

To: Campbelltown Council
7th April 2023,

Dear Councilors,

RE: Object to Item : [8.3 Biodiversity Certification Application - Mt Gilead Stage 2](#) on the [11th April 2023 - Council Meeting - Agenda](#), and Council Administrations recommendation to Councillors for Council to act as an applicant for Lendlease's Biodiversity Certification.

Council Administration is recommending that Councilors approve Campbelltown City Council as the applicant (a legal requirement) for Lendlease's Biocertification (a land clearing approval) for Koala corridors and habitat on Gilead Stage 2. We object for details outlined in TECs letter dated February the 14th 2023. Since then we have had two major statements come to light about the inadequacy of Lendlease's Biodiversity Certification - Australian Ethicals divestment from Lendlease over this application, and the disclosure that NSW Planning's own department declared Lendlease's application inadequate.

The Campbelltown Koala Colony is the only Koala colony in NSW that is increasing in numbers and Chlamydia free. The Gilead development removes habitat and cuts corridors necessary to connect the primary Koala corridors of the Nepean River to the Georges River. Protection of this vital Koala corridor for a vital Koala colony is essential if Koalas are to survive in NSW. (And obviously should not be left to a Council to decide whose scope is about roads and services.)

The NSW [Chief Scientist's reports](#), sets out the colony's importance and what is required to be done, if you had to build across these Koala corridors (which we don't). Council Administration relies wholly on Lendlease's own consultant *Ecological Australia and their [report](#)* - to tell us they meet the Chief Scientist Recommendations. Ecological, not surprisingly, have dismissed the concerns of almost 680 submissions that have opposed Lendlease's Biocertification application. But [Australian Ethical](#) have also divested from Lendlease over the Gilead development and Lendlease's opacity regarding corridor widths and their protection. Even NSW Planning and Environment's Biodiversity and Conservation division considers *the proposal is inconsistent with advice and recommendations contained in the Office of Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) Advice on the protection of the Campbelltown Koalas and the follow up reports (OCSE Koala reports) and TAP (19 Dec 2022).*

Lendlease followed a similar process to get Stage 1 approved, Council ignored the very specific requirements for corridors set out in their own Campbelltown Koala Plan of Management, Lendlease is trying to do this again. That ended up seeing Save Sydney Koalas take Council to court to rectify it.

Campbelltown is attracting attention from around the world for its Koalas, if Campbelltown was to protect them, their habitat and corridors a growing economic driver would open up as it has to other endangered animals in the wild around the world like the Panda and Orangutans. Or Campbelltown could become another satellite suburbia people drive past.

Yours sincerely - *Saul Deane*

Total Environment Centre.

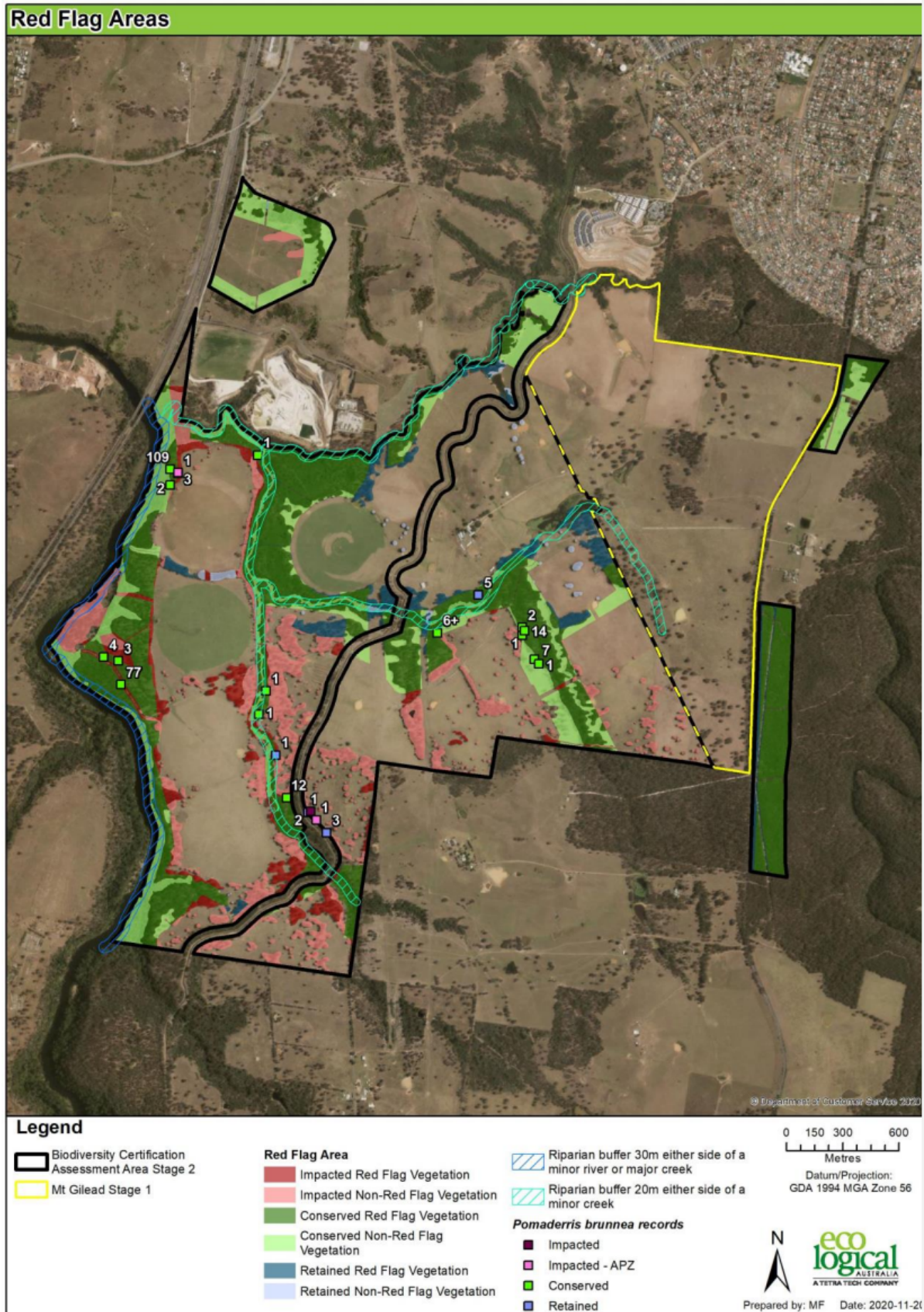


Figure 28: Impacted, conserved and retained red flag vegetation, species and areas of regional or state biodiversity conservation significance