

1 Introduction

The purpose of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greatest well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of ESD.

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (BC Regulation) sets out threshold levels for when the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) will be triggered, see below.

Biodiversity Offset Scheme Trigger	Comment
Whether the amount of vegetation clearing exceeds the applicable area threshold	No – There is no native vegetation proposed to be removed to facilitate the development.
Whether the impacts occur on an area mapped on the Biodiversity Values Map (BVM) published by the Minister for Environment	No – the development does not occur in an area mapped on the Biodiversity Values Map. See figure 1 below.
The ‘test of significance’ in section 7.3 of the BC Act identifies that the development or activity is likely to significantly effect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats	No – as demonstrated in the test of significance below the development is unlikely to significantly impact on threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats, either directly or indirectly.
The works are carried out on a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value	No – not applicable the development is not within a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.



Figure 1 Location of the works (red hatched area) in relation to the Biodiversity Value mapped area

2 Impacts

A desktop review of the NSW BioNet, Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool and mapping previously carried out in the Perisher Resort area identified various State and Commonwealth conservation significant flora species, Endangered Ecological Communities and fauna species records occurring within a 10 km search area around the proposed development site. However, the proposed development is located on the site of the existing lift operators hut in a highly disturbed and modified area. There is no native vegetation being impacted by the development and no evidence was found within the development site (including the area for construction material storage and staging) of native fauna species.

The area has been mapped as part of the Perisher Ski Slope Master Plan (figure 2) and the development site was mapped as “exotic ground cover”, which is consistent to what is observed on site.

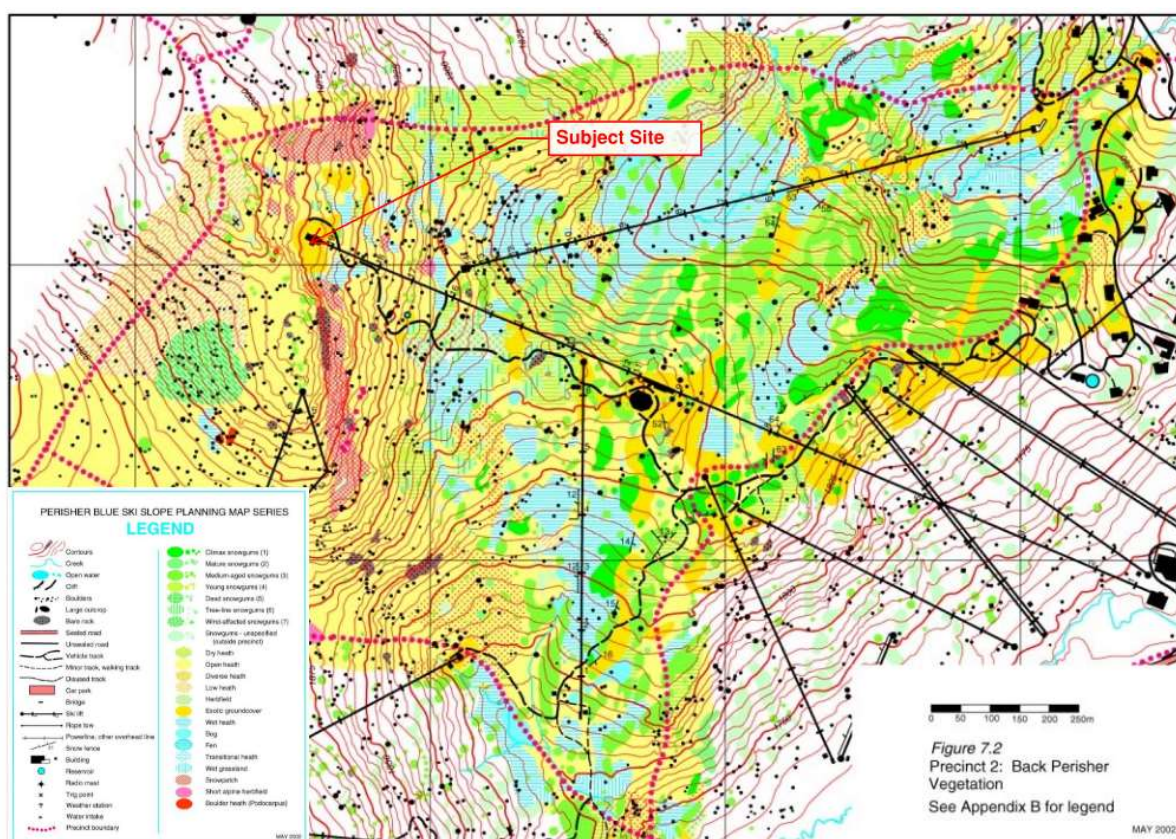


Figure 2 - Excerpt from Perisher Ski Slope Master Plan – Vegetation, Back Perisher

3 Test of Significance

The test of significance outlined in Section 7.3 of the BC Act is used to determine whether proposed development or an activity is likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats. An assessment of the Development against the 'test of significance' is provided below

Test of Significance under Section 7.3 of the BC Act

Test of Significance	Comment
(1) The following is to be taken into account for the purposes of determining whether a proposed development or activity is likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats	
(a) in the case of a threatened species, whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,	<p>The development is wholly located on disturbed and modified land. The immediate site does not provide suitable habitat for native fauna species and no evidence was found within the development site (including the area for construction material storage and staging) of native fauna species. The area surrounding the development site may be suitable habitat for fauna species such as broad toothed rat (<i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>), Guthega Skink (<i>Liopholis guthega</i>) and Alpine She-oak Skink (<i>Cyclodomorphus praealtus</i>). However, no development is proposed to occur in these areas and potential development impacts (direct and indirect) will be mitigated through measures implemented in accordance with the SEMP.</p> <p>Significant impacts to Commonwealth and State listed threatened flora and fauna, ecological communities or their habitats is considered unlikely.</p> <p>As such it unlikely that the proposed development will adversely affect the life cycle of listed threatened species, such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.</p>
(b) in the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the proposed development or activity— (i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or (ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological	There are no endangered ecological communities or critically endangered ecological communities within the site or immediate surrounds that would be directly or indirectly impacted by the development.

community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,	
(c) in relation to the habitat of a threatened species or ecological community— (i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development or activity, and (ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed development or activity, and (iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species or ecological community in the locality,	Refer comment against (a). The proposed development is unlikely to cause an area of habitat to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat in the locality. There is no removal of native vegetation proposed as such there is no likely impact on the long-term survival of conservation significant species.
(d) whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value (either directly or indirectly),	Not applicable. The site and immediate surrounds do not comprise any land declared an area of outstanding biodiversity value.
(e) whether the proposed development or activity is or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.	The proposed development is not part of a key threatening process outlined in Schedule 4 of the BC Act, nor is it likely to increase the impact of a key threatening process.

4 Conclusion

The assessment concludes the Development is unlikely to result in a significant impact on any Commonwealth or State listed communities, threatened flora and fauna, or migratory species identified in the desktop and site assessment.