

**DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CENTRAL PRECINCT, ST
MARY'S PROPERTY**

Species Impact Statement

For:

Lend Lease

February 2014

Final



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Report No. 13091RP1

The preparation of this report has been in accordance with the brief provided by the Client and has relied upon the data and results collected at or under the times and conditions specified in the report. All findings, conclusions or recommendations contained within the report are based only on the aforementioned circumstances. The report has been prepared for use by the Client and no responsibility for its use by other parties is accepted by Cumberland Ecology.

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Approved by: _____

Position: Director

Signed: David Robertson

Date: 27 February, 2014

I, Arthur Ilias, Attorney, Maryland Development Company Pty Ltd of Level 4, 30 The Bond 30 Hickson Road Sydney NSW 2000, being the applicant for the development consents for proposed development of Lot 1037 in DP 1149525, St. Mary's Central Precinct Penrith LGA have read and understood this Species Impact Statement. I understand the implications of the recommendations made in the statement and accept that they may be placed as conditions of consent or concurrence for the proposal.

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Executive Summary

S1 PURPOSE

This document is a Species Impact Statement (SIS) that has been prepared to assess the impacts of a proposed development for residential, employment, and open space purposes in Lot 1037 in DP 1149525, within the Central Precinct of the St Marys Property (SMP) in western Sydney. The current proposal involves the development application (DA) for land filling with more than 100 000 cubic metres of clean fill, for the purposes of raising the land above the 1:100 year flood level to allow the future development to occur in accordance with the provisions of Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30 – St Marys (SREP 30), and the Precinct Plan for the Central Precinct.

The purpose of the SIS is to:

- Identify threatened species issues and identify and provide appropriate amelioration strategies to minimise adverse impacts resulting from the proposal;
- Assist consent and determining authorities in the assessment of the development applications under Part 4 or request for Part 5 approval under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act);
- Assist the Director-General of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH, formerly DECCW) in deciding whether or not concurrence should be granted for the purposes of Parts 4 or 5 of the EP&A Act;
- Assist the Director-General of the OEH when consulted for the purposes of Parts 4 or 5 of the EP&A Act; and
- Assist the Director-General of the OEH in the assessment of Section 91 License applications lodged under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act).

As described in the Precinct Plan for the Central Precinct (JBA 2009), approval under Commonwealth environmental law was granted to the development of the SMP (in accordance with the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30 – St Marys (SREP 30)) under the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* (EPIP Act) prior to the gazettal of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Clarification of all related actions necessary for the carrying out of the approved development was thereafter granted by the Commonwealth under the Environmental Reform (Consequential Provisions) Act 1999 (ERCP Act). As such, following the commencement of the EPBC Act, the Commonwealth confirmed that the EPIP Act approval and ERCP Act certification completed the Commonwealth environmental assessment and held that “**no**

“further approvals” [our emphasis] were required provided development was consistent with the established planning framework provided by the SREP 30. This SIS therefore does not address species, populations and communities listed under the EPBC Act, except where those species of relevance are also listed under the TSC Act.

This SIS is a detailed assessment of the extent of works for the proposed DA within parts of Lot 1037 DP 1149525. It assesses the impacts of future development across the Central Precinct as a whole, as detailed in the approved Precinct Plan. It contains specific assessment of threatened species, populations and ecological communities listed in the schedules of the TSC Act.

S2 BACKGROUND

The former Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site at St Marys was endorsed by the NSW Government for inclusion on the Urban Development Program (UDP) in 1993. The site presented an opportunity to provide housing for Sydney’s growing population within an environmentally sustainable framework.

Given that the site straddles the boundary between two local government areas (Blacktown and Penrith) the NSW Government decided that a regional environmental plan should be prepared for the site. Technical investigations into the environmental values and development capability of the land were commenced in 1994, and the Regional Environmental Plan for St Marys (SREP 30) was gazetted in January, 2001. It zoned the land into “urban”, “employment”, “regional open space”, and “Regional Park” uses (Refer to Figure 1.2).

In view of the original scale of the residential and employment uses, a package of documents was prepared to guide and control development. These comprised SREP 30 (maps and written instrument) (DUAP, 2001b), and an Environmental Planning Strategy (EPS) (DUAP, 2001a) which sets out performance objectives and strategies to address key aspects associated with the site, including: conservation, cultural heritage, water and soils, transport, urban form, energy and waste, human services, employment, and land contamination.

In addition, a State Development Agreement (State Deed) was entered into between the landowner and developers of the land (a Joint Venture comprising ComLand and Lend Lease Development), and the NSW Government. The State Deed specifies a series of obligations to be provided during development of the SMP. These obligations include, amongst other things, the following relevant contributions:

- the staged transfer and dedication 900ha of land to the NPWS as a Regional Park for the sum of \$3 (three dollars);
- staged monetary contributions (c\$6m) towards capital improvements within the 900ha Regional Park;
- monetary contributions towards a Plan of Management for the 900ha Regional Park; and

- the erection of stock proof fencing in stages along the boundaries of the 900ha Regional Park.

The State Deed was executed in December 2002. It provides legal certainty for the delivery of obligations at specific milestones. Together with the SREP 30 and the EPS, the State Deed provides the broader framework for the facilitation of future development of SMP on an agreed basis.

Under SREP 30 development areas are referred to as “precincts” and the SMP is subdivided into Eastern Precinct, Ropes Creek Precinct, Central Precinct, Western Precinct, Dunheved Precinct and Regional Park, Regional Open Space, Drainage Land and Roads. A Precinct Plan was prepared for the each development precinct.

To date the Precinct Plans for the Eastern Precinct, Ropes Creek Precinct, Dunheved Precincts, Central Precinct, Western Precinct have been prepared, exhibited and adopted by the relevant Councils and development is being progressed on a staged basis. As a result, the SMP is one of the largest single Greenfield Release Areas in the Metropolitan Development Program and critical to the delivery of housing numbers for Metropolitan Sydney.

Central Precinct Plan

A Precinct Plan was prepared for the Central Precinct and was approved by Penrith City Council in 2009. The Precinct Plan contained assessments of biodiversity, a plan for the management of weeds, and a strategy for management of domestic and feral animals. The Biodiversity Assessment for the Central Precinct predicted that development of the Precinct was not likely to have a significant negative impact upon threatened flora and fauna within the SMP in the long-term due to the major conservation outcome provided by the creation of the 900ha Regional Park in the SMP.

Central Precinct Development Application

Lend Lease is preparing a DA for submission to Penrith Council for the proposed development of the Central Precinct site, at the SMP.

As part of the Council’s and the Joint Regional Planning Panel’s previous consideration of development applications for the Western Precinct of the SMP, detailed assessments in the form of a Species Impact Statement (SIS) were required to assess impacts on Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) since its listing as a Critically Endangered Ecologically Community (CEEC) under the TSC Act (and as Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale Gravel Transition Forest Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the EPBC Act).

The vegetation present in the Central Precinct consists of a mix of mature CPW woodland, young, degraded CPW woodland in various stages of regeneration and CPW low diversity grassland derived from CPW. Other endangered ecological communities (EECs) present in the Central Precinct include Shale-Gravel Transition Forest (SGTF); River-flat Eucalypt Forest (RFEF), Swamp Oak Forest (SOF) and Freshwater Wetlands. Although the development will fragment representatives of these (C)EECs from the Regional Park and will

remove an area of (C)EECs, the removal proposed, is not considered to constitute a significant impact within the meaning of Section 5A of the EP&A Act (7 Part Test). Large areas of these communities of high quality will still be conserved in the Regional Park, regardless of the current DA.

It was previously agreed with Penrith City Council that all DAs for the Western Precinct development area, the future suburb of Jordan Springs, that involved the the removal of TSC Act listed species and communities, would be accompanied by a SIS. This procedure has been continued for the Central Precinct on a precautionary basis For this reason, although the impacts of the current DA are not generally considered to be significant, a SIS has nonetheless been prepared.

S3 PROPOSAL

The proposal that is the focus of this SIS is for land filling, to raise all areas of the Central Precinct to above the 1:100 year flood level, for future development of the subject site for residential, employment and open space purposes. The proposal includes the construction of a rock and material crushing facility in the northern region of the Central Precinct, zoned as "employment."

The ultimate physical works proposed for the subject site include:

- Clearing ecological communities on site;
- Land filling;
- Construction of buildings and roads;
- Bulk earthworks in grading of the lot and road;
- Provision of associated infrastructure; and
- Provision of landscaping.

The initial works in the Central Precinct are to be implemented via a single DA. The location of this DA is mapped in the SIS (refer to Figure 2.1) and set out in detail in the relevant SEE. Additional ancillary works will be located within the area shown as the subject site and include the creation of interim sediment and detention basins and culverts with relation to road infrastructure works.

S4 VEGETATION OF THE STUDY AREA

Historically, the Central Precinct was used for ammunition storage bunkers and large numbers of concrete bunkers existed across the area until the 1990s. The Central Precinct was intensively mown and heavily grazed by kangaroos while it was used as a Defence site. However, with a change of ownership the storage bunkers were removed and mowing has been reduced to areas of the perimeter of the Regional Park and the boundaries of the SMP. Under the provisions of SREP 30 the kangaroos have been subject to management and

progressively reduced in numbers via implementation of a Macrofauna Management Plan (Cumberland Ecology 2005a). These land management changes since the late 1990s have allowed for regeneration of CPW across various parts of the SMP. Whereas large areas were mown and heavily grazed and open in the early 1990s, there has been a greater level of regeneration in recent times: by way of example, within the Regional Park there are broad areas of young sapling regrowth of CPW trees and shrubs, creating additional habitat on site for various plants and animals. Such regrowth of habitat has only occurred due to land management practices prescribed and implemented by the proponent since the gazettal of SREP 30.

Consequently, the vegetation of the study area can now be separated into various sub-units of the following vegetation types:

Cumberland Plain Woodland

The vegetation of the Central Precinct contains Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) and grassland derived from the clearing of CPW (“derived native grassland”). CPW in the study area is described in various conditions / forms below:

Mature CPW

The CPW in the central portions of the Regional Park (which have been included in the eastern extent of the study area for the purposes of this SIS) generally contains mature CPW and other woodland types (Refer to Figure 4.6). The mature CPW contains a higher diversity of native species and is generally more structurally intact than the CPW within the rest of the Central Precinct. The mature areas of CPW contain a shrub layer, mostly of *Bursaria spinosa* (Blackthorn) and *Dillwynia sieberi* (Parrot-pea), characteristic species of CPW.

Regenerating CPW

The CPW present in the Central Precinct is considered to be occurring in a more simplified regenerating form of the community, compared with the regeneration taking place in the Regional Park, possibly because of the historically higher levels of disturbance. There is a visually obvious and statistical difference between the condition (measured by abundance cover of exotic species in each stratum) and the diversity of species present in the CPW of the Central Precinct and that of the Regional Park. This includes woodland of a similar age of regeneration (the sampling area referred to as Area B in this SIS) as shown in the statistical analysis provided in Section 4.3.2. This observation is further supported by previous resilience assessment data collected by Ian Perkins in 1999 that resulted in modifications to the Regional Park boundary (as at the time of the surveys) to include Area B, which was historically cleared (prior to 1940) and maintained as open grassland with scattered mature trees through heavy kangaroo grazing and slashing until 2000 as with the land within the approved Central Precinct limits (the subject site). The regenerating CPW on the subject site occurs as scattered patches, mainly near the borders of the Precinct (Refer to Figure 4.6 and 4.7).

Derived Native Grassland

The vegetation of the Central Precinct contains grassland derived from the clearing of CPW (“derived native grassland”). This grassland has been extensively surveyed, and can be further characterised by a large zone dominated by exotic grasses (predominately *Axonopus fissifolius*) and few native herbs and shrubs. Smaller zones in the neighbouring Regional Park are dominated by native grasses and the inclusion of a higher diversity of native herbs and shrubs. Although both forms of grassland are considered to be derived from the past clearing of CPW, the latter category is likely to have a higher resilience and is associated with the historically less disturbed portions of the SMP.

Shale Gravel Transition Forest

As its name suggests, Shale Gravel Transition Forest (SGTF) is a transitional plant community which grades into CPW where the influence of gravel soil declines, and grades into Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest or Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland where gravel deposits are thicker. There is a natural continuum of soil in this spectrum, and it can be difficult to separate out these communities, at the middle of the shale-gravel spectrum. In a new CEEC listing under the EPBC Act, a single community called *Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale-gravel Transition Forest* is described.

The NSW Scientific Committee description for SGTF includes a slightly different species composition to CPW, based on the local presence of lateritic gravel in the soil. The community is dominated by *Eucalyptus fibrosa* with *E. moluccana* also occurring less frequently. Shrub species are similar to those found in CPW but more commonly include shrubs from the pea family, including threatened species such as Parrot pea, and has also been observed to contain high numbers of *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*.

Large areas of SGTF occur in the eastern portions of the SMP, mostly to the east of the current study area extent. This community occurs as a small patch along the western border of the subject site.

River-flat Eucalypt Forest

River-flat Eucalypt Forest (RFEF) occurs in the Central Precinct, in simplified regenerating form as patches in the centre of the precinct, associated with Swamp Oak Forest, and to a lesser extent, sedgeland. These communities are present in the lower lying areas of the site, with higher areas occupied by CPW.. It has a limited distribution within the precinct (only 28.51 ha), and is largely isolated from the more extensive areas of Alluvial Woodland in the Regional Park

Canopy species in the patches of RFEF include *Angophora floribunda* (Rough-barked Apple), *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) and *Eucalyptus amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum), and in some areas *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Broad-leaved Ironbark). A native shrub layer in these patches is mostly absent, though where occurring consists of juvenile *Casuarina glauca* individuals, and *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle). The shrub layer contains the noxious weeds *Ligustrum sinense* (Small-leaf Privet), and *Ligustrum lucidum* (Broad-leaf Privet). The ground cover tends to be weedy, dominated in places by exotic grasses such as

Eragrostis curvula (African Lovegrass) and *Cynodon dactylon* (Couch). The native grass *Microlaena stipoides* is common-dominant in some areas, and other native grasses such as *Artistida ramosa* are common in localised patches.

Derived Native Grassland

The vegetation of the Central Precinct contains areas of grassland that have been derived from the clearing of RFEF. These areas contain a number of native grass species and forbs that would have been understorey species of RFEF prior to clearing of the canopy. RFEF DNG occurs as a narrow band in the western side of the centre of the Central Precinct, and is associated with Swamp Oak Forest, Sedgeland, and RFEF.

Swamp Oak Forest

Swamp Oak Forest (SOF) is found in the Central Precinct in low lying areas in patches in the centre of the site and along the central western edge, associated with RFEF, and Sedgeland. Typical of the community, the ground storey is sparse, with a dense covering of litter from the monoculture of *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) individuals comprising the canopy. A native shrub layer is nearly absent, consisting of rare occurrences of *Trema tomentosa* (Poison Peach), *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle) and *Casuarina glauca* juveniles. The shrub layer is predominately exotic with species such as *Ligustrum sinense* and *Ligustrum lucidum*.

The ground storey is a mixture of exotic weeds such as *Verbena bonariensis* (Purple Top), *Solanum pseudocapsicum* (Jerusalem Cherry), and *Sida rhombifolia* (Paddy's Lucerne), and native species such as *Einadia trigonos* (Fishweed), *Carex inversa*, *Oplismenus aemulus* (Basket Grass), and *Microlaena stipoides*. The exotic vines *Araujia sericifera* (Moth Vine), and *Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper) are common in the community on the subject site.

This community occurs as scattered patches mainly in the central parts of the subject site and often intergrades with RFEF and wetland communities.

Freshwater Wetlands

Sedgeland, a form of Freshwater Wetlands, occurs in very small local patches throughout the precinct, generally artificially created by a small scraping of the soil that results in a small depression. These areas usually are too small to warrant mapping, being only a few square metres in area and have therefore been included in the grassland mosaic. Three areas of Freshwater Wetlands have been mapped: the area surrounding the dam in the south western corner of the study area, largely included in the Regional Park, a small soak in the centre of the subject site, and also an area along a drainage line near the western section of the precinct.

Planted Trees

There are also areas of planted, non-indigenous trees. These mainly consist of rows of *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gum) on the western boundary. This patch occurs in the central west area of the subject site.

S5 SUBJECT SITE, STUDY AREA, AND AFFECTED FLORA AND FAUNA

For the purposes of the SIS, the land directly affected by the proposal is defined as the “**subject site**”. The subject site comprises a single DA for the development of the Central Precinct (refer to Figure 2.1).

The “**study area**” comprises the subject site and adjacent areas that could be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed development. This includes proximate areas of the Central Precinct, the Regional Park, and land adjoining the SMP (Refer to Figure 2.2).

The “**locality**” is defined as the area within a 10km radius of the centre of the subject site, as determined by the DGRs (refer to Figure 2.3).

This SIS evaluates subject flora and fauna, known or considered likely to occur in the locality (“subject (C)EECs/species”), and then determines those which are most likely to be affected by the proposed development (“affected (C)EECs/species”). Affected (C)EECs/species means those threatened species, populations and ecological communities that are likely to or will experience impacts from the proposal.

The SIS distinguishes between “major” and “minor” affected (C)EECs/species (this includes populations and communities). Major affected (C)EECs/species are those that will definitely experience a measureable loss of habitat as a result of the proposed development. Minor affected (C)EECs/species are those species that occur (or are considered likely to occur) in the study area and which may experience small or very minor impacts to habitat, either directly or indirectly.

S5.1 Major Affected (C)EECs/species

In summary, the major affected TSC Act listed (C)EECs/species that are considered in detail in this SIS are:

- Cumberland Plain Woodland (CEEC);
- Shale Gravel Transition Forest (EEC);
- River-flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC);
- Swamp Oak Forest (EEC); and
- Freshwater Wetlands (EEC);
- *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*; and

- Cumberland Plain Land Snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*).

All of these (C)EEC/species occur on the subject site and will have habitat removed as a result of the development.

S5.2 Minor Affected (C)EECs/species

The minor affected (C)EECs/species include:

- *Pultenaea parviflora* (Bush Pea); and
- *Pimelea spicata* (Spiked Rice-flower).
- *Marsdenia viridiflora* ssp. *viridiflora* in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith local government areas: This species has been recorded in low numbers in the Regional Park and study area but has not been recorded on the subject site.
- Microchiropteran (small insectivorous) Bats: East-coast Freetail Bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*), Eastern False Pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*), Eastern Bentwing Bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* (formerly *M. schreibersii oceanensis*)), Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*) and Greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*): These microbats have all been recorded on the SMP, and mostly within the study area. Other potentially occurring species include the Little Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*) and the Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*). The habitats present on the subject site do not provide significant habitat for these species due to a lack of roosting habitat. However, they will experience a loss of foraging habitat to a relatively minor degree. For this reason, these microbats are considered to be an affected (C)EECs/species.
- Megachiropteran Bats: Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*). As with the microbats, the subject site provides a relatively small area of foraging habitat for this species. No flying-fox camps are known to occur on or adjoining the study area.
- Birds: Speckled Warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittata*), Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), Diamond Firetail (*Emblema guttata*): These small woodland birds have been recorded on the SMP and within the study area, although all within the Regional Park.

These threatened species have been recorded in the study area but not from within or adjoining the subject site.

S6 IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposal will result in direct impacts, indirect impacts and will contribute to cumulative impacts of development of the Central Precinct as described below:

S6.1 Direct Impacts

S6.1.1 Vegetation communities

The proposed development will occur within a landscape that has been extensively altered since European settlement. The subject site is vegetated by patches of mature and regenerating CPW as well as low diversity Derived Native Grassland which collectively conforms to the critically endangered listing of CPW under the TSC Act (and EPBC Act). Other EECs present on site include SGTF, RFEF, SOF and Freshwater Wetland. Areas of these communities to be cleared are shown in Table S.1.

Vegetation Communities occurring within the Subject Site	Vegetation to be removed within the Subject Site (ha)
Cumberland Plain Woodland (CEEC)	30.13
CPW Derived Native Grassland (CEEC)	4.18
CPW Low diversity Derived Native Grassland (CEEC)	31.07
Shale-Gravel Transition Forest (EEC)	1.61
River-flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC)	24.09
RFEF Derived Native Grassland (EEC)	4.42
Swamp Oak Forest (EEC)	7.53
Freshwater Wetland (EEC)	0.92
Exotic Grassland	53.88
Planted trees	0.36
TOTAL VEGETATION	158.18

S6.1.2 Threatened species

The clearing of vegetation within the subject site will directly remove habitat for threatened species such as the Cumberland Plain Land Snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*) and *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*. The Cumberland Plain Land Snail was recorded within CPW to the east of the subject site during surveys and has a high potential to occur within the mature and regenerating CPW patches within the subject site. Several individuals are likely to be removed given that CPW habitat is to be cleared. Individuals of *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina* were recorded in patches of SGTF and CPW along the north-western edge of the Central Precinct where the subject site adjoins the Regional Park. A number of individuals will be lost through clearing of these vegetation patches. However, the species is locally abundant within the regional park and loss of individuals on the fringes of the regional park will not significantly place the local population at risk of extinction.

No other threatened flora or fauna species have been recorded within or immediately adjacent to the subject site. Some highly mobile fauna species, such as microbats, and some small woodland birds that are known from the study area may experience minor habitat loss. Notwithstanding this, none are expected to be impacted by the proposed DA. The Central Precinct as a whole, generally lacks important habitat features, such as hollow-bearing trees. This paucity of habitat features suggests that it would be unlikely for these species to be dependent on the habitats present. The Regional Park provides substantial habitat for these species.

Extensive mitigation measures will be implemented across the Central Precinct to minimise the impacts from development. Foremost amongst these is the 900 hectare Regional Park, which will conserve substantial habitat for all known species of threatened flora and fauna that have been recorded previously on the SMP.

S6.2 Indirect Impacts

The subject site includes additional areas for works within the DA boundaries. This includes areas for ancillary works and other disturbance such as battering. There is also the chance of indirect effects, such as the spread of weeds, to impact on native vegetation in this area.

The quality of the vegetation areas greatly improves in the Regional Park. This conclusion is based on the identification of less disturbed parts of the SMP, which have greater significance. The removal of the degraded edges of patches of vegetation within the subject site also has the potential to indirectly impact on vegetation communities in the adjoining Regional Park through the increase of edge effects and weed invasion. These indirect impacts also have the potential to affect the wetlands present in areas of the Regional Park adjacent to the subject site. However, such potential indirect impacts can be minimised through the implementation of comprehensive mitigation measures, as described in Chapter 7 and detailed in the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment (Cumberland Ecology 2008a).

Site specific mitigation measures for the protection of (C)EEC vegetation should include the continued mowing of a buffered edge between the residential development area and the Regional Park. The mowing itself appears to favour the establishment of native grass and herb species (as was found on the northern boundary of the Western Precinct development, where native grassland occurs in the mown APZ) and removes woody weeds. Trees should be retained wherever practicable and the use of fertilisers avoided at the perimeter of the Regional Park. In combination with the comprehensive mitigation measures for the SMP, it is considered that minimal indirect impacts are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development.

S6.3 Cumulative Impact of Development in the Central Precinct

As detailed in the approved Central Precinct Plan (JBA 2009), the remainder of the Central Precinct is zoned “Urban” and “Employment” and is proposed for development as residential and commercial land. This will result in the removal of habitat for C/EECs and threatened species of relevance to the current proposal, consistent with the “balanced” outcome for the SMP site as a whole completed under SREP 30. Although habitats within the study area are already fragmented to some degree, the Regional Park is unbroken in an 800m strip around

the north of the Central Precinct allowing habitat continuity between the eastern and western sections of the SMP. A summary of the maximum area of vegetation estimated to be removed is also presented in Table 5.1 and is referred to further in the detailed impact assessments presented below.

S7 MITIGATION MEASURES

The foremost mitigation measure associated with the proposed development instituted under the established statutory planning framework provided by SREP 30, the EPS and the State Deed is the dedication of land for the creation of the 900 hectare Regional Park. This is supplemented by the provision of funding under the State Deed for the ongoing conservation, enhancement, management and rehabilitation of this land, which, together with proposed open space areas, will total over 900 hectares of retained and improved habitat. As described within the approved Central Precinct Plan, this area will contain representative and viable occurrences of all known threatened species that occur in the SMP.

This is further supported by the following three documents prepared by the NSW Government:

- Draft EPBC Act Strategic Assessment Report for the Sydney Growth Centres Program (DECCW and DoP 2010);
- Report on the methodology for identifying priority conservation lands on the Cumberland Plain (DECCW July 2010); and
- Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan (DECCW 2011).

Importantly, the latter two of the listed studies above identify the SMP Regional Park as a Priority Area/Priority Conservation Lands for the management and recovery of the Cumberland Plain.

As described within the Central Precinct Plan, there are a suite of management plans currently being implemented for weeds, domestic and feral animals, and macrofauna. Each of these plans contains multiple measures aimed at safeguarding the areas proposed for conservation within the 900ha Regional Park and open space areas of the SMP.

Such mitigation measures are also considered as part of the offset package for the Central Precinct development. Such measures go beyond those generally provided by traditional offsets, which usually require a more simplified level of contribution, dedication or management. The additional measures at SMP include significant financial investment measures, including the funding of the Macrofauna Management Plan (MMP). The MMP manages the kangaroo and emu population through fertility control measures. This has greatly reduced the severity of grazing impacts on the regeneration of CPW and other (C)EECs within the SMP. Trials for kangaroo exclusion and grassy woodland recovery have also been funded by the proponent prior to the transfer of ownership to OEH.

The above mitigation measures are explained in further detail within this SIS.

S8 CONCLUSION

The proposed development of the subject site will remove a relatively small area of habitat for the CEEC CPW as well as areas of the EECs SGTF, RFEF, SOF and Freshwater Wetlands. However, and with due consideration of the distribution of these (C)EECs in the region, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on these (C)EECs such that the large and viable representatives in the Regional Park would be placed at risk of extinction. The large and continuous remnants present in the Regional Park will be protected and enhanced through a range of mitigation measures identified and retained in perpetuity in public ownership.

The affected (C)EECs/species impacted by the proposed development include *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina* and the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. The SGTF and to a lesser extent the young CPW on the subject site provides habitat for *Grevillea juniperina ssp juniperina*. The young CPW and to a lesser extent, the DNG and low diversity DNG, on the subject site provide marginal habitat for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. The woodland and grassland habitats also potentially provide habitat for other threatened plants, animals and communities found in the SMP as well as some potential foraging habitat for wide ranging threatened fauna species. However, when directly compared with the habitats of the Regional Park, these areas of habitat are considered to be degraded and of a lesser significance due to the increased level of disturbance, sparse nature and comparatively small size. Therefore, the loss of this habitat on the subject site is not considered to be significant.

The impact of the proposal will be more than balanced by the major conservation outcome resulting from the creation of the 900ha Regional Park. The Regional Park comprises CPW of quality and scale in a consolidated land holding, to be transferred into public ownership and subject to a fully funded Plan of Management.

When weighed against the conservation benefits, both direct and indirect, that will be derived from the 900ha Regional Park, together with the various mitigation measures afforded by the management strategies for weeds, feral and domestic animals and macrofauna, the relatively small areas of natural and semi-natural vegetation to be cleared as a result of the proposal are considered to be of minor consequence. This SIS concludes that the proposal will not result in any local populations of threatened species or occurrences of ecological communities becoming extinct. Known occurrences of threatened flora and fauna within the SMP are predicted to be secure in the long term as a result of the creation of the 900ha Regional Park and numerous supporting mitigation measures that are enshrined in a legal, statutory planning framework.

Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This document is a Species Impact Statement (SIS) that has been prepared to assess the impacts of a proposed development within parts of Lot 1037 DP 1149525, also known as the Central Precinct area of the St Marys Property (SMP) in western Sydney. The SIS has been prepared in accordance with Section 109 and 110 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and with the requirements of the Director General of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), copies of which are provided in Appendix A.

The main objectives of this SIS are to:

- Identify threatened species issues and provide appropriate amelioration strategies to minimise adverse impacts resulting from the proposal;
- Provide an appropriate level of background information and assessment to facilitate determinations and licensing processes;
- Assist consent and determining authorities in the assessment of the development application under Part 4 or request for Part 5 approval under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act);
- Assist the Director-General of the OEH in deciding whether or not concurrence should be granted for the purposes of Parts 4 or 5 of the EP&A Act;
- Assist the Director-General of the OEH or the Minister for the Environment when consulted for the purposes of Parts 4 or 5 of the EP&A Act; and
- Assist the Director-General of the OEH in the assessment of Section 91 Licence applications lodged under the TSC Act.

Throughout the SIS the section order and heading titles are replicated from the DGRs. In order to demonstrate how each SIS section complies with statutory requirements a comprehensive compliance table is included in Appendix A.

1.2 Approvals and Licences

This SIS has been prepared in accordance with Sections 109 and 110 of the TSC Act, which describes the form and content of a SIS, with the exception of those matters limited or modified in the DGRs as listed in Section 1.4 below. The requirements of the Director-General of the OEH were sought pursuant to Section 111 of the TSC Act.

As described in the Precinct Plan for the Central Precinct (JBA 2009), approval under Commonwealth environmental law was granted to the development of the SMP (in accordance with the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30 – St Marys (SREP 30)) under the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* (EPIP Act) prior to the gazettal of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Clarification of all related actions necessary for the carrying out of the approved development was thereafter granted by the Commonwealth under the Environmental Reform (Consequential Provisions) Act 1999 (ERCP Act). As such, following the commencement of the EPBC Act, the Commonwealth confirmed that the EPIP Act approval and ERCP Act certification completed the Commonwealth environmental assessment and held that “**no further approvals**” [our emphasis] were required provided development was consistent with the established planning framework provided by the SREP 30. This SIS therefore does not address species, populations and communities listed under the EPBC Act, except where those species of relevance are also listed under the TSC Act.

1.2.1 State Government Instruments

Planning instruments that relate to the development of the Central Precinct include:

- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 (SREP 30) (DUAP, 2001b); and
- St Marys Environmental Planning Strategy 2000 (EPS 2000) (DUAP, 2001a);
- St Marys State Development Agreement December 2002;
- State Environmental Planning Policy No 55 – Remediation of Land; and
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.

i. SREP 30

Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30 – St Marys is the main statutory plan applying to the SMP and provides a framework for sustainable development and management of land to which SREP 30 applies, including the Central Precinct. SREP 30 addresses proposals for a Regional Park, regional open space, urban and employment lands and establishes town planning, urban design and environmental conservation principles to guide the long-term development and conservation of the SMP.

Under SREP 30, a draft Precinct Plan is to include proposals for and information about:

“management of the potential impacts of development on the existing physical and environmental characteristics of the land, including significant native flora and fauna habitat and soil characteristics. The information is to include specific details of those characteristics and to explain how development should be planned and configured to minimise adverse impacts on areas of significance for biodiversity.”

Part 5 of SREP 30 outlines performance objectives for the development of the SMP. Those outlined for conservation are:

- (1) *A representative and significant proportion of the natural values of the land are to be conserved within a regional park in order to protect the variety of Western Sydney vegetation communities, native flora and fauna species and fauna habitat;*
- (2) *Urban design and site planning in the Employment and Urban zones are to have regard to significant stands of trees and, where practicable, retain those trees;*
- (3) *Adverse impacts on the vegetation and fauna habitats within the Regional Park and Regional Open Space zones resulting from the development of areas zoned Employment or Urban are to be minimised;*
- (4) *Infrastructure is to be designed and located to minimise potential adverse impacts on the conservation values of the land; and*
- (5) *Infrastructure and recreational facilities within the regional park are to be sited and constructed to minimise adverse impacts on the park’s natural values.*

ii. EPS 2000

The EPS 2000 (DUAP, 2001a) supports SREP 30 and outlines the strategies required to achieve the objectives outlined in SREP 30.

iii. State Deed

The State Deed requires the delivery of a series of obligations during implementation of the SMP. These obligations include the staged transfer and dedication of 900ha of land to the NPWS as a Regional Park, monetary contributions towards capital improvements and a Plan of Management and the erection of stock proof fencing.

The State Deed provides legal certainty for the delivery of obligations at specific milestones. Together with the SREP 30 and the EPS, the State Deed provides the broader statutory framework for the facilitation of future development of SMP on an agreed basis.

At this point in time – partway through the development - the first element of the Regional Park has already been dedicated (Wianamatta Regional Park), relevant monetary contributions made, Plan of Management adopted and initial stock proof fencing erected.

iv. State Environmental Planning Policies

The proposed development will require more than 100,000 tonnes of clean fill to be imported to the site and is considered to be traffic generating. The development is therefore considered to be designated development and will also require to be referred to the RMS for

consideration. These SEPPs are considered in more detail in the relevant Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

1.2.2 Local Government Policies

The Central Precinct Precinct is located within the Penrith LGA. However, under the terms of the SREP 30, no Penrith LEP or DCP apply to the SMP. Penrith City Council (PCC) has produced a document entitled *Sustainability Blueprint for Urban Release Areas* (PCC, 2005). Whilst not an environmental planning instrument, this document outlines the key aims of PCC in relation to ensuring the sustainability of future urban development. The objective of this document, as it relates to biodiversity, is “to retain and conserve indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitat and corridors” (PCC, 2005). This requires areas of high conservation value to be identified within urban development areas and to be excluded from development; biodiversity corridors to be established that link corridors of regional significance; and requires the submission of a Flora and Fauna Strategy which outlines how indigenous vegetation and wildlife habitat will be retained and conserved. The objectives of the PCC document are addressed in the Central Precinct Plan and achieved across the SMP site as a whole.

1.2.3 Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate

The majority of the 900ha Regional Park is listed on the Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate. The vegetation within this area is referred to in the National Estate as an important remnant of the vegetation communities that were once widespread on the Cumberland Plain and include Cumberland Plain Woodland and Castlereagh Woodland. The Register of National Estate place description also makes reference to significant flora and fauna, including threatened plants and examples of the Cumberland Plain Woodland bird assemblage. The developments proposed for the Central Precinct will adjoin Regional Park land along the eastern, western, and northern boundaries.

1.3 DGR Matters Which Have Been Limited or Modified

The following Section 110 Matters need not be addressed by this SIS

- Section 110(2)(g) and 110(3)(d). The matters raised in this section of the TSC Act have been clarified by the requirements below.

The following Section 110 matters need only be addressed where relevant:

- Threat abatement plans

At this time, no threat abatement plans have been approved that are relevant to this proposal.

- Recovery plans:
 - Bush Stone Curlew Recovery Plan

- Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan
- Green and Golden Bell Frog draft Recovery Plan
- Large Forest Owls Recovery Plan
- Koala Recovery Plan
- *Persoonia nutans* Recovery Plan
- *Pimelea spicata* Recovery Plan
- Swift Parrot Recovery Plan
- Regent Honeyeater Recovery Plan

Of these recovery plans, only the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan is considered to be of relevance to the current proposal, due the presence of the Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) on the subject site. Therefore consideration of this recovery plan has been included in this SIS.

Although the following threatened species have not been recorded within the subject site, there is some potential for these species to occur within the subject site or adjoining areas:

- *Persoonia nutans*
- *Pimelea spicata*
- Regent Honeyeater
- Swift Parrot.

The major conservation outcome resulting from of the creation of the 900ha Regional Park provides for better quality habitat for the above listed threatened species than is present within the subject site. As this mitigation measure is considered to be consistent with the Recovery plans for the above listed threatened species, no further consideration of these recovery plans has been included in this SIS.

The Green and Golden Bell Frog, Bush Stone Curlew, and Koala are considered unlikely to occur within the subject site. While some marginal habitat for these species is present within the subject site, these species have not been recorded in the area since the year 2000. The Green and Golden Bell Frog in particular is considered to be extinct across the majority of Western Sydney, with the exception of a population at Riverstone. Large Forest Owls such as the Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl have a very low likelihood of occurrence due to the lack of suitable habitat but may pass through the site as part of a larger foraging area. Therefore the recovery plans for these species have not been considered in this SIS.

- Key Threatening Processes:
 - Clearing of native vegetation;
 - High frequency fire; and
 - Loss of hollow-bearing trees.

- Critical habitat

At this time, no areas of declared critical habitat are relevant to this proposal.

1.4 Terminology

Abundance: means a quantification of the population of the species or community.

Affected (C)EECs/species: means subject species, populations and communities likely to be affected by the approved components of the project.

Central Precinct: encompassing the land identified as such in Figure 1.2.

Conservation status: is an indicator of how likely it is to remain alive at present or in the near future. Many factors are used to assess a species' conservation status, including: the number remaining, the overall increase or decrease in the population over time, breeding success rates and known threats.

Development: as defined in the EP&A Act means:

- (a) the use of land, and
- (b) the subdivision of land, and
- (c) the erection of a building, and
- (d) the carrying out of a work, and
- (e) the demolition of a building or work, and
- (f) any other matter or thing referred to in section 26 that is controlled by an environmental planning instrument, but does not include any development of a class or description prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

Director-General: means the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Locality: means the area within a 10km² radius of the centre of the subject site.

OEH: means the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water). The OEH is a division of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

Proposal: is the development, activity or action proposed.

PLGA: Penrith Local Government Area;

Region: as defined in the TSC Act, means for the purposes of the provision in which it is used, a bioregion defined in a national system of bioregionalisation that is determined (by the Director-General under subsection (4)) to be appropriate for those purposes. In this case, the Bioregion refers to the Sydney Basin Bioregion.

Regional Park: refers to the 900 ha St Marys Regional Park created as a compensatory measure for Development of the SMP. This includes areas that have been transferred to NPWS and now from the Wianamatta Regional Park.

Significant species: means species not listed in the TSC Act but considered to be of regional or local significance.

Study area: means the subject site and any additional areas that are likely to be affected by the proposal, either directly or indirectly. For the purposes of this SIS, the study area includes proximate areas of the St Marys Regional Park

Subject site: means the area directly affected by the current proposal, being the development footprint of filling works and future development of the Central Precinct within the St Marys Property, currently the subject of a single DA.

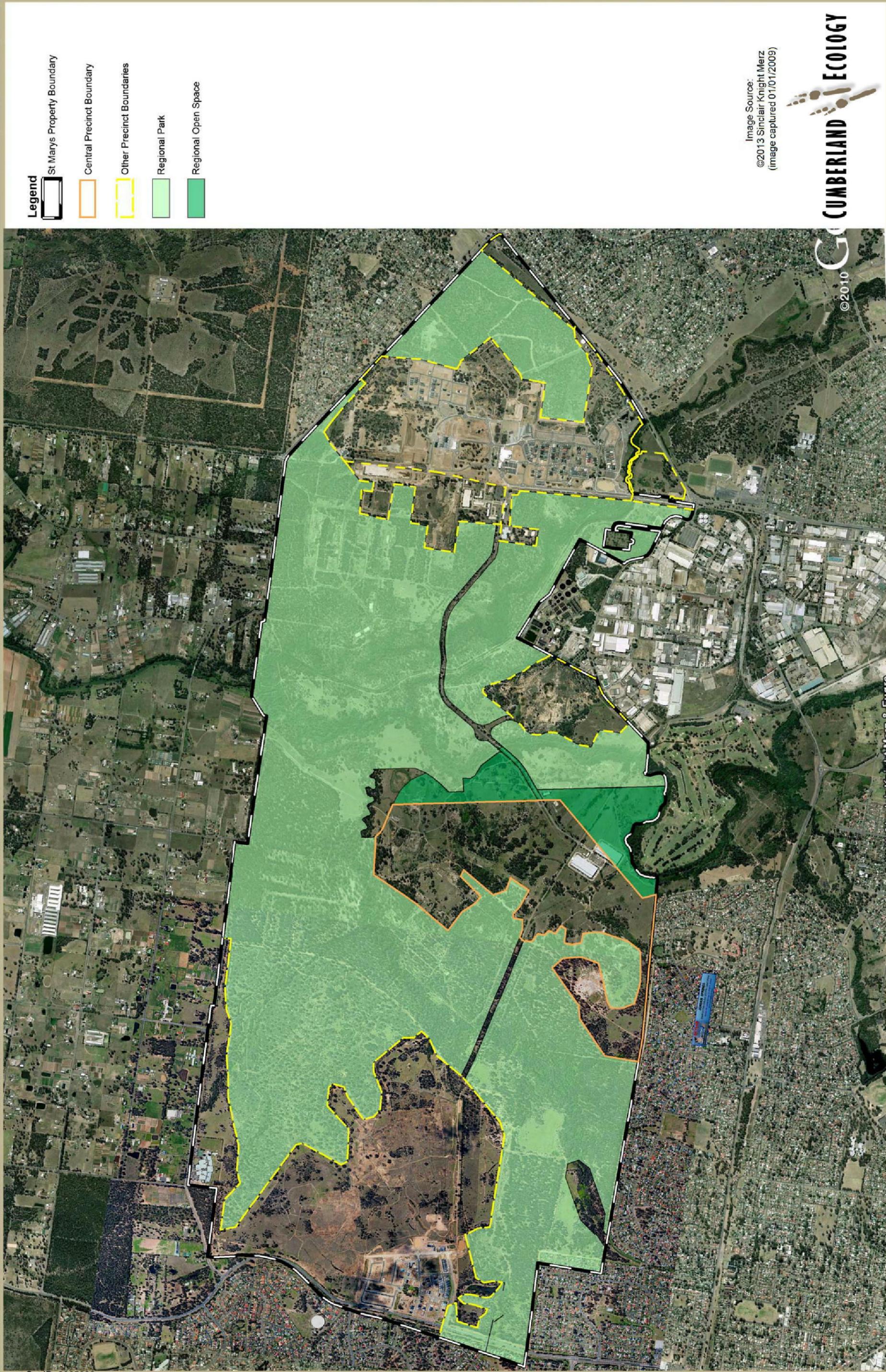
Subject species: means those threatened species that are known or considered likely to occur in the study area.

SREP 30: Sydney Regional Environment Plan 30, Amendment No. 2, as shown in Figure 1.2;

State Deed: The St Marys State Development Agreement

St Marys EPS: St Marys Environmental Planning Strategy 2000;

St Marys Property (SMP): encompassing land marked in Figures 1.1 and 1.2;



- Legend**
- St Marys Property Boundary
 - Central Precinct Boundary
 - Other Precinct Boundaries
 - Regional Park
 - Regional Open Space

Image Source:
 ©2013 Sinclair Knight Merz
 (image captured 01/01/2009)



Figure 1.1. Aerial photograph of the St Marys Property



Legend

-  St Marys Property Boundary
-  Precinct Boundary

Zone

-  Employment
-  Road and Road Widening
-  Drainage
-  Regional Park
-  Urban
-  Regional Open Space

Image ©2011 Sinclair Knight Merz & Fugro

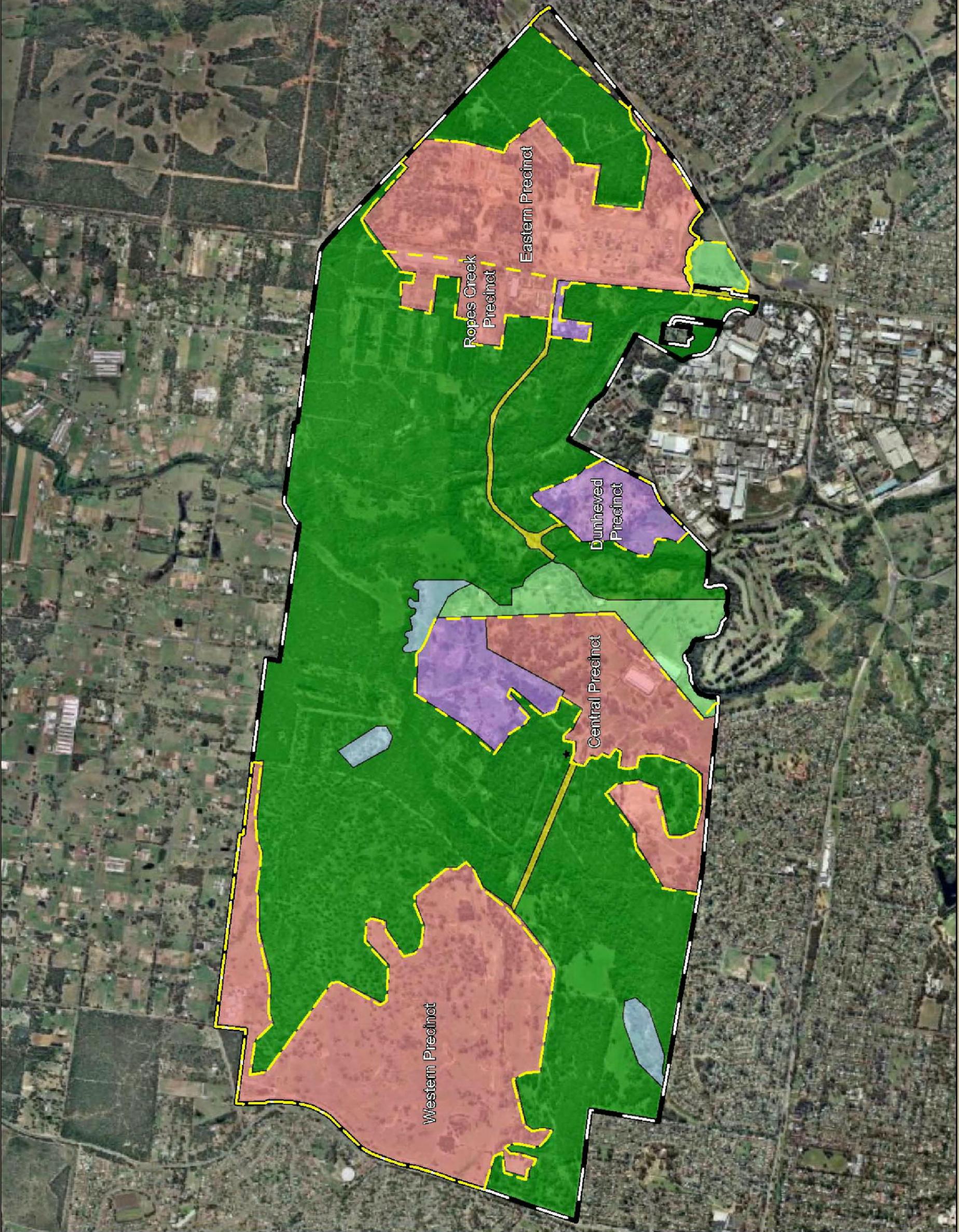
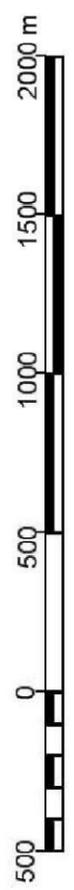


Figure 1.2. Zoning of the St Marys Property (SREP 30 Amendment 2)



Contextual Information

2.1 Background

2.1.1 *St Marys Property*

The SMP comprises 1,545 ha of land which is situated north of St Marys and north-east of Penrith on the Cumberland Plain in Western Sydney. The SMP incorporates areas of cleared agricultural land, developed areas and areas of regenerating Western Sydney Woodland vegetation (ERM, 2000). The site is adjoined on three sides by urban development and to the north by lands used for agricultural purposes.

Historically, there is evidence that the site was occupied continuously by Aborigines prior to European settlement. From 1803 the site was surveyed, settled, cleared and used for farming purposes by Governor King's family.

Generally, farming in the St Marys area centred on cattle with the nearby St Marys saleyards being the second largest in rural New South Wales during the 60 years of its operation from the 1880s. Within the SMP, the ruins of the former Beacroft Butchery and slaughter yard are to be found.

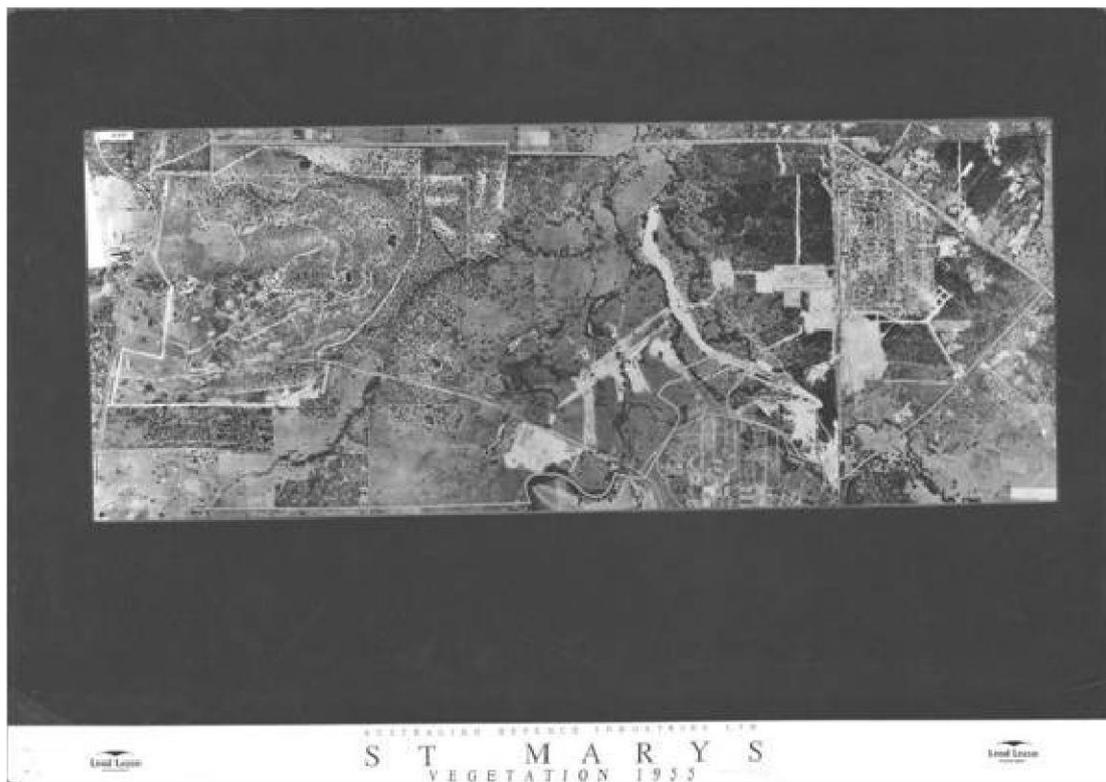
In 1924, the lands generally comprising the SMP were consolidated into one parcel by a grazier, Mr JW Fisher. Following the outbreak of World War II, the Australian Government established an explosives and munitions filling factory on these lands, which had by then been resumed from various farmers, including JW Fisher. These manufacturing operations were established in two major waves during World War II and later during the 1950's. Extensive works were undertaken on the site involving the construction of more than 800 buildings, a transport network including roads and railway lines, as well as major services infrastructure and telecommunications facilities. The site was segregated into small areas by security fencing for both safety and security reasons. This complex of munitions factories operated until production ceased in 1994. The site has subsequently been decontaminated, and the great majority of the buildings and other infrastructure demolished and removed.

The flora and fauna of the SMP have been extensively surveyed and analysed over the last 28 years (Gunninah, 1991, Gunninah, 1995, Gunninah, 1997, ERM, 1997, ERM, 1998, ERM, 2000, Kinhill, 1995, Cumberland Ecology, 2004a, Cumberland Ecology, 2004c, Cumberland Ecology, 2005). The native vegetation within the St Marys Property has survived decades of use and clearing since European settlement. The entire property experienced tree clearance and pastoral activities prior to the 1940s (ERM, 2000). Most of

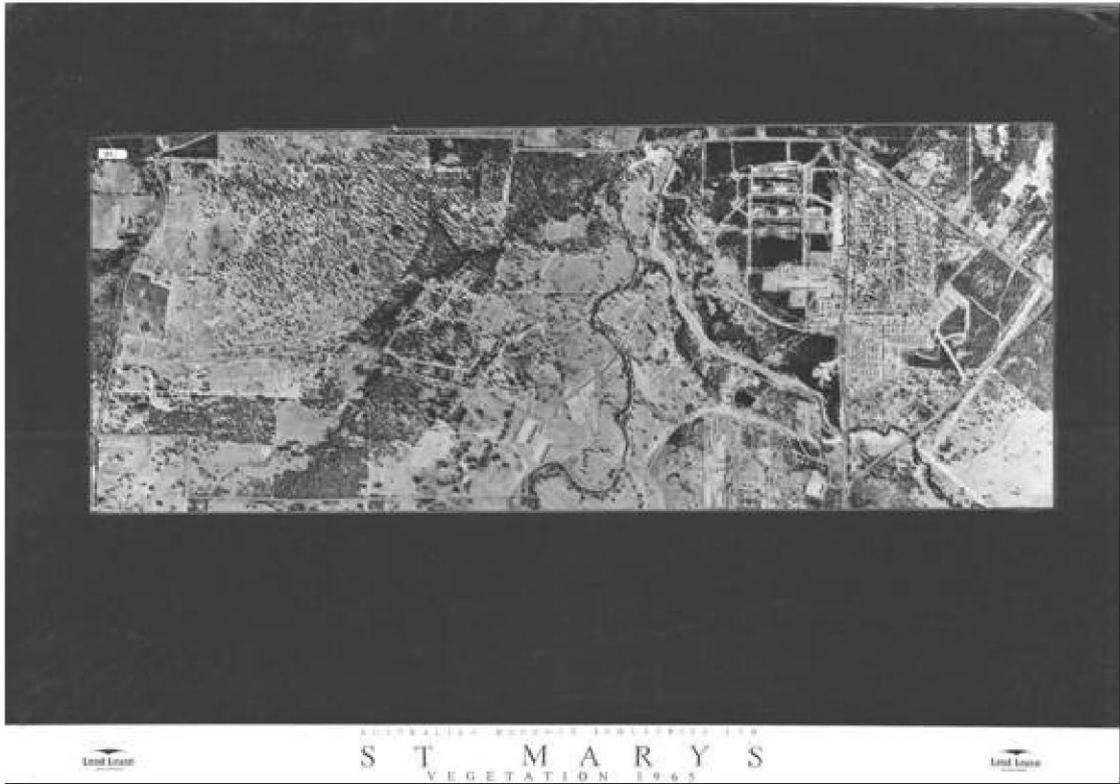
the native vegetation is regenerating from earlier episodes of clearing (NSW NPWS, 2000a, Gunninah, 1995, Gunninah, 1997). Photographs 1.1 – 1.4 depict these transitions. Despite being shaped by these previous management actions, the remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland and other vegetation communities present on the site support flora and fauna species of acknowledged significant conservation value.



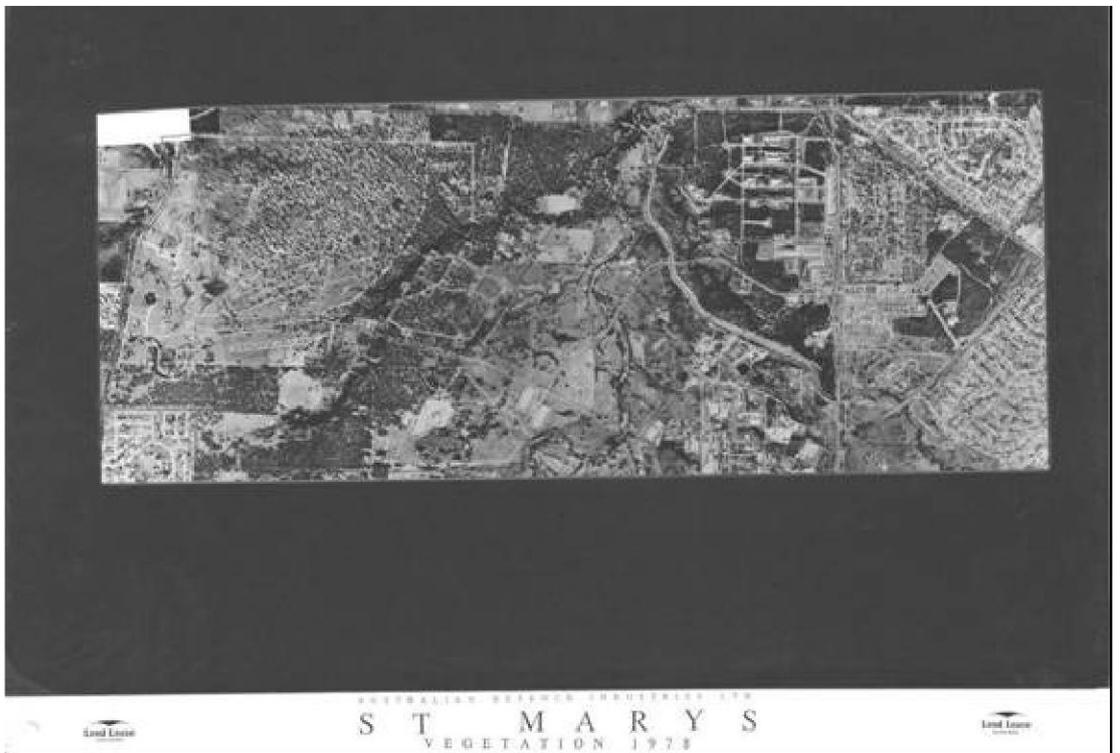
Photograph 2.1 Aerial photograph of St Marys Property, 1947



Photograph 2.2 Aerial photograph of St Marys Property, 1955



Photograph 2.3 Aerial photograph of St Marys Property, 1965



Photograph 2.4 Aerial photograph of St Marys Property, 1978

The former Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site at St Marys was endorsed by the NSW Government for inclusion on the Urban Development Program (UDP) in 1993. The site was seen to present an opportunity to provide housing for Sydney's growing population within an environmentally sustainable framework.

Given that the site straddles the boundary between two local government areas (Blacktown and Penrith); the Government decided that a regional environmental plan should be prepared for the site. Technical investigations into the environmental values and development capability of the land were commenced in 1994, and the Regional Environmental Plan for St Marys (SREP 30) (DUAP, 2001b) was gazetted in January, 2001. It zoned the land into "urban", "employment", "regional open space", and "regional park" uses (Refer to Figure 1.2).

In view of the original scale of the residential and employment uses, a package of documents was prepared to guide and control development. It comprised SREP 30 (maps and written instrument) (DUAP, 2001b), and an Environmental Planning Strategy (EPS) (DUAP, 2001a) which sets out performance objectives and strategies to address key aspects associated with the site, including: conservation, cultural heritage, water and soils, transport, urban form, energy and waste, human services, employment, and land contamination.

The State Development Agreement (State Deed) was entered into between the landowner and developers of the land (a Joint Venture comprising ComLand and Lend Lease Development), and the NSW Government in December 2001. The State Deed sets out the specific obligations and responsibilities in providing, amongst other things, services, infrastructure, monetary contributions and land in support of the SMP. These obligations include, amongst other things, the following relevant contributions:

- The staged transfer and dedication 900ha of land to the NPWS as a Regional Park for the sum of \$3 (three dollars);
- Staged monetary contributions (c\$6m) towards capital improvements within the 900ha Regional Park;
- Monetary contributions towards a Plan of Management for the 900ha Regional Park; and
- The erection of stock proof fencing in stages along the boundaries of the 900ha Regional Park.

The State Deed provides legal certainty for the delivery of obligations at specific milestones. Together with the SREP 30 and the EPS, the State Deed provides the broader framework for the facilitation of future development of SMP on an agreed basis.

SREP 30 (DUAP, 2001b) identified 6 development "precincts" (known as the Western Precinct, Central Precinct, North and South Dunheved Precincts, Ropes Creek Precinct and Eastern Precinct) and requires a precinct plan be adopted by the relevant council prior to any development taking place.

To date the Precinct Plans for the Eastern Precinct, Ropes Creek Precinct, Dunheved Precincts, Central Precinct, Western Precinct have been prepared, exhibited and adopted by the relevant Councils and development is being progressed on a staged basis. As a result, the SMP is one of the largest single Greenfield Release Area in the Metropolitan Development Program and critical to the delivery of housing numbers for Metropolitan Sydney.

Planning for any precinct is to address all of the issues in SREP 30 and the EPS, including preparation of management plans for a range of key issues such as weed management, feral and domestic animal management and bushfire management.

A Macrofauna Management Plan for the entire site needed to be submitted before or at the same time as lodgement of the first Precinct Plan (Eastern Precinct), under section 4.4 (15) of the EPS. The plan is required to account for displacement of macrofauna through the loss of habitat that would occur as a result of development of the SMP.

In March 2002, the Commonwealth Government advised that those areas of the site listed on the Register of the National Estate should be excluded from urban development. This had the effect of changing the boundaries of the areas to be set aside for conservation. The precincts for development are shown in Figure 1.1.

The Minister for Planning has declared the Eastern Precinct, North and South Dunheved Precincts, Ropes Creek, Central and Western Precinct as Release Areas for development. All Precinct Plans have been prepared, exhibited and adopted by the relevant Council. Development is currently underway in the Western Precinct and has been largely completed in the Eastern and Ropes Creek Precincts. Since the endorsement of the Macrofauna Management Plan in 2004, 27 permanent kangaroo grazing monitoring plots have been surveyed annually in the Regional Park. These include grazing-excluded and open plots in CPW. The plots have been surveyed eight times by Cumberland Ecology, resulting in a comprehensive species list for the community on the SMP, as well as an indication of the condition of CPW in the Regional Park. Two out of the six locations of plots are in sections of the Regional Park surrounding the Central Precinct.

A compilation of survey methods and results from the reports available to Cumberland Ecology is found in Chapter 4.

2.1.2 Central Precinct

Following surveys completed for the EPS Environmental Planning Strategy and SREP 30 that covered the entire SMP, the key surveys around the Central Precinct include those completed for the additions to the land on the Register of National Estate:

- ERM (1998) Addendum to Objection to Interim Listing of ADI St Marys Site in the Register of the National Estate Submission to the Australian Heritage Commission. Environmental Resources Management Australia, Sydney (ERM, 1998).
- Perkins, I. (1999) Flora Assessment of the Disputed Areas of Western Sydney Shale Woodlands Ian Perkins Consultancy Services, Sydney (Perkins, 1999).

The main purpose of these assessments was to determine if any land in the western and central portions of the SMP should be included in the listing of National Estate. The land on the Register of National Estate on the SMP has formed the land zoned as Regional Park.

Perkins completed a resilience survey over the SMP that included analysis of canopy regeneration, proportion of native ground cover species and soil disturbance to determine viability of land that had been used for grazing. The majority of the western and central portions of the SMP had been cleared and grazed by sheep and kangaroos. Some areas at the time of assessment contained a scattering of large, old trees and the area of the denser coverage of trees was included on the Register of National Estate. This area was included as one large patch and did not include smaller scattered, isolated patches containing only a few trees.

The land on the Register of National Estate at SMP lies wholly within the land zoned "Regional Park" in the SREP 30 (confirmed via SREP 30 Amendment 1). The remaining area not included on the Register of National Estate formed the various Precincts, including the Central Precinct (zoned "Urban" and "Employment", in the SREP 30), Drainage areas and Regional Open Space.

The Central Precinct, along with the adjoining Regional Open Space and drainage areas (hereafter referred to collectively as the Central Precinct areas) are located in the middle of the SMP. These areas are surrounded for the most part by the Regional Park, except to the south where residential development and a section of South Creek occurs. The Central Precinct areas contain a network of tracks and roads, some of them sealed, that are a legacy of past land uses. Several buildings are present on the precinct, including sheds being used for ongoing macrofauna management activities and two large warehouses. Extensive areas of tall mesh fencing are present throughout the precinct due to ongoing macrofauna management activities. A large concrete stockpile is present in the precinct that has been formed by the stockpiling of concrete from building demolitions in the precinct and other parts of the SMP.

The Central Precinct consists primarily of grassland, with scattered trees and some areas of regrowth canopy vegetation. Wooded communities in the precinct are limited, and are largely restricted to remnants occurring along the common border with the Regional Park and patches of regrowth in the middle of the precinct. Much of the Central Precinct area is still heavily influenced by the historic land uses, including a high proportion of exotic pasture grass coverage where herbaceous weeds form thick coverage around the bases of large, old trees.

i. Central Precinct Plan

Further to the surveys undertaken across the SMP from the early 1990s, Cumberland Ecology undertook vegetation surveys in 2007 and a condition assessment in 2008 as part of the Biodiversity Assessment prepared as part of the Central Precinct Plan (Cumberland Ecology 2008a). It should be noted that the Biodiversity Assessment took into account and made extensive use of previous surveys conducted across the SMP.

The Central Precinct Plan was adopted in March 2009. This relates to a total of approximately 133.1ha of land, zoned “Urban” (38.4ha), and “Employment” (94.7ha) in SREP 30 (Amendment No. 2).

ii. Current Development Application

A DA is being prepared for submission for the filling of the Central Precinct areas to raise ground levels higher than the 1:100 year flood level to allow future development of the Central Precinct area as outlined in the Central Precinct Plan. The DA covers the construction of a material and rock crushing facility in the area zoned as “Employment”

The area subject to the current proposed DA is bounded by the Regional Park to the west, north and east and by existing residential development to the south. The Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) vegetation present in the Central Precinct area consists of a mix of young, degraded woodland in various stages of regeneration and derived native grassland. Although, the current proposed development will further fragment representatives of the CPW community from the Regional Park and will remove an area of CEEC, the small area of CPW to be removed is not considered to constitute a significant impact in terms of Section 5A of the EP&A Act (the 7 Part Test) because of the large area and high quality of the CPW conserved in the Regional Park. The proposed development will also involve the removal of patches of EECs such as Shale-Gravel Transition Forest (SGTF), River-flat Eucalypt Forest (RFEF), Swamp Oak Forest (SOF), and Freshwater Wetlands. All of these communities are well represented in the Regional Park.

It was previously agreed with Penrith City Council that all DAs for the Western Precinct development area (the future suburb of Jordan Springs) that involved the removal of TSC Act listed species and communities, would be accompanied by a SIS. This procedure has been continued for the Central Precinct on a precautionary basis. For this reason, although the impacts of the current DA are not generally considered to be significant, a SIS has nonetheless been prepared.

2.2 Description of the Current Proposal

2.2.1 Nature

The current proposal involves adding fill to the Central Precinct area to raise the ground level above the 1:100 year flood level in order to facilitate the “Urban,” and “Employment” development outlined in the Central Precinct Plan. The DA also covers the construction of a material and rock crushing facility in the area zoned as “Employment.” Land filling of the site will involve the use of more than 100 000 cubic metres of clean fill and will require vegetation communities present currently present upon the site to be cleared.

The purpose of the material and rock crushing facility is to process large stockpiles of clean fill, concrete, brick, and road base which are currently stockpiled in the northern half of the subject site. These stockpiles are the remains of previous buildings and structures that were present on site from previous land uses. Acceptable, non-contaminated materials (bricks and concrete) in these stockpiles will be re-used on site, as part of the land filling stage of the

development. Approximately 40% of the non-contaminated materials will be recycled for use as clean fill on the subject site, with the remainder of the acceptable materials recycled throughout the SMP for use as road base.

The subject site is located within the central area of the SMP and is bounded to the east, north and west by the Regional Park. The area of "Regional Open Space" is contiguous with the Regional Park to the east.

The locations of the subject site DA are shown in Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2. Additional ancillary works will be located within the area shown as the subject site and include construction of a materials and rock crushing facility in the northern half of the subject site.

i. Buildings and other structures

The proposal includes construction of a material and rock crushing facility in the northern half of the subject site. All buildings and structures are detailed in the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE).

ii. Installation and maintenance of utilities

All necessary utilities required to service residential and commercial subdivisions will be installed and maintained in the appropriate manner, in accordance with accepted standards. This is detailed in the SEE.

iii. Access routes

No new access routes are to be created, as described in the SEE.

iv. Waste and Water Management

Specific waste and water management requirements, including the establishment of an interim stormwater and sediment detention basin, are detailed in the SEE. Waste management during construction is in accordance with all relevant Council regulations and is specified in the SEE.

v. Changes in surface water flows

As a result of the transformation of the site from former defence uses / redundant land into a master planned residential community there will be changes to surface water flows across the site. These changes are set out in detail in the approved Central Precinct Plan - Water, Soils and Infrastructure report.

vi. Fire protection zones

Asset Protection Zones (APZs) are required for all urban areas within 100 metres of a high or medium bushfire hazard and 30 metres of a low bushfire hazard. In accordance with the "Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006" guidelines and in agreement with the NSW Rural Fire Services (RFS), it is proposed to construct temporary APZs between the areas of proposed works and the areas of hazard. The temporary APZs will be managed by the

landowner, in accordance with the NSW RFS guidelines until such time as permanent APZs have been put in place. The permanent APZs will be established through future stages of development in accordance with the provisions of the RFS.

The details of the specific APZ requirements are detailed in the SEE.

vii. Landscaping

Landscaping will ultimately include street tree planting, parks and the creation of a Village Centre and Regional Open Space Hub, as detailed in the approved Central Precinct Plan. All species used in planting are selected in accordance with Council requirements and avoid the use of species that may invade bushland. Please refer to the SEE or the approved Central Precinct Plan.

2.2.2 Extent

As described above, for the purposes of this SIS, the current proposal includes the entire Central Precinct area of the SMP, along with the adjacent Regional Open Space and a drainage basin along the north-east corner of the Central Precinct. The total area of the proposed works within the DA comprises approximately 133.1 hectares. Further details are provided within the SEE.

2.2.3 Location

The DA is the entirety of the Central Precinct along with the adjacent Regional Open Space and a drainage basin along the north-east corner of the Central Precinct in the St Marys Development project, St Marys NSW 2760. This land falls within Lot 1037 in DP 1149525.

2.2.4 Timing

Anticipated start- of- works to implement the proposed development is forecast for 2014. This timing is subject to planning consent being issued.

2.2.5 Layout

The layout of the DA, identifying the subject site, is set out in the SEE and the extent of works is shown on the attached plan (refer Figure 2.1). The layout conforms to the objectives, principles, and requirements of the strategic statutory framework (as set out in SREP 30 Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No.30, the EPS and the State Deed) - St Marys, the St Marys Environmental Planning Strategy 2000 and the local environmental planning instrument for the site (as set out in the, the Central Precinct Plan - Development Control Strategy (JBA 2009)) approved by Penrith City Council in 2009.

2.2.6 Future Development of the Central Precinct

SREP 30 Amendment No. 2 of State Regional Environmental Plan No. 30 – St Marys (SREP 30), gazetted in February 2009, zoned the Central Precinct Urban, and Employment. Land zoned Urban is intended to primarily accommodate residential uses, with some limited non-

residential development, such as local retail and commercial uses. The Central Precinct Plan (CPP) and accompanying Development Control Strategy (DCS) have been prepared and were adopted by Penrith City the Council at its ordinary meeting on 23 March 2009. These documents are to guide the future development of the Central Precinct.

The approved CPP illustrates the manner in which the Central Precinct is to be developed. A copy of the overall Framework Plan which sets the direction for the development of the precinct is provided in the Precinct Plan (JBA 2009).

As illustrated in the Framework Plan, the proposed development of the Central Precinct entails:

- Development for provision of employment in the north of the precinct;
- A Village Centre, comprising a mix of retail, commercial, community, open space and residential uses, in the centre of the precinct;
- Predominantly residential development in the remainder of the precinct;
- Construction of roads, including connections to Jordan Springs, Dundheved, and Ropes Crossing; and
- Provision of local open space, riparian corridors and stormwater basins.

It is anticipated that once fully developed the Central Precinct will accommodate approximately 970 dwellings with a residential population in the order of 2 500. Development for employment will result in approximately 760 jobs incorporating a range of skills, in the light industrial and light manufacturing sectors.

2.3 Land Tenure Information

The registered proprietor of the subject site is St Marys Land Limited. The 900ha Regional Park will be owned by the NSW Government and managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage, National Parks Division (formerly NPWS). Initial transfer of the eastern portion of the regional park has already taken place (Wianamatta Regional Park).

2.4 Vegetation

The vegetation communities of the Cumberland Plain have been mapped by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (then the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) (DECCW 2007), including several updated versions, based on more recent aerial photography, showing types and extent of canopy disturbance of vegetation communities, as shown in Figure 2.3. The DECCW map units have been verified and refined in parts of the study area by ground-truthing vegetation communities in the subject site (refer to Figure 4.6 and 4.7).

The following Critically Endangered and Endangered Ecological Communities, as listed under the TSC Act, are known to occur within the study area:

- Cumberland Plain Woodland (in the form of Shale Plains Woodland, as mapped by DECCW 2007);
- Shale-Gravel Transition Forest;
- River-flat Eucalypt Forest (in the form of Alluvial Woodland, as mapped by DECCW 2007);
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest (in the form of Alluvial Woodland, as mapped by DECCW 2007); and
- Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains.

Within the locality, a much broader range of communities, including communities listed under the TSC Act, as mapped by DECCW 2007, are known to occur. These include:

- Shale Hills Woodland (CPW – CEEC)
- Castlereagh Swamp Woodland (EEC)
- Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (EEC)
- Riparian Forest (RFEF – EEC)
- Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (High Influence and Low influence variants – EEC)
- Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland
- Upper Georges River Sandstone Woodland

The distribution of these communities in the locality is shown in Figure 2.3.

As specified in the DGRs, the vegetation communities present within the locality have been described with reference to the Cumberland Plain vegetation mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and relevant Scientific Committee determinations for Endangered Ecological Communities. All vegetation communities mapped by NSW NPWS (2002a) were described by Tozer (2003), some of which were subsequently updated in Tozer et al (2010), which have also been consulted during the preparation of the relevant ecological community descriptions, below.

2.4.1 Shale Plain Woodland - Cumberland Plain Woodland

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 10: Shale Plains Woodland along with descriptions

by Tozer et al (2010) for Map Unit GW p29 corresponds to the CEEC listing for Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (CPW) (NSW Scientific Committee, 2009).

Cumberland Plain Woodland – Shale Plain Woodland is described as a eucalypt woodland community with an open shrub layer and grassy groundcover, restricted to the Cumberland Plain, western Sydney. It occurs on clay-loam soils derived from Wianamatta shale at altitudes from 50-300m (Tozer 2010).

The dominant canopy species are; *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box) and *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum), in association with *Eucalyptus crebra* (Narrow-leaved Ironbark) and *Acacia implexa* (Hickory Wattle). Mid-storey dominants include; Blackthorn, Native Raspberry (*Rubus parvifolius*) and Headache Vine (*Clematis glycinoides*). The groundcover is dominated by Kidney Weed, Blue Trumpet, Slender tick trefoil, Purple Wiregrass (*Aristida ramosa*) Weeping Meadow Grass, *Carex inversa*, Kangaroo Grass, Slender Flat-sedge (*Cyperus gracilis*), Shorthair Plumegrass (*Dichelachne micrantha*), Common Woodruff (*Asperula conferta*), *Oxalis perennans*, Poison Rock Fern, and Large Tick-trefoil (*Desmodium brachypodium*).

It is estimated that over 90% of the original extent of this community has been cleared since European settlement. Threats to CPW include continued clearing, degradation, weed invasion and high fire frequency..

2.4.2 Shale Gravel Transition Forest

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 103: Shale Plains Woodland along with descriptions by Tozer et al (2010) for Map Unit DSF p502 corresponds to the EEC listing for Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (NSW Scientific Committee, 2002b).

SGTF is described as a eucalypt woodland with an open layer of sclerophyll shrubs and grassy groundcover, restricted to the Cumberland Plain, western Sydney. It occurs on clay soils with a high concentration of iron-indurated gravel, derived mainly from Tertiary Alluvium in areas where average annual rainfall varies from 750 – 950 mm (Tozer 2010).

It has a dominant canopy species of Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) but Grey Box (*E. moluccana*) and Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*) may also occur. Paperbark (*Melaleuca decora*) dominates the understorey, with *Bursaria spinosa*, *Daviesia ulicifolia* and *Lissanthe strigosa* occurring in the shrub layer. Grasses and herbs occur in the ground layer. SGTF shares a number of the same species as Cumberland Shale Plains Woodland.

It is estimated that about 75% of the original extent of this community has been cleared since European settlement.. Threats to SGTF include clearing, mining for gravel and weed invasion..

2.4.3 Alluvial Woodland - River-flat Eucalypt Forest

Parts of the Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 11: Alluvial Woodland along with descriptions by Tozer et al (2010) for Map Unit FoW p33 corresponds to the EEC listing for River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004j).

This community occurs on stream banks and alluvial flats on the Cumberland Plain and is restricted to the Hawkesbury-Nepean and Georges River systems on alluvial soils derived from Wianamatta Shale. The community occurs as woodland with an open shrub layer and a continuous groundcover of grasses and forbs.

The dominant canopy species are; Forest Red Gum, Rough-barked Apple (*Angophora floribunda*), Cabbage Gum (*Eucalyptus amplifolia*), associated with; Thin-leaved Stringybark and River Peppermint (*Eucalyptus elata*). Dominant mid-storey species include; Parramatta Wattle (*Acacia parramattensis*), Blackthorn and *Sigesbeckia orientalis*. Dominant groundcover species are; Weeping Meadow Grass, Basket Grass (*Oplismenus aemulus*), Kidney Weed, Bordered Panic (*Entolasia marginata*), Forest Nightshade (*Solanum prinophyllum*), Whiteroot, Forest Hedgehog Grass (*Echinopogon ovatus*), Slender Tick trefoil, Native Wandering Jew (*Commelina cyanea*) and Trailing Speedwell, (*Veronica plebeian*) (Tozer et al. 2010).

It is estimated that 95% of the original extent of this community has been cleared since European settlement. Remnants of this community are threatened by land clearing, weed invasion, rubbish dumping and other processes of degradation

2.4.4 Alluvial Woodland - Swamp Oak Forest

Parts of the Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for parts of Map Unit 11: Alluvial Woodland correspond to the EEC listing for Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004l).

This community generally occurs in on waterlogged or periodically inundated flats, drainage lines, lake margins and estuarine fringes associated with coastal floodplains in areas where the groundwater is saline or sub-saline. The structure of the community can vary from open forests to low woodlands or scrubs/reedlands with scattered trees. The composition of SOF is primarily determined by the frequency and duration of waterlogging and the level of salinity in the groundwater and can adjoin or intergrade with other coastal floodplain communities, including RFEF.

The dominant canopy species is *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) associated with; *Acmena smithii* (Lilly Pilly), *Glochidion spp.* (cheese trees) and *Melaleuca spp.* (paperbarks). The understorey is characterised by frequent occurrences of vines such as *Parsonsia straminea*, a sparse shrub cover and a continuous groundcover of forbs, sedges, grasses and leaf litter. Groundcover composition under less saline conditions, as those found on the Cumberland Plain, include forbs such *Centella asiatica*, *Commelina cyanea*, *Persicaria decipiens* and

Viola banksii and graminoids such as *Carex appressa*, *Gahnia clarkei*, *Lomandra longifolia* and *Oplismenus imbecillis*.

It is estimated that 75% of the original extent of this community has been cleared since European settlement. Remnants of this community are threatened by land clearing, weed invasion, flood mitigation and drainage works, and pollution from urban and agricultural runoff.

2.4.5 Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains

Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions occurs on low-lying parts of floodplains, alluvial flats, depressions, drainage lines, back swamps, lagoons and lakes. It is dominated by herbaceous plants including sedges, emergent plants, floating and submerged plants (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

This community is not described by any mapping projects of the Cumberland Plain.

2.4.6 Shale Hills Woodland - Cumberland Plain Woodland

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 9: Shale Hills Woodland along with descriptions by Tozer et al (2010) for Map Unit p28 corresponds to the CEEC listing for Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (CPW) (NSW Scientific Committee, 2009).

Cumberland Plain Woodland – Shale Hills Woodland is closely related to Cumberland Shale Plains Woodland but typically occurs on steeper and more undulating terrain. It is found from 50 – 350m ASL in areas receiving 750 – 900mm mean annual rainfall occurs on clay/loam soils derived from Wianamatta Shale ridges in the area of north-east Sydney and is described as woodland with an open shrub layer and a grassy groundcover (Tozer et al 2010). This CPW variant is present in the locality but does not occur on the subject site.

The canopy is dominated by Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) and Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) and is associated with Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and Thin-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus eugenioides*). The mid-storey is dominated by Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*). The groundcover dominants are Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*), Poison Rock Fern (*Cheilanthes sieberi*), Threeawned Speargrass (*Aristida vagans*), Weeping Meadow Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), Blue Trumpet (*Brunoniella australis*), Slender Tick-trefoil (*Desmodium gunnii*), *Opercularia diphylla*, Sprawling Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia gracilis*), Shorthair Plumegrass (*Dichelachne micrantha*), *Paspalidium distans*, Paddock Lovegrass (*Eragrostis leptostachya*) and Wattle Mat-rush (*Lomandra filiformis*) (Tozer et al. 2006).

It is estimated that 95% of the original extent of this community has been cleared since European settlement.

2.4.7 Castlereagh Swamp Woodland

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 4: Castlereagh Swamp Woodland along with descriptions by Tozer et al (2010) for Map Unit DSF p4 correspond to the EEC listing for Castlereagh Swamp Woodland Community (NSW Scientific Committee, 1999).

Castlereagh Swamp Woodland is a low woodland community that occurs in poorly drained depressions along intermittent watercourses between Castlereagh and Holsworthy on the Cumberland Plain, western Sydney.

The canopy is dominated by species such as *Melaleuca decora*, *Eucalyptus parramattensis*, and *Melaleuca linariifolia*. The groundcover is dominated by species that can tolerate waterlogged conditions such as *Goodenia paniculata*, *Centella asiatica* and *Juncus usitatus*. Other common ground cover species include: *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Opercularia diphylla*, *Pratia purpurascens*, *Themeda australis*, *Hydrocotyle peduncularis*, *Hypericum gramineum*, *Paspalidium distans*, *Eragrostis brownii* and *Fimbristylis dichotoma*.

Castlereagh Swamp Woodland has a highly restricted distribution and remnant areas are all less than 100 hectares in size. This community is threatened by weed invasion related to nutrient enrichment from surrounding urban and rural areas as well as from direct destruction for hobby farm, rural and residential development.

2.4.8 Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 3: Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest along with descriptions by Tozer et al (2010) for Map Unit DSF p1 Castlereagh Ironbark Forest correspond to the EEC listing for Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (NSW Scientific Committee, 2002a).

Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest occurs in the Holsworthy and Castlereagh areas, and in the eastern section of the Cumberland Plain on alluvial soils and can intergrade with SGTF.

The dominant canopy species are Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) and Paperbark (*Melaleuca decora*). The understorey is typically dense and contains *M. nodosa*, *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Pultenaea villosa* and *Daviesia ulicifolia*. The ground layer consists of grasses and herbs.

The community is under threat from weed invasion, clearing, rubbish dumping and damage by vehicle access.

2.4.9 Riparian Forest

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Unit 12: Riparian Forest corresponds to the EEC listing

for for River-Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions (RFEF) (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004j).

This community is not widely distributed, being limited to banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River or on the terraces immediately adjacent to the river.

Canopy species include: *Eucalyptus botryoides*, *E. elata*, *Angophora subvelutina* and *A. floribunda*. The understorey often contains a small tree stratum consisting of species of *Acacia*, such as *A. binervia*, *A. floribunda* and *A. mearnsii*. Common groundcover species include *Oplismenus aemulus*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*, *Stipa ramosissima* and *Echinopogon ovatus*.

As part of the RFEF community, is estimated that 95% of the original extent of this community has been cleared since European settlement.

2.4.10 Shale Sandstone Transition Forest

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and descriptions by Tozer (2003) for Map Units 1 and 2: Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (Low Sandstone and High Sandstone influence) along correspond to the EEC listing for Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (NSW Scientific Committee, 1998).

This community occurs on transitional shale-sandstone soils around the edge of the Cumberland Plain at altitudes up to 350m and is described as woodland with an open shrub layer and a grassy groundcover. Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (Low Sandstone Influence) occurs around the margins of the Cumberland Plain on soils derived from Wianamatta Shale while Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (High Sandstone Influence) occurs on the margins of the Cumberland Plain in close proximity to the sandstone/shale boundary

The dominant canopy species are; Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*), Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*) and Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), generally also in association with; White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*) and Thin-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus eugenioides*). Dominant understorey species include; Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*), *Persoonia linearis*, Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*), White Dogwood (*Ozothamnus diosmifolius*) and Rough Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia aspera*). Dominant groundcover species include; *Lepidosperma laterale*, Poison Rock Fern (*Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *Sieberi*), Threeawned Speargrass (*Aristida vagans*), Whiteroot (*Pratia purpurascens*), Weeping Meadow Grass (*Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*), Wiry Panic (*Entolasia stricta*), Many-flowered Mat-rush (*Lomandra multiflora*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), Two-colour Panic (*Panicum simile*), Hedgehog Grass (*Echinopogon caespitosus*), *Pomax umbellata*, Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*), *Glycine clandestina*, Hairy Apple Berry (*Billardiera scandens*) and *Opercularia diphylla* (Tozer et al. 2006).

An estimate of the area of this vegetation type which has been cleared from its original extent is 80% since European settlement.

2.4.11 Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and Tozer (2003) have described Map Unit 6: Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland as a community that occurs almost exclusively on sandy soils derived from Tertiary Alluvium. This community does not correspond to a State or Commonwealth listed threatened ecological community

The canopy is dominated by *Eucalyptus parramattensis*, *subsp. parramattensis*, *Angophora bakeri* and *E. sclerophylla* along with an occasional small tree stratum of *Melaleuca decora*. The shrub stratum is well developed and consists of species such as *Banksia spinulosa subsp spinulosa*, *M. nodosa*, *Hakea sericea* and *H. dactyloides*. The ground stratum contains a diverse range of forbs including *Themeda australis*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Cyathochaeta diandra*, *Dianella revoluta subsp revoluta*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Platysace ericoides*, *Laxmannia gracilis* and *Aristida warburgii*.

2.4.12 Upper Georges River Sandstone Woodland

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain mapping (NSW NPWS 2002a) and Tozer (2003) have described Map Unit 32: Upper Georges River Sandstone Woodland as occurring predominantly on the Mittagong Formations and typically found on upper slopes and ridges. This community does not correspond to a State or Commonwealth listed threatened ecological community.

The canopy is dominated by Grey Gum and Red Bloodwood, with Narrow-leaved Stringybark and Black She-oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*). Shrub species include Prickly Moses (*Acacia ulicifolia*), Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia Terminalis*), Narrow-leaved Wattle (*Acacia linifolia*), Narrow-leaved Geebung (*Persoonia linearis*), Slender Teatree and Dwarf Cherry (*Exocarpos strictus*). The ground stratum is often dominated by grass species such as Wiry Panic, Kangaroo Grass, *Austrostipa pubescens*, Threeawn Speargrass and *Austrodanthonia fluva*.

2.4.13 Endangered Ecological Communities of the Cumberland Plain

Several EECs listed under the TSC Act that are known to occur on the Cumberland Plain are absent from the study area and the wider locality. These include:

- Blue Gum High Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (CEEC)
- Agnes Banks Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion
- Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest Community (EEC)
- Moist Shale Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (EEC)
- Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (EEC)
- Western Sydney Dry Rainforest (WSDR) in the Sydney Basin Bioregion (EEC)

These (C)EECs have not been described further in this SIS as they do not occur within the locality of the study site.

2.5 Plans and Maps

The following maps are provided at the end of each chapter:

Chapter 1:

- Aerial photograph of the St Marys Property (Figure 1.1);
- Zoning of the St Marys Property (SREP 30 Amendment 2) (Figure 1.2).

Chapter 2:

- Plan of the subject site identifying the proposal (Figure 2.1);
- Aerial view of the subject site and study area (Figure 2.2);
- Vegetation communities in the locality (DECCW 2007, 2008) (Figure 2.3);
- Topography of the locality identifying land uses (Figure 2.4); and
- Aerial photograph of the locality identifying areas of native vegetation (Figure 2.5).

Chapter 3:

- OEH threatened flora species records within the locality (Figure 3.1); and
- OEH threatened fauna species records within the locality (Figure 3.2).

Chapter 4:

- Flora survey locations (Figure 4.1);
- Fauna survey locations (Figure 4.2);
- Threatened flora and fauna recorded in the study area (Figure 4.5);
- Vegetation of the study area (Figure 4.6); and
- Vegetation of the subject site (Figure 4.7).

Legend
Subject Site
St Marys Property Boundary

Image Source:
©2013 Sinclair Knight Merz
(captured 29/10/2013)

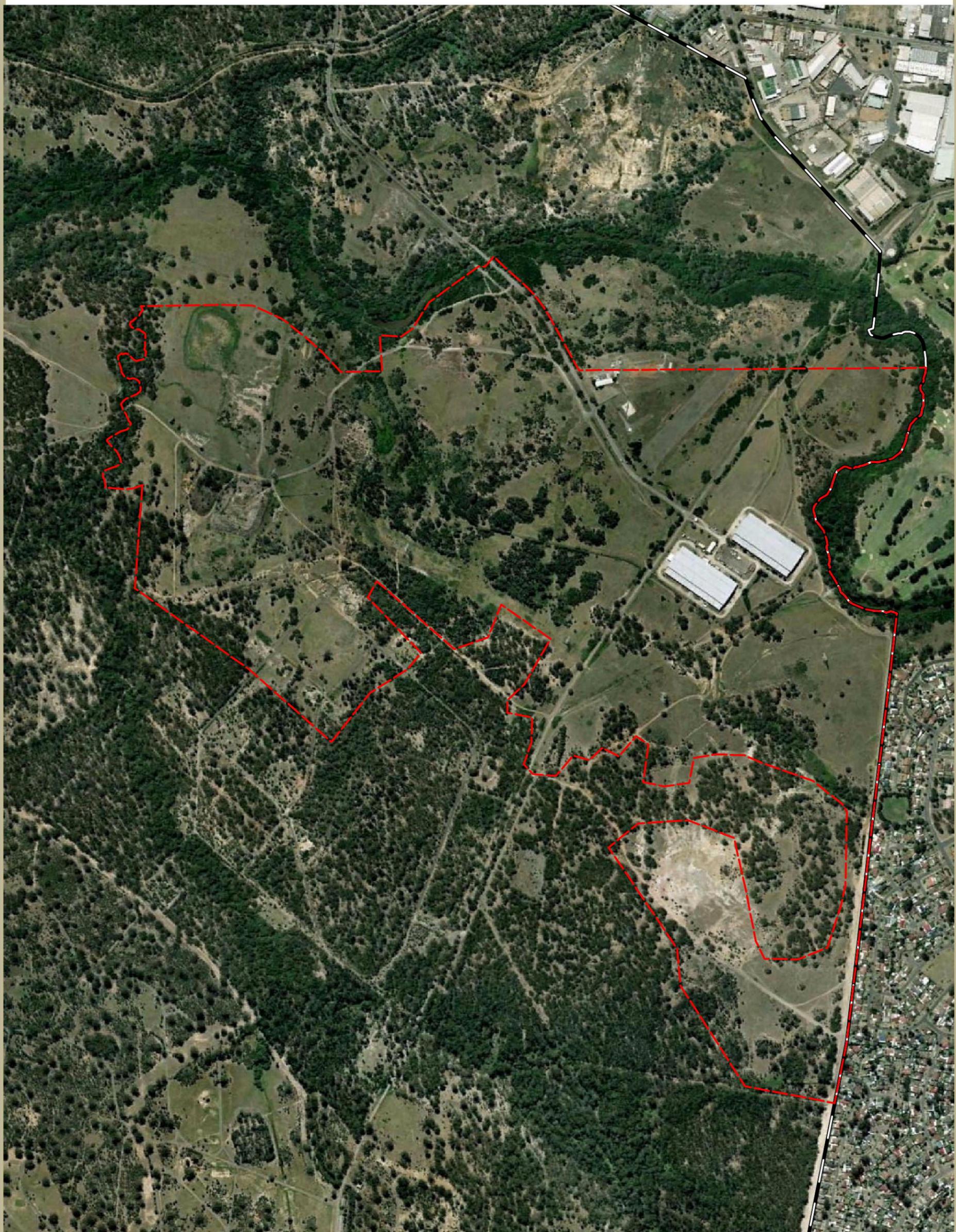


Figure 2.1. Plan of the Subject Site Identifying the Proposal

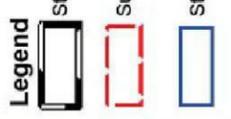
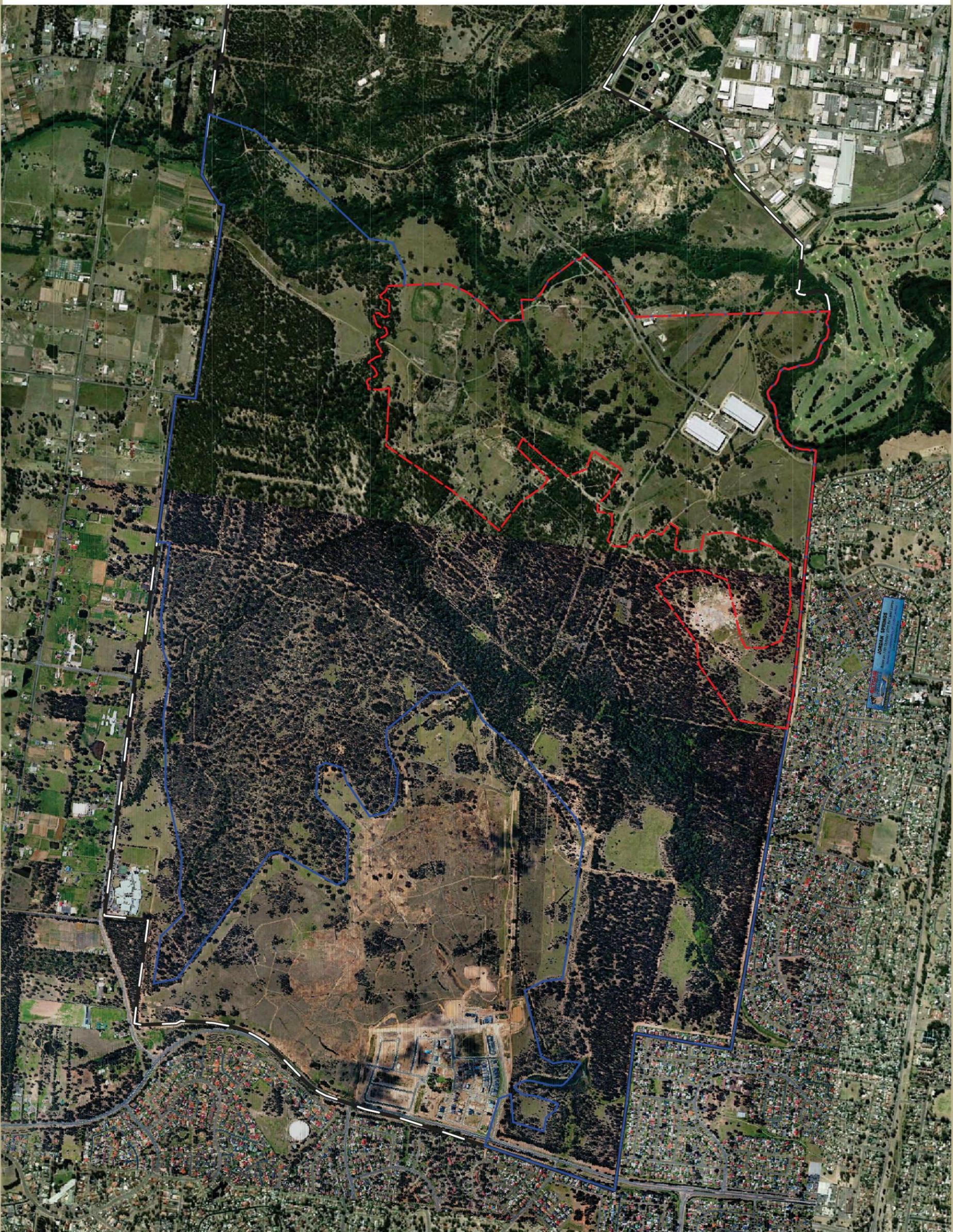
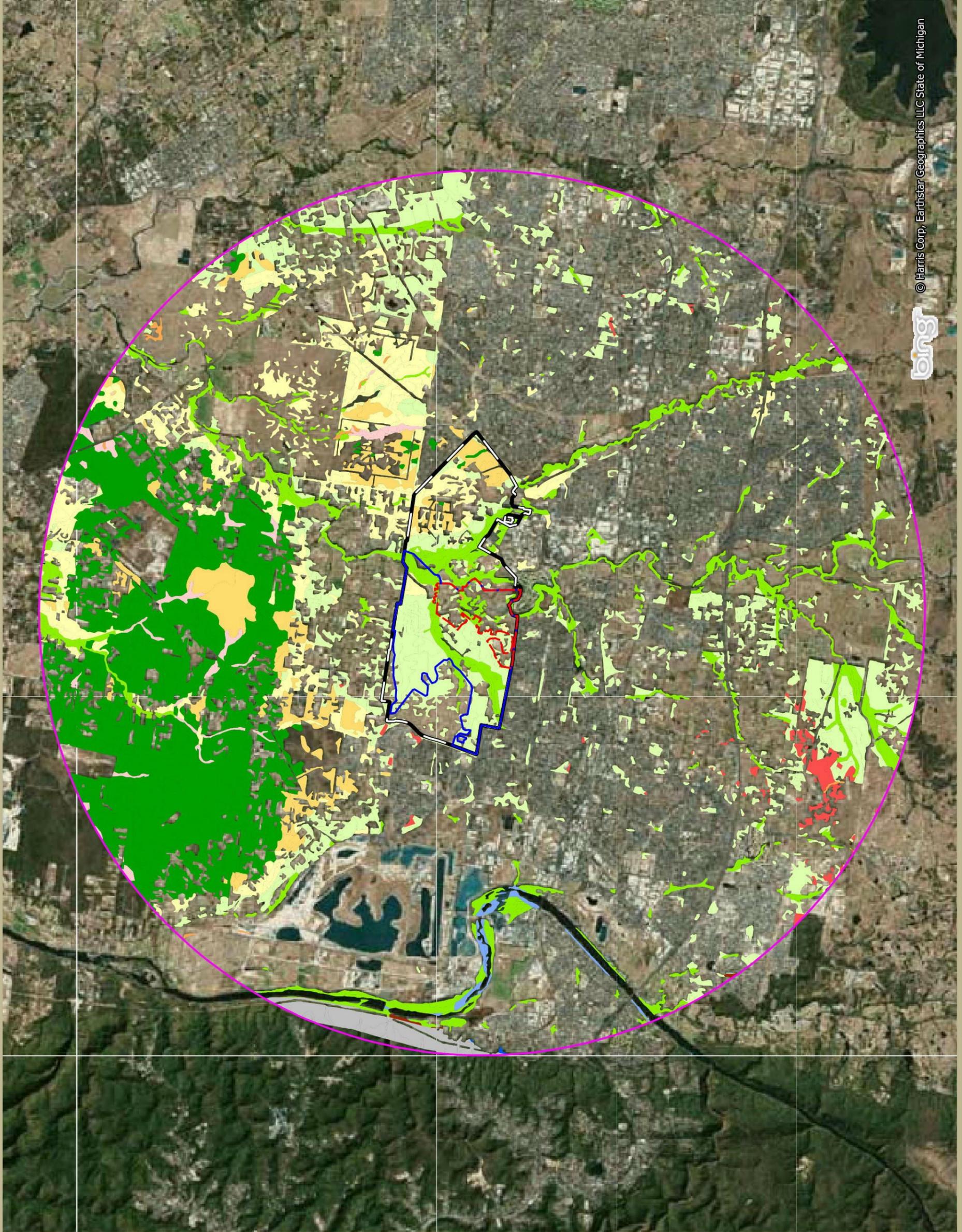


Image Source:
©2013 Sinclair Knight Merz
(captured 29/10/2013)



Figure 2.2. Aerial view of the Subject Site and Study Area





- Legend**
- St Marys Property Boundary
 - Subject Site
 - Study Area
 - 10 km Locality
- Vegetation Community**
- Shale Plains Woodland (CPW) (CEEC)
 - Shale Hills Woodland (CPW) (CEEC)
 - Shale/Gravel Transition Forest (EEC)
 - Alluvial Woodland (RFEF) (EEC)
 - Casiltersagh Scrubbly Gum Woodland
 - Casiltersagh Swamp Woodland (EEC)
 - Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (EEC)
 - Freshwater Wetlands (EEC)
 - Upper Georges River Sandstone Woodland
 - Riparian Forest (EEC)
 - Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (High Influence) (EEC)
 - Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (Low Influence) (EEC)
 - Unclassified Vegetation

Image Source:
Microsoft Bing
© 2013 Microsoft Corporation

Data Source:
DECCW (2007, 2008)
Change in the distribution of
Cumberland Plain Woodland

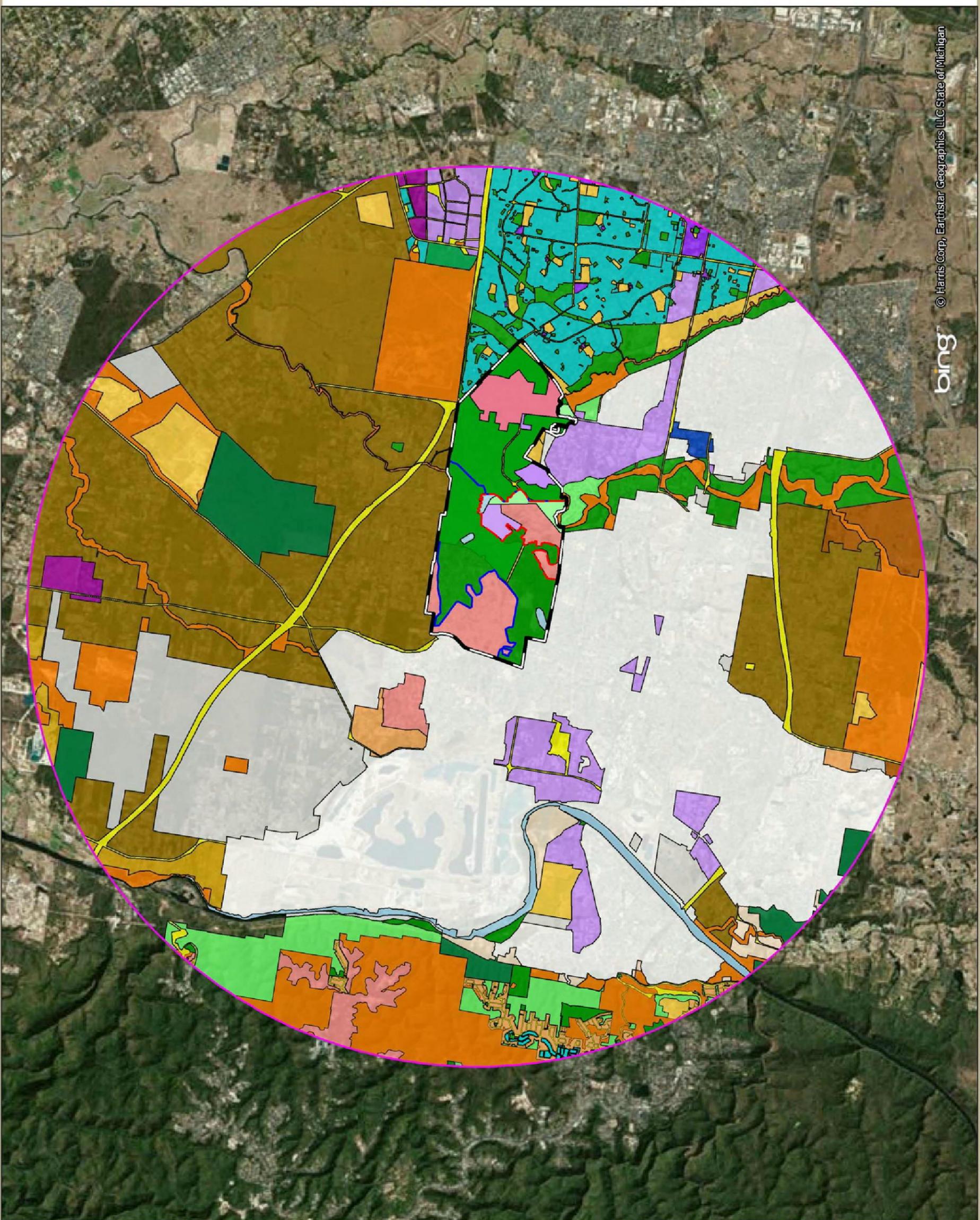


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Figure 2.3. Vegetation Communities in the Locality (DECCW 2007, 2008)

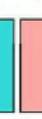
1250 0 1250 2500 3750 5000 m



Legend

-  St Marys Property Boundary
-  10 km Locality
-  Study Area
-  Subject Site

Land Use Zone

-  Mixed Use
-  Private Recreation
-  Business
-  Primary Production
-  Rural Small Holdings
-  Infrastructure
-  Environmental Conservation
-  Industrial
-  Environmental Living
-  Rural Landscape
-  Special Activities
-  No Zone
-  Public Recreation
-  Village
-  National Parks and Nature Reserves
-  Waterway
-  Deferred Matter
-  Residential
-  Large Lot Residential
-  Environmental Management

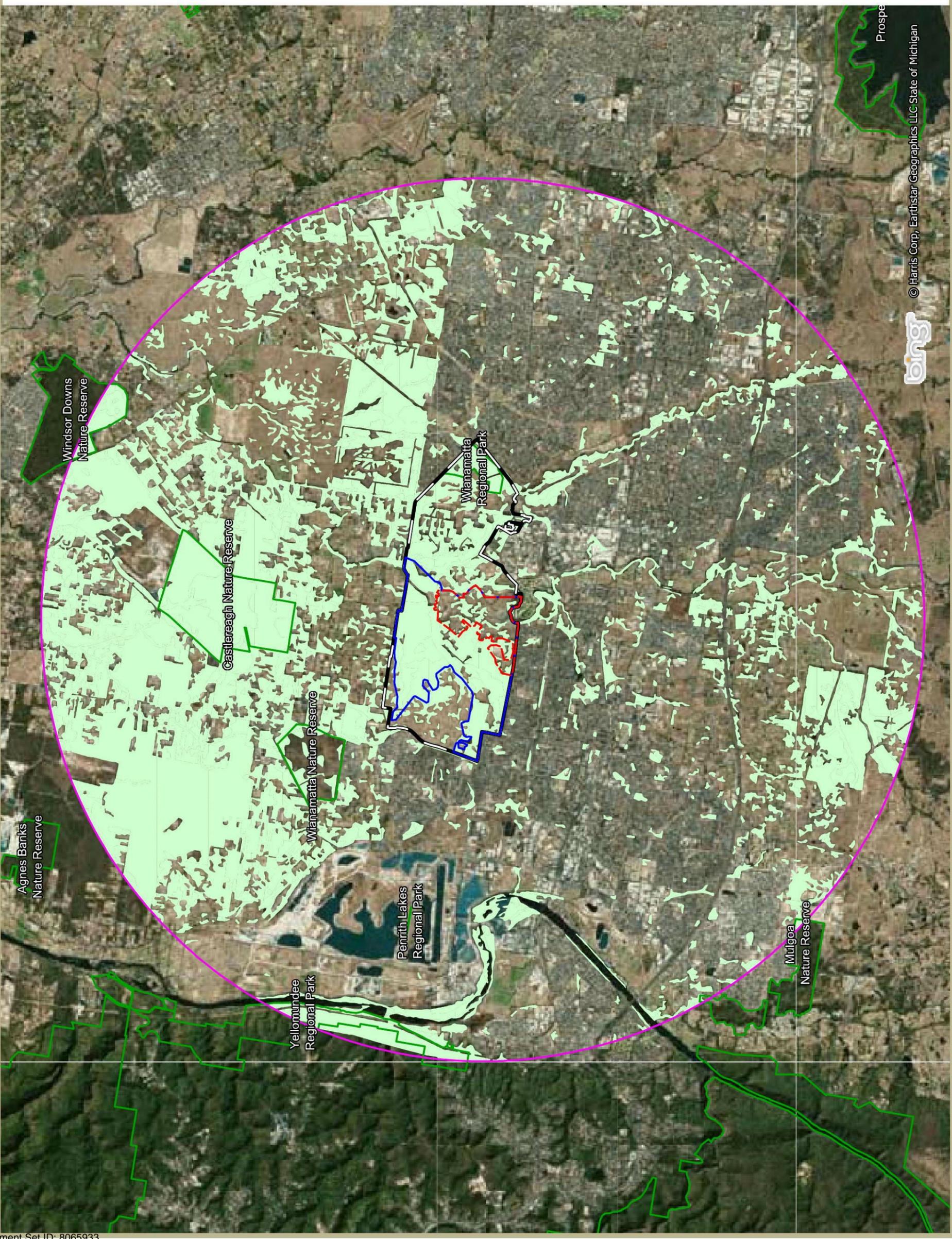
Data Source: Blacktown City Council, 2011;
 Blue Mountains City Council, 2011;
 Penrith City Council, 2010

Image Source: © 2011 Skycam Australia
 © 2011 Sinclair Knight Merz & Fugro



Figure 2.4. Topography of the Locality Identifying Land Uses





- Legend**
- St Marys Property Boundary
 - Subject Site
 - Study Area
 - 10 km Locality
 - Native Vegetation
 - National Parks and Reserves

Image Source:
Microsoft Bing
© 2013 Microsoft Corporation

Data Source:
DECCW (2007, 2008)
Change in the distribution of
Cumberland Plain Woodland

OEH (2012) NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Estate for 2012



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Figure 2.5. Aerial Photograph of the Locality Identifying Areas of Native Vegetation



Initial Assessment

This initial assessment provides a general description of the threatened species or populations known or likely to be present in the area that is the subject of the action and in any area that is likely to be affected by the action. Based on habitat assessment and records from the locality and study area within the Regional Park areas of the SMP, this chapter determines the “subject species” and those species likely to be affected by the proposal (“affected (C)EECs/species”). Affected (C)EECs/species defines those threatened species, populations and ecological communities that are likely to experience impacts from the proposal.

3.1 Endangered and Critically Endangered Ecological Communities

The following endangered and critically endangered ecological communities (referred to collectively as (C)EECs) are known to occur within the subject site:

- Cumberland Plain Woodland;
- Shale-Gravel Transition Forest;
- River –flat Eucalypt Forest;
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest; and
- Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains.

This SIS considers these (C)EECs as subject communities.

3.2 Threatened Species and Populations Records

3.2.1 Database Records

Threatened species, populations and ecological community records from within the locality were obtained from databases, including the Atlas of NSW Wildlife (OEH 2013) and Bird Data (Birds Australia, 2005-2007). The search area was defined as within a 10km radius of the subject site. A 10 km radius search area was adopted for the Birds Australia database. These records are shown in Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2.

The number and age of records of threatened species recorded within a 10 km radius of the Central Precinct provided a picture of the distribution for relevant species within the locality and was useful supplementary information when assessing the likelihood of occurrence of threatened species within the Central Precinct.

3.2.2 Literature Review

The Central Precinct has been subject to a series of flora and fauna investigations from the early 1990s until the present date. These have involved literature reviews, database assessments, vegetation mapping, a general census of flora and fauna and targeted surveys for threatened species. A list of studies relevant to the Central Precinct is provided in Chapter 4. A synthesis of the information from all relevant reports prior to 2008 was carried out as part of the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment (Cumberland Ecology 2008a) to determine the flora and fauna species which may be affected by any activity within the Central Precinct. A further synthesis of information was conducted for this SIS.

A summary of the more recent surveys conducted specifically for the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment and for the Development Application for the Central Precinct and this SIS is provided in Chapter 4.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 provide an initial assessment of the exhaustive list of flora and fauna provided by the databases and literature review process. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 also identify the “subject species”, as described below.

3.2.3 Habitat Assessment

Habitat assessment and field surveys of the study area were used to determine the threatened species likely to occur, or occurring on the subject site. The results of this assessment are found in Chapter 4.

Based on this habitat assessment, and consideration of the species records for the study area, the threatened species or populations that occur or have potential to occur in the study area were identified (the “subject species”).

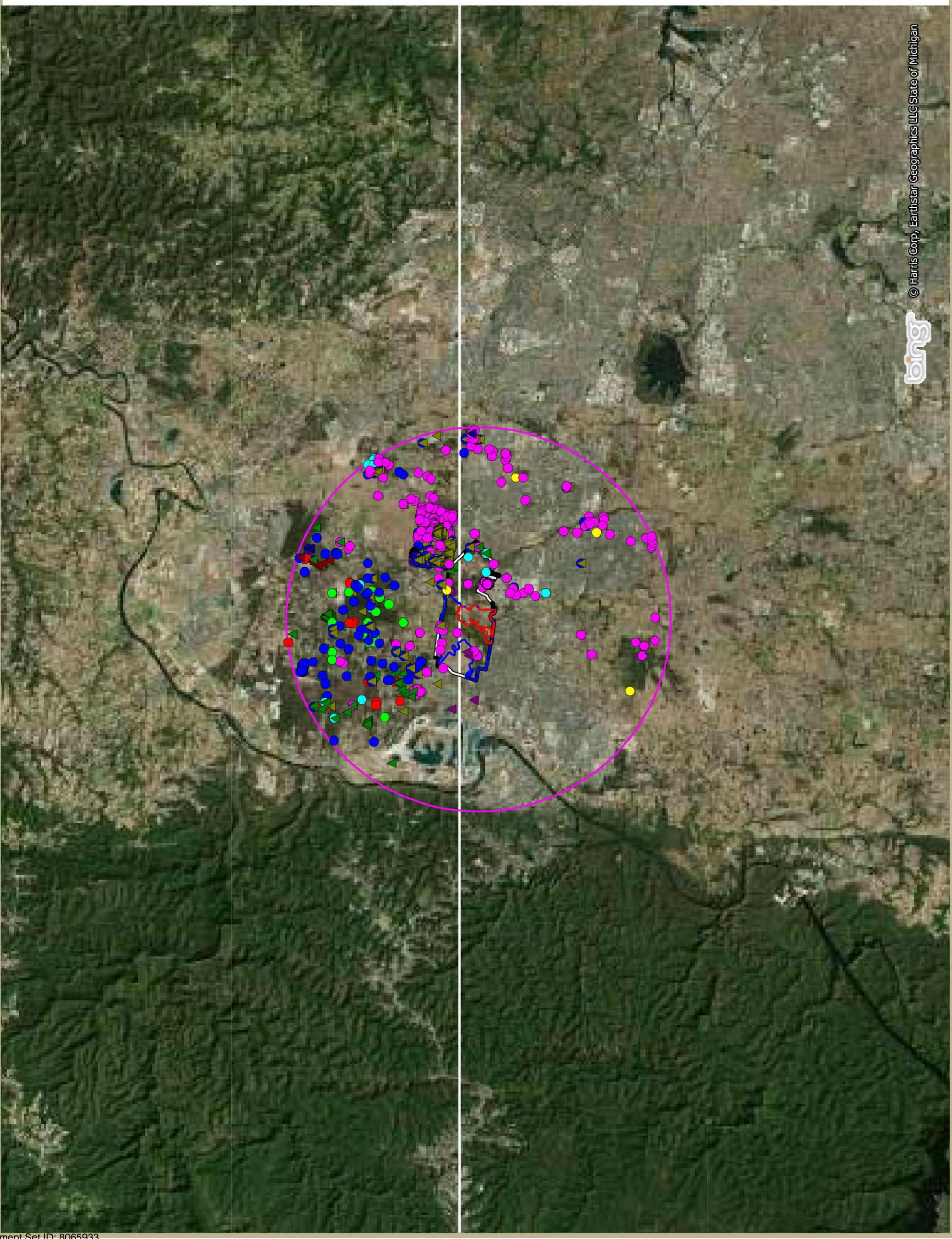


Figure 3.1. OEH Threatened Flora Records within the Locality

Legend

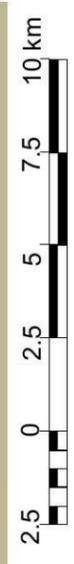
- St Marys Property Boundary
- Subject Site
- Study Area
- 10 km Locality

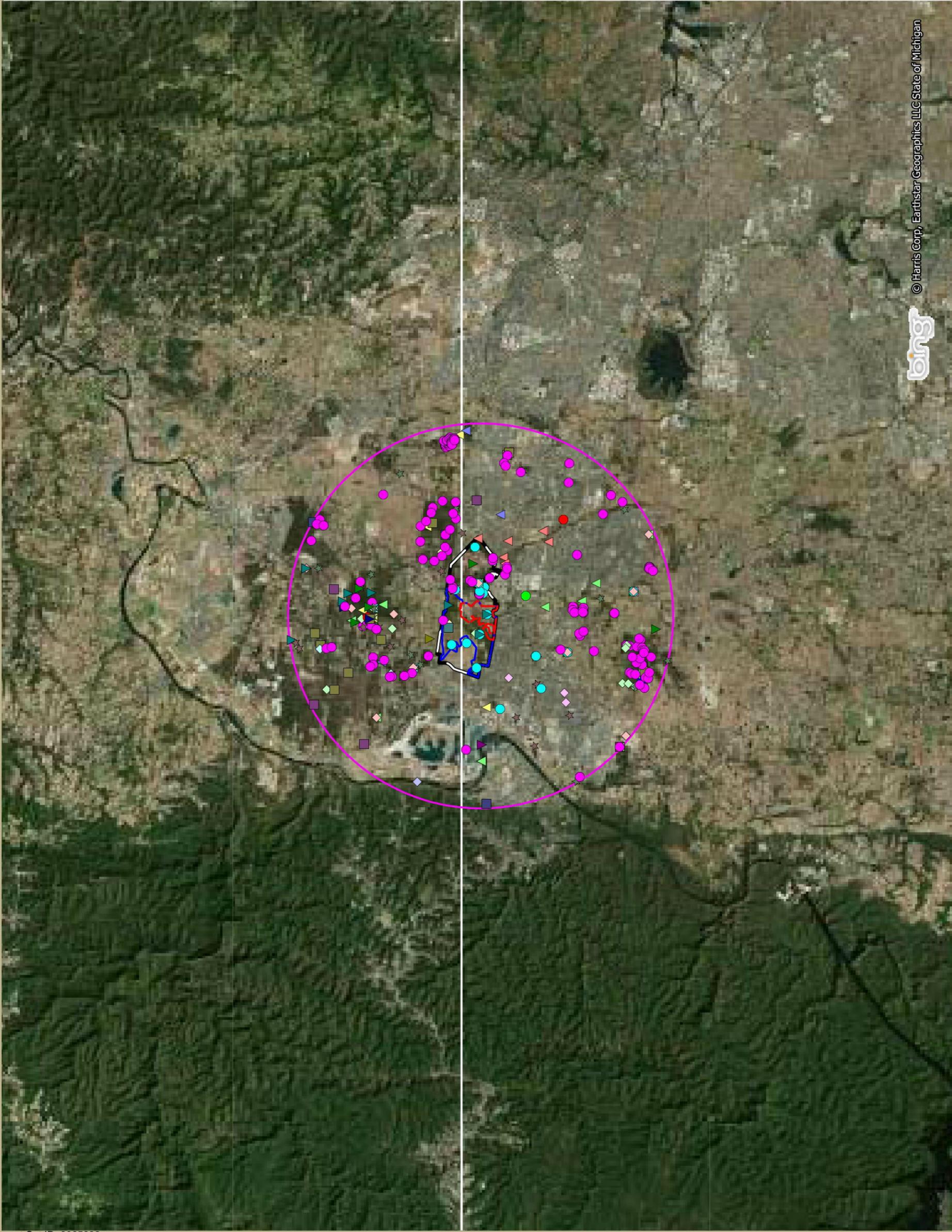
Threatened Flora

- Acacia bynoeana*
- Allocasuarina glaukocoma*
- Dillwynia tenuifolia*
- Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*
- Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. viridiflora*
- Micromyrtus minutiflora*
- Persoonia hirsuta*
- Persoonia nutans*
- Pimelea curviflora var. curviflora*
- Pimelea spicata*
- Pultenaea parviflora*

Image Source:
Microsoft Bing
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Data Source:
BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife
© NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
dated 05/11/2013





- Legend**
- St Marys Property Boundary
 - Subject Site
 - Study Area
 - 10 km Locality
- Threatened Fauna**
- Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
 - Black-necked Stork
 - Bush Stone-curlew
 - Cumberland Plain Land Snail
 - Diamond Firetail
 - Eastern Bentwing-bat
 - Eastern False Pipitrelle
 - Eastern Freetail-bat
 - Flame Robin
 - Freckled Duck
 - Glossy Black-Cockatoo
 - Greater Broad-nosed Bat
 - Green and Golden Bell Frog
 - Grey-headed Flying-fox
 - Koala
 - Little Bentwing-bat
 - Little Eagle
 - Little Lorikeet
 - Masked Owl
 - Painted Honeyeater
 - Powerful Owl
 - Regent Honeyeater
 - Scarlet Robin
 - Sooty Owl
 - Southern Myotis
 - Speckled Warbler
 - Spotted Harrier
 - Spotted-tailed Quoll
 - Square-tailed Kite
 - Squirrel Glider
 - Swift Parrot
 - Varied Sittella
 - Yellow-bellied Glider

Image Source:
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BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife
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dated 05/11/2013



bing
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Figure 3.2. OEH Threatened Fauna Records within the Locality

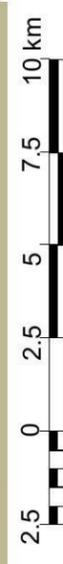


Table 3.1 Threatened Flora recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Acacia bynoeana</i>	Bynoe's Wattle	E1	V	Found in heath and woodland on sandy soils. Scattered from coast to mountains, uncommon. Associated overstorey species include <i>Corymbia gummifera</i> (Red Bloodwood), Scribbly Gum (<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>), Parramatta Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i>), <i>Banksia serrata</i> and <i>Angophora bakeri</i> .	Unlikely to occur. The study area does not contain sandy soils and the typical overstorey species are absent.	No
<i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i>		E1	E	Castlereagh Woodlands on lateritic soils. Found in open woodland with <i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> , <i>Angophora bakeri</i> , <i>Eucalyptus sclerophylla</i> and <i>Melaleuca decora</i> . Primarily restricted to the Richmond (NW Cumberland Plain) district, but with an outlier population found at Voyager Point, Liverpool.	Unlikely to occur. Open woodland habitat does not occur and the characteristic overstorey associated with this species are absent.	No
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>		V		It has a core distribution within the Cumberland Plain, where it may be locally abundant within scrubby, dry heath areas within Castlereagh Ironbark Forest and Shale/Gravel Transition Forest on tertiary alluvium or laterised clays. May also be common in the ecotone between these areas and Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland.	Potential but unlikely to occur. This species has not been recorded on the subject site or study area but numerous records of the species occur outside the St Marys Property. Some marginal habitat is present in the study area.	Yes

Table 3.1 Threatened Flora recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> <i>subsp. juniperina</i>	Juniper-leaved Grevillea	V		Restricted to red sandy to clay soils – often lateritic on Wianamatta Shale and Tertiary alluvium in Cumberland Plain Woodland and Castlereagh Woodland	This species has been recorded from the study area in moderately high numbers. Tens of thousands of this species are estimated to occur in the Regional Park. This species occurs on the subject site.	Yes
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> <i>subsp. viridiflora</i>	Marsdenia viridiflora R. Br. subsp. viridiflora population in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith local government areas	E2		Recent records are from Prospect, Bankstown, Smithfield, Cabramatta Creek and St Marys. Previously known north from Razorback Range. Grows in vine thickets and open shale woodland	Potential to occur. This species has been recorded near the boundary of the subject site	Yes
<i>Micromyrtus</i> <i>minutiflora</i>		E1	V	Restricted to the general area between Richmond and Penrith, western Sydney. Grows in Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland, Ironbark Forest, Shale/Gravel Transition Forest, open forest on tertiary alluvium and consolidated river sediments.	Potential but unlikely to occur. This species has not been recorded on the subject site or study area but occurs within the eastern parts of the SMP. Some marginal habitat is present in	Yes

Table 3.1 Threatened Flora recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Persoonia nutans</i>	Nodding Geebung	E1	E	Associated with dry woodland, Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland, Agnes Banks Woodland and sandy soils associated with tertiary alluvium, occasionally poorly drained. Also occurs in Shale Gravel Transition Forest and Castlereagh Ironbark Forest. Endemic to Western Sydney.	the study area. Potential but unlikely to occur. This species has not been recorded on the subject site or study area but occurs within the eastern parts of the SMP. Some marginal habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Pimelea spicata</i>	Spiked Rice-flower	E1	E	In western Sydney, it occurs on an undulating topography of well structured clay soils, derived from Wianamatta shale. It is associated with Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW), in open woodland and grassland often in moist depressions or near creek lines. Has been located in disturbed areas that would have previously supported CPW	Potential but unlikely to occur. This species has been historically recorded from the study area in very small numbers but has not been confirmed in recent surveys. The study area provides suitable habitat for this species.	Yes
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>		E1	V	May be locally abundant, particularly within scrubby/dry heath areas within Castlereagh Ironbark Forest and Shale Gravel Transition Forest on tertiary alluvium or laterised clays. May also be common in ecotone between these communities and Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland.	Potential to occur. This species has been recorded from the study area, though not the subject site. It has been widely recorded throughout the SMP	Yes

Key: E/E1 = Endangered, E2 = Endangered population, V = Vulnerable, X – Extinct

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
Invertebrates						
<i>Meridolum comeovirens</i>	Cumberland Plain Land Snail	E1		Primarily inhabits Cumberland Plain Woodland. This community is a grassy, open woodland with occasional dense patches of shrubs.	Potential to occur. This species has been recorded from the SMP and potential habitat is present in the study area.. The species has been recorded on the subject site.	Yes
Amphibians						
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	E1	V	Large permanent freshwater wetlands, with dense stands of reeds	Potential suitable habitat including permanent freshwater wetlands are present in the study area. However, this species is thought to be extinct across the majority of Western Sydney (except for a known population at Riverstone) and is therefore highly unlikely to occur.	No
Aves						
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	E4A	E, M	Dry open forests, woodlands, especially red ironbark, yellow box, yellow gum	Potential to occur. Woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	E1		Favours permanent freshwater wetlands with tall, dense vegetation, particularly bullrushes (<i>Typha</i> spp.) and spikerushes	Potential suitable habitat including permanent freshwater wetlands are present in the study area. Only 1 record for the area so Unlikely to occur	No
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush Stone-curlew	E1		Inhabits woodlands with a sparse grassy groundlayer and fallen timber	Unlikely to occur. Some marginal habitat present in the study area but there have been no sightings of this species in the locality since 1996	No
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Gang-gang Cockatoo	V		Wetter forests, and woodlands, from sea level to 2000m on divide. From timbered foothills and valleys to suburban gardens. Nests in large tree hollows.	Potential to occur. Potential foraging habitat for this species is present in the study area, although limited nesting habitat is present due to the lack of large hollow bearing trees.	Yes
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	V		Eucalypt forests and woodlands and forage in Allocasuarina. Nest in large tree hollows	Potential to occur. This species has been recorded from near the SMP. However, the SMP lacks suitable foraging habitat and large tall hollow-bearing trees for nesting, therefore is not likely to be a significant area of habitat.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Chthonicola sagittata</i>	Speckled Warbler	V		Lives in a wide range of eucalypt dominated communities that have a grassy understorey, often on rocky ridges or in gullies. Typical habitat would include scattered native tussock grasses, a sparse shrub layer, some eucalypt regrowth and an open canopy.	Potential to occur. This species has been recorded from the SMP and suitable habitat occurs in the study area	Yes
<i>Circus assimilis</i>	Spotted Harrier	V		Grassy open woodland including acacia and mallee remnants, inland riparian woodland, grassland and shrub steppe (e.g. chenopods). It is found mostly commonly in native grassland, but also occurs in agricultural land, foraging over open habitats including edges of inland wetlands.	Potential to occur. Suitable foraging habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella	V		Eucalypt forests and woodlands, especially those containing rough-barked species and mature smooth-barked gums with dead branches, mallee and Acacia woodland.	This species has been recorded within Regional Park areas in the SMP. Eucalypt woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked Stork	E1		Associated with tropical and warm temperate terrestrial wetlands, estuarine and littoral habitats, and occasionally woodlands and grasslands, floodplains. Forages in fresh or saline waters up to 0.5m deep, mainly in open fresh waters, extensive sheets of shallow water over grasslands or sedgeland, mangroves, mudflats, shallow swamps with short emergent vegetation and permanent billabongs and pools on floodplains.	Possible but unlikely to occur. Some marginal wetland habitat for foraging is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>	Little Lorikeet	V		Mostly occurs in dry, open eucalypt forests and woodlands. They have been recorded from both old-growth and logged forests in the eastern part of their range, and in remnant woodland patches and roadside vegetation. Isolated flowering trees in open country, e.g. paddocks, roadside remnants and urban trees are also used.	Potential to occur. Potential woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	V		A nomadic species that typically inhabits Boree, Brigalow and Box-Gum Woodlands and Box-Ironbark Forests with abundant mistletoe. It is a specialist feeder on the fruits of mistletoes growing on woodland eucalypts and acacias, preferring <i>Amyema</i> sp (mistletoe).	Potential to occur. Eucalypt woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	V		The Little Eagle occupies habitats rich in prey within open eucalypt forest, woodland or open woodland. Sheoak or acacia woodlands and riparian woodlands of interior NSW are also used. For nest sites it requires a tall living tree within a remnant patch.	Potential to occur. Eucalypt woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	V		Boggy marsh, wetland margins	Unlikely to occur. Limited suitable wetland habitat is present in the study area.	No
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	E1	E	Forests, woodlands, plantations, banksias, street trees and gardens	Potential to occur. Woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	V		Diverse habitats from dry woodlands and open forests. Shows a particular preference to timbered watercourses	Potential to occur. Woodland foraging habitat is present in the study area and it may forage over the study area as part of a larger range	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin (south-eastern form)	V		Prefers lightly wooded country, usually open eucalypt woodland, acacia scrub and mallee, often in or near clearings or open areas. Requires structurally diverse habitats featuring mature eucalypts, saplings, some small shrubs and a ground layer of moderately tall native grasses.	Potential to occur. Suitable habitat such as native grassland and woodland is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)	V		Drier eucalypt forests, woodlands, timber on water courses, often no understorey, scrubs. Favours ironbark woodlands on western slopes.	Potential to occur. Woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Neophema pulchella</i>	Turquoise Parrot	V		Steep rocky ridges and gullies, rolling hills, valleys and river flats and the plains of the Great Dividing Range. It is associated with coastal scrubland, open forest and timbered grassland, especially low shrub ecotones between dry hardwood forests and grasslands with high proportion of native grasses and forbs.	Potential to occur. This species occurs in a wide range of habitats and suitable habitat such as native grassland and woodland is present in the study area.	No

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Barking Owl	V		Inhabits woodland and open forest, including fragmented remnants and partly cleared farmland. Is flexible in its habitat use and hunting can extend in to closed forest and more open areas. Requires very large permanent territories.	Unlikely to occur. Habitat and prey species present but territorial requirements may exceed availability, especially as potential breeding habitat (large tree hollows) is minimal.	No
<i>Ninox strenua</i>	Powerful Owl	V		Habitat for this species is widespread and is primarily tall moist eucalypt forest of the eastern tableland edge and the mosaic of wet and dry sclerophyll forests occurring on undulating gentle terrain nearer the coast. Optimal habitat includes a tall shrub layer and abundant hollows supporting high densities of arboreal marsupials. Pairs occupy large, probably permanent home and nest in large hollows.	Possible but unlikely to occur. Prey species present but habitat is marginal, especially as potential breeding habitat (large tree hollows) is minimal. May pass through as part of a larger foraging area	Yes
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	V		Prefers deep water in large permanent wetlands and swamps with dense aquatic vegetation. The species is completely aquatic, swimming low in the water along the edge of dense cover. It will fly if disturbed, but prefers to dive if approached	Unlikely to occur. Suitably deep water is absent from wetland habitats in the study area.	No

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	V		The Scarlet Robin breeds in drier eucalypt forests and temperate woodlands, often on ridges and slopes, within an open understorey of shrubs and grasses and sometimes in open areas. Abundant logs and coarse woody debris are important structural components of its habitat. In autumn and winter it migrates to more open habitats such as grassy open woodland or paddocks with scattered trees. It forages from low perches, feeding on invertebrates taken from the ground, tree trunks, logs and other coarse woody debris.	Potential to occur. Woodland habitat is present in the study area and logs and woody debris are present.	Yes
<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	Flame Robin	V		In NSW it breeds in upland moist eucalypt forests and woodlands, often on ridges and slopes, in areas of open understorey. It migrates in winter to more open lowland habitats such as grassland with scattered trees and open woodland on the inland slopes and plains	Potential to occur, particularly in winter when the species migrates to more open habitats	Yes
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	V		Found in grassy eucalypt woodlands, including Box-Gum Woodlands and Snow Gum Eucalyptus pauciflora Woodlands	Potential to occur. Suitable habitat is present in the study area.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	V		Associated with a variety of plankton-rich wetlands, such as heavily vegetated, large open lakes and their shores, creeks, farm dams, sewerage ponds and floodwaters	Potential to occur. Some suitable wetland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Masked Owl	V		Occurs mainly in large areas of forests. Roosts in large hollow	Unlikely to occur. Dense forest habitat is not readily available in subject site and there is a lack of records in the locality. Very limited breeding habitat is available due to the lack of large trees with hollows.	No
<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>	Sooty Owl	V		Sooty Owls are associated with tall wet old growth forest on fertile soil with a dense understorey and emergent tall Eucalyptus species. Pairs roost in the daytime amongst dense vegetation, in tree hollows and sometimes in caves. Typically associated with an abundant and diverse supply of prey items and a selection of large tree hollows	Possible but unlikely to occur. Prey species present but habitat is marginal, especially as potential breeding habitat (large tree hollows) is minimal.. May pass through as part of a larger foraging area as they have been recorded in the locality	Yes
Mammals						

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i>	Large-eared Pied Bat	V	V	Frequents low to mid-elevation dry open forest and woodland close to caves (near their entrances), crevices in cliffs, old mine workings and in the disused, bottle-shaped mud nests of the Fairy Martin (<i>Hirundo ariel</i>). Probably forages for small, flying insects below the forest canopy	Unlikely to occur.. May forage over the study area however no suitable roosting habitat such as caves, cliffs or mines are present in the study area.	No
<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	V	E	Occurs in wide variety of habitats in large remnants. Dens in tree hollows, hollow logs or rock crevices	Potential to occur. Woodland habitat is present in the study area as are habitat resources such as hollow logs.	Yes
<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	Eastern False Pipistrelle	V		Usually roosts in tree hollows in the higher rainfall forests within its range.	Potential to occur. May forage over the study area however no suitable roosting habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Bent-wing bat	V		Inhabit well timbered areas including rainforest, wet and dry sclerophyll forest, Melaleuca swamps and coastal forests. Roost in caves, artificial structures and tree hollows.	Potential to occur. May forage over the study area however no suitable roosting habitat such as caves or mines are present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Miniopterus orianae</i> (formerly <i>schreibersii</i>) <i>oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	V		Forages above the canopy and eats mostly moths. Roosts in caves, old mines, road culverts	Potential to occur. May forage over the study area however no suitable roosting habitat such as caves or mines are present in the study area.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	East-coast Freetail-bat	V		Inhabits dry and wet sclerophyll forests, coastal woodland. Roosts in tree hollows and buildings. Have been found roosting under the bark of trees.	Potential to occur. May forage over the study area and suitable roosting habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Southern Myotis	V		Known from a range of habitats close to water from lakes, small creeks to large lakes and mangrove lined estuaries	Potential to occur. Aquatic foraging habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Petaurus australis</i>	Yellow-bellied Glider	V		Patchily distributed in wet sclerophyll forest	Unlikely to occur. No wet sclerophyll forest is present in the study area.	No
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>	Squirrel Glider	V		Associated with dry hardwood forest and woodlands. Habitats typically include gum barked and high nectar producing species, including winter flower species. The presence of hollow bearing eucalypts is a critical habitat value	Potential to occur. Woodland habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby	E1	V	Inhabit rocky escarpments, outcrops and cliffs with a preference for complex structures with fissures, caves and ledges facing north.	Unlikely to occur. No suitable habitat present on site	No

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala	V		Widespread in sclerophyll forest and woodlands. Requires relatively large home ranges.	Possible but unlikely to occur. Potential feed trees occur in the study area however this species has not been recorded. The habitat on the study area is relatively isolated and it is not likely to form part of a home range of a koala.	Yes
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse		V	Inhabit open heathland, open woodland and vegetated sand dunes in coastal areas and up to 100 km inland on sandstone country up to 900m altitude.	Unlikely to occur. Has very specific habitat requirements that do not occur in the study area	No
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V	V	Roosts in large camps and disperses nightly up to 20km to feed in flowering eucalypts	Potential to occur. No roosting camps are present in the study area however potential foraging habitat is present in the study area.	Yes
<i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat	V		Roosts in tree hollows and buildings; utilises mammal burrows in treeless areas. Forages in most habitats across its very wide range, with and without trees; appears to defend an aerial territory	Potential to occur. May forage over the study area and some roosting habitat is available.	Yes

Table 3.2 Threatened Fauna recorded in the locality and Assessment of Likelihood of Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status		Habitat Requirements	Likelihood of occurrence	Subject Species?
		TSC Act	EPBC Act			
<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V		Usually in tall wet forest, extending into drier forest along gullies. Forages along forest edges. Roosts in tree hollows	Has been recorded, despite the lack of optimal wet forest habitat present in the study area.	Yes

Key: E/E1 = Endangered, E2 = Endangered population, E4A = Critically Endangered, V = Vulnerable, C - China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), J - Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), K - Republic of Korea - Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA), M = Migratory speices.

Survey

This chapter presents the background of ecological studies in the Study Area, details of the procedures for the current surveys undertaken for the purposes of this SIS and the results of past and current surveys in relation to flora and fauna, vegetation communities and mapping and the occurrence of any threatened species, in accordance with DGRs 4.1; *Requirement to Survey* and 4.2; *Documentation*.

4.1 Survey Background

4.1.1 Historical Surveys

The Former ADI Site and its surrounds have been subject to detailed flora and fauna studies since the area was rezoned in 1993. There has been considerable ecological survey effort within the locality of the Central Precinct in recent times for baseline data by Government and Industry. The contemporary studies completed within the Central Precinct and within the locality were reviewed, including unpublished reports prepared for OEHL on the flora and fauna of both the Central Precinct and adjacent Regional Park. The reports utilised to inform this SIS include:

- ERM (2000) Assessment of the Implications of Development for Land Registered on the National Estate at St Marys NSW Report to ComLand Limited Environmental Resources Management Australia, Sydney.
- Gunninah (1991) Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Marys, Fauna Survey Gunninah Environmental Consultants, Sydney.
- Gunninah (1995) Australian Defence Industries St Marys Planning Study: Flora and Fauna Issues Gunninah Environmental Consultants, Sydney.
- Cumberland Ecology (2004) St Mary's Eastern Precinct: Fauna and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications Cumberland Ecology, Sydney.
- Cumberland Ecology (2004) Stage 1 Subdivision, St Mary's Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 Species Impact Statement Cumberland Ecology, Sydney.
- Cumberland Ecology (2005) St Marys North and South Dunheved Precincts Plan: Biodiversity Assessment Cumberland Ecology, Epping.

- NSW NPWS (2000) The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain, Western Sydney: Technical Report NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hurstville.
- DUAP (2001) Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30: St Marys Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Sydney.
- DUAP (2001) St Marys Environmental Planning Strategy 2000 Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Sydney.
- Perkins, I. (1999) Flora Assessment of the Disputed Areas of Western Sydney Shale Woodlands Ian Perkins Consultancy Services, Sydney.
- Cumberland Ecology (2008) St Marys Property - Central Precinct: Biodiversity Assessment Cumberland Ecology, Epping.
- Cumberland Ecology (2004 – 2012) Analysis of the Response of Cumberland Plain Woodland to Grazing by Macrofauna on the SMP: Floristic and Structural Changes (one – eight) years after grazing exclosure. Cumberland Ecology, Epping.
- Cumberland Ecology (2012) Village 4 development of Jordan Springs in the Western Precinct, St Marys Property: Species Impact Statement. Cumberland Ecology, Epping.

4.1.2 Recent Surveys

The contemporary ecological study was initially intended to update existing knowledge of the biodiversity values within the Central Precinct in line with legislative changes, current survey guidelines and new protected species listings. Detailed surveys were completed within the Regional Park, which forms part of the current study area, in 2011 to provide baseline flora and fauna data for assessments of the Western Precinct in compliance with the OEH guidelines for flora and fauna survey (DEC (NSW), 2004). Additional flora surveys were conducted for the Central Precinct in September 2013 for the purposes of this SIS..

i. Vegetation Surveys

Vegetation mapping has previously occurred within the Central Precinct and across the whole St Mary's Property. However the increasing importance placed by government agencies on the conservation of CEECs listed under the TSC Act and EPBC Act (although the EPBC Act status is not applicable for the SMP) directed the need for current floristic surveys.

ii. Targeted threatened species surveys

Based on the identification of subject species from assessment of species records and the habitats present (Chapter 3), targeted surveys were conducted for the following threatened species groups in September 2013:

- Shrubs and herbs associated with Cumberland Plain Woodland (in particular *Pimelea spicata* and *Grevillea juniperina subsp juniperina*); and
- Cumberland Plain Land Snail;

4.2 Survey Methods

4.2.1 Terrestrial Survey

i. Dates of Survey

The most recent surveys built upon an existing database of flora and fauna information that included data from the 1990s and 2000s. Recent surveys are also available from areas near the Central Precinct, being those undertaken to inform flora and fauna assessments in the Eastern and Western precincts. A summary of earlier surveys is provided within Appendix B.

The detailed field surveys within the Regional Park took place over the 2011 Autumn period and are summarised in Table 4.1. Both floristic and faunal surveys were conducted throughout this survey period.. Further targeted flora surveys and fauna habitat assessments were also conducted along a road easement within the Regional Park, between the Central and Western Precincts on 2 August 2012. In September 2013 detailed flora surveys, fauna habitat assessments and targeted searches for threatened species were undertaken within the subject site and two proposed drainage basin areas within the study area.

Dates of Survey	Tasks completed
April 14, 2011	Flora Quadrats, targeted threatened flora searches
April 22, 2011	Flora Quadrats, targeted threatened flora searches
April 27-29, 2011	Diurnal bird surveys, snail searches, targeted threatened flora searches
August 2, 2012	Targeted threatened flora searches, fauna habitat assessment
September 5-6, 2013	Vegetation mapping, flora quadrats, targeted threatened flora and fauna searches
September 9-10, 2013	Vegetation mapping, flora quadrats, targeted threatened flora and fauna searches
September 13, 2013	Vegetation mapping, flora quadrats, targeted threatened flora and fauna searches

ii. *Flora Survey*

a. Vegetation Mapping of the Central Precinct

Vegetation maps provided by DECC in the Mapping of the Cumberland Plain (2007) and ground-truthing that was undertaken by Cumberland Ecology in 2007-2008 to inform the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment (Cumberland Ecology, 2008) were used as a basis for the current investigations

The vegetation mapping was ground-truthed across the subject site in September 2013 and aligned with current descriptions of vegetation communities, in particular (C)EEC descriptions under the TSC Act. Surveying for vegetation mapping for the current SIS was conducted in September 2013 and included extensive flora surveys within the subject site, through quadrat sampling (20m x 20m) located within all classes of the vegetation communities.

The resultant information was synthesised using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to create a spatial database that was used to interpret and interpolate the data to produce a vegetation map of the Central Precinct. Mapping was completed using MapInfo Version 11.0.4 (Pitney Bowes Software Inc., 2010) on a Windows XP platform.

b. Floristic Census and Targeted Surveys

The flora assemblage within the Central Precinct was recorded by quadrat sampling and through targeted searches for threatened species. The subject site was traversed extensively during the 2013 surveys while surveys within parts of the neighbouring Regional Park were conducted in 2011.

The locations of all threatened species detected within the traverses during the 2011 surveys were recorded, with estimates of the population size made. All vascular plants recorded or collected were identified using keys and nomenclature provided in Harden (1990-1993). Additionally, Richardson *et al* (2006) and Robinson (1991) were used to assist identification of selected plant taxa. Where known, taxonomic and nomenclatural changes have been incorporated into the results, as derived from *PlantNET* (Botanic Gardens Trust, 2010). Any specimens that were not readily identifiable were lodged for identification with the National Herbarium of NSW at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

c. Quadrat Sampling

A total of 32 quadrats were sampled across the 2013 survey periods in 20 x 20 metre plots, with 27 of these within the main Central Precinct area, and five in associated drainage basins. A further 14 quadrats were sampled within areas of the Regional Park in 2011. The locations of these quadrats were chosen so that sampling was conducted in areas most representative of the condition and composition of the vegetation patch. The quadrat locations are shown in Figure 4.1. Flora quadrat data is provided in Appendix C. In each quadrat, the following information was recorded as a minimum:

- All vascular flora species present within the plot or directly adjacent to the plot;

- The stratum in which each species occurred;
- The relative frequency of occurrence of each plant species;
- Vegetation structural data (i.e. height and percentage cover of each stratum);
- A waypoint to mark the location of the quadrat, using a handheld GPS; and
- Photographs of the quadrat.

The relative abundance and cover of each species within the quadrat was approximated using a scoring system based on the Braun-Blanquet scoring system (Braun-Blanquet, 1927). The scores used are provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Modified Braun-Blanquet Scores used in Quadrat Surveys		
Class	Cover-abundance	Notes
+	Rare (less than 1 % cover)	Herbs, sedges and grasses: within 4 m ² Shrubs and small trees: less than 5 individuals.
1	Few Individuals (less than 5 % cover)	Herbs, sedges and grasses: within 20 m ² Shrubs and small trees: 5 or more individuals Medium - large overhanging tree.
2	5 - less than 25 % cover	-
3	25 - less than 50 % cover	-
4	50 - less than 75 % cover	-
5	75 - 100 % cover	-



Legend

- St Marys Property Boundary
- Subject Site
- Study Area
- Quadrat Location

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Figure 4.1. Flora Survey Locations



iii. *Fauna survey*

Fauna surveys were conducted within the Regional Park areas, along with parts of the Western Precinct of the SMP during the 2011 survey period, where possible, in accordance with OEH guidelines for ecological assessment (DEC (NSW), 2004). Due to the extensive nature of these surveys, combined with data from historic surveys of the SMP, further surveys for highly mobile fauna, such as birds and bats, in 2013 were deemed unnecessary. Fauna surveys for the main Central Precinct area were therefore largely limited to habitat assessments and opportunistic recordings only. However targeted searches were made during the 2013 survey period for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail.

As OEH survey guidelines are based upon stratification units, the Central Precinct was stratified using vegetation units as a surrogate for fauna habitat and survey effort was allocated accordingly. This was determined to constitute the following units:

- Sparse regenerating woodland and grassland (referred to as area A, being the subject site);
- Regenerating woodland (continuous) (referred to as area B, being the regrowth woodland added to the Regional Park since 1990); and
- Mature Woodland (referred to area C, being the established mature woodland of the Regional Park).

A summary of sampling method and effort used are provided in **Table 4.3**. Fauna survey locations are shown in **Figure 4.2**.

Survey Method	CE Survey Effort in Study Area
Amphibians	
Opportunistic call detection	Throughout survey period
Reptiles	
Opportunistic sightings	Throughout survey period
Diurnal Birds	
Walking transects	9 Hours (3 hours at 3 sites)
Opportunistic sightings	Throughout survey period
Nocturnal Birds	
Day habitat search	Throughout survey period

Table 4.3 Fauna Survey Methods and Efforts (Cumberland Ecology 2011)	
Survey Method	CE Survey Effort in Study Area
Non-flying Mammals	
Search for scats and signs	5 hours
Bats	
Ultrasonic call recording	6 nights
Snails	
Active habitat searches (spot assessment method)	420 trees (21 sites x 20 trees/site)

a. Bat Surveys

Microchiropteran bats (microbats) were surveyed through the use of Anabat Z-caim units to record ultrasonic bat recordings.

Anabat Z-caim units were employed during the 2011 surveys to record calls of microbats and were left at each survey location for two nights. Anabats were set before dusk each evening and set to automatically switch off after dawn. Calls recorded on each anabat were analysed to determine which species were present within the Study area..

b. Diurnal Bird Surveys

Visual observation and call identification of diurnal birds was carried out during each survey period. Dawn surveys were conducted at several points throughout the Study Area through the use of 500m walking transects over a 1 hour time period. Stops were made throughout each transect to positively identify birds and detect cryptic species in the vegetation adjacent to the transect. Diurnal birds were also identified and recorded as they were encountered throughout the Regional Park during the survey periods. GPS readings were taken near sightings of any threatened bird species.

c. Cumberland Plain Land Snail Assessment – Spot Assessment Technique

A survey of Cumberland Plain Land Snail activity was conducted based on an adaption of the methodology known as the Regularised Grid-Based Spot Assessment Technique (RGB-SAT) protocol developed by Biolink (Biolink , 2008), generally used to detect Koala scats. The spot assessment technique did not adhere strictly to a grid based protocol, but rather sampled representative sites within each zone, with a greater density of survey effort within the impact areas.

A total of 21 sampling points were taken, ten during the 2011 surveys and eleven during the 2013 surveys. Seven of the 2013 survey points were located in the main Central Precinct area while the remaining four were located in the associated drainage basin areas. Of the 2011 survey points, five each were located within regenerating (Area B) and mature (Area C) areas of CPW in the Regional Park.

Searches of five minutes in duration were made within the one metre of each of 20 trees for either live snails, or snail shells. Where there was no suitable habitat present, an appropriate habitat tree within a 100m radius of the sampling point was chosen. Trees that were targeted were those which provided suitable habitat for the species, predominantly those with a DBH of over 10cm and having a layer of bark around their base. Typical species included *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box) and to a lesser extent *Eucalyptus teretecornis* (Forest Red Gum).

d. Incidental Observations

Any incidental vertebrate fauna species that were heard calling, observed or otherwise detected on the basis of tracks or signs during 2011 fauna surveys, August 2012 traverses and 2013 surveys were recorded and listed in the total species list for the subject site. Incidental records of threatened flora and fauna from areas adjacent to the study area have also been included.

iv. *Habitat Assessment*

The characteristic attributes of different types of fauna habitat generally influences the assemblage of fauna species that can be found within each habitat and also affects the general value of the habitat for fauna. The Central Precinct contains four broad habitat types that vary in their value for fauna. These are:

- Remnant woodland and open forest;
- Riparian vegetation associated with minor tributaries and drainage lines;
- Young regenerating woodland; and
- Grassland.

Habitat condition was assessed during the 2011 surveys (Regional Park) and the 2013 surveys (Central Precinct) by noting ground and canopy cover, number and size of hollows present, habitat features such as bush rock and fallen trees, and signs of fauna usage such as scats and scratches.

Fauna habitat assessments also included consideration of important indicators of habitat condition and complexity including the occurrence of microhabitats such as tree hollows, fallen logs, bush rock and wetland areas such as creeks and soaks. An assessment of the

structural complexity of vegetation, the age structure of the forest and the nature and extent of human disturbance throughout the Central Precinct area was undertaken and considered.

a. Hollow Assessment

Hollows are used as a general indication of habitat quality for arboreal fauna, and hollow-dependent birds and bats. Hollow assessments were conducted at each of the 21 sampling points used for the above Cumberland Plain Land Snail assessment. Hollows observed during surveys were recorded and the general vegetation condition and tree maturity were used to predict whether trees on site are likely to contain hollows. Hollow size classes are defined in Table 4.4 below. Indirect indicators of fauna use of the site such as droppings, diggings, footprints, scratches, nests, burrows, paths and runways were also noted.

Table 4.4 Tree Hollow Size Class	
Class	Diameter (cm)
Small	<10
Medium	10>-<30
Large	>30

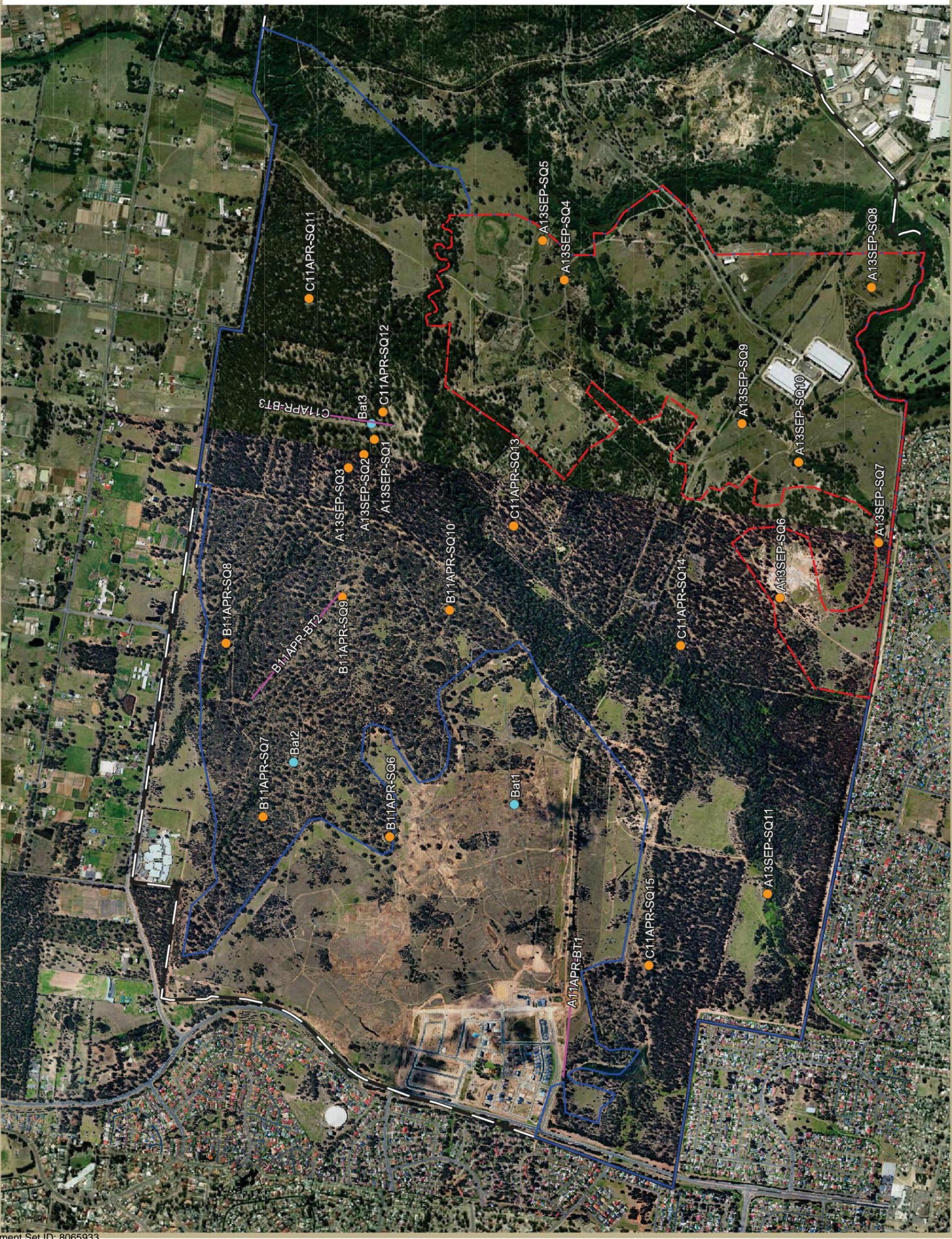


Figure 4.2. Fauna Survey Locations

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4.2.2 Statistical Analyses

Percentage composition of native and exotic flora species in the different study areas from current and previous surveys were calculated and plotted in Microsoft Excel..

Differences in Cumberland Plain Land Snail numbers between the different areas were analysed using the Statistical software package, SPSS (Version 17). Data was tested for normality and homogeneity of variance and then analysed using Kruskal-Wallis (K-W) tests as Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) requirements were not met even after data transformations. Mann-Whitney U-tests were used for post-hoc pair wise comparisons between areas for the K-W tests. As U-tests are not typical post-hoc tests, a Bonferroni adjustment was applied to the level of significance to avoid Type I errors. As three comparisons were run, this reduced the standard 0.05 level of significance to 0.017 (0.05/3).

4.2.3 Weather Conditions for Surveys by Cumberland Ecology

This report draws upon information collected by numerous ecologists over many years, including studies done across the 900ha Regional Park and both the Central and other Precincts. Surveys have therefore been conducted in all seasons and in a wide variety of weather conditions. This means that the resultant database of ecological information is detailed and reliable.

Weather conditions during surveys by Cumberland Ecology were generally appropriate for detection of a wide variety of flora and fauna,.

A summary of weather conditions in the locality of the Study Area during the 2011 and 2013 surveys is provided in Table 4.5. Weather conditions during the 2011 survey period stayed predominantly cool to mild, with the daily maximum temperature varying from 18.3°C to 25.7°C. Two days saw rainfall, with most other days being overcast but remaining dry. Conditions leading up to and during the 2011 survey period were generally warm, with some isolated rainfall. This rainfall created boggy conditions within the drainage lines across the Study Area. Conditions leading up to and during the 2013 survey period were generally warm with no rainfall.

Date	°C min	°C max	Rain (mm)
14/04/2011	9.9	24.1	0
22/04/2011	12	25.7	0
27/04/2011	14.5	18.9	5.4
28/04/2011	14.1	20.1	0.4
29/04/2011	13.9	20.8	2.8
05/09/2013	8.3	28.3	0
06/09/2013	11.2	28.6	0

Date	°C min	°C max	Rain (mm)
09/09/2013	14.0	27.2	0
10/09/2013	15.4	32.3	0
13/09/2013	9.0	18.9	0

4.2.4 Survey Limitations

Adequate ecological data exists for the assessment of the ecological impacts for the Project. There are no significant limitations to the data available.

The flora and fauna of the study area, the SMP and immediate surrounds have been subject to a series of surveys over many years. Consequently, the ecology of the Central Precinct and indeed the flora and fauna of the locality is well known. There is an excellent baseline of flora and fauna data, including vegetation mapping, and information about individual species.

The SMP and its surrounds have been subject to detailed flora and fauna studies since the area was rezoned in 1993. There has been considerable ecological survey effort within the locality of the Central Precinct in recent times for baseline data by Government and Industry. The contemporary studies completed within the Central Precinct and within the locality were reviewed, including unpublished reports prepared for OEH on the flora and fauna of both the Central Precinct and adjacent Regional Park. These included vegetation community mapping, targeted threatened species surveys listed in Section 4.1.1 above.

At the time of 2011, 2012 and 2013 surveys by Cumberland Ecology, and in the months before, the weather conditions had been favourable for plant growth and reproduction. Features such as flowers and fruits required for identification of most plants to species level was available. Grasses, herbs and creepers were readily identifiable in most instances.

A range of threatened flora is known to occur in the locality, and the SMP. The majority of these threatened flora species were not detected in the subject site or study area during the surveys to date. However, the habitats that are present in the subject site and study area have the potential to support the species. For this reason, where potential habitats were present, it was assumed that minor or negligible impacts to the species could occur, despite negative survey results. Species that have been recorded on the subject site are considered as major affected species in this SIS, and are assessed as such.

The comprehensive fauna surveys previously conducted on the SMP were generally undertaken according to OEH guidelines (DEC (NSW), 2004) (despite a number of the historic surveys being prior to this publication date). Targeted fauna surveys conducted for this SIS were not intended as baseline fauna surveys, due to this extensive prior survey data, but were conducted to supplement previous surveys and provide updated data for specific threatened species. The data produced by the surveys is intended to be indicative of

the types of species that could occur and not an absolute census of all flora and fauna species of the study area.

4.3 Survey Results

This section presents the results of recent surveys and describes the flora and fauna of the study area of the Central Precinct, taking into account information obtained from previous surveys and surveys undertaken specifically for the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment, and for this SIS. Particular emphasis has been placed on threatened flora and vegetation communities that have been recorded from the SMP or that could potentially occur.

This addresses the DGRs 4.2; *Documentation* and subsections 4.2.3 *Description and mapping of results of vegetation, flora and fauna surveys*.

Detailed descriptions of each of the communities listed above are provided in the following sections.

4.3.1 *Vegetation Communities of the Study Area*

CPW is the dominant vegetation community occurring in the study area. Across much of the study area, its occurrence ranges from sparse open woodland interspersed with large patches of grassland to more intact, large areas of woodland.

The CPW present in the subject site is dominated by a low quality variant of the community known as CPW Low diversity Derived Native Grassland (DNG). The other variants of CPW within the subject site include patches of young CPW and high quality DNG. Detailed descriptions of each of the communities listed above are provided in the following sections.

For the purposes of this SIS, three sampling areas were identified:

- Area A: The subject site, including the more sparse occurrences of CPW present in the study area. Area A consists of the entirety of the Central Precinct area as well as the two associated drainage basin areas within the Regional Park.
- Area B: The Regional Park; including areas of regenerating CPW that are of a similar age to Area A. This area was identified during very early surveys by Perkins as being of higher quality than CPW occurring in the neighbouring Western Precinct, and consequently the woodland was added to the larger 900ha Regional Park; and
- Area C: The Regional Park; including predominantly mature CPW and also RFEF and some patches of grassland that historically experienced higher levels of disturbance than other parts of the Regional Park.

i. *Cumberland Plain Woodland*

a. Mature CPW in the Regional Park

The CPW in the central portions of the Regional Park, which has been included in the study area for the purposes of this SIS, generally contained mature CPW and other woodland types. Quadrats conducted within this variation of CPW in the Regional Park were located within the mature and structurally complex woodland shown as Area C (or Quadrats labelled with C in Figure 4.1). A small number of plots within Areas A and B also conformed to this mature class of CPW. However, not all quadrats in area C conformed to this definition, as open-structured regenerating plots and some grassland plots were also surveyed for comparison with the subject site. .

The canopy of the CPW was open and almost exclusively dominated by *E. moluccana* with some areas also containing *E. fibrosa* (Broad-leaved Ironbark) and *E. tereticornis* with an average Projective Foliage Cover (PFC) of 10-40%. The Midstorey was also dominated by sparse small trees of *E. moluccana*, *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle) with some areas including *E. tereticornis* with a slightly variable PFC of between 1-5% and occasionally up to 20%. A very sparse to moderate shrub layer was present in most quadrats, dominated by *Bursaria spinosa* (Blackthorn) and *Dillwynia sieberi* (Parrot-pea). The groundcover was dominated by native herbs and twiners typical of CPW; *Brunoniella australis* (Blue Trumpet), *Glossocardia bidens* (Cobbler's Tick), *Phyllanthus virgatus* (a spurge), *Hypericum gramineum*, *Oxalis perennans*, *Dichondra repens* (Kidney Weed) and *Glycine tabacina* (Love Creeper) and a few exotic herbs also dominant; *Hypochaeris radicata* (Flatweed), *Sida rhombifolia* (Paddy's Lucerne) and *Richardia stellaris*. Native grasses were abundant and included: *Aristida vagans* (Three-awned Spear Grass), *Bothriochloa decipiens/macra* (Pitted Bluegrass/Red Leg Grass), *Chloris ventricosa* (Windmill Grass), *Sporobolus creber* (Slender Rat's Tail Grass) and *Paspalidium distans*.

Exotic groundcover abundance within quadrats was estimated to be approximately 1-20%. Mature CPW with a shrub layer of *Bursaria spinosa* is shown in Photograph 4.1.



Photograph 4.1 **Mature CPW in the Regional Park**

b. Regenerating CPW

Regenerating CPW occurs throughout a large portion of the study area. This variation of the community refers to both the regeneration (often prolific) of sapling and juvenile Grey Box and also the generally reduced diversity of native ground cover species that typify CPW, being a grassy open woodland community, as shown in Photograph 4.2.



Photograph 4.2 Regenerating CPW in the study area

Area B – Regional Park

Quadrats conducted within this variation of CPW that occurs in the Regional Park were located within the dense regenerating woodland shown as Area B (or Quadrats labelled with B) in Figure 4.1. The canopy was very sparse and almost exclusively dominated by *E. moluccana* with an overall Projective Foliage Cover (PFC) of 5-10%. The Midstorey was also dominated by *E. moluccana* with some areas including *E. tereticornis* with a highly variable PFC of between 5-50%. A very sparse shrub layer was present in most quadrats, dominated by *E. moluccana* saplings and occasionally *B. spinosa*. The groundcover was similar to that of mature CPW, described above, although the diversity of native groundcover species was slightly reduced, with several native herbs absent, including; *P. virgatus* and *O. perennans*.

Several of the herbs and grasses that were recorded to be present, but not dominant, in the Mature CPW were not present in this variation, including the characteristic species; *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *filiformis* (Wattle Mat-rush), *Plantago debilis* and *Hypericum gramineum* and some native grasses such as *Sporobolus creber* (Slender Rat's Tail Grass).

This variant of regenerating CPW was estimated to have an exotic ground cover of mostly between 5-10%.

Area A – Subject land

Quadrats conducted within this variation of CPW in the Central Precinct were located within the sparse regenerating woodland shown as Area A (or Quadrats labelled with A) in Figure 4.1. This variant is similar to that described above, although the canopy is generally more open, with a PFC of 5-10% and a native shrub layer is often absent. The species were as

above, although the diversity of native groundcover species was reduced, with several of the dominant native herbs absent, including; *P. Virgatus* and *O. perennans*. Several of the herbs and grasses that were recorded to be present, but not dominant, in the Mature CPW were not present in this variation, including characteristic species; *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *filiformis* (Wattle Mat-rush), *Plantago debilis* and *Hypericum gramineum* and some native grasses such as *Sporobolus creber* (Slender Rat's Tail Grass).

c. Derived Native Grasslands

Two main forms of grassland are recognised: areas supporting native herbs and some native grasses and areas supporting a far higher concentration of exotic species. Although both forms of grassland are considered to be derived from the past clearing of CPW, the former category is likely to have a higher resilience and is associated with the historically less disturbed portions of the SMP. The photographs below (**Photo 4.3 and Photo 4.4**) indicate the two categories of derived native grassland.

Native dominated DNG

The canopy, midstorey and shrub layers were absent. The native herb layer was similar to that of CPW, although native herbs were less frequent. Dominant native species included herbs and grasses such as *Wahlenbergia gracilis* (Native Bluebell), *Fimbristylis dichotoma* (Common Fringe-sedge), *Bothriochloa decipens/macra*, *Sporobolus creber*, *Eragrostis brownii*, *Cymbopogon refractus*, *Aristida ramosa* and *Aristida vagans*. Other dominant species included exotic grasses such as *Setaria parviflora*, *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass), and *Axonopus fissifolius* (Carpet Grass), as well as exotic herbs such as *Senecio madagascariensis* (Fireweed) and *Conyza bonariensis* (Flaxleaf Fleabane).

Low diversity DNG

The majority of this grassland is within Area A and supports a far higher concentration of weeds than the native dominated sub-category, being dominated by few species of exotic grasses; mainly *Axonopus fissifolius*, *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Setaria parviflora* and *Eragrostis curvula* and also *Cynodon dactylon* (Couch Grass). Exotic herbs were also common and included; *Senecio madagascariensis* and *Hypochaeris radicata*. Native species present include *Fimbristylis dichotoma*, *Eragrostis brownii*, *Themeda australis* (Kangaroo Grass) and *Wahlenbergia gracilis*.



Photograph 4.3 **Derived Native Grassland in the north of the subject site**



Photograph 4.4 **Low diversity Derived Native Grassland on the subject site**

ii. *Shale Gravel Transition Forest*

This community occurs predominantly in Area C in the Regional Park, but a strip occurs on the subject site along part of the north-western edge, where the subject site adjoins the Regional Park.

As the name suggests, this is a transitional plant community which grades into Cumberland Plain Woodland where the influence of gravel soil declines, and grades into Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest or Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland where gravel deposits are thick. There is a natural continuum of soil in this spectrum, and it can be difficult to distinguish these communities, towards the centre of the shale-gravel spectrum. In a new critically endangered listing under the EPBC Act, a single community called *Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale-gravel Transition Forest* is described.

The NSW Scientific Committee description for SGTF includes a slightly different species composition from CPW, based on the local presence of lateritic gravel in the soil. The community is dominated by *Eucalyptus fibrosa* with *E. moluccana* also occurring less frequently. Shrub species are similar to those found in CPW but more commonly include shrubs from the pea family, including threatened species such as Parrot pea, and has also been observed to contain high numbers of *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*.

The strip of SGTF in the subject site has a canopy of *Eucalyptus crebra* (Narrow-leaf Ironbark), *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Broad-leaf Ironbark), *Angophora floribunda*, and *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box). It has a diverse native shrub layer, with the dominant species being *Bursaria spinosa* and the threatened species *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*. Other shrub species present in lesser numbers include *Hibbertia diffusa*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Dillwynia sieberi*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolium*, and *Acacia floribunda*. Exotic weeds in the shrub layer include *Lantana camara*, *Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea*, and *Ligustrum sinense*.

The ground layer was dominated by native grasses such as *Microlaena stipoides* and *Aristida vagans*, with *Cymbonotus refractus*, *Aristida ramosa*, *Echinopogon ovatus*, and *Echinopogon caespitosus*, occurring less commonly. Native herbs included *Solanum prinophyllum*, *Einadia hastata*, *Pomax umbellata*, and *Goodenia hedeacea*. Exotic weeds include *Senecio madagascariensis*, and *Sida rhombifolia*.



Photograph 4.5 SGTF in the north-western edge of the subject site with *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*

iii. *River-flat Eucalypt Forest*

RFEF occurs in the Central Precinct, in simplified regenerating form as patches in the centre of the precinct, associated with SOF, and to a lesser extent, sedgeland. These communities are present in the lower lying areas of the site, with higher areas occupied by CPW.

Quadrat data was used to describe this community in the Central Precinct. The community within the subject site is degraded, and exotic weed species tend to dominate all vegetation strata besides the canopy. The canopy was mostly dominated either by *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum) or *Angophora floribunda* (Rough-barked Apple) but also includes *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) and *Eucalyptus amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum).

The midcanopy was sparse and absent in some areas, but dominated by juvenile *E. moluccana* and *E. tereticornis* trees, *Casuarina glauca* and *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle).

A native shrub layer in these patches is mostly absent, though where occurring consists of juvenile *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp She-Oak) individuals, and *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle). The shrub layer contains the noxious weeds Small-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), and Broad-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*).

The ground cover tends to be weedy, dominated in places by exotic grasses such as *Eragrostis curvula* (African Lovegrass) and *Cynodon dactylon*. The native grass *Microlaena stipoides* is common-dominant in some areas, and other native grasses such as *Artistida ramosa* are common in localised patches. Other native species occurring within the understorey in smaller numbers include *Cymbopogon refractus* (Barbed-wire Grass), *Oplismenus aemulus* (Basket Grass), and *Aristida ramosa*. Native herbs include *Pratia purpurascens* (Whiteroot), *Ranunculus lappaceus* (Forest Buttercup), and *Glycine tabacina* (Love Creeper).



Photograph 4.6 River-flat Eucalypt Forest in the east of the Subject Site

As identified by the final determination (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004j), this community typically tends to form mosaics with other floodplain forest communities and treeless wetlands. RFEF, in the form of Alluvial Woodland, is present on the SMP, in association with South Creek and Ropes Creek. The drainage channels present in the study area are currently in a modified and degraded condition, but in the future, their connection with tributaries of South Creek will be enhanced. The regeneration of RFEF and wetland habitats will form part of the Riparian Corridor development, and will therefore increase the current extent of this EEC.

iv. Swamp Oak Forest

SOF is found in the Central Precinct in low lying areas in patches in the centre of the site and along the central western edge, associated with RFEF and sedgeland. Typical of the community, the ground storey is sparse, with a dense covering of branchlet litter from the monoculture of *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) individuals comprising the canopy. A native

shrub layer is nearly absent, consisting of rare occurrences of *Trema tomentosa* (Poison Peach), *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Wattle) and *Casuarina glauca* juveniles. The shrub layer is predominately exotic with species such as *Ligustrum sinense* (Small-leaf Privet), and *Ligustrum lucidum* (Broad-leaf Privet),

The ground storey is a mixture of exotic weeds such as *Verbena bonariensis* (Purple Top), *Solanum pseudocapsicum* (Jerusalem Cherry), and *Sida rhombifolia* (Paddy's Lucerne), and native species such as *Einadia trigonos* (Fishweed), *Carex inversa*, *Oplismenus aemulus* (Basket Grass), and *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Meadow Grass). The exotic vines *Araujia sericifera* (Moth Vine), and *Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper) are common in the community on the subject site.

As is the case with RFEF and as identified by the final determination (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004j), this community also tends to form mosaics with other floodplain forest communities and treeless wetlands and is likely to be present in the form of Alluvial Woodland on the SMP. The regeneration of RFEF and wetland habitats forming part of the Riparian Corridor development will include areas of SOF and will therefore increase the current extent of this EEC.



Photograph 4.7 Swamp Oak Forest in the central area of the Subject Site

v. *Freshwater Wetlands*

a. Sedgeland

Wetlands within the Central Precinct occur as two patches, one towards the northern side of the subject site and one near the south-west border adjoining the Regional Park. Under the identification guidelines for Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains, an EEC listed under the TSC Act state that the wetland must be on a natural coastal floodplain that is inundated at least every 100 years (DECC (NSW), 2008). Large wetlands are uncommon in and around the SMP. However, based on the species present, it is considered that the EEC is present in a degraded / simplistic form.

Typical wetland species present within these areas include *Typha orientalis* (Cumbungi), *Persicaria decipiens*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Ludwigia peploides* and several *Cyperus* and *Juncus* species. Other species present around the wetlands include natives such as *Centella asiatica*, *Rumex brownii*, *Ranunculus lappaceus* and *Microlaena stipoides* as well as weeds such as *Rubus fruticosus*, *Sida rhombifolia* and *Senecio madagascariensis*.



Photograph 4.8 **Freshwater wetland towards the north of the subject site**

Sedgeland, a form of Freshwater Wetlands, occurs in very small localised patches throughout the precinct, generally in artificially created depressions, adjacent to patches of SOF or RFEF. These areas usually are too small to warrant mapping, being only a few square metres in area and have been included in the grassland mosaic.

The sedgeland patches are mostly dominated by *Carex appressa*, *Cyperus sp* and *Juncus sp*. Occasional *Ranunculus inundatus*, *Fimbristylis dichotoma* and *Centella asiatica* also occur. Exotic weeds in the sedgeland areas include *Rubus fruticosus* (Blackberry), *Trifolium repens* and *Verbena* species. These small areas of sedgeland in the Central Precinct have minimal conservation value. They provide small areas of habitat to common frog species and water resources for other animals, as well as local provenance plants. Similar sedgeland areas occur within the Regional Park.



Photograph 4.9 **Sedgeland in the centre of the subject site**

b. Wetland/dam

A large dam occurs in the Regional Park area of the study area, just to the south of Western Precinct boundary (Photograph 4.10). The dam comprises an arc shaped body of water that follows the local contours and a series of borrow pits from which soil was taken to construct the dam wall. Wetland species occur in the dam as well as the low lying borrow pits but would have only colonised the area since the dam was flooded. The area covered by the current extent of Freshwater Wetlands would have comprised CPW and RFEF prior to construction of the dam. An area at the north-eastern extent of the wetland contains vegetation that could be described as wet meadow.

Wetland vegetation in the dam is concentrated at the northern end and mainly comprised *Elaeocharis sphacelata* and *Marsilea hirsuta* (Nardoo). *Philydrum lanuginosum* (Frogsmouth)

is common, and *Juncus* sp forms a band around the margin and on the dam wall at the overflow zone.

The borrow pit vegetation varies from a small pond with dense *Elaeocharis sphacelata* and sparse *Philydrum lanuginosum* and *Potamogeton tricarinatus*, to seepage zones with *Juncus* sp, *Ranunculus inundatus*, *Ludwigia peploides* and *Lythrum hyssopifolia*. Seepage zone vegetation occurs in many of the borrow pits and the south eastern end of the dam wall, that acts as a spillway.

Remnants of the original vegetation communities have regenerated on the slightly higher ground between borrow pit wetland zones. This is largely composed of large *Eucalyptus tereticornis* with *Angophora floribunda* and *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Black She-oak) understorey, and *Bursaria spinosa* shrub stratum with native grass ground cover.

The wet meadow zone is a low lying area that receives periodic inundation, but apparently at a frequency less than required for most wetland plant species. It comprises *Microlaena stipoides* grassland with *Juncus* sp., *Persicaria decipiens*, *Centella asiatica* and *Lythrum hyssopifolia* being co-dominant. Common species include: *Ranunculus inundatus*, *Eclipta platyglossa* and exotic Asteraceae. Juveniles of the noxious *Xanthium* sp were recorded in significant numbers in this area. *Cynodon dactylon* is locally dominant, especially at the dry margins except along the northern side. Overall, exotic species ranged from 5-70% of the projective foliage cover of the ground cover in the wet meadow and borrow pit zones.

The larger dam and wetland habitat is of high conservation value as it provides habitat for migratory species, covers a relatively large area compared with sedgeland formed in scrapes and is connected to other types of habitat through the Regional Park.



Photograph 4.10 Northern edge of the wetland/dam occurring in the south-west section of the Regional Park.

vi. *Exotic grassland*

Large sections of the Central Precinct area are highly disturbed due to previous land uses. These areas are dominated by a variety of exotic grasses such as *Axonopus fissifolius* (Carpet Grass), *Eragrostis curvula* and *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Kikuyu) as well as exotic herbs such as *Conyza bonariensis*, *Sida rhombifolia*, *Bidens pilosa* and *Senecio madagascariensis*. These highly disturbed areas generally lack any native species although some common species such as *Themeda australis* and *Microlaena stipoides* do occur. These exotic grassland areas have limited habitat value for native fauna and do not constitute a native vegetation unit.



Photograph 4.11 Exotic Kikuyu grassland in the northern parts of the subject site.

vii. *Planted Trees*

Small areas of planted, non-indigenous trees also occur within the subject site. These These mainly consist of rows of *Corymbia maculata* and generally occur on road batter. These areas are not considered to constitute a native vegetation unit.



Photograph 4.12 **Planted Spotted Gums on road batter**

4.3.2 Statistical outcomes of vegetation composition comparisons

Statistical analyses of the data found that the Central Precinct area (Area A) had a higher exotic species composition (42.96%) than the regenerating woodland (Area B: 19.92%) or mature woodland (Area C: 27.85%) areas in the Regional Park. These figures provide support to the decision to include the regenerating woodland (Area B) into the Regional Park as the lower exotic species composition is indicative of its higher conservation value. Figure 4.3 shows the relative proportions of native and exotic plant species in the different sampling areas. These comparisons also show that the patches of vegetation communities remaining in the Central Precinct area have significantly less conservation value than the area within the Regional Park.

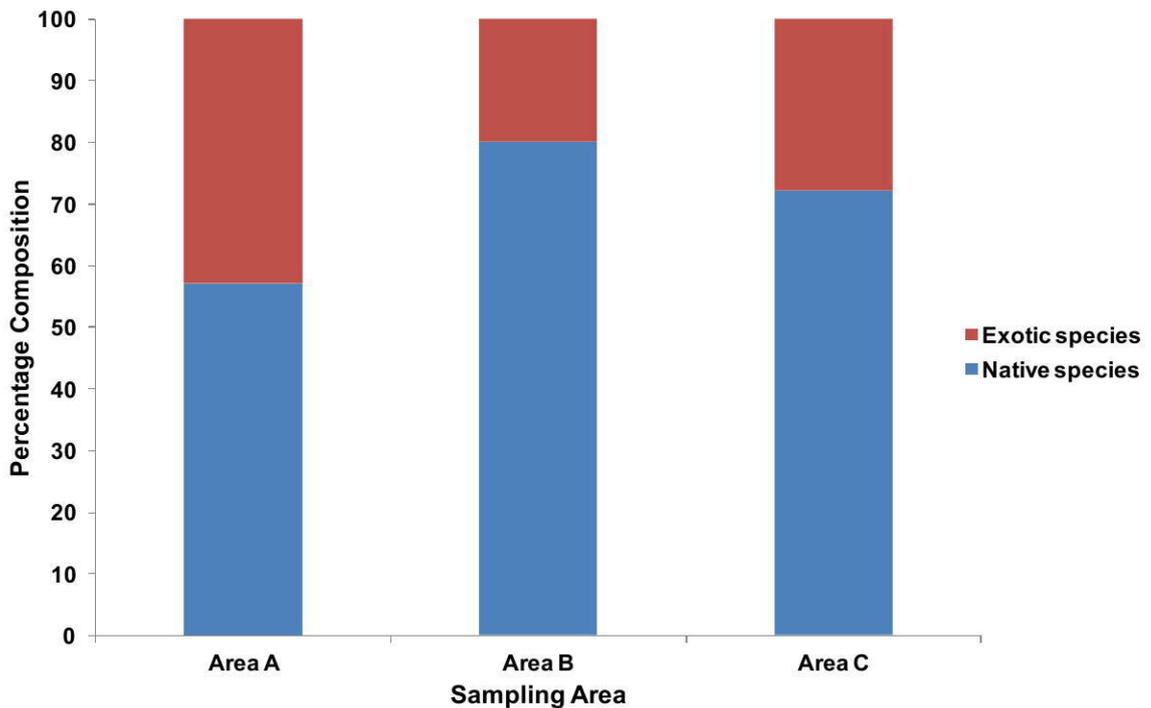


Figure 4.3 Comparison of exotic and native plant composition in the subject site (Area A), regenerating Regional Park woodland (Area B) and mature Regional Park woodland (Area C)

4.3.3 Threatened Flora Species

Numerous flora surveys have recorded a wide diversity of plants from the SMP, including several threatened species. These are *Grevillea juniperina* ssp *juniperina*, *Pultenaea parviflora*, *Pimelea spicata*, *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Micromyrtus minutiflora*, *Marsdenia viridiflora* ssp *viridiflora* (endangered population), and *Persoonia nutans*. The majority of these species are found in SGTF, primarily in the eastern portions of the SMP, where the soil is characterised by large amounts of lateritic gravel. *Pimelea spicata*, *Marsdenia viridiflora* ssp *viridiflora* are also found in CPW and *Grevillea juniperina* ssp *juniperina* can be found in CPW or grassland areas where there is a gravel influence.

The soil type in the Central Precinct contains less lateritic gravel than the eastern portions of the SMP although localised areas containing high proportions of gravel occur. Consequently, there is limited habitat for most of the threatened flora species recorded from the east, except in pockets of similar soil.

While some small pockets of marginal habitat for *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Micromyrtus minutiflora* and *Persoonia nutans* occur within the study area, these three species are considered unlikely to occur within the Central Precinct. These three species are relatively large and conspicuous (ie 1-2 m tall and spreading) and have not been recorded in the Study Area despite targeted searches. These species are therefore not considered to be affected

threatened species and are not discussed further in this SIS. Threatened flora species recorded or with potential to occur within the study area are discussed in detail below.

i. Recent surveys of the study area

Targeted threatened species searches conducted within the subject site in 2013 detected only one threatened plant species; *Grevillea juniperina* ssp *juniperina*. Targeted threatened species searches conducted within the Regional Park in 2011 detected numerous populations and individuals of *Grevillea juniperina* ssp *juniperina* and *Pultenaea parviflora*. Surveys in 2008 also detected a sub-population of *Marsdenia viridiflora* ssp *viridiflora* within the Regional Park near the Central Precinct boundary. These records are summarised below.

a. Grevillea juniperina subsp juniperina

Grevillea juniperina subsp. *juniperina* is listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act. It is a dense shrub, 0.5-1.5m tall, found only in Western Sydney, centred on an area bounded by Blacktown, Erskine Park, Londonderry and Windsor with outlier populations at Kemps Creek and Pitt Town (OEH, 2012f).

This species was found was in the area of SGTF along the north-western boundary of the subject site, and in a small patch of CPW along the northern edge during the 2013 surveys (Figure 4.5). Based on counts done during late 2007 and mid 2008 surveys by Cumberland Ecology, it was estimated that there are approximately 530 individuals of the species within the Central Precinct (Cumberland Ecology 2008)

Large areas of habitat for this species are contained within the Regional Park, where over 250,000 *Grevillea juniperina* subsp *juniperina* specimens are estimated to be located (Cumberland Ecology, 2004c) with numerous sub-populations and individuals of the species being detected in the 2011 survey period.

Previous surveys have indicated medium-high densities of this species found in the Regional Park (averaging up to 1300 plants/ha in less fragmented areas, and 750 plants/ha in fragmented areas), as discussed further below and shown in Appendix B. Locations of *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* within the study area are shown in Figure 4.5.

b. Pultenaea parviflora

Pultenaea parviflora is listed as Endangered under the TSC Act and Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. It is a small, erect branching shrub to 1m high, endemic to Western Sydney, centred on an area bounded by Blacktown, Erskine Park, Londonderry and Windsor with outlier populations at Kemps Creek and Pitt Town (OEH, 2013c).

Pultenaea parviflora was not recorded on the subject site. Large areas of habitat for this species are contained within the Regional Park, with numerous populations and individuals of the species being detected in the 2011 survey period. Locations of *Pultenaea parviflora* within the study area are shown in Figure 4.5.

c. *Marsdenia viridiflora ssp viridiflora*

Marsdenia viridiflora ssp. viridiflora population in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith local government areas is listed as an Endangered population under the TSC Act. It is a climber with twining stems up to 4m high that grows in vine thickets and open shale woodland, (OEH, 2013i).

Marsdenia viridiflora ssp. viridiflora was not found on the subject site although two occurrences of this species were recorded in the Regional Park near the boundary with the Central Precinct in 2008 and are shown in Figure 4.5. These sub-populations were not relocated and confirmed during the 2013 field surveys.

Large areas of habitat for this species are contained within the Regional Park and further occurrences of this species have been recorded within parts of the Regional Park outside the current study area.

ii. *Historic surveys of the study area and SMP*

Gunninah Consultants (Gunninah, 1995) and ERM (ERM, 2003) have previously counted threatened plants within quadrats of various sizes that have allowed for extrapolations or counts of threatened plants within the SMP. This has been possible for *Pultenaea parviflora*, and *Grevillea juniperina* subspecies *juniperina*. The Biodiversity Assessment of the Eastern Precinct (ERM, 2003) of the SMP provided estimates of populations of these species based upon such counts. For the purposes of this SIS, Cumberland Ecology also counted plants on the subject site and within the eastern tip of the Regional Park.

The various counts of threatened plants were done at different times under differing seasonal conditions by different people. The densities of plants counted by Gunninah Consultants were generally the highest (although they did not count *Grevillea*) and it is possible that additional seedlings were present during these counts to inflate the population estimates.

Due to the variation in numbers of plants between the different estimates, this SIS relies upon the lowest most conservative estimates of plant numbers within the Regional Park. The numbers should be interpreted as indicative only and reflect the scale and variability of the populations.

The table below shows the assumed areas of habitat and habitat types for each of the threatened plants in the Regional Park. The table on the following page shows the various population estimates for each of the threatened plant.

Table 4.6 Population estimates for *Pultenaea parviflora* and *Grevillea juniperina* ssp *juniperina* within the St Marys Regional Park

Estimated Numbers of <i>P. parviflora</i> and <i>G. juniperina</i> in Regional Park	Surveyors:	Gunninah 1995	ERM 2001/02	ERM 2003	Cumberland Ecology 2004	Max Pop in Reg Pk	Min Pop in Reg Pk
	Plot size in metres square:	200	1000	10	10		
	Plot number:	32	4	91	35		
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Mean per hectare	436	1,162	1,933	1,371	260,955	58,860
	Standard Error	106	770	325	296	43,875	14,310
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subspecies <i>juniperina</i>	Mean per hectare	not counted	467	2,822	714	987,700	249,900
	Standard Error		401	361	156	126,350	214,582

Gunninah 1995 = Gunninah Environmental Consultants report for Pyro Park; ERM 2001/02 = Biodiversity Assessment for Eastern Precinct; ERM 2003 = estimates from Remediation Works Assessment; Cumberland Ecology 2004 = surveys for the Eastern Precinct SIS

iii. *Pimelea spicata*

Pimelea spicata is listed as Endangered under both the TSC Act and the EPBC Act. It is an inconspicuous flowering shrub that flowers sporadically (likely in response to rainfall), grows to 50 cm tall and is erect or somewhat prostrate in habit (OEH 2013c). *Pimelea spicata* has white, pink-tinged tubular flowers to 10mm long, with four spreading petals (OEH 2013d). The leaves are opposite and elliptical to 20mm long by 8mm wide (OEH 2013d). This species was once widespread on the Cumberland Plain, however now it only occurs in two disjunct areas, the Cumberland Plain and the Illawarra. Threats to this species include: loss of habitat to urban development; high frequency fire; and habitat modification such as mowing, grazing and weed invasion. A recovery plan has been prepared for this species which identifies the following objectives (DEC (NSW), 2006):

- Conserve *P. spicata* using land use and conservation planning mechanisms;
- Identify and minimise the operation of threats at sites where *P. spicata* occurs;
- Implement a survey and monitoring program that will provide information on the extent and viability of *P. spicata*;
- Provide the community with information that assists in conserving the species;
- Raise awareness of the species and involve the community in the recovery program; and
- Promote research questions that will assist future management decisions.

This species was not recorded during the September 2013 field surveys. A population has been historically recorded in the Regional Park, although this population was not located and confirmed during the 2011 field surveys. While some pockets of marginal habitat occur within the subject site, this species is not considered likely to occur within the subject site.

4.3.4 **Fauna Habitats within Study Area**

i. *Woodland Habitat*

The dominant fauna habitat in the Study area is woodland, and this occurs throughout the northern and western portions of the study area. The woodland falls within the Regional Park, and occurs in two distinct growth forms.

- Mature woodland; and
- Regenerating woodland.

All vegetation on the SMP is regenerated vegetation, however the core area of the Regional Park is considered to be mature (regenerated) woodland. The core area has not been cleared within the last 50 years, and therefore has a higher degree of structural complexity than areas of woodland found within the younger regenerating woodland within the Regional Park, or that found within the subject site (refer to Section 4.3.1). The stands of mature trees

provide sheltering, foraging, nesting and breeding habitat for most fauna that may occur within the SMP.

The remainder of the Regional Park consists of regenerating woodland. This area occurs to the west of the central portion of the Regional Park, and is sometimes referred to as the “Perkins Peninsula”, due to the fact that the area was identified as regenerating Cumberland Plain Woodland by Ian Perkins in his submission to the Australian Heritage Commission (Perkins, I 1999). This area has been cleared more recently than other parts of the Regional Park, and therefore consists of less mature woodland, with a greater number of eucalypt saplings occurring within the mid stratum than in the Mature Woodland. This woodland currently provides some feed and shelter habitat, and will, in the future, form a large area of mature woodland.

ii. Grassland Habitats

Grassland areas occur within the study area, primarily within the subject site, but represent little value to native fauna, as there is little structural complexity that is necessary to provide roosting or nesting habitat for most species. The grassland areas within the Regional Park may, in the future, regenerate to form additional woodland. Species that commonly occur in the grassland habitats are those that are generally abundant in agricultural areas where the native vegetation has been significantly modified or removed, or they are species that typically favour foraging in grassland. Such species include birds such as the Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), Crested Pigeon (*Geophaps lophotes*), Galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), and mammals such as the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*).

iii. Riparian Habitats and Wetlands

Significant riparian habitat occurs within the wider study area and Regional Park. The wetland in the Regional Park is likely to provide a significant amount of habitat for common native species as it is a permanent source of water and supports significant amounts of fringing vegetation that provides habitat for wetland birds and amphibians.

Smaller areas of ephemeral wetlands occur throughout the Regional Park in low depressions often resulting from a scrape formed in the topsoil. These support common frog species including the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) and Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peroni*).

4.3.5 Fauna Species within the Subject Site

Habitats of value to native fauna in the Central Precinct are generally associated with the scattered patches of trees across the precinct. However, the value of this vegetation to hollow-dwelling native fauna is limited as the trees are mostly immature and offer limited roosting or nesting habitat. The majority of the woodland habitat that occurs on the SMP will be conserved within the Regional Park.

The extent of disturbance and land management activities has significantly limited the suitability of the Central Precinct to provide habitat for native species. Disturbed habitats generally support populations of native and exotic species that are common in urban/rural

environments. Therefore the patches of remnant vegetation in the Central Precinct are not likely to support a wide range of species compared with the Regional Park which contains larger areas not subject to ongoing disturbance.

i. Grassland Habitats

The dominant fauna habitat in the Central Precinct is grassland, (Exotic and DNG). Grassland areas are of little value to native fauna, as there is little structural complexity that would provide roosting or nesting habitat for most species. Species that commonly occur in these habitats are those that are generally abundant in agricultural areas where the native vegetation has been significantly modified or removed, or they are species that typically favour foraging in grassland. Such species include birds such as the Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), Crested Pigeon (*Geophaps lophotes*), Galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), and mammals such as the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*).

ii. Woodland Habitats

The woodland communities in the Central Precinct are very limited, and are restricted to remnants occurring along the common border with the Regional Park and patches of regrowth in the middle of the precinct. These areas typically either have very little understorey vegetation remaining or a highly disturbed weedy understorey. Despite this, flowering eucalypts, paperbarks and smaller shrubs on the subject site are likely to provide some foraging resources for nectivorous mammals and birds. The Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) will feed on nectar and pollen when available (Suckling, 1995) and the Common Ring-tail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) will also feed on flowers (McKay and Ong, 1995). Birds such as honeyeaters, would also feed on the nectar resources and several bat species may also forage over or through the canopy (Churchill, 1998).

The woodlands within the Central Precinct consist of predominantly young, regrowth vegetation and therefore are relatively immature. Few trees are older than approximately 50 years, and as such, show little signs of senescence and generally lack hollows. This significantly limits the nesting habitat available for hollow-dependent fauna such as Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Galahs and Brushtail Possums. The majority of trees with potential to support hollows are located external to the Central Precinct within the Regional Park.

Extensive areas of woodland habitat occur throughout most of the Regional Park and provide sheltering, foraging, nesting and breeding habitat for most fauna that may occur within the Central Precinct. These habitats are extensive within the SMP and facilitate fauna movement within the property and between external areas of habitat. These habitats will be protected in the long term within the Regional Park.

iii. Riparian and Wetland Habitats

Riparian habitats are limited in the Central Precinct, as it contains no major drainage lines and riparian areas are highly weed infested. As with the woodland habitats, they provide very limited nesting habitat for hollow-dependent fauna due to the relatively young age of the trees but are likely to provide foraging resources for nectivorous mammals and birds.

The wetland area within the northern section of the subject site would provide habitat for common frog species such as the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) and Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peroni*) but have limited connectivity to habitat in the Regional Park. This wetland would also have limited habitat value, primarily foraging, for wetland birds due to its relatively small size.

The riparian and wetland habitats in the Regional Park on the other hand are likely to provide a significant amount of habitat for native species. The wetland dam present in the Regional Park near the southern boundary of the Western Precinct is a permanent source of water and contains significant amounts of vegetation on the edges that provide potential habitat for common wading birds and amphibians. The smaller areas of ephemeral wetlands occur in low depressions within the Regional Park would also support common frog species including the Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*) and Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peroni*).

4.3.6 Fauna Species

A wide variety of fauna species have been recorded from the SMP, and the Central Precinct, including several threatened species. A complete fauna species list for the study area is provided in Appendix C.

i. Non-Flying Mammals

The most common and conspicuous mammals across the SMP, are the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*) and Red Kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*). The animals within the SMP are not a naturally occurring population as they were introduced into the area by humans. Population numbers are dynamic but were estimated to be 2,185 animals in May 2007 across the entire SMP (Cumberland Ecology, 2007b). A large number of kangaroos occur in the Central Precinct as it provides ideal habitat. These animals are subject to a Macrofauna Management Plan (Cumberland Ecology, 2004b), which is currently being implemented across the SMP and the population has been substantially reduced or retained in particular areas since implementation of the Plan in 2005.

Three arboreal mammals have been recorded within the SMP; the Common Brush-tail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), the Common Ring-tail Possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*), and the Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*). The Common Brush-tail Possum and Sugar Glider generally occur in low numbers on the SMP which is likely to be a reflection of the lack of hollow-bearing trees. The Common Ring-tail Possum is more abundant, which is most likely due to its ability to build nests in tree foliage. One native terrestrial mammal has been recorded from the SMP; the Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*). These species are likely to be found predominantly in the Regional Park where large areas of intact woodland are present.

Several threatened mammals have been recorded within the locality (see Figure 4.5) or have potential habitat within the locality including the Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*), Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). No recent, confirmed records for these species have been obtained for the SMP, and it is

unlikely that these species occur in the Central Precinct due to the limited availability of habitat.

No koalas were detected in the Central Precinct during recent field investigations, nor were any traces of Koalas found such as scats or scratches on trees. According to members of staff who have worked on the site for many years, including Senior Development Managers of Lend Lease, there have been no formal or verified reports of Koalas made within the site. This is consistent with the findings of earlier fauna surveys by Gunninah Consultants and ERM (Gunninah, 1991, ERM, 2003).

Several introduced species have been recorded from the SMP including the European fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), cat (*Felis catus*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Brown hare (*Lepus capensis*), Black rat (*Rattus rattus*) and House mouse (*Mus musculus*). The introduced species are the subject of a Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy for the Central Precinct, which includes recommendations for their control.

ii. Bats

Numerous bat surveys have been conducted on the SMP and the species detected during these surveys are indicated in Table 4.10 below. Of the species recorded, several are listed as threatened under the TSC Act and/or the EPBC Act including; the Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), Eastern Bentwing Bat (*Miniopterus orianae* (formerly *schreibersii*) *oceanensis*), Eastern False Pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*), Greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*) and East-coast Freetail Bat (also known as the Eastern Freetail Bat) (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*). Other species with potential to occur include the Little Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*) and the Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*)

The Central Precinct does not provide suitable habitat for the Southern Myotis, as this species forages over open water for fish and insects, using its feet (OEH 2012j). However, the dam and wetland area in the south western section of the Regional Park may provide suitable habitat for this species as it contains a relatively large area of open water where it may forage. This area will be protected for conservation in the long term as it is located in the Regional Park.

The Eastern False Pipistrelle, East-coast Freetail Bat, Greater Broad-nosed Bat and Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail bat may have some limited potential roosting habitat on the Central Precinct as they are known to roost in tree hollows (OEH 2012c, 2012d, 2012e, 2012m). This kind of habitat is limited in the Central Precinct however, as the vegetation is predominantly immature regrowth. A greater number of mature trees are conserved within adjacent areas of the Regional Park. The Greater Broad-nosed Bat and Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail bat have also been known to roost in buildings but there are limited derelict buildings within the study area that may provide habitat for these species.

The Greater Broad-nosed Bat has only had a possible detection within the Regional Park, and the East-coast Freetail Bat has been detected within the Regional Park, but not within the subject site. In addition, the Eastern False Pipistrelle has only had a single possible

detection within the study area during the recent surveys. These species may forage across the Central Precinct but are not expected to rely upon the vegetation in the precinct.

The Eastern Bentwing Bat has been detected during 2011 surveys, and occurs within the study area. This species, as well as the Little Bentwing Bat utilise caves as their primary roost habitat, and have occasionally been known to utilise man-made structures (OEH 2012b, 2012h). Within the subject site, all historical man-made structures have been removed, with the exception of one large modern building in association with the former gatehouse, therefore there is little to no suitable roost habitat within the subject site. However these species may still utilise the area as a foraging resource.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) is listed as Vulnerable under both the TSC Act and the EPBC Act (OEH 2012f). This species is the largest Australian bat, and forages on the nectar, fruits and pollen of native trees, and roosts in large aggregations. The Grey-headed Flying-fox has been recorded from the locality and has the potential to forage on the SMP; however no roosting camps are present on the site. There is limited habitat present in the Central Precinct in the form of regenerating woodland. The species was not recorded during the 2011 survey period.

Unit	Date	T. au	M. no	M. sp	C. go	C. mo	F. ta	M. sc	N. sp.	S. ru	S. or	V. re	V. vu	Total Passes
1	27-Apr	C			C	C	Po	C	Po		Po		C	130
2	27-Apr	C	C	Po		C		C	P				C	46
2	28-Apr	P	C	Po	C	Po		C						62
3	27-Apr	C	C	Po	C			C				P		143
3	28-Apr	C	P	Po	C			C		Po	Po			124

Note Bat Specialist; Glenn Hoyer, who has identified the calls recorded on Anabat by Cumberland Ecology, has assigned a confidence level to each species record, depending on call quality and the ease of recognition between subspecies etc. As such, C = Confident, P = Probable and Po = Possible. Abbreviations of species names are defined in Table 4.10. Unit locations are shown in Figure 4.1.

Abbreviation	Common	Scientific	Status
T. au	White-striped Mastiff Bat	<i>Austronomus (formerly Tadarida) australis</i>	P
M. no	East-coast Freetail Bat	<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	V
M. sp	Eastern Freetail Bat	<i>Mormopterus ridei (formerly sp. 2)</i>	P
C. go	Gould's Wattled Bat	<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	P
C. mo	Chocolate Wattled Bat	<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>	P
F. ta	Eastern False Pipistrelle	<i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i>	V
M. sc	Eastern Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus oriana (formerly schreibersii) oceanensis</i>	V
N. sp.	Unidentified Long-eared Bat	<i>Nyctophilus sp.</i>	P
S. ru	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	<i>Scoteanax rueppelli</i>	V
S. or	Eastern Broad-nosed Bat	<i>Scotorepens orion</i>	P
V. re	Southern Forest Bat	<i>Vespadelus regulus</i>	P
V. vu	Little Forest Bat	<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>	P

As indicated by the results in Table 4.8 above, the entire study area is likely to provide habitat for the majority of bat species, including the subject site.

iii. Birds

Within the Central Precinct, the main habitats most suitable for birds are those associated with remnant and regrowth vegetation. However, these areas of regrowth are generally immature and structural diversity is low, thereby limiting the diversity of birds. The other dominant habitat type is open grassland which supports a low diversity of bird species. Within the disturbed grasslands and open woodland, common bird species include the Australian Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*), Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) and the Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*). These species are common in urban and rural environments and often out-compete smaller forest birds at the interface with woodland

habitats. Emus (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) are also present in the precinct within the grassland and open woodland areas. Although there are limited habitat areas for small birds, several common birds were recorded in woodland areas including the Weebill (*Smicromnis brevirostris*), Superb Fairy Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), and the Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*).

A number of bird species listed under the TSC Act and/or the EPBC Act, including migratory and non-migratory species, have been recorded from the SMP and may utilise habitats within the Central Precinct.

Migratory species that may visit the site to forage include the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*). The Swift Parrot is listed under both the TSC Act and the EPBC Act as Endangered and has been recorded from within the locality, although it has not been recorded from the SMP or the Central Precinct. This species may visit the locality as part of a broad foraging area during some years of migration, however, it is far more likely to utilise the Regional Park, which includes a greater diversity of blossoming species.

The Speckled Warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittata*) is listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act and has been recorded at the SMP in 1991 (Gunninah, 1991), and most recently in 2006 by Cumberland Ecology when it was recorded in the western area of the Regional Park. This species forages on the ground in grassy woodlands, and requires large undisturbed remnants in order to persist (OEH 2012k). The Central Precinct consists predominantly of degraded regrowth woodland. The precinct may constitute some limited potential habitat for this species, although this species is most likely to occur within parts of the Regional Park where there is sufficient shelter in the grass and shrub layers.

The Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*) is listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act and has been recorded at the SMP, specifically in the Regional Park, in August 2012 by Cumberland Ecology. This species inhabits eucalypt forests and woodlands, especially those containing rough-barked species and mature smooth-barked gums with dead branches, mallee and *Acacia* woodland (OEH 2012l). The Central Precinct consists predominantly of degraded regrowth woodland. The precinct may constitute some limited potential habitat for this species. However, this species is sedentary and is most likely to occur within parts of the Regional Park where there are sufficient mature trees and mallee habitat.

The Diamond Firetail (*Emblema guttata*) is listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act (OEH 2012a) and was recorded on the SMP in 1991 (Gunninah, 1991), however no subsequent records have been documented. The Diamond Firetail inhabits grassy eucalypt-dominated woodlands, nests in trees and bushes, and forages on the ground (Department of Sustainability, 2011). The Central Precinct consists predominantly of degraded regrowth woodland with few areas of shrubs and provides little habitat for this species. Consequently it is considered unlikely that the Diamond Firetail is present in the Central Precinct.

Other threatened aquatic birds including the endangered Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*), which has been recorded in the locality (see Figure 3.2) but not on the SMP, could potentially use the wetland associated with the dam in the south of

the study area as it holds permanent water. This area will be protected for conservation in the long-term as it is located within the Regional Park.

Threatened forest and woodland bird species recorded from the locality but not the SMP include: the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), listed as Endangered under both the EPBC Act and the TSC Act; Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*), Square-tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura*) and the Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*), all listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act. These species may forage in the study area from time to time, although this would be likely part of a much bigger foraging range, including the large reserves to the north of the study area. The SMP generally does not contain *Allocasaurina* tree species, and therefore is not likely to be suitable habitat for the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

These species are considered potentially to occur in the Central Precinct on the basis of either previous records in the locality or the occurrence of suitable habitat. If these species do occur on the SMP however, they are considered unlikely to utilise the poor quality habitats of the subject site and would be more likely to occur within the Regional Park which supports large areas of intact native vegetation. This vegetation is to be preserved.

iv. Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles that have been recorded at the SMP and that may occur within the Central Precinct include the Red-bellied Black-snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*), Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*), Bearded Dragon (*Amphibolurus barbatus*) and the Delicate Garden Skink (*Lampropholis delicata*). These species are generally common in open grassland/open woodland habitats.

No threatened reptiles have been recorded on the SMP. The Broad-headed Snake (*Hoplocephalus bungaroides*), listed as Endangered under the TSC Act and Vulnerable under the EPBC Act has been recorded from the locality, however it has not been recorded on the SMP, and is unlikely to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. This species inhabits sandstone escarpments and none are present on the SMP.

One amphibian listed as Endangered under the TSC Act and Vulnerable under the EPBC Act that has been recorded in the locality more than 20 years ago is the Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*). However, the Central Precinct contains limited areas of wetland that do not contain permanent water and this species is therefore not expected to occur in this precinct. An area of wetland occurs in the south west of the Regional Park and provides potential habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog. However, established populations of Mosquito Fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) are also present in this wetland, which are a known predator of Green and Golden Bell Frog eggs and tadpoles (DEC (NSW), 2005b). Mosquito Fish have been linked to declines in Green and Golden Bell Frog distribution and are likely to limit the suitability of the wetlands to provide habitat for this species. Furthermore, extensive past targeted surveys for this species have failed to detect it and no recent records occur in the locality. The Green and Golden Bell Frog is, therefore, not expected to occur on the SMP.

v. *Invertebrates*

One invertebrate species listed as Endangered under the TSC Act has been recorded on the SMP, the Cumberland Plain Land Snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*). This species lives under litter of bark, leaves and logs, or shelters in loose soil around grass clumps primarily within CPW but also occasionally within SGTF and the margins of RFEF (OEH 2013b)

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail has been found in many areas of CPW on the SMP and many records of the species exist in the surrounding locality. The Cumberland Plain Land Snail was recorded in the Central Precinct during targeted surveys to inform this SIS. The following figure shows the relative abundance of the Cumberland Plain Land Snail within the Subject Site (Area A) and the broader Study Area (Areas B and C).

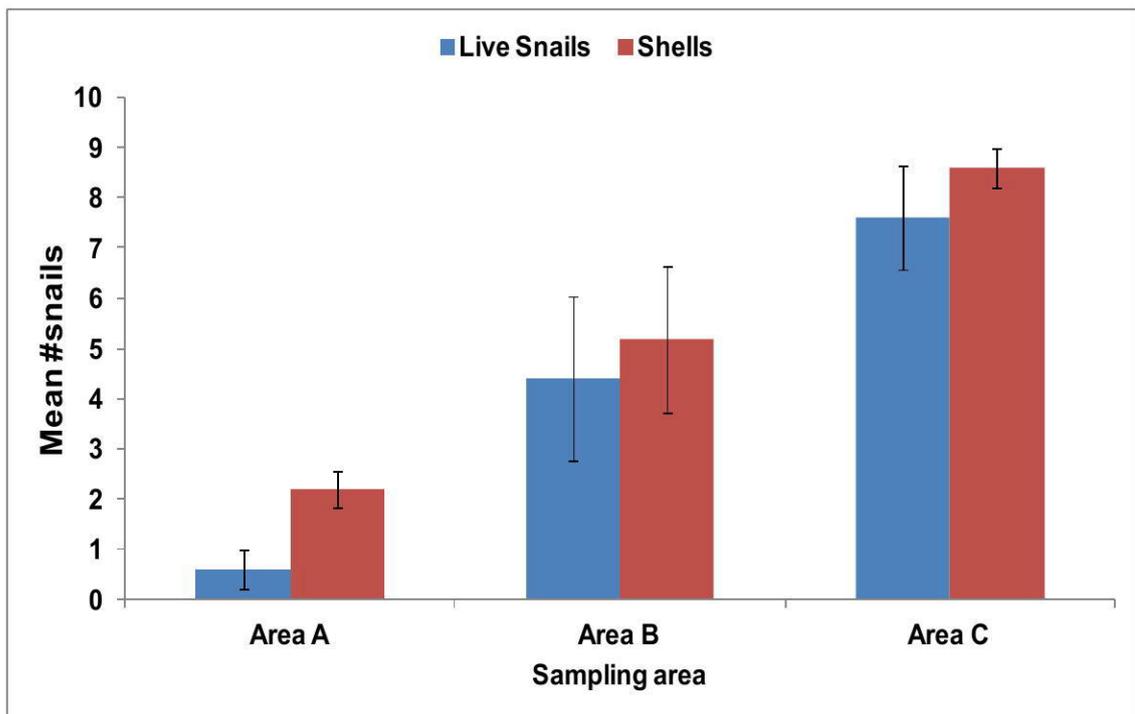


Figure 4.4 Comparative abundance of Cumberland Plain Land Snail within the subject site (Area A), regenerating Regional Park woodland (Area B) and Mature Regional Park woodland (Area C).

The graph shows that there is a relatively lower abundance of of the Cumberland Plain Land Snail within the Subject Land (Area A) than the other parts of the broader Study Area (Areas B and C). Statistical analyses confirmed that the differences in number of live snails, snail shells and total number of snails were significant between the three sampling areas (Table 4.9)

Table 4.9 Result summary of Kruskal-wallis statistical analyses indicating significant differences in numbers of snails between Areas A, B and C

	χ^2	P
Live snails	9.267	0.01
Shells	8.431	0.015
Total snails	11.616	0.003

Note: $p < 0.05$ indicates differences between groups is significant

The mature woodland area in the Regional Park (Area C) had significantly higher numbers of snails than the subject site (Area A). The regenerating woodland area (Area B) also had significantly higher total numbers than the subject site. No significant differences in numbers were found between Area B and Area C. (**Table 4.10**).

Table 4.10 Significance results of post-hoc analyses (Mann-Whitney U tests)

	A&B	A&C	B&C
Live snails	0.056	0.008	0.095
Shells	0.095	0.008	0.151
Total snails	0.008	0.008	0.056

Bold indicates significant result after reduction of α -level of significance to 0.017 following Bonferroni adjustment.

The significantly higher snail numbers in Area C shows that the species is well conserved within the mature core of the Regional Park, with strong supporting numbers in the adjoining regenerating portion of the Regional Park. The habitat occurring within the subject site is fragmented, and consists predominantly of few large remnant trees surrounded by new re-growth, and therefore it is felt that the habitat within the subject site does not constitute core or high value habitat for the species.

Threatened species recorded in the locality are listed in Table 3.1. Records of recent surveys are shown in Figure 4.5.

4.4 Habitat Corridors

The study area forms part of a broad local corridor that extends to the north of the subject site. The vegetation on the subject site is connected to vegetation in the Regional Park to the west and north and to an area zoned as “Regional Open Space” to the east. Development of the subject site will not sever connectivity between areas of existing native vegetation. To the north of the study area beyond Ninth Avenue, there are rural residential blocks comprising the suburb of Llandilo, and several patches of remnant vegetation.

4.5 Determining Affected (C)EECs/Species

Affected (C)EECs/species means those threatened species, populations and ecological communities that are likely to experience impacts from the proposal.

The SIS distinguishes between “major” and “minor” affected (C)EECs/species. Major affected (C)EECs/species are those that will definitely experience a measureable loss of habitat from the proposed development. Minor affected (C)EECs/species are those species that occur (or are considered likely to occur) in the study area and which may experience small or very minor impacts to habitat, either directly or indirectly.

The primary impact of the proposal is the reduction in potential habitat for flora and fauna within the subject site from clearing of native vegetation, including (C)EECs. The following threatened species and communities includes those that may be affected by the proposal and are therefore assessed in subsequent sections of this chapter.

This list of species provided below has been refined from the list of subject species (see Chapter 3) based on their listing in the DGRs, their known occurrence in the study area or their likelihood of occurrence. The remaining subject species listed in Chapter 3 are not analysed further as they are not considered likely to occur in the study area (based on general species distribution information) and/or are not known to utilise the habitat types of the subject area.

4.5.1 Major Affected (C)EECs/species

The major affected (C)EECs/species include those known from the subject site that will experience a loss of individuals and/or habitat from the population on the subject site and wider SMP and are assessed in detail by the SIS.

In summary, the major affected (C)EECs/species that are considered in detail within the following impact assessment chapter are:

- Cumberland Plain Woodland;
- Shale Gravel Transition Forest;
- River Flat Eucalypt Forest;
- Swamp Oak Forest;
- Freshwater Wetland;
- *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*; and
- Cumberland Plain Land Snail.

All of these (C)EECs/species occur on the subject site and will have habitat and/or individuals removed as a result of the development.

Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW)

CPW on the subject site consists of a mix of young, degraded woodland in various stages of regeneration and grassland (**Figures 4.6 and 4.7**). Scattered patches of regenerating CPW occur mainly in the central areas of the subject site. Some patches of mature CPW occur along the borders of the subject site where it adjoins the Regional Park.

Shale Gravel Transition Forest

A small area of SGTF occurs on the north-western border of the subject site where the site adjoins the Regional Park.

River Flat Eucalypt Forest

The RFEF on the subject site consists of regrowth patches in the centre sections of the site alongside SOF, Freshwater Wetlands and grassland derived from clearing of RFEF.

Swamp Oak Forest

This community occurs in patches associated with sedgeland and RFEF in the central area of the Central Precinct, and along the central western border.

Freshwater Wetland

Freshwater Wetland consisted of small patches alongside RFEF and SOF in the centre and along the south-western border of the subject site.

Flora species

- *Grevillea juniperina* subsp *juniperina*

This flora species has been recorded in the study area and occurs on the subject site (Figure 4.5).

Cumberland Plain Land Snail

This species has been recorded within mature and regenerating CPW across the entire study area (Figure 4.5). Individuals were detected within patches of CPW in the subject site and there is a high likelihood of occurrence within other patches across the subject site.

4.5.2 Minor Affected (C)EECs/species

The minor affected (C)EECs/species include:

Flora population

- *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora*: This species has been recorded in low numbers in the Regional Park, including near the south-western boundary of the Central Precinct but has not been recorded on the subject site.

Flora species

- *Pultenaea parviflora* ; and
- *Pimelea spicata*.

These flora species have been recorded in the study area but not from within or adjoining the subject site.

Fauna species

Microchiropteran Bats: East-coast Freetail Bat, Eastern False Pipistrelle, Eastern Bentwing-bat, Little Bentwing-bat, Southern Myotis, Greater Broad-nosed Bat and Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat: These microbats have either been recorded on the SMP, mostly within the study area, or have potential to occur. The habitats present on the subject site do not provide significant habitat for these species due to a lack of roosting habitat. However, they will experience a loss of foraging habitat to a relatively minor degree. For this reason, these microbats are considered to be minor affected (C)EECs/species.

Flying Fox: Grey-headed Flying-fox: As with the microbats, the subject site provides a relatively small area of foraging habitat for this species, No flying-fox camps are known to occur on or adjoining the study area.

Birds: Speckled Warbler, Varied Sittella and Diamond Firetail.

4.5.3 (C)EECs/Species that are not affected

Habitat analysis and targeted surveys have indicated that the plants *Dillwynia tenuifolia*, *Persoonia nutans* and *Micromythus minutiflora* do not appear to occur in the study area. For this reason, these plant species are not considered as affected (C)EECs/species.

Very few of the birds listed as the subject species have ever been detected on the SMP. With the exception of the three bird species listed in Section 4.5.2, none of these subject species were detected within the subject site during the current surveys of the study area. While some of these species could potentially occur within the Regional Park, they are unlikely to occur within the subject site due to lack of suitable habitat. The majority of threatened birds listed as subject species are therefore not considered as affected (C)EECs/species.

Additionally, Koalas, Spotted-tailed Quolls, Squirrel Gliders and Green and Golden Bell Frogs have not been found on the SMP, though some marginal potential habitat occurs, and the species are not considered as affected (C)EECs/species. Furthermore, the Green and Golden Bell Frog is considered likely to be extinct in this part of Western Sydney (DEC (NSW), 2005b).

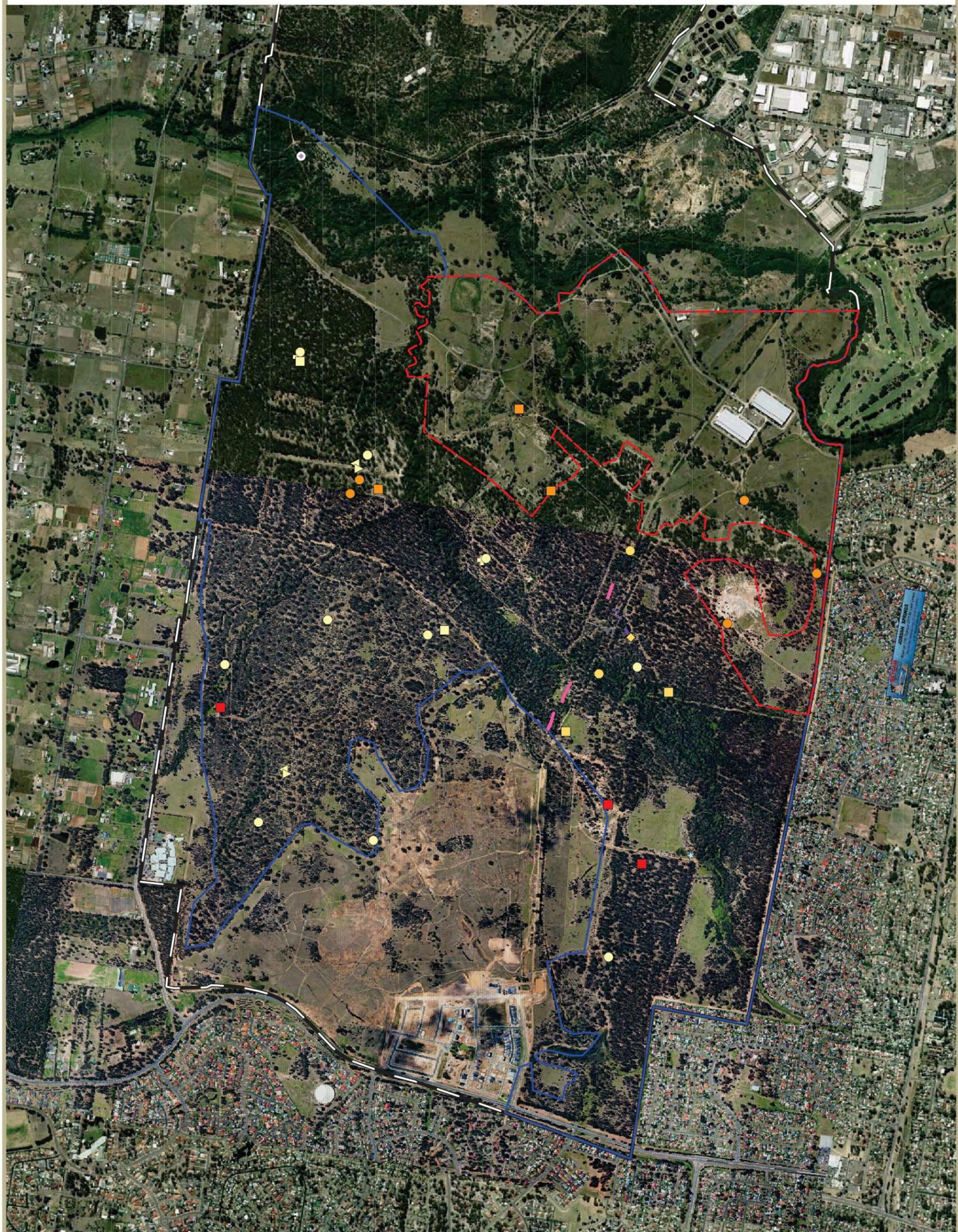


Figure 4.5. Threatened Flora and Fauna Recorded in the Study Area

Legend

- St Marys Property Boundary
- Subject Site
- Study Area

Threatened Flora
2013 Records

- Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*

2012 Records

- Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*
- Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*
- Pultenea parviflora*

2011 Records

- Pultenea parviflora*
- Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*

2009 Records

- Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*

2005 Incidental Records

- Marsdenia viridifolia*

2004 Incidental Records

- Pimelea spicata*

Threatened Fauna
2013 Records

- Cumberland Plain Land Snail

2012 Records

- Cumberland Plain Land Snail
- Varied Stitella

2011 records

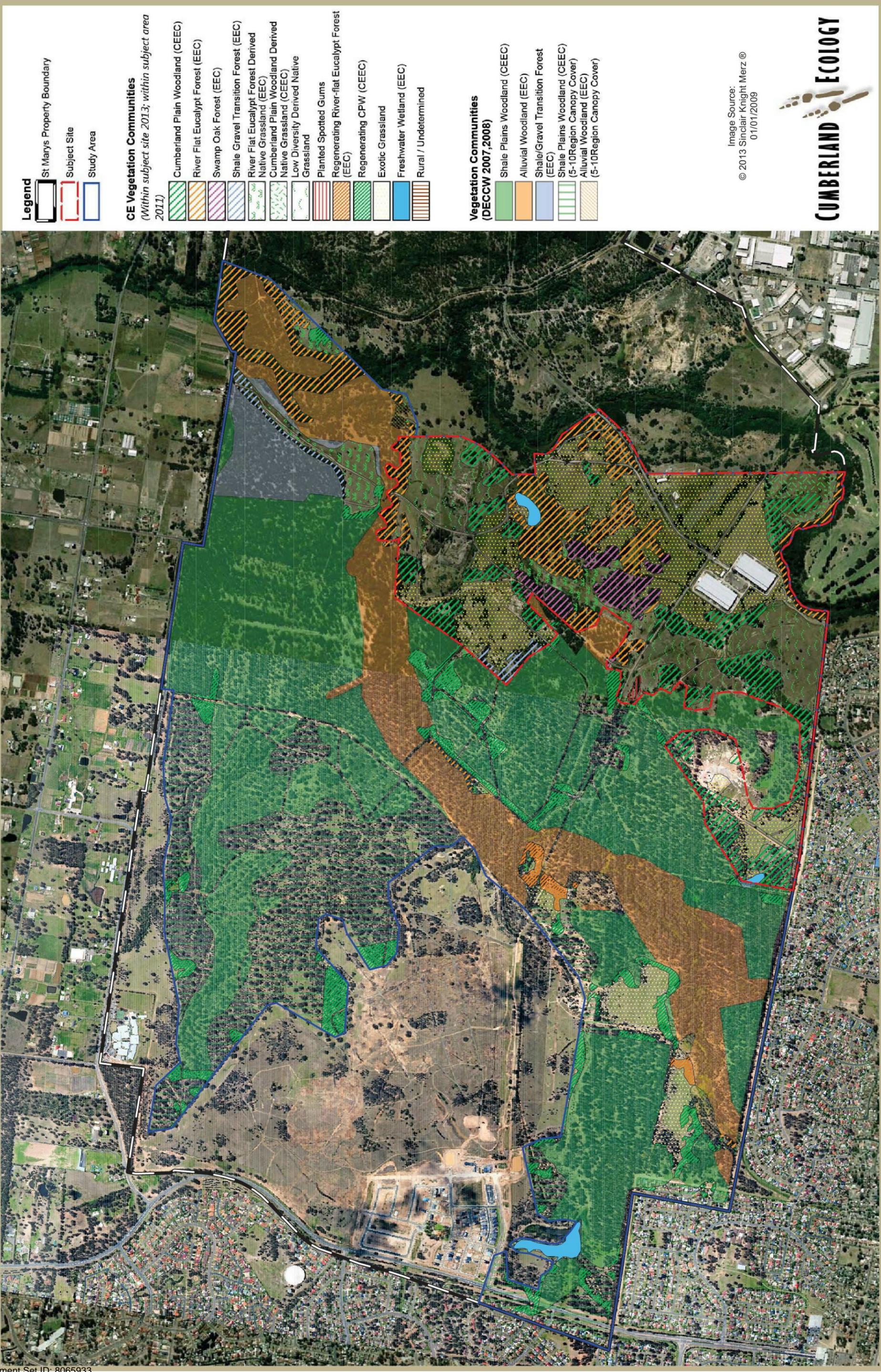
- Cumberland Plain Land Snail
- Eastern Bent-wing Bat
- East Freetail Bat

2005 Indicative record

- Speckled Warbler

Image Source:
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Legend

- St Marys Property Boundary
- Subject Site
- Study Area

CE Vegetation Communities
(Within subject site 2013; within subject area 2011)

- Cumberland Plain Woodland (CEEC)
- River Flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC)
- Swamp Oak Forest (EEC)
- Shale Gravel Transition Forest (EEC)
- River Flat Eucalypt Forest Derived Native Grassland (EEC)
- Cumberland Plain Woodland Derived Native Grassland (CEEC)
- Low Diversity Derived Native Grassland
- Planted Spotted Gums
- Regenerating River-flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC)
- Regenerating CPW (CEEC)
- Exotic Grassland
- Freshwater Wetland (EEC)
- Rural / Undetermined

Vegetation Communities (DECCW 2007, 2008)

- Shale Plains Woodland (CEEC)
- Alluvial Woodland (EEC)
- Shale/Gravel Transition Forest (EEC)
- Shale Plains Woodland (CEEC) (5-10Region Canopy Cover)
- Alluvial Woodland (EEC) (5-10Region Canopy Cover)

Image Source:
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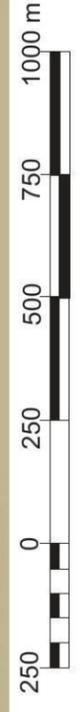
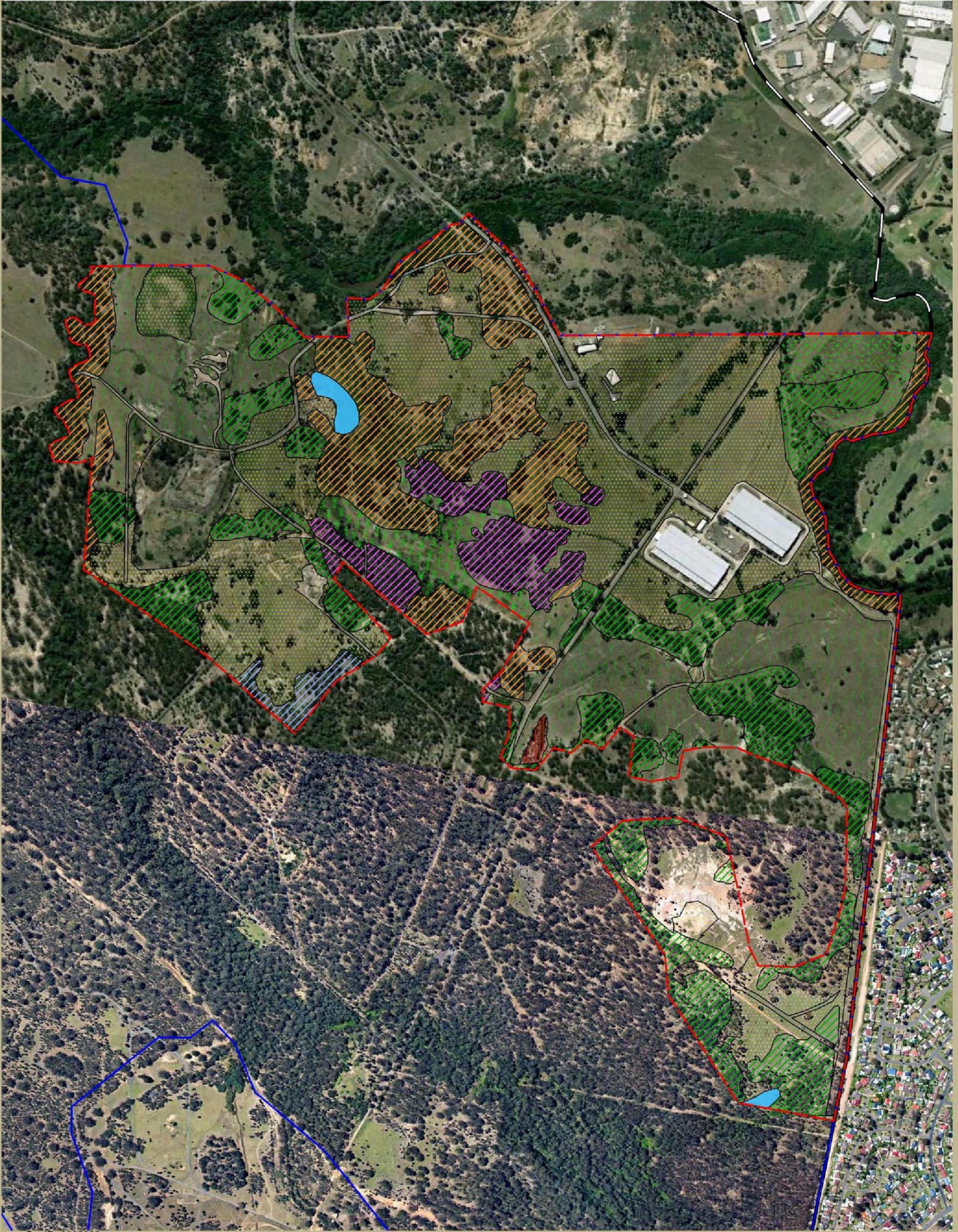


Figure 4.6. Vegetation of the Study Area



- Legend**
- St Marys Property Boundary
 - Subject Site
 - Study Area
- CE Vegetation Communities (2013)**
- Cumberland Plain Woodland (CCEEC)
 - River Flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC)
 - Swamp Oak Forest (EEC)
 - Shale Gravel Transition Forest (EEC)
 - River Flat Eucalypt Forest Derived Native Grassland (EEC)
 - Cumberland Plain Woodland Derived Native Grassland (CCEEC)
 - Low Diversity Derived Native Grassland
 - Planted Spotted Gums
 - Freshwater Wetland
 - Exotic Grassland

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Figure 4.7. Vegetation of the Subject Site

Impact Assessment

This chapter addresses the impacts to species, populations and C/EECs in order to address DGR Sections 5 and Section 6. The following summary of impact provides an indication of general impacts of the proposal and future proposals within the subject site and Central Precinct development area.

5.1 Assessment of Likely Impacts

5.1.1 Direct Impacts of Development

i. Vegetation communities

The proposed development will occur within a landscape that has been extensively altered since European settlement took place. The CPW vegetation on the subject site consists of a mix of young, degraded woodland in various stages of regeneration and derived native grassland which collectively conforms to the critically endangered listing under the TSC Act. Areas of SGTF, RFEF, SOF and Freshwater Wetlands which conform to their individual listings as EECs will also be cleared. The areas of these vegetation communities to be removed from the subject site as part of the proposed development are shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Vegetation Communities Removed from Subject Site

Vegetation Communities occurring within the Subject Site	Vegetation to be removed within the Subject Site (ha)
Cumberland Plain Woodland (CEEC)	30.13
CPW Derived Native Grassland (CEEC)	4.18
CPW Low diversity Derived Native Grassland (CEEC)	31.07
Shale-Gravel Transition Forest (EEC)	1.61
River-flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC)	24.09
RFEF Derived Native Grassland (EEC)	4.42
Swamp Oak Forest (EEC)	7.53
Freshwater Wetland (EEC)	0.92
Exotic Grassland	53.88

Table 5.1 Vegetation Communities Removed from Subject Site

Vegetation Communities occurring within the Subject Site	Vegetation to be removed within the Subject Site (ha)
Planted trees	0.36
TOTAL VEGETATION	158.18

ii. *Threatened species*

The clearing of vegetation within the subject site will directly remove habitat for threatened species such as the Cumberland Plain Land Snail and *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*.

Individuals of *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina* were recorded in patches of SGTF and CPW along the north-western edge of the Central Precinct where the subject site adjoins the Regional Park. A number of individuals will be lost through clearing of these vegetation patches. However, the species is locally abundant within the Regional Park and loss of individuals on the fringes of the regional park will not significantly place the local population at risk of extinction.

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail was recorded within CPW in the south-western portions of the subject site during surveys and has some potential to occur within the young, regenerating CPW patches within the rest of the subject site. Several individuals are likely to be removed given that CPW habitat is to be cleared.

Some highly mobile fauna species such as microbats, and some small woodland birds that are known from the study area may experience minor habitat loss, however, the subject site, and Central Precinct as a whole, generally lack important habitat features, such as hollow-bearing trees. This paucity of habitat features suggests that it would be unlikely for these species to be dependent on the habitats present. The Regional Park also provides substantial habitat for these species.

Extensive mitigation measures will be implemented across the Central Precinct to minimise the impacts from development. Foremost amongst these is the 900 hectare Regional Park, which will conserve substantial habitat for all known species of threatened flora and fauna that have been recorded previously on the SMP. Areas of CPW within the Regional Park, that are disturbed for minor drainage works associated with the current Subject Site will be rehabilitated following the construction of these works. Such mitigation measures are discussed further in Chapter 7.

5.1.2 Indirect Impacts

i. *Subject site*

The proposed development includes importation and compaction of approximately 1.8 cubic metres of 'clean fill' across the site and will involve creation of stockpiles and will also involve

areas for ancillary works and other disturbance such as battering. There is also the potential for indirect effects, such as alteration of drainage patterns, sediment run-off and spread of weeds, to impact on native vegetation in this area.

Most of the regenerating CPW on the subject site occurs mainly in the central area. The more mature CPW occurs along the west to south-west sections of the subject site and extends into the adjoining Regional Park.

The quality of the vegetation areas greatly improves in the Regional Park. The removal of the degraded edges of these patches of CPW within the subject site also has the potential to indirectly impact on adjacent CPW through the increase of edge effects and weed invasion on the adjoining Regional Park. These indirect impacts also have the potential to affect the wetlands present in areas of the Regional Park adjacent to the subject site. However, such potential indirect impacts will be minimised through the implementation of comprehensive mitigation measures, as described in Chapter 7 and detailed in the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment (Cumberland Ecology 2008a).

Site specific mitigation measures for the protection of (C)EEC vegetation should include strict sediment control measures to prevent runoff of sediment and fill into adjacent areas. Mitigation measures should also include the continued mowing of a buffered edge between the development areas and the Regional Park. The mowing itself appears to favour the establishment of native grass and herb species (as was found in the Western Precinct, where native grassland occurs in the mown APZ) and removes woody weeds. Trees should be retained wherever practicable and the use of fertilisers avoided at the perimeter of the Regional Park. In combination with the comprehensive mitigation measures for the SMP, it is considered that minimal indirect impacts from sediment run-off and weed invasion are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development.

The creek in the centre of the Central Precinct is proposed to be re-aligned to facilitate the filling and development of the land. The re-alignment will alter the hydrology within the subject site and has the potential to indirectly impact on vegetation communities, in particular RFEF and SOF, in the neighbouring Regional Park due to changes in drainage. However the creek will be re-aligned in line with NSW Office of Water guidelines for 1st order streams/rivers and will drain from the site at essentially the same location as the existing creek currently drains. Current modelling assessments predict minimal impact to the water levels in mainstream creeks adjacent to the subject site in typical day to day wet weather and climatic conditions (SKM, pers comm via Glyn Richards, Lend Lease; Feb 2014). While there may be some changes in flood levels for the 1:100 year events, these are predicted to occur for a short period of time based on the nature of the flood plain. It is therefore considered that minimal indirect impacts from alteration in drainage patterns are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development.

5.2 Assessment of Critically Endangered and Endangered Ecological Communities and Species Likely to be Affected

Major affected (C)EECs/species are those known from the subject site that will experience a loss of individuals and/or a measureable loss of habitat as a result of the development. These are assessed in detail in the sections below and include:

- Cumberland Plain Woodland;
- Shale Gravel Transition Forest;
- River Flat Eucalypt Forest;
- Swamp Oak Forest;
- Freshwater Wetland;
- *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*; and
- Cumberland Plain Land Snail.

Minor affected (C)EECs/species are those that occur or are considered likely to occur in the study area and which may experience small or very minor impacts to habitat. Minor affected species are not considered in detail in the following sections. Habitat descriptions are provided for these species in Table 3.1 and impacts to these species are considered more in terms of impacts to their habitats/potential habitats.

5.2.1 *Cumberland Plain Woodland*

The NSW Scientific Committee made a final determination on the 18th December 2009 to list Cumberland Plain Woodland as 'critically endangered' under the TSC Act. The state listing includes derived native grasslands where they contain characteristic native non-woody species (NSW Scientific Committee, 2009). It does not state minimum condition thresholds, patch size or project foliage cover requirements for Cumberland Plain Woodland or derived native grasslands.

Most of this community had been heavily cleared on the SMP and is in various stages of regeneration in the study area. Cumberland Plain Woodland would have covered large areas of the subject site and study area prior to historical clearing for grazing, based on the soils and ground cover species present. Although no strict definition of derived native grasslands is provided in the final determination, generally this term refers to areas of native vegetation where the tree and shrub layers have been removed, leaving a herbaceous ground cover layer.

A total of 65.38 ha of this community in the form of 30.13 ha of mature and regenerating CPW, 4.18 ha of DNG and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG, will be removed from the subject site.

5.2.2 Shale Gravel Transition Forest

Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion is an EEC listed under the TSC Act.

SGTF mainly occurs in the eastern sections of the SMP with scattered occurrences in the central and western sections. This community occurs in various stages of regeneration and intergrades with CPW in the western parts of the SMP. The community within the subject site has a low abundance of weed species, is dominated by native species in all strata, and has a diverse native shrub layer.

A total of 1.61 ha of this community will be removed from the subject site.

5.2.3 River-flat Eucalypt Forest

River-flat Eucalypt Forest on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions is an EEC listed under the TSC Act. In the Sydney Basin bioregion this community replaces the former EEC Sydney Coastal River-flat Forest.

The patches of this community in the Central Precinct are regenerating after previous disturbances. While native species are present in each stratum and in viable condition, it contains some significant weed development in the understorey.

A total of 28.51 ha of this community in the form of 24.09 ha of mature and regenerating RFEF and 4.42 ha of DNG will be removed from the subject site.

5.2.4 Swamp Oak Forest

Swamp oak floodplain forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions is an EEC listed under the TSC Act. It occurs in the Central Precinct in the central area of the site. It occurs with a mostly exotic shrub layer and a sparse ground storey with high levels of weed infestation, though retaining some diversity of native herbs and grasses.

A total of 7.53 ha of this community will be removed from the subject site.

5.2.5 Freshwater Wetlands

Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions is an EEC listed under the TSC Act. In the Central Precinct it occurs in two small patches.. These patches occur in lower lying areas, mostly in artificial scrapings on the subject site, and although dominated by native sedges have many exotic weed species present.

A total of 0.92 ha of this community will be removed from the subject site.

5.2.6 *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina (Juniper-leaved Grevillea)*

This plant is a broadly spreading shrub which grows up to 2.5 metres. The leaves are bright green, small (up to 22 mm long), narrow, prickly and clustered along short branches. Flowers are red, pink, yellow, pale orange or greenish measuring between 2.5 and 3.5 cm. Flowers are “spider-like” in appearance.

This species has been recorded on the subject site and it is estimated that a total of 530 individuals occur within the subject site compared to the 249,000 (minimum) that are estimated to occur within the Regional Park.

5.2.7 *Cumberland Plain Land Snail*

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail is superficially similar to the exotic Garden Snail. The shell is between 25 mm and 30 mm in size and while it may be almost any shade of brown, it is always uniform in colour. The Cumberland Plain Land Snail has a more flattened shell that is very thin and fragile, compared with the thick shell of the Garden Snail. It primarily occurs in Cumberland Plain Woodland, which is a grassy open woodland with occasional dense patches of shrubs (DEC (NSW), 2005a).

This species has been recorded on the subject site and is estimated to occur in a low density in the Central Precinct, likely due to the regenerating form of CPW present which generally lacks significant leaf litter and debris due to the young age of most trees present. However, the habitat for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail within the subject site is of low quality and greater numbers of snails occur in the higher quality habitat present in the Regional Park (Fig 4.4).

5.3 Description of Habitat

The assessment of habitat for the communities described below also provides an assessment for affected (C)EECs/species occurring or potentially occurring within the vegetation communities on the subject site. Areas of different vegetation communities, and thus habitat for flora and fauna species, conserved within the Regional Park are provided in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2 Comparative areas of Vegetation Communities to be removed from the subject site and conserved within the Regional Park

Vegetation Community	Subject Site (ha)	Regional Park (ha)
Cumberland Plain Woodland (as mature CPW, regenerating CPW and DNG)	65.38	458
Shale Gravel Transition Forest	1.61	55.8
Alluvial Woodland (as mature and regenerating River Flat Eucalypt Forest/Swamp Oak Forest)	36.04	265
Freshwater Wetland	0.92	2

5.3.1 *Cumberland Plain Woodland*

Threatened birds, in particular small woodland birds including Speckled Warbler, Diamond Firetail, Hooded Robin, Varied Sittella and Scarlet Robin utilise this open woodland habitat type, are known from the SMP and are likely to occur in the study area. However, these species generally require large undisturbed remnants in order to persist. Therefore the sparse and fragmented woodland patches present in the subject site are not likely to represent suitable habitat and these species are more likely to be associated with the intact CPW in the Regional Park, where the records are from.

Likewise with microbats and the Grey-headed Flying-fox, the CPW present on the subject site provides some foraging resources, although only as part of a larger habitat matrix including the Regional Park. Roosting habitat is not readily available for microbats in the study area, as hollow-bearing trees are very uncommon and few buildings remain for cave/building roosting bats. No Flying-fox camps are known from the study area, with the closest being at Cabramatta Creek.

i. Habitat in the study area

a. Type

In the study area CPW occurs in the Shale Plains Woodland (SPW) form, as referred to in Chapter 2. Its habitat is in gently undulating areas of the Cumberland Plain, in the driest areas of Sydney, receiving less than 800mm of rain a year (Benson and Howell, 1990). It occurs on Wianamatta shales, some Holocene alluvium and occasionally Mittagong formation, Tertiary alluvium, Hawkesbury sandstone and Aeolian deposits (Tozer, 2003). Description of the vegetation present in this community is provided in Section 4.2.4 (i).

Within the study area, the habitat for CPW and associated fauna species exists as larger tracts of mature woodland, which provides more connective habitat and structured woodland.

b. Size

The total area of CPW within the subject site equals 65.37 ha and includes 30.13 ha of young, regenerating CPW, 4.18 ha of Derived Native Grassland (DNG) and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG. This compares with a total of 756.2ha of core and support for core habitat throughout the SMP, including CPW in the Regional Park, within areas listed on the Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Commission, 1999) and in open space areas. Throughout Western Sydney, 6745 (± 968)ha of CPW in the form of Shale Plains Woodland existed in 1997 (Tozer, 2003).

The study area was determined as including the adjoining areas of the Regional Park in order to comprehensively address any potential indirect impacts to proximate habitat. and totals approximately 410ha of CPW.

c. Condition

Previous assessments of the Central Precinct have classified grasslands with greater than 50% native groundcover abundance as being CPW derived native grassland whereas areas with less than 50% native cover abundance (or greater than 50% exotic cover abundance) were not classified as being part of the CEEC. The detailed assessment of floristic data prepared for a previous SIS within the SMP, in the area of the Western Precinct has involved the comparison of quadrats at both ends of the spectrum of native and low diversity grassland using statistical analysis with are comparable to those of the Central Precinct.

The analysis indicates that although the low diversity grasslands of the Central Precinct are unlikely to regenerate to woodland naturally, due to the historical disturbance experienced, they exhibit many of the native herb and grass species characteristic of CPW. Areas supporting grasslands in the Central Precinct, observed to contain a higher diversity of native herbs and grasses, correlated with the area of the Precinct where disturbance was historically less. These areas would be more likely to regenerate to woodland over time. This can be seen in similarity of exotic to native diversity levels between Areas B & C which supports the fact that Area B has the potential to regenerate to a condition similar to that of Area C. In contrast, this is not observed in the exotic to native diversity levels within Area A.

Visual observations further support this, as very limited areas of woodland have regenerated throughout much of the Central Precinct, despite the removal of grazing and several years of high rainfall, and generally good conditions for plant growth.

Mature CPW within the Regional Park was identified as being in much better condition than the CPW in the Central Precinct and on the subject site. Despite the presence of some dominant weeds, namely Paddys Lucerne and Fireweed, a higher diversity of native groundcover species, particularly herbs and grasses were consistently recorded within the Regional Park. The overall condition of CPW in the study area was determined to be high.

ii. *Habitat in the locality*

Mature and regenerating CPW occurs throughout much of the locality as the SMP is well within the natural extent of this community, and not at the edge of its distribution. The majority of habitat is sparsely distributed and dissected by rural/residential developed across western, south western and parts of northern Sydney. In the study area, similar regenerating CPW occurs between rural lands to the north and links with a very large block of habitat in the Air Services Australian Defence land. The Air Services site exists as a very large block of high quality mature CPW and forms part of a major corridor of CPW habitat to the north linking with several National Parks and Nature Reserves.

iii. *Distribution of similar habitats in the region*

Known areas of CPW within the region occur at Scheyville National Park, Windsor Downs Nature Reserve, Leacock Regional Park and Mulgoa Nature Reserve (NSW NPWS, 2001a) and also at Nelsons Ridge and Prospect Reservoir. In proximate sites to the study area, it is represented in Shanes Park and in other bushland remnants of Penrith and adjoining Blacktown Local Government Area, such as Prospect Reservoir, Nurragingy Reserve and

intergrading with River Flat Eucalypt Forest at Bells and Eastern Creek (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail has been found within the region at Scheyville National Park, Agnes Banks Nature Reserve, Castlereagh Nature Reserve, Windsor Downs Nature Reserve and in Gulguer Nature Reserve. Most occurrences, however, are not from conserved areas (NSW NPWS, 2000b). The species occurs in CPW and in Castlereagh Woodlands in Western Sydney and therefore is likely to occur at Shanes Park, to the north east of the SMP, Prospect Reservoir, Marsden Park, Nurragingy Reserve, the Regional Park on the SMP and in other smaller bushland remnants throughout the region (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

This is further supported by the following three documents prepared by the NSW Government:

- Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan (DECCW 2011);
- Draft EPBC Act Strategic Assessment Report for the Sydney Growth Centres Program (NSW Department of Planning, 2010); and
- Report on the methodology for identifying priority conservation lands on the Cumberland Plain (DECCW, 2010).

Importantly, the latter two of the studies listed above identify the SMP Regional Park as a Priority Area/Priority Conservation Lands for the management and recovery of the Cumberland Plain.

iv. Condition of similar habitat in the region

Condition of similar habitat within the region is likely to vary with disturbance history and human accessibility.

Castlereagh Nature Reserve, Windsor Downs Nature Reserve and Scheyville National Park all contain CPW and are assumed to be managed to provide good condition habitat for CPW and for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail.

Prospect Reservoir contains a large area of regrowth CPW. The area was grazed prior to becoming a reservoir and grazing was continued but increasingly restricted until the 1970s. Much of the vegetation has only regenerated since grazing ceased (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

Shanes Park, adjacent to the corner of the north and north eastern boundaries of the SMP, contains the second largest intact remnant of CPW (NSW NPWS, 1997a). This remnant is a central area of core habitat in Blacktown LGA, with the potential to form corridors to other bushland remnants throughout the LGA.

Nurragingy Reserve contains some CPW of varying condition. Better condition CPW is contained in areas of the reserve only used for passive recreation (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

v. *National distribution*

Cumberland Plain Woodland is only found on the Cumberland Plain of Western Sydney, in the LGAs of Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith and Wollondilly (NSW Scientific Committee, 1997b).

5.3.2 Shale Gravel Transition Forest

SGTF present on the subject site has similar habitat values for threatened birds, microbats and the Grey-headed flying fox as CPW present on the subject site and these threatened species are far more likely to occur within the better quality woodland habitats of the Regional Park.

The SGTF community within the subject site supports a healthy population of the threatened plant species *Grevillea juniperina ssp juniperina*. This species however is well represented in large numbers in areas with similar soil composition within the Regional Park.

i. *Habitat in the study area*

a. Type

SGTF is found in the north-western area of the subject site near the border with the Regional Park. It occurs on clay soils with a high concentration of iron-indurated gravel, derived mainly from Tertiary Alluvium in areas where average annual rainfall varies from 750 – 950 mm (Tozer 2010). The SGTF community within the subject site has a significant number of weeds but is generally in good condition. A description of the vegetation present in this community is provided in Section 4.2.4 (ii).

Within the study area, the habitat for SGTF and associated fauna species exists as a large patch of mature woodland in the north to north-east boundary, which provides more connective habitat and structured woodland. The patch within the subject site is likely to provide an extension of habitat for woodland bird species that occur within the Regional Park.

b. Size

A very small area, totalling 1.61ha of SGTF occurs within the subject site. This compares with a total of approximately 56 ha of core and support for core habitat in the Regional Park, within areas listed on the Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Commission, 1999). Throughout Western Sydney, 1721 (± 170)ha of SGTF existed in 1997 (Tozer, 2003).

c. Condition

This community in the Central Precinct is in good condition with only a low abundance of weed coverage and species. The patch of the community within the Central Precinct is in good condition and is dominated in all strata by native species. The shrub layer is particularly diverse when compared with the majority of the vegetation remaining on the subject site. The

canopy has a percentage foliage cover of 40% and a height of 12-20m of trees. It is dominated by *Eucalyptus fibrosa* although co-occurring are *Eucalyptus crebra* (Narrow-leaf Ironbark), *Angophora floribunda*, and *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box), The native shrub layer is dominated by *Bursaria spinosa* and the threatened species *Grevillea juniperina subsp. juniperina*. Prominent exotic weeds include *Lantana camara*, *Olea europa subsp. europa*, *Ligustrum sinense*, *Senecio madagascariensis*, and *Sida rhombifolia*.

ii. *Habitat in the locality*

Within the SMP a further 55.8ha of this community occurs. This community is common but fragmented within the locality of the subject site. The largest remaining unfragmented area of SGTF in the locality is immediately to the north-west of the Regional Park in an area owned by the Federal Government called Shanes Park.

iii. *Distribution of similar habitats in the region*

This community is known to occur within the Richmond, Marsden Park, and Windsor districts within the north area of the Cumberland Plain. It also occurs in the Liverpool/Holsworthy areas and to a small extent in Bankstown, Yennora, and Villawood. There are also isolated remnants in the Wallacia/Kemps Creek area.

iv. *Condition of similar habitat in the region*

Only approximately 31.7% of this community remains in reasonable condition, with only 3% currently protected in reserves. It can be found in Agnes Banks Conservation Reserve, Scheyville National Park, Castlereagh Nature Reserve,, and Windsor Downs Nature Reserve. A further 29% of this community remains present as scattered trees only.

v. *National distribution*

SGTF is restricted to the Sydney Basin Bioregion and occurs or has been known to occur in the Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith Local Government Areas.

5.3.3 River-flat Eucalypt Forest

Patches of RFEF occur in the central area and along the northern boundary of the Central Precinct area. This riparian community represents foraging habitat for microbats, particularly for the fishing bat; Southern Myotis. RFEF within the Central Precinct is not connected with any permanent water bodies so is unlikely to provide habitat for Black Bittern. Small woodland birds may use this woodland for shelter as part of a matrix of woodland and forest habitats in the study area.

i. *Habitat in the study area*

a. Type

RFEF is found on coastal floodplains and has a tall canopy of eucalypts. The most widespread canopy trees include *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. amplifolia*, *Angophora floribunda* and *A. subvelutina*. It may have a layer of small trees and a scattering of shrubs. The ground cover consists of abundant forbs, scramblers and grasses. RFEF occurs on alluvial soils on river-flats of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions. A description of the vegetation present in this community is provided in Section 4.2.4 (iii).

Within the study area, the habitat for RFEF and associated fauna species exists as larger tracts of mature woodland, which provides more connective habitat and structured woodland. RFEF within the study area intergrades with Swamp Oak Forest community to form a broader Alluvial Woodland community.

b. Size

RFEF occurs patchily in the centre of the subject site and along the northern boundary of the subject site, A total of approximately 28.5 ha of RFEF, consisting of 24.09 ha of young, regenerating woodland/forest and 4.42 ha of derived native grassland areas, will be removed..This compares with a total of 217.7ha of Alluvial Woodland included in the Regional Park, within areas listed on the Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Commission, 1999) and in open space areas. Throughout Western Sydney, 4698 (± 903)ha of Alluvial Woodland existed in 1997 (Tozer, 2003).

c. Condition

The patches of RFEF on the subject site consist of young vegetation at various stages of regeneration..The canopy exhibits past disturbance and is dominated by *Angophora floribunda* in some areas, and *Eucalyptus amplifolia* in others. It also contains *Casuarina glauca* and may have once fitted into the definition of the Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest EEC. The canopy height is 12-18m and projective foliage cover (PFC) 30% which is very open for this forest community.

Weeds are present, including *Ligustrum sinense* (Small-leaved Privet) and heavy understorey infestations of *Eragrostis curvula* in some areas..

ii. *Habitat in the locality*

Major watercourses in the study area and locality contain Alluvial Woodland (as RFEF), including Ropes Creek and South Creek. These first order streams are well vegetated in parts of their range, although significant weed invasion is present throughout. This community grades into several floodplain EECs including Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, which is known to be present in the locality and on the subject site.

iii. Distribution of similar habitats in the region

Larger corridors of Alluvial Woodland occur within the study area and the SMP. Most of these areas will be conserved within the Regional Park. Small areas of RFEF occur at Cattai National Park, Dharug National Park, Georges River National Park, Scheyville National Park, Gulguer Nature Reserve, Mulgoa Nature Reserve and Marramarra National Park (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004I). In proximate sites to the study area, it is represented in the SMP Regional Park, RAAF land at Orchard Hills, Rickabys Creek, Mulgoa Creek, South Creek, Prospect Reservoir, Nurragingy Reserve and at Bells Creek, near Townson Rd (NSW NPWS, 1997a, NSW NPWS, 1997b).

iv. Condition of similar habitat in the region

Condition of similar habitat within the region is likely to vary with disturbance history and human accessibility.

Cattai National Park, Dharug National Park, Georges River National Park, Scheyville National Park, Gulguer Nature Reserve, Mulgoa Nature Reserve and Marramarra National Park all contain RFEF (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004I). It is assumed that these Nature Reserves and National Parks are managed to provide and maintain RFEF in good condition.

Prospect Reservoir contains an area of regrowth RFEF. The area was grazed prior to becoming a reservoir and grazing was continued but increasingly restricted until the 1970s. Much of the vegetation has only regenerated since grazing ceased. Riparian habitats for RFEF are degraded due to weed invasion (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

Nurragingy Reserve contains some RFEF of varying condition. RFEF is degraded in areas of unlimited pedestrian access. Weed invasion has also led to the degradation of this RFEF (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

RAAF land at Orchard Hills contains good condition riparian areas of RFEF but this is under Defence ownership (NSW NPWS, 1997b).

RFEF along Rickabys Creek has been impacted by clearing for development and has been degraded by rubbish dumping and use of trail bikes in the area. Road construction has also damaged this bushland remnant (NSW NPWS, 1997b).

RFEF along Mulgoa Creek has been subject to poor land management and the negative effects of agriculture in the area. It has also been degraded by weed invasion (NSW NPWS, 1997b).

The corridor of RFEF along South Creek varies in condition; with good condition RFEF occurring in the central section of the Regional Park. Southern sections of this creek have been affected by clearing for agriculture and weed invasion (NSW NPWS, 1997b).

An area of RFEF along Bells Creek, near Townson Rd is currently threatened by grazing and has been subject to weed invasion (NSW NPWS, 1997a).

v. *National distribution*

RFEF is known from parts of the Local Government Areas of Port Stephens, Maitland, Singleton, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Wyong, Gosford, Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Parramatta, Penrith, Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool, Bankstown, Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown, Sutherland, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Palerang, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley but may occur elsewhere in these bioregions (DEC (NSW), 2005j).

5.3.4 Swamp Oak Forest

SOF exists in the central region of the subject site and intergrades with sedgeland and RFEF in the lower lying areas of the site. This community is considered to be poor habitat for water birds and the Southern Myotis. However the community provides limited foraging habitat for birds such as the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*), and the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathamii*) as well as for the threatened Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*). Several species of frogs in the families Myobatrachidae (southern frogs) and Hylidae (tree frogs) may occur within this community.

i. *Habitat in the study area*

a. Type

SOF occurs in on waterlogged or periodically inundated flats, drainage lines, lake margins and estuarine fringes associated with coastal floodplains in areas where the groundwater is saline or sub-saline. The dominant canopy species is *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak) associated with *Melaleuca spp.* (paperbarks). A description of the vegetation present in this community is provided in Section 4.2.4 (iv).

SOF has been specifically mapped as a distinct community only in the area of the Central Precinct within the SMP. Within the broader study area, it occurs as part of a riparian mosaic with RFEF in areas classified as Alluvial Woodland.

b. Size

A total of 7.53 ha of SOF occurs within the subject site. This compares with a total of 217.7ha of Alluvial Woodland included in the Regional Park, within areas listed on the Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Commission, 1999) and in open space areas. Throughout Western Sydney, 4698 (±903) ha of Alluvial Woodland existed in 1997 (Tozer, 2003).

c. Condition

The community within the Central Precinct is in a highly degraded condition due to heavy levels of weed infestation. A shrub layer, which is often absent in the community in a natural state, is present in the form of exotic weeds such as *Ligustrum sinense*, *Ligustrum lucidum*, *Grevillea robusta*, and *Cestrum parqui* and exotic vine species such as *Araujia sericifera* (Moth Vine), and *Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper). Native ground cover diversity is

low within these patches, with the exception of the grass *Microlaena stipoides* which is dominant in some areas. Other areas are dominated by exotic weeds such as *Solanum pseudocapsicum*.

ii. *Habitat in the locality*

Alluvial Woodland, which consists of SOF and RFEF, exists as narrow bands throughout the locality as narrow bands of vegetation along water courses. The largest patches of this community in the locality are conserved within the Regional Park on the SMP, with these patches extending along Ropes Creeek and Wianamatta Creek, north and south from the Regional Park as narrow bands of remnant trees through the suburbs of Llandilo, Shanes Park, Werrington County, and Ropes Crossing. Other remant strips occur to the west of the SMP along the Nepean River and further north from the SMP in Londonderry along Rickaby's Creek

iii. *Distribution of similar habitats in the region*

Larger corridors of Alluvial Woodland occur within the study area and the SMP. Most of these areas will be conserved within the Regional Park. This community is known to occur in the following LGAs within Sydney: Pittwater, Warringah, Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Lane Cove, Blacktown, Auburn, Parramatta, Canada Bay, Rockdale, Kogarah, Sutherland, Penrith, Fairfield, Liverpool, Bankstown, Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown,

iv. *Condition of similar habitat in the region*

Swamp Oak Woodland is affected by exotic weed invasion throughout the entirety of its range. Stands of the community that are unaffected by weed invasion as the community existed prior to European colonisation are extremely rare.

v. *National distribution*

Outside of the Sydney area this community occurs in the following LGAs: Tweed, Byron, Lismore, Ballina, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca, Kempsey, Hastings, Greater Taree, Great Lakes, Port Stephens, Maitland, Newcastle, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Wyong, Gosford, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley.

5.3.5 Freshwater Wetlands

Small areas of Freshwater Wetland are present on the subject site as small depressions with a low diversity of native and exotic wetland species.. A larger area of this habitat is present to the south of the Western Precinct area, contained within the Regional Park.

This wetland community represents foraging habitat for microbats, particularly for the fishing bat; Southern Myotis as well as potential foraging habitat for passing migratory wetland birds.

i. *Habitat in the study area*

a. Type

Sedgeland, a form of Freshwater Wetlands, occurs in very small local patches throughout the precinct, generally artificially created by a small scraping of the soil that results in a small depression. These areas usually are too small to warrant mapping, being only a few square metres in area and have been included in the grassland mosaic. A larger area of Freshwater Wetlands has been mapped within the study area: an area surrounding the dam in the south western corner of the SMP, largely included in the Regional Park,. Descriptions of the wetlands areas are provided in Section 4.2.4 (v)

This kind of wetland is uncommon in and around the SMP and is considered to have moderate to high conservation significance. Where wetland species have colonised artificially created habitats, the area is still considered to be a degraded variant of the EEC. Degraded wetlands have conservation value if they form part of a habitat corridor, provide habitat for aquatic species and resources for birds and mammals, provide habitat for threatened aquatic plants or maintain a seed bank of local provenance plants.

The small areas of sedgeland in the Central Precinct formed in scrapes in the soil have minimal conservation value. They provide small areas of habitat to common frog species and water resources for other animals, as well as local provenance plants. The wetland associated with the dam in the south west of the Regional Park near the south-western corner of the SMP is of high conservation value as it provides potential habitat for migratory species including Lathams Snipe (listed under the EPBC Act), covers a relatively large area compared with sedgeland formed in scrapes and is connected to other types of habitat through the Regional Park. Some sedgelands and wet meadows that occur around the dam near the precinct also have high conservation value because of the connectivity to the Regional Park habitats.

b. Size

Approximately 0.92 ha of this community occurs on the subject site The wetland in the south-west of the SMP will not be removed, and totals approximately 2ha.

c. Condition

Overall, exotic species ranged from 5-10% of the projective foliage cover of the ground cover in the sampled areas within the subject site. The community was dominated in general by native sedges and herbs such as *Persicaria decipiens*.

ii. *Habitat in the locality*

No significant occurrences of this EEC are known to occur in the locality. However, farm dams and other similar man-made wetlands are frequent throughout the locality, and are also likely to conform to a variant of Freshwater Wetlands, if only in a very simplified form, as with the study area.

iii. *Distribution of similar habitats in the region*

Few good examples of this community are reserved in the region. This community is known to occur in Hexham Swamp and Pitt Town Nature Reserves and Scheyville National Park in the Region.

iv. *Condition of similar habitat in the region*

Condition of similar habitat within the region is likely to vary with disturbance history and human accessibility. There is likely to be other similar man-made habitats for this EEC in the locality and region that occur in a similar state to the study area habitat.

v. *National distribution*

Although Freshwater Wetland is known from along the majority of the NSW coast, it is distinct in the Sydney Basin where it is associated with sandplains. As a habitat, it has been extensively cleared and modified. In the 1990s the extent remaining was: 3% in the NSW North Coast bioregion, 66% in the lower Hunter – Central coast region, 40% on the Cumberland Plain, 70% in the Sydney – South Coast region, and 30% in the Eden region.

5.4 Past Disturbance History of the Central Precinct

Land parcels were granted for pastoralism on the Cumberland Plain in the early 1800s. Parts of the SMP were included in these grants. Timber-getting took place in the South Creek area of the SMP, in the 1860s, for sleepers and general construction associated with the extension of the western railway line (Kinhill, 1995).

The SMP was acquired by the Commonwealth in the 1940s for the manufacture and storage of munitions. Grazing continued on much of the SMP in order to keep ground layer fuel levels low (Kinhill, 1995).

The SMP underwent demolition of most buildings and decontamination, including soil remediation works, in the 1990s (Kinhill, 1995).

Much of the vegetation currently on the property has regenerated since the cessation of grazing and clearing from the mid 1940s onwards (ERM, 2003). Such vegetation is now predominantly within the Regional Park.

Most of the subject site was subject to remediation works in the mid 1990s with the result that much of the soils have either been removed or highly disturbed. This has greatly degraded the condition of any native vegetation remaining in the area.

5.4.1 *Assessment of Ability of Affected (C)EECs/Species to Recover to Pre-Disturbance Condition*

Resilience, or the ability of native vegetation to recover to a pre-disturbance condition is assessed using the *In Situ Resilience and Anticipated Recovery Capacity Assessment*

(Perkins, 2002). Refer to Figure 4.6 mapping of vegetation communities for an indication of canopy cover and regeneration age of the forest, woodland and grassland in the study area.

All woodland and forest habitat types exhibit high resilience, evident from the regeneration of all community types. However, in the Central Precinct, where past disturbance was significant, all communities were recorded to contain a lower diversity of native species than in the Regional Park. The woodland cover is more sparse and has less structure than the representatives in the Regional Park, however, it is likely that over time, these communities could have the potential to regenerate to a state similar to pre-disturbance.

The grasslands are however considered to be a more degraded form of the community from which they are derived, as no regeneration of midstorey and canopy layers are evident. This is not to say that areas of grassland are not in reasonable condition, as they contain a number of native groundcover species indicative of the original woodland. Overall, a reduced abundance of native species occurs in the Central Precinct, which is likely as a result of the past disturbance.

The consistency of the Proposal with the objectives of the Recovery Plan for the Cumberland Plain (DECCW 2011) is discussed in detail in Chapter 6.

5.5 Description of Conservation Status

5.5.1 Cumberland Plain Woodland

Cumberland Plain Woodland has been up-listed to critically endangered on both the TSC Act and EPBC Act and is therefore not considered likely to be well reserved. As previously discussed however, CPW may be comparatively well reserved in the locality, as demonstrated by the high proportion of the study area that includes CPW. Further discussion of the state and regional conservation of this community is provided in Section 6.3. This CEEC is not at the limit of its known distribution in the study area.

The principal threat to the biodiversity of the Cumberland Plain is the further loss and fragmentation of habitat and the resulting indirect impacts (such as weed invasion) that occur as a result of this. The proposal will contribute to this threat, however, the retention of expansive areas of the high quality habitat in the Regional Park and the management of this vegetation are likely to significantly reduce the effect of the threat to this community in the locality.

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail is at threat from the modification to CPW. The bulk of the known populations are small, isolated and vulnerable to impacts from clearing and habitat modification such as weed invasion, inappropriate fire management and removal of ground cover, as this removes shelter, breeding habitat and sources of food (DEC (NSW), 2005a).

5.5.2 Shale Gravel Transition Forest

Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion occurs predominately where shallow deposits of tertiary alluvium lie over shale soils but can also be found in areas where

there are high concentrations of iron-indurated gravel. It is dominated mostly by *Eucalyptus fibrosa* (Broad-leaved Ironbark), but *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box), and *Eucalyptus tereitcornis* (Forest Red Gum) co-occur,.

The community is threatened by land clearing and fragmentation for urban, residential, recreational, and industrial development, weed invasion, and illegal dumping (NSW Scientific Committee 2002).

The proposed development of the Central Precinct will exacerbate the impact of threats to this community. However the impacts of the development through land clearing will not be significant in the locality due to offsetting of the community in the conservation area of the Regional Park. Clearing of the patch also has the potential to create an edge effect allowing the remainder of the patch in the Regional Park to experience higher levels of weed invasion. In order to mitigate impacts such as this a weed management plan has been developed for the Central Precinct (Cumberland Ecology 2008b).

5.5.3 River-flat Eucalypt Forest

RFEF is listed as endangered under the TSC Act. It is likely to be well represented in the locality and is distributed throughout the region, and other parts of NSW. Further discussion of the state and regional conservation of this community is provided in Section 6.3.

The community has experienced a reduction in the area of habitat and the remaining area is likely to represent much less than 30% of its original range. Recently recorded, major occurrences include: about 2,000 ha in the lower Hunter region; less than 10,000 ha on the NSW south coast from Sydney to Moruya, of which up to about three-quarters occurred on the Cumberland Plain in 1998 (DEC (NSW), 2005j).

The principles threats to this EEC of relevance to the study area include:

- Flood mitigation and drainage works;
- Landfilling and earthworks associated with urban and industrial development;
- Changes in water quality, particularly increased nutrients and sedimentation; and
- Weed invasion.

The proposed development of the Central Precinct will exacerbate the impact of threats to this community due to the clearing of patches of this community . However, the retention of higher quality RFEF within the Regional Park and planned weed control measures within the Regional Park should result in no significant effects on the community as a whole in the locality, due to higher conservation and improvement of the community offsetting the removal.

5.5.4 Swamp Oak Forest

Swamp oak floodplain forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions is an EEC under the TSC Act. It occurs on water logged or periodically inundated flats, drainage lines, lake margins, and estuarine fringes associated with coastal floodplains. It is associated with grey-black clay-loams, and sandy loams where the ground water is saline (NSW Scientific Committee 2004). The community is generally dominated by *Casuarina glauca* though it can be associated with other tree species such as *Acmena smithii* (Lillypilly), and *Alphitonia excelsa* (Red Ash).

The community is considered to be threatened by changed hydrology from development, land clearing, soil disturbance by domestic and feral animals such as cattle and pigs, pollution from urban and agricultural runoff, inappropriate fire regimes, and anthropogenic climate change (rising sea levels). A major threat to the remaining fragmented patches of this community is exotic weed invasion.

The proposed development of the subject site will exacerbate impacts to this community. Impacts that will occur are clearing of the community on site. It is not considered there will be a significant impact on the community in the locality as patches associated with RFEF will be conserved and improved in the Regional Park to offset loss of the community. Edge effects associated with clearing of RFEF around the remnant of this community just outside the subject site will likely increase exotic weed invasion of the patch just outside the subject site boundary if mitigation measures are not undertaken. A weed management plan has been prepared to outline mitigation measures (Cumberland Ecology 2008b).

5.5.5 Freshwater Wetlands

Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions occurs on low-lying parts of floodplains, alluvial flats, depressions, drainage lines, back swamps, lagoons and lakes. It is dominated by herbaceous plants including sedges, emergent plants, floating and submerged plants (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

The community is threatened by land clearing, fragmentation, flood mitigation, land-filling, pollution from runoff, weed invasion, damage from livestock and feral animals, acid sulphate soils, rubbish dumping and climate change (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

The development of the subject site Central Precinct will not greatly exacerbate the effects of this threat to the larger examples of this EEC within the SMP in the Regional Park. Occurrences of the community within the Central Precinct are simplified versions of the community and the conservation of higher quality areas within the Regional Park will offset the loss of the small area within the subject site. The small localised depressions with characteristics of Freshwater Wetlands that will be removed on the subject site are not likely to constitute significant habitat as they are already subject to substantial weed invasion and are isolated from the natural floodplain.

5.6 Discussion of Likely Effects of the Proposal

5.6.1 *Extent of Habitat Removal*

The subject site is proposed for development via a single development application (DA). Table 5.1 outlines the extent of the developable area.. Clearing for this development will involve loss of all vegetation communities present.

Most of the vegetation within the subject site is in a regenerating and degraded state with a higher ratio of exotic species diversity compared to the neighbouring Regional Park), Although there is scope for retention of canopy species and some under storey species in open space areas, the open space areas will be highly modified as a result of the proposal. As detailed in Table 5.1, the proposed development of the subject site and Central Precinct will remove habitat for the C/EECs and species described in this chapter. Of greatest significance is the direct removal of CPW which is described further below. Other species and EEC will experience habitat loss or modification to a lesser extent.

i. CPW

The proposal for the subject site will clear a total of 65.37 ha of CPW in the form of 30.13 ha of young CPW, 4.18 ha of DNG, and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG.

This represents loss of habitat for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. However, a significantly greater density of snails is known to occur in the Regional Park, particularly within the mature woodland in the central sections of the park. The discrete subpopulations of this species present in the Central Precinct are likely to be permanently removed by the removal and modification of CPW proposed. However, the extent of such habitat removal for this species in the Central Precinct is not considered likely to cause the extinction of the local population centred on the Regional Park as sizable numbers occur within a secure and connective tract of woodland habitat.

The removal of this woodland type also represents a potential loss of foraging habitat for threatened bats and birds, although as previously discussed, such habitat is likely to form marginal support areas as part of a large habitat matrix centred on the Regional Park and proximate reserves. It is therefore expected that this habitat removal is a minor area of habitat for these highly mobile species.

ii. SGTF

The proposal for the subject site will clear 1.6 ha of SGTF. As with CPW, the removal of this woodland type represents a potential loss of foraging habitat for threatened bats and birds, although as previously discussed, such habitat is likely to form marginal support areas as part of a large habitat matrix centred on the Regional Park and proximate reserves. It is therefore expected that this habitat removal is a minor area of habitat for these highly mobile species.

The removal of SGTF also represents a loss of habitat for the threatened species *Grevillea juniperina subsp juniperina*. However this species is well represented within the neighbouring

Regional Park and the removal of the small area of habitat is not considered to constitute a significant loss of habitat for this threatened plant species.

iii. *RFEF*

The proposal for the subject site will clear 28.5 ha of RFEF. The RFEF to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of development of the subject site is not important to the long-term survival of the community within the locality. River-flat Eucalypt Forest (as Alluvial Woodland) of high conservation significance will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation. The vegetation within the Regional Park is considered to be more important than that within the Central Precinct as it is in better condition and is more intact.

This community provides some habitat for threatened bats and birds known to occur in the study area. The loss of this habitat will not result in a significant effect for these threatened species as better quality habitat is to be conserved within the Regional Park.

iv. *Swamp Oak Forest*

The proposal for the subject site will clear 7.5 ha of SOF. The SOF to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of development of the subject site is not important to the long-term survival of the community within the locality as SOF (as Alluvial Woodland) of high conservation significance will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation. The vegetation within the Regional Park is considered to be more important than that within the Central Precinct as it is in better condition and is more intact.

This community provides limited habitat for threatened birds and bats known to occur in the study area. The loss of this habitat will not result in a significant effect for these threatened species as better quality habitat is to be conserved within the Regional Park.

v. *Freshwater Wetlands*

The proposal for the subject site will clear, 0.92 ha of Freshwater Wetlands. The Freshwater Wetlands to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of development within the subject site are not important to the long-term survival of the community within the locality. Freshwater Wetlands of high conservation significance, will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation. The wetland within the Regional Park is considered to be more important than that within the Central Precinct as it is in better condition and is more intact.

This community provides limited habitat for threatened and migratory wetland birds known to occur in the study area. The loss of wetlands within the subject site is not considered to constitute a significant effect on threatened species due to their small size and limited habitat value.

vi. *Plant species*

Approximately 530 specimens of *Grevillea juniperina* spp. *juniperina* were recorded in the Central Precinct during preparation of the Central Precinct Biodiversity Assessment

(Cumberland Ecology 2008a) . The September 2013 surveys confirmed the species is present in small patches of CPW and the patch of SGTF in the northern area of the subject site.

It has been estimated that at least 249,000 (minimum) specimens of *G. juniperina* subsp *juniperina* occur within the Regional Park, where extensive habitat has been conserved (ERM, 2003). These specimens will not be affected by development within the Central Precinct and will be protected in perpetuity.

Pultenaea parviflora has not been recorded on the subject site during the recent surveys. This plant has not been previously recorded in the Central Precinct. It is estimated that at least 50,000 of this species occur within the Regional Park and will remain unthreatened by this development.

Pimelea spicata has not been recorded from the Central Precinct and were not detected during the recent surveys. A large patch of the species is located within the Regional Park (although outside of the current study area) and the development is not considered likely to threaten the survival of this species in the locality.

5.6.2 Alteration of Drainage and Flood Levels

The re-alignment of the creek in the centre of the Central Precinct to facilitate the filling and development of the land will alter the hydrology within the subject site and has the potential to indirectly impact on vegetation communities, in particular RFEF and SOF, in the neighbouring Regional Park due to changes in drainage.

However the proposed realignment of the creek will result in the creek draining from the site at essentially the same location as the current existing creek. Modelling assessments predict minimal impact to the water levels in mainstream creeks adjacent to the subject site in typical day to day wet weather and climatic conditions (SKM, pers comm via Glyn Richards, Lend Lease; Feb 2014). While there may be some changes in flood levels for the 1:100 year events, these are predicted to occur for a short period of time based on the nature of the flood plain. It is therefore considered that minimal indirect impacts from alteration in drainage patterns are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development.

5.6.3 Significance within the Local Context

i. Cumberland Plain Woodland

The geography, soils, topography and associated species of CPW are specific to Western Sydney, although dominant canopy species are found elsewhere in NSW and Australia. Remnants are often small (<10ha) and vulnerable to disturbance and degeneration by humans (NSW NPWS, 1997c). According to the JANIS report (Joint ANZECC / MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee, 1997), 15% of the pre-1750 distribution of any vegetation community should be conserved within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system. As such, only

7.7(\pm 1.1)% of the Pre-European extent of Shale Plains Woodland existed in 2003 (Tozer, 2003). Of this, significant areas are conserved within Windsor Downs Nature Reserve (NSW NPWS, 1997c), Scheyville National Park, Leacock Regional Park and Mulgoa Nature Reserve (NSW NPWS, 2001a).

Within the Region, there are core CPW remnants at Kemps Creek, Prospect Reservoir, Shanes Park, Orchard Hills RAAF base, the 900ha Regional Park on the SMP, Hawkesbury Reserve, Lansdowne Park, Boral-Lower Canal (Prospect) and on the Wonderland site at Eastern Creek (NSW NPWS, 1997c).

The long-term security of CPW in the SMP, within the study area, will be assured with its inclusion in the Regional Park. The area of CPW to be included within the Regional Park is 531.8ha of core and support for core habitat. This includes core habitat CPW within the study area. The 900ha Regional Park is under State Government ownership and managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (ERM, 2003).

CPW occurring on the subject site occurs as sparse regenerating woodland patches and is moderately disturbed. Many small patches of CPW, such as those on the subject site, occur throughout the Cumberland Plain. The area of CPW to be conserved within the Regional Park is of much greater size and quality and is one of the largest areas of CPW remaining.

ii. Shale-Gravel Transition Forest

The geography, soils, topography and associated species of SGTF are specific to Western Sydney, although dominant canopy species are found elsewhere in NSW and Australia. Remnants are often small (<10ha) and vulnerable to disturbance and degeneration by humans (NSW NPWS, 1997c). According to the JANIS report (Joint ANZECC / MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee, 1997), 15% of the pre-1750 distribution of any vegetation community should be conserved within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system. As such, only 31.7(\pm 3.1)% of the Pre-European extent of Shale Plains Woodland existed in 2003 (Tozer, 2003). Of this, significant areas are conserved within Agnes Banks Nature Reserve, Castlereagh Nature Reserve, Scheyville National Park and Windsor Downs Nature Reserve.

Within the Region, there are core SGTF remnants at Shanes Park and the 900ha Regional Park on the SMP (NSW NPWS, 1997c).

The long-term security of SGTF in the SMP within the study area will be assured with its inclusion in the Regional Park. The area of SGTF to be included within the Regional Park is approximately 55 ha of core and support for core habitat. This includes core habitat SGTF within the study area. The 900ha Regional Park is under State Government ownership and managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (ERM, 2003).

SGTF occurring on the subject site occurs as a single patch and is in relatively good condition. The area of SGTF to be conserved within the Regional Park is of much greater size and quality.

iii. *River-flat Eucalypt Forest*

The geography, soils, topography and associated species of RFEF are specific to Western Sydney, although dominant canopy species are found elsewhere in NSW and Australia. Within the Cumberland Plain, RFEF adjoins or intergrades with Swamp Oak Forest to form Alluvial Woodlands. Much of the pre-European distribution of this community has been cleared for agriculture, as it occurs on fertile alluvial soils. According to the JANIS report (Joint ANZECC / MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee, 1997), 15% of the pre-1750 distribution of any vegetation community should be conserved within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system. As such, only 13(±2.5)% of the Pre-European extent of Alluvial Woodland existed in 2003 (Tozer, 2003). Of this, good representations of RFEF are conserved within Bents Basin State Recreation Area, Mulgoa Nature Reserve and Western Sydney Regional Park (NSW NPWS, 2001b), and small areas are conserved within Cattai National Park, Dharug National Park, Georges River National Park, Scheyville National Park, Gulguer Nature Reserve and Marramarra National Park (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004).

Within the region, there are core RFEF remnants at Prospect Reservoir, Orchard Hills RAAF base, the SMP Regional Park, Rickabys Creek, Mulgoa Creek, South Creek, Nurragingy Reserve and along Bells Creek near Townson Road (NSW NPWS, 1997a, NSW NPWS, 1997b).

The long-term security of RFEF in the SMP, within the study area, will be assured with its inclusion in the Regional Park. The area of RFEF to be included within the Regional Park is 217.7ha of core and support for core habitat. This includes core habitat RFEF within the study area. The Regional Park is under State Government ownership and managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (ERM, 2003).

The area of RFEF within the subject site is of little local significance. This representative occurs as a very simplified form of the community and is very sparse in a narrow band surrounding an incised drainage channel. Larger areas of much higher quality exist in the locality and a large area will be conserved within the Regional Park. Notwithstanding this, RFEF will be rehabilitated as part of the future riparian corridor for the Central Precinct.

Although the filling and the ultimate Riparian Corridor reconstruction will involve vegetation removal for the creation of the new channel and other bank stabilisation works, the landscaping of the entire Riparian Corridor will include significant areas of future plantings of, RFEF, wetland and other riparian associated species. These works will form a component of a future development application.

There is long-term security for RFEF adjacent to the subject site, as it occurs in the riparian zone adjacent to the proposal. The corridor will be rehabilitated and widened as a result of management requirements for the riparian zone.

iv. *Swamp Oak Forest*

Swamp Oak Forest generally occurs below 20 m (rarely above 10 m) elevation in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions. The structure of the

community may vary from open forests to low woodlands, scrubs or reedlands with scattered trees. Typically these forests, woodlands, scrubs and reedlands form mosaics with other floodplain forest communities and treeless wetlands, and often they fringe treeless floodplain lagoons or wetlands with semi-permanent standing water. Within the Cumberland Plain, SOF adjoins or intergrades with RFEF to form Alluvial Woodlands. Much of the pre-European distribution of this community has been cleared for agriculture, as it occurs on fertile alluvial soils. According to the JANIS report (Joint ANZECC / MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee, 1997), 15% of the pre-1750 distribution of any vegetation community should be conserved within the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system. As such, only 13(±2.5)% of the Pre-European extent of Alluvial Woodland existed in 2003 (Tozer, 2003).

The extent of the Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions prior to European settlement has not been mapped across its entire range. However, based on estimates of loss for Coastal Floodplain Wetlands, which include Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest, current distribution is likely to represent less than 30% of its original range. Small areas of are contained within existing conservation reserves, including Stotts Island, Ukerebagh, Tuckean, Pambalong, Wamberal, Towra Point and Cullendulla Creek Nature Reserves and Bongil Bongil, Myall Lakes and Conjola National Parks. These occurrences are unevenly distributed throughout the range and unlikely to represent the full diversity of the community, given its wide distribution.

The long-term security of SOF in the SMP, within the study area, will be assured with its inclusion as part of the Alluvial Woodland community in the Regional Park. The area of Alluvial Woodland to be included within the Regional Park is 217.7ha of core and support for core habitat. The Regional Park is under State Government ownership and managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (ERM, 2003).

Furthermore construction and rehabilitation of a future riparian corridor within the Central Precinct of the SMP will further benefit SOF along with those of RFEF. Significant areas of future plantings will include CPW, RFEF, SOF, wetland and other riparian associated species.

v. *Freshwater Wetlands*

Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions occurs on low-lying parts of floodplains, alluvial flats, depressions, drainage lines, back swamps, lagoons and lakes. It is dominated by herbaceous plants including sedges, emergent plants, floating and submerged plants (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

The community is threatened by land clearing, fragmentation, flood mitigation, land-filling, pollution from runoff, weed invasion, damage from livestock and feral animals, acid sulphate soils, rubbish dumping and climate change (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

There is long-term security for the large wetland in the south of the study area as it occurs in the riparian zone adjacent to the proposal. The wetland and riparian corridor will be rehabilitated and widened as a result of management requirements for the riparian zone.

vi. *Plant species*

The three subject plant species are all shrubs endemic to the Cumberland Plain. *Pultenaea parviflora* and *Pimelea spicata* are TSC listed as endangered plants, *G. juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* are vulnerable plants, with relatively narrow total ranges. The Regional Park contains some of the largest known populations of these species, if not the largest known population of *P. parviflora* in existence.

The long-term security of these shrubs in the study area is assured with the dedication of large areas of habitat to the Regional Park, in particular, the eastern section of the Regional Park. The conservation of these shrubs within the Regional Park is important for its long-term security because of the large size of the populations of the species.

Within the region, *P. parviflora* is also conserved within Scheyville National Park, Windsor Downs Nature Reserve and Castlereagh Nature Reserve (NSW NPWS, 2002). *G. juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* is conserved within Castlereagh Nature Reserve (NSW Scientific Committee, 2000). *Pimelea spicata* is not known to have secure habitat in the region, although suitable secure habitat occurs in the nearby Regional Park as well as the Castlereagh Nature Reserve, the Agnes Bank Nature Reserve, and the Windsor Downs Nature Reserve. Although other bushland remnants contain populations of these affected (C)EECs/species, the gazetted National Parks and Nature Reserves referred to provide a higher level of protection as they are dedicated to the long-term security of the species.

vii. *Cumberland Plain Land Snail*

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail only occurs on the Cumberland Plain. It is known from over 100 locations in Western Sydney. The area of habitat for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail coincides with occurrences of CPW on the subject site. As referred to above, the area of CPW on the subject site is very small and not high quality habitat, compared with CPW occurrences in the Regional Park and other parks and reserves within the locality. This area of habitat within the subject site is not ensured of long-term security, as the activity of vegetation clearance has been proposed for the subject site.

viii. *Bats and birds*

Woodland habitat on the subject site is fragmented for the wide ranging, minor affected fauna species. In the context of the locality, and the Regional Park, it is not considered likely that the subject site would form a significant area of habitat for local populations of these species. Wetland habitats within the Subject site are also considered unlikely to form a significant area of habitat for local populations of bird and bat species due to their relatively small size.

As the potential habitat on the subject site represents only a small portion of the area available to the species in the locality and the species are highly mobile, the habitat present

is not considered to be critical to their survival, and hence is not significant in the local context.

5.6.4 Discussion of Connectivity

i. C/EECs and flora species

The study area forms part of a broad local corridor that extends to the north of the site, and to a lesser extent to the south via South Creek riparian corridor. The vegetation on the subject site is connected to vegetation in the Regional Park to the west and parts of the north and east, but to the south, the site is bordered by urban development. Development of the subject site will not sever connectivity between areas of existing native vegetation. To the north of the study area beyond Ninth Avenue, there are rural residential blocks and several patches of remnant vegetation.

The cumulative impacts of the development of the Central Precinct is not expected to greatly limit gene flow of plant species between parts of the Regional Park and the proximate areas of the SMP. These areas of habitat are already fragmented and pollination between these areas of habitat is therefore slightly reduced from that of continuous woodland. Further fragmentation is not likely to reduce the viability of CPW, SGTF, RFEF, SOF and Freshwater Wetlands and the subject plant species in the locality.

ii. Bats and birds

Woodland habitat on the subject site is already fragmented for the affected fauna species. The sparse patches do however provide additional connection to the intact habitats in the Regional Park. The development of the Central Precinct is not likely to greatly reduce this connection, as it will not sever a significant connection that exists in the Regional Park.

As the potential habitat on the subject site represents only a small portion of the area available to the species in the locality and the species are highly mobile, the proposal is not likely to decrease the movement of individuals and gene flow between areas of potential habitat throughout the locality or within or between local populations.

iii. Cumberland Plain Land Snail

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail is not a mobile species and therefore does not depend on extensive movement of individuals to maintain a viable population. The species occurs in isolated populations throughout its highly restricted distribution. Therefore the lack of connectivity present on the study area is not expected to affect the survival potential of the species, and the proposal is not expected to decrease the connectivity relative to existing levels. A viable local population is expected to persist in the Regional Park.

5.6.5 Consideration of Threatening Processes

The following Key Threatening Processes, listed under the TSC Act have been considered with respect to C/EECs and the affected (C)EECs/species:

- Clearing of native vegetation;
 - Native vegetation will definitely be cleared (see above section) and the most significant impacts on CPW and the affected (C)EECs/species will arise from vegetation clearance.
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses;
 - There is potential for exotic perennial grasses to invade bushland in the Regional Park, particularly if there is runoff from the subject site to the Regional Park, or dumping of grass propagules in the Regional Park, from residential areas, on completion of the proposal. Exotic grasses are currently in existence on the subject site, particularly dominating the grassland, and invading other habitats. Active management of the Regional Park will reduce the effect of exotic grasses and minimise invasion into the Regional Park.
- Competition from Feral Honeybees;
 - Honeybees are established in the vegetation of the SMP at present and are an ongoing threat. Honeybees can compete with native arboreal fauna and native bees for tree hollows. They can also compete with native pollinators for floral resources (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004a).
- Infection of native plants by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*;
 - There is a potential threat to the vegetation to be conserved within the Regional Park. However, no dieback of the type caused by this plant pathogen has been observed within the SMP and it is not generally regarded as a threat within Western Sydney vegetation (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004h).
- Importation of red imported fire ants into NSW;
 - Fire ants, if established would be a major threat to terrestrial ecosystems. The proposal is not likely to increase the risk of establishment of these ants.
- Introduction of the large earth bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*;
 - The large earth bumblebee, if established would be a major threat to terrestrial ecosystems. The proposal is not likely to significantly increase the establishment of this species.
- Removal of dead wood and dead trees;
 - The proposed development will remove some dead wood and a small number of dead trees. However, most of the vegetation in the subject site is regrowth and so contains little dead wood. There is also potential for new human residents of the subject site to gather wood from the Regional Park.

This threat must be managed by the OEH via the management plan for the Regional Park.

- Competition and grazing by the feral European rabbit;
 - Rabbits are established across the SMP. The proposal will not increase the threat from rabbits. Moreover, the Central Precinct Plan has a Domestic and Feral Animal Management Strategy (Cumberland Ecology, 2008b) that includes rabbit control measures. Such measures are currently being implemented in the SMP.

- Ecological consequences of high frequency fires;
 - The SMP has had a relatively high fire frequency in the past due to arson. This will need to be managed via the Regional Park Plan of Management. The proposed development of the Central Precinct is unlikely to significantly increase the frequency of fire, but fire frequencies will need to be monitored.

- Predation by Plague Minnow (*Gambusia holbrooki*)
 - The Plague Minnow preys upon tadpoles and is a threat to a number of frog species. It occurs within South Creek and the smaller drainage-lines in the study area. The proposal entails construction of biofiltration and detention basins. The ephemeral biofiltration areas have potential to create additional habitat for frogs that is free of Plague Minnow. Such artificial wetlands will provide additional foraging areas for bats, frogs and birds within the study area.

Measures to minimise the impacts of the proposed development on threatened species and communities are discussed further in Chapter 7.

5.7 Description of Feasible Alternatives

The land within the subject site is proposed to be filled for the purposes of raising the land above the 1:100 year flood level to allow the future development. As the land requires infilling, measures to avoid clearing of (C)EEC communities and consequently habitat for threatened species such as *Grevillea juniperina ssp juniperina* and the Cumberland Plain Land Snail were not feasible.

The proposed residential subdivision and subsequent development of the SMP Central Precinct complies with the land use zoning as set out in Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30 - St Marys (DUAP, 2001b) (SREP30). SREP30 was prepared, and land use zones identified, following significant investigations over many years into the biophysical, economic, social and ESD considerations of development via Section 22 and Joint Steering Committee processes. Alternatives to the proposal were considered in the Section 22 Advisory Committee Report (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1997). A conservation outcome was determined, and conservation areas to be included in the

Regional Park (now 900ha in area) and Regional open space areas were determined before the developable area was defined. The following points were considered in order to determine the area for conservation:

- The relative size or area of habitat patches;
- Representation of a vegetation community on a regional scale;
- The presence of threatened flora and fauna species;
- Species diversity in habitat patches;
- The relative naturalness of the habitat patch;
- Connectivity of habitat patches;
- Fragmentation of habitat patches;
- The ease of management of habitat patches, including amount of active management, feasibility and cost; and
- The strategic importance of the SMP for biodiversity management within the locality.

Consistency of the Proposal with the Objectives of the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan

6.1 Introduction

A Final Recovery Plan (the Recovery Plan) for the communities and associated threatened species and populations of the Cumberland Plain has been prepared and adopted by the OEH in January 2011 (DECCW 2011). The Draft Recovery Plan (DECCW (NSW) 2009) was in force between 2009 and 2011. The purpose of this chapter is to examine the consistency of the Proposal with the objectives and actions of the Recovery Plan for the purpose of considering whether there is likely to be a significant impact on threatened species. This analysis is undertaken under section 5A of the EP&A Act.

When considering whether to approve the Proposal under section 79C of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* Council is not required to act in a manner consistent with the objectives and actions in the Recovery Plan, but should take those objectives and actions into account when determining the development applications.

6.2 Species, Populations and Ecological Communities

The Recovery Plan (DECCW 2011) addresses the following threatened species, populations and ecological communities that are found on the Cumberland Plain, as shown in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 Threatened Biodiversity Addressed in the Recovery Plan		
Threatened Biodiversity	TSC Act Status	EPBC Act Status
Flora Species		
<i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i>	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Juniper-leaved Grevillea (<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp. <i>juniperina</i>)	Vulnerable	-
<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Endangered	Vulnerable
Sydney Plains Greenhood (<i>Pterostylis saxicola</i>)	Endangered	Endangered

Table 6.1 Threatened Biodiversity Addressed in the Recovery Plan		
Threatened Biodiversity	TSC Act Status	EPBC Act Status
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Endangered	Vulnerable
Fauna Species		
Cumberland Plain Land Snail (<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>)	Endangered	-
Populations		
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i> population in the Baulkham Hills LGA	Endangered	-
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i> population at Kemps Creek	Endangered	-
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> R. Br subsp. <i>viridiflora</i> population in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith LGAs	Endangered	-
<i>Pomaderris prunifolia</i> (a shrub) population in the Parramatta, Auburn, Strathfield and Bankstown LGAs	Endangered	-
Ecological Communities		
Agnes Banks Woodland	Endangered	-
Castlereagh Swamp Woodland	Endangered	-
Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest	Endangered	-
Cumberland Plain Woodland (listed on EPBC Act as Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest)	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Moist Shale Woodland	Endangered	-
Shale Gravel Transition Forest (listed on EPBC Act as Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest)	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest	Endangered	Endangered
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	Endangered	-
Western Sydney Dry Rainforest	Endangered	-

The management and recovery objectives for the flora and fauna species, populations and ecological communities listed above are addressed as part of the overall objectives for the communities of the Cumberland Plain as it is recognised that the recovery of the vegetation will facilitate the recovery of the associated flora and fauna species.

In addition to those listed above, the following threatened ecological communities, species and populations are found on the Cumberland Plain but are not specifically addressed in the Recovery Plan, as only a small proportion of their distribution occurs within the Cumberland Plain or a recovery plan already exists:

- Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions
- *Acacia pubescens* (Downy Wattle);
- *Hibbertia superans*;
- *Pultenaea pedunculata* (Matted Bush-pea);
- *Persoonia nutans* (Nodding Geebung);
- *Pimelea curviflora* var. *curviflora*; and
- *Pimelea spicata* (Spiked Rice-flower).

Of the species listed above, only one; *Pimelea spicata* potentially occurs in the study area. Although not covered by the Recovery Plan, this species is addressed in a species specific recovery plan (DEC (NSW) 2006). This species is dealt with at Section 4.3.2iii of this SIS.

The Recovery Plan also identifies a number of additional fauna species, including threatened microbats and birds that are likely to benefit from the implementation of the prescribed management actions. The SIS has dealt with these in Section 4.3.5ii.

The subject site contains some ecological communities and threatened species, or habitat for such species, of relevance to the plan, including;

- Cumberland Plain Woodland;
- Shale-Gravel Transition Forest;
- River-flat Eucalypt Forest;
- *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*;
- *Pultenaea parviflora*; and
- Cumberland Plain Land Snail

The primary focus of the Recovery Plan is the preservation of threatened species, populations and communities in priority conservation lands. Priority conservation lands are identified in Figure 1 of the Recovery Plan and are said to represent the best remaining opportunities in the region to maximise biodiversity benefits. OEH (formerly DECCW) considers these lands to be the highest priority for future efforts to conserve the threatened biodiversity in the region. The 900 ha proposed Regional Park is identified in the Recovery Plan as priority conservation land.

While the subject site is not priority conservation lands, the Recovery Plan nevertheless identifies as a responsibility of, in this case, Council, the promotion and adoption of best practice standards for bushland management on private land outside the identified priority conservation lands. These best practices standards are set out in Appendix 2 to the Recovery Plan and are considered in Section 6.3 below and Appendix E. In relation to private land, the Recovery Plan contemplates the preparation of site action or management plans which address the management of threatened biodiversity in accordance with the Recovery Plan. The action and management plans addressing the management of threatened biodiversity for the Subject site are also discussed in Section 6.3 below.

Chapter 5 considers the impacts of the proposed development on threatened species, populations and ecological communities, including those listed in the Recovery Plan. The clearing of vegetation within the subject site will directly remove habitat for a small number of threatened species including; *Grevillea juniperina* subsp *juniperina* and the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. *Marsdenia viridiflora* has been recorded in the study area, but not within the subject site. Notwithstanding this, the potential impacts of the proposed development on this species have been considered.

Further to this, a total area of 65.37 ha of CPW, consisting of 30.13 ha of young, regenerating CPW, 4.18 ha of DNG and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG will be removed as part of the proposal. The removal of this vegetation will remove the habitat of the Cumberland Plain Land Snail on the subject site. Significant and higher quality habitat for the threatened species will remain in the proposed Regional Park. Such impacts have been assessed in detail in Chapter 5 and Chapter 8 of this SIS.

The Recovery Plan identifies the proposed Regional Park; now named the Wianamatta Regional Park, as priority conservation lands. The Regional Park adjoins the subject site to the east, north and west. Partial transfer of Wianamatta Regional Park ownership to the National Parks and Wildlife Division of the OEH has been gazetted. This being the Eastern portion, fronting Forrester Road and Palmyra Avenue. The balance of the land zoned Regional Park is still owned by St Marys Land Limited, a Lend Lease Company. The Wianamatta Regional Park Plan of Management was adopted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment on 15th February 2011. The Regional Park forms the primary mitigation measure for the development of the SMP and the subject site, consistently with the planning framework which has regulated the development of the SMP for over two decades.

6.3 Compliance of the Proposed Development with the Objectives and Actions of the Final Recovery Plan for the Cumberland Plain

The Recovery Plan identifies the principal threat to the biodiversity of the Cumberland Plain as being the further loss and fragmentation of habitat. Clearing for rural and residential developments, industry, and agricultural land uses has led to increasingly isolated small remnants which are more susceptible to degradation, provide less habitat values and support fewer species.

The Recovery Plan makes clear that there are other areas of local conservation significance, including areas which provide buffers, corridors and ecological linkages for the priority conservation lands, which must be the subject of best practice management (p11). Likewise, (p12) the Recovery Plan notes that the significance of remnant vegetation outside the priority conservation lands should not be underrated, and that best practice management should be implemented on other areas of local conservation significance. It is clear, therefore, that actions to be taken do not relate exclusively to priority conservation lands.

6.3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the Final Recovery Plan are to improve the conservation of the communities of the Cumberland Plain and protect significant remnants in the long-term. The objectives are as follows:

- Recovery Objective 1: To build a protected area network, comprising public and private lands focused on the priority conservation lands (PCL);
- Recovery Objective 2: To deliver best practice management for threatened biodiversity across Cumberland Plain, with a specific focus on the priority conservation lands and public lands where the primary management objectives are compatible with biodiversity conservation;
- Recovery Objective 3: To develop an understanding and enhanced awareness in the community of the Cumberland Plain's threatened biodiversity, the best practice standards for its management, and the recovery program; and
- Recovery Objective 4: To increase knowledge of the threats to the survival of the Cumberland Plain's threatened biodiversity, and thereby improve capacity to manage these in a strategic and effective manner.

The responsibility for the implementation of these objectives is with OEH (Formerly DECCW). However, the proposed development of the subject site and the Western Precinct in general is consistent with these objectives. The proposed Wianamatta Regional Park has been designated as priority conservation lands and will therefore address Objectives 1 and 2.

The community awareness of the Cumberland Plain's threatened biodiversity is enhanced through the creation of the Regional Park. This will assist in achieving Recovery Objective 3.

The Regional Park also allows for the continued increase of knowledge of threats to the threatened biodiversity of the Cumberland Plain, and therefore assists in the implementation of Recovery Objective 4.

6.3.2 Actions

The responsibilities imposed upon the Council in the implementation of the Recovery Plan require the following:

- Action 1.4 requires the Council to have regard to Priority Conservation Lands in identifying areas for inclusion into environment protection and regional open space zones. This has been achieved by Council through the making of SREP 30 by the Minister for Planning and the reservation of the proposed Regional Park, as discussed above and in Chapter 7;
- Action 1.5 is directed to “*circumstances where impacts on the threatened biodiversity listed in Table 1 (of the Recovery Plan) are unavoidable, as part of any consent, approval or license that is issued, ensure that offset measures are undertaken within the priority conservation lands where practicable ...*” It is noted that Council is not listed as a responsible authority for this action. However, the above action has been included for completeness. In any event, any loss of ecological communities on the subject site is overcome by the offset measures proposed by the proposed Regional Park, as discussed in detail in Chapter 7 of this SIS;
- Action 2.2 requires that Council support and promote the adoption of best practice standards for bushland management and restoration (as specified in Appendix 2) on public and private lands within the Cumberland Plain. The best practice standards are set out in Appendix 2 of the Recovery Plan.

6.3.3 Guidelines

Appendix 2 of the Recovery Plan includes guidelines for the best practice standards for bushland management. The guidelines relate to 3 types of bushland reserved within the Cumberland Plain:

- Bushland on public lands within or outside of priority conservation lands which have conservation as a primary management objective;
- Bushland on public lands outside the priority conservation lands where conservation is not a primary management objective but is compatible with the primary objective; and
- Bushland on private lands

The Wianamatta Regional Park falls under both the categories of “bushland on public lands within priority conservation lands where conservation is the primary management objective” and “bushland on private lands within priority conservation lands where conservation is the primary management objective”. The management of this land is governed by the Wianamatta Plan of Management (DEC (NSW) 2007), the implementation of which is the responsibility of OEH and Lend Lease. Regional Park ownership will be transferred to OEH progressively through the life of the development of the SMP.

Only small areas of land within the subject site will conform to the description of the second point: “bushland on public lands outside of the priority conservation lands”, where parklands are created and bushland retained in the development areas. However, presently, any bushland retained in the Central Precinct conforms to “bushland on private lands”.

According to Appendix 2, bushland on public lands outside the priority conservation lands where conservation is not a primary management objective but is compatible with the primary management objective requires an adopted management system or policy (or similar planning document) which addresses:

- *management of threatened biodiversity and is consistent with the recovery plan;*
- *the land to be managed such that the objectives of the management system or policy are met;*
- *monitoring to be undertaken periodically to determine the status of threatened entities, or to assess the effectiveness of threat abatement measures being implemented (for guidance see the Monitoring manual for bitou bush control and native plant recovery (Hughes et al. 2009) at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bitouTAP/monitoring.htm); and*
- *management is consistent with the following documents, and any additional best practice documents that DECCW may promote at a later date:*
 - *Recovering bushland on the Cumberland Plain – Best practice guidelines for the management and restoration of bushland (DEC 2005a);*
 - *the recommended fire regimes in the Appendix 3; and*
 - *a landscape-scale response to African Olive invasion on the Cumberland Plain (as per completion of action 2.6).*

For bushland on private lands to meet best practice standards for management, Appendix 2 indicates the following measures:

- *a site action or management plan to be prepared which addresses the management of threatened biodiversity and is consistent with the recovery plan;*
- *the land to be managed in accordance with the site action or management plan; and*
- *management to be consistent with the following documents, and any other best practice documents that DECCW may promote at a later date:*
 - *Recovering bushland on the Cumberland Plain – Best practice guidelines for the management and restoration of bushland; and*
 - *The recommended fire regimes in Appendix 3.*

The document *Recovering Bushland on the Cumberland Plain - Best Practice Guidelines for the Management and Restoration of Bushland* (DEC 2005a) ("the DEC Guidelines") is referred to in Appendix 2, which requires management to be consistent with the DEC Guidelines in order to reach "best practice standards for management" of bushland on private lands. Relevantly, the DEC guidelines include the following provisions:

- " ... protect any retained native vegetation from further degradation by fencing it so it can be managed as a separate unit..." (p 16);
- "...actively manage all retained and protected native vegetation ..." (p 16); and
- "It is extremely important that [remnants of native vegetation] are retained and effort is made to link them across the landscape" (p 17) (emphasis in original).

Page 24 of the DEC Guidelines is headed "Checklist: Ten simple guidelines for making your land fauna friendly". It relevantly includes the following principles:

- Local native vegetation should cover at least 30 per cent of the total area;
- Exclude high impact land uses from at least 30 per cent of the area;
- Maintain native grasses... for grassy woodland areas, it has been recommended that at least half the area contain native grass and herb species ...;
- Native vegetation cover ideally should be in patches of at least 5 to 10 hectares and linked by strips at least 25-50 metres wide;
- Manage at least 10 per cent of the area for wildlife. Of the 30 per cent of the area that is local native vegetation, one third (10 per cent) should be managed primarily for wildlife; and
- Maintain understorey cover over at least a third of the area within a patch of trees. Ensure that approximately one-third of the area managed for wildlife has a high diversity of locally occurring understorey species (herbs, grasses and shrubs) (emphasis in original).

These provisions have been collectively satisfied by the management plans described in the following section, 6.3.4.

6.3.4 Management Plans Regulating Development of the SMP

Several management plans have been approved and adopted for the bushland across the SMP and of specific relevance to this SIS, within the Central Precinct. These areas are already being managed in accordance with these management plans to the extent required. These management plans are consistent with the objectives and requirements of the Recovery Plan, as outlined above.

In addition to the Wianamatta Regional Park Plan of Management, the management plans include the following which have been approved and adopted by Council as part of the statutory planning framework:

- Weed Management Plan (WMP) (Cumberland Ecology 2008d);
- Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy (FDAMS) (Cumberland Ecology 2008c);

- Open Space and Landscape Master Plan (Environmental Partnership 2008); and
- A Plan of Management for Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Red Kangaroos and Emus (Referred to as a Macrofauna Management Plan - MMP) (Cumberland Ecology 2005).

The MMP relates to the entire SMP, including the proposed Wianamatta Regional Park, and was approved by DEC (2005) and stipulates the humane management of macrofauna across the SMP.

The other management plans listed above were prepared as part of the Central Precinct Plan and were adopted by Council in April 2009. The plans are consistent with relevant best practice guidelines for the management of bushland and were prepared in consultation with relevant government departments. Despite the differing publication dates, a review of the purpose and objectives of these guidelines demonstrates that the principles established are collectively satisfied by the management plans.

The recommended fire regimes in Appendix 3 of the Recovery Plan are not considered relevant to bushland in the Central Precinct, as the remnants of bushland are not suitable for this kind of management.

Table E.1 in Appendix E provides a summary of the best practice standards for bushland management, as stated in Appendix 2 of the Recovery Plan and indicates the applicable management plan and section that addresses each point.

6.3.5 Assessment of Threatened Species, Populations and Ecological Communities within this SIS

Several threatened species, populations and ecological communities recorded from the subject site are covered in the Recovery Plan. These species and populations have been considered in the SIS, and impacts from the proposed development on these species and populations have been assessed. Table 6.2 indicates the relevant sections in the SIS where these species have been addressed.

The management and recovery objectives for the flora and fauna species, populations and ecological communities listed in Table 6.2 are addressed as part of the overall objectives for the ecological communities of the Cumberland Plain as it is recognised that the recovery of the vegetation will facilitate the recovery of the associated flora and fauna species.

Table 6.2 Threatened Biodiversity identified in the Recovery Plan that have been addressed in this SIS	
Threatened Biodiversity listed in the Recovery Plan	Addressed in SIS
Cumberland Plain Woodland	Identified as a Subject and Affected Community in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this community are assessed in Sections 5,1 - 5.6.
Shale-Gravel Transition Forest	Identified as a Subject and Affected Community in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this community are assessed in Sections 5,1 - 5.6.
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	Identified as a Subject and Affected Community in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this community are assessed in Sections 5,1 - 5.6.
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Identified as a Subject and Affected Species in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this species are assessed in Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.6..
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Identified as a Subject Species in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this species are not assessed in detail, due to the lack of records in the subject site.
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> R. Br subsp. <i>viridiflora</i> population in the Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith LGAs	Identified as a Subject Species in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this species are not assessed in detail, due to the lack of records in the subject site.
Cumberland Plain Land Snail (<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>)	Identified as a Subject and Affected Species in Section 4.5 of the SIS. Impacts to this species are assessed in Sections 5.2 and 5.6.

As discussed in detail within Chapter 8 of this SIS, the proposed Regional Park. The main actions proposed in the Recovery Plan include:

- Building the protected area network;
- Delivering best practice management;
- Promoting awareness, education and engagement; and
- Enhancing information, monitoring and enforcement.

The proposed development is consistent with these actions because the largest and best areas of high quality biodiversity in the SMP will be conserved within the proposed Regional Park, adding to the protected area network with opportunity to deliver best practice

management. The area of habitat for threatened biodiversity proposed to be cleared is comparatively small and is of lower biodiversity value compared to that of the Regional Park.

6.4 Application of Recovery Plan to Proposal

As discussed briefly above, when considering whether to grant development consent to the Proposal, Council is not required to act in a manner consistent with the objectives and actions in the Recovery Plan. Those objectives and actions should however be taken into account, as follows:

- Under sections 5A and 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Council is required to take into account whether the Proposal is consistent with the objectives and aims of the Recovery Plan. Under section 79C Council retains the discretion to approve or refuse the Proposal so long as mandatory matters have been taken into account. Under section 69 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 Council is not required to strictly apply each action for which it is said to be responsible in the Recovery Plan when determining a development application.
- The main actions proposed in the Recovery Plan include:
 - Building the protected area network;
 - Delivering best practice management;
 - Promoting awareness, education and engagement; and
 - Enhancing information, monitoring and enforcement.

The Proposal is consistent with these actions because:

1. The largest and best areas of high quality biodiversity in the SMP will be conserved within the proposed Regional Park, adding to the protected area network with opportunity to deliver best practice management;
2. The area of habitat for threatened biodiversity proposed to be cleared is comparatively small and is of lower biodiversity value compared to that of the Regional Park; and
3. Management plans regulating the development of the SMP have been approved and adopted that are consistent with the objectives and requirements of the Recovery Plan.

Ameliorative Measures

7.1 Introduction

Measures have been put in place to mitigate adverse affects on the species, populations and ecological communities that exist or may occur in the study area during and after the construction of the Central Precinct. Long term management strategies, compensatory management strategies and monitoring plans have been developed in order to minimise the impacts of the proposal on the flora and fauna of the subject site, including affected (C)EECs/species and ecological communities. These management strategies and plans will minimise and control the key threatening processes outlined in Chapter 5.

This chapter provides a summary of the mitigation measures proposed and the extent of implementation that has occurred to date.

The mitigation measures will cover the SMP including the Central Precinct and the Regional Park. Long term management strategies and plans include:

7.1.1 *SMP/Regional Park*

- The statutory planning framework established for the SMP provides the foundation for the sustainable development and management of the SMP:
 - The SREP30 (DUAP, 2001b) zones 900ha of land for the purpose of a Regional Park to conserve a representative and significant proportion of the natural values of the SMP in order to protect the variety of Western Sydney vegetation communities, native flora and fauna species and fauna habitat. Clause 37(1)(b) of SREP 30 provides a relevant objective of this zoning is to “conserve and enhance the range and variety of ecological communities...within the area”. Development for the purpose of any land use authorised under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPW Act) is permissible without consent, and any other land use is prohibited: cl 37(2) ;
 - The EPS2000 establishes amongst other things the environmental conservation principles to guide the long term development and conservation of the SMP. Section 4.2 provides that the Regional Park will provide for the conservation of EECs including CPW. Section 4.3 provides performance objectives amongst which is the objective of minimising

adverse impacts on the vegetation habitats within the Regional Park resulting from the development of areas zoned “Urban”; and

- The State Deed provides for the transfer of land to NPWS, provision of funding and the obligation to gazette land as Regional Park under the NPW Act.
- The Regional Park Plan of Management, adopted under S.75A of the NPW Act.
- The approved St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan (Cumberland Ecology, 2004b);

7.1.2 Central Precinct

- The Central Precinct Weed Management Plan (Cumberland Ecology, 2008a);
- The Central Precinct Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy (Cumberland Ecology, 2008b);
- The Central Precinct Open Space and Landscape Master Plan; and

7.2 Long Term Management Strategies

Long-term management strategies to protect the high quality habitats of the study area from impacts prior to, during and post construction of developments in the Central Precinct, as detailed in the Precinct Plan (JBA 2009). Such measures include the implementation of the following plans:

7.2.1 The Open Space and Landscape Masterplan

A number of principles have been adopted in relation to the Open Space and Landscape Masterplan for the Central Precinct (Environmental Partnership, 2009) including;

- Maximising natural functioning of the watercourses, incorporating bed and bank stability;
- Maximising corridor functions for native fauna and flora of the riparian areas;
- Maximise water quality functions;
- Maximising biological functions within riparian areas;
- Minimising movement of undesirable flora within the riparian areas; and
- Minimising future salinity impacts for the whole site.

i. Seed collection

The seed from local native plants will be collected for use in the revegetation plans for riparian zone and open space areas. This will ensure preservation of the local genetic material of the flora.

ii. Retention of significant trees

Street trees are an important element of the streetscape and open space system. Street trees assist in reinforcing the biodiversity values of the St Marys Development. The following strategies are to be used wherever possible in the subsequent planning phases to respond to retain individual trees and stands of existing trees through the site. Moreover

- Existing significant trees shall be incorporated into the planting design at key locations within parks and streetscapes; and
- Street trees are predominantly native trees indigenous to Western Sydney.

iii. Environmental Considerations

The environmental values of both the subject site and the Central Precinct will be reinforced through appropriate revegetation from local seed stock and protection of natural features.

The revegetation of the riparian zone will incorporate indigenous plant species predominantly propagated from seed stock collected from the site and from local seed stock collected by other organisations. This will ensure that the creek and environmental corridors are revegetated with genetically appropriate plant species to maintain genetic integrity of the local biodiversity. The reconstruction of naturally functioning watercourses increases the environmental value of the site by increasing creek bank stability and water quality. Moreover, naturally functioning watercourses protect from future degradation of the site from invasive weeds and high salinity.

All open spaces will be designed to ensure that the maintenance of local flora is sustainable. The design and maintenance standards will be defined by the quality, size, location and use of each individual open space area. Existing significant trees shall be incorporated into the planting design at key locations within parks and streetscapes where possible. These mature trees will strengthen the biodiversity values of the subject site by providing shelter, habitat and corridors for native fauna. Moreover, the mature trees will provide shade and aesthetic values for the residents of SMP. Any trees that are removed will be harvested for landscape mulch and furniture items to minimise wastage and in up keeping with sustainability values. Furthermore the onsite topsoil will be stripped, stored, ameliorated and reused within streetscape and parks. This will ensure that local seed bank in the soil is preserved for the biodiversity value of the Central Precinct.

A well-defined asset protection zone and appropriate interface and edge treatments along the Regional Park boundary will assist in the ongoing management of the park. The maintenance of the natural fire cycles in the Regional Park is important for the preservation of floral diversity in the Regional Park, however regular burn offs of ground litter in the

Regional Park will safeguard the residents of SMP from the threat of bush fire. The asset protection zone will enhance this safeguard.

7.2.2 Weed Management Plan

A Weed Management Plan has been developed and adopted by Penrith City for the Central Precinct in order to provide for the following objectives:

- Identification and management of weeds during and after construction on the Central Precinct to prevent the spread of weeds into the Regional Park;
- Specify control measures for noxious weeds of significance in the SMP specifically identified in the EPS, Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and Weeds of National Significance;
- Set out requirements for revegetation after disturbance or construction to reduce the potential spread and establishment of weeds;
- Prepare prescriptions for the control of significant weed species within the Central Precinct development area during and after construction;
- Detail a weed control program for the Central Precinct development area;
- Make provision for weed control guidelines for building and landscaping and education material for future residents;
- Outline strategies to ensure that the relevant objectives outlined in SREP 30 and St Marys EPS Environmental Planning Strategy and State Deed are met; and
- The WMP will be implemented and enforced via conditions of consent on DAs.

7.2.3 Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy

A Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy has been developed and adopted by PCC for the Central Precinct in order to provide for the following objectives:

- To ensure that development of the Central Precinct does not directly increase populations of, or improve habitats for, feral/exotic pest animals and over-abundant native species;
- To ensure that development of Central Precinct does not indirectly increase populations of feral animals such as European Red Foxes and Feral Cats by creating abundant prey;
- To ensure that development of Central Precinct does not exacerbate any Key Threatening Process;
- To minimise the potential for domestic animals within Central Precinct to impact on native flora and fauna values at the SMP;

- To minimise the potential for feral/exotic pests, over-abundant native and domestic animals to impinge on the conservation values of the adjoining Regional Park; and
- This strategy will be implemented and enforced via conditions of consent on DAs.

7.2.4 Bushfire Management Plan

The Bushfire Management Plan is being implemented progressively in the Central Precinct to reduce the bushfire hazard to life and property within the precinct and reduce the adverse effects of frequent bushfires on the Regional Park.

7.2.5 Macrofauna Management Plan

The St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan (for kangaroos and emus) for the entire SMP has been endorsed by NPWS and is now being implemented, which will ultimately result in a decrease in grazing pressure in the Regional Park and exclusion of macrofauna from the Central Precinct.

The key objectives of the MMP include:

- Minimisation of risks to macrofauna from human activities and from macrofauna to humans on the SMP;
- Provision of a protocol for the treatment of sick or injured macrofauna on the SMP;
- Justification of management options for the macrofauna population;
- Provision of short term prescriptions for management of macrofauna in relation to proposed developments within the development precincts of the SMP;
- Provision of medium term and long term prescriptions for management of macrofauna within the Regional Park and open space areas of the SMP; and
- Provision of appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, review and revision of the MMP as required for adaptive management of the macrofauna populations.

7.2.6 Habitat Enhancement within Subject Site

Some existing trees within the Central Precinct will be retained where possible.

Planting of riparian corridors as part of water management will also form part of onsite mitigation.

7.3 Compensatory Measures

Compensatory strategies have been put in place to minimise impacts on threatened species and (C)EECs.

The foremost mitigation measure for threatened species and ecological communities is the establishment of the 900ha Regional Park, to be managed by OEH. The Regional Park will conserve extensive, viable tracts of forest and woodland, and habitats of threatened and regionally significant species. The Regional Park comprises the best representative parts of the (C)EECs in the SMP.

In addition to the reservation of this land, regeneration (assisted if required) of endangered ecological communities and threatened flora will occur within degraded parts of the Regional Park using local seed stock (this has been addressed within the Regional Park Plan of Management). The establishment of the Regional Park is further supported by the extensive plans of management of relevance to the long-term management of this large conservation area. The following plans have been implemented for the Regional Park:

7.3.1 Regional Park Plan of Management

- A Plan of Management for the 900ha Regional Park (DEC (NSW), 2007) has been prepared and recently endorsed by OEH. The Regional Park will be managed to maintain the remnant vegetation communities and associated biodiversity and will include the protection of significant cultural and scenic values. Visitor and research opportunities will be provided that are consistent with the conservation values of the Park. The key objectives of this plan include:
 - Protection and enhancement of the natural heritage of the Park, particularly the endangered ecological communities and the threatened flora and fauna species through the management of fire, disturbed areas, drainage, introduced species, access and visitor use;
 - Protection of the catchment values of South and Ropes Creeks through managing any disturbances, particularly those associated with fire, access and drainage;
 - Provision of recreational facilities that are appropriate in a regional context and are designed, located and managed to protect the natural and cultural heritage and visual values of the Park;
 - Provision of interpretive and educational opportunities through signage, park brochures and activities to assist visitor understanding and enjoyment of the Park; and
 - Improving knowledge of natural and cultural heritage, corresponding threats and the evaluation of management programs through research and monitoring. Working with local government, other agencies and authorities, the community and commercial interests to maximise community interest and involvement in the conservation of the Park, and the implementation of sympathetic conservation measures in the neighbouring environment.

7.3.2 Macrofauna Management Plan

Significant financial investment has been made by the proponent to contribute to the overall compensatory “package”. The population management of kangaroo and emu populations in the 900ha Regional Park (and other areas of the SMP) has allowed for the regeneration of CPW and other woodland types due to the significant reduction in grazing animals present. There has also been investment in the monitoring of impacts from grazing over a number of years, as described in Section 7.4 below.

7.3.3 Principles for Offsetting

The compensatory measures against current state-wide standards in offsetting is specified by OEH in ‘*Guidelines for Biodiversity Certification of Environmental Planning Instruments Working Draft – Department of Environment and Climate Change, October 2007*’. (DECC, 2007). The Principles for offsetting (DECC 2007) require that offsets be underpinned by sound ecological principles and must:

- Include the consideration of structure, function and compositional elements of biodiversity, including threatened species;
- Enhance biodiversity at a range of scales;
- Consider the conservation status of ecological communities; and
- Ensure the long-term viability and functionality of biodiversity.

Offsets should be targeted according to biodiversity priorities in the area, based on the conservation status of the ecological community, the presence of threatened species or their habitat, connectivity and the potential to enhance condition by management actions and the removal of threats. Only ecological communities that are equal or greater in conservation status to the type of ecological community lost can be used for offsets. One type of environmental benefit cannot be traded for another: for example, biodiversity offsets may also result in improvements in water quality or salinity but these benefits do not reduce the biodiversity offset requirements.

The dedication of 900ha of land to create Regional Park, monetary contributions towards capital costs of the Regional Park, fencing and additional measures, such as the implementation of management plans described above, satisfies these principles.

7.3.4 Alternative Compensatory Measures

The options for the SMP have been considered over many years and they range from the “complete conservation option”, which would involve designating the entire SMP as a conservation reserve, through to options that would see the majority of the site developed and used for urban development.

The “complete conservation option” has not been considered feasible due to the extensive disturbance of the former industrial portions of the subject site and the high costs (and

impracticalities) of restoration of such land. More extensive development of the SMP is also not warranted as this would likely require clearing of at least some relatively undisturbed woodland and forest and impact upon areas listed on the Register of National Estate.

The conservation outcome for the SMP provided for under SREP 30 was determined by the detailed deliberations of a statutory committee convened by the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 22 of the NSW EP&A Act (1979) (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1997). This outcome was added to in more recent years by the inclusion of all areas of National Estate into an expanded Regional Park. Due to the high conservation values of portions of the site, conservation outcomes were considered in detail and provided for as the first priority for planning the future of the property.

The major alternatives to the development of the property would be more conservation/less development or more development/less conservation. However, currently SREP 30 and the subsequent amendments to expand the Regional Park provide for conservation of approximately 900 hectares of the 1545 hectare site and include the vast majority of the high and medium conservation value lands.

In the context of the SMP, and the study area, the subject site is a highly disturbed area. While the subject site could in theory be added to the conservation reserve for the SMP, this is not a practical alternative to the current proposal owing to the high level of disturbance to the site. Such an alternative would also substantially reduce the developable area of the subject site without adding substantially to the conservation of threatened flora and fauna.

7.4 Monitoring

The effectiveness of the mitigation measures is determined by ongoing monitoring. The objective of the ongoing monitoring of the affected (C)EECs/species will be to ascertain whether the predicted impacts on the species occur. Monitoring will also detect other unexpected impacts and where necessary, measures to prevent further impacts can be implemented. The method of monitoring, reporting framework, duration and frequency is outlined in detail. The effectiveness of mitigation measures is generally proven by experimental design allowing adaptive management and appropriate monitoring. Details of the monitoring for all flora and fauna within the SMP, including macrofauna, weeds, feral animals and threatened species, will be provided within a Monitoring Plan prepared in conjunction with the Regional Park Plan of Management.

7.4.1 Weed Management Plan

A vital component of weed control strategy is follow-up work and monitoring. The review and monitoring of weed control is outlined in this plan. Short term monitoring will be undertaken as a follow-up to weed control operations, ensuring that weed control has been successful. The long-term monitoring program is to provide sufficient feedback on the success of the overall weed control strategies including suppression and prevention of weed spread and establishment. Detailed short-term and long-term monitoring objectives and methods are outlined in the plan. An annual review of the plan will be undertaken to assess the

effectiveness of the plan, during the first three years. The detailed reporting framework is also outlined in the plan.

7.4.2 The St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan

The Macrofauna Management Plan (MMP) is based upon an adaptive management approach and regular monitoring and review. This will ensure that the kangaroo and emu populations are managed in an optimal way that ensures animals are removed from development areas and where retained, they are maintained in a healthy humane condition at densities that do not unsustainably impact upon the condition and use of the Regional Park. Kangaroos and emus will be counted on a quarterly basis for the first five years of the MMP. The counts of kangaroos and emus will, where possible, be related to data from fox baiting programs conducted on the SMP. Detailed short-term and long-term monitoring objectives and methods are outlined in the MMP. The findings of monitoring work for the MMP and results of various adaptive management procedures will be summarised within an annual report, submitted to NPWS. This annual report will be used as the basis for the annual revision of the MMP.

It is a condition of the MMP that vegetation will be monitored in these plots annually in autumn for the life of the MMP. Baseline flora surveys of these plots were completed between March and July 2005. Vegetation within the plots was then re-surveyed between March and July from 2008 - 2013. Reports have been completed, analysing the floristic and structural changes within the first (Cumberland Ecology, 2006), and all other subsequent years upto 2013 after grazing enclosure. This research is considered to assist in the conservation efforts for CPW by OEH.

Assessments of Significance

8.1 Critically Endangered Ecological Community

8.1.1 Cumberland Plain Woodland

Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) occurs in two forms; Shale Hills Woodland and Shale Plains Woodland. Shale Hills Woodland occurs in the south of the Cumberland Plain in more elevated areas. Shale Plains Woodland (SPW) is more widely distributed, occurring throughout the drier areas of the Cumberland Plain (NSW NPWS, 2001a). Dominant canopy species include Grey Box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*), Forest Red Gum (*E. tereticornis*), Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*E. crebra*), Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*) and Thin-leaved Stringybark (*E. eugenoides*). The shrub layer is dominated by Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*). Grasses dominate the ground layer (Benson and Howell, 1990).

The community is well adapted to fire and drought but is now under threat from disturbance triggering weed invasion, increased soil nutrients, rubbish dumping and altered fire regimes (NSW NPWS, 2001a).

In December 2009, the NSW Scientific Committee released a final determination for the listing of Cumberland Plain Woodland as a critically endangered ecological community. The definition of the community in this final determination includes areas of derived native grasslands, referring to areas where trees and shrubs have been cleared but a native understorey typical of Cumberland Plain Woodland still exists.

CPW within the subject site consists of a mix of young woodland in various stages of regeneration, derived native grassland (DNG) and low diversity DNG..CPW within the subject site totals an area of 65.37 ha (30.13 ha of young CPW, 4.18 ha of regenerating CPW and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG) of vegetation. Larger patches and more intact tracts of CPW occur on the SMP, with the largest and best quality areas conserved within the Regional Park.

- a) *in the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction*

Not applicable.

- b) *in the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the*

endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction

Not applicable.

- c) *in the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*
- (i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*
 - (ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction*

The proposed development of the subject site will collectively remove an area of approximately 65.37 ha consisting of 30.13 ha of young CPW, 4.18 ha of regenerating CPW and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG). This is not likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction because the community is well-represented within the adjacent Regional Park where it has a higher conservation value and is in better condition.

There is a possibility that the composition of CPW may be modified in the adjoining areas of the Regional Park due to an increase in edge effects from the future residential and commercial areas. However, a suite of mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce impacts from the proposed development within the Central Precinct and adjoining Regional Park including fencing and comprehensive drainage and waste management strategies. Any edge-effects that may occur are expected to be localised, and would not be expected to adversely modify composition to place the local occurrence at risk of extinction.

- d) *in relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*
- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
 - (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
 - (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality*

It is assumed that all CPW within the subject site will be removed or substantially modified for the proposed development. The proposed development of the subject site will collectively remove an area of approximately .65.37 ha consisting of 30.13 ha of young CPW, 4.18 ha of regenerating CPW and 31.07 ha of low diversity DNG..This is compared with the large areas of intact CPW/Cumberland Plain Vegetation Communities totalling more than 411ha/746ha

respectively (DEC (NSW), 2007) conserved in perpetuity in the 900ha Regional Park as an offset to development of the SMP development precincts.

The CPW of the study area occurs at the along the western to north-western edge of the Central Precinct development area and will not isolate any patches of woodland that occur outside of the development areas. The sparse regenerating woodland on the subject site occurs as scattered patches across the site, mostly near subject site boundaries that extend into the Regional Park. The proposed development of the Central Precinct will contribute to the increasing fragmentation of habitat within the Central Precinct and links to the Regional Park.

The CPW to be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development is not likely to be of great importance to the long-term survival of the community within the locality. Cumberland Plain Woodland of high conservation significance will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation. The vegetation within the Regional Park is considered to be more important than that within the subject site as it has higher resilience, is more structurally intact and has higher species diversity.

e) *whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly)*

No critical habitat for this endangered ecological community has currently been identified by the Director-General of the OEH.

f) *whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.*

A Recovery Plan for the Cumberland Plain has been gazetted. The main actions proposed in the Recovery Plan include:

- Building the protected area network;
- Delivering best practice management;
- Promoting awareness, education and engagement; and
- Enhancing information, monitoring and enforcement.

The proposed development is consistent with these actions because the largest and best quality areas of CPW in the SMP will be conserved within the Regional Park, adding to the protected area network with opportunity to deliver best practice management. The patches and sparse patches of CPW in the study area are comparatively small and degraded compared to the representation in the Regional Park and will not greatly add to the viability of the community if retained, once the study area is developed for urban purposes.

There are no threat abatement plans relevant to CPW.

- g) *whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The proposed development will result in the threatening process 'Clearing of native vegetation'. However, the vegetation to be cleared consists predominantly of degraded and sparsely regenerating CPW and higher quality examples of the community will be conserved within the Regional Park.

Other key threatening processes that may be increased as a result of the proposed development include:

- Competition and grazing by the Feral European Rabbit;
- Ecological consequence of high frequency fires; and
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses.

The Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy will be implemented in the Central Precinct to ensure that the effects of rabbits are not exacerbated by the proposed development and to decrease the impacts from rabbits as they currently exist on the SMP.

The Bushfire Management Plan has been designed to mitigate factors that could lead to high frequency fires. The plan of management for the Regional Park will also ensure that this process is not exacerbated.

The Weed Management Plan will be implemented to reduce the impacts of exotic perennial grasses.

Conclusion

The development of the subject site will remove a relatively small area of habitat for this community based. However, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on Cumberland Plain Woodland such that the large and viable representatives in the Regional Park would be placed at risk of extinction. The large and continuous remnants present in the Regional Park will be protected through a range of mitigation measures and retained in perpetuity in public ownership.

8.1.2 River-flat Eucalypt Forest and Swamp Oak Forest

River-flat Eucalypt Forest on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions (SOF) are both forms of Alluvial Woodland depending on whether Swamp Oak is the dominant tree species or eucalypts are dominant. These communities have been assessed together here as they intergrade with each other throughout the occurrence of on the subject site as well as areas mapped as Alluvial Woodland elsewhere on the SMP.

River-flat Eucalypt Forest (RFEF) is found on coastal floodplains and has a tall canopy of eucalypts. The most widespread canopy trees include *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. amplifolia*, *Angophora floribunda* and *A. subvelutina*. It may have a layer of small trees and a scattering of shrubs. The ground cover consists of abundant forbs, scramblers and grasses. RFEF occurs on alluvial soils on river-flats of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions (NSW Scientific Committee 2004j).

Small patches of RFEF in occur in the centre of the Central Precinct. Larger patches and tracts of RFEF occur in the Regional Park.

Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest occurs where the groundwater is saline or subsaline in areas that are waterlogged or periodically inundated flats, drainage lines, lake margins and estuarine fringes associated with coastal floodplains. Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) forms a dense to sparse canopy. The understorey has frequent vines, sparse shrubs and a continuous ground cover of forbs, sedges, grasses and leaf litter (NSW Scientific Committee 2004i).

This community is threatened by land clearing, fragmentation, flood mitigation, land-filling, pollution from runoff, weed invasion, damage from livestock and feral animals, acid sulphate soils and rubbish dumping.

Small patches of depauperate SOF occur in the Central Precinct as stands of scattered indigenous tree cover. Larger patches and tracts of SOFF occur on the SMP.

a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

Not applicable.

b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

Not applicable.

c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*

(i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*

(ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

The proposed development will remove an area of 28.51 ha of RFEF and 7.53 ha of SOF. This will not have an adverse effect on the extent of the communities such that their local occurrences are likely to be placed at risk of extinction because the communities are well-represented within the adjacent Regional Park where they have a higher conservation value and are in better condition.

The composition may be modified in parts of the Central Precinct where representations of the communities are retained such as significant trees or patches of understorey. Although patches of vegetation are not likely to be retained with structural complexity or composition resembling the communities, this will not adversely modify composition to place the local occurrence at risk of extinction because of the retention of the communities in the Regional Park.

Re-alignment of the main creek through the subject site also has the potential for indirect effects on these riparian communities in adjacent through alteration of drainage patterns. However the realigned creekline will exit the subject site at the same location and modelling indicates that alterations to drainage and flood levels will not be significant. The realignment, therefore, will not have an adverse effect on the extent of the communities such that their local occurrences are likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

- d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*
- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
 - (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
 - (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.*

It is assumed that all SOF and RFEF within the precinct will be removed or substantially modified for the proposed development, except for any portions of the community that may be retained along drainage lines as part of riparian zones.

Intact SOF and RFEF will remain connected through the Regional Park around the western, northern and eastern sides of the precinct. Any significant trees or patches of understorey that are retained within the precinct will become isolated as a result of the proposed development.

The patches of SOFF and RFEF to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of the proposed development are not important to the long-term survival of the communities within the locality. Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest and RFEF of high conservation significance will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation. The vegetation within the Regional Park is considered to be more important than that within the Central Precinct as it is in better condition and is more intact.

- e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly),*

No critical habitat for these endangered ecological communities has currently been identified by the Director-General of the OEH.

- f) *Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plans,*

A Recovery Plan for the Cumberland Plain has been gazetted. The main actions proposed in the Recovery Plan include:

- Building the protected area network;
- Delivering best practice management;
- Promoting awareness, education and engagement; and
- Enhancing information, monitoring and enforcement.

The proposed development is consistent with these actions because the largest and best quality areas of RFEF and SOF in the SMP will be conserved within the Regional Park, adding to the protected area network with opportunity to deliver best practice management. The sparse patches of RFEF and SOF in the study area are comparatively small and degraded compared to the representation in the Regional Park and will not greatly add to the viability of the community if retained, once the study area is developed for urban purposes.

- g) *Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The proposed development will result in Clearing of native vegetation. However, the vegetation to be cleared consists of degraded RFEF and higher quality examples of the community will be conserved within the Regional Park. Other key threatening processes that may be increased as a result of the proposed development include:

- Competition and grazing by the feral European rabbit;
- Ecological consequence of high frequency fires; and
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses.

The Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy will be implemented in the Central Precinct to ensure that the effects of rabbits are not exacerbated by the proposed development and to decrease the impacts from rabbits as they currently exist on the SMP.

The Bushfire Management Plan has been designed to mitigate factors that could lead to high frequency fires. The Plan of Management for the Regional Park will also ensure that this process is not exacerbated.

The Weed Management Plan will be implemented to reduce the impacts of exotic perennial grasses.

Conclusion

The proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on River-flat Eucalypt Forest or Swamp Oak Forest.

8.1.3 Freshwater Wetlands

Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions occurs on low-lying parts of floodplains, alluvial flats, depressions, drainage lines, back swamps, lagoons and lakes. It is dominated by herbaceous plants including sedges, emergent plants, floating and submerged plants (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

The community is threatened by land clearing, fragmentation, flood mitigation, land-filling, pollution from runoff, weed invasion, damage from livestock and feral animals, acid sulphate soils, rubbish dumping and climate change (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004e).

Small patches of Freshwater Wetlands occur in the Central Precinct in low-lying areas towards the centre of the precinct. Other areas of Freshwater Wetlands are conserved within the Regional Park.

- a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

Not applicable.

- b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

Not applicable.

- c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*

- (i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*
- (ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

The proposed development will remove some patches of Freshwater Wetlands. It is also represented within the Regional Park where it has a higher conservation value and is in better condition so that its local occurrence is not likely to be placed at risk of extinction.

The composition may be modified in parts of the Central Precinct resulting from secondary impacts such as nutrient-enriched runoff from the proposed development; however, stormwater controls will be implemented to mitigate this effect. This is not likely to place this occurrence of the community at risk of extinction..

- d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*
- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
 - (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
 - (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.*

Small areas of Freshwater Wetlands will be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development.

Any Freshwater Wetland areas that are maintained within the precinct will be connected to the Regional Park through riparian corridors. The community will not become isolated as a result of the proposed development.

The Freshwater Wetland areas that may be removed or modified as a result of the proposed development are not important to the long-term survival of the community within the locality. Freshwater Wetlands of high conservation significance will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation. The vegetation within the Regional Park is considered to be more important than that within the Central Precinct as it is in better condition and is more intact..

- e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly),*

No critical habitat for this endangered ecological community has currently been identified by the Director-General of the DECC.

- f) *Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plans,*

There are no recovery plans or threat abatement plans relevant to Freshwater Wetlands. The Recovery Plan for the Cumberland Plain does not address Freshwater Wetlands as only a small proportion of their distribution occurs within the area,

- g) *Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The proposed development will result in Clearing of native vegetation. However, the vegetation to be cleared consists of degraded Freshwater Wetlands and higher quality examples of the community will be conserved within the Regional Park. Other key threatening processes that may be increased as a result of the proposed development include:

- Competition and grazing by the feral European rabbit;
- Ecological consequence of high frequency fires; and
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses.

The Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy will be implemented in the Central Precinct to ensure that the effects of rabbits are not exacerbated by the proposed development and to decrease the impacts from rabbits as they currently exist on the SMP.

The Bushfire Management Plan has been designed to mitigate factors that could lead to high frequency fires. The plan of management for the Regional Park will also ensure that this process is not exacerbated.

The Weed Management Plan will be implemented to reduce the impacts of exotic perennial grasses.

Conclusion

The proposed development will not have a significant impact on Freshwater Wetlands.

8.2 Flora

8.2.1 *Grevillea juniperina* spp. *juniperina*

Grevillea juniperina subsp. *juniperina* is a dense shrub, 0.5-1.5m tall, found only in Western Sydney. The distribution is bounded by St Mary's, Londonderry and Prospect. It occurs on red sandy to clay soils in Cumberland Plain Woodland and Castlereagh Woodland. It is found in localised and small populations (OEH 2012g). *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* is threatened by habitat clearance, altered fire regimes, weed invasion, rubbish dumping, trampling and vehicular damage. In summary:

- The species occurs in the order of approximately 530 individuals in the subject site;
- Several hundred thousand individuals of the species occur within the Regional Park and throughout the study area; and
- The species is conserved within the nearby Castlereagh Nature Reserve.

- a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

It is estimated that approximately 530 individuals occur within the subject site and will be removed for the purpose of the proposed development. However this amount is very small when compared with the extensive habitat and hundreds of thousands of this species within the Regional Park. This species is also highly tolerant of disturbance and is expected to persist at the edges of development. Therefore the proposed development is not likely to have an impact on the life cycle of the species or compromise the viability of the population.

- b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

There are no populations of this species listed as endangered under the TSC Act.

- c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*

- (i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*
- (ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

Not applicable.

- d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*

- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
- (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
- (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.*

All of the known and potential habitat for this species in the Central Precinct will be removed or substantially modified as a result of the proposed development.

Intact habitat for the species will remain connected to other areas of native vegetation through the Regional Park around the western, northern and eastern sides of the precinct. Any significant patches of understorey containing the species that are retained within the precinct will become isolated as a result of the proposed development.

The habitat to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of the proposed development is not important to the long-term survival of the species within the locality. Hundreds of thousands of *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* individuals occur within the Regional Park and habitat of high conservation significance will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation.

e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly),*

No critical habitat for this species has currently been identified by the Director-General of the DECC.

f) *Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan,*

A recovery plan has not been prepared for this species. No threat abatement plans are relevant to this species.

g) *Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or likely to result in the operation of, or increases the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The proposed development will result in clearing of native vegetation. However, approximately 530 individuals will be cleared as a result of the proposed development compared with the hundreds of thousands that will be conserved within the Regional Park. Other key threatening processes that may be increased as a result of the proposed development include:

- Ecological consequence of high frequency fires; and
- Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses.

The Bushfire Management Plan has been designed to mitigate factors that could lead to high frequency fires. The plan of management that will be developed for the Regional Park will also ensure that this process is not exacerbated.

The Weed Management Plan will be implemented to reduce the impacts of exotic perennial grasses.

Conclusion

The proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*.

8.3 Fauna

8.3.1 Cumberland Plain Land Snail

The Cumberland Plain Land Snail inhabits a very small area on the Cumberland Plain west of Sydney from Richmond and Windsor south to Picton and from Liverpool west to the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers at the base of the Blue Mountains. It primarily occurs in Cumberland Plain Woodland, which is a grassy open woodland with occasional dense patches of shrubs. It lives under litter or bark, leaves and logs or shelters in loose soil around grass clumps (OEH 2013b). The Cumberland Plain Land Snail is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act (NSW Scientific Committee, 1997a).

- a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the lifecycle of the species is likely to be disrupted such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

Little is known about the range of the Cumberland Plain Land Snail and the area required for a viable population, but it is thought that the remaining total population on the Cumberland Plain consists of several disjunct populations (NSW Scientific Committee, 1997a). The SMP is likely to support one large population or subpopulation of this species. The Cumberland Plain Land Snail is present within most or all of the larger patches of CPW on the SMP and is represented within the Regional Park which contains more than 400ha of potential habitat.

Cumberland Plain Land Snail's were recorded on the subject site. As an indication of relative abundance, surveys of comparative CPW in the Regional Park indicate a significantly higher number of snails in mature CPW. The habitat on the subject site is sparse and suitable CPW patches are small and infrequent. Based on the assessments in the Regional Park, it can be assumed that approximately 400ha of habitat occurs, which would suggest potentially hundreds of thousands of snails.

Because the CPW on the subject site is isolated from other patches, it is questionable as to whether the subpopulation would be viable in the long term as it may not survive stochastic events such as a long drought period or disease. The conservation of large, intact areas of habitat for the species in the Regional Park is considered an adequate conservation measure for the long term viability of the species on the SMP.

- b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the lifecycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population is likely to be disrupted such that the viability of the population is likely to be significantly compromised,*

There are no populations of this species listed as endangered under the TSC Act.

- c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*
- (i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*

- (ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

Not applicable.

- d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*

- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
- (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
- (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.*

A total of 30.13 ha of potential habitat (in the form of young CPW) will be removed on the subject site. Additionally, the development of the subject site will remove 35.24 ha of marginal habitat in the form of CPW DNG and low diversity DNG. It can therefore be assumed that all of the potential habitat for this species on the subject site will be removed or substantially modified as a result of the proposed development.

The potential habitat for this species occurs in patches fragmented from larger occurrences in the Regional Park. Any significant trees or patches of understorey that are retained within the subject site will remain isolated from the Regional Park.

The habitat to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of the proposed development may be important to the long-term survival of the species within the locality. However, areas of known high quality habitat occur within the Regional Park and will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation.

- e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly).*

No critical habitat for this species has currently been identified by the Director-General of the OEH.

- f) *whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.*

A recovery plan has not been prepared for this species. No threat abatement plans are relevant to this species.

The Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan (DECCW 2011) focuses primarily on vegetation that constitutes habitat for this species.

- g) *whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of a key threatening process.*

Clearing of native vegetation resulting in the loss of habitat is a listed threatening process under the TSC Act. Small, degraded patches of potential habitat will be cleared for the proposed development. However, over 400ha of known habitat for the species will be contained within the Regional Park, which will be managed to improve fauna habitat on the SMP.

No other key threatening process that may be exacerbated by the proposed action will affect this species.

Conclusion

The proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. The development of the subject site will remove an area of habitat for this species. However, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on Cumberland Plain Land Snail such that the large and viable representatives in the Regional Park would be placed at risk of extinction. The large and continuous remnants present in the Regional Park will be protected through a range of mitigation measures and retained in perpetuity.

8.3.2 Woodland Birds

The following vulnerable listed woodland bird species have been recorded in the study area. As these species have similar habitat requirements, they are assessed together in the Assessment of Significance below:

- Speckled Warbler (*Pyrrholaemus sagittata*);
- Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*); and
- Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*); and

The Speckled Warbler has a patchy distribution throughout south-eastern Queensland, the eastern half of NSW and into Victoria, as far west as the Grampians. The species is most frequently reported from the hills and tablelands of the Great Dividing Range, and rarely from the coast. The Speckled Warbler lives in a wide range of *Eucalyptus* dominated communities that have a grassy understorey, often on rocky ridges or in gullies (OEH 2012k) (DEC (NSW), 2005k). The Speckled Warbler is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act.

The Diamond Firetail occurs in Eucalypt woodlands including Box-Gum and Snow Gum woodlands. It also occurs in open forest, mallee, natural temperate grasslands and derived grasslands, often in riparian areas. It is widely distributed across NSW. The Diamond Firetail is threatened by habitat loss through clearing, invasion of weeds and firewood collection, and predation of eggs and nestlings by the Pied Currawong (OEH 2012a) (Department of

Sustainability, 2011). The Diamond Firetail is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act.

The Varied Sittella is sedentary and inhabits most of mainland Australia except the treeless deserts and open grasslands. Its distribution in NSW is nearly continuous from the coast to the far west. The Varied Sittella's population size in NSW is uncertain but is believed to have undergone a moderate reduction over the past several decades (OEH 2012I).

- (a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

Development of the subject site may impact on some potential habitat for these small woodland bird species that have been recorded in the study area (or similar habitats on the SMP) during past surveys. Although none have been recorded in the Central Precinct and areas of better quality habitat occur within the Regional Park. The proposed development is not likely to place a local population of the species at risk of extinction.

- (b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction,*

There are no populations of the species that are listed as endangered under the TSC Act.

- (c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*

(i) is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or

(ii) is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction

Not applicable.

- (d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*

(i) the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and

(ii) whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and

(iii) the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.

All of the known and potential habitat for the species on the subject site will be removed or substantially modified as a result of the proposed development. This is a small area in comparison to that of the adjoining Regional Park.

The potential habitat for the species in the study area occurs in sparse patches that are fragmented from larger occurrences in the Regional Park. The proposed development will however increase the effects of existing fragmentation. Any significant trees or patches of understorey that are retained within the subject site will remain isolated from the Regional Park.

The habitat to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of the proposed development is not important to the long-term survival of the species within the locality. Areas of high quality habitat occur within the Regional Park and will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation.

(e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly).*

No critical habitat for this species has currently been identified by the Director-General of the OEH.

(f) *Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan,*

The Red Fox threat abatement plan is relevant to this species, although the birds are not a priority species listed in the plan. The proposed development is consistent with the objectives of the plan.

No recovery plan has been prepared for the species.

(g) *Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The proposed development will result in Clearing of native vegetation. However, the vegetation to be cleared consists of degraded habitat for the species. Larger areas of better quality habitat will be conserved within the Regional Park.

Other key threatening processes that may be increased as a result of the proposed development include:

- Predation by the European Red Fox; and
- Predation by the Feral Cat.

The Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy will be implemented in the Central Precinct to ensure that the effects of foxes and cats are not exacerbated by the proposed development.

Conclusion

The proposed development will not have significant impact on the woodland bird species such that a local population would be placed at risk of extinction.

8.3.3 *Microchiropteran Bats*

The following Assessments of Significance demonstrates apply to the following species of microchiropteran bats known to occur in the locality:

- Eastern Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis* (formerly *M. schreibersii oceanensis*);
- Eastern False Pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*);
- East-coast Freetail-bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*);
- Greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*);
- Little Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*)
- Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*); and
- Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat (*Saccolaimus flaviventris*).

The Eastern Bentwing Bat occurs along the east and north-west coasts of Australia. It roosts in caves, derelict mines, stormwater tunnels, buildings and other man-made structures. It forages above the canopy in forested areas. The Eastern Bentwing Bat forms maternity colonies in caves and populations usually centre on such caves (OEH 2012b). The Eastern Bentwing Bat is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act.

The Eastern False Pipistrelle is found on the south eastern coast and ranges of Australia from southern Queensland to Victoria and Tasmania (DEC (NSW), 2005d). It prefers moist habitats and generally roosts in eucalypt hollows, but has been found under loose bark on trees or in buildings (OEH 2012c). The Eastern False Pipistrelle is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004c).

The East-coast Freetail Bat occurs from southern Queensland to southern NSW, in dry sclerophyll forest and woodland. It roosts in tree hollows and sometimes under bark or in man-made structures (OEH 2012d). The East-coast Freetail Bat is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act (NSW Scientific Committee, 2004d).

The Greater Broad-nosed Bat occurs from the Atherton Tableland to north eastern Victoria in gullies and river systems that drain the Great Dividing Range. It roosts in tree hollows and sometimes in buildings. It occurs in woodland to moist and dry eucalypt forest and rainforest but is most common in tall wet forest (OEH 2012e). The Greater Broad-nosed Bat is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act.

The Little Bentwing-bat occurs along the east coast and ranges of Australia from Cape York in Queensland to Wollongong in NSW. It is generally found in well timbered areas of moist eucalypt forest, rainforest, vine thicket, wet and dry sclerophyll forest, Melaleuca swamps, dense coastal forests and banksia scrub. It roosts in caves, tunnels, tree hollows, abandoned mines, stormwater drains, culverts, bridges and sometimes buildings (OEH 2012h). The Little Bentwing-bat is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act.

The Southern Myotis occurs in coastal areas from north western Australia to south western Victoria (DEC (NSW), 2005i). It roosts close to water in caves, mine shafts, tree hollows, stormwater channels, buildings, under bridges and in dense foliage. It forages over streams and pools by raking its feet across the surface for insects and small fish (OEH 2012j) (DEC (NSW), 2005i). The Southern Myotis is listed as Vulnerable on Schedule 2 of the TSC Act.

The Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat is a wide-ranging species found across northern and eastern Australia. It roosts singly or in groups of up to six in tree hollows and buildings and are known to utilise mammal burrows in treeless areas. It forages in most habitats across its very wide range, with and without trees; appears to defend an aerial territory (OEH 2012m)..

- a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the lifecycle of the species is likely to be disrupted such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

There is very limited potential roosting habitat for the hollow-dwelling species of these microchiropteran bats in the study area and no potential roosting habitat for cave-dwelling species. These species are likely to primarily utilise the study area as foraging habitat as part of a larger range. Potential habitat will be retained in the Regional Park, where extensive areas of roosting and foraging habitat are located. As 900ha of potential roosting and foraging habitat will be conserved within the Regional Park, it is not likely that the proposal will affect the life cycle of these species such that a viable local population is placed at risk of extinction.

- b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the lifecycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population is likely to be disrupted such that the viability of the population is likely to be significantly compromised,*

There are no populations of these species listed as endangered under the TSC Act.

- c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*
- (i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*
 - (ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

Not applicable.

- d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*
- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
 - (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
 - (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.*

All of the known and potential habitat for these species on the subject site will be removed or substantially modified as a result of the proposed development.

The potential habitat for these species in the study area occurs in patches isolated from larger occurrences in the Regional Park. Any significant trees or patches of understorey that are retained within the subject site will remain isolated from the Regional Park.

The habitat to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of the proposed development is not important to the long-term survival of these species within the locality. Areas of high quality habitat occur within the Regional Park and will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation.

- e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly).*

No critical habitat for these species has currently been identified by the Director-General of the OEH.

- f) *whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.*

No recovery plans have been prepared for these species. No threat abatement plans are relevant to these species.

- g) *whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of a key threatening process.*

Clearing of native vegetation and Loss of hollow-bearing trees are listed key threatening processes under the TSC Act. No old-growth trees with hollows were recorded and limited mature trees occur on the subject site, which would provide foraging and potential roosting habitat, may be removed for the proposed development. However 900 ha of vegetation, including hollow bearing trees, will be conserved within the Regional Park. Future management of the Regional Park will also be designed to protect fauna habitats. The extent

of clearing proposed is therefore not considered to be a threat to microchiropteran bat species in the precinct.

No other key threatening process that may be exacerbated by the proposed action will affect these species.

Conclusion

The proposed development will not have a significant impact on threatened microchiropteran bats.

8.3.4 Grey-headed Flying-fox

The Grey-headed Flying-fox is found along the east coast of Australia from Bundaberg to Melbourne. It occurs in subtropical and temperate rainforests, tall sclerophyll forest and woodlands, heaths, swamps, gardens and orchards. The species roosts in camps with high site fidelity. The Grey-headed Flying-fox is threatened by loss of foraging habitat, disturbance to camps, unregulated shooting and electrocution on power lines (OEH 2012f). It is listed as vulnerable under the TSC Act and the EPBC Act.

- a) *In the case of a threatened species, whether the lifecycle of the species is likely to be disrupted such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

The study area consists only of potential foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox as this species roosts in camps, the locations of which are well-known in the Sydney region. No camps occur on the SMP. The proposed development is unlikely to place a local population of the species at risk of extinction as it will result in the removal of a small area of low quality foraging habitat.

- b) *In the case of an endangered population, whether the lifecycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population is likely to be disrupted such that the viability of the population is likely to be significantly compromised,*

There are no populations of this species listed as endangered under the TSC Act.

- c) *In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*
- (i) *is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*
 - (ii) *is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

Not applicable.

- d) *In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*
- (i) *the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*
 - (ii) *whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*
 - (iii) *the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.*

All of the known and potential habitat for this species on the subject site will be removed or substantially modified as a result of the proposed development.

The potential habitat for this species in the study area occurs in patches isolated from larger occurrences in the Regional Park. Any significant trees or patches of understorey that are retained within the subject site will remain isolated from the Regional Park.

The habitat to be removed, modified or isolated as a result of the proposed development is not important to the long-term survival of the species within the locality. Areas of high quality habitat occur within the Regional Park and will be conserved within the Regional Park and managed for conservation.

- e) *Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly).*

No critical habitat for this species has currently been identified by the Director-General of the OEH.

- f) *whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan.*

No recovery plan has been prepared for this species. No threat abatement plans are relevant to the species.

- g) *whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of a key threatening process.*

Clearing of native vegetation is a listed key threatening process under the TSC Act. A relatively small number of mature eucalypt trees occur on the subject site, which provide potential foraging habitat, will be removed for the proposed development. However 900 ha of vegetation, will be conserved within the Regional Park. Future management of the Regional Park will also be designed to protect fauna habitats. The extent of clearing proposed is therefore not considered to be a threat to the Grey-headed Flying-fox in the precinct.

No other key threatening process that may be exacerbated by the proposed action will affect this species.

Conclusion

The proposed development will not have a significant impact on the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

Additional Information

9.1 Qualifications and Experience

The Cumberland Ecology staff involved with the compilation of this SIS have many years of experience in ecology, flora and fauna assessments and threatened species legislation. The sub-consultants are specialist in their area of expertise. The details of the qualifications of key Cumberland Ecology staff involved in the preparation of this SIS, and relevant sub-consultants, are provided in Appendix F.

9.1.1 Other Approvals Required for the Development or Activity

The proposal will be assessed under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Penrith City Council will be the consent authority for the proposal. The development application will be lodged concurrently with this SIS.

The development of the SMP has been assessed by the Commonwealth under the provisions of the Environment Protection (Impacts of Proposals) Act 1974. Associated certification of related actions under the Environmental Reform (Consequential Provisions) Act 1999 has also been granted.

9.1.2 Licence Matters

The actions necessitate the clearing of land and the removal of threatened plant species. These actions are permitted with the approval of licence applications under State and Commonwealth legislation. The following licence applications are to be submitted concurrently with this SIS:

- EPBC Permit (Section 201) – Licence to kill, injure, take, trade, keep or move a listed threatened species or ecological community.

Cumberland Ecology currently holds the following licences:

- Scientific licence (Section 132 C) (National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974)

9.1.3 Section 110 (5) Reports

Impact assessment was conducted after due consideration for the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for relevant threatened species and the condition of potential



habitats in the study area. Section 110 (5) reports utilised in preparation of this SIS are included in the References section below.

Conclusion

The proposed development of the subject site will remove a total area of 65.37 ha of CPW in the form of 31.07 ha low diversity DNG, 30.13 ha of young CPW and 4.18 ha of DNG. It will also remove 1.61 ha of SGTF, 28.51 ha of RFEF, 7.53 ha of SOF and 0.92 ha of Freshwater Wetlands. However, and with due consideration of the restricted distribution of these (C)EECs in the region, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant impact on these communities such that the large and viable representatives in the Regional Park would be placed at risk of extinction. The large and continuous remnants present in the Regional Park will be protected and enhanced through a range of mitigation measures identified and retained in perpetuity. Areas of affected vegetation within the Regional Park are proposed to be revegetated following completion of drainage works.

The major affected species impacted by the proposed development includes *Grevillea juniperina ssp juniperina* and the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. The SGTF and to a lesser extent the young CPW on the subject site provides habitat for *Grevillea juniperina ssp juniperina* while the young CPW and to a lesser extent, the DNG and low diversity DNG, on the subject site provide an area of habitat for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail. The woodland and grassland habitats also potentially provide habitat for other threatened plants, animals and communities found in the SMP. However, when directly compared with the habitats of the Regional Park, this area of habitat is considered to be degraded and of a lesser importance due to the increased level of disturbance, sparse nature and its comparatively small in size. Therefore, the loss of this habitat in the subject site is not considered to be significant.

The impact of the proposal will be more than balanced by the major conservation outcome resulting from the creation of the 900ha Regional Park. The Regional Park comprises CPW of quality and scale in a consolidated land holding, to be transferred into public ownership and subject to a Plan of Management.

When weighed against the conservation benefits, both direct and indirect, that will be derived from the 900ha Regional Park, together with the various mitigation measures afforded by the management strategies for weeds, feral and domestic animals and macrofauna, the relatively small areas of natural and semi-natural vegetation to be cleared as a result of the proposal are considered to be of minor consequence. The proposal is unlikely to result in any threatened species or ecological community becoming extinct. Known occurrences of threatened flora and fauna within the SMP are predicted to be secure in the long term as a result of the creation of the 900ha Regional Park and numerous supporting mitigation measures that are enshrined in the legal, statutory planning framework.

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Appendix A

Director General's Requirements

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
1 FORM OF THE SPECIES IMPACT STATEMENT		
	1.1 A species impact statement must be in writing (Section 109 (1))	The SIS is written
	1.2 A species impact statement must be signed by the principal author of the statement and by:	Refer to page i
	a. the applicant for the licence, or	
	b. if the species impact statement is prepared for the purposes of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the applicant for development consent or the proponent of the activity proposed to be carried out (as the case requires) Section 109(2)).	
	The applicant or proponent must sign the following declaration: "I...[insert name], of ..[address], being the applicant for the development consent...[insert DA number, Lot & DP numbers, street, suburb and LGA names] have read and understood this species impact statement. I understand the implications of the recommendations made in the statement and accept that they may be placed as conditions of consent or concurrence for the proposal."	
2. CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION		
The description must include information of the following forms or types:	2.1 Description of proposal, subject site and study area The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(1) to address the following: <i>A species impact statement must include a full description of the action proposed, including its nature, extent, location, timing and layout</i>	Ref to Section 2.2.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>A comprehensive description of the nature, extent and timing of all components and associated or consequent actions of the proposal must be provided, including actions that have effects both on and off the Subject site as a result of the proposal. These actions detailed must include, but are not to be restricted to construction or ongoing use and maintenance of proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buildings or other structures • utilities such as for sewage, electricity, gas or water • access routes; • dams/ponds, pipes/channels or other infrastructure for drainage, waste water/effluent management or erosion control • any structure or activity that may change surface or subterranean water movements • wastewater disposal • bush fire hazard reduction and protection measures, such inner and outer protection areas of asset protection zones (APZs), etc. • landscaping. 	
	<p>2.2 Land tenure information</p> <p>A legal description of the land (lot and deposited plan numbers) and information about the land tenure across the study area must be provided.</p>	<p>Ref to Section 2.3.</p>
	<p>2.3 Vegetation</p> <p>Vegetation present within the locality must be mapped and described. The descriptions should refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Committee determinations (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/) 	<p>Ref to Section 2.4.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>committee/ListOfScientificCommitteeDeterminations.htm;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OEH Vegetation Types Database (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/vegtypedatabase.htm); and. • The Cumberland Plain vegetation mapping. (http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/surveys/CumberlandPlainVegetationMappingProject.htm); 	
	<p>2.4 Plans and maps</p> <p>An aerial photograph or reproduction of such a photograph (preferably colour), of the locality, indicating scale and clearly delineating the subject site must be provided.</p> <p>A map or maps must be provided, showing:</p> <p>i. in the locality,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any locally significant areas for threatened biodiversity. • the locations and types of vegetation and cleared areas (with reference to the description required in section 2.3). <p>ii. in the study area,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the location, size and dimensions of the study area. • the full extent of the proposed works as described in section 2.1 at a scale of not less than 1:1000. • the locations and types of vegetation and cleared areas (with reference to the description required in section 2.3). • the current activities/usage of this land. 	<p>Ref to Section 2.5 for a list of Figures in each chapter of this SIS.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table		
Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	All maps must indicate scale and have an explanatory legend of any symbols used.	
	2.5 Threatened Species A list of all the threatened species or populations found in the database searches referred to in Section 3.1.1.	Refer to table 3.1 and Figures 3.1 and 3.2.
3 INITIAL ASSESSMENT	The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(2)(a) to address the following: <i>a general description of the threatened species or populations known or likely to be present in the area that is the subject of the action and in any area that is likely to be affected by the action.</i> and the requirements under Section 110(3)(a) to address the following: <i>a general description of the ecological community present in the area that is the subject of the action and in any area that is likely to be affected by the action</i>	
	3.1 Identifying subject threatened species, populations and ecological communities ('subject species')	Refer to Chapter 3.
	3.1.1 Assessment of available information In determining the species, populations and ecological communities likely to be present (the subject species) consideration must be given to the records and known distribution of species and to habitat types present within the study area. OEH recommends that a comprehensive habitat assessment across the whole site, identifying key habitat features for both flora and fauna, should first be conducted, following the guidelines at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/surveymethodsfauna.htm be used. Additionally, the OEH threatened species profiles, any available recovery plans and or	Ref to Chapter 3.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>draft recovery plans, and vegetation assessment and mapping by State or local government agencies must be consulted. Specific fauna information regarding bushland that encompasses the site may be found in OEH's Rapid Fauna Habitat Assessment of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Area (DECC 2008, www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/component/option,com_repository/Itemid,116/func,select/id,40). For obtaining known records flora and fauna databases such as the OEH Atlas of NSW Wildlife, as well as those held by local governments, the Australian Museum, CSIRO, Forests NSW and the Botanic Gardens Trust Sydney should be consulted to assist in compiling the list. Note that the OEH Atlas only holds records for which OEH is the custodian and does not include records held in other databases, and the conditions of data licences or data exchange agreements prevent OEH from distributing such information. In many cases, OEH Atlas may only contain a small subset of available data. Hence, other databases must also be consulted to make an adequate determination of subject species. Additionally, the OEH web site version of the Atlas does not provide all held records and does not provide all records with accurate location information.</p> <p>Use of the BioBanking Credit Calculator (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/calculator.htm) is also recommended to supplement the list of threatened species that possibly occur on the site (see guidelines at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/surveymethodsfauna.htm#4).</p> <p>In determining the subject species, any available recovery plans or draft recovery plans, and vegetation assessment and mapping by State or local government agencies must be consulted.</p> <p>The following vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered species should be considered as a subject species:</p>	

Table A.1 DGR compliance table		
Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
Species Lists		
	<p>These lists are not exhaustive. One of the roles of the SIS is to determine which species may be utilising the study area given the limitations of existing databases. Also be aware that additional species, populations, and ecological communities could be added to the schedules of the TSC Act between the issue of these requirements and the granting of consent. If this occurs, these additional entities will need to be addressed in the SIS and considered by the consent, determining, or concurrence authority. This requirement does not apply to the listing of a vulnerable ecological community (s5D EP&A Act). This requirement does not apply to the new listing of a vulnerable species unless the development application has not been determined by the consent authority within the period of 12 months after the date the application was made (s.105A EP&A Act).</p>	
4 SURVEY		
	<p>4.1 Requirement to survey</p> <p>Targeted surveys for subject species and their habitats must be undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the study area to provide information on distribution, population/sub-population sizes and density, and area of habitat (known and potential), noting variations across the study area. • within the locality to provide information on distribution, population/sub-population sizes, and area of habitat (known and potential). <p>This data is necessary to support the impact assessment requirements of section 5 and factors (a) and (d) of the assessment of significance.</p> <p>The techniques and timing of these surveys should be commensurate with the biology/ecology of these species and ecological communities in order to maximise the</p>	Ref to Chapter 4, Sections 4.1 – 4.2.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>likelihood and accuracy of detection. Survey requirements for certain species are identified in section 4.3. Guidance on appropriate methodologies and level and timing of survey efforts for some other species can be obtained from OEH’s Threatened Species Survey and Assessment Guidelines (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/surveyassessmentgdlns.htm), environmental impact assessment guidelines (see section 9.4), draft or approved recovery plans (see section 9.4), scientific or environmental management journals, biodiversity surveys and other sources. The information required to identify the type of impacts and assess their significance on threatened species is the key determinant for the level of survey effort required.</p> <p>Specific survey requirements for certain species, populations and ecological communities are identified in section 4.3.</p> <p>Any modifications to the recommended or required survey methods or levels of survey effort require justification of their adequacy. This justification should be scientifically valid and refer to relevant scientific literature. Previous surveys (yours or others) can contribute to fulfilling the requirements of section 4, but only if they have been conducted and documented in accordance with the provisions specified in that section, e.g. with respect to the type, location, duration, spacing/density, appropriate season and weather conditions, etc. of the surveys. Documentation and mapping of these attributes, as required by section 4.2, applies equally to any previous surveys used. The currency of any previous surveys used to fulfill these requirements is a matter that will need to be considered by the consent authority in determining the adequacy of the SIS.</p> <p>Species of taxonomic uncertainty must have their identification confirmed by a recognised authority such as the Australian Museum or National Herbarium at the Royal Botanic</p>	

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	Gardens, Sydney.	
	4.2 Documentation	
	<p><u>4.2.1 Description of survey techniques and survey locations</u></p> <p>Survey technique(s) must be described and, where possible, a reference supporting the survey technique employed is to be provided.</p> <p>The size, orientation and dimensions of plots, transects or other sampling units should be clearly documented for each type of survey technique undertaken. Full AMG grid references for the survey site(s) should be noted. Survey site(s) should be shown on a map or maps, at a scale of not less than 1:2000, which indicate scale and have an explanatory legend of all information shown and symbols used.</p>	Refer to Section 4.2.
	<p><u>4.2.2 Documenting survey effort and results</u></p> <p>Each and every survey must be documented.</p> <p>Name(s) of surveyor(s) and other personnel must be recorded. Other persons who identified records (e.g., by analysis of Anabat recordings, hair tubes, scats) should also be named.</p> <p>The date and time and environmental conditions experienced during each survey must be documented.</p> <p>Survey proformas for a range of standard fauna survey techniques can be provided separately by email from the nominated contact officer upon request. These forms have provision for the types of information required to be documented. These or equivalent forms must be used by field staff when undertaking fauna surveys. Completed data sheets are to be included as an appendix to the SIS.</p>	Ref to Section 4.3-4.5.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table		
Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>Additionally, the time invested in applying each different survey technique – e.g. number of person hours/transect, duration of call playback, number of nights traps set – must be summarised in the SIS. It is not sufficient to document only the aggregate time spent on all survey techniques combined.</p> <p>Any limitations (e.g. denied access to private land) to sampling across the study area are to be documented.</p>	
	<p><u>4.2.3 Description and mapping of results of vegetation, flora and fauna surveys</u></p> <p>The locations of any newly recorded threatened species or endangered populations resulting from additional surveys must be mapped and described. The mapping of vegetation required under section 2.3 must reflect any new information resulting from additional surveys.</p>	Refer to Section 4.3 and Figures 4.6 and 4.7.
5 ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY IMPACTS ON THREATENED SPECIES AND POPULATIONS	<p>Assessment of impacts must consider the nature, extent and timing of the proposal and all associated actions, including but not restricted to construction, provision and ongoing maintenance of approved or proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ buildings or other structures; ➤ utilities such as for sewage, electricity, gas or water; ➤ routes for access and egress; dams and associated infrastructure; ➤ pipelines; ➤ drainage infrastructure and changes made to surface water flows; ➤ bush fire hazard reduction and protection measures; ➤ landscaping; and ➤ ongoing maintenance 	Refer to Chapter 5.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>Assessment must include the direct and indirect impacts of these activities which may occur both on or off the Subject site.</p> <p>To assess the impacts from the provision bushfire protection (e.g. if there will be a requirement to provide fuel free and/or fuel reduced zones in retained bushland), proponents should consider recommendations in 'Planning for Bushfire Protection' (NSW Rural Fire Service 2006) and consider the use of siting required access roads around the roads as an option to meet those requirements but reduce impacts on retained bushland.</p>	
	<p>5.1 Assessment of species likely to be affected</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(2)(b) to address the following:</p> <p><i>an assessment of which threatened species or population known or likely to be present in the area are likely to be affected by the action.</i></p> <p>This requires you to refine the list of subject threatened species and populations (given the outcome of survey and analysis of likely impacts) in order to identify which threatened species or endangered populations may be affected directly or indirectly (including cumulatively), by the proposal. This is to be done taking account of the requirements outlined previously in section 4 of these requirements and information in any relevant Scientific Committee determinations, OEH threatened species profiles, recovery plans or draft recovery plans, and vegetation assessment and mapping. Detailed rationale should be provided to demonstrate how the list was derived. If adequate surveys/studies have been undertaken to categorically demonstrate the species does not occur in the study area, or if not resident, will not utilise habitats on site on occasion, or if off-site, be</p>	<p>Refer to Sections 4.5 and 5.2.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>influenced by off-site impacts of the activity, that species does not have to be considered further. Otherwise all species/populations likely to occur in the study area (based on general species distribution information), and known to utilise those habitat types, should be assessed as if they are present.</p> <p>The requirements in the remainder of this section need only be addressed for those species that are likely to be affected by the proposal. Subsequently this information should be used in an Assessment of Significance (as required in section 8) for each of those species or populations.</p>	
	<p>5.2 Discussion of local and regional abundance and distribution</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(2)(d) to address the following:</p> <p><i>an estimate for the local and regional abundance of those species or populations</i></p>	Refer to Section 5.3.
	<p>5.2.1 Discussion of other known local populations</p> <p>A discussion of other known populations in the locality must be provided. An estimate of the numbers of individuals of each threatened species or population utilising the area and the relative significance of the population(s) in the study area to the populations in the locality must be included.</p>	Refer to Section 5.3.
	<p>5.3 Assessment of habitat</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(2)(f) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a full description of the type, location, size and condition of the habitat (including critical habitat) of those species and populations and details of the distribution and condition of similar habitats in the region (Section 110 (2)(f)).</i></p>	Refer to Section 5.3.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p><u>5.3.1 Description of habitat values</u></p> <p>Specific habitat features must be described (e.g. frequency and location of stags, hollow bearing trees, culverts, rock shelters, rock outcrops, crevices, caves, drainage lines, soaks etc) and the density of understorey vegetation and groundcover.</p> <p>The condition of the habitat within the study area must be discussed, including the prevalence of introduced species, species of weeds present and an estimate of the total weed cover as a percentage of each vegetation community, whether trampling or grazing is apparent, effects of erosion, prevalence of rubbish dumping, history of resource extraction or logging and proximity to roads.</p> <p>Details of the subject site's fire history (eg frequency, time since last fire, intensity) and the source of fire history (eg observation, local records), must be provided.</p> <p>OEH's Rapid Fauna Habitat Assessment of the Sydney Metropolitan CMA Area (DECC 2008, www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/component/option,com_remository/Itemid,116/func,select/id,40) is a source of information that should be referred to in meeting this requirement.</p>	<p>Refer to Sections 4.3 and 5.3.</p>
	<p><u>5.3.2 Discussion of habitat utilisation</u></p> <p>A discussion of how individuals use the area (eg residents, transients, adults, juveniles, nesting, foraging) and discussion of the significance of the habitat of the study area to the viability of the threatened species or endangered population in the locality must be included.</p>	
	<p>5.4 Discussion of conservation status</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(2)(c) to address the following:</p>	<p>Refer to Section 5.5.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p><i>for each species or population likely to be affected, details of its local, regional and State-wide conservation status, the key threatening processes generally affecting it, its habitat requirements and any recovery plan or threat abatement plan applying to it</i></p> <p>and to your obligation under Section 110(2)(e) to address the following:</p> <p><i>an assessment of whether those species or populations are adequately represented in conservation reserves (or other similar protected areas) in the region</i></p> <p>and to your obligation under Section 110(2)(e1) to address the following:</p> <p><i>an assessment of whether any of those species or populations is at the limit of its known distribution</i></p> <p>The relative significance of the subject site for threatened species or endangered populations in the locality must be discussed. In particular, discussion of other known populations must be provided. Such an assessment must consider and compare the differences in the type, condition, and tenure and long-term security of other areas of known habitats in the locality with those in the study area.</p> <p>The discussion must also relate to the threatening processes (see section 6.4.4) that affect the conservation status of the ecological community.</p> <p>Known occurrences in the locality and region of the extinction or degradation of local populations of each affected threatened species or population and of fragmentation, decrease in extent or degradation of its habitat should be documented.</p>	
	5.5 Discussion of the likely effect of the proposal at local and regional scales	Refer to Section 5.6.
	<p><u>5.5.1 Significance within a local context</u></p> <p>The significance of impacts in the study area for conservation of affected threatened</p>	Refer to Section 5.6.2.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table		
Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	species or endangered populations in the locality must be discussed. An assessment of the significance of such impacts must compare and take into account the differences in the type, condition, and the tenure and long-term security, of other areas of known habitats in the locality with those in the study area.	
	<p><u>5.5.2 Discussion of connectivity</u></p> <p>The potential of the proposal to increase fragmentation of the habitat or decrease the ability for movement of individuals and/or gene flow between habitats or populations of a threatened species or population must be appraised.</p>	Refer to Section 5.6.
	<p><u>5.5.3 Consideration of threatening processes</u></p> <p>Assessment of effects must not be limited only to threats that are recognised as key threatening processes, but must include other threatening processes that are generally accepted by the scientific community as affecting the species or population and are likely to be caused or exacerbated by the proposal. Assessment should also include consideration of information in the Priorities Action Statement and any approved or draft recovery plans or threat abatement plans which may be relevant to the proposal.</p>	Refer to Section 5.6.4.
	<p>5.6 Description of feasible alternatives</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(2)(h) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a description of any feasible alternatives to the action that are likely to be of lesser effect and the reasons justifying the carrying out of the action in the manner proposed, having regard to the biophysical, economic and social considerations and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</i></p> <p>Where a Statement of Environmental Effects, Environmental Impact Statement or Review</p>	Refer to Section 5.7.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>of Environmental Factors deals with these matters, the SIS may refer to the relevant section of the SEE, EIS or REF as long as the document referred to is provided with the SIS.</p> <p>The SIS must include details of the condition and use of other parts of the subject area and why these can or cannot be considered as feasible alternatives.</p>	
<p>6 ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY IMPACTS ON THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>Assessment of impacts must consider the nature, extent and timing of the proposal and all associated actions, including but not restricted to construction, provision and ongoing maintenance of approved or proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ buildings or other structures; ➤ utilities such as for sewage, electricity, gas or water; ➤ routes for access and egress; ➤ dams and associated infrastructure; ➤ pipelines; ➤ drainage infrastructure and changes made to surface water flows; ➤ bush fire hazard reduction and protection measures; ➤ landscaping; and ➤ ongoing maintenance <p>Assessment must include the direct and indirect impacts of these activities which may occur both on or off the Subject site.</p> <p>To assess the impacts from the provision bushfire protection (e.g. if there will be a requirement to provide fuel free and/or fuel reduced zones in retained bushland), proponents should consider recommendations in 'Planning for Bushfire Protection' (NSW</p>	<p>Refer to Section 5.1.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>Rural Fire Service 2006) and consider the use of siting required access roads around the roads as an option to meet those requirements but reduce impacts on retained bushland.</p>	
	<p>6.1 Assessment of critically endangered or endangered ecological communities likely to be affected</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(3)(a) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a general description of the ecological community present in the area that is the subject of the action and in any area that is likely to be affected by the action.</i></p> <p>This requires you to refine the list of subject ecological communities (given the outcome of survey and analysis of likely impacts) in order to identify which critically endangered or endangered ecological communities (C/EECs) may be affected, directly or indirectly (including cumulatively), by the proposal. This must include reference to the ecological community as described by the NSW Scientific Committee, and to the requirements outlined previously in section 4 of these requirements, and take into account information any relevant C/EEC profile, recovery plan or draft recovery plan, and vegetation assessment and mapping. Adequate rationale should be provided to demonstrate how the list was derived. If adequate surveys/studies have been undertaken to categorically demonstrate the C/EEC does not occur in the study area, or will not utilise habitats on site, or if off-site, be influenced by off-site impacts of the activity, that C/EEC does not have to be considered further. Otherwise all C/EECs likely to occur in the study area (based on general distribution information), and known to occupy those habitat types, should be assessed as if present.</p>	<p>Refer to Section 5.2.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table		
Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	The requirements in the remainder of this section need only be addressed for those C/EECs that are likely to be affected by the proposal.	
	<p>6.2 Description of habitat</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(3)(c) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a full description of the type, location, size and condition of the habitat of the ecological community and details of the distribution and condition of similar habitats in the region.</i></p>	Refer to Section 5.3.
	<p>6.2.1 Study area</p> <p>An assessment of habitat the study area is required to include:</p> <p>a description of each C/EEC, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description those areas where the community may only be represented by soil stored seed with no or few above-ground components, and • description of disturbance history and recovery capacity. If the site shows signs of disturbance, details should be provided of the site's disturbance history. An assessment should be made of the ability of the ecological community to recover to a state representative of its pre-disturbance condition. This assessment will include consideration of the site's in-situ and migratory resilience and will be accompanied by a map of the recovery capacity of the ecological community across the site. Consideration should be given to the results (preliminary or otherwise) of restoration projects being undertaken at other sites that contain the ecological community when assessing its recovery capacity. <p>comparison of the affected community with the C/EEC as determined by the NSW Scientific Committee.</p>	Refer to Sections 5.3 - 5.4.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>reference to any relevant available recovery plans or draft recovery plans and vegetation assessment and mapping.</p> <p>maps, consistent with the descriptions provided, showing of the extent and condition of the C/EEC.</p>	
	<p><u>6.2.2 Locality</u></p> <p>A discussion of other occurrences of each C/EEC populations in the locality must be provided. This must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a comparison of other known occurrences and their habitats with those of the study area in terms of remnant sizes, connectivity, species diversity and abundances, quality and condition (including levels of disturbances, weed diversity and abundances). the tenure and long-term security of other occurrences and its habitat. the relative significance of the subject site for each C/EEC in the locality and region. 	Refer to Section 5.3.
	<p>6.3 Discussion of conservation status</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(3)(b) to address the following:</p> <p><i>for each ecological community present, details of its local, regional and State-wide conservation status, the key threatening processes generally affecting it, its habitat requirements and any recovery plan or any threat abatement plan applying to it</i></p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(3)(b1) to address the following:</p> <p><i>an assessment of whether those ecological communities are adequately represented in conservation reserves (or other similar protected areas) in the region</i></p>	Refer to Section 5.5.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(3)(b2) to address the following:</p> <p><i>an assessment of whether any of those ecological communities is at the limit of its known distribution</i></p> <p>The relative significance of the subject site for each C/EEC in the locality must be discussed. In particular, discussion of other known occurrences of each affected C/EEC must be provided. Such an assessment must consider and compare the differences in remnant sizes, connectivity, species diversity and abundances, quality and condition (including levels of disturbances, weed diversity and abundances), tenure and long-term security of other known occurrences and habitats in the locality with those in the study area.</p> <p>The discussion must also relate to the threatening processes (see section 6.4.4) that affect the conservation status of the ecological community.</p> <p>Known occurrences in the locality and region of fragmentation, decrease in extent or degradation of each C/EEC or its habitat should be documented.</p>	
	<p>6.4 Discussion of the likely effect of the proposal at local and regional scales</p> <p>6.4.1 Significance within a local context</p> <p>The significance of impacts in the study area for conservation of affected C/EEC in the locality must be discussed. An assessment of the significance of such impacts must compare and take into account the differences in remnant sizes, connectivity, species diversity and abundances, quality and condition (including levels of disturbances, weed diversity and abundances), tenure and long-term security of other known occurrences and habitats in the locality with those in the study area.</p>	<p>Refer to Section 5.3.</p> <p>Refer to Section 5.3.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p><u>6.4.2 Extent of habitat removal or modification</u></p> <p>The location, nature and extent of habitat removal or modification which may result from the proposed action including the cumulative loss of habitat from the study area (including all proposed DAs and those areas in the subject area already with development consent or identified for development) and the impacts of this on the viability of the C/EEC in the locality.</p> <p>This must include an assessment of the proportion of the C/EEC to be affected by the proposal, in relation to the total extent of the C/EEC, and the impact of this on the viability of the endangered ecological community at the local level.</p>	Refer to Section 5.6.
	<p><u>6.4.3 Discussion of connectivity</u></p> <p>The potential of the proposal to increase fragmentation of each C/EEC, its relation to adjoining vegetation and to exacerbate edge effects or to decrease the ability for movement of individuals and/or gene flow between habitats must be discussed. The impact on habitats in the proximate reserved lands, must be discussed.</p> <p>If connectivity between adjacent remnants of C/EECs is likely to be affected, the impact of the proposal on connectivity must also be discussed.</p>	Refer to Section 5.6.
	<p><u>6.4.4 Consideration of threatening processes</u></p> <p>Assessment of effects must not be limited to threats that are determined to be key threatening processes', but must also include threatening processes that are generally accepted by the scientific community as affecting the species or population and are likely to be caused or exacerbated by the proposal. Assessment should also include consideration of information in the Priorities Action Statement and any approved or draft recovery plans or threat abatement plans which may be relevant to the proposal.</p>	Refer to Section 5.6.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>6.4 Description of feasible alternatives</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Section 110(3)(e) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a description of any feasible alternatives to the action that are likely to be of lesser effect and the reasons justifying the carrying out of the action in the manner proposed having regard to the biophysical, economic and social considerations and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</i></p> <p>Where a Statement of Environmental Effects, Environmental Impact Statement or Review of Environmental Factors deals with these matters, the SIS may refer to the relevant section of the SEE, EIS or REF.</p> <p>The SIS must include details of the condition and use of other parts of the subject area and why these can or cannot be considered as feasible alternatives.</p>	<p>Refer to Section 5.7.</p>
<p>7 AMELIORATIVE AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES</p>		
	<p>7.1 Description of ameliorative measures</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Sections 110(2)(i) and 110(3)(f) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a full description and justification of the measures proposed to mitigate any adverse effect of the action on the species and populations [s.110(2)(i)] [or] ecological community [s.110(3)(f)] including a compilation (in a single section of the statement) of those measures.</i></p> <p>OEH strongly supports the view that development proposals should, in order of</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 7.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Avoid any impacts; ii. Minimise on- and off-site impacts such that a significant impact is not likely. <p>Measures proposed to avoid, reduce or ameliorate impacts should only be proposed where it can be clearly demonstrated that they have been successfully applied elsewhere. The likely efficacy of such measures with respect to the current proposal should be assessed in detail.</p>	
	<p><u>7.1.1 Long term management strategies</u></p> <p>Consideration must be given to developing long term management strategies to protect areas within the study area which are of particular importance for the threatened species or endangered populations likely to be affected. This may include proposals to restore or improve habitat on site where possible.</p>	Refer to Section 7.2.
	<p><u>7.1.2 Compensatory strategies</u></p> <p>Where the proposal will still result in loss to threatened species or habitats, strategies to compensate (offset) for the loss(es) should be considered. These may include other off-site or local area proposals that contribute to long term conservation of the threatened species.</p> <p>Any offsetting measures should be developed in accordance and be consistent with the "Principles for the Use of Biodiversity Offsets in NSW" (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biocertification/offsets.htm). OEH advocates use of the Biobanking Assessment Method (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/assessmethodology.htm) which affords a transparent, consistent and scientifically-based method to inform the calculation of</p>	Refer to Section 7.3.

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>sufficient offset areas and appropriate management actions to ensure maintenance or improvement of threatened biota.</p> <p>Where such proposals involve other lands, or where the involvement of community groups is envisaged in such proposals, such groups are to be consulted and proposals should contain evidence of support from these stakeholders and from relevant land managers.</p> <p>Compensatory benefits likely to result from such measures proposed for alternative sites are to be discussed and evaluated along with a discussion of mechanisms of how they might best occur.</p>	
	<p><u>7.1.3 Translocation</u></p> <p>OEH does not consider the translocation of threatened species, populations or ecological communities to be an ameliorative measure for the purposes of considering impacts of a particular development/activity and translocation is usually only supported by OEH in specific conservation programs (e.g. recovery planning), but only as a last resort after in-situ conservation options have been exhausted.</p> <p>Translocation should only be considered following extensive investigation of alternative options to avoid and mitigate the impacts of the development and a demonstrated long term financial commitment by the applicant.</p>	<p>Translocation is not considered in this SIS or as part of the proposal.</p>
	<p><u>7.1.4 Ongoing monitoring</u></p> <p>Any proposed pre- or post-development monitoring plans of the effectiveness of the mitigation or compensatory measures must be outlined in detail, including the objectives of the monitoring program, method of monitoring, reporting framework, duration and frequency. Generally, ameliorative strategies which have not been proved effective</p>	<p>Refer to Section 7.4.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	should be undertaken under experimental design conditions and appropriately monitored.	
8. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF LIKELY EFFECT OF PROPOSED ACTION	Based on the detailed assessment and consideration of alternatives and/or ameliorative measures proposed in the SIS, a re-assessment of the significance of impact (section 5A EP&A Act) is to be carried out for each of the entities (threatened species, population or ecological community) identified in the SIS as being likely to be affected. This assessment must be carried out in accordance with the Threatened species assessment of significance guidelines (DECC 2007) (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/tsaguide.htm) and must incorporate the relevant information from sections 5.1 to 7 of these SIS requirements. For each entity an overall conclusion must be drawn as to whether the proposal is still considered likely to have a significant effect.	Refer to Chapter 8.
9 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
	<p>9.1 Qualifications and experience</p> <p>The following is your obligation under Sections 110(4) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a species impact statement must include details of the qualifications and experience in threatened species conservation of the person preparing the statement and of any other person who has conducted research or investigations relied on in preparing the statement</i></p>	Refer to Chapter 9, Section 8.1
	<p>9.2 Other approvals required for the development or activity</p> <p>The following are further requirements related to your obligation under Sections 110(2)(j) and 110(3)(g)) to address the following:</p> <p><i>a list of any approvals that must be obtained under any other Act or law before the action may be lawfully carried out, including details of the conditions of any existing approvals that are relevant to the species or population or ecological community</i></p>	Refer to Section 9.1

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p><u>Other approvals under NSW law</u></p> <p>In providing a list of other approvals the following must be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a consent is required under Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the name of the consent authority and the timing of the development application should be included; or • Where an approval(s) is required under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the name of the determining authority(ies), the basis for the approval and when these approvals are proposed to be obtained should be included. 	
	<p><u>Approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)</u></p> <p>A development or action will require referral to, and may require the approval of, the Federal Minister for the Environment (in addition to any local or state government consent or approval) if that action will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the environment or on a matter of national environmental significance (NES matter). Threatened species and communities listed in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) are considered to be matters of national environmental significance, as are migratory species and a number of other matters.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the proponent to assess whether the development is likely to have a significant impact on an NES matter. Information regarding matters of national environmental significance and guidelines to assist whether to refer the action can be obtained from the Commonwealth Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) at www.environment.gov.au/epbc/protect/index.html or by contacting DSEWPC on (02) 6274</p>	

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<p>1111. A proponent can also make a referral if they are unsure whether approval is needed under the Act or if it needs certainty. To minimise delays in getting approvals under the Commonwealth and State processes, it is best, and in the interest of the proponent, if the development is referred early to DSEWPC's Environment Assessment Branch to obtain a decision on whether it is a controlled action before the SIS is exhibited under the EP&A Act.</p>	
	<p>Further information regarding the operation of the EPBC Act in NSW can be found in the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/SettingtheDirection/GovernmentAgreementsandForums/BilateralAgreementwiththeCommonwealth/tabid/283/language/en-AU/Default.aspx and on the DEWHA website at www.environment.gov.au/epbc/assessments/bilateral/nsw.html.</p> <p>Further information regarding the operation of the EPBC Act in NSW can be found in the NSW Dept of Planning and Infrastructure's website at EPBC Act Guide to Implementation in NSW (available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/environmentalassessment/comm.asp) and on the DSEWPC website at www.environment.gov.au/epbc/assessments/bilateral/index.html.</p>	
	<p>9.3 Licensing matters relating to conducting surveys</p> <p>Persons conducting flora and fauna surveys must have appropriate licences or approvals under relevant legislation. The relevant legislation and associated licences and approvals that may be required are listed below:</p> <p><i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Licence (Section 120) to harm or obtain protected fauna (this may include threatened fauna). 	<p>Refer to Section 9.1.2.</p>

Table A.1 DGR compliance table

Main Heading	Subsections	Our Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence to pick protected native plants (Section 131). • Scientific Licence (Section 132C) to authorise the carrying out of actions for scientific, educational or conservation purposes. <p><i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence to harm threatened animal species, and/or pick threatened plants and/or damage the habitat of a threatened species (Section 91). <p><i>Animal Research Act 1985:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Research Authority to undertake fauna surveys. 	
	<p>9.4 Section 110 (5) reports</p> <p>Section 110(5) of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 has the effect of requiring OEH to provide that information it has regarding the State-wide conservation status of the subject species is made available, in order to satisfy ss.110(2) & (3) of the Act. To this end, OEH provide this information via www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au). Detailed species profiles and environmental impact assessment guidelines for threatened species, populations and ecological communities are available via this website.</p> <p>Proponents and consultants should note that OEH has no further published information available to satisfy s.110(5) of the Act and that purchase or receipt and use of the above profiles can be taken to have satisfied the requirements of ss.110(2) & (3) in relation to the State-wide conservation status of the listed species, populations and ecological communities.</p>	<p>Refer to Section 9.1.3 and References Section.</p>

Appendix B

Survey Effort

Table B.1 History of Survey effort on the SMP

Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
Oct-93	James, T.A.	Vegetation Survey - Australian Defence Industries St Mary's Facility	Regional Park (eastern section)	Inspected to identify plant communities and to compile a plant species list. Both native and the more significant exotic plant species were recorded.	Inspected on 3 occasions during August and September.	n/a	n/a
Jun-91	Gunninah Consultants	Fauna Survey - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's	Across the SMP	n/a	n/a	Daytime searches for native animals in all vegetation communities. Record kept of all native bird species sighted, searches for cryptic species such as frogs and reptiles, and for indirect evidence of all native animals (diggings, footprints, burrows, scats, bones, scratchings etc) and recording sightings of	200 person hours of field survey over 8 days. Elliotts: 1200 trap nights, Harps: 26 trap nights, Pitfalls: 60 trap nights

Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
						animals. Elliott A trapping, live pitfall traps, harp-type bat traps, spotlight surveys.	
Aug-94	Gunninah Consultants	Environmental Review - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's					
Apr-95	Gunninah Consultants	Distribution of Endangered Flora: Pyro Park - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's Facility	Regional Park (eastern section)	A fixed, marked grid based on transect lines placed at 50m centres were surveyed for threatened flora species. Tagging was conducted until it was deemed not to be feasible. Transect surveys undertaken after this point.		n/a	n/a
Apr-95	Gunninah Consultants	Flora Survey: Bomb and North Bomb Sectors - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's Facility	Regional Park (central section)	Detailed walked surveys throughout the Bomb and North Bomb sites, describing and mapping the vegetation communities present,	Over a period of three days.	n/a	n/a

Table B.1 History of Survey effort on the SMP							
Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
				establishing a flora species inventory, and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest.			
Aug-95	Gunninah Consultants	Fauna and Flora Issues - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's - Planning Study	Across the SMP	Supplementary flora field surveys to provide more detailed vegetation community descriptions, to locate endangered plant species, and confirm the accuracy and consistency of available information. Quadrats surveyed.		n/a	n/a
Jan-96	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Flora Survey: Ropes Creek Area - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's Facility	Regional Park (Ropes Creek Area)	Detailed walked surveys throughout the Ropes Creek Area, describing and mapping the vegetation communities present, establishing a flora species inventory, searching for and identifying plant species of		n/a	n/a

Table B.1 History of Survey effort on the SMP							
Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
				conservation concern or interest.			
Nov-96	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Vegetation Communities - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's Facility	Across the SMP	Quadrats (20m x 20m) were defined within each study area and were placed at 1ha intervals, except from those areas in which the community/floristic group varied within the range of 1ha. Dominant species from each stratum were recorded. Species of conservation significance recorded		n/a	n/a
Jan-97	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Flora Survey: Northern Sector - Australian Defence Industries (ADI) Site, St Mary's Facility	Regional Park (Northern Sector)	Walked surveys throughout the Northern Sector describing and mapping the vegetation communities present. A flora species inventory was also established and plant species of conservation concern or	Surveyed for one day to compile a flora inventory identifying endangered plant species, native and exotic species.		

Table B.1 History of Survey effort on the SMP

Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
				interest were identified and located.			
Feb-99	Ian Perkins	Flora Assessment of the Disputed Areas of the Western Sydney Shale Woodlands	Regional Park (North western section and Western Precinct)	15 Quadrats (20x20m) in the north western section and western sections of the Regional Park, and in the Western Precinct. A flora species list was made for each quadrat.	15 quadrats surveyed over 5 days.	n/a	n/a
May-09	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Western Precinct Stage 1A Development Application Flora and Fauna Assessment	Western Precinct	Transects with spot assessments to determine vegetation community type and vegetation condition	83 5x5m quadrats between 2007 and 2008	Bird transects, fauna habitat assessments, incidental fauna records throughout site	16 person hours targeted bird surveys
Apr-11	Cumberland Ecology	St. Marys Western Precinct SIS	Western Precinct and Regional Park	Quadrats (20m x 20m) placed within the subject site and study area. Targeted searches throughout subject site and study area.	35 Quadrats, XXkm of targeted searches	Daytime searches for native animals in all vegetation communities. Record kept of all native bird species sighted and for indirect evidence of all native animals	9 Person Hours Targeted Bird Transects, 6 nights Anabat survey, 300 trees with potential snail habitat.

Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
						(diggings, footprints, burrows, scats, bones, scratchings etc) and recording sightings of animals. 500m Bird transects within subject site and study area. Targeted snail searches at 15 sites, 5 within the Subject Land, each containing 20 sample trees. Anabat detectors within subject site and study area.	
Feb- 12	Cumberland Ecology	St. Marys Western Precinct SIS	Western Precinct - Village 4	Quadrats (20m x 20m) and Targeted searches across subject site (Village 4).	4 Quadrats, XXkm of targeted searches	n/a	n/a
Mar-12	Cumberland Ecology	St. Marys Western Precinct SIS	Western Precinct –	Quadrats (20m x 20m) and vegetation condition	3 Quadrats	n/a	n/a

Table B.1 History of Survey effort on the SMP

Date	Author	Report	Location*	Flora Methods	Flora Effort	Fauna Methods	Fauna Effort
			North Lakes Access Road	assessment of the subject site			
Aug- 12	Cumberland Ecology	Jordan Springs Trunk Sewer	St Marys Western Precinct eastern border and Regional Park	n/a	n/a	Threatened species searches	
Mar- 13	Cumberland Ecology	St. Marys Western Precinct SIS	Western Precinct – Stage 3C(2)	Quadrats (20m x 20m) and vegetation condition assessment of the subject site	1 Quadrat		
Aug – 13	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct SIS	Western Precinct Stage VC2, VC3, VC10 and Regional Park	Quadrats (20m x 20m) and vegetation condition assessment of the subject site	4 Quadrats		
Sep-13	Cumberland Ecology	St. Marys Central Precinct SIS	Central Precinct, Regional Open Space and Drainage Basins	Quadrats (20m x 20m), Targeted searches throughout subject site and study area	32 Quadrats, XXkm of targeted searches	Targeted snail searches at 11 sites, each containing 20 sample trees	220 trees with potential snail habitat.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
1994	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility Western Sydney - Environmental Review	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern section of RP. Common throughout eastern end of the ADI site, particularly in open sites within the Ironbark forest communities and along tracks.	Common	Wide-ranging walked inspections of the Pyro Park area recording all species encountered.
1995	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Distribution of Endangered Flora, Pyro Park	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern section of RP. Was found more widely over the eastern RP study area, and its occurrence appears to be highly correlated with sites of disturbance.	249 in 0.64ha of Section 3. Across all Pyro Park: approx range 1803 - 6075.	Two approaches. The first was to tag each individual specimen, however this approach was abandoned. The second approach was a transect-based survey of the specimens using the grid lines to be surveyed through the Pyro Park area. This involved botanists surveying transects and recording the densities of the

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						specimens. Four transects (100m long, spaced 25m apart-later to 50m). Plants were surveys at specified survey points (10m diameter: 78.5m ² area) at 10m intervals along each transect, and the density of specimens was noted at a scale of 1-6 (1: 91-100, 2 = 50-90, 3=21-50, 4=5-20, 5=5-3, 6=2-1 plants per survey point).
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Flora Survey Ropes Creek	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Ropes Creek - Study area A, B and E (eastern portion, northern portion).	Infrequent in area B. Considerable numbers in cleared areas in area E (eastern portion). Patchily	Detailed walked surveys throughout the Ropes Creek study area. Involved establishing a flora species inventory and

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Area			distributed in area E (northern portion). Few specimens along dirt track, and in greater numbers along main road.	searching for and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest.
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys - Vegetation Communities	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Unavailable		Quadrats (20m x 20m) were defined within each study area and were placed at 1ha intervals, except from those areas in which the community/floristic group varied within the range of 1ha. Quadrats were assessed and plant species recorded.
1997	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility -	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Northern Sector of RP		Walked surveys throughout the 'Northern Sector' establishing a flora

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		'Northern Sector' Flora Survey				species inventory and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest. The study sites were surveyed on one day. Survey quadrats were 20m in diameter.
2003	ERM	St Marys Eastern Precinct Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct	Population in study area = 140,295; development area = 30,754. High densities found in Regional Park (averaging up to 790 plants/ha in less fragmented areas), while lower densities found in the fragmented areas	In order to obtain data on the abundance of threatened plants within the SMP, quadrat sampling for threatened plant species was undertaken. 45 survey locations were haphazardly marked on a map, 14 of these were in the study area. An additional 20m by 50m quadrat was also

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					of the Regional Park and the development area (190 plants/ha and 165 plants/ha respectively).	surveyed. The number of all threatened plant species within this quadrat. An additional 10 20m by 50m quadrats were surveyed. Quadrat sampling was supplemented by traversing the study area and noting the distribution of plants that were not included in quadrats.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct	The population within the study area is estimated to be 140,295 plants. Of this, approximately 30,754 plants (~22% of the total population) are	

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					<p>estimated to be in the proposed development area. High densities of this species are found in the less fragmented portions of the Regional Park (averaging 790 plants/ha) while low densities are found in the fragmented portions of the Regional Park and proposed development area (290 and 165 plants/ha respectively).</p>	

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Southern section Eastern precinct	3229 per hectare (796 standard error). Area B - 4 plants/400 square metres. Area C - 8 specimens.	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Risk Assessment for the demolition of buildings, removal of existing roads and stockpiling material	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct.	Stockpile 3 = 17, Stockpile 4 = 27, Stockpile 5 = 135, Stockpile 6 = 330 (part estimated), Stockpile 7 = 11, Stockpile 8 = 2, Stockpile 9 = 8. Total = 761.	The entire area of each proposed stockpile location was inspected for threatened flora species by walking parallel transects across each area, and all individual plants of all maturities were counted. A variation in this methodology was required for Stockpile Number 6. Estimates of plant numbers were undertaken in this

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						stockpile owing to the dense occurrences in certain sections.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment of Proposed Subdivision and Construction Works for a Village Centre.	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct. Land within the proposed re-subdivision of proposed Lot 3 in the subdivision of Lot 4 in DP 1079444 (ref DA 05-2323 and DA 05-2960).	Less than 30 plants on subject site.	Inspected the subject site to assess the vegetation condition and identify areas where threatened flora occurred and estimated population numbers of these species.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Sector Blacktown LGA - Eight part test assessment of the impacts of long term macrofauna fencing upon	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Fenceline between Eastern and Ropes Creek Precincts, and Regional Park		The survey was based on information recorded along a series of transects along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		threatened flora and fauna				
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct, St Marys Property - Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Residential Subdivision within Lot 4 in DP107944 (in DA 04-1669)	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Lot 4 in DP107944 Eastern Precinct	In CRCIF: 167/ha (SE 17.08), estimated 1503. In Remediated Areas: 657/ha (SE 460.76), estimated 10512. Abundance in each quadrat - Q1:4; Q2:1; Q3:1; Q4:3; Q5:2.	Quadrats were placed to sample the vegetation communities present. Three 20 m x 20 m quadrats were randomly placed in woodland and three quadrats were placed in disturbed/open areas and traversed.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Letter: Zone Substation Flora and Fauna Assessment; Ropes Creek Precinct, SMP.	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Zone Substation, Ropes Creek.	1	Inspected the area covered by the Zone Substation, Ropes Creek, identifying any additional threatened species issues.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Flora and fauna assessment for future learning and community	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct, proposed residual lots 17, 18, 20 and 21.	Exotic grassland = 6, Woodland = 8. Total = 14.	Surveyed proposed Residue Lots 17, 18, 20, 21 of the future Learning and

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		uses in the Eastern Precinct				Community sites, for the presence of threatened shrub species. Plants were counted in this area.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Private School in the Eastern Precinct	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Village North development area Eastern Precinct.	Approximately 200 to be removed.	A threatened species search was made concurrently with the general flora survey.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Level 1 Park Earthworks in the Eastern Precinct.	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct. Residue Lots 19, 20 and 21 and the surrounding Learning and Community sites.	Approximately 200 on subject site.	A botanist surveyed Residue Lots 19, 20 and 21 and the surrounding Learning and Community sites, for the presence of threatened shrub species which are known to occur in large numbers in the

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						Eastern Precinct and throughout the Regional Park
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Ropes Creek Precinct - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Ropes Creek Precinct.	Estimated that no more than 500 individuals	A targeted threatened flora survey was conducted within the precinct.
2007	Cumberland Ecology	Proposed Subdivision of Stage 2G Eastern Precinct SMP - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Eastern Precinct, northern section.	Approximately 25 on subject site.	
2008	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct Development Application - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Lands located adjacent to Palmyra Avenue in the north-east of the Eastern Precinct of the SMP.	Only small numbers were recorded; approximately 900 specimens occur within areas proposed for subdivision.	During the field survey an estimate made of the numbers of threatened flora recorded from the SMP occurring within the subject site.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
			<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>			
2013	Cumberland Ecology	Central Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	Central Precinct and Regional Open Space	None recorded	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
1994	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility Western Sydney - Environmental Review	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern section RP		Wide-ranging walked inspections of the Pyro Park area recording all species encountered.
1995	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Flora Survey Bomb & North Bomb Sectors	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Central section RP		Walked surveys throughout the Bomb and North Bomb sites establishing a flora species inventory and identifying plant species of

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						conservation concern or interest. The study sites were surveyed over a period of three days.
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Flora Survey Ropes Creek Area	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Ropes Creek	Infrequent in area B. Commonly represented in area E (eastern portion)	Detailed walked surveys throughout the Ropes Creek study area. Involved establishing a flora species inventory and searching for and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest.
1997	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - 'Northern Sector'	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Northern Sector, western section, eastern section, central section RP		Walked surveys throughout the 'Northern Sector' establishing a flora species inventory and

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Flora Survey				identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest. The study sites were surveyed on one day. Survey quadrats were 20m in diameter.
2003	ERM	St Marys Eastern Precinct Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct	Population in study area = 494,611; development area = 37, 326. Medium-high densities found in Regional Park (averaging up to 1300 plants/ha in less fragmented areas, and 750 plants/ha in fragmented areas, and lower	In order to obtain data on the abundance of threatened plants within the SMP, quadrat sampling for threatened plant species was undertaken. 45 survey locations were haphazardly marked on a map, 14 of these were in the study area. An additional 20m by 50m quadrat was also surveyed. The number

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					densities (200 plants/ha) in development area.	of all threatened plant species within this quadrat. An additional 10 20m by 50m quadrats were surveyed. Quadrat sampling was supplemented by traversing the study area and noting the distribution of plants that were not included in quadrats.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct	The population within the study area is estimated to 494,611 plants with approximately 37,326 within the proposed development area (~7.5%). Medium to high densities	

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					are found throughout the Regional Park (averaging up to 1,300 plants/ha in less fragmented areas, and 750 plants/ha in fragmented areas) and lower densities (200 plants/ha) in the proposed development area and other disturbed habitats.	
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Southern section Eastern precinct	714 per hectare (156 standard error). Area A - few. Area B - 1 plant/400 square metres. Area C - 130 specimens.	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					Area E - 2 specimens. 1 specimens east of Area E.	
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Risk Assessment for the demolition of buildings, removal of existing roads and stockpiling material	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct.	Stockpile 3 = 1, Stockpile 5 = 16, Stockpile 8 = 24, Stockpile 9 = 102. Total = 143.	The entire area of each proposed stockpile location was inspected for threatened flora species by walking parallel transects across each area, and all individual plants of all maturities were counted. A variation in this methodology was required for Stockpile Number 6. Estimates of plant numbers were undertaken in this stockpile owing to the dense occurrences in certain sections.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys North and South Dunheved Precincts Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	North and South Dunheved Precincts. Found predominantly in the Cumberland Plain Woodland in the northern tip of Dunheved but plants were also found along the eastern edge.		Targeted searches for threatened species.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment of Proposed Subdivision and Construction Works for a Village Centre.	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct.	30-60 plants on subject site.	Inspected the subject site to assess the vegetation condition and identify areas where threatened flora occurred and estimated population numbers of these species.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Sector Blacktown LGA - Eight part test assessment of the impacts of	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Fenceline between Eastern and Ropes Creek Precincts, and Regional Park		The survey was based on information recorded along a series of transects along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		long term macrofauna fencing upon threatened flora and fauna				
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct, St Marys Property - Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Residential Subdivision within Lot 4 in DP107944 (in DA 04-1669)	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct	In CRCIF: 83/ha (SE 64.55), estimated 747. In Remediated Areas: 308/ha (SE 169.12), estimated 4928. Abundance in each quadrat - Q2:1; Q4:4.	Quadrats were placed to sample the vegetation communities present. Three 20 m x 20 m quadrats were randomly placed in woodland and three quadrats were placed in disturbed/open areas and traversed.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Letter: Eastern Precinct - Proposed subdivision DA - Stage 1(E) - Flora and fauna	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Located in Stage 1(e), Eastern Precinct.		Inspected the area covered by Stage 1(e) identifying any additional threatened species issues.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		assessment. 9/6/05. To Rob Bennett.				
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Letter: Eastern Precinct - Proposed subdivision DA - Stage 1(F) - Flora and fauna assessment. 9/6/05. To Rob Bennett.	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Located in Stage 1(f), Eastern Precinct.		Inspected the area covered by Stage 1(f) identifying any additional threatened species issues.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Letter: Zone Substation Flora and Fauna Assessment; Ropes Creek Precinct, SMP.	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Zone Substation, Ropes Creek.	Less than 10 plants.	Inspected the area covered by the Zone Substation, Ropes Creek, identifying any additional threatened species issues.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Flora and fauna assessment for future learning and community uses in the	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct, proposed residual lots 17, 18, 20 and 21.	Exotic grassland = 57, Woodland = 78. Total = 135.	Surveyed proposed Residue Lots 17, 18, 20, 21 of the future Learning and Community sites, for

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Eastern Precinct				the presence of threatened shrub species. Plants were counted in this area.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Private School in the Eastern Precinct	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Village North development area Eastern Precinct.	Approximately 100 to be removed.	A threatened species search was made concurrently with the general flora survey.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Level 1 Park Earthworks in the Eastern Precinct.	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct.	Approximately 200 on subject site.	A botanist surveyed Residue Lots 19, 20 and 21 and the surrounding Learning and Community sites, for the presence of threatened shrub species which are known to occur in large numbers in the Eastern Precinct and

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						throughout the Regional Park
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Proposed Concrete Recycling Facility - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Central Precinct stockpile.	Several specimens.	A threatened species search was made concurrently with the general flora survey.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Ropes Creek Precinct - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Ropes Creek Precinct.	Estimated that no more than 500 individuals	A targeted threatened flora survey was conducted within the precinct.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Penrith Local Government Area - Assessments of Significance of the impacts of long term macrofauna fencing upon	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Fenceline between Central and Western Precinct, and Regional Park	34	The survey was based on information recorded along a series of transects along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		threatened flora and fauna				
2007	Cumberland Ecology	Proposed Subdivision of Stage 2G Eastern Precinct SMP - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct northern section.	Approximately 80 on subject site.	
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Mary Property - Western Precinct Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Western Precinct. Northern and southern margins of the Precinct. (See report for GPS locations)	Approximately 700. Populations of 60, 40, 410, 23, 50 and 120.	A targeted threatened flora survey was conducted within the precinct during the flora survey.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Western Precinct northern section	Approximately 150.	A field survey of each area.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999				
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Western Precinct northern section	Rarely in this section.	A field survey of each area.
2008	Cumberland	St Marys	<i>Grevillea</i>	Western Precinct northern section	Approximately 50.	A field survey of each

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
	Ecology	Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	<i>juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>			area.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Central Precinct.	Approximately 1000.	A field survey of each area.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999				
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Central Precinct	Over 100.	A field survey of each area.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		1999				
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Central Precinct.	Several specimens.	A field survey of each area.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes -	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Northern boundary of the Ropes Creek Precinct.	Few specimens	A field survey of each area.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999				
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Ropes Creek Precinct.	Approximately 200.	A field survey of each area.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999				
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes - Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Regional Park (near Ropes Creek Precinct).	Approximately 1000.	A field survey of each area.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Central Precinct Biodiversity	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp	Central Precinct. 3 locations (see report for GPS)	Approximately 530. Populations of 150, 380 and 2.	A targeted threatened flora survey was conducted within the precinct during the

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Assessment	<i>juniperina</i>			flora survey.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct Development Application - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern Precinct northern section.	Common throughout most of the study area and approximately 2,500 specimens are estimated to occur within areas proposed for subdivision.	During the field survey an estimate made of the numbers of threatened flora recorded from the SMP occurring within the subject site.
2003	ERM	Remediation Action Plan for the Eastern Sector of the St Marys Property - Flora & Fauna Assessment	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Eastern section RP		
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	cluster along north-western boundary of SMP	Over 30	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	cluster along north-western boundary of SMP	Over 30	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	along fence line on western side of Western Precinct	Approximately 20	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Adjacent to creekline in Western Precinct	single plant	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp	Adjacent to creekline and enclosure fencing in Western Precinct	single plant	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
			<i>juniperina</i>			a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Adjacent to creekline and enclosure fencing in Western Precinct	single plant	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Adjacent to creekline and enclosure fencing in Western Precinct	approximately 55	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Directly to the East of the drainage line, in the north west of the western precinct	Less than 10 plants	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland	St Marys Western	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i>	Within regional park, adjacent to track	25 Pultenaea, 44	Targeted survey for

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
	Ecology	Precinct Species Impact Statement	subsp <i>juniperina</i>		Grevillea	threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Within regional park	approximately 10 plants	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2013	Cumberland Ecology	Central Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Central Precinct and Regional Open Space	Over 50 detected in the West to north-western boundary of Central Precinct, adjacent to Regional Park areas	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Letter: New records of <i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp	<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp <i>viridiflora</i>	Located in the most southern corner of Stage 1(e). The exact location of these plants was in the centre of a drainage reserve, which forms part of a secondary open space corridor. The two groups	12 plants/suckers. 2 groups of 6.	During work on the Vegetation Rehabilitation Plan (VRP) specimens

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		<i>viridiflora</i> : Eastern Precinct, SMP. 15/5/05. To David Aynsley.		were located approximately 10 metres apart.		were detected.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Analysis of the responses of Cumberland Plain Woodland to grazing by macrofauna at St Marys - Floristic and structural changes 1 year after grazing exclosure	<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp <i>viridiflora</i>	Exclosure plot		Exclosure plot methodology.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Penrith Local Government Area - Assessments of Significance of the impacts of long term	<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp <i>viridiflora</i>	Fenceline between Central and Western Precinct, and Regional Park	<30 on fenceline, >100 in Regional Park in immediate vicinity of fence.	The survey was based on information recorded along a series of transects along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		macrofauna fencing upon threatened flora and fauna				
2007	Cumberland Ecology	Analysis of the responses of Cumberland Plain Woodland to grazing by macrofauna at St Marys - 2006-2007 Floristic and structural changes two years after grazing enclosure	<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp <i>viridiflora</i>	Exclosure plot 6Do and 6Eo.	Approximately 5 plants	Exclosure plot methodology.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property Proposed Regional Park Boundary Changes -	<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp <i>viridiflora</i>	Central Precinct.		A field survey of each area.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Ecological Assessment for Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 30 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999				
2013	Cumberland Ecology	Central Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp <i>viridiflora</i>	Central Precinct and Regional Open Space	None recorded	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
1994	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility Western Sydney - Environmental Review	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern section RP		Wide-ranging walked inspections of the Pyro Park area recording all species encountered.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
1995	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Distribution of Endangered Flora, Pyro Park	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern section RP	265 in 0.64ha of Section 3. Across all Pyro Park: approx range 604-1810.	Two approaches. The first was to tag each individual specimen, however this approach was abandoned. The second approach was a transect-based survey of the specimens using the grid lines to be surveyed through the Pyro Park area. This involved botanists surveying transects and recording the densities of the specimens. Four transects (100m long, spaced 25m apart-later to 50m). Plants were surveyed at specified survey points (10m diameter:

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						78.5m2 area) at 10m intervals along each transect, and the density of specimens was noted at a scale of 1-6 (1: 91-100, 2 = 50-90, 3=21-50, 4=5-20, 5=5-3, 6=2-1 plants per survey point).
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Flora Survey Ropes Creek Area	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Ropes Creek	Patchily distributed.	Detailed walked surveys throughout the Ropes Creek study area. Involved establishing a flora species inventory and searching for and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest.
1996	Gunninah Environmental	Australian Defence	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>			

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
	Consultants	Industries St Marys - Vegetation Communities				
1997	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - 'Northern Sector' Flora Survey	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Northern Sector RP		Walked surveys throughout the 'Northern Sector' establishing a flora species inventory and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest. The study sites were surveyed on one day. Survey quadrats were 20m in diameter.
2003	ERM	St Marys Eastern Precinct Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern Precinct	Population in study area = 1340; development area = 150.	In order to obtain data on the abundance of threatened plants within the SMP, quadrat sampling for

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						<p>threatened plant species was undertaken. 45 survey locations were haphazardly marked on a map, 14 of these were in the study area. An additional 20m by 50m quadrat was also surveyed. The number of all threatened plant species within this quadrat. An additional 10 20m by 50m quadrats were surveyed. Quadrat sampling was supplemented by traversing the study area and noting the distribution of plants that were not included in quadrats.</p>

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern Precinct.	The population within the study area is estimated to be approximately 1340 plants with approximately 150 plants (11% of the total population) occurring within the proposed development area.	
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern Precinct southern section	41 per hectare (29 standard error)	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Sector Blacktown LGA -	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Fenceline between Central and Western Precinct, and Regional Park	4	The survey was based on information recorded along a series of transects

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Eight part test assessment of the impacts of long term macrofauna fencing upon threatened flora and fauna				along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Flora and fauna assessment for future learning and community uses in the Eastern Precinct	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern Precinct, proposed residual lots 17, 18, 20 and 21.	Exotic grassland = 5, Woodland = 48. Total = 53.	Surveyed proposed Residue Lots 17, 18, 20, 21 of the future Learning and Community sites, for the presence of threatened shrub species. Plants were counted in this area.
2008	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct Development Application - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	Eastern Precinct northern section.	A single localised population was recorded near the western end of the subject site, and the population	During the field survey an estimate made of the numbers of threatened flora recorded from the SMP occurring within

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					was estimated to comprise approximately 200 plants.	the subject site.
1994	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility Western Sydney - Environmental Review	<i>Persoonia nutans</i>	Eastern section RP	2 specimens	Wide-ranging walked inspections of the Pyro Park area recording all species encountered.
1995	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Distribution of Endangered Flora, Pyro Park	<i>Persoonia nutans</i>	Eastern section RP	2	Not available
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys - Vegetation	<i>Persoonia nutans</i>	Not available	Not available	Not available

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Communities				
1997	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - 'Northern Sector' Flora Survey	<i>Persoonia nutans</i>	Northern Sector RP	Not available	Walked surveys throughout the 'Northern Sector' establishing a flora species inventory and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest. The study sites were surveyed on one day. Survey quadrats were 20m in diameter.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	<i>Persoonia nutans</i>	Eastern section RP	<i>Persoonia nutans</i> has been recorded at 3 locations in the study area.	

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
2012	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Pimelea spicata</i>	Along slope adjacent to creek towards Southern edge of Village 4.	None recorded	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2013	Cumberland Ecology	Central Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Pimelea spicata</i>	Central Precinct and Regional Open Space	None recorded	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
1994	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility Western Sydney - Environmental Review	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern section RP	Common	Wide-ranging walked inspections of the Pyro Park area recording all species encountered.
1995	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility -	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern section RP	284 in 0.64ha of Section 3. Across all Pyro Park: approx range	Two approaches. The first was to tag each individual specimen, however this approach

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Distribution of Endangered Flora, Pyro Park			3370 - 11080.	was abandoned. The second approach was a transect-based survey of the specimens using the grid lines to be surveyed through the Pyro Park area. This involved botanists surveying transects and recording the densities of the specimens. Four transects (100m long, spaced 25m apart-later to 50m). Plants were surveys at specified survey points (10m diameter: 78.5m ² area) at 10m intervals along each transect, and the density of specimens

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						was noted at a scale of 1-6 (1: 91-100, 2 = 50-90, 3=21-50, 4=5-20, 5=5-3, 6=2-1 plants per survey point).
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - Flora Survey Ropes Creek Area	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Ropes Creek	Infrequent in area B. Considerable numbers in cleared areas in area E (eastern portion). Patchily distributed in area E (northern portion). Few specimens along dirt track, and in greater numbers along main road.	Detailed walked surveys throughout the Ropes Creek study area. Involved establishing a flora species inventory and searching for and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest.
1996	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys -	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Unavailable		Quadrats (20m x 20m) were defined within each study area and were placed at 1ha

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Vegetation Communities				intervals, except from those areas in which the community/floristic group varied within the range of 1ha. Quadrats were assessed and plant species recorded.
1997	Gunninah Environmental Consultants	Australian Defence Industries St Marys Facility - 'Northern Sector' Flora Survey	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Northern Sector RP		Walked surveys throughout the 'Northern Sector' establishing a flora species inventory and identifying plant species of conservation concern or interest. The study sites were surveyed on one day. Survey quadrats were 20m in diameter.
2003	ERM	St Marys Eastern Precinct Plan -	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct	Population in study area =	In order to obtain data on the abundance of

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Biodiversity Assessment			112,183; development area = 29,966. High densities found in Regional Park (averaging up to 665 plants/ha in less fragmented areas), while lower densities found in the fragmented areas of the Regional Park and the development area (115 plants/ha and 160 plants/ha respectively).	threatened plants within the SMP, quadrat sampling for threatened plant species was undertaken. 45 survey locations were haphazardly marked on a map, 14 of these were in the study area. An additional 20m by 50m quadrat was also surveyed. The number of all threatened plant species within this quadrat. An additional 10 20m by 50m quadrats were surveyed. Quadrat sampling was supplemented by traversing the study area and noting the

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						distribution of plants that were not included in quadrats.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct.	The population within the study area is estimated to be 112,183 plants. Of this, approximately 29,966 plants (~27% of the total population) are estimated to be in the proposed development area. High densities of this species are found in the less fragmented portions of the Regional Park (averaging 665	

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					plants/ha), while low densities are found in the fragmented portions of the Regional Park and proposed development area (115 and 160 plants/ha respectively).	
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct	1371 per hectare (296 standard error). Area A - 1 plant/400 square metres. Area B - 160 plants/400 square metres. Area C - 32 specimens. Area D - 8 specimens. Area E - 30 specimens. 14	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
					specimens east of Area E.	
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Risk Assessment for the demolition of buildings, removal of existing roads and stockpiling material	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct.	Stockpile 3 = 186, Stockpile 4 = 48, Stockpile 5 = 17, Stockpile 6 = 435 (part estimated), Stockpile 7 = 22, Stockpile 8 = 42, Stockpile 9 = 11. Total = 761	The entire area of each proposed stockpile location was inspected for threatened flora species by walking parallel transects across each area, and all individual plants of all maturities were counted. A variation in this methodology was required for Stockpile Number 6. Estimates of plant numbers were undertaken in this stockpile owing to the dense occurrences in certain sections.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys North and South	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	North and South Dunheved Precincts. Recorded on site, along the eastern edge of the development	One individual plant	Targeted searches for threatened species.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		Dunheved Precincts Plan - Biodiversity Assessment		area.		
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment of Proposed Subdivision and Construction Works for a Village Centre.	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct.	Less than 30 plants on subject site.	Inspected the subject site to assess the vegetation condition and identify areas where threatened flora occurred and estimated population numbers of these species.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property - Eastern Sector Blacktown LGA - Eight part test assessment of the impacts of long term macrofauna	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Fenceline between Eastern and Ropes Creek Precincts, and Regional Park		The survey was based on information recorded along a series of transects along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
		fencing upon threatened flora and fauna				
2005	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct, St Marys Property - Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Residential Subdivision within Lot 4 in DP107944 (in DA 04-1669)	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct	In CRCIF: 25/ha (SE 11.16), estimated 225. In Remediated Areas: 290/ha (SE 133.21), estimated 4640. Abundance in each quadrat - Q1:2; Q2:1; Q3:3; Q4:4.	Quadrats were placed to sample the vegetation communities present. Three 20 m x 20 m quadrats were randomly placed in woodland and three quadrats were placed in disturbed/open areas and traversed.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	Flora and fauna assessment for future learning and community uses in the Eastern Precinct	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct	Exotic grassland = 400, Woodland = 153. Total = 553.	Surveyed proposed Residue Lots 17, 18, 20, 21 of the future Learning and Community sites, for the presence of threatened shrub species. Plants were

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						counted in this area.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Private School in the Eastern Precinct	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct northern section.	Approximately 50 to be removed.	A threatened species search was made concurrently with the general flora survey.
2006	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Project Site - Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Level 1 Park Earthworks in the Eastern Precinct.	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct.	Approximately 900 on subject site.	A botanist surveyed Residue Lots 19, 20 and 21 and the surrounding Learning and Community sites, for the presence of threatened shrub species which are known to occur in large numbers in the Eastern Precinct and throughout the Regional Park
2006	Cumberland	Ropes Creek	<i>Pultenaea</i>	Ropes Creek Precinct.	Estimated that no	A targeted threatened

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
	Ecology	Precinct - Biodiversity Assessment	<i>parviflora</i>		more than 500 individuals	flora survey was conducted within the precinct.
2007	Cumberland Ecology	Proposed Subdivision of Stage 2G Eastern Precinct SMP - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct northern section.	Approximately 80 on subject site.	
2008	Cumberland Ecology	Eastern Precinct Development Application - Flora and Fauna Assessment	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Eastern Precinct northern section.	Occurs variably through the study area, with approximately 1,400 specimens estimated to occur within areas proposed for subdivision.	During the field survey an estimate made of the numbers of threatened flora recorded from the SMP occurring within the subject site.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Located in grassland in centre of Western Precinct	single plant	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered

Table B.2 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Flora species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Location*	Numbers	Method
						a possibility to be present.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i> / <i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp <i>juniperina</i>	Located in regional park in an area surrounded by large earth mounds, adjacent to road	>100 individuals of both species present	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.
2013	Cumberland Ecology	Central Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	Central Precinct and Regional Open Space	None recorded	Targeted survey for threatened species that were known to be present or considered a possibility to be present.

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
1991	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site, St Marys - Fauna Survey	<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat			Harp-type bat traps (approximately 2m x 2m), ranging from 0-3 nights of survey for 16 survey sites.
1991	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site, St Marys - Fauna Survey	<i>Sericornis sagittatus</i>	Speckled Warbler	Site 10 (Woodland - vegetation community 2A). Site 15 (Woodland - vegetation community 2A)		Daytime searches for native animals were conducted in all vegetation communities. A record of all bird species sited was kept.
1991	Gunninah Consultants	Australian Defence Industries (ADI) site, St Marys - Fauna Survey		Diamond Firetail	During investigation on SMP, or incidental by staff.		Daytime searches for native animals were conducted in all vegetation communities. A record of all bird species sited was kept.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys North and South Dunheved Precincts Plan -		Cumberland Plain Land Snail	North and South Dunheved Precincts. Found in patches of Cumberland Plain	Thirteen individual shells were recorded.	Searches were made for live snails around the bases of trees within Cumberland Plain

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
		Biodiversity Assessment			Woodland in the northern part of Dunheved Section.		Woodland and within Sydney Coastal River Flat. The searches were conducted by two people for nearly two hours, giving 3.5 hours of search time. During this time, leaf litter, logs and other woodland floor debris were searched around the base of approximately 20 trees, including Grey Box (<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i>).
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys North and South Dunheved Precincts Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	Mormopterus sp	Unidentified freetail bat	Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct.	1 Probable, 1 Possible	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
							locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys North and South Dunheved Precincts Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	Nyctophilus species and/or Myotis adversus	Unidentified longeared bat; and/or southern large-footed myotis	Sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	43 Probable	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
							locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys North and South Dunheved Precincts Plan - Biodiversity Assessment	Miniopterus shreibersii and/or Vespadelus regulus	Common Bentwing Bat and/or Southern Forest Bat	Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct and sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	6 Probable in Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct. 7 Probable in Sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different

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2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	Mormopterus sp	Unidentified freetail bat	Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct.	1 Probable, 1 Possible	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different

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							locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	Nyctophilus species and/or Myotis adversus	Unidentified longeared bat; and/or southern large-footed myotis	Sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	43 Probable	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different

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							locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications	Miniopterus shreibersii and/or Vespadelus regulus	Common Bentwing Bat and/or Southern Forest Bat	Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct and sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	6 Probable in Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct. 7 Probable in Sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
							locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Eastern Precinct - Flora and Fauna Assessment for Proposed Lot 2 and Lot 5 Development Applications		Cumberland Plain Land Snail			
2005	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Property -		Cumberland Plain Land	Along fence.	3 shells under 1 tree	The survey was based on information recorded

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
		Eastern Sector Blacktown LGA - Eight part test assessment of the impacts of long term macrofauna fencing upon threatened flora and fauna		Snail			along a series of transects along the proposed route of the macrofauna fence.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	Mormopterus sp	Unidentified freetail bat	Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct.	1 Probable, 1 Possible	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
							as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	Nyctophilus species and/or Myotis adversus	Unidentified longeared bat; and/or southern large-footed myotis	Sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	43 Probable	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
							as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement	Miniopterus shreibersii and/or Vespadelus regulus	Common Bentwing Bat and/or Southern Forest Bat	Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct and sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	6 Probable in Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct. 7 Probable in Sewage works outflow, Dunheved Precinct.	Surveys were made for microchiropteran bats using ZCAIM bat detector units. Two units were set each night for four nights, for 12 hours of recording time each night between the 19 th and 23 rd of April 2004. The two units were placed at different locations and sampled each of the major forest types on the subject site

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
							as follows: Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along St Marys sewage outflow, South Dunheved Precincts – 4 ZCAIM nights; and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest along Ropes Creek, Eastern Precinct – 4 ZCAIM nights.
2004	Cumberland Ecology	Stage 1 Subdivision, St Marys Eastern Precinct: Part Lot 2 DP 1038166 - Species Impact Statement		Cumberland Plain Land Snail	See figure in report	3 shells	Searches were made for live snails and shells around the bases of trees within Cumberland Plain Woodland and within Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest.
2001	ERM	???	<i>Miniopterus shreibersii oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	Western Precinct (Regional Park - riparian habitats; Western Village - dam/riparian habitats)	RP riparian habitats - 9 calls. WV dam/riparian habitats - 6 calls	Anabat surveys.
2001	ERM	???	<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	Eastern Freetail-bat	Western Precinct (Regional Park - riparian	RP riparian habitats - 2 calls, woodland/forest	Anabat surveys.

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
					habitats and woodland/forest habitats; Western Village - dam/riparian habitats and grassland/woodland habitats)	habitats - 1 call. WV dam/riparian habitats - 13 calls, grassland/woodland habitats 12 calls.	
2001	ERM	???	<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	Western Precinct (Western Village - dam/riparian habitats)	WV dam/riparian habitats - 2 calls.	Anabat surveys.
2011	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Western Precinct Species Impact Statement	<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>	Cumberland Plain Land Snail	3 sites within the Western Precinct, 9 sites within the Regional Park.	17 live snails and 7 snail shells within Western Precinct, 60 live snails and 69 snail shells within the Regional Park	Surveys were conducted at 5 locations within the Western Precinct, and 10 locations within the Regional Park. 20 trees per site with suitable snail habitat (fallen bark around base) were searched for 5 minutes per tree, or until a live snail or shell was detected.
2013	Cumberland Ecology	St Marys Central Precinct Species Impact	<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>	Cumberland Plain Land Snail	7 sites within the Central Precinct, 4 sites within the Drainage basin areas	3 live snails and 11 snail shells within Central Precinct	20 trees per site with suitable snail habitat (fallen bark around base)

Table B.3 Detailed Methods and Records of Survey for Threatened Fauna species on the SMP

Year	Author	Title	Scientific name	Common name	Location	Numbers	Method
		Statement					were searched for 5 minutes per tree, or until a live snail or shell was detected.

Appendix C

Flora and Fauna Species Lists

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Acacia falcata</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Acer negundo</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	-	+	+	+
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Alternanthera denticulata</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Alternanthera nana</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Alternanthera nodiflora</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Amyema miquelii</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Apium prostratum</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Aristida sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Aristida vagans</i>	+	+	+	+

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Aristida warburgii</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	-	+	+	+
<i>Arthropodium sp.</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Aster subulatus</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Austrodanthonia bipartita</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Austrodanthonia fulva</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Austrodanthonia sp.</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Bidens subalternans</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	-	+	-	+
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Bothriochloa decipiens/macra</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	+	-	-	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Brassica sp.</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Briza minor</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Briza subaristata</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Brunoniella australis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Bursaria spinosa ssp. spinosa</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Carex appressa</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Centaurium sp.</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Centaurium tenuiflorum</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Cestrum parqui</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Chamaesyce sp.</i>	-	-	+	+

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Chloris gayana</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Chloris ventricosa</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Chorizema parviflorum</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Clematis glycinoides</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Commelina cyanea</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Croton sp</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Cupressus sp.</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Cyclosporum leptophyllum</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Cyperus brevifolius</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Cyperus gracilis</i>	-	+	+	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Cyperus sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Datura ferox</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Desmodium varians</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Dichanthium sericeum</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Dichelachne micrantha</i>	+	+	+	-
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Dichopogon fimbriatus</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Digitaria sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Dillwynia sieberi</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Dodonaea viscosa subsp. cuneata</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Doodia caudata var. caudata</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Drosera sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Echinopogon caespitosus</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Eclipta platyglossa</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Einadia hastata</i>	+	-	-	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Einadia polygonoides</i>	-	+	+	+
<i>Einadia trigonos</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Epaltes australis</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Eragrostis brownii</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Eragrostis leptostachya</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Eremophila debilis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Eriochloa pseudoacrotricha</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Eucalyptus amplifolia</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Eucalyptus moluccana</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	+	-	+	-
<i>Facelis retusa</i>	+	-	-	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Fimbristylis dichotoma</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Gamochoeta purpurea</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	+	-	+	-
<i>Geranium sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Glossocardia bidens</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Glycine microphylla</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Gnaphalium sp.</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Goodenia bellidifolia</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Grevillea juniperina ssp juniperina</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	-	+	-	+
<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Hibbertia diffusa</i>	+	+	-	+

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Hydrocotyle pedicellosa</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Hypochaeris microcephala</i> var. <i>albiflora</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Juncus australis</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Juncus cognatus</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Juncus mollis</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Juncus polyanthemus</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	+	+	-	+
<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Lagenophora</i> sp.	-	-	-	+
<i>Lantana camara</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>	+	-	+	-
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	+	+	-	+

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Linum marginale</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Lomandra filiformis ssp. filiformis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Lotus australis</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Lotus sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Lotus suaveolens</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Ludwigia peploides subsp. montevidensis</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	-	+	-	+
<i>Marsdenia rostrata</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Marsilea drummondii</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	+	+	-	+

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Melinis repens</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Mentha satureoides</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Nothoscordum gracile</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Ochna serrulata</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Olea europaea ssp. cuspidata</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Opercularia diphylla</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Oplismenus aemulus</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Oxalis exilis</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Paspalidium distans</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	+	+	+	-
<i>Passiflora herbertiana</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Pavonia hastata</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	+	-	-	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Persicaria sp.</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Phyllanthus virgatus</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Pimelea curviflora var. Sericea</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Pimelea curviflora var. subglabrata</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Pimelea sp.</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Plantago debilis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Plantago gaudichaudii</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Pomax umbellata</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Pratia purpurascens</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Prunus sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Pterostylis bicolor</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i>	+	-	-	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Richardia stellaria</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Romulea rosea</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquatica</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Rumex brownii</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Scleria mackaviensis</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Senecio pterophorus</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Setaria parviflora</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Sida corrugata</i>	-	+	-	+
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Sigesbeckia orientalis</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Solanum prinophyllum</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Solanum pseudocapsicum</i>	+	+	+	+

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Solanum seaforthianum</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Solanum sisymbriifolium</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Solenogyne bellioides</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Spergularia sp.</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Sporobolus creber</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Sporobolus elongatus</i>	+	+	-	+
<i>Sporobolus sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>	+	+	+	-
<i>Stellaria media</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Tagetes minuta</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Taraxacum officianale</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Themeda australis</i>	+	-	+	-
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Trema tomentosa var. aspera</i>	+	-	-	+
<i>Tricoryne simplex</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	+	-	-	-

Table C.1 Flora species recorded within the Study Area

Species Name	Central Precinct area	Drainage Basins	Regional Park (Area B)	Regional Park (Area C)
<i>Typha orientalis</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	+	+	+	+
<i>Verbena rigida</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Verbena sp.</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Vernonia cinerea</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Veronica calycina</i>	-	-	+	-
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Vittadinia sp.</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>	-	-	+	+
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i>	+	-	+	+
<i>Wahlenbergia sp</i>	+	-	-	-
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	+	+	-	-
<i>Xanthium sp.</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Zornia dictiocarpa</i>	-	-	+	+

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Acanthizidae	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	P	X		X	X				
Acanthizidae	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>	Striated Thornbill	P	X		X					
Acanthizidae	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>	Yellow Thornbill	P	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Acanthizidae	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>	Brown Thornbill	P	X	X					X	
Acanthizidae	<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>	Buff-rumped Thornbill	P			X					
Acanthizidae	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>	White-throated Gerygone	P				X				
Acanthizidae	<i>Pyrholaemus saggitatus</i>	Speckled Warbler	V	X							
Acanthizidae	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>	White-browed Scrubwren	P			X					
Acanthizidae	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris</i>	Weebill	P			X	X		X	X	X
Accipitridae	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>	Collared Sparrowhawk	P	X		X					
Accipitridae	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	Brown Goshawk	P			X					X
Accipitridae	<i>Accipiter</i>	Grey Goshawk	P					X			

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
	<i>novaehollandiae</i>										
Accipitridae	<i>Aquila audax</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle	P		X		X				
Accipitridae	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>	Pacific Baza	P							X	
Accipitridae	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>	Black-shouldered Kite	P	X	X						
Accipitridae	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>	Whistling Kite	P	X							
Aegothelidae	<i>Aegotheles cristatus</i>	Australian Owlet-nightjar	P	X							
Agamidae	<i>Pogona barbata</i>	Bearded Dragon	P	X	X						
Alcedinidae	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>	Azure Kingfisher	P	X							
Alcedinidae	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	Laughing Kookaburra	P	X	X	X	X			X	
Anatidae	<i>Anas castanea</i>	Chestnut Teal	P			X					
Anatidae	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	Grey Teal	P			X	X				
Anatidae	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Pacific Black Duck	P	X		X	X				
Anatidae	<i>Aythya australis</i>	Hardhead	P				X				
Anatidae	<i>Biziura lobata</i>	Musk Duck	P	X							
Anatidae	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Australian Wood Duck	P	X		X	X				

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Anatidae	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	Black Swan	P	X							
Ardeidae	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	P	X							
Ardeidae	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	Intermediate Egret	P	X							
Ardeidae	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Cattle Egret	P	X							
Ardeidae	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	White-faced Heron	P	X		X	X				
Artamidae	<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	P			X					X
Artamidae	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>	Grey Butcherbird	P	X	X	X			X	X	X
Artamidae	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	P	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Artamidae	<i>Strepera graculina</i>	Pied Currawong	P	X	X	X	X				
Cacatuidae	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	P	X	X	X	X				
Cacatuidae	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	Little Corella	P	X		X					
Cacatuidae	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	P	X	X	X					
Cacatuidae	<i>Eolophus roseicapillus</i>	Galah	P	X	X	X	X				

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Camaenidae	<i>Meridolum comeovirens</i>	Cumberland Plain Land Snail	E1			X			X	X	X
Campephagidae	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	P	X	X	X	X		X		
Campephagidae	<i>Lalage tricolor</i>	White-winged Triller	P				X				
Canidae	<i>Canis lupus familiaris*</i>	Dog	U		X				X		
Canidae	<i>Vulpes vulpes*</i>	Fox	U	X	X				X		
Casuariidae	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu	P	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Charadriidae	<i>Elseyornis melanops</i>	Black-fronted Dotterel	P	X							
Charadriidae	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	Masked Lapwing	P	X	X	X		X			
Climacteridae	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>	White-throated Treecreeper	P			X					
Columbidae	<i>Columba livia*</i>	Rock Dove	U	X	X						
Columbidae	<i>Geopelia placida</i>	Peaceful Dove	P	X							
Columbidae	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	Crested Pigeon	P	X		X	X				

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Columbidae	<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>	Common Bronzewing	P			X	X			X	
Columbidae	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> *	Spotted Turtle-Dove	U	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Coraciidae	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Dollarbird	P	X							
Corcoracidae	<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	White-winged Chough	P	X	X	X	X			X	
Corcoracidae	<i>Struthidea cinerea</i>	Apostlebird	P				X				
Corvidae	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Australian Raven	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cuculidae	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	P	X	X						
Cuculidae	<i>Chalcites lucidus</i>	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	P	X		X					
Cuculidae	<i>Cuculus pallidus</i>	Pallid Cuckoo	P				X				
Dicaeidae	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>	Mistletoebird	P			X					
Dicruridae	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Magpie-lark	P	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Dicruridae	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>	Restless Flycatcher	P			X					
Dicruridae	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>	Grey Fantail	P	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Dicruridae	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	Willie Wagtail	P	X	X	X	X		X		X
Dicruridae	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>	Rufous Fantail	P	X							
Elapidae	<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>	Red-bellied Black Snake	P	X	X				X		
Elapidae	<i>Pseudonaja textilis</i>	Eastern Brown Snake	P	X	X						
Estrildidae	<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>	Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	P	X							
Estrildidae	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>	Red-browed Finch	P	X	X	X	X				
Estrildidae	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	V	X							
Estrildidae	<i>Taeniopygia bichenovii</i>	Double-barred Finch	P	X		X	X		X		
Estrildidae	<i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>	Zebra Finch	P	X							
Falconidae	<i>Falco cenchroides</i>	Nankeen Kestrel	P	X							
Falconidae	<i>Falco longipennis</i>	Australian Hobby	P			X					
Felidae	<i>Felis catus*</i>	Cat	U	X		X					
Hirundinidae	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow	P	X		X	X		X		X

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Hirundinidae	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>	Fairy Martin	P	X							
Hirundinidae	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	Tree Martin	P	X							
Hylidae	<i>Litoria dentata</i>	Bleating Tree Frog	P			X					
Hylidae	<i>Litoria peronii</i>	Peron's Tree Frog	P		X						
Hylidae	<i>Litoria verreauxii</i>	Verreaux's Frog	P		X						
Leporidae	<i>Lepus capensis*</i>	Brown Hare	U	X	X	X					
Leporidae	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus*</i>	Rabbit	U	X	X	X			X		
Macropodidae	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	Eastern Grey Kangaroo	P	X	X	X		X		X	X
Macropodidae	<i>Macropus robustus</i>	Common Wallaroo	P								X
Macropodidae	<i>Macropus rufus</i>	Red Kangaroo	P	X	X	X					
Maluridae	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	Superb Fairy-wren	P	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Meliphagidae	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	Eastern Spinebill	P	X	X	X					
Meliphagidae	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Red Wattlebird	P			X	X				

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Meliphagidae	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>	Little Wattlebird	P		X						
Meliphagidae	<i>Lichenostomus chrysops</i>	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	P	X	X	X				X	X
Meliphagidae	<i>Lichenostomus penicillatus</i>	White-plumed Honeyeater	P	X		X					
Meliphagidae	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	Noisy Miner	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Meliphagidae	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>	Brown-headed Honeyeater	P			X	X				
Meliphagidae	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>	White-naped Honeyeater	P	X		X					
Meliphagidae	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>	Scarlet Honeyeater	P	X		X					
Meliphagidae	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>	Noisy Friarbird	P	X		X	X				
Molossidae	<i>Mormopterus ridei</i> (formerly "Species 2")	Eastern Freetail Bat	P			X					

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Molossidae	<i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i>	East-coast Freetail-bat	V		X						
Molossidae	<i>Mormopterus sp.?</i>	A Freetail-bat	P		X						
Molossidae	<i>Tadarida australis</i>	White-striped Freetail-bat	P		X						
Motacillidae	<i>Anthus australis</i>	Australian Pipit	P	X							
Muridae	<i>Mus musculus*</i>	House Mouse	U	X							
Muridae	<i>Rattus rattus*</i>	Black Rat	U	X							
Myobatrachidae	<i>Crinia signifera</i>	Common Eastern Froglet	P		X	X			X		X
Myobatrachidae	<i>Limnodynastes ornatus</i>	Ornate Burrowing Frog	P	X							
Myobatrachidae	<i>Limnodynastes peronii</i>	Brown-striped Frog	P			X					
Myobatrachidae	<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	Spotted Grass Frog	P			X					
Neosittidae	<i>Daphoenositta</i>	Varied Sittella	V	X	X	X					

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
	<i>chrysoptera</i>										
Oriolidae	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>	Olive-backed Oriole	P	X		X					
Pachycephalidae	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	Grey Shrike-thrush	P	X	X	X				X	
Pachycephalidae	<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>	Eastern Shrike-tit	P	X	X	X					
Pachycephalidae	<i>Monarcha melanopsis</i>	Black-faced Monarch	P	X							
Pachycephalidae	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	Golden Whistler	P	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Pachycephalidae	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	Rufous Whistler	P				X				
Pardalotidae	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	Spotted Pardalote	P	X	X	X	X		X		
Pardalotidae	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	Striated Pardalote	P			X	X				
Petauridae	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>	Sugar Glider	P	X							
Petroicidae	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>	Eastern Yellow Robin	P	X	X	X					
Petroicidae	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	V		X	X	X				
Petroicidae	<i>Microeca fascinans</i>	Jacky Winter	P			X					X

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011			
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW	
Petroicidae	<i>Petroica rosea</i>	Rose Robin	P	X		X					X	X
Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Little Pied Cormorant	P	X		X	X					
Phalangeridae	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Common Brushtail Possum	P	X		X		X				
Phasianidae	<i>Coturnix ypsilophora</i>	Brown Quail	P	X								
Podargidae	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>	Tawny Frogmouth	P	X								
Podicipedidae	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	Australasian Grebe	P	X		X	X					
Pseudocheiridae	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>	Common Ringtail Possum	P	X	X							
Psittacidae	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>	Musk Lorikeet	P								X	
Psittacidae	<i>Platycercus adscitus eximius</i>	Eastern Rosella	P	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Psittacidae	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>	Crimson Rosella	P	X	X	X						
Psittacidae	<i>Psephotus</i>	Red-rumped Parrot	P	X		X	X					

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
	<i>haematonotus</i>										
Psittacidae	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	P	X							
Psittacidae	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	Rainbow Lorikeet	P	X		X	X	X			
Ptilonorhynchidae	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>	Satin Bowerbird	P				X				
Pycnonotidae	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i> *	Red-whiskered Bulbul	U	X		X					
Rallidae	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Eurasian Coot	P	X		X	X				
Rallidae	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	Dusky Moorhen	P	X		X	X				
Rallidae	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Purple Swamphen	P	X		X	X				
Scincidae	<i>Lampropholis guichenoti</i>	Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink	P	X	X						
Scincidae	<i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>	Eastern Blue-tongue	P	X					X		
Scolopacidae	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Latham's Snipe	P				X				
Strigidae	<i>Ninox boobook</i>	Southern Boobook	P	X							

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
Sturnidae	<i>Acridotheres tristis*</i>	Common Myna	U	X		X	X	X			
Sturnidae	<i>Sturnus vulgaris*</i>	Common Starling	U	X		X	X				
Tachyglossidae	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Short-beaked Echidna	P	X							
Threskiomithidae	<i>Platalea flavipes</i>	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	P	X		X					
Threskiomithidae	<i>Platalea regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill	P	X							
Threskiomithidae	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>	Straw-necked Ibis	P	X							
Vespertilionidae	<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>	Gould's Wattled Bat	P		X	X		X			
Vespertilionidae	<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>	Chocolate Wattled Bat	P	X	X						
Vespertilionidae	<i>Miniopterus orianae (formerly schreibersii) oceanensis</i>	Eastern Bentwing-bat	V	X	X	X		X			
Vespertilionidae	<i>Myotis macropus</i>	Large-footed Myotis	V			X					
Vespertilionidae	<i>Nyctophilus geoffroyi</i>	Lesser Long-eared Bat	P	X	X						
Vespertilionidae	<i>Nyctophilus sp.</i>	long-eared bat	P		X	X					
Vespertilionidae	<i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i>	Greater Broad-nosed	V	X	X						

Table C.2 Fauna species recorded within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Legal Status	Gunninah 1991	ERM 2003	CE 2004-2006	CE 2007-2008	CE 2009	Cumberland Ecology 2011		
									Subject Land	Study Area - Regrowth CPW	Study Area - Mature CPW
		Bat									
Vespertilionidae	<i>Scotorepens orion</i>	Eastern Broad-nosed Bat	P		X						
Vespertilionidae	<i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i>	Large Forest Bat	P		X						
Vespertilionidae	<i>Vespadelus regulus</i>	Southern Forest Bat	P		X	X					
Vespertilionidae	<i>Vespadelus vulturnus</i>	Little Forest Bat	P	X	X						
Zosteropidae	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	Silvereye	P	X	X	X			X		

Appendix D

Flora and Fauna Data Analysis

Table D.1 Snail survey records for the Study Area

	Area A –Subject Land					Area B - Regenerating CPW Regional Park					Area C-Mature CPW Regional Park				
	A-SQ1	A-SQ2	A-SQ3	SQ4	SQ5	B-SQ6	B-SQ7	B-SQ8	B-SQ9	B-SQ10	C-SQ11	C-SQ12	C-SQ13	C-SQ14	C-SQ15
Total trees	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Live snails	1	0	2	0	0	4	5	3	0	10	9	11	6	6	6
Snail Shells	3	3	2	1	2	1	9	4	8	4	10	9	8	8	8
Total Snails	4	3	4	1	2	5	14	7	8	14	19	20	14	14	14
<i>Ave for Area</i>	2.8					9.6					16.2				
<i>St Dev</i>	1.3038					4.15933					3.03315				
<i>St Err</i>	0.5831					1.86011					1.35647				

Table D.2 Habitat Assessment results in the Study Area

	Habitat Features	Area A-Regenerating CPW - study area					Area B - Regenerating CPW- Regional Park					Area C - Mature CPW - Regional Park				
		SQ1	SQ2	SQ3	SQ4	SQ5	SQ6	SQ7	SQ8	SQ9	SQ10	SQ11	SQ12	SQ13	SQ14	SQ15
Projective Cover (total % cover = 100%)	Vegetation	95	92	80	85	20	95	83	85	80	70	70	40	80	65	70
	Logs	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	5	2	1	5	2	0	1
	Rock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Litter	1	5	9	12	55	2	4	10	5	15	15	25	10	15	12
	Soil	2	1	0	0	5	0	4	0	3	3	2	10	0	5	2
	Bark	2	2	10	3	19	2	7	5	7	10	12	20	8	15	15
Hollows	Small	0	4	3	2	1	1	5	3	2	2	1	3	3	2	3
	Medium	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	Large	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Main Tree Species	<i>E.molucanna</i>	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	<i>E. teretecornis</i>		X			X		X	X	X						
	<i>E. fibrosa</i>				X											
Main Understory Species	Native Grasses	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		
	Exotic Grasses			X												
	Native Shrubs					X						X			X	X
	Native Herbs						X				X	X			X	X

Table D.2 Habitat Assessment results in the Study Area

Habitat Features	Area A-Regenerating CPW - study area					Area B - Regenerating CPW- Regional Park					Area C - Mature CPW - Regional Park				
	SQ1	SQ2	SQ3	SQ4	SQ5	SQ6	SQ7	SQ8	SQ9	SQ10	SQ11	SQ12	SQ13	SQ14	SQ15
Regenerating Eucalypts															
Exotic Herbs															
Flowering Tree	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Signs of fauna activity	Nil	Macropod scats	Macropod scats	Nil	Macropod scats	Nil	Macropod scats,	Macropod scats	Macropod scats, Emu scats	Macropod scats	Nil	Macropod scats	Macropod scats	Nil	Macropod scats, Emu scats

Appendix E

**Actions prescribed by the Final Recovery
Plan for the Cumberland Plain**

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
Building the protected area network	Page 14 - Recovery Objective 1: To build a protected area network, comprising public and private lands, focused on the priority conservation lands (PCL)	Recovery objective subdivided into several actions. 1.1, 1.2. 1.3 and 1.6 not applicable to management plan as they are responsibility of OEH (listed as DECCW in CPW plan). Actions 1.4 and 1.5 potentially applicable to management plans as they refer to acquisition of lands for inclusion into protection and assurance of offsets where impacts are unavoidable respectively	Possible statement in management plan acknowledging that appropriate local council/govt dept will be contacted in the event of future rezonation/change of development plans	Feral and Domestic Animal Management Strategy (FDAMS) - No	FDAMS not really applicable as area covered by plan is not a PCL. Only potential relevance may be Action 1.5 - offsets where impacts are unavoidable - which has a note on offsets in Growth Centres. May need to state in sections 3.1.3 (Pg 3.2) and 3.1.6 (Pg 3.4) that planting of native shrubs is in accordance with the Growth Centres Biodiversity Certification Order as well as Asset Protection Zone

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					requirements?
				Weed Management Plan (WMP) - No	WMP not really applicable as area covered by plan is not a PCL. Action 1.5 may have some relevance as clearing for development will remove native vegetation as well as the weeds. Could make statement in Section 4.2.3 (Pg 4.4) and/or 4.3.1 (pg 4.5) that loss/disturbance of native vegetation within development site does not affect local long-term survival of native species as adjacent Regional Park

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					has sustainable populations (refer to 2009 WP Biodiversity assessment)
				Macrofauna Management Plant (MFMP) - Yes	MFMP indirectly addresses Action 1.4 as Chapter 1, Section 1.3.1 (pg 1.9) states that St Mary's Property has been zoned into urban development and regional park areas, thus lands for inclusion into protection are acquired. Action 1.5 (offsets) not relevant as plan deals with fauna. Presence of park indicates offset area for flora

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
Delivery of best practise management strategies	Page 16: Recovery Objective 2: To deliver best practice management for threatened biodiversity across Cumberland Plain, with a specific focus on the priority conservation lands and public lands where the primary management objectives are compatible with biodiversity conservation	Recovery objective subdivided into several actions. 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7 not applicable to management plan as they are govt dept responsibilities or refer to Priority Conservation lands. Actions 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5 all refer to best management practices outlined in Appendix 2 which has relevant sections detailed below. Actions 2.3 and 2.5 not directly relevant as they refer to local, state and Australian government lands. Action 2.2 highly relevant as it refers to public and private lands	Responses to relevant sections of Appendix 2 required. Point 2 is relevant as it refers to public lands compatible with primary management objective. Point 3 also relevant as it deals with private land.	FDAMS - Yes WPS - Yes MFMP - Yes	Detailed in following points

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
Appendix 2 - Best practice standards for bushland management	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point 2: Bushland on public lands compatible with primary management objective	Requirement 1: a site action or management plan to be prepared which addresses the management of threatened biodiversity and is consistent with the recovery plan	Development of management plan consistent with recovery plan	FDAMS - Yes	FDAMS: Chapter 3, Section 3.1.1 (Pg 3.1) and 3.2 (Pg 3.6) Overall management strategy acknowledges that threatened flora, fauna and EECs have to be protected from feral/stray and domestic animals
				WMP - Yes	WMP: Chapter 4, Section 4.1 (Pg 4.1) acknowledges the different threats weeds pose to native vegetation and habitats
				MFMP - yes	Chapters 4 and 5 cover issues that necessitate fauna population management. While

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					they deal with macrofauna, these comply with recovery plan as they indirectly aid in protecting/regeneration of the CEEC.
	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point 2: Bushland on public lands compatible with primary management objective	Requirement 2: the land to be managed in accordance with the site action or management plan	Procedures/Strategies to execute management plan	FDAMS - Yes	FDAMS - Chapter 3, Sections 3.1.2 - 3.1.8 and Section 3.2 outline procedures for MP execution to prevent feral/domestic animals effects on native flora/fauna and prevent/reduce access to adjacent PCL.
				WMP - Yes	WMP - Chapter 4, Sections 4.2, 4.3 and Appendix C provide details on procedures

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					to remove/reduce spread of weeds. Explicit mention of protecting adjacent Regional Park by preventing weed infestations mentioned on pg 4.3.
				MFMP - yes	Chapters 7 - 12 outline various protocols/strategies for implementing management issues identified in Chapters 4-5.
	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point 2: Bushland on public lands compatible with primary	Requirement 3: Monitoring to be undertaken periodically to determine the status of threatened entities, or to assess the effectiveness of threat abatement measures being implemented (for guidance see the Monitoring manual for bitou bush control and native plant recovery (Hughes et al. 2009) at	Periodic monitoring using monitoring methods listed in Hughes article	FDAMS - No	No mention of ongoing monitoring of feral population numbers or of corresponding responses of native flora/fauna species.

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
	management objective	www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bitouTAP/monitoring.htm			Hughes article not really applicable as it deals with methods for monitoring flora not fauna
				WMP - Yes	Monitoring of weed populations along with ongoing review of strategy outlined in Chapter 5 with timeline for procedures outlined in Appendix E. Methodolgy for Long term Monitoring (Section 5.2) not specifically mentioned but it is stated that methods used in this WMP (transects - which is one of the methods listed in

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					Hughes 2009) be used. No methods/reference link for methods mentioned for Short term monitoring (Section 5.1)
				MFMP - yes	Methods for ongoing monitoring for macrofauna as well as flora outlined in Sections 13.1.1 - 13.1.4
	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point 2: Bushland on public lands compatible with primary management objective	Requirement 4: Management to be consistent with the following documents {Recovering bushland on the Cumberland Plain – Best practice guidelines for the management and restoration of bushland (DEC 2005a); recommended fire regimes in Appendix 3} , and any other best practice documents that OEH (DECCW) may promote at a later date. A landscape-scale response to African Olive invasion on the Cumberland Plain (as per	Appropriate references have to be incorporated/references in management plan	FDAMS - No	FDAMS - N/A as fire regimen not included in MP. May need to reference the DEC document with regard to planting of native shrubs? Action 2.6 is responsibility of OEH

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
		completion of action 2.6)			(DECCW) and is not applicable to this MP as the focus is on fauna
				WMP - Yes	WMP - Fire regimes N/A as it is not used as a weed control method. Action 2.6 is responsibility of OEH (DECCW) but plan is in compliance as control and removal of African Olive is covered (Appendix C, Section C.3) Recovering Bushland document not referenced. Important/Relevant sections of Recovering Bushland document are chapter 2 (pg 16,

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					pg 21, pg 25?) and Chapter 4 (pg 38,)
				MFMP - yes	Recovering bushland documents highlights need to reduce overgrazing (and it's side effects like erosion). Reducing of grazing pressure is explicitly stated in Chapter 12, Section 12.3 as an outcome of controlling Macrofauna populations. However previous section does state that some weed species may increase (pg 12.3, dot point 4) which may be contradictory. Fire regimen and African

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					Olive invasion N/A as plan is focussed on macrofauna
Appendix 2 - Best practice standards for bushland management	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point 3: Bushland on private lands	Requirement 1: a site action or management plan to be prepared which addresses the management of threatened biodiversity and is consistent with the recovery plan	Development of management plan consistent with recovery plan	FDAMS - Yes	FDAMS: Chapter 3, Section 3.1.1 (Pg 3.1) and 3.2 (Pg 3.6) Overall management strategy acknowledges that threatened flora, fauna and EECs have to be protected from feral/stray and domestic animals
				WMP - Yes	WMP: Chapter 4, Section 4.1 (Pg 4.1) acknowledges the different threats weeds pose to native vegetation and habitats
				MFMP - yes	Chapters 4 and 5

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					cover issues that necessitate fauna population management. While they deal with macrofauna, these comply with recovery plan as they indirectly aid in protecting/regeneration of the CEEC.
	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point 3: Bushland on private lands	Requirement 2: the land to be managed in accordance with the site action or management plan	Procedures/Strategies to execute management plan	FDAMS - Yes	FDAMS - Chapter 3, Sections 3.1.2 - 3.1.8 and Section 3.2 outline procedures for MP execution to prevent feral/domestic animals effects on native flora/fauna and prevent/reduce access to adjacent PCL.

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
				WMP - Yes	WMP - Chapter 4, Sections 4.2, 4.3 and Appendix C provide details on procedures to remove/reduce spread of weeds. Explicit mention of protecting adjacent Regional Park by preventing weed infestations mentioned on pg 4.3.
				MFMP - yes	Chapters 7 - 12 outline various protocols/strategies for implementing management issues identified in Chapters 4-5.
	Page 31: Appendix 2, Point	Requirement 3: Management to be consistent with the following documents {Recovering bushland on the	Appropriate references have to be	FDAMS - Yes	FDAMS - N/A as fire regimen not included in

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
	3: Bushland on private lands	Cumberland Plain – Best practice guidelines for the management and restoration of bushland (DEC 2005a); recommended fire regimes in Appendix 3} , and any other best practice documents that OEH (DECCW) may promote at a later date	incorporated/references in management plan		MP. May need to reference the DEC document with regard to planting of native shrubs?
				WMP - Yes	WMP - Fire regimes N/A as it is not used as a weed control method. Recovering Bushland document not referenced. Important/Relevant sections of Recovering Bushland document are chapter 2 (pg 16, pg 21, pg 25?) and Chapter 4 (pg 38,)
				MFMP - yes	Recovering bushland documents highlights need to reduce overgrazing (and it's

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
					side effects like erosion). Reducing of grazing pressure is explicitly stated in Chapter 12, Section 12.3 as an outcome of controlling Macrofauna populations. However previous section does state that some weed species may increase (pg 12.3, dot point 4) which may be contradictory. Fire regimen N/A as plan is focussed on macrofauna
Community awareness	Page 17: Recovery Objective 3: To develop an	Recovery objective subdivided into several actions. Actions 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6 and 3.7 not relevant as they are council or OEH responsibilities. Actions 3.4 and 3.5 may have some relevance as they refer to OEH and	Statement in management plan communication section addressing potential methods for raising	FDAMS - Yes	FDAMS: Section 2.2 (Pg 2.8); Section 3.1.1 (pg 3.1); Section 3.2 (Pg 3.6) and Section

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan					
<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
	understanding and enhanced awareness in the community of the Cumberland Plain's threatened biodiversity, the best practice standards for its management, and the recovery program	local councils working collaboratively with landowners and other organisations to increase awareness of best practice standards and opportunities for further involvement/participation in the recovery program	awareness of issues in recovery plan if necessary		3.3 (Pg 3.7)
				WMP - Yes	WMP: Chapter 4, Section 4.2.4 (Pg 4.5). Could potentially be expanded to have more regular updates/awareness programs on importance of weed control.
				MFMP - yes	Initiation of a environmental education program explicitly mentioned in Chapter 7, section 7.10. However this is not clearly divided into separate programs for the Park area and the development area

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
Continued research/monitoring and data updates	Page 19: Recovery Objective 4: To increase knowledge of the threats to the survival of the Cumberland Plain's threatened biodiversity, and thereby improve capacity to manage these in a strategic and effective manner	Recovery objective subdivided into several actions. Actions 4.1, 4.2 and 4.6 not relevant as they are council or OEH responsibilities. Action 4.4 not directly relevant but deals with compliance and enforcement programs dealing with unauthorised clearing of bushland. Local councils and OEH responsible for carrying out Actions 4.3 and 4.5 respectively, which deal with reviewing biodiversity strategies and establishing development notification frameworks. But these may be relevant as they include areas around the priority conservation lands	Make a statement in management plan that all required permits for clearing were acquired thus removing any potential issues with regard to Action 4.4. Actions 4.3 and 4.5 can be addressed via statements indicating ongoing development of management plans and proper communication within legal channels of any future changes in development plans.	FDAMS - No	FDAMS - N/A as all actions are to be carried out by government bodies. However could add statement in Conclusion that MP strategy will be reviewed and revised according to feral animal responses
				WMP - Yes	WMP - Chapter 5 and Appendix E specify ongoing monitoring, annual reviews and adaptive management timeframes for weed control which will ultimately aid in protecting adjacent Park

Table E.1 Compliance with the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan

<i>Topics to address</i>	<i>CPW recovery plan objectives</i>	<i>Relevant sections</i>	<i>Required action</i>	<i>Objective addressed in Cumberland Ecology management plan</i>	<i>Relevant Cumberland Ecology Management plan/section</i>
				MFMP - yes	MFMP has been developed as an adaptive management plan and Chapter 13 covers multiple issues that will contribute to ongoing development and improvement of management plan (including liasions and reviews) thus indirectly complying with requirement of improving management capacity/strategy

Appendix F

Staff CVs

Dr David Robertson's ecological career has spanned 27 years since completion of his PhD at Melbourne University in 1985. He is a specialist ecologist with expertise in both botany and zoology and has worked as an ecological consultant since 1993.

During part of his career, David has also been a lecturer in plant taxonomy, plant ecology and freshwater ecology at Charles Sturt University and Australian Catholic University. This has developed his capability to work in both aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna inventory, management of threatened species, ecological risk assessment, wetland rehabilitation and management, and ecological research for environmental impact assessment.

Throughout his career, David has worked on a wide variety of ecological projects. This includes ecological projects across Australia, including New South Wales, Queensland, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. He has also gained international experience as the senior ecologist involved with consultancies in Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Since the inception of Cumberland Ecology Pty Ltd in 2003, David and his team of ecologists at Cumberland Ecology have worked on ecological investigations throughout NSW, averaging over 80 projects per year. They have worked extensively within the Hunter Valley, Gunnedah Basin, Sydney Region, on coastal projects and in the Western Blue Mountains.

David has had, and continues to have, direct involvement in many large-scale vegetation mapping and flora and fauna impact assessment projects. David has worked on many projects that entail the preparation of ecological offsets and Cumberland Ecology has been engaged to monitor such offsets. Cumberland Ecology has helped to formulate offsets for many mining projects in NSW, and also for mines in north Queensland and in Mindanao (Philippines).

Under David's direction, an array of monitoring work has been and is being conducted at sites in the Hunter Valley, Gunnedah, Coffs Harbour and Western Sydney.

Education

Bachelor of Science (Honours), Ecology, University of Melbourne, 1980.

Doctor of Philosophy, Ecology, University of Melbourne, 1986.

David undertook his tertiary education at Melbourne University, completing a Bachelor of Science majoring in botany and zoology. This included a thesis submitted as part of the requirements for the B.Sc. Honours Degree at The University of Melbourne School of Botany:

Aspects of the Ecology of Eucalyptus sideroxylon (A. Cunn, ex W. Wool) at Point Addis, Victoria (November 1980).

He completed his Doctor of Philosophy in 1985 at the School of Botany, which was entitled:

Interrelationships between Kangaroos, Fire and Vegetation Dynamic at Gellibrand Hill Park, Victoria (August 1985).

Professional Memberships and Affiliations

Ecological Society of Australia

Ecological Consultants Association of NSW

He is also an accredited BioBanking Assessor.

Employment History

David has lectured in ecology and aquatic biology at Charles Sturt University. Consultancy employment includes as a senior ecologist with the Australian Museum, senior ecologist in charge of the Ecological Services Practice for ERM Australia, and Director of Cumberland Ecology (current).

2003- 2013 - Cumberland Ecology: Director

1997-1993 - ERM: Senior Ecologist

1998-1999 - Australian Catholic University:
Lecturer (part time)

1995-1996 - Australian Museum: Senior
Ecological Consultant

1987-1994 - Charles Sturt University: Lecturer

1986-1987 - University of Melbourne: Research
Fellow

Offsets Experience

David has been involved in the development of biodiversity offset packages for a number of projects, which have included strategic assessments of land as compensatory habitats and involvement in the development of indirect offsets such as threatened species recovery plans. As part of the development of suitable offsets, David is regularly involved in negotiations with clients and regulators about the level of mitigation measures required for flora and fauna impacts.

Recent examples of projects requiring significant offsets work entailing the selection of suitable remnant vegetation for enduring protection and habitat for threatened species listed under the EPBC Act and TSC Act include the:

- Mt Pleasant Project Modification: involved in the selection and subsequent ecological investigations of candidate offset lands, resulting in a substantial offsets package of over 12,000 ha. Further involvement in the development of an Offset Management Plan designed to effectively manage and monitor the offsets for conservation and ecological gains.
- Maules Creek Coal Project is a large-scale flora and fauna baseline study of 2,700 hectares of forest and woodland in the locality of Narrabri, New South Wales. The purpose of the study, which has been ongoing since 2008, was to assess the potential impacts of proposed open cut mining on biodiversity. Key biodiversity values of the Project Area include a number of threatened bird and bat species as well as threatened ecological

communities such as the critically endangered Box Gum Woodland.

- Warkworth Mine Extension Project: assistance in the development of an approved offset package. Involved in fauna surveys of the offsets to provide baseline data on their ecological value, particularly for threatened species, and which fulfil a component of the Project's conditions of consent.
- Drayton South Coal Project: involved in the strategic selection and survey, including vegetation mapping, flora and fauna investigations, of suitable offsets.
- Shenhua Watermark Coal Project; presents a complex suite of ecological issues including Critically Endangered and Endangered Ecological Communities (including areas of Box Gum Grassy Woodland), threatened flora and fauna. In particular Koalas, an iconic species for which the area is well known, are present within the proposed Watermark Project Boundary. This has resulted in extensive surveying and mapping of suitable offsets.
- Bengalla Mine Project involves the preparation of an EIA to support a State Significant Development application. The Project impacts include clearing of Box Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grassland, as well the removal of habitat for a range of threatened species and an endangered population. This has involved negotiations with State and Federal Government Authorities to develop appropriate offsets for the Project impacts. This includes participation in the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment. Cumberland Ecology is currently preparing an Assessment Report for submission as part of the UHSA, including summary of the results of extensive flora and fauna survey and calculations using the Biodiversity Certification Assessment Methodology (BCAM).

Gitanjali Kattrak is a Project Manager/Ecologist at Cumberland Ecology, based in Sydney. She has a Bachelor of Sciences (Biological Sciences) with Honours and a PhD in intertidal wetland ecology.

Gitanjali has been involved in vegetation mapping, flora and fauna surveys and impact assessments as part of development applications for a variety of projects, particularly residential subdivisions and mining projects in NSW. Recently, she has managed State Significant Developments and Section 5A assessments with endangered ecological community and threatened species issues. She has also been involved in the preparation of affidavits and Statements of Evidence in Land and Environment Court cases and statistical analyses of ongoing monitoring projects.

Recent consultancy work has included:

- Flora and fauna impact assessments for State Significant Developments, Part 3A projects and Part 5 projects;
- Vegetation mapping and targeted threatened species habitat assessment and surveys;
- Impact assessment and offsetting for mining projects;
- Statistical analyses for legal court cases and ongoing monitoring programmes.

Fields of Competence

- *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
- *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*;
- Ecological surveys, particularly assessment of threatened species and ecological communities;
- Report writing; and
- Statistical analyses.

Key Industry Sectors

- Urban development; and
- Mining and Extraction industries.

Education

- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biological Sciences, La Trobe University, VIC. 2002
- Doctor of Philosophy, Intertidal Wetland Ecology. Flinders University, SA. 2011

Key Projects

Wallarah 2 Coal Project

Gitanjali is currently managing the Ecological Impact Assessments and Offset Strategy for the Development Application of the State Significant Wallarah 2 Coal Project.

St. Mary's Development – Lend Lease

Gitanjali is involved with the progressive development of the former ADI site at St Marys, Western Sydney. Assessments have included the preparation of large scale Species Impact Statements for the Western Precinct DA's

Flora and fauna surveys

Gitanjali has been involved in ecological assessments including Species Impact Statements and Flora and Fauna Assessments as part of development applications for a variety of projects in the greater Sydney Metropolitan area.

Statistical analysis

Gitanjali has experience conducting statistical analyses, using programmes such as SPSS and PRIMER, to determine biological patterns and community structure.

Samantha Holliday

Senior Project Manager / Ecologist



Samantha Holliday is a Senior Project Manager and Ecologist at Cumberland Ecology and has over seven years experience with the company carrying out environmental impact investigations and related works. She has a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Environmental Management and a Master of Science with Distinction in Ecology.

Sam has been involved in ecological research and project management for a number of years, on both the scientific and commercial sides, and has carried out projects in Australia, Asia, Africa and the UK. She has proven project management experience, managing multiple projects, contractors and budgets to ensure that projects are carried out on time to the client's specifications.

Sam has been involved in Environmental Impact Assessments, flora and fauna surveys and habitat management and restoration work for a number of large-scale complex development projects.

Recent consultancy work has included:

- Ecological investigations and reporting for major mine projects in the Hunter Valley;
- Project-managing the ecological component for the provision of water-related services infrastructure for parts of the north-west and south-west Growth Centres of Sydney;
- Survey, impact assessment and production of offset strategies for the M2 Motorway widening scheme;
- Preparation of habitat and riparian management plans for the Emirates 7 Star Resort in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Fields of Competence

- Project managing the ecological component of large-scale developments;
- Understanding reporting requirements for complex projects and co-ordinating the preparation of associated documents and reports;

- Managing the consultation process between developers and local, State and Commonwealth government agencies.

Key Industry Sectors

- Urban development;
- Infrastructure;
- Mining.

Education

Bachelor of Science (First Class Hons) Environmental Management. Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, 1993.

Master of Science (Distinction). University of Wales, UK, 2004.

Key Projects

Cooks Cove Development

This involved managing numerous threatened species and vegetation issues in conjunction with multiple land-use requirements. This included working effectively within a multi-disciplinary team, production of all impact assessments, negotiation of mitigation and offset measures with government agencies, and preparation of habitat and species management plans.

Western Sydney Growth Centres

This included several projects involving fieldwork to inform strategic assessments, riparian management and the wide-scale provision of infrastructure.

Hunter Valley Mining

This involved flora and fauna surveys, vegetation mapping and reporting for preliminary assessments.

Stephanie Gardham is an Ecologist at Cumberland Ecology, based in Sydney. She has a Master of Science (Aquatic Resource Management) and a Bachelor of Science with honours (Biology).

Stephanie recently submitted her PhD thesis in aquatic ecology (based in Sydney) in which she developed expertise in ecotoxicological risk assessment, including: survey design, aquatic ecological monitoring, and water quality monitoring (including clean sample preparations for metals analysis). Prior to her PhD, she worked in a consultancy in the UK, where she was involved in ecological monitoring and management, environmental risk assessments, impact assessments, and Phase 1 contaminated land surveys. Through her work and education in the UK and Australia, Stephanie has developed expertise in GIS.

Recent consultancy experience at Cumberland Ecology includes:

- Evaluation of the potential material harm caused by an ash slurry spill into an adjacent watercourse;
- Site assessment and production of a Statement of Evidence assessing the impact of an unauthorised discharge into a watercourse;
- Site assessment and production of a Letter of Advice regarding the potential impacts on Endangered Ecological Communities and threatened species as a result of a rezoning from conservation to residential land; and
- Assessment of impact areas as a result of clearing towards urban development.

Previous consultancy experience in the UK includes:

- Ecological monitoring and management: aquatic invertebrate monitoring, water vole and great crested newt surveys, trapping and relocations and watching briefs during construction in environmentally sensitive areas;
- Water quality monitoring: stream flow monitoring and standard water quality monitoring for surface waters and ground waters;
- Air quality monitoring: field monitoring of air quality to enable a baseline understanding of target

pollutants prior to construction of a potential new settlement.

- Environmental Risk Assessment: use of ArcGIS to analyse sensitive ecological areas of high risk along highways to ensure compliance with the European Union Environmental Liabilities Directive during highway maintenance and construction projects.
- Impact Assessments: for example, of new wind farms to the geological, hydrological and hydrogeological environment. These included analyses of increased flood risk, pollution impacts and impacts to the groundwater regime.
- Phase 1 Contaminated Land Surveys: analyses of the potential risk of pollution linkages occurring through identifying sources, pathways and receptors to pollutants.

Fields of Competence

- Aquatic ecological surveys and monitoring;
- Aquatic environmental risk assessment;
- Terrestrial ecological surveys and monitoring;
- Geospatial Information Systems (GIS)
- Multivariate statistical analysis; and
- Report writing.

Key Industry Sectors

- Water;
- Urban development; and
- Extraction industry.

Education

Masters of Science Aquatic Resource Management (Distinction)

Bachelor of Science (honours) Biology (1st Class)
The University of Nottingham, 2005