

Preliminary Ecological Assessment – Hunter Ridge Estate

Client : 101 Property
Prepared by : Australian Wetlands Consulting Pty Ltd
Project # : 3-12174
Date : 19.4.13

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396 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond

Project control

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Job number: 3-12174
Client: 101 Property
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Table of Contents

Project control i

Table of Contents.....ii

List of Tables

Table 1.1. Species recorded onsite4

Introduction and Background

The preliminary Ecological survey for site flora and fauna was undertaken on the 20th of April at 396 Bells line of Road.

A site assessment was completed by inspecting the site and mapping/describing vegetation communities present and identifying conservation values as per the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The following outlines the results of the assessment and describe the conservation values of the vegetation, disturbance levels, weed presence and other relevant matters. Please note that the site assessment was general in nature only and no specific targeted searches for threatened flora were undertaken other than to ground truth Council mapping for the presence of the Shale Sanstone Transition Forest (SSTF) Community.

The Site – 396 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond, NSW

Historically the site has been heavily modified through fire and tree felling for grazing land. The majority of land at the site comprises of scattered trees (predominantly black wattle and woody weed species) cleared grazing land, 4 dams, isolated patches of Eucalypt sp (various) and vegetated creek lines with mixed invasive ground and shrub layer and native tree species (refer to figure 1 below).

Figure 1 – Site showing shaded riparian zone surrounded by grazing land



The Hawkesbury Council's biodiversity mapping identifies significant vegetation on the land in the form of SSTF. The ecological inspection confirmed that the most areas identified as significant vegetation comprises of scattered trees with cleared grazing pasture or invasive weed species. These scattered trees provide little or no vegetation connectivity as there is no continuous canopy, nor is there any native or significant understory or ground cover.

A database search from the BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife website. Search criteria : Public Report of all Valid Records of Entities in selected area [North: -33.49 West: 150.57999 East: 150.67999 South: -33.59] returned a total of 3,609 records of 1,130 species. [The data are only indicative and cannot be considered a comprehensive inventory, and may contain errors and omissions].

No threatened species were observed during the ecological survey.

Vegetation along the creek and drainage lines does provide moderate connectivity however the majority of the vegetation are invasive weed species that requires clearance or control. Whilst some individual species of Shale-Sandstone Transition Forest community are present, the boundaries of this plant community is indistinct with no connectivity. No significant hollow bearing trees were found on the site. In addition the four dam sites provide habitat for aquatic bird species and frogs. It is expected that native vegetation along the two creek lines will be retained. It is recommended that a site Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) be developed and implemented to minimise impact and ensure appropriate management of weed species onsite.

Accordingly, it is considered that the proposal will have no significant impact on threatened species populations or ecological communities.

The following Species were observed during the ecology survey (including calls, scat or nesting sites).

Table 0.1. Species recorded onsite

Common Name	Scientific Name
Birds	
Willie Wagtail	Rhipidura leucophrys
Crested Pigeon	Ocyphaps lophotes
Common Bronzewing	Phaps chalcoptera
Sulphur crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita
Galah	Elophus roseicapillus
Rainbow lorikeet	Trichoglossus haematodus
Crimson Rosella	Platycercus elegans
Grey Fantail	Rhipidura fuliginosa
Silver Eye	Zosteropus luteus
Noisy Miner	Manorina melanocephala
Indian Myna	Acridotheres tristis
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Black faced Cuckoo shrike	Coracina novaehollandiae
Australian raven	Corvus coronoides
Superb Fairy-wren	Malurus cyaneus
Pacific Black Duck	Anas supercilliosa
Wood duck	Chenonetta jubata
Australian Grebe	Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa
Straw-necked Ibis	Threskiornis molucca
Australian Magpie	Gymnorhina tibicen
Pied Currawong	Strepera graculina
Grey butcherbird	Cracticus torquatus
Laughing Kookaburra	Dacelo novaeguineae
Mammals	
Common Ringtail Possum	Pseudocheirus peregrinus
Red fox	Vulpes vulpes

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus
Frogs	
Common Eastern froglet	Crinia signifera
Brown striped frog	Limnodynastes peronii
Weeds	
Moth Vine	Araujia sericifera
Crofton Weed	Ageratina adenophora
Annual Ragweed	Ambrosia artemisiifolia
Cobbler's Pegs	Bidens pilosa
Boneseed	Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera
Spear Thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Flaxleaf Fleabane	Conyza bonariensis
A Fleabane	Conyza spp.
Tall fleabane	Conyza sumatrensis
Potato Weed	Galinsoga parviflora
Catsear	Hypochaeris radicata
Lantana	Lantana camara (WON)
Fireweed	Senecio madagascariensis
Prickly Sowthistle	Sonchus asper subsp. asper
Common Sowthistle	Sonchus oleraceus
Cape Honeysuckle	Tecoma capensis
Common Chickweed	Stellaria media
Fat Hen	Chenopodium album
Wandering Jew	Tradescantia fluminensis
Mother of millions	Bryophyllum delagoense

Common Name	Scientific Name
Birds-foot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus
White Clover	Trifolium repens
Common vetch	Vicia sativa
Camphor Laurel	Cinnamomum camphora
Paddy's Lucerne	Sida rhombifolia
White Jasmine	Jasminum polyanthum
Large-leaved Privet	Ligustrum lucidum
Small-leaved Privet	Ligustrum sinense
African Olive	Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata
Creeping Oxalis	Oxalis corniculata
Radiata Pine	Pinus radiata
Perennial Veldtgrass	Ehrharta calycina
Paspalum	Paspalum dilatatum
Kikuyu Grass	Pennisetum clandestinum
Rambling Dock	Acetosa sagittata
Black Bindweed	Fallopia convolvulus
Myrtle Rust	Uredo rangellii
Blackberry complex	Rubus fruticosus sp. agg.
Wild Tobacco Bush	Solanum mauritianum
Black-berry Nightshade	Solanum nigrum
Trees	
Black Wattle	Acacia decurrens
Narrow-leaved Ironbark	Eucalyptus crebra
Thin-leaved Stringybark	Eucalyptus eugenioides

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grey Gum	Eucalyptus punctata
Sydney Blue Gum	Eucalyptus saligna
Forest Red Gum	Eucalyptus tereticornis



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