

Susan Thomson

From: Elizabeth Irwin
Sent: Tuesday, 29 September 2020 8:31 AM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: FW: Objection to Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Please register as a submission

Thanks

Elizabeth Irwin
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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.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 September 2020 9:33 PM
To: Steve Hartley <Steve.Hartley@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Objection to Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Steve Hartley,

Key Criticisms of the Plan

- The Plan proposes massive urban development on the Cumberland Plain, a region previously designated as a “first priority” biodiversity offset area for two other major Growth Centres.
- The Plan will reclassify a total of 10,014 hectares of rural land as 'urban capable' while setting aside only 5,475 hectares of native vegetation in new conservation lands.

- The Plan acknowledges that 1,014.6 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland or around 16% of the remaining 6,400 hectares will be impacted by the proposed development.
- The Plan provides no assessment about how the loss of so much rural land will impact the Sydney region's food bowl capacity.
- The Plan acknowledges that the urban heat island effect in Western Sydney "will increase as urbanisation increases," but proposes only minimal measures to mitigate its effect. This area regularly experiences record summer temperatures.
- The Plan fails to set aside enough land to properly protect a thriving population of 600 to 1,000 koalas, the largest chlamydia-free koala population in NSW.
- The Plan's proposed construction of 120 km of Koala exclusion fencing will isolate and fragment Koala colonies, especially because the Plan protects only one of the six east-west movement corridors recommended in the Chief Scientist Koala Report.
- The Plan acknowledges that conservation land will only be secured slowly over time. No firm commitment has been made about how much land will eventually be protected.
- The Plan does not address the significant adverse impact on the scenic, historic and physical qualities of one of the most heritage rich and picturesque rural landscapes in NSW.

Please Save Sydney's last remaining Koala colony

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Lidcombe, Northern Territory 1825

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