

The Secretary

The Department of Planning Industry and Environment

Email: [REDACTED]

8 October 2020

Dear Secretary,

RE: The Plan to Conserve The Environment of the Cumberland Plain (CPCP). An Objection.

56 years ago, my wife, family and I came to the centre of the Cumberland Plain to live a life of easy commuting, affordability, open spaces and fresh air. The new home on a quarter-acre block, had four mature eucalypts in the backyard which provided shade, aroma and cooling. We had open forest to the west. Our comfort was short-lived.

Over the years, we have seen a great number of people settle in the Liverpool area to the point where it is now difficult to commute anywhere in a predictable time-frame. Medium to high-density accommodation has ensured that movement around Liverpool's CBD is slow and car parking almost impossible.

Now, we learn that Governments want to *double* the population of South-west and Western Sydney in the next 2-3 decades. Why? The Bob Carr Government in the 1990s declared that Sydney was full. A population cap was declared and a plan for a continuous green space, Western Sydney Parklands, with millions of trees to be planted, announced. (George Paciullo, Mayor of Liverpool; Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia, in the late 1980s-early 90s).

Instead, we have an Airport under construction in the Western Sydney Basin. A Container Terminal on the banks of the Georges River where once existed a quiet Army base, unobtrusively living with the biodiversity, including koalas. This new infrastructure with the connecting roads and rail, will ensure thousands of mature trees will be lost.

From a 'Conservation of the Environment' point of view, we ask, 'Why are developers allowed to completely clear a new lot for a housing estate'? Not a blade of grass left. Houses built side by side where only a small bush can be grown. All we see are vast heat-sinks of black roofs with no green space between. While it is well maintained, the Oran Park estate is a prime example. Is it just for profit? Our estimate is that Liverpool and the surrounding South Western suburbs, the Cumberland Plain, have suffered a net loss of 10s of 1000s of trees during the 1990s -- 2000s.

'Ecologically sustainable' or 'unsustainable' are words bandied around to make us feel that something good is happening. No, it is not. Unless the **Department of Planning** design growth areas with a combination of housing and green space, probably at a 50/50 ratio, Sydney will become a desert, a burning hot, dry, less habitable city than we envisaged enjoying in retirement.

Sydney-siders have lost enough. It is time to slow population growth and slow consumerism to save something for the future of our families. We used to worry about our great-grandchildren. Now we worry about ourselves!

Is the Plan really going to Conserve the Environment? Or is the Plan more about Planning for population growth and an expanded economy? The **Department of Planning, industry and Environment** could think about what we will have in our city in 200 years time. Not just by 2050.

We call on the Department to urgently re-think the Plan. Please save every existing tree. The last 7% of CPW.

Yours Sincerely,

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