

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2020 12:17 PM
To: DPE PS Biodiversity Mailbox
Subject: Cumberland Conservation Plan - comments by Deborah Andrew 30th November 2020

Importance: High

To whom it may concern,
I wish to make the following comments on the Cumberland Conservation Plan.

1. The Cumberland Conservation Plan does not adequately address the conservation of Koala populations on the Cumberland Plain, in particular it does not address the needs of the Campbelltown Koala population, one of the few disease (Chlamydia) free populations in NSW. The failings of the Plan are:-

1.1 It fails to identify and permanently and immediately reserve sufficient Koala habitat for the Campbelltown Koalas.

1.2 It fails to identify, protect and enhance critical Koala movement corridors between the Georges River Catchment and the Cumberland Plain, in particular at Noorumba Reserve/Menangle Creek and Beulah / Woodhouse Creek, both which connect to the Nepean Catchment and ultimately the Blue Mountains. These corridors should be permanently protected and enlarged.

1.3 It fails to acknowledge that the Koala corridor identified at Ousedale Creek is already permanently severed by dense treeless urban development at Appin Road blocking any possibility of effective Koala movement between the Nepean and Georges River catchments.

1.4 It proposes fencing along Appin Rd to prevent Koala movement and does not propose to build a suitable number of effective and proven Koala crossing structures at known Koala crossing points. This will effectively destine future Koalas of the Georges River to death by fire as they are corralled up against the fence in the next major wildfire.

2. The Cumberland Conservation Plan fails to identify and protect important bushland remnants, including Cumberland plain Woodland Endangered Ecological Community, wetlands and water bodies on the Cumberland Plain even when only 6% of this native vegetation remains. Major highways M9 and M12 are proposed to go through bushland, parkland and even dedicated Nature Reserves. Important habitat areas and potential corridors should be avoided or tunnelled under.

3. New housing developments are devoid of green space and clear remnant bushland and de-water wetlands and dams to make room for more housing in a developer driven push to maximize the number of lots and therefore maximize their profits. These future heat islands have no room for large trees in gardens or streets and destine future residents to baking summer temperatures and no native wildlife in their suburb. While there is talk of green cities there is no evidence of this happening in the developer driven housing estates of western Sydney. Important habitat areas and potential corridors should be avoided.

3. The Plan shows no vision on the expansion of bushland, parkland and green corridors across the Cumberland Plain to build and restore plant and animal communities, rather it is driven by developer needs to clear and develop what little we have left.

4. The allocation of only \$84 million to achieve conservation outcomes, even though they are vastly inadequate, will be insufficient to achieve any significant conservation gains.

5. In conclusion I consider the Cumberland Conservation Plan shows little if any vision for a greener and better protected Cumberland Plain will the see the further movement of native flora and fauna populations such as the Koala, towards extinction, as the government panders to developer greed. We unlikely to have any Koala populations remaining on the Cumberland Plain in fifty years time unless significant improvements are made to this Plan.

Yours sincerely

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