

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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Applications close 19 August



From: Lisa Harrold [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2020 1:33 PM
To: Steve Hartley [REDACTED] Ben.Lathwell [REDACTED]
Cc: Tanya Davies [REDACTED]
Subject: CPCP

Dear Steve and Ben,

Thank you for the opportunity to hear your team's presentation on the Draft CPCP on Wednesday of last week. Unfortunately I missed the final part of the presentation as my phone dropped out.

Whilst I respect the effort that has gone into assessing the remaining biodiversity on the Cumberland Plain, I am very disappointed with what has been decided as 'priority areas' for the creation of new public reserves.

As mentioned in the meeting, 'The confluence' is simply cleared paddocks with NO biodiversity. This cannot be considered conservation of CPW and will not generate habitat opportunities for many decades. It is scientifically proven that CPW cannot be re-created through a re-planting exercise – there will be limited diversity as there is no intact seed bank. This is simply the NSW planning department wondering how they will manage flood prone land that cannot be developed – with a whole lot of money that was intended to conserve CEEC CPW. This is so very unethical. I cannot support this proposal when there are so many better options available. I am not saying that a nice reserve cannot be created at 'The confluence' but this CANNOT be created using offset funding from the clearing of CPW elsewhere. That funding MUST be directed toward conserving intact CPW.

The Plan fails to take into account the increasing number of Koalas recorded at Silverdale/Warragamba and further north into Mulgoa. Our communities would like to know how this Plan will also protect the corridors and habitat of these Koalas into the future. The Plan only mentions the Campbelltown Koalas – this is not 'planning' when we know that there is another dispersing population that will need to be catered for in the future.

Furthermore, the Penrith LGA will accommodate one of the four 'Growth Areas' and will also absorb much of the development impacts (Infrastructure etc) for the Aerotropolis Growth Centre. Yet there are no offsets offered for the Penrith LGA. This is inequitable. This region is suffering immense biodiversity destruction and yet the CPCP offers no offsets. I have appealed so many times for vital corridors to be recognised and supported by this plan including the Kingshill corridor, the Blaxland Creek corridor and the Erskine Creek corridor which would provide a viable east-west link from the Blue Mountains to Ropes Creek. Sadly the Erskine creek corridor has been so decimated by poorly planned infrastructure that it is now unviable.

The Kingshill Corridor and the Blaxland Creek corridor will link the largest remnant of CPW on the Cumberland Plain (900Ha at the Defence Establishment Orchard Hills - DEOH). In their wisdom, Federal Infrastructure have decided to spend \$70 million restoring 900 ha (of the 1370 Ha protected by a conservation commitment in 2007). Sadly they will fence the 900Ha into two sections of 450Ha each - effectively negating connectivity and reducing habitat and movement of native fauna. However, the CPW at DEOH which will benefit from a whopping \$70 Million for restoration, courtesy of the clearing of 1200Ha at the Western Sydney Airport. But this highly funded, largest example of CPW has no links – it is an island.

The NSW Government is **obligated** to provide links to this biodiversity asset at DEOH. The Kingshill Corridor (One property owner – see attachment) and the Blaxland Creek Corridor (one property owner) are the ONLY options to achieve this. The Draft CPCP is ignoring opportunities like this which I have raised time and again – and instead funding open pasture. This is unacceptable.

I have included Ben Lathwell in this email with whom I met last year regarding this matter. Whilst I was unable to obtain a meeting with the Planning Minister, Mr Lathwell assured me that my proposal was “sensible”. But I never heard anything again from him. Often I wonder why I waste my time!

I had held great hope that connectivity would be supported in this golden opportunity to offer a viable future for the Critically Endangered ecological communities of the Cumberland Plain.

So, I ask – will you consider my proposal for inclusion of at least some connectivity within the Penrith LGA? Will you acknowledge and include Kingshill Corridor and Blaxland Creek Corridor in the CPCP? Only a short answer is required.

Many thanks

Lisa Harrold

Mulgoa Valley Landcare Group