

Date 17/06/2019

Our ref: 19SYD - 13268

Urbis Pty Ltd

Sent via email: cmartin@urbis.com.au

Attention: Celeste Martin

Dear Celeste,

**Re: Habitat tree assessment and targeted flora survey – 80 Betty Cuthbert Drive, Lidcombe**

Eco Logical Australia (ELA) was engaged by Urbis Pty Ltd to undertake a habitat tree assessment for threatened fauna, and a targeted flora survey for *Acacia pubescens* (Downy wattle) at 80 Betty Cuthbert Drive, Lidcombe. *Acacia pubescens* is listed as vulnerable under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The aim of these assessments are to assist the development of the masterplan for 80 Betty Cuthbert Drive, Lidcombe (the study site).

The results of the assessment found that no threatened fauna habitat trees or *Acacia pubescens* specimens were identified within the study site during the field inspection. Notably, however, the study site appears to be a popular source of food for several common nectivorous birds.

This letter report provides detail on the methodology and results of the survey work. Should you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me on (02) 8536 8600.

Regards,



Griffin Taylor-Dalton  
Graduate ecologist

# 1. Methodology

The study site is located in an open woodland, situated on the grounds of the MS Study Centre, Lidcombe. The study site is shown in Appendix A, Figure 1.

## 1.1 Desktop assessment

Prior to undertaking the field survey, an Atlas of NSW Wildlife database search (5km radius) was conducted to determine if any *Acacia pubescens* (or other threatened flora) and threatened fauna had been previously recorded in the study site and greater locality (Appendix B Figure 4). In addition to this, the previous Arboricultural reports were reviewed to gain a better understanding of what canopy species were present within the study site (Paul Shearer Consulting 2017 and 2019).

## 1.2 Field survey

ELA ecologist Griffin Taylor-Dalton undertook the field survey on 7 June 2019. The aim of the field survey was to undertake a habitat tree assessment for threatened fauna, and undertake a targeted flora survey for *Acacia pubescens* (Downy wattle). In addition to this, any other features, such as water bodies and flowering Eucalypts were also noted.

### 1.2.1 Habitat tree assessment

All trees present within the study site were inspected during the habitat tree assessment. Specific features noted including tree hollows, fissures within the bark, hollow logs and birds' nests. To assist in these searches, a set of Bushnell 10x42 binoculars were used to survey sections of trees that were difficult to see at ground level.

Any tree habitat features observed were to be recorded spatially using a handheld GPS unit (accuracy to approx. 10m). Hollow size, number and tree species was also to be recorded.

Any birds seen or heard during the inspection were also recorded. A full species list can be found in Appendix C.

### 1.2.2 Targeted *Acacia pubescens* survey

The entire study site was traversed during the *Acacia pubescens* survey. Any plants detected were to be recorded spatially using a handheld GPS unit.

# 2. Results

## 2.1 Desktop Assessment

The Atlas of NSW Wildlife database search (5km radius) found no threatened flora or fauna recorded within the study site. There are however many records across the greater locality (Appendix B Figure 4). Notably, numerous *Acacia pubescens* and *Pteropus poliocephalus* (Grey-headed flying fox) records have been made within approximately 2km of the study site. Other significant species, such as *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog), were recorded approximately 5km from study site.

Both previous Arboricultural reports (Paul Shearer Consulting 2017 and 2019) detail that the site has predominately been cleared of endemic species however a few large mature trees are still present.

## 2.2 Habitat assessment and targeted flora survey

No *Acacia pubescens* were identified within the study site during the field survey.

No habitat trees were recorded during the habitat assessment. This was largely due to the fact that most trees were not mature enough to form hollows. The few mature trees that were present within the study site appeared to have had their dead limbs lopped. Dead limbs often form into hollows. Notably, there was a lot of bird foraging activity, mainly from nectivorous species such as *Trichoglossus haematodus* (Rainbow Lorikeet) and *Manorina melanocephala* (Noisy Miner). This is likely due to the heavily flowering *Eucalyptus microcorys* (Tallowwood) which dominated the canopy of the study site (Appendix A, Figure 2).

One small artificial pond was observed during the survey (Appendix A Figure 3). Artificial ponds such as these can potentially provide habitat for threatened amphibians such as *Litoria aurea* (Green and Golden Bell Frog). However, this waterbody is considered unlikely to provide suitable habitat as it is not part of a larger connecting water way and the water quality appeared to be of a poor condition. In addition to this, no records from Atlas of NSW Wildlife we located close to the study site.

## 3. References

Office of Environment and Heritage. (2013). *Map of the Cumberland Plain*. URL: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/MapOfTheCumberlandPlain.htm>

Paul Shearer Consulting. (2017). *MS Studdy Centre TRA*. – 20.10.2017

Paul Shearer Consulting. (2019). *MS Studdy Centre TRA* – 10.04.2019

## Appendix A Site photos



**Figure 1:** Study site – 80 Betty Cuthbert Drive, Lidcombe

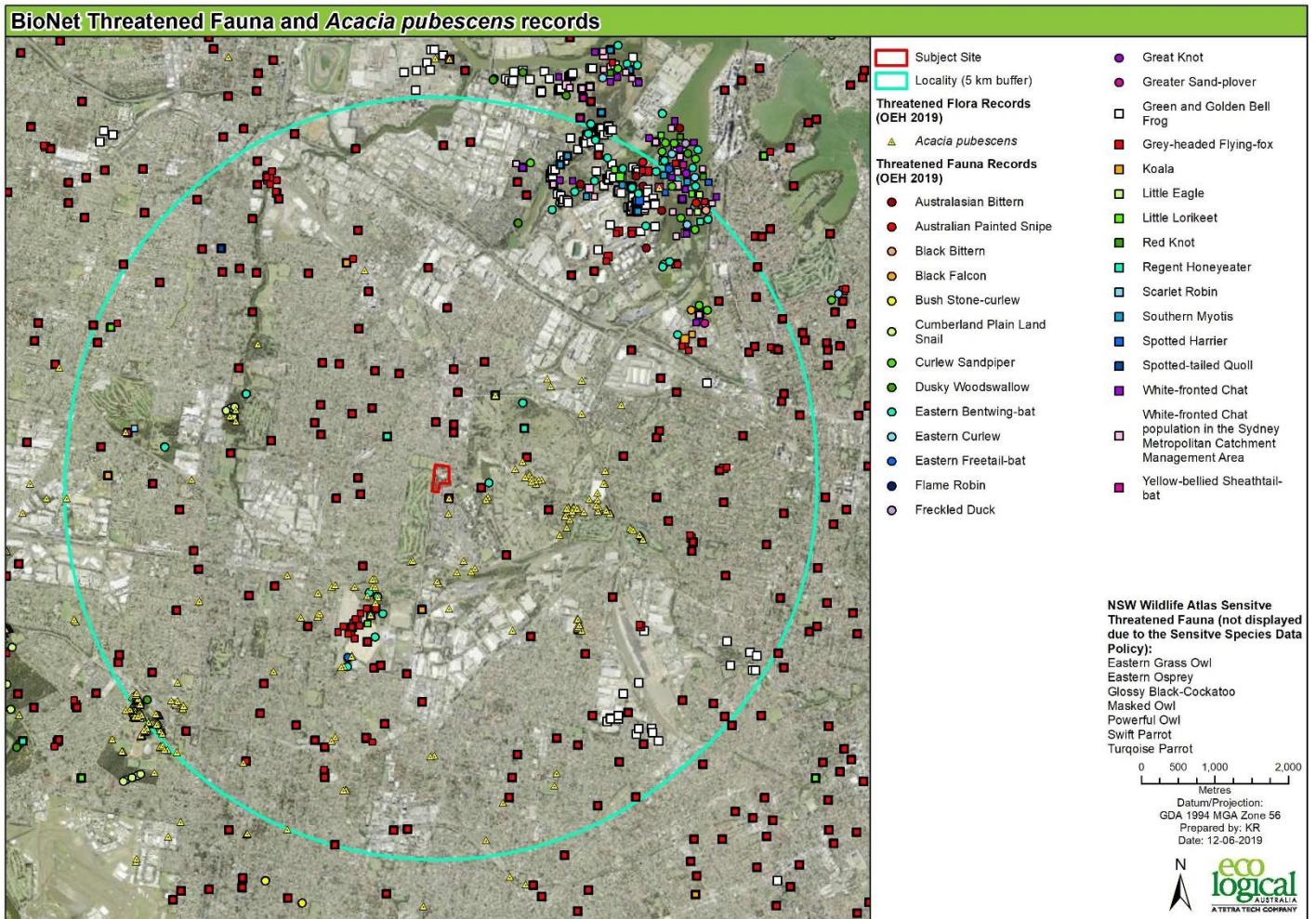


**Figure 2:** Heavily flowering *Eucalyptus microcorys*. These flowers attracted a lot of attention from the Rainbow Lorikeets.



**Figure 3:** Small pond located within the subject site. Habitat for threatened amphibians is considered unlikely.

# Appendix B Atlas of NSW Wildlife threatened species search results



**Figure 4:** Atlas database search results for a 5km radius around the study site.

## Appendix C Birds identified within the study site

Species	Common name	Observed	Heard
<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>	Little Corella		X
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	X	X
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Australian Raven	X	X
<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>	Magpie lark		X
<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	X	X
<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>	Noisy Miner	X	X
<i>Strepera graculina</i>	Pied Currawong	X	X
<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>	Australian White Ibis	X	
<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	Rainbow Lorikeet	X	X