

Sarah Ng

From: DPE PS ePlanning Mailbox
Sent: Monday, 28 September 2020 8:28 AM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au <noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 25 September 2020 9:06 PM
To: DPE PS ePlanning Mailbox <ePlanning@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Submitted on Fri, 25/09/2020 - 21:06
Submitted by: Anonymous
Submitted values are:
Submission Type: I am making a personal submission
First Name: Debbie
Last Name: Norris
Name Withheld: No
Email: [REDACTED]
Suburb/Town & Postcode: Kentlyn
Submission file: [webform_submission:values:submission_file]
Submission: Please see attached

URL: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/exhibition/draft-cumberland-plain-conservation-plan>

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Locked Bag 5022

Parramatta, NSW 2124

Relevant Lot [REDACTED]

Let me preface this submission by saying that I fully support a strategic plan for the conservation of our Koala population in the Macarthur area.

For too long there has been indiscriminate clearing of bushland and habitat of native animals for development of housing and the most desirable residential areas are those where housing can co-exist with bushland.

As a resident of Kentlyn for 22 years I have been fortunate to directly back onto bushland and experience encounters with native animals, birds and reptiles of all kinds.

Through the absence of subdivision, and restrictions on development, larger sized properties have facilitated the increase of the local Koala population in Kentlyn.

Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated scientists & volunteers, studies have been made of these animals – further igniting an awareness in the community.

However the boundary for the Strategic Conservation Area needs to be realistic and go around the vegetation. Smaller lots in Georges River Rd, Kentlyn (yes, like mine) that have been identified as future Strategic Conservation areas should be excluded if there is little vegetation.

I love the trees on my property and that is why I live where I live. I understand that these smaller residential lots have been identified as having ecological restoration potential to widen the existing corridor but 2 of the properties adjoining mine have been leveled with contaminated fill by previous owners.

If you look at the soil you can clearly see the tyres and other matter. One of these properties also has leached petrol in the soil from when it was used as a service station and sold petrol.

Instead of focussing on the width of the corridor at the rear of my property, of which Koalas have been successfully using for years, it is more important that they have a safe habitat to spread and live in.

Ensuring that these bushland reserves are mitigated as much as possible against bushfire is another more important goal as Koalas will not be able to travel quickly enough to access these corridors from a bushfire.

My partially cleared lot in fact offers a safe haven for some of the koalas and I maintain a water supply for the animals and birds.

Below is a photo taken on an extremely hot day earlier this year where my daughter is attempting to give water to an extremely dehydrated koala.

I was able to hear the call of a distressed koala and found the poor animal just sitting on the ground and it seemed only semi-conscious. I rang Wires and they were able to come and get the koala and take it to the veterinary clinic where he was successfully rehydrated. Over the years there have been

many calls to Wires to try and help koalas, wallabies and wood ducks in trouble and I have taken them to the veterinary clinic myself when Wires were not able.

I love living where I live. I am fortunate to walk along the fire trails everyday and never hope to move if possible. However, if my property is identified/zoned as a Strategic Conservation area, then I will immediately have difficulty selling it if necessary.

I am happy to negotiate on some of the land at the back and remove the rural fencing at the rear and accept stricter development controls but these small lots are not going to assist the future of Campbelltown's koalas. The contaminated land would need complete remediation and people living near the bush have actually helped individual animals.

Rezoning these small lots can potentially ruin people's lives. I have been advised that no definitive plans have been made for land acquisition and that market value will theoretically be paid, but the uncertainty itself is very distressing.

Other lots in Kentlyn have only had the uncleared parts of their blocks identified as Strategic Conservation areas and I would hope that you would offer the same consideration to the small number of lots in our part of Kentlyn at worst. Please undertake further investigation before coming to a decision.

As stated in my previous email, a corridor of no more than 20metres has been identified on the Kentlyn oval as a Strategic Conservation area. I was told that this is to link the northern & southern parts of the Strategic Conservation Koala areas but because the northern part is not included in the proposed Koala reserve it is not included in the minimum width criteria (see below)



The small passage you identified at Kentlyn Park links the southern strategic conservation area to the northern strategic conservation area in Kentlyn. The north section is not identified as part of the Georges River Koala Reserve and therefore does not need to meet the width recommended for the remainder of the corridor.

Why is the northern Strategic Conservation area not identified as part of the proposed Koala Reserve now? Here are large tracts of public land with populations of Koalas but is not included in Stage 1? According to the map, the corridor identified at the rear of my property is a link to the proposed Koala Reserve Stage 1, which ends just a few 100 metres away?

This does not make sense and is inconsistent? It would seem that the northern area of Kentlyn may be officially included in future stages of the Koala Reserve so this tiny corridor near the RFS shed should also have adjoining land identified as strategic conservation area to enable it to meet the minimum width requirements?

So, if you moved the northern boundary of Stage 1 of the Koala Reserve a few 100 metres south, then the corridor at the rear of my property would no longer need to meet the minimum width criteria?

The Sub-Plan B: Koalas has identified important koala habitat northward towards Liverpool but that has been included in the Stage 2 Koala Reserve I believe? However, why would land identified in Stage 2 not be regulated and identified now in anticipation of this next stage.

Please see below an extract from the spatial map near the end of Georges River Rd at Kentlyn. Although this would possibly be included in Stage2 of the Koala Reserve, properties backing onto the

Georges River have not been identified as Strategic Conservation areas despite being only 166 metres from the Georges River? This is less than half of the recommended corridor width.

So these sections do not need to meet the minimum corridor width because they are not in the current Stage 1?



The Plan also states that:

“ 260 hectares of important koala habitat could be impacted by development in the Wilton and Greater Macarthur growth areas. These predicted impacts will be offset through the conservation program.”

So development will be allowed to proceed at Gilead by identifying other properties to use for koala habitat such as mine?

In summary all of the reports have identified the southern sections towards Appin as the primary area of concern for Koala conservation.

My property, and those nearby are the only properties that appear to have the entire property, including houses, identified as Strategic Conservation areas in Kentlyn. This uncertainty will most definitely impact on the value of our properties and our personal anxiety because of the emotional attachment to our properties. Very few properties are available for sale in Kentlyn and we will never be able to obtain “like for like” in the event of an acquisition.

There are blatant inconsistencies with the identification of other properties in Kentlyn and between Stage 1 & Stage 2.

If an arbitrary boundary for Stage 1 can be deemed to exist at the end of Smith St Kentlyn, then can that boundary please be relocated to Darling Ave, Kentlyn. This would be more logical as it is the border between Airds and Kentlyn. Flowing from that there seems no consistent application of zonings in the areas outside of Stage 1.

The main risk to Koalas is loss of habit. This is occurring on newly developed lands at Gilead & Wilton and yet we are the ones who must suffer so that more housing can be become available and developers can make greater profits.

Finally, some of the land is contaminated.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

