



Abel Ecology

Document No: 1567-LET-46

9 March 2016

Anglican Retirement Villages
PO Box 284
Caste Hill NSW 1765

c/o Martin Moore
Morgan Moore & Associates,
PO Box 777
ST IVES NSW 2075

Dear Martin,

Subject: Impact of fencing around part of a bowling green that may restrict wildlife migration

Abel Ecology has been requested to respond to a concern raised by Pittwater Council regarding an erected safety fence around part of bowling green may restrict wildlife migration.

Dr Daniel McDonald visited the site on 4 March 2016 and observed the bowling green and the fence. The following information provides some basic information about the fence and the bowling green. A retaining wall has been constructed along the north-east edge and also on the south-western and south-eastern boundaries to provide a level surface for the bowling green. The maximum height of the retaining wall along the north-east edge is approximately 0.9 m high. The safety fence is approximately 1.2 m high. The gap between the bowling green and the bottom of the fence varies between approximately 94 and 113 mm. The gap between the bars of the fence is approximately 95 mm. The surface of the bowling green is constructed from synthetic grass.

Terrestrial wildlife, which may be present on site includes the following four groups: amphibians (frogs), reptiles (lizards, snakes etc), birds and mammals. The synthetic grass provides poor habitat for all of these fauna groups, it generally provides little to no suitable food and there are few to no areas of shelter or protection. Thus fauna will not generally forage or be present within the bowling green. All indigenous amphibians and reptile species are smaller than the gaps present in the fence and thus the fence is not a barrier to these species. Similarly all local indigenous birds or flying mammals can fly over or through the fence so the fence is not a barrier to these species. The majority of local terrestrial mammals eg: rodents, antechinus, ring-tailed possums are obviously smaller than the gap so could also easily travel through the gap.

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Current recommendations by the NSW OEH for exclusion fencing for long-nosed bandicoots¹ is the fence must not contain gaps larger than 20 mm. The gaps in the fence are more than four times this size so in the event a long-nosed bandicoot attempted to travel through the fence, the fence would not present a significant barrier. Other larger locally present mammals such as swamp wallabies or brush-tailed possums could jump or climb over the fence.

In conclusion, the safety fence around the bowling green does not represent a barrier to migration for any locally present indigenous fauna species.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel McDonald

Dr Daniel McDonald
Abel Ecology Pty Ltd

¹ <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/Bandicoots.htm>. Accessed on 8 March 2016.