

Natural Environment Referral Response - Biodiversity

Application Number:	DA2021/1842
Date:	12/10/2021
Responsible Officer	Thomas Prosser
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 96 DP 12749 , 37 Florence Terrace SCOTLAND ISLAND NSW 2105

Reasons for referral

This application seeks consent development on land, or within 40m of land, containing:

- All Development Applications on
- Actual or potential threatened species, populations, ecological communities, or their habitats;
- Wildlife corridors;
- Vegetation query stipulating that a Flora and Fauna Assessment is required;
- Vegetation query - X type located in both A & C Wards;

And as such, Council's Natural Environment Unit officers are required to consider the likely potential environmental impacts.

Officer comments

The application seeks approval for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling, and construction of an in ground swimming pool. The application also seeks to establish an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) over the entirety of the site in perpetuity. Council's Natural Environment Unit - Biodiversity referral team have reviewed the application for consistency against the relevant environmental legislation and controls, including:

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)
Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (BC Reg)
State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018

- Coastal Environment Area

Pittwater Local Environmental Plan (PLEP)

- 7.6 Biodiversity Protection

Pittwater Development Control Plan (PDCP)

- B4.7 Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest - Endangered Ecological Community

The rear (west) of the site is located within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) Biodiversity Values Mapping. Any removal of native vegetation from within mapped areas will trigger the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS).

The submitted Ecological Assessment (Narla 2021) is noted within the submission documents. The application does not require the removal of any native vegetation to facilitate construction works. Although an APZ is required to be established over the entirety of the site, vegetation within the site is considered managed and already compliant with the standards of an Inner Protection Area (IPA), therefore no clearing is required and the BOS is not triggered.

The submitted Landscape Plan (Paul Meyer Design 2021) does not demonstrate compliance with the species selection provisions of PDCP Clause 4.7 which states:

- *Development shall ensure that at least 80% of any new planting incorporates native vegetation (as per species found on the site or listed in Pittwater Spotted Gum Endangered Ecological Community). Amendment to the proposed species is required to achieve compliance against the relevant environmental control.*

The application does not require the removal of prescribed trees or vegetation, nor is it likely to impact on nearby biodiversity values. Subject to conditions the Bushland and Biodiversity referral team find the application to be consistent against relevant environmental controls.

The proposal is therefore supported.

Note: Should you have any concerns with the referral comments above, please discuss these with the Responsible Officer.

Recommended Natural Environment Conditions:

CONDITIONS TO BE SATISFIED PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

No Clearing of Vegetation

Unless otherwise exempt, no vegetation is to be cleared prior to issue of a Construction Certificate.

Details demonstrating compliance are to be submitted to the Certifying Authority prior to issue of Construction Certificate.

Reason: To protect native vegetation.

Amendment of Landscape Plans

The submitted Landscape Plan is to be amended in accordance with the following:

- Provision of at least 80% of any new planting incorporates native vegetation (as per species found on the site or listed in Pittwater Spotted Gum Endangered Ecological Community).

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Animals-and-plants/Scientific-Committee/Determinations/2013/pittwater-wagstaffe-spotted-gum-forest-nsw-scientific-committee-final-determination.pdf?la=en&hash=95E95CC5FFA86592227BE0A6B42614F597BCE468>

The amended Landscape Plan is to be certified by a qualified landscape architect and provided to the Certifying Authority prior to issue of the Construction Certificate.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the requirement to retain and protect significant planting on the site.

CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO ANY COMMENCEMENT

Protection of Habitat Features

All natural landscape features, including any rock outcrops, native vegetation and/or watercourses, are to remain undisturbed during the construction works, except where affected by necessary works detailed on approved plans.

Reason: To protect wildlife habitat.

Clearing for Asset Protection Zones

Vegetation within Asset Protection Zones (APZ) are to be managed at current levels. No tree, shrub or groundcover removal beyond existing levels within the site is permitted.

Written certification of compliance is to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority.

Reason: To protect native vegetation and wildlife.

CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE COMPLIED WITH PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

Certification of Landscape Plan

Landscaping is to be implemented in accordance with the approved Landscape Plans (Paul Meyer Design 2021) and these conditions of consent.

Details demonstrating compliance are to be prepared by the landscape architect and provided to the Principal Certifying Authority prior to issue of the Occupation Certificate.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the requirement to retain and protect significant planting on the site.

No Weeds Imported On To The Site

No Priority or environmental weeds (as specified in the Northern Beaches Local Weed Management Plan 2019 – 2023) are to be imported on to the site prior to or during construction works.

Details demonstrating compliance are to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority prior to issue of any Occupation Certificate.

Reason: To reduce the risk of site works contributing to spread of Priority and environmental weeds.

ON-GOING CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH AT ALL TIMES

Protection of Habitat Features

All natural landscape features, including any rock outcrops, native vegetation, soil and/or watercourses, are to remain undisturbed except where affected by necessary works detailed on approved plans.

Reason: To protect wildlife habitat.