

25 September 2020

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Green and Resilient Places Division,
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan. I am writing on behalf of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (ABGMA) which is part of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust).

The ABGMA, is arguably the most significant recreational and tourist destination in the south west of Sydney. Established as a bicentennial project 30 years ago, is Australia's largest botanic garden at 416 hectares and specialises in showcasing and conserving Australian flora. The Australian PlantBank, built in 2013 at a cost of \$19.8 million, has recently received an international award placing it amongst the best in the world. Last year, the NSW Government committed a further \$60 million to build an Herbarium and science institute, the Australian Institute of Botanical Science (formerly the Centre of Innovation in Plant Sciences) at the ABGMA. The completion of this innovative science precinct will firmly place ABGMA and the Trust as one of the leading botanic institutes in the world dedicated to horticulture and conservation research.

As a key stakeholder in the Camden and Campbelltown Local Government Area, the Trust has a particular interest in the Plan. We, therefore, welcome the opportunity to comment on the commitments that are proposed to be delivered in the Plan.

After reviewing the Plan in its entirety, the Trust offers the following comments to those sections that are directly related to ABGMA:

3. Protecting plants and animals through planning measures

- To tackle major biodiversity threats to CPW, particularly African olive, ABGMA requires the financial assistance to undertake mechanically clearing of State land to control the spread of a noxious weed.
- The Trust supports the 'Establishing new conservation lands', although recommend that a review of existing lands where the capacity for incorporating of adjoining lands would be equally as beneficial. Examples might include:
 - Expansion of the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, where we have already demonstrated our capacity to manage and improve CPW, by strategic land acquisitions to expand our land holdings and strategic funding to remove olive and enhance CPW biodiversity



- The Trust suggests that a review and alignment of CPW managed lands may provide better long-term management (i.e.) landholdings in close proximity in western Sydney can be often managed by Council, NPWS, Botanic Gardens Greater Sydney and government owned corporations and many do not have a strategic priority, skill or expertise for managing biodiversity.

6. Partnering with the Aboriginal Community

- The Trust supports the fire management strategies and partnering with the Aboriginal Community – ABGMA is working with DPIE to develop expertise and training in cultural burning techniques in collaboration with the Aboriginal Community.

7. Involving the community in conservation

- At ABGMA, we provide a place to discover science, history, geography and Aboriginal heritage in a significant remnant of endangered Cumberland woodland and a unique display of Australian Native species. The garden is also home to the Australian PlantBank, a major scientific research and conservation centre for NSW flora.

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust looks forward to working with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to firmly establish the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan as a key scientific, conservation, recreation and tourist destination at the southern gateway to the Western Parkland City. In addition, the Trust is keen to support this work through offering the Trust's knowledge, experience and expertise to further refine the plan into the future.

Should you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact our Strategy & Planning Project Manager, Louise Farley, on telephone [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



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Director Planning, Projects and Commercial Development