



Our ref: DOC21/321227

Senders ref: SSD 10340 Mod 1

Jenny Chu
Infrastructure Assessments
Planning and Assessment Group
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Ms Chu,

Subject: Fort Street Public School Redevelopment, Upper Fort Street, Millers Point (SSD 10340)

Thank you for your e-mail received 26 April 2021, requesting input from Environment, Energy and Science Group (EES) in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on the Fort Street Public School Redevelopment Modification1.

Under s.7.17(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) is required to be submitted with a modification unless the authority determining the modification application is satisfied that the modification will not increase the impact on biodiversity values. To assist DPIE, EES has reviewed the Modification Report and relevant documents and considers BDAR prepared for SSD 10340 (ELA 2020) identified holes in the eaves of the derelict Bureau of Meteorology building (Met building) as having the potential to be entrances to cavities suitable as habitat for microchiropteran bats (microbats).

EES notes the Modification includes changes to the Met Building. These changes may increase the likelihood of impacts on microbat habitat.

The consent for SSD 10340 included several conditions in relation to microbats (B39-B43). These conditions required pre-demolition surveys to be undertaken, and if microbats were found, then biodiversity credits were to be calculated and retired. EES considers these conditions are still appropriate for this modification. However, there is an additional action recommended in the BDAR that should have also been included as a condition. The BDAR recommended that if microbats were observed during surveys, then a microbat management plan would be prepared to investigate options for relocation using best practice techniques. EES supports this recommendation being included as a condition of consent, in addition to the requirement to meet conditions B39-B43.

Further there are no comments in relation to flooding.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Bronwyn Smith, Senior Conservation Planning Officer on 9873 8604 or bronwyn.smith@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Harrison". The script is cursive and fluid.

05/05/21

Susan Harrison
Senior Team Leader
Biodiversity and Conservation
Environment, Energy and Science