

APPENDIX 7

Rapid Ecological Assessment

Linda Hewitt
Property Services Coordinator
Hawkesbury City Council

Ref/Job No: 18SYD-9804

20 September 2018

Dear Linda,

Brief Status Report - Seven Properties along Reynolds Road and The Driftway, Londonderry

Please find attached an extract from the Hawkesbury Strategic Planning Study, prepared for Council in August 2018. The extract describes a brief (rapid) assessment of a number of sites located in Londonderry to validate biodiversity prioritisation outcomes described in the strategic Planning Study.

The following seven properties owned by Hawkesbury Council were assessed:

- 2-8 Reynolds Road, Londonderry
- 2-6 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 18-24 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 26-32 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 34-40 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 42-48 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 50-56 The Driftway, Londonderry

Yours sincerely,



Robert Mezzatesta
Manager, Sydney

Pilot Sites – Rapid Assessment

An initial desktop assessment to determine key mapped biodiversity values was followed by a rapid visual investigation of the sites on 11 April 2018 to validate mapped information and briefly assess key habitat values in a landscape context.

Site assessment consisted of a rapid observation. No detailed vegetation or habitat survey was carried out.

Londonderry (7 parcels) (Penrith LGA)

- 2-8 Reynolds Road, Londonderry
- 2-6 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 18-24 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 26-32 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 34-40 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 42-48 The Driftway, Londonderry
- 50-56 The Driftway, Londonderry

2-8 Reynolds Rd Londonderry

Vegetation - The lot is mostly cleared and mainly comprises exotic ground cover species. A small area of disturbed Shale Plains Woodland exists along the northern boundary of the lot. This is consistent with Cumberland Plain Woodland, listed as a critically endangered ecological community under state (BC Act) and commonwealth (EPBC Act) legislation. An area of Alluvial woodland is present at the eastern end of the lot adjacent to a drainage line, which is consistent with River-Flat Eucalypt Forest listed as an endangered ecological community under the NSW BC Act.

Site Context - This site is adjacent to a Council reserve (identified as a core and corridor biodiversity investment opportunity area) which provides connectivity to a larger area of vegetation in good condition (**Figure 1**). There is potential opportunity to carry out vegetation regeneration on the lot to enhance the adjoining reserve but this will require a high level of management to achieve.

No threatened species have been recorded on site and habitat for threatened species was observed to be of low quality.

2-6 The Driftway Londonderry

Vegetation – this lot is dominated by exotic vegetation (Pine forest).

Site context – the lot has minimal connectivity opportunities.

No threatened species have been recorded on site.

18-24 The Driftway Londonderry

Vegetation - southern portion of the lot includes a small patch (0.5ha) of scattered and disturbed Shale Plains woodland with no understorey and mowed groundcover of exotic grasses.

Site context – very low viability and limited connectivity value.

No threatened species have been recorded on site and habitat for threatened species was observed to be of low quality.

26-32 The Driftway Londonderry

Vegetation – north western corner of the lot includes some scattered and disturbed Shale Plains woodland comprising 2-3 mature isolated trees with no native groundcover or understorey (exotic grass).

Site context - associated with roadside vegetation only with limited connectivity and low viability.

No threatened species have been recorded on site and habitat for threatened species was observed to be of low quality.

34-40 The Driftway Londonderry

Vegetation – scattered and disturbed Shale Plains woodland occurs in three small clumps of trees through the lot with no understorey and a mowed groundcover of exotic grass.

Site context - some connection with roadside plantings on The Driftway, but limited connectivity and low viability.

No threatened species have been recorded on site and habitat for threatened species was observed to be of low quality.

42-48 The Driftway Londonderry

Vegetation – the northern end of the lot includes 2-3 mature trees of Shale Plains woodland with no understorey and a mowed groundcover of exotic grass.

Site context – the trees on site are associated with roadside vegetation only and the lot has limited connectivity values.

No threatened species have been recorded on site and habitat for threatened species was observed to be of low quality.

50-56 The Driftway Londonderry

Vegetation - Single isolated tree at the northern boundary of the property with no understorey & mowed groundcover exotic grass.

Site context - associated with roadside vegetation only with limited connectivity values.

No threatened species have been recorded on site and habitat for threatened species was observed to be of low quality.

Limitations:

- Initial vegetation mapping is based on Hawkesbury Council Vegetation mapping (2007) VIS_ID 3958. Available. [online]:
 - https://data.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/hawkesbury-city-council-vegetation-mapping-2007-vis_id-3958c2c4b
- Biodiversity investment opportunities mapping is from OEH (2016) Cumberland Subregion BIO Map Biodiversity Corridors of Regional Significance. Dataset. Available. [online].
 - <http://data.environment.nsw.gov.au/dataset/1837a0f3-3f9e-474b-87fc-325e641adfc>
- A BioNet atlas (atlas of NSW wildlife) search to identify threatened species sightings was carried out in March 2018.
- Survey consisted of observation of each site from publicly accessible areas
- There was no detailed validation of vegetation types
- There was no detailed species habitat assessment carried out on site



Figure 1: Biodiversity Values