

14th January 2022

ID Ross Watt Road Pty Ltd
Level 12, 484 St Kilda Road
Melbourne, VIC 3004

Attention: Alex While

By email – awhile@idland.com.au

Dear Alex,

**RE: 89 ROSS WATT ROAD, GISBORNE
RESPONSE TO COUNCIL RFI – TARGETED SURVEYS
PROJECT NUMBER 21137.2**

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council requested the following additional information regarding ecological surveys as initial feedback on the development application for this site:

Targeted Flora & Fauna Surveys as part of the Flora and Fauna Assessment

Surveys for species that have the potential to occur in the study area are required onsite. This includes surveys for:

- *Matted Flax-Lily* (EPBC Act: Endangered; FFG Act: Listed);
- *Swamp Everlasting* (EPBC Act: Vulnerable; FFG Act: Listed);
- *Growling Grass Frog* (EPBC Act: Endangered; and FFG Act: listed);
- *Golden Sun Moth* (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered; and FFG Act: listed);
- *Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly* (EPBC Act: Vulnerable; FFG Act: listed)
- *Striped Legless Lizard* (EPBC Act: Endangered; and FFG Act listed).

Please find our responses below:

Matted Flax-Lily and Swam Everlasting

Targeted surveys have been undertaken within suitable habitat on 3rd December 2021 by a qualified botanist and no individuals of these species or other threatened flora species were observed.

Striped Legless Lizard

Tile grids were laid out in early August 2021 and six surveys undertaken between mid September and early December 2021 in accordance with the survey guidelines. No Striped Legless Lizard were found on the site and the habitat was considered very degraded.

Golden Sun Moth

Targeted surveys for Golden Sun Moth (GSM) were undertaken within suitable habitat on 17, 21 and 30 December 2021 and 21 January during suitable weather conditions, when GSM were flying at reference sites. No Golden Sun Moths were observed at the site.

Detailed survey reports regarding these targeted surveys are currently being prepared.

Growling Grass Frog

This species could occur within the adjacent Jacksons Creek and was initially thought to potentially move into the study area to use the farm dams or small wetland remnant. However, after having visited the site multiple times for Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth surveys, our zoologists concluded that the dams and wetlands on site are too degraded to support this species. There are also no records in the creek nearby from within the last 70 years. The closest record within Jacksons Creek is south of Sunbury, from 2020, which is over 40km away as the creek meanders. There is a large increase in elevation towards the site and no emergent vegetation within the dams or along their edges, so the habitat on site was considered unsuitable for Growling Grass Frog by our zoologists.

The more than 100m wide buffer from the creekline is sufficient to protect any Growling Grass Frog potentially occurring within Jackson Creek.

Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly

According to NatureKit, there are no records at the site for Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly. The closest record is at the southern end of Gisborne, more than 2km from site in 1915. These butterflies are very specific about their host trees (Acacia). Suitable host trees may be present in the creekline of Jacksons Creek, but these areas will not be impacted by the proposed development.

Further surveys for the Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly and Growling Grass Frog are not considered necessary as not significant impacts are expected to these species from the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Inga Kulik

**Senior Ecologist & Project Manager
Nature Advisory Pty Ltd**

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