

16 April 2021

Our ref: 20WOL-16700

Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

To whom it may concern,

New Sydney Fish Markets (Mod 4): Modification Consistency with Marine Ecology Assessment

Eco Logical Australia (ELA) prepared a Marine Ecology Assessment for the new Sydney Fish Market - Stage 1 (Concept & Demolition) and Stage 2 (Main Works), document ECO-RPT-20419-01, version 6 dated 2 April 2019. That assessment provided mitigation recommendations (Section 5.6), habitat opportunities (Section 5.7) and concluded that the development would lead to a 'net loss' of key fish habitat (KFH, Section 6).

This letter addresses proposed changes to the approved design and construction activity, referred to as submission *SSD-8925-Mod 4: Sediment Redistribution*. In terms of marine ecology, the modification relates to an increase in the volume of sediment required to be spread within the works area, originally estimated as less than 1,000 m³, but now measured as 12,000 m³ (Figure 1 below).

ELA has reviewed the design modification and confirms that the original Marine Ecology Assessment remains current for:

- mitigation recommendations (Section 5.6)
- habitat opportunities (Section 5.7).

The conclusion (Section 6) is also generally valid in terms of overall 'net loss' of KFH. The original assessment calculated a total loss of 40,658 m² of type 3 KFH and <1 m² of type 2 KFH (three mangrove seedlings); and the structure would result in a total gain of 3994 m² hard substrate (type 3 KFH), falling short of no 'net loss' of KFH. ELA has not recalculated the spatial impacts and gains for the modification 4, as moving the sediment would not substantially alter the result, or the before and after habitat values of the bay.

The increase in sediment redistribution is insignificant because the basement would be elevated directly over that sediment, regardless of how much is moved around. Mitigation measures in regard to sediment and water quality would be the same, scaled to suit the volume handled.

The habitat opportunities presented in Section 5.7 would improve the connectiveness of habitat types around the bay. The nature of the design modification does not prohibit any of those opportunities from occurring.

Overall, with respect to the small change relative to the large development footprint, *SSD-8925-Mod 4: Sediment Redistribution* is reasonably consistent with the Marine Ecology Assessment and has minimal environmental impact compared to what has already been assessed.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'ID' or 'I.D.', written in a stylized, cursive manner.

Ian Dixon
Senior Aquatic Ecologist

SEDIMENT REDISTRIBUTION VOLUMES

Assessed quantities of marine sediment under the Hansen Concrete Batching Plant area not possible during the Development Consent process due to total inaccessibility.

Now that the demolition of the Hansen Area has been completed, the subsurface conditions have revealed an unexpected quantity of material that will require re distribution to level the seabed.



- Area shown in blue is where the Hansen batching Plant and Wharf was located.
- Approximately 12,000m³ of sediment requires redistribution within the Site.
- Previous reports prepared as part of the SSD submission referred to less than 1,000m³



Figure 1: Mod 4 sediment redistribution