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Mr Bruce Colman
Director Land Release
Department of Planning and Environment
bruce.colman@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Colman

I write regarding correspondence dated 9 August 2017 to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) inviting comment on the exhibition of the *Wilton Priority Growth Area - Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan* (LUIIP) and the *Wilton South East Planning Proposal* (PP).

OEH appreciates the opportunity to provide detailed comment on these proposals. In providing this advice, OEH acknowledges the past consultation the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) has undertaken with OEH on a number of preliminary and draft assessments that underpin the planning for the Greater Macarthur and Wilton Priority Growth Areas (PGAs).

OEH is proactively working with DPE and the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) to provide detailed advice on koala habitat and corridors to ensure their long term viability and protection, and an interagency site visit offered an important opportunity to share the preliminary findings of the OEH and Wollondilly Shire Council koala research project that is funded through OEH's Saving our Species program.

Detailed comments on both the LUIIP and Wilton South East PP are provided in Attachment 1. In particular, OEH would like to draw attention to the following matters:

LUIIP

- The LUIIP states that it has been informed by a Biocertification technical investigation however the Biodiversity Study is a desktop assessment with no survey effort or additional mapping. This does not provide a basis for determining if biodiversity certification could be achieved and if so what the likely conservation measures would be.
- The potential loss of 373 hectares of the critically endangered ecological community Shale /Sandstone Transition Forest as reported in the Biodiversity Study is significant. An avoid and minimise approach must be demonstrated to achieve biodiversity certification.

Wilton South East PP

- Based on the advice presented in the attached OEH technical koala report, there would be an adverse impact on koalas because of the proposed residential development in the south-east corner of the Wilton South East precinct.

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- In the light of information now available on koalas, OEH recommends not rezoning predominantly cleared land within the identified primary koala corridor in the south-east portion of the site.

Should you have any questions regarding this advice please contact Susan Harrison, Senior Team Leader on 9995 6864 or by email at susan.harrison@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

ALEX GRAHAM
Director Greater Sydney
Regional Operations

Attachments

1. OEH comments on the *Wilton Priority Growth Interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan* (LUIIP) and the *Wilton South East Planning Proposal*
2. Draft Koala Conservation Strategy for the Wilton and Macarthur Priority Growth Areas