

12th of September 2019

Mr Ross Edwards
Central Coast Council
Po Box 20
Wyong, NSW, 2259

FURTHER ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REGARDING CRYPTIC ORCHIDS AND WYONG DAISY FOR DA/1029/2017

Dear Ross ,

At the request of Council Ecologist further targeted flora surveys have been completed in support of DA/1029/2017.

Targeted surveys were undertaken for *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) flowering period (September-October) & *Rutidosia heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort) on the 8th & 10th of September 2019.

The investigation area was the location of the proposed sewer through No 11-15 Virginia Road. The targeted surveys also focused on the northern portion of the subject property.

At the time of site inspections access was not available to No 11-15 Virginia Road notwithstanding the southern boundaries of No 65 Nikko Road and No 11 Virginia Road were inspected and allowed for detailed survey over No 11-15 Virginia Road from the fence line. At the time of the inspections the vegetation within No 11-15 Virginia Road was noted to be exotic grassland maintained to the property boundary. A small area of approximately 7 linear metres at the western end of No 11-15 Virginia Road (Photograph 10) was dominated by Blackberry and Crofton Weed.

No suitable habitat exists for *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) or *Rutidosia heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort) within the proposed sewer location within No 11-15 Virginia, notwithstanding targeted surveys were undertaken with no individuals of either species being recorded.

The *Rutidosia heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort) population on the northern side of Sparks Road directly opposite Railway Road was inspected on the 8th of September with one individual in flower. Despite the targeted surveys being undertaken outside the flowering period (October-November) the survey effort is sufficient as this species is easily identified when not flowering.

A reference population of *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) at the end of Mountain Road, Warnervale was inspected on the 8th of September 2019 and

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was found to have no less than 15 individuals in bud/flower. This species easily identifiable when compared to other local *Thelymitra* species and stands out in exotic pasture grass due to its colour (Photograph 7).

The proposed sewer within No 11-15 Virginia Road would result in the removal of mostly exotic pasture dominated by exotic *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Kikuyu) and *Andropogon virginicus* (Whisky Grass) (Photograph 11). At times small areas were dominated by *Imperata cylindrica* (Blady Grass) a hardy native groundcover species. *Kunzea ambigua* (Tick Bush) regenerating stems were also recorded growing within exotic grassland as well as *Leptospermum polygalifolium* (Lemon Scented Tea Tree) and *Melaleuca nodosa* (Ball Honey-myrtle) adjacent to the fence line.

In summary the proposed sewer within No 11-15 Virginia Road does not contain suitable habitat for *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) or *Rutidosia heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort).

If you would like to discuss this further or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0402592399.

Yours sincerely



John Whyte

Principal Ecologist



Appendix A

Site Photographs

Photograph 1 *Rutidosia heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort) flowering
northern side of Sparks Road immediately opposite the end of Railway Road



Photograph 2 *Rutidosia heterogama* (Heath Wrinklewort) globular inflorescence



Photograph 3 *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyang Sun Orchid) in bud/flower



Photograph 4 *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) in bud/flower



Photograph 5 *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) in bud



Photograph 6 *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) in flower



Photograph 7 *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyong Sun Orchid) in bud/flower



Photograph 8 *Thelymitra adorata* (Wyang Sun Orchid) in bud/flower



Photograph 9 Caladenia catenata flowering within the subject proeprty



Photograph 10 Blackberry infestation within No 11-15 Virginia Road



Photograph 11 Managed Land within No 11-15 Virginia Road



Photograph 12 Vegetation on the northern side of the fenceline north of No 11-15 Virginia Road



Photograph 13 Vegetation on the northern side of the fenceline north of No 11-15 Virginia Road

