



# Abel Ecology

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## Proposed Embankment - Opportunities and Constraints

Abel Ecology has been instructed to undertake a preliminary biodiversity opportunities and constraints assessment for a portion of Lot 102, DP 1268632 (68 Lockwood Road, Cnr of Lockwood Road and Compass Drive, Erskine Park). The site is zoned 'IN1' (General Industrial).

A brief survey was undertaken on 31 March, 2022 to define the areal extent of a proposed embankment within the broad planted area on the south end of the site. The state of existing (mature) plantings within this area and any constraints that may modify the proposal were also noted.

The location and potential impacts of the embankment are considered with reference to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017* and the Biodiversity Values Map (BVM), and to indicate particular features and constraints.

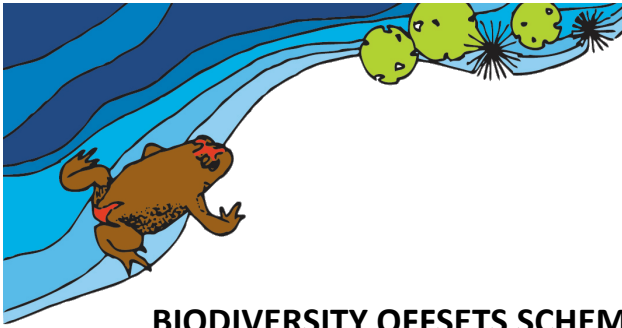
Currently, an S88B instrument applies to the broad planted strip along the south end of the site (includes the proposed embankment area), which is part of strategic corridor planting to establish connectivity between South Creek to the west and Ropes Creek to the east, significant for Erskine Park regional planning.

The Sydney water supply pipeline (SP2) on the south is separated from the site by a broad, planted embankment running the length of the common boundary. The SP2 corridor will not be impacted by the proposal.

The results of the brief survey are indicated below.

No part of the site has been mapped within the Biodiversity Values Map. The nearest vegetation so mapped occurs close to the southern boundary of the site and is well clear (at least 30m south) of the proposal.

The approximate area of mature native tree plantings indicated for potential removal is < 1000 m<sup>2</sup>; the clearing threshold of 2500m<sup>2</sup> for entry to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) is therefore not exceeded.



## BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS SCHEME

Under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*, there are **two triggers** for entry into the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS). Under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme threshold test, “If clearing and other impacts, including biodiversity impacts prescribed by clause 6.1 of the Biodiversity Regulation 2017, exceed either trigger, the BOS applies to the proposal.”

### Trigger 1

If a proposal includes clearing of native vegetation or other specified activities on land mapped by the Biodiversity Values Map then it triggers the requirement for Biodiversity Assessment Method assessment (BAM assessment). As indicated on the Figure, no part of the site falls within the Biodiversity Values Map (the BVM). The proposed embankment **does not** trigger entry to the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme BOS)

### Trigger 2

The second trigger for entry into the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme considers whether the clearing of native vegetation is greater than the allowable threshold for the lot.

Allowable clearing of native vegetation for the site is 2500 m<sup>2</sup> (0.25ha).

The approximate area of native plantings to be removed is < 1000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The estimated extent of native plantings is considerably less than the limit and **does not** trigger entry to the BOS.

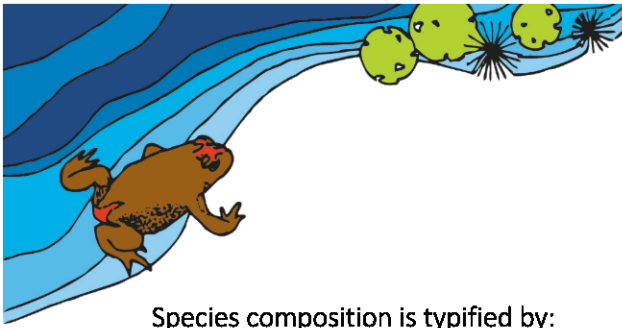
### Test of Significance

As an additional requirement for all development proposals that do not exceed the Biodiversity Offset Scheme threshold, a Test of Significance is also required for Threatened flora, Threatened fauna (e.g microbats) and Threatened ecological communities. This would normally be addressed in a PEAR for the site.

## VEGETATION (mature plantings, south end)

Row plantings on the south end comprise mature and semi-mature local native tree and shrub species throughout. Although species diversity is low, most plantings are of good vitality and structure and are well-suited to the local edaphic conditions.

In the adjoining offsite SP2 (Sydney water supply on the south), the broad planted bank directs runoff northward into the onsite planted area, resulting in minor local inundation following sustained rainfall periods. Mature plantings are well-suited to this additional supply of water.



Species composition is typified by:

- *Casuarina glauca*,
- *Eucalyptus amplifolia*,
- *Melaleuca linariifolia*,
- *Melaleuca styphelioides*.

Other species including *Acacia parramattensis* and *Callistemon* sp.

### Summary

There is no impediment to the proposal in relation to the BOS.

Formal assessment of the proposal would include Tests of Significance.

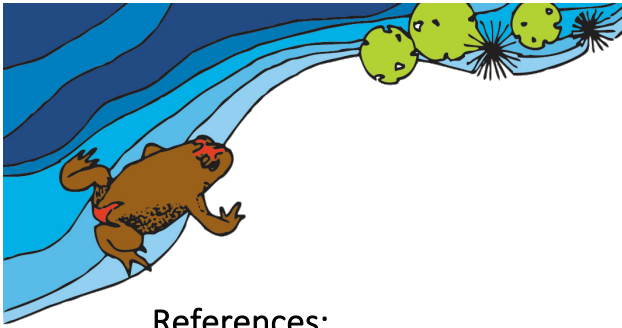
The final height of the proposed embankment is of the order of 1-1.5m, along the north margin of the existing planted area. Suitable native species for replanting would need to survive the expected slightly drier soil conditions of this relative elevation.

Yours in good faith,



Mark Sherring

Abel Ecology Pty Ltd



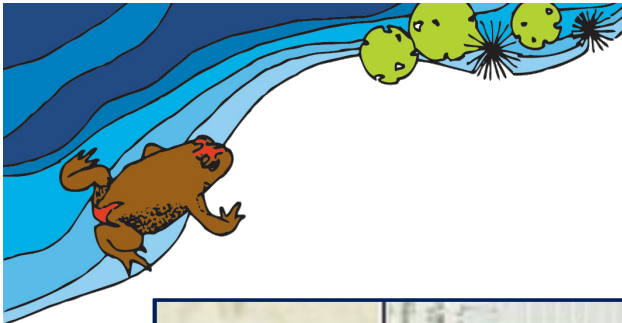
## References:

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme

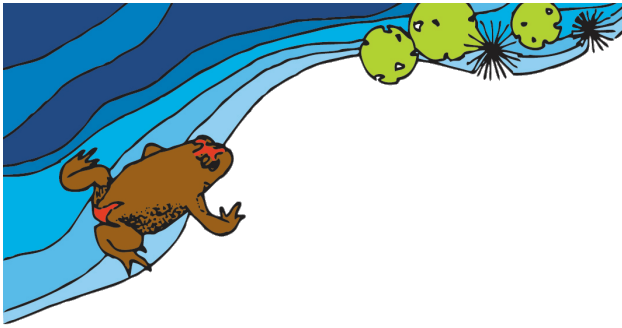
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity-offsets-scheme/about-the-biodiversity-offsets-scheme/when-does-bos-apply>

NSW Planning Portal

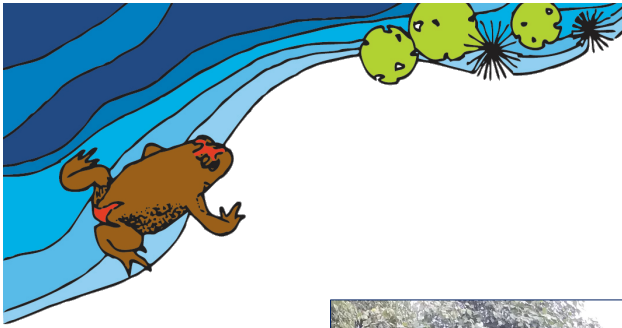
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/spatialviewer/#/find-a-property/address>



No part of the site is included in the Biodiversity Values Map (BVM)



North margin of planted area, south end of site. View east toward Compass Drive. The proposed embankment would be a narrow band along this marginal interface, tapered west-to-east, and planted to suitable native species.



Typical vegetation of the planted area (*Eucalyptus amplifolia* shown).  
Exotic grasses commonly form the groundcover.