

Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Personal Submissio

David Ongley

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I have been a resident of Kingswood 2747 for 27 years. During that time, I have seen many changes in my area, almost all of them bad for the environment.

I am a birder, a bird photographer and also an IT professional. The past five years has seen me dedicate more time to birding. I am very conscious of the environment and keenly aware of all the trees getting chopped down and every wall of cyclone fence and new development and the loss that this represents to the environment and the community.

The first thing I will do in my submission is draw your attention to the first three points of the Snapshot of the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan – see below.

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<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/Policy-and-legislation/Strategic-conservation-planning/Snapshot-Draft-Cumberland-Plain-Conservation-Plan-2020-08.pdf?la=en>

Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

The Plan will:

- *unlock new housing, employment areas and infrastructure across four nominated areas: Wilton Growth Area, Greater Macarthur Growth Area, Western Sydney Aerotropolis, and Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek Investigation Area*
- *support the delivery of four new infrastructure corridors spanning 121 km*
- *certify 10,470 hectares of urban capable land for development*

{unquote}

How do the terms "unlock new housing", "new infrastructure" and "certify ... urban capable land for development" sit within a conversation plan? Those aims are at odds with conservation and go hand-in-glove with development. I would expect nothing less from the liberal government. What shameful rhetoric and propaganda.

I understand that people need to live somewhere but we need to draw the line. In the plan highlights, it is stated "The conservation program will secure at least 5,475 hectares of native vegetation. This will offset native vegetation that is cleared for urban development and transport infrastructure." The total plan area is 200,000 hectares so you are securing about 2.7%. How much land is being cleared for urban development?

We need to keep undeveloped areas as they are. We need wildlife corridors, not infrastructure corridors, to join the already fragmented reserves of what remains of the Cumberland Plain and Woodland. Cumberland Plain should be just that – plain – vast, uninterrupted areas of land. Not fragmented bits of former plain as we saw result from the Lend Lease ADI Site carve up. Of course, it is too late now to have any meaningful Cumberland Plain but we should learn lessons.

There are still vast tracts of land around the likes of Llandilo, Agnes Banks, Mulgoa, Wallacia, Warragamba and Londonderry. This land should be spared from development while we still have it. More Crown land should be converted to National Park and Nature Reserves.

The Parkland that is developed is typically vastly modified open space. Of course, we need these areas but featuring with bike tracks, vast picnic grounds, BBQ areas and playgrounds is not conservation either. Parklands are for people. Reserves are for fauna and flora. We need both.

The proposal talks about establishing new reserves such as Gulguer Reserve. That's good to hear but what this is doing is maintaining the status quo. It's already there. I've been there. It's lovely. I saw chestnut-rumped heathwren, yellow tufted honeyeater and leaden flycatcher. But it's already there. The plan is not creating anything. All it is doing is suggesting the area will be included in the meagre 2.7% that is reserved and that this is a great thing.

This plan does not go far enough. We need to preserve, truly preserve far more land.