

Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Block 363, Paddys River – Relocation of Glendale Depot Shed to Namadgi Visitors Centre) Notice 2018

Notifiable instrument NI2018–616

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 363, Paddys River – Relocation of Glendale Depot Shed to Namadgi Visitors Centre) Notice 2018*.

2 Environmental Significance Opinion

(1) On 23 October 2018, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, pursuant to section 138AB (4) of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* (the **Act**), gave the applicant an environmental significance opinion in relation to construction, on block 363, Paddys River, of a relocation and associated works of the Glendale Depot storage shed to Namadgi Visitor Information Centre.

(2) In this section:

environmental significance opinion means the opinion in the schedule.

Note Under section 138AD (6) of the Act, the environmental significance opinion and this notice expire 18 months after the day the notice is notified.

Ben Ponton
Chief Planning Executive
7 November 2018

Schedule

See Section 2(2)

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OPINION

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

APPLICANT

Parks and Conservation Service, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, as represented by Craig Wainwright, Ranger in Charge, Namadgi.

APPLICATION and DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The applicant has applied under section 138AA of the Act to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna for an environmental significance opinion to the effect that the development proposal set out in the submission is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact (the application).

The development proposal is for the relocation of a shed from the depot at Glendale within Namadgi National Park to the depot at the Namadgi National Park Visitor Information Centre as described in the submission.

LOCATION

Block 363 District of Paddys River - Namadgi National Park Visitor Information Centre.

MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES

This opinion applies only the development proposal as described in the application.

OPINION

Provided the works are undertaken in the manner consistent with the submitted documentation, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.



Ian Walker
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

23 October 2018

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 Schedule 4, being:

Part 4.3, item 1(a) development that may impact on a species or ecological community that is endangered, a species that is vulnerable; protected; or has special protection status;

One community listed as endangered will be impacted by the proposed works:

- Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland (Box-Gum Woodland), listed as critically endangered pursuant to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and endangered pursuant to the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act); and

Species listed under the provisions of the NC Act (but not listed nationally) found in the vicinity of the works are:

- Several NC Act listed woodland birds including Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*), Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata cucullata*), Varied Sitella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), and White-winged Triller (*Lalage sueurii*).

Part 4.3, 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.

The Namadgi National Park Visitor Information Centre is within an area of special purpose reserve.

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 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, known values of the site, and provided the works and ongoing management are carried out in accordance with the conditions attached to this ESO.

Project description

The relocation of a storage shed from the decommissioned Glendale Depot within Namadgi National Park, to the management depot at the Namadgi National Park Visitor Information Centre. The shed will be erected to the east of the existing visitor's car park. The construction of the shed will increase the storage capacity for machinery, vehicles and machinery of the existing depot.

The shed will be erected on the former helicopter landing area at the Visitor's Centre and will only require minor levelling of the site prior to laying of a concrete slab floor. Two 20,000 litre rainwater tanks will be installed to collect rainwater, and the shed will be visually screened with landscaping. The chosen location is close to mains power and the existing depot driveway and therefore only minor disturbance is required to construct the shed and connect to services.

Documentation Submitted

- Relocation of Glendale Depot Storage Shed to Namadgi Visitor Information Centre Depot (August 2018)
- Form 1M.

Natural conservation values present

The special purpose reserve at Namadgi Visitor's Centre generally meets the Commonwealth definition of White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland and is mapped as community U19 Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Woodland within the recent ACT vegetation mapping. The woodland around the Visitors Centre is of high connectivity value being a key link between Namadgi National Park, and the Murrumbidgee River and then onto Rob Roy Range. Several bird species listed as threatened in the ACT are reasonably regularly recorded in the woodland patch including White-winged Triller, Varied Sitella, Scarlet Robin, and Hooded Robin.

In comparison to Box Gum woodland across the ACT the woodland has moderate diversity and condition, and no threatened or rare species were observed on a site visit by a Government ecologist, and none have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the works.

The shed is to be installed adjacent to the existing Visitors Centre and depot in an area previously disturbed for the installation of the helipad.

Impact on the Reserve

Impacts on the natural values of the area will be minimal. Minor excavation work will be carried out by Parks and Conservation Service staff to level the site for the laying of the slab.

The shed will be visually screened by the establishment of a garden bed approximately 47m long running parallel to the existing access road to the depot. Over time, this will effectively screen the shed from the visitor's car park.

Machinery and materials required for the construction will be stored in existing sheds/hard surface areas at the depot located at the Visitors Centre. Vehicles and machinery required for the works will access the site on the existing access road, and no construction activity will be undertaken when the ground is wet.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

The site has been well chosen to avoid any more than minor clearance of previously disturbed vegetation. The total disturbance footprint is low.

The potential for significant environmental impacts is low provided all works are in accordance with the General Site Controls as provided in the documentation.

It has been determined that if the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the documentation submitted, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.