

## Tuesday 4 February 2020 Legislative Council hearing - Question on Notice

The Hon Ben Franklin:

Have you got any evidence where;

- *Monitoring for offset plantings has not occurred, and*
- *plantings are in an inappropriate area.*

### Overview:

Condition 29 of the Development Application consent states:

*A Vegetation Management Plan to be submitted to Council for approval for vegetation planting in the area of 7(b) Coastal Habitat Zone in the South East corner of the Lot (deleted information) (approximately 1.3 hectares excluding Crown Road Reserve). The plan to include a diversity of native species endemic to a Coastal Swamp Forest/Woodland to provide a mosaic of midstorey and understorey vegetation and to avoid a mono culture of one species. The Plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified professional and the area to be appropriately fenced to minimise access whilst the area is being rehabilitated.*

In January 2018, a letter was received stating that ‘190 advanced swamp mahogany seedlings had been planted (most between 1.5 -1.8m tall), with the completed compensation plantings shown in yellow’. In July 2018 an excerpt from the Vegetation Management Plan illustrates the same area as being planted (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Offset plantings in yellow undertaken in 2017 (VMP, 2018)

## Results:

The planting of 190 Swamp mahogany (*E. robusta*) appears to be over estimated and also to have failed (Figure 2). In addition, the planting of a single species is in direct contravention of the condition of consent (condition 29) which specifies 'to include a diversity of native species endemic to a Coastal Swamp Forest/Woodland to provide a mosaic of midstorey and understorey vegetation and to avoid a mono culture of one species' specifically in that area.



Figure 2: Nearmap imagery dated 8 September 2019

## Conclusion:

Requests for monitoring reports regarding the compensation plantings have not been forthcoming even though annual reporting is required. In essence, the planting is both inappropriate and of little value as an offset to the impacts of the development on koala habitat and resident koala population.