



ABN 89 877 340 321
Suite 7 Corbett Plaza
14 Wingecarribee Street, Bowral 2576
PO Box 2575, Bowral 2576
Tel 02 4862 3488
Fax 02 4862 3317
Mob 0412 600 173
Email rhayes@hayesenv.com.au

4th May 2012

BUREAUCRACY BUSTERS
PO Box 2257
BOWRAL NSW 2576

Att: Darren Hogan

Dear Darren,

RE: Preliminary Flora and Fauna Inspection at Mittagong aquatic facility

I have conducted a preliminary desktop investigation and site inspection of the existing Mittagong aquatic facility, and have viewed plans for a proposed re-development of this site.

Existing vegetation on part of the site has been mapped by Wingecarribee Shire Council as Southern Highlands Shale Woodland, an ecological community listed as '*endangered*' under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act).

Council's vegetation mapping is based largely upon aerial photography with limited ground-truthing. Whilst useful as a tool, it does have some limitations and inaccuracies, and should be tested through botanical survey before being relied upon.

From my knowledge of the area, it is probable that Council's identification of the community is correct, and that the site does contain Southern Highlands Shale Woodland.

However, from my inspection of the site, some of the area mapped as Southern Highlands Shale Woodland by Council is in fact remnant trees within a paved carpark, and does not meet the scientific definition of this community. Similarly some of the area mapped consists of remnant trees interspersed with exotic ornamental and non-indigenous plantings, within an exotic mown lawn. These areas also do not meet the scientific definition of this community.

The proposed re-development of the site has been carefully designed to utilise existing cleared and disturbed land on the site. It appears that disturbance to native vegetation as a result of the proposal would be limited to removal of some trees bordering the existing development, and removal of remnant trees within existing carpark and lawn areas.

A detailed botanical survey and assessment of significance should be conducted to fully assess the significance of potential impacts upon Southern Highlands Shale Woodland.

However, it is not expected or likely that the impacts of the proposed re-development would be significant for this community. On this basis there would be no requirement for preparation of a Species Impact Statement, or for concurrence of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

I have also considered the potential for impacts upon threatened fauna species which may utilise the subject area. It is possible that some threatened microchiropteran bats and/or threatened parrots could occur in the subject area and utilise trees and vegetation present on occasions. Further consideration of these species would be required at the development application stage.

However, it is also not likely that any threatened fauna species would be dependent upon the limited resources present within the subject area, particularly given that it is on the fringe of extensive areas of better quality and less noise affected habitat for these species. It is not likely that any threatened fauna species would be significantly affected by the minor disturbance that would occur.

On the basis of the above, I do not anticipate any significant ecological issues to arise with respect to the proposed re-development of the Mittagong aquatic facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Hayes'.

Rebecca Hayes
BSc (environmental biology) MEngMngt MEIANZ MECA (NSW)
Principal, Hayes Environmental