

SUBMISSION RE CUMBERLAND PLAIN CONSERVATION PLAN

Despite the concessions to preserve some aspects of the natural environment of the Cumberland Plain, I view this Plan with great alarm and even despair. It appears to be an effort to placate people into thinking that everything is now being done to protect our precious koalas, to divert attention from the fact that development proposed will devastate what is left of the natural vegetation of the rest of the Cumberland Plain.

Even the plan for koala protection is not nearly enough. The Georges River Koala Reserve should not develop in a piecemeal way. All areas within the current Georges River Regional Open Space could be dedicated immediately and should become part of the National Parks estate. More and wider E-W corridors need to be provided to allow koala movement between Georges and Nepean Rivers, as recommended by the Chief Scientist's Report

I have the greatest concern for the abominable proposed Outer Sydney Orbital. This will cut a swathe of devastation from the north to the SW, despite some sections now to be tunnelled. It will utterly change the amenity of the Camden/Cawdor/Razorback area where I live, for the worse. I have had no luck finding out what the dimensions of the corridor will be or any confirmation that it will include rail as well, as has been rumoured. However, even at a minimum I would estimate about 400-500m swathe of rural land will be carved up and alienated through Cawdor, the foot of Razorback and also Menangle.

This Plan is being touted as the saviour of Sydney's environment but a close look at what is being proposed shows that more than 1000 ha of critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland will be destroyed by development if this Plan goes ahead. The promises of the Plan are a joke if you care about our natural environment or about the liveability of Greater Sydney as climate change intensifies.

None of this would be necessary if the population of Greater Sydney could be maintained at its current level. Population growth is the driver of all this development and it is unsustainable to operate on the basis that this will just continue unchecked.

In conclusion, I reject this Plan and suggest the Government go back to the drawing board and firstly look at how population growth in this area can be kept in check. There must be the will to prevent the constant rezoning of land for development. Any rezoning should be to allow for the further greening of the city to provide adequate passive open space for the current population and to revegetate/reinstate significant areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland to try in some way to compensate for what has already been lost.

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