

8 April 2021

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4 Northwood Road, Longueville: Council Request for Further Information re Vegetation Management within the 10m Buffer

Dear Elyse,

As discussed with you, I understand that Council has requested the following information about the prospects for vegetation within the land covered by the 10 m wide buffer, in the south-eastern side of the subject land:

Re: the 10m bushland buffer, please assess the impact in terms of the current state and future state in terms of bushland regeneration potential from a compliant scheme.

I understand from examination of the latest site plans that the proposal does not strictly comply with the 10m bushland buffer, although it will be 10 m wide centrally, it will be narrower to the "rear side" boundaries.

Cumberland Ecology provided a detailed flora and fauna assessment report that described habitats on site and evaluated the impacts of the proposed development. That report is:

Cumberland Ecology (2016) 4-18 Northwood Rd & 274 & 274A Longueville Rd Lane Cove: Flora and Fauna Assessment.

The current vegetation within the buffer is "Urban Native and Exotic Cover", which is mostly weeds and garden plants, as described in the excerpt from the aforementioned flora and fauna assessment provided in **Appendix A**.

The impacts from the proposed development would initially see some clearance of the Urban Native and Exotic Cover, which is not of conservation value. However, the buffer will be able to be replanted. The Urban Native and Exotic Cover can be removed and replanted with local native plant species that are typical of Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest, which is the vegetation type that occurs in the north eastern side of the

subject land. A description of the current state of that vegetation community is also provided in **Appendix A**.

The characteristic plant species found in Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest is provided in **Appendix B**. Plant species from this list can be sourced and planted within the 10 m buffer land. Such plantings are feasible to establish on site and, when established, would enhance the native biodiversity of the land, and provide better quality habitat than currently exists on that portion of the property.

Though the proposal results in a variation to the 10m bushland buffer requirement, it provides an opportunity for revegetation that would form a zone between the proposed development and bushland adjacent to the subject land. No such buffer currently exists. Moreover, although the buffer would not be uniform, the areas that are less than the 10m compliant buffer would not have a detrimental impact on the local fauna habitat.

Upon implementation of the buffer, Urban Native and Exotic Cover comprising weeds and garden plants can be replaced with local native plants from the original dominant forest type. This would provide an improvement to biodiversity on site, increasing native species diversity and providing a buffer where none currently exists to adjacent areas to the east. The buffer, notwithstanding the variation, would work to ameliorate potential indirect impacts to adjacent bushland in conjunction with storm water infrastructure proposed for the development, which I have commented on in previous correspondence to you.

Yours sincerely



David Robertson
Director
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APPENDIX A :

Existing Vegetation within the Proposed 10 m buffer

The vegetation that occurs within the proposed 10 m buffer is described as Urban Native and Exotic Cover within the following Cumberland Ecology Report:

Cumberland Ecology (2016) 4-18 Northwood Rd & 274 & 274A Longueville Rd Lane Cove: Flora and Fauna Assessment.

An excerpt from that report describing the condition of the vegetation is provided below:

1.1.1. Urban Native and Exotic Cover as it Occurs on Site

TSC Act Status: Not listed

EPBC Act Status: Not listed

This community exists as four separate patches within the subject site and has a total area of 0.071 ha. The community does not contain canopy trees as most of the community has been previously cleared. The largest patch exists primarily as a previously cleared easement located along the subject sites western boundary (see **Photograph 3.7**). Three additional areas of the community exist as isolated patches within the northern, central and southern sections of the subject site (see **Figure 3.1**). The patch in the north contains planted shrubs along a fence, the patch in the centre is comprised of a mown lawn, and the patch in the south consists of one planted *Cotoneaster pannosus* tree that is surround be concrete. The vegetation within this community as a whole is dominated by exotic species in all stratus, which is typical of previously cleared areas that are down slope and receive elevated amounts of nutrient rich run-off.

The sub-canopy of this community is comprised entirely of exotic species consisting of *Erythrina X sykesii* (Coral Tree), *C. pannosus*, *Musa* sp. and *L. lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet).

The shrub layer of this community is dominated by exotic species with only two native planted trees present consisting of *Homalanthus populifolius* (Bleeding Heart) and *S. australe* (Brush Cherry) (see **Photograph 3.8**). The remainder of this layer is dominated by the noxious *L. lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet), *L. sinense* (Small-leaved Privet) and *Lantana camara* (Lantana). Other exotic shrubs include *Bougainvillea* sp, *Citrus X Limon* (Rough Lemon), *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Flame Tree) and *Ochna serrulata* (Mickey Mouse Plant).

The groundcover vegetation within this community is highly degraded and dominated by exotic species including: *B. pilosa* (Cobbler's Pegs), *T. officinale* (Dandelion), *Medicago polymorpha* (Medic Burr), *S. rhombifolia* (Paddy's Lucerne), *Plantago lanceolata* (Lamb's Tongue) and *Stellaria media* (Common Chickweed) (see **Photograph 3.9**). Native groundcover species occurring predominately as isolated individuals include: *Cotula australis* (Carrot Weed), *D. repens* (Kidney Weed), *Commelina cyanea* and *Cyperus gracilis* (Slender Flat-sedge).

Photograph 1 Easement located along the community's eastern boundary



Photograph 2 Homalanthus populifolius (Bleeding Heart) tree located along community's eastern boundary



Photograph 3 Condition of groundcover vegetation within the community



1.1.2. Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest as it occurs On Site

TSC Act Status: Not listed

EPBC Act Status: Not listed

Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest is the most commonly occurring native vegetation community within the Lane Cove Local Government Area with an estimated 43.5 ha present (Storm Consulting Pty Ltd. 2010). Approximately 0.064 ha of Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest is present on the subject site. The total extent of this community within the subject site is located within Lots 1 and 2 DP857133 (274 and 274A Longueville Road), which are in the northern section of the subject site. This community has a highly modified understorey and does not conform to a threatened ecological community (TEC) listed under the TSC Act or EPBC Act. A complete list of all plant species recorded within this community is provided in **Appendix A**.

The community is dominated by *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine) trees which occur in scattered patches throughout the community's extent (see **Photograph 3.1**). One *Angophora costata* (Smooth-barked Apple) is present just outside the subject site's northern boundary; however its canopy extends into the subject site. None of these trees are naturally regenerating within the subject site as their understories are comprised of planted garden beds and mown grass.

The sub-canopy of this community is comprised almost entirely of exotic species with the exception of a few *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet Pittosporum) small trees located along the community's western boundary (see **Photograph 3.2**). Exotic sub-canopy species include a *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) and a *Cupressus* sp. (Cypress) tree located in the community's western edge, and several *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* (Bangalow Palm) that are located in the centre of the community (see **Photographs 3.3 and 3.4**). All of these species are planted individuals.

The shrub layer is comprised almost entirely of planted exotic and native shrub species (see **Photograph 3.5**). Planted native shrubs include *Syzygium australe* (Brush Cherry), *Syzygium oleosum* (Blue Lilly Pilly), *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Lilly Pilly), *Callistemon viminalis* (Weeping Bottlebrush), *Grevillea* spp. and *Westringia longifolia* (Long-leaved Westringia). Planted exotic shrubs included *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda), *Plectranthus ciliatus*, *Photinia serrulata* (Chinese Photinia), *Murraya paniculata* (Orange Jasmine) and *Rosa* sp. The eastern edge of the community contains non-planted exotic species including the noxious *Ligustrum lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet), *Ligustrum sinense* (Small-leaved Privet) and *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel).

The community's entire ground layer has been previously cleared and exists within landscaped areas, including mown lawn or planted gardens (see **Photograph 3.6**). As such, the ground layer of this community is dominated by exotic herbs and grasses with scattered occurrences of native herbs, grasses and ferns. Commonly occurring exotic species include: *Bidens pilosa* (Cobbler's Pegs), *Taraxacum officinale* (Dandelion), *Sonchus oleraceus* (Common Sowthistle), *Sida rhombifolia* (Paddy's Lucerne), *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel), *Viola odorata* (Sweet Violet), *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldtgrass), *Sporobolus africanus* (Marsh Bristlegrass) and *Stenotaphrum secundatum* (Buffalo Grass).

Native understorey species are most abundant within mown lawn located on the western and eastern edges of the community. Native herbs occurring sporadically in these areas include *Centella asiatica* (Indian Pennywort), *Cotula australis* (Carrot Weed), *Dichondra repens* (Kidney Weed) and *Viola banksii* (Wild Violet). *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass) and *Oplismenus aemulus* (Basket Grass) were the only native grass species recorded within the community, with all individuals occurring sporadically within the mown lawns in the community's east and west. Native fern species occurring include *Asplenium australasicum* (Bird's Nest Fern), *Cyathea cooperi* (Straw Treefern) and *Psilotum nudum* (Skeleton Fork-fern).

APPENDIX B :

Coastal Enriched Moist Sandstone Forest

B.1.1. Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest

Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest is a tall open forest with a distinctive mesic shrub and small tree layer. Typically, it is situated in sandstone gullies and sheltered slopes enriched by clay.

This material is sourced from shale bands in the sandstone bedrock associated with Hawkesbury sandstone in the Lane Cove River valley. Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest occurs in areas with an average annual rainfall of 850-1250mm.

The table below provides a list of characteristic native plant species that can be sourced and planted on site within the 10 m buffer.

NATIVE SPECIES LIST

| Common Name | Botanical Name | Approximate Height |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Trees | | |
| Smooth-barked Apple | <i>Angophora costata</i> | 15-25m |
| Turpentine | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> | 30m |
| Sydney Peppermint | <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> | 15m |
| Blackbutt | <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> | 20-30m |
| Sydney Blue Gum | <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> | 25-35m |
| Southern Mahogany | <i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i> | 20-30m |
| Small Trees | | |
| Blueberry Ash | <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i> | |
| Sweet Pittosporum | <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> | |
| Coachwood | <i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i> | |
| Forest Oak | <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i> | |
| Cheese Tree | <i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> | |
| Shrubs | | |
| Coffee Bush | <i>Breynia oblongifolia</i> | |
| Large-leaf Hop-bush | <i>Dodonaea triquetra</i> | |
| Lance Beard Heath | <i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i> var. <i>lanceolatus</i> | |
| Mutton Wood | <i>Myrsine variabilis</i> | |
| Large Mock-olive | <i>Notelaea longifolia</i> | |
| Wild Yellow Jasmine | <i>Pittosporum revolutum</i> | |
| Elderberry Ash | <i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> | |
| Ground Covers | | |
| False Bracken Fern | <i>Calochlaena dubia</i> | |
| Blue Flax-lily | <i>Dianella caerulea</i> | |

| Common Name | Botanical Name | Approximate Height |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Bordered Panic | <i>Entolasia marginata</i> | |
| Wiry Panic | <i>Entolasia stricta</i> | |
| Raspwort | <i>Gonocarpus teucrioides</i> | |
| Variable Sword Sedge | <i>Lepidosperma laterale</i> | |
| Spiny-headed mat-rush | <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> | |
| Weeping Grass | <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> var. <i>stipoides</i> | |
| Native Tussock Grass | <i>Poa affinis</i> | |
| Pastel Flower | <i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i> | |
| Bracken Fern | <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> | |
| Vines and Climbers | | |
| Apple Dumplings | <i>Billardiera scandens</i> | |
| Water Vine | <i>Cissus hypoglauca</i> | |
| Wombat Berry | <i>Eustrephus latifolius</i> | |
| Trailing Guinea Flower | <i>Hibbertia dentata</i> | |
| Wonga Wonga Vine | <i>Pandorea pandorana</i> | |
| Sweet Sarsaparilla | <i>Smilax glycyphylla</i> | |