

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: cumberland-plain-objection-bv.docx

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au <noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 3:39 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 - 03:29
Submitted by: Anonymous
Submitted values are:
Submission Type: I am making a personal submission
First Name: [REDACTED]
Last Name: [REDACTED]
Name Withheld: No
Email: [REDACTED]
Suburb/Town & Postcode: Hurlstone Park 2193
Submission file:
[cumberland-plain-objection-bv.docx](#)

Submission: I object to the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan on the grounds that it will not maintain the area's koala population in its present thriving state. This is a chlamydia-free population and it is actually increasing at the moment. The present State government has committed itself to doubling the koala population of NSW by 2050 rather than overseeing its extinction as predicted by the recent Upper House Review into Koala population and habitat loss. This means that the interests of koalas must be put ahead of urban development, not on a par or secondary to it. The NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Rob Stokes, said that the Plan will "protect south-west Sydney's rich environmental assets and important koala population, while providing certainty for investment". While the second part of that statement is true, the first is not. In December 2019, Ministers Stokes and Kean (Environment) commissioned the Chief Scientist and Engineer to convene a Koala Independent Expert Panel to provide "Advice on the protection of the Campbelltown Koala population" (Chief Scientist Koala Report). My main objection to this Plan is that in creating the Georges River Koala Reserve it ignores crucial aspects of this advice. It doesn't incorporate the Report's recommendation for habitat corridors with a recommended width of 390-450 metres, to be enhanced by 'Asset Protection Zones' and 30 metre wide buffers on either side to reduce the impact of threats, light and noise on koalas. Most importantly, it includes only one East-West habitat corridor, not the 6 considered vital for movement of animals throughout a wide geographical area. The final size of the Reserve, 1,885 hectares, (only to be achieved 20 years from now) is less than a quarter of the 8,293.46 stipulated as necessary by the Report. The Report also voiced worries about the plight of koalas trapped behind the fencing necessary if Stage 2 of the Mt Gilead housing development were to proceed. According to the Cumberland Plan, this will happen, and it should not. Another aspect of my objection to the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan is the loss of 10,000 hectares of rural land for urban redevelopment. The Cumberland Plain was designated as a "first priority" offset area when the federal government granted strategic biodiversity certification to the North West and South West Growth Centres in 2012. Such double-dipping on offsets will be open to legal challenge. There are many values which should be placed higher than developers' profits. The Cumberland Plain currently produces 20% of Sydney's fresh food. In these days of climate crisis, this may well prove to be a vital resource for our city. So too may the biodiversity associated with rural land and bushland. Koalas are only one of myriads of species of plants and animals which will fragment and die with urban overdevelopment. The Cumberland Plain is an area of value to its human species as well, not primarily as somewhere to plonk yet another housing development, but as an area supporting the web of life which sustains us. We, along with the koalas, cannot afford to lose it.

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

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