

# MOLINO STEWART

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL HAZARDS



Planning,  
Industry &  
Environment

**NSW Department of Planning,  
Industry and Environment**



## **Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan - Stakeholder Engagement**

*Report*





# **Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan - Stakeholder Engagement**

## **REPORT**

for

**NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**

by

**Molino Stewart Pty Ltd  
ACN 067 774 332**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is preparing the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan to inform strategic conservation planning in the Western Sydney growth areas until 2056.

DPIE is undertaking a six-month active engagement strategy from July to December 2019 to meet the challenge of delivering one of the largest strategic conservation planning exercises ever undertaken in Australia. This engagement will inform preparation of the draft Plan, which will be publicly exhibited in mid-2020 for statutory consultation.

DPIE engaged consultants Molino Stewart to assist in parts of the stakeholder and community engagement for the following:

- Communities of Western Sydney
- Eight local councils within the study area
- Environment groups
- Development industry peak bodies.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the community and stakeholder engagement was to:

1. Inform stakeholders about the Plan and about the changes occurring in Western Sydney
2. To provide opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback on key aspects of the Plan prior to statutory public exhibition of the draft Plan.

## METHODOLOGY

Nine engagement sessions were held between 4 September 2019 and 21 September 2019 consisting of:

- Five community drop-in sessions in strategic locations across Western Sydney
- Two workshops for local council staff
- One workshop for environment groups

- One business breakfast for development industry peak bodies.

A total of 176 people attended the engagement sessions.

## FINDINGS

Many attendees supported the DPIE's approach to develop the Plan, although there was a degree of scepticism from some people due to issues such as distrust of prior government planning. There was general support for elements of the Plan including the extension of reserves, use of offsetting and biodiversity conservation agreements.

Most stakeholder groups identified education, capacity-building, collaboration and research as key components that should be included in the Plan.

There was a broad range of issues raised across the Western Sydney communities for consideration in the Plan particularly relating to the need for connectivity, koala movements, sustainable growth and the impact of transport corridors. Several community members were concerned about the impact of changes to their property or local area.

Each local council saw opportunities in the development of the Plan including for the better management of their high conservation value areas. The main actions they believed should be incorporated in the Plan included funding arrangements, incentives for landholders, research opportunities, community and council education, planning instruments and capacity building. The councils thought that the biodiversity assessment mapping conducted as part of the Plan development would be useful to them in their strategic planning and operations.

The environment groups were mainly concerned about ensuring connectivity across the landscape particularly for koalas in the south-west. They strongly promoted the use of their local knowledge and skills in the future delivery of the Plan.

The development industry peak bodies were mainly concerned about biocertification and whether existing development arrangements will be altered as a result of the Plan.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

Western Sydney is growing at a rapid rate. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) is preparing the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (the Plan) to inform strategic conservation planning in Western Sydney until 2056. Strategic conservation planning refers to the requirements of both NSW strategic biodiversity certification under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and strategic assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Plan will help deliver NSW Government commitments on housing and infrastructure, while maintaining ecosystem functionality. The Department has nominated the following areas for strategic conservation planning in Western Sydney (see Figure 1 map):

- Greater Macarthur Growth Area
- Wilton Growth Area
- Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek Urban Release Investigation Area
- Western Sydney Aerotropolis Growth Area
- Future Western Sydney transport corridors

Strategic conservation planning strikes the balance between delivering positive environmental outcomes and supporting appropriate development by:

- informing where development will take place for new homes, schools, commercial centres, parks, major roads and other infrastructure
- assessing the impact of proposed development on native plants and animals
- detailing a program of conservation measures, such as new national parks, reserves and revegetation areas, to balance the impacts of development and protect biodiversity.

## 1.2 PURPOSE

The Department is undertaking six months of active engagement from July to December 2019 to meet the challenge of delivering one of the largest strategic conservation planning exercises ever undertaken in Australia. This engagement will inform the draft Plan, which will be publicly exhibited in 2020 for statutory consultation.

Early engagement constitutes a new approach to engagement. The Department wants to hear community and stakeholder views and ideas before developing and finalising the draft Plan.

During the six-month engagement phase, the Department is engaging with communities in Western Sydney, local councils, NSW Government agencies, industry peak bodies, environment groups, developers and other major landholders. The Department will lead and coordinate some of this work internally, including meetings with developers and major landholders, and government agencies.

The Department commissioned Molino Stewart Pty Ltd to design, manage and facilitate a targeted engagement approach for selected stakeholder groups, namely:

- local communities of Western Sydney
- eight local councils in Western Sydney (within the study area of the Plan)
- environment groups and peak bodies
- development industry peak bodies.

A separate contract is delivering targeted engagement with Aboriginal communities and Local Aboriginal Land Councils in Western Sydney. Both the Aboriginal engagement process and the engagement coordinated by the Department will be appropriately aligned with this engagement, but does not form part of the scope of works.

This report provides findings from the stakeholder engagement events conducted by Molino Stewart.



## 1.3 OBJECTIVES

There were two objectives of the targeted stakeholder engagement:

1. To inform stakeholders about the Plan/project and about the changes occurring in Western Sydney
2. To provide opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback on key aspects of the Plan/project prior to statutory public exhibition of the draft Plan.

## 1.4 METHODOLOGY

In liaison with the Department, the following stakeholder engagement methods were designed, organised and facilitated by Molino Stewart:

- Five community drop-in sessions held at Penrith, Menangle, Picton, Luddenham and Campbelltown. These locations were chosen due to their proximity to the proposed growth areas and the Western Sydney transport corridors (Section 1.1)
- Two workshops for local council staff held at Penrith and Campbelltown
- One workshop for environment groups held at Campbelltown
- One business breakfast forum for development industry peak bodies held at Parramatta.

A briefing workshop for business and community peak bodies (e.g. chambers of commerce, community groups) was designed and organised by Molino Stewart, but was cancelled due to lack of interest from these stakeholders.

All engagement sessions were held between 4 September 2019 and 21 September 2019.

## 1.5 ADVERTISING

Advertising for the engagement events was conducted by the Department.

The Department developed a targeted stakeholder list for local council staff, environment groups and the industry peak bodies workshops based on previous

engagement work on the Plan and other projects. These groups were directly invited via Electronic Direct Mails (eDM) linked to Eventbrite events. The Department also contacted many stakeholders directly by calling them to promote the events.

For the community drop-in sessions the Department paid for promotion using a consultant to place adds in local newspapers and social media. The Department also directly invited community and stakeholders via an eDM to all people that had attended previous events and those on the Department's stakeholder database in Western Sydney. It also promoted the events on the Department's social media and requested local councils and other organisations to share through their networks.

## 1.6 ATTENDANCE

A total of 176 people attended the nine engagement sessions as shown in Table 1.

*Table 1: Attendance at engagement sessions*

Session	Number
Penrith Community Drop-in	22
Menangle Community Drop-in	9
Picton Community Drop-in	25
Luddenham Community Drop-in	42
Campbelltown Community Drop-in	26
Local council workshop (Penrith)	8
Local council workshop (Campbelltown)	16
Environment group workshop (Campbelltown)	17
Business breakfast forum (Parramatta)	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176</b>

All eight local councils were represented across the two council workshops.

Thirty-four staff members from the Department provided engagement support and technical

assistance across the sessions. Fourteen staff from Transport for NSW also provided technical advice. Molino Stewart provided two engagement staff at each session.

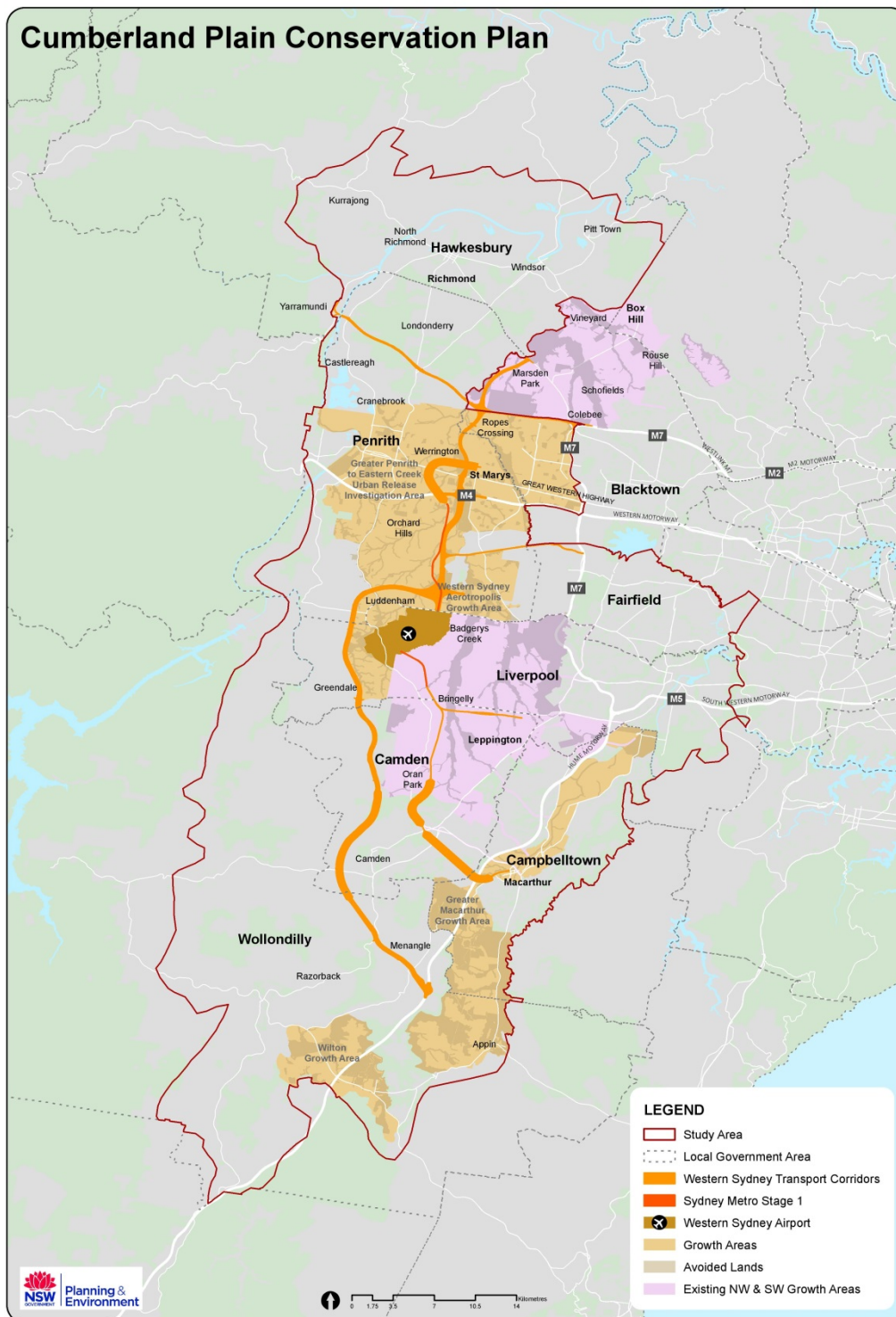


Figure 1: Map showing proposed Western Sydney growth areas and transport corridors

## 2 BROADER COMMUNITY

### 2.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the community drop-in sessions was to inform community members about the changes occurring in Western Sydney and to provide opportunities for them to provide feedback on key aspects of the Plan.

### 2.2 BRIEFING

At the five drop-in sessions, community members could obtain information about the Plan via fact sheets and display panels provided by the Department. There was also a short two-minute video about the Plan spooling on a large screen.

The room layout at the Penrith community drop-in session is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Room set up at the Penrith community drop-in session

### 2.3 FEEDBACK

Many attendees supported the Department's approach to develop the Plan, although there was some degree of scepticism from some people due to issues such as distrust of government planning.

Several community members were unaware of how the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan worked. Once the strategic nature of the Plan was explained (upfront planning to enhance

connectivity etc...) they were supportive of it in theory.

Feedback can be categorised into nine main themes:

1. The Plan – suggested priorities and actions
2. Biodiversity
3. Koalas
4. Indigenous heritage
5. Development and planning
6. Transport
7. Landowner feedback
8. Site-specific issues
9. The engagement process

The following is a summary of the main themes and comments received from community feedback to Department and Transport for NSW staff across the five drop-in sessions.

#### 2.3.1 The Plan – suggested priorities and actions

Several questions and comments were made about the Plan, its purpose and potential content:

- How does the Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan interact with the Plan?
- Why is it called the conservation plan when it is really focused on development?
- What is the role of the Department and who is responsible for the decision making process?
- Concern about the impact of biodiversity conservation on landowners: benefits are promoted but not what it means on a practical level.
- Concern that biodiversity conservation is not given priority over development, only when convenient

A few teachers attended the drop-in sessions and wanted to know how the Plan could be included in environmental education programs and translate into work experience opportunities through local councils. Several attendees supported the Plan's intent and believed conservation planning and other green infrastructure is a good thing.

## 2.3.2 Biodiversity

### Questions

People asked the following questions about biodiversity at the drop-in sessions:

- How do the biodiversity stewardship agreements operate and what are the financial incentives?
- Will green spaces in growth areas be protected?
- What measures are in place to protect waterways and wetlands?
- How does offsetting work and what is the relationship with urban development?
- What is BAM, and how does it feed into offsetting?
- How is conserving the remaining Cumberland Plain Woodland EEC part of the plan?
- What is biodiversity?

### Concerns

People had the following concerns regarding the conservation of biodiversity in the Plan:

- The Cumberland Plain is beyond saving.
- High failure rate on trees because of the lack of water – it is more common sense to keep the trees we already have.
- Conservation and restoration of swamps, waterways, creeks, river and adjoining bushlands or cycleways. Concerns that creeks and waterways are not part of the Plan.
- Need for connectivity, to be kept and improved.
- Dam dewatering will occur to facilitate development but dams will not be replaced. This will have detrimental effects on aquatic ecosystems and habitat particularly turtles.
- Impacts of the Plan on council operations such as impacts of the 10-50 rule (permitted clearing for bushfire protection) and ensuring that biodiversity offsetting is fully costed so that there are no outstanding bills for councils.
- Issues and fears around the practical future management of conservation spaces – councils often manage parks, but don't always have the resources to maintain complex conservation spaces.

Western Sydney Parklands were mentioned as a good example of how community members hope areas will be managed.

- Dryland salinity and its effect on the water table.
- Endangered Ecological Communities and the potential for them to be biocertified regardless of quality.

One community member noted that the Cumberland Plain is older than the Blue Mountains (in geomorphology) and that there is more variety in biodiversity on the Cumberland Plain than Victoria and Tasmania combined.

### Suggestions

- Urban conservation – 'Need to plant more appropriate trees in all suburbs that do not need to be cut down for power lines. Need to cool our suburbs, plant more trees in local parks and bring the birds back'.
- More of a focus on non-koala animals, like wombats and wallabies.
- Keep roadkill to a minimum. Road kill, especially on Appin Road was a great concern, and suggestions of several road crossings for wildlife were put forward. Other community members had concerns that underpasses sometimes made it easy for feral cats and other predators to easily kill native species that they are trying to protect.
- One person suggested a Nature Corridor from Campbelltown to the Blue Mountains.
- Maintaining green spaces and old growth trees inside the development areas is important.

## 2.3.3 Koalas

There was a great deal of interest in maintaining koala populations and habitat areas.

Mount Gilead was mentioned as an important conservation area. The northern east-west vegetation corridors associated with development proposed in Mount Gilead were also identified as being of great importance to many community members for the protection of koalas.

The protection of east-west vegetation corridors within Greater Macarthur Growth Area was highlighted as important to protecting koalas in



the region. These corridors include Ousedale Creek, Mallaty Creek and Woodhouse Creek. Noorumba Reserve is also an important corridor and contains important species such as lyre birds, wombats and wallabies.

There was concern over coal mines and the intended expansion of a coal mine that would have an impact on north-south koala movement along the Georges River.

There was concern about koala roadkill in the region, in particular along Appin Road. Wedderburn also needs more road mitigation for koalas. There was a suggestion to construct a road running along the Nepean River at the back of the Beulah biobank site instead of upgrading Appin Road.

There was a concern that the Georges River Parkway will still go ahead, and the impact of this proposed road on the koala population.

It was suggested that more research and monitoring of koalas should be done through citizen science. Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands koala programs were funded through Saving Our Species. The community was involved with koala hotlines and it was a very efficient use of this funding.

One community member noted that there was a need to make Bionet more user friendly. Apparently, there are many observations of koalas along Appin Road, however they are not reported due to difficulty using Bionet.

The Southern Sydney Koala population has low genetic diversity, therefore low immunity making them more susceptible to stress. Scientific research shows that stress is caused by development and can lead to more diseases. The Plan should consider this research, especially the impact of fences on inbreeding.

Translocation does not always work. Some community members know of a koala that was moved and then tried to go back to its original habitat and got hit by a car. The Plan should consider the impacts of translocation if it is required for the proposed development.

Secondary and tertiary koala habitat should be preserved for koala movement as they do use it as shown by many studies.

### 2.3.4 Aboriginal heritage

Conservation of aboriginal lands, heritage and sacred sites was a priority to some community members.

These community members were overall quite pessimistic and cynical about the care and planning around aboriginal issues, as well as dealing with the government.

### 2.3.5 Development and planning

#### Questions

There were several questions related to development and planning associated with the proposed growth areas:

- Why does the Plan intend to lock land for developers?
- Will there be development outside the growth areas shown?
- Why is infrastructure not a focus? Infrastructure should be held above housing.
- Why are developers allowed to clear but private land owners are not?

#### Concerns

There were also several concerns raised by community members:

- The lack of vegetation in new developments which could increase urban heat island effect. Also concerns about lack of vegetation along transport corridors.
- Government departments, in particular DPIE, are in catch-up mode regarding infrastructure i.e. following in the steps of the developers. Until these departments take the lead and put the infrastructure in place either before or at the same time as housing development arrives then we'll continue to experience all the current ills of traffic snarls, long work commute etc.
- Infrastructure of local areas is currently unable to manage population increase. This results in the creation of 'slums' in the outer reaches of Sydney and means that people will have to travel a considerable distance for work.
- Campbelltown specifically needs far more infrastructure to accommodate such a population increase. The hospital currently



services much of the region and is understaffed, and the sewerage system would struggle with extensive population increase.

- Plans currently being made are not future proof – there is not enough consideration of inevitable climate change. Western Sydney is expected to be considerably warmer on average than currently. Future dwellings should be aware of air flow, surrounding vegetation, ventilation and to accommodate for parking spaces (small streets with parking can prevent emergency vehicles from accessing buildings).

### Suggestions

- There is a need for creation of job opportunities at Wilton and Wollondilly.
- Building up rather than out is the only way for Sydney to be liveable in the future, and greater public infrastructure investment needs to be placed in public transport, hospitals, schools and green energy.
- Agricultural land and heritage should be protected where possible.

## 2.3.6 Transport

Some people had the following questions regarding the planned transport corridors:

- When will the M9 be announced and where will the road run? Where will the entry and exit points be situated and how will this affect traffic?
- When are the transport corridors going to be announced and built? Where will the stations for the North-South rail corridors be situated?
- How the proposed transport corridors will influence land holders and value of land?
- What are the plans for Orchard Hills?
- Impacts of the Outer Sydney Orbital on the Wianamatta Regional Park
- What are the land use planning timeframes for Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek Urban Investigation Area? When and where will the next growth occur, and will it include areas such as Richmond?

## 2.3.7 Landowner feedback

A concerned landowner in the Wilton Growth Area wanted more detailed maps showing areas proposed for urban development in Growth Areas permitted versus protected or avoided for biodiversity. The landowner was concerned about areas that were already zoned before the Plan is finalised and whether adequate survey work had been undertaken on all properties to inform vegetation mapping.

Another landowner with a large property was considering subdividing, but nervous the NSW Government would force development into small lots for high urban density. The landowner suggested the need to maintain a 'country life style' and open spaces.

Several landowners had concerns regarding property acquisition and receiving a fair price for property.

A few community members were upset that investment properties they had purchased had not been zoned favorably or as they had hoped.

Some landowners called for more transparency in future land acquisition that will require relationship building by the State government.

## 2.3.8 Site-specific issues

### Aerotropolis

The majority of site-specific concerns were directed towards the Aerotropolis:

- Questions about flight paths and Aerotropolis rezoning
- Were there any airflow assessments done for the airport?
- Where will the runway be located?
- Concerns about the affect the airport will have on wildlife. Need to ensure conservation measures are away from the Airport to minimise bird strikes.
- Concern about compensation for 'non-urban' land in the Aerotropolis.
- Concern about recent photography and aerial surveying without clarity or notification.

### Other sites

Other site-specific concerns that people had included:

- Development limits on South Creek - loss of land value due to “non-urban” zoning.
- There are plans for Brownlow Hill Quarry to be filled as a tip with concerns about potential impacts on biodiversity and the water table. They also said there is a koala colony at Theresa Park and is concerned about impacts from the quarry and urban development.
- A new development at Menangle Park (approximately 5,000 homes) has been built which cascades down the hill to the Nepean River. There were concerns about the impacts of this development on the waterway (e.g. pesticides, sediment, fertiliser).

### 2.3.9 The engagement process

A few people commented on general engagement by the Department:

- Multiple layers of government are involved in engagement in Western Sydney and attendees felt like they are repeating their concerns to no avail.
- Interested in further engagement such as draft plans and more feedback sessions.
- Would like a single point of contact in the Department to receive regular updates about the Plan.
- Seems that organised environment or community groups have more of a voice than landowners.

There were some comments made relating to the community drop-in sessions:

- The Plan and these events were not widely advertised, many heard through word of mouth, and did not receive any direct advertising or invitations for the events.
- Some landowners that were part of previous consultations were not advised. They were very annoyed that they found out about the consultation from their neighbors.
- The video and information on the website was far too vague and not in line with information gained from the drop-in session. There was no mention of offsetting.

- The website did not contain enough plain English content.
- One community member was under the impression the meeting would be a ‘town hall’ style presentation and debate and was very disappointed and refused to stay or talk with staff.
- Issues with the maps available – not enough detail (i.e. lack of road and waterways including the Nepean River) – no local maps available at this stage.

## 2.4 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Drop-in session attendees were invited to partake in two activities related to the Plan. The first activity was to put sticky dots next to the following values of parks and reserves listed on the wall:

- These areas are maintained and protected for future generations
- Helps Protect biodiversity and ecological function
- Allowing access to nature and escape the urban environment
- Helps people learn about nature, culture and heritage
- Allows people to use cycle ways and access waterways
- Is a good place to participate in outdoor activities

The results of this activity are provided in Figure 3.

In the second activity attendees were asked to write important sites for future conservation on sticky notes and affix these to the wall. Important sites identified included:

### Waterways

- South Creek
- Ropes Creek
- Little Wheeny Creek catchment
- Nepean River system
- Mount Hunter Creek
- Nepean River at Menangle.

### Parks

- Wainwright and Peppermint Park

- Wianamatta Regional Park
- Menangle Park
- Trees and reserve on Rodger and Somerset Street in Kingswood

#### Other

- Orchard Hills defence establishment
- Werrington and Werrington Creek
- Appin/Gregory Hills: key habitat and corridors for koala populations and other wildlife.
- Wombat population in Camden
- Agricultural heritage in Appin and Wilton
- Brownlow Hill
- Two Gorges National Park (proposed Bargo-Nepean National Park)

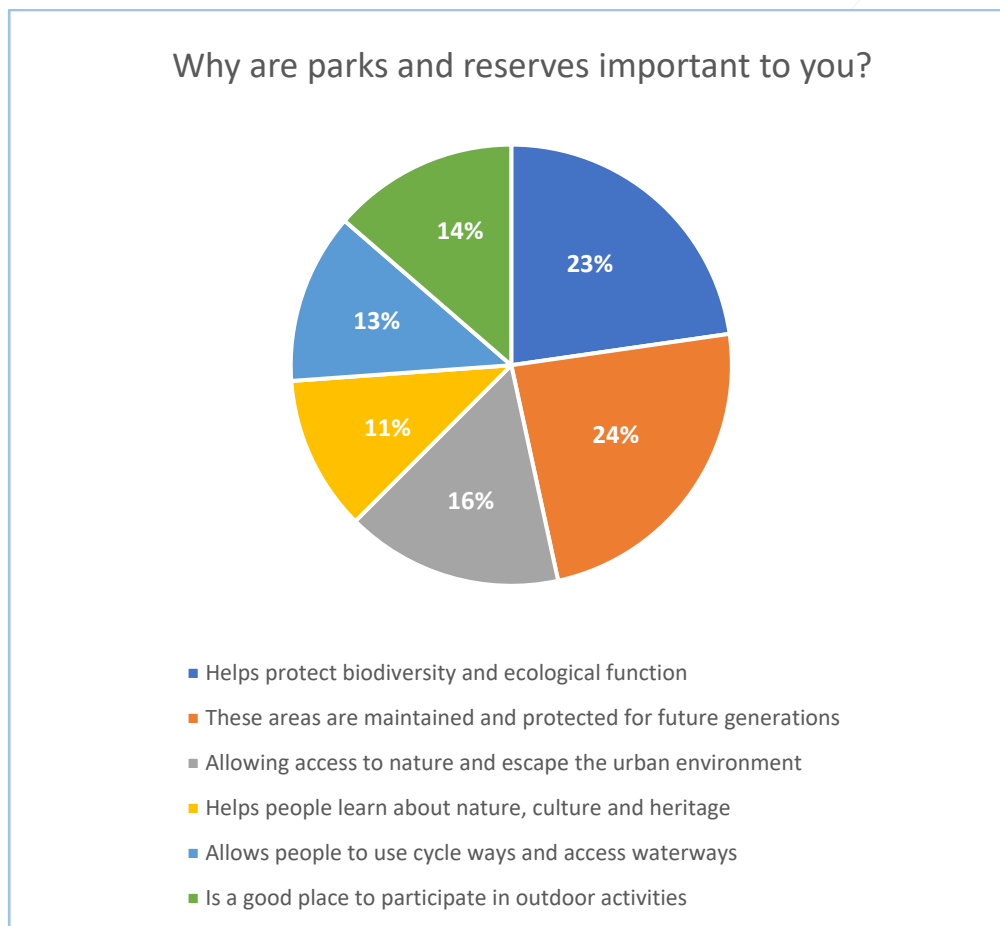


Figure 3: Values of parks and reserves according to drop-in session attendees

## 3 LOCAL COUNCILS

### 3.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the local council workshops was to:

1. Inform council officers about the Plan and the benefits of strategic conservation planning in Western Sydney.
2. Consult and collaborate on the Plan to inform its development for statutory exhibition in 2020.
3. To initiate discussions on delivery with Councils.

### 3.2 BRIEFING

The Department provided a PowerPoint presentation briefing regarding the development of the Plan. Workshop participants were invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to the presentation.

Participants could also obtain information about the Plan via fact sheets and viewing display panels provided by the Department.

### 3.3 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PLAN

The following questions of clarification were asked by council participants to the Department presenters:

- One concern of all councils is how you fund anything, where do we start looking for the funds to implement the Plan?
- The Cumberland Plain has been biomapped, will all those areas mapped as high conservation value be included in the Plan?
- Multiple private landholders could combine their properties to get better outcomes from Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements (where a patch of woodland covers multiple properties). Is that something that will be targeted?

- What is there to prevent developer encroachment – e.g. putting a large road through a protected parkland? Where would the Plan sit in terms of planning hierarchies? Would a SEPP or State Significant Development be able to override the Plan's protected areas?
- Will the Plan touch on regulatory issues i.e. how to control achieving plan outcomes, e.g. Illegal clearing?

There were some other comments and questions during the workshop de-brief. The questions were:

- The Plan is going to 2056, how are you looking at threatened species and how they move around or are added to lists, how will this be managed?
- What about a change in government?

Three comments were also made:

1. Natural assets need to be included in the asset management system to really be valued (council asset management systems need to be recognised in the Plan).
2. Have to cost the management obligations for land to be included in asset management but it's hard to determine how much this costs.
3. Building positive community views will be protective – because they will want the government to keep it up no matter which party is in government.

### 3.4 CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

In a world café activity, council participants in small groups discussed and identified conservation priorities for the Plan. The main priorities identified were:

#### Conservation

- Ecological connectivity (avoiding fragmentation, link high conservation value areas)
- Restoration e.g. enhancing high conservation areas
- Avoiding impacts on existing conservation areas e.g. National Parks, council reserves

- Providing buffers around (not inside) of conserved lands
- Integrating high biodiversity values through offsetting.

### **Assessment**

- Using up-to-date knowledge and data
- Identifying environmental values up front
- Consistent and agreed environmental mapping.

### **Planning**

- Linking the Plan with population growth
- Plan should have easy to understand purpose, especially biodiversity
- Clear guidelines to integrate with green grid e.g. riparian corridors
- Zoning to protect offset areas
- Appropriate buffer between biodiversity and development
- Consistency and linkage with District Plans.

### **Coordination**

- Coordinating agencies in delivery (e.g. Sydney Water, RMS, RFS, NRRRA)
- Conservation initiatives on private lands over public lands (e.g. proper way in which to incentivise landholders at all scales)
- Checking contestability of land ownership for Aboriginal land claims – purpose of land, gain, actions, how obtained.

### **Climate change**

- Climate Change – how to incorporate existing research outcomes?

## **3.5 SUGGESTED ACTIONS**

The composition of the groups was then changed in the world cafe activity. These ‘new’ groups discussed and listed other actions that could be included in the Plan. The main actions identified were:

### **Funding**

- Champion sites, flagship sites, viable options that push financial outcomes

- Opportunity to secure funding for environmental management (e.g. weed control) through BSAs before turning into reserve
- How to fund and manage compliance activities related to the Plan.

### **Education and training**

- Educate community members and have them active in the plan as well e.g. citizen science
- Encourage cultural connection with land
- Use narratives to create value of place
- Councillor training/education about the Plan and its implementation
- Industry education on the management of urban impacts
- Making end-user/purchasers aware of biobanking agreements on land being purchase.

### **Incentives**

- Incentives to protect high value biodiversity.

### **Research**

- Highlight areas that have higher bushfire risk
- How to ensure fauna is protected in extreme weather events e.g. heatwaves
- Review zonings and their relationship to conservation.

### **Collaboration**

- Weed control (co-ordinate management approach)
- How can councils implement the Plan e.g. grants, collaboration with bushcare groups? How to manage avoided land? How to support councils in assessing land?
- Data sharing including identification of local offsetting
- Conservation partnership payments where the property is too small for BSA.

### 3.6 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE AREAS

Local council participants were asked to consider: What do you plan to do with areas of high conservation value in your council area?

The main responses provided were:

- Align plans of management with mapping from the Plan
- Apply for grant funding
- Research into biodiversity credit funding
- Education of the community, councillors and council staff
- Review planning controls particularly on adjacent lands
- Preparing offsetting strategy for public and private lands
- Rezoning high conservation value areas (e.g. koala habitat).

Table 2 in Appendix A provides a summary of responses for each LGA.

### 3.7 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCILS

In both workshops participants were asked to identify the opportunities of the Plan for councils.

The main opportunities identified by the councils were:

- More on-ground activities e.g. regeneration
- Education for council and community
- Improved mapping as a result of the Plan
- Using zoning to protect high conservation value lands
- Improving existing biodiversity strategies and plans
- Increasing conservation networks and partnerships
- Encouraging private land conservation in priority areas
- Additional funding options for conservation outcomes.

Table 3 in Appendix A provides a summary of responses for each LGA.

### 3.8 RESOURCES NEEDED

At the workshops, participants were asked to identify the resources councils needed to support the delivery of the Plan. The main responses were:

- Maintenance costs for delivery of Plan actions
- Further staffing to deliver the Plan
- Capacity building resources for council and community
- Mapping of high conservation lands
- Funding e.g. for preserving corridors.

Table 4 (Appendix A) details the responses from each council to this question.

### 3.9 WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

Using a feedback sheet, participants reviewed the following aspects of the workshops:

1. Information and content
2. Session structure
3. Suitability of the venue.

The results of the evaluation for the two venues are provided in Appendix B.



## 4 ENVIRONMENT GROUPS

### 4.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the workshop with environment groups was to:

1. inform about the Plan and the benefits of strategic conservation planning in Western Sydney
2. seek feedback on the Plan to inform its development for statutory exhibition in 2020.

### 4.2 BRIEFING

The Department provided a PowerPoint presentation briefing regarding the development of the Plan. Workshop participants were invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to the presentation.

Participants could also obtain information about the Plan via fact sheets and viewing display panels provided by the Department.

### 4.3 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT THE PLAN

The following questions were asked by participants to the Department presenter:

- What do you define as development?
  - How do we know which areas to focus our time and resources on? Can we know which areas are guaranteed conservation and protection under the Plan, so that we can better allocate our efforts?
  - What is the planning instrument? What will it be called? When will it apply? When do you inform councils of the implementation of actions in the Plan?
  - Why aren't more detailed maps available to the public to see exactly which areas will be affected?
  - Who is the Plan intended for?
  - Will the report on this engagement be available to the public?
- The following comments were also made by participants in relation to the briefing presentation:
- Concerns about the East West extent of Koala corridors. The current plan does not appear to sufficiently cover known habitat areas, and what is planned for these areas.
  - The timeline for the implementation of the plan needs to be more explicit.

### 4.4 ONLINE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Attendees were provided with a link to an online tool designed to collate any questions or comments they may have during or following the workshop. The questions/comments collated by this tool were:

- As there are a lot of major transport corridors being planned throughout Western Sydney, including a major road cutting through Llandilo bush land, are you including overpasses and underpasses in planning to support connectivity?
- Avoidance of threatened ecological communities and threatened species, and intact remnant vegetation, from the impacts of development should always be the primary objective of the conservation plan.
- Enhancing patch size and connectivity through ecological restoration is essential to provide ecosystem function and resilience.

- The Plan needs to be informed by science, and all management actions should be embedded in an adaptive management framework to enable adequate monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- The discussion would have been more focused if the map for the Greater Macarthur Structure Plan was presented:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Priority-Growth-Areas-and-Precincts/Greater-Macarthur-Growth-Area>

## 4.5 COMMUNITY NEEDS & THE ENVIRONMENT

In the first workshop activity environment group participants were asked to individually respond to the question: How can we best balance community needs and the environment in Western Sydney? The following are the main responses:

### 4.5.1 Planning and development

#### Connectivity

- Corridors for connectivity, Fairfield and Liverpool creeklines, and increased riparian zone width need to be at the forefront of the Plan
- Throughout the new growth areas, nature needs to be incorporated into street tree plantings
- Retain dams, lakes, and creeks rather than filling in and building retention pits.

#### Development limitations

- Uniformity is important and is currently lacking
- Developers need to be controlled as they are currently not controlled
- Balance in current usage means how much natural environment can be destroyed
- Change development process to incorporate more green spaces and protect existing bushland
- Need preservation of green spaces within the developments. Trees and human

health are biologically proven to be connected.

- Need legislative might to preserve important lands which have already been speculatively purchased by developers, but not yet rezoned.

#### Planning suggestions

- Any growth areas within its boundary are already constrained
- In relation to the airport, increased density should only be around transport corridors
- Needs to have smaller suburbs with larger blocks of land
- Define what land suits what land uses
- Ensure any parcel of land has a minimum % for outdoor recreation i.e. sporting grounds
- The Plan needs a regional overview. Individual planning proposals are not considering regional impacts both of their impacts and their conservation efforts.
- Acquire public open space to manage for conservation and recreation purposes
- An increase in services before an increase in houses makes more sense.
- Water needs will need to be addressed as well as school infrastructure.

### 4.5.2 Waterways

- Creeks and dams must not be de-watered
- Wetlands and bushland protection must be a focal point of the Plan
- Consider the hydrological impact of vegetation removal
- Identify corridors strategically including areas of rural landscape and woodlands not just creekline corridors.

### 4.5.3 Biodiversity management

#### Offsetting

- Offsetting needs to be local like for like
- No biobanking
- Biodiversity assessment should be biased toward conservation.

we do not understand the impact we are causing – it could be positive or negative.

## **Corridors**

- Large remnant bushland and corridors should be the highest priority. Need to retain large enough area to maintain genetic biodiversity for animal and plant species. Also need to allow for movement to adapt to climate change.
- Enhanced patch size and habitat connectivity through rehabilitation and ecological restoration
- Biodiversity corridors need to protect old growth Cumberland Woodland from development in perpetuity
- Restore existing degraded bushland to bring back natives and provide more connectivity
- Koalas need natural corridors. This dispersal is a natural defence it speeds up genetic dispersal. Refers to Professor Robert. Close report over 27 years.
- Don't cut wildlife corridors between Georges River and Nepean Rivers at Mt Gilead.

## **Education**

- Ensure properties that directly adjoin native/remnant vegetation that provides important ecological services are identified. The owner/purchaser should be informed of this and the support provided to effectively preserve and maintain.

## **Animal crossings**

- Safe access for animal exits e.g. roadside crossing
- Where transport corridors cut biodiversity hotspots and Cumberland Plain Woodland corridors there is a need to have overpasses and underpasses. These need to be built with the advice of experts in ecology and animal behaviour to ensure they are used.
- Overhead corridors across Appin Road and Deadmans Creek in Upper Georges River between Glenfield and Appin.

## **Research**

- Need scientific evaluation of new conservation measures such as fencing –

## **4.5.4 Community**

### **Aboriginal involvement**

- Spot surveys over 12-18 months cannot replace a lifetime of informed on-ground or indigenous input
- Is there any indigenous input in the Plan?

### **Education**

- Bushwalk/education of school children

### **Local knowledge**

- Experts need to engage with the community, experts in the community are best
- How do you confidently place more value in professional advice over expert community advice?

### **Capacity building and engagement**

- Capacity building delivered through research and science-based approaches
- Private property owners can own important biodiversity hotspots and they should be approached and adequately compensated
- Consultation and listening by creating a credible dialogue between community and experts
- An increase in community engagement and environmental architecture experts

## 4.6 CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

In a world café activity, participants in small groups discussed and identified conservation priorities for the Plan. The main priorities identified were:

### Connectivity

- Creating connected landscapes that are both functional and resilient
- Conservation links to Western Sydney Parklands
- Retain wetland and riparian areas (including dams) to retain water in the landscape
- Avoid developing riparian corridors. Instead increase the width, structure, length and complexity to support ecological function.
- Keep reserves and stands of bushland connected.

### Community participation and education

- Encourage citizen science
- Strengthen the environmental voice against the economic
- Relating to fire - a community information pack relating to environmental planting of specific species.

### Biodiversity risks

- Reducing threats to koalas from roads
- Species extinction threats within Growth Areas
- Species specific and near threatened considerations
- Not leaving isolated habitat
- No extinctions of local indigenous species
- Given the depleted nature of the Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW), all development must aim to retain remaining/existing vegetation. EEC status does not protect the diminishing area of CPW. Focus shift needs not to be skewed toward development.
- Connections inside urban development including permeable edges and urban design opportunities

- Connections inside urban development including permeable edges and urban design opportunities.

### Research

- Scientific evaluation of conservation measures – fencing and other measures.

### Climate resilience

- Climate resilience within landscapes. A resilient system equates to more biodiversity
- Micro avoidance in existing urban areas – urban heat island and green corridors

There were also some site-related suggestions for priorities:

- Protect the east and west of Woodhouse Creek
- Proposed Georges River and areas east of Appin Road – from Appin north to Kentlyn (including any Shale Sandstone Transition Forest)
- Tahmoor Gorge NP – link coastal catchments to the mountains.

## 4.7 SUGGESTED ACTIONS

The composition of the groups was then changed in the world cafe activity. These 'new' groups discussed and listed other actions that could be included in the Plan:

### Education

- Education of community on biodiversity values is key. This includes schools and environmental education. Citizen science is also critical. Community needs to be considered in the planning process to influence decision making. Education and understanding by targeting community and developers, and implementing research outcomes.
- Expertise of local groups – education training program
- Feral and pest species and land holder education e.g. goats in rural areas. Conservation at the highest scale. Restoration at local scale might be too much for volunteer groups.

### **On-ground activities**

- Include fauna under and over passes
- Landscape approach to pest and invasive species management e.g. deer, rabbits, cats, bell miner, myrtle rust, dogs, goats and rabbits
- Strategic management of invasive species provides better chance for eradication at large scale e.g. African Olive.

### **Assessment**

- Survey confidence by conducting season specific surveys for species included under an accredited bio assessor scheme

### **Research**

- Impact of fencing on koalas and other species including potential cumulative impacts. There needs to be more study into these key issues for the Plan.
- Lost connectivity i.e. direct impacts such as fencing. Particular areas include east to west corridors through Lend Lease properties, Beulah biobank site and the upper water supply canal.
- Coordinated science including ear tagging of koalas.

### **Incentives**

- Alternatives for biodiversity businesses: grants for ecotourism, breeding for conservation, head starting programs for biodiversity, green estates, landholder incentives to participate in private land conservation, prioritisation of connected habitat, newer corridors and ongoing financial incentives to encourage more private land conservation, auditing of outcomes, and a new system for conservation.
- Incentives for good development (>BASIX > Green Smart) such as strata plans and community title.

### **Community participation**

- Community advisory panel for Cumberland Plain plant communities for approval function on decision making approvals

- Community panel for public land stewardships
- The Bargo River corridor should have a trust similar to the Western Sydney Parkland Trust
- Target community engagement via a community advisory panel

## **4.8 ROLE FOR ENVIRONMENT GROUPS**

In a facilitated discussion participants were asked to identify the role that environment groups should play in the delivery of the plan. The following responses were provided:

### **Local knowledge**

- Without on-ground experience the policy makers cannot know what is needed i.e. local knowledge. The “boots on the ground” input gained from the environment groups is vital. Passion drives progress.

### **Relations with environment groups**

- Regular meetings between government departments and environment groups can help direct progress.
- It is unfair to rely on environment groups for large scale projects such as this. Relying on environmental groups with no funding who act out of good will is not using the groups to their full potential in informing decision making. Instead it is taking advantage of them.
- These sessions have not taken into account many of the environment groups available. To gain more from the groups, government should endeavour to include the opinions of peak bodies or Nature Conservation Council level groups. All levels of groups from small local to larger regional should be included to better inform decision making. Many of these groups are unaware of the Plan as it is not widely advertised.

### **Bush regenerators**

- Bush regenerators are in a unique position as they share the same values as environment groups, but also have to appease clients. Their relationship with clients demonstrates the need for a community environment panel so that local voices are heard.

## **4.9 WORKSHOP FEEDBACK**

Using a feedback sheet, participants reviewed the following aspects of the workshops:

1. Information and content
2. Session structure
3. Suitability of the venue.

The results of the feedback are provided in Appendix B.



## 5 DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY PEAK BODIES

### 5.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the business breakfast was to:

1. Inform representatives from Western Sydney development industry peak bodies about the Plan and about the changes occurring in Western Sydney
2. Provide opportunities for the representatives to provide feedback on key aspects of the Plan prior to statutory public exhibition of the draft Plan.

### 5.2 BRIEFING

The Department provided a PowerPoint presentation briefing regarding the development of the Plan. Business breakfast forum participants were invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to the presentation.

Participants could also obtain information about the Plan via fact sheets and viewing display panels provided by the Department.

### 5.3 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The following questions were asked in relation to the presentation:

- What is the relationship between this plan and the Northwest and Southwest Growth Centres?
- How will existing proposals be affected?
- Bio-certifying in some DCPs is currently overcomplicated and unclear. Will this be made clearer?
- The current BAM system is overcomplicated, will it be reformed?
- When can we expect Western Sydney to be biocertified?
- How will current Local Strategic Planning Statements incorporate these plans?

The following comments and observations were made by participants:

- Urban heat noted as a problem, interest in incorporating greening areas in Greater Western Sydney
- Noted interest and concern regarding connectivity in Greater Western Sydney
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects representative mentioned the most recent AILA Landscape Heritage Report which looked at large scale connections and cultural land (OCHRE Grid)
- The Australian Institute of Architects encouraged alignment with Sydney Green Grid planning.

### 5.4 FORUM FEEDBACK

Using a feedback sheet, participants reviewed the following aspects of the workshops:

1. Information and content
2. Session structure
3. Suitability of the venue.

In response to an open question in the feedback sheet, participants made the following comments about the business breakfast forum.

- Need more time for questions and answers, sharing information and ideas
- A good start. More detail on relationship with existing SW and NW Growth Centres and biocertification would be helpful
- Good engagement - Information delivered well. Questions answered and further information given. Well done!

## APPENDIX A

Table 2: What do you plan to do with areas of high conservation values in your council area?

Council	Actions for HCV areas
Blacktown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bush regeneration staff (6 staff who maintain bushland plus contract regenerators and Bushcare groups)</li> <li>- "Protect, restore + enhance" under our Biodiversity Strategy, LSPS, Precinct plan, community strategic plan, etc.</li> <li>- Grant funding</li> <li>- Note that the CPCP area in Blacktown is already heavily developed so there are limited opportunities.</li> <li>- POMs, Management plans and VMPs (align with mapping)</li> </ul>
Camden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In older urban areas - analysis of reserves to determine conservation significance</li> <li>- Consultant engaged to understand biodiversity credit potential - restricted to public/community land</li> <li>- In new urban areas: community title (Harrington Grove) - VMAs for DA stage: council to manage in long term</li> <li>- Resourcing - major issues Part B payment to resolve - fund maintenance</li> </ul>
Campbelltown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan of Management</li> <li>- Allow for open spaces and BSA outcomes negotiated between developer/DPIE? Council (manage for dual liveability outcomes in urban spaces)</li> </ul>
Fairfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rural Area - would like to be absorbed into the plan for the Aerotropolis. This would put in place better management of PCTs and threatened species.</li> <li>- Urban Areas - Offset system (scheme) for Part 5 development that would be acceptable with DPIE</li> <li>- Increased resources to look after E2 land,</li> <li>- Educating community</li> <li>- Educate council staff, councillors</li> </ul>
Hawkesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review planning controls particularly on adjacent lands</li> <li>- Protect and enhance, and educate community of importance</li> <li>- Create stewardship sites to ensure ongoing management funds</li> </ul>
Liverpool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect and conserve existing council managed land of high conservation value. Enhance, expand and connect these areas when and where possible.</li> <li>- Undertake species inventories to benchmark and track change over time</li> <li>- More robust plans of management, individual plans for specific high value assets - structured operational management using an asset management approach.</li> <li>- There is some consideration of recreational opportunities to address existing deficits and future demand for exploding population</li> <li>- Leverage high value assets for grant funding and community education and engagement</li> <li>- Consider managing as priority under Environment Restoration Plan levy</li> </ul>
Penrith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First obtain mapping outcomes from the CPCP, compare that to our mapping, amend planning instruments accordingly</li> <li>- Plans of management for recreational reserves/conservation reserves (currently exist)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education and awareness program</li> <li>- Biodiversity projects</li> <li>- Development assessment</li> <li>- Regulatory role</li> <li>- Vegetation Management Plans</li> </ul>
Wollondilly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More than half of Wollondilly LGA is National Park, Reserves, and drinking water catchment</li> <li>- Includes Wilton Growth Area and part of Greater Macarthur Growth Area</li> <li>- As a result, Council is currently putting on hold Planning Proposals outside the Growth Areas</li> <li>- In the future there will likely be limited growth outside Growth Areas in the LGA</li> <li>- Look to rezone areas known as high value (Koala habitat corridor at this stage) through E-zoning</li> <li>- Council is currently preparing a Water Strategy and updating its Biodiversity Strategy. These strategies in association with other strategies (such as Growth Areas) will identify areas of high conservation</li> <li>- Preparing offsetting strategy for council and private landholders</li> <li>- Do generic plans of management for Crown road reserves</li> <li>- Continue to work with Local Land Services and OEH to address higher level of illegal clearing</li> </ul>

Table 3: The opportunities of the Plan for councils

Council	Opportunities
Blacktown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support to facilitate stewardship sites on Council owned lands? i.e. mapping support and especially upfront monetary support for the assessments (BSA assessment report)</li> </ul>
Camden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regeneration</li> <li>- Education for community and Council</li> <li>- Plan considers whole of Cumberland Plain as an ecosystem</li> <li>- Climate resilience opportunities. Council to lead by example - continue to look for opportunities for Bushcare in our LGA</li> <li>- Private land - all non-certified areas in the Growth Areas picked up in Vegetation Management Plans at DA stage</li> <li>- Conservation areas use appropriate zoning to protect i.e. E2</li> </ul>
Campbelltown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BSA part B costs supplies to councils for connectivity actions</li> <li>- Secure connectivity - parks for biodiversity and open space</li> <li>- Embellish Parkland City Strategy</li> <li>- Better maintain these open space conservation areas, education, funding to improve</li> <li>- Part A Risk loading to assist with management burden / risk of urban management failures, resident impacts</li> </ul>
Fairfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educate councillors/council</li> <li>- Override politics</li> <li>- Engage with community to protect and conserve biodiversity</li> <li>- Connect people with nature</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide map overlay of land that has high conservation value (upfront certainty of biodiversity conservation. Strategic certification - cannot be developed)</li> </ul>
Hawkesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase conservation network</li> <li>- Private land conservation in priority areas</li> <li>- Natural asset management</li> </ul>
Liverpool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear outcomes for the conservation of specific areas recognised at all levels of government</li> <li>- Additional funding streams to support the conservation outcomes specified in perpetuity outcomes</li> <li>- Landscape based management outcomes</li> <li>- Identification of conservation assets ahead of precinct planning</li> </ul>
Penrith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private land conservation</li> <li>- More accurate mapping</li> <li>- Clearer delineation for development – guidance/controls</li> <li>- Concrete plan to support community engagement</li> <li>- Connect officers in the Department with council</li> </ul>
Wollondilly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide strategic biodiversity planning and guidance across land tenures</li> <li>- Will be a high level plan to argue against further growth</li> <li>- Hopefully will initiate funding mechanisms for council to help conserve, control edge effects</li> </ul>

*Table 4: What resources do councils need to help deliver the Plan?*

<b>Council</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>
Blacktown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Post plan delivery – council support officers similar to biodiversity reform support officers</li> <li>- Community land compliance support officers</li> <li>- Funding to set up sites for stewardship offset</li> <li>- Maintenance costs -&gt; management -&gt; community appreciation</li> </ul>
Camden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staffing/resources e.g. Sustainability, Natural Resources and council can retain bushland recovery responsibility</li> <li>- Mapping/data</li> </ul>
Campbelltown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project officers to manage</li> <li>- Captured in BSA agreement costs</li> <li>- Capacity building -staff and community</li> </ul>
Fairfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compulsory training for management in biodiversity legislation and regulation</li> <li>- Assistance in the development of stewardship sites, internal stewardship system</li> <li>- Enforcement of legislation</li> <li>- Financial or other incentives</li> </ul>
Hawkesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development guidelines</li> <li>- Funding</li> <li>- Mapping of HCV lands</li> <li>- Information sharing</li> <li>- Councillor briefings</li> </ul>

Liverpool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State and federal agencies undertaking conservation land management on their lands including fencing, pest management, etc.</li> <li>- Persistent funding for land management for all agencies (e.g. per ha)</li> <li>- Planning controls/ Priorities Biodiversity &gt; recreation + community &gt; industry + development</li> <li>- Treat the acquisition, protection and enhancement of critically endangered EEC's as State Significant (Development)</li> </ul>
Penrith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding integration into council biodiversity plans</li> <li>- Mapping layers</li> <li>- More capacity to attend compliance matters – joint between council and the Department</li> </ul>
Wollondilly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A koala strategy for the growth area - funding for preserving corridors adjoining growth area and mapping</li> <li>- Funding for the preliminary assessment and application to biodiversity stewardship agreement</li> <li>- Distribute information and run workshops to encourage uptake of stewardship sites</li> <li>- Funding mechanisms (identify).</li> <li>- 'How to' guides for education</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX B

### COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Using a feedback sheet, participants reviewed the following aspects of the local council workshops:

1. Information and content
2. Session structure
3. Suitability of the venue.

The results of the evaluation for the two venues are provided below.

#### Information and content

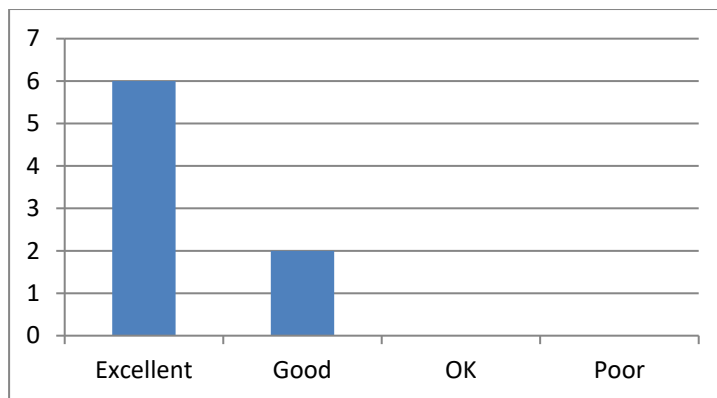


Figure 4: Feedback on Penrith workshop information and content

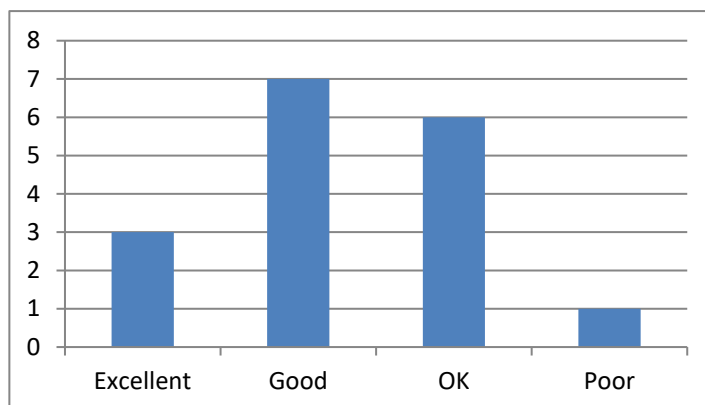


Figure 5: Feedback on Campbelltown workshop information and content



## Session structure

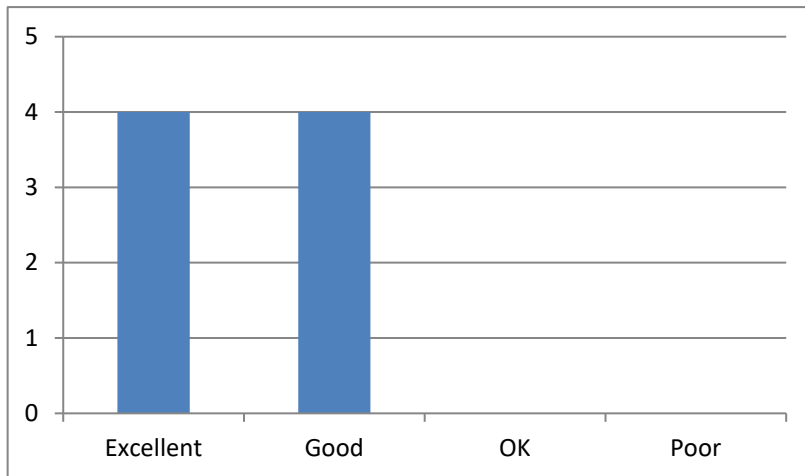


Figure 6: Feedback on Penrith workshop session structure

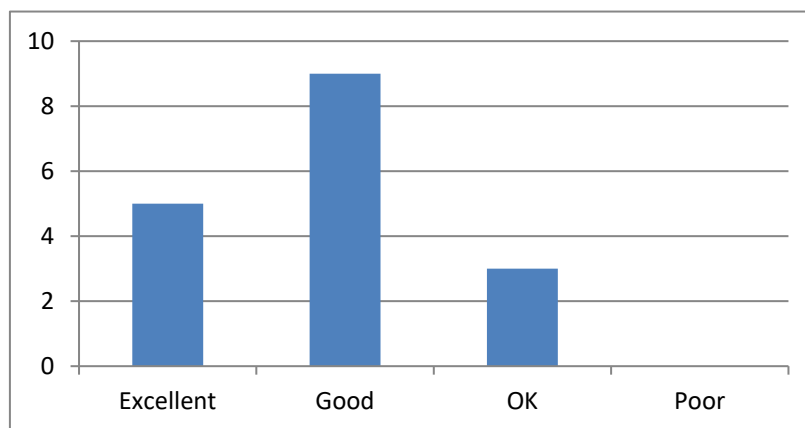


Figure 7: Feedback on Campbelltown workshop session structure

## Suitability of the venue

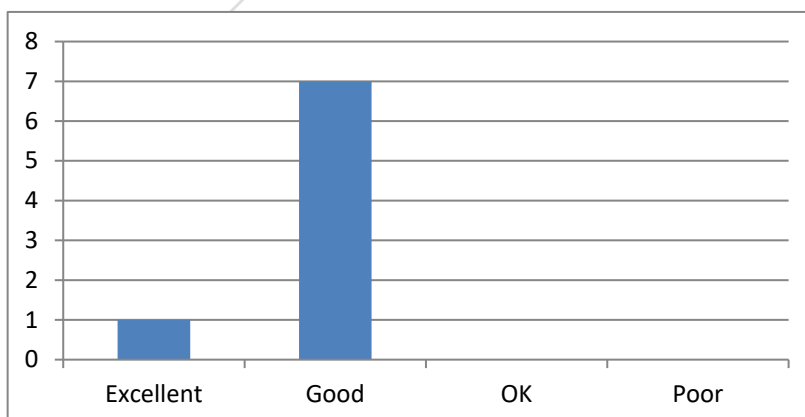


Figure 8: Feedback on suitability of the Penrith venue

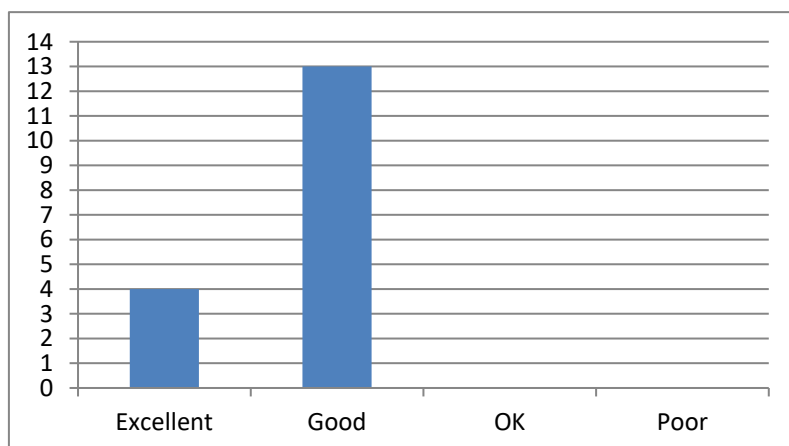


Figure 9: Feedback on suitability of the Campbelltown venue

## Other feedback

In response to an open question in the feedback sheet, participants made the following comments about the council workshops:

- 'The more mixed attendance the better the result i.e. planners and NRM officers. Keep targeting both.'
- 'Penrith RSL is a maze. Look forward to follow up workshops to further shape and develop the plan.'
- 'Very informative and interactive engagement session, look forward to further engagement as CPCP process moves forward.'
- 'Thought group discussions valuable.'
- 'Ongoing communication and information on progress would be great. Draft mapping provided.'
- 'Great to work with committed informative people.'
- 'There needs to be a further session as soon as practical, possibly to discuss mapping and survey.'
- 'Continue to work with councils closely and to not "pass the buck" on to local government.'
- 'Final session was confusing regarding outcomes and scenarios that would be considered.'
- 'Critical that further consultation is undertaken on the draft plan re proposed conservation areas before the plan is put on public exhibition.'
- 'Would have been beneficial to provide some actual draft content for the plan instead of expecting attendees to go off questions.'
- 'More details on findings and directions to date associated with plan would be useful.'

## ENVIRONMENT GROUP WORKSHOP

### Information and content

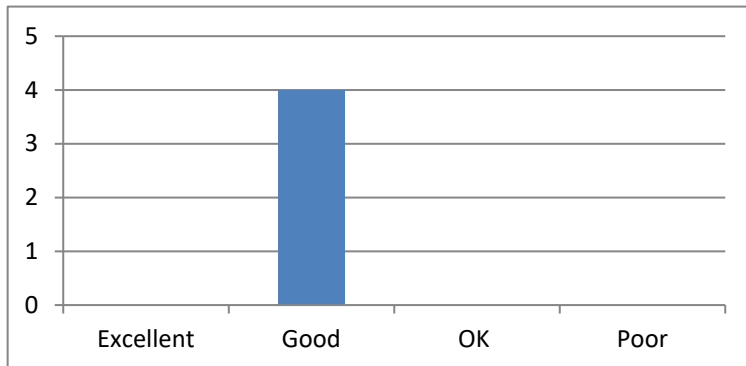


Figure 10: Feedback re information and content provided at the environment group workshop

### Session structure

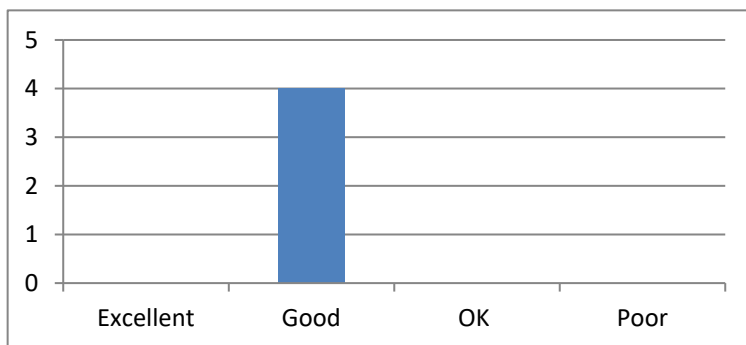


Figure 11: Feedback re session structure at the environment group workshop

### Suitability of the venue

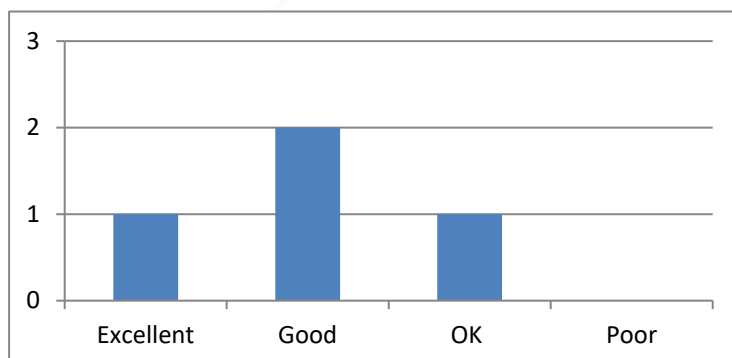


Figure 12: Feedback re suitability of the venue for the environment group workshop

## DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY PEAK BODIES BUSINESS BREAKFAST

### Information and content

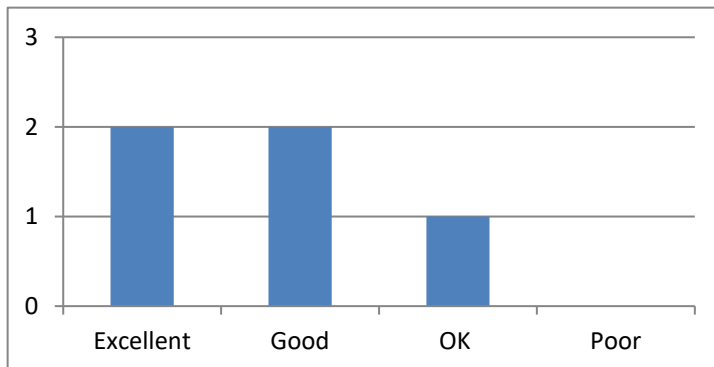


Figure 13: Feedback re information and content provided at the business breakfast

### Session structure

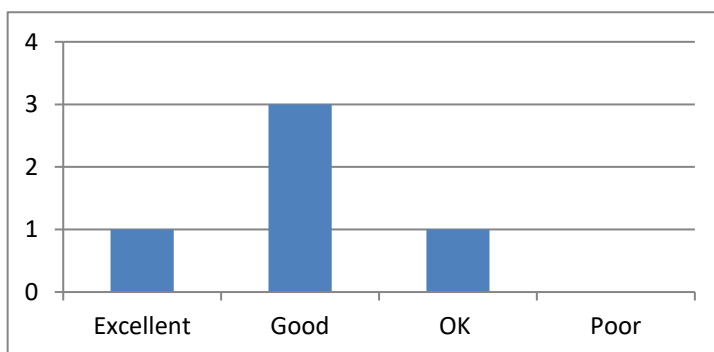


Figure 14: Feedback re session structure of the business breakfast

### Suitability of the venue

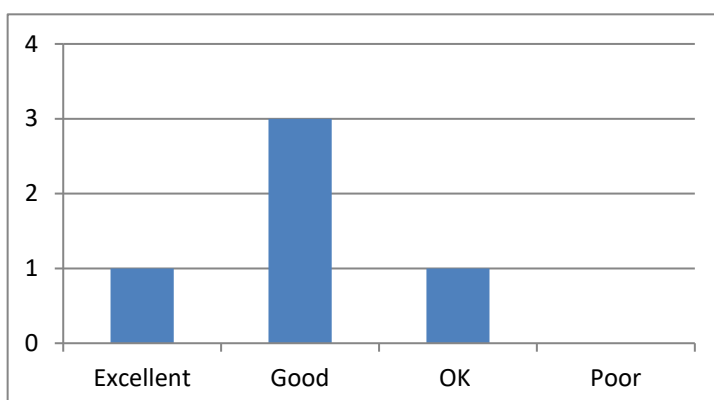


Figure 15: Feedback re suitability of the venue for the business breakfast