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Via email: mloader@capitalbluestone.com.au

17SUT-6511

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Dear Matt,

WBTC 75W – Advice regarding mangroves

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further advice regarding the existing and proposed mangroves at Woollooware Bay Town Centre.

As described in previous ecological assessments for WBTC, the estuarine community comprises a healthy and mature mangrove forest. However, the southern edge of the bay and drainage channel have been degraded by weeds and rubbish dumping associated with the previous land uses (e.g. landfill and sports fields). The current project provides an opportunity to remove weeds and rubbish from the environment, and rehabilitate the estuarine community, from the mangroves through to Saltmarsh and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest vegetation.

Rehabilitation of areas adjacent the mangroves for Infrastructure Sections A1, A2 and B will involve:

- hand removal of weeds and rubbish from the edge of the existing mangroves
- using temporary tape to define the existing mangrove trees as a 'no-go' zone (tape to be removed upon completion of works)
- reshaping the ground surface to suitable tidal levels and gradients*
- if needed to achieve the desired ground surface conditions for planting, remove existing fill and replace it with a suitable substrate such as sand – this has been done successfully at other locations around Woollooware Bay
- transplant mangrove seedlings, and collect and plant mangrove seeds from the local area to assist natural recolonization
- vegetation maintenance - replace dead plants until target levels of cover have been achieved
- ongoing maintenance to remove weeds and rubbish from the area.

*Mangroves typically grow to the mean high water mark at RL 0.52 m AHD (property boundary). However, they may grow above this subject to site-specific conditions such as extent of wave action. Saltmarsh planting is proposed to be done in its preferred range of 0.7 m AHD to 1.2 m AHD, although some saltmarsh may be planted below this to create the transition between saltmarsh and mangroves. Details will be confirmed in a Vegetation Management Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Beth Medway
Senior Consultant