

STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION (DA) - Proposed Residential Flat Building

Lot 1 DP 538077 – 10 Pacific Dr, Lot 2 DP 538077 - 13 Pacific Dr, Lot A DP 441800 – 13 Pacific Dr & Lot 101 DP 1244390 Pacific Dr, Port Macquarie

On behalf of Laurus Projects Pty Ltd

Rev H - 27 June 2022 Laurus Projects Pty Ltd v Northern Regional Planning Panel Land and Environment Court Proceedings No 21/00349871



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Note: This Rev H Statement of Environmental Effects has been updated to reflect the site visit and discussions at the s34 Conference for Laurus Projects Pty Ltd v Northern Regional Planning Panel (Land and Environment Court Proceedings No 21/00349871) and subsequent Without Prejudice discussions and should be read in conjunction with the updated Plans and Reports.

Disclaimer

This report was prepared in accordance with the scope of works set out in correspondence between the client and Land Dynamics Australia. To the best of Land Dynamics Australia's knowledge, the report presented herein accurately reflects the Client's intentions when the report was printed. However, it is recognised that conditions of approval at time of consent, post development application modification of the proposals design, and the influence of unanticipated future events may modify the outcomes described in this report.

Land Dynamics Australia used information and documentation provided by external persons, companies and authority. Whilst checks were completed by Land Dynamics Australia to ensure that this information and/or documentation was accurate, it has been taken on good faith and has not been independently verified. It is therefore advised that all information and conclusions presented in this report apply to the subject land at the time of assessment, and the subject proposal only.



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) is to accompany a Development Application (DA) lodged with Port Macquarie Hastings Council for a proposed Residential Flat Building. This SEE includes a Clause 4.6 Variation regarding minor non-compliance with respect to height of the building due to the topography of the land.

This Statement of Environmental Effects has been updated to reflect the site visit and discussions at the s34 Conference for *Laurus Projects Pty Ltd v Northern Regional Planning Panel* (Land and Environment Court Proceedings No 21/00349871) and should be read in conjunction with the updated Plans and Reports accompanying this SEE Rev H.

The site is identified as Lot 1 DP 538077 -10 Pacific Dr, Lot 2 DP 538077 – 13 Pacific Dr, Lot A DP 441800 – 13 Pacific Dr and Lot 101 DP 1244390, Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie, comprising vacant land and an existing Motel. The site is located on the southern edge of Port Macquarie and is located on the western side of the Pacific Drive.

The eastern portion of the development site including vehicular access comprises Lot 101 DP 1244390, which is currently owned by Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Originally civil works were proposed on Lot 102 to the south of the development site, however in the recent amendment drainage is now to Pacific Dr. Lot 102 has been removed from the land subject of this application as no works are now proposed on that lot under the current revised plans. Owner's consent has been provided by Council in accordance with Council's resolution of 15 March 2017, as per discussions with Council's Property Section.

The site is zoned R3 Medium Density Residential under Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP), which allows Residential Flat Buildings. The surrounding land is zoned for residential purposes. The proposed development is a permissible land use and aligns with the objectives of the zone. The proposal considers the residential amenity of the existing residents nearby and future residents with respect to the adjoining residential properties and the constraints of the site. The proposal would be of a scale that is in keeping with the future development of the surrounding built environment of the transitioning area and provides a gradual transition of building height to surrounding future development. The changes to the plans have reduced the size of the development and increased the setback to provide a greater transition to the dwellings to the west and minimise amenity impacts to the south and west.

This amended design package has been prepared in response to the Statement of Facts & Contentions (SOFAC), site visit and without prejudice discussions at the s34 Conference for the current Appeal, as follows:

- The amended plans have a focus on privacy, visual impact and overshadowing to the west and south, through a significantly reduced height, bulk and scale and the development broken into two buildings.
- The change to two separate buildings reduces the size of building facing adjoining properties and shifts the focus of the development into the central landscaped area, away from adjoining properties and the surrounding public domain.
- The overall number of units within the development has been reduced from 68 units to 44.
- The number of units facing the adjoining properties to the west has been reduced from 38 to 23, and the use of the rooms facing the west has been altered and have been changed to secondary areas being bedrooms in many instances not main living areas, and have less potential overlooking and privacy impacts. Solid balustrades and louvres are proposed to the western side to limit views down from the balconies and extensive landscaping proposed, as well as planter boxes added to the balconies of units on the western boundary, with the exception Level 3, Building B (as those units have a 12m setback) to minimise any potential for down-looking into neighbouring houses and any residual privacy impacts, as residents will be kept a further distance from the balcony edge.



- Refinements have been made with respect to internal amenity with respect to unit privacy from common
 open space, service areas and driveway, noise impacts, and addition of a covered area to the rooftop
 terraces.
- The design has allowed for more meaningful deep soil planting, particular regard given to the species selection in landscaping and access for the on-going maintenance.
- With respect to drainage, post developed flows from the site have been demonstrated to be equal to or less than predeveloped flows for ARI events up to the 1% event, the corner of the site will have less runoff than the predevelopment condition and the on-site detention is located under the driveway and allows for discharge to Pacific Drive. A pump out pit/sump has been incorporated into the development on the southern side, within the basement.

The issues outlined in the reasons for the refusal of the Development Application by the Northern Regional Planning Panel was also considered in the re-design of the proposal. Consideration has been given to amenity impacts from the proposed development, and every effort has been made to minimise potential impacts, including an assessment of view sharing. The scale of the development is substantially reduced and the building transitions down the hill, being lower in height for the southern portion. The lower overall height of the lower building steps the development down the hill and results in an improved transition to the adjoining south and west dwellings.

The revised design ensures solar and daylight access for the proposed units is achieved. Shadow diagrams have been provided at hourly intervals, demonstrating an acceptable overshadowing from the revised design.

The gross floor area of the revised development has been reduced from the original proposal, and the surplus car parking spaces have been included in the calculation.

The layout responds to the characteristics of the site and Strata title allows for common areas. A high quality of landscaping is proposed throughout the development and to the boundaries of the site and screening to the dwellings to the north, west and south.

A Clause 4.6 Variation to the height limit has been requested as the topography of this site makes the design of the building difficult to strictly adhere to the height limit. It is important to note that the requested height variation relates primarily to lift overruns in the central area of the two proposed buildings. The building complies with the height control for this northern portion of the site where there is a potential for view loss to ensure the impact is minimised.

The residential flat building has been designed in accordance with the principles of State Environmental Planning Policy No.65 - Design Quality of Residential Flat Development (SEPP 65) and associated Apartment Design Guide and accompanying this application is a Design Verification from the Architect.

Given Strata Subdivision is proposed, and the land is identified as bushfire prone land, the application is to be referred to the NSW Rural Fire Service as "Integrated Development".

An investigation of environmental and design considerations illustrates the proposal is suitable for the site. No unmanageable issues were identified in relation to transport, visual and acoustic privacy, heritage, acid sulfate soils, land contamination, flooding, bushfire, flora and fauna or the provision of utilities. The subject land can accommodate the proposed development and existing services and infrastructure are capable of being extended. The existing road network can withstand the additional traffic generation and proposed development does not warrant the upgrade of any intersections.

This report represents a Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) as required by the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation



2000 (EP&A Reg). This SEE describes the site and its context, the nature of the proposal, the relevant planning framework and assesses the proposal against the matters for consideration pursuant to Section 4.15 of the EP&A Act. This SEE concludes that there is no material planning or statutory impediment to the approval of the proposed use.

2. SITE & CONTEXT

The Site

The site is identified as Lot 1 DP 538077 -10 Pacific Dr, Lot 2 DP 538077 – 13 Pacific Dr, Lot A DP 441800 – 13 Pacific Dr and Lot 101 DP 1244390, Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie, comprising vacant land and an existing Motel. The site is located on the southern edge of Port Macquarie and is located on the western side of the Pacific Drive.

The site slopes from the north to the south-west and contains scattered exotic vegetation and maintained grass throughout the majority of the development area.

The site comprises three privately owned properties (western portion) and two Council owned parcels (eastern portion). The privately owned land is land locked, however there are legal restrictions over Council's land in favour of the western lots.



Figure 1 - Locality Map of the Subject Land (source: www.sixmaps.nsw.gov.au)





Figure 2 - Location of the subject land (source: www.sixmaps.nsw.gov.au) - note: works will also be required on Lot 101 to the east and Lot 102 to the south, outside of the development footprint



Figure 3 - Close Up Aerial Map of the subject land (source: www.nearmap.com)

Subject Site





Figure 4 – Survey – Extract

To the east of the site is Windmill Hill which leads to Oxley Beach and onto Town beach, as well as numerous other local facilities, open space and recreation and businesses.

The eastern portion of the development site comprises Lot 101 DP 1244390, which is currently owned by Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Owner's consent has been provided to lodge the application.

Surrounding Development

The site is located within the established residential area and forms part of one of the remaining vacant / undeveloped parcels in the area. The subject land is surrounded by a range of single and two storey dwellings to the south and west and residential flat buildings in Windmill Street to the north of the site. These buildings to the north range between 2 to 3 storey, however due to the topography are considerably higher than the other surrounding dwellings. Retaining walls have been utilised along the northern and western boundaries and within the site due to the topography of the land.

The subject land is within easy access to the centre of Port Macquarie to the north. Pacific Drive is serviced by an existing Busways service. Directly to the east of the site on the opposite side of Pacific Drive is Windmill Hill, which leads to the beaches and the town centre via the coastal walk.

The site is also within walking distance of recreation areas including Oxley Oval, bowling club, maritime museum precinct and neighbourhood centres in Owen St and Hill St, as well as the centre of Port Macquarie to the north.



Photographs



Residential Flat Building & Dwelling to the north of the site, as viewed from Pacific Drive



Residential Flat Building & Dwelling to the north of the site & Motel on the subject site, as viewed from Pacific Drive



Northern boundary showing existing retaining wall and fencing and residential flat buildings behind.



Residential Flat Buildings & Dwelling to the north of the site, as viewed from within the site, with existing Motel



Residential dwellings to the west of the site, as viewed from Pacific Drive



Residential dwellings to the south of the site, as viewed from Pacific Drive, and the intersection of Home Street & Pacific Drive





Pacific Drive and the intersection with Home Street, looking south



Pacific Drive and the intersection with Home Street, looking south



Pacific Drive and the intersection with Home Street, looking north



Windmill Hill opposite the site, to the east of Pacific Drive



Residential dwellings to the west of the site, as viewed from within the site



Residential dwellings to the south of the site, as viewed from within the site







Residential dwellings to the west and south of the site, as viewed from within the site

Residential dwellings to the west of the site, as viewed from within the site, including retaining wall



Residential dwelling to the west of the site, as viewed from within the site, including retaining wall



Residential dwelling to the west of the site, as viewed from within the site, including retaining wall

Figure 5 – Photographs

Additional photographs are included in the views assessment within this report.

Compatibility of the Proposal

The site has been identified within Council's planning controls for medium to high density housing and the proposed residential flat building is compatible with the existing varied housing form in the immediate area, including residential flat buildings. The site is generally clear of vegetation (mainly exotic), making it ideal for development.

The amended plan set has had regard to the adjoining land to the east which remains undeveloped, as well as the land to the south, which is zoned R3, to ensure that neither parcel is isolated by the proposal. The Site Analysis Plan includes indicative building footprints which demonstrates the adjoining land is not isolated by the proposal. Refer to Architectural Plans for more detail of the surroundings.



Previous Applications

The Development Application as lodged was refused by the Northern Regional Planning Panel on 30 November 2021 and the associated Clause 4.6 Variation request not supported. The reasons for the decision were outlined as follows:

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Panel determined to not uphold the Clause 4.6 variation to building height; and to refuse the application for the following reasons:

- The proposed development is inconsistent with the R3 zone objectives which encourage medium density development, whereas the proposal has a high density built form.
- The proposal would cause unacceptable loss of privacy and overshadowing to the west and south of the development site.
- The proposal has excessive height and bulk when viewed from the west and south and would create an unsatisfactory transition with these areas.
- The proposal is not consistent with the existing and desired future character of the locality due to its excessive height and bulky form.
- The proposal would have adverse visual impacts especially from important outlooks, including the coastal walkway and Pacific Drive to the east.
- The proposal is in a Coastal Use Area under State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) and is inconsistent with clause 14(1)(a)(3) of the policy because of its adverse impacts on the visual amenity and scenic quality of the coast.
- The Panel is not satisfied that adequate evidence has been provided to demonstrate that the provisions of the Apartment Design Guide (NSW Department of Planning and Environment, July 2015) have been properly addressed.
- The Panel is not satisfied that the Floor Space Ratio has been correctly calculated and that the standard has been met.

Following refusal of the Development Application, an Appeal to the Land & Environment Court was lodged and a s34 Conference was held on 6 April 2022.

Nearby Applications

Council granted consent to DA 2021/351 at 27 Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie on 3 February 2022. The building is 7 storeys with a height variation and higher than the amended proposal and is also zoned R3.

3. THE PROPOSAL

This application seeks approval for a Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a Residential Flat Building and associated parking, driveway, services, drainage, landscaping, as well as consolidation of allotments and subsequent Strata Subdivision.

The amended proposed development specifically comprises:

- Residential Flat Building comprising two buildings with 44 units, being 6 x 1 bedroom, 26 x 2 bedroom and 12 x 3 bedroom.
- 2 levels of basement car parking, with access via a single vehicular access point of Pacific Dr, over Lot 101.
- Service / loading vehicle area to the north of the driveway, accessed within the site to accommodate the waste truck and access the adjacent bin holding area.
- Visitor car parking located on the Lower Ground Level, which is accessed immediately off the vehicular entry and adjacent to lift and stairs.
- Basement levels to contain service areas, storage, car parking for 75 spaces (including accessible spaces), bicycle spaces and motorcycle spaces.



- Pedestrian entry to the site from Pacific Drive at a centralised main entry point into the ground floor.
- Common open space provided at Ground Floor in the central area between the two buildings and includes a swimming pool; and rooftop terrace with weather protection and embellishments on both buildings.
- Each unit is provided with ample area of private open space, including a balcony off the living area or courtyard at lower levels. Solid balustrades and louvres have been provided to the balconies to the west.
- Removal of all vegetation, with no significant vegetation identified on the site currently.
- Landscaping, as detailed on the concept landscape plans.
- Civil infrastructure including extension of services to the site and on site detention below the driveway
 and drainage to Pacific Dr. Services including electricity, water, stormwater and sewer will be provided. A
 substation and hydrant/sprinkler have been provided along the eastern boundary and have been located
 within a landscaped setting.
- Retaining walls and boundary fencing to north, south and western boundaries which follows the topography and external balustrading to stairs and ramp to basement.
- Consolidation of the three privately owned allotments into one.
- Strata Subdivision.
- Amendment to the terms of the existing easements across Lot 101 with respect to drainage, services and
 rights of access to reflect the removal of the built form of the development off the eastern portion of the
 land and proposed works on Council's land. The works are contained within the extent of the existing
 easement lines.
- The development will be serviced by a private waste contractor, with a collection point off the road adjacent to the driveway.

Below is a photomontage of the proposal as viewed from the vehicular entrance off Pacific Drive.



Figure 6 – Artist's Impression / Photomontage as viewed from Pacific Drive



Below is a comparison of the original approved development which was refused by the JRPP and the current Rev H proposal:

	DA / Original	Amended
Address	Lot 1 DP 538077 -10 Pacific Dr	Lot 1 DP 538077 -10 Pacific Dr
	Lot 2 DP 538077 – 13 Pacific Dr	Lot 2 DP 538077 – 13 Pacific Dr
	Lot A DP 441800 – 13 Pacific Dr	Lot A DP 441800 – 13 Pacific Dr
	Lots 101 DP 1244390	Lot 101 DP 1244390 for works in legal easement for
	Lot 102 DP 1244390	access and services
Site Area	4,637.4m²	2,979m²
Units	68	44
LEP Height	17.5m max	17.5m max
Height	21.2m	19.2m
Extent of	Up to 3.7m	Up to 1.7m
Variation	Max 21%	Max 9.2%
LEP FSR	1.5:1 max	1.5:1 max
FSR	Surplus car parking included exceeded above maximum	1.44: 1 (includes surplus car parking)
Parking	89 required	61 required
	100 proposed	75 proposed (14 surplus)
Storeys	6 storeys above 2 levels of basement	4-5 storeys above basement, with the southern Building B lower in height by approx. 1 storey (3.2m).
Site Plan		
East Elevation		
West Elevation		



The aim of this development is to provide high quality units with generous living areas, highly sought-after expansive views and landscaping which screens the adjoining dwellings to the north, south and west and provides an attractive appearance when viewed from surrounding properties and Pacific Drive. This is reflected in the proposed architectural design and landscaping.

The proposed development responds to the slope of the land and the units contain a variety of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, open plan living, dining and kitchen and basement car parking below. The proposed materials have been selectively chosen to provide a variety in appearance of the building and are detailed on the Architectural Plans and materials and finishes.

In order to meet BASIX commitments, the proposal includes a rainwater tank, and each unit utilises 3 star rated showerheads, taps and toilets, amongst other things, as detailed on the BASIX Certificates accompanying this application.

This report is accompanied by Architectural Plans, Plan of Subdivision and Concept Landscape Plans. The plans and documents have been updated to reflect this Rev H submission, based on discussions at the s34 Conference.

Details have been included on the Landscape Plans of access to landscaping areas for on-going maintenance. The Architectural Plans have included Perspectives which indicate species and show the landscaping at semi mature planting and mature stages from key locations.

Draft Strata Subdivision plans have been provided which allocated common property and private property, with all car parking allocated to a unit. In the instance of tandem car spaces, both spaces have been allocated to one unit.

A Draft Easement Plan details the proposed amendment to the terms of the existing easements across Lot 101 with respect to drainage, services and rights of access to reflect the removal of the built form of the development off the eastern portion of the land and proposed works on Council's land. The works are contained within the extent of the existing easement lines. It is proposed that the new plan with the necessary easement changes would occur after consent is granted to ensure consistency with the final consent and would be registered prior to the issue of the occupation certificate for the development. Below is a summary of the proposed changes which reflect the proposed development and are subject to on-going discussion with Council:

- 1. Right of Access 10 Wide a separate easement for each of the three lots over the location of the existing Rights of Carriageway 10 Wide, and intended to replace these existing easements;
- Easement to Drain Water 1.5 Wide to allow for stormwater from the existing lots to drain to Pacific Drive;
- 3. Easement to Drain Water Variable Width to allow for stormwater detention and connection to the proposed drainage within Pacific Drive;
- 4. Positive Covenant to allow for the management of the stormwater detention facility by our clients' and any future owners of their properties;
- 5. Easement for Waste Management to allow for a waste storage facility to be located on Lot 101 DP 1244390, and to be managed by our clients' and any future owners of their properties;
- 6. Easement for Services 10 Wide - to allow for services to be connected from Pacific Drive to our clients' properties;
- 7. Easement for Water Supply 2.5 Wide to allow for a water booster pump to be located on Lot 101 DP 1244390, in relation to the water supply to our clients' properties.
- 8. Positive Covenant be created, to allow both the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the landscaping proposed to be located on Lot 101 DP 1244390 to reflect the landscaping approved as part of this development.

The easements are requested to enable the existing properties to be adequately serviced from Pacific Drive, and to reinstate the rights previously enjoyed, prior to Council closing the section of Public Road to which the properties



had a frontage. The changes will be to the benefit of all three private lots being Lot 1 DP 538077, Lot 2 DP 538077 and Lot A DP 441800 and Lot 101 DP 1244390 remains the burdened lot. Once the Strata Subdivision occurs, the owner's corporation receives the benefit. Highly indicative concept sketches have been included to demonstrate that development could occur on the land to the south and east of the proposed buildings and that adjoining land is not isolated. These do not form part of the proposed development, but rather assist with understanding that development could occur on the adjoining land in accordance with the planning controls and desired future character of the area and would be subject to a separate Development Application by the landowners.

4. PRE-LODGEMENT MEETING

A pre-lodgement meeting was held on 3 November 2020. Below is an extract of the notes provided from the meeting and a comment regarding the issues.

Planning

A detailed Statement of Environmental Effects addressing relevant Environmental Planning Instruments and merit-based issues is required. Particular attention should be given, but not limited to, the following:

1) State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) applies. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy.

Comment: Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE and accompanying BASIX Certificate.

2) State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 applies. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy.

Comment: Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE.

3) State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 applies. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy. Appears to be electricity infrastructure running through the site. Referral to Essential Energy will be undertaken. Recommend early discussions with Essential Energy to address this and servicing. Note any required substations will need be incorporated into the proposal and have regard to visual amenity impact. Same principle applicable for water supply hydrants.

<u>Comment:</u> Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE. A preliminary electrical design is attached, which was previously approved and included on the Services Plan. The design will be certified closer to construction.

4) State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 applies. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy.

Comment: Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE and accompanying Ecological Assessment against SEPP.

5) State Environmental Planning Policy No 55 - Remediation of Land applies. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy.

<u>Comment:</u> Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE and accompanying Contamination Assessment, which has deemed the site suitable for the proposed development.

6) State Environmental Planning Policy No 64 - Advertising and Signage will apply should any signage be proposed. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy.

<u>Comment:</u> Directional signage is detailed on the eastern elevation plans, which identifies the address at the pedestrian entry. Refer to discussion against SEPP 64 below.

7) State Environmental Planning Policy No 65 - Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development applies. Application to address relevant provisions of this policy. Note additional application requirements of:

- Statement by a qualified designer (Clauses 50(1A and AB)

- Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

<u>Comment:</u> Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE and accompanying Design Verification Certificate.

8) State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. Refer to trigger values within this policy for



regional development to which the Joint Regional Planning Panel would be the determining authority.

Comment: Noted.

9) The site is zoned R3 Medium Density Residential under Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011. Residential flat buildings are permissible with consent.

Comment: Noted. Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE.

10) In accordance with clause 4.3 of LEP 2011 a maximum building height of 17.5m applies. Any variation would need to be adequately justified in accordance with clause 4.6 of LEP 2011 and clearly illustrated on plans to demonstrate the extent of variation. Having regard for the topography of the site there is considered some scope to consider a minor height variation.

Comment: Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE and Clause 4.6 Variation regarding the proposed height variation.

11) In accordance with clause 4.4 of LEP 2011, a maximum Floor Space Ratio (FSR) of 1.50:1 applies to the land. Application to include details of proposed FSR.

Comment: Refer to discussion in Section 5 of this SEE.

12) Application to address general provisions and relevant specific provisions of Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013. Any variations to be adequately justified against the relevant objectives.

<u>Comment:</u> Refer to accompanying DCP Assessment Table.

13) Details and calculations of required off-street parking to serve the development consistent with the parking rates identified in DCP 2013.

Comment: Refer to accompanying DCP Assessment Table.

14) Site is mapped as bushfire prone land. Bushfire assessment report required. If subdivision proposed integrated development and referral to NSW RFS.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Bushfire Report.

15) Potential for ground water/aquifer interference and need to determine whether dewatering required with basement excavation. Geotechnical investigation required. Depending on the findings the proposal may also be integrated development under the Water Management Act 2000 and referral to NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator would be undertaken.

<u>Comment:</u> Refer to accompanying Geotechnical Report which addresses groundwater and indicates that groundwater is not likely to be encountered during excavation.

16) Details of the type and extent of vegetation to be removed and retained (inclusive of any required bushfire Asset protection Zones) clearly illustrated on plans. Trees to be retained within close proximity of works/buildings shall be supported by an Arborist report demonstrating ability for long term retention.

<u>Comment:</u> A review of the site indicate that no significant trees are present, with exotic species present. Refer to accompanying letter from an Arborist.

17) Details of any staging to be clearly outlined.

Comment: Noted. This project is not intended to be staged.

18) A detailed analysis of overshadowing impacts. Shadow diagrams to clearly illustrate impacts to adjoining dwelling to the south. Suggest identifying the primary living and open space areas of this dwelling and window placements in illustrating overshadowing impacts. There may be additional benefit in analysing impacts in detail on the winter solstice as well as other dates through the year.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Architectural Plans and discussion in Section 6 of this SEE.

19) A detailed analysis of view sharing and privacy impacts.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Architectural Plans and discussion in Section 6 of this SEE.

20) Details of proposed waste management and collection arrangements.

<u>Comment:</u> Refer to accompanying Waste Management Plan and Architectural Plans and discussion in Section 6 of this SEE. The site will be serviced by a private waste contractor.

21) Extent of cut and fill and details of any retaining to be clearly illustrated on plans.



Comment: Refer to accompanying Architectural Plans and discussion in Section 6 of this SEE.

22) Land owners consent. Appears Lot 101 DP 1244390 is still owned by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. The application would be subject to Council's Development Application - Conflict of Interest Policy.

<u>Comment:</u> Noted. Refer to accompanying letter providing owners consent for lodgement of the DA by Port Macquarie Hastings Council.

23) Lot consolidation will be required.

Comment: Noted. The proposal includes consolidation and Strata Subdivision of the residential flat building.

24) If subdivision proposed a draft subdivision plan will be required. Details of proposed servicing arrangements to be illustrated.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Services Plan and Draft Plan of Consolidation.

25) Development contributions will apply. An estimate may be obtained from Council's Development Contribution team, contact Council's Contributions Section. A credit would be available for the existing motel use.

Comment: Noted. A quote was obtained.

Water

1) Council records indicate that the development site has an existing 40mm metered water service to 10 Pacific Drive. Final water service sizing will need to be determined by a hydraulic consultant to suit the domestic and commercial components of the development, as well as fire service and backflow protection requirements in accordance with AS3500.

<u>Comment:</u> Noted. A Hydraulic Consultant was engaged during the design of the development. Mains connections, hydrants and mains meters have been reflected on the Concept Engineering Plan.

2) Each proposed unit will need to be separately metered for water, meters may be either located at the road frontage or internally with a master meter at the boundary. Internal water meters are to be located in foyer areas, secure and accessible for meter reading, otherwise a remote reading display facility shall be provided in an approved central location that is easily accessible. Details are to be shown on the engineering plans. All work will need to comply with the requirements of Council's adopted AUSPEC Design and Construction Guidelines and Policies.

<u>Comment:</u> Noted. A Hydraulic Consultant was engaged during the design of the development. Provision of risers and meter cupboards have been coordinated and reflected on the drawings.

3) Any water main fittings (hydrants, stop valves etc.) shall be moved clear of driveways if required at no cost to Council.

Comment: Noted. A Hydraulic Consultant was engaged during the design of the development.

4) Due to the proposed height of the development, it is likely the site will require a break tank and pressure system for internal water demands. A detailed report examining the internal hydraulics will be required as part of the application.

<u>Comment:</u> Noted. A Hydraulic Consultant was engaged during the design of the development. Subject to the pressure enquiry lodged with Council. Provisions for pump rooms (if required) have been coordinated and are reflected on drawings.

Sewer

1) Council records indicate that the development site is connected to Sewer via junction out of the existing manhole, which is located in the south western corner of Lot 1 (10 Pacific Drive). There is an existing 150mm diameter AC sewer main that runs parallel to the western boundary and a 150mm diameter AC sewer main that crosses Lot A (16 Pacific Drive). The proposed development may discharge all sewage to the existing point of connection to Council's sewer system or to a junction out of a new or existing manhole, as required.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Services Plan.

2) Any abandoned sewer junctions are to be capped off at Council's sewer main and Council notified to carry out an inspection prior to backfilling of this work.

Comment: Noted. The existing connection has been reflected on the Concept Engineering Plan.

3) Footings and/or concrete slabs of buildings adjacent to sewer lines are to be designed so that no loads are imposed on the infrastructure.

Comment: Noted.



4) Any excavation (for underground carparks etc.) is to consider the location of the existing sewer infrastructure. Relocation may be permitted at no cost to Council in accordance with Council's adopted AUSPEC Design and Construction Specifications.

Comment: Noted.

5) Replacement at no cost to Council of the existing AC sewer main that traverses the development site in accordance with Council's adopted AUSPEC Design and Construction Specifications.

Comment: Noted.

6) A sewer strategy and plans are required from a hydraulic consultant for the whole of the development on the site stage by stage.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Concept Services and Engineering Plans.

7) Where a sewer manhole and/or Vertical Inspection Shaft exists within a property, access to the manhole/VIS shall be made available at all times. Before during and after construction, the sewer manhole/VIS must not be buried, damaged or act as a stormwater collection pit. No structures, including retaining walls, shall be erected within 1.0 metre of the sewer manhole or located so as to prevent access to the manhole.

Comment: Noted.

Stormwater

A stormwater management plan must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AUSPEC D5 and D7 and the requirements of relevant Australian Standards, demonstrating how all stormwater and surface water discharging from the proposed development site, buildings and works will be conveyed to the legal point of discharge by underground pipe drains to the satisfaction of Council.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Stormwater Management Plan.

1) The legal point of discharge for the proposed development is defined as a direct connection to Councils existing piped drainage system downstream of the site in Home Street. Access to Councils stormwater infrastructure mapping can be accessed online via <u>https://maps.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/MapsPMHC/</u>

Comment: Noted. The Services Plan reflects this.

2) In addition, the stormwater management plan submitted with the development application must address the following specific issues at a minimum:

^I On-site stormwater detention facilities (or similar) must be incorporated into the design to ensure that the permissible site stormwater discharge from the entire development site is retarded to ensure that the post development site stormwater discharge rate does not exceed the pre development discharge rate for all storm events up to 1% AEP.

^{II} The plan must include any existing components of the drainage system that are to be retained and show how runoff from the proposed/new components of the development will be integrated into the existing system.

^{II} The stormwater management plan must be prepared and certified by a qualified practicing Civil Engineer or Registered Surveyor.

Comment: Noted.

3) Where it is proposed to use a rainwater tank in conjunction with or in lieu of an onsite stormwater detention (OSD) system, calculations must be provided in support of the storage volumes proposed. The calculations must demonstrate that the stormwater detention / retention system proposed complies with the objectives of Council's Drainage Code.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Stormwater Management Plan.

4) The Stormwater Management Plan must include detail of how the proposed basement carpark will be drained. Where minor surface areas drain to the basement, such as from the access driveway, a pump out system is permitted with discharge directed to the OSD storage tanks(s).

Pump-out of the subsoil drainage associated with the basement carpark is not permitted unless it can be demonstrated that groundwater flows are minimal/ intermittent and subject to direct connection of the site discharge to Council's piped drainage system. This option will only be considered when supported by detailed geotechnical investigation.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Stormwater Management Plan.

5) Driveway entrances to basement carpark areas must be designed to have adequate freeboard above the 1% AEP top water



level of stormwater overland flows, which must be demonstrated by a hydrological model.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Stormwater Management Plan.

6) Where drainage cannot be achieved to Council's drainage infrastructure via gravity, appropriate easements must be created over downstream lots.

In this regard, an easement plan must be submitted showing the proposed easement location, proximity to adjacent buildings and structures and a longitudinal section of the proposed stormwater pipeline. The plan must also demonstrate that the interallotment drainage system has been sized in accordance with the requirements of AUSPEC D5 to accept all runoff from each allotment for flow rates having a 5% AEP design.

Written agreement to the creation of any proposed drainage easement(s) must be obtained from the affected property owner(s) and submitted with the development application.

The easement must be registered with the Land and Property Information NSW prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate.

Comment: Refer to draft plan of subdivision indicating proposed easements.

7) The property is located a grassed reserve/verge area below Pacific Drive that has historically been a source of stormwater Complaints for council. In this regard, flows originating within the Pacific Dr road reserve and Lot: 101 Plan No: DP1244390 have historically inundated the adjoining property on Home Street and pose a risk to the subject development if not appropriately managed.

The stormwater management plan submitted with any future development application for the site shall demonstrate how natural surface flows arriving at the site frontage from the existing adjacent land is captured and safely conveyed to Home Street Particular reference in this regard I s made to the existing swale and berm within the site frontage that will need to be crossed/ removed in order to facilitate the proposed driveway access to the site from Pacific Drive.

Comment: Refer to accompanying Stormwater Management Plan.

Engineering

1) Works within the road reserve and/or on Council owned assets will require a refundable bond equal to 130% of the cost of the works (to be held during construction until acceptance of the works). Footpath paving will be required for the frontage of the development.

Comment: Noted. Footpath paving has been reflected on concept engineering plans.

2) Internal access aisles and parking bays will be assessed for conformance with AS 2890, and in particular part 1 for cars, part 2 for garbage and delivery trucks, and part 6 for disabled parking (if required by the BCA or other standards).

Comment: Noted. Refer to Traffic Report.

3) Due to the likely traffic generated by the development, the driveway crossing within the road reserve shall conform to Council's ASD 202 heavy duty standard drawing as a minimum.

Comment: Noted. Reflected on the Concept Engineering Plan.

4) A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will be required.

a. TIA is to be prepared by a qualified and/or experienced traffic consultant.

b. TIA is to be prepared in accordance with guidelines contained in the Roads and Maritime Services Guide to Traffic Generating Developments (2002), and AUSTROADS Guide to Traffic Management, Part 12: Traffic Impacts of Development.

c. TIA should use data obtained from an existing facility, which operates in a similar manner to the proposed facility, and comment on any differences in operation.

d. The likely traffic generation should be quantified, in terms of the number of vehicle trips during peak hours, number of trips per day, and breakdown of the types of vehicle users (e.g. residents' cars, staff cars, service trucks).

e. The likely 85th percentile (time-weighted) parking demand is to be quantified.

f. Comment on the likely traffic and parking demand ten years after the development

Comment: Refer to accompanying Traffic Impact Assessment.



5. PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Planning and Approvals Framework- Section 4.15 (1)(a)

The EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation establishes the framework for the assessment and approval of development in NSW. The proposal represents 'local development' under the EP&A Act which requires development consent. The EP&A Regulation sets out the processes and procedures for the assessment and approval of local development and specifies that a DA must be lodged with the consent authority in line with certain specific requirements.

This SEE accompanies a DA prepared to address the requirements of the EP&A Act and Regulation. Port Macquarie Hastings Council is the consent authority. Pursuant to the provisions of the EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation, the proposed development must be assessed against relevant State and Local planning instruments, as described below, as well as the overarching Federal legislation relating to ecology. The proposed development has been assessed against the planning controls and principles within the following applicable planning instruments:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000;
- Urban Growth Management Strategy
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016;
- Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020;
- State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 Remediation of Land;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007;
- State Environmental Planning Policy Coastal Management 2018;
- State Environmental Planning Policy 65 Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX);
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 64—Advertising and Signage;
- Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011; and
- Port Macquarie Hastings Development Control Plan 2011.

It is noted that some of the above State Environmental Planning Policies have been repealed, however there are appropriate savings and transitional provisions which allow the repealed versions to apply given the application as lodged prior to 1 March 2022.

In Section 4 of this report, an assessment of the proposal against each of these instruments is undertaken and demonstrates the proposal is generally consistent with the aims, objectives and controls of each applicable planning instrument, in accordance with Section 4.15 (1)(a) of the EP&A Act. Section 5 of this report addresses Section 4.15 (1)(b), (c), (d) and (e) of the EP&A Act.

Urban Growth Management Strategy

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Urban Growth Management Strategy 2017-2036 was developed by Council to "plan and deliver growth and change, provide opportunities for new housing and economic development and informs our



local environmental plan and the assessment of planning proposals and development applications" and was approved by the NSW State Government on 2nd November 2018.

The extracts below relate to the subject site, which envisages Apartment Living, with the biggest expectation of change.



The propsoed development is consistent with the UGMS vision, which has also been incorprated in the DCP Windmill Hill controls. The UGMS and DCP clearly identify the desired fuure character for the area.

Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2019

The site is identified as bushfire prone land as per the Rural Fire Service's online mapping. A Bushfire Assessment was undertaken with respect to the proposal which provided a number of recommendations including construction standards and asset protection zones. The report also has consideration to the matters raised within Table 8.2 of NSW Rural Fire Services, Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019, which specifically apply to high-rise development within bushfire prone land. A copy of the bushfire report accompanies this application and includes recommendations.

The RFS provided their concurrence to the Rev B proposal.

As such, the proposal is acceptable in terms of bushfire impacts.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The ecological significance of the site has examined in the Ecological Report accompanying this application and was considered to be in accordance with the requirements of Section 5A of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979, as amended by the Threatened Species Conservation (TSCA) Act 1995, the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBCA) Act 1999 - Matters of National Environmental Significance and State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 44 - Koala Habitat Protection, as well as the relevant provisions for Koala food trees and Endangered Ecological Communities under the PMHC Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013.



A vegetation assessment was undertaken of the site and the Ecological Report accompanying this application indicates "*The vegetation within the subject site was restricted to occasional lower strata trees and regularly maintained exotic grass species, native vegetation structure was not present*".

A Koala Plan of Management was not deemed necessary for this site as the assessment concluded that the site did not qualify as potential koala habitat.

Refer to discussions under State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020 below.

Tree removal is identified on the plans and the additional Arborist reporting and additional Ecological reporting was provided during the assessment of the application.

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP's)

The following SEPP's are of relevance to the proposal:

State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020

The area of the subject land is not greater than 1ha and is located within the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Government Area, SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2020 is not applicable. A Koala Assessment Report (completed by a qualified ecologist) was undertaken, including visiting the site and review of koala records. There were no records in close proximity of the site and no koalas were observed on site, nor scats.

The ecological assessment against the SEPP concluded:

"Following a comprehensive assessment from desktop assessment, targeted survey, and habitat assessment it can safely and confidently be determined that the subject site provides no ecological function to the local Port Macquarie Koala population for foraging, connectivity, shelter or any other ecological function. The Subject site does not qualify for assessment under the Koala Habitat Protection SEPP and does not require federal referral."

A Koala Plan of Management was not deemed necessary for this site. As such, SEPP (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019 has been satisfied.

State Environmental Planning Policy No 55 – Remediation of Land

SEPP 55 aims to "promote the remediation of contaminated land for the purpose of reducing the risk of harm to human health or any other aspect of the environment". The land is generally cleared, with the exception of the Motel and associated car parking area, and forms part of a residential area. Preliminary Investigations have been undertaken regarding contamination which has determined that the potential for contamination to exist on the site was low and suitable for the proposed use, and does not identify the need for further investigation.

"The key findings of this PSI were as follows:

- The site was a roughly rectangular block of land, covering a total area of 3437.3m2. It was occupied by a two-storey, brick building on the northern portion, being used for temporary residential accommodation (i.e. a motel). A concrete driveway and open car park occupied the southern portion of the building. Remaining areas were vacant.
- Based on the historical information, the northern portion of the site had continuously been used for temporary residential accommodation (i.e. a motel) from about 1974 up to the present time. Prior to 1974, the land was expected to be vacant (undeveloped). The site surroundings had been used for mixed general residential, environmental conservation and public recreation purposes.
- The site was free of statutory notices and licensing agreements issued under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 and Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. It was not included on the List of NSW Contaminated Sites Notified to the EPA.



- Visual evidence of gross contamination, including fragments of fibre cement sheeting (FCS), was not observed on any part of the site. No suspicious odour was detected during the site inspection.
- There was no evidence that an underground storage tank (UST) was observed on the site. No above-ground storage tank(AST) was present.
- The subsurface was generalised as a shallow (<0.5m thickness) layer of silty sand, topsoil/fill, overlying natural, residual silty clay. The potential for acid sulfate soils (ASSs) to be present on the site was low.
- The conceptual site model (CSM) identified several potential contaminating sources at the site, those being fill soils
 of unknown origin and quality, pesticide use, leakage from parked vehicles and weathering of structures containing
 hazardous materials. However, it was considered that the risks associated with (possible) site contamination were
 low with respect to the identified sensitive receptors. Based on the findings of this PSI, and with consideration of
 El's Statement of Limitations (Section 7), it was concluded that the potential for contamination to exist on the site
 was low. The site was deemed to be suitable for the proposed development, in accordance with Clause 7 of State
 Environmental Planning Policy 55 -Remediation of Land."

The following recommendations were included:

- "Before commencement of any demolition works, a Hazardous Materials Survey (HMS)should be completed by a suitably qualified consultant, to identify any hazardous materials present within the existing building fabrics.
 - If present, all identified hazardous materials must be appropriately managed, to maintain worker health and safety during demolition works and prevent the spread of hazardous substances.
 - An asbestos clearance inspection and certificate should be completed by a suitably qualified professional (SafeWork NSW Licensed Asbestos Assessor) following the removal of all ACM from the site.
 - Where clearance inspection indicates the presence of hazardous materials remaining on the site, further removal and validation works must be undertaken.
- Following demolition and removal of associated wastes, an inspection of the exposed surface should be performed by a suitably qualified environmental consultant.
- Under the proposed development (Section 1.2 and Appendix B), bulk excavation of site soils will be performed, in order to construct the basement facility. All (fill) soil materials that are designated for off-site disposal, including any virgin excavated natural material (VENM),must be pre-classified in accordance the EPA (2014) Waste Classification Guidelines. In designing the sampling, analytical and quality plan (SAQP) for waste classification, the EPA(1995) Sampling Design Guidelines should be referred to and the analytical suite should include the identified COPC (Section 4.5).
- Any material being imported to the site should be validated as suitable for the intended use in accordance with EPA guidelines. El note that these recommendations can be managed through the development application process, in accordance with SEPP 55 Remediation of Land."



Given there is no change of use of the site from approved for residential purposes, no further investigation of land contamination is required by SEPP 55.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

The application has been assessed against the requirements of State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007. This Policy contains State-wide planning controls for developments adjoining rail corridors and busy roads. The development is not located immediately adjacent to a classified road or within 40 metres of a Railway corridor. The development is not classified as a Traffic Generating Development in accordance with Clause 104 and Schedule 3 of SEPP.

The traffic generation of the proposed Residential Flat Building is unlikely to create adverse impacts, as detailed in the accompanying Traffic Impact Assessment, nor are any issues associated with noise or vibration envisaged.

State Environmental Planning Policy Coastal Management 2018

The site is identified on the SEPP mapping as being in proximity to Littoral Rainforest, as well as Coastal Environment & Coastal Use mapping. Below is an extract of the relevant map identifying the proximity area. The adopted Coastal Management SEPP applies to all land. The development however remains clear of the mapped Littoral Rainforest and is separated by the busy Pacific Drive. The buffer does not preclude development.

Clause 11 of the SEPP states:

"11 Development on land in proximity to coastal wetlands or littoral rainforest

Note-

The Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforests Area Map identifies certain land that is inside the coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area as "proximity area for coastal wetlands" or "proximity area for littoral rainforest" or both.

(1) Development consent must not be granted to development on land identified as "proximity area for coastal wetlands" or "proximity area for littoral rainforest" on the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforests Area Map unless the consent authority is satisfied that the proposed development will not significantly impact on—

(a) the biophysical, hydrological or ecological integrity of the adjacent coastal wetland or littoral rainforest, or

(b) the quantity and quality of surface and ground water flows to and from the adjacent coastal wetland or littoral rainforest.

(2) This clause does not apply to land that is identified as "coastal wetlands" or "littoral rainforest" on the Coastal Wetlands and Littoral Rainforests Area Map."





Figure 7 - State Environmental Planning Policy Coastal Management 2018 Mapping Extract (source: www. environment.nsw.gov.au)

Having regard to the proposed works on site and the footprint of the sites and works being well clear of the mapped Littoral Rainforest area, the cumulative impact is not significant.

Clause 11 requires specific consideration to be given to the following prior to granting of consent:

"(a) the biophysical, hydrological or ecological integrity of the adjacent coastal wetland or littoral rainforest, or

(b) the quantity and quality of surface and ground water flows to and from the adjacent coastal wetland or littoral rainforest".

The scenic qualities of the coast will not be adversely impacted upon, and a substantial distance remains to the mapped areas to the east. There are no threatened species or endangered ecological communities impacted upon by this application. Importantly, the extent of built form has been reduced and limited primarily to the western portion of the site, further away from the Littoral Rainforest area on the eastern side of Pacific Drive.

The stormwater plan has been developed in an effort to ensure no nutrient runoff into the creek network and the topography slopes away to the south and west, not towards the mapped rainforest to the east. The proposed services, including stormwater and sewer avoid any potential concerns in this regard with respect to the Littoral Rainforest. There are no matters of environmental heritage.

The application includes supporting geotechnical and stormwater reports, the site is separated by a busy road from the rainforest and the topography does not allow for drainage towards the rainforest. Importantly, post developed flows from the site are equal to or less than predeveloped flows for ARI events up to the 1% event and the corner of the site will have less runoff than the predevelopment condition.

The groundwater report and Stormwater Management Plan have been updated in this Rev H submission to support this position.

As such, the development will not significantly impact on the biophysical, hydrological or ecological integrity of the adjacent coastal littoral rainforest, or the quantity and quality of surface and ground water flows to and from the adjacent littoral rainforest.

Refer to accompanying technical geotechnical and stormwater reports for further detail.



Clause 14 of the SEPP states:

"14 Development on land within the coastal use area

(1) Development consent must not be granted to development on land that is within the coastal use area unless the consent authority—

(a) has considered whether the proposed development is likely to cause an adverse impact on the following-

(*i*) existing, safe access to and along the foreshore, beach, headland or rock platform for members of the public, including persons with a disability,

- (ii) overshadowing, wind funnelling and the loss of views from public places to foreshores,
- (iii) the visual amenity and scenic qualities of the coast, including coastal headlands,
- (iv) Aboriginal cultural heritage, practices and places,
- (v) cultural and built environment heritage, and
- (b) is satisfied that-

(i) the development is designed, sited and will be managed to avoid an adverse impact referred to in paragraph (a), or

(ii) if that impact cannot be reasonably avoided—the development is designed, sited and will be managed to minimise that impact, or

(iii) if that impact cannot be minimised—the development will be managed to mitigate that impact, and

(c) has taken into account the surrounding coastal and built environment, and the bulk, scale and size of the proposed development.

(2) This clause does not apply to land within the Foreshores and Waterways Area within the meaning of Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005."

With respect to Clause 14, the proposed development does not impact upon the coastal area for the following reasons:

- No overshadowing is proposed of the coastal area.
- The visual appearance of the amended design is significantly improved from the reduction in size and height of the development when viewed from the coastal area, including to the north and south of the site where glimpses can be seen from the coastal walk when there is no vegetation.
- There has been no evidence to date of Aboriginal culture on this site. During construction, should any evidence of Aboriginal relics be identified on site, construction is to cease until investigated.
- Pacific Drive and the Council land to the east of the site separates the development from the coastal area, providing a buffer.

The consent authority can be satisfied that the impact on the coastal use area, in particular visual impact, is not detrimental.

State Environmental Planning Policy 65 - Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development

State Environmental Planning Policy No.65 - Design Quality of Residential Flat Development (SEPP 65) (and associated Apartment Design Guide) will apply as the proposal is a residential flat building. SEPP 65 aims to improve the design quality of residential flat development. SEPP 65 does not contain numerical standards but refers to the Apartment Design Guide (ADG). The Guide provides additional detail and guidance for applying the design quality principles outlined in SEPP 65.

Under the provisions of SEPP 65 – Design Quality of Residential Flat Development (SEPP 65), the proposal is defined as a Residential Flat Building as it comprises of a building of 3 or more storeys that includes 4 or more self-contained dwellings.

Accompanying this application is an updated Design Verification from the Architect which goes into further detail regarding the amended building design being in accordance with the Principles of SEPP 65 and ADG. The Design



Verification has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation (2000), Division 1, Clauses 50 (1A), (1AB) and 1(B). This SEE should be read in conjunction with the Design Verification from the Architect and the ADG compliance table.

The Principles of SEPP 65 are briefly addressed below and should be read in conjunction with the Design Verification from the Architect:

Principle 1: Context & Neighbourhood Character

The site is located within an area zoned for medium to high density residential housing. The area as a whole contains a variety of housing densities with tourist, retail and commercial services and the zoning and DCP controls allows a transition to increased residential densities in this Precinct. The development has responded to the slope of the land, is not flood prone and is free of significant trees within its vicinity. All vegetation from the site has been removed as part of the proposed development.

The building responds to the desired future character of the area for higher density in a landscaped setting. The design of the proposed development has had regard to the amenity of the future adjoining properties, providing a suitable setback to all boundaries.

The Architect has designed the proposed development in two buildings to reduce the overall bulk and scale and the design has been modulated to fit in with site elements and streetscape of Pacific Dr and when viewed from further afield. The amendment to provide two smaller buildings with reduced overall height and transition to the west and south is in keeping with the adjoining dwellings and the desired future character.

The Design Verification discusses the context and neighbourhood further in detail.

Principle 2: Built Form and Scale

The proposed buildings are considered to be in keeping with the height controls and future likely development in the area and the LEP and the current height (RL) of the residential flat buildings to the north. The design is broken up by providing two buildings and the upper level stepped back, and the overall building articulated at various points to provide an interesting design and reduces the bulk of the development. The proposal includes solid balconies, louvres and a range of materials to create depth and shade to the façade and protect amenity.

The development has been designed to step down the site to provide a balance of cut and fill across the site and reduce the overall size of the development when viewed from the public domain and the adjoining properties and the wider area.

Accordingly, it is considered that the proposal would be of a scale that is in keeping with the future development of the surrounding built environment of the transitioning area and provides a gradual transition of building height to surrounding future development.

The proposed building has been designed to reduce the overall bulk and scale of the development and provide a continual progression of the built form. Suitable side and rear setbacks, landscaping and building articulation all assist in integrating the proposed built form into the existing locality and desired future character for this immediate area. Further, the size of the development is consistent with the existing buildings to the north and likely future desired built form of the overall area which comprises a range of densities.

The proposed setbacks are sufficient to allow outlook of the internal open spaces to encourage passive surveillance and safety whilst allowing for visual privacy to the proposed buildings.

The proposed building achieves an appropriate built form for its location, use and context. The building is articulated and massing within the prescribed envelope aims to reduce the building bulk. A mix of building materials and colour further enhances the presentation of the building.



The provision of a central landscaped common open space with pool and deep soil planting along the boundaries softens the built form and integrates the development into the area. The building design and landscaping protects the internal resident amenity.

The design of the building with two buildings responds to the topography rather than one single mass, as well as improved solar access and ventilation and therefore complies with the built form design quality principle.

The Architect has provided large balconies and terraces surrounding the built form are provided to respond to the context of the site. Further, the proposed buildings aim to reinforce the desired street line while providing articulated elements which add variety and interest to the streetscape.

Solar access is addressed under Principle 4, the Design Verification certification from the Architect and corresponding assessment against the ADG.

Height, setbacks, bulk and scale are addressed in the Design Verification and the assessment against the LEP below, including a Clause 4.6 variation request.

The completed development will sit comfortably within its present and future context and will form an appropriate scale to suit the future character of the precinct.

Principle 3: Density

The proposed accommodation seeks to cater for future demand and desired future densities identified by the zoning of the site and the LEP and DCP controls. The density responds to the site opportunities and constraints and provides a range of floor space yields and apartment mixes. The site is appropriate for higher densities given its location in a transitioning area.

Principle 4: Sustainability

The Guide recommends that 70% of apartments in a development should receive a minimum of three hours direct sunlight between 9am and 3pm mid-winter into the living rooms and private open space. The layout of the proposed units has ensured maximum solar access and achieve 75% of units for 2.5 hours, which is reasonable.

Passive solar design principles have been incorporated through a high level of solar access and natural ventilation of units as well as effective thermal massing. The design responds to environmental concerns by focusing on natural ventilation, and light and incorporates recessed balconies.

Appropriate water efficiency and energy saving measures have been incorporated into the development.

Principle 5: Landscape

The landscape strategy includes courtyards and communal landscaped areas around the perimeter of the site. Deep soil planting provides effective amenity both internally and to the public domain is also proposed within all setbacks. The landscaped open space provides connectivity between the buildings and provides an adequate buffer to ensure maximum amenity is offered to the occupants of the units and the adjoining neighbours.

A landscape concept plan was prepared, and the landscape design and streetscape strategy strike an effective balance between visual privacy and safety and security and sets the tone for the area. The building further compliments the coastal landscaped setting and is a focal point in the overall design.

Principle 6: Amenity

Main living spaces in each of the proposed units are open plan and located directly adjacent to their main private open space. This is intended to promote an extension of the living space. The terraces, courtyards and balconies are functional and promote indoor/outdoor living. The proposal provides a high level of amenity for all of the units



including layout, natural ventilation, solar access and private open space. Room sizes are generous throughout as are ceiling heights, maximising fresh air and light and a mix of units is proposed.

Each unit has been prepared to provide control by the occupant by way of ventilation and louvres for solar access and privacy control, as well as planter boxes added to the balconies of units on the western boundary, with the exception Level 3, Building B (as those units have a 12m setback) to minimise any potential for down-looking into neighbouring houses and any residual privacy impacts, as residents will be kept a further distance from the balcony edge.

The number of units facing the adjoining properties to the west has been reduced from 38 to 23, which is nearly half of the number of units. The use of the rooms facing the west has been altered and have been changed to secondary areas being bedrooms in many instances not main living areas, and have less potential overlooking and privacy impacts. Solid balustrades, planter boxes and louvres are proposed to the western side to limit views down from the balconies and extensive landscaping proposed. The Architectural Plans include an analysis of privacy impacts and view lines from the balconies along the western elevation, and having regard to the proposed measures the overlooking will be beyond the existing adjoining dwellings.

There is ample car parking provision on the site itself, which minimises any potential impact of the development on local traffic conditions. Each unit has been allocated parking.

The development is accessible in its design and a lift has been provided to all units.

The Architect has confirmed that generous natural light is available to the units and the building has been designed with all the apartments having balconies or ground level courtyards as their private open space, of varying depth and width for various sitting arrangements. The apartments open directly onto these large balconies providing natural ventilation and outdoor living opportunities.

Storage for each apartment has been provided within each apartment as well as additional storage spaces adjacent to their car space in the basement. This is the preferable location as dictated by the market and provides ownership of the storage area by the residents.

Lift access will be provided to all apartment levels and the basements, linking every floor with the street level and basement. The lobbies at ground level will present as clearly articulated entries to the residential buildings providing a welcoming and secure environment for residents and their guests.

Principle 7: Safety

The proposed units are oriented to allow windows for passive surveillance of the communal open spaces and the main entrance. All entrances are highly visible, are in highly trafficked areas and have good sight lines across the site. Safety and security measures incorporate unobscured public domain spaces, the basement and all lobbies are wide and brightly lit, with units adjacent to facilitate safety and passive overlooking and all landscaped spaces within the site will be well lit and designed to maximise personal security. There are no entrapment zones identified within the development.

Access will be by electronic security devices at the vehicle entry point and the pedestrian entry points and lobbies.

Principle 8: Housing Diversity and Social Interaction

The proposal responds to the need for housing and incorporates a range of bedroom numbers and floor sizes. The units and in many instances the private open space is considerably larger than the minimum requirements, increasing the amenity for the occupants.

Principle 9: Aesthetics



The architectural style is contemporary and is sympathetic to its coastal surroundings. The design reduces building bulk, and the landscaped setting will ensure they are integrated into their surroundings and the future desired character for the area.

The proposal is designed to appear lightweight with defined entry points. Balconies are common external areas that create active edges for the proposed buildings both functionally and aesthetically.

The Architect has advised that the proposed development achieves design excellence through the careful modulation of building forms and through the deliberate architectural articulation of elements and the use of a limited pallet of materials and colours will provide a simple and timeless character to the building. The facades comprise balconies with glazing to maximise the views and the segments of the building are joined. The facade has a suitably varied character.

In consideration of the detailed information above it is considered that the subject proposal can reasonably satisfy the design quality principles of SEPP 65 and the guidelines contained within the associated Apartment Design Guide.

Apartment Design Guide

The Apartment Design Guide was released by the Department of Planning and Environment in 2015 to provide guidance for the design and assessment of residential flat developments. The amended *SEPP 65* requires consideration of the Apartment Design Guide. The ADG includes development controls and best practice benchmarks for achieving the design principles of *SEPP 65*.

Clause 6A of the ADG states that if a development control plan contains provisions that specify requirements, standards or requirements, standards or controls in relation to a matter to which Clause 6A applies (including visual privacy, solar and daylight access, common circulation and spaces, apartment size and layout, ceiling heights, private open space and balconies, natural ventilation and storage), those provisions have no effect.

The Guide has been considered by the Architect in the design and a detailed assessment table has been prepared by the Urban Design. The Design Verification includes a detailed assessment and compliance table against the ADG and accompanies the amended plans.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX)

Schedule 1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation (2000) sets out the requirement for a BASIX certificate to accompany any BASIX affected building, being any building that contains one or more dwellings, but does not include a hotel or motel. A BASIX Certificate and associated Assessor certificate and stamped plans accompanies this application.

State Environmental Planning Policy No 64—Advertising and Signage

At the front property boundary on the eastern side, a building identification sign will be provided and is permitted under State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 without consent.

A building identification sign is defined as:

"building identification sign means a sign that identifies or names a building and that may include the name of a building, the street name and number of a building, and a logo or other symbol but does not include general advertising of products, goods or services.

Note-

Building identification signs are a type of **signage**—see the definition of that term in this Dictionary."



No further assessment against State Environmental Planning Policy No 64—Advertising and Signage, nor Schedule 1 Assessment Criteria of that SEPP is required given the type of signage and that it does not require consent.

Local Planning Policies

Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011

(a) Zoning, Permissibility & Objectives

As indicated by the following map extract from the Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011 the subject site is currently zoned R3 – Medium Density Residential under Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011.



Figure 8 - Zoning Map Extract Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011

The proposed development is a Residential Flat Building, which is defined as:

"residential flat building means a building containing 3 or more dwellings, but does not include an attached dwelling or multi dwelling housing."

The proposed development of a Residential Flat Building and associated works is consistent with the above definition and provides orderly and economic use of the land, in accordance with the general aims of the LEP.

The revised design has improved the orderly and economic use of the land, by achieving a development with smaller footprints and height, whilst still providing for the housing needs of Port Macquarie and removing adverse impacts upon neighbouring land.

The revised design has resulted from makes a positive contribution to the streetscape and provides equitable use of the land for adjoining properties through resolution of privacy and overshadowing impacts. Further, the smaller development footprint results in an increased setback from the coastal area of approx. 26m.

As a result of the redesign and removal of the eastern lots, the development will not have a street frontage, other than the vehicular and pedestrian pathways through the legal easements, to Pacific Dr. As such, the streetscape to Pacific Dr remains largely unaltered.

The objectives of the R3 zone are:

- "To provide for the housing needs of the community within a medium density residential environment.
- To provide a variety of housing types within a medium density residential environment.
- To enable other land uses that provide facilities or services to meet the day to day needs of residents."



The proposed development will contribute 44 residential units to the residential housing stock of the greater Port Macquarie region. This is consistent with the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy and the identified population increase and the Urban Growth Management Strategy which encourages infill development within existing residential areas and anticipates a high change for the area and Apartment Living in apartments. Providing additional housing on a relatively unconstrained site within an established urban area, with good access to existing services and public transport is ideal.

The surrounding area contains a variety of allotment sizes, dwelling forms and densities, including residential flat buildings. The proposed layout will increase the density on the site, providing an alternative housing options and is in keeping with the desired future character identified within the Windmill Hill planning under the LEP and DCP. The final layout and unit design have provided a variety of housing types and densities which will cater to a wide range of the market.

In the absence of specific controls within Council's LEP with respect to isolation of adjoining land, highly indicative concept sketches have been included to demonstrate that development could occur on the land to the south and east of the proposed buildings and that adjoining land is not isolated. These do not form part of the proposed development, but rather assist with understanding that development could occur on the adjoining land in accordance with the planning controls and desired future character of the area and would be subject to a separate Development Application by the landowners. These indicative sketches allow for a greater understanding of the potential surrounding development that could potentially occur, noting they are of similar size height and floor space to the proposal, as envisaged for the zone.

The proposed development is in keeping with the objectives of the zone.

(b) Clause 2.6 - Subdivision

Subdivision of land is permissible with development consent.

(c) Clause 4.1 - Minimum Lot Size

Subdivision requires a minimum allotment size of 450m². The proposal seeks to Strata subdivide the building, which is permitted below the minimum lot size, which is permitted under this clause.

(d) Clause 4.3 - Height of Building

The site has a maximum height of 17.5m as shown on the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011 – Height of Buildings Map.



Figure 9 - Height Map Extract Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011



The height of the building that breaches the 17.5m height limit are shown in the images below. The height breach ranges from 150mm to 1700mm and the maximum breach is 19.2m, equating to a variation of 9.2% at the worst point. The extracts below from the Architectural Plan detail the extent of the variation.



Figure 10 – Height Plane Extract

The topography of this site makes the design of the building difficult to strictly adhere to the height limit. The original design had significant variations to the height limit and the Architects have worked to reduce the height variation to components only.

The portion of the roof which exceeds the controls (lift overruns) are unlikely to result in amenity impacts and will not be discernible from the public domain due to the location of the variation and the inability to identify when viewing from the public domain at street level. The images detail the maximum height at the worst point above natural ground level, noting it is a portion only due to the slope, and not the entire building exceeding the height limit. The red line on the elevation plans reflects the maximum height limit and the portion of the building which exceeds the limit. The grey coloured areas in the images indicate the areas of exceedance, demonstrating the very minor nature of the variation.

The DCP makes specific mention of lots (adjoining to north on Pacific Dr and Burrawan) which cannot have a height variation, but allows flexibility for others along Pacific Dr, including this site and encourages height along Pacific Dr to define the eastern extent of Port Macquarie.

The overall height, bulk and scale of the building is proposed to be substantially reduced and provides a transition to the west and south, and assists with integrating the new form of development into the changing area.

Justification to the variations is detailed in the stand alone Clause 4.6 variation report.

(e) Clause 4.4 - Floor Space Ratio

The site has a floor space ratio (FSR) of 1.5:1 on the entire site as shown on the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011 - Floor Space Ratio Map.

The proposed building complies with this control.





Figure 11 - FSR Map Extract Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011

The LEP defines Gross Floor Area as:

"gross floor area means the sum of the floor area of each floor of a building measured from the internal face of external walls, or from the internal face of walls separating the building from any other building, measured at a height of 1.4 metres above the floor, and includes:

- (a) the area of a mezzanine, and
- (b) habitable rooms in a basement or an attic, and
- (c) any shop, auditorium, cinema, and the like, in a basement or attic,

but excludes:

- (d) any area for common vertical circulation, such as lifts and stairs, and
- (e) any basement:
- (i) storage, and
- (ii) vehicular access, loading areas, garbage and services, and
- (f) plant rooms, lift towers and other areas used exclusively for mechanical services or ducting, and
- (g) car parking to meet any requirements of the consent authority (including access to that car parking), and
- (h) any space used for the loading or unloading of goods (including access to it), and
- (i) terraces and balconies with outer walls less than 1.4 metres high, and
- (j) voids above a floor at the level of a storey or storey above."

The calculations in the table above have excluded the components listed in the definition, and is clearly identified on the Architectural Plans.

In summary, the floor space ratio controls are satisfied for the proposed development.

(f) Clause 4.6 – Exceptions to Development Standards

This is a request to vary a development standard pursuant to the provisions of Clause 4.6 of Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP 2011), the relevant clause being Clause 4.3 Height of Building.

The relevant maximum height of 17.5m. The relevant maximum height of building control is a development standard for the purposes of the EP&A Act 1979.



The Justification to the variations is detailed in the stand alone Clause 4.6 variation report as to why strict compliance with the height control is unreasonable in this instance.

The objectives of Clause 4.6 1(a) are to provide an appropriate degree of flexibility in applying certain development standards to particular development. The intent is to allow flexibility in particular circumstances in accordance with Clause 4.6 1(b). Flexibility is requested in relation to the proposal in regard to the application of the LEP building height control. In accordance with Clause 4.6, the following is a written request justifying departure from Clause 4.3 in relation to the proposed height of the development.

It is considered that any requirement for the proposed development to strictly comply with the applicable 17.5m maximum permissible building height development standard of Clauses 4.3 of Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011 would be unreasonable or unnecessary in the particular circumstances as the proposed development is in the public interest as it will facilitate the economically viable redevelopment of the subject land in a manner consistent with the strategic planning objectives for the development of the overall planned development of the area.

Further, the proposed development is consistent with objectives for development within the zone and the proposed development is consistent with the objectives of the maximum building height development standard as expressed in Clause 4.3 (1) of Port Macquarie Hastings LEP.

It is considered that any requirement for the proposed development to strictly comply with the applicable maximum building height development standard of 17.5m under Clause 4.3 of Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011, would be unreasonable or unnecessary in the particular circumstances as the proposed development is in the public interest as it achieves the objectives of both the development standard and zoning of the land under the LEP 2011, and will facilitate the use of the subject land in a manner consistent with the strategic planning objectives for the development of the overall planned development of the area.

The particular circumstances relating to the subject land and the proposed development are unique to this application, as outlined in this submission. Cumulatively there are not disbenefits which arise from the proposal as ultimately the development will not be discernible from the road and desired character of the area will not be impacted. The broader planning objectives of the zone are not undermined as the circumstances of the case are very particular to the subject site.

Overall, there is no planning purpose to be served in requiring the proposed development to strictly comply with the applicable development standard in this case. There is no public benefit to be derived, or planning purpose to be served, in requiring the proposed development to strictly comply with the applicable maximum permissible building height development standards of LEP 2011. This request demonstrates that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds for the proposed development to contravene the maximum permissible building height development standard applying to the subject land under Clauses 4.3 of Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is therefore requested to exercise its discretion under Clause 4.6 of Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011 and approve the proposed exceedance of the applicable maximum building height development standard for the proposed residential development proposed by this application.

(g) Clause 5.10 - Heritage

The site is not mapped as containing a heritage item, archaeological site or aboriginal place of heritage significance.


(h) Clause 6.3 - Development Control Plan

Port Macquarie Hastings Development Control Plan 2013 applies to the site, specifically, Parts C2: Residential Flat Development and D2: Port Macquarie East of DCP 2013 apply. The site is located within the Windmill Hill Precinct. Refer to the detailed Compliance Table as an Appendix to this SEE.

(i) Clause 7.1 – Acid Sulfate Soils

The site is not mapped as containing acid sulphate soils.

(j) Clause 7.2 – Earthworks

The proposal involves earthworks with respect to the construction. Full details will be provided at the construction certificate stage. Due to the nature of the site, there will be a requirement for some cut and fill, with a number of retaining wall structures proposed, as shown on the Architectural drawings. The proposed cut and fill will not impact upon the environment, adjoining properties or proposed drainage of the site, but rather provides a level building platform.

(k) Clause 7.3 - Flood Planning

The proposed development is contained within flood free area. The stormwater modelling has considered flooding events and it was determined that the proposed system was adequate.

(I) Clause 7.5 – Koala Habitat

The development site is not identified as koala habitat, as discussed earlier within this report.

(m) Clause 7.9 - Development subject to Acoustic Controls

The site is not subject to acoustic controls. However, an Acoustic Report has been undertaken to ensure a high level of amenity for residents and adjoining residents and is discussed later in this report.

(n) Clause 7.13 - Essential Services

Clause 7.13 requires Council to be satisfied that essential services are capable of being provided to the site. Electricity, sewer and water are available to the site. A Services Plan accompanies this application which details proposed water, stormwater and sewer, and appropriate existing and proposed easements. Preliminary discussions with service providers have not identified an issue with extending the existing nearby services to the proposed lots.

Development Control Plans

Port Macquarie Hastings DCP 2013

The Port Macquarie Hastings DCP 2013 is applicable to the site and the current proposal. The DCP supports the LEP in providing a range of development criteria for residential areas, urban centres and character areas as well as development criteria relating to environmental and engineering matters.

In additional to the general provisions, Parts C2: Residential Flat Development and D2: Port Macquarie East of DCP 2013 apply. The site is located within the Windmill Hill Precinct.

Our assessment against the controls set out in the Port Macquarie Hastings DCP is provided in the DCP Compliance Table in an Appendix to this report. Any non-compliance identified with the DCP are justified within the DCP compliance table and are minor in nature, resulting from the characteristics of the site.



The proposed Building B in the south-west corner of the site will present as 4-5 storeys, which is comparable with the height limit to the west of 11.5m. Strict compliance with the height control would likely result in a development of 3 storeys on the land to the west. However, the topography of the land to the north-west of the site in particular will allow for flexibility in design. Specific design and a minor height variation could result in 4 storeys. Therefore, 4 storeys in the south-western corner transitioning to 3-4 storeys on the land to the west is an appropriate transition.

Council's DCP relating to the Windmill Hill Precinct (applicable to the subject site) clearly identified the form with increased height is permitted on this site which transitions to the west and identified the additional DCP clause:

"Building forms along the northern and eastern edges of the precinct will reflect the higher landform in this area and form a distinct edge to the open space, stepping down in height towards the west."

"Desired Future Character Pacific Drive shall be developed, clearly defining the eastern extent of Port Macquarie. Slightly increased heights shall be permitted in relation to adjacent blocks to help define this edge, and define the ridgeline."

Council's recent approval of a 7 storey residential flat building at No. 27 Pacific Dr, also within an R3 zone, only 230m from the site on the next block to the south along Pacific Dr and within the same DCP Precinct, confirms Council's desired future character and built form.

The amended plans are:

- consistent with the adjoining form of residential flat buildings to the north;
- provides a suitable transition to the south and west;
- reduces the bulk when viewed from adjoining properties, Pacific Dr and Coastal Walk;
- responds to the topography by breaking the built form up into 2 buildings, reducing the height of all buildings and further reductions on the upper levels of the southern buildings to reduce the visual impact, as well as visual impact and overshadowing.
- is suitably articulated to provide a high level of urban design and amenity; and
- is consistent with the emerging form of nearby developments in the R3 zone on Pacific Dr, which achieves the desired future character of the area under Council's LEP and DCP controls.

Further, the DCP makes specific mention of lots (adjoining to north on Pacific Dr and Burrawan) which cannot have a height variation, but allows flexibility for others along Pacific Dr, including this site and encourages height along Pacific Dr to define the eastern extent of Port Macquarie.

A Residential Flat Building is permissible and a height limit has been set within the LEP, with the amended design largely complying, and well below for the large part and for the areas associated with a potential amenity impact.

The nearby consent granted at 27 Pacific Dr is 7 storeys and higher than the amended proposal and is also zoned R3. This form is what was envisaged in Council's planning controls and is specifically noted in Council's Assessment Report on that DA (reported to the Development Assessment Unit on 3/2/22), stating "having regard to the adopted planning controls, the area has been identified for change. The proposal is sufficiently compatible with the desired character of the precinct".

The overall height, bulk and scale of the development, now in 2 smaller buildings, is substantially reduced and provides a transition to the west and south, and assists with integrating the new form of development into the



changing area. The overall smaller sized development has a reduced visual impact from both neighbouring properties and the public domain.

The proposal is considered to be in keeping with the DCP, specifically the controls related to D2: Port Macquarie East and the Windmill Hill Precinct.

6. PLANNING ASSESSMENT

This section will consider the likely impacts of the development; site suitability and public interest in accordance with Section 4.15 (1)(b), (c), (d) and (e).

Assessment of Natural Environmental Impact – Section 4.15 (1)(b)

Topography and Scenic Impacts

Overall, the proposed development is compatible with existing and future surrounding land uses. The site is zoned to allow the proposed development and is located close to the township of Port Macquarie. The proposed design provides a landscaped buffer between the existing dwellings to the north, south and west and has had regard to the environmental qualities of the site.

The building process will be managed so to minimise the disruption to the adjoining properties and the environment. The site slopes towards Pacific Drive and the plans demonstrate that building and adequate areas of private open space and vehicular access can be accommodated on the site notwithstanding the slope.

Micro-Climate Impacts

The proposal will not impact on micro-climates.

Water & Air Quality Impact

The site is not flood affected and water is available to the site already and can be extended to accommodate the additional lots.

Technical reports and plans demonstrate that stormwater and sewer, and appropriate existing and proposed easements to ensure all lots can legally drain to the street. The Stormwater Management Plan demonstrates that the existing situation is improved by the proposed works.

When the development is completed, air pollution caused by the operation of the development is not expected to be significant nor create any long term impacts.

A Stormwater Assessment has been prepared to provide information on stormwater quality and quantity control and addresses the pre and post development scenarios for the development. post developed flows from the site are equal to or less than predeveloped flows for ARI events up to the 1% event and the corner of the site will have less runoff than the predevelopment condition.

The groundwater report and Stormwater Management Plan have been updated in this Rev H submission to support this position. The proposed development includes on-site detention which is located under the driveway and allows for discharge to Pacific Drive.

Soils

As previously assessed, the site is unlikely to include any contaminated soil (or other contaminating agents) based on the site's land use history and the site is suitable for the construction of the proposal. Disturbance to insitu soils



on site will be minimised by undertaking all erosion and sediment control practices during construction in accordance with "*NSW Department of Housing - Managing Urban Stormwater, Soils & Construction*" 2004 (Blue Book). Post construction of residential development, all pervious surfaces will be vegetated by landscaping or turfing/grass seeding until established.

Assessment of Built Environment Impacts – 4.15 (1)(b)

Impact on the Area's Character

The planning which occurred for the area by Council identifies this site and surrounds for redevelopment opportunity to achieve higher densities. The LEP controls which allow Residential Flat Buildings and indicate height and floor space controls reflect this higher density. The proposal is considered to be of a scale that is in keeping with the future development of the surrounding built environment of the transitioning area and provides a gradual transition of building height to surrounding future development.

The earlier photographs provides evidence of the existing variety and nature of development in the area and the lack of a consistent character in density. Further, the existing Motel on the subject site is an altered land use than residential. It is an achievement for this development to set the future tone and desired future character of the area.

The Land and Environment Court has established Planning Principles. In *Project Venture Developments v Pittwater Council [2005] NSWLEC 191*, a Planning Principle has been established with respect to surrounding development and compatibility. Having regard to above Planning Principle, the proposed development does have regard to height, setbacks, landscaping and architectural style of the area and has had regard to the relationship between the various factors and this has been reflected in the site layout and building design. The built form has been broken into two buildings in the amended design with large areas of landscaped open space surrounding and components of built form and landscaping seen at nearby residential flat buildings have been incorporated into the proposal. In terms of height, the overall building height is consistent with nearby built form to the north and further along Pacific Drive (e.g. recent consent at No. 27 Pacific Drive and existing Sunrise units) and in Burrawan St, and setbacks are significantly in excess of adjoining developments. The design reference allows for individuality in the development on this site, whilst having regard to the existing and future desired character.

A review of the area identifies that there is not a consistent character. There is no consistent or established rhythm within this area of Port Macquarie due to the take up of development to implement the planning controls being slow. There is no denying that the proposed development is a new feature for this immediate strip along Pacific Dr as it is one of the first development to occur in recent years. However, the proposed built form, layout and design reference allows for a rhythm within the development to be established which is not repetitious and uninteresting in form. The future development of this area should be guided by this architectural form.

As outlined in the Planning Principle above, the development is to be in harmony with the Windmill Hill Precinct, but does not need to be the same and can have different attributes and still remain compatible. The proposed built form responds to the essential elements identified in the area, both built and landscaping, to ensure a harmonious development and form.

The proposal is of benefit to the surrounding area as it proposes a positive development of high quality design that will improve surveillance and safety of the precinct. Overall, the proposed development is compatible with existing and future surrounding land uses, which is high density residential. The site is zoned for residential purposes and is located within an established residential area. The proposed design will retain a high level of amenity of the subject and surrounding sites including in respect of solar access, views, privacy and noise levels. Consideration has been given to the existing adjoining dwellings and new landscaping and fencing will be provided along boundaries where not currently in place to ensure a delineation of boundaries and to ensure the amenity is protected for existing and proposed residents. The design of the units, open space and landscaping are consistent



with that anticipated for this form of development and the setbacks, in particular the large western setback, allows for landscaping. The aim of this development is to provide high quality units, generous living areas, highly sought-after outlook and finishes which are in keeping with the surrounding development, whilst being reflective of the desired high density housing under Council's planning controls. This is reflected in the design.

Appropriate mitigation will be undertaken during construction and operation to preserve the amenity of surrounding land uses. The site does not exhibit any characteristics which would preclude the development from proceeding.

Aural & Visual Privacy Impact

As described above, the proposed development has been designed in such a way to maximise visual and acoustic privacy by minimising direct views between primary indoor and outdoor living area of adjoining dwellings. Good separation has been provided to the existing allotments adjoining the development and the breaking up of the building into two has significantly reduced the size of the development and the visual impact, as well as amenity impacts such as overlooking. This combined with the future landscaping will enhance the visual appearance of the development whilst assisting with minimising amenity impacts from the new units.

Acoustic privacy is achieved through building design, orientation and setbacks. The acoustic impacts from mechanical plant, swimming pool and construction activities have been considered within the accompanying Acoustic Report.

The number of units facing the adjoining properties to the west has been reduced from 38 to 23, which is nearly half of the number of units. The use of the rooms facing the west has been altered and have been changed to secondary areas being bedrooms in many instances not main living areas, and have less potential overlooking and privacy impacts. Solid balustrades and louvres are proposed to the western side to limit views down from the balconies, planters and extensive landscaping proposed. The Architectural Plans include an analysis of privacy impacts and view lines from the balconies along the western elevation, and having regard to the proposed measures the overlooking will be beyond the existing adjoining dwellings.

To further protect the privacy of the existing dwellings to the west, planter boxes have been added to the balconies of units on the western boundary, with the exception Level 3, Building B (as those units have a 12m setback). The planter boxes will additionally minimise any potential for down-looking into neighbouring houses and any residual privacy impacts, as residents will be kept a further distance from the balcony edge. These planter boxes are provided primarily to address the privacy issue and will be maintained by the individual units. In the instance that the landscaping within the planters dies, the privacy will not be diminished as the planter box will still provide the function of keeping the occupants away from the edge of the balcony and forces sight lines upwards rather than down onto adjoining properties. Refer to the details on the Architectural Plans and Landscape Plans.

In relation to tree planting being used to achieve an acceptable measure of privacy to adjoining properties, there will be an interim period where plants will require time to grow and adapt to their new environment to achieve the full benefit of long-term privacy screening. The updated landscape plans and sections demonstrate a variety of plants at different heights will be planted at the lower ground and ground levels to provide dense screen planting and minimise any privacy impacts to neighbours. The landscape experts have agreed that this is an acceptable outcome and allows smaller plant stock which will be more successful than mature plantings.

With regards to the scale and character of the proposed development, the proposed development accommodate units which are consistent with the desired and nearby residential flat buildings. The proposed form of housing is clearly evident within the nearby residential areas of Port Macquarie. On a regional scale, the development is consistent with the existing pattern of development being within an existing residential area and higher density near the centre. The density and scale are commensurate with the existing and desired character of this area of



Port Macquarie. The proposed development is a permissible use in the zoning under the LEP and supports the residential redevelopment of the site.

The proposal ensures that principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is incorporated into the overall design of the allotments, pathways and common open space to provide passive surveillance, inhibit hiding or enclosed spaces and landscaping to provide an attractive streetscape without compromising safety and security.

The provision of a central landscaped common open space with pool and deep soil planting along the boundaries softens the built form and integrates the development into the area. The building design and landscaping protects the internal resident amenity. In particular, in order to give greater privacy from the pool area, the internal layout of Unit G.10 was reconfigured. The WC is now proposed against the wall facing the COS allowing the living space to reorient and be more of a west facing space onto the balcony.

The high level glazing on the northern elevation will be an obscure glass block window to provide light and privacy to the living area. The balcony will be open to the west and have an angled horizontal louvre to the north providing cross ventilation and privacy to the COS.

In considering the visual impact of the proposed building from the beach, it will not be highly visible due to the setback and presence of vegetation between the road and water. The proposal is an increased density for the site, however consistent with existing buildings to the north. The design responds strongly to its coastal location by the design and materials which ensures a visually pleasing building. The high level of landscaping surrounding the building will considerably reduce the visual prominence of the building from a distance, unlike the roofs of existing housing in the wider area.

Amended Architectural Plans have been provided in response to the discussions at the s34 Conference. Debulking of the development and compliance FSR will reduce the visual impact. Further, the removal of the development from the eastern lots fronting Pacific Drive pushes the built form significantly away from the E2 land and associated public domain. The topography of the land now to be developed, falls away to the west, further assisting the reduced visual impact of the development from the E2 land and public domain.

Whilst the coastal area to the immediate west of the site is dense vegetation and the view of the site is not possible from the walkway, the wider views from the pathway further north and south have been improved by the amended plans. The view from the coastal area to the east has been significantly reduced in the amended plans and the changes step the buildings down the hill, responding to the topography. The amended building appears as 4-5 storeys from the Coastal Walk due to the reduced size of the overall development, reduction in height and breaking of the building into two. The Height Variation is essentially removed, with the exception of small components such as lift overruns which have been further minimised.

The southern half of the development is significantly smaller in size than originally proposed, with a smaller footprint, reduced height, increased upper floor setbacks and provides a transition from the northern portion down to the adjoining southern and western properties. Privacy impacts to the south and west have been reduced by deletion of units, solid balustrades, planter boxes and louvres to the west and a reduction in size of the development on the southern portion of the site. Refer to Architectural Plans.

During construction, some noise and vibration is likely to be created however construction activities will be short term and will only occur during those hours permitted by the Council and as represented in the development permit. The operational noise levels from the proposal will not be out character with the future intent of the precinct. The development has been designed (materials, setbacks etc) to minimise any impacts on existing residents of the area. It is considered there will be no ongoing air issues pertaining to the proposed development.

An Acoustic Assessment has been undertaken and recommended construction requirements have been included to provide a suitable environment for the residents of the proposed building. Consideration has also been given to



the noise generated by the development including from the basement and waste area. These recommendations will be incorporated into the proposed development and explored further post consent as part of the detailed construction design.

The proposed development will exhibit a positive visual outcome for the area achieved through planning and design and landscaping. The variety of unit sizes will allow for diversity within the development. The proposed materials, landscaping and fencing will be consistent throughout the site and have been designed to create a consistent feel and distinct character for the development. The proposal ensures the orderly use of the land through the provision of a mix of units and sufficient private and communal open space. The size, shape and orientation of individual units creates visual interest and provides opportunities for passive surveillance.

Fencing and landscaping within the development will soften the appearance of built form, contribute to the creation of a high amenity environment, provide for pleasant views to and from the site and enhance the vegetated character of the locale. A concept landscape plan has been developed to ensure that screen planting is provided between the development and the adjoining properties. The proposed landscaping will also assist in screening the proposed retaining walls and the detailed Construction Certificate design of the retaining walls may result in terracing in conjunction with landscaping to reduce the overall height of the walls.

With respect to the proposed landscaping within the development, it should be noted that the E2 Environmental Zone on the eastern side of Pacific Drive is significantly separated from the existing built forms all along the western side of Pacific Drive. The significance of emulating and complimenting the E2 zone through to the western side of Pacific Drive seems unwarranted considering the existing built forms and existing urban landscape. There are minimal, if any, existing developments along the western side of Pacific Drive that have retained the character and plantings of the E2 zone. It is more responsible to select plant species that will tolerate the coastal conditions, handle the altered soil, drainage & wind conditions while being suitable for high density urban living. There will certainly be species found in the E2 zone that can be used in the development however introduced species will be needed to compliment these.

The Landscape plan provides an extensive list of proposed species including height at maturity. The amended plans added to this list to include some additional endemic species deemed suitable in an urban environment and with the revised built form layout and extended 'deep soil' zones there are more opportunities to provide more extensive boundary plantings to the western & southern interfaces.

Impact on Sunlight Access

Due to the slope of the site down to Pacific Drive, overshadowing cannot be avoided for any building. The design has however sought to minimise loss of sunlight for adjoining properties. The Architectural Plans include shadow diagrams for mid-winter, and it reveals that there will be overshadowing impacts in the morning to the west and south, however as the sun moves around during the day, the shadowing direction and amount is altered and the eastern corner of the dwelling to the south experiences the greatest impact. It is to be acknowledged that due to the topography sloping south and as such the subject land is higher, a single or two storey dwelling immediately to the north of the boundary would result in similar overshadowing for the same time period.

View Impacts

The slope of the land allows for the proposed units to look over the roofs of the dwellings to the south and west and further beyond to the mountains. The photographs provided earlier in this report provide the existing situation and clearly demonstrate the dwellings to the west and south do not have views in the direction of the site due to the topography. The residential flat buildings to the north of the site, in particular the units at 2 Windmill St shown



on the Survey extract below, which extends close to the subject site, has potential for views towards the ocean. The proposed residential flat building has potential to impact upon existing views in this direction only.

It is important to note that the requested height variation does not relate to this northern area of the building, but rather as the building steps down the slope. The building complies with the height control for this northern portion of the site where there is a potential for view loss.



Figure 12 - Survey Plan Extract to show RFB to the north with balcony at 2 Windmill St - RL 47.873



Figure 13 - Balconies on Units to the north with upper balcony having RL 47.873

The RFB to the north at 2 Windmill St has an upper balcony level of RL 47.873. Level 4 upper ceiling has a level of RL 47.25. As such, from the rooftop of Building A, views will be partially obstructed. This is a change from the previous design due to the reduction in height of the proposal. Views from below level 4 are already expected to be partially obstructed given the presence of vegetation between Pacific Drive and the ocean, as shown in the photos below.

Further, a review of photos publicly available online indicate the rear two units of 2 Windmill St has views currently. These units have a wraparound balcony from the south around to the east, which provides views over the roof of the dwelling at 9 Pacific Drive.

It is also important to acknowledge that the balcony orientation also allows for views to the west towards the mountains.



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Figure 14 – Photographs from 2 Windmill St (source www.realestate.com)

This view could be deemed to be borrowed amenity which has been enjoyed for many years due to the motel only existing on the site and a single dwelling at 9 Pacific Dr (not part of this development). The planning controls developed by Council for the area have long anticipated high density on this site and when setting the height limit have deemed the loss of views appropriate for nearby properties.

The design is reasonable having regard to view loss and has had regard to surrounding properties and hence the design being angled along this elevation to allow for view corridors to still be maintained. Further, the existing direct eastern view as seen above is not being altered and the setback of the building in this area is considerable in many parts due to the angle of the building, as shown in the extract below.



Figure 15 – Close Up of Proposed Northern Boundary Setbacks with View lines shown Yellow

The proposed residential flat building achieves a large part of the existing view being visible from the existing development, as indicated by the yellow arrows above. The proposed development provides for reasonable and equitable sharing of views, between both the subject and neighbouring properties. There are no whole views or iconic views lost or obstructed by the proposal. The south-western views are maintained.

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Planning Principle contained in *Tenacity Consulting v Warringah* [2004] *NSWLEC* 140 which sets out the planning principle for considering the acceptability of the impact of a proposed development on the views enjoyed from private properties in the vicinity of the development.



The notion of view sharing is when a property enjoys existing views, and a proposed development would share that view by taking some of it away for its own enjoyment. To decide whether or not view sharing is reasonable, the court developed a four-step process of assessment:

- Step 1 assessment of views to be affected, noting that water views are valued more highly than land views and iconic views are valued more highly than views without icons and that whole views are valued more highly than partial views.
- Step 2 consider what part of a private property the views are available from (i.e. principle living areas and private open space or non-habitable rooms).
- Step 3 assess the extent of the impact for the whole of the property, not just for the view that is affected.
- Step 4 assess the reasonableness of the proposal that is causing the impact.
- The final question to be asked is whether a more skilful design could provide the applicant with the same development potential and amenity and reduce the impact on the views of neighbours. If the answer to that question is no, then the view impact of the development would probably be considered acceptable and the view sharing reasonable.

With respect to Step 1, earlier within this report, the photographs have outlined the views from various perspectives has revealed that there are water views from the adjoining units to the north.

For the purposes of this assessment, the residential units to the north only are considered in detail given the earlier assessment, topography and direction of views.

With respect to Steps 2 and 3, the units experience the views from the rear (south) of the units, including an open deck area at the rear/side (wrap around south and east), adjacent to the subject site. This is the main external living areas and as the dwelling's living areas as set back further from the boundary, no loss of view is likely from the inside of those areas of the dwelling. The deck may experience a reduction in views of the water as shown in the photographs above, however it is expected given the views are over private land which is capable of being developed and some water views are maintained. The south-western views are maintained, which is an equally important view. Therefore, views will still be available from principal living areas and private open spaces.

With respect to Step 4, and having regard to the proposed development, the proposal is considered reasonable. The site could accommodate a larger, bulkier development than proposed and closer to the eastern boundary which would further obstruct views and result in a taller building due to topography, which would obstruct more views and has the potential to remove a large majority of water views. However, this is not what is proposed and the amended plans reduce further, and the building's siting and design is considered to be appropriate having regard to view sharing and reasonableness.

A more skilful design could not be achieved given the scaling back of the proposed residential flat building. The design allows for amenity for both properties to ensure views are shared through careful consideration.

The views experienced are over a vacant private parcel of land, which has provided borrowed amenity for the residents for a large number of years. Council's planning controls for the area have envisaged this form of density on this land and a varied design would likely result in some obstruction of views in order to achieve the desired planning outcome for this area.

It is important to acknowledge that Amended Plans reduce the size of the development footprint and therefore the view impact is also reduced further.

In summary, this assessment has considered the existing views and potential impacts from the change to views, as well as whether the proposed alterations and additions to the existing dwelling will unreasonably impact on views from adjoining property, in particular of the water. No whole views are obstructed and partial views, which may be minimally reduced, are maintained. Therefore, having regard to the Planning Principle, the view impact of the proposed development is considered acceptable and the view sharing reasonable and equitable.



Environmentally Sustainable Development

The proposal incorporates passive solar design principles, which will allow for the units to enjoy levels of thermal comfort and to minimise the reliance on mechanical ventilation, heating and cooling. Refer to accompanying BASIX documentation.

The building responds to the desired future character of the area for higher density in a landscaped setting, as outlined in the LEP and DCP specifically for Windmill Hill. This area has been identified for urban regeneration, which is more sustainable than further urban sprawl and is important for the Port Macquarie region to efficiently utilise existing residential land.

Waste Management

The development will provide appropriate best practice facilities for removal of waste. Provision has been made for a dedicated waste storage and collection area within the site and will be serviced by private waste contractors.

A dedicated service vehicle / waste collection bay is proposed at the front of the site, accessed off the driveway (within the easement) once into the development. This ensures no overhang onto the street or conflict with pedestrians on Pacific Drive. The service bay has been designed to accommodate a service vehicle as advised by the local waste contractor JR Richards. The local waste contractor has advised that the site can be services by a Small Rigid Vehicle and swept paths have been included to demonstrate this can occur on site.

Given the low usage of the waste collection bay (e.g. likely 1 a week waste collection), off peak time usage of the bay likely and the short period of time for use, there is no expected to be a conflict between private vehicles and service vehicles. Pedestrians will be able to utilise this area at times when not in use and the materials, finishes and landscaping proposed ensure a satisfactory appearance from the street. The waste collection area will remain open and appear as paved area at the front of the site for the large majority of the time.

Structural Design

Accompanying this application is a Structural Report with respect to the proposed development, and the comments provided within the report have been considered by the Architect in the submitted plans and will be refined further as part of the building construction design post consent.

Assessment of the Site Suitability – Section 4.15 (1)(c)

Social Impact & Crime Prevention

This Social Impact Comment has been prepared at the request of Port Macquarie Hastings Council. The purpose of the Statement is to assess the social impacts which may result from the construction and operation of a Residential Flat Building at Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie. Council has requested a Social Impact Comment to be included within the SEE. The following comment below has been prepared in accordance with the intent of Port Macquarie Hastings Social Impact Assessment Policy.

Accessibility of Development

The proposed development will be accessible from the public domain and the basement via lifts and pathways and incorporates a number of adaptable units, being G01, G02, G03 and G09. If a resident of the unit has special needs their homes will be constructed to cater for them. Lift access will be provided to all apartment levels and the basements, linking every floor with the street level and basement. The lobbies at ground level will present as clearly articulated entries to the residential buildings providing a welcoming and secure environment for residents and their guests.



• Common Areas and Shared Facilities

Access to the basement is limited to residents and their visitors only. The proposal also included common areas and shared facilities in the form of open space. These common areas and shared facilities may be facilitated by a corporate body for the entire development.

Residents residing within the units have chosen to do so for the peaceful environmental attributes of the site and location with respect to the coast, walkways and town.

• Need for the Development

There is a greater demand for alternative living arrangements and diversity of housing stock and various sized units and bedroom mixes.

The proposed development is designed to accommodate residents choosing a certain lifestyle which has a lower level of maintenance with shared facilities rather than being single dwellings with its own backyard. Benefits can include the unit that is easily maintained, in a private and secure environment with people of a similar life stage.

The proposed development will provide alternative housing stock for people who wish to downsize from their existing home or relocate to Port Macquarie, single, couples or new entries into the market. Port Macquarie provides a vast range of community and government facilities/services for all ranges of ages.

• Services

The proposed development will have access to a variety of commercial and community services and facilities. It is expected that all the existing community and government services would have capacity to service the needs of the residents.

An audit of current services and facilities located within the Port Macquarie area is not deemed necessary for the proposed development. Port Macquarie is an urban regional centre which is serviced by a large range of government agencies and community services. These services would be made available to all Port Macquarie residents.

• Resident's Demographic Profile

Port Macquarie could be classified as an urban regional community with a population of 44,830. It is located within the Port Macquarie Hastings LGA which has a population of 78,539 (2016 Census). According to the ABS Census in 2011 40% of the population of Port Macquarie Hastings was 50 years and older. This figure increased to 47.5% in 2016.

NSW Planning and Environment's *NSW Population and Household Projections* forecasts a projected increase of 18,550 residents to the Port Macquarie area between 2011 and 2036. Of this 18,550 14,600 will be 50 years and over. This increase in older people indicates a change of age demographics for the LGA.

Throughout Australia proportionately more people aged 50 years and over live in small towns than major cities.

The upgrades to the Pacific Highway have presented the Port Macquarie area with new opportunities. The improved travel safety and reduced travel times makes the Port Macquarie area more accessible and more attractive to those looking for a both a sea and tree change.

• Housing Diversity & Cohesion

Diversity in housing prices is an important part of community infrastructure that supports community wellbeing and social and economic sustainability and strong and inclusive communities, including supporting a diverse labour market and economy.



The nature of the development will encourage social cohesion amongst residents of the development. The demographics of the residents will result in similar characteristics – these could include age, income, life experiences and education.

In relation to the existing community cohesion it is envisaged that the residents will assimilate with their peers and other residents currently residing in the Port Macquarie and surrounding area. Given that the units will cater for a range of ages and demographics it would be likely that community cohesion could expand into the general community. Given the close proximity of service Clubs and community facilities could also act as a conductor for creating positive community cohesion between all Port Macquarie residents.

• Character & Identity

The proposed development is not expected to create a negative impact on the neighbourhood character or identity given its consistency for the planning of the area and mix of housing types in existence.

• Economic

This development is expected to increase the population living in Port Macquarie. The more people in the area will increase retail and economic demand and the flow on effect expected to contribute to Port Macquarie and real estate values.

The proposed development is providing diversity of housing stock for the Port Macquarie area. The proposed development is not expected to decrease housing prices within the area.

According to NSW Treasury Economic Update (September 2013),

"NSW Treasury estimates that for every \$1 million spent on extra residential construction, a possible \$2.5 million would be generated in the overall economy. The spending would give rise to an additional three full-time jobs in the construction industry and a total of eight full-time jobs in the overall economy."

The total construction cost of the proposed development, being the roads, enabling infrastructure, community facilities and homes is estimated to be approximately \$23 million. Using the information provided by NSW Treasury the proposed development will generate \$57.5 million to the overall economy. In addition, full-time construction jobs and flow on jobs in the overall economy will be created.

The proposed development will create a positive economic effect on the local community.

• Safety

With respect to safety of the development, access to the building and basement car parking will be limited to prevent those not invited to access the site and only available for residents and their visitors.

Port Macquarie contains a mix of residential developments and environmental areas. Port Macquarie presents as a quiet and idyllic place to live. All residents will be expected to behave in an acceptable manner.

The proposed development has been planned and designed around the principals of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). NSW Police Force's publication "Safer By Design" suggests that the use of CPTED principals "reduces opportunities for crime by using design and place management principles that reduce the likelihood of essential crime ingredients (law, offender, victim or target, opportunity) from intersecting in time and space".

CPTED is a strategy that looks at the planning, design and structure of a proposed development and opportunities for crime. The aim of a CPTED is to minimise crime risk opportunities of a development and it's surrounds through an assessment of design and place management principles.



There are four CPTED Principles that must be considered in the assessment of a development to minimise the opportunity for crime. These include:

- **Surveillance** occurs through natural, technical and formal measures that allow people to see what others are doing in public spaces. They assist in contributing to people feeling safe in a place as well as the deterrence of crime.
- Access Control is the restriction or attraction of movements of people out of and around developments. Access control measures increase the effort required to commit crime. Access Control occurs through natural, technical/mechanical and formal control measures.
- **Territorial Reinforcement** relates to the distinction between public and private property using actual and symbolic boundary markers, spatial legibility and environmental cues. Territorial reinforcement encourages community responsibility, identifies the use of a space and distinguishes who should/should not be within such space.
- Activity and Space Management relates to how spaces are used and maintained to maximise community safety. Space management involves the formal supervision, control and care of a development.

The following principles should be considered in the planning stage of the proposed development to further improve the safety and security of the subject site:

Surveillance

The proposed development will contribute to natural surveillance of the streets from windows of dwellings which overlook the internal streets.

Recommendations

- Dwellings should have windows which face to the street and communal areas for casual surveillance;
- Landscaping should not give rise to concealment opportunities or obstruct natural surveillance;
- Vegetation should be maintained to avoid concealment opportunities or obstruction of natural surveillance;
- Adequate lighting should be provided to key entry points, pathways, carparking areas and other communal spaces; and
- Appropriate fencing to allow for passive surveillance in and out of the development.

Access Control

The proposed vehicular and pedestrian entry access point is to be from Pacific Drive.

Recommendations

The following measures should be considered for incorporation into the proposed development:

- Signage at entry points to the subject site should be erected stating 'Private Property' an indicate visitor parking is within the basement;
- Way finding signage should be erected identifying areas of restricted access and communal spaces;
- Emergency exits should be installed in accordance with relevant legislation and policies;
- Access to the basement and within the building will should only be via key/swipe card; and
- The entire property should be fenced to ensure a good presentation and allow a balance between security and transparency.

Territorial Reinforcement



Recommendations

To distinguish between private and public areas the following measures should be implemented:

- Landscaping and fencing around the development area will create a clear boundary between public space and the privately-owned caravan park;
- Access points should be legible; and
- Signs and location markers should be clear, legible and useful.

Space Management

Appropriate space management principals will ensure areas are used and maintained to maximise community safety.

Recommendations

The following measures should be adopted to ensure the formal supervision, control and care of a development:

- Regular maintenance of landscaping and facilities should occur;
- Establish vegetation buffer areas which will prevent unauthorised access to the premises and anti-social behaviour;
- A rapid removal policy for vandalism repair and removal of graffiti should be employed;
- Garbage bins should be located away from entrances, communal areas and out of general sight
- The POM should state "any criminal activity will not be accepted within the caravan park and will be reported to the local police."

Overall Crime Assessment

By following the recommendations, it is unlikely that the proposed development will result in any significant increase of crime activity but could potentially contribute towards the greater security and crime prevention in the Port Macquarie area.

Social Impact Comment Impact Assessment

This Social Impact Comment aims to analyse and manage the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of the proposed development.

• Positive Social Impacts

Below are the identified positive social impacts of the development:

- 1. Provision of a variety of housing in the Port Macquarie area;
- 2. Development site is within proximity to commercial, recreation and community services;
- 3. Increased economic and social benefits to local businesses from new population;
- 4. Enrichment of the local community by supporting a diversity of population; and
- 5. Provision of housing stock diversity in Port Macquarie, consistent with previous planning for the area including UGMS and DCP.

• Negative Social Impacts

Below are the identified negative social impacts of the development:

- 1. Impacts on existing social cohesion of the existing community;
- 2. Risk perception within the existing community;
- 3. Increased concentration of people in close proximity to each other and other local residents;



- 4. Increased traffic and impact on road safety in local area; and
- 5. Impact on the existing character/identity of the local area.

This Social Impact Comment aims to analyse and manage the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of the proposed development.

From a review of the submissions, the following issues has been raised as a negative impacts during the community notification:

- Traffic and parking and safety of cyclists and pedestrians
- Ecology, in particular koalas
- Size and scale of the development and character
- Amenity impacts
- Reduced property values
- Drainage

The proposed building design and layout provides for areas of open space, which assists with providing amenity where there is a concentration of people in close proximity to each other and other local residents. The resulting design creates precincts within the development and provides connection by pathways to the coastal walk to the east, as well as onto other facilities such as town centre, recreational facilities and beaches, which creates a liveable community.

The net benefit to the community in allowing new residential development is the key contribution to provision of a liveable community. The development makes provision for new housing and the new footpath along the frontage of the site will be a benefit for the existing community and addresses safety concerns.

The existing public transport is currently available to all members of the public. The residents of the development will be able to access the existing system.

Sewer, water, electricity and phone services will be made available to all sites. The existing service providers will have no difficulty in providing these services.

The following services are within close proximity (distances have been measured from subject site to destination by road) to the subject site:

- Port Macquarie District Hospital approximately 4.5km from subject site;
- Port Macquarie Business District approximately 1.5km from the subject site

The subject site is ideally located to ensure residents have easy access to existing services and facilities.

The provision of infrastructure encourages the areas capacity for growth.

Local character/identity is important, especially to long term residents of an area. However, the growth of a town, additional housing stock, the possibility of increased property values if the new development is well designed and complements existing housing, and a diversity of population groups is also important. The planning which occurred for the area by Council identifies this site and surrounds for redevelopment opportunity to achieve higher densities. The LEP controls which allow Residential Flat Buildings and indicate height and floor space controls reflect this higher density. The proposal is considered to be of a scale that is in keeping with the future development of the surrounding built environment of the transitioning area and provides a gradual transition of building height to surrounding future development.

Properties currently adjoining the subject site may experience some loss of lifestyle with regards to outlook than others. While some trees will be removed to accommodate the proposed development, replanting is to occur. The loss of lifestyle regarding outlook is expected to be minimal.



Every effort has been made to restrict negative impacts on the environment. Recommendations of the Arborist and Ecology Report have been taken into consideration in the design features of the proposed development.

The subject site is located within a bush fire prone area. The proposed development will comply with the principals of "Planning for Bush Fire".

The exterior appearance of the buildings will be maintained in an excellent condition.

The proposed development will be incorporated to reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour. It is unlikely that the proposed development will result in any significant increase of crime activity but could potentially contribute towards the greater security and crime prevention in the Port Macquarie area.

Factual supporting documentation is difficult to obtain regarding the matter of increasing/decreasing real estate values as a result of the proposed development. These is no common formula for establishing if a proposed development will decrease the value of adjoining properties unless a valuation of before and after the development has been completed can be undertaken.

The loss of amenity may result in reduced property values for those properties adjoining the proposed development site in the short term. However, if the proposed development is well designed and complements existing housing it is a possibility that surrounding property values will increase.

Based on the fact that the proposed development will provide additional housing stock for the Port Macquarie area it is expected that the development will have a positive impact on housing prices within the local area. That is, the proposed development could lead to increased employment opportunities, increased provision for leisure activities and upgrades to infrastructure, which would provide a positive impact on existing house values and should not create a negative impact on adjoining property.

Each dwelling allows the resident to have their own private open space as well as access to communal areas including outside seating and bbq areas, rooftop terrace and inside communal rooms. This provides residents with options to suit their individual circumstances and allows residents to have a sense of belonging.

The proposed development will provide both residential and visitor parking. Each unit will have carparking within the basement, as too will visitor carparking. The provision of both resident and visitor parking will ensure that parking will not create a negative impact on the development or surrounding residents. The car parking areas provided on site will be in excess of Council's DCP requirements. Each unit has allocated parking, as detailed on the draft Strata Subdivision Plan.

The proposed development meets 'Neighbourhood Planning Principle' as public transport and social infrastructure are already in place and are able to accommodate the needs of the proposed development.

Net Benefit is defined as "having an overall positive impact on relevant communities".

This Social Impact Comment has identified a number of areas in which the proposed development has an overall positive impact on the Port Macquarie area.

This Social Impact Comment has been prepared to address relevant social planning issues for the proposed development. The proposed development is deemed appropriate as:

- It is envisaged that the residents will assimilate with their fellow residents and the general population.
- Positive community cohesion between all Port Macquarie residents can be achieved.
- It is unlikely that the proposed development will result in any significant increase of crime activity but could potentially contribute towards the greater security and crime prevention in the Port Macquarie area.
- While measures can be implemented to promote a safe environment for residents, residents must also be responsible in ensuring they act in a responsible and safe manner at all times.



- There is a genuine need for 'reasonably priced' housing within Port Macquarie.
- The proposed development is not expected to decrease housing prices within the area.
- Integration between residents within the development is expected to be positive.
- The proposed development will create a positive economic effect on the local community.
- The proposed development will have access to water, sewer, electricity, internet and telephone services.
- Local commercial businesses have the capacity to service the proposed development.
- Diversity of housing stock will be achieved through the proposed development, with a mix of unit sizes and bedroom numbers.
- The development site is within close proximity to commercial, community, public transport recreation and environmental areas.
- Enrichment of the local community by supporting a diversity of population.

The Social Impact Comment concludes that the proposed development will not have unreasonable/ negative social impacts in the locality. A range of measures are proposed to mitigate impacts in the locality.

Further comment has been provided below regarding housing mix, which reinforces that with respect to unit mix, the demographics of Port Macquarie dictate the demand for 2 and 3 bedroom units, with a larger percentage of older people who are downsizing, or couples without children. It is less desirable for families to reside in units in Port Macquarie and the preference is for single dwellings, closer to the various schools which are away from the central Port Macquarie area. Census 2016 data (source: https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/):

- The median age of people in Port Macquarie (State Suburbs) was 47 years. Children aged 0 14 years made up 16.6% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 28.0% of the population.
- Of the families in Port Macquarie (State Suburbs), 33.2% were couple families with children, 48.4% were couple families without children and 17.3% were one parent families.
- Of occupied private dwellings in Port Macquarie (State Suburbs), 64.8% were separate houses, 17.3% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses etc, 16.0% were flat or apartments and 1.5% were other dwellings.
- In Port Macquarie (State Suburbs), of occupied private dwellings 4.4% had 1 bedroom, 22.9% had 2 bedrooms and 42.1% had 3 bedrooms. The average number of bedrooms per occupied private dwelling was 3. The average household size was 2.3 people.
- In Port Macquarie (State Suburbs), of all households, 65.8% were family households, 30.7% were single person households and 3.6% were group households.

The proposed unit mix is considered to be in accordance with Objective 4K-1 the ADG.

The location of the site along Pacific Dr is ideal for proximity to the CBD for work and shopping, recreation and beaches.

However, for families, there are limited school opportunities in close proximity of the site and would require travel, with more children attending independent schools in the area than government schools. This reflects the desire for families to live out of the central Port Macquarie area, closer to the schools.

- 800m to Hastings Secondary College
- 1.6km to Port Macquarie Primary School
- 2.9km to Hastings Primary School
- 4.3km to Mackillop College
- 8km to St Columba Anglican School
- 8.4km to The Nature School
- 10kms to the site of the new Steiner School
- 12kms to St Joseph's Regional Secondary College



The market demands have units increasing in price at the same rate as single dwellings, therefore not making unit living a more affordable option. Port Macquarie also has a large tourist population, as well as increasing student population, both which are transient and utilise units.

The revised design has provided for a mix of units as follows:

- 6 x 1 bedroom (14%)
- 26 x 2 bedroom (59%)
- 12 x 3 bedroom (27%)

The revised design provides a central area of open space, which is a focal point for the residents and highly usable. New landscape plans are being prepared which address the revised design. Further, both buildings utilise a rooftop Common Open Space, which is encouraged by the ADG. The roof top terraces have weather protection and have been embellished with a focus to the east.

The revised plan provides a direct, safe and equitable access from the street to the building and all areas of open space.

Therefore, the proposed unit mix is considered suitable for the location and demographics of the area.

Proximity to Services & Infrastructure

All services are available to the site and will be extended to the proposed allotments. The demands of the development on utility supplies are reasonable given the urban context and the availability and location of all required servicing. All installations will meet the requirements of Council, Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia.

With respect to drainage, post developed flows from the site are equal to or less than predeveloped flows for ARI events up to the 1% event and the corner of the site will have less runoff than the predevelopment condition. The Groundwater Report and Stormwater Management Plan have been updated in this Rev H submission to support this position. The proposed development includes on-site detention which is located under the driveway and allows for discharge to Pacific Drive and a pump out pit/sump has been incorporated into the development on the southern side, within the basement.

Traffic, Parking & Access

A complying number of parking spaces are proposed on-site for each unit, as outlined in the DCP assessment. Access to the site is proposed to the existing Pacific Drive. The existing roads will service the units and no new road construction is required.

The Traffic & Parking Assessment submitted with the application considers the existing and proposed traffic generation, and it is anticipated that the road network within the area will have sufficient capacity, with the report stating, *"is not anticipated to generate any adverse impacts on the existing traffic conditions (3.5% increase in daily trips)."* The assessment also notes that this proposal aligns with the Windmill Hill Precinct within Council's planning documents and the associated LEP controls with respect to increased density.

The entry and exit to Pacific Drive is also considered within the assessment and the one consolidated vehicular entry point is supported. Sufficient room for queuing is anticipated based on the design.

Based on the assessment, the proposal does not result in the need for new traffic works. This was supported in the assessment by Council Officers.



With respect to parking, the development proposes spaces well in excess of the required spaces under the DCP and includes accessible spaces. In addition, bicycle spaces are proposed and motorcycle spaces. All visitor spaces are provided at lower ground floor and access to the basement levels is via a pedestrian ramp or lifts.

A dedicated service vehicle / waste collection bay is proposed at the front of the site, accessed off the driveway once into the development. This ensures no overhang onto the street or conflict with pedestrians on Pacific Drive. The service bay has been designed to accommodate a service vehicle as advised by the local waste contractor JR Richards, being a small rigid vehicle.

The car parking layout as detailed on the Architectural Plans has been reviewed with respect to compliance with AS 2890.1-2004, as discussed in detail in the Traffic & Parking Assessment and swept paths analysis as an appendix to that report.

Accessibility

Accessible car parking and ramps have been proposed within the development, which allows for disabled access throughout the development, including from the street to the entry and the basement and via lifts to the units. The proposal incorporates a number of adaptable units, being G01, G02, G03 and G09.

Hazards

The subject land is not identified as flood affected nor does it contain acid sulfate soils. The subject land is identified as bushfire prone and a Bushfire Hazard Assessment accompanies this application which recommends asset protection zones, water provision, landscaping principals and driveway construction details.

Overall Suitability

The site is considered to be suitable for new housing as it is located in an existing residential area and has no unmanageable constraints. The proposal is suitable for the subject land and provides additional housing stock. The proposal is a permissible land use and has been designed to complement the character locality. There are no hazardous land uses or activities nearby and the site is well appointed with respect to public transport.

The proposed development is considered to be compatible with the future desired character of the surrounding area and the R3 zoning for housing. The site is primarily cleared of vegetation and does not contain constraints which preclude development. The slope of the land has been addressed through the design of the development. The proposed built form is an anticipated form of development envisioned in the LEP controls for the locality.

Submissions made in accordance with the Act or Regulations – Section 4.15 (1)(d)

Port Macquarie Hastings Council as the Consent authority will consider any submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the amended development after submission. Following the notification period, any issues of public interest will be known and can be considered and addressed.

The Public Interest – Section 4.15 (1)(e)

It is considered there are no matters of public interest pertaining to the proposal which will facilitate the orderly and efficient use of land within the area which has been zoned for residential accommodation. The proposal provides an opportunity for more choice of housing in the market. The development of the site will improve the supply of housing in the Port Macquarie region, in accordance with the regional strategies.



The proposed housing form is proposed to accommodate market demands from a particular sector of the market. Overall, the proposal provides positive social, economic and environmental outcomes that will positively contribute to Port Macquarie and the overall Port Macquarie region. All environmental impacts are able to be sufficiently mitigated to minimise disturbance to surrounding land uses. The design has had regard to the amenity of the surrounding properties, including views. The proposal is therefore considered to be in the general interest of the public and will not conflict with the character or amenity of the surrounding region. The proposal is considered within the public interest as it will assist with housing shortage issues and housing targets as a result of increasing populations in the locality. In view of the above, it is considered that development of the site as proposed would create public benefit.

There are no known Federal and/or State Government policy statements and/or strategies other than those discussed in this report that are of relevance to this particular development proposal.

The proposed development is unlikely to result in any adverse social or economic effects in the locality. The proposal has been designed to respect the surrounding built form and amenity of residents. It is considered the proposal is in the public interest and of benefit to both Port Macquarie and the wider region.

7. CONCLUSION

This application has been considered against the relevant provisions of the Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 including relevant State Environmental Planning Policies, Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Environmental Plan 2011 and Port Macquarie-Hastings Development Control Plan 2013 and the proposed development is consistent with legislation and Council's controls.

The site is currently zoned R3 Medium Density Residential under the Port Macquarie Hastings LEP 2011, which allows the proposed Residential Flat Building and associated works and Strata Subdivision with consent. The proposed development layout is in keeping with the existing and proposed residential character of the area and the site constraints have been resolved within the design. The likely impacts have been considered and found to be satisfactory and the site is suitable for the proposed development and the proposal is in the public interest. On balance, a good planning outcome has been achieved. No unmanageable issues were identified in relation to transport, visual and acoustic privacy, heritage, flooding, bushfire, flora and fauna or the provision of utilities. The development is proposed on the cleared or disturbed portion of site, in an area zoned for residential purposes.

The comprehensive assessment undertaken has found the following:

- The amended layout and building design of the proposal responds to the site conditions, taking into consideration the site topography/ height limits, the current and future character and scale of the surrounding residential area.
- The proposal includes landscape provisions to enhance the visual amenity of the site and integrate the proposed development into the site and surrounding area and assist in providing screening and a high level of amenity for all future residents.
- The variation to the height limit is discernible and will not adversely impact upon the bulk and scale of the development or amenity and has no relation to view loss.
- The proposed development of the site has been assessed and informed by a team of specialist consultants including Architecture, Building Code Australia, Civil Engineering, Hydraulic, Electrical, Acoustic, Waste Management, Bushfire, Geotechnical, Ecology, Arborist, Landscaping and Town Planning advice. The supporting reports and plans are included with the application and conclude the proposal is appropriate for the site.



On this basis, it is considered that the proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives and provisions of applicable planning instruments and suitable for the site and will have minimal negative impact. For all of the above reasons, in our opinion, the proposal is an appropriate development for the subject site, and we seek Council's support for this application.

8. APPENDICES

	DA Document / Plan (as referenced as Appendix in SEE)	Updated
1	Architectural Plan Set by Dickson Rothschild dated 20 June 2022, Rev E	Yes
2	Design Verification & ADG Compliance Table by Dickson Rothschild dated 22 June 2022, Rev C	Yes
3	Landscape Concept Plans by Land Dynamics Australia dated 21 June 2022, Rev F	Yes
4	Stormwater Management Plan & Appendices by Land Dynamics Australia dated 14 June 2022,	Yes
	Document No. 5115 SWMP Rev H and Modelling	
5	Geotechnical Investigation by EI Australia dated 31 May 2022, E24947.G03_Rev 1	Yes
6	Traffic & Parking Assessment by Building Innovations Australia dated 14/6/2022, Report Issue v5.0, PRO-05848-B4F9	Yes
7	Acoustic Report by Acoustic Logic dated 11/5/2022, Rev 3, 20210011.1/1105A/R3/WY	Yes
8	BASIX Certificate, Assessor Certificate & Stamped Plans dated 13 May 2022	Yes
9	Structural Report by PTC Consulting Engineers dated 6/6/22, Rev 7, S20244401-RPT-1	Yes
10	BCA & Access Assessment by Building Innovations Australia dated 13/5/2022, Rev 2.2, PRO-05842-N3H5	Yes
11	Waste Management Plan by Elephant Foot dated 4/05/2022, Report No. SO855, Revision E	Yes
12	Development Control Plan Compliance Table by Land Dynamics Australia, Rev D dated 12 May 2022	Yes
13	Plan of Consolidation by Land Dynamics Australia undated, ref 5115StG2	Yes
14	Fire Engineering Letter by BCA Innovations dated 13 May 2022, PRO-07523-T9J7	Yes
15	Clause 4.6 Variation dated 27 June 2022, Rev E	Yes
16	Strata Subdivision Plan Set, undated, Rev E	Yes
17	Draft Updated Easement Plan (Black & White and Coloured Version), 12 May 22 ref 5115EMT	Yes
18	Conceptual Plans demonstrating development potential of adjoining land, Rev F, dated 23/5/22	Yes
19	Survey Plan by Land Dynamics Australia, Rev E	no change
20	Koala Assessment by Biodiversity Australia	no change
21	Arborist Report by Arborist Letter by Land Dynamics Australia	no change
22	Arboriculture Impact Assessment Report & Addendum by The Tree MD	no change
23	Preliminary Site Investigation (Contamination) Assessment by EI Australia	no change
24	Bushfire Report by David Pensini - Building Certification and Environmental Services	no change
25	Electrical Design by Midstate Power	no change