

## Sarah Ng

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**From:** Public Kean Office Email  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 October 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** Stokes\_Office\_Email  
**Subject:** FW: FOR REFERRAL: MD20/7037 - Objection to Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

**Categories:** Red Category, Duplicate, Campaign/for determination

Hello,

Please find attached correspondence sent to the Hon Matt Kean MP.

As this matter falls within your portfolio responsibilities, it is being referred to you for any necessary action.

For all enquiries, please contact the above email address.

Yours sincerely

Office of the Hon Matthew Kean MP  
Minister for Energy and Environment

e-Contact form: [www.nsw.gov.au/ministerkean](http://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerkean)



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**From:** NSW Government <[webforms@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:webforms@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Saturday, 26 September 2020 9:13 AM

**To:** Webform Kean <[webform@kean.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:webform@kean.minister.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Objection Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Zone



## Your details

Ms

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**Title**

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**First name**

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**Last name**

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**Phone**

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**Email**

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**Street address**

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**Suburb**

Coogee

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**State**

New South Wales

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**Postcode**

2034

## Your enquiry

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**Subject**

Objection Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Zone

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**Type of enquiry**

Comment

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**Message**

Objection to Draft Cumberland Conservation Plan (COCP)

When the Growth Centres SEPP received federal government biodiversity certification in 2012, it was on the condition that the Cumberland Plain would be the first preference for biodiversity offsetting. This was in recognition of its very degraded environmental state.

You also have to remember that the Biodiversity Offset Program for the Growth Centres SEPP was introduced in 2006 as a compromise solution after the Labor government of the day did a backflip on its plan to codify a green belt around Sydney. Wilton and the Greater Macarthur region were never meant to be developed.

Professor Graeme Samuels in his Interim Report on the Review of the EPBC Act was scathing about the misuse of biodiversity offset programs. He said that they often fail to deliver their promised environmental outcomes and that too often areas designated as biodiversity offsets are later released for development. That's exactly what's happening here.

To date, the Biodiversity Offset Program has only protected 368 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland. The target is 2,400 hectares and the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan acknowledges that the proposed development will impact over 1,000 hectares of this critically endangered species

The Plan proposes massive urban development on the Cumberland Plain, a region previously designated as a "first priority" biodiversity offset area for two other major Growth Centres.

The Plan will reclassify a total of 10,014 hectares of rural land as 'urban capable' while setting aside only 5,475 hectares of native

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vegetation in new conservation lands.

The Plan acknowledges that 1,014.6 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland or around 16% of the remaining 6,400 hectares will be impacted by the proposed development.

The Plan provides no assessment about how the loss of so much rural land will impact the Sydney region's food bowl capacity.

The Plan fails to set aside enough land to properly protect a thriving population of 600 to 1,000 koalas, the largest chlamydia-free koala population in NSW.

The Plan's proposed construction of 120 km of Koala exclusion fencing will isolate and fragment Koala colonies, especially because the Plan protects only one of the six east-west movement corridors recommended in the Chief Scientist Koala Report.

The Plan acknowledges that the urban heat island effect in Western Sydney "will increase as urbanisation increases," but proposes only minimal measures to mitigate its effect. This area regularly experiences record summer temperatures.

The Plan acknowledges that conservation land will only be secured slowly over time. No firm commitment has been made about how much land will eventually be protected.

The Plan does not address the significant adverse impact on the scenic, historic and physical qualities of one of the most heritage rich and picturesque rural landscapes in NSW.

If you want to double the koala population in NSW which I commend you on, then you must raise objections to this plan

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**I would like a response**    Yes

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