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23 January 2024

Our ref: 23ADL6495

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) c/o Johnstaff
Level 8, 259 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Attention: Lucas Crabtree

Dear Lucas,

New High School at Edmondson Park – Green and Golden Bell Frog Preclearance Assessment

Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) was commissioned by Johnstaff on behalf of School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) to undertake a pre-clearance survey for *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog (GGBF)) possibly inhabiting the site. This task was conducted in support of a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the construction and operation of the new high school in Edmondson Park (SSD-62028458, item 7) at Lot 2 DP1287903 Buchan Avenue, Edmondson Park, NSW, 2174.

Summary of results

A pre-clearance survey was undertaken on 13 December 2023 by ELA Senior Restoration Ecologist Andrew Norvill to determine if GGBF were present in the aquatic vegetation onsite. The findings of the pre-clearance survey and recommendations for future work are summarised in the letter attached. Figure 1 provides a site map. Figure 2 and Figure 3 provide photos of the potential GGBF habitat within the subject site.

If you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0420 840 262 or at jemima.kenworthy@ecoaus.com.au.

Regards,

Jemima Kenworthy
Environmental Approvals Consultant

REFERENCES

Eco Logical Australia. 2023. *New high school at Edmondson Park – Typha Orientalis* (Bulrush) *Preclearance Survey*. Prepared for School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) c/o Johnstaff.

PERMITS & LICENCES

ELA holds a current Animal Ethics Permit from the Department of Planning and Environment and a Biodiversity Conservation Licence under Part 2, Division 3 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). Copies of the relevant permits and licenses can be provided if required.

METHODOLOGY

The *Typha Orientalis* (Bulrush) pre-clearance survey undertaken on 13 November 2023 by ELA and corresponding report (ELA 2023) outlined that a dense patch of *Typha orientalis* (Bulrush) in the northern corner of the subject site was identified as potential GGBF habitat. A pre-clearance survey of this vegetation was recommended by ELA:

> *"The depression in the northern corner of the site contains a dense patch of Typha orientalis (Bulrush) which is listed as potential habitat for this species in the NSW Department of Planning and Environment species profile (2022). This dense patch of Typha orientalis covered an area approximately 500 m2 in size and 1.5 m high. The patch of semi-aquatic vegetation may provide habitat for other threatened or non-threatened species such as turtles or eels. Therefore, a pre-clearance survey of the vegetation in the depression is required to be conducted immediately prior to vegetation clearance works commencing." (ELA 2023)*

This habitat feature was identified within the Biodiversity Statement prepared for the subject site (ELA 2023b). The Biodiversity Statement recommended a pre-clearance survey is conducted as per the *Order to Confer Section 18 Additional Conservation Actions within the Growth Centres*.

As at the request of the client, on 13 December 2023, a site inspection and site survey was undertaken by ELA Restoration Ecologist Andrew Norvill to determine if GGBF were inhabiting the dense patch of *T. orientalis* outlined in the sapling pre-clearance survey. The site inspection involved searching through the *Typha orientalis* (Bulrush) *a*s well as playing the GGBF call (on and off for approximately 30 minutes), in efforts to gain a response.

The conditions on the day of the survey were relatively cool temperatures ranging between 16.8°C minimum and 22.8°C maximum with approximately 20 km/hr winds SSE. Although no rainfall occurred on the day of the survey, 15.8 mm of rainfall fell on 10 November 2023 (three days prior to the survey). No rainfall occurred between 10 and 13 November 2023.

A map of the site is shown in Figure 1. Photos of the *T. orientalis* located on the subject site that was assessed can be found in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

RESULTS

No GGBF were recorded during the pre-clearance survey however, two non-threatened fauna species were recorded which have been listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Fauna species recorded during the GGBF survey

Species	Scientific Name	Sited / Heard
Birds		
Australian Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus australis*	Heard
Amphibians		
Striped Marsh Frog	*Limnodynastes peronii*	Heard

RECOMMENDATIONS

ELA recommend that another GGBF pre-clearance assessment be undertaken by a suitably qualified Aquatic Ecologist or fauna handler (with appropriate permit to relocate fauna) immediately prior to the clearing of the *Typha orientalis* to assist in the relocation of fauna from the vegetation. The ecologist should remain onsite throughout the clearance of the vegetation to ensure the wellbeing of any present fauna.

As per the previous pre-clearance survey (ELA 2023) a 'Stop Work' protocol should be enacted if fauna is found within the subject site during vegetation clearance works and the following implemented:

- A 'Stop works protocol' must be enacted immediately
- ELA (or another suitably qualified Ecologist) is contacted immediately to attend site for assistance to relocate individuals (if fauna is unable to self-relocate or is injured
- Works in the area do not recommence until the fauna has been attended to by the Ecologist.

Figure 1: Subject site with area containing potential GGBF habitat (Imagery source NearMap, 2023)

Figure 2: Dense patch of *Typha orientalis* containing potential GGBF habitat

Figure 3: Dense patch of *Typha orientalis* containing potential GGBF habitat