

RECORD OF BRIEFING

HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL

BRIEFING DETAILS

BRIEFING DATE / TIME	Monday, 22 March 2021, 2pm to 3pm
LOCATION	Videoconference

BRIEFING MATTER

PPS-2018HCC047 – Port Stephens Council – 16-2018-772-1 - 3221 Pacific Highway Kings Hill and 35 Six Mile Road Kings Hill - Concept development for residential subdivision

PANEL MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE	Alison McCabe (Chair), Sandra Hutton and Clare Brown
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OTHER ATTENDEES

Hunter Central Coast Branch - Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD)	Steven Cox, Joe Thompson and Paul Hillier
Umwelt	Travis Peake and Allison Riley
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment	Jane Gibbs, Leanne Harris and Verity Rollason
Port Stephens Council	Kate Drinan, Steven Peart and Rean Lourens
MJD Consulting	Matt Doherty

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- This briefing was undertaken as required in the Panel Record of Deferral from 23 December 2020
- As part of the Panel's deliberations in December, the Panel was provided with a letter from BCD to the Council expressing concerns with BCD's high level review of the published SIS, particularly in relation to koalas but also other threatened species.
- The Panel understands that it is their responsibility as the consent authority to determine whether the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on threatened species
- BCD provided the Panel with an overview of their involvement with Council and Applicant in relation to the SIS process
- BCD have only undertaken a very high level and preliminary review of the published SIS
- BCD provided the Panel with a chronology of events relating to the DA
- BCD provided the Panel with an overview of high level concerns that they have with the documentation noting that the Panel is an independent decision making body and that BCD would have its own separate role if the Panel decided that BCD concurrence would be required.
- Seven key areas of concern were raised by BCD as a result of their preliminary review of the SIS including:
 - 1. Compliance with the SEARs

- 2. The impacts on local abundance of threatened species
- 3. Cumulative impacts
- 4. Use of offsets being used to determine impacts on significance
- 5. Concerns with the proposed koala fence
- 6. Methodology used to determine impacts on koalas
- 7. Some species may not have been adequately surveyed