

Ian Walker
Executive Director, Environment
Conservator of Flora and Fauna
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT
Government
Dame Pattie Menzies House, Challis Street, Dickson,
ACT

Re. Conservator Endorsement for Conservation Plans for Ginninderry

Dear Ian,

We are writing to seek the Conservator's official endorsement for a set of plans developed pursuant to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act approval for the Ginninderry residential development.

The EPBC Act approval we received in September 2017 included a suite of bespoke conditions that needed to be satisfied before further housing construction can be undertaken. These conditions include the development of a conservation plan of management, offset plans and a construction environmental management framework.

From a housing development perspective, these conditions represent a hold-point for the overall program.


The conditions specifically require the endorsement of the ACT Conservator, and subsequently, approval by the ACT Environment Minister.

Accordingly, you will find further detailed information below, and attached, the plans for which we are now seeking your endorsement. At this time, we would also like to acknowledge and thank EPSDD staff for contributing to earlier versions of these plans, their input has been very valuable.

We also welcome any advice on the Forward in the Plan of Management, which we have drafted on behalf of the Minister, but have not engaged with his office at this stage on the detail.

Should you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



David Maxwell

Managing Director

Background

The Ginninderry housing development project is a Joint Venture between the ACT Government and Riverview Developments Pty Ltd. In September 2017 Riverview Projects (ACT) secured the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act approval under a Strategic Assessment, for a 30-year development program. The approval has 13 bespoke conditions, many of which need to be met to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth before further construction activities can be undertaken.

Several of the approval conditions require the ACT Conservator *endorse*, and the ACT Minister for the Environment *approve* plans that deliver conservation outcomes committed in the EPBC approvals process. The next stage of civil works for housing construction is scheduled to commence 3-6 months after the Section 211 decision, and cannot commence until the conservation plans have been approved.

The plans have been developed in consultation with the Commonwealth and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and have also had inputs from community groups.

Issues

Plans which require ACT Conservator endorsement, and Environment Minister approval, under the EPBC Act approval conditions:

- Attachment A > Ginninderry Conservation Corridor Plan of Management
- Attachment B > Pink-tail Worm Lizard and Box-Gum Woodland Offset Plan
- Attachment C > Gooromon Grasslands Offset Management Plan
- Attachment D > Construction Environment Management Plan Framework

The Conservation Corridor Plan of Management is to be reviewed every 5 years, and the intention is to, in due course, roll it into a broader Murrumbidgee River Corridor Plan of Management Review. At that time the Ginninderry Conservation Corridor Plan of Management will become a statutory plan.

Offset plans for Pink-tail Worm Lizard (PTWL) and Box-Gum Woodland describe a variety of restoration programs to be implemented in the conservation corridor, to offset impacts associated with the Drake Brockman Drive extension (Box-Gum Woodland) and the urban construction program (PTWL).

The Gooromon Grasslands Offset Plan brings together management of 3 grassland reserves adjacent to Dunlop, and includes offset commitments from 3 separate approvals (for Golden Sun Moth and Natural Temperate Grassland). Although impacts from the



Ginninderry

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Ginninderra Drive Extension for the Ginninderry program are not anticipated for 10+ years, the EPBC Approval condition requires approval of the Offset plan before further construction can occur.

The Construction Environmental Management Plan is a framework for all constructors to use to tailor their project-specific environmental protection controls. It applies to construction works across the urban development area and for works in the Conservation Corridor. In addition to standard measures, there are bespoke requirements for relocating rocks and logs for habitat restoration in the Corridor.

Consultation

Internal

1. The plans have had broad internal EPSDD consultation (especially within the ACT Parks and Conservation Service).

Cross Directorate

2. The plans have been developed in consultation with the Suburban Land Agency and the Ginninderry Joint Venture partners.

External

3. The plans have been developed with input from Ginninderry's Bush on the Boundary Forum which includes representatives from the ACT Conservation Council, Friends of Grasslands, Ginninderra Catchment Group and local Aboriginal families (with the establishment of a continuing Ginninderry Aboriginal Advisory Group).

Benefits/Sensitivities

The Joint Venture partnership will benefit in the context of business certainty and clearing another gateway to further construction activities. The Ginninderry Aboriginal Advisory Group has been established to foster opportunities for Aboriginal engagement and employment in the management of the corridor, and once plans are approved on-ground conservation programs can commence. The Ginninderra Falls Association may raise concerns with the Plan of Management, although all the early conservation programs (next 5 years) are planned for the ACT in the first 240 ha portion of the reserve.

Media Implications

Note the forward in the Plan of Management, drafted on behalf of the Minister. Media opportunities include visiting the location of the future Riverside Park, launching the Plan at the Corridor (or Shepherds lookout) and inspecting early habitat restoration programs (e.g. coarse woody debris placement).

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	Ginninderry Conservation Corridor – Interim Plan of Management
Attachment B	Ginninderry Development – Offset Management Plan
Attachment C	Gooromon Grasslands – Offset Management Plan
Attachment D	Ginninderry Development – Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) Framework