



# Hunter Bird Observers Club

*Affiliated with BirdLife Australia*

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc  
PO Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305  
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ABN 62 415 889 446

21 February 2019

**Re: Objection to Development Application No DA2019/00061**  
**Assessing Officer: WTOOSE**

Manager Regulatory Planning and Assessment  
City of Newcastle  
Newcastle City Council  
PO Box 489  
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Sir

Hunter Bird Observers Club wishes to lodge an objection to the following Development Application:

Application No: DA2019/00061

Land: Lot 1 DP 204077

Property Address: 11-17 Mosbri Crescent the Hill NSW 2300

Zoning: Zone R3 Medium Density Residential

Hunter Bird Observers Club is concerned about the loss of bird habitat caused by the clearing of approximately twelve metres of mature trees on the western boundary of Arcadia Park in inner city Newcastle. Although the park is only about 1 hectare, its small size belies its importance to the Newcastle LGA.

It is the only piece of remnant woodland and littoral rainforest in inner city Newcastle. Newcastle's inner city and inner suburbs lack any significant woodland in an area stretching from a woodland north of Stockton to Glenrock State Conservation Area, approximately 8 kilometres apart. The next patch of woodland to the west is Blackbutt Reserve, another 8 kilometres to the west.

Newcastle City Council has a deserved reputation for greening the city especially with street planting but even so without this pocket of woodland these efforts would be of limited value to birds and other wildlife in the city. This will become even more critical with the inevitable clearing of the Moreton Bay Fig Trees in the inner city. Arcadia Park was established to celebrate the sister city relationship with the city of Arcadia in Canada. We are sure that the citizens of Arcadia would be concerned about the destruction of part of this commemorative park.

Hunter Bird Observers Club is mainly concerned about the loss of habitat for vulnerable bird species and common species that use the park for breeding and feeding. Clearing a twelve metre break on the western side next to the existing cyclone wire fence will take out up to fifty mature native trees including a significant nesting-friendly thicket and a charming feature gully that the landcare group utilises as a watering place for wildlife.

The Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua* which is classified as vulnerable in New South Wales has been observed and photographed in the reserve. The presence of these birds in the inner city is very significant and their habitat should be preserved.

Other species, including Tawny Frogmouths, *Podargus strigoides*, and Grey Butcherbirds, *Cracticus torquatus*, are known to breed regularly in the park.

An interesting omission from this list is the Common Mynah. Research by Newcastle University indicates that the Common Mynah competes aggressively for nesting sites so that the apparent absence of this species in the park makes this site an important breeding site for our native species.

The Bushfire Assessment Report by Bushfire Planning Australia states that *the 9m separation between the proposed buildings and Arcadia Park will minimise the bushfire risk to the future buildings during a bushfire to an acceptable level* and that *Sufficient APZ's are provided within the site in excess of the minimum required (>9m)* (Page 34). For the sake of wildlife in the inner-city Hunter Bird Observers Club appeals to Newcastle City Council to refrain from alienating an important section of Arcadia Park and to apply the normal process of requiring the developer to provide an Asset Protection Zone within their own property.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert Stewart

President, Hunter Bird Observers Club