



Mr Tom Forrest
CEO Urban Taskforce Australia
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Via email: Tom@urbantaskforce.com.au

Dear Mr Forrest *Tom*

Thank you for your correspondence to the Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, regarding *State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019* (Koala SEPP). The Minister asked me to respond on his behalf.

Thank you for bringing your concerns about the mapping under the Koala SEPP to my attention. I am pleased to inform you the Koala SEPP has recently been amended, with improvements which address your concerns. The Koala Development Application Map has been removed from the Koala SEPP and replaced with a requirement for on ground surveys for development applications, responding to feedback letting us know this was the preferred approach.

In addition, the Site Investigation Area for Koala Plans of Management Map has also been updated to reflect improved mapping data and will continue to be updated in the future as new data becomes available. The map represents the best science currently available and uses predictive models that help to narrow the application of the SEPP by *excluding* areas unlikely to contain koala habitat. The Site Investigation Area Map is only relevant to councils preparing Koala Plans of Management and will be made available to the community on request or if a council decides to develop a plan.

Regarding your specific questions, we have maintained the application of the Koala SEPP to those LGAs covered by the old SEPP44. The Aerotropolis precinct spans across Liverpool and Penrith Local Government Areas (LGAs). Penrith LGA is not covered by the Koala SEPP which explains why parts of the precinct are not captured. Similarly, the Growth Centres span across seven LGAs including Blacktown, Camden and The Hills (which are not covered by the Koala SEPP) and Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, The Hills Shire and Wollondilly.

I would also like to advise you that the Koala SEPP does not apply to any land which has a biodiversity certification under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

If you have any further queries or concerns, please contact Danijela Karac, Director Environment Policy at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 9274 6207.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Ray
Group Deputy Secretary
Planning and Assessment

21/10/2020