

ATTACHMENT 6

Inconsistencies between Council Report and Pottsville Pre-school Extensions Development Application Ecological Assessment (prepared by Threatened Species Conservation Society Inc)

The Council report for Agenda Item 11 of the 15 September 2016 Council meeting makes verifiable false claims of the environmental values of the Lot 3 site, which are inconsistent with the findings of the recently conducted Landmark Ecological Assessment for the Pottsville Community Pre-school extension development application on the Lot 3 site.

The Council report states: *'The proposed alternative location on Lot 3 DP1062338 Centennial Drive at Pottsville does not offer any ecological advantage'*.

The EA provides evidence and conclusions that completely contradict this statement.

The Council report states: *'The exact suite of threatened species that were a consideration at Black Rocks occurs at Centennial Drive'*.

The Black Rocks sports field site supports Koalas, Bush Stone-curlews and Ospreys.

However, the EA states: *'Three species were considered likely to occur on the subject site, ie Bush Stone-curlew, Grey-headed Flying Fox and Eastern Blossom-bat... but there is no certainty as to the presence or absence of these species...The proposal will have small to negligible adverse impacts on the threatened species and their habitats.'*

There are no primary koala food trees on this site. The EA states that there are no signs evident of koalas on the site.

The EA further states: *'As Potential Koala Habitat has not been identified at the site, a determination of Core Koala Habitat is not required.... A Plan of Management for Koalas is not required based on this assessment. ...Endangered Ecological Communities are not present at the site.'*

Conversely, at the Black Rocks sports field an industrial-like men's shed facility has been approved only 20 metres from primary koala habitat where koalas have previously been evidenced and adjacent to a significant koala activity site identified in the 2011 and 2015 Koala Studies. It is surrounded by core koala habitat and endangered ecological communities, and is governed by an Individual Koala Plan of Management.

An Osprey nest is located 430 metres from the Lot 3 site, and the Landmark EA states that Ospreys may fly over the Lot 3 site. However, the Black Rocks sports field site is home to the only naturally-occurring Osprey nest on the Tweed coast. The Office of Environment and Heritage has recommended strict regulations on P&DMS construction and activities at Black Rocks during Osprey breeding season.

On 12 September 2016 koala expert Dr Steve Phillips stated: *'I have read the Landmark Report... I find it difficult to accept the conclusion of "No ecological advantage" when the Blacks Rock site is a known connectivity hub that is currently supporting a resident koala population, while the Pre-school site is not located in a connectivity hub ... and does not appear to be currently supporting a resident population.'*



The map in Attachment 7 shows the proposed location for a men's shed on the Lot 3 site, which would require no clearing of mapped koala habitat.