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Wedderburn
NSW 2560

8 October 2020

Department of Planning Industry and Environment

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/cumberlandplainconservationplan>

SUBMISSION: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP)

Thank you for allowing me to make a comment into the CPCP and I object to the Plan and request that it be completely rejected for the following reasons:

The Native Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain (NPWS January 2000) is a comprehensive plan that recorded woodland in each council area within the Sydney Basin, this plan was launched to try to ensure the protection of woodland and found that only 9% of the original woodland remained.

Any plan to conserve CPW in the region should be based on the NPWS January 2000 report and its aim should be to protect Woodland and all native species who depend on it for their survival and not to make it easier, cheaper, and quicker for development.

The CPCP (2020) appears to be mainly to ensure that development is the main focus and has little to do with the preservation of the remaining 6% of CPW which is already a 30% reduction in CPW within the last 20 years and like the Greater Macarthur Priority Growth Plan (GMPGP) and the Macarthur 2040 Plan which appears to be just a desktop study which has led to such mistakes as placing a shopping centre on the main Victoria to Sydney Jemena Gas Line and downplaying the importance of native species in the region including the Campbelltown Koala population.

The CPCP accepts that at least another 1200 hectares of woodland will be lost along with all the Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable native animal, bird and woodland that depends on it for their existence, this is not acceptable to the general public and neither should it be to the Government as this is a Conservation Plan.

The Plan does not take into consideration the cumulative effects of heat or air pollution that will be generated from the Nancy Bird Airport, Intermodal, Cleanaway waste to energy Plant, over a million homes and vehicles and a full and comprehensive report must be undertaken into these problems before any further development is allowed to move forward, including the three cities developments such as the Greater Macarthur Priority Growth Area and Wilton.

Temperatures reached 50 degrees in various suburbs across the Sydney Basin last summer including Campbelltown where the last Chlamydia free and expanding large population of koalas resides. The body temperature of a koala is between 35 and 36 degrees a human 36 to 37 degrees and excessive heat is a danger to both human beings, native animals, and bushland.

The monitoring station at Mount Annan does not give a true indication of heat in the region as it is set on top of the Mount and surrounded by green open space, the same open space that carries cooling winds to the suburbs which will be lost if farm and bushland is covered with homes, roads, shopping centres, etc. as reported within (Benchmarking Heat across Campbelltown PfautschD: Rouillard S. October 2019)

The planting of one million trees will not compensate for the destruction of thousands of hectares of green space and Climate Change and the suggestion that an 8 metre tree will be planted in the backyard and a 5 metre tree in the front is unrealistic with lot sizes as small as 250 squares being introduced across Campbelltown Macarthur.

Children in demountable classrooms suffered from the heat last summer as air conditioning if available did not cope with the excessive heat, and as the government would be aware learning is disrupted at high temperatures, dehydration is also a problem. Heat killed over 300 Sydney residents at a time when our hospitals are in crisis because of a lack of medical staff.

I am pleased to see that a Georges River Koala Park will be included within the CPCP but it is not acceptable that it will take up to 20 years to install and then will need to rely on developer contributions and the whim of future governments to create. The majority of the land between St Helens Park and Glenfield is owned by the crown and bringing the area south of Appin to Glenfield into the Koala Park must be a priority to protect not only the CPW but also the core koala habitat.

The Georges River Parkway will cut the Campbelltown Koala Population in half and bring more air pollution, noise and diesel smell into the region, the Department of Planning has indicated it will probably not be installed and Minister for Planning Rob Stokes stated that the road would not run through koala habitat it should, therefore, be deleted and the corridor added to the Koala Park.

The Government has decided that there will only be one wildlife corridor across Appin Road between the Georges and Nepean Rivers at Ouzedale Creek, this corridor runs through homes on the western side of Appin Road and then through a Greyhound Track, Paintball Facility, and Motor Cross Club and although if all properties are purchased and regenerated the corridor will be usable by native animals in 20 or so years, it will be of no use in present times.

The Chief Scientist has stated that there should be six corridors between the Georges and Nepean Rivers and Dr. Steven Phillips suggested four across Appin Road and as the Environment Minister has stated he will take the advice of the Chief Scientist all six corridors must be built to best practice which would include rope ladders, underpasses, and up and over corridors and not the metal construction suggested by Lendlease as they are not used by koalas. (see the photograph of Compton Road Overpass at foot of this submission)

The recommendations of the Chief Scientist opens up questions into how after four years the new Minister for the Environment has realised that the Government was lead astray by the developers in regard to Mount Gilead and his report suggests that there should be six corridors installed between the Georges and Nepean Rivers.

The Chief Scientist, Legislative Inquiry into NSW Koalas both recommend corridor widths of well over 400 metres and yet the NSW Koala Strategy only allows a 36 metre corridor between Brennans Creek Dam and the Georges River along the Appin to Bulli Road where animals will need to work their way around the South 32 Emplacement Area (coal reject dump) and Appin Mine on the south side of the Appin Road.

The Chief Scientists report should be adhered to in any future development where koalas are either living or likely to move into to allow for the expansion of their population.

84 million dollars is nowhere near the amount of funds required to achieve the conservation suggestions within the report, just koala fencing alone will take up much of the allocated funding.

The Department of Planning purchased Sugar Loaf Farm to enhance a corridor along the Nepean River to act as a wildlife corridor, but the CPCP has wrapped development around the farm and this corridor will now be broken, government must decide whether the intended corridor is to remain or not. If not then a plan has to

be put in place to ensure the movement of native species including Koalas who are at present moving through the landscape between the Georges and Nepean Rivers.

The CPCP allows roads to cut through areas that have been set aside for environmental conservation including the proposed M9 and M12 which should be placed in tunnels of sufficient in width to allow for future widening and the Western Sydney Parkland Reserve needs to be extended via the Australian Botanic Gardens at Mount Annan, Sugarloaf Heritage Farm, Camden Park, Mount Gilead and on to the Royal National Park via the Holsworthy Military Reserve, Heathcote National Park, and Woronora Catchment, with safe passage across Appin Road at Mount Gilead, Heathcote Road at Deadmans Bridge and Cawley Bridge into the Royal National Park.

Sydney cannot sustain itself in regard to the supply of food and yet at least 20% of the supply will be lost if the CPCP goes ahead, the Government must ensure that affordable food can be brought to residents in the case of loss of supply of fuel during times of war, riot, strikes or civil commotion either within Australia or overseas.

Existing farmland in the hands of developers must be retained even if it is not being used for food production (Ministry of Agriculture 1992)

By fragmenting or only saving certain areas of the woodland the government is leaving the few remaining hectares of CPW to attack by Bell Minor Birds (BMA) or Pathogens Chitrid fungus disease, Myrtle Rust and Phytophthora cinnamomi as identified in

<https://soe.environment.gov.au/theme/biodiversity/topic/2016/pest-species-and-pathogens>

The lack of respect shown by the government in regard to Aboriginal, European, Landscape, or Social heritage has been apparent in the GMPGP and I see no reason why this attitude will not be repeated in the CPCP. These areas should be retained so that future generations can learn from past mistakes or successes.

Bio certification credits should not be passed to areas that are already reserved or heritage properties as this will not increase areas to be saved but in fact, will lead to a complete loss.

We request that the CPCP and the GMPGP are put on hold until the government can ensure that air quality, heat, water both drinking and sewerage, education, hospitals, public transport are at least brought up to a standard that can cope with existing residents and that a new conservation plan is written for the Cumberland Plain with on the ground reports and surveys undertaken and not ignored as has happened in the Campbelltown Macarthur region.

Sewerage Plants along the Georges River are regularly overtopping into the river which is polluting the river and degrading the banks of the river, COVID has now been found in sewerage systems which could flow into the river and either infect the public when they swim or enter into fishing stocks. Before any more sewerage is pumped to these Plants they must be upgraded to ensure that overtopping does not occur in the future.

We are always happy to speak to members of the government in regard to the local Campbelltown Koala population which as you know spreads from the Australian Botanic Gardens at Mount Annan to the Royal National Park, down through Appin and up to Liverpool. One of our concerns at the moment is that an infected animal or one with a medical problem such as eye complaint or kidney dysfunction will be released into the Dharawal National Park or along the Georges River.

I reserve the right to add to my submission in regard to the changes made to the new koala SEPP in parliament on 6th October 2020

Yours faithfully

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