

From: Elizabeth York
Sent: Friday, 4 October 2024 10:39 AM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Cc: Stuart Ayres; Gavin Melvin
Subject: CM: RE: Inquiry into Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024 – Post-hearing responses – 20 September 2024

Hi Alice,

UDIA NSW thanks the Committee for the opportunity to give evidence at the hearing.

On behalf of Stuart Ayres and Elizabeth York, we offer the following responses to this email:

- any transcript corrections
 - No corrections needed.

- answers to questions on notice directed to you/your organisation
 - I took one question on notice. This is our response.

 - The project referenced is a newly rezoned greenfield site within a growth corridor located in the Hunter. The site was only rezoned after agreement with NSW DCCEEW regarding the amount of avoidance.
 - Bio-certification terms have been drafted by DCCEEW, but not yet signed.
 - There is no bilateral process under standard bio-certification, so the EPBC Application had to wait until the development footprint was established under the terms of the NSW bio-certification (draft) agreement.
 - When the proponent lodged their EPBC Application, the proposed avoidance was consistent with the position of NSW DCCEEW.
 - Now the federal DCCEEW is asking for additional avoidance under EPBC. Any additional avoidance would result in a significant reduction of the urban footprint and substantial delays for the project.
 - This is a current example of a) the uncertainty built into the current standard bio-certification process, and b) one of the many ways under the BC Act in which multiple rounds of avoidance may be required on a single parcel of land.

- any additional information you wish to provide to the committee.
 - N/A. Please reference our submission.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the process. Please contact me with any additional questions for UDIA NSW.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth York

Policy & Regional Manager Hunter and Central Coast
Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW

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