

## Hairy Jointgrass Survey – 431 Skyline Rd, Wyrallah

**Prepared for:** Stephen Fletcher & associates Pty Ltd

**Prepared by:** Laura White

**Date:** March 2019

### Introduction/background:

This report provides the results of a targeted survey for the threatened plant species Hairy Jointgrass (*Arthraxon hispidus*) at 431 Skyline Rd, Wyrallah. This report provides an update to the previous flora and fauna assessment undertaken as part of a rezoning planning proposal for the subject property, as recommended by OEH (Ref DOC18/626302-4).

### Proposed works:

The planning proposal is to rezone land at 431 Skyline Road Wyrallah (Lot 3 DP 709370) from RU1 Primary Production to RU5 Large Lot Residential to permit the creation of an additional allotment.

### Methodology:

A site survey was carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The survey was timed to coincide with the peak growing season of Hairy Jointgrass (late summer to autumn) to capture the species at its maximum cover and visibility. The site was thoroughly traversed on foot and a targeted search for Hairy Jointgrass was undertaken. All positively identified occurrences of Hairy Jointgrass were recorded using a GPS (accuracy to 5m or better).

### Results:

The subject site contained a small area (<0.1ha) of Hairy Jointgrass, located adjacent to the western boundary of the property, associated with a small ephemeral drainage line flowing west out of the site. Hairy Jointgrass occurrences were limited to the lower parts of the property, at the base of the south-westerly slope, which are likely to retain moisture due to groundwater seepage as well as intermittent flow from the drainage line. The area supporting Hairy Jointgrass was dominated by weeds such as Annual Ragweed, Mistflower, Molasses Grass, Setaria, Rhodes Grass, Red Natal Grass and Johnson's Grass, with occasional native grasses, herbs and sedges including *Cenchrus purpurascens*, *Geranium solanderi*, *Alternanthera denticulata*, *Juncus usitatus* and *Cyperus* spp. The population of Hairy Jointgrass located on the western boundary of the subject site was contiguous with an extensive area of suitable habitat on the adjoining grazing property. The location of Hairy Jointgrass within the site is shown in **Figure 1**.



### Conclusions and recommendations:

The subject site contains a small area of Hairy Jointgrass on the western edge, which is continuous with a larger habitat area on the adjacent grazing property. Occurrences are limited to low-lying moisture-associated areas close to the property boundary, and as such are outside of potential dwelling sites on the proposed lot to be created. Whilst the proposed rezoning is unlikely to result in a significant impact on the occurrence of Hairy Jointgrass at the site (**Appendix A**), consideration of the following recommendations would further mitigate any potential impacts associated with future development of the site:

- Any construction works or clearing should be avoided within the mapped area of Hairy Jointgrass habitat (Hairy Jointgrass zone).
- Any drainage works should not alter the current flow of water into the existing drainage line within the Hairy Jointgrass zone.
- Any landscaping works within the Hairy Jointgrass zone should focus on the removal of invasive weeds and the restoration of native grasses, herbs and sedges.
- Any weed control or restoration works within the Hairy Jointgrass zone should be undertaken by suitably qualified bush regenerators.
- Green waste should not be dumped within the Hairy Jointgrass zone.



**Plate 1: Looking west toward the zone of Hairy Jointgrass occurrence in the low-lying area on the western boundary of property.**



**Plate 2:** Hairy Jointgrass growing within the subject site.



**Plate 3:** Weed-dominated Hairy Jointgrass zone on subject site in foreground, Hairy Jointgrass habitat in the adjacent grazing property in background.



**Figure 1**  
**Hairy Jointgrass survey**  
**431 Skyline Rd**

**Legend**

- Hairy Jointgrass
- ▨ Hairy Jointgrass zone
- ▭ Proposed rezoning
- ▭ Potential dwelling site
- Drainage line
- Contour
- Road



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Scale: 1:1000

Date: 14/03/2019



Reconeco makes every effort to ensure this map is free from errors, but does not warrant the map or its features are either spatially or temporally accurate or fit for a particular use.



## Appendix A: 5-Part Test of Significance

**Table A-1 Summary of Conservation Status**

Scientific Name	Common Name	NSW Status	Comm. Status	Habitat and Ecology * #	Threats * #
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Hairy Jointgrass	V	V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moisture loving grass found in swampy areas and around drainage lines.</li> <li>Warm-season annual, flowers and seeds in autumn, dormant in winter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearing of habitat for agriculture and development.</li> <li>Overgrazing and trampling by domestic stock.</li> <li>Competition from weeds and invasive grasses.</li> <li>Slashing or mowing of habitat.</li> <li>Inappropriate fire regimes.</li> </ul>

## — Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), 2017, NSW Threatened Species Profile  
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies>  
 (Accessed 14/03/2019).

- a) in the case of a threatened species, whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,**

The proposed action would not cause disturbance to the local Hairy Jointgrass population given the following factors:

- The area of Hairy Jointgrass habitat on the subject site is very small (<0.1ha) and the population adjoins a large area of habitat on the adjacent grazing property.
- The Hairy Jointgrass habitat area on the subject site is outside of the footprint of any potential driveways and dwelling sites associated with the proposal.
- Any potential impacts can be managed as per the recommendations in this report to protect and improve the condition of the Hairy Jointgrass habitat as part of the proposal.

Given the above factors, it is unlikely that the proposed action would have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

- b) in the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the proposed development or activity:**

- is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or**
- is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,**

Not applicable. An endangered or critically endangered ecological community is not being considered.

**c) in relation to the habitat of a threatened species or ecological community:**

**i. the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development or activity, and**

None of the Hairy Jointgrass habitat within the site is to be removed or modified as part of the Proposal. Recommendations in this report would ensure protection and potential improvement to all of the Hairy Jointgrass habitat occurring within the site.

**ii. whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed development or activity, and**

The Proposal would not further fragment available habitat in the locality for the subject species as the existing habitat is to be maintained and the site is adjacent to a large expanse of suitable habitat on the adjoining property.

**iii. the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species or ecological community in the locality**

The Proposal would not remove any habitat of importance to the subject species. Recommendations in this report would result in an improvement to the currently degraded habitat within the site and locality.

**d) whether the proposed development or activity is likely to have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value (either directly or indirectly),**

The Proposal would not have an adverse effect on any declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.

**e) whether the proposed development or activity is or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to increase the impact of, a key threatening process.**

A threatening process is defined under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* as a process that threatens, or may have the capability to threaten, the survival or evolutionary development of species, populations or ecological communities. The Proposal would not increase the impact of any currently listed key threatening processes.

**Conclusion:**

It is the conclusion of this assessment that given the scale and location of the proposed works, the greater extent of available habitat in the locality and the recommendations proposed in this report, the proposal is unlikely to result in a significant impact on the local occurrence of the subject species. Consequently, further consideration in the form of a Species Impact Statement is not required.



## Greg Yopp

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**From:** Stephen Fletcher <stephen@environplan.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 June 2019 3:49 PM  
**To:** Greg Yopp  
**Subject:** Re: Wyrallah planning proposal  
**Attachments:** LUCRA 419 Skyline Rd Sth Wyrallah v2 June 2019.pdf

Hi Greg and thanks for your email

I am sure the LUCRA was sent to Council previously (May) but have included now and re-dated. Also noticed the previous file size was ridiculously large with various photo images and so I have removed these.

Also as discussed, the owners are happy to proceed with the environmental zone section to accommodate the hairy joint grass as per the Reconeco assessment report.

I look forward to having the rezoning progress to completion.

Best regards

stephen fletcher

stephen fletcher  
& associates pty ltd

PO Box 5334 East Lismore  
NSW 2480

p: 0413314730  
f: 0266215882  
e: [stephen@environplan.com.au](mailto:stephen@environplan.com.au)  
[www.environplan.com.au](http://www.environplan.com.au)

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**From:** Greg Yopp <[Greg.Yopp@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Greg.Yopp@lismore.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at 11:03 AM  
**To:** Stephen Fletcher <[stephen@environplan.com.au](mailto:stephen@environplan.com.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Wyrallah planning proposal

Hi Stephen,

Just checking in to see how you are progressing with:

- a) Owners agreement for Zone E2 in Hairy Joint Grass area
- b) LUCRA

It would be good to finalise this planning proposal in the coming months

Regards

Greg

**Greg Yopp** | Senior Strategic Planner | **Lismore City Council**

PO Box 23A, Lismore, 2480 | T 1300 878 387 | F 02 6625 0400 | [www.lismore.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lismore.nsw.gov.au)

Lismore City Council acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung Nation, traditional custodians of the land on which we work.

**From:** Greg Yopp  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 April 2019 11:38 AM

