



Our ref: DOC20/457701-8

Your ref: SSD-10380

Mr John Doubleday

Student Para Planner  
Social Other Infra Assessments  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
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Dear John

**Richard Gill School (SSD-10380) (Muswellbrook Shire) – Review of Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email dated 11 June 2020 in which Planning and Assessments Group (P&A) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) invited Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department for advice in relation to the Richard Gill School, located at 157 Maitland Road (Lot 2 DP 1118310) in Muswellbrook.

BCD has reviewed the '*Environmental Impact Statement for Richard Gill School, Muswellbrook*' (prepared by Hunter Development Brokerage Pty Ltd and dated May 2020), including relevant appendices, annexures and attachments in relation to impacts on biodiversity, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and flooding.

BCD's recommendations are provided in **Attachment A** and detailed comments are provided in **Attachment B**. If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Steve Lewer, Acting Senior Team Leader Planning, on 4927 3158 or via email at [rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rog.hcc@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**STEVE LEWER**  
**Acting Senior Team Leader - Planning**  
**Hunter Central Coast Branch**  
**Biodiversity and Conservation Division**

**Date: 5 July 2020**

Enclosure: Attachments A and B

## **BCD's recommendations**

### **Richard Gill School (SSD-10380) – Review of Environmental Impact Statement**

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#### **Biodiversity**

1. No further assessment is required.

#### **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

2. BCD recommends the Conditions of Approval should include a protocol for the management and mitigation and management of any unexpected finds that may be found during the construction and development of the project area.

#### **Flooding**

3. No further assessment is required.

## BCD's detailed comments

### Richard Gill School (SSD-10380) – Review of Environmental Impact Statement

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#### Biodiversity

1. BCD is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment.

BCD notes that a biodiversity development assessment report waiver was issued for the project on 22 May 2020 and no further biodiversity assessment is required.

##### Recommendation 1

No further assessment is required.

#### Aboriginal cultural heritage

2. BCD is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment, albeit with conditions for unexpected finds.

The SEARs were re-issued on the 20 May 2020 in consultation with BCD whereby BCD determined that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report was not required. The SEARs were re-issued on the basis that the new school will be established by refurbishing the existing building with construction works limited to alterations and additions to the internal spaces of the building. The proposal includes minor landscaping and fencing.

##### Recommendation 2

BCD recommends the Conditions of Approval should include a protocol for the management and mitigation and management of any unexpected finds that may be found during the construction and development of the project area.

#### Flooding and flood risk

3. BCD is satisfied with the flooding and flood risk assessment

BCD is satisfied with the flooding and flood risk assessment in the EIS.

##### Recommendation 3

No further assessment is required.