

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Inc.

ABN [REDACTED]

C/- Total Environment Centre,
[REDACTED]



website [REDACTED]

email [REDACTED]

phone [REDACTED]

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT CUMBERLAND PLAIN CONSERVATION PLAN

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR: aabr.org.au) has 35 years of practical onground experience, skills and knowledge in restoring degraded natural areas (including the Cumberland Plain) through the engagement in bushland regeneration by our many accredited practitioners and members, both in NSW and nationally.

The draft plan has many potential positive features, including:

- New and extended conservation areas
- Ecological restoration of up to 25% of the new land conservation target
- Biodiversity Officers to improve conservation understanding of the endangered ecological communities
- Biodiversity stewardship agreements
- Interaction with Indigenous communities

AABR would like to make the following comments:

1. The Cumberland Plain has a number of Endangered Ecological Communities which are being increasingly reduced and impacted by development and population pressure. To protect the remaining biodiversity and the human benefits it provides, will be a challenge. It is important that the Plan is clear and strong, and enforceable (in terms of the environment).
2. AABR was established to ensure that bushland managers and practitioners carry out high quality management and restoration of bushland. AABR's Accreditation system has proved to be of great benefit to both the practitioner and the land manager as it provides a level of confidence that restoration work is more likely to be of an acceptable standard, sustainable, and provide beneficial biodiversity outcomes. Accreditation is granted to individuals, not companies, and is validated with a current certificate. AABR urges that Accreditation be supported by those engaged in restoration – and are pleased to see that some managers require, at minimum, their site supervisors to be AABR-accredited.
3. The Plan should adopt the [National Standards for the Practice of Ecological restoration in Australia](#). This includes specialized site assessment to determine the natural regeneration potential of the site and appropriate management strategies before planting is considered.
4. Examine potential to extend and link areas with appropriate assisted natural regeneration strategies and techniques before considering planting

5. Biodiversity Officers is a very exciting innovation. The program should be evaluated with consideration to extend it to all schools.
6. Indigenous knowledge on biodiversity and fire should be explored and scientifically tested to assist restoration.
7. Recommend that the educational program include working with local Bushcare/Landcare groups.
8. Adequate resources must be provided into the future before onground regeneration/restoration works commence. Partial, and stop-start onground management will waste resources and result in poorer outcomes.
9. Consider consulting Dr Paul-Gibson Roy who has done extensive work for Greening Australia on restoration of Cumberland Plain grasslands.
10. Consider establishing Cat-containment Suburbs, as Canberra is doing for new developments.
11. Ensure impacts on natural areas from any developments are mitigated. Impacts include stormwater, nutrients, weeds and non-native animals.

Yours faithfully



(jane Gye)

Secretary

30 August 2020

