

Sarah Ng

From: Anthony Tavella on behalf of DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 11:24 AM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan
Attachments: submission-to-dpie-cumberland-plan.pdf

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au <noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 1:09 AM
To: DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <eplanning.exhibitions@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

Submitted on Fri, 09/10/2020 - 01:06
Submitted by: Anonymous
Submitted values are:
Submission Type: I am making a personal submission
First Name: Karen
Last Name: Hunt
Name Withheld: No
Email: [REDACTED]
Suburb/Town & Postcode: Campbelltown 2560
Submission file:
[submission-to-dpie-cumberland-plan.pdf](#)

Submission: Submission is attached but reproduced below Cr Karen Hunt Campbelltown City Council [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 9 October 2020 To: The Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment To Whom It May Concern SUBMISSION ON CUMBERLAND PLAIN CONSERVATION PLAN My comments relate substantially to the protection of the resident koala colony in the south-western Campbelltown-Macarthur region and other lesser-known fauna that occupy and breed within the region. May I highlight first that it is South-Western Sydney that houses the only known chlamydia-free koala colony in this state, not Western Sydney, and that importance must be maintained when addressing any of the proposals in the Plan to protect them. I believe also that a distinction needs to be made about the fact the Plan refers to Southern Sydney koalas and South Western Sydney koalas as if they are one and the same colonies. It is vital to note that koalas will traverse vast areas within their own habitat and, therefore, either the Plan has mistakenly classified the two colonies as the same or is unaware of the existence of the separate colonies. I acknowledge and greatly appreciate the commitment to protect and manage vital habitats and corridors for the koala and other threatened species, whilst also ensuring the protection of 5,475 hectares of critical native vegetation in perpetuity. I applaud also the environmental conservation zoning of 3,500 hectares of koala habitat, something my Council continues to be at great pains to maintain whilst development continues to sprawl. Having said that, let me address the specifics of the Plan that will impact heavily on the protection of our koalas jointly with the safety of humans if certain proposals are not changed. My primary concern is the proposal to erect 120kms of exclusion fencing on both sides of Appin Road to prevent koalas and other species from crossing and at the same time construct "a safe koala crossing" to support the protection "of at least one east-west habitat corridor". The purpose of this fencing is aimed at preventing koalas from entering urban areas and being hit by motor vehicles. Although that is likely to be the result, it must be remembered that "we" built the Appin Road right through the middle of the habitat corridor and this Plan now proposes to just close the door on the normal behaviour of our koalas to seek shelter, protection and nourishment by being able to move freely within their own habitat and corridor to access feeding and breeding environments. Importantly, the Nepean River is an essential part of the colony's health and breeding. Presenting such an impediment to prevent the koalas having the ability to freely and safely move over vast areas of habitat corridor to access water and food will impact heavily on their health and increase the chances of falling victim to stress-induced chlamydia. Minister Kean has referred to protecting the north-south habitat corridor yet seems to ignore completely the importance of strengthening the east-west corridor that is essential to preserve the south-western koala colony and encourage breeding. The koalas must be able to get to the Nepean River as this is one of their known feeding areas on the western side of Appin Road. The underpasses must be constructed now before any road widening to ensure that the vital corridors identified by the experts are safely maintained. Most notably, crossings are required now at Noorumba Reserve, Woodhouse and Mallaty Creeks. The Plan mentions the installation first of a crossing at Ousedale Creek, Appin, as part of the apparent road upgrade. To install this crossing first, in my opinion, is a dereliction of duty under the Plan to preserve and protect the South Western koala colony. This crossing should be additional to those mentioned above. The mention of planting 100,000 new trees to "restore important koala habitat in the proposed Georges River Koala Reserve and other priority locations" is a welcome gesture but does not go far enough to enshrine the safety of all fauna and contribute substantially to the biodiversity and ecological environment. The government must adopt the upper House inquiry recommendation and commit to declaring the area a National Park so that the protection of the habitat is in place now. The Plan proposes to help deliver the NSW Koala Strategy by supporting training programs and providing technical resources to improve koala rehabilitation. Campbelltown City Council held a highly successful forum in 2019 at which experts and government

agency representatives acknowledged the importance of appropriate treatment and rehabilitation of injured koalas. Council requested vital funding from the government to be provided to the numerous veterinary clinics in the Campbelltown-Macarthur region that perform life-saving treatments for injured koalas. This funding was not forthcoming. The 2019 forum identified also that a koala hospital is required for the greater Macarthur region and the region further south to accommodate the safe rehabilitation of koalas especially after injuries sustained through dog attacks. It is not feasible for the successful rehabilitation and treatment of injured koalas to house them in a complex that also houses what may have been the cause of their injuries – dogs. All the training programs and technical resources that the Plan says will be provided will be completely wasted unless the government gives serious consideration to the establishment of a suitably resourced koala hospital situated away from standard veterinary clinics. The majority of comments from community engagement about the Plan were similar in stating that protecting the environment is essential. However, I consider that more aggressive and longer engagement should have been undertaken to get a substantially higher number of responses and feedback to provide a much more authentic representation of the community's support to protect the wildlife and environment. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this vital project. Yours sincerely, Cr Karen Hunt

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

Cr Karen Hunt
Campbelltown City Council

9 October 2020

To: The Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment

To Whom It May Concern

SUBMISSION ON CUMBERLAND PLAIN CONSERVATION PLAN

My comments relate substantially to the protection of the resident koala colony in the south-western Campbelltown-Macarthur region and other lesser-known fauna that occupy and breed within the region.

May I highlight first that it is South-Western Sydney that houses the only known chlamydia-free koala colony in this state, not Western Sydney, and that importance must be maintained when addressing any of the proposals in the Plan to protect them. I believe also that a distinction needs to be made about the fact the Plan refers to Southern Sydney koalas and South Western Sydney koalas as if they are one and the same colonies. It is vital to note that koalas will traverse vast areas within their own habitat and, therefore, either the Plan has mistakenly classified the two colonies as the same or is unaware of the existence of the separate colonies.

I acknowledge and greatly appreciate the commitment to protect and manage vital habitats and corridors for the koala and other threatened species, whilst also ensuring the protection of 5,475 hectares of critical native vegetation in perpetuity.

I applaud also the environmental conservation zoning of 3,500 hectares of koala habitat, something my Council continues to be at great pains to maintain whilst development continues to sprawl.

Having said that, let me address the specifics of the Plan that will impact heavily on the protection of our koalas jointly with the safety of humans if certain proposals are not changed.

My primary concern is the proposal to erect 120kms of exclusion fencing on both sides of Appin Road to prevent koalas and other species from crossing and at the same time construct "a safe koala crossing" to support the protection "of at least one east-west habitat corridor".

The purpose of this fencing is aimed at preventing koalas from entering urban areas and being hit by motor vehicles. Although that is likely to be the result, it must be remembered that "we" built the Appin Road right through the middle of the habitat corridor and this Plan now proposes to just close the door on the normal behaviour of our koalas to seek shelter, protection and nourishment by being able to move freely within their own habitat and corridor to access feeding and breeding environments.

Importantly, the Nepean River is an essential part of the colony's health and breeding. Presenting such an impediment to prevent the koalas having the ability to freely and safely move over vast areas of habitat corridor to access water and food will impact heavily on their health and increase the chances of falling victim to stress-induced chlamydia.

Minister Kean has referred to protecting the north-south habitat corridor yet seems to ignore completely the importance of strengthening the east-west corridor that is essential to preserve the south-western koala colony and encourage breeding. The koalas must be able to get to the Nepean River as this is one of their known feeding areas on the western side of Appin Road. The underpasses must be constructed now before any road widening to ensure that the vital corridors identified by the experts are safely maintained. Most notably, crossings are required now at Noorumba Reserve, Woodhouse and Mallaty Creeks.

The Plan mentions the installation first of a crossing at Ousedale Creek, Appin, as part of the apparent road upgrade. To install this crossing first, in my opinion, is a dereliction of duty under the Plan to preserve and protect the South Western koala colony. This crossing should be additional to those mentioned above.

The mention of planting 100,000 new trees to "restore important koala habitat in the proposed Georges River Koala Reserve and other priority locations" is a welcome gesture but does not go far enough to enshrine the safety of all fauna and contribute substantially to the biodiversity and ecological environment. The government must adopt the upper House inquiry recommendation and commit to declaring the area a National Park so that the protection of the habitat is in place now.

The Plan proposes to help deliver the NSW Koala Strategy by supporting training programs and providing technical resources to improve koala rehabilitation. Campbelltown City Council held a highly successful forum in 2019 at which experts and government agency representatives acknowledged the importance of appropriate treatment and rehabilitation of injured koalas. Council requested vital funding from the government to be provided to the numerous veterinary clinics in the Campbelltown-Macarthur region that perform life-saving treatments for injured koalas. This funding was not forthcoming.

The 2019 forum identified also that a koala hospital is required for the greater Macarthur region and the region further south to accommodate the safe rehabilitation of koalas especially after injuries sustained through dog attacks. It is not feasible for the successful rehabilitation and treatment of injured koalas to house them in a complex that also houses what may have been the cause of their injuries – dogs.

All the training programs and technical resources that the Plan says will be provided will be completely wasted unless the government gives serious consideration to the establishment of a suitably resourced koala hospital situated away from standard veterinary clinics.

The majority of comments from community engagement about the Plan were similar in stating that protecting the environment is essential. However, I consider that more aggressive and longer engagement should have been undertaken to get a

substantially higher number of responses and feedback to provide a much more authentic representation of the community's support to protect the wildlife and environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this vital project.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Karen Hunt