

## The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

*Notes from a biodiversity expert...*

- This Plan is essentially about biobanking an offsets
- It will transform a very large proportion of the Cumberland Plain
- It is a plan about development
- It already has locked in outcomes – and yet is only proposed
- Is a conglomeration of business and government
- Penrith and south west Sydney will be the biggest impacted
  - Penrith will be double the size in dwellings
  - Cobbitty Hills, which currently has the biggest private area of Cumberland Plain Woodland left will be taken out
- Wianamatta Regional Park will effectively be cut in two
- 9km of South Creek will be taken out for a highway
- 10,500Ha of rural land will be destroyed – industrial agriculture will dominate with sheds the size of a km squared
- 1014Ha of CPW is proposed for clearing to make way for development
  - This is greater than 10% of a critically endangered threatened ecological community (currently illegal under the federal law)
- Wildlife will be isolated
- There will be 50 forced evictions
- Barriers will stop Koala re-colonisation
- Currently, approval for clearing requires 2 outcomes – a conservation area and a restoration area
- Without the CPCP development would continue to go ahead one by one, which is harder for the developers
  - This Plan is proposing blanket approval for development across western Sydney
  - Better outcomes for the environment would arise with individual developments
- The state government is offering four offsets to relieve the loss of CPW, including
  - Land parcel on sandstone (not shale)
  - Koala additions – which are beneficial, but 50% of this offering is already under reservation...
  - Confluence land
  - Wasteland
- Development is locked in in this Plan, but not the offsetting
- There is no staging of the development
- The budget offering is far too low
- Land under local government reservation is being re-packaged and offered as offsets
- Previous western Sydney growth areas had staging and good budgets
- Connectivity is completely overlooked

We need to aim for:

- 500m wide koala corridors at Mt Gilead – this is a core corridor for the Koalas merging west
- Additional 2km tunnel to save Wianamatta Regional Park
- Cobbitty tunnel to the north and south

- Corridors to be a priority in the offsetting

What we fight for:

- A fair budget locked in
- Staging development
- New offsets – not already public land
- Do not rely on revegetation – conserve what remains
- No taxpayer subsidy

How to fight

- Politically – talk to your local politician
- Media
- Public submissions