

Timothy Steele
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15th July 2024

Dear Timothy,

East Coast Ecology Pty Ltd (ECE) was engaged to conduct a Koala Assessment for the proposed development at Mackillop Catholic College. It is understood that the pre-DA meeting with Central Coast Council resulted in the following advice:

The subject site is over 1ha in size does not have an approved koala plan of management applying to the land. The SEE will have to demonstrate the proposed development will not impact on the Koala habitat. If Council is not satisfied that the development will not cause adverse impact on Koala habitat, a Koala Assessment Report may be requested to be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person.

Chapter 4 Koala Habitat Protection 2021 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 is applicable to the proposed development. This chapter aims to encourage the conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for Koalas to support a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of Koala population decline.

Chapter 4 Part 4.2 Section 4.9(5) states that Council may grant development consent if the applicant provides to the Council:

- (a) information, prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person, the council is satisfied demonstrates that the land subject of the development application—
 - (i) does not include any trees belonging to the Koala use tree species listed in Schedule 3 for the relevant koala management area, or
 - (ii) is not core Koala habitat.

The definition of core Koala habitat under the SEPP is 'core Koala habitat means an area of land with a resident population of Koalas, evidenced by attributes such as breeding females, being females with young, and recent sightings of and historical records of a population'.

A NSW BioNet search was conducted prior to the site assessment and revealed one Koala record from 2018, >2.5km from the site (**Figure 1**). This record is not a breeding female Koala.

A site assessment was conducted on the 22nd February 2024 by ECE Ecologist Jade Minto, under the supervision of Principal Ecologist Dr Jack Tatler, to determine whether the proposed development is likely to impact Koalas or Koala Habitat. The site assessment involved surveying the site for Koala habitat values including evidence of Koalas (scats and scratch markings) and Koala use tree species. No evidence of Koalas (scats and scratch markings) was found within the site during the site assessment. Koala use tree

species including *Angophora costata*, *Corymbia maculata* and *Eucalyptus globoidea* were identified within the site and are planned to be removed (**Plate 1** and **Plate 2**).

Based on a lack of evidence for a resident population of Koalas, in combination with no evidence of Koalas within the site or recent or nearby records of breeding females, the site is not considered to be core Koala habitat and no further assessment (i.e. Koala Assessment Report) is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack Tatler'.

Dr Jack Tatler

Director/ Principal Ecologist - Accredited Biodiversity Assessor (BAAS21006)

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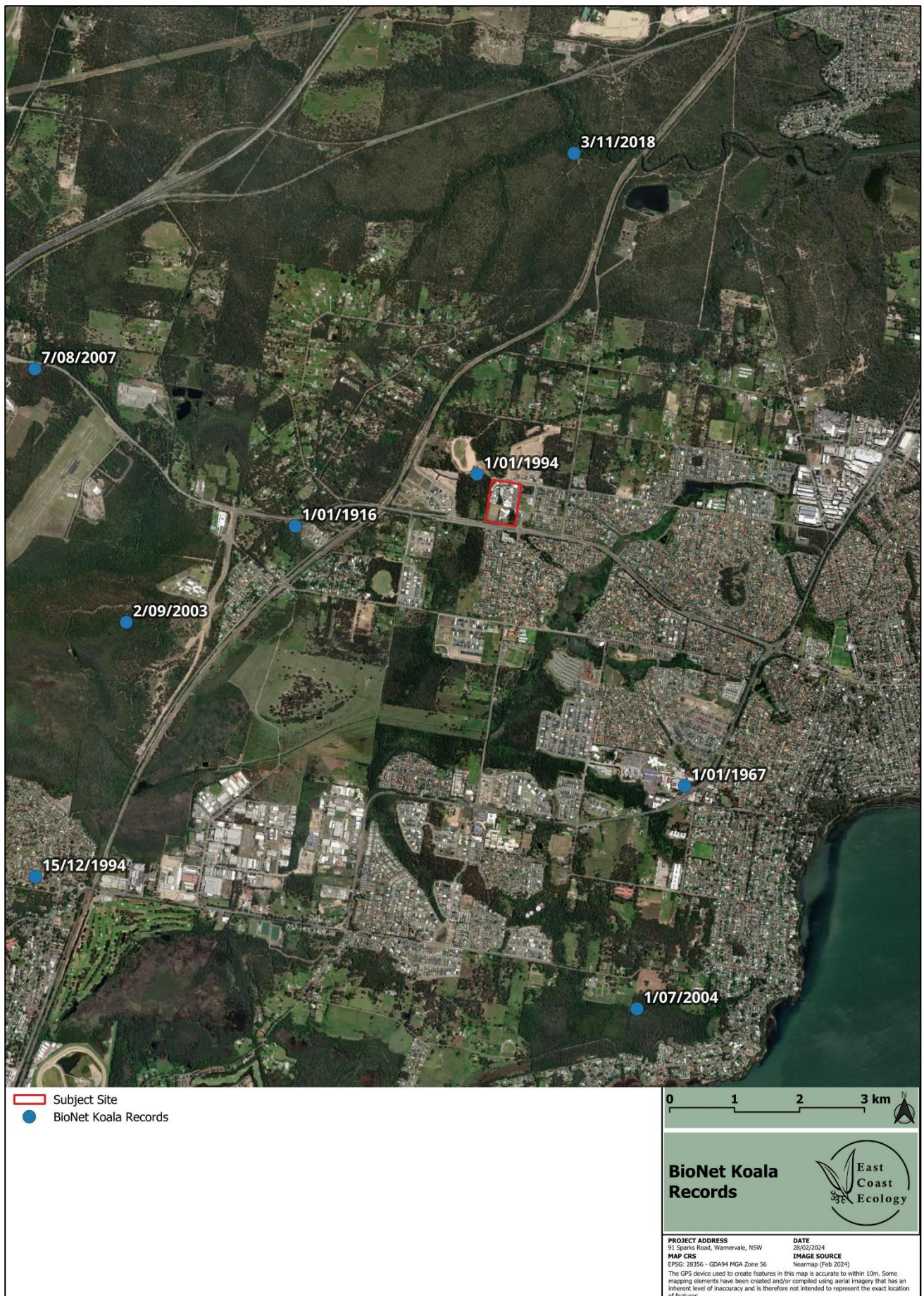


Figure 1. NSW BioNet Koala records surrounding the site.



Plate 1. Example of Koala use tree species (*Corymbia maculata*) within the site.



Plate 2. Example of Koala use tree species (*Angophora costata* and *Eucalyptus globoidea*) within the site.



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