

Sarah Ng

From: Anthony Tavella on behalf of DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 3:03 PM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au <noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 1:41 PM
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 - 13:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Submission Type: I am making a personal submission

First Name: Brigid

Last Name: Dowsett

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Suburb/Town & Postcode: Gladesville

Submission file: [webform_submission:values:submission_file]

Submission: The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) sets aside a major defined urban growth area for housing and roads over the next 36 years. Western Sydney already has a crisis in terms of loss of open space and precious biodiversity through increased population and development. I urge you to reconsider the draft CPCP which appears to be designed to facilitate biodiversity certification from the state and federal governments. It has the potential to set aside the standard conservation and offset rules required of developers with an all-in-one 'strategic' approval process and become a template for biodiversity offset schemes across NSW and beyond. This approach will not prevent a net loss of biodiversity and is opposed. Further fragmentation of reserves is inevitable and wildlife habitat connectivity will be significantly impacted. This Plan will have a significant impact on eight threatened ecological communities, 25 flora species and 24 fauna species. It will impact over 1,000 hectares of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland, unique to this region. It is shameful and of huge concern that only around 6,400 hectares or 6% of the original 107,000 hectares remains. The Plan, as drafted, will put the recovering and chlamydia-free South West Sydney koala population on a path to extinction. It commits to the creation of only one reserve - the Georges River Koala Reserve - and does not accept the Chief Scientist's recommendation to secure all of the six east-west habitat corridors for the koalas. Three new reserves are proposed but they are only completed over the life of the Plan. They must be preserved within the next 3 years to protect them from the intense development pressure. If the Conservation Plan is approved, around 10,000 hectares of 'urban capable' rural land can be released for development without the need for any further environmental impact assessments. It will accelerate the dismantling of Sydney's remaining green belt and rapidly diminish the Sydney basin's critical ability to meet 20% of the city's fresh food needs. The CPCP will permanently isolate three of the four National Parks which currently protect significant areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland; the Wianamatta Regional Park, Shanes Park, and Colebee Nature Reserve. The M7 motorway and M7-Ropes Crossing Link Road proposals would completely isolate these three reserves from each other. The remaining conservation values of the entire region must be protected through a revised and comprehensive CPCP with sufficient funding. What is being proposed is inadequate to avoid further disruption to natural ecosystems, destruction of the Cumberland Plain Woodland, and loss of indigenous heritage and early white settlement history across this region. The Plan should be rejected for all the above reasons.

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