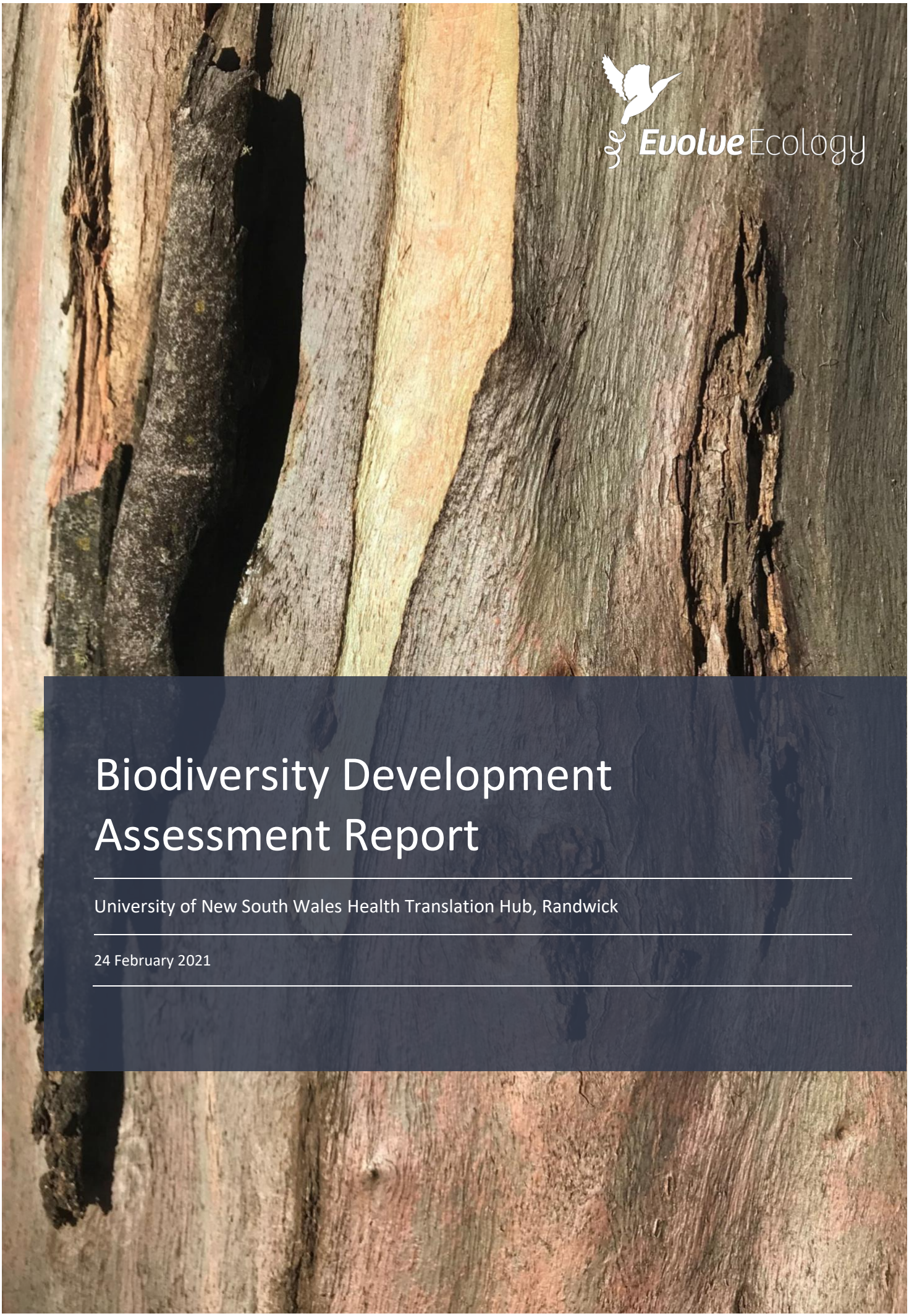

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Biodiversity Development Assessment Report

University of New South Wales Health Translation Hub, Randwick

24 February 2021

Certification

This Biodiversity Development Assessment Report has been prepared by accredited assessor Evelyn Craigie on the basis of the requirements of (and information provided under) the biodiversity assessment method as at 24 February 2021.

Evelyn Craigie

Accredited assessor number: 18088

Accreditation validity: 14/05/2018 – 13/05/2022

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Abbreviations

Word/Phrase/Name	Abbreviation
AOBV	Areas of outstanding biodiversity value
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BC Act	NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
BC Reg	NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
DPIE	Department of Planning Industry ad Environment
HTH	Health Translation Hub
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
PCT	Plant Community Type
RHC	Randwick Hospitals Campus
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
Subject land	Land to which the BAM is applied in Stage 1 to assess the biodiversity values of the land
UNSW	University of New South Wales

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) has been prepared for the University of New South Wales (UNSW) to support a State Significant Development (SSD) application for construction of the UNSW Health Translation Hub (UNSW HTH). The UNSW HTH is a 15-storey health education and research building, with associated infrastructure and landscaping, proposed to be constructed on the corner of Botany Street and High Street, Randwick (the subject land) (Map 1).

The BDAR has been prepared in accordance with the biodiversity assessment requirements of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act), the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* (BC Reg), the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (DPIE 2020a) and the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) (issued 2 December 2020). The SEARs require that a BDAR is prepared for the UNSW HTH unless a BDAR waiver has been issued. To date, a BDAR waiver has not been issued for the UNSW HTH.

1.1 Site Location and Description

The subject land is approximately 0.84 ha in area and is within the north-western section of the Randwick Hospitals Campus (RHC) expansion site, which is located on the corner of Botany Street and High Street, Randwick within the Randwick local government area (LGA). The subject land is in an urban area, with the UNSW Kensington Campus to the west, remainder of the RHC to the east and residential areas to the north and south.

The RHC expansion site has been cleared of native vegetation and is currently a construction site, with the subject land being used as a construction site compound for the broader RHC development. As such, the subject land has also been cleared of native vegetation.

1.2 Assessment Method

The streamlined assessment module for small areas has been applied to this BDAR. The UNSW HTH is eligible for the small areas streamlined assessment module as it does not exceed the area clearing threshold provided in Appendix C of the BAM, i.e. the area of clearing does not exceed 1 ha (for sites with a minimum lot size of less than 1 ha). The minimum lot size for the site is 400 m^2.

A site visit was undertaken on Friday 22 January 2021, which involved a site walkover and general observations of the subject land. BAM plots were not undertaken due to the lack of native vegetation at the subject land.

1.3 Licenses and Accreditation

This BDAR was prepared by Evelyn Craigie, Ecologist and Accredited BAM Assessor (Assessor number: 18088).

SUBJECT LAND BOUNDARY AND DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT

MAP 1

Randwick Hospital Campus Expansion | Development Footprint | Sewer main | Water main

0 100m

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2. Landscape Context

A general description of the landscape setting, along with the specific landscape feature requirements of Section 3 of the BAM are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: General Landscape Setting

Landscape Feature	Subject Land
Topography	The subject land is flat as a result of grading works undertaken for the RHC expansion. Prior to this development, the subject land supported residential dwellings and was already altered from its natural state.
Hydrology	The natural hydrology of the subject land has been altered due to historic and current development. It is managed in accordance with the stormwater management requirements of the RHC expansion.
Geology	The NSW 1500K Simplified Surface Geology describes the geology of the area as Quaternary alluvial deposits with the lithology comprising current and recent mud, silt, sand and gravel deposited by alluvial systems (DPIE 2020b).
Soils	Newport aeolian soil landscape, comprising well sorted siliceous sands overlying moderately deep buried sands including yellow Podzolic soils with sandy topsoils on crests and gentle slopes, deep Podzols on steep slopes, lower slopes and in depressions (DPIE 2009).

Landscape features contain biodiversity values that are important for the site context and the habitat suitability of the subject land and as such, are used to identify the threatened species likely to occur at the subject land. The landscape features applicable to the subject land are provided in Table 2 and shown in Map 2 and Map 3.

Table 2: Landscape Features

Landscape Feature	Subject Land
IBRA Region	Sydney Basin
IBRA Subregion	Pittwater
(NSW) Mitchell Landscapes	Sydney – Newcastle Barriers and Beaches (total area of 61.81 km^2)
Rivers and Streams	Rivers and streams do not occur on the subject land.
Wetlands	Wetlands do not occur on the subject land.
Connectivity	The subject land is cleared of native vegetation and thus, does not retain connectivity to other areas of native vegetation.
Native vegetation cover: an estimate of the percent cover of native vegetation within the Site and a 1500 m buffer around the Site**.** Determined using The Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metropolitan Area - Version 3.1 (OEH 2016)	0%

Areas of geological significance and soil hazard features	N/A – do not occur at the subject land.
Areas of outstanding biodiversity value (AOBV)	N/A – do not occur at the subject land.
Patch Size: (the area of intact native vegetation that occurs on the Site and the vegetation within 100 m of the next area of native vegetation in moderate to good condition. It is used to determine the habitat suitability of the Site for threatened species).	0 ha

SITE MAP

MAP 2

Randwick

Blenheim Street

High Street

High Street

Sydney Basin Bioregion Pittwater Subregion

Sydney Children's Hospital

Botany Street

Hospital Road

SYDNEY-NEWCASTLE BARRIERS AND BEACHES

Prince of Wales Private Hospital

Royal Hospital For Women

Magill Street

Norton Street

LGA RANDWICK

Hay Street

Hospital Road

Mitchell Landscape

IBRA Region/Subregion

LIR-01682 Site Map 02 02 2021.

Randwick Hospital Campus Expansion

Development Footprint

0 100m

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LOCATION MAP

MAP 3

Randwick Hospital Campus Expansion | Mitchell Landscape | IBRA Region/Subregion | Wetland | 1st Order stream | 2nd Order stream

0 500m

LIR-01683 Location Map 01 02 2021 Rev A.

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3. Native Vegetation and Habitat

As noted above, the subject land has been cleared of native vegetation and currently supports sparse regrowth of exotic plants only. Since clearing was undertaken, two *Acacia saligna* (Golden Wreath Wattle) and one *Paraserianthes lophantha* (Crested Wattle) have regrown on the subject land (Photo 1 and 2). These species are not native to NSW and are therefore not considered to comprise native species in accordance with the BAM. All other regrowth on the subject land comprises exotic species such as *Conyza bonariensis* (Flaxleaf Fleabane), *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass) and *Ricinus communis* (Castor Oil Plant). All other areas comprise bare earth (see Photo 3).

The subject land does not support any habitat for threatened species due to its lack of vegetation and current use as a construction site compound.

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the BAM, any part of the subject land that does not contain native vegetation does not need to be assessed under Chapter 4 unless the land is:

a. Proposed for restoration as part of a Biodiversity Stewardship Site, or
b. Assessed as habitat for threatened species according to Chapter 5.

The subject land is not proposed for restoration as part of a Biodiversity Stewardship Site, nor does it comprise habitat for threatened species and therefore, assessment of native vegetation, threatened ecological communities and vegetation integrity is not required.

Photo 1: Regrowth of exotic species on western boundary

Photo 2: Crested Wattle

Photo 3: Subject land from eastern boundary

4. Impact Assessment

4.1 Direct Impacts

The UNSW HTH would not result in direct impacts to native vegetation or threatened species habitat as these do not occur at the subject land.

4.2 Indirect Impacts

The UNSW HTH is within an existing construction site in an urban area. There are no areas of native vegetation, habitat or sensitive environments adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the subject land and therefore, indirect impacts would not occur as a result of construction or operation of the UNSW HTH.

4.3 Prescribed Impacts

The UNSW HTH would not result in prescribed impacts as:

- There are no karst, caves, crevices, cliffs, rocks or other geological features of significance within or in the vicinity of the subject land.
- There are no human made structures on the subject land that would provide habitat for threatened species. Structures in the vicinity of the subject land are currently in use and within a busy construction site and urban environment and would not provide habitat for threatened species.
- Non-native vegetation at the subject land is very sparse and located within a busy construction site compound and would not provide habitat for threatened species.
- The subject land does not provide habitat connectivity.
- There are no waterbodies within or in the vicinity of the subject land. The current and future works at the subject land are required to adhere to erosion and stormwater control measures. The UNSW HTH would not impact waterbodies, water quality or hydrological processes that sustain threatened entities.
- The subject land and the surrounding areas do not provide habitat for native fauna and therefore, the UNSW HTH would not result in vehicle strike on threatened fauna or animals that are part of a threatened ecological community.

5. Conclusion

This BDAR has been prepared to address the requirements of the BC Act, BC Reg and SEARs for the UNSW HTH and to assess the potential impacts it may have on biodiversity values. As the subject land does not support any native vegetation, a detailed assessment of native vegetation, threatened ecological communities and vegetation integrity in accordance with the BAM is not required. The subject land also does not support any threatened species habitat and as such, an assessment of habitat suitability for threatened species in accordance with the BAM is not required. The UNSW HTH would not result in direct, indirect or prescribed impacts to biodiversity values.

References

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