



Our Ref: DOC21/563670
Your Ref: Letter dated 6 July 2021

Chief Executive Officer
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Attention: Mr Ashley Grummitt

Dear Dr Allen

**RE: Biodiversity Certification Agreement - Port Macquarie Airport and surrounding lands
Vegetation Management Plan "Tree Removal Zone"**

Thank you for your letter dated 6 July 2021 about the proposed Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the Port Macquarie Airport seeking comments from the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate in the Environment, Energy and Science Group of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

As you are aware, biodiversity certification was conferred under the previous *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* over land in the Port Macquarie Airport and surrounding lands. The biodiversity certification order for the Port Macquarie Airport and surrounding lands was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 7 September 2018.

One of the approved conservation measures under that order required, *'the adoption of a vegetation management plan by Council in relation to that portion of the specified land shown in Schedule 4 consistent with the terms specified in the biodiversity certification agreement'*.

Section 7 of the biodiversity certification agreement states that the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) needs to be prepared to the satisfaction of the former Office of Environment and Heritage.

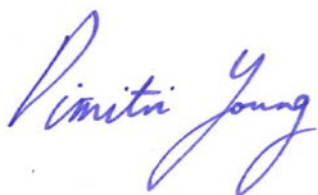
The BCD has reviewed the Vegetation Management Plan prepared by King and Campbell dated July 2021, noting that we were consulted on several occasions whilst it was being prepared. The VMP has adequately addressed all the issues we raised during that consultation.

We are satisfied that the VMP accords with the terms specified in the biodiversity certification agreement.

As stated above, the order requires that the VMP is adopted by the Port Macquarie Hastings Council. Please notify the BCD once this requirement has been completed.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Krister Waern, Senior Operations Officer, at krister.waern@environment.nsw.gov.au or 6640 2503.

Yours sincerely



30 July 2021

DIMITRI YOUNG
Senior Team Leader Planning, North East Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation