

## Comments on the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan, August 2020

I make this submission specifically in relation to our property in what has been designated as West Wilton.

In the 27 years I have lived here, there have been zero sightings of koalas nor any other indication of koalas being on, or even near our property. However, due to koalas that do not exist on or around our property, we have been rezoned as E2. As far as I am concerned, there appears to be no basis for this rezoning, and any references to documents mentioning the reasoning behind the decision to rezone our property as E2 are illogical.

Laws that allow developers to clear vast bushland, while treating everyday landowners unfairly, need to be reconsidered.

The entire process that led to our property being declared as an important habitat for biodiversity and a necessary habitat for koalas was grossly flawed and lacked any logic, especially considering the serious impact being zoned as E2 will have on our property and our future. The documents, legislation and guidelines we have been given access to have been in conflict with each other on multiple occasions, which leaves us feeling as if the rezoning is unjustified.

The consultation process for this development can only be described as lacking, and without any true or meaningful "consultation" with the impacted community members ever truly taking place. Especially considering that for "consultation" purposes, local residents are not even considered as key stakeholders, despite being the group most significantly impacted by this plan.

It should be noted that land similar to ours along the so-called Nepean Corridor (on the other side of the river) has been zoned as E4, and land only a short walk away with similar vegetation to ours has been zoned as Urban Capable. Our property has never been ground-surveyed, and thus there is no basis nor reason to rezone our land to such a restrictive category like E2.

For years, vast stretches of land that have been important koala habitats and corridors have been cleared within the Wilton Precinct by developers, however it is the small land owners, the ones that strived to look after their land and preserve the native vegetation that are now paying the price.

I have grown up here - explored and played here - and in the last 27 years, I have not seen even one koala on, around or near this property. Yet now, despite failing to perform appropriate and accurate land and site inspections to verify the vegetation, based on erroneous mapping, my family is being penalised and our land devalued. Any hope of building a house alongside my parent's is gone, and my future entirely ignored and sacrificed in what is being described as an environmental offset for the developers.

Not only are we being rezoned to the extremely restrictive E2 zone, we are also expected to professionally maintain our land and what has been classified as "primary koala habitat" while also dramatically devaluing our land.

I cannot see or understand why our land has to be rezoned as E2. Especially if, for example, our land was rezoned as E4, it will achieve the same outcome for the development, but without adversely affecting us, the land owners.

I believe it is imperative that our property is, at the bare minimum, ground-surveyed and for us as owners to be consulted appropriately for such a large and impactful development.