

APPENDIX 6

Ecological advice

Ms Jessica Touma
Senior Development Manager
UrbanGrowth NSW
PO Box 237
Parramatta NSW 2124

By email: JTouma@urbangrowth.nsw.gov.au

7th April 2015

RE: Sportsfields development application at Macarthur Heights.

Dear Jessica,

This letter is provided as a response to your request regarding the part of the above development application that refers to the area known as the Sportfields. The relevant civil plans are those prepared by J. Wyndham Prince and dated 17th March 2015, Revision B.

The Sportsfields precinct is part of the Macarthur Heights development and its major objectives are to provide recreational facilities and biodiversity conservation opportunities. It is part of the approved Masterplan and its layout is integrated with the adjacent development Stages 1 and 4 and Riparian Corridor 3.

The Macarthur Heights development has been assessed for general ecological impact in its entirety by Hayes Environmental and more specifically by Hayes Environmental and Keystone Ecological as further detailed designs of road, drainage and bulk earthworks were developed (Hayes 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2012; Keystone Ecological 2015).

The proposal as detailed and assessed within the latest Addendum report (Keystone Ecological, dated 8th February 2015) for all development stages would remove approximately 2.74 hectares of the Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) and retain 19.46 hectares of CPW. Together with the areas of cleared land to be restored as CPW, the end result will deliver approximately 30 hectares of restored, rehabilitated and managed CPW. These lands will be within 6 riparian corridors and in connected restored and remnant patches around the Sportsfields and Lake Thomson.

Hayes delineated 16 patches of extant CPW across the Masterplan area, labelled A to P. The development layouts assessed in Hayes (2012) and Keystone Ecological (2015) assumed that none of the 0.8 hectares of remnant K would be removed, and it would all be included in Riparian Corridor 3.

The current Sportfields proposal identifies remnant K as being untouched and retained CPW. This is consistent with that described and assessed in the previous reports.

The subsequent drainage modelling requires some bulk earthworks surrounding the footprint of the southern part of remnant K, but the drainage line within the CPW remnant will remain in its natural state. Thus no area of remnant K will be impacted by those works. This area will then be restored as CPW, using the conservation management principles and actions as detailed within the Vegetation Management Plan prepared by Greening Australia.

The proposed layout in relation to remnant K is shown in Figure 1 overleaf.

As remnant K is an area of CPW with potential habitat for *Meridolum corneovirens* Cumberland Plain Land Snail, it will be restored and managed to ensure minimal disturbance to this habitat and any populations of this species.

It is my opinion that the proposed development of the Sportfields precinct is consistent with the approved Masterplan and its associated impact assessment documentation; no further impact assessment is considered necessary.

I trust that this is of assistance to you; please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further clarification or information.

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Ashby
Principal Consultant

