

## Sarah Ng

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 24 October 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox  
**Cc:** mulgoa@parliament.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sir/Madam

I own the property at [REDACTED] Orchard Hills (Lot [REDACTED]). I have lived at this address for almost 40 years. Orchards and Vineyards previously occupied the properties within this vicinity. Since owning the property, it has always been used for agricultural purposes with either market garden, sheep or goats and I currently have horses on the property. The animals on this property have always utilised approximately two acres and the remaining three acres have been maintained through mowing. The rear paddocks of the property have been maintained over the past 40 years with regular slashing. During periods of drought, my property and the surrounding properties have become barren with just dust remaining.

Although there is a creek which passes through my property, water is rarely held in this water channel as it drains away very quickly after a storm or heavy down pour. It appears that water for any wildlife to survive in this region would be an issue as there are no natural water supplies. Any animals that I have owned on my property have always had water supplied by myself. Over the years I have regularly seen common birds struggling with heat and provide them with water in a bowl due to no natural water supplies in the local area.

My property and many others in Orchard Hills neighbour the M4 motorway at the rear of our properties, which in the past 10 years has significantly increased with traffic and noise pollution, [24/7](#). I re-call many years ago sighting birds such as Blue wrens, zebra finches, double bar finches and red brows in the surrounding area, however, I have not seen any for at least 10 years, which would be a result of the increased traffic noise and pollution. Fellow neighbours and I have also noticed that our horses move down towards our homes during the night, which is the cause of traffic noise and lights from the traffic passing on the M4 motorway, as this scares them. It is evident from our experiences that any wildlife in the vicinity would not stay or be happy in this type of environment.

Further to having the M4 motorway within the vicinity of Orchard Hills, my property is only approximately one kilometre from the Northern Road and the junction of the Northern Road and M4 motorway. The Northern Road is in the process of being upgraded to an eight-lane road with the M4 and Northern Road junction being the biggest intersection in the Southern Hemisphere. In addition to these major roads and intersections surrounding Orchard Hills there is also the new metro railway station at Orchard Hills commencing this year, which would also impact the environment for any wildlife in this area. The RAAF base is also located less than one kilometre away from my property, where extremely loud explosive noises often occur and have been heard since I have moved to the area 40 years ago. Furthermore, there are frequently helicopters hovering over the Orchard Hills area in particular, over the M4 motorway and surrounds, and often emergency services utilise the M4 motorway and surrounding main roads which cause considerable noise.

In conclusion, when Orchard Hills was originally subdivided in the late 1800's, it was utilised for orchards and vineyards, however, was previously utilised for farming purposes. Since owning my property at Orchard Hills my property and the surrounding properties have been utilised predominately for agricultural purposes, with the land being overturned through ploughing and vegetation being lost due to droughts. The Orchard Hills area was never dense bush land and any wildlife that had been living in the region has moved on due to road work and developments in surrounding suburbs over the past years. Therefore, creating a conservation area within Orchard Hills would not be ideal, as animals re homed to this conservation would not remain in this type of environment.

Please see attached pictures of my current property

Kind Regards,