

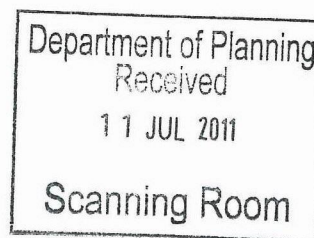


Office of
Environment
& Heritage



Our reference: DOC11/26151; File: FIL10/14749
Contact: Steve Lewer 02 4908 6814

Enguang Lee
Planner
Metropolitan and Regional Projects North
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Mr Lee

Part 3A Major Project (07_0010) Concept Plan and Project Application Proposal for Residential, Commercial and Tourist Development and Environmental Works at Ocean Drive Lake Cathie, Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area
– Comments on fencing design associated with SEPP 26 – Littoral Rainforests.

Reference is made to your email dated 4 July 2011 seeking comments from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the above proposal regarding the fencing design associated with the SEPP 26 – Littoral Rainforest (incl. 'Littoral Rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions' endangered ecological community) on the eastern boundary of the proposed development footprint.

OEH understands that the proponent is proposing a 2m high fence to separate the proposed future residential development and the SEPP26 Littoral Rainforest. This fence is located beyond the eastern perimeter road of the development, along the western edge of a new revegetation area adjacent the SEPP 26 Littoral Rainforest. The location of this fencing is agreed to by Port Macquarie – Hastings Council (the 'Council') and the proponent, but the fencing design is unresolved. Essentially, the proponent's design will prevent domestic animal intrusion into the Littoral rainforest (i.e. predator exclusion fence), as human and domestic animal incursion was identified as a potential environment impact to Littoral Rainforests in the original Environmental Assessment. However, Council are concerned that such a design will lead to native animal entrapment in the rainforest area, preventing escape from predators within the rainforest and catastrophic events, such as fire. Council are recommending a 2m high fencing albeit with a 100mm gap at the base of the fence to facilitate wildlife movement.

OEH has reviewed the information provided and is of the opinion that neither fence design will have a significant adverse impact on wildlife movement, animals ability to escape the rainforest area and/or predator exclusion. Based on the EA and information presented by Department of Planning and Infrastructure the fauna which can move across the ground, such as possums, Koalas, native rodents and quolls are unlikely to be impeded by the proposed fence design. Conversely, the proposed fence design is unlikely to stop predators entering from the residential side, given that cats and dogs can climb or dig under the fence. OEH has no objections to the proponent's fence design as it would act as a deterrent for predators (e.g. large dogs). OEH would also recommend that parts of the fence have at least 100 mm gaps to facilitate escape / movement, when required. OEH would recommend that these gaps be strategically

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water is now known as the
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placed to take advantage of nearby links to existing remnants via environmental plantings in the proposed residential areas.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Steve Lewer on 4908 6814.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'P. Jamieson', followed by the date '6-7-11'.

PETER JAMIESON

Head Regional Operations Unit – Hunter Region
Office of Environment and Heritage
Department of Premier and Cabinet