

**DECISION ON DECLARING BIODIVERSITY CERTIFICATION
APPLICATION AS STRATEGIC
(SECTION 8.5(2) OF THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 2016)**

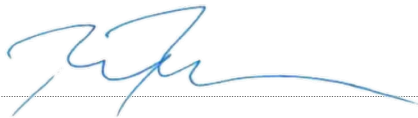
*Strike through the relevant wording (**bold text**) to indicate your decision prior to signing this decision statement.*

I, Brendan Bruce, Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, Conservation and Science], **declare** ~~do not declare~~ the application for biodiversity certification of the Central Coast Strategic Conservation Plan (CCSCP) to be a strategic application under section 8.5(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

In making this decision, I have reviewed the information before me, advice from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and taken into account the following criteria set out in clause 8.3 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017:

- (a) the size of the area of the land
- (b) any regional or district strategic plan under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* that applies to the area in which the land is situated
- (c) advice provided by the Minister for Planning regarding the proposed biodiversity certification
- (d) the economic, social or environmental outcomes that the proposed biodiversity certification could facilitate.

I am of the view that the applicant **is** ~~is not~~ a planning authority as defined in section 8.1 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.



Brendan Bruce
Deputy Secretary
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science

Date 7 August 2024