

Ref: EA-2015-1611

20 December 2017

Mr Angelo Mifsud
C/- King and Campbell Pty Ltd
PO Box 243
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Dear Mr Mifsud,

Addendum to the Ecological Report – Ref. No. EA-2015-1611

Lot 10 DP 615775 & Lot 10 DP 1117908, 19 Houston Mitchell Drive Bonny Hills

This document is an addendum to the ecological assessment report; EA-2015-1611 prepared by FloraFauna Consulting and dated 27 October 2016 in relation to the proposed rezoning of land identified as Lot 10 DP 615775 & Lot 10 DP 1117908, 19 Houston Mitchell Drive Bonny Hills. It should be noted that changes will not be made to the original report and that this addendum forms part of the documentation of the ongoing rezoning proposal. The addendum has been prepared in response to the following request from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council:

“Please note that an addendum to the Ecological Assessment report, confirming that the findings and conclusions are consistent with the new land management and biodiversity conservation legislation, will be required to support a Planning Proposal”

The purpose of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greatest well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. With respect to proposed development of land the Act aims to:

- establish a framework to avoid, minimise and offset the impacts of proposed development and land use change on biodiversity;
- establish a scientific method for assessing the likely impacts on biodiversity values of proposed development and land use change, for calculating measures to offset those impacts and for assessing improvements in biodiversity values; and
- establish market-based conservation mechanisms through which the biodiversity impacts of development and land use change can be offset at landscape and site scales.

The Act establishes the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, which sets out the framework for addressing impacts on biodiversity from development and land clearing. This is largely achieved by the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), which is the manual that outlines how a person accredited under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme assesses impacts on biodiversity at development sites and stewardship sites. The purpose of the BAM is to identify a site's biodiversity values, determine the impacts of a proposal and to investigate measures to avoid or minimise the impact and quantify and describe the offset requirements for unavoidable impacts. Avoid, minimise and offset are the fundamental principles underpinning the new legislation including the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and the BAM.

In relation to the proposed rezoning of land at the subject site, whilst the ecological assessment was undertaken under the old, now repealed legislation, the same fundamental principles of avoid, minimise and offset are applicable. In this regard, the site was largely cleared previously to form derived grassland dominated by exotic graminoids and herbs. Proposed removal of remnant native vegetation has been avoided and minimised, however some native vegetation will need to be removed. This will be offset by setting aside significant areas of the site for revegetation and compensatory planting as detailed on the proposed rezoning plan prepared by King and Campbell. In addition, the planning proposal will be accompanied by a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) offer to Council for the future Environmental Management Lands that will set out their establishment, maintenance and dedication requirements. The VPA will also require the preparation of a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) to accompany the future Development Application (DA) for the industrial subdivision. The VMP will set out the detailed compensatory measures, including for example, weed control, compensatory planting numbers and locations, a hollow-bearing tree (HBT) removal strategy, a nest box strategy, a Koala fencing strategy etc. The VPA and VMP process will provide certainty with respect to environmental management and the compensatory measures will assist in mitigating any impacts on biodiversity. Generally, these measures are consistent with the new land management and biodiversity conservation legislation. Furthermore, an ecological report addressing the current legislation will accompany the DA for the future industrial subdivision of the property, thereby ensuring consistency with the legislation.

Yours faithfully,



Steve Britt

Bachelor of Science (Botany)

Master of Wildlife Management (Habitat)

Graduate Diploma in Design for Bushfire Prone Area