

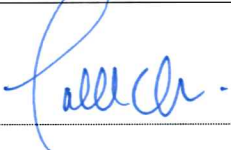
**DECLARATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 8.5(2) OF THE BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION ACT 2016**

*The Minister must strike through the relevant wording (**bold text**) to indicate her decision prior to signing the Declaration.*

Under section 8.5(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, I, Minister for the Environment, ~~**declare/do not declare**~~ the proposed application for biodiversity certification of the Western Sydney Growth Areas to be a strategic application.

In making my declaration, I have reviewed the information before me, advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage and taken into account the criteria established in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017.

I have ~~**found/not found**~~ the proposed application to biodiversity certify the Western Sydney Growth Areas to be strategic in terms of the area of land, the alignment with regional and district planning under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the advice provided by the Minister for Planning and the economic, social and environmental outcomes it could facilitate.

	16-1-19
_____ Gabrielle Upton, Minister for the Environment	_____ Date