

Melissa Allan

Subject: FW: Pakenham East_Bauenort native vegetation assessment
Attachments: BIOSIS - 155 Dore Rd tree assessment - 2 May 2018.pdf

Hello Ben,

Thanks very much for taking the time to meet with us to discuss Bauenort's landholding and submissions.

Please find attached vegetation assessment undertaken by Biosis. As you are aware, the PSP nominates retention of three habitat areas. The attached report confirms the two stags (one located on Dore Road and the site's northern boundary) are no longer present on the land, and as such these should be removed from the NVPP mapping.

Biosis' report also confirms the stand of trees to the west of the site are in mostly poor health, given their isolation and location under the transmission easement (which is subject to ongoing maintenance).

In an urban context and having regard to Biosis' assessment, retention of the trees as currently shown is questioned, given their existing poor health and location within proximity to and under the easement. Furthermore, when considering a logical road/development layout which responds to the complex site features and constraints including both easements, the trees cannot be practically retained.

I trust this will assist in updating the NVPP to identify these trees as removed and removing the stags from the mapping altogether.

Kind regards,
Celia

Celia Konstas
Principal Planner

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2 May 2018

Anton Pound
 Director
 Bauenort Management Pty Ltd
 Suite 206 // 9-11 Claremont Street
 South Yarra VIC 3141

Dear Anton

155 Dore Road Pakenham tree assessment

Our ref: Matter 27511

Biosis Pty Ltd was commissioned by Bauenort Management Pty Ltd to undertake an assessment of the ecological values associated with the indigenous trees identified within the Pakenham East Native Vegetation Precinct Plan (NVPP) at 155 Dore Road, Pakenham 3810 (the property) (Figure 1).

The Native Vegetation Precinct Plan for Pakenham East was prepared by Ecology and Heritage Partners on behalf of Cardinia Shire Council (Ecology and Heritage Partners 2017) to be included within the proposed Pakenham East PSP 1210. The NVPP identifies seven scattered trees to be retained within the property. The aim of this assessment was to define the ecological values and current condition of these trees and to describe how they fit into the native vegetation retention goals outlined within the Pakenham East NVPP.

Tree assessment

The study area was assessed on the 26 April 2018. Seven indigenous trees within the property identified to be retained within the NVPP (tree numbered 141-147) were assessed for their ecological value, potential for fauna habitat and current tree condition. The location of each tree assessed was based upon the location as displayed in Figure 2a of the NVPP as the written coordinates in Table 2 of the NVPP did not correspond with the figures.

Three of the seven trees are no longer standing on the property, the remaining four trees are of average quality, not connected to any habitat corridors and are of limited value to native fauna. A more detailed description for each tree can be viewed in Table 1 and images of the trees are provided at the end of this letter.

Table 1 Value of indigenous trees identified to be retained by the NVPP

Tree ID	Species	Condition	Value for fauna	Ecological value	Photo
141	Dead Stag	No longer present. The landholder informed us that this tree fell over several years ago and was subsequently cleaned up and removed from the site.	None	None	1
142	Dead Stag	No longer present. The landholder informed us that this tree fell over in the last few years and was subsequently cleaned up and removed from the site.	None	None	2

Tree ID	Species	Condition	Value for fauna	Ecological value	Photo
143	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Poor. This tree has undergone significant limb loss. The largest limb has broken off the tree. The remaining limb is cracked at the base and the trunk of this tree is split through the middle. It is likely that the last living limb of this tree will snap off in the coming years.	Limited. No hollows located in the tree. It may provide occasional foraging habitat for common bird and possum species. The fallen limb is providing potential habitat for reptiles but this is insignificant in a landscape context and overall of low ecological value.	Limited. The tree is not connected to any habitat corridors and the long term value of retaining this tree is limited as all other trees in the vicinity are also in poor condition and subject to ongoing maintenance associated with the high voltage powerline.	4, 5
144	Swamp Gum <i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Moderate. This tree has undergone and will continue to undergo extensive canopy lopping due to its proximity to powerlines. The existing branches and canopy appears to be in good health.	Limited. No hollows located in the tree. It may provide occasional foraging habitat for common bird and possum species.	Limited. The tree is not connected to any habitat corridors and the long term value of retaining this tree is limited as all other trees in the vicinity are also in poor condition and subject to ongoing maintenance associated with the high voltage powerline.	6, 7
145	Swamp Gum	No longer present. The landholder informed us that this tree was removed by the power management company as it was deemed a risk to the adjacent high voltage powerlines. All material from this tree has been removed from site.	None	None	3
146	Swamp Gum	Moderate/ Poor. There is evidence that the original main branch of this tree broke off in the past. The current form of the tree is multiple small coppiced branches that appear weak and are currently under stress from fallen branches from the adjacent tree 147. Canopy appears to be in good health.	Limited. No hollows located in the tree. It may provide occasional foraging habitat for common bird and possum species.	The tree is not connected to any habitat corridor and the longer term value of retaining this tree is limited as all other trees in the vicinity are also in poor condition and subject to ongoing maintenance associated with the high voltage powerline.	8
147	Swamp Gum	Moderate/ Poor. This tree undergoes lopping for maintenance of the adjacent high voltage powerlines. It currently appears stressed and has dropped limbs.	Limited. No hollows located in the tree, the tree may provide occasional foraging habitat for common bird and possum species.	The tree is not connected to any habitat corridor and the long term value of retaining this tree is limited as all other trees in the vicinity are also in poor condition and subject to ongoing maintenance associated with the high voltage powerline.	9,10

Summary and recommendations

The three trees no longer present (141, 142 and 145) should be removed from the NVPP. These may not contribute to the offsets required under the NVPP and do not provide any current ecological values.

The four remaining Swamp Gums are of average condition, not connected to any existing habitat corridors, have limited value to common native fauna species and no value for threatened species. These trees will be subject to continued lopping for the maintenance of the adjacent high voltage powerlines and as such will never be able to reach a more natural form and are unlikely to form hollows. Swamp Gum is a common overstorey species throughout the area and the loss of these trees is unlikely to have any measurable impact to biodiversity values across the broader landscape.

The retention of these four trees will be of limited value to meeting the objectives outlined within the Pakenham East NVPP. A review of the relevant NVPP native vegetation protection objectives in relation to these trees is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: The retention value of target trees in relation to NVPP protection objectives

NVPP objective	Review of retention of trees meeting this target
Protect and manage the habitat zones and scattered native trees identified as to be retained and use these as a focus for revegetation activities	It is not plausible to protect the four trees identified for retention as more than 1/3 of the canopy will be subject to ongoing pruning for maintenance of the high voltage powerlines. Revegetation under the canopy of these trees will be constrained by requirements for access adjacent to the high voltage powerlines.
Protect and enhance remnant native vegetation and associated habitats (wildlife corridors) along Deep Creek, the Princess Highway and in the vicinity of Canty Lane	This cluster of trees will most likely remain isolated from the Deep Creek Habitat Corridor as revegetation along the high voltage powerline easement is an unlikely outcome.
Ensure offsets meet the eligibility requirements of the Native vegetation gain scoring manual (DEPI 2013b) and be agreed to by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Council.	Tree protection zones and protection of fallen timber objectives are unlikely to be met as these trees occur in close proximity to the High voltage powerlines. The trees will continue to undergo extensive lopping (over 1/3 of the canopy) and fallen timber will likely be removed as it potentially poses a fire risk to this existing infrastructure.

In conclusion the ongoing protection of the four trees assessed will not be plausible due to the existing permitted uses associated with the management of the adjacent high voltage powerlines.

The trees are currently in poor to moderate health and it is unlikely that they could be safely incorporated into a Public Open Space design. An arborist assessment would be required to confirm this. The ecological value of protecting these trees is assessed as low due to their current health (extensive limb dropping and lopping regime), discontinuity with other native vegetation and limited structural features (i.e. hollows) of value to fauna.

Please contact me if you have any enquiries.

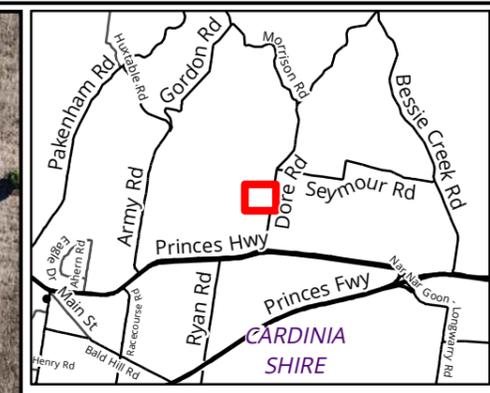
Yours sincerely



Kristin Campbell
Zoologist

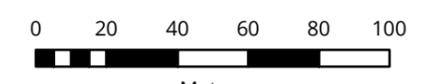
References

Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd 2017. Draft Report Pakenham East – Native Vegetation Precinct Plan, Prepared for Cardinia Shire Council. Authors: Organ, A., Elsley, M. & McGuinness, J. Project No. 7464.



- Legend**
- Study area
 - To be retained
 - To be retained (previously removed/fallen down)

Figure 1: Location of trees to be retained under the NVPP, 155 Dore Road Pakenham



Scale: 1:2,000 @ A3
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Photos of the study area



Photo 1 Mapped location of tree 141. Depression in soil of original tree base indicated in red.



Photo 2 Mapped location of tree 142 (indicated in red).



Photo 3 Mapped location of tree 145 (stump in foreground with tree 147 in background).



Photo 4 Tree number 143.



Photo 5 Tree number 143, depicting large split in trunk.



Photo 6 Tree number 144.



Photo 7 Tree number 144, depicting where canopy had been previously lopped.



Photo 8 Tree number 146.



Photo 9 **Tree number 147.**



Photo 10 **Limb loss on tree number 147.**