

## Briefing Note

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**Date:** 28 April 2020  
**Subject:** Somersby BCAR Finalisation

### Purpose

Umwelt completed a Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR) in June 2019 to assess the potential biodiversity impacts of the Somersby residential subdivision in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). The structure plan has since been modified and the BCAR is currently being updated to reflect the modified development footprint proposed under the Planning Proposal. Additional field surveys have been completed and the BCAR will be finalised and submitted to DPIE in late April 2020. It is anticipated that at this time, the BCAR will be able to be placed on exhibition with the Planning Proposal.

This briefing note outlines key findings, an estimate of the likely credit requirements, and consideration of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requirements.

### Key messages

- Whilst the proposal footprint will impact on threatened species habitat and endangered ecological communities, sufficient offset opportunities are available through a variety of mechanisms to meet the biodiversity credit requirements in accordance with the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.
- Important connectivity and movement habitat is unlikely to be substantially impacted by the project. The proposal will not remove vegetation from within the indicatively mapped regional biodiversity corridor, as identified in the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 (NSW Government 2016) as connecting the Central National Parks and State Forests. The corridor will continue to be zoned E2 Environmental Conservation, whilst the residual rural land not in the development footprint will also be zoned E2 Environmental Conservation as part of the Planning Proposal.
- Whilst Biodiversity Certification will satisfy the requirements of the NSW BC Act, due to the presence of *Coastal Upland Swamps in the Sydney Basin Bioregion EEC* and other potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) an assessment of significance will be undertaken for the final disturbance footprint to determine if an EPBC Act referral is necessary.

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## 1.0 Introduction

Umwelt completed a Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR) in June 2019 to assess the potential biodiversity impacts of the Somersby residential subdivision in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). Following the decision of the Regional Planning Panel in October 2019 the proposed development footprint has been modified as per the Structure Plan shown in **Figure 1.1**, with the development impact footprint to be assessed shown in **Figure 1.2**.

The new proposed development footprint that requires assessment under the BAM, as shown in **Figure 1.2**, has altered from 10.91 hectares assessed in the earlier BCAR (Umwelt 2019) to approximately 16.6 hectares. This briefing note outlines the key findings of the BCAR including an estimate of the likely credit requirements.

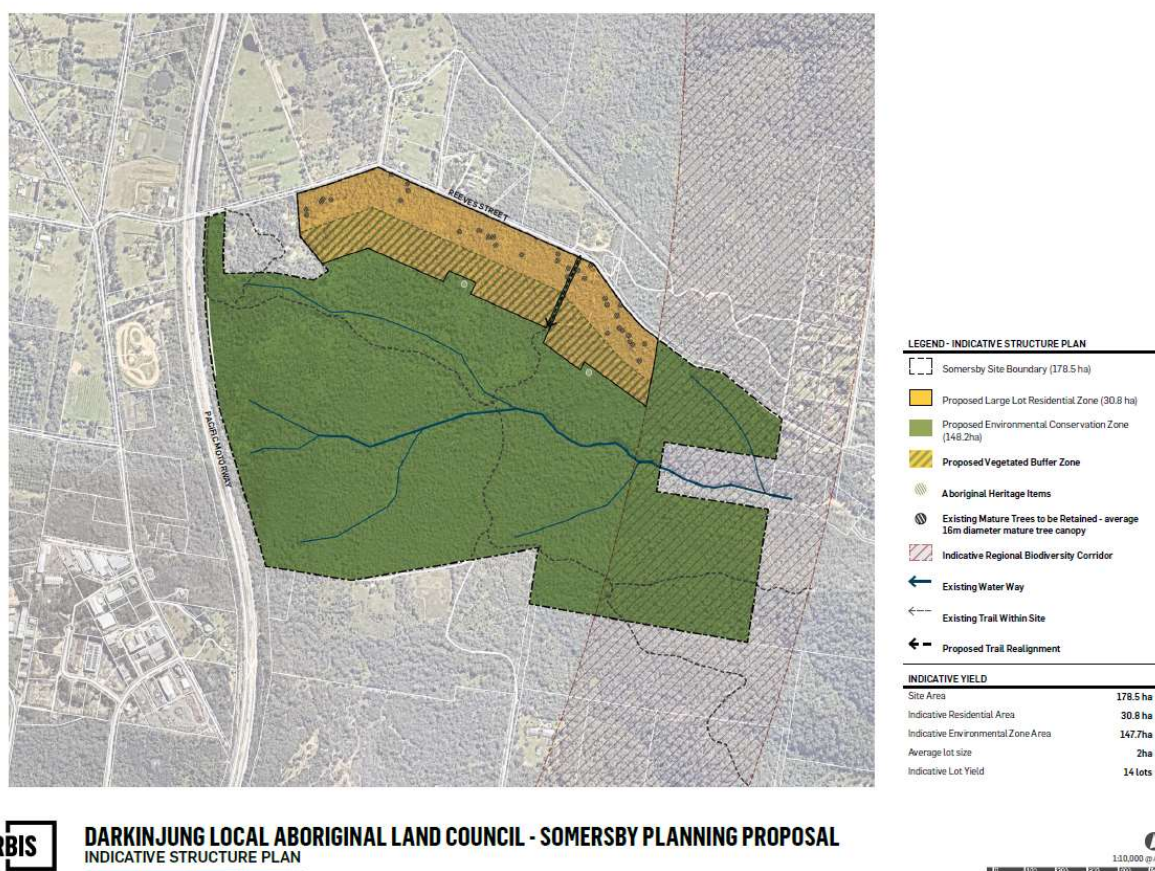


Figure 1.1 Planning proposal structure plan (Urbis 2019)



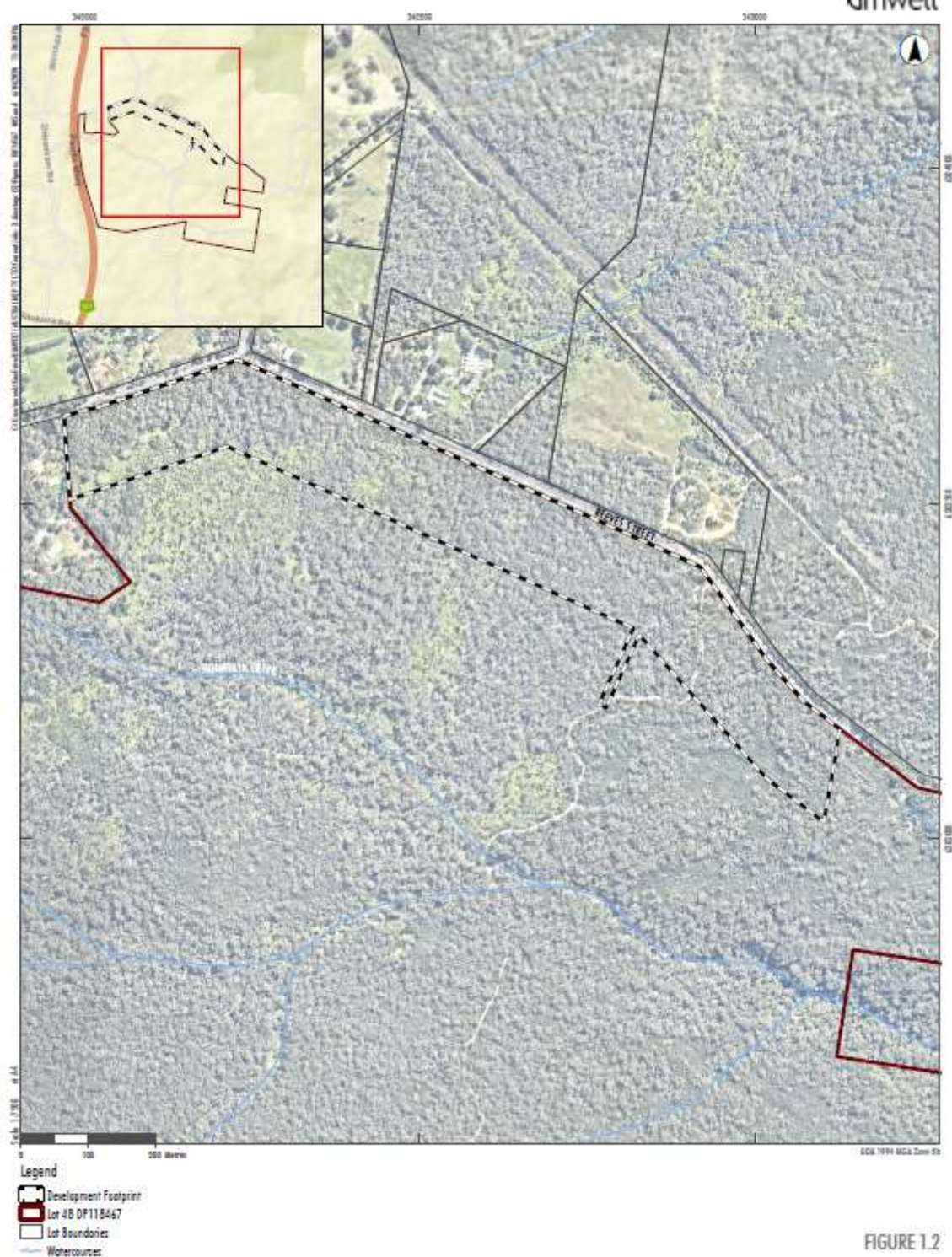


Figure 1.2 Disturbance footprint assessed in BCAR

## 2.0 Predicted Credit Requirements

The development footprint that requires assessment under the BAM has altered from 10.91 hectares of native vegetation assessed in the BCAR (Umwelt 2019) to approximately 16.6 hectares. **Table 2.1** shows the predicted credit requirements following the development footprint amendment.

The revised development footprint is predicted to result in the requirement to offset 394 ecosystem credits and 2,287 species credits.

**Table 2.1 Predicted Credit Requirements**

PCT/Species-credit	Revised Development Footprint	
	Area (ha)	Credits Required
PCT1641 Dwarf Apple Scribbly Gum heathy low woodland on sandstone ranges of the Central Coast <i>Good Condition</i>	3.2	<b>76</b>
PCT1642 Scribbly Gum – Red Bloodwood – Old Man Banksia heathy woodland of southern Central Coast <i>Good Condition</i>	9.9	<b>267</b>
PCT1642 Scribbly Gum – Red Bloodwood – Old Man Banksia heathy woodland of southern Central Coast <i>Pinus radiata</i> variant <i>Moderate Condition</i>	0.61	<b>10</b>
PCT 1699 Heath- leaved Banksia – Coral Fern wet heath on sandstone ranges of the lower Central Coast <i>Good Condition</i>	2.9	<b>41</b>
eastern pygmy possum <i>Cercartetus nanus</i>	13.7	<b>471</b>
large- eared pied- bat <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	10.5	<b>554</b>
giant burrowing frog <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	7.8	<b>201</b>
spreading guinea flower <i>Hibbertia procumbens</i>	13.7	<b>471</b>
southern myotis <i>Myotis macropus</i>	1.3	<b>47</b>
squirrel glider <i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	9.9	<b>356</b>
red- crowned toadlet <i>Pseudophryne australis</i>	7.2	<b>187</b>

### **3.0 Potential Corridor Impacts**

Important connectivity and movement habitat is unlikely to be substantially impacted by the project, however removal of the vegetation will be a long-term and permanent impact.

The proposal will not remove vegetation from within the mapped regional biodiversity corridor, as identified in the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 (NSW Government 2016) as connecting the Central National Parks and State Forests. The important biodiversity habitat connectivity function envisaged by the corridor will be further secured through the proposed rezoning.

### **4.0 Key Matters for EPBC Act Referral**

The EPBC Act prescribes the Commonwealth's role in the environmental assessment of impact, management and protection of areas of national environmental significance and biodiversity conservation. Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) that are likely to be significantly impacted as a result of the project require a referral under the EPBC Act.

The following MNES have been confirmed on the Somersby site:

- *Coastal Upland Swamps in the Sydney Basin Bioregion EEC.*
- Giant burrowing frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*)

An Assessment of Significance will be completed upon confirmation of the final disturbance footprint to confirm likelihood of significant impacts and EPBC Act Referrals.