

FLORA AND FAUNA ASSESSMENT: 20 - 24 LOCKYER STREET, GOULBURN

Fraser Ecological Consulting

1st May 2024

REVIEW NOTES

Report version

Reviewed by Brian Faulkner, Environment & Biodiversity Assessment Officer

The original FFA report submitted by Fraser Ecological Consulting was dated 4th April, 2023, and this review assesses a revised version dated 1/05/2024, submitted following review comments and feedback provided by Council.

Description of the proposed activity

REZ_0004_2324

The proposed activity is to rezone land currently zoned RU2 Rural Landscape to E4 General Industrial. The intention of the rezoning proposal is to allow future industrial development of the site. The intended development will result in clearing of the land.

Preliminary Desktop Survey (current status)

Street address: 22-24 Lockyer Street, Goulburn, NSW 2580

Lot 2 DP 1238214

Land zone: Most of the site is currently zoned RU2 Rural Landscape. Small portion on western side of Lockyer Street is zoned E4.

Minimum lot size: 100 hectares

Actual lot size: approximately 12 hectares

10/50 code: Does not apply.

Rural Boundary Clearing Code: Does apply. (If rezoning approved, will no longer apply).

GMC LEP Terrestrial Biodiversity: Not flagged.

Biodiversity Values Map: Not flagged, no parts marked on BVM.

BOS Area clearing threshold: 0.5 hectares.

SEED STVM Extant PCT mapping: Mostly mapped as cleared, but a small portion near the northern boundary is mapped as PCT 3373 Goulburn Tableland Box-Gum Grassy Forest (associated with CEEC Box Gum Grassy Woodland & Derived Native Grassland).

SEED Werriwa & Monaro Advisory layer: Not mapped.

EPBC Act protected matters search tool: 2 TECs, 41 Threatened Species, 11 Migratory Species.

BioNet Atlas threatened species records: No records for the property. Within 5 km vicinity, 15 Threatened Fauna, 7 Threatened Flora.

Key Fish Habitat: Not applicable, no parts marked as KFH.

Drinking Water Catchment: Sydney (Warragamba).

IBRA: South Eastern Highlands

Sub-IBRA: Monaro.

Mitchell Landscape: Gundary Plains

Review comments

The Subject Land comprises the area of Lot 2 DP 1238214 located on the eastern side of Lockyer Street, which is currently zoned RU2 Rural Landscape.

The findings of the FFA report are broadly supported.

No threatened species listed under either the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* were found to be present on the Subject Land during site surveys/inspections by either Fraser Ecological Consulting staff or by Goulburn Mulwaree Council staff.

The report describes the site as containing cleared pastureland that is dominated by introduced grass species. It is broadly agreed, following site inspections, that most parts of the site are dominated by introduced pasture species such as *Phalaris aquatica*, Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, Subclover *Trifolium subterraneum* and a wide variety of pasture weeds.

Locally significant weed species present include African Box Thorn *Lycium ferocissimum*, Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* aggregate, St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Chilean Needle Grass *Nassella neesiana* and Serrated Tussock *Nassella trichotoma*.

There are six Eucalyptus trees present on the Subject Land for this proposal, and a further four Eucalyptus trees are present on the smaller portion located on the western side of Lockyer Street (not included in this assessment as this portion is already zoned E4 General Industrial).

Four of the remnant trees present on the main part of the site are mature trees with nesting hollows. These trees comprise one Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora*, two Blakely's Red Gum *Eucalyptus blakelyi* and one Apple Box *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*.

The largest Blakely's Red Gum was found to have two large stick nests present high in the canopy. This tree has habitat values due to its size and location high on the site.

These four mature remnant trees with nesting hollows represent the highest biodiversity values of the site and it is recommended that these should be protected, as findings of the Threatened Species Test of Significance conducted as part of the FFA are based on the assumption that no hollow bearing trees will be removed as part of the proposed activity (refer to page 53 of FFA).

Protection of the hollow bearing trees should include a minimum TPZ (Tree Protection Zone) as a buffer around each tree. The TPZ is to be calculated as specified in *AS 4970 -2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites*.

If the identified significant habitat trees on the site are retained and protected from future removal the proponent can demonstrate application of the biodiversity hierarchy (avoid – minimize – mitigate) and that impacts on biodiversity values of the site have been avoided, as required by the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Two smaller trees present on the Subject Site are a regenerating Yellow Box and a small Blakely's Red Gum. The two smaller remnant Eucalyptus trees present do not contain nesting hollows or nests, and their removal is not likely to result in any significant impacts on biodiversity values.

Locations of the Eucalyptus trees are provided in Figure 1 of these notes.

There are four dams on the site and two of these were found to contain the native aquatic plant *Vallisneria australis* growing around their fringes. One is located near the northern boundary of the land and the second comprises a larger dam located in the southern part of the lot. These two dams were also observed to contain numerous Eastern Long-Necked Turtles *Chelodina longicollis*.

These dams provide habitat for aquatic fauna and waterfowl.

It is anticipated that removal of the dams will be required for future development of the site.

A site-specific dam dewatering protocol must be developed and included as part of the CEMP (Construction Environment Management Plan) to mitigate and avoid harm or injury to aquatic wildlife resulting from draining and filling in of any of the dams on the site.

Dewatering and decommissioning of dams must be supervised by an accredited ecologist with experience in this type of project.

The dam dewatering protocol must include specific instructions and procedures for handling and relocation of native fauna, including frogs, turtles and other reptiles including snakes. Dam dewatering and decommissioning must not occur during the spring breeding season.

HOLLOW BEARING TREE REMOVAL

It is strongly recommended that no hollow bearing trees are to be removed. However, if for any reason this is unavoidable, pre-clearance protocols are to be developed and implemented to mitigate and avoid harm or injury to native fauna when removing hollow bearing trees and trees with obvious nests.

These must include pre-clearance surveys, clearing supervision by an experienced fauna spotter/accredited wildlife handler and soft felling techniques.

A suitably licensed ecologist (who is vaccinated for Australian Bat Lyssavirus) is to be engaged to supervise the removal of the HBTs in order to minimise the chance of harm to fauna, and to rescue or relocate any fauna displaced during the clearing process.

Figure 1: Eucalyptus trees on site

20-24 Lockyer Street

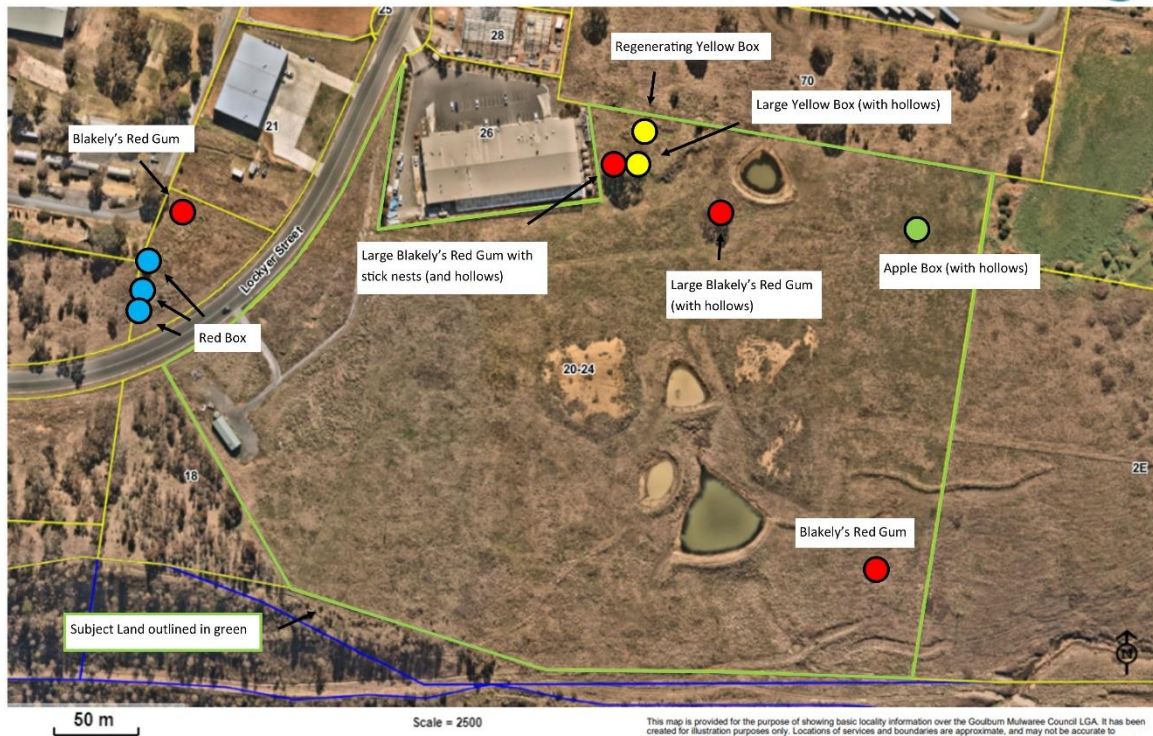


Figure 2: Dams

20-24 Lockyer Street

