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Philip Towler
Associate Director
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Email: ptowler@emmconsulting.com.au

Re: Cover letter to the Ecohort Pty Ltd Landscape Plan dated 25th September 2019 for the Georges Cove Marina, Moorebank.

Dear Philip,

Ecohort Pty Ltd has been providing ecological restoration consulting and restoration services to clients across the greater Sydney basin and Illawarra for over 25 years, specialising in the restoration of endangered ecological communities in Western Sydney.

Ecohort was approached by the client, Ernest Dupere of Benedict Industries Pty Ltd, to produce a landscape plan for the proposed Georges Cove Marina at Moorebank that featured native River-flat Forest & practical amenity vegetation. The resulting plan has been produced with consideration to the following:

- the requirements for revegetation of waterfront land set out in the guidelines set by the NSW Office of Water, the enforcing body for the Water Management Act (2000) of which this development would trigger;
- the surrounding existing native vegetation communities, the vegetation communities that would have previously existed at the site and the plant species that are found in these communities;
- the role that future vegetation at the site has from an ecological perspective in providing a linkage between existing remnant vegetation to the south and west of the development site;
- the existence of pre-disturbance landforms and soil profiles at the development site; and
- consideration of practical landscape amenity functions with the above-outlined points.

As such, with the exception of the bio-retention basins, all planting within 40 metres of the Georges River will be revegetated with fully structured local native endangered River Flat Eucalypt Forest (RFEF) plant species. That is local native ground layer, shrub species and canopy tree species. The bio-retention basins are proposed to be planted out with local native species from the Sydney Freshwater Wetland vegetation community. Another 5,163m² of lands surrounding the proposed carparks and development edges are proposed to be planted out with local native grass species and canopy tree species from the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland ecological community. As a result of the proposed landscape plan, 86% of the areas to be landscaped (25,152m² in total) will support local native plant species representative of the vegetation communities that would have previously been represented at the site. A further 2,268m² will support local native tree species with the capacity to provide additional food and habitat for local native fauna in the future. Areas supporting non-native buffalo turf have been added to some of the proposed landscaping areas outside the 40-metre Georges River Riparian buffer zone for landscape amenity function, aesthetics and ease of maintenance.

All installed plant species are drought tolerant and require minimal maintenance beyond weed control during the establishment period. All proposed plant species are found in surrounding bushland remnants and have evolved to adapt to the climatic conditions and soil landscapes of the Moorebank area.

The landscape plan was drawn up by myself, Alex McCarthy (M. Env Mgt, B. Sc (PhyGeog), AssDip Eng (LIS), Cert 2 Bush Reg). I have been working in ecological restoration since 2001 and supervising and managing projects across Ecohort Pty Ltd's service area since 2005. I have been preparing Vegetation Management Plans for a range of clients during that time alongside company director Edgar Freimanis who also provided input at the workshopping stage with this project.

Ecohort Pty Ltd are not Registered Landscape Architects and this plan has been designed largely as an ecological restoration project. Consideration has been given to the plant species type, mature size, aesthetic value and plant requirements selected for installation in areas adjoining walkways and carparks, in addition to the role revegetation of this site can play in providing linkages between existing remnant bushland and the value of this from an ecological and conservation perspective. Planting and associated revegetation practices are to be carried out as per best practice guidelines for ecological restoration using methods advocated by bodies such as the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR), the NSW Office of Water and NSW Department of Primary Industries and best practice guidelines for general landscaping and horticulture.

Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any aspect regarding this matter, should it be required.

Yours sincerely,

Alex McCarthy
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