

Mr David Koppers
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy Resource Assessment
Planning and Assessment Group
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Mr Koppers

Subject: Huntingwood Processing expansion – 65 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood (SSD-17352813)

Thank you for your email received 19 October 2021 requesting comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the subject proposal. Environment, Energy and Science Group (EES) has undertaken a review of the EIS and related information and provides the following comments.

Biodiversity and Landscaping

EES raises no comments or concerns in relation to the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report prepared by Ecological Australia. Due to the landscaped and planted nature of vegetation on site, no biodiversity offset obligations have resulted from this assessment.

Application of the avoid, minimise and offset hierarchy must still be demonstrated for the proposed development and EES notes that of the 342 trees assessed for the proposed development, 272 are proposed for removal. The proposed landscape plan identifies a total of 256 replacement trees to be planted on site.

To further minimise impacts, the proposed landscape plan should be amended to incorporate additional canopy tree planting. Opportunity for additional planting may exist within the eastern and southern boundary setbacks. An overall increase in the number canopy trees is preferred however at minimum a replacement ratio of 1:1 should be achieved.

EES also notes that the planting schedule included in the landscape plan fails to specify the number of each tree species to be planted. This detail should be provided to demonstrate a suitable level of species diversity in the proposed landscaping.

Further to the above, EES recommends that landscaping of the site uses a diverse mix of local provenance native species from the native vegetation communities that occur, or once occurred on the site (Cumberland Plain Woodland) rather than using exotic species or non-local native species. EES notes that several of the shrubs, grasses and groundcover species in the 'indicative planting schedule' in the Landscape Plans are not consistent with species found within Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Flooding

EES raises no comments or concerns in relation to flooding.

If you have any queries please contact Shaun Hunt, Senior Conservation Planning Officer at shaun.hunt@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 8275 1617.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

17/11/21

Susan Harrison
Senior Team Leader Planning
Greater Sydney Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation