



9 October 2020

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Green and Resilient Places Division,  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

**Re: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP). The University supports the protection of Western Sydney's biodiversity with the managed growth of the Western Parklands City.

The University owns land within the Aerotropolis which has been rezoned via the Aerotropolis SEPP. Refer to **Attachment A**.

There are sections of the areas in the CPCP mapped *Non-certified: Western Sydney Aerotropolis* and *Non-certified: Avoided for Other Purposes* which we believe should be re-categorised as *Certified: Urban Capable* as there is no ecological reason for these areas to be avoided. These areas include the outlines of farm dams and areas depicted as waterways connecting the dams to Badgerys Creek, as indicated in **Attachment B**.

The University in its submissions to the Planning Partnership clearly identified that that these farm dams and 'interpreted' waterways which have been zoned ENZ – Environment and Recreation have no ecological basis for protection. The farm dams were constructed for agricultural purposes and the University's ecological investigations indicate that these do not form part of the natural creek system and have low biodiversity value.

The Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan released in September 2020 designates these areas as *Potential for Conservation*. When the environmental zoning of these farm dams was raised with the Planning Partnership, we were advised that there would be the opportunity to review these areas at the precinct planning phase. In the event that the environmental zoning of these farm dams is amended, it would be appropriate that they are certified as urban capable under the CPCP so that the land does not require any further biodiversity approvals under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) similar to the adjoining land.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our investigations and potential amendments which could be made to the CPCP to ensure non-certified areas are located and configured to protect biodiversity based on 'ground truthing'.

Yours sincerely

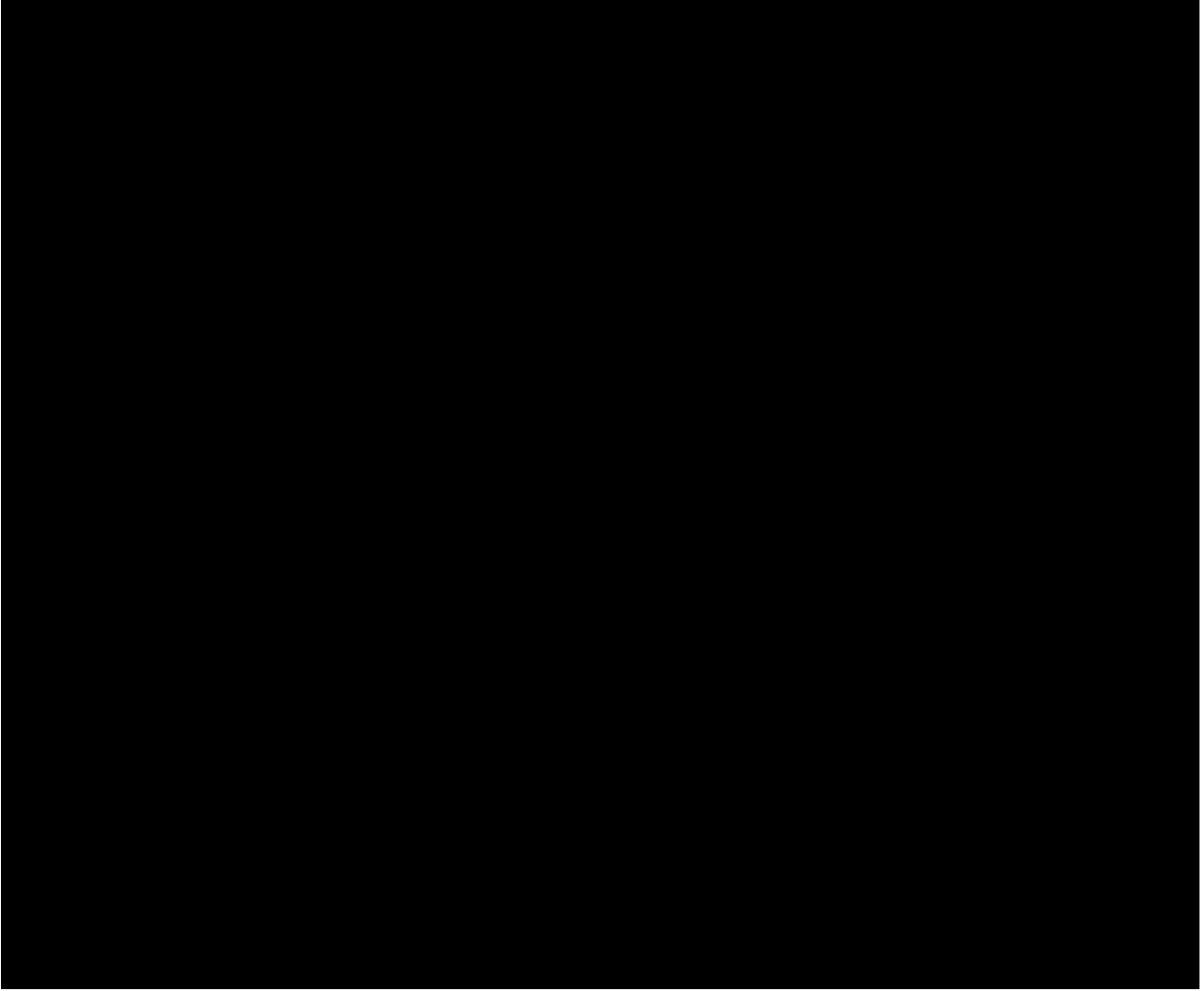
**David Schofield**  
Project Director, University Infrastructure

Email:



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

**ATTACHMENT A**





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

**ATTACHMENT B**

