

 AEP Ref:
 1983

 Date:
 20 August 2019

# PERCEPTION PLANNING

ATTENTION: MATT BROWN

Via Email: matt@perceptionplanning.com.au

Dear Matt,

### RE: ORCHID SURVEY FINDINGS PROPOSED SENIORS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SOLDIERS POINT BOWLING CLUB

As requested, AEP herewith present our findings relating to the above matter.

# Background:

Land to the west of Soldiers Point Bowling Club was previously approved for a Seniors Housing Development. Part of the development has been constructed, and the rest of the land has been almost totally cleared of native vegetation.

It is now proposed to lodge a new DA to amend the approved layout over the remainder of the holding.

At a pre DA meeting with Council, the matter of ecological assessment requirements for the new DA was discussed. Despite the site being almost totally cleared under the previous approval, Council requires confirmation that a threatened orchid species previously identified on site by Wildthing Environmental Consultants (as part of studies for the original DA) is no longer present. The species in question is *Corybas dowlingii*.

# Approach:

To address this matter, AEP was engaged to survey the site to ascertain if the species still persists post vegetation clearing works.

The survey was undertaken on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August by two ecologists well versed with *C. dowlingii*. The site was surveyed with reference to OEH (2016) guidelines pertaining to surveying for threatened plants. Survey density coverage was actually greater than that specified by POEH for disturbed / cleared sites, but given previous records of the species it



was deemed necessary to thoroughly scour the site.

A plan showing the survey coverage of GPS tracks is attached herewith.

### **Results:**

No sign of any *C. dowlingii* was found on site.

No other orchids were encountered on the site.

This is not surprising, given that the vegetation clearing is almost boundary to boundary, and the ground surface is for the most heavily disturbed. The exposed nature of the soil surface also results in a much drier micro-climatic situation than that found in intact forest. As a result of such, it is considered very unlikely that any orchid species will persist.

In our opinion, *Corybas dowlingii* is no longer a species of relevance to this site.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours faithfully, ANDERSON ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING

C. T. ander

CRAIG ANDERSON DIRECTOR Biodiversity Accredited Assessor BAAS: 17002 Biobanking Assessor No. 150



**Client: Perception Planning** 

Location: Soldiers Point

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