



File no: F20/2147

8 October 2020

Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan.

In general Councils Natural Areas Team, are supportive of conservation benefits identified in the Plan, including the establishment of the new Georges River Koala Reserve, and the Gulguer and Confluence Reserve's Investigation Areas. However, no new conservation areas have been identified within the Blacktown local government area.

Despite the loss of native vegetation in Our City; with 150 hectares of lands identified for development (certification), no new conservation lands have been identified in Blacktown. This is a lost opportunity for our community.

The Plan should consider the Ropes Creek corridor, between Forrester Road and the Great Western Highways as having conservation value. The corridor is home to a camp of Grey Headed Flying Foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), has recorded sightings of Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) and provides connectivity for a range of native species along Ropes Creek, between Wianamatta Regional Park and Western Sydney Parklands.

Whilst Council and our residents will be able to access and benefit from some services and general deliverables of the plan, such as education and compliance resources, wider weed and pest management programs and further research into species and ecological communities of the Cumberland Plain; the Plan is lacking details on the delivery of conservation outcomes for our Community. We would like to see more support for Local Government, in the establishment of stewardship agreements on public lands. This can help to guarantee conservation of the threatened species and vegetation communities of the Cumberland Plain.

We also have concerns, based upon what we have seen in the North West Growth Areas, where acquisition's and amended land rezoning for future conservation areas, take a long time. The lack of direction and enforceable protective management practices leads to impacts from illegal dumping, damage from 4wd's and trail bike access, arson attacks, and invasive impacts from weed and invasive pest species. For the proposed Plan, what measures will be put in place to ensure that Strategic conservation lands and Investigation areas are protected and any illegal incursions are enforced?

This Plan represents an opportunity to better address this issue in areas which are identified for conservation on the Cumberland Plain.

Connect - Create - Celebrate

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