


Susan Thomson

From: Polina Gurash <Polina.Gurash@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 24 January 2019 3:51 PM
To: Polina Gurash
Subject: 9729 Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan: Submission Details for Wayne Olling of Mr (comments)

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

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

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From: Wayne Olling <wayneolling3@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 15:21:03 PM
Subject: Submission Details for Wayne Olling of Mr (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:

I provide the following comments on what the Terms of Reference should be for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan.

There should be no more deceitful concealment of the processes of any committee/trust established to manage a conservation fund as occurred with the Sydney Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. It is an indictment on the borderline criminal activity prevailing in government bureaucracy as demonstrated by the lengths bureaucrats went to exclude members of the public who were recommended by Members of Parliament and a peak conservation group to represent the community interests for Western Sydney conservation on the body appointed to manage the Fund for offsetting biodiversity losses occurring in the North-West and South-West Growth Centres. The conduct of bureaucrats has left Conservationists in Western Sydney with justification to regard with suspicion every word coming out of the mouths of NSW Office of Environment & Heritage bureaucrats and whatever actions they propose.

Ground-truthing must be the basis of all decisions to include or exclude areas considered for conservation. The seriously flawed desktop review which was the foundation of the Sydney Growth Centres Conservation Plan must not be repeated. It must not be the premise upon which the Commonwealth Government makes any Strategic Assessment under the EPBC Act for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan. Insufficient ground-truthing and community consultation has resulted in some known instances such as the Riverstone Wetlands "foraging space for ROKAMBA, JAMBA, CAMBA listed shore birds and habitat for the Green and Golden Bell Frog; Westminster Street Schofields bird habitat including seasonal Swift Parrot; "Burial Ground of the Blacks" Schofields each being the subject of frustrating " for

community " remedial attempts.

Those areas determined for conservation and their conservation being the basis upon other areas being developed must be protected in perpetuity from any future assault such as for infrastructure programs. An example of failure again is the Sydney Growth Centres wherein the former International Radio Transmitting Station, Shane's Park was calculated to be a 560ha conservation gain, was announced as such yet no attempt was made to remove a road reservation from the site " a road reservation which would take out 10% of the woodland. That is bad enough in itself but now the government is considering deviating the proposed corridor for the M9 Motorway and Rail Freight Corridor through what was to be 560ha of conserved area because residents nearby want the infrastructure to avoid their property and, instead, go through this 560ha area which was an offset for equivalent losses elsewhere. Again, borderline criminal activity to deceive the public and abuse the environment.

With respect to bird activity and survival, direct consultation must take place with the Cumberland Bird Observers Club to ascertain known areas of high and discreet bird activity. Deference should also be made to past studies by that organisation and other bird organisations and scientists on the impact of nearby development on bird activity.

The Terms of Reference must address how any proposal to use biobanking (the much scorned process in other States of Australia) as an offset mechanism will prevent the roting of the system by biobanking accreditation agencies holding back properties from the register for gain; biobank sites transferring to owners with little or no interest in conservation; owners clearing native vegetation, weed clearing with bobcats, creating trail bike access in native vegetation, using unqualified contractors for regeneration works; killing native fauna; running grazing stock in supposed conserved areas.

There must be genuine 'additionality' achieved in determining offsets. As such, areas already conserved such as all public reserves, past development offsets containing protected matters irrespective of whether zoning processes have caught up with Environmental Conservation zoning must not be used as an offset for anticipated losses in the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan. All local government parks are either long term or more recent offsets for development which has occurred in the surrounding area. That they are a park/reserve has come at cost to the reduction of areas of present day protected matters in the surrounding suburb or region. A serious exercise must be undertaken to identify past offsets for exclusion from another consideration as offset, biobanking or development. From that starting point, the determination of areas for future conservation as offset under the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan and the Commonwealth Government Strategic Assessment must be an immediate initiative. Clause 3 of the Draft Terms of Reference must reflect this.

The Urban Bushland Biodiversity Survey, 1997, identified the worth of rural dams for preserving biodiversity on the Cumberland Plain. Rural dams are not identified as a protected matter but, without question, they are integral to preserving aquatic fauna and vegetation known to have inhabited the Cumberland Plain. Additionally, rural dams store water for fauna drinking, foraging and breeding (according to species) and, for this reason, they play a role in sustaining protected matters. Before European Arrival, fauna had greater spread of foraging area and access to more extensive ponds in drainage lines. The post European populating of the Cumberland Plain and consequent agricultural, infrastructure, residential and industrial development has brought significant adverse impact on the survival of the natural heritage of the Cumberland Plain. The last 100 years has seen an attitude arise toward avoidance of flood events by making for quick escape of rain inundation along drainage lines (creeks). While detention basins have been introduced in more recent years few of these serve any long term biodiversity benefit and the overall aim is for creeks to be emptied of any substantial quantity of water. This causes creeks in areas surrounded by development to be dry shortly after rain events and continuing dry in times of insufficient rain. As such, creeks have been stripped of past biodiversity value and of little or no worth should they be situated near to a conserved area of bushland. Set against that is the one thing humans have demonstrated to be of benefit to human, animal and aquatic flora and fauna life " the construction and maintaining of rural dams over the past 100 years. The pioneers saw the value of water retention in the landscape. Sadly, subsequent urban development, with only limited exceptions, has had an agenda of draining and removing rural dams for development space. It is my contention that the recognition of rural dams as occurred in the Urban Bushland Biodiversity Survey, 1997, should be applied in the Terms of Reference for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan because that recognition has been largely lost since 1997. It should be given prominence in this latter landscape planning strategy. Rural dams serve biodiversity across the landscape of the Cumberland Plain and every given area within that landscape.

As hinted at earlier in this submission, significant failures in the Sydney Growth Centres Conservation Plan and the associated Commonwealth Government Strategic Assessment occurred through a lack of ground-truthing and community consultation. The Terms of Reference for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan must avoid the failures of the past. It must provide for ground-truthing and evidence that effective community consultation including local knowledge have been incorporated into the resultant conservation plan.

24 January 2019

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Submission: Online Submission from Wayne Olling of Mr (comments)

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Submission for Job: #9729

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