

Report prepared by David Milledge (MRSc (UNE); Director, Landmark Ecological Services Pty Ltd), *proposed development, 15 Torakina Road, Brunswick Heads, NSW*, dated 24 October 2023

**Date:** Mon, 23 Oct 2023 23:50:22 +1100  
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**To:** [Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au)

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek

Minister for the Environment

By email: [Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au)

23 October 2023

**Re: Request to consider Byron Shire DA No 10.2021.575.1 at 15 Torakina Road, Brunswick Heads as a Controlled Action under the *EPBC Act 1999***

Dear Minister

I am writing to request that you call in for referral the above development application for a 131 lot residential subdivision at 15 Torakina Road, Brunswick Heads.

I have had a long association with the land where the development is proposed and dealt with the constant and cumulative destruction and degradation of threatened species' habitat there by tractor slashing in my capacity as Byron Shire's ecologist between 2005 and 2008. I also made a submission in 2011 to the then NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure in relation to a proposed development concept plan for the land, a copy of which is attached. I further suggested an amendment to the concept plan to retain some of the threatened species' habitat attributes, which is also attached.

My 2011 submission detailed several threatened species as occurring on the land that are currently listed under the *EPBC Act 1999*. I consider that the likely impacts from the present development proposal on all these species constitute significant impacts on Matters of National Significance, but my primary concern is with the

Long-nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus*. I recently co-authored a paper describing the decline and likely extinction of this species in the adjoining Tyagarah Nature Reserve and earlier co-authored another paper demonstrating the importance of the development land in providing a habitat corridor for the Long-nosed Potoroo in the wider Brunswick Heads area. I have attached copies of these papers to a following email due to size.

Now that a very recent wildfire has removed most of the Long-nosed Potoroo habitat from Tyagarah Nature Reserve, any remaining potoroos occurring in adjoining habitat west of Simpson's Creek (western boundary of the Nature Reserve), that includes the development land, will require all such habitat to survive. The potential for the proposed development to have a significant and irreversible impact on the Long-nosed Potoroo in this area clearly represents a significant impact on a Matter of National Significance.

Accordingly, I urge you to call this development proposal in for referral.

Yours sincerely

David Milledge