

Your ref: REF-2770 Our ref: DOC24/368948

Ms Kate Wooll Business Manager Strategic Planning Goulburn Mulwaree Council Locked Bag 22 GOULBURN NSW 2580

By email: kate.wooll@goulburn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Wooll

Planning Proposal - 233 Wheeo Road, Goulburn

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Planning Proposal for 233-234 Wheeo Rd, Goulburn. Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) have completed a full review of the documents provided. We fully support the decision to opt in to the offsets scheme for this development by undertaking the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (BAM) and preparing the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR).

As was identified by the BDAR, this development will have a significant impact on three threatened entities – Hoary Sunray *Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor,* Key's Matchstick Grasshopper *Keyacris scurra,* and PCT 3373 Goulburn Tableland Box-Gum Grassy Forest, which is a component of the Critically Endangered Ecological Community White-Box – Yellow Box – Blakeley's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland in the NSW North Coast, New England Tableland, Nandewar, Brigalow Belt South, Sydney Basin, South Eastern Highlands, NSW South Western Slopes, South East Corner and Riverina Bioregions.

This vegetation community is a Serious and Irreversible Impact (SAII) listed entity under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). As the determining body, Council is required to consider the impacts to the vegetation community onsite, and determine whether there are any additional and appropriate measures that will minimise those impacts. Council has provided a commitment to additional conservation actions to conserve and improve the vegetation community in two additional adjacent areas, and restore groundcover condition where possible on the project site. The actions were discussed with BCS prior to inclusion. The actions have been detailed in the BDAR (mainly in Chapter 7 and Appendix J) and will need to be conditioned in the approval.

The vegetation on this site also meets the criteria for EPBC Act listed Critically Endangered Community White Box-Yellow Box-Blakeley's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland. As stated in the BDAR, a referral to the Commonwealth is necessary.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms Allison Treweek, Senior Team Leader Planning, Regional Delivery, Biodiversity Conservation and Science, at <u>rog.southeast@environment.nsw.gov.au</u>.

Yours sincerely

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Allison Treweek 21/05/2024 Senior Team Leader Planning, Regional Delivery Biodiversity, Conservation and Science