

Executive Summary

Biosis Research Pty. Ltd. was commissioned by PPK Environment and Infrastructure to prepare a Species Impact Statement (SIS) for the preferred route for the proposed upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Mailmans Track and Lyons Road, at Bonville (south of Coffs Harbour) on the North Coast of NSW. Biosis Research (1997a) concluded that there was likely to be a significant effect on threatened species likely to occur along the proposed route.

The SIS has been prepared in accordance with the Threatened Species Conservation (TSC) Act 1995 and the Requirements of the Director-General (D-G) of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The proposal comprises the construction of a restricted dual access carriageway along the proposed route. This includes interchanges at Mailman's Track, Archville Station Road and Lyons Road. A truck stop is proposed to the south of the Sid Bourke Rest Area. An additional Rest Area is under consideration adjacent to the Mailman's Track interchange (to be confirmed by RTA). The proposal incorporates crossing points and fencing to minimize the risk of road kills for ground dwelling fauna and Koalas.

A literature review and field investigation of the proposal was undertaken. Consultation with experts was conducted in respect to issues that arose throughout the SIS process.

A total of 232 vascular plant species (218 native) were recorded from the site. Overall, the native vegetation in the study area comprises a high diversity of species. Weed invasion was greatest around the edges of remnants. Rusty Plum (*Amorpha sp.*) was the only threatened flora species identified in the study area. The species is located in the Tall Open Forest in Pine Creek State Forest adjacent to the existing Truck Stop (Biosis Research 1997a).

Seven broad native vegetation communities occur within the study area:

- Tall Open Forest (Dry/Moist Blackbutt);
- Tall Open Forest (Flooded Gum dominant);
- Tall Open Forest (Tallowwood);
- Tall Open Forest (Plantation);
- Swamp Forest;
- Riparian vegetation (Dry Blackbutt);
- Sedgeland/Rushland.

A total of four amphibian species, four reptile species, 54 native bird species and 18 mammal species (17 native, with one additional *Melomys* species only identified to genus) were recorded during the present study. The study site did not appear to be utilised by a high diversity or large numbers of introduced bird and mammal species.

Seven fauna habitat types were identified within the study area which broadly correspond to the vegetation communities described above.

Four fauna species of conservation significance were recorded. These species were the Osprey, Koala, Little Bent-wing Bat and Giant Barred Frog. In particular, the Koala population at Pine Creek State Forest is considered to be of regional to state significance.

The impacts of the proposal on threatened species of fauna and flora are considered to be relatively small as the proposal addresses most of the concerns regarding fauna movement, potential road fatalities and fragmentation effects.