



ANNE CLEMENTS & ASSOCIATES PTY. LIMITED
(ABN 41 077 242 365, ACN 077-160-939)
Environmental and Botanical Consultants
Office 2, 3 Harbourview Crescent, Milsons Point 2060
PO Box 1623, North Sydney 2059
Phone: (02) 9955 9733, Mobile: 0427553362
Email: mail@acabotanic.com

8 August 2024

Louis Towning
Development Manager
LOGOS Property
M. +61 439 591 280
T. +61 2 8197 3900
E. louistowning@logosproperty.com

Project : SSD-36138263, Augusta Street Warehouse and Distribution Centre, Augusta Street, Huntingwood

**RE: Potential impact on biodiversity from Temporary Construction Access
across Blacktown Creek**

We have been requested on behalf of The Trustee for Huntingwood Property Trust to prepare this memorandum assessing the potential biodiversity impact of the proposed temporary crossings of Blacktown Creek. The temporary crossings are required to facilitate construction of the Augusta Street warehouse and distribution centre in Huntingwood (the Augusta Street site).

The engineering works and associated mitigation and management measures are detailed by Costin Roe in their memorandum dated 26 July 2024.

Blacktown Creek

Blacktown Creek is a 1st order watercourse under the *Water Management Act 2000*.

The water enters the Augusta Street site via two 1800 m wide culverts under the Western Motorway (M4) from M4 stormwater runoff basins and from the treatment pond on the Raging Waters Sydney (formerly known as Wet 'n' Wild) site.

It flows northward across the Augusta Street site, exiting via 3 x 1150 mm diameter pipes under the Great Western Highway to a channelised creek in Timbertop Reserve.

Controls under the Water Management Act 2000

There are controls for waterfront land under the *WM Act*, detailed in the Department of Planning and Environment Fact Sheet - *Controlled activities - Guidelines for riparian corridors on waterfront land*, dated 2022. It is stated in the *Guidelines*:

Controlled activities carried out in, on, or under waterfront land are regulated by the Water Management Act 2000 (WM Act). The Department of Planning

and Environment administers the WM Act and is required to assess the impact of any proposed controlled activity to ensure that no more than minimal harm will be done to waterfront land as a consequence of carrying out the controlled activity.

From the Riparian Corridor Matrix provided in Table 2 of the *Guidelines*, road crossings are permitted across 1st Order watercourses.

Table 2: Riparian corridor matrix

Stream order	VRZ	RC offsetting for non-RC uses	Cycleways and paths	Detention Basins		Stormwater outlet structures and essential services	Stream realignment	Road crossings		
				Only within 50% outer VRZ	Online			Any	Culvert	Bridge
1 st	10m	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
2 nd	20m	•	•	•	•	•		•		
3 rd	30m	•	•	•		•			•	•
4 th +	40m	•	•	•		•			•	•

Biodiversity onsite associated with Blacktown Creek

Blacktown Creek consists of a treeless central depression without any open standing water.

The vegetation structure and floristics were very simple, with:

- the central depression dominated by the wetland species *Typha domingensis*;
- narrower belts of the native sedge *Bolboschoenus caldwellii* upslope of the central depression;
- the High Threat Weed, an exotic rush *Juncus acutus* also prominent, forming rows of large spiny tussocks along the margins; and
- the High Threat Weed, *Rubus anglocandicans* (Blackberry) forming large impenetrable patches along banks of this swampy depression, with some patches extending well into the swamp.

Onsite, this vegetation associated with Blacktown Creek had a very low vegetation integrity score (VIS = 4) based on the data recorded in Plot 6. No Biodiversity offset was required in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report for clearing this vegetation (Clements *et al.* 2024).

Biological life in this creek is generally low, except immediately downstream of the treated water inflow from Wet 'n' Wild, where aquatic insects and freshwater snails were recorded 25 to 50 m from the culvert inlet in the south (Clark 2022). Within the Typha and nearby, two common frog species, the Common Eastern Froglet and Striped Marsh Frog, were detected (Webster and Walsh 2022). No threatened fauna species were recorded along this creek.

Proposed crossings

There are two temporary crossings. These are haul roads designed by Costin Roe, with one in the north and one in the south of the Augusta Street site. The design includes:

- Sediment fences and associated returns installed prior to commencement of works and maintained during works, in accordance with the erosion and sediment control plans;
- Cofferdams constructed to safeguard the haulage roads; and
- A temporary low-flow diversion pipe or a pumped system at the base of the channel used to divert clean water from crossing the haul roads.

The works are to be carried out during a period of dry forecasted weather.

Before the creek crossings are demolished, discussions will be required by the Construction Manager and the Environmental Manager, as:

- during the early phase of conservation restoration works, this haul road may be useful to provide access for machinery carrying out the required engineering works within Blacktown Creek (details given in the Vegetation Management Plan, Clements *et al.* 2024b); and
- the haulage road material itself may be re-used in the conservation works, as appropriate.

Potential biodiversity impacts of the crossing

Given the degraded nature and its low Vegetation Integrity Score (VIS=4) of the existing vegetation along Blacktown Creek, it is expected that, provided the engineering controls are implemented, the potential impacts on biodiversity will be insignificant. The haul roads will provide good access for implementing the required riparian corridor works, as specified in the VMP.

The clean water diversion path under the haul roads forms an essential component of the engineering design to maintain the existing minor native component of the Blacktown Creek vegetation.

The sediment and erosion control measures, outlined in Costin Roe, minimise the risk of weed movement, especially seeds of the High Threat Weed, *Juncus acutus*, to the downstream creekline in Timbertop Reserve, north of the Great Western Highway.

Care needs to be exercised during the removal of the sediment fencing with the fencing disposed of as required by the Environmental Manager and Construction Manager.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the areas with dense Typha and the narrow bands of *Bolboschoenus caldwellii* are clearly identified and protected during the construction phase and the operation phase so that these native stands of wetland vegetation can be re-utilised in the conservation restoration works specified in the VMP.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Annemarie Clements

References:

Clark SA (2022) *Targeted survey for the Cumberland Plain Land Snail*

(*Meridolum corneovirens* (*Pfeiffer, 1851*)) at *Augusta Street, Huntingwood*. Prepared for Anne Clements & Associates Pty Limited. Dated 24 October 2022 (in Appendix 8 of Clements *et al.* 2024a).

Clements A, Baumann A, Rodd T and Harding T (2024a) *Biodiversity Development Assessment Report for the proposed Augusta Street warehouse and distribution centre in Huntingwood*. Dated 6 August 2024.

Clements A, Baumann A, Rodd T and Harding T (2024b) *Vegetation Management Plan for the conservation areas associated with the proposed Augusta Street warehouse and distribution centre in Huntingwood*. Dated 5 August 2024.

Webster G and Walsh J (2022) Huntingwood frog survey outcomes and habitat suitability for microbats with recommendations for habitat restoration for threatened fauna. Prepared for Anne Clements & Associates Pty Limited. Dated 24 August 2022 (in Appendix 7 of Clements *et al.* 2024a).