

8 November 2019

Our ref: 19SYD/14447

Catholic Education Office Diocese of Wollongong  
C/- JDH Architects  
44 Little Oxford St  
Darlington NSW 2010

Attention: Giuseppe Lauriola

Dear Giuseppe,

**St Francis Catholic School, Edmondson Park – Compliance with existing biodiversity certification**

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) was commissioned by JDH Architects (on behalf of Catholic Education Office Diocese of Wollongong) to undertake an assessment of compliance with terms of existing biodiversity certification for a proposed development at 130- 150 Jardin Drive, Edmondson Park (the study area and subject site) owned by the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Wollongong (**Figure 1**).

The proposed development will be assessed as State Significant Development by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (SSD 10365). In terms of biodiversity, the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) requires the applicant to *advise and provide comment on compliance with the terms of the existing biodiversity certification on the subject site as identified in the South West Growth Centre – Biodiversity Certification map under Section 43 of the Biodiversity Conservation (Savings and Transition) Regulation 2017*.

The land subject to SSD 10365 (subject site) is biodiversity certified under the *Order to confer biodiversity certification on the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006*. The certification is described in Part 7 of Schedule 7 to the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and is subject to conditions contained in the Order. The TSC Act 1995 was repealed and replaced by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) on 25 August 2017. The biodiversity certification and its conditions were carried over into the new BC Act (see Section 43 of the *Biodiversity Conservation (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 2017*). During precinct planning, biodiversity information is considered, principally to ensure that the precinct plan is consistent with the conditions in the biodiversity certification Order, such as the need to protect 2000 hectares of native vegetation. This target is based on the hectares of vegetation on non-certified land. As the site is entirely certified, none of the vegetation on it was assumed to contribute to the 2000 ha target.

The proposed development involves landscaping within the subject site which comprises the edges of the study area. The works will involve the removal of weeds and disturbed ground cover vegetation, managed lawn, and large areas of bare, disturbed soil. Field surveys identified that minimal native vegetation was present within the subject site: one *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) was present in the north east of the subject site and this will be retained. Occasional individuals of *Einadia trigonos* and *Themeda triandra* were observed amongst dense areas of weeds within the subject site.

It has been determined that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values, and thus the proposed works comply with existing biodiversity certification on the subject site.

Provided the site remains biodiversity certified no further assessment of biodiversity values within the subject site will be required at the development application stage.

Yours sincerely,



Nicole McVicar

**Senior Ecologist and Accredited BAM Assessor**

## 1. Introduction

The Catholic Education Office Diocese of Wollongong proposes to submit State Significant Development Application to undertake landscaping within a portion of St Francis Catholic College, Edmondson Park (described here as the subject site). This proposed development is within the Liverpool Council local government area (LGA). The subject site (**Figure 1**), is located at 130-150 Jardin Drive, Edmondson Park and is bordered by a school, residential and recreational areas. The subject site covers an area of 1.6 ha and is identified as certified land on the South West Growth Centre Biodiversity Certification Map.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Literature and database search

Prior to the field survey, ELA conducted a database assessment of the study area and subject site using relevant vegetation, database and aerial photography interpretation. This assessment included:

- The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan Area Mapping (DPIE 2016)
- NSW BioNet / Atlas of NSW Wildlife database search (5 km) and Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Protected Matters Search tool (5km)
- South West Growth Centre – Biodiversity Certification Map
- NSW Government Biodiversity Values Map
- Liverpool Local Environment Plan 2008

### 2.2 Field Survey

The field survey was conducted over one hour by ELA senior ecologist Nicole McVicar on 5 November 2019. The aim of the field survey was to validate any vegetation communities identified within the subject site, record any habitat features for threatened and non-threatened flora and fauna, and identify any other potential ecological constraints.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Literature review

The study area is currently zoned as R1 General Residential, under the Liverpool Local Environmental Plan 2008 (LEP). A desktop assessment undertaken on 5 November 2019, identified that the subject site and study area did not contain any areas identified on the Biodiversity Values Map. The subject site and study area is mapped as certified land under on the South West Growth Centre Biodiversity Certification Map.

There are no BioNet records of threatened flora and fauna species previously recorded within the study area or subject site.

There are also no riparian corridors within the subject site.

Previous vegetation mapping by DPIE (formally Office of Environment and Heritage) (2016) identified a small portion of vegetation within the north east corner of the study area as *Cumberland Shale Plains Woodland*. The remainder of the study area was not mapped as comprising any vegetation.

## 3.2 Field survey

### 3.2.1 Vegetation communities

The field survey confirmed that the vegetation within the subject site has been cleared of remnant vegetation and the original soil profile has been considerably altered. The vegetation was confirmed to comprise weeds species and a mown oval. One *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) was present in the north east of the subject site and this will be retained. Occasional individuals of *Einadia trigonos* and *Themeda triandra* were observed amongst dense areas of weeds within the subject site (**Figure 2**).

### 3.2.2 Threatened species

No threatened flora and fauna species were identified during the field survey assessment.

Additionally, no habitat was identified for threatened fauna and flora species within the study area.



**Photo 1: Subject site south western end**



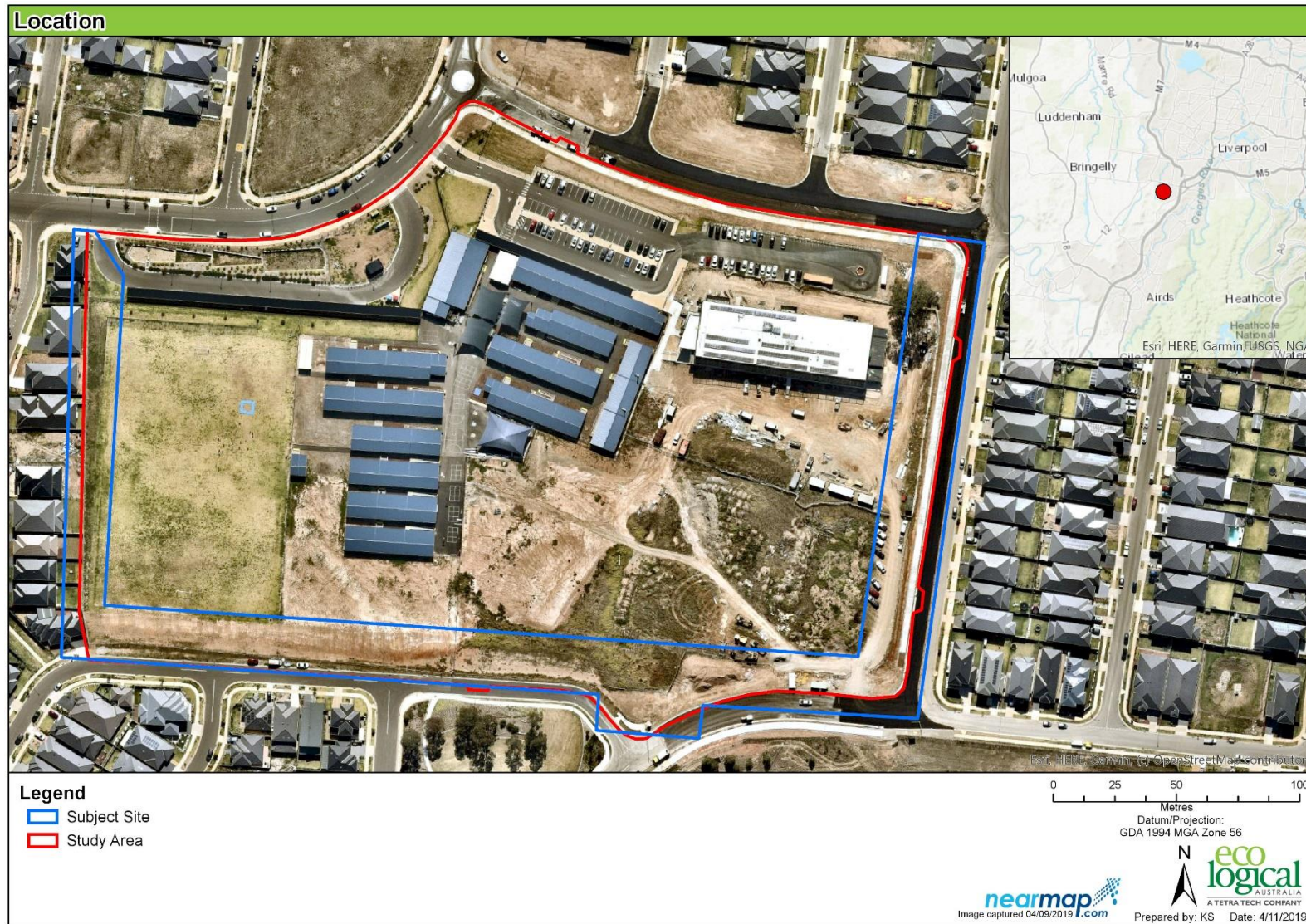


Photo 2 : Subject site eastern edge



Photo 3 : Subject site south eastern edge





**Figure 1: Location of study area and subject site**





Figure 2: Validated vegetation within the subject site





**Figure 3: Threatened species Atlas records within 5km of the study area**



## 4. Conclusion

As discussed the works within the subject site will involve the removal of weeds and disturbed ground cover vegetation, managed lawn, and large areas of bare, disturbed soil.

Field surveys identified that minimal native vegetation was present within the subject site: one *Corymbia maculata* was present in the north east of the subject site and this will be retained. Occasional individuals of *Einadia trigonos* and *Themeda triandra* were observed amongst dense areas of weeds within the subject site.

The removal of vegetation from the study area would not result in a significant impact on any threatened species or ecological community listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

It has been determined that the proposed development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values, and thus the proposed works comply with existing biodiversity certification on the study area and subject site.

Provided the site remains biodiversity certified no further assessment of biodiversity values within the subject site will be required during the development application stage.