

Planning and Development (Environmental Significance Opinion – Block 511, Stromlo – Stromlo Forest Park Carpark Upgrades) Notice 2023

Notifiable instrument NI2023–230

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 511, Stromlo – Stromlo Forest Carpark Upgrades) Notice 2023*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Environmental significance opinion

(1) On 17 April 2023, 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 511 of Stromlo, for the provision of upgrades and extension to the existing unsealed carparks at Stromlo Forest Park to include a village green, sealed surfaces and improved drainage.

(2) In this section:

environmental significance opinion means the opinion in the schedule.

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

Craig Weller
Delegate of the planning and land authority
27 April 2023

Schedule

See section 3(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

WSP Australia Pty Ltd as represented by Alex Garrett, Senior Environmental Scientist.

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 Stromlo Forest Park Carpark upgrades as described in the submission.

LOCATION

The proposed works are located within Block 511, District of Stromlo – Stromlo Forest Park

MATTERS TO WHICH THIS OPINION APPLIES

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

OPINION

Provided the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

Attached is a Statement of Reasons for the decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Burkevics', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Bren Burkevics
Conservator of Flora and Fauna

17 April 2023

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 3 proposal for development in a reserve;

The area of the proposed works has a Special Purpose Reserve overlay.

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 proposed development will provide upgrades to the existing unsealed carparks at Stromlo Forest Park to include a village green, sealed surfaces and improved drainage. The works will extend the existing carpark by around 7,000m² and include:

- Pavement construction
- Stormwater drainage
- Service relocation
- Landscaping

Documentation Submitted

- Supporting documentation – Stromlo Forest Park
- Form 1M.

Natural conservation values present

Stromlo Forest Park is an area of approximately 1065 ha located around Mt Stromlo. The Park as a whole has been subject to large disturbances since European settlement. The site was being used as pastoral land as part of Yarralumla Station till about 1913, prior to being planted with *Pinus radiata* for forestry purposes. The plantation area was logged at least once and was affected by fire on at least three occasions, being particularly hard hit by the fire storm in January 2003. Following this event, the area was largely cleared for the establishment of the Park and has had extensive tree plantings of native and exotic species

The site is currently used as an unsealed carpark. The groundcover is a patchwork of areas dominated by native grasses and exotic specie. There is a low/moderate diversity of disturbance resistant forbs. The canopy cover is very low consisting of two mature radiata pines, a couple of Acacias and some young planted *Grevillea robusta*.

The site has been heavily disturbed by past land use including forestry, construction of bike jumps and establishing large water mains.

There is no threatened species habitat on site. There is no canopy for woodland birds and the area was once woodland or open forest so grassland species will not be present. Development of different types surrounds the area making it unlikely that threatened fauna will ever colonise the site.

Impact on the Reserve

The site is highly disturbed and does not contain any significant ecological values. The upgrade and expansion of the carpark is not likely to have a negative impact on the reserve.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

No threatened ecological communities or species listed under the EPBC Act or NC Act have been observed within the proposed area during the Biodiversity Assessment. Furthermore, potential biodiversity values observed within the study area are unlikely to support threatened species. As such the proposal is not expected to have an adverse impact upon threatened ecological communities or species listed under the EPBC Act or NC Act.

Potential impacts on non-threatened species identified from the proposal include the spread of weeds, sedimentation and pollution of aquatic environments, clearing of vegetation, and habitat disturbance and fragmentation. Mitigation measures have been developed to reduce potential impacts upon non-threatened species.

It has been determined that if the works are undertaken in a manner consistent with the mitigation measures contained in the supporting application for an ESO, they are unlikely to cause a significant adverse environmental impact.