



Office of Environment & Heritage

Our reference: DOC13/93927
Contact: Ben Addison
02 4224 4164

Robert Byrne
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SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Robert

I am writing to you in response to your email of 12 December 2013 seeking comment on the proposed Life City Wollongong development at Berkeley (MP10-0147).

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is supportive of the analysis and conclusions provided by Cumberland Ecology on the proposed development noting the following:

- Despite the highly disturbed nature of the Mixed Regrowth Forest/Woodland, with the proper management it has the potential to regenerate into an ecologically significant site. Given this fact, the site requires sensitive management and appropriate offsetting and OEH strongly supports the Cumberland Ecology report conclusion that an appropriate conservation mechanism and a detailed management plan for the site are required to ensure appropriate and ongoing management of the site.
- Offsetting the 1 Ha of removed vegetation with 9 Ha of rehabilitated land would seem to be appropriate given that there is a net improvement in the environmental condition of the land. Although this land is not a formal Biobanking site, wherever possible the use of the Biobanking Assessment Methodology (<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/assessmethodology.htm>) is encouraged as best practise for determining an appropriate offsetting ratio. Regardless of what methodology is used, sound and ongoing management of rehabilitated areas is absolutely necessary.
- Given that the proposed access road bisects the highest conservation value vegetation type present on the site, OEH strongly recommends that the proponent consider relocating the access road to a more highly disturbed location. This will improve the overall quality of the proponent's environmental assets and improve the ecological health of the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this development and if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 4224 4164 or by email at ben.addison@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

16 December 2013

BEN ADDISON
Regional Manager, Illawarra
Regional Operations