

Goulburn Mulwaree Biodiversity Officer Comments

‘Sofala’ 137 Brisbane Grove Road Biodiversity Assessment 5/09/2021

PP/2021/7390

Hayes Environmental Biodiversity Assessment

The site was assessed by Hayes Environmental ecologists (8th July and 13th August, 2021 and reported findings of the site assessment were that:

- The entire site could be characterized as ‘open managed paddocks’.
- There was no native tree canopy.
- There was no native shrub layer.
- At the time of the assessment large areas had been recently ploughed. Areas that had not been ploughed were dominated by exotic pasture grasses and weed species, particularly Cocksfoot Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Prairie Grass (*Bromus catharticus*), Rye Grass (*Lolium* spp.) and other species.
- Foliage % cover of native species was estimated to be less than 15% across the site, with the exception of small patches associated with the margins of small farm dams.
- No threatened flora or fauna were found on the site.
- Habitat assessment concluded that suitable habitat for threatened fauna predicted to occur in the general area was not present and that no threatened fauna would be expected to be present.
- The land is not flagged on the Biodiversity Values Map
- Due to the very small estimated area of native vegetation on the site, clearing will not trigger the BOS area clearing threshold.
- The proposed activity is not likely to have a significant impact on any threatened species, ecological communities or their habitats.
- Entry into the BOS is not triggered and a BDAR is not required.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council Site Inspection 12/01/2022

The site was inspected by Brian Faulkner (GMC Environment & Biodiversity Assessment Officer) and David Kiernan (GMC Senior Strategic Planner) on 12th January, 2022.

The site inspection confirmed reported findings by Hayes Environmental.

- The property features open paddocks managed as grazing pasture.
- The majority of the land is dominated by exotic pasture grasses, especially Cocksfoot Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Rye Grass (*Lolium* spp.).
- One paddock in the lower lying area adjacent to the Mulwaree River floodplain comprises degraded Lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) used for hay production. This area is

heavily weed infested. There is some *Lythrum hyssopifolia* present in the wetter areas, but overall the area is dominated by exotic species.

- There is no native tree canopy present.
- There is no native shrub layer.
- Native plant cover was estimated be less than 5% cover in all areas inspected.
- Trees present on site include the exotic species Elm (*Ulmus* sp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) and Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*).
- There are some extensive stands of African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*). Other significant weeds include Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) and African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*).
- Native fauna observed during the inspection included Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*) and a small group of Fairy Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) foraging in a Radiata Pine windbreak. Other fauna observed in the general area included Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) and Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).
- No threatened flora or fauna species or ecological communities were observed on the site, and the heavily managed nature of the grassland areas would not be likely to provide viable habitat for any permanently resident fauna species.
- It is likely that the site is used on occasion as a foraging resource for a variety of bird species, but the proposed rezoning is unlikely to have any significant impact on these.
- It has been confirmed that areas of the land to be impacted by the proposed activity are not flagged on the Biodiversity Values Map.
- The proposed activity does not require entry into the BOS and a BDAR is not required.
- The proposed activity is not likely to have any significant adverse impacts on local biodiversity values of the area.