an Ecologist on 12 March 2013 to confirm the presence of this species and the number of plants that will be removed. A total of 20 *Syzygium paniculatum* individuals, planted in two rows, were identified, as shown in Photographs 1-3 in Appendix C to this letter. A sample was collected of the leaves and flowers, however, no fruit was present. The sample was considered

to be consistent with *Syzygium paniculatum*, despite the fruit not being present for a positive identification, although it is likely to be a cultivated variety.

A formal Assessment of Significance has been prepared, and is included in Appendix A to this letter. No referral to the Minister for the Environment is required, as no significant impacts under the EPBC Act are considered likely to occur as a result of the proposal. A figure showing the location of the *Syzygium paniculatum* hedge in relation to the 7 Parkview Drive, Homebush Project Approval area (referred to as the Study Area), is provided in Appendix B.

Yours sincerely



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References

- Cumberland Ecology (2009). 7 Parkview Drive, Homebush; Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment for a Part 3A Project Application. Carlingford Court, NSW, Cumberland Ecology Pty Ltd.
- DECC (NSW) (2007). Magenta Lilly Pilly - profile, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Hurstville, NSW.
- NSW Scientific Committee (2009). Syzygium paniculatum - endangered species listing. Department of Environment and Climate Change, Hurstville, NSW.

Appendix A

Assessment of Significance

A.1 Assessment of Significance

A.1.1 *Syzygium paniculatum*

Syzygium paniculatum (Magenta Lilly Pilly) is endemic to NSW and occurrences of the species are often separated by considerable distances (DEC (NSW) 2007). Five broad metapopulations have been recognised, including: Jervis Bay, Coalcliff, Botany Bay, Central Coast and Seal Rocks (NSW Scientific Committee 2009). On the south coast *Syzygium paniculatum* occurs on grey soils over sandstone, restricted mainly to remnant stands of littoral (coastal) rainforest (DECC (NSW) 2007). On the central coast *Syzygium paniculatum* occurs on gravels, sands, silts and clays in riverside gallery rainforests and remnant littoral rainforest communities (DECC (NSW) 2007).

- (a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

A total of 20 individuals of *Syzygium paniculatum* were recorded on the subject site occurring in two planted rows as a hedge. As the individuals recorded have been planted and are outside of the species natural range, its conservation significance is greatly reduced. Furthermore the planted hedge of this species is considered to be a cultivate variety, and therefore not part of the genetic gene pool in the broader locality. Though the proposed development does require the removal of the individuals recorded on the subject site, this does not represent a viable local population, and therefore the removal of this specimen will not result in an adverse impact to the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

- (b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

There are no populations of *Syzygium paniculatum* listed as endangered under the TSC Act.

- (c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*

(i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or

(ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

Not applicable.

- (d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*

(i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and

(ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and

(iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.

The proposed development requires the removal of the individuals recorded on the subject site. The individuals are planted and outside their natural range, therefore no natural habitat for this species will be removed.

As no natural habitat for this species is present in the subject site, no natural habitat will be cleared and none will become fragmented or isolated. Vegetation on the subject site will continue to be connected to adjacent stands of vegetation.

The subject site is not considered to represent suitable natural habitat for this species, and therefore habitat on the subject site is not important for *Syzygium paniculatum* in the locality.

(e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly).*

No critical habitat for this species has currently been listed in the critical habitat registry by the Director-General of OEH.

(f) *Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.*

No recovery plan has been prepared for this species. No threat abatement plans are relevant to this species. OEH have developed 1 priority action to help recover this species (prepare a recovery plan).

(g) *Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The proposal may result in the operation of the following Key Threatening Processes:

- Clearing of native vegetation;
- Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers;
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses;
- Invasion, establishment and spread of *Lantana camara*; and
- Competition and grazing by the feral European Rabbit.

The proposed development would result in the removal of vegetation, however, this threat is not considered to be exacerbated by the proposal, as the vegetation present is planted, and from cultivated varieties.

The effects of weed invasion and increased grazing by feral rabbits may be slightly exacerbated during and post construction, however, the implementation of strict mitigation measures will be employed, as per the Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment (Cumberland Ecology 2009) to limit the potential impacts on proximate areas of native vegetation.

Conclusion

The subject site is not considered to contain natural habitat for *Syzygium paniculatum* as the recorded individuals have been planted as a hedge and the subject site is beyond the natural range of this species. The occurrence of a cultivated variety of this species does not comprise a viable natural population. Accordingly, no significant impact is predicted to occur to this species as a result of the proposed development.

Appendix B

Figures



Legend

Study Area

Threatened Flora

Syngium paniculatum

Image Source:
Nearmaps dated 8/01/2013



Figure 1. Location of the Threatened Flora Species in the Study Area



Appendix C

Photographs



Photograph 1 **Syzygium paniculatum hedge on the subject site. Photograph aspect west**



Photograph 2 **Syzygium paniculatum hedge on the subject site. Photograph aspect east**



Photograph 3 Flowering sample from *Syzygium paniculatum*