


## Susan Thomson

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**From:** Polina Gurash <Polina.Gurash@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 January 2019 10:37 AM  
**To:** Polina Gurash  
**Subject:** 9729 Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan: Submission Details for Martin O'Reilly of Blacktown and District Environment Group (comments)

 [Activity entry](#) made by Polina Gurash for for [9729 Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan](#)

**Time Logged:** 01m **Class:** Question **Priority:** Medium **Visibility:** All

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Martin O'Reilly <blacktowndeg@hotmail.com>  
Date: Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 18:24:03 PM  
Subject: Submission Details for Martin O'Reilly of Blacktown and District Environment Group (comments)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation:

Agreed to false or misleading information statements: yes

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Content:

Blacktown and District Environment Group provides the following comments on what the Terms of Reference should be for the Strategic Impact Assessment Report for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan.

Firstly, it is critical that ground-truthing must be the basis of all decisions to include or exclude areas for conservation. Desktop reviews such as the seriously flawed one done for the Sydney Growth Centres Conservation Plan must not be repeated. Insufficient ground-truthing and community consultation results in examples like the Riverstone Wetlands being sacrificed for development, threatening the endangered and supposedly protected Green and Golden Bell Frog in the process.

Secondly, those areas determined for conservation must be protected in perpetuity from any future development. For example, the former International Radio Transmitting Station, Shanes Park was meant to be completely conserved, and yet now we have a road reservation continuing to threaten the site. Saved means saved!

The Terms of Reference should ensure that consultation take place with the Cumberland Bird Observers Club to ascertain known areas of high and discreet bird activity, including reviewing past studies made by that organisation. Don't use "hired gun" consultancies who conveniently miss critical bird activity.

Another critical element for the Terms of Reference is that it must address how any proposal to use biobanking as an

“offset” mechanism will be done to ensure genuine 'additionality'. Areas already conserved, such as all public reserves, past development offsets, etc, must not be used as an offset. This rubbish has gone on for too long: from now, and offset needs to be a genuine like-for-like offset!

We also want to emphasise the importance of preserving rural dams for preserving biodiversity on the Cumberland Plain. Rural dams are integral to preserving aquatic fauna and vegetation known to have inhabited the Cumberland Plain, and should be preserved wherever possible.

Lastly, we want noted in the Terms of Reference that trees aged 100 years or more should be protected, as this is the age that trees start producing hollows for fauna habitat. Not enough regard is given to preserving these trees and ensuring that other trees make that age. Replanting is easy to say: but it doesn't really help for another 100 years (that's IF they get watered).

In closing, this submission is motivated by our lived experience of the significant failures in the Sydney Growth Centres Conservation Plan and the associated Commonwealth Government Strategic Assessment. It was a disaster, mostly because of a lack of ground-truthing and genuine community consultation, and totally dodgy biobanking. These Terms of Reference for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan must avoid the failures of the past.

We will be closely watching this develop. The Western Sydney Airport will be a nightmare for biodiversity in Western Sydney, and is set to destroy so many years of bushland preservation we have worked so hard for. The community is watching.

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Submission: Online Submission from Martin O'Reilly of Blacktown and District Environment Group (comments)  
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