

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

THE ASSESSOR CONDUCTING AN ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON BIODIVERSITY MUST UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Determine whether any native vegetation which occurs on the site constitutes a native vegetation community;
2. Identify the type, and map the extent of the vegetation community/s present on the site using the Tozer (2003)¹ methodology and/or using the descriptions of communities as listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and any other relevant documents. Describe the process used and include a plant species list;
3. Determine whether the site contains known or potential habitat for any Threatened or Migratory species or populations listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
4. Undertake a sufficient level of survey for Threatened or Migratory species or populations on the site and describe and justify the suitability of the survey methods employed;
5. Describe the occurrence or likely occurrence of any Threatened or Migratory species or populations on the site, including the extent of known or potential habitat;
6. Describe the impact of the proposed development on Threatened or Migratory species, populations and ecological communities or their habitats, and assess the significance of the impacts through the preparation of Assessments of Significance in accordance with the requirements of the Acts and any relevant guidelines²;
7. Provide recommendations in relation to the impacts of the proposed development on biodiversity, including whether a Species Impact Statement or referral to the Federal Minister for the Environment is required and whether the proposed development should be amended to reduce its impacts on biodiversity, particularly Threatened and Migratory species, populations and ecological communities;
8. Provide advice as to whether the proposed development complies with other relevant environmental legislation and development controls in relation to its impact on biodiversity.

¹ Tozer, M. (2003) The native vegetation of the Cumberland Plain, Western Sydney: systematic classification and field identification of communities. *Cunninghamia* 8(1):1-75

² The Threatened species assessment guidelines: the assessment of significance (NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2007) must be used when preparing Assessments of Significance for biodiversity listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you are unsure, please ask
Time spent early may avoid delays later

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3 Columbia Court, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

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Duty Town Planner: 9843 0469

Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday

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DISCLAIMER

This fact sheet provides a guide to Ecological Assessments for Proposed Developments. Any person using this document must do so on the basis that not every scenario and issue can be addressed, and discussion with relevant staff at Council's Customer Service Centre should be undertaken. This document is subject to change without notice.

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

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