

Ecoplanning (2022). Preliminary Biodiversity Development Assessment Report– 515 Crookwell Road, Kingsdale, NSW (Lots 103 and 104 // DP 1007433). Prepared for Precise Planning.

The area identified as comprising 4.13 hectares of native grassland has been confirmed to be dominated by native grasses and contains abundant loose surface rocks. The grassland area requires further assessment in spring to evaluate biodiversity values of the area and assess potential impacts of the proposed activity.

The results of this assessment must be provided to Council prior to Council submitting the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Environment – Biodiversity Conservation for a gateway determination.

Council must be able to demonstrate compliance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Ministerial Directions, particularly in relation to avoiding any potential impacts. If land is identified as being environmentally sensitive, Council is obliged to consider protecting this land by appropriate Environmental Zoning. Avoidance of potential adverse impacts on biodiversity must be demonstrated during the zoning stage of the proposal.

Without the necessary investigations this cannot be quantified and Council cannot ascertain whether or not the rezoning proposal will be appropriate or what other alternative zoning approaches will be most appropriate.

Please be advised that a previous proposal to rezone similar land was declined by Biodiversity and Conservation | Department of Planning and Environment due to the proponent failing to supply a BDAR within an adequate timeframe.

Further advice on survey requirements is provided below:

Preliminary BDAR for 515 Crookwell Road, Kingsdale NSW

The Preliminary BDAR has identified an area of *PCT 1289 Wallaby Grass – Red-grass – Tall Speargrass – Kangaroo Grass dry tussock grassland of the North-western and Eastern Southern Tablelands in the South Eastern Highlands Bioregion*, comprising approximately 4.13 hectares.

The identification of this plant community is described as being based on a plot-based survey, consistent with the BAM (DPE 2020), undertaken by Ben Brown (Ecologist) and Edwin Vaca (Ecologist) on 27 – 28 January 2022.

The area is described in the Preliminary BDAR as “degraded”.

Data were collected from two BAM plots (BAM plot 2 and BAM plot 8, shown in Figure 3.4 of the Preliminary BDAR) with the following summary:

Plot 2: 5 grasses and 5 forbs

Plot 8: 6 grasses and 4 forbs

Details of plant species and percentage cover recorded in each BAM plot have not been provided.

Comments

January is not the optimum time for conducting a flora survey of grasslands in the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA. There are numerous native grassland plant species that are in active growth and flowering in spring, that die back to dormant underground structures after flowering, and that are not usually readily detectable in summer.

Examples include, but are not limited to: *Arthropodium milleflorum*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Burchardia umbellata*, *Diuris* species (including *Diuris aequalis*), *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, *Microseris lanceolata*, *Thysanotus tuberosus*, *Thysanotus patersonii* and *Wurmbea dioica*.

Further flora and fauna assessment is required at a more appropriate time of year.

Details of species recorded in the BAM plots & % cover of each must be provided.

Identification of the ecological community as PCT 1289 should be reviewed after further flora survey work has been completed.

The site was inspected on Tuesday 2nd of August, 2022 by Brian Faulkner and Dialina Day, and this inspection found:

- The area identified as native grassland is dominated by native grasses. Site inspection suggested that the area is not as degraded as suggested by the Preliminary BDAR findings. The area may also be larger than 4.13 hectares.
- The area identified as native grassland features large amounts of both embedded and loose surface rock. This has not been identified in the Preliminary BDAR. Presence of rocks in an area of native grassland provides potential habitat for a number of grassland fauna species.
- It is likely that the presence of rock in the area identified as native grassland is the principal reason that this area has not been pasture improved (ie it appears to not have been previously ploughed, cropped or reseeded with exotic pasture species). The implication of this is that this area is relatively undisturbed and may contain fauna and flora that would otherwise have been removed by agricultural activities.

The site inspection also confirmed presence of large outcrops of rock located in the paddock located to the north of the access driveway. This rock outcrop has not been identified in the Preliminary BDAR. Rock outcrops may provide habitat for native fauna and further assessment is required.

The following threatened grassland fauna & flora species are known or predicted to be present in the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA and may be present on the site:

Species	Recommended survey period
<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Sept – May (includes Nov)
<i>Delma impar</i>	Sept – Oct – Nov - Dec
<i>Suta flagellum</i>	Sept – May (includes Nov)
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Nov - Dec
<i>Tympanocryptis lineata</i>	Oct – April (includes Nov)
<i>Tympanocryptis osbornei</i>	Oct – April (includes Nov)
<i>Tympanocryptis pinguicolla</i>	Oct – April (includes Nov)
<i>Keyacris scurra</i>	Aug -Nov
<i>Diuris aequalis</i>	Oct - Nov
<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i>	Oct – Nov - Dec
<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i>	Sept – May (includes Nov)
<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Sept – Oct - Nov
<i>Swainsona sericea</i>	Sept – Oct - Nov

A further survey for these threatened species should be conducted in the identified native grassland area in November, 2022. If the survey is not conducted at this time, the next suitable opportunity will not be until November, 2023.

These additional surveys must be completed and the results provided to Council **prior to Council submitting the Planning Proposal** to the Department for a gateway determination.

Please complete all required surveys and submit your final biodiversity assessment report to Council for review and consultation prior to COB on Friday 16th December, 2022.

SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS



Native grassland area





Large rock outcrop in front paddock