Flying Fox Fauna Management
Pre-clearance report

Flying Fox Fauna Management was engaged by the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association to provide fauna spotter catcher services to their tree clearance project at 9 Dunkirk Close in Arundel on July 7th 2016

All fauna management activities were performed under the authority of rehabilitation permit WIRP15340214 issued to Flying Fox Fauna Management by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

Methodologies

Preclearance Inspection

On the 7th of July 2016 ecologist Elliot Wigram conducted a thorough preclearance inspection within the disturbance footprint of the Dunkirk Close project. This inspection was considerate of a number of abiotic and biotic factors including; ecosystem type, time of day, time of year, temperature, vegetation type, age and density of vegetation, connectivity and the physical location of the site.

Survey methodologies include

- Terrestrial
    - Targeted searches for indications of occupancy of rocks and rock piles, hollow logs, bark exfoliations, scattered timber and timber piles, burrows, soil cracks and termite mounds, ground nests, dense shrubs, leaf litter and grasses.
        - Occupancy indicators may include: wildlife presence, scats, tracks, slide marks, food scraps or diggings.
    - Identification of high value habitat

- Arboreal
    - The assessment of the habitat value of all trees due for clearance involving a visual search from at least three separate aspects. Assessment began at the base of the trunk and followed each branch from trunk to tip paying particular attention to all forks.
    - Visual searches for indications of occupancy of nests, hollows, exfoliating bark, fissures, dreys and arboreal termitaria.
        - Occupancy indicators may include: wildlife presence, detritus (scats/scraps/hair) in the drip zone, markings or scratches to trunk, chew marks and/or smooth entries to hollows, incisions in trunk and adult presence at nests.
    - Identification of koala food trees.
    - Identification of high value microhabitat.

Conclusions

Site Description

The site shows some floristic variability and is dominated by dense dry sclerophyll forest. The dominant tree species include pink bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*) and blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularus*) with the sub-canopy consisting mainly of black wattle (*Acacia leocalyx*) and black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*).

Terrestrial

A thorough assessment of the habitat value of all terrestrial habitat features due for clearance found

- Rocks and rock piles
- Woodpiles x 6
- Abundant ground timber and dense leaf litter
- Small amount of exfoliating bark
- Small number of burrow systems
- Large logs and weathered stumps x 8

Our findings indicate the likelihood of the presence of protected species in association with terrestrial habitat features due for clearance is moderate to high.

Arboreal

A thorough assessment of the habitat value of all standing vegetation due for clearance found

- Abundant birdlife present – Including; laughing kookaburra, pied butcherbird, woodswallow sp, rainbow lorikeet, torresian crow, noisy miner, crested pigeon
- Hollow bearing trees x 6
- Arboreal termite nest x 1
- Crows nest (appears inactive) x 1
- Abundant known koala habitat tree species over 10 dbh
- Moderate connectivity between high value habitat
- Some minor older scratching to trunks
- No incisions, food scraps, hair or any other indication of recent use

Our findings indicate the habitat value of the standing vegetation due for clearance to protected species directly impacted by clearing activities is moderate with some noted exceptions offering high value

EVNT

Due to the presence of known Koala habitat trees and the close proximity to known Koala Conservation areas the presence of koala is possible.

Although black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) is present, a glossy-black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) food tree, it is not fruiting so although possible over site glossy-blacks are unlikely to land and thus unlikely to be directly impacted by clearing activities.

The disturbance area offers some suitable habitat for the wallam froglet (*Crinia tinnula*) and the tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*) although it is at the low end of suitability. However, more suitable habitat occurs in relatively close proximity to the site so these animals are possible.

Photos

The below photos show examples of the habitat features of the site.