

Susan Thomson

From: Steve Hartley
Sent: Wednesday, 30 September 2020 10:27 AM
To: Elizabeth Irwin
Subject: FW: Petition to Save Sydney's Last Koala Population - An Objection to the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Another one.

Cheers

Steve

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 September 2020 10:00 AM
To: Steve Hartley <Steve.Hartley@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Petition to Save Sydney's Last Koala Population - An Objection to the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Steve Hartley,

I object to the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan in its current form because it will fragment the Koala population, create more urban heat and remove over 15% of the Critically Endangered Cumberland Plain .

It is an an ecological disaster

Specifically I object to the plan because

The Plan fails to set aside enough habitat to properly protect a recovering 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's report, "Advice on the protection of the Campbelltown Koala population." (30 April 2020).

The Plan reclassifies 10,014 hectares of rural land for urban development in an area that was designated by the federal government in 2012 as a priority investment area for biodiversity

offsets. The offsets were required as compensation for the environmental damage of a previous growth plan for Western Sydney - the North West and South West Growth Centres.

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, but the Plan only commits to the protection of 5,475 hectares of native vegetation in new conservation lands. Some of this conservation land, which includes koala habitat, is either still under investigation or will not be protected until 2040.

The Plan does not consider how the Sydney region's agricultural output, which accounts for about 20% of the City's fresh food supplies, will cope with the further loss of rural land even though the Plan mentions that "the Plan area in the Cumberland basin in Western Sydney contains some of the most fertile country in the Sydney basin." Recent research suggests that the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on international and local transportation networks highlights that rural land within 150 kilometres of the city is essential for human survival. (see CSRO publication, *The Future of the Fringe*).

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 does not assess adverse impacts on the scenic, historic and physical qualities of one of the most heritage-rich and picturesque rural landscapes in NSW.

Peter Bradley

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