

Our Ref: Rohini 11/23



15 November 2023

Diana Brajuha Planning Director EG Advisory

Dear Diana

## Re; Biodiversity advice - Planning Proposal Application for Anglicare Rohini Village 51-53 Rohini Street, Turramurra

I refer to your request for biodiversity advice in respect of the planning proposal being prepared for a redevelopment within what is currently named as the Rohini Village. I visited the site most recently on August 16 2023 and previously in late 2022.



Figure 1 - Location of Rohini Village in relation to Rohini Street Turramurra (Source: *Arterra Design*, 2022)

In regard to the above we have been requested to provide an opinion on whether or not the development triggers the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* and the need for a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR) and whether or not ecological offsets should be provided. In that regard I can advise the following.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Local Land Services Act 2013, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 together regulate land management and biodiversity conservation in NSW.

Development in NSW is required to be considered in light of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act) and the need to consider impacts upon biodiversity; and should there be impacts on biodiversity then to determine the need for a biodiversity development assessment report (BDAR).

Assessment and approval pathways for biodiversity impacts depends upon the purpose, nature, location and extent of the vegetation clearing. In some cases, an applicant may be required to obtain development consent or a native vegetation clearing approval.

The first step in that pathway is to determine if the site is mapped as containing biodiversity whilst the second step is to determining if native vegetation and other biodiversity will be cleared or impacted by the development. Should no biodiversity impacts be envisaged from either direct or indirect impacts then no BDAR is required to be prepared.

Figure 2 below identifies the site as having a very small portion in the southwestern sector mapped as containing biodiversity according to Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015. A series of red lines on Figure 2 shows the boundary and the extent of the biodiversity mapping intrusion into the allotment. Figure 3 provides clarity on the extent of the mapped biodiversity being a large Blackbutt (*E. pilularis*) and a Brushbox tree which are located within the Rohini Street Reserve but have canopies that extend over the site. In addition, there is a garden adjacent peripheral to two large water tanks to the entry driveway.



Figure 2 – Biodiversity mapping extracted from the Biodiversity Theshold Tool (August 17 2023)



Figure 3 - Photo of the mapped vegetation on west side of entry driveway to Rohini Village

An arboreal assessment has been undertaken by Arterra Design in July 2023.

No native trees are proposed to be removed within the biodiversity mapped area. Trees 21, 71, 85, 89 & 91 are native trees and we note from the *Arterra Design* report where they advise;

- Tree 21 is a *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* which is 5.5m high with a canopy spread of 3m with a Low Retention Value.
- Tree 71 is a *Callistemon citrinus cv* Crimson Bottle Brush which is 8m high with a 7m canopy spread and is categorized with a Low Retention Value.
- Tree 85 is a *Melaleuca quinquenervia* Broad Leafed Paperbark which is 12.5m high with a 4m canopy spread and is categorized with a Low Retention Value.
- Tree 89 is a *Melaleuca quinquenervia* Broad Leafed Paperbark which is 12m high with a 3m canopy spread and is categorized with a Low Retention Value.
- Tree 91 is a Melaleuca quinquenervia Broad Leafed Paperbark which is 11m high with a 4m canopy spread and is categorized with a Low Retention Value.

## The need for a BDAR

A BDAR is required through three possible pathways;

- 1. If biodiversity will be impacted within an area that is mapped on the current biodiversity values map.
- 2. Through the removing native vegetation and the subsequent need for offsetting the biodiversity loss using the BOSscheme.
- 3. By identifying the loss of native vegetation in a test of significance undertaken in accord with the BC Act.

Arising from the fact not one of the above triggers will occur then it can be readily construed that a BDAR is not required to be prepared. In addition, there is no requirement for a response to be provided in respect of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021.* 

Should you require any assistance in this matter please contact John Travers at <u>bushfire@bigpond.com</u> or at 0418 630048.

Yours faithfully

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