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**DA 2016/598 Lot 94 DP 755745, 58 Main Street,  
 Alstonville**

**ballina shire council**  
 geographical information system

Project No: DA164 / MGA 2016 95  
 Date: 16/01/2017

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Trina McClure  
Public Works Advisory  
North Coast Region  
120 Dalley Street  
Lismore, NSW, 2480

8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016  
AWC Reference: 1-16784

Dear Trina,  
**RE: Tree Assessment, Alstonville Public School**

Water | Ecology | Management

As requested AWC have completed an assessment on a tree proposed to be removed at Alstonville Public School (58 Main St, Alstonville) in accordance with Ballina Shire Council Development Control Plan (DCP) 2012 – Chapter 2a, Vegetation Management. Assessment under this DCP is required as the subject land is zoned R2 – Low Density Residential (Urban Zone) and the tree has a height of 6 metres or greater.

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#### The Site

The site is located at Alstonville Public School, within the township of Alstonville (Figure 1). The property is owned by the Department of Education.

#### Purpose of Tree Removal

The proposed works is for the removal of one tree (Durobby) from within the grounds of Alstonville Public School. The tree requires removal as protruding roots pose a risk to infrastructure including the driveway, kerb and gutter. Additionally, the tree's location restricts closure of the school gates.

#### The Subject Tree

The subject tree is a Durobby (*Syzygium macleodii*), estimated to be approximately 20 years old. The species is listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act and EPBC Act. This species is not listed as a koala feed tree under SEPP 44. The tree appears to be in good condition with no obvious dead or weak limbs. The DBH of the tree is 90cm with an approximate height of ~15m. The tree does not form part of any

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existing vegetation or wildlife corridors and its removal will not impact on any local fauna. While the tree is listed as threatened, it is not considered to provide important habitat for any fauna and is not part of a wildlife corridor. Refer to Table 1 for further details.

Table 1. Tree Profile

Property address	Alstonville Public School (58 Main St, Alstonville)
Number of trees to be removed	1
Species	Durobby ( <i>Syzygium moorei</i> )
Height	~15m
DBH	90cm
Tree Condition	Good condition.
Distance between tree and Dwelling	The tree is not within close proximity of a dwelling/building; however, it is within 2m of road, roots protruding through soil, posing risk to kerb, gutter and driveway.
Does tree present a risk to infrastructure?	Yes, the tree is in close proximity to the driveway & kerb. Roots are beginning to immerge and pose a risk to kerb, gutter and driveway. Furthermore, the tree is restricting closure of the school grounds gate.
Does tree present risk to life?	No, the tree does not directly present a risk to life, however if the tree is retained, indirect impacts from roots may pose a risk (trip hazard).
Is the tree within a catchment which provides water for urban purposes?	No
Is the tree part of a wildlife corridor or provide linkage to other bushland?	No. The tree is isolated and sitting within landscaped roadside trees. The tree does not have any hollows.
Protecting bushland scenic values and unique visual characteristics of the landscape?	The tree is consistent with the general character of Alstonville which has streets containing landscaped trees. It is recommended that the loss of the tree is compensated for via offset plantings.

#### Offsetting

It is recommended that the loss of the tree is compensated for via offset plantings at a ratio of 5:1. This suggestion has been made based upon the following short from the Ballina Shire DCP (2012). If offsets are not able to be conducted on site, offsite offsets at a higher ratio may be adapted instead.

*"Although Council applies a typical compensatory planting ratio of 3:1, there may be circumstances where a higher rate of compensatory planting is required. Such planting requirements will have specific regard for the particular flora species and ecological communities involved as well as their distribution, local significance and status under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Ballina Shire DCP)."*

**7-Part Test**

A 7-part test of significance has been conducted for the Durobby. See below.

- a) in the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction*

Table 2. Durobby

Durobby	Vulnerable - TSC Act 1995
Habitat description/ life cycle components	Found in subtropical and riverine rainforest at low altitude. Often occurs as isolated remnant paddock trees.
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing and fragmentation of habitat.</li> <li>• Weed infestation of rainforest habitats.</li> <li>• Grazing and trampling of seedlings and saplings by domestic stock, particularly around remnant paddock trees.</li> <li>• Illegal collection for horticulture.</li> <li>• Risk of local extinction due to small population sizes.</li> </ul>
Likelihood of local extinction	<p>The Durobby located at the site is planted and located in a roadside position which is isolated from native regrowth or remnant vegetation. This tree is isolated, and conditions are not viable for maintaining a local population beyond the individual tree.</p> <p>There is another record of this species on the outskirts of town along Pearce's Creek Road (Figure 2). As such the proposed removal of the subject tree will not result in the removal of the species from the local area. Eight other records are also scattered throughout the LGA.</p> <p>As such, there is no likelihood of the proposal contributing towards the local extinction of the species within the locality.</p>

- b) In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction*

The subject tree is not part of any endangered population and as such this section is not applicable.

- c) in the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed:*
  - i. is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction, or*
  - ii. is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological*

*community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.*

The subject tree is not part of any endangered ecological communities and as such this section is not applicable.

*d) in relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community:*

*i. the extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed, and*

The proposed tree removal would be restricted to the removal of one threatened tree, however no further habitat of significant importance to the subject species will be affected. The current location of the tree is not within native vegetation and is not considered significant habitat for the threatened species. Furthermore, a single tree of this species in an urban location is not considered viable to maintain a local population long term.

*ii. whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action, and*

The proposed works would result in the removal of one tree (*Syzygium moorei*). This will not fragment or isolate any habitat of value to the subject species or any other threatened species.

*iii. the importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long-term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality,*

There is one tree (*Syzygium moorei*) to be removed. This tree is a planted roadside tree and does not contain core habitat for any threatened species. The tree to be removed is a threatened species, however the in-situ location is not considered good quality habitat for this species, and it is not considered viable to maintain a local population long term.

*e) whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly),*

The site is not listed as critical habitat listed under the TSC Act 1995.

*f) whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan,*

No approved recovery plans have been prepared for the identified species.

There are no approved TAPs that have relevance to the subject species with regard to the proposed action.

*g) whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.*

The current list of Key Threatening Processes (KTPs) are listed at Table 3 and discussed below. The proposal tree removal does not constitute part of a key threatening process as it does not fall within a stand of native vegetation.

Table 3. Key Threatening Processes

Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 Schedule 3 – Key Threatening Processes	Applicable to proposal
Aggressive exclusion of birds from woodland and forest habitat by abundant Noisy Miners	No
Alteration of habitat following subsidence due to longwall mining	No
Alteration to the natural flow regimes of rivers, streams, floodplains & wetlands.	No
Bushrock Removal	No
Clearing of native vegetation	No
Competition and grazing by the feral European rabbit	No
Competition and habitat degradation by Feral Goats	No
Competition from feral honeybees	No
Death or injury to marine species following capture in shark control programs on ocean beaches	No
Ecological consequences of high frequency fires	No
Entanglement in, or ingestion of anthropogenic debris in marine and estuarine environments	No
Forest eucalypt dieback associated with over-abundant psyllids and Bark Miners	No
Herbivory and environmental degradation caused by feral deer	No
Human-caused Climate Change	No
Importation of nest imported fire ants into NSW	No
Infection by Psittacine circoviral (beak and feather) disease affecting endangered psittacine species	No
Infection of frogs by amphibian chytrid causing the disease chytridiomycosis	No
Infection of native plants by <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>	No
Introduction and establishment of Exotic Rust Fungi of the order Pucciniales pathogenic on plants of the family Myrtaceae	No
Introduction of the large earth bumblebee	No
Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers	No
Invasion and establishment of Scotch Broom	No
Invasion and establishment of the Cane Toad	No
Invasion of native plant communities by African Olive	No
Invasion of native plant communities by bitou bush & boneseed	No
Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses	No
Invasion of the yellow crazy ant into NSW	No
Invasion, establishment and spread of Lantana	No
Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants	No
Loss and/or degradation of sites used for hill-topping by butterflies	No
Loss of hollow-bearing trees	No
Predation and hybridisation by Feral Dogs	No
Predation by feral cats	No
Predation by the European Red Fox	No
Predation by the Plague Minnow	No
Predation by the Ship Rat on Lord Howe Island	No
Predation, habitat degradation, competition and disease transmission by Feral Pigs	No
Removal of dead wood and dead trees	No

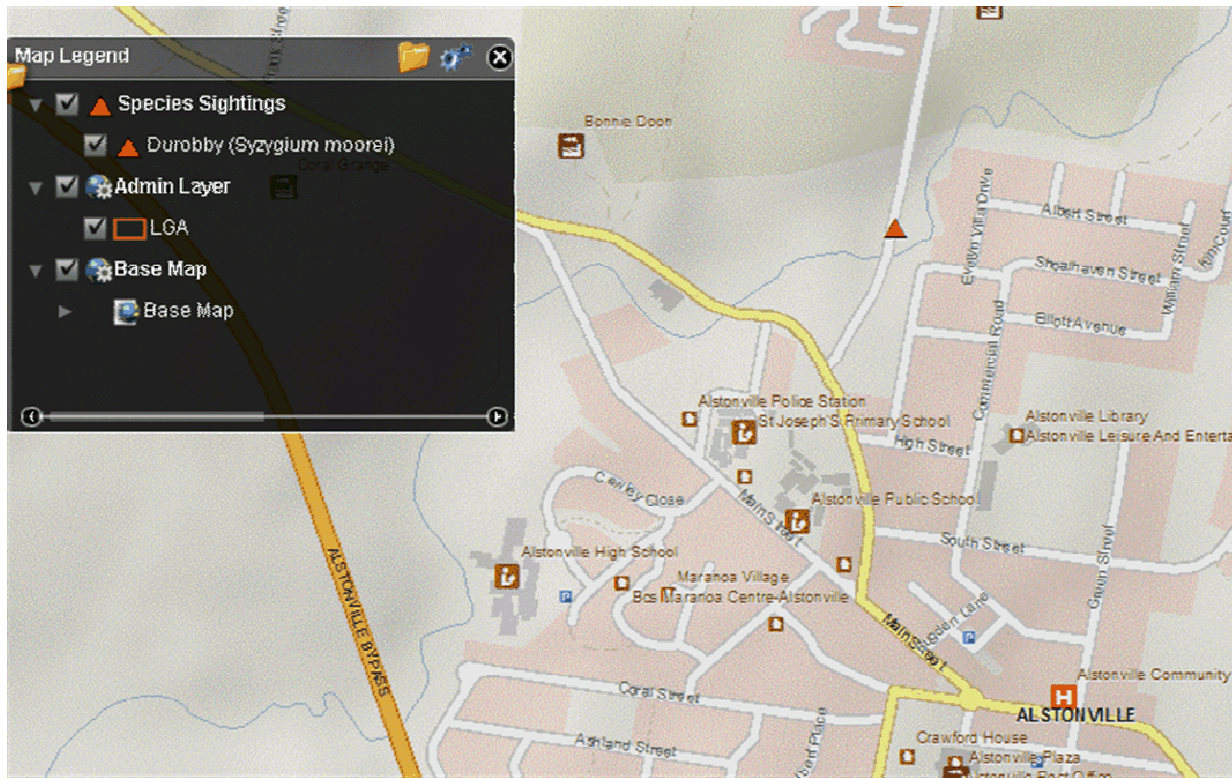
**Conclusion:** The proposed works will result in the removal of one threatened tree. However no further vegetation and no habitat is proposed to be removed. The tree is isolated, and conditions are not viable for maintaining a local population beyond the individual tree. The proposed works would not result in any significant impact on the subject threatened flora species; nor EEC and therefore a Species Impact Statement (SIS) is not required.

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Figure 1. Location of tree to be removed



Figure 2. Location of other Durobby record in locality





**Conclusion and Recommendation**

The subject tree, a mature Durobby (*Syzygium moorei*) is in apparent good condition, however it poses a risk to infrastructure including road, kerb and closure of school gates. The tree does not form part of a wildlife corridor, nor sit within a sensitive catchment, it does however contribute to the visual amenity of the locality and is listed as Vulnerable under the TSC Act & EPBC Act. It is recommended that the tree could be removed for safety reasons and compensated for via offset plantings (onsite or offsite).

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Reid

Ecologist





