

Sarah Ng

From: Anthony Tavella on behalf of DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox
Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 3:59 PM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au <noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 12:44 PM
To: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <eplanning.exhibitions@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Submitted on Wed, 07/10/2020 - 12:44

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type: I am making a personal submission

First Name: Paul

Last Name: Payten

Name Withheld: No

Email: [REDACTED]

Suburb/Town & Postcode: Bermagui

Submission file: [webform_submission:values:submission_file]

Submission: I wish to express grave concerns about the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (the Plan) on the basis of the following: Key facts & figures: • The Plan sets aside a major defined urban growth area for housing and roads for the next 36 years - too short a period. • Only 6% of the Cumberland Plain Woodland is currently left - This needs to be preserved. • The conservation values of the entire region are assessed, yet it only uses a combination of environment protection zoning, new reserves, biobanking and offsets to attempt to conserve some native bushland in response to the defined development. Natural values outside this urban growth area are only to be considered by local councils to avoid or minimise impact - • \$84m initially made available for conservation - insufficient in comparison to the overall expenditure. • Total endangered ecosystems destroyed: 1,780 ha - ignores the endangered status • Total Cumberland Plain Woodland destroyed: 1,014 hectares - diminishes biodiversity and further threatens species. • Aboriginal burial grounds destroyed: at least 2; sites destroyed (total): unknown - unethical A comprehensive plan, not piecemeal: This is a bad attempt at balance. Now is the best opportunity to protect key natural areas across the entire region. What is needed is to enact enduring protection to prevent future development, beyond the current growth area. Impacts on habitat connectivity: Alleviate fragmentation of existing habitat and reserves. The CPCP will permanently isolate three of the four National Parks which currently protect significant areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland; the Wianamatta Regional Park, Shanes Park, and Colebee Nature Reserve. The CPCP M7 motorway and M7-Ropes Crossing Link Road proposals would completely isolate these three reserves from each other. Instead: • Tunnel 2 km to save Wianamatta Regional Park • Extend the Camden Tunnel 4 km south and 6 km north - saving EMAI-to-Razorback Wildlife Corridor, Cobbitty Hills. Failure to guarantee new protection measures: The Plan says "it expects that around 11,000 hectares, or approximately double the Plan's offset commitment of 5,475 hectares of impacted native vegetation, will be protected within new conservation lands" – but has no assurance this will be achieved. Three new reserves are proposed (Georges River Koala; and Gulguer and Congluence still to be subject to feasibility study) but they are only completed over the life of the Plan. They ought to be preserved within the next 3 years, otherwise the Plan can be watered down over time in the face of development pressure. Increase funding by five-fold with the priority for purchase of bushland for permanent protection. Monies for revegetation programs should be reallocated to conservation and the programs deferred until existing habitat is conserved. No development (staged or otherwise) ought to occur until adequate protection of native vegetation is assured. Do not use dodgy offsets: The Plan allows offsets to be used from anywhere in NSW if local areas are not available. This is a recipe for local extinction. Also, using existing conserved land as offsets defeats the purpose of offsets. Adopt the Chief Scientist's recommendation on Gilead Koala corridors: The Plan fails to implement the number of and wide width of east-west Koala corridors recommended by the Chief Scientist. This is unacceptable! Overall, it is flawed and based on 19th century thinking with little or no acknowledgement of climate change or the need to protect biodiversity for the future. Sincerely, Paul

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