



30 November 2020

Our ref: 20SYD\_16049

Catholic Cemeteries Board Level 2, 11 Murray Rose Avenue Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Attention: David De Angelis

Dear David,

Re: Nepean Gardens DA 19/0875 RFI from Penrith Council (23 October 2020) Item 7 - Biodiversity

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) was engaged by Catholic Cemeteries Board to assist in responding to the above RFI.

Table 1 and the Appendices respond to issues raised by Council.

Regards,

David Bonjer

**Principal Consultant** 

1

## Item 7 – Biodiversity

### Table 1 RFI Response to Item 7

### **Council Comment**

7a) A consolidated map of impacts on native vegetation is required. Once a consolidated report and plan is provided, Council requests a site walkover with the applicant's representative to assist on site identification of vegetation for removal.

### **Applicant Response**

Botanica prepared plans showing impacts to trees (see Appendix A1) as a result of:

- golf course earthworks
- civil works including Park Road
- buildings and bushfire Asset Protection Zones
- landscaping
- removal of trees for safety reasons (as per the Travers Tree Assessment)

These figures were then used to prepare maps showing impacts to Plant Community Types. This consolidated map of impacts is provided in Appendix A2 in Figure 1 and 2.

Travers determined the impact to native vegetation as 4.0 ha. ELA has considered all impacts to native vegetation and the impact totals 3.15 ha, a reduction of 0.85 ha due to a more accurate assessment of impacts. The updated assessment was run through the BAMC using the same plot data from the Travers BDAR. The results are provided in the Appendix of this report. Overall there was a reduction in ecosystem credits from 88 to 68 credits required to be retired. The credit assessment report is attached.

Council are welcome to attend site on request.

Council's Biodiversity Officer notes the following for your ongoing consideration:

Ensure avoid and minimise efforts have been prioritised over offsetting including but not limited to retention of significant habitat trees, integrated landscaping that avoids the removal of existing native vegetation, retention of native vegetation/senescent vegetation and dead or decaying material in situ. Styled landscaping should not be prioritised over integrated

The proposed development has been designed and sited to minimise impacts to native vegetation (Appendix A1). See section 5 of the BDAR (Travers 2019)

Council Comment	Applicant Response
landscaping options, that retain as much native vegetation as possible.	
Where pruning could be an appropriate vegetation management strategy, this should be considered ahead of removal.	Noted. Whilst trees have been assumed to be removed in accordance with the Australian Standard, where-ever possible trees will be pruned rather than removed under the direction of a Project Arborist during the construction phase.
RFS GTAs that might alter the requirements for management of asset protection zones.	Minor changes to the landscaping aspects were made as a result of the RFS GTAs. These have been reflected in the impact footprint.
No works or infrastructure are in conflict with the NRAR GTAs (including any new requirements particularly in relation to waste water management and activities in the north east area of the property).	No significant changes have been made in relation to works on waterfront land. Final plans will be submitted to NRAR when seeking the Controlled Activity Approval.
The additional surveys, that can now be undertaken in warmer months are to be completed.	Based on the findings in the BDAR, removal of hollow bearing trees will not increase risk of SAII as those SAII entities known to occur or with potential to occur onsite are either:
	Species credit species / SAII for breeding habitat only, for which hollows are not part of the breeding habitat (Large-eared Pied Bat, large and little Bentwing Bats), or
	Species credit species / SAII for Mapped Important Habitat only, and which does not occur within the study area (Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot).
	The above species are also ecosystem credit species, with impacts offset through ecosystem credits as calculated in the BDAR. Fauna survey was undertaken in September / October and included ultrasonic survey at 4 locations for 1 night and 2 locations another night. Diurnal and nocturnal bird surveys and spotlighting for arboreal and terrestrial mammals was also conducted (BDAR table 2.1). Based on those species identified during survey or with the potential to occur, removal of HBT with small hollows only will not result in a SAII.

Council Comment	Applicant Response
	Orchid survey: No targeted survey for threatened orchids has been undertaken and documented in the BDAR. Section 4.3.1 includes one threatened orchid ( <i>Caladenia tessellata</i> ) within the BAM-C produced list). Section 4.3.2 clarifies that the species was excluded as candidate species as it is known in Sydney from old records only (> 30 years old), none of those records are within 10 km of study area, and habitat was considered marginal. The BDAR was authored by a senior botanist and botanist (both BAM accredited). Given the above, it would seem appropriate to assume these species have low potential occur within the study area and to exclude as candidate species.  The survey undertaken is adequate for the site. Stag
	watching is not necessary for the BDAR as the relevant species listed are ecosystem-credit species which do not require survey. The stag watching and fauna rescue will however be undertaken prior to construction as a method to minimise injury to animals during construction phase.
relation to a suggested system error in the calculator for planted native vegetation, is supplied	ELA has applied the streamlined assessment criteria in BAM 2020 for planted native vegetation. Whilst it is likely that some of the vegetation is planted, the vegetation is part of a mosaic that includes remnant vegetation and therefore cannot be excluded from the assessment.
The revised assessment must have an accompanying map that consolidates all development and construction activities and therefore all affected vegetation.	See Appendix A1 of this letter report.
Given the extent of the operation / access hours, plans should reflect National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife.	The Commonwealth Guidelines are designed to protect Important Habitat for Commonwealth threatened species, with particular reference to migratory seabirds, turtles and shorebirds. There is no Important Habitat within or adjoining the site. However, the following is noted:
	The cemetery and golf course will not be lit.

Council Comment	Applicant Response				
	<ul> <li>Lighting design of the clubhouse, pool and gym has not yet been prepared, however the proponent can use external down lighting.</li> </ul>				
Comprehensive consideration of indirect impacts please include any treatments that will be integrated into the plans to minimise the impacts during all phases of construction and operation.	A Construction Environment Management Plan will be prepared and implemented to avoid, minimise and manage indirect impacts.				
Consideration of the Regent Honeyeater and any other species identified in updated field and desktop surveys is to be included.	Regent Honeyeater is a dual (ecosystem and species credit) species. It is included as an ecosystem credit candidate species in the BDAR but excluded as a species credit candidate species. The Regent Honeyeater is only a species credit species for Mapped Important Habitat which does not occur within the study area. As such, targeted survey for this species is not required.				
The updated Credit Summary is to be finalised and included in the submission.	See Appendix A2, Table 2, Table 3 and 4. The revised impact calculations were re-run through the BAMC. ELA used the Travers plot data in Appendix 4 to generate Vegetation Integrity Scores (VIS). ELA notes that there are differences in the Travers and ELA VIS scores. The changes to the impact area and to the VIS for some PCTs has decreased the credit requirement from 88 credits (Travers 2019) to 68 credits (ELA 2020). The credit assessment report is attached.				

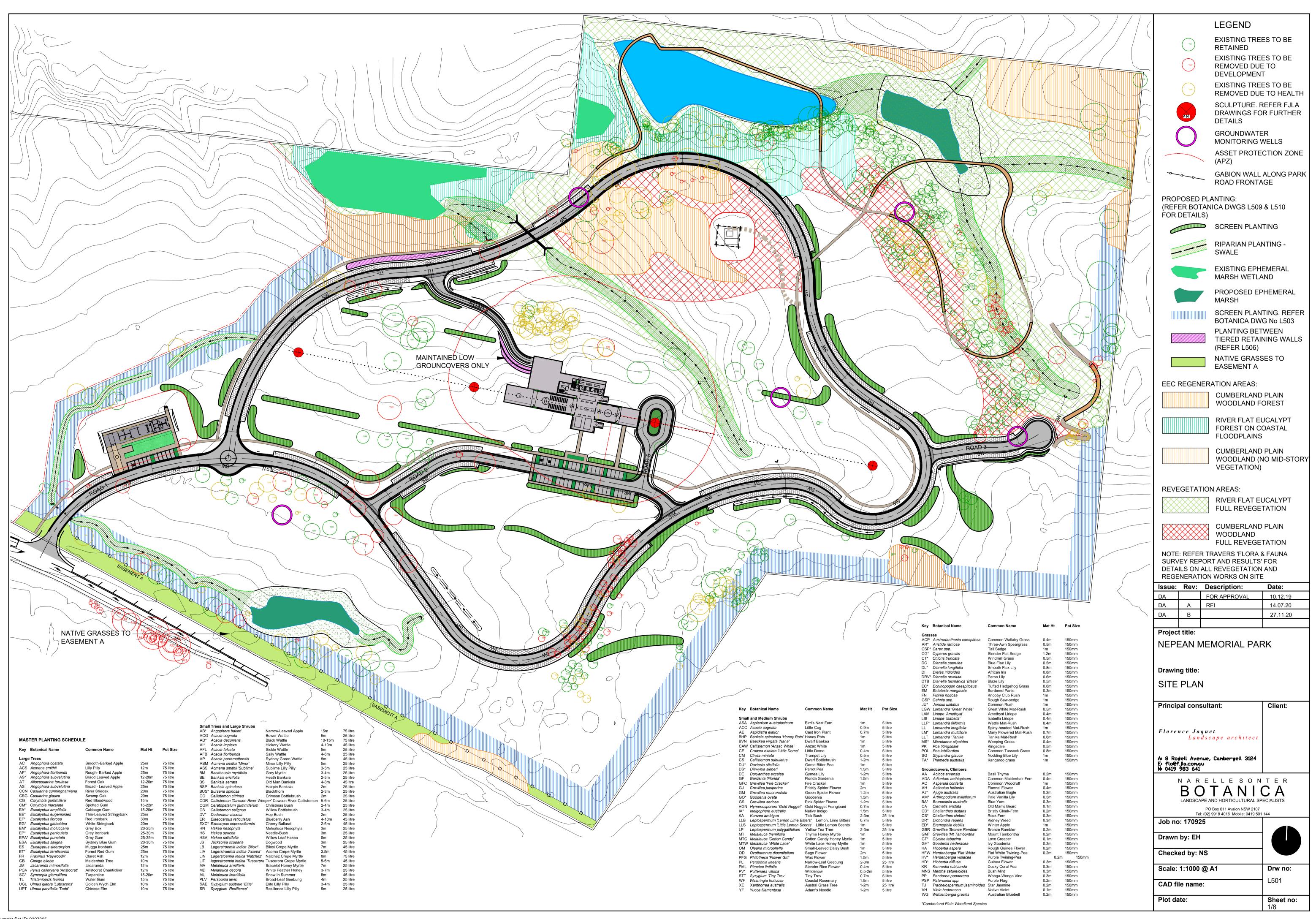
A1 Landscape Plans

ECO LOGICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD | ABN 87 096 512 088

Documēñ₽8e6ID₽939736500 646 131







A2 Development footprint, impacts and calculations

ECO LOGICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD | ABN 87 096 512 088



Figure 1: Assessment of all direct impacts (removed for development and removed for poor tree health) based on Travers vegetation mapping (2020) and the Landscape Plans from Botanica.

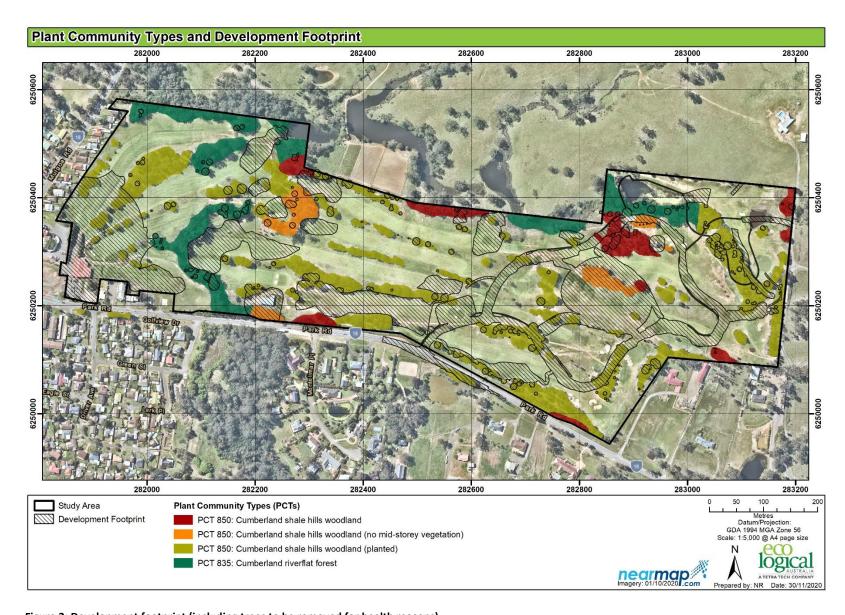


Figure 2: Development footprint (including trees to be removed for health reasons)

Table 2: Comparison of impact to PCTs associated with the development footprint

PCT and Veg Zone	Travers direct impact mapping (ha)	ELA direct impact mapping (ha)	Change in impact (ha)
PCT 835_moderate_poor	0.5	0.37	-0.13
PCT 850_poor_planted	2.3	2.01	-0.29
PCT 850_mod_poor	0.5	0.28	-0.22
PCT 850_poor_no understorey	0.7	0.49	-0.21
Tot	al 4.0	3.15	-0.75

### Table 3: Comparison of Travers Vegetation Integrity Scores versus output of Vegetation Integrity Scores used in ELA calculations

<sup>\*\*</sup>Please note that the data used by ELA in the BAM Calculator to generate the new credit requirement, including the VIS scores shown below, was taken from the plot data sheets provided in Appendix A4 of Travers BDAR (December 2019).

PCT and Veg Zone	Travers VIS	ELA VIS	Change in VIS
PCT 835_moderate_poor	42.9	42.9	0
PCT 850_poor_planted	30.6	32	+ 1.4
PCT 850_mod_poor	53.8	42.6	- 11.2
PCT 850_poor_no understorey	43.8	43.8	0

Table 4: Comparison of ecosystem credit requirement detailed in Travers BDAR (Dec 2019) and revised credit requirement (ELA)

PCT and Veg Zone	Travers credit requirement	ELA credit requirement	Change in credit requirement
PCT 835_moderate_poor	11	8	-3
PCT 850_poor_planted	44	40	-4
PCT 850_mod_poor	15	7	-8
PCT 850_poor_no understorey	18	13	-5
	Total 88	68	-20



# **BAM Credit Summary Report**

## **Proposal Details**

Assessment Id Proposal Name BAM data last updated \*

00023160/BAAS17001/20/00023161 Nepean Gardens 19/11/2020

Assessor Name Report Created BAM Data version \*

Meredith Henderson 30/11/2020 32

Assessor Number BAM Case Status Date Finalised

BAAS17001 Open To be finalised

Assessment Revision Assessment Type BOS entry trigger

0 Part 4 Developments (General) BOS Threshold: Biodiversity Values Map

and area clearing threshold

## Ecosystem credits for plant communities types (PCT), ecological communities & threatened species habitat

Zone	Vegetation	TEC name	Current	Change in	Area	BC Act Listing	EPBC Act	Species sensitivity	Biodiversity	Potential	Ecosystem
	zone name		Vegetation	Vegetation	(ha)	status	listing status	to gain class	risk	SAII	credits
			integrity score	integrity				(for BRW)	weighting		
				(loss / gain)							

Assessment Id Proposal Name Page 1 of 3

<sup>\*</sup> Disclaimer: BAM data last updated may indicate either complete or partial update of the BAM calculator database. BAM calculator database may not be completely aligned with Bionet.



# **BAM Credit Summary Report**

1	835_Mod_p	River-Flat	42.9	42.9	0.37	Endangered	Not Listed	High Sensitivity	2.00		{
	oor	Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	42.5	72.3	0.37	Ecological Community	Not Listed	to Potential Gain	2.00		
_										Subtotal	8
be	rland shale l	nills woodland									
2	850_No_mi d	Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	43.8	43.8	0.49	Critically Endangered Ecological Community	Critically Endangered	High Sensitivity to Potential Gain	2.50	TRUE	13
	850_Mod_p oor	Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	42.6	42.6	0.28	Critically Endangered Ecological Community	Critically Endangered	High Sensitivity to Potential Gain	2.50	TRUE	7
4	850_Plante d	Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	32	32.0	2	Critically Endangered Ecological Community	Critically Endangered	High Sensitivity to Potential Gain	2.50	TRUE	40
										Subtotal	60
										Total	68

## Species credits for threatened species

Assessment Id Proposal Name Page 2 of 3

Nepean Gardens



# **BAM Credit Summary Report**

Vegetation zoneHabitat conditionChange in NameArea (ha)/Count (no. individuals)BC Act Listing (no. individuals)EPBC Act listing statusBiodiversity risk weightingPotential statusSpecies SAII

Assessment Id Proposal Name Page 3 of 3