

Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion - Block 2 Section 364 Fadden) Notice 2012 (No 1)

Notifiable instrument NI2012–440

Made under the

Planning and Development Act 2007 s 138AD (Requirements in relation to environmental significance opinions)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Block 2 Section 364 Fadden) Notice 2012 (No 1)*.*

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Environmental Significance Opinion

An Environmental Significance Opinion has been prepared by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

The text of the opinion is shown at Annexure A.

A copy of the opinion may be obtained from ACTPLA's website:

http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_significance_opinions

4 Completion

The environmental significance opinion and the notice including the text of the opinion expire 18 months after the day the notice is notified.

David Papps
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate
17 August 2012

*Name amended under Legislation Act, s 60



ACT
Government

Environment and
Sustainable Development

Mr David Papps
Chief Planning Executive
ACT Planning and Land Authority
Dame Pattie Menzies Building
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Mr Papps

This is to advise of my decision, under s.138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, on the request for an environmental significance opinion for the proposed additions to, and the extension of, an existing telecommunications facility within Wanniasa Hills Nature Reserve Tuggeranong Hill (Block 2 Section 364 Fadden).

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact on land reserved under s. 315 for the purpose of wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve.

Please find attached the Environmental Significance Opinion and a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

Yours sincerely

Penny Farnsworth
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

3 A-1-12

2012



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Sustainable Development

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION

In accordance with section 138AB(4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, I provide the following environmental significance opinion:

PROPONENT

Stela Rahman, Environmental Planner, Total Communication Infrastructure,
P.O. Box 125 St Leonards, NSW.

LOCATION

Block 2 Section 364 Fadden.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The proposal involves the replacement of 3 panel antennas on a new turret mount, installation of a new outdoor equipment unit and the relocation of 3 existing panel antennas to the new mount above the existing. The proponent states that the objective of the proposal is to integrate the existing 3GIS site into the Vodafone network and provide improved Vodafone 2G and 3G mobile phone and wireless broadband coverage to Fadden and the surrounding areas.

The development proposal is mentioned in Schedule 4, part 4.3, item 3, being development on land reserved under s. 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve.

Block 2 Section 364 Fadden is within an area reserved as public land nature reserve and is part of Canberra Nature Park.

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed in the merit track on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to that effect.

OPINION

The proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact provided works are undertaken in accordance with an approved Parks and

Conservation works approval and appropriate licences under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*.

MANNER IN WHICH DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL MUST BE UNDERTAKEN:

That all works are in accordance with the requirements of the Parks and Conservation Service. These include (but not limited to):

- that appropriate licences under the provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* are obtained from Canberra South District, Parks and Conservation Service, prior to commencement of construction;
- appropriate sediment controls being implemented;
- vehicles are washed down prior to entering the site;
- no works in wet weather or extreme fire danger;
- the location of the equipment store is well clear of the fire trail;
- any damage to be reinstated using native grasses to Parks and Conservation Service specifications.
- that any changes to the licence area are subject to a new licence application to the Planning and Land Authority.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.



Penny Farnsworth
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

3 August 2012

**STATEMENT OF REASONS
REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The proposed development is a proposal mentioned in Schedule 4 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* – Development proposal for an activity requiring an EIS (a) schedule 4,

item 3

proposal for development on land reserved under s 315 for the purpose of a wilderness area, national park, nature reserve or special purpose reserve, unless the Conservator of Flora and Fauna produces an environmental significance opinion that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

The proposed works are located within an area of Canberra Nature Park known as Wanniasa Hills (Block 2 Section 364 Fadden).

The proponent wants the application for the development approval assessed in the merit track on the grounds that the proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact and has applied to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to that effect.

Meaning of *significant* adverse environmental impact

An adverse environmental impact is *significant* if—

- (a) the environmental function, system, value or entity that might be adversely impacted by a proposed development is significant; or
- (b) the cumulative or incremental effect of a proposed development might contribute to a substantial adverse impact on an environmental function, system, value or entity.

In deciding whether an adverse environmental impact is *significant*, the following matters must be taken into account:

- (a) the kind, size, frequency, intensity, scope and length of time of the impact;
- (b) the sensitivity, resilience and rarity of the environmental function, system, value or entity likely to be affected.

In deciding whether a development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact it does not matter whether the adverse environmental impact is likely to occur on the site of the development or elsewhere.

It has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact, based on the documentation submitted.

Project description

Vodafone proposes to upgrade the existing telecommunications facility in Fadden to integrate the existing 3GIS site into the Vodafone network by:

- Replacing the existing turret mount on top of the steel monopole with a new 3m turret mount to accommodate new antennas (existing mount is also 3m in height, so swap is like-for like)
- Replacing 3 existing Telstra panel antennas on the existing turret mount with 3 new VHA panel antennas (dimensions 1916 x262 x 139mm).
- Relocation of the 3 existing Telstra panel antennas to new turret mount above the existing. New mount will be 3m in height.
- Installation of a new 2.5m x 3.0m outdoor equipment shelter on concrete piers, adjacent to the 3GIS lease area, as well as a VHA 450mm wide cable tray with support post to connect to the base of the existing steel monopole.
- Installation of small amplifiers adjacent to the panel antennas
- Proposed VHA feeder cables to run internally to the pole;
- New VHA compound security fence with single access gate as well as a new timber retaining wall.

The proposed facility will provide new 2G and 3G coverage to Fadden. The proposal will form an integral part of the Vodafone network and will improve mobile phone and data coverage, capacity and network performance. The need for this upgrade arises from the closure of the 3GIS network which is now part of Vodafone Hutchison Australia after it was bought by Vodafone and Telstra in a joint venture. The 3GIS closure will mean that the existing 3GIS outdoor equipment unit presently on the site will be decommissioned and removed from the site at some point in 2012, thus minimising the overall visual impact of the facility.

Documentation Submitted

Report titled: Application for Environmental Significance Opinion

Report titled: Summary of Estimated RF EME Levels around the Mobile Phone Base Station at Block 2, Section 364 off Bugden Avenue, Fadden ACT 2904

Statement of Environmental Effects

Numerous plans including: -Site Setout; elevations; construction details; earthing plan.

Natural conservation values present

The proposed development will not have a significant impact on the flora and fauna at the site as the site has been previously cleared of vegetation. No removal of trees is required and little to no other vegetation requires removal, therefore there will be limited impact on local flora and fauna.

Impact of development on these values (including offsite impacts)

Minor The potential for off site impacts are negated by the requirement for sediment and erosion control and for a works approval approved by the Parks and Conservation Service. Works will be supervised by Parks Rangers.

Has the proponent demonstrated that all reasonable measures have been taken to avoid, minimise and as a last resort offset impact?

Yes. All works are to be within existing disturbed areas where ever possible. The proponent has also investigated the use of alternate sites.

Co-location of telecommunication facilities is preferred to the construction of duplicate facilities.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

Nil.