

Sarah Ng

From: Anthony Tavella on behalf of DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2020 9:41 AM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan
Attachments: cpcp-gsln-submission.docx

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From: noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au <noreply@feedback.planningportal.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 4:17 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 - 16:14
Submitted by: Anonymous
Submitted values are:
Submission Type: I am submitting on behalf of my organisation
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Submission file:
[cpcp-gsln-submission.docx](#)

Submission: This is a submission from numerous comments from a special meeting held with concerned individuals and organisations across Greater Sydney. It has been submitted on behalf of the 65 meeting attendees and 15 organisations, by Greater Sydney Landcare Network.

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

Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Submission – Greater Sydney Landcare Network

Friday 9th October, 2020

On Thursday September 9th approx. 65 people came together for a special western Sydney wide Green Drinks event via zoom, to hear a presentation from a biodiversity expert on the reality of the CPCP. Amongst these 65 people, were at least 15 organisations, plus landholders, students and other interested people.

Primary concerns regarding the CPCP were recorded in the chat function of the zoom meeting, and have made up the following submission.

This is a bastardisation of a 'conservation' plan – it is a development plan!

Even specialists in their field of ecology could not apply for and be granted permission to harm greater than 10% of a critically endangered ecological community! Yet planning is proposing this for the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland...

The Department of Planning is disregarding years of scientific determinations which proclaim that some species and one particular ecological community cannot handle any more of certain key threatening processes, and may become extinct if they do – and yet, this plan requests to continue Key threatening processes like clearing.

This is a 'biosecurity issue' – if we are allowing business to carve up and develop our last remaining ecological patches of western Sydney bushland and the animals that rely on it.

The CPCP is also 5000 pages long – how can any one person or volunteer group be expected to read it, understand it and comment on it appropriately.

Are comments fruitless anyway, given DPIE didn't even consider the comments by the other arm of its department???

We are reviewing our Federal environmental legislation at the moment, but why? Why bother? This Plan will completely take out any notion of strategic planning and assessment.

How can it be that the government is requiring the clearing of Wianamatta Regional Park as part of this plan, when it is already an offset for Jordan springs? Surely this is double dipping and should not even be feasible. Additionally, will this mean that any new offsets are meaningless in terms of long term protection – if they can be divided and cleared when already gazetted?

The large scale maps/ urban development do not show the scale of large paddock tree loss across the entire area. In some cases these paddock trees may be the only habitat for kms. For example some microbats rely on large single roosting trees which if removed will be displaced – but to where? There will be no where left for them! You cannot revegetate old growth Cumberland Plain grandfather trees.

People's whole farms and houses are being affected because of this plan, when tunnels could save them eg. Cobbitty hills. Cobbitty hills, which also by chance has the best stand of Cumberland Plain Woodland left – why clear it when you need it for offsets on this development and previous ones (which have not been met yet). CPW offsets are already astronomically expensive! You are clearing what you need to meet this and previous planning promises.

The E2 avoidance method effectively sterilises the potential to offset the area of biodiversity due to the impact assessment legislation. This leaves large questions about who will fund management of these areas and how it can have funded management in the future.

The Koala inquiry recommended six east west corridors and the CPCP offers one! Really? This is our national icon!!! Can DPIE please justify the one east west Koala corridor – when connectivity is NOT considered in this Plan. The corridor is supposed to go through Appin lower down, reduced capacity through Gilead compromises its effectiveness.

It is a net loss for Koalas, even with the Koala reserve addition (which is not preferred Koala habitat). Without room for connectivity from east to west the eastern population will not be able to maintain its genetic diversity. Can you imagine an Australia without Koalas. Can you imagine what the world would think of us if we lost the cuddly Koala bear? Do you want your children and your children's children to be able to *maybe* see a koala in the wild in their lifetime – or only in books or old video footage (like the poor ghost visions of the last known Tasmanian Tiger).

Various reports and documents developed by experts maintaining the critical listing classification of Cumberland Plain Woodland and the Koala, our iconic species, have now been doctored to suggest no habitat, or no endangerment. This is unethical. It is wrong and it should be challenged. Australia is meant to be a democracy, not a dictatorship. Information that we have all seen has been re-packaged to suit planning and development. Will this plan be dictated to us aswell?

Public land should NOT be re-packaged as offsets. It is already public. It should already be protected. Give local governments more money to manage their land so that they don't have to offer their reserves up for offsetting. This increases the competition for the private landholders and hence adds no new parcels into protection. It is not right! The public land re-packaged in this plan should not be offered as additional, or as offsets. It is already PROTECTED!

The potential to challenge this Plan lies on the basis that the Plan is inconsistent with the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme, as it proposes to cause serious and irreversible impacts to threatened species/ TECs/ creeks and waterways. Remember the precautionary principle?

Also, how can this plan have been developed from a desk? We all know google maps and satellites were relied on for much of the planning. Really. This is not reality! Please reconsider. Please put in place better corridors, more tunnels and less clearing, for the Cumberland Plain Woodland, already so close to extinction, but also for the Koala. *Please.*