

28 May 2015

Luke Rollinson  
Director, Town Planning  
MMJ Real Estate  
PO Box 1167  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Dear Luke

## **Green and Golden Bell Frog Due Diligence Assessment**

**Project no. 20259**

Biosis was engaged to undertake a due diligence assessment of the former Port Kembla Primary School, located at Lot 1 Military Road, Port Kembla. The purpose of the due diligence assessment was to determine the presence of breeding, foraging and dispersal habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea* within the property and determine any restrictions on development due to the presence of this habitat. This letter documents the findings of this assessment.

### **Habitat Assessment**

The habitat assessment was undertaken on the 28 May 2015 by a qualified Zoologist from Biosis, experienced with the ecology of the Green and Golden Bell Frog.

No water bodies, soaks or ephemeral waterways, which may provide breeding habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog, were located on the property. Dense vegetation, high grass, sheet metal and piles of wood debris and bricks located across the property provide potential refuge habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog. Refuge habitat, however, is not limiting in the area.

Properties to the east, south and west, directly adjacent to Lot 1, Military Road, do not appear to contain suitable breeding habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog. However, there are a number of recent (post 2010) records of this species within close proximity to the property. The property may be used for dispersal purposes by local populations in the area in times of high mobility for the species, particularly August to April.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Overall, the property itself has minimal habitat values for the Green and Golden Bell Frog and there should be no limitations for development with regards to this species. Given the location of the property adjacent to residential development we would not recommend the construction of connective habitat on the property. In our opinion, no further assessments are required for the Green and Golden Bell Frog.

During any future development of the site, the following safeguards are recommended:

- Engagement of an ecologist familiar with the species to undertake inspection of potential refuge habitat prior to removal.
- Any sub-surface excavations should be inspected on a daily basis to determine whether any frogs have entered the excavation overnight, particularly during the active period for this species (August to April).
- If a Green and Golden Bell Frog is found, a qualified ecologist should be contacted to relocate the individual to appropriate habitat in the area.
- Future construction workers on the property could be provided with the Green and Golden Bell Frog information sheet (attached) so that in the event that a frog is located during works, it can be identified and personnel know what to do next.

Please contact me on (02) 4201 1054 if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'CFaddy-Vrouwe'.

**Christina Faddy-Vrouwe**

Field Ecologist

## Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea*

The Green and Golden Bell Frog is a nationally and state threatened species. It is listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.



Adult Female Green and Golden Bell Frog recorded at Port Kembla. Photograph Copyright © 2013 Biosis Pty Ltd

### General Appearance

The Green and Golden Bell Frog is recognisable by its large size (up to 10cm) and usually striking colour combination of green and gold. Most individuals appear to have a bright green background colour with irregular large spots and stripes of gold, although sometimes the frogs appear an olive green or even brown colour. The groin is a distinctive turquoise blue colour and the frog has an obvious eardrum (dark circular disc just behind the head).

### Habitat

Green and Golden Bell Frogs inhabit a range of habitats including creeks, drains, wetlands and dams. The Green and Golden Bell Frog can sometimes be seen basking amongst water plants during sunny weather but is most often encountered sheltering under logs or rocks in the day. It can move long distances and can sometimes be found away from water.

### What should you do if you find a Green and Golden Bell Frog?

- 1) Stop work and tell your on-site zoologist immediately.
- 2) Call Biosis on 4229 5222 and speak to a zoologist who will provide advice on what to do next.

### Similar species

There are other small green frog species which occur within the known species range for the Green and Golden Bell Frog within the local area. These may be distinguished from an adult Green and Golden Bell Frog but their much smaller body size (up to 2cm).



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