

Cootamundra – Gundagai Regional Council

c/- Brendan Price
Dog on the Tucker Box



15th April 2024

Re: Statement Addressing Concerns raised by Council relating to Biodiversity

Dear Council (or delegate),

East Coast Ecology Pty Ltd (ECE) was engaged by Brendan Price on behalf of the Dog on the Tucker Box project, to undertake a Flora and Fauna Assessment for the construction of a Future Food and Drink Premises, Future Retail Premises, Future Pub Premises at 37 Annie Pyers Drive, Gundagai NSW (the Project). ECE has been instructed by the applicant to prepare this letter in response to Council's Request for Information (Biodiversity Action):

The submitted Flora and Fauna Assessment (dated 25 January 2024) shows an increased study area to reflect the amended architectural plans. It does not, however, include that part of the site upon which it is proposed to locate the Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS). This AWTS is proposed to occupy an area of 3,223 sqm towards the rear of the site, as shown on the architectural drawings and referenced in submitted Land Capability Assessment (dated 26 January 2024). The architectural drawings show that there are 5 trees located within the footprint of the proposed effluent disposal area, and others within its immediate vicinity, that may be adversely affected by the system and disposal area.

The Applicant must undertake a revised flora and fauna assessment to address the potential impact of the proposed on-site wastewater management system (the design of which may change in the process of addressing the comments on wastewater in this letter), which may trigger requirement for preparation of a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

Raoul Ozudogru (MEng. Chemical) of Suncoast Waste Water Management has prepared a statement to council (dated 25/03/2024), which concludes:

*"In addition, it can be confirmed that effluent from the proposed advanced secondary treatment plant, with nutrient reduction, **will not adversely affect the flora and fauna within the proposed effluent disposal area or those within the disposal area's immediate vicinity**" (emphasis added).*

On this basis, it is the opinion of ECE, that there will be no impact to biodiversity, including native vegetation resulting from the proposed effluent disposal area.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Graham", followed by a horizontal line.

Alex Graham BSc (Biology), Grad Dip (Bushfire Protection)

Director/ Principal Ecologist - Accredited Biodiversity Assessor (BAAS19040)