



7 September 2010

Mr Wal Richardson
Lipman Pty Ltd
Level 6 Berry St
North Sydney NSW 2060

Subject: Bridging Report

Dear Wal,

Purpose of report.

This report has been compiled to provide consistency between the Vegetation Management Plan of Total Earth Care TEC (3 March 2010), the Flora and Fauna Report of TEC (9 March 2010) and an additional Flora and Fauna report by (Anne Clements and Associates (September 2010)

This bridging report and the report by Anne Clements and Associates were commissioned in response to the Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water comments on Major Project Application MPO9-0217 and MP09-0218 at 120-128 Herring Road Macquarie Park.

In overview

The DECCW requested that "further assessment of whether any vegetation on site is Sydney Turpentine Iron Bark Forest (STIF) should be undertaken" and "If the extent of STIF is indeed greater than indicated in the Flora and Fauna Assessment "(TEC March 2010) then the "assessment of significance for this EEC will also need to be amended." (These requirements were iterated in Item 2 Schedule Attached to the Department of Planning correspondence of the 28th July 2010.)

An additional Floristic report was commissioned by LIPMAN PROPERTIES and produced by Anne Clements and Associates (ACA). This additional report concluded that the vegetation community could not be STIF because the soil was of the Lucas Heights soil landscape type which was derived from soils of the Mittagong formation.

Dr Pam Hazelton a soil scientist, is quoted in the ACA report as saying "The soils on site are consistent with the Lucas Heights soil landscape which is based on the Mittagong formation," and " the soils **on and adjoining** this site:

- are not derived from Wianamatta shale and do not satisfy the criteria listed for the Final determination" for STIF;

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- and do satisfy the criteria listed in the Final determination for Shale Sandstone Transition Forest.” (SSTF).

In light of this soil description and with reference to the requirements of the STIF final determination I cannot find that any STIF occurs on site. A second request of DECCW was that “If the extent of STIF is indeed greater than indicated in the Flora and Fauna Assessment “(TEC March 2010)” then the “assessment of significance for this EEC will also need to be amended”. The extent of STIF is not greater than indicated in the Flora and Fauna Assessment “(TEC March 2010) and an amendment to the assessment of significance is not necessary.

Dr Hazelton's statement that the soils on and adjoining the site “do satisfy the criteria listed in the Final determination for Shale Sandstone Transition Forest.” (SSTF). Without undertaking additional soil surveys the full extent of the Mittagong rock formation and its boundary with the Wianamatta shale and/or Hawkesbury Sandstone cannot be definitely located. It has been assumed that the boundary is very close because of the results of the Douglas and Partners geological report, Dr Hazelton's bore holes in the adjacent property and because of the boundary between the two soil landscapes described in the Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100,000 sheet. In questioning Dr Hazelton, regarding the likely proximity of Wianamatta Shale Capping, I was satisfied that it is unlikely that any Shale capping occurs anywhere on site and the Douglas and Partners bore logs demonstrate that Hawkesbury Sandstone parent material is too deep to influence the soil determination. Subsequently I am satisfied that no soil described in the Final determination of STIF occurs on site.

The floristic determination for the community on site is confounded by the presence of planted trees and by Dr Hazelton's reference to SSTF. The native plants on site do not provide enough evidence of the existence of a distinct floristic assemblage but the aerial photography, contained in the ACA report, does prove the existence of trees that were remnant of a native plant assemblage and as such the flora survey has been used to construct an offset strategy to replace the biodiversity that will be lost as the result of the proposed development. The offset strategy has been included as an addendum to the Total Earth Care Vegetation Management Plan September 2010.

TEC would like to thank the staff at Lipman's for their co-operation in completing this review and assisting in the development of the Offset Strategy. The strategy demonstrates Lipman Property's appreciation of the intrinsic value of the remnant bushland in Macquarie Park and it is hoped that this unsolicited commitment to ecological restoration is received by the consent authorities in the spirit that it was given.

Yours sincerely,

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