



Our Ref: DOC19/997718
Your Ref: Draft Master Plan Re-exhibition

Director, Northern Region
Planning and Assessment Group
Locked Bag 9022
Grafton NSW 2460

Attention: Mr Jon Stone

Dear Mr Gray

RE: Re- exhibition of Draft Master Plan – Iron Gates Residential Release – Evans Head

Thank you for your letter dated 5 November 2019 about the re-exhibition of the Draft Master Plan for the Iron Gates development at Evans Head, seeking comments from the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Environment, Energy and Science Group in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

The BCD was formerly part of the Office of Environment and Heritage, but now forms part of a Group that has responsibilities relating to biodiversity (including threatened species and ecological communities, or their habitats), Aboriginal cultural heritage, National Parks and Wildlife Service estate, climate change, sustainability, flooding, coastal and estuary matters.

We have reviewed the Draft Master Plan and its appendices, which include our correspondence that identifies a suitable biodiversity offset for the proposed development. As such, we have no issues to raise about the Draft Master Plan for the proposed development.

However, we note that there is no single document which compiles all the environmental management and biodiversity offsets proposed in a clear summary. For example, our agreement to the biodiversity offsets for the Iron Gates development is located at Attachment 7 of the Terrestrial Flora and Fauna Assessment which is Appendix 5 of the SEE, whilst our agreement to the biodiversity offsets for the road reserve leading into the Iron Gates development is located at Appendix 7 of the Amended Ecological Assessment which is Appendix 6 of the SEE.

Following the exhibition period, we would be happy to assist in reviewing any conditions or approval documents to ensure the intent of our discussions and correspondence with the council and the proponent is appropriately articulated.

Please be advised that we have received a request from the Richmond Valley Council for General Terms of Approval for Aboriginal cultural heritage and will be providing our response to this under separate cover, once we have received the public submission from the council.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact me at dimitri.young@environment.nsw.gov.au or 6659 8272.

Yours sincerely

Dimitri Young 20 November 2019

DIMITRI YOUNG

**Senior Team Leader Planning, North East Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation**