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08/03/2022

To: Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

RE: R8129 Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) Runway Upgrade Project (Project)

Memo – Clearing Referral for Site Investigation Works

PURPOSE

The purpose of this correspondence is to:

a. Provide the Department with the necessary information to assess the clearing referral application.

b. Detail the management measures Fulton Hogan Ltd will implement for the works.

BACKGROUND

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) Runway Upgrade Project includes engineering design and construction for the strengthening and widening of existing airfield pavements, flank works (as required), upgrade / replacement of Airfield Ground Lighting and a runway extension.

To facilitate construction works, a temporary accommodation facility to support the Projects workforce requires construction. In consultation with DITRDC and local government authority, SoCKI, Lot 3003 was determined to be the most suitable. Lot 3003 is shown in Figure 1 in relation to all Project work areas.

The vegetation in Lot 3003 consists mostly of Cabbage Bush and Coconut Palms, however a thorough site investigation has not been undertaken due to access restrictions. Investigative works will allow for a thorough flora and fauna survey of the area. Ecological surveys of the surrounding areas have described the vegetation communities as highly modified with weed incursions and dominated by Coconut Palms (Cocos nucifera) from historic plantations.

Figure 1: Locations to be utilised to facilitate and construct the Project

To carry out the planned geotechnical investigations and flora and fauna surveys of the area approximately 20% of the area will need to be cleared. The site area is approximately 1 hectare (Ha).

SCOPE OF WORKS – SITE INVESTIGATIONS

Site investigations at Lot 3003 are scheduled to include:

- Geotechnical investigations, including test pits to ~2m depth, with groundwater level/infiltration observations and depth to rock probe investigations to the extent adequate to provide representative input for the design and construction of an accommodation camp. Approximate test pit locations are depicted in Figure 2.
- Flora and Fauna Survey to identify native vegetation that may be required to be cleared. The survey will ascertain the required information to include with a Clearing Permit application to the Department if works in the location proceed.
- Contaminated Land investigation is planned to be undertaken for general contamination, including asbestos, PFAS, BTEXN / TPH / TRH, OC / OP Pesticides, PCBs, Metals and Nutrients. The investigation may include identification of waste stockpiles, or examination for fibrous asbestos.
- As no geospatial surveys have been undertaken on Lot 3003, a licenced surveyor will be undertaking a site was assessment consisting of a perimeter survey (no clearing required) and surveys at the test pit locations.

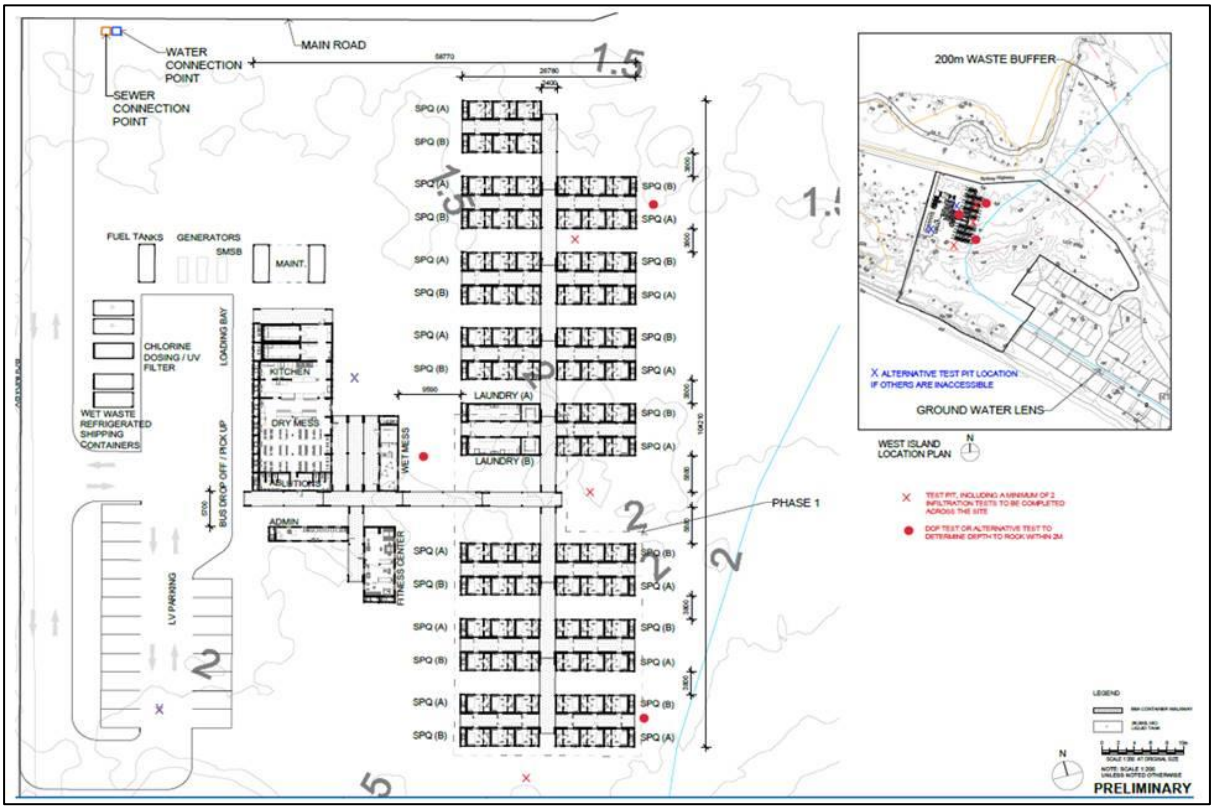

Figure 2: Indicative test pit locations within the accommodation camp footprint.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

It is estimated that no more than **0.2Ha** of vegetation will be cleared. The clearing works will be managed by a Fulton Hogan Ltd representative who will work closely with local stakeholders with appropriate knowledge of plant identification to ensure no high value or protected vegetation is cleared prior to a submission for a clearing permit.

An Environmental Clearance Certificate has been sought from the Department of Defence, which details the risk assessment, mitigation measures and WaterCorp clearance to work.

Please find attached flora and fauna survey pertinent to the surrounding areas. An aerial image of the area is provided as an attachment to this referral application.

Should the department require any additional information in support of this clearing referral application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Lieshout
IMC Project Manager