BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

LOT 6 DP 229296 GARFIELD ROAD EAST, RIVERSTONE

(REFERENCE NUMBER: 20213007)

For:

ORION CONSULTING C-/0 LANDEN PROPERTY GROUP

August 2021

Final Report

Enviro Ecology PO Box 345, Ourimbah 2250

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1. Introduction

Enviro Ecology has been commissioned by Mr Steven Johnstone of Orion Consulting C-/O Landen Property Group to prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)in support of construction of a large format retail building, including car parking, deceleration lane, landscaping and associated works (Figure 1-2) over Lot 6 DP 229296 Garfield Road East, Riverstone NSW within Blacktown City LGA.

1.1. Aims and objectives Roles and Responsibilities for the implementation of the BMP

This BMP has been prepared to outline and describe how Linden Property Group will, during the construction of the Project, comply with the Project's Conditions of Consent (CoC) and manage and minimise impacts to biodiversity. Additionally, it outlines how Landen Property Group will minimise environmental risks and achieve environmental outcomes on the Project by providing a structured approach to ensure appropriate management mitigation measures and controls are implemented.

The primary aim of this BMP is to provide a working document for the management of the Biodiversity within "BMP area". The purpose of this Plan is to describe how impacts on biodiversity will be minimised and managed during construction of the Project.

The key objective of the BMP is to ensure that impacts to biodiversity are minimised and are within the scope permitted by the planning approval. To achieve this objective, the following will be undertaken:

• Ensure controls and procedures are implemented during site establishment, construction, and road work activities to avoid, minimise or manage potential adverse impacts to biodiversity within and adjacent to the project area

• Ensure appropriate measures are implemented to address the mitigation measures detailed in the biodiversity development assessment report and Council Biodiversity Management Plan Guidelines.

• Ensure measures are implemented to comply with all relevant legislation and other requirements as described in this Plan

1.2. Targets

The desired overarching environmental performance outcome for biodiversity management is that impacts to biodiversity values are minimised as far as practicable during construction. The following targets have been established for the management of biodiversity impacts during the

Project:

- Ensure full compliance with the relevant legislative requirements
- Ensure full compliance with relevant requirements of the conditions of approval
- No disturbance to biodiversity outside the construction footprint
- Minimise disturbance to biodiversity within the project area
- No increase in distribution of environmental weeds currently existing within the project area
- No new environmental weeds introduced to the project area
- No fauna mortality during clearing and construction
- No pollution or siltation of aquatic ecosystems, endangered ecological communities or threatened species habitat

1.1.1. Terminology

This report uses the following terminology:

- Subject property-BMP Area Lot 6 DP 229296 Garfield Road East, Riverstone NSW which is defined as the yellow boundary on the aerial photograph see (Figure 1.1);
- BC Act abbreviates the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016;
- EPBC Act abbreviates the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;
- EP&A Act abbreviates the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
- LGA abbreviates Local Government Area;
- Threatened species refers to those flora and fauna species listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered under the BC Act or EPBC Act
- BMPA abbreviates Biodiversity Management Plan Area defined by the area of land (Figure 1-1);
- DPIE abbreviates Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (NSW);
- Threatened species refers to those flora and fauna species listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered under the BC Act or EPBC Act; and
- WSUD abbreviates Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Figure 1-1 Subject property & BMP area







Figure 1-2 Proposed Development



Figure 1-3 Proposed Development



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1.1 Site Description

The planning and cadastral details of the BMP area are provided in (Table 1-1). The BMP area is bordered by Garfield Road to the north, east by Clarke Street and to the east and south by bio certified lands (Figure 1-1).

Table 1-1 Site details

Location	Lot 6 DP 229296 Garfield Road East, Rouse Hill
LGA	Blacktown City
Aspect	North-south
Vegetation	Cleared land with exotic pasture & remnant PCT 835-Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion

2. Environmental requirements

2.1 Relevant Legislation and Guidelines

2.1.1 Legislation

Legislation relevant to biodiversity management includes:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act)
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 BC Act)
- Bio-security Act 2015 (NW Act)
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act)

2.1.2 Guidelines

The main guidelines, specifications and policy documents relevant to this Plan include:

- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. 2001. Policy for the Translocation of Threatened Fauna in NSW: Policy and Procedure Statement No. 9 Threatened Species Unit, Hurstville NSW
- Relevant recovery plans, priority action statements and best practice guidelines.

3. Environmental requirements

3.1 Existing Environment

3.1.1 Vegetation mapping

Two vegetation mapping projects have mapped vegetation within and adjacent to the subject property, these are: A Revised Classification and Map for the Coast and Eastern Tablelands. Revised Native Vegetation Maps of the Cumberland Plain - Western Sydney (Department of Planning, Industry & Environment 2015) & The Revised Classification and Map for the Coast and Eastern Tablelands vegetation (Tozer, Turner et al. 2010).

The subject property was mapped as containing plant community type (PCT) 724 Broadleaved Ironbark - Grey Box - Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion & PCT 849 Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.

3.2 Vegetation communities

Three vegetation communities: PCT 835 Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion, PCT 849 Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion and Cleared/Exotic Grassland occur within the BMP area (Figure 3-1). Detailed descriptions of these communities have been provided below.

3.2.1 PCT 835 Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion

PCT 835 Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion community was the dominate vegetation type identified from within the BMP area (Figure 3-3).

The canopy was dominated by *Eucalyptus amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum), *Eucalyptus teriticornis* (Forest Red Gum) with the occasional occurrence of *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak). Canopy trees ranged in height from approximately 8-18m. The projected foliage cover (PFC) of the canopy ranged from >5-45%.

No native shrubs were recorded from this community.

The groundcover was dominated by the following exotic species: *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Kikuyu Grass), *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldtgrass), *Gamochaeta americana* (American Cudweed), Plantago lanceolata (Lamb's Tongues), *Onopordum acanthium* and *Verbena bonariensis* (Purpletop). Exotic ground layer was to a height of 0.1-.0.4m with a PFC of <80%.

Native groundcover species were primarily absent from this community with the following species recorded: *Cynodon dactylon* (Common Couch), *Dichondra repens* (Kidney Weed), *Oxalis perennans, Poranthera microphylla, Dichondra repens* & *Viola hederacea* (Native Violet). Native ground layer was to a height of 0.1-0.2m with a PFC of <20%.

Two exotic climbing species *Araujia sericifera* (Moth Vine) & *Asparagus aethiopicus* (Asparagus Fern) were recorded from the northern fence line adjacent to Garfield Road East.



Photograph 3-1 PCT 835 from the subject property

Photograph 3-2 PCT 835 from the subject property



Photograph 3-3 PCT 835 from the subject property



3.2.2 PCT 849 Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion

PCT 849 Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion community was the dominate native vegetation type identified from within the BMP area (Figure 3-3).

The canopy was dominated by *Eucalyptus mollucanna* (Grey Box), *Eucalyptus teriticornis* (Forest Red Gum) with the occasional occurrence of *Eucalyptus amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum). Canopy trees ranged in height from approximately 7-18m. The projected foliage cover (PFC) of the canopy ranged from >5-35%.

No native shrubs were recorded from this community.

The groundcover was dominated by the following exotic species: *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Kikuyu Grass), *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldtgrass), *Gamochaeta americana* (American Cudweed), Plantago lanceolata (Lamb's Tongues), *Onopordum acanthium* and *Verbena bonariensis* (Purpletop). Exotic ground layer was to a height of 0.1-.0.4m with a PFC of <80%.

Native groundcover species were primarily absent from this community with the following species recorded: *Cynodon dactylon* (Common Couch), *Dichondra repens* (Kidney Weed), *Oxalis perennans, Poranthera microphylla, Dichondra repens* & *Viola hederacea* (Native Violet). Native ground layer was to a height of 0.1-0.2m with a PFC of <20%.

Two exotic climbing species *Araujia sericifera* (Moth Vine) & *Asparagus aethiopicus* (Asparagus Fern) were recorded from the northern fence line adjacent to Garfield Road East.



Photograph 3-4 PCT 849 from the subject property

Photograph 3-5 PCT 849 from the subject property



Photograph 3-6 PCT 849 from the subject property



3.2.3 Cleared/Exotic Grassland

Trees were absent from this community.

No native shrubs were recorded from this community.

The groundcover was dominated by the following exotic species: *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Kikuyu Grass), *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldtgrass), *Gamochaeta americana* (American Cudweed), Plantago lanceolata (Lamb's Tongues), *Onopordum acanthium* and *Verbena bonariensis* (Purpletop). Exotic ground layer was to a height of 0.1-.0.4m with a PFC of <80%.

Two exotic climbing species *Araujia sericifera* (Moth Vine) & *Asparagus aethiopicus* (Asparagus Fern) were recorded from the northern fence line adjacent to Garfield Road East.

Photograph 3-7 Cleared/Exotic Grassland recorded from the BMP Area



Photograph 3-8 Exotic Grassland recorded from the BMP Area





Figure 3-1 Field Vegetation communities mapped within the BMP Area

Legend

Subject Property

BMPArea

PCT 835 Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion

N

/// PCT 849 Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion

Cleared-Exotic Grassland

3.3 Hydrological environment

Threats to the hydrological environment such as soil disturbance and vegetation removal will not be significant. The hydrological environment within native bushland is unlikely to experience any significant change during or after the proposed works.

3.4 Soil erosion and sedimentation

Vegetation removal works within the subject property as a result of the proposed development will result in some minor and generally localised disturbance of soils. Soil erosion and sedimentation is an undesirable result and should be mitigated to reduce impacts such as:

- Loss of top soil;
- Sedimentation of drainage lines (north); and
- Promotion of exotic weed and pests through dispersal, changes in habitat or germination of weed species

In order to ensure that sedimentation does not occur down slope into the drainage line or vegetation, sediment control measures are to be installed in accordance with the Blacktown City Council's requirements for erosion and sedimentation control. The measures are also to follow best management practices in accordance with the (Department of Environment and Climate Change 2008) NSW Department of Housing and Landcom, (Landcom 2004), *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Blue Book)* (NSW Department of Housing 1998). These measures will be maintained for as long as necessary after the completion of works to prevent sediment and dirty water entering the natural environment for up to five (5) years post construction or until all exposed soil has been stabilised.

4. Methodology

This Biodiversity management plan was based on the results of a desktop review and site inspections on the 2nd & 3rd of April, 22nd & 23rd of July 2021 by Mr John Whyte B.Bio.Sc (Majors Botany & Zoology) of Enviro Ecology.

Activities specifically related to the preparation of this BMP included:

- Ensure full compliance with the relevant legislative requirements
- Ensure full compliance with relevant requirements of the BDAR and conditions of approval
- No disturbance to biodiversity outside the construction footprint and associated access tracks and site compounds
- Minimise disturbance to biodiversity within the project area
- No increase in distribution of environmental weeds currently existing within the project area
- No new environmental weeds introduced to the project area
- No fauna mortality during clearing and construction
- No pollution or siltation of aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, endangered ecological communities or threatened species habitat; and
- Preparation of a schedule of activities, outlining the responsibilities under this BMP and performance criteria.

4.1 Nomenclature

Names of plants used in this document follow Harden (Harden 1992; Harden 1993; Harden 2000; Harden 2002) with updates from PlantNet (Royal Botanic Gardens 2021). Scientific names are used in this report for species of plant. Scientific and common names of plants are listed in Tables.

4.2 Literature review

This assessment included a review of:

- Topographic maps & Aerial photographs
- Vegetation mapping of the area
 - A review of *Native Vegetation of Southeast NSW: A Revised Classification and Map for the Coast and Eastern Tablelands. Version 12*, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Hurstville (Tozer, Turner et al. 2016) & Native Vegetation Maps of the Cumberland Plain - Western Sydney (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 2008).

4.2.1 Threatened ecological communities

Eighteen endangered ecological communities were identified from desktop review to occur within the locality of the study area (Table 4-1).

			ancy
Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act	EPBC Act
Agnes Banks Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Agnes Banks Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E4B	E
Blue Gum High Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Blue Gum High Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E4B	CE
Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E3	CE
Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	V2	E
Castlereagh Swamp Woodland Community	Castlereagh Swamp Woodland Community	E3	
Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E3	CE
Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E4B	CE
Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest	Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest	E4B	CE
Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	E3	
Moist Shale Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Moist Shale Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E3	CE
River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	E3	CE
Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E3	CE
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E4B	CE
Southern Sydney sheltered forest on transitional sandstone soils in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Southern Sydney sheltered forest on transitional sandstone soils in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E3	
Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	E3	E
Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	E3	
Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E4B	CE
Western Sydney Dry Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Western Sydney Dry Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	E3	CE

Table 4-1 Endangered Ecological Communities known from the Locality

4.2.2 Endangered populations

Two threatened populations were identified from the desktop review to occur within the locality of the BMP area:

- *Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. viridiflora* endangered population in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith local government areas; and
- Dillwynia tenuifolia endangered population (Kemps Creek)

No endangered populations were identified within the BMP area.

4.2.3 Threatened Flora

Forty-four threatened species of plant listed under the *BC Act* and/or *EPBC Act* were predicted to occur within the locality of the BMP area based on database searches.

Based on targeted surveys within the BMP area none are considered to have suitable habitat within the BMP area. No further consideration is required for threatened flora species.

4.2.4 Threatened fauna

Fifty threatened fauna species were identified as occurring or having potential to occur within the locality of the BMP area.

Based on the habitat assessment and targeted surveys there is potential habitat within the BMP area for seven threatened fauna species that may be impacted through the removal of foraging habitat. Other species may occur within the habitats from time to time.

Species Name		Conservation Status	
		State ¹	National ²
Threatened Fauna			
Mammals			
Chalinolobus dwyeri	Large-eared Pied Bat	V	V
Falsistrellus tasmaniensis	Eastern False Pipistrelle	V	
Miniopterus schreibersii	Eastern Bent-wing Bat	V	
Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V	V
Mormopterus norfolkensis	Eastern Freetail-bat	V	
Saccolaimus flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat	V	
Scoteanax rueppellii	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V	

Table 4-2 Suitable habitat (Fauna) from the subject site

Notes:

1. State conservation status: V= Vulnerable, E1 = Endangered, (*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Fisheries Management Act 1994*). * indicates species listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

2. National conservation status: V = Vulnerable, (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)

4.3 Species of animal

4.3.1 Amphibians

One common species of frog: Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) was recorded calling outside of the BMP area on western side of Clarke Street in association with a box culvert located within First Ponds Creek. No suitable amphibious breeding habitats were identified from the BMP area.

No threatened frogs listed under the BC or EPBC Acts were identified within the BMP area, the habitat within the BMP area was not suitable for any threatened frogs species listed under both the BC & EPBC Acts.

4.3.2 Reptiles

Two common species of reptile the Garden Skink (*Lampropholis guichenoti*) & the Eastern Water Skink (*Eulamprus quoyii*) were recorded within the BMP area. No other reptile species were identified during the site inspections.

4.3.3 Birds

Nineteen species of bird were identified within the BMP area. The vegetation within the BMP area provides a range of foraging opportunities for birds.

The lack of diversity of tree and shrub species within the vegetation community provided limited nectar resources to maintain bird populations throughout the year.

No Glossy Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) or Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*). No Glossy-black or Gang-gang Cockatoos were identified from the BMP area despite targeted surveys being undertaken.

4.3.4 Mammals

Habitat for mammals was limited within the BMP area were limited with remnant trees providing marginal foraging habitat. Common species likely to utilise the remnant trees are those species adapted to urban/rural development e.g. the Brush-tailed Possum and the Common Ring-tail Possum. Habitats for threatened mammals were limited.

The blossoms of the juvenile canopy trees within the BMP area were not of maturity to provide suitable foraging resources for the Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*); this species was not however recorded from the BMP area during the site inspections.

4.4 Weed Survey

Thirty-nine (39) species of weed were recorded from the BMP area (Table 3-2). Of the exotic species, six of these species are High Threat Exotics (HTEs) as determined by the OEH high threat weeds list (OEH, 2021b).

4.5 Weed ecology

Generally, weeds are exotic plants that grow at the expense of a native plant and that produce large numbers of seeds or other propagules and so can reproduce and spread quickly. They typically benefit from disturbance to soils or native vegetation. Grazing, soil erosion, floods, fires, urban run-off, increased nutrients, sedimentation or mechanical soil disturbance can trigger major outbreaks of weeds. Weeds can:

- compete with native plants;
- reduce germination of native plants;
- suppress native tree and seedling growth;
- alter fire regimes;
- modify nutrient cycling within an ecosystem;
- change soil conditions;
- affect food and habitat opportunities for native fauna;
- provide harbour for feral animals; and
- reduce recreation potential of bushland.

Weed outbreaks are often from seeds that have lain dormant in the soil until disturbance, providing the conditions necessary for germination. Weeds can spread and establish by the following pathways:

- seeds and other propagules travelling on vehicles, people and animals from one place to another;
- invading open areas that have been disturbed by over grazing, earthworks and other activities that disturb the soil;
- establishing in areas with reduced tree cover (poorly competitive weeds); and
- dispersing from infested areas to weed free areas via wind or water.

4.6 Weed mapping

Weed mapping densities across the BMP area was undertaken by recording the abundance of target weeds in each stratum. These methods are explained below.

Weed Classes were defined to provide a logical basis for the sequence of weed management using the following criteria:

- The type and density of weed infestation occurring;
- The potential for native plant regeneration from the soil seed bank (i.e. site resilience); and
- Weed codes an estimate of the relative weed density within each stratum.

Vegetation quality was based on the stratum layer with the highest percentage cover of exotic weeds, where:

- Good quality vegetation was considered to be equivalent to vegetation falling into Weed Class 1. Where the stratum layer with the highest percentage cover of exotic weeds is less than 10%;
- Moderate quality vegetation was considered to be equivalent to vegetation falling into Weed Class 2 or 3. Where the stratum layer with the highest percentage cover of exotic weeds is between 11 and 60%; and
- Poor quality vegetation was considered to be equivalent to vegetation falling into Weed Class 4. Where the stratum layer with the highest percentage cover of exotic weeds is greater than 61%.

Figure 4-1 Current weed mapping from the BMP area



5. Biodiversity Management Issues

This chapter outlines the major activities to be undertaken as part of the VMP. They include the following:

- Required qualifications and experience
- Impact Mitigation;
- Hygiene and disease control:
- Program of Works:
- Clearing of native vegetation and habitats (Hollow-bearing trees)
- Proposed Weeding Activities:
- Primary Weeding;
- Secondary Weeding or Follow-up Weeding;
- Maintenance Weeding;
- Soil erosion & drainage;and
- Monitoring and auditing

The roles and responsibilities of key personnel are identified and a schedule of activities provided for the implementation of the program.

The primary Contractor engaged on behalf of the developer will be primarily responsible for the implementation of this BMP.

The *Biodiversity management schedule of activities* (Table 5-5) outlines the proposed works for the site.

5.1 Environmental mitigation and management measures

5.2 Environmental Activities, Impacts and Risks

The environmental activities referred to in this plan are those activities associated with the project that have the potential to cause adverse environmental impacts on flora and fauna. The risks that these activities create for flora and fauna can be determined by considering the likelihood of potential impacts and their consequences as shown below in Table 4-1. Construction activities that may have an adverse impact on flora and fauna and their associated risk ratings are summarised in Table 4-2 below.

Consequence				
		1 Major	2 Moderate	3 Low
Likelihood	1 Certain	High	High	Moderate
	2 Possible	High	Moderate	Moderate
	3 Remote	Moderate	Moderate	Low

Table 5-1 Risk Matrix

Consequence	
Low	Negligible or minor ecological impacts, as defined by relevant guidelines.
Moderate	Possible ecological impacts (or moderate level, as defined by relevant guidelines) resulting in legal action and/or community/stakeholder concern. Small scale but generally reversible damage to ecological aspects.
Major	Major ecological impact, as defined by relevant guidelines. May be reversed with significant effort and/or financial outlay, or feature permanent or long-term damage or destruction of species, populations, communities or ecological features or processes, that could not be practicably reversed (definition of long term in accordance with relevant guidelines). Potential for significant fines or legal action.
Likelihood	
Remote	Not expected to occur under usual circumstances <33% chance of occurring
Possible	Could occur under usual circumstances 33-66% chance of occurring
Almost certain or inevitable	High likelihood of occurring or expected to occur >66% chance of occurring

Table 5-2 Risk Assessment

Activity	Potential Impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk, in absence of controls	Residual Risk with controls
	Habitat removal (native vegetation and mature/hollow-bearing trees)	Certain	Moderate	High	Low
	Habitat modification	Certain	Low	Moderate	Low
	Degradation of adjacent areas of habitat	Remote	Moderate	Moderate	Low
Clearing, pruning and grubbing	Environmental weed introduction and spread	Possible	Major	High	Low
	Habitat removal	Certain	Low	Moderate	Low
	Habitat modification	Certain	Low	Moderate	Low
Excavation (for construction	Erosion of disturbed areas and stockpiles	Possible	Low	Moderate	Low
roads)	Dust generation	Possible	Low	Moderate	Low
	Environmental weed introduction and spread	Possible	Major	High	Low
Operation of	Noise	Certain	Low	Moderate	Low
and plant	Collisions with wildlife	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	Low

5.3 Activities

Activities with the highest risks can be seen to be associated with habitat removal and environmental weed introduction and spread. Generally, given the small scale of the works and discreet nature of the impacts, the environmental risks are considered to be moderate.

Specific protocols have been developed as follows:

- Design measures
- Vegetation clearing and damage
- Hollow bearing tree removal
- Weed control
- Monitor and adapt actions

5.4 BMP Delineation Protective Fencing

Protective is to be installed around the subject property in particular adjacent to Garfield Road East and Clarke Street (Figure 3-1).

The protection fence is not to hinder the movement of wildlife throughout the site or harm fauna.

Figure 5-1 Delineation of protective fencing







5.5 Soil Erosion and Drainage

Erosion and sediment control measures are to be implemented on a needs basis to minimise adverse effects as a result of increased erosion and sediment loading. These include:

- Coordinated work practices aimed at minimising land disturbance;
- Identification of potential erosion areas;
- Installation and maintenance of flow, erosion, sediment and nutrient control structures particularly around regenerations area;
- Routine site inspections of any sediment control fences and/or structures
- The safe disposal of all waste products
- The minimisation of soil erosion will be achieved through soil stabilisation measures, sediment fencing, water control techniques.

5.6 Mitigation measures

The mitigation of potential adverse impacts of the proposed development will be implemented through the following procedures:

• Implementation of erosion and sediment control measures prior to the commencement of clearing works (Development area) within areas where erosion is likely to impact on adjacent bushland. This involves installation of filter fences down slope of bushland.

- Removal of weeds and weed propagules in such a manner that they are not spread to other areas;
- Removal of native vegetation in accordance with Appendix B Vegetation Clearing Procedure
- Application of appropriate weed control / bush regeneration methods (BMP area) (Appendix A);

• Vehicles and other equipment to be used in weed works are to be received completely free of soil, seeds and plant material before entering the subject property to prevent the introduction of exotic plant species and pathogens. Equipment failing inspection should be sent away for cleaning.

5.6.1 Truck and machine wash down areas

Vehicles and other equipment to be used undertaking works in accordance with the BMP are to be received completely free of soil, seeds and plant material before entering the site to prevent the introduction of exotic plant species and pathogens, equipment failing inspection should be sent away for cleaning. Appropriate records of inspections shall be maintained.

Buildup of mud, soil and organic matter present on vehicles during wet and muddy conditions shall be manually removed prior to vehicles entering/leaving the construction site.

Works and vehicular movements shall cease if wet and muddy conditions develop/persist to limit the movement of soil and organic matter onto, through and from the VMP Area, minimising the potential for the spread of weeds.

5.6.2 Hygiene and disease control

Hygiene is particularly important to prevent the transfer of plant diseases such as *Phytophthora* or Myrtle Rust.

The following simple procedures can reduce the chance of transferring diseases:

- use of sharp equipment (i.e. knifes and secateurs) that are regularly cleaned with methylated spirits;
- cleaning of loose soil off boots and tools with bleach;
- make all efforts to ensure all plants brought onto the site are free of pathogens such as *Phytophthora* fungus and Myrtle Rust.

5.6.3 Hollow-bearing trees

Four hollow-bearing trees were recorded from the BMP Area. All HBT's are proposed for removal.

Table	5-3	Hollow-bearing	Trees
I abie	J -J	I TOHOW-Dearing	11663

Hollow-			
bearing Tree	Species	Hollow Type/size (cm)	Location
	Eucalyptus terticornis (Forest		
1	Red Gum)	Trunk branch 10cm and branch 5cm	southern side
2	Dead Stag	Trunk 7cm and spout hollow 15cm	western side
	Eucalyptus terticornis (Forest		
3	Red Gum)	2x Branch stub hollow 5cm	Eastern side
4	Dead Stag	3x branch hollow 5-10cm	Various

Photograph 5-1 HBT 1 recorded from BMP Area



Photograph 5-2 HBT 2 recorded from BMP Area



Photograph 5-3 HBT 3 recorded from BMP Area



Photograph 5-4 HBT 4 recorded from BMP Area



Figure 5-2 Hollow-bearing tree locations from the BMP Area





Hollow-bearing Tree

5.7 Proposed Weeding Activities

The objectives of management actions are to protect natural vegetation (existing native vegetation within the areas subject to weed removal, BMP area. This will primarily involve the removal of exotic grasses and herbaceous weeds within the BMP area (Table 3-2).

5.8 Weeds

Thirty-nine (39) species of weed were recorded from the BMP area.

All herbaceous and grassy weeds (Table 3-2) are to be managed within BMP area.

The principal mechanisms for weeds establishing in an area include:

- Provision of weed seed/vegetative source e.g. Kikuyu;
- Physical disturbances to the soil via clearing of native vegetation;
- Increased soil moisture from shading and ponding of water; and
- Increased light at the margins of vegetation

5.9 Weed Management, suppression & control

All weeds need to be eradicated and controlled within the subject property. During the recent site inspection detail targeted survey were undertaken to identify weeds which are to be managed under the BMP.

Garden waste, weed propagules (seeds, tubers etc.) need to be periodically collected and disposed of at an approved waste transfer facility, and should not be stored or disposed of into any bushland areas.

Flora surveys conducted over the BMP area have resulted in the identification of thirty-nine weed species, consisting of a variety of invasive, aggressive and environmental woody and herbaceous weeds (Table 3-2).

A variety of general weed removal techniques are to be used to suppress and control weeds within the revegetation area, including:

- cut-and-paint, stem scraping, stem injection, and frilling and chipping for woody weeds;
- hand removal and crowing for herbaceous weeds; and
- Chemical control where appropriate.

Detailed weed removal techniques for the control of woody weeds, weeds with underground reproductive structures, small hand-pullable plants and vines and scramblers, are provided in Appendix A of this BMP.

5.9.1 Primary Weeding

Primary weeding is the initial weeding. It is recommended that primary weeding should be carried out across the entire BMP area to remove the majority of dominant weeds. This involves removal of weeds through herbicide use and hand removal. It is important to note primary weeding usually initiates new growth of both weeds and native species. Primary weeding of the BMP may take up to 1 weeks.

5.9.2 Secondary or Follow-up Weeding

Secondary or follow-up weeding involves intensive weeding in areas that have already received primary work to remove weed re-growth or overlooked weeds. It is recommended that secondary weeding be conducted two weeks after primary weeding and the every 3-6 months after during the construction phase. Secondary weeding of the site may take up to 1 week or been undertaken progressively over the works period.

5.9.3 Maintenance Weeding

After primary and secondary weeding is undertaken the BMP area should be able to resist most weeds. However, weeds will re-establish within the BMP area from bird, wind, water transport and other seed or propagules dispersal mechanisms within the BMP area. Maintenance weeding should be undertaken once or twice a year until such time as the construction works have been completed.

The use of herbicides is needed where hand removal of weeds is impractical. The use of Glyphosate based herbicides is recommended in accordance with the manufacturers labels.

The potential for destabilizing soils and causing erosion as a result of spraying vegetation with herbicide needs to be considered prior to commencement of weed control works.

Only operators with Chemcert or equivalent training must undertake the spraying of weeds. The operator must evaluate the success of each treatment after a set period of time according to the labelled effectiveness for each herbicide. Care must be taken when applying herbicides near water bodies due to the sensitivity of the waterways, and flora and fauna, to runoff containing these herbicides.

All herbicides must be applied according to the herbicide usage label and provisions of the Protection of the Environmental Operations Act (NSW).

Exotic species targeted for removal throughout the duration of the management plan are listed in (3-2) below. These are exotic species that have been observed on site within the BMP Area. Generic management strategies enabling appropriate removal of these species are provided in Appendix A.

Family Name	Scientific Name Common Name		Primary	Secondary
Asclepiadaceae				
	Araujia sericifera	Moth Vine	Y	
Asparagaceae				
	Asparagus aethiopicus	Asparagus Fern	Y	
	Asparagus		Y	
	asparagoides			
Asteraceae				
	Bidens pilosa	Cobbler's Pegs		Y
	Cirsium arvense	Perennial Thistle		Y
	Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle		Y
	Conyza albida	Tall Fleabane		Y
		Flaxleaf	Y	
	Conyza bonariensis	Fleabane		
	Onopordum acanthium		Y	
	Senecio		Y	
	madagascariensis	Fireweed		V
	Sonchus asper	Prickly Sowthistle		ľ V
	Sonchus oleraceus	Sowthistle		ŕ
	Tagetes minuta	Stinking Pager	Y	
Proceiococo	Tageles minula		1	
Diassicaceae	Dura a fa a mara a			V
	Brassica rapa			1
Cactaceae			V	
a	Opuntia cylindrica		T	
Commelinaceae			V	
-	Tradescantia albiflora	Wandering Jew	Y	
Cyperaceae				
	Cyperus eragrostis	Umbrella Sedge		Y
Fabaceae				
(Caesaipinioideae)	O a mar a su state		v	
	Senna pendula		1	
Fabaceae (Faboldeae)				V
	I rifolium repens	White Clover		ř
	Vicia sativa			ř
Gentianaceae				
	Contaurium oruthraga	Common		
lunaaaaa	Centaunum erytmaea	Centaury		
Juncaceae	lungua aggratua			V
Malvasa	Juncus cognatus			I
Maivaceae	Oide exite			V
	Sida acuta	D 11 1 1		I V
	Sida rhombitolia	Paddy's Lucerne		Ĭ
Oleaceae			V	
	l igustrum lucidum	Privet	ſ	
		Small-leaved	Y	
	Ligustrum sinense	Privet		
Plantaginaceae	-			
	Plantago lanceolata	Lamb's Tonques		Y
Poaceae	· · · · · ·			
	Chloris gavana	Rhodes Grass	Y	
	Ehrharta erecta	Panic Veldtorass		Y
			1	1

Table 5-4 Exotic species recorded within the BMP area

Family Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Primary	Secondary
	Paspalum dilatatum	Paspalum		Y
	Paspalum urvillei	Vasey Grass		Y
	Pennisetum clandestinum	Kikuyu Grass		Y
	Setaria gracilis	Slender Pigeon Grass		Y
Polygonaceae				
	Rumex crispus	Curled Dock		Y
Primulaceae				
	Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet/Blue Pimpernel		Y
Rosaceae				
	Rubus sp		Y	
Solanaceae				
	Solanum linnaeanum	Apple of Sodom	Y	
Verbenaceae				
	Verbena rigida	Veined Verbena		Y

The primary stages of the weeding phase of this plan are estimated to take approximately one week, while the secondary and ongoing maintenance stage should continue throughout the construction period to achieve effective control.

Monitoring of the progress of weed removal, plant growth should be undertaken on a six monthly basis with progress reports, including photographs, prepared and forwarded to Blacktown City Council's Senior Biodiversity Officer. In addition to the six-monthly reports, a final report certifying the completion of the works is to be submitted at the end of the construction work period.

The *Program of Works* (Table 5.4 below) is aimed at providing a framework for enacting relevant rehabilitation and re-vegetation, maintenance and monitoring and review programs. The implementation is the responsibility of the landholders in association with an ecologist. The re-vegetation works will take up to one year or longer to establish. The re-vegetation/re-generation works will continue for several years until the mass planting is sufficient to dominate exotic weed plants.

Table 5-5 Proposed Vegetation Management Schedule of Activities

Action	Responsibility	Performance Criteria	Timing
Prior to commencement of works within VMP area			
Engagement of contractor (s) for implementation of BMP	Proponent	Primary contractor and vegetation management consultant engaged	Prior to release of the subdivision certificate.
Protected Fence to be installed in accordance Figure 3-1	Primary Contractor/Ecologist	Fence and signage erected.	Prior to commencement of development
BMP works			
Engagement of vegetation clearing bush-regenerator contractor (s) for implementation of BMP works.	Proponent	Bushland regeneration contractor and vegetation management consultant engaged	Prior to commencement of development
Install sedimentation and erosion control as per CC plans	Primary Contractor	Installation of sediment and erosion control measures	Prior to commencement of any works
Placement of on-site facilities (construction compounds, materials laydown etc.) and access	Use of already cleared areas will be maximised for placement of on-site facilities and access routes.	Site Foreman	Pre-construction
Weeding			
Carry out primary weeding throughout the BMP Area. All primary weeds listed in	Vegetation Management	Maintain weed	Approximately 1

Action	Responsibility	Performance Criteria	Timing
(Table 3-2) are to be targeted first to maintain weeds less than 5% weed occurrence prior to the removal of secondary weeds (Table 3-2).	Contractor/Ecologist	<i>priority weeds and other weeds</i> as per (Table 3-4)	week.
If pesticides are used, contractors must ensure compliance with the <i>Pesticides Act</i> 1999.	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	Pesticides used as per the Pesticide Act provisions	Ongoing
Ensure use of herbicides that are suitable for use in environmentally sensitive areas such as Round up Bioactive®.	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	Vegetation Management Contractor has appropriate qualifications for herbicide use; Roundup Bi-Active (or equivalent) is used.	Ongoing
Carry out secondary weeding.	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	Weed regrowth following primary weeding removed, secondary infestations removed.	4-5 days with bush regenerator onsite following primary weeding and every 3-6 months following secondary weeding
Weed biomass to be either composted on-site or disposed of at an approved waste management centre, as appropriate for each weed species.	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	Weed biomass disposed of correctly – not stockpiled on site.	Ongoing
Vegetation Clearing Protocol			
Tree clearing- Clearing would be undertaken between late summer and mid-winter if possible to reduce the impact on potentially breeding fauna. · Tree pruning in accordance with Appendix D would be undertaken in favour of tree removal, where possible.	Site Foreman/Ecologist	No injured fauna.	Construction
Construction access- Use of already cleared areas will be maximised for access.	· Contractor		Construction

Action	Responsibility	Performance Criteria	Timing
Hollow bearing tree removal			
		Minimise impacts of clearing, where hollows must be felled	
Prior to clearing ·	Ecologist/Site	No injured fauna.	Pre-construction
With input from an ecologist, clearly mark all trees containing hollows which are to be removed/pruned. Most hollows will occur in the trees greater than 500mm communities. Features that are useful for identifying hollow bearing trees include: o Dead trees o Dead trees o Snapped off branches o Trunk spouts o Damage to trunk such as disease, areas of rot, etc. that have potential to develop into trunk or branch hollows o Depressions or cavities where hollows	loreman		
Clearing hollow bearing trees	Ecologist/Site foreman	No injured fauna.	Construction
Hollow-bearing trees and limbs must be cleared/removed according to the methods detailed in Appendix B.			
Handling wildlife	Ecologist/Site	No injured fauna.	Construction
 Direct contact with any wildlife should be avoided wherever possible. Any uninjured wildlife must be encouraged to leave the site. If wildlife is injured, 13 000 WIRES or 1300 094 737 or similarly experienced personnel should be contacted to collect and treat any injured individuals. The 13 000 WIRES or 1300 094 737 contact number should be retained onsite by the Site foreman 			
Maintenance			
Carry out maintenance weeding throughout the VMP Area (Figure 1-1)	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	Weed cover maintained as per (Table 3-4) Regrowth following	Every three-six months for up to 5 years.
		secondary weeding	

Action	Responsibility	Performance Criteria	Timing
On-going management of the VMP Area (Figure 1-1)	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	controlled. No new weed species or infestations. Weed levels throughout MZ's1-2 are to be maintained	Ongoing, as required
Monitoring		as per (Table 3-4)	
Take baseline monitoring photos and complete monitoring sheet (Appendix B).	Vegetation Management Contractor/Ecologist	The data sheet (Appendix B) must be photocopied and filled in after works have been carried out. All boxes must be filled in and the map must be marked with the relevant information on the data sheets and photos taken. Records are to be kept and the data sheets and photos are to be submitted to Councils Senior Biodiversity Officer	Once every six months to provide progress throughout construction works

5.9.4 Monitoring and auditing

The *Project Ecologist* is to monitor the success of the biodiversity management works, so that appropriate remedies can be pursued. 6 monthly reports are to be provided to Council throughout construction works. The report will include photo monitoring results (above), as well as reporting on the weed control and general works. The annual report will include:

- works carried out, including a measure of effort and other relevant information (e.g. weed species targeted, areas worked, dominant techniques used, etc.)
- any observations, such as the occurrence of new weed species
- a description of any problems or issues encountered (e.g. wildlife matters, rates of regeneration, etc) and how they were overcome
- a summary of how the site-specific objectives and performance criteria have been met (or not). If these have not been met, further explanation and a proposed response may be necessary.
- relevant maps.

The 6 monthly report will highlight the effectiveness of the program and identify any changes needed to improve (i.e. changes to weed control techniques, types of herbicides used or weed priority) weed management. Annual reporting will be crucial in determining whether the actions being implemented are having the desired effect or if alternative weed control techniques (for the particular weed species) are required.

Monitoring activities will be undertaken during the bush regeneration works and will involve:

- Photo points & quadrat monitoring plots are to be established throughout the management zones to monitor the success of BMP works.
- The data sheet (Appendix B) to be submitted to Council years every 6 months until competition of the construction works with a final report prepared prior to each release stage; and
- Compilation of Annual Monitoring Reports to Blacktown City Council's Development Ecologist for
- At a minimum the following information is to be included within monitoring reports:
 - 1. The time period for which the report relates to.
 - 2. Date and times of site visits.
 - 3. The qualifications and experience of contractors.
 - 4. Works completed on the site at each visit.
 - 5. A table totalling man hours for each task undertaken on site.
 - 6. Methods of weeding undertaken and chemicals used.
 - 7. Current weed coverage estimates (to meet performance criteria of <5% priority weeds and 4% other weeds).
 - 8. Photo and/ or quadrat monitoring results of each of the scheduled stages of the vegetation progress.

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Appendix A

Weed Management Techniques

Environmental weeds are to be controlled in accordance with the following specifications and bush regeneration methods of Appendix B. The following weed management techniques; as recommended by the National Trust, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Australian Association of Bush Regenerators; are to be used for all activities as specified under this Vegetation Management Plan.

Woody Weeds Removal Techniques:

Cut and Paint (Woody weeds to 10 cm basal diameter)

Make a horizontal cut close to the ground using secateurs, loppers or a bush saw; and

Immediately apply herbicide to the exposed flat stump surface.

Considerations:

Cuts should be horizontal to prevent herbicide from running off the stump, sharp angle cuts are hazardous;

Herbicide must be applied immediately before the plant cells close (within 30 seconds) and translocation of herbicide ceases;

If plants re-sprout cut and paint the shoots after sufficient re-growth has occurred; and

Stem scraping can be more effective on some woody weeds.

See Figure 4-3 for further details

Stem Injection

At the base of the tree drill holes at a 45 degree angle into the sapwood;

Fill each hole with herbicide immediately; and

Repeat the process at 5 cm intervals around the tree.

Frilling or Chipping

At the base of the tree make a cut into the sapwood with a chisel or axe;

Fill each cut with herbicide immediately; and

Repeat the process at 5 cm intervals around the tree.

Considerations:

Plants should be actively growing and in good health;

Deciduous plants should be treated in spring and autumn when leaves are fully formed;

For multi-stemmed plants, inject or chip below the lowest branch or treat each stem individually; and

Herbicides must be injected immediately before plant cells close (within 30 seconds) and translocation of herbicide ceases.

Small Hand-Pullable Plants Removal Techniques:

Hand Removal

Remove any seeds or fruits and carefully place into a bag;

Grasp stem at ground level, rock plant backwards and forwards to loosen roots and pull out; and

Tap the roots to dislodge any soil, replace disturbed soil and pat down.

Considerations:

Leave weeds so roots are not in contact with the soil e.g. hang in a tree, remove from site or leave on a rock.

See Figure 4-2 for further details

Vines and Scramblers Removal Techniques:

Hand Removal

Take hold of one runner and pull towards yourself;

Check points of resistance where fibrous roots grow from the nodes;

Cut roots with a knife or dig out with a trowel and continue to follow the runner;

The major root systems need to be removed manually or scrape/cut and painted with herbicide; and

Any reproductive parts need to be bagged.

See Figure 4-4 for further details

Stem Scraping

Scrape 15 to 30 cm of the stem with a knife to reach the layer below the bark/outer layer; and

Immediately apply herbicide along the length of the scrape.

Considerations:

A maximum of half the stem diameter should be scraped. Do not ringbark;

Larger stems should have two scrapes opposite each other; and

Vines can be left hanging in trees after treatment.

Weeds with Underground Reproductive Structures Removal Techniques:

See Figure 4-3 for further details

Hand Removal of Plants with a Taproot

Remove and bag seeds or fruits;

Push a narrow trowel or knife into the ground beside the tap root, carefully loosen the soil and repeat this step around the taproot;

Grasp the stem at ground level, rock plant backwards and forwards and gently pull removing the plant; and

Tap the roots to dislodge soil, replace disturbed soil and pat down.

See Figure 4-1 for further details

Crowning

Remove and bag stems with seed or fruit;

Grasp the leaves or stems together so the base of the plant is visible;

Insert the knife or lever at an angle close to the crown;

Cut through all the roots around the crown; and

Remove and bag the crown.

Herbicide Treatment - Stem Swiping

Remove any seed or fruit and bag; and

Using an herbicide applicator, swipe the stems/leaves.

Considerations:

Further digging may be required for plants with more than one tuber;

Some bulbs may have small bulbils attached or present in the soil around them which need to be removed;

It may be quicker and more effective to dig out the weed;

Protect native plants and seedlings; and

For bulb and corm species the most effective time to apply herbicide is after flowering and before fruit is set.

Exotic vegetation should be removed and stockpiled in a clear area away from adjoining bushland. This stockpile should be removed from the site at a convenient time. As part of the regular maintenance of the restored area any re-growth of the exotic plant species should be removed and disposed of appropriately.

Use of Herbicides

Herbicides are only to be used by trained personnel who hold a Chem Certificate. Herbicides should not be applied prior to rain occurring. This reduces the herbicides effectiveness as well as being transported in runoff to creek lines and waterways.

An advantage of herbicide use is the low time taken to spray weeds as compared to physically removing them, particularly for large infestations of weeds.

Enviro Ecology recommends that the use of herbicides should be considered when:

- There are small areas of dense weeds with few or no native plants to protect
- There are large areas of weeds
- The weeds are growing too rapidly for physical removal

The spraying of weeds must only be undertaken by experienced persons with Chemcert or equivalent qualifications. The success of each treatment must be evaluated by the operator after a set period of time and re-applied (if necessary) according to the labeled effectiveness for each herbicide. Care must be taken when applying herbicides near drainage lines to avoid excess use due to the sensitivity of the water bodies into which runoff will eventually flow.

Figure 6-1 Control of small hand-pullable plants



Figure 6-2 Control of weeds with underground reproductive structures



Figure 6-3 Control of woody weeds



Figure 6-4 Control of vines & scramblers



Appendix B

Vegetation clearing procedure

Table 6-1 Vegetation Clearing Procedure

Timing	Action
Step one	
At least 10 days prior to vegetation clearing	At least 10 days prior to any vegetation clearing, a project ecologist will be engaged and undertake a pre-clearing survey to: • Confirm the vegetation and habitat to be cleared as part of the Project is limited to the approved clearing limits. • Identify (in consultation with the Site Manager/Project Manager through a site walk) areas that must be cleared and any areas that can be retained based on detailed design • Identify environmentally sensitive areas (such as areas of vegetation to be retained) which are to be delineated and demarcated • Identify the presence and location of any habitat features (including tree hollows and/or potential bat roosts) • Identify any previously unidentified threatened flora and fauna species. • Identify any native wildlife that can be captured and relocated and identify a suitable area for relocation (if possible) • Identify any dead wood and trees containing arbeoreal and ground hollows which can be relocated to areas of retained vegetation • The species and location of any weeds Following the pre-clearing survey, the project ecologist will prepare a pre-clearing report which details: • Location, number and species of trees/other vegetation marked for removal • Photographs and location of any marked habitat trees • Records of all fauna encounters • Location and species of any weeds Based on the results of the pre-clearing survey, trees are to be marked (using spray paint on their trunks in a visible location): • 'H' Habitat tree. hollow-bearing or habitat trees are identified as requiring removal the two-staged clearing process outlined below is to be implemented and the clearing supervised by an ecologist. • ''- Ecologist has assessed the tree and it is ready for removal.
Step Two	
At least 7 days prior to vegetation clearing	 At least 7 days prior to vegetation clearing, exclusion zones will be established around vegetation and trees which are to be retained and to delineate the limits of clearing. Exclusion fencing must: Be para-webbing or bunting or similar fencing Have 'no-go zone' signage in prominent, visible locations to clearly identify the exclusion zone Have periodic reflectibe strips/other reflective elements along it's length Identify and mark any tree hollows
Step Three	

24 hrs prior to vegetation clearing	 Confirm all exclusion zones are clearly delineated and any fencing/signage is in visible and in good condition Suitably licensed wildlife carer and/or ecologist to undertake relocation of known fauna to pre-determined habitat (as required)
Step Four	
During vegetation clearing	Vegetation clearing and removal cannot commence until Steps 1-3 have been completed. Following completion of Steps 1-3, a two-stage vegetation clearing process will be implemented. Stage 1- Non-habitat tree removal · Non-habitat vegetation removal must be undertaken a minimum of 24 hours prior to habitat tree removal to allow fauna to vacate the habitat on their own accord. Stage 2- Habitat tree removal · Immediately prior to felling, the habitat tree is to be knocked with an excavator bucket (or other similar machinery) to encourage fauna to evacuate the tree under the supervision of an ecologist. · The ecologist shall capture and/or remove fauna that has the potential to be disturbed, injured or killed to predetermined habitat identified for fauna release. · The trees may then be felled carefully by lowering to the ground with minimal impact. Methods and equipment for felling trees should be discussed between
Step Five	
Post vegetation clearing	 Following the completion of vegetation clearing, the project ecologist is to undertake a post-clearing survey and prepare a post-clearing report which includes: Photographs of the cleared areas Confirmation of the number of trees and species cleared Records of any fauna rescue events including relocation data (GPS coordinates of relocation area).

6.1 Microbat survey methodology

At least two weeks prior to any construction commencing, an experienced bat ecologist shall undertake surveys to determine the presence of any resident microbats. At a minimum, the survey/s shall identify:

- Microbat species present
- Locations of roosting microbats
- Total number of individuals and groups per occupied roost site
- Description of occupied roost sites

Surveys for the presence of microbat roosting must be undertaken to cover to period of roosting (where possible) and include diurnal inspections to assess the potential for Hollowbearing trees to support roosting bats. Roosting behaviour for threatened microbat species identified within the site footprint is detailed in Table 6-2. The surveys shall also identify any habitat features that may require further targeted inspection, including any evidence of microbats and/or microbat use. The surveys will include a combination of echolocation call recording and dawn/dusk surveys to confirm if the culverts are used for roosting. Surveys will be carried out during favourable weather conditions. A report shall be prepared to determine the results of the surveys.

If roosting microbats are determined to be present, the clearing protocol above is to be implemented 1 hour before dawn.

Common	Scientific			
Name	Name	Roosting Behaviour		
Eastern False	Falsistrellus	Primarily tree roosting species that prefers wet sclerophyll and coastal mallee forests (Churchill, 2008). Mating occurs in late spring- early summer and hibernates in roosts in winter months (OEH,		
Pipistrelle	tasmaniensis	2017).		
Eastern Coastal Freetailed	Micronomus	Primarily tree roosting species that is also known to		
Bat	norfolkensis	roost in buildings (Churchill, 2008).		
Southern	Myotis	Breeding season from October to March. Roosts are found in hollow bearing trees (generally within 200 m of permanent water) and subterrean structures such as old railway tunnels culverts bridges stormwater		
Myotis	macropus	drains and caves (Churchill, 2008; Campbell, 2014).		

Table 6-2 Threatened microbat species roosting behaviour

Appendix C

Monitoring Sheet for BMP works

Appendix C : Monito	oring Sheet		
Monitoring Sheet for Bio	odiversity Management Plan		By Enviro Ecology
Biodiversity Managemer	nt Plan over Lot 6 DP 229296 Garfield F	Road East, Riverstone NSW	Ph: 0402592399
General	Date: V	egetation community()
Site Personnel	Field Leader N	ame:	Signature:
	Other Field Persons		
	Contact No.		
Effort	Total Hours spent on site		
	Hours spent weeding		
	Hours spent planting		
	Hours spent other activities		
	(specify)		
Work Completed	Include weed control methods used (e.g. hand weeding, spraying) & areas planted and weeded		
Animals seen during	Fauna seen	Species	No of individuals
field work			
	Pest species seen on site	Circle; Sparrows, Indians Mynas, Rabbits,	Hare
		Other;	
	Photos are to be taken from each point identified on Figure 3-2 within	Dhate Associat	
wonitoring/Photos	Deate Number:	Acreati	GPS Location of photo
	Photo Number:	Aspect:	Easting: Northing:
	Photo Number:	Aspect:	Easting: Northing:
	Photo Number:	Aspect:	Easting: Northing:

FURTHER NOTES MARK LOCATION OF WORKS COMPLETED ON MAP

