# Biodiversity Management Plan

# Wee Waa High School 105-107 Mitchell St, Wee Waa NSW NCA23R158276

10 January 2024









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# **Biodiversity Management Plan**

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Prepared	Reviewed	Endorsed

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Wee Waa High School (WWHS) is undertaking a redevelopment, on a new site, that will include new infrastructure and buildings, the refurbishment of buildings, and associated landscaping. A Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) is required for the WWHS. This is required under Condition D36 of the SSD-21854025 for the WWHS that requires the BMP must address, but not be limited to, the conditions in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Compliance Table for SSD-21854025 Condition D36

Condition	Compliance
Prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist or bushland regeneration expert	Prepared by Dr Kevin Wormington (PhD Ecology, BASc (Environmental Science). Kevin has over 25 years of experience in wildlife ecology and wildlife management in Queensland and NSW. Cassandra Bugir, PhD has been working in terrestrial and aquatic ecology for 5 years in NSW. CVs in Appendix 1.
Prepared in consultation with Environment and Heritage Group (EHG).	The draft documents of the BMP were sent to the EHG for their comments which were received and then discussed with EHG. The Final version of the report was accepted by EHG ( <b>Appendix 5</b> ).
Comply with the relevant recommendations of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report V8, prepared by Ecological Australia and dated 22 August 2022.	Management recommendations from the BDAR will be incorporated into <b>Section 4.2 and 4.4</b> of this BMP.
Include targeted management actions for maintaining the nominated future vegetation integrity score for all partial impact zones assessed in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report V8, prepared by Ecological Australia and dated 22 August 2022	Targeted management actions for maintaining the nominated future Vegetation Score will be incorporated into <b>Section 5</b> of this BMP.
Include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the above measures which includes tailored, quantitative performance measures and targets, completion criteria, monitoring and trigger points for corrective action which adhere to the SMART principles (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely)	The monitoring program containing the required elements in the condition column will be in <b>Sections 5</b> of this BMP.
Meeting held with EHG on the 16 November 2023.	The meeting discussed the best way to meet the requirements of the BMP. The BMP was updated and sent to EHG on the 24 November and was accepted by EHG. The Acceptance has been added in <b>Appendix 5</b>



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 OVERVIEW

The Wee Waa High School (WWHS) is undertaking a redevelopment, on a new site, to modernise the outdated infrastructure and buildings on the old site and increase its capacity. Kleinfelder Australia Pty Ltd was engaged by TSA to prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the project at WWHS. The BMP is required under Condition D36 of SSD-21854025 for the WWHS.

### Condition D36 States:

- a) prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist or bushland regeneration expert;
- b) prepared in consultation with the Environmental Heritage Group (EHG);
- c) comply with the relevant recommendations of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report V8, prepared by Ecological Australia and dated 22 August 2022; and
- include targeted management actions for maintaining the nominated future vegetation integrity score for all partial impact zones assessed in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report V8, prepared by Ecological Australia and dated 22 August 2022; and
- e) include a program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the above measures which includes tailored, quantitative performance measures and targets, completion criteria, monitoring and trigger points for corrective action which adhere to the SMART principles (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely).

The BMP should address, but not be limited to, the following:

- Provide information and maps that define the biodiversity values across the site.
- Outline priority investment areas on-site where biodiversity will benefit from active management and restoration.
- Map potential areas for management of threatened and significant species.
- Measures to minimise the loss of key fauna habitat, including tree hollows.
- Measures to minimise the impacts to fauna on site, including conducting fauna pre-clearance surveys prior to vegetation clearing, and building/structure demolition.
- Engagement of an appropriately qualified ecologist with experience in capturing native wildlife, to be on site for all vegetation removal activities.
- Controlling weeds and feral pests.
- An Unexpected Finds Procedure, detailing procedures and management measures to be implemented if flora and fauna is uncovered in any area not identified in the updated Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR).
- Measures to ensure biodiversity values, not intended to be impacted, are protected, including barriers and mapping of protected/'no-go' areas.
- A program to monitor the effectiveness of the measures in the BMP.

### 1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The new Wee Waa High School (Study Area) is located at 105-107 Mitchell St., Wee Waa NSW on Lot 1 DP577294 and Lot 2 DP550633 (**Figure 1**). The Study Area is approximately 2 ha in size, and the subject land is approximately 1.66 ha in size and occurs within the Narrabri Shire local government area. The terrain is flat, low lying and would have originally been prone to flooding prior to installation of the towns levee bank. Large open grasslands feature across most of the site, with irregular patches of remnant woodland throughout. A constructed drainage line intersects the subject land from the west to east. The entirety of the subject land is zoned *R1 General Residential* under the Narrabri Local Environmental Plan 2012 and occurs within the Darling Riverine Plains IBRA region, Castlereagh IBRA sub-region.

### 1.3 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



The proposed development seeks to upgrade Wee Waa High School. The upgrade consists of the following alterations and additions:

- Construction of a new high school in the form of a two-storey building.
- Construction of an Indigenous learning centre, sporting fields, agricultural plots and associated civil and utilities works.
- Construction footprint indicating clearing associated with temporary construction facilities and infrastructure.
- The proposed development areas are detailed in Figure 2.

### 1.4 LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

The following Commonwealth and State Government legislation and policies and Local Government environment and control plans have been considered in the preparation of this BMP:

- Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).
- Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).
- Biosecurity Act 2015 (Biosecurity Act).
- Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (BR).
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).
- Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 (BCR).
- Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016.
- Water Management Act 2000.

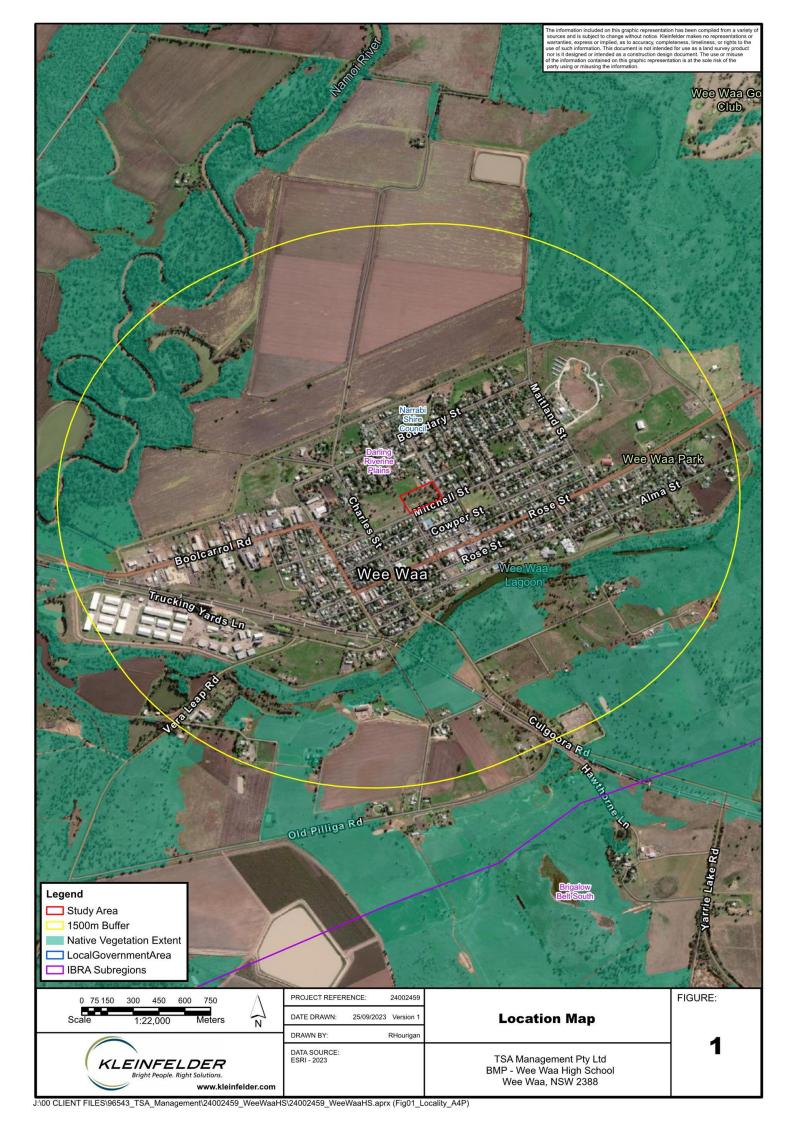
Local Environmental Planning Instruments include:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP: Koala Habitat Protection) 2021 (NSW).
- SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011.
- SEPP (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017.
- Narrabri Local Environmental Plan (2012).
- Wee Waa Levee Risk Management Plan and Study Report (2019).

### 1.5 INFORMATION SOURCES

Information sources utilised in the development of this management plan include:

- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) for the Wee Waa High School (Eco Logical 2022).
- BioNet Vegetation Classification System (Accessed August and October 2021).
- BioNet/Atlas of NSW Wildlife 5km database search (Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment, DPIE 2020a; accessed July 2021).
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) Protected Matters Search Tool 5km database search (Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment DAWE 2020a; accessed August 2011).
- Threatened Species profiles and recovery plans (Accessed October 2021).
- Biodiversity Assessment Methodology Calculator (Accessed October 2021).
- Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (Accessed October 2021).
- SSD-21854025 Conditions for Wee Waa High School.
- NSW Government Biodiversity Values Map (DPIE 2020c; Accessed on 6 August 2021).
- Previous vegetation mapping datasets.
- State Vegetation Type Map: Border Rivers Gwydir/Namoi Region Version 2.0. VIS\_ID 4467 (DPIE 2018).
- Threatened Species Guidelines (Accessed October 2021).



# 2 BIODIVERSITY VALUES



### 2.1 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

A desktop assessment and a flora survey were conducted for vegetation communities and threatened plants at the WWHS in the BDAR. The field surveys determined that the vegetation within the site is characterised as mostly degraded. The vegetation within the Study Area was assigned to two (2) vegetation zones based on floristics and vegetation condition (**Figure 2**). These were:

- Vegetation Zone 1: PCT 40- Coolibah open woodland wetland with chenopod/grassy ground cover on grey and brown clay floodplains (No canopy). Groundcover consists of: Alternanthera angustifolia, Queensland Bluegrass (Dichanthium sericeum subsp. sericeum), Common Nardoo (Marsilea drummondii), Sclerolaena spp.
- Vegetation Zone 2: PCT 40- Coolibah open woodland wetland with chenopod/grassy ground cover
  on grey and brown clay floodplains (Moderate). Groundcover consists of: Alternanthera angustifolia,
  Queensland Bluegrass (Dichanthium sericeum subsp. sericeum), Common Nardoo (Marsilea drummondii),
  Sclerolaena spp. Canopy and mid-storey consist of: Coolibah (Eucalyptus coolibah subsp. coolibah),
  Cooba (Acacia salicina), and Western Boobialla (Myoporum montanum).

The Native Vegetation within the Development Site has one threatened vegetation communities: Coolibah-Black Box Woodland in the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Peneplain and Mulga Lands Bioregions.

Native vegetation communities were identified within the Development Site. Vegetation Zone 1 was characterised as PCT40 but with no canopy and consists of native groundcover (*Alternanthera angustifolia*, Queensland Bluegrass (*Dichanthium sericeum subsp. sericeum*), Common Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*), *Sclerolaena spp.*) interspersed with exotics- Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*) and African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*). A total of 0.63 ha of Vegetation Zone 1 will be impacted as part of the proposed development. Vegetation Zone 2 was characterised as PCT40 with moderate canopy of Coolibah, Cooba, and Western Boobialla but contained native groundcover interspersed with exotics- Rhodes Grass (*Chloris gayana*), African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), and African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*). A total of 1.03 ha of Vegetation Zone 2 will be impacted as part of the proposed development. Section 3.4 of the WWHS BDAR contains full details of some impacts to threatened ecological communities, although the land is degraded; Proposed mitigation measures to minimise indirect impacts to vegetation are detailed (Section 6.1.1 WWHS BDAR). The proposed development does not pose a risk of SAII to any entities.

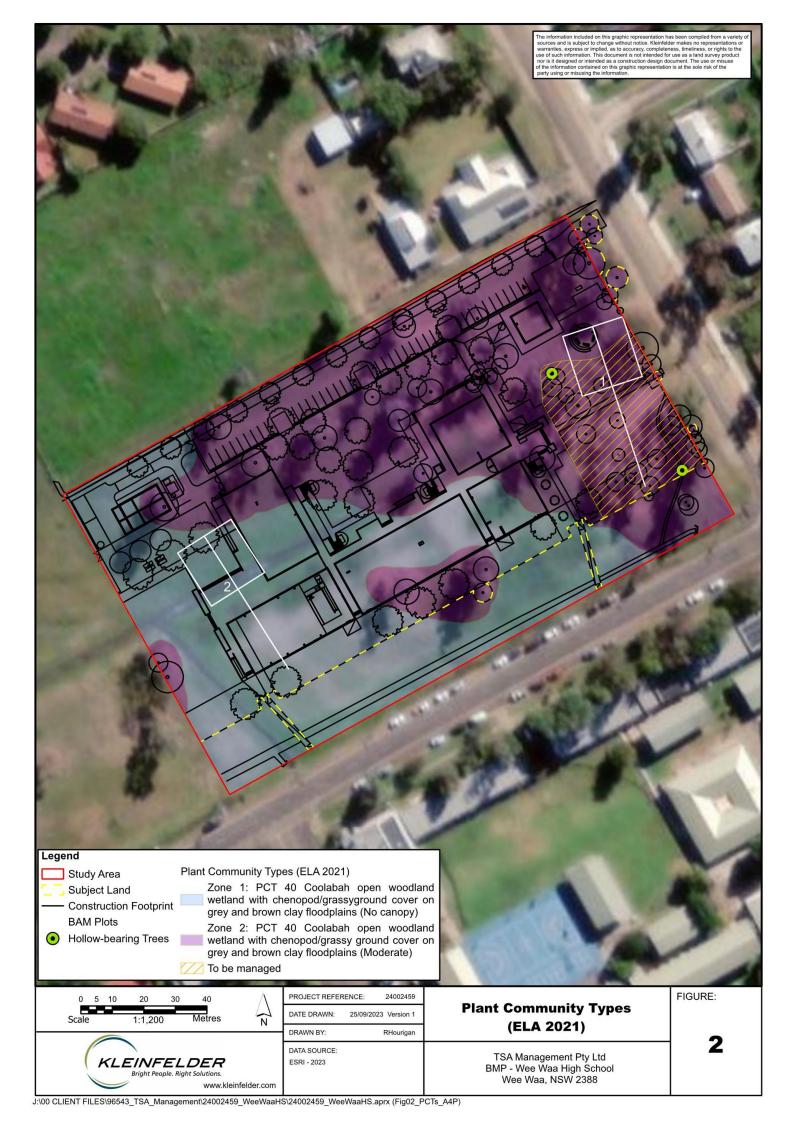
### 2.2 FLORA SPECIES

Habitat for threatened flora species was generally absent within the WWHS grounds, given the vegetation was a mixture of native and exotic species.

The desktop assessment determined that there were 4 threatened flora species- Creeping Tick-trefoil (*Desmodium campylocaulon*), Finger Panic Grass (*Digitaria porrecta*), Belson's Panic (*Homopholis belsonii*), Winged Peppercress (*Lepidium monoplocoides*) which were 'assumed present' in the vicinity (5 km) of the WWHS, but the Likelihood of Occurrence determined that all species had a nil or low likelihood to occur at the WWHS. Details are provided in Appendix F of the WWHS BDAR as well as **Appendix 2** of this report.

The flora survey did not find any threatened flora at the WWHS. However, a total of 62 flora species were identified during desktop search and field surveys in three vegetation strata. Forty flora species were native, and 21 species were exotic to the area or considered weed species.

The Assessment of Impacts for threatened flora undertaken in the WWHS BDAR determined that no threatened species would be significantly impacted and therefore no direct impacts. Sections 6 and 7 of the WWHS BDAR contain full details. Proposed mitigation measures to minimise indirect impacts to other vegetation are detailed in Section 6 of the WWHS BDAR.



### 2.3 FAUNA SPECIES



### 2.3.1 Habitat

Several surveys were conducted for targeted species, as listed in Section 4.2.2 of WWHS BDAR, to determine the presence of species based on hollow-bearing trees and stick nests within the Development Site. No other key terrestrial habitat features such as rocks or logs were identified within the Development Site in the WWHS BDAR. The subject land exists as an isolated patch and is considered too distant from nearby vegetation, additionally site is considered too degraded for many species.

The Study Area is existing Department of Education owned land and adjacent Crown land.

### 2.3.2 Species

Table 11 of the WWHS BDAR determined that there were 24 bird, five mammal, and two reptile species that were considered candidate species within the vicinity (5 km) of WWHS Subject Land, and an Assessment of Impacts was required. The Likelihood of Occurrence determined that all species had a nil, low or moderate likelihood to occur at the WWHS. Details in Table E3 of the WWHS BDAR.

No threatened fauna species were identified within the Study Area during the site assessment.

The Assessment of Impacts for threatened fauna determined that no threatened fauna would be significantly impacted. Proposed mitigation measures to minimise indirect impacts to fauna habitat and vegetation are detailed in Section 7 of the WWHS BDAR.

### 2.4 PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREAS

Due to the vegetation at the WWHS being historically cleared and managed vegetation with little microhabitat for denning, roosting or nesting for any threatened species. However, large passerine birds could nest in the retained trees and hollow-dependent birds could use the two hollow-bearing trees that will be retained in the Natural Retained Landscape (NRL). The WWHS BDAR determined the candidate species only had nil, low or moderate likelihood to occur at the WWHS and no areas that could be considered priority investment areas.

# 3 KEY THREATS



### 3.1 WEED INCURSIONS

Six priority weed species which require control prior to and post construction of the Project include the high threat species listed in **Table 2**. However, other priority weed species could be brought onto the Subject Land during the prior to, during and after the construction phase. To ensure the existing weeds are not spread due to the works or other weeds are carried to the construction site controls and measures will be required for all construction phases.

**Family** Scientific Name **Common Name** Weeds of National **High Threat** Significance (WONS) Weeds (BAM) **Rhodes Grass Poaceae** Chloris gayana Poaceae Eragrostis curvula African Lovegrass Solanaceae Lycium ferocissimum African Boxthorn **Asteraceae** Parthenium hysterophorus Parthenium Weed **Poaceae** Paspalum dilatatum Paspalum Verbenaceae Phyla canescens Lippia

Table 2: Weed species requiring control within the Development Site

### 3.2 EXCESSIVE VEGETATION CLEARING

Vegetation clearing of is considered a primary threat to the conservation of TECs and habitat. The areas of TECs to be cleared has been determined (Section 2.1) and Offset requirements recorded in the WWHS BDAR. Vegetation clearing determined in the BDAR will not impact any hollow bearing trees identified within the Subject Land that may represent nesting habitat for a variety of native bird and arboreal mammal species. Incursions into areas of native woodland and grassland may exacerbate existing weed management threats and adversely impact threatened species and ecological communities occurring within the Subject Area. Threats could occur due to:

- Construction Phase: Other than the direct impacts to native vegetation and fauna habitat detailed above, construction activities within the Subject Land have the potential to impact retained vegetation through accidental incursions, and the introduction and facilitation of weed incursions.
- Operational Phase: The proposed development may further exacerbate habitat loss and degradation of vegetation through inappropriate management of retained vegetation.

### 3.2.1 Erosion and Sedimentation

Mature vegetation is considered integral in preventing erosion through bank stabilisation and sediment control. Erosion resulting from earthworks such as the operation of machinery during the construction phase may facilitate the movement of water-borne sediments that have the potential to adversely impact important biodiversity values on site. This may include impacts on the condition of native vegetation, threatened ecological communities and threatened species habitat.

### 3.2.2 Increased Nutrient Loading

An excess nutrient load can negatively impact bushland by encouraging the growth of exotic plant species, some of which may have been introduced via vehicle entry to the Subject Land and water runoff into the Natural Retained Landscape.



Increased nutrient loading represent a threat to biodiversity values during:

- Construction Phase: Construction activities within the Subject Land have the potential to reduce soil stability
  and cause erosion. Suitable conditions could result in potential impacts to retained vegetation via runoff,
  and the introduction/facilitation of weed incursions.
- Operational Phase: The proposed education facility may further exacerbate nutrient loading within native vegetation through fertilisation of fields and gardens, in turn facilitating habitat degradation through the introduction/facilitation of weed incursions.

### 3.2.3 Lighting, Noise, Dust and Water Pollution

Urban developments can result in a number of indirect impacts pertaining to PCT40 and the habitat it provides, including increased lighting (light pollution) and noise (noise pollution), and changes to surface water runoff and quality. Threats to local biodiversity values pertaining to the proposed development include the following:

- Construction Phase: Increased noise and from construction activities and changes to surface water runoff patterns and quality.
- Operational Phase: The proposed development action may result in increased/inappropriate lighting within the woodland area; and increased noise from traffic.



# 4 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT DURING CONSTRUCTION PHASES

### 4.1 OVERVIEW

Management measures include the generic environmental safeguards from the SINSW Planning Compliance Team and Section 7 of the WWHS BDAR which contains the general mitigation and management measures for biodiversity values of the WWHS. In many cases the generic environmental safeguards and the BDAR management measures are aligned. These have been incorporated into this BMP. It should be noted that there were not any Exclusion Zones at the WWHS.

### 4.2 VEGETATION AND FAUNA MANAGEMENT

There are no threatened vegetation communities or flora in the WWHS Development Site but management of the existing areas containing native vegetation is necessary. Although no threatened fauna is likely to be impacted by the development, foraging and nesting habitat for birds, foraging habitat for insectivorous bats and general habitat for ground dwelling reptiles could be disturbed. Management of hollow-bearing trees will be required, as there are a few on site. Generic environmental safeguards prior to construction are included in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Generic Safeguards for Vegetation and Fauna Prior to Construction

No.	Environmental Safeguard		
Vege	Vegetation Clearing		
1*	Clearing limits will be clearly marked and all site personnel made aware of the clearing limits ( <b>Figure 1</b> ).		
2	Trees to be retained on site will be protected with a protective barrier (e.g., paraweb fencing) so that stockpiling, parking of vehicles and other construction activities do not occur within the dripline of trees.		
3	A tree protection zone (TPZ) will be established around trees to be retained. The TPZ will extend from the dripline of trees and be erected for the duration of works.		
4	Native vegetation cleared from the site shall be mulched and used for revegetation, erosion protection or landscaping works.		
5	Weed and exotic species shall be disposed of off-site at a nearby legally operating landfill site.		
6	Trees to be retained shall be clearly identified for preservation and temporarily protected by "paraweb" fencing placed not less than 3 metres clear of trees where possible, as some retained trees may be less than 3 metres from new and refurbished buildings. There will be no stockpiling or parking of plant/machinery 3 metres from this area.		
7*	No vegetation shall be burnt.		
8	All trees and stumps on or within the limits of clearing which are unable to be removed by clearing methods, shall be removed by grubbing.		
9	Vegetation, where practical shall be retained to the greatest extent.		
10*	Contact shall be made with a trained wildlife handler / ecologist least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of clearing operations to allow them to prepare for the clearing and construction period.		
11*	All removed trees shall be replaced with local native species of trees, shrubs and groundcover as part of the rehabilitation / landscaping plan.		
12	Vehicle wash down should be coordinated with wash down for <i>Phytophthora</i> where possible.		
13	Cover crops for the purpose of soil stabilisation be limited to certified clean seed of non-invasive annuals		
14*	All trees to be cleared shall be checked for animals before and after felling.		



No.	Environmental Safeguard
15*	Ensure clearing works are conducted outside of known seasonal breeding times for candidate species.
Indu	ctions
15*	Plant operators and employees shall be informed of the above requirement through the induction process for the site.

Note: \* denotes WWHS BDAR Section 7 safeguards.

The BDAR has also included these environmental safeguards prior to construction:

- Pre-clearance surveys to be carried out by an ecologist prior to any vegetation clearing to identify potential breeding/roosting habitat and clearly mark habitat trees with flagging tape and demarcate the area to be cleared.
- This would include surveying for large stick nests and any missed hollows.

Generic environmental safeguards during construction for vegetation and fauna management are listed in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Generic Safeguards for Vegetation and Fauna During Construction.

No.	Environmental Safeguard
Vehic	cles and Equipment
1	All vehicles used during the construction process are to stay on existing or constructed roads and tracks, where practicable.
2*	All earthmoving machinery accessing the Construction Site be cleaned of all soil and vegetable matter prior to entry.
3	Construction vehicle reduction in speed limits to 10 km/h in areas regarded as having higher levels of fauna activity or considered to have increased safety risk.
4*	Dust suppression measures will be implemented during construction works to limit dust on site.
Vege	tation
5*	Demarcate 'no go zones', to protect retained vegetation during construction works.
6	Monitor works and ensure the TPZ has been appropriately established and protected.
7	*All trees to be cleared shall be checked for animals before and after felling.
8	All tree pruning works will be carried out in accordance with AS 4373-1996 Pruning of amenity trees and the Code of Practice Amenity Tree Industry August 1998.
9	If additional tree clearing or substantial tree pruning is required, an arborist will be consulted prior to undertaking the works.
10	In the event of fire or vandalism resulting in the loss of tags or boundary indicators, the Contractor shall re-survey and mark where appropriate.
11	Within temporary disturbance areas that will later be allowed to regenerate, trees are to be cut off at ground level to facilitate coppicing (new growth from the base).
12	The Contractor shall implement protective measures to prevent damage to TPZs and shall ensure that no mechanical damage from plant and equipment occurs to protected areas such as:  fencing to restrict access in the immediate vicinity of an area or an individual tree.  barriers to protect trunks and exposed surface roots.  hand digging where excavation by a mechanical digger is likely to cause damage to roots and limbs.  ground cultivation to restore soil within the dripline.  tying back overhanging branches.



No.	Environmental Safeguard
13*	Locating ancillary facilities in areas where there are no biodiversity values.
Fauna	a e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
14*	A wildlife carer shall be promptly notified if any native fauna is inadvertently injured during the construction works
15	The taking of domestic animals, particularly dogs and cats, onto the construction site is prohibited.
16*	Ensure ongoing maintenance and monitoring of any threatened species or significant trees within the Construction Site.
17	If threatened species not identified in previous surveys are found during clearing surveys, and removal of individuals of these species is necessary, liaison with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and further assessment is required.
18*	Appropriate wildlife handling and care equipment such as leather gloves, breathable bags, blankets, ropes/ties and buckets (as recommended by the fauna handling specialist) is to be on site and with each clearing crew prior to the commencement of any clearing.
19*	Installing artificial habitats for fauna in adjacent retained vegetation and habitat or human-made structures to replace the habitat resources lost and encourage animals to move from the impacted site, e.g., nest boxes, fallen timber.
20*	Daily timing of construction activities is recommended in accordance with Table 1 of Interim Noise Guidelines (2009)
21*	Structures to enable species and genetic material to move across barriers will not be constructed.

Note: \* denotes WWHS BDAR Section 7 safeguards.

The BDAR has also included these environmental safeguards during construction:

- Clear areas around habitat trees first and allow the habitat tree to remain standing overnight. Prior to removal organise a spotter to look for signs of animal movement in the vegetation to be cleared.
- Daily timing of construction activities is recommended in accordance with Table 1 of Interim Noise Guidelines (2009).
- Dust suppression measures will be implemented during construction works to limit dust on site.

Generic environmental safeguards post construction for regeneration and landscaping in relation to vegetation management are listed in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Generic Safeguards for Vegetation and Fauna Post Construction

No.	Environmental Safeguard
1	Regeneration / Landscaping of appropriate areas to begin as soon as possible after clearing and/or construction.
2*	All removed trees shall be replaced with local native species of trees, shrubs and groundcover as part of the rehabilitation / landscaping plan.
3	All exposed earthworks areas shall be revegetated with lawns, gardens and/or trees as per the Landscape Plan (Appendix 4).
4	Cover plants for the purpose of soil stabilisation will be limited to certified clean seed of non-invasive annuals.

Note: \* denotes WWHS BDAR Section 7 safeguards.

### 4.3 Habitat Augmentation (Optional)

Fallen and standing timber (coarse woody debris and dead branches, snags, stumps etc.) provides essential or important breeding, foraging or shelter habitat for many threatened species. Tree trunks and larger branches (over 10 cm diameter) deemed suitable by the project ecologist supervising clearing could be removed from the development area during vegetation clearing. Where suitable these trunks and larger branches can then be cut



up into long pieces (i.e., over 4 m where possible) and carefully placed into woodland and grassland areas within the NRL. Placement of logs and branches are to be in such a way as to look natural, not add to bushfire risks, and to provide benefit to native fauna (on instruction from the project ecologist).

It should be noted that Students may be able to access the NRL if fencing is not installed. The above timber could provide a risk to students if they ignore the signage and enter the NRL. The habitat augmentation should be at the discretion of the schools Safety Officer.

### 4.4 WEEDS, SEDIMENT AND PEST MANAGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Generic environmental safeguards Prior to Construction are in Table 6.

Table 6: Generic Safeguards for Weed, Sediment and Pest Management prior to Construction.

#	Environmental Safeguard
1	Weed survey to be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced persons prior to commencement of any construction activities, including site inspections and survey. The consultant is to advise on best practice weed management techniques.
2	Weed or exotic species shall be identified and removed from the site during construction as per methods in Table 7.
3	Fertilisers and manures to be used sparingly as they can stimulate weed growth, seed set and spread.
4	Vegetation to be cleared carefully to minimise the risk of spreading weed propagules.
5	Care must be taken that weeds are not introduced to the area in manures or as contaminants in seed of the desirable species.
6*	Waste bins to be present on site. Covers to be used to prevent blown litter and the entry of pest animals or rain. Removal and appropriate disposal of general waste generated during the works.

Note: \* denotes WWHS BDAR Section 7 safeguards.

Generic environmental safeguards during Construction are included in Table 7

Table 7: Generic Safeguards for Weed, Sediment and Pest Management during Construction.

#	Environmental Safeguard
1*	Where possible, vehicle movement is to proceed from areas that are relatively weed free and undisturbed to more heavily weed infested areas to ensure that weed spread is not facilitated by the movement of vehicles and machinery.
2	Ongoing monitoring of the construction areas and immediate surrounds to be undertaken to check for weed growth and implement eradication measures if required.
3	Any straw bales used for erosion and sediment control must contain no seed or be wrapped in geofabric.
4*	Appropriate controls will be utilised and maintained to manage exposed soil surfaces and stockpiles to prevent sediment discharge into waterways. Soil and erosion measures such as sediment fencing, clean water diversion must be in place prior the commencement of the construction work.
5	All weed species and spoil from heavily weed infested areas to be disposed off-site.
6	Pre-emergent herbicides registered for the application to be used to prevent the growth of weeds. As these may also inhibit the regeneration of native species, pre-emergent herbicides shall only be used in conjunction with planting and where weed growth is likely to be a problem, i.e., in areas with existing infestations of weeds that are significant problems for agriculture or the environment.
7	Selective grass herbicides to be used for grass weeds in areas re-vegetated with non-grass species.



#	Environmental Safeguard
9	Remove any weed waste material and have a reasonable period of site maintenance so that weeds do not reestablish.

Note: \* denotes WWHS BDAR Section 7 safeguards.

### 4.5 UNEXPECTED FINDS

Appropriate actions required for unexpected finds will be discussed between the construction contractor and the project ecologist and include contact and reporting to the NSW Department of Environment. Unexpected finds of any threatened flora or fauna species shall be recorded with the location it was found and the location it was translocated to, recorded with a GPS. An Unexpected Finds register shall be kept by TSA.

### 4.6 MONITORING PROGRAM

### 4.6.1 Overview

A monitoring program will be implemented to ensure that the measures detailed within this BMP are implemented and successful. The program will be completed throughout the construction period, a summary of the key monitoring event and deliverable are shown in **Table 8**. Monitoring program methods are detailed below.

Table 8: Monitoring and Reporting Summary

Monitoring Event	Timing	Scope	Deliverable
Clearance Supervision	During vegetation clearing	Supervision of vegetation clearing of habitat features to be removed.as per <b>Section</b> 4.2	Clearance Supervision Letter Report

### 4.6.2 General Monitoring

The monitoring program will assess condition of the Coolabah trees within the subject area through a general meander of the Subject Land and notes on the following features:

- Condition of the boundary and signage around the NRL.
- Signs of degradation e.g., dumping of waste (inc. garden waste), infiltration of exotic species and priority weeds in the Subject Land.
- Condition of habitat features (i.e. existing hollows) and Coolabah trees in the Central Courtyard and the southern boundary of the Subject land. Condition should include at the number of dead or broken branches, damage to the bark and the leaf cover.
- Condition and composition of native vegetation within the drainage swale and the cover of weed species using a % of cover.

### 4.6.3 Reporting

Reporting requirements and timing of deliverables are summarised within **Table 8**, all monitoring and reporting will be completed by a suitably qualified person (i.e., Ecologist), content of reporting deliverables are detailed below:

Clearance Supervision: This report will detail the results of the clearance supervision including
identification of any fauna recorded during clearing works and the location of habitat features re-distributed
within the NRL to provide for habitat.

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# 5 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN OPERATIONAL PHASE

### 5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF NATURAL RETAINED LANDSCAPE

The NRL will be managed to be kept in as natural undisturbed state as possible so that the traditional practices of the Kamilaroi People can be practiced/demonstrated within the school grounds. The management techniques for this area will be informed by the on-going 'Designing with Country' process and the SMART principles (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely).

The Designing with Country revolves around nature, people and design. The design of the of any structures associated with the has already occurred and will not be a part of this VMP. However, nature and people can be included. Any plants that may be planted will need to meet the criteria of the PCT 40 but can have input from the Kamilaroi People. The Smart principles will be set out in the management and monitoring sections of this document.

Fencing occurs along the boundary of the WWHS but not around the NRL. Additionally, the Landscape Plan does not show any fencing around the NRL. The boundary is delineated by concrete paths and other infrastructure but there would be easy access by students to the NRL. It recommended that:

- The boundaries of the NRL should be fenced and/or demarked with signage to deter the entry of students and other unauthorised people unless accompanied for learning events.
- The NRL boundaries should be designed not to allow runoff water from other parts of the school to enter the NRL to limit the influx of weed seeds and nutrients from the gardens and lawn areas.

In addition, there are measure prescribed in the BDAR (Table 23) associated with vegetation management of the NRL. These include:

- Weeds should be managed and controlled within the adjacent vegetation.
- Weed control targets are to be determined in consultation with the 'Designing With Country' and bush regenerator.
- Slashing frequency is to be determined through the 'Designing with Country' process to allow for seed harvesting and the re-setting of seeds and the perpetual natural reseeding of the native grasses in the area.

### 5.2 Management for Natural Retained Area

### 5.2.1 Overview

The SMART criteria for the PCT 40 management of the NRL will be required to meet or be above the future Integrity Score. PCT 40 SMART management principals in the NRL will be:

- Monitoring Methods to determine the baseline Integrity Score, and Composition, Structure and Function Scores.
- Baseline data The Integrity Score at the time of the first monitoring after the Construction Phase is completed.
- Performance Criteria/target the improvement Integrity Score, and Composition, Structure and Function Scores each year of treatment measured at the next monitoring event.
- Action Trigger The Future Integrity Score predicted in the BDAR will be used as the value that will trigger
  appropriate actions to lift the Integrity Score. Values over the Future Integrity Score will be acceptable and
  not require actions to be triggered.
- Corrective Actions Management Actions to lift the Integrity Score above the Future Integrity Score.
- Response The expected outcomes over a defined time period i.e. the Integrity Score component is above the Future Integrity Score within the five year period of the VMP.

### **5.2.2** Monitoring Program Methods

### 5.2.2.1 Overview



A monitoring program will be implemented to ensure that the measures detailed within this BMP are implemented and successful. The program will be completed throughout the implementation period, a summary of key monitoring events and deliverables are shown in **Table 9**. Monitoring program methods are detailed below.

Table 9: Monitoring and Reporting Summary

Monitoring Event	Timing	Scope	Deliverable
Baseline Monitoring Survey	Completed within one (1) month following the completion of works	Establishment of one permanent monitoring plots and completion of the Monitoring Programme	Baseline Monitoring Report
Annual Monitoring Survey	Completed one (1) year following the completion of construction.  Completed annually until the fourth year of the monitoring program.	Completion of the Monitoring Programme	Annual Monitoring Survey Report
Final Summary Report	Completed at the end of the 5-year implementation period.	Completion of the Monitoring Programme Summary of the Monitoring Programme throughout implementation period.	Final Annual Summary Report inclusive of Year 5 results.

Monitoring will be completed within the NRL throughout the implementation period as per the schedule detailed in **Table 9**. Monitoring methods address key performance criterion listed in Section 7.6 of the BDAR, and are informed by the following resources:

- The Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 (DPE 2020).
- Vegetation Benchmarks for PCT 40 as per the NSW BioNet Vegetation Classification (DPE 2022).

The Monitoring Program is comprised of three (3) key components: *Vegetation Extent*, *Vegetation Condition*, and *NRL Maintenance* detailed below.

It should be noted that there is a discrepancy on the main tree species, a Coolabah, associated with PCT40. The BDAR has it listed as *Eucalyptus coolabah ssp. coolabah*, while the Amended Landscape Plans and SSD-21854025 have it listed as *Eucalyptus microtheca*. This document will use *Eucalyptus coolabah/microtheca* as it cannot be determined which is correct from the information made available.

The NRL was surveyed for the BDAR in BAM Plot 1 (**Figure 2**), but seating infrastructure placed at its northern end in the Landscape Plans means the BAM Plot in the NRL will need to be inverted and moved to avoid the 20x20 m plot overlaying the seating during future monitoring (**Figure 3**). However, there will be a concrete path through the middle of the transect of the BAM Plot that will have to be accounted for by adding the width of the path to the length of the transect and treating the concrete path as null space.

The above seating and concrete path were contained in the construction plan considered in the BDAR and should have been accounted for in the impacts to vegetation integrity in the BDAR. It is unknown why the BAM Pot was placed in the original position.

### 5.2.2.2 Vegetation Extent

The mapped extent of native canopy species in the NRL, particularly *Eucalyptus coolabah/microtheca*, and weed infestation are to be updated during every monitoring event using a hand-held GPS.

### 5.2.2.3 Vegetation Condition

A total of one (1) 20 m x 20 m quadrats is to be established within the NRL for the baseline monitoring including *Eucalyptus coolabah/microtheca*. The quadrat is to be sampled as per Section 5.3.4 of the NSW Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), excluding the implementation of a central 50 m transect (DPE, 2020). The midline



at the starting point of each quadrat is to be marked with a stake to ensure accuracy of repeat monitoring. The location and bearing of the quadrats are to be recorded in a GPS device.

Within each plot the following metrics are collected:

- Floristic diversity (number of native and exotic species within the nested 20 m x 20 m quadrat).
- Floristic cover and abundance for each species in accordance with the BAM (20 m x 20 m quadrat).
- Stem size classes and the presence of native canopy regeneration (as per BAM 2020) (within the 20 m x 20 m quadrat).
- Cover of litter and bare ground (as per adjusted BAM method) (within the 20 m x 20 m quadrat).
- Total length of fallen logs (dbh <10 cm) (as per adjusted BAM method) (within the 20 m x 20m quadrat).
- Photo monitoring: a single photo is to be taken at the staked point facing into the quadrat.

### 5.2.2.4 Weed Cover

High threat exotic (HTE) weed cover will require the whole NRL to be searched at each monitoring event and the HTE weed cover recorded. All HTE will be marked or flagged and a GPS location taken for the weed management team to find.

### 5.2.3 Baseline Data

The baseline data will be collected the first monitoring event after the Construction Phases is completed and the Wee Waa High School goes into Operational Phase. It is expected that the Integrity Score, and Composition, Structure and Function Scores will be similar to the predicted future scores (**Table 9**) but may vary depending on outcomes from the Construction Phase.

Table 9: Predicted Future Scores for the NRL

Integrity Score	Future Composition Score Change	Future Structure Score Change	Future Function Score Change
Present = 61.3	Tree = No Change (2)	Tree = From 22% to 15% cover	Large Trees = From 3 to 2
Future = 56.1	Shrub = 0	Shrub = 0	Hollows = No change (2)
Change = -5.2	Grass = From 8 to 6	Grass and Grasslike = From	Litter = 30
	Forb = From 9 to 5	24.3 to 20	Tree stems = No Change (4)
	Fern =No change (1)	Forb =From 0.9 to 0.5	Regen stems = 0
	Other = No change (1)	Fern = No Change (0.1%)	High threat exotics = no change
		Other = No Change (0.1%)	(6.1%)





### 5.2.4 Performance Criteria

Performance criteria on an annual basis for Composition, and most of the Structure and Function components should be maintained between the Action Trigger Score on an annual basis other, while some are a mid-term proposition and others are a much longer term proposition. The components that would not be able to change in the short term of this BMP would be Tree Canopy Cover and Large Trees which could take 20-50 years for a newly planted tree to have sufficient growth to increase the canopy cover and usable hollows do not from in eucalypt trees until120-200 years of age. The performance criteria for the remainder of the components should remain between the Trigger Scores and the Benchmark (**Table 10**) on an annual basis for the 5 year life of the BMP. Observations on the health trees is the only measure of the mid and long term components in a 5 year period. If a Tree dies is would need to be replaced either by an existing regeneration seedling/sapling or be planted (**Section 5.2.6.2**)

### 5.2.5 Action Triggers

NRL was meant be managed to meet the Future Integrity Score, and Composition, Structure and Function Scores predicted in Management Zone 2b in the BDAR and shown in **Table 9**. In most cases these are equal to or lower than the existing values. Managing a natural area to reduce the Integrity Score and other values was deemed counter intuitive and the author determined that the Future Integrity Scores should be used as the Action Trigger where management actions would be required. The Trigger Scores were determined in **Table 10** using values from Appendix E of the BDAR. The determination included:

- Where the Score was not changed from the value at the time of the BDARs a '<' symbol was used in front of the value from the BDAR.
- Where the Score was a lower than the value at the time of the BDAR a '≤' symbol was used in front of the value from the BDAR.
- Where there was not a value for the Integrity Score in the BDAR 'n.a.' (not applicable) was used.
- The High Threat Exotics would be triggered if the Score becomes greater than that from the BDAR.
- The Benchmark Score for each attribute is included in brackets to show what would constitute a mature patch of PCT40.

**Species Composition Score Integrity Score Structure Score Trigger Function Score Trigger Trigger** Trigger (Benchmark) (Benchmark) (Benchmark) Future ≤56.1 Tree <2 (3) Tree ≤15% (13-15%) Large Trees ≤2 (5) (threshold 30 cm dbh) Shrub 0 (6-7) Shrub = 0 (12-13%)Hollow trees = 2 Grass ≤6 (3-5) Grass and Grasslike ≤20% (3-Litter ≤30% (32%) 18%) Forb ≤5 (7-9) Forb ≤0.5% (2-5%) Logs <5 m (29 m) Fern <1 (1) Fern < 0.1 (0%) Tree stems = <4 Other <1 (1) Other < 0.1 (0%) Regen stems = n.a. High threat exotics >6.1%

Table 10: Action Trigger Scores for the NRL

### 5.2.6 Corrective Actions (Management)

### 5.2.6.1 Overview

The management techniques in the NRL will be informed by the on-going 'Designing with Country' process that has been put in place. Management options in the NRL are likely to require the maintenance of the native grasslands, and canopy maintenance and/or replacement of overstorey native trees, habitat augmentation and weed management. The design of any buildings and other infrastructure has occurred prior to the implementation of this BMP. Therefore input by the Kamilaroi People for the NRL will be in the form of helping to determine the species of any plants that may be planted in the NRL in the future.



The list of species in **Appendix 2** could be used for any planting in the NRL. However, if there are other species that occur in PCT40 that the Kamilaroi People would prefer, it should be discussed between the parties involved.

The corrective actions for the Trigger Scores are listed in **Table 11**.

Table 11: Corrective Actions Required if Trigger Score is activated

Trigger	Corrective Action
Tree Species <2 or tree cover ≤15% or large tree ≤2	Plant a second trees species from the species list in <b>Appendix 2</b> or by choice of the Kamilaroi People.
Grass species ≤6 or grass cover ≤20%	Plant the appropriate number of grass species from the species list in <b>Appendix 2</b> or by choice of the Kamilaroi People.
Forb species ≤5 or forb cover ≤0.5%	Plant the appropriate number of forb species from the species list in <b>Appendix 2</b> or by choice of the Kamilaroi People.
Fern species <1 or fern cover <0.1%	Plant the appropriate number of a fern species from the species list in <b>Appendix 2</b> or by choice of the Kamilaroi People.
Other species <1 or other species cover <0.1%	Plant the appropriate number of an other species from the species list in <b>Appendix 2</b> or by choice of the Kamilaroi People.
Litter ≤30%	Litter levels should be maintained through the litter fall from the canopy. If the litter does fall below 30%, management regimes would need to be assessed to se if there is removal of the litter by management regimes. Action to prevent the reduction in litter would be designed from those findings and followed.
Logs <5 m	Habitat augmentation in the NRL ( <b>Section4.3</b> ) during the Construction Phase should provide >5 m of logs in the NRL. If the above occurs the logs would last for the duration of this VMP (5 years). However, if enough logs are not placed in the NRL during the Construction Phase, the should be increased within the year after the initial monitoring.
Tree Stems <4	Plant the required number of trees from the species list in <b>Appendix 2</b> or by choice of the Kamilaroi People.
High threat exotics >6.1%	The management of the high threat exotics listed in <b>Table 2</b> will be dealt with in <b>Section 5.2.7</b> .

### 5.2.6.2 Supplementary Planting

The NRL is characterised by sparse mature woodland and a high cover of native groundcover species (i.e. grasses and herbs). It occurs within a moderately developed landscape in a disturbed condition. The improvement of fencing and signage aims to further restrict entry by students (except on supervised learning) and reduce weed incursion, in turn aiding the process of natural regeneration. This regeneration is expected to be further assisted through the control and suppression of weeds throughout the BMP implementation period and the planting of native species in the NRL should existing native trees or groundcover die.

All planting shall utilise the native species listed within **Appendix 2**, with preference for local provenance stock but also in consultation with the Kamilaroi People. These species should local species indicative of PCT 40. Planting will occur as required, including direct seeding as well as the placement of tubestock and 5L tree stock.

Planting of canopy tree species using 5L tree stock should be placed approximately 5 m apart in the NRL. The 5L tree stock should not be placed under the canopy of existing trees.

Seed mixes for native ground cover should be sown at the recommended rate by the supplier in any bare soil patches, including those created by the control and spraying of exotic species.

The hole for each tube stock shrub or 5L tree stock should be:



- Twice the depth of the tube stock and minimum 7.5cm diameter to allow for root development.
- Twice the depth of the 5L tree stock and 1.5 its diameter to allow for root development.
- Watered with a minimum of 10 litres at time of installation to remove any air pockets and provide adequate moisture levels for the recently installed plant.
- The plant will be planted with the root/stem interface at the soil surface.
- Create a small depression (bowl) at the surface to allow water flow to infiltrate to the plant root zone.

After planting, the trees and shrubs should be watered with minimum six litres of water at the following intervals:

- Twice a week for the first two weeks.
- Once a week for the next four weeks.
- Once a fortnight for the next six weeks.

Following the above period of watering, the plants will be assessed fortnightly for the next eight months to check if the soil is dry or if the plants are stressed. If either has occurred, the plants should be watered as the maintenance staff see fit. During this period if any plants die, they will require replacement. Any new plants will follow the above maintenance schedule. In the second year, the plants will be checked on a monthly basis and watered if required. During years 3-5 the trees should be checked on a six-monthly basis. After the maintenance phase (5 years) there should be 90% successful establishment of the planted KFTs. If there is less than 90% of the original KFTs surviving, the deficit below 90% should be replanted and maintained as per above.

### **5.2.6.3 Native Grasslands Maintenance**

The native grasslands are intended to be traditionally harvested by the Kamilaroi People and slashing is likely to be an annual event but may not be required due to the habitat augmentation of logs that would make slashing difficult and it may provide for incursions of weeds. Slashing frequency should be discussed with the Kamilaroi People. The maintenance program will need to incorporate methods to prevent the native grasslands from deteriorating. The methods will include:

- If slashing occurs, a reduced slashing frequency will occur relative to well-managed areas to allow for growth and seed production of the native grasses.
- If slashing occurs, the slashing should occur annually in late Autumn, to allow the maturing of seeds for seed harvesting, and replenishment of the soil seed bank.
- The timing of the slashing will be dependent on seasonal variation/conditions and actual seed set of the target grasses, which will be monitored by a suitably qualified person.
- Slashing may also occur in late winter/early spring to promote new growth if required.
- Slashing height should be a minimum of 10 cm to allow tussock grasses to re-grow from above ground tillers.

### 5.2.6.4 Canopy maintenance

Canopy cover is to retain as much existing native vegetation on site as possible to provide shade and habitat, as such canopy reduction will be limited to the removal of exotic trees. Maintenance methods will include:

- The removal of exotic trees and shrubs, and dead trees deemed unsafe by an arborist, from within the NRL.
- The potential lopping of dead or dangerous branches that overhang pedestrian areas.
- Dead timber could be used on the ground as habitat for native fauna but this may inhibit slashing and could be dangerous for students.

### 5.2.7 Response

The Integrity Score, and Composition, Structure and Function Scores will be greater than the Trigger Scores in **Table 11** after the five year period of this BMP. If this has not occurred an extension to the BMP will be required. Responses on an annual basis after the first monitoring period will need to show improvement each until the values are greater than the Triger Scores.

### 5.3 WEED MANAGEMENT



### 5.3.1 Overview

The SMART criteria for the weed management of the NRL will be required to meet or be less the Future Integrity Score. PCT 40 SMART management principals in the NRL will be:

- Monitoring Methods to determine the high priority weed cover in the NRL.
- Baseline data The weed cover at the time of the first monitoring after the Construction Phase is completed.
- Performance Criteria/target The reduction in high threat exotic weed cover each year of treatment measured at the next monitoring event.
- Action Trigger The weed cover future score predicted in the BDAR will be used as the value that will trigger appropriate actions. Values under the weed cover future score will be acceptable and not require actions to be triggered.
- Corrective Actions Management Actions to reduce the weed cover below the Future Weed Cover Score.
- Response The expected outcomes over a defined time period i.e. the Integrity Score component is above the Future Integrity Score within the five year period of the VMP.

Weed management within the NRL will prioritise the management of the following species all, including:

- 1. Chloris gayana (Rhodes Grass) [Priority Weed].
- 2. Eragrostis curvula. (African Lovegrass) [Priority Weed].
- 3. Lycium ferocissimum (African Boxthorn) [WoNS and Priority Weed].
- 4. Parthenium hysterophorus (Parthenium Weed) [WoNS and Priority Weed].
- 5. Paspalum dilatatum (Paspalum) [WoNS and Priority Weed].
- 6. Phyla canescens (Lippia) [WoNS and Priority Weed].

Species 1-3 were observed in Plot 1 and Species 4-6 were observed in the broader area. In addition, if other invasive exotic species are observed within the NRL, management will be required.

### 5.3.2 Monitoring Program Methods

Monitoring for the high threat weed cover will follow the high threat weed cover in in Section 5.2.2.4.

### 5.3.3 Baseline Data

The baseline data will be collected the first monitoring event after the Construction Phases is completed and the Wee Waa High School goes into Operational Phase. It is expected that the high threat exotics cover will be approximately 6.1%.

### 5.3.4 Performance Criteria

It is expected that:

- In the first year after monitoring that all African Boxhorn shrubs and large seedlings found should be removed by mechanical means and any seedlings individually chemically sprayed reducing the cover of African Boxthorn by at least 50% in the NRL for each of the five years of the life of the BMP.
- Large clumps of African Lovegrass should be mechanically removed and small clumps individually chemically sprayed to reduce cover by 40 % in the NRL for each of the five years of the life of the BMP.
- The other four HTE species should be chemically sprayed to reduce cover by 40 % in the NRL for each of the five years of the life of the BMP.

### 5.3.5 Action Trigger

The Action Trigger will be set at >6.1% of high threat exotics cover in the whole NRL or the introduction of a new species into the NRL.



### 5.3.6 Corrective Actions (Management)

Management will adopt the 'Bradley method', which involves the progressive, staged removal of weeds from less disturbed areas followed by removal from more weed infested areas. This method also aims to remove weeds with minimal disturbance and allow native species to re-establish naturally from the existing seed bank and rootstock. The first stage of weed removal should occur within the NRL prior to any planting, with an effort made to preserve existing native groundcover species.

The following steps are to be followed when controlling weeds on the site:

- 1. The weed removal team will require a site-specific induction, to understand what weeds are to be removed, the process of removal, identification of the native species, and the procedures to be followed.
- 2. Manual weed removal. Due to presence of native groundcover species within the NRL, the manual removal of weeds will be prioritised where possible.
- 3. Weed propagules collected during weed control activities are to be taken offsite. This will stop weed material smothering native plants and prevent re-establishment. This material is to be taken to an appropriate waste disposal centre to prevent further weed spread in the region.
- 4. Chemical weed control. Chemical should be applied only where application to larger weeds can be isolated (i.e. no broad application).

For concentrations and dosage rates on targeted chemical control, refer to the Department of Primary Industries New South Wales 'WeedWise' webpage. Any weed spraying should be conducted by an authorised person, having a Chemical Application Certificate or similar qualification. This would ensure that best practice is adhered to in consideration of the sensitive nature of the surrounding ecosystems.

The removal of general exotic species (of which 21 were recorded – see the **Appendix 3** for full list of exotic plant species recorded within the Subject Site) will be based on the recommendations provided in annual monitoring reports. Follow up weed management may be required as per the recommendations of future reports. It is expected that other restoration tasks including the restriction of entry, upgrading of fence and additional plantings will assist in the natural reduction of general exotic species cover over the duration of the BMP implementation period until the end of the operational life of the school.

### 5.3.7 Response

After the initial 5 years of this VMP for the NRL, the cover for weeds in the NRL will be <2%. If this outcome is not met, further monitoring and treatment of the weeds will be required.



# 6 REPORTING

Reporting requirements and timing of deliverables are summarised within **Table 9**, all monitoring and reporting will be completed by a suitably qualified person (i.e., Ecologist), content of reporting deliverables are detailed below:

- Baseline Monitoring Survey Report: This report will provide details on location of monitoring points, baseline measurements of key extent and condition variables within the NRL.
- Annual Monitoring Survey Report: This report will detail the results of annual monitoring, with
  comparison to baseline results and preceding survey events. Reporting will provide recommendations for
  future monitoring and management within the NRL. These reports are to be submitted annually to the
  Biodiversity Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) of the Department of Planning and Environment
  (DPE).
- **Final Summary Report:** The final Annual Monitoring Survey Report for the post-construction period of the school, inclusive of the monitoring results of Year 5 as well as a summary the results of the Monitoring Programme throughout. This is to be delivered 5 years post completion of works.

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# APPENDIX 1: ECOLOGISTS CV







# Dr Kevin Wormington

### Senior Ecologist Brisbane

Kevin has over 20 years of experience as an environmental consultant. Kevin joined Kleinfelder in 2019 as an experienced Senior Ecologist where he specialised in field ecological assessment, project management and reporting for flora, fauna and freshwater projects. Having also undertaken training in spatial services, Kevin is a experienced and capable in the GIS functions required for his ecological reporting including vegetation mapping.

Prior to joining Kleinfelder, Kevin ran his own small company out of Bundaberg as a means of staying in Bundaberg until his children finished their High School certificate. Kevin was also the Terrestrial Ecology Team leader in the Centre for Environmental Management at CQ University for 12 years. The CEM was a consultancy and research arm of the university.

He has 20 years of experience in Commonwealth and Queensland legislation and policies associated with the environment and ecology. The above has included Matters of National Environmental Significance, Matters of State Environmental Significance and environmental offsets. Kevin also has 3 years of experience in New South Wales legislation and policies for environment and ecology.

Kevin has a high level of statistical analysis skills using a variety of univariate analysis techniques for his PhD and later learning multivariate analysis techniques using Primer 7 for freshwater ecology work.

### Education

PhD Ecology, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Science) with 1st Class Honours, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

### **Training & Certifications**

Standard 11 Surface Mining Induction

Mining Supervisor (S123)

G2 Risk Facilitator

First Aid

Operate a 4x4 Vehicle Off-road and Advanced Recovery Techniques

### **Project Experience**

### Ecological assessment of four schools in Northern NSW.

The ecological assessment for the Kingscliff High School (KHS), Kingscliff Public School (KPS), Tweed River High School (TRHS) and Tweed Heads South Public School THSPS began in early 2020 with an ecological constraints assessment of the above four schools. The ecological constraints required a desktop assessment and a preliminary field survey to determine if there were any constraints associated with the schools. The outcomes of the constraints assessment was delivered in a separate report

for each school, which determined that there were ecological constraints associated with schools.

Following the outcomes of the ecological constraints and the development of plans for each school, a flora and fauna assessment for the areas that would be developed at the schools was required. This required some further desktop assessments, detailed flora and fauna surveys and a Flora and Fauna Assessment Report (FFAR) for a development applications (DA) at each school.

At the completion of the FFARs an assessment of the construction programs decided that the major sections of the KHS, KPS and TRHS would be State Significant Developments and a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) would be required for the three above schools. The BDARS were completed along with the DA for THSPS. In addition to the BDARs and DA, there were small sections of each school developed under a different criteria and required a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) report for each the four Schools. All reports were completed successfully. Management plans for the Bush-stone Curlew, Koala Offset Management Plans and Biodiversity Management Sub-plans were also completed for the schools.

### Ecological Assessment of the Ettamogah Army Stores Depot – Australian Department of Finance

A desktop analysis and field survey of the disused explosives stores at Ettamogah to determine biodiversity values of the site. Kevin participated in the flora and fauna field surveys.

A total of 73 flora species were identified within the study area during the field surveys. Thirty-one of the above were exotic species and one is a non-endemic native species. The exotic species *Rubus fruticosus* sp. agg. (Blackberry) is a listed Weed of National Significance (WoNS) and a Priority Weed for the Murray Region (relevant



Three species of plants, four reptiles, 21 birds and four mammals of conservation significance were listed as possibly using habitat within five km of the proposed new roadway, but most of these used habitats not found in the pathway of the new roadway. It was considered that it is highly unlikely any fauna of conservation significance will be affected by the project. However, there may be some impact on possums and gliders due to the removal of hollow-bearing trees.

### Management for Biodiversity in Fenced Riparian Zones on Grazing Properties - Fitzroy Basin Association

Kevin designed, managed and reported on the project for the flora, mammals, birds and reptiles. The project assessed if the fencing of Riparian Zones enhanced biodiversity within the riparian zone and adjacent area. Forty site were established in five sub-catchment areas of the Fitzroy River Basin that contained a range of riparian and adjacent sites that had been traditionally managed or managed for biodiversity values, i.e. fenced riparian zone. There was evidence that in areas where grazing regimes had changed in conjunction with fencing for a period exceeding 5 years, vegetation structure was more complex and exotic plants were less numerous. Other factors influencing vegetation structure were sub-catchment, the land zone and level of clearing. The overall diversity of non-bird vertebrate species was positively influenced by the fencing and associated changed grazing regimes. Reptile and ground mammal diversity of native species was greater in the fenced riparian zones and their adjacent forested areas than the equivalent non-fenced riparian zones. Complexity of habitat was also a positive influence. In contrast, exotic vertebrates were negatively influenced by the grazing management associated with fencing of riparian zones. Generally, birds were not sensitive to the grazing management, although bird species richness, abundance and assemblages were influenced by landscape position and vegetation.





### **Education**

PhD in Conservation Science
MSc in Anthrozoology
BSc in Ecology and Evolutionary
Biology

### **Training & Certifications**

NSW White Card First Aid/CPR Certification

# Cassandra Bugir, PhD

### **Ecologist**

Cassandra Bugir is a new Ecologist at Kleinfelder with over five years' previous experience in flora and fauna research- predominantly surrounding wetlands. Previous projects have involved a variety of technical disciplines including surveying methods- anabat, camera trapping, capture-mark-release, visual surveys, and auditory surveys, reporting, and fauna handling. Prior to the research experience, Cassandra worked internationally in conservation, animal husbandry, and public outreach/education for six years. Her career emphasizes threatened terrestrial and aquatic fauna, of all taxa, and their habitat requirements.

### **Project Experience**

### **Fulton Hogan**

• Flora and fauna surveying methods using random data points, transects, visual, photographic recognition, auditory, and scat/pellet surveys to determine the presence of threatened species for post-disturbance monitoring. The data from these surveys is used for writing the subsequent reports.

### **Cessnock City Council**

• Flora and fauna surveying methods using visual, photographic recognition, auditory, floristic, and scat surveys to determine the presence of threatened species for road stabilization works. The data from these surveys is used for writing the subsequent Flora and Fauna reports.

### **Clarke Creek**

Fauna surveying methods in a significant environmental area (SEA) to identify macropods, koalas, reptiles, and any feral species using visual, spotlighting, sandplots, photographic recognition, GIS, auditory, scratch marks, and scat surveys to determine presence. Flora surveys were conducted in this SEA using fieldmaps GIS and photographic/visual for presence of weed density and vegetation condition. These baseline surveys were conducted for future control measures particularly for feral fauna and invasive weed species.

### Kingfisher consultancy

- Prior to development clearing in Sydney, Cardiff, and Rankin Park, flora and fauna surveying methods were
  implemented using visual, spotlighting, aquatic invertebrate, photographic recognition, auditory, floristic, and
  scat surveys to determine the assemblage of species on site. The data collected from each survey was used
  to compile EIS, Flora and Fauna reports, and BDARs for each project.
- Osprey nest relocation and monitoring efforts for telecom tower in Raymond Terrace Golf Course. Prior to
  breeding season, telecom company requested to complete their works on a telecom tower that an osprey nest
  was located. Photographic evidence and visual surveillance of bird nest being taken down prior to works,
  reassembled and placed back up once works was completed.

### **University of Newcastle-Conservation Science Research Group**

• Supportive teaching role for ENVS 3001- Environmental Conservation in Watagans and Barrington Tops, teaching 50+ students how to trap fauna in survey efforts using Elliot traps, Harp Traps, aquatic nets, and Pipe traps. Taught students how to properly install and bait camera traps and sand plots, they were also shown how to interpret anabat data and ID species in spotlighting surveys. Out of the trapping survey efforts, we showed students how to handle Antechinus sp., bandicoots, rat sp., various frog species, skinks/lizards including Goanna, Gliders, and Quolls.



Research assistant for Kooragang and Ash Island wetland study- captured and handled various species of frogs (in various developmental stages- from tadpole to adult) for surveys, Chytrid swabbing, microchipping (capture/recapture data), and biobanking (hormonal induction of genetic material and web punches). The main target was threatened species, Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*). Other survey methods were installing audio moths and camera traps set up for feral species, birds, and frog calls for species diversity within this former BHP site. Vegetation surveys, weather conditions, watercourse ephemerality, and water quality tests were also conducted for habitat conditions. Data collected from these survey methods were used for report and publication writing. Some of the data collected was used to create ponds for environmental restoration works and implement frog exclusion fences for construction work on the island.



# APPENDIX 2: NATIVE FLORA LIST

#	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Growth Form
1.	Aizoaceae	Tetragonia tetragonioides New Zealand		Forb (FG)
2.	Amaranthaceae	Alternanathera sp.	Joyweed	Forb (FG)
3.	Amaranthaceae	Alternanthera angustifolia		Forb (FG)
4.	Amaryllidaceae	Crinum flaccidum	Crinum flaccidum	Forb (FG)
5.	Apiaceae	Daucus glochidiatus	Native Carrot	Forb (FG)
6.	Asphodelaceae	Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily	Forb (FG)
7.	Asteraceae	Calotis cuneata	Mountain Burr- daisy	Forb (FG)
8.	Asteraceae	Calotis spp.	A Burr-daisy	Forb (FG)
9.	Asteraceae	Leiocarpa panaetioides	Wooly Buttons	Forb (FG)
10.	Campanulaceae	Lobelia concolor	Poison Pratia	Forb (FG)
11.	Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia spp.	Bluebell	Forb (FG)
12.	Chenopodiaceae	Atriplex semibaccata	Creeping Saltbush	Shrub (SG)
13.	Chenopodiaceae	Einadia polygonoides	Knotweed	Forb (FG)
14.	Chenopodiaceae	Salsola australis	Wallaby Grass	Grass & grasslike (GG)
15.	Chenopodiaceae	Sclerolaena decurrens	Green Copperburr	Shrub (SG)
16.	Chenopodiaceae	Sclerolaena muricata	Black Rolypoly	Shrub (SG)
17.	Convolvulaceae	Convolvulus graminetinus		Other (OG)
18.	Crassulaceae	Crassula colorata acuminata		Forb (FG)
19.	Cyperaceae	Cyperus spp.		Grass & grasslike (GG)
20.	Euphorbiaceae	Chamaesyce drummondii	Caustic Weed	Forb (FG)
21.	Fabaceae (Mimosoideae)	Acacia salicina	Cooba	Tree (TG)
22.	Fabaceae (Faboideae)	Cullen tenax	Emu-foot	Forb (FG)
23.	Goodeniaceae	Goodenia fascicularis	Mallee Goodenia	Forb (FG)
24.	Haloragaceae	Haloragis glauca f. glauca		Forb (FG)
25.	Malvacceae	Abutilon oxycarpum	Straggly Lantern- bush	Shrub (SG)
26.	Marsileaceae	Marsilea drummondii	Common Nardoo	Fern (EG)
27.	Myoporaceae	Eremophila debilis	Amulla	Shrub (SG)
28.	Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus coolibah	Coolibah	Tree (TG)
29.	Oxalidaceae	Oxalis perennans	Western Boobialla	Shrub (SG)
30.	Poaceae	Aristida spp.	A Wiregrass	Grass & grasslike (GG)
31.	Poaceae	Bromus spp.	A Brome	Grass & grasslike (GG)
32.	Poaceae	Chloris truncata	Windmill Grass	Grass & grasslike (GG)
33.	Poaceae	Cynodon dactylon	Common Couch	Grass & grasslike (GG)
34.	Poaceae	Dichanthium sericeum	Queensland Bluegrass	Grass & grasslike (GG)
35.	Poaceae	Eriochloa procera	Spring Grass	Grass & grasslike (GG)
36.	Poaceae	Panicum effusum		Forb (FG)



37.	Poaceae	Paspalidium distans		Grass & grasslike (GG)
38.	Poaceae	Rytidosperma bipartitum	Dock	Forb (FG)
39.	Poaceae	Sporobolus spp.	Rat's Tail Couch	Grass & grasslike (GG)
40.	Polygonaceae	Rumex spp.	Dock	Forb (FG)
41.	Verbenaceae	Verbena gaudichaudii	Verbena	Forb (FG)

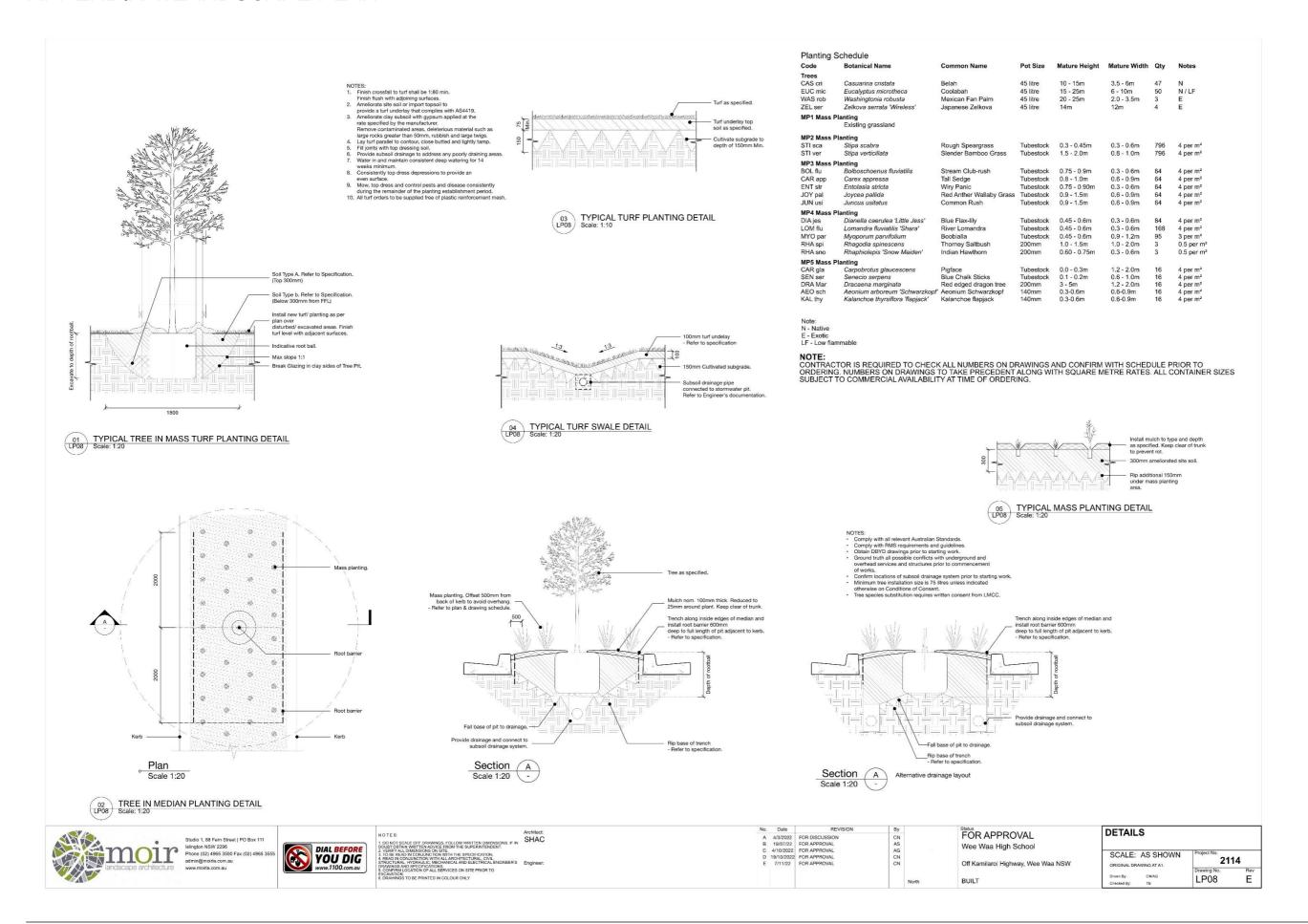


# APPENDIX 3: EXOTIC SPECIES LIST

#	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Growth Form
1.	Asteraceae	Aster subulatus Wild Aster		Exotic
2.	Asteraceae	Gamochaeta spp.		Exotic
3.	Asteraceae	Lactuca serriola f. serriola		Exotic
4.	Asteraceae	Parthenium hysterophorus	Parthenium	Exotic
5.	Asteraceae	Sonchus oleraceus	Common	Exotic
6.	Brassicaceae	Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's Purse	Exotic
7.	Brassicaceae	Lepidium africanum	Common	Exotic
8.	Brassicaceae	Sisymbrium irio	London Rocket	Exotic
9.	Brassicaceae	Sisymbrium spp.		Exotic
10.	Fabaceae (Faboideae)	Medicago minima	Woolly Burr Medic	Exotic
11.	Fabaceae (Faboideae)	Trifolium glomeratum	Clustered Clover	Exotic
12.	Lamiaceae	Lamium amplexicaule	Dead Nettle	Exotic
13.	Malvaceae	Malva parviflora	Small-flowered Mallow	Exotic
14.	Myoporaceae	Myoporum montanum		Exotic
15.	Poaceae	Chloris gayana	Rhodes Grass	Exotic
16.	Poaceae	Eragrostis curvula	African Lovegrass	Exotic
17.	Poaceae	Paspalum dilatatum	Paspalum	Exotic
18.	Polygonaceae	Rumex spp.	Lippia	Exotic
19.	Solanaceae	Lycium ferocissimum	African Boxthorn	Exotic
20.	Solanaceae	Solanum nigrum	Black-berry Nightshade	Exotic
21.	Verbenaceae	Phyla canescens	Paspalum	Exotic

# APPENDIX 4: LANDSCAPE PLAN





### **SPECIFICATION**

### 1.0 GENERAL

### 1.1 EXISTING SERVICES

1.1 Earlies arrive services on site include stormwater drainage, water, and associated power service conduits. Locations of all services should be established prior to excavation of planling holes and installation of trees. The drawings DN NOT indicate extent of existing services. Existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services. Existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services. Existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services. Existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services existing services.

### 1.2 PROTECTION OF EXISTING FEATURES During installation protect all existing trees, shru

During installation protect all existing trees, shrubs and other specified vegetation, features and improvements, structures and utilities. Protect trees to be retained from damage from groundworks. Take necessary precautions, including the following:

Harmful Materials: Do not store or otherwise place bulk materials and harmful materials under or near frees. Do not place spoil from excavations againtee trunks, even for short periods. Prevent wind blown materials such as cement from harming trees and plants.

Damage; prevent damage to tree bark. Do not attach stays, guys and the like to trees.

Work under trees. Do not add or remove toposi within the drip line, use hand methods such that root systems are preserved intact and undamaged. Open up excavations under tree camples for as short a period as possible.

Botts: Where it is necessary to cut tree roots, use means such that the cutting does not unduly disturb the remaining root system.

Compacted Forum; Avoid compaction of the ground under trees.

1.3 GENERAL HOLD POINTS
During the pre-construction, co
the specification. n, construction and post construction phases a series of hold & witness points have been laid out to ensure compliance with

NOTE: Inspections are to be arranged with at least 10 working days notice before the inspection.

Hold Point	Completed	Notes:
Pre-ordering of plant stock in accordance with the specification	YES/NO	Inspection required by Landscape Architect.
Certification that trees comply with the Tree Supply Specification from supplying nursery.	YES/NO	Provide 2 weeks lead time. Supply certification to Landscape Architect.
Completion of subgrade preparation prior to spreading of any imported soil or ameliorated site soil (in accordance with AS4419-2018)	YES/NO	Delivery dockets, receipts must be provided. Inspection required by Landscape Architect.
Batch Certificates for all imported soil in accordance with AS4419 - 2018. Should site soil be utilised for planting purposes, soil testing must be conducted in accordance with AS4419 - 2018. A copy of the results must be provided to the superintendent, where amelioration of the soil is required, evidence of this application must be communicated and will form a hold point.	YES/NO	Test results to be supplied to Landscape Architect.
Where ameliorated stockpiled soil or site soil is required and utilised for planting purposes in accordance with AS4419-2018, evidence of associated amelioration measures must be provided	YES/NO	Test results, delivery dockets, receipts must be provided. Inspection require by Landscape Architect.
Evidence of certification of all associated imported topsoil for street tree planting in accordance with AS4419- 2018.	YES/NO	Delivery dockets, receipts must be provided to Landscape Architect.
Completion of nominated soil spreading, mulching, associated proprietary products and beginning of planting in accordance with the landscape specifications.	YES/NO	Inspection and sign off required by landscape architect.
Tree delivery prior to installation and certification that trees comply with AS2303- 2018 Tree Stock for Landscape Use.	YES/NO	Inspection and sign off requiredby landscape architect.
Set out tree pits with existing concrete footpath.	YES/NO	Notify Landscape Architect of any potential problems.
Excavation of tree pits with root barrier and sub-surface drainage installed in accordance with Detail Drawings.	YES/NO	Inspection and sign off required by landscape architect.
Commencement of tree planting.	YES/NO	Inspection and sign off required by landscape architect.
Completion of all landscape works in accordance with the Landscape Construction Specification and subject DA approval consent.	YES/NO	Inspection required by Landscape Architect at practical completion to issue Defects Report and Compliance Report/Practical Completion Certificate.
Manufacturer's warranty and maintenance information for all proprietary products.	YES/NO	Supply all warranties and information for proprietary products to Landscape Architect. To be provided within 1 month of Practical Completion.

### 20 MATERIALS

2.1 PLANT MALEXIAL Discrepancies within the planting schedule and the drawing should be referred to Moir Landscape Architecture for clarification. Make no substitutions unless approved. Substitutions shall not be approved unless the contractor compiles with this specification. Contractor to verify quantities against plant rates and quantities on drawings prior to comencement of work.

Contractor is required to check all numbers on drawings and confirm with schedule prior to ordering. Numbers on drawings to take precedent along with square metre rates.

Plant material: Plants shall be of the species, sizes and quantities as shown on the drawing. Plants shall be vigorous, well established, of good form, not soft or forced. free from disease and insect pests. Plants shall have large healthy root systems.

Trees are to be supplied in accordance with 'AS2303:2018 Tree Stock for landscape Use'.

2.2 SQLS
Top 300mm soil to be equal to AS4419-2018 'Organic Soil' with texture to AS4419-2018 Table K1- Sandy Loam.
Below 300mm do not incorporate organic matter. Below 300mm soil to be equal to AS4419-2018 'Soil blend' with max 5% organic matter content. Texture to AS4419-2018 Table K1- Sandy Loam.

2.2.1 DEFINITIONS

Site topsoil: Soil excavated from the site which has the following characteristics:
Contains minimum 2% organic matter, supports plant life, and is free from unwanted matter
Unwanted matter (in topsoil): Stones over 25mm diameter, clay lumps, weeds and tree roots, sticks and rubbish and material toxic to plants.

Topsoil:

Where available use ameliorated site topsoil. Where unavailable, import topsoil from an off-site source approved by the Superintendent, equivalent to specification above.

Source Landscape Soil:
Soil to be used for these landscape works shall be: Ameliorated Site Topsoil or Imported General Purpose Soil to the areas and locations as speciSoil for the works shall be free from noxious weeds etc. Soil shall be assumed to be placed to all revegetated areas and backfill to all plantings. Ur
otherwise directed by site superintendent, the landscape contractor is responsible for the removal and or disposal of all spoil or excess soil excavit
the process of implementing the landscape works.

2.2.2 SOIL TESTS
Test soil and ameliorate in accordance with soil test results. Where unavailable for reuse import suitable topsoil to support native plant growth.

Sampling: As recommended in AS 4419 (2018) Appendix A (when on site soil is to be used).
Sampling technique: Follow sampling techniques and guidelines according to AS 4419 (2018).
Where discrepancies arise, refer to the Superintendent for clarification prior to proceeding with any works.

The Contractor shall arrange for the following soil tests to be carried out:

• One test of any proposed imported topsoil; and
• Where site topsoil is to be used, one site topsoil lest by an approved soil testing laboratory as specified, from topsoil stockpiles.

Type of Soil Test Required: The Contractor shall specify that a 'major soil test' is required, for the purpose of analysing the characteristics and recommendations for use as a landscaping topsoil for native species.

Results: The results of all soil tests should be submitted to the superintendent prior to work commencing.

<u>Lead time:</u> Allow a minimum of 10 full working days for completion of soil testing, and check with laboratory to ensure testing will landscaping works. Supply soil tests to site superintendent once available and according to the hold and witness point schedule.

Soil test results are only valid if soil is stockpiled for less than 12 months. If soil has been stockpiled for a longer period, new tests need to be done as described in AS 4419 (2018)

2.2.3 SUBSOIL

<u>Excavated Planting Beds:</u> Where defined planting beds are indicated on the landscape drawings with specific species scheduled and no turfing shown, treat as an excavated landscape planting bed

Excavation technique; Excavate to backfill with ameliorated site soil or imported general purpose soil to bring to levels shown on the drawings to allow for mulching and placement of imported soil. Rip and cultivate to depths as shown on the drawings.

Use soils described by the following terms (or their equivalents) which comply generally with the texture classifications and typical uses of AS 4419 – (2018) Table K1 Medium textured - Sandy loam

2.2.5 SOIL LEVELS
Finished soil levels shall allow turf or mulch to be finished to top of kerb, gravel pavement, existing levels or as otherwise shown on drawings.

Consolidation
Tamp lightly and uniformly in 150 mm layers. Avoid differential subsidence and excess compaction and produce a finished topsoil surface which has the following characteristics:

• Finished to design levels.

• Smooth and free from stones or lumps of soil.

• Graded to drain freely, without ponding, to catchment points.

• Graded evenly into adjoining ground surfaces.

• Ready for planting. <u>Backfill Soil:</u> Backfill holes using ameliorated site topsoil. Stock pile site soil onsite. Confirm stockpiles of site soil with superintendent prior to placement of materials. Site soil to be free from debris and weeds.

2.2.6 ADDITIVES 2.2.6 ADDITIVES
Additive types and rates: The Contractor shall incorporate additives to the subsoil or topsoil at rates recommended by the soil test results. This may include but not limited to PH neutral compost, lime, gypsum, urea, potash.

Application: Where subsoil additives are recommended by the soil tests apply additives after cultivation of the subsoil

Where site topsoil is to be stockpiled for reuse, incorporate additives as recommended in soil tests by cultivating through the topsoil. For excavated garden beds or backfill to planting holes, incorporate additives into stockpiled topsoil prior to placement. In all situations, ensure additives are thoroughly mixed through topsoil.

### 2.2.7 FERTILISERS AND SOIL CONDITIONERS

ccording to the manufacturer's recommendations and recommended rates. Native plant slow release fertiliser applied idation - N:P:K 17:1.6:8.7

### 2.3 MULCH

2.3 MULCH
The use of mulch shall be limited to those areas which are specified on the plans, highly disturbed areas, and in locations where there is low erosion potential. Composted site mulch or an approved equivalent product (approved by site superintendant) spread to a depth of 75mm, is to be used. Where there is risk of mobilisation of surface materials due to weed management and/or planting works coil rolgs shall be used. For planting on slopes greater than 1.3 - Refer to relevant details. On which were planting on slopes greater than 1.3 - Refer to relevant details. On which planting on slopes greater than 1.3 - Refer to relevant details. On which planting on slopes greater than 1.3 - Refer to relevant details. On which planting on slopes greater than 1.3 - Refer to relevant details. On which planting on slopes greater than 1.3 - Refer to relevant details.

Where composted site mulch is to be used, to comply with Table 3.1 (A), 3.1(B) and 3.1(C) "Composted Product", compliance to be demonstrated according to Appendix Q of AS4454-2012 and results supplied to the Landscape Architect.

Note: this does not apply to playground softfall mulch.

2.4 TURF
Supplier: Obtain turf from a specialist grower of cultivated turf. Provide turf of even thickness, free from weeds and other foreign matter. Turfing to make good any additional areas disturbed during construction works. In areas where this is not possible due to vegetation management works or other, contractor to consult with Landscape Architect.

TURF TYPE SHALL BE: Kikuyu Selected turf must be 25 mm thick of dense, well rooted grass. Turf must be verdant and fresh when delivered and be free of weeds, soil pests and disease and must be accompanied with a "Certificate of Authenticity" from the supplier. The turf must be mown and freshly cut in long lengths, of uniform width not less than 300 mm, and in sound unbroken condition.

### 2.5 TIMBER GARDEN EDGE

Edging to be used as a separation between gardens (including tree planting) and lawns.

Timber edging shall be provided at the interface of gravel, turf, mass planting and other soft landscaping areas.

Use 50 x 100 mm H4 treated pine edging with 600 x 50 x 50mm stakes (with 2 galvanised nails per fixing) finished 25 mm below top of edging.

Refer to Timber Garden Edge detail.

2.6 ROOT BARRIER

Material: Root barriers shall be manufactured from a 100% recycled HDPE with a minimum barrier thickness of 1mm. Depth: As shown on approved drawings. Refer to Details.

Installation: Install in accordance with approved project plans and manufacturer's specifications.

Overlap and the seal joins in accordance with manufacturer's specification.

Supplier: Arborgreen or equivalent

### 3.0 CRITERIA FOR TREE STOCK ASSESSMENT

Tree stock to conform to AS2303-2018

Trees will be assessed against AS2303-2018 and rejected if not in accordance with the specification.

### 4.1 EXCAVATION OF PLANTING HOLES

4.1 EACAVAITION OF PLANTING MOLES

Locations for plants and/or outlines of areas to be planted are to be staked out at the site. Locate and mark all subsurface utility lines. Approval of the stakeout by the supervisor is required before excavation begins. Tree pits are to be excavated to the depth and widths indicated on the drawings. If the planting area under any tree is initially dug too deep, the soil added to bring it up to the correct level should be throughly tamped. The boltom of the planting hole shall slope parallel to the proposed grades or toward any subsurface drain lines within the planting bed.

Maintain all required angles of repose of the adjacent materials as shown on the drawings. Do not excavate compacted subgrades of adjacent

Subgrade soils shall be separated from the topsoil, removed from the area, and not used as backfill in any planted or lawn area. Excavations shall not be left uncovered or unprotected. For frees and shrubs planted in individual holes in areas of good soil that is to remain in place and/or to receive amendment in the top 150mm layer, excavate the hole to the depth of the root ball and to widths shown on the drawing. (Slope the sides of the excavation at a 45 degree angle up and away from the bottom of the excavation.)

Preparation of subgrades to be inspected prior to the installation or modification of topsoil or planting mix. Till the subsoil into the bottom layer of topsoil or planting mix. Loosen the soil of the subgrade to a depth of 50 to 75 mm with a rotofiller or other suitable device.

Detrimental soil conditions: The supervisor is to be notified, in writing, of soil conditions encountered, including poor drainage, that the contractor considers detrimental to the growth of plant material. When detrimental conditions are uncovered, planting shall be discontinued until instructions to resolve the conditions are received.

Obstructions: If rock, underground construction work, utilities, tree roots, or other obstructions are encountered in the excavation of planting areas, alternate locations for any planting shall be determined by the landscape architect.

4.2 PLANTING OPERATIONS Before planting begins thoroughly water the plants and planting areas. Water plants again immediately after planting.

Josurface drainage etc. stall subsurface drains as shown on the details and connect to Stormwater. All tree planting holes and mass planting areas shall have subsurface.

Treas
Plants shall be set on flat-tamped or unexcavated pads at the same relationship to finished grade as they were to the ground from which they were
dug, unless otherwise noted on the drawings. Plants must be set plumb and braced in position until topsoil or planting mix has been placed and
tamped around the base of the root ball. Improper tamping of the soil around the root ball may result in the tree settling or leaning. Plants shall be
set so that they will be at the same depth and so that the root ball does not shift or move laterally one year later.

Determine the elevation of the root flare and ensure that it is planted at grade. This may require that the tree be set higher than the grade in the nursery. If the root lallare is less than 50mm below the soil level of the root ball, plant the tree at the appropriate level above the grade to set the flare even with the grade. If the flare is more than 50mm at the control of the root ball the tree shall be rejected.

Lift plants only from the bottom of the root balls or with belts or lifting harnesses of sufficient width not to damage the root balls. Do not lift trees by their trunk or use the trunk as a lever in positioning or moving the tree in the planting area.

Remove plastic, paper, or fibre pots from containerised plant material. Score the side of the root ball with a sharp knife and tease out roots. Immediately after removing the container, install the plant such that the roots do not dry out. Pack planting is varound the exposed roots while planting. Completely remove any waterproof or water-repellant strings or wrappings from the root ball and trunk before backfilling.

Soils and mulch
Place soil mixes, tamping lightly to reduce settlement. Ensure that the backfill immediately around the base of the root ball is tamped with foot pressure sufficient to prevent the root ball from shifting or leaning, in layers of 150mm deep.

Thoroughly water all plants immediately after planting. Apply water by hose directly to the root ball and the adjacent soil. Remove all tags, labels, strings, etc. from all plants. Following installation of stakes and ties according to the detail drawings, remove nursery/ formative stakes and ties from trees. Remove any excess soil, debris, and planting material from the job site at the end of each workday.

Eins Grading
Provide smooth transitions between slopes of different gradients and direction. Modify the grade so that the finish grade is flush with all paving surfaces or as directed by the drawings. Fill all dips and remove any bumps in the overall plane of the slope.

Pruning
Plants shall not be heavily pruned at the time of planting. Pruning is required at planting time to correct defects in the tree structure, including removal of injured branches, double leaders, waterspouts, suckers, and interfering branches. Healthy lower branches and interior small twigs should not be removed except as necessary to clear paths and roads. In no case should more than one-quarter of the branching structure be removed. Relatin the normal or natural shape of the plant. All pruning shall be completed using clean, sharp tools. All cuts shall be clean and smooth, with the bark intact with no rough edges or tears.

Pruning of trees to comply with AS4373-2007 with emphasis on deadwooding, formative pruning and crown lifting to comply with AS2303-2018

# Mulching All trees are to be mulched to the depths shown on the drawing. Mulch must not be placed within 8 cm of the trunks of trees. Spread 75mm layer mulch to all mass planting beds and individual plantings in turf. Finish to the required levels. Keep mulch away from the plant stems. No mulch to

Turf Underlay: Turf underlay used must be topsoil material, but may be general purpose topsoil in accordance with AS4419-2018. The soil mix must not contain any of the following:

• Materials toxic to humans and plant health.

• Plant roots of diameter greater than 12 mm.

• Clay lumps.

• Stones greater than 10 mm size.





NOTES: 1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWINGS. FOLLOW WRITTEN DIMENSIONS, IF IN SHACE DOUBT OBTAIN WRITTEN ADVICE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.

3. TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION.
4. READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION.
5. STRUCTURAL, HYDRAULD, VECHNICAL, AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS STRUCTURAL, HYDRAULD, VECHNICAL, AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS.
5. CONFIRM LOCATION OF ALL SERVICES ON SITE PRIOR TO EXCAUTION.
5. DRAWINGS TO BE PRINTED IN COLOUR ONLY.

A 4/3/2022 FOR DISCUSSION B 19/07/22 FOR APPROVAL C 4/10/2022 FOR APPROVAL 0 19/10/2022 FOR APPROVAL E 7/11/22 FOR APPROVAL

FÖR APPROVAL Wee Waa High School Off Kamilaroi Highway, Wee Waa NSW BUILT

SPECIFICATION SCALE: N/A 2114 LP09 E

# APPENDIX 5: BMP APPROVAL





### **Department of Planning and Environment**

Our ref:DOC23/1058153 Your ref: SSD-21854025

Elise Harrison
Project Manager
TSA Management
elise.harrison@tsamgt.com

Dear Elise,

### Wee Waa High School (SSD-21854025) - Draft Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)

Thank you for your e-mail dated 1 December 2023 to the Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (BCS) of the Department of Planning and Environment inviting comments on the revised draft Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the new Wee Waa High School (SSD-21854025).

BCS has reviewed the revised draft Biodiversity Management Plan and is satisfied that the BMP contains measurable management actions for the partial impact zone assessed in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). We note that the proponent has also committed to annually providing BCS with monitoring reports for the partial impact zone.

BCS is satisfied that our previous comments have been addressed and have no further comments on the draft BMP.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Candice Larkin, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via candice.larkin@environment.nsw.gov.au or (02) 8217 2065.

Yours sincerely

Liz Mazzer

A/Senior Team Leader Planning North West
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate

4 December 2023









