

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Ingleside

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am against that land being used for housing.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Opposition to Patyegarang Planning Proposal (PP-2022-3802)

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches. I am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning and development of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose (PP-2022-3802) for the reasons outlined below.

Destruction of 45 hectares of bushland is not my understanding of Country.

Residents of the proposed dwellings would face Very High to Extreme risk bush fire risk with limited opportunity to evacuate via local roads.

The removal of bushland will result in loss of native vegetation and habitat for native fauna.

Clearing of bushland will result in soil erosion and sedimentation in the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment.

The Patyegorang proposal will set a precedent for development of other MLALC native title claimed land on the Northern Beaches.

Is there an opportunity for a land swap or a similar arrangement so that bushland is not destroyed for the MLALC to raise funds for their programs?

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Karen

Family name

Saint

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

pascal-future.0t@icloud.com

Suburb/ Town

Newport

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The flora and fauna around Lizard Rock along with the biodiversity is a unique part of the Forest to Northern Beaches corridor. It is a healthy place to distress after a day's work in the city. It needs to be preserved for future generations who are going to see developments all around in land that has already been farmed and utilised for properties, including Ingleside and Terrey hills.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]

☒ Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒ I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802).

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- It is a naturally beautiful place that should be enjoyed by everyone. My family and I have been bushwalking and enjoying days out in the area for many years. The native bushland is so pristine and includes some wonderful walking tracks with billabongs and waterfalls. It is so quiet and peaceful and developing this area would destroy this natural beauty and prevent everyone from enjoying such a special place. It is so important for everyone’s mindfulness and mental & physical health to have places like this to visit.
- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
- Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
- Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.
- Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Strawberry Hills

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

see attached submission of support for MLALC Proposal

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Silvia

Family name

Nicholson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

silvianelly218@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I OPPOSE the rezone of the bushland to build hundreds of dwellings for many reasons.

1. Traffic congestion as there is no infrastructure able to support hundreds of private automotive for transportation.
2. Loss of habitat for flora and fauna when clearing the bushland.
3. Carbon impact of clearing bushland.
4. Bushfire risk, again no infrastructure and there is only one road for such expansion.
5. Increased flooding potential.

When there is heavy rain the road gets closed as it is. Again, no infrastructure to support further rezoning.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

David

Family name

Collins

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

davidcollins1@optusnet.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Newport

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

This planned development is full of natural bushland that harbours many Australian native animals, including the Black Cockatoo, which is extremely rare on the Northern Beaches, and the Rosenberg's Goanna, which has a conservation status of vulnerable in NSW.

The land contains many rare native grasses and trees that will be destroyed during any construction period.

As the development is on the edge of a escarpment surrounded by eucalyptus forest running down to Narrabeen Lake it is also prone to extreme bushfire damage. If the development proceeds it will endanger the existing houses of Frenchs Forest and Belrose, and will certainly impact on their current insurance policies.

This is a poorly planned development and should not go ahead.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Fairlight

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I oppose this Patyegarang proposal on the basis that such a subdivision would diminish our precious bushland on the Northern Beaches, with habitat loss diminishing once again our wildlife and plantlife. Bushland cleanses and oxygenates the air and helps make this region a pleasant and healthy place to live.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Eira

Family name

Battaglia

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

eirawynn@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Seaforth

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am very concerned about the proposal by the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council to develop the area called 'Lizard Rock' Morgan Road Belrose.

The land was given to the local Aboriginal people and was to protect the important flora and fauna plus important Aboriginal rock carvings. The MALC must not be allowed to sell this important land for development of over 400 new dwellings. The area is subject to possible bush fires and access for RFS and Fire and Emergency would be limited, houses could be burnt and possible lives lost. It is against the wishes of the local Aboriginal elders and was not why the land was granted to the Aboriginal community, it was to preserve the land not to make money from it.

We cannot allow this current proposal to be allowed to go ahead, with the loss of fauna such as Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, various reptiles, insects all important for biodiversity.

We have lost too much land on the NB to development, for example the current NB Hospital was also allowed to be built on important land, the last part of the Duffy's Forest Ecological area,

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Rory

Family name

Amon

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Suburb/ Town

Mona Vale

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

See attached



RORY AMON MP

MEMBER FOR PITTWATER

7 November 2023

Sydney North Planning Panel
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write regarding the 'Patyegarang' Planning Proposal (PP-2022-3802), commonly known as the proposed development of 'Lizard Rock'.

As an elected representative on the Northern Beaches since 2017, I have long opposed and held significant concerns regarding this proposed development. To date, 198 individuals have signed my petition asking for the Government to reject the proposal.

A petition circulated by the Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians received over 12,000 signatures, demonstrating the significant community opposition to this proposal. I thank the Bushland Guardians for their tenacity and dedication.

During my time as a Northern Beaches Councillor, and since being elected as the Member for Pittwater, I have consistently stood with the community and opposed this development.

It is appropriate for me to make a submission outlining my concerns and the concerns raised with me regarding the Patyegarang development proposal. I have also encouraged those who have contacted me regarding this matter to make individual submissions, to ensure their specific concerns are considered.

The first issue associated with the development of Lizard Rock is the loss of pristine bushland and wildlife habitat. The development would see over 45 football fields worth of vegetation demolished and native habitat destroyed, with many species put at risk.

The second issue is bushfire risk. The bushfire expert reports prepared by the developer and by Northern Beaches Council, clearly indicate that the development will put people, wildlife and property at catastrophic risk of death and destruction. As a volunteer firefighter who witnessed the devastation of the 2019/20 Black Summer fires, I understand these risks all too well.

The third issue is a lack of existing infrastructure and services in the Lizard Rock vicinity. Currently, there is not sufficient infrastructure, school spaces, health services, bus services or roads to support the population increase associated with the construction of at least 450 dwellings. Given the recent funding cuts for infrastructure across the Beaches, including Mona Vale Road West and the Beaches Link Tunnel, approving this proposal would show a complete disregard for the residents of the Northern Beaches. It is certainly true that more housing is needed across Sydney, but this should be near heavy transport nodes such as train, light rail and metro lines.

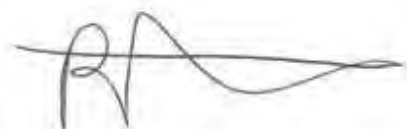


Northern Beaches Council has prepared and obtained detailed reports and provide a detailed submission setting the issues with the development proposal, including detailed technical critiques of what is planned. I agree with Council's reports.

I implore the Government to work with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to reach a solution that simultaneously provides empowerment and economic benefits to MLALC members and understands the local community's desire to ensure the environment is preserved and infrastructure and services are not overwhelmed.

I thank the Department of Planning and Environment for their consideration of this submission and am hopeful that the will of the Northern Beaches community will be respected, and the proposal will be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RA' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right.

RORY AMON MP
MEMBER FOR PITTWATER

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Art

Family name

Robinson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

artemus@live.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Davidson

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock". The Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies alone should be reason enough. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable. It will also Impact on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon. People actually need trees to breathe! Trees remove CO2 from the atmosphere and convert it to oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. Without them converting CO2 to oxygen, CO2 levels would begin to rise while oxygen levels would steadily fall. Trees are responsible for 35% of the oxygen we breathe. Trees are Sydney's Green lungs. They improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor. Also don't forget the extra traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will further contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road. Once the bush is gone.. its lost forever! Leave something for future generations to enjoy. Please don't decimate the homes of so many native animals and plants! Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Art Robinson

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Rob

Family name

Nicoll

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

robertanicoll@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

North Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed Patyegarang development.

The planning proposal has significant planning, environmental and hazard issues, including bushfire risks, enormous loss of high biodiversity habitat, inconsistency with planning strategies and inconsistency with Northern Beaches Council's Conservation Zones Review. The more recently supplied planning proposal failed to address any of the issues raised in the prior Lizard Rock proposal for the same development.

Destroying 45 football fields worth of bushland for the construction of 450 homes in bushfire prone land is not sound planning.

The proposal that is basically a resubmission contains a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report that doesn't list the known fauna including wombats, koalas, Rosenberg's Goanna and eastern pygmy possum or flora such as the the endangered Angus Onion Orchid, Microtis angusi found by residents on the site.

More detail on the issues are as follows:

- Bushfire risks – the site is in a high bushfire risk area. We know this from the 1994 bushfires. Evacuation will be a problem. No upgrades to Morgan Road are proposed. A new slip lane onto Forest Way requires acquisition of Council land and a new emergency egress proposed via Oates Place is proposed to be gated and available only during a fire event raising concerns about it practicality.
- Inconsistency with planning strategies – The proposal is inconsistent with key aspects of the Greater Sydney Region Plan, North District Plan, Northern Beaches Local Strategic Planning

Statement – Towards 2040, and Northern Beaches Local Housing Strategy, particularly in terms of the preferred location and type of new housing and impacts on the environment and Metropolitan Rural Area.

- Inconsistency with Council's Conservation Zones Review – The Review recommends applying a C3 Environmental Management Zone to most of the site due to its high environmental value and high risk of bushfires.

- Enormous loss of high biodiversity habitat – With 44.7 hectares of bushland to be cleared (equivalent to the size of around 45 rugby fields) the proposal and new development will have significant environmental impact. Given the scale of development, we are not satisfied that waterways within the site can be protected and the quality of run-off to Narrabeen Lagoon can be controlled.

Further Narrabeen Lagoon is currently a shadow of its former self with frequent water quality issues and a significant portion of the lake silted up and un-usable. This development will exacerbate these issues that have been created by current development surrounding the lake.

Regards,

Rob Nicoll

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Jillian

Family name

Townsend

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

jillianannetownsend@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

We strongly oppose the development

for the following reasons.

1. Environmental Damage and Impact vs. Return on Development

- The high environmental cost

- To alter this landscape for the purposes of residential development would require considerable destruction of the natural bushland through clearing and site alterations. We strongly object to this destruction.

- The clearing of trees and vegetation, and the associated site alterations required with such steep topography carries a very high risk of ongoing site damage due to erosion.

- Removal of natural vegetation and trees on sites such as this presents significant problems for water and wind-based erosion.

- Clear and build perimeter roads and access, especially noting the steep terrain

- Clear bush, trees and vegetation
- Adhere to bushfire requirements including asset protection zones, minimum setback requirements and building standards
- Remediate landfill on the western edge of the site
- Formulate and then execute site and building plans to accommodate the very steep topography involved
- The associated cost involved with these works would be very high, from both an environmental and a financial perspective.

Bushfire Compliance Risk

- There would need to be considerable Asset Protection Zones incorporated in any development, and minimum setback requirements would be significant
- We have significant concern regarding adequate evacuation ingress/egress

Adding more homes under this DDP would only exacerbate this problem and could present a real risk to safety of residents and the ability for firefighting to be effectively executed in the event of bushfire outbreak.

3. Environmental Conservation Considerations

- We object strongly to the destruction of contiguous, peaceful and scenic bushland that provides an important wildlife corridor and supports a myriad of fauna and flora.
- The proposal constitutes a piecemeal destruction of what is currently contiguous bushland across the majority of the valley
- This bushland represents a significant environmental wildlife corridor. We strongly object to its destruction and the consequent destruction of wildlife habitat.
- A wide variety of flora and fauna is supported by the bushland
- We regularly see animals including wallabies, bandicoots, possums, frogs, goannas, water dragons, blue-tongued lizards, snakes, owls, mopokes, and birds of many varieties not least of which include gang-gangs, black cockatoos, kookaburras, rosellas, parrots, lyre birds, whip birds, wattle birds and many other local species.
- Destruction of the bushland represents the destruction of these creatures' natural habitat. We are strongly opposed to this, and advocate retaining the natural bush environment

Loss of Amenity

- We strongly oppose the destruction of the bush outlook, the peaceful bush sounds, recreational bushwalking and mountain biking trails
- There are many bushwalking and mountain biking trails that are regularly used by locals and visitors alike. Development of the site would necessarily involve the destruction of the bush and associated trails.

Local Roads & Traffic Volumes

- We are strongly opposed to the increased traffic volumes, congestion and traffic noise There is a single road
- This road would need significant remediation (widening, etc.) were it to support the increased traffic volume that residential development brings.
- Such increased traffic also brings increased congestion and increased traffic noise. We are strongly opposed to this and believe the correct balance of these factors exists presently.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Joe

Family name

Lipson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

shabadoo1975@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

EAST KILLARA

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The proposed housing development poses an unacceptable threat to our irreplaceable natural heritage. This bushland not only harbours a rich tapestry of wildlife and plant species, many of which are now scarce, but it also serves as a living repository of the area's history and a vital green space for community well-being. In 2023 it is unconscionable to be clearing remaining landscape in such close proximity to Sydney. We must consider the enduring value of intact ecosystems which offer us a connection to the natural world that once flourished here.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Joe

Family name

Lipson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

shabadoo1975@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

EAST KILLARA

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

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Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Terrey Hills

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am totally against this proposed development in Morgan Road, Belrose. Because of its destruction of natural bushland, and significant bushfire risk. I regularly use Morgan Road and at times the traffic exiting the area is extremely problematic. Imagine what it will be like with 400 odd houses and local traffic that brings with it. Bedlam and chaos awaits.

More than totally against this proposed development.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Wamberal

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am of Garigal descent and a Custodian of the country in which this development is proposed. This site contains pictographs of blood groups of the Garigal Clans and should be protected as part of the aboriginal heritage of this area. Metro Local Aboriginal Council have failed to consult with Blood Line Custodians on this development which contravenes LORE. Not only that the development would cause significant erosion, degradation of natural habitat which should be preserved, add to traffic congestion in an already congested area. This development should not go ahead and Blood Line Custodians, descendants of the Garigal should be consulted by Metro Land Council before development on country.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Jelena

Family name

Bubalo

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

jelena_sicevic@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am against the proposal, this will take homes away from the flora and fauna and many other living things. This is unnecessary, and I don't see the benefit. We need to protect our home and earth and all the living things on it for our children of the future.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- substantial bushfire risks
- loss of habitat for flora and fauna
- resulting deforestation will make climate change worse
- massive impact on biodiversity
- nonsensical from an economics perspective as council has provided much better suited sites for housing.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Amanda

Family name

Robinson Gray

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

amandamayrobinson@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Green Point

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renowned for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
- Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
- Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.
- Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an

evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

I think the whole proposal is hypocritical both from the environmentalists and the Aboriginal Council. Preserve our crown bushland for future generations and all the animal life to enjoy. After all the animals were here before anyone.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Amanda Robinson Gray

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Louise

Family name

Roberts

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

louisearoberts@yahoo.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Bensville

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I have read the planning documents in your NSW planning portal .

I strongly oppose the notion of rezoning land from C2 to R2 (or anything else other than to a National Park). This development will have a disastrous flow on effect, into the surrounding so-called 'areas for protection', the lagoon, the existing suburb, and the precedent it will set for further rezonings of Land Council land all over NSW. This area is full of biodiversity and the extremely flawed idea of using biodiversity credits to offset killing wildlife and native flora (whether endangered or not) is negligent, lacks any foresight whatsoever, and is environmental vandalism at its worst.

I know the use of biodiversity credits is legislated, so therefore not criminal in the true sense of the word. But history will judge you very harshly for allowing the destruction of one of the last stands of native bushland in the suburbs of the Northern Beaches, under the false protection of Biodiversity Credits.

Tell that to the trees, insects, birds, and other wildlife. Tell the pigmy possum he is worth 1211 biodiversity credits. It is a disgusting scam of a scheme. We can't afford to lose this bushland to housing, regardless of how desperate we are for housing. The proposal speaks of a 'discussion' about affordable housing. The cost of building in this extremely unsuitable area will not allow for affordable housing, no matter how much it is discussed.

I note the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council are the owners and the developers of this precious bushland. I also note they do not represent the actual Aboriginals from the area who are vehemently opposed to the destruction of cultural and environmentally important land. They have ignored the community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcry to protect the area.

This Land Council are being used to push through developments that should in no way be considered. This land should never have been considered for rezoning.

To summarise, I oppose the project for the following reasons. Loss of native habitat for all wildlife. The use of Biodiversity credits is an embarrassment to anyone who thinks this can justify the loss of native habitats and wildlife. · Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow downhill. · Loss of Sydney's Green lungs – we need the trees to provide oxygen!!!! · Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. · Traffic and urban sprawl – the traffic is already a nightmare to contend with. The current infrastructure cannot cope with another 1000+ cars. I dearly hope this submission is considered and the native habitat is seen as precious air we breathe.

Louise Roberts m:0432117041
3Starboard Ave Bensville 2251

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Title

Mrs

First Name

Renee

Family name

Hammond

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

Reneehammond1@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Curl Curl

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renowned for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
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- Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an

evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land. I think the whole proposal is hypocritical both from the environmentalists and Aboriginal Council. I want my young children to be able to enjoy the bushland and the native fauna and to have fresh air to breathe! Leave the trees!

Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely,
Renee Hammond

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

K Aparna

Family name

Reddy

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

reddykaparna@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

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No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I oppose the Patyegarang Planning proposal due to the loss of habitat for Flora and fauna, bushfire risk and impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Miss

First Name

Corinne

Family name

Hewlett

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

corinne826@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Dee Why

I have made a reportable political donation

No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802).

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- Loss of Sydney's Green Lungs as trees are renowned for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
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· Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Corinne Hewlett

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Paul

Family name

Jennings

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

pauljennings66@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

2093

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Please do not allow this development on the Patyegarang planning proposal at Morgan Road, Belrose – also known as ‘Lizard Rock

I am saddened by the continued destruction of our natural environment. The Northern Beaches is one of the last areas in the Sydney area where it is not too late. The green space we have and flora and fauna within in needs our help and protection, not destruction for housing and more cars on the roads. It is evident that endangered species will be impacted if this development were to proceed: heath monitor, koala, wombat, orchids to name a few. I volunteer as part of a bush re-gen group nearby (Manly Dam) where we constantly deal with developments introducing weeds, cats, etc.. Surely, an arrangement can be made where the relevant Land Council benefits from not destroying this bushland.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

First Name

Cody

Family name

Mooney

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

codymoons1@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Ingleside

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

By continuing with this process of development in the belrose area environmental sustainability will decrease and thus the quality of life will also decrease, negatively impacting the lives of people situated in this area, failing societies needs.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Planning Panel,

I hope this finds you well.

I will keep my submission fairly brief and would like to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the northern beaches, the Garigal and Gayemagal mob.

I also acknowledge the rights of MLALC to make a profit from their lands if they so wish. It is hardly fair that they be given land in compensation for the attempted genocide of their people and colonisation and then be told what they can and can't do with it.

However, I also acknowledge the fact that Humans have decimated the environment over the last couple of hundred years and we are in the midst of a climate and Biodiversity crises and can't afford to lose ANYMORE habitat. The way we are headed, every species of fauna and flora are going to be listed as threatened. When is it going to stop???

As such, I propose that the Government (Local and State) look at ALL the land MLALC has on the northern beaches and make an offer to buy some if not all of it at a fair and reasonable price and add it to local national parks and conservation areas.

At the very least, any development from here on in, should have mandatory - legally binding conditions, that ensure only local native flora species, consistent with the area cleared, can be planted. Even better would be for the developers to be made to work in and around established vegetation, rather than the current mindset of clear-felling wide expanses to build and then planting. At least by leaving a little bit of bush amongst housing blocks and planting local natives, the impact to wildlife and insect species although significant, will be slightly less.

Two final things worth mentioning, which should not be dismissed, are 1. the health and well-being benefits associated with retaining vegetation in that area, including the visual and calming effect of driving along the Wakehurst Parkway which is a truly Beautiful experience and 2. the increased impacts and pressures on local National Parks and Conservation areas from increased housing and residency in the area. I know both NPWS and NBC staff are struggling as is, they are severely understaffed and under-resourced. Additional development in the area only compounds the problem.

Thank you for considering my submission.

All the Best,



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title**First Name**

Karen

Family name

Duffy

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

kduffy59@outlook.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As a local resident of Belrose, I strongly oppose the Patyegarang Planning Proposal. This is pristine bush land and the loss of flora and fauna would be too great and irrecoverable. There would be an increase in traffic in an already congested area. I fear if this goes ahead then it will then trigger more and more development in the area. Green space is vital to our well being and loss of this will be devastating for our community.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Drew

Family name

Browne

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

drebrown1@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Balgowlah

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to the proposal.

The cultural center and trails and protection has merit but the short term financial gain through housing developments does not. There has to be an alternate funding model that can fund the cultural center and allow a greater portion of the environment to be retained.

Please note I also submitted an earlier submission but did not receive a confirmation email. And I'm concerned it has not been received.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Kate

Family name

Paterson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

kapaterson@aapt.net.au

Suburb/ Town

2093

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No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am a resident of the Northern Beaches and I am writing to strongly oppose the development of "Lizard Rock" Patyegarang (PP-2022-3802) at Belrose

It is only walking the bush track of this special area that you realize the significance of this special place.

It is one of the few remaining areas of bush on the Northern Beaches, where people can come and enjoy nature.

It is home to threatened native animals such as the Pygmy possum, the Glossy Black Cockatoo and also Swamp Wallabies.

At a time of climate emergency, habitat destruction, a call from scientists to conserve tree canopies to prevent further global warming, the destruction of pristine bushland would be devastating to this community.

Communities need places like Lizard Rock to enjoy and immerse themselves in nature.

Our planet also needs areas such as Lizard Rock to survive and help prevent global warming by mitigating urban heat impacts and drawing down carbon.

It would be grossly irresponsible for this bushland to be cleared to make way for 450+ homes.

This bushland is the heart of the community and it's desecration would be felt for generations.

No longer a place where we can go and enjoy nature. And no longer a place where children can explore and enjoy the simple beauty of nature.

Scientific studies point to the importance of spending time in nature to help comber mental health challenges, and we all know about the rise in mental health problems in our young people.

Don't take this away from them.

Please keep this piece of paradise in the city for future generations in perpetuity.

Thank you for your consideration

Kate Paterson

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Annette

Family name

Browne

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

alc163@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

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- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renowned for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
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Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Annette Browne

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Kylie

Family name

Davidson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

kyliedobinson@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Please find attached my submission against planning proposal for Lizard Rock. A proposal that will cause significant harm to our environment.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

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planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie Davidson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Name: Kylie Davidson

Signed:

Email: kyliedobinson@yahoo.com

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Jonathan

Family name

Weil

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

jonathanweil93@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Naremburn

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

To whom it may concern,

As someone who has enjoyed Morgan Rd all my life, it deeply saddens me to learn of the development application that would adversely effect this significant pocket of Sydney. Most of my weekends are spent enjoying the natural bushland surrounding Morgan Rd and its always a source of pride for me when saying i live in Sydney, having access to areas like Morgan Rd. Having lived and travelled overseas, Sydney's access to bushland is a major reason i keep coming back and choosing to live in Sydney.

The significance Morgan Rd holds from an ecological standpoint cannot be ignored when considering the bushland making up Sydney disappearing and being replaced with houses/cars (already being a large traffic issue around oxford falls) - areas like oxford falls are becoming very rare and important to Sydney's unique identity.

Any housing along Morgan Rd would also pose severe threats for any current and new residents from a bushfire perspective with very poor access in and out and little to no supporting infrastructure.

Please consider this plea as a strong objection to the DA when making any further decisions.

Kind Regards,

Jonathan Weil
0410665410

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Kylie

Family name

Davidson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

kyliedobinson@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Please find attached my submission against the planning proposal for Lizard Rock as it will significantly harm our environment

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie Davidson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Name: Kylie Davidson

Signed:

Email: kyliedobinson@yahoo.com

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Thomas

Family name

Davidson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

tom_davidso@yahoo.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Please find attached my submission against the planning proposal for Lizard Rock. It will cause significant and irreparable damage to our local environment.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

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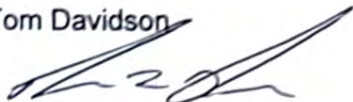
planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name: Tom Davidson

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Davidson', written over a horizontal line.

Email: tom_davidson@yahoo.com.au

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Ken

Family name

Silva

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

Silva_ken@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object, oppose, reject and am against the patyegarang planning proposal formally known as LIZARD ROCK due to:

1. Loss of habitat for flora and fauna
2. Traffic congestion and urban sprawl
3. Loss of biodiversity
4. Environmental imoact of clearing bushland
5. Destroying the character of Belrose

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Miss

First Name

Ellie

Family name

Ward

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

warde@ofgsstudents.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

We live and play in this beautiful green suburb Belrose.

There are black cockies, bush turkeys, wallabies and lots and lots of animal that call Lazard Rock home.

We need to keep this bush for them, not to build houses.

Please don't take the trees away.

NO to developing Lizard Rock

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Title

Mr

First Name

Ben

Family name

McAlpine

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

ben@ncoss.org.au

Suburb/ Town

Darlinghurst

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Please see submission attached.



Sydney North Planning Panel
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA
NSW 2124

Via upload: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/under-exhibition/patyegarang-morgan-road-belrose>

7 November 2023

Dear Members of the Sydney North Planning Panel

**RE: Patyegarang Planning Proposal PP-2022-3802–
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council**

[NCOSS](#) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Patyegarang Planning Proposal currently under exhibition.

NCOSS is the peak body for the social services sector in NSW. With over 400 members and a wider network of approximately 4,000 non-government organisations, other entities and individuals who share our values, we advocate to alleviate poverty and disadvantage in NSW.

Access to secure, affordable and safe housing – a place to call ‘home’ – is central to the well-being of individuals, families and communities, and to the alleviation of disadvantage. Not surprisingly, it has long been a core focus of the policy and advocacy work undertaken by NCOSS in collaboration with other peak bodies and our members. Recent examples of this work include:

- [*Barely Hanging On – the Cost of Living in NSW 2023*](#) (August 2023)
- [*Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW*](#) (May 2023)
- [*Aftershock: Addressing the Economic and Social Costs of the Pandemic and Natural Disasters Report Three – Housing Security*](#) (October 2022)
- [*Homelessness in People Over 55*](#) (June 2022)

All of these reports highlight the tremendous disadvantage that First Nations peoples (across NSW) live with. They call for governments to empower and resource the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to provide housing and services for Aboriginal communities.

NCOSS is guided in our work with First Nations communities by the principles and actions outlined in our [Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

Self Determination for First Nations People

As the Planning Panel would know, the Federal Government, state governments, and the Australian Local Government Association have all signed on to the National Closing the Gap Agreement. Self-determination for Aboriginal communities is a priority under this agreement. Clauses 18 & 19 of the agreement state:

“18. This Agreement is a commitment from all Parties to set out a future where policy making that impacts on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is done in full and genuine partnership.

19. The Parties will listen to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and change the way we work in response. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been saying for a long time that:

- a. they need to have a much greater say in how programs and services are delivered to their people, in their own places and on their own country.*
- b. community-controlled organisations deliver the best services and outcomes for Closing the Gap.*
- c. government agencies and institutions need to address systemic, daily racism, and promote cultural safety and transfer power and resources to communities.*
- d. they need to have access to the same information and data as governments to drive their development.”*

National Closing the Gap Agreement p4. ¹

NCOSS urges the Planning Panel to use this opportunity to further self-determination for Aboriginal communities. The ownership of the land at Patyegarang is not in question.² Like the rest of the Northern Beaches community the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) and the communities it represents should be able to benefit from this ownership and be able to self-determine the way forward for the management of the land (notwithstanding state and local regulation). We note the Northern Beaches Council’s intention that the land should be preserved as is (ie as bushland) in perpetuity - forever denying Aboriginal people the right to manage their own land in a self-determined way.

“The consequences of the proposal are simply unacceptable and do not reflect the community’s aspirations for this site.” Northern Beaches Council ³

¹ [National Closing the Gap Agreement 2020](#) viewed 6 November 2023

² Gyde Consulting 2023 [Social Impact Assessment - Pateyegarang Proposal on behalf of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council July 2023](#)

³ Northern Beaches Council 2023 News 27 September viewed 6 November 2023
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/pateyegarang-planning-proposal-previously-known-lizard-rock-open-comment>

We note that unlike many councils Northern Beaches Council does not appear to have an Aboriginal engagement or advisory committee or reference group.^{4 5} It is hard to imagine that the “community’s aspirations” for this site are known when the voices of Aboriginal people are not sought out and Council has no mechanisms in place to collaborate with or walk alongside its First Nations communities. Council’s own peak body Local Government NSW (LGNSW):

“Encourages councils to develop a relationship with local First Nations communities to develop ways in which they can provide input into council decisions.”
LGNSW Policy Platform p33⁶

NCOSS urges the Planning Panel to prioritise the aspirations of the 1706 Aboriginal people living in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area (LGA), the 374 Aboriginal households who rent⁷, and the upwards of 12,000 Aboriginal people that MLALC represents⁸.

Aboriginal People in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area

In 2021 there were 1706 Aboriginal people living in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area. This includes 786 children and young people, who deserve a safe and inclusive community so that they can thrive. 1706 people is around the same population as the well-known NSW towns of Bourke, Bangalow and Brunswick Heads.⁹ The 1706 Aboriginal people in the Northern Beaches LGA should have the same local profile and visibility to the Northern Beaches Council and their communities, as these towns do to the people of NSW, and the Councils and Shire offices that serve them.

Of the 960 Aboriginal households in the LGA, 58% owned their house compared with 68% in the broader Northern Beaches community; and 39% rented compared with 27% in the broader community. Median personal weekly income was less than that of the broader community (\$949 cf \$1109).

The Patyegarang development would provide an estimated 20 affordable homes, to be managed by MLALC, with priority given to Indigenous persons who are:

- employed in identified key worker occupations in the Northern Beaches Council area
- persons with a disability
- long term local residents

⁴ We note the good work put into the development of the Aboriginal Heritage Office, in partnership with surrounding councils, to protect and put a spotlight on Aboriginal heritage.

⁵ Determined by examining information available at the following web pages and their links viewed 6 November 2023 and confirmed in conversation with a Council officer on 7 November 2023:

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/committees>

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/committees-and-panels/strategic-reference-groups>

<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/community/our-diverse-community>

⁶ LGNSW 2023 [Policy Platform May 2023](#) viewed 6 November 2023

⁷ Apart from where indicated, all the statistics on this page come from: Australian Bureau of Statistics [Northern Beaches 2021 Census Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people QuickStats](#) viewed 6 November 2023

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/IQSLGA15990>

⁸ Estimate from 2021 *Census Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people QuickStats* for LGA’s covered by MLALC remit including Northern Beaches, Ku-ring-gai, Mosman, Lane Cove, Willoughby, North Sydney, parts of Parramatta LGA, Ryde, Sydney, Inner West, Canada Bay, Strathfield, Bayside.

⁹ ID Profile *A list of all cities and towns in Australia by population* viewed 6 November 2023

<https://answers.id.com.au/answers/all-cities-and-towns-in-australia-by-population>

- persons with a social or economic association with the Northern Beaches Council area.¹⁰

Currently, affordable housing in the Northern Beaches is in extremely short supply, with 37% of all renters paying more than 30% of their income on rent. A staggering 57% of renters in the Northern Beaches on low-to-very-low incomes pay more than 30% of their income on rent.¹¹

Benefits for the Broader Community

The development will improve housing in the Northern Beaches in alignment with Council's Strategic and Community Plans by providing new housing supply and increasing diversity in lot sizes and dwelling types.

"The increase in population because of the project is estimated to be 1,428, which is considered to have a minor impact on the demand for services and infrastructure. The increased population is in line with the housing targets identified in the North District Plan.

The proposal will also significantly contribute to the housing supply targets for the LGA and the district level, as required to meet the housing needs of the growing population and provide detached dwelling to accommodate larger families.

The proposal provides for a diverse range of housing needs, including larger family homes. Given the current household trends which show families with children as the dominant cohort, there is a strong demand for larger family dwellings. According to the Economic Impacts Statement prepared by Macropian

"The lack of new supply of detached housing is a factor restricting the ability of the next generation of young families to settle in the Northern Beaches. In Belrose, the construction of an additional 400 plus detached houses would allow for a similar number of younger households – and young people - to have the opportunity to live in the Northern Beaches." Social Impact Assessment p44¹²

Other benefits for the broader community outlined in the Social Impact Assessment include:

- New prioritised pedestrian and cycling paths for active recreation and to provide connectivity to key recreation destinations.
- Protection and enhancement of the site's ecological significance by retaining 18.9 hectares for conservation, including the riparian zone.
- Provide the required level of bushfire protection and management to the subject site, involving the implementation of the new Asset Protection Zones (APZs) and fire trails to significantly improve the level of bush fire protection to adjoining developments.

¹⁰ MLALC 2023 *Patyegarang Project, Belrose Provision of Affordable Housing: Affordable Housing Discussion 18th August 2023* viewed 6 November 2023 <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/under-exhibition/patyegarang-morgan-road-belrose>

¹¹ NCOSS and Institute for Public Policy and Governance University of Technology Sydney 2023 [Barely Hanging On: Cost of Living in NSW 2023](#) NCOSS (refer Raw Data link)

¹² Gyde Consulting Op,Cit.

- Investment in the order of \$18 million to implement the latest technology in water quality treatment for stormwater and to improve the current waterways in the area flowing into the Narrabeen Lagoon.
- New areas of public open space including picnic and BBQ areas, children's playgrounds, shelter and tree reserves, to be collocated with contiguous green networks.

Supporting Local Heritage

We believe the development proposal will provide a unique opportunity for the broader community to engage with and better understand Aboriginal heritage through:

- Protection and management of registered Aboriginal heritage items.
- A new cultural community facility which will celebrate the site's unique Aboriginal heritage and employ 5-6 full-time direct local and Indigenous workers.
- New local services in proximity to new residents and suitably located next to the cultural site and open space to offer high amenity for locals and visitors.
- Signage and wayfinding provided to assist visitors in navigating the precinct's public recreation and cultural offerings. Signage will be informative, as well as interpretive and a celebration of the Site's Aboriginal significance.

At a time in Australia's history when many Aboriginal people feel increasingly unsafe in their local communities - in the lead up to, and in the aftermath of the Referendum - it is imperative that social cohesion is prioritised and knowledge of Aboriginal culture, heritage and history is more widely known and understood.

Council and Community Priorities

"We should promote diversity as different from inclusion and incorporate all the voices that are unable to articulate their difference, or don't feel safe currently to do so. Diversity is more than colour and culture. It is an essential part of our ability to be resilient and socially sustainable." Northern Beaches Community Strategic Plan p32¹³

The Northern Beaches Community Plan outlines a number of priorities for communities living in the LGA including to:

- Recognise and honour Aboriginal culture and heritage.
- Build resilient communities where neighbours know and support each other.
- Provide a mix of high-quality diverse and inclusive housing options supported by sustainable infrastructure.
- Pursue innovative ways of increasing affordable housing opportunities.
- Improve and protect ecological conditions in catchments, creeks and lagoons.
- Provide sustainable access to the natural environment, while recognising and protecting its cultural and heritage value.

We believe that the Patyegarang development will assist Council in meeting these priorities.

¹³ Northern Beaches Council 2022 [Northern Beaches Community Strategic Plan 2040](#) viewed 6 November 2023

Supporting the Growth of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector

MLALC is a key stakeholder for the Northern Beaches area and as a local land council is responsible for land claims and the provision of housing and cultural services to their members and constituents.

At a roundtable for the Non Government sector hosted by NCOSS and addressing Closing the Gap priorities in social services, Aboriginal stakeholders highlighted the “cognitive dissonance” of governments saying they value and listen to Aboriginal people and the community controlled sector - while ignoring Aboriginal solutions that address disadvantage in Aboriginal communities. Supporting and enabling the groundbreaking work of a mature Aboriginal Community Controlled housing sector (including Land Councils) is critical to dealing with the long-term impacts of colonisation and a key element of Closing the Gap priorities. We provide a case study below of a successful Aboriginal development in Queensland.

Aboriginal Housing Provider: Yumba Meta – Hillside Gardens Development

“Hillside Gardens Residential Estate Development Hillside Gardens Residential Estate has proven a shining jewel in Yumba-Meta Limited’s property development portfolio. The estate, located on 50 acres of land in the foothills of Mt Louisa, was designed to facilitate pathways to Indigenous home ownership. Thirty-four of the 41 land lots were sold to private buyers and the remaining lots were retained by Yumba-Meta Limited [for affordable rental and disability housing]. The last 15 lots sold during the 2020-21 financial year, with the final lot sold in February 2021. Land sales from Hillside Gardens totalled \$2.2 million.

Chairman and founder of Yumba-Meta, Dr Ernest Hoolihan OAM, said the development of Hillside Gardens was a “game-changer” for the local Indigenous community. “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face multiple barriers to homeownership, including inter-generational poverty resulting from dispossession, low income and insecure employment,” he said. “The staged development of Hillside Gardens allowed us to fund the subdivision progressively— as we sold blocks to private buyers, these funds financed the construction of the rental housing and supported three young Indigenous families on their path to homeownership.”

“We’ve been able to create a well-designed, village-like atmosphere in an enviable location within easy reach of amenities,” said Dr Hoolihan. Hillside Gardens is located just six kilometres from Willows Shopping Centre, is a short 13-minute drive to Townsville University Hospital, James Cook University and Lavarack Barracks, and is close to public and private schools.”

Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing Provider - Yumba Meta 2023¹⁴

¹⁴ Viewed 20 October 2023 <https://yumba-meta.com.au/about/completed-projects/hillside-gardens-residential-estate/>

We support the proposal overall and urge the Sydney North Planning Panel to assist the NSW Government and the Northern Beaches Council in meeting their responsibilities under the Closing the Gap agreement and the Northern Beaches Community Plan; as well as prioritising meeting housing need in an increasingly unaffordable area; self- determination for Aboriginal communities and organisations; building social cohesion; and support for and recognition of the strengths and capabilities of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with you in greater depth. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ben@ncoss.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Ben McAlpine
Acting CEO NCSS



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Sophie

Family name

Addo

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

soph@tebbutts.net

Suburb/ Town

Sydney

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to the proposed development at Lizard Rock due to:

Loss of habitat

Bushfire risk

Traffic congestion

Carbon impact

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Blue Haven

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I oppose the rezoning or development of Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose.

This site needs to keep the rich biodiversity to support the local wildlife and protected species.

Bulldozing trees from this sanctuary will destroy the atmosphere and environment it gives to locals and tourists and adds a greater risk of fire danger.

Locals have a strong connection to this land and use the green space for bushwalking essential for mental health, away from noise and the busy stress of the built up areas.

There needs to be more suitable and alternative ways to accommodate people in homes. Taking away the small areas left of bushland for our protected species is not the moral or sustainable way to do so.

Thank you

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to the proposal due to the following reasons that are detailed in the attached document:

- Preliminary Biodiversity Development Assessment Report is Incomplete and Invalid
- Incorrect Vegetation Mapping has been Used
- A High Concentration of Threatened Species have Been Found on the Site
- Threatened Species Incorrectly Excluded from the Assessment
- Avoidance and Minimisation of Impact
- Threatened Species Polygons in the BDAR
- Ground Water Dependent Ecosystems
- Bushfire Safety
- Significant Geological Feature – Volcanic Dyke

- European Heritage - Historic Kaolin Mine Site
- Aboriginal Archaeology - Ceremonial Ochre Paint Deposit

Matters for Consideration

Section 4.15(1) of the EP&A Act

1 (a) Due to the absence of the required information by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017 and its regulation and this application does not contain a valid BDAR report and cannot be approved.

(b) the proposal will cause significant environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality, and should not be approved

(c) due to natural and physical constraints the site is not suitable for this development.

This application should be refused.

See attached submission

I object to the proposal due to the following reasons:

Preliminary Biodiversity Development Assessment Report is Incomplete and Invalid

As the title of the report states the report is only preliminary and the required surveys have not been completed, preventing assessment of the biodiversity impact.

The report is missing fundamental information such as a detailed vegetation map, the required survey plots and searches for Threatened species, and as a consequence the report cannot be relied on for any type of planning or assessment. As a consequence, additional threatened species may be found that prevent the development from being approved or would require major changes to the proposal layout and footprint. The lack of detail in the vegetation map will lead to incorrect prediction of Threatened species to survey for and important vegetation types not being included.

The applicants Preliminary BDAR report admits that there has been insufficient surveys “..does not yet meet the requirements of BAM Table 3. An additional three plot surveys (one per zone) will be required..” p29

The botanical survey is particularly lacking as only a small proportion of the site has been searched for Threatened plants as can be seen in Figure 5 of the BDAR.

“Could potentially occur in unsampled parts of the subject land, but does not appear to be present.” Page 65 of the BDAR. This is not acceptable and in the absence of scientific certainty it must be assumed that these species occurs not that it does not occur.

“Does not appear to be present in surveyed areas. Further targeted work required.” Page 70 of the BDAR

This is not acceptable and any sort of planning decision cannot be made based on missing data.

The applicants BDAR admits that there has been inadequate survey

“ The author notes that targeted threatened species survey effort and timing does not meet BAM requirements for all candidate flora species. Table 10 reflects the intent for sufficient surveys to be conducted prior to lodgement of a development application and final calculation of offset liability, together with the expected outcome of the surveys based on current knowledge. Where there is substantial uncertainty, species have been assumed present.”

this justification is not acceptable as the constraints of the site need to be known before designing the proposal and certainly before lodgement of an application.

There are insufficient BAM survey plots, for each of the 3 vegetation types used for the assessment only 2 plots on each were conducted when 3 are required ie 9 required and only 6 have been completed, this does not meet the requirement of the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

When the 11 vegetation types are used, as mapped by the NSW government, then more than 15 plots are required and only 6 have been carried out.

The Preliminary BDAR is not a valid BDAR and does not contain sufficient information to be used for planning or decision making.

The fundamental biodiversity field surveys have not been completed and as a consequence the basic information is not available and therefore an assessment of the biodiversity impact cannot be made. The constraints of the site are not yet known and when they are known the layout and footprint are likely to need to be changed to meet requirements to avoid and minimise impact. Good planning requires the constraints of a site to be known and taken into consideration when designing proposals.

No type of planning decision can be made based on the preliminary incomplete information currently in the application, it is likely that the proposal will have an unacceptable biodiversity impact, the proposal does not avoid or minimise impact and the proposal should be rejected.

This application is half baked.

Incorrect Vegetation Mapping has been Used

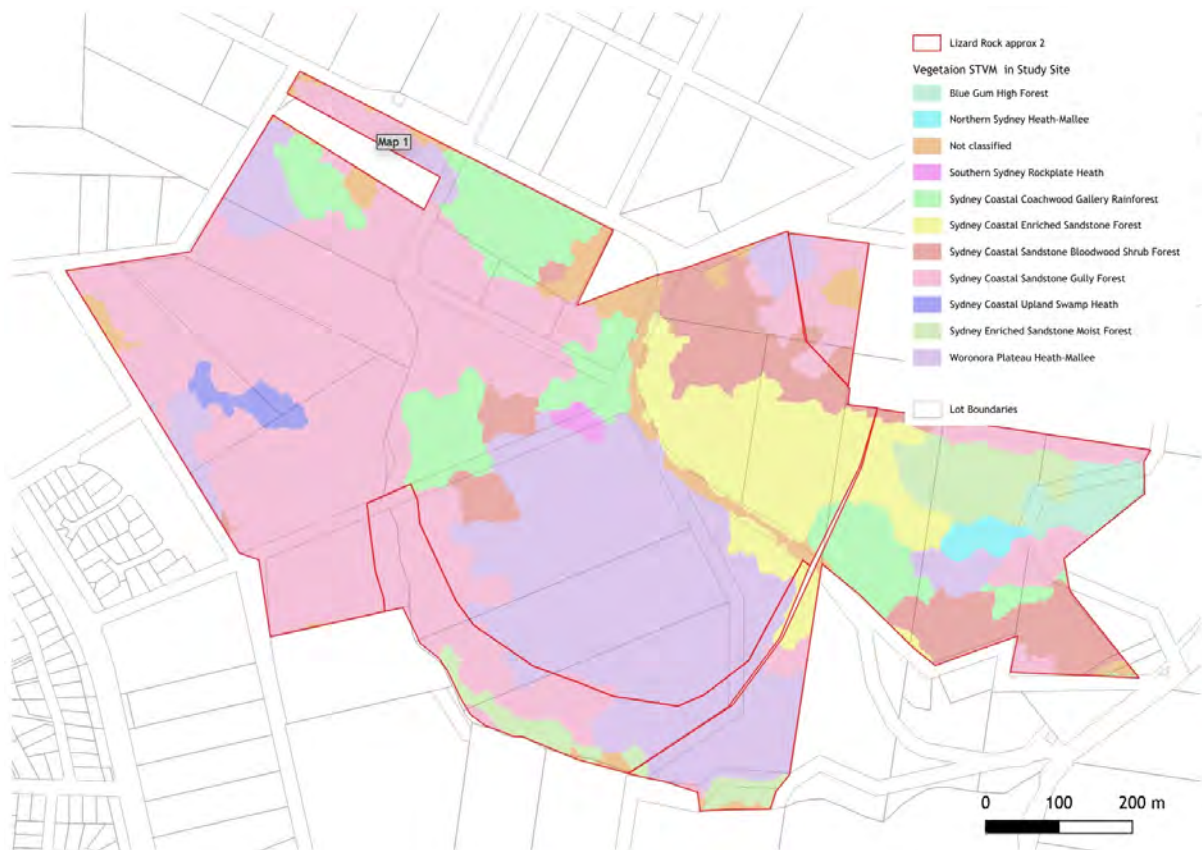
The vegetation mapping that is required by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment is the 2023 STVM map which contains high quality detailed map of this site showing 11 vegetation types. This official STVM map uses the PCT classification that must be used by the BAM which is the assessment system required by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017. See Map below.

(<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/nsw-bionet/state-vegetation-type-map>)

The vegetation map used in the BDAR report is an over simplified coarse scale map that only contains 3 vegetation types. As a consequence the number of vegetation types has been reduced from 11 to only 3.

This consequences of using a map with fewer vegetation types for the assessment of the biodiversity impact is significant as it will reduce the number of Plant community types to be assessed, it will reduce the number of Threatened species that need to be assessed and targeted by the field survey and the type and cost of offset credits will be substantially reduced. The simplification of the vegetation types on the site misleads the determining authority regarding the biodiversity value of the site and the bias will also give the applicant a false indication of the likely Biodiversity Offsetting costs reducing the incentive to modify the proposal. Using an inappropriate vegetation map does not meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Assessment Method required by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017.

The missing communities include the Threatened Sydney Coastal Upland Swamp EEC and the rare Rock Plate Heath both of which are habitat for a large number of Threatened species. The number and type of Ecosystem Credits is incorrect, the proposal does not include the required information, the proposal will have an unacceptable impact, the proposal does not avoid or minimise impact, the biodiversity assessment (BDAR) is not valid and the application cannot be approved.



A High Concentration of Threatened Species have Been Found on the Site

The small amount of survey that has been carried out has identified a very high density of Threatened Species on this site, 14 Threatened fauna species have been recorded on the site and one Threatened plant indicating a very high habitat value for Threatened species.

There is clearly essential habitat for a resident population of Pygmy Possums, Red-crowned Toadlets and Rosenberg's Goanna on the site and the site is also part of a home range of Glossy Black Cockatoos, Square-tailed Kite, Powerful Owl, White Throated Needle-tail, Grey-headed Flying-fox and 5 species of Threatened microbats.

This density of Threatened species is impressive and is indicative of the importance of this site to biodiversity conservation.

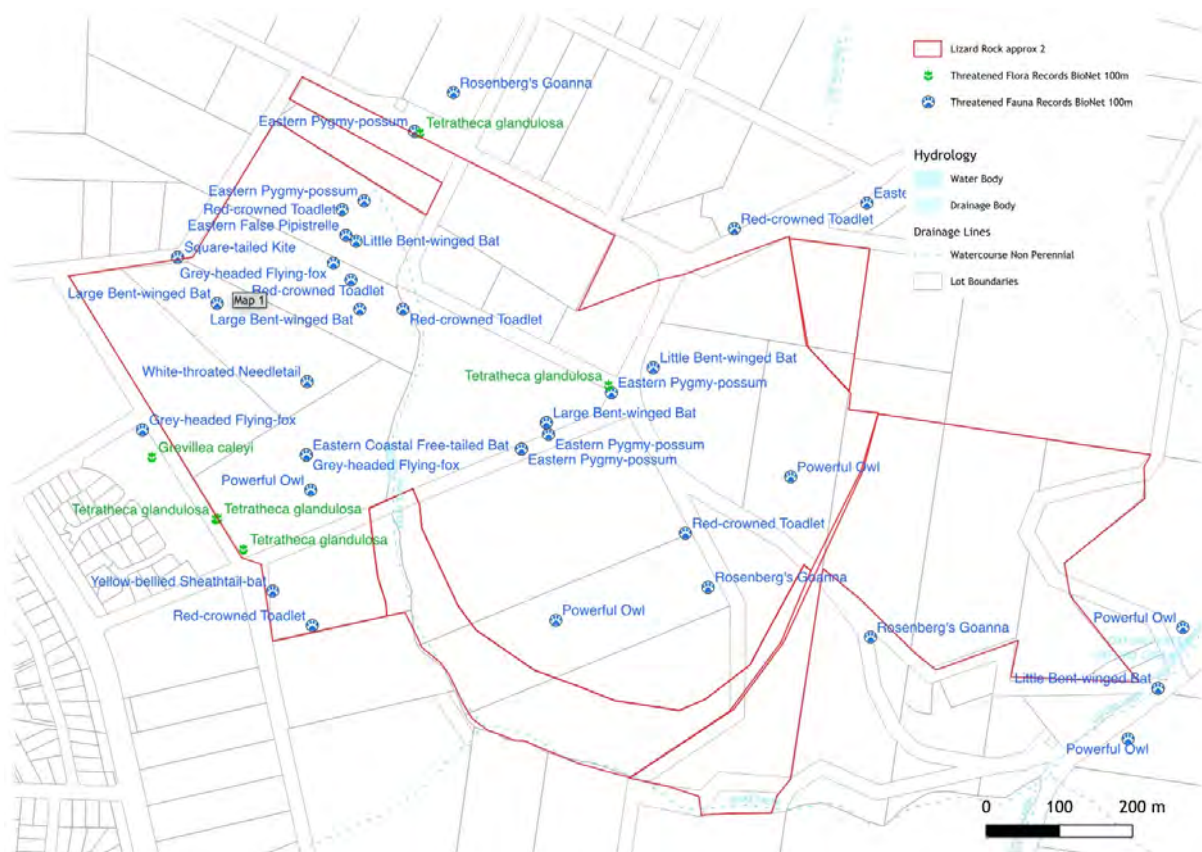
The botanical survey effort that has been carried out by the applicant and previous surveys on the site is very poor, it is likely there are several more Threatened plant species on the site but without the required survey we will never know.

The proposal will have an unacceptable impact on Threatened species, the proposal does not avoid or minimise impact, the site is not suitable and the application should not be approved. This site is clearly not an appropriate location for this development.

This area is particularly important for Threatened species.

There are Threatened species 6187 records from 69 Threatened species within 5km of the site. This is a very high density of Threatened species record in this area which indicates the importance of this locality and this site to the conservation of Threatened Species.

Figure NSW DPE Bionet Atlas Threatened species records from within the site



Threatened Species Incorrectly Excluded from the Assessment

"The Little Bent-wing Bat was recorded during the field surveys. It was recorded on one night (10th November 2020) with the first pass at 00:54 hours. It is considered that this recording was during the foraging period for the animal, rather than leaving a roost site at dusk. Whilst the subject land offers roosting opportunities for bats, it is believed that this species is not using the subject land for roosting or breeding. "

this justification is not acceptable and this species clearly occurs on the site and should not be excluded.

There has not been the required survey for the following Threatened species as required by the BAM and no satisfactory justification has been given to exclude the following Threatened species from the assessment, these species must be appropriately surveyed for or assumed present and appropriately or offset:

Callistemon linearifolius, Netted Bottle Brush This species is known to be associated with geological dykes. There are 9 nearby records in the NSW DPE Bionet database. BDAR says "Could potentially occur in unsampled parts of the subject land, but does not appear to be present." Page 65. This species must be assumed to occur. The site contains suitable habitat for this species and this species needs to surveyed for or offset.

Callocephalon fimbriatum, Gang-gang Cockatoo Recorded in the Bionet Atlas from 2 places near to the site one of which is less than 100m away to the west in the last few years. The site contains suitable habitat for this species and this species needs to surveyed for or offset.

Calyptorhynchus lathami, Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recorded in the Bionet Atlas from 85 places near to the site one of which is less than 50m away to the west in the few years. Page 86 of applicants BDAR. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Chalinolobus dwyeri, Large-eared Pied Bat This species was recorded from in the Bionet Atlas from 12 places near to the site. Page 88 of applicants BDAR. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Eucalyptus camfieldii, Camfield's Stringybark Known to occur nearby to the north. Recorded in the Bionet Atlas from 38 places near to the site. BDAR page 69 The site contains suitable habitat for this species.

Genoplesium baueri, Bauer's Midge Orchid This species was recorded from in the Bionet Atlas from 8 places near to the site. "Does not appear to be present in surveyed areas. Further targeted work required." page 70 of the BDAR. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Grammitis stenophylla, Narrow-leaf Finger Fern Known to occur nearby to the south less than 100 from the site. The site is suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Heleioporus australiacus, Giant Burrowing Frog This species was recorded from in the Bionet Atlas from 42 places near to the site. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset. Page 89 of the applicants BDAR report.

Isoodon obesulus obesulus, Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern) This species was recorded from in the Bionet Atlas from 120 places near to the site. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset. Page 91 of applicants BDAR.

Melaleuca deanei, Deane's Paperbark Known to occur nearby at St Ives Show Ground. Not adequately surveyed. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Miniopterus australis, Little Bent-winged Bat Recorded from the site and many nearby records, the local breeding site is not known but may be within the site. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Miniopterus orianae oceanensis, Large Bent-winged Bat Recorded from the site and many nearby records, the local breeding site is not known but may be within the site. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Ninox strenua, Powerful Owl Recorded in the site many times during the study period in 2020 and 2021 and there are many nearby records, the local breeding site is not known but may be within the site. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Persoonia hirsute, Hairy Geebung Known to occur nearby and cryptic. This species was recorded from in the Bionet Atlas from 27 places near to the site. The site contains suitable habitat for this species. This species is difficult to detect and this species must be assumed to be present and offset.

Avoidance and Minimisation of Impact

The location, design, layout and footprint of the proposal does not avoid or minimise impact as required by the objectives of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017 and the acts Regulation.

This site has particularly high conservation value for Threatened Species and Endangered Ecological Communities. The positioning, size and shape of the lots, road and the bushfire APZ does not meet the requirements of the BAM or Caselaw.

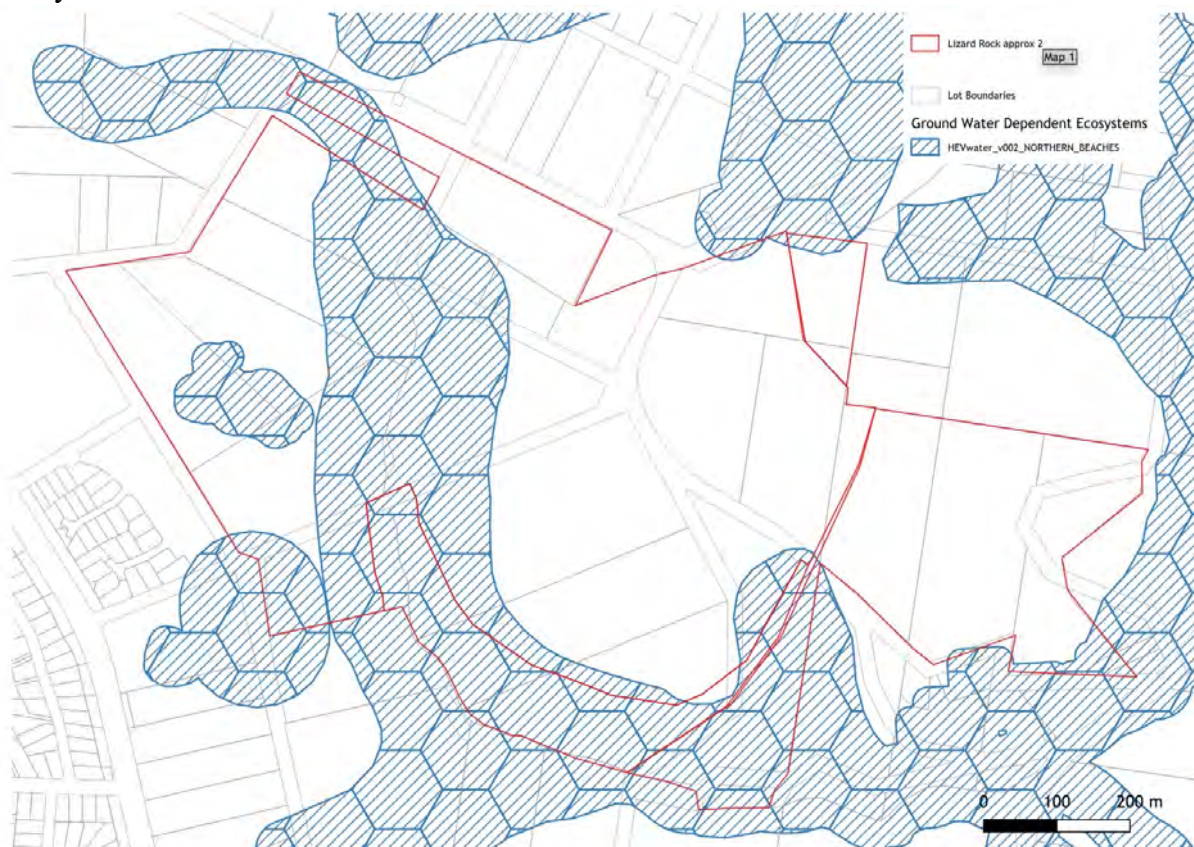
Threatened Species Polygons in the BDAR

There has not been an adequate systematic survey of the site as required by the Biodiversity Conservation Act so how can species polygons around the location on the site be drawn? Underestimates of the Threatened Species Polygons will reduce the number and cost of Offset Credits required.

The Threatened species polygons are not based on facts and cannot be accepted and consequently the number and type of Species Credits are an underestimate and should be rejected.

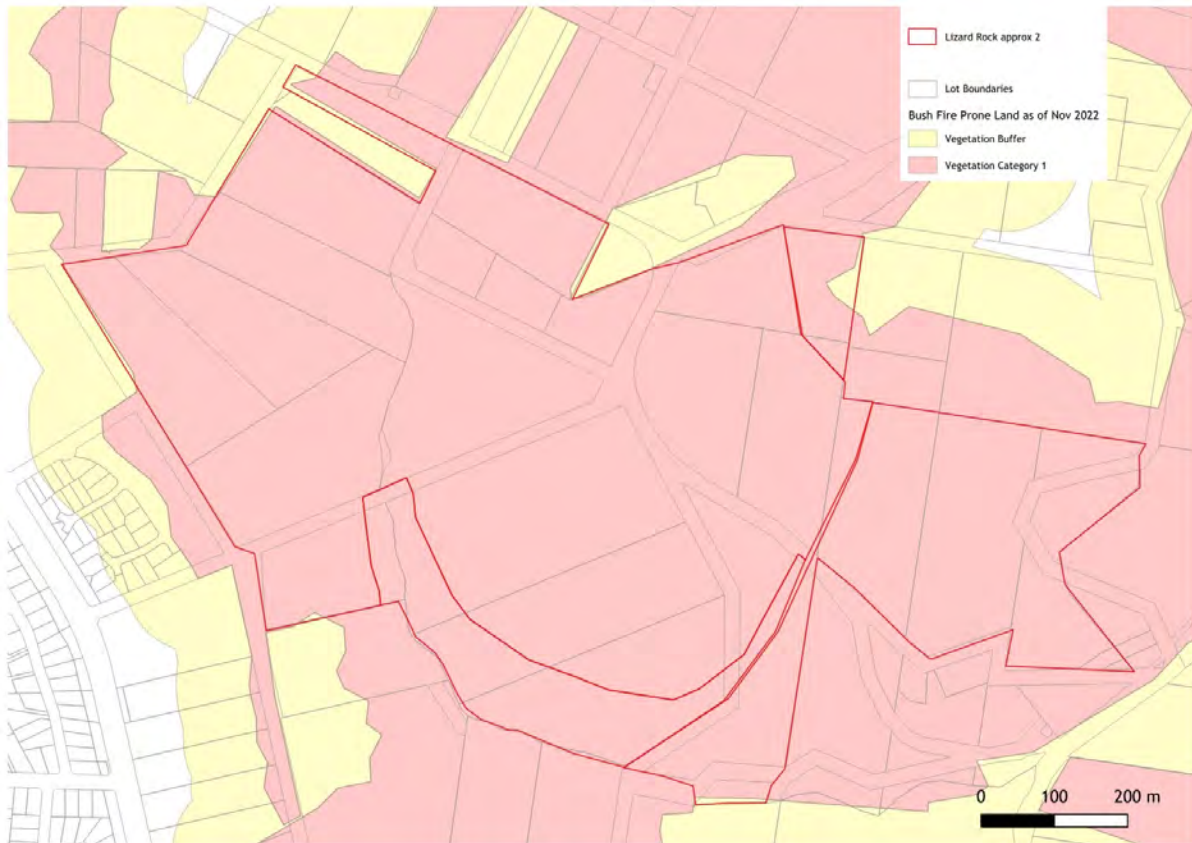
Ground Water Dependent Ecosystems

The site is mapped as being important for Ground Water Dependent Ecosystems this is particularly important for the Threatened Upland Swamp Heath and the riparian and lagoon ecosystems. This has not been addressed.



Bushfire Safety

The Site is mapped as the most dangerous category of bushfire threat.
The site is clearly not appropriate for this development.



Significant Geological Feature – Volcanic Dyke

A Volcanic dyke runs across the northern part site. The location of the rare geological dyke can be seen on the geology maps of Sydney (See attached map).

The dyke varies in width from a meter to 0.3 m wide and runs for 100s of meters. The dyke goes from the top of Morgan Rd near Forest Way to the beginning of the Slippery Dip Track.



Volcanic dykes are cracks in the sandstone where magma has extruded then been weathered over time to form silky smooth sand free white Kaolin that has been mined on this site and is likely to have been a valuable source of ceremonial paint for the local Aboriginal inhabitants of the site. Remnants of the kaolin deposit can still be seen in at least one location on the site. There are known to be Threatened plant species and ecological communities associated with the soils derived from dykes and the Plan of Management and the planning considerations documents for the adjacent National Parks specifically describe and protect dykes as unusual geological features and that they provide important habitat for unique vegetation. The association of specific vegetation with dykes has been documented by Jonathan Sanders in Vegetation patterns associated with volcanic dykes at West Head and Govett Ridge in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park. Threatened species such as *Callistemon linearifolius* are associated with soils derived from dykes.

The presence of such sites is one of the reasons the area has been proposed to be made a UNESCO Geopark <https://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/The-Ku-Ring-Gai-GeoRegion-Proposal.php>.

This significant geological feature and associated habitat values (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017, BAM Chapter 6, 7.2.1, 8.3) have not been taken into account in the planning the layout of the subdivision or the locating of the proposal.

The layout of the proposal the location of the proposal needs to avoid and minimise impact to these values and any residual impact needs to be offset and justified in the BDAR and the Site Investigation Report or the Statement of Environmental Effects.

The proposal does not avoid or minimise impact to the significant geological feature and should be refused.

European Heritage - Historic Kaolin Mine Site

A Kaolin deposits associated with the geological dyke that crosses the northern part site has has been historically mined between 1940 and 1965 as is evident on the aerial photographs and the mining lease document attached.

The location matches the geology map and the mining licence of an historic Kaolin extraction business. See attached mining lease.

The location and extent of this kaolin deposit is evident on the aerial photos 1951, 1965, on the mining lease maps (see attached) and can also be seen by the mining relics (pipes, winch, sheet metal signs, etc.) remaining on the site. Remnants of the kaolin deposit can still be seen in at least one location on the site.

The European Historic importance, the Aboriginal Cultural and archaeological importance (NPW Act 1970 2A Objectives and Part 6) and the geological features (NPW Act 1970 2A Objectives) and associated habitat (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017, BAM Chapter 6, 7.2.1, 8.3) values have not been taken into account in the planning the layout of the proposal or the locating of the proposal.

The layout of the proposal the location of the proposal needs to avoid and minimise impact to the historic site.

The proposal does not avoid or minimise impact to the significant geological feature and the unique habitat and should be refused.

Aboriginal Archaeology - Ceremonial Ochre Paint Deposit

An undocumented and rare source of ceremonial ochre paint occurs across the northern part of the site, this uncommon Kaolin deposit is associated with the geological dyke and is adjacent to the recorded Aboriginal carving site that may have mounds. This white ochre paint is likely to be an important Aboriginal site sources of ceremonial ochre paint are rarely found and recorded as they are probably kept secret by the local tribe.

Kaolin is silky smooth sand free white mineral that is valued by the Aboriginal people for ceremonial body paint and cave/overhang painting such as hand stencils. This type of paint is far superior to the normal clay derived from shale that contains a high proportion of sand and does not apply to the skin or adhere to caves or overhangs.

The adjacent Aboriginal rock engraving site may be associated with the deposit. Remnants of the kaolin deposit can still be seen in at least one location on the site. It is likely that known locations of this ceremonial paint that are exposed on the surface would have been rare and may have been a valuable cultural resource for local Aboriginal people and the kaolin may have been traded between Aboriginal groups.

The proposal will remove this potential culturally important Aboriginal site that has not been identified or assessed. This potential Aboriginal site is protected by NPW Act 1970 and impact has not been avoided or minimised and the impact of the proposal has not been assessed as required by the EP&A Act 1979.

As a consequence of the absence of assessment of the ceremonial ochre deposit and due to the impact the proposal should be refused.

Matters for Consideration

Section 4.15(1) of the EP&A Act

1 (a) Due to the absence of the required information by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017 and its regulation and this application does not contain a valid BDAR report and cannot be approved.

(b) the proposal will cause significant environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in the locality, and should not be approved

(c) due to natural and physical constraints the site is not suitable for this development.

This application should be refused.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to this development due to loss of fauna and flora. It increases traffic congestion and urban sprawl. It will also trigger more local development.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Simon

Family name

Hinks

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

simonhinks1975@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Forestville

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to this development proposal - it will ruin native habitat and have an adverse affect on wildlife.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

christine

Family name

couley

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

couleychristine@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am opposed to the Lizard Rock development on multiple levels.

It is not in keeping with Oxford Falls, nor is the land zoned for such a development. There should not be different rulings for the MLALC to force through inappropriate developments. Particularly on sacred sites and areas of fragile ecological importance.

Deforestation is not an acceptable choice in this age of environmental awareness. Australia currently holds the highest rate of mammal extinction IN THE WORLD. It is our responsibility to actively work to stop this.

There are many endangered and vulnerable species in the development zone, echidnas, powerful owls, glossy black tailed cockatoos, swamp wallabies, red crown toadlets, swamp wallabies, yellow tailed black cockatoos rosenbergs Goana womgbates, quolls and koalas to name a few, as well as calyi grevillia, dianella berries, Waratah, flannel flowers, Christmas bells, angophra trees (of which the ridegeline ones are part of an indigenous cemetery).

There is a major bush fire risk. There is only one way out and that's a one lane road. The beaches are already in gridlock if there is a crash on Mona Vale Road or the Wakehurst Parkway, The people would have no where to escape to. They would be sitting victims of any fire.

The 1994 bush fires were catastrophic and would have decimated any homes in that area. The topography does not encourage safety from further fires but rather the opposite. The Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice that categorised the area s Very High - Extreme Risk.

There is a major concern regarding the waterways and run off into the creek and down to Narrabeen Lagoon, it would contaminate the whole way, killing yet more native wildlife and possibly cause further flooding in Narrabeen, which is already prone to such things...well as affecting marine life in the lagoon.

This development is not required by the Northern Beaches to meet housing requirements, the council have met those without deforestation and using a more environmentally friendly approach. We need the trees. Literally they give us the oxygen to breathe. It has been proven that less trees means higher temperatures.

The local indigenous to the area want the land to be preserved. In fact, the previous CEO of the MLALC was planning to make this site an aboriginal national park.

This land is zoned C3, rural and environmental management zoning. The proposed development does not fit this criteria and it's inappropriate for one land owner to have a different zoning awarded to them.

In closing. I am against this development on grounds of the negative environmental impact, loss of native endangered flora and fauna, destruction of indigenous habitat, cemeteries and sacred sites, extreme bush fire risk and stormwater impacts on Narrabeen lagoon.

I am entirely opposed to deforestation. Particularly unnecessary deforestation which will purely provide a private enterprise with money for their business interests.

This proposal does not benefit the community in any way, shape or form. In fact it does precisely the opposite.

Christine

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title**First Name****Family name**

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I support the submission. The Aboriginal Metropolitan Land Council should have the same rights as every other land owner who has sold their land for development on the Northern Beaches. Warriewood has been developed, Ingleside is in planning, Frenchs Forest is also in progress. It is up to Aboriginal MC to decide what is sacred and what isn't. 10% of the development will be dedicated to affordable housing which is short supply. If they meet all the other bushfire, traffic and environmental regulations the plan should be implemented.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

K

Family name

The

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

kittythe1@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Terrigal

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

7 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my dissent over the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802).

I have read the planning documents in your NSW planning portal and I am stunned that this project was ever proposed in the first place.

I strongly oppose the notion to rezone land from C2 to R2 (or anything else other than to a National Park). This development will have a disastrous flow on effect, into the surrounding so called ‘areas for protection’, the lagoon, the existing suburb, and the precedent it will set for further rezonings of Land Council land all over NSW.

This area is full of biodiversity and the extremely flawed idea of using biodiversity credits to offset killing wildlife and native flora (whether endangered or not) is

negligent, lacks any foresight whatsoever and is environmental vandalism at its worse.

I know the use of biodiversity credits is legislated, so therefore not criminal in the true sense of the word. But history will judge you very harshly for allowing the destruction of one of the last stands of native bushland in the suburbs of the Northern Beaches, under the false protection of Biodiversity Credits.

Tell that to the trees, insects, birds, and other wildlife. Tell the pigmy possum he is worth 1211 biodiversity credits. It is a disgusting scam of a scheme.

We can't afford to lose this bushland to housing, regardless of how desperate we are for housing. The proposal speaks of a 'discussion' about affordable housing. The cost of building in this extremely unsuitable area will not allow for affordable housing, no matter how much it is discussed.

I note the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council are the owners and the developers of this precious bushland. I also note they do not represent the actual Aboriginals from the area who are vehemently opposed to the destruction of cultural and environmentally important land.

They have ignored community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcry to protect the area.

This Land Council are being used to push through developments that should in no way be considered. This land should never have been considered for rezoning.

To summarise, I oppose the project for the following reasons .-

- Loss of native habitat for all wildlife. The use of Biodiversity credits are an embarrassment to anyone who thinks this can justify loss of native habitat and wildlife.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow downhill.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs – we need the trees to provide oxygen!!!!
- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events.
- Traffic and urban sprawl – the traffic is already a nightmare to contend with. The current infrastructure cannot cope with another 1000+ cars.

Please consider this submission for the sake of our native habitat and the community's enjoyment of our open space, and see it as precious to our future as the air we breathe.

Yours Sincerely
Kitty The
Kittythe1@gmail.com
0403635943
Terrigal NSW

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

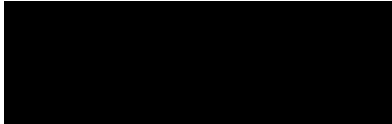
- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll , and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into

the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
- Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
- Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.
- Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title**First Name**

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Erskineville

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The proposal comprises a disappointingly conventional subdivision layout in what is a an environment that requires something far more imaginative and which directly responds to the site character. This conventional layout of streets and individual houses on individual lots with minimal left-over open area once the house is built and minimal side setbacks no doubt fuels the public concerns.

It may well be these concerns can be alleviated by a more imaginative and responsive design comprising groups or clusters of attached dwellings on suitable 'development' locations, with grouped car parking and fewer needed access roads - thereby reducing the overall development footprint on the total site.

It is likely also that such a configuration would be better able to achieve necessary bush-fire ratings without the extensive - and necessarily invariably barren - cleared buffer zones now proposed.

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Title**First Name**

Cornelia

Family name

Harris

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

conny.harris@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The Northern Beaches branch of the Australian Plant Society objects to the proposed Patyegarang Development Proposal previously known as Lizard Rock.

Of the 71 ha site, 51 ha are proposed to be developed for housing, roads, a cultural centre and APZs. The site includes steep slopes and large sandstone rock outcrops, a creek line, known as Snake Creek and a hilltop with aboriginal carvings and an electricity transmission pole for transmission lines which pass over the site.

The variety within the vegetation is astonishing. Near the creek, you find riparian vegetation. On the hilltop you find in the S/W a very low sandstone heath plateau vegetation and in the N/E a forest which very much resembles Duffys Forest EEC, dipping down towards Kelly's Way this changes and one finds forest dominated by Eucalyptus piperita (Sydney Peppermint) and straight East the trees are very tall and vines make one feel like being in a rainforest. In between are transition zones with most beautiful sandstone vegetation like Boronia serulata, the native Rose and Blandfordia nobilis, the Christmas bell. The two plants that gave Bel..rose its name and which are now hardly found anywhere else.

The richness of the vegetation is somewhat reflected in the preliminary biodiversity report, however its full extend is still unknown as the survey did not meet the requirements of the amount and intensity requested by BDAR.

It seems prohibitive to make any decision regarding its zoning and development potential if the site is not properly known.

We note that the vegetation zones according to SVTM, the NSW Planning and Environment tool number 11 not 3 as stated in the applicants report. 11 Vegetation zones would require a much greater effort in the number of plots surveyed and in the time allocated to field surveys. The number of Threatened species to search for would increase and the offset requirements also change upwards. 6 plots have been surveyed, 9 plots are required if only 3 vegetation types were present. Surely no reliable conclusion should be drawn from such incomplete effort especially as this bushland is known to be highly biodiverse.

As an example we may look at the accounts of orchids. Their discovery is not only seasonally determined but also varies greatly from year to year. Recorded orchids by our members on the site are *Caladenia catenata* – White fingers, *Caleana minor* – Small duck orchid, *Calochilus* ssp- Bearded orchid, *Thelymitra ioxioides*- Sunorchid, *Pterostylis* ssp, *Microtis* ssp, and within short walking distance: *Arthrochilus prolixus*, *Thelymitra carnea*, *Diurus aurea*- Golden donkey orchid, *Prasophyllum elatum*- Tall leek orchid, *Cryptostylis subulata*- Large tongue orchid, *Cryptostylis erecta*, *Corunastylis apostasioides*?, *Genoplesium fimbriatum*. Of these 15 orchid species, which are all likely to occur on the site only *Genoplesium fimbriatum* and *Cryptostylis erecta* were recorded. This hopefully demonstrates how important it is to look at the appropriate flowering time interval for each individual species. The surveys were not scheduled to coincide with these time intervals and were very limited regarding the plots surveyed, which results in the paucity of species being recorded.

The bushland section in the NE of the site close to Slippery Dip Track and Morgan Rd, where the *Eucalyptus gummifera* trees are heavily marked by Sugar glider rings transforms quickly into the vegetation resembling Duffys Forest EEC. *Eucalyptus siberi*, *Eucalyptus oblonga* join *Eucalyptus gummifera* and *Angophora costata* also becomes prevalent and they all included in forming the tree canopy and *Telopia speciosissima*- Waratah and *Xylomelum pyriforme*- Woody pear are found in the understorey. These are accompanied by many other species characteristic of Duffys Forest EEC. Large ironstones are on the track, which again point to the presence of Duffys Forest EEC. A review of this bushland classification is required.

Also not recorded are Rock plate heath and Sydney Upland swamp EEC, both threatened vegetation types.

The habitat provided to fauna also lack examination efforts and several more field surveys should be undertaken.

The biodiversity survey is completely insufficient and cannot be used for any decision making. The only clear conclusion regarding the vegetation which can be made is its flammability. It is categorised as the highest flammable vegetation and that conforms with our memory of the fire history of that area. This fact must be equally stressed, especially as fire escape routes from the location are insufficient and to evacuate residents from an extra 450 houses is probably impossible. The big fire events proceeded towards this area from the NW direction, where National Parks provided plenty of fuel and the fires spread fast.

Another reason to oppose the development is the downstream effect of the stormwater. Not only will local creeks be impacted, but flooding along Middle Creek onto the Wakehurst Parkway will potentially be exaggerated and the water quality in Narrabeen Lagoon will also suffer.

Inconsistency with strategic planning tools like Towards 2040 and the Northern Beaches Housing Strategy and even with state directions like the Regional Plan: Sydney North District Plan should be reason to halt any progress of this Development Proposal.

Also, the Carbon footprint of the proposed development will not fit our national endeavour to reduce our emissions as this development would require persistent car travel to reach any local community facility / shops or schools.

In conclusion, we request a sensible decision will be made and above points will be appropriately considered. As your department has been involved in the creation of the Development Delivery Plan to facilitate this development, it appears there is a conflict of interest if your Department is involved in the decision making process and we would welcome an Independent Planning Commission taking over the evaluation of submissions and making the final recommendation to the Minister for Planning regarding this proposal.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose.

The level of destruction put forward to our bush land needs to be avoided to protect the land, wildlife and the future generations from missing the opportunity to enjoy our natural environment. I want our children to have the vast opportunities I have had in experiencing this amazing untouched environment, not see it overrun by housing.

The natural environment is such an important aspect for the community in living on the Northern Beaches and one that needn't be destroyed for the sake of additional housing and profit, only to over populate the area.

Pls stop this proposal and keep our environment in tact. We collectively need to consider loss of wildlife, loss of our unique environment that we call home and the opportunities it provides us all along with overcrowding.

Sincerely



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Christine

Family name

Ellis

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

gncellis@froggy.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Avalon Beach

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll , and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into

the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
- Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
- Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.
- Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Christine Ellis

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Anja

Family name

A

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

anja_cl@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

Freshwater

I have made a reportable political donation

No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I strongly object to the patyegarang (lizard rock) planning proposal for the following reasons:

- the development would cause destruction and loss of a large natural bushland area and loss of flora and fauna
- biodiversity needs to be preserved
- the development would have a detrimental impact on the Narrabeen lagoon catchment
- the development would contribute to a loss of Sydney's green lungs
- the development would cause traffic congestion and urban sprawl
- the development would set a precedent for more development in the area and more destruction of natural bushland
- the area and therefore the future residents will be at risk of bushfires

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Julian

Family name

Pedersen

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

jgpedersen234@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to the Patyegarang Planning proposal because of the loss of biodiversity for future generations, carbon impact of clearing bushland and destroying the character of Morgan road

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

This proposed plan will put the local community at risk and damage a large part of our national park. The proposal is in bushfire prone land. Infrastructure does not support additional living arrangements and our access to the park and what it offers (wildlife, bushwalks, bike trails) will be heavily impacted. Please do not accept this proposal.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Naoko

Family name

Gilbert

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

naogilnaz@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

OPPOSE

Lizard Rock is our important part of our family memories.
Lizard rock always support our family connection during difficult time.
Please don't take away our beautiful memory of Rock.

Also this is trigger more and more local development and destroying nature.

We cant's destroy ricks and nature for human being needs.

We are the part of nature!

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Edith

Family name

Bracken

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

edimary@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I strongly object to the Patyegarang planning proposal to build 450 new dwellings on virgin bush land in the Sydney Basin.

The government approval of urban sprawl needs to stop happening particularly in areas of such high biodiversity.

We live adjoining the bush in Belrose (2km from this site) and we have a wombat that visits our garden regularly. We also have wallabies, bandicoots, possums, echidna's, very large monitor lizards, and a myriad of amazing birds.

I don't understand how the wider community, the future MALAC beneficiaries, or future generations benefit from this continual destruction of virgin forest for housing, and light industry. This destruction seems very short sighted.

The Sydney basin housing model should be to create more housing density on or near main roads, near community services and close to transport corridors - this proposal does not meet any of these requirements.

Destruction of virgin forest for housing & light industry is not sustainable, seems like a money grab, trashes biodiversity, and leaves nothing for future generations. We need our leaders to stand up now against such short sighting planning decisions.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object this proposal due to loss of habitat for flora and fauna, bush fire risk, traffic congestion and urban sprawl.

Loss of diversity for future generations.

Destroying the character of Morgan Rd

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Gordon

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I do not agree in any way that this Proposal Number PP2022-3802

goes ahead. For all the reasons stated above and more.

Sincerely,R Sumner

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

ELANORA HEIGHTS

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The area is high bush fire risk. Traffic is already congested and access for fire trucks precarious. There is abundant flora and fauna, endangered native species. The area was never meant to be built on. Land should be taken from St.Ives showground or similar instead.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am against the development at Lizard Rock because of the loss of habitat for flora and fauna, loss of biodiversity for future generations and destroying the character of Morgan Road.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Richard

Family name

A

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

raagius@yahoo.com

Suburb/ Town

Freshwater

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I strongly object to the patyegarang (lizard rock) planning proposal for the following reasons:

- the development would cause the destruction of natural bushland and cause serious environmental damage through the loss of flora and fauna and disruption of established wildlife corridors
- the area and it's potential residents are at extreme bushfire risk
- the development would increase traffic congestion
- the development will result in negative impacts on watercourses, wetlands and water dependent ecosystems
- the development would set a precedent for more development and destruction of natural bushland

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Queenscliff

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As a concerned local resident on the Northern Beaches, I oppose this planning proposal. I fully support the detailed submissions from Northern Beaches Council, elected representatives, bushfire experts and local community groups explaining the many reasons this rezoning should be refused. The biodiversity impacts are unacceptable and putting homes and families on the site is irresponsible given the information available on the bushfire risk, which will only worsen with climate change.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Luke

Family name

Stutfield

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

luke.stutfield@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

2489

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802).

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- Loss of pristine bushland
- Building in an area susceptible to impacts from bushfire
- Increases Traffic and urban sprawl
- It sets a negative precedent which could open up even more land to be developed in future

Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely,

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Michael

Family name

Oprey

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

opreywang@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

NORTH RYDE

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Regarding the above Patyegarang , Morgan road Belrose proposal .

This proposal is deeply faulted and should not be allowed to proceed. The above development is proposing to build 450 dwellings in a area that is isolated , that has no infrastructure to support it (including Roads) and is located in a fire trap.

The three mains reasons why this development should not go ahead and outlined below.

1 Access

Access to this new development would only be thru Morgan road and Oxford falls Road. Both roads are narrow , windy and have not be upgraded in years . Morgan Rd has a old narrow bridge at one end which is not suitable for heavy traffic . Oxford falls road still has a ford , near the intersection to the Wakehurst parkway , This

floods often. Both are choke points.

These roads and the the Forest way , Wakehurst park intersections cannot take the extra load of traffic from 450 extra households without major work . They are unsuitable for the construction traffic that would be required to build the development. These are the only roads in and out of the development and they will be grid lock constantly , if the development goes ahead .

2. Fire Trap

The development would next door to the Garigal National park . This park is full of deep gullies and high ridges which makes it ideal bushfire country. This area has wild fires approx every 10 year and with Climate change this may become more frequent .

Garigal National park also runs into Kur-ring-gai Nation park and therefore is vulnerable to fires that start in this park . escape from any fire would be limited to Morgan road and oxford falls road and these roads are vulnerable to bush fires and could be cut off. The narrow roads and narrow bridge would also constrict access by fire crews .

There are also high tension wires and towers running thru the area , also increasing the likely hood of fire.

3 Isolation Position .

This development would be located in a semi rural area without any infrastructure to support the additional 450 households that would be moving in . There are no playgrounds or food shops near by or any child care nearby . There are no shops within walking distance ,therefore this development would be totality car dependant as there is no train service and the bus service is limited. This would make it a expensive development to live in , ruling it out for affordable housing.

There has been no development in this area for the last 50 years , as this land is hard to build on , prone to wild fires and is isolated from shops and services . This development does nothing to change the above . This is not a natural area for housing .That is why this area is still semi rural.

The best use of this land would be to use it as a extension of Garigal nation park . The land can still have it cultural centre and the aboriginal sites can be preserved . The site can also be managed for bush fire risk. Also more of sydney's bush land can also be preserved.

Regards
Michael Oprey

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Perry

Family name

Gilbert

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

perrygilbert1@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The development proposal will be a definite loss of biodiversity for future generations.
Increase traffic congestion in this area and a loss of flora and fauna for current and future generations .
Please don't allow this development to take place .

Regards

Perry Gilbert

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

First Name

Shintaro

Family name

Gilbert

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

shintarogil590@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

2100

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am against the Lizard rock construction proposal Lizard Rock is a sacred place and it would destroy the character that Morgan road has so it would be good if it didn't get destroyed

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Max

Family name

Harris

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

kaiser4514@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Darlinghurst

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I oppose the Pategarang development. There is no need for further destruction of bush and wildlife. I also see the development as extremely bushfire prone.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am against the demolition of lizard rock due to the loss of habitat for our precious flora and fauna!

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Miss

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Hello,

I am making an objection to Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose also know as lizard Rock,

The proposed development Threatens endangered species of flora and fauna, and damages strategic biodiversity corridors.

This development is unnecessary to achieve NSW Government housing goals.

The development risks the very cultural heritage that the Aboriginal Land Rights Act intended to protect.

We regularly travel to the beaches via Morgan Rd and putting 450 houses on Lizard Rock will significantly impact the environment and traffic. My children are very

sad hearing about this proposed development. My daughter said, we enjoy seeing the wildlife and if you really care about this. Why go ahead with this development? If you take away the trees the floods will become worse than what we have seen in recent weeks. Where will the animals go once you take the environment away?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Joel

Family name

Prebble

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

joelprebble@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Warriewood

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I strongly oppose this proposed development. It's in a high risk area in regards to fire and flood, as well as being a significant parcel of land for Aborigines and a vast population of native wildlife. This development should not be approved under any circumstances.

It is our duty to leave this world in a better state than when we found it and this development only befits those who believe their own individual wealth should be pursued at all costs.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Destroying this beautiful piece of bush is heartbreaking. I have walked through this bushland for many years. I have seen birds such as powerful owls using it. Snakes such as bandy bandys. These aren't commonly seen. There are precious indigenous carvings.

In this day and age are we really bulldozing this beautiful bushland and cramming more people in. Once it's gone, it's gone for good.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Karina

Family name

Prebble

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

karinaprebble@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Warriewood

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I strongly oppose this proposed development. It's in a high risk area in regards to fire and flood, as well as being a significant parcel of land for Aborigines and a vast population of native wildlife. This development should not be approved under any circumstances.

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Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Miss

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object the loss of habitat for flora and fauna and MAJOR traffic congestion in my local area.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

There are specialists better placed to comment on most aspects of why this proposal is undeniably unviable from a fire, environmental, community and cultural perspective. To suggest otherwise is to irreversibly erode our trust in our government officials and the policies that we have put in place and developed over decades to build a fair, clear, healthy and balanced corner of the earth.

I will simply add the following observations.

1. All land owners must be equal before the laws/regs. MLALC are no different. They are legally entitled to seek land, and to profit from those land holdings once obtained, but their developments must not operate under a separate set of rules. Generational guilt over the manner in which Indigenous persons were displaced in the Sydney Basin should not result in development concessions that damage our collective future health and safety. Lizard Rock was requested and transferred in part because MLALC cited its cultural significance and it came with the knowledge that it was not zoned for development. What's changed? If MLALC's corporate objective is to build wealth from their land holdings via sale of their land holdings to private developers, then they should request or focus on their land that is zoned

accordingly. Potentially the State Government could swap the Lizard Rock holding for more suitable land.

2. The MLALC's CEO has said his corporate objective is to turn a profit. As a CEO it is common and reasonable to have this objective. The MLALC is more than a company though, its dual obligation is to promote and protect the culture and heritage of its collective members. My concern is that those governing the MLALC are wilfully ignoring the wishes of the local indigenous voices who do not wish to see development upon their lands. 'Not in our name'. There are no local voices on the MLALC board. It is therefore easy for the MLALC to detach themselves from the cultural obligation they have for Lizard Rock, especially given the demands of the large Sydney Basin area for which they are responsible. Indigenous voices silenced yet again, but disappointingly this time, disenfranchised by their own representatives in the name of profit and expedience and the 'greater good'. How familiar.

3. The pre-work that appears to have been undertaken on preparing this parcel of land, and neighbouring parcels, for development, prior to its determination, warrants further attention.

There are specialists better placed to comment on most aspects of why this proposal is undeniably unviable from a fire, environmental, community and cultural perspective. To suggest otherwise is to irreversibly erode our trust in our government officials and the policies that we have put in place and developed over decades to build a fair, clear, healthy and balanced corner of the earth.

I will simply add the following observations.

1. All land owners must be equal before the laws/regs. MLALC are no different. They are legally entitled to seek land, and to profit from those land holdings once obtained, but their developments must not operate under a separate set of rules. Generational guilt over the manner in which Indigenous persons were displaced in the Sydney Basin should not result in development concessions that damage our collective future health and safety. Lizard Rock was requested and transferred in part because MLALC cited its cultural significance and it came with the knowledge that it was not zoned for development. What's changed? If MLALC's corporate objective is to build wealth from their land holdings via sale of their land holdings to private developers, then they should request or focus on their land that is zoned accordingly. Potentially the State Government could swap the Lizard Rock holding for more suitable land.
2. The MLALC's CEO has said his corporate objective is to turn a profit. As a CEO it is common and reasonable to have this objective. The MLALC is more than a company though, its dual obligation is to promote and protect the culture and heritage of its collective members. My concern is that those governing the MLALC are wilfully ignoring the wishes of the local indigenous voices who do not wish to see development upon their lands. 'Not in our name'. There are no local voices on the MLALC board. It is therefore easy for the MLALC to detach themselves from the cultural obligation they have for Lizard Rock, especially given the demands of the large Sydney Basin area for which they are responsible. Indigenous voices silenced yet again, but disappointingly this time, disenfranchised by their own representatives in the name of profit and expedience and the 'greater good'. How familiar.
3. The pre-work that appears to have been undertaken on preparing this parcel of land, and neighbouring parcels, for development, prior to its determination, warrants further attention.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

N

Family name

Bee

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

bee.naomi@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Tuross Head

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As a former resident of the northern beaches I am saddened to hear of this proposed development. The proposed negative impacts on culture, biodiversity and potential impact on future dwellings should be enough to halt this project in its entirety.

The northern beaches has a dwindling number on bush land spaces that are being utilised for housing. These spaces are culturally sacred and a rare haven for the unique flora and fauna of the area.

Please consider the this and halt this development.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Allambie Heights

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802).

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local life long resident of Allambie Heights, Northern Beaches also known as 'Guringai country'.

I am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of myself and those who have no voice for themselves; the vulnerable wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, the undisturbed fauna that has grown here for hundreds of years; the Narrabeen Catchment area and all that rests within and lastly on behalf of the **Indigenous Garigal People who walked and respected this land for thousands of years including the current living elders, with direct Garigal lineage**¹.

The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. The main function of local land councils is to make claims to Crown lands and to acquire and "manage" land on behalf of its members and to **discuss with the local tribe/custodians of that particular land**. The Metro LALC are in breach of this Act for not allowing the Garigal elders to be heard and listed on the Metro LALC 'Register of Aboriginal Owners'². This happened even though the elders Uncle Evers, Dennis Jones & Laurie Brimson all have known Aboriginal Ancestors by name and formal documentation of the Garigal clan, the elders identify as Aboriginal persons, and have a strong cultural association with the Garigal land and it's Aboriginal Lore, Uncle Evers officiates and Conducts Smoking Ceremonies and 'Welcome to Country' on the Garigal land around the Northern Beaches for the community and official³ Northern Beaches Council functions. These Garigal people are acknowledged at Federal level⁴ on the AIATSIS, but the Metro LALC does not. Why is this so, and how can it be?

Metro LALC are in full breach of what the 'New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983' was created for and also going against their own Aboriginal lore⁵ at the same:

1. The land was given to the Metro LALC for cultural and spiritual purposes. *So how does their proposed development fit in with cultural and spiritual purposes? Does it adhere with National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)?*
2. They say there are no traditional owners descendants as members of the Metro LALC. *This is an outright lie, with no respect for their aboriginal peers. The Garigal people have tried to become members in the past, but membership on the land council was refused. This Metro LALC system is broken and needs to be reviewed immediately. The membership assessment should be taken out of the Metro LALC hands. In any other honorable government body, these Garigal people would be considered of aboriginal descent and treated as such in all government relations Federal or State.*
3. By Aboriginal lore only traditional owners or their descendants can speak for the land and decide its future. *So how can the Metro LALC speak for the future of the land since they are not traditional owners or descendants?*
4. There are a number of Aboriginal sites on this land. *It is my understanding the belief of Aboriginal Lore, that if the bush around these sites is destroyed the whole story of each site is also destroyed. The surrounding bushland is part of the picture for the rock art that completes the story.*

In the 'Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment Patyegarang Project, Belrose, NSW report'⁶ there is mention on page 6 " There is the possibility that other engravings occur within the vicinity of the known engraving sites that are obscured by vegetation cover. Any vegetation clearance on the sandstone exposures containing the rock engravings or which may be considered in the future for the specific purposes of locating engravings in other parts of the site should be undertaken with care and completed according to the terms of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit issued for the activity under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974." This should be checked before any damaging decisions are made. The destruction of 'Juukan Gorge'⁷ by Rio Tinto Western Australia

1 "Evers stated that he is of the Indigenous Garigal people, the original custodians of the land targeted for development, whose direct descendants should be consulted and involved in determining its future." <https://manlyobserver.com.au/indigenous-elders-join-calls-to-halt-proposed-lizard-rock-development/>

2 'Aboriginal owners of land means the Aboriginal persons whose names are entered on the Register of Aboriginal Owners because of the persons' cultural association with particular land. ' Schedule 1 Amendment of Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 Section 4 (1)

3 Uncle Neil Evers & Community gathers for Sorry Day <https://www.northernbeachesadvocate.com.au/2023/05/28/community-gathers-for-sorry-day/>

4 Proof of Aboriginality registration completed on: atsis.gov.au/proof-aboriginality

5 Aboriginal Connection to Country and their Land http://www.workingwithindigenousaustralians.info/content/Culture_3_The_Land.html

6 Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment New South Wales <https://apps.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb>

7 <https://www.riotinto.com/en/news/trending-topics/juukan-gorge>,

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/may/24/a-year-on-from-the-juukan-gorge-destruction-aboriginal-sacred-sites-remain-unprotected>

Mining 2021 is an example of not enough investigation with an end result of a destroyed site of such exceptional cultural significance.

Bulldozing this land in such a large scale would be abuse to all Aboriginals country wide and their Lore—all decided by a minority of the aboriginal people who head up the Metro LALC. This is big business with bad morals. This would be a type of vandalism if any other Australian went ahead and destroyed the land. It would be all over the news for vandalism.

5. It seems that the Metro LALC is going right against their own beliefs. *In the past, the Metro LALC stopped bike riders riding over Aboriginal sites and now they are about to destroy these same sites.*
6. The Metro LALC is Hypocrisy at its finest!

This Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose planning proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable. The proposal states that this area of land is disturbed, this bushland area has not being developed in previous years and is NOT disturbed land, or has it ever being farmland. See aerial photos on next page from 1943⁸ and 2023 showing bushland covering the same areas in each photo 80 years apart. You can also see the same tree formation in areas within this bushland. Existing trees for more than 80 years and beyond.

We are losing more and more wildlife corridors on the Northern Beaches, such as when the Northern Beaches hospital and surrounding roads were upgraded. This caused the wildlife corridor lost between Manly Dam and Oxford Falls along Wakehurst Parkway. The widening of Mona Vale road North end. We cannot afford to lose anymore on the Northern Beaches, these bushland areas and wildlife so close to major CBDs are what makes the Northern Beaches Sydney unique from other places in Australia and around the world. It is the amount of Bushland and native habitat that we have surrounding us.

- This development is within the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment⁹ and will impact the creeks leading into Middle Creek and Wakehurst Parkway negatively. The hard surface increases caused from a 227.3 ha development, with a possible 450 homes would include new roads, driveways, paths, roofs etc and will cause greater significant runoff than there currently is into the Narrabeen Lake catchment. The report does not address this effectively as the report relies on poor formulas and standard research retention technology which should not be used in this case as the typography is unique and can not be compared with any standard research or standard formulaes.

While the regular flooded areas that causes the closure of the Wakehurst parkway has also not being addressed within the Narrabeen Catchment area at Middle creek; this needs to be addressed before proceeding with any developments that will cause mass volumes of hard surfaces in the upper areas of this catchment area.

Damaging impacts will occur on the 'Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment' Flora and Fauna from any type of development in the uphill areas of this region. With less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary the impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, vulnerable species such as the 'Black Bittern' and other marine, animals and vertebrae that live in Snake creek, Middle creek and Narrabeen lagoon catchment area.

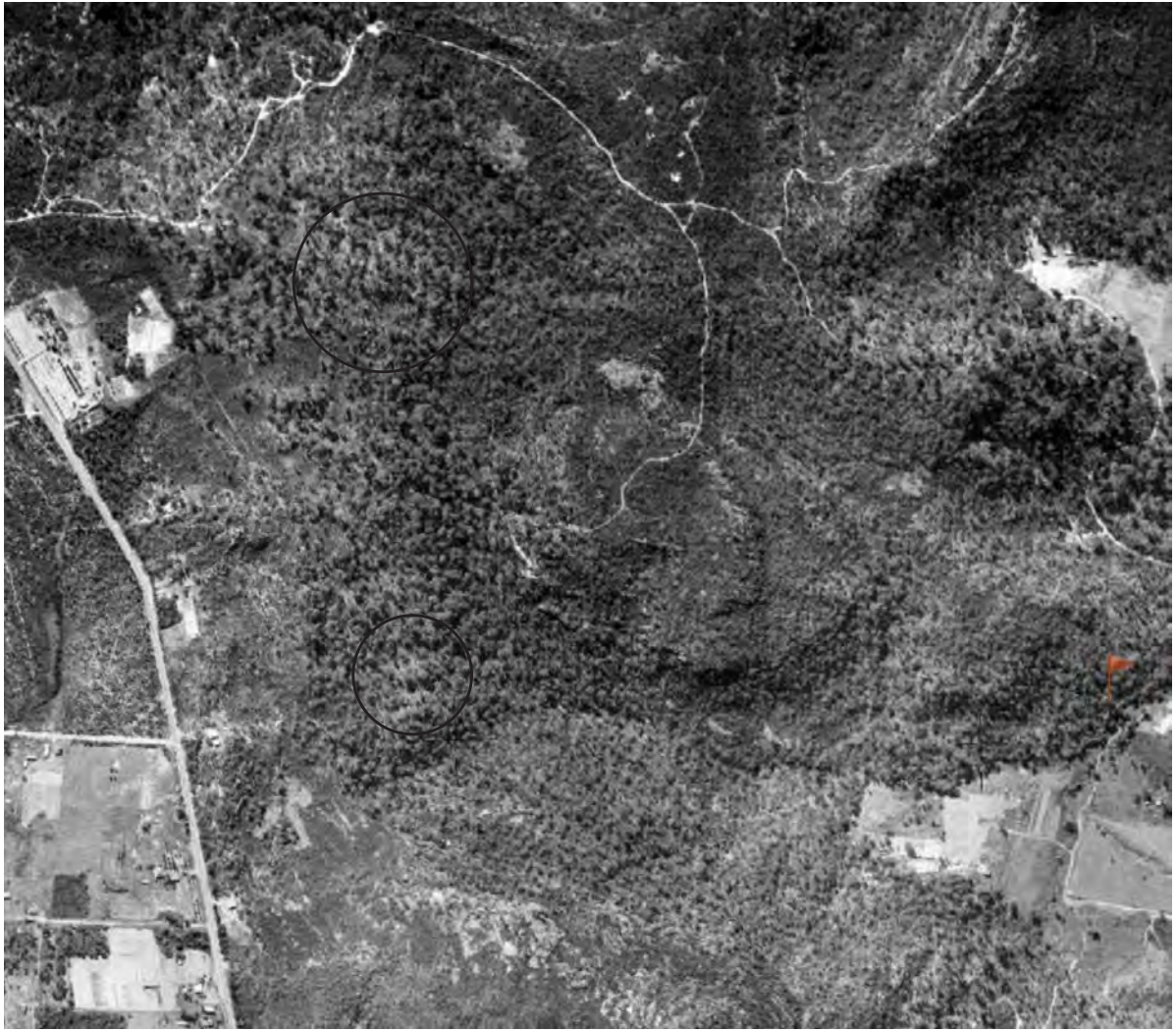
A prime example^{10, 11} of recent major construction within and next to pristine bushland causing sediment run off which was not contained, is from the recent Manly Vale Public School development where construction water

⁸ Page 3 shown undisturbed land in aerial photo comparisons between 1943 and 2023 shown on the nsw website: <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>

⁹ Where is Narrabeen Lagoon catchment (Map) <https://www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au/About%20us/Map%20of%20the%20catchment.htm>

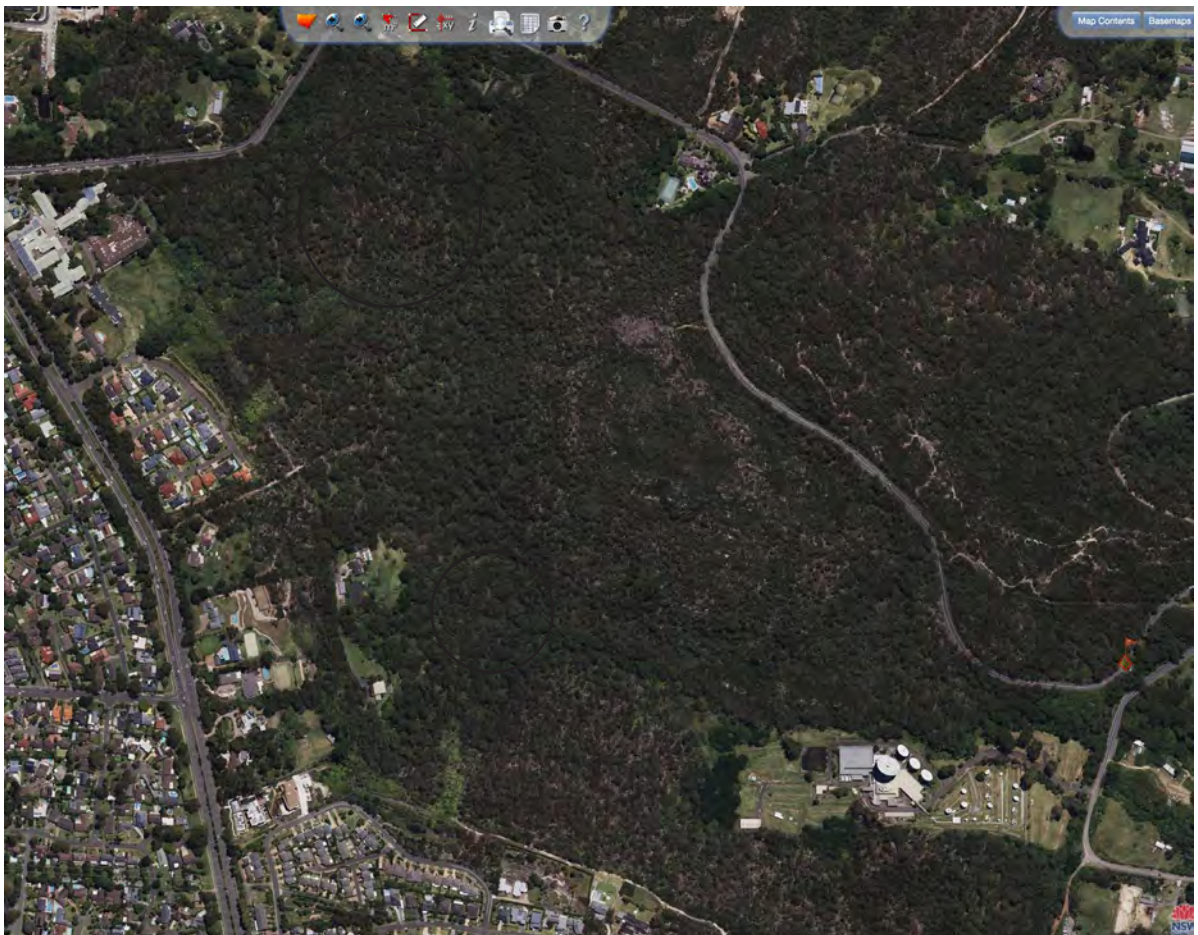
¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=348417429196455>

¹¹ https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=DTWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailytelegraph.com.au%2Fnews-local%2Fmanly-daily%2Fmayor-michael-regan-vents-frustration-over-manly-vale-public-school-construction-site-flooding%2Fnews-story%2F39bc19387d0df-22c67ba126002a49fd9&mementype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE



Oxford Falls 1943 Aerial view.

<https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>



Oxford Falls 1923 Aerial view.

<https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>

flow ended up in peoples backyards then flowing into Mermaid Pool and then into Manly Creek. The standard formulaes and research that were used for this unique landscape failed causing environmental carnage.

¹²*“Minister for the Environment, The Hon Bob Debus, MP, and Minister for Lands, The Hon Tony Kelly, MP, issued a joint press release(20kb pdf file) the first sentence of which reads “The catchment of Sydney’s largest coastal lagoon - home to a rich array of plant and wildlife species - should be protected forever, a State Government study has revealed.”*

- The bushland of the Northern Beaches are part of the lungs of greater Sydney. To remove any more established Sydney bushland will effect the ability for Sydney as a greater whole to improve air quality; help cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important part, be it small, or large, the trees play a role in drawing down carbon, and are helping to mitigate urban heat impacts. Some trees may be 100s years old and only a couple of meters high. The Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose consists of much established bushland which is helping the effects of air quality and cooling in Sydney. To take this away with Urban Sprawl from poor planning and attitudes- will contribute to higher city temperatures. The current NSW Planning systems are not adequate to bring positive impacts of climate change on the environment and communities within the Sydney and greater regions. This current planning proposal would be a negative step towards global warming, environmental climate change and a negative step for the greater good of Sydney.
- Some of the sites for development proposal are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean the decision makers are aiding a large scale development knowing that people who may build and reside in this area may not be safe in future years and have trouble fleeing a bushfire situation. Particularly if there is no other transport other than foot to help them escape.

Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This independent advice should not be ignored. This planning proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor. The developer should have to include this protection zone/clearing/buffer zone areas ‘within’ the 227.3 ha of land that they plan to development. The buffer zone should not be part of the area outside the Metro LALC owned land. As you develop one area, the area next to it will become eroded causing the new area to be less than pristine, this will have a negative impact of all areas of concern, wildlife, erosion, disturbed pristine bushland, Aboriginal rock art and so on.

- This proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.

The bus network on the northern beaches is unreliable and buses are often cancelled on the less regular (non B1 bus) routes. There are no trains or trams on the Northern Beaches. This proposed area of planning on Morgan road has no bus networks. A car would be the only mode of transport.

A positive way forward for Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose; for the MLALC; the environment; and all that is wrong with this is proposal is to have a much smaller building footprint on this land with the majority of bushland left undisturbed with much less environmental negative impact as stated in the previous bullet points.

This Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose planning proposal should solely include a small scale building footprint for a single commercial business that would not impact the surrounding land as much, and benefit MLALC and the greater indigenous community at a much deeper level, such as the following:

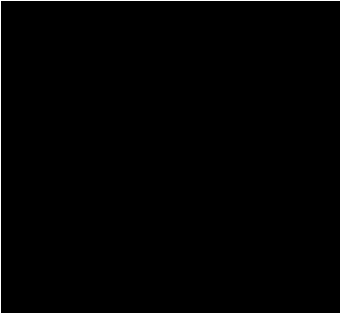
MLAC based planning proposal should be thinking long term and create a state-of-the-art Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Gateway) with aboriginal art gallery, art shop, pop-up art resident groups and cafe. With a whole new educational

¹² On 13th April, 2005, Warringah Council hosted a forum to discuss the future of Narrabeen Lagoon and its catchment. <https://www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au/Progress/progress.htm#road>

centre for Local, Australian and International visitors including school excursion programs. Aboriginal artists from around Australia could show and sell their works at this centre. Aboriginal Stories and Dream-time could be told in an educational purpose built environment. The Moon Rock could be celebrated with the other many rock arts around the Northern Beaches and Greater Sydney. This area is close to the public art rock displays of Ku-ring-gai National Park. The impact on this centre to the greater Australian community and international visitors would be ten fold for the Metro LALC

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title**First Name**

Jeremy

Family name

Corne

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

jeremycorne@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Hello

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock". This is my back yard I live in a unit so I ride my bike in these places to get away and destress being part of nature is great for the mind if you take it away there are no places for people like me to escape and destress.

The Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies alone should be reason enough. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.

It will also Impact on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.

People actually need trees to breathe! Trees remove CO2 from the atmosphere and convert it to oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. Without them converting CO2 to oxygen, CO2 levels would begin to rise while oxygen levels would steadily fall. Trees are responsible for 35% of the oxygen we breathe. Trees are Sydney's Green lungs. They improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.

Also don't forget the extra traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will further contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.

Once the bush is gone.. its lost forever!
Leave something for future generations to enjoy.

Please don't decimate the homes of so many native animals and plants!

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Name: Jeremy corne

Signed: Jeremy corne

Email: jeremycorne@hotmail.com

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Dr

First Name

Bernadette

Family name

Flynn

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

bflynnhawkesbury@yahoo.com.au

Suburb/ Town

SPENCER

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

I strongly appose the proposed residential development and cultural centre located near Morgan Road, Belrose. This land is unsuitable for significant development, due to its biodiversity, Aboriginal culturally significant sites and environmental significance.

These sites contain habitat for native flora and fauna, including iconic species like swamp wallabies, and other endangered species. Loss of habitat impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll in the bushland, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.

The proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council that meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches. This proposal would remove significant number of trees and shrubs 'Sydney's Green lungs' reducing air quality, heating urban areas, and adding to the carbon load.

The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely, Bernadette Flynn

bflynnhawkesbury@yahoo.com.au

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Lara

Family name

Gluyas

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

laragluyas@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As a rate payer, I demand that this area "Lizard Rock" be left alone and preserved, to be kept as a green canopy for ours and future generations.

- This bushland represents a significant environmental wildlife corridor, supports a myriad of flora and fauna, and is a known habitat for various threatened species (e.g. Eastern Pygmy-possum, Glossy Black-cockatoo).
- There are already a large number of significant building developments already greenlit in Frenchs Forest to create the new "Frenchs Forest Precinct".
- Northern Beaches Council has stated housing targets for this LGA have been met without needing to disturb this pristine bushland.
- This deforestation will contribute to the increasing severity of weather events associated with climate change. This weather severity has been experienced firsthand

in the flooding in the Northern Beaches (March-22) and witnessed in the regularity of the closing of Wakehurst Parkway and Oxford Falls roads.

- The development of Lizard Rock will only add further to the traffic congestion and noise pollution, that will significantly increase with the development of the new "Frenchs Forest Precinct"

- This bushland is being used for recreational bushwalking by the local community and has contributed positively to people's mental health. We need to keep these areas available for people to exercise and have a positive impact on their mental health, well into the future.

The best outcome would be if Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) have these sites bought by Government and turned into National Parks. This would benefit everyone, as the land would not have to be developed for short-term financial gain.

Our native bushland must be preserved for ours and future generations. Once it's gone it's gone – it is irreversible.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As a rate payer, I demand that this area Lizard Rock be left alone and preserved, to be kept as a green canopy for ours and future generations.

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Our native bushland must be preserved for ours and future generations. Once it's gone it's gone – it is irreversible.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Peter

Family name

Gluyas

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

pgluyas@gluyasconsulting.com

Suburb/ Town

West Croydon

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I demand that this area "Lizard Rock" be left alone and preserved, to be kept as a green canopy for ours and future generations.

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Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to the development of this area. I believe it has significant biodiversity and will impact too severely in the area with loss of habitat for flora and fauna. It is too large an area for development. This should be rejected please as is important bushland needs to be protected.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Callum

Family name

Harris

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

harriscallum130@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Terrey Hills

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am a member of the Northern beaches community who strongly opposes this proposed development. I have just finished my HSC, in which I studied the NSW Geography course, which covered the topics of environmental vulnerability and the importance of biodiversity in maintaining the resilience of an ecosystem. This makes me very confused as to why this proposal has made it this far in the proposal process. This proposed development would remove 2253 acres of bush land greatly impacting the ability of this environment to cope with stresses. Additionally the development of such a housing estate will profoundly impact the wellbeing of the surrounding bush land, due to a reduction in extent increasing vulnerability thus impacting its ability to cope with natural and human stresses. Additionally, the increased population within this area and it's proximity to the remaining bushland will pose a continued threat to this ecosystem. As household waste and pollutants as well as domesticated animals will enter these areas previously protected from such interactions. Within the study of my Geography course I also partook in a case study of sydney as a world city, thus I understand that the whole of Sydney must adjust to the demands of a growing population and this may mean sacrificing bushland. However this de with all councils contributing however such a proposed development is highly irresponsible and unsustainable as such goals could be met through the consolidation of already existing developments in areas where infrastructure is able to support such population growth.

As outlined above the development of such a housing estate will profoundly impact the resilience of the surrounding bush land placing nearby Garigal and Ku-Ring-Gai national parks at risk through the reduction of the extent of bush land. Such developments additionally pose a great danger to the local community as the proximity to bushland increases the risk of bushfire events occurring whilst also placing local volunteer Rural Fire Service (RFS) members at an increased risk due to the steep, enclosed terrain in this area. The lack of infrastructure within this area

Further this bushland is widely used by the local community for a range of recreational activities from Hiking to sports such as horse riding and mountain biking. The destruction of this bushland will remove this land use preventing a valuable source of recreation for a large amount of local residents.

Recently there have been many crashes on the Northern beaches, particularly on the western stretch of Mona Vale road between the Ba'hai Temple and Kimbriki tip (an area in which funding for road improvements have recently been removed from the Labour Party's budget). Additionally the Wakehurst parkway is prone to flooding year round closing an average of four times a year this would lead to a severe bottle neck causing great risk to the population of this development in the case of an emergency requiring evacuation.

I hope these concerns are taken into consideration so that the biodiversity of this environment is protected and the community can continue to utilise this area of Bushland.

Regards
Callum.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Matthew

Family name

Gluyas

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

mgluyas@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As a rate payer, I demand that this area "Lizard Rock" be left alone and preserved, to be kept as a green canopy for ours and future generations.

- This bushland represents a significant environmental wildlife corridor, supports a myriad of flora and fauna, and is a known habitat for various threatened species (e.g. Eastern Pygmy-possum, Glossy Black-cockatoo).
- There are already a large number of significant building developments already greenlit in Frenchs Forest to create the new "Frenchs Forest Precinct".
- Northern Beaches Council has stated housing targets for this LGA have been met without needing to disturb this pristine bushland.
- This deforestation will contribute to the increasing severity of weather events associated with climate change. This weather severity has been experienced firsthand in the flooding in the Northern Beaches (March-22) and witnessed in the regularity of the closing of Wakehurst Parkway and Oxford Falls roads.

- The development of Lizard Rock will only add further to the traffic congestion and noise pollution, that will significantly increase with the development of the new "Frenchs Forest Precinct"

- This bushland is being used for recreational bushwalking by the local community and has contributed positively to people's mental health. We need to keep these areas available for people to exercise and have a positive impact on their mental health, well into the future.

The best outcome would be if Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) have these sites bought by Government and turned into National Parks. This would benefit everyone, as the land would not have to be developed for short-term financial gain.

Our native bushland must be preserved for ours and future generations. Once it's gone it's gone – it is irreversible.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Paula

Family name

Cowan

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

paulatracey@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

North Curl Curl

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I oppose the planned development at Lizard Rock on the basis that bushland lost can never be re-established.

We must look to density for new dwellings, not destruction of the natural environment.

Northern Beaches Council advises that developing new housing in the area would place residents under an unacceptable level of bushfire risk. In a changing climate where the only certainty is more frequent, more intense and more destructive weather events, this is not a conscionable development.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Catleya

Family name

Wilson

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

catleyawilson@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Beacon Hill

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll , and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.

- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
 - Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
 - Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
 - Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.
 - Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.
- Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catleya Wilson

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title**First Name**

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

BELROSE

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I oppose proposed development of Lizard Rock. I am extremely concerned about the loss of habitat for flora and fauna, which is already in dire situation and carbon impact by clearing bushland would be significant.
Negative factors grossly outweighs positives.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Miss

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

North Balgowlah

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

i do not agree with this movement

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Esther

Family name

Moore

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

estherlewer@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

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estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll , and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.

- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
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Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely,

Esther Moore
estherlewer@hotmail.com

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Ian

Family name

Ralph

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

ian@iralph.net

Suburb/ Town

Elanora Heights

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to this application. For the following reasons:

1. The site has high biodiversity values. The site, therefore, should not be destroyed
2. Unacceptable Bushfire risk - all who lived through the many bushfires in this area know what this means.
- 3, Effect on the water quality of Narrabeen lagoon from runoff during construction and from typical urban pollutants such as fertilisers and pesticides once any development is complete.

Alternative land swaps should be negotiated to allow the MLAC to realise the value of this land that they own.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Dylan

Family name

Conley

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

dylan@conley.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am a resident of the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802).

I consider myself fortunate to reside on Morgan Rd and have seen first hand the significance of this special pocket of the Northern Beaches. It is a signifance that registers with many people who visits this area.

Friends and family from out of town and even locals or delivery drivers who trip to this rustic little patch of bush and bumpy road with wallabies, goannas and kookaburras, a quant little one lane bridge (RIP), a creek crossing, and and even a visit from a lyrebird if your very lucky - they can't belive this exists so close to the city. They say it's like a throwback to the 'old days' like a blissful time warp, and a breath of fresh air (literally).

I think what registers the most is just how it feels like an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. This isn't only for residents and lucky visitors, it is also for the

local community that frequent this area for bush walks, mountain biking, bird watching, dog walking, and the list goes on. It's an escape and an outlet for well being both physical and mental.

The destruction of the bushland and subsequent housing development will have huge ramifications not only for the local residents but also for the wider community. It will rip out the heart of this special little pocket and replace it with up to 450 houses, it's residents along with their cars. Ripping out the heart of Morgan Road and causing irreversible damage to the biodiversity of this area.

I also want to write for those who cannot make a submission for themselves. The flora and fauna that call this place their home. They are set to lose the most if this development goes ahead. So I ask that you think about them when making your determination.

Thank you for your consideration
Sincerely,

Dylan Conley

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Gregory

Family name

Trigg

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

g.trigg@optusnet.com.au

Suburb/ Town

Belrose

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam, I object to this abhorrent development on the following grounds:

- extreme bushfire risk to the planned occupants
- increased flooding potential
- the carbon impact of clearing all that native bush land , and
- destroying the character of Morgan Road.

Above all, the sheer hypocrisy of the Metro LALC prohibiting the use of this land for recreational use including MTB access due to “cultural reasons” and now ignoring those reason completely to make a quick buck is beyond belief!

Yours sincerely
Gregory C Trigg

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Dierk

Family name

Hartmann

☐

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dierkhartmann@bigpond.com

Suburb/ Town

Seaforth

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am against the proposed development at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose. The proposed development threatens the survival of iconic Australian landscapes and species, increases carbon emissions because long journeys will be required for access to jobs, health, schools, shopping and social amenities. The fact that the proposal has undergone several name changes alone demonstrates that the project does more harm than good.

Build on areas that are already developed: Brookvale, Dee Why, Balgowlah, Manly Vale, Seaforth, dare I suggest Mosman, Cremorne, Neutral Bay? Increase density in areas that, with an enlightened future government, may have a chance of eventually having a rail link to the city (Dee Why to Miranda using the partially reserved rail corridor through Barangaroo, Convention Centre, University, Newtown seems like an ideal alignment. Look at international examples for efficient high-capacity metros that can climb higher gradients, i.e. more than 4.5%, or at well-designed deeper stations.)

Progressing the proposed development would reinforce the perception of a corrupt relationship between politicians and developers. Does it really matter who we vote for, or is it the top 0.1% that is in charge, no matter who we vote for?

Demonstrate that our democracy is alive. Make choices that address inequality, biodiversity, climate change, etc. So far, I am disappointed with the lack of action by this government. Replace this development plans that reduce inequality, increase biodiversity, improve public transport, reduce per capita CO2 emissions. Action proposals that benefit the many, not the few.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Thomas

Family name

McGee

☐

Name withheld

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Email

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Suburb/ Town

Avalon

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I strongly object to the 'Patyegarang' destruction and development proposal.

I strongly oppose these destructive plans set in motion; for the good of all australians (human and wildlife) whom critically need any remaining intact eco systems to be protected.

It does not matter about the reasons or people involved when the plan, action and outcome is slaughter and or displacement of wildlife, destruction of native flora, destruction of soils and multi-faceted immediate and ongoing damage to the eco system.

These actions are literally the biggest problems in the world, they are the centrepiece of 'climate change', 'biodiversity collapse' and the failing capacity of our mother earth to support the brilliance of life we are so lucky to have.

The northern beaches biggest problem is already the fact that the wildlife of the area and their habitats have been gouged out of existence at an increasingly horrendous volume and rate for decades.

The Patyegarang plan, no matter how it is nicely described literally involves destroying an enormous expanse of intact eco system and killing wildlife of irreplaceable value... Literally of equal value to the obviously continuous eco systems of garigal national park.

It is bleedingly obvious what the response must be from NSW Labor and the Minns government...

The people of NSW and Australia voted for true action on climate promotion, environmental preservation and wildlife conservation.

There are no greater contributors to all 3 of these critical areas of political leadership that NSW labor have committed to improving, than protecting high value natural heritage and ecology from totally needless destruction!!

NSW labor must use the public funds they take, to do what the public needs and wants. Buy the land from MLALC, give them the financial profits appropriate and legally incorporate the living land and it's true owners (the wildlife and flora they literally live, sleep, eat, love, breed and die there) into the surrounding national park eco systems which it is obviously the same as.

This living country of Australia does not belong to any homo sapiens, indigenous or not in their ethnicity and socio-cultural upbringing.

The living land planned for destruction and demise within the Patyegarang Proposal belong to its wildlife, the fauna and flora which literally spend their entire lives there, and have no other options for life. This is the same for all of this amazing, but abused country which gives us everything. We do not own anything, we borrow it from our children and future generations of all species.

To add specific elements to my objection and statements of obvious facts which are continuously ignored by the gross arrogance and selfishness of homo sapiens...

Over many years, in consultation with scientific experts, Local Government and the community, studies have revealed that the Lizard Rock area of Northern Beaches contains the following important attributes that dictate that urban development is not appropriate in this Metropolitan Rural Area:

1. Significant Aboriginal heritage sites, which actually are linked across the terrain with other Aboriginal heritage sites, tell a composite, contiguous story.
2. Valued scenic attributes when viewed from all around. Ridge lines are valued by the local community for their scenic value
3. Hilltops and ridge lines: Hilltops and ridge lines in the Northern Beaches area are known to be key sites in the life cycle of many butterflies, birds and red-crowned toadlets.
4. Rocky outcrops: Rock outcrops and the caves or shelters underneath them are known habitats for antechinus, snakes and Heath monitors. These outcrops and shelters are also where Aboriginal significance is often found. The local community also values them for their scenic value.
5. Endangered species: Although endangered communities have been mapped and the Warringah Natural Area Survey has been used to inform decisions concerning the mapping, we remain concerned that habitat for endangered species has not been adequately addressed. We understand that a formula exists that would inform the area needed for habitat surrounding each identified endangered species and that many of the endangered species in the Lizard Rock Area have been listed in the NPWS Wildlife Atlas.
6. Wildlife Corridors: The maps that were prepared for Warringah Council of wildlife corridors mostly concentrated on the linkages between recognised swathes of

bushland. The bushland within the Lizard Rock area of the LEP is one such swathe – the whole area of the Metropolitan Rural Area bushland is in constant use by wildlife. This ensures there are no isolated communities of wildlife or vegetation that could result in gene pool degradation.

7. Core Wildlife Habitat: The Lizard Rock area is core wildlife habitat. It is a breeding site for swamp wallabies and other species, as well as being a wildlife corridor.

8. Hanging Swamps and Important hydrology: Key to the health of several creeks in the Metropolitan Rural Area are the hanging swamps that influence their hydrology. These creeks flow into Middle Creek and thence to Narrabeen Lagoon. The hanging swamps are also areas of high biodiversity.

9. Angophora crassifolia: There is an extensive stand of Angophora crassifolia on the top plateau.

Constraints to Urban Development:

In addition, the Lizard Rock area has significant constraints to development which have been mapped by the former Warringah Council such as:

1. Highly erodible soils. The dependence of hydrology and bushland on the soil profile, and the relationship between weeds and soil disturbance or siltation, contribute to the importance of this environmental factor.

2. Highly rated creek catchments with minimal levels of impervious surfaces. These catchments need protection. Runoff from surrounding areas will affect subsurface flow, vegetation in riparian buffers, water flow and quality in creeks and contributes to flooding events.

3. Water quality for creeks flowing into Narrabeen Lagoon. Although there may be facilities to slow the runoff there are no proposals to protect pollution flow downstream.

4. Limitations of Warriewood Sewage Treatment Station. Effluent already escapes during heavy rain events. The Treatment Station does not have the capacity to take drainage from a major suburban development.

5. High bushfire risk. This whole area is bushfire prone with limited escape routes in the event of a major fire.

Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.

The single road access is insufficient to deal with emergency fire hazards. The intersection of Morgan Road with Forest Way is already operating with high traffic volumes. This is acknowledged by the applicant and the suggestion by the applicant to widen this intersection to provide suitable access for this development is not acceptable.

The access via Morgan Road and Oxford Falls Road is unsuitable as the road often floods and the intersection with Wakehurst Parkway is dangerous and uncontrolled.

Approving this development will result in putting residents and emergency services personnel in a very high risk area and the emergency services may not be able to access the site.

Any intense urban development on this site is unacceptable and irresponsible.

6. Telstra satellite facility. The satellite facility in Oxford Falls that is very close to the Lizard Rock area needs bushland all around it to protect the data integrity of international communications. The facility was established in Oxford Falls because there are no lights, houses, electronic interferences etc from suburbia around it. Investigation of this issue needs to be included.

7. Limited egress for residents – There is only one single access road. One end of this road is frequently subject to flooding. This is a high fire risk area where egress is a matter of life and death both for the residents and the emergency services personnel. Fire can often occur with very limited warning; with 450 dwellings containing at least 1,000 residents on this isolated site it is irresponsible to approve this Planning Proposal.
8. Increasing hard surfaces, or losing the sponge function of the natural bushland will aggravate flooding downhill along the 'Wakehurst Parkway' and the edges of Narrabeen Lagoon which are also already of increasing concern during rain events.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

James

Family name

Clarke

☐

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Email

rakkar@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

North Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I would like to state my objection to the proposed Patyegarang Development.

My objection is an uneasy one, as I support the objectives of the MLALC as described in their Community Land and Business Plan. I wish to see them afforded meaningful and realistic opportunities to develop economic advantage for First Nations people.

I do not believe that the land around Morgan Road is an appropriate location to be developed to the degree in the MLALC are proposing. Page 67 of the Social Impact Assessment talks about the certainty of long term threats to the natural ecosystem. The Preliminary Biodiversity Development Assessment Report identifies

several areas and species that would be threatened by the development, but only offers the purchase of credits to offset this.

The historical and cultural value of Moon Rock deserve greater recognition and protection than it currently receives. The proposed development of a cultural centre and greater protection of the site would be an important addition to this site, and is a part of the proposal I strongly support.

However, the development of a cultural centre only meets a few of the aims of the MLALC Community Land and Business Plan, and does not generate any significant revenue "To ensure the prosperity of our community through the effective management of our land and other assets".

If Australian people and governments expect Native Title claims to be a source of revenue, we need to do more than offer parcels of land like this one; land loaded with bushfire risk, full of precious biodiversity and on the fringes of existing infrastructure.

I would ask that local and state government look at granting more profitable land with the MLALC to allow them to receive an income without needing to damage this significant bit of bushland.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

leo

Family name

Brown

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Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I am a local 15 year old resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or "Lizard Rock" (PP-2022-3802).

I have lived on the Northern Beaches all my life. The bushland around the Lizard Rock area and Cromer area is where I go to relax, to run and to walk.

I love the wildlife and the plants and if this proposal goes ahead then this land would be cleared and we would lose it forever. We would lose the natural home for so many native animals and these animals would die.

This is my future - a future which is being decided by people who don't really care about what is really important. What kind of message is this giving to me and to my friends? You talk about native animals and the bush being important and then you propose building hundreds of houses on this land.

It is also being built in an area which is a bushfire risk and does not have the roads to support it. And even the council says this is surplus to any housing requirements.

I really hope that this proposal is rejected and all our Northern Beaches bushland remains protected as it should be.

If you have to build extra houses it should be close to transport and not destroying the homes of native wildlife.

Leo Brown

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Miss

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Macquarie Park

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object the proposed development on an important and valued piece of land that is home to flora and fauna that are integral to our ecosystems and earth. Care for us by caring for the earth. Hear our voices. Protect what is left.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Geoff

Family name

Horsnell

☐

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horsnell@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Newport

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission**Submission:**

Impact of planned major developments on the Narrabeen Lake catchment area, Wakehurst Parkway and Oxford Falls Rd flooding and the general lake foreshores inundation.

Background: Since the mid 1950's I have lived close to Narrabeen Lake. Swimming, sailing and paddling for over 65 years. I have been a member of the Manly Warringah Kayak Club, located on Narrabeen lake, and immediate past president, board and committee member since 2003. I have paddled on the lake 3 to 4 days a week in marathon training and events across the whole lake and its various creeks feeding the lake.

Major Issues:

Any major development in the Narrabeen Lake catchment area will impact negatively on

1. The regular flooding events on Wakehurst Parkway and Oxford Falls Rd.

2. Will increase the frequency and impact of any flooding events on the lake and the surrounding residential and commercial areas.
3. Will result in increased pollution and silting of the Western Basin, Central Basin and subsequently the channel leading to the entrance.

All development in the catchment area impacts the lake. History shows that the developments on Collaroy Plateau, Elanora Heights, Warriewood, Belrose, Wheeler Heights, Oxford Falls, Cromer and the Frenchs Forest areas have continuously silted the lake with a layer of clay and dead organic matter. The areas around Mactier St, Deep Creek, Middle Creek etc are shallower and contain heavy sediment and clay runoff from the nearby developments. Any development brings increased hard surfaces: rooftops, driveways, verandahs, garages, carports, garden paths, driveways, roadways, footpaths etc. These dramatically increasing storm water run off down middle creek, across Oxford Falls road, across the already under severe pressure Wakehurst Parkway and then into the lake.

None of the studies in the project development plan have addressed this issue properly or in depth with specific studies applicable to this development, this catchment area and this lake.

The use of previous modelling and formulae from irrelevant other studies do not address this issue with any safe or in depth conclusions. The Narrabeen Lake catchment area is extensive and unique. The scale of this project alone means a full proper study with modelling is the minimum requirement.

Without being political, over the last 65 years I have observed Local, State or Federal governments failure to address the issue of regular flooding of Wakehurst Parkway or regular flooding of the low areas around the lake. This is a high profile issue especially considering access by residents of the Pittwater area to the Northern Beaches Hospital during flood events. Any increase in flooding and closure of Wakehurst Parkway caused by failure to acknowledge the impact of these major developments and climate change will not be acceptable to the community.

Wakehurst Parkway is a major regional road for the inner west and north western residents of Sydney to access the 20 plus northern beaches as well as one of only three traffic lanes out of Pittwater for Pittwater residents (Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale Rd and wakehurst Parkway).

Summary:

Before any major development located in the Narrabeen Lake Catchment area can be considered or proceeded with, the impact of that development on Middle Creek, Deep Creek and the other tributaries needs to be properly researched, proper mitigation procedures implemented as well as proper full solutions to the current regular flooding of Middle Creek, Wakehurst Parkway and the Narrabeen lake foreshores be implemented.

A couple of retention tanks is not going to address the real issues. Take the time to walk down the lake walking track adjacent to Wakehurst Parkway where the pathway projects into the lake. The water depth at this location is ankle deep due to the silting from Belrose etc, its a filthy deep black clay which clings to your feet. It stretches out many metres from the shore and the nearby Middle Creek exit to the lake. We see the impact every day of poor planning in the catchment area. The same occurs along the Mactier St foreshore due to the run off from Collaroy Plateau. It is so shallow we can barely paddle over it anymore. The Manly Warringah Kayak Club was started in 1983, some of our members in their 70's and 80's can tell you about the lake history, the impact of runoff, the sewage pollution before they installed the sewage lines.

Geoff Horsnell
Newport

Note: The Sydney Academy of Sport, located on the western foreshore of Narrabeen Lake, was the location of the last aboriginal camps on the beaches before the government moved them out West and took over the land.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Gwenda

Family name

Davies

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Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

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Suburb/ Town

Freshwater

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

7 November 2023

To: Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Partyegarang Project - Lizard Rock Planning Proposal by MLALC

PP-2022-3802

I object to the Planning Proposal for urban development in the Lizard Rock area for the following reasons:

NO VOICE FOR CONNECTION TO COUNTRY

I recently attended the Sydney stop of the Wellspring and Iona Communities Listening Pilgrimage "Care for Creation" listening to First Nations and Celtic Voices

across Australia. The main question addressed by the panel of speakers was:

How does your spirituality and commitment to caring for creation nourish each other and form a basis for your action?

It was a positive experience of appreciating how we can share our spiritual gifts of love, care, respect and courage. However, the talks about being on Country and valuing the land as spirit, shifted my thoughts to questions arising from an experience that occurred just a few days earlier.

I attended a gathering at Oxford Falls organised by the Northern Beaches communities to save a significant area of Oxford Falls. I learned of the imminent decision to annihilate this precious untouched bushland. Sitting by the creek with a myriad of rock pools and the sounds of a waterfall, and bird calls brought back memories of childhood family walks knowing the bush tracks, rock carvings and swimming holes well. Such experiences nurtured my love of the coastal bushland. We too, value being on this Country.

The land known as Lizard Rock (Morgan Road, Belrose) cannot be replaced by Patyegarang. It is a significant area of Oxford Falls, well known and used by traditional custodians for generations, some of whom still reside in the locality. I highly respect these traditional first nations custodians and the spiritual and cultural connections that emerged from the landscape through them. They are the true owners of the land, but without a voice that has been listened to by the MLALC.

A recent Northern Beaches community meeting was attended by residents, Councillors, MPs, lawyers, bushland guardians, wildlife carers, and many others who jointly objected to the development proposal. Two local Kuringai traditional custodians, spoke their own truths of rejection and grief in relation to the MLALC.

Lizard Rock Oxford Falls coastal bushland area is a unique vestige of virgin country that protects the valuable water catchment feeding into Narrabeen lagoon. There has to be a way to change the course of action of the MLALC, in their rejection of the rights of local Aboriginal custodians. There is overwhelming support from local community members and organisations committed to protecting and preserving what has been the natural and cultural landscape for thousands of generations that now enriches the lives of our Northern Beaches residents.

I have a right to ask for the true voices of those who live on and care for this land of to be heard clearly with common sense and commitment to the original vision of Aboriginal land rights and the natural landscape balance that we so desperately need for health, wellbeing and the care of our mother earth.

Here is a reference to lessen the impact of CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2018, the Uniting Church 15th Assembly committed to:

- Listen to and learn from the voices of vulnerable people across the world who are experiencing firsthand the impact of climate change;
- Working with First Peoples in Australia and our church partners in the Pacific, Africa and Asia and other faiths to together understand the impacts of climate change on traditional, spiritual and contemporary ways of life
- Advocate for government policies and political action to address climate change;
- Consider ways we can reduce our contribution to climate change, individually and in our communities, set meaningful targets and be transparent with our efforts and outcomes; and
- Continue to be informed about the causes and consequences of climate change and appropriate responses.

I have a responsibility to act though this submission.

Gwenda Davies

7 November 2023

To: Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Partyegarang Project - Lizard Rock Planning Proposal by MLALC

PP-2022-3802

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I recently attended the Sydney stop of the *Wellspring and Iona Communities Listening Pilgrimage "Care for Creation" listening to First Nations and Celtic Voices across Australia*. The main question addressed by the panel of speakers was:

How does your spirituality and commitment to caring for creation nourish each other and form a basis for your action?

It was a positive experience of appreciating how we can share our spiritual gifts of love, care, respect and courage. However, the talks about being on Country and valuing the land as spirit, shifted my thoughts to questions arising from an experience that occurred just a few days earlier.

I attended a gathering at Oxford Falls organised by the Northern Beaches communities to save a significant area of Oxford Falls. I learned of the imminent decision to annihilate this precious untouched bushland. Sitting by the creek with a myriad of rock pools and the sounds of a waterfall, and bird calls brought back memories of childhood family walks knowing the bush tracks, rock carvings and swimming holes well. Such experiences nurtured my love of the coastal bushland. We too, value being on this Country.

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Lizard Rock Oxford Falls coastal bushland area is a unique vestige of virgin country that protects the valuable water catchment feeding into Narrabeen lagoon. There has to be a way to change the course of action of the MLALC, in their rejection of the rights of local Aboriginal custodians. There is overwhelming support from local community members and organisations committed to protecting and preserving what has been the natural and cultural landscape for thousands of generations that now enriches the lives of our Northern Beaches residents.

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- **Advocate for government policies and political action to address climate change;**
- Consider ways we can **reduce our contribution to climate change, individually and in our communities**, set meaningful targets and be transparent with our efforts and outcomes; and
- **Continue to be informed about the causes and consequences of climate change and appropriate responses.**

I have a responsibility to act through this submission.

Gwenda Davies

Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Belrose NSW 2085

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

As an organisation Save the Northern Beaches Bushlands objects to the Patyegarang Planning Proposal to rezone this bushland area on the Northern Beaches for development.

Why reject the Patyegarang Planning Proposal? There are many reasons why to reject the Patyegarang Planning Proposal, some of which are:

- Destruction of bushlands
- Bushfire risk
- Flood prone area
- Increase in pollution of air, land, and waterways
- Loss of biodiversity and habitat
- Loss of threatened native flora and fauna species
- Loss of established ecosystems
- Loss of biodiversity for future generations

- Impact on health, wellbeing, and continuum of this natural environment
- Impact on health and wellbeing of the community living in the area.

This is a unique bushland area, with established ecosystems and habitat to native flora and fauna species. Some of which include:

- Lyre birds
- Sugar Gliders
- Pygmy possums
- Red crown toadlets
- Rosenberg's goanna
- Glossy black cockatoos
- Yellow-tailed black cockatoos
- Swamp Wallabies
- Angophra trees
- Mallee trees
- Grevillea caleyi
- Dianella berries
- Blandfordia grandiflora (Christmas bells)

All these need to be protected in perpetuity, and development not to be permitted in this bushland area.

The bushlands and the flora and fauna as they exist, will not be able to be replaced or recovered.

These bushlands are known as the Lungs of Sydney and must be protected to last.

What else can be done in place of this proposal? In 2013 there was a proposal by Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council for this area and other sites on the Northern Beaches (including Ralston Avenue, Belrose) to be turned into an Aboriginal Owned National Park, called Gai-mariagal National Park. (Please see attached proposal).

This Gai-mariagal National Park proposal needs to be tabled again and approved to save this whole area.

Why this was not completed or approved previously as an Aboriginal National Park needs to be investigated.

Recommendation Save the Northern Beaches Bushlands recommends the Sydney North Strategic Planning Panel have this Gai-mariagal National Park proposal re-tabled and approved. So, this type of development proposal such as Patyegarang Planning Proposal does not come up again and another generation is needing to fight for this area.

We need to stop this now and have this whole area protected in perpetuity.

Conclusion In conclusion we recommend that the Sydney North Strategic Planning Panel rejects the Patyegarang Planning Proposal, and the Gai-mariagal National Park proposal is tabled as the alternative proposal to move forward with.

We need our green space and this planning proposal for development is excessive, going outside the Local Council housing strategy.

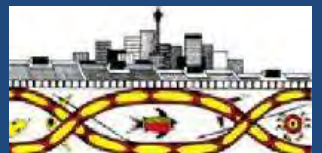
GAI-MARIAGAL NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

This proposal outlines the opportunity for NSW Government to establish an Aboriginal owned National Park over lands owned by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council of Sydney for the benefit of all Australians.

The proposal documents the environmental and cultural values of the area that need the protection of National Park status together with the potential the park provides for tourism and employment.



*Proposed in 2013
by the
Metropolitan Local
Aboriginal Land
Council of Sydney*



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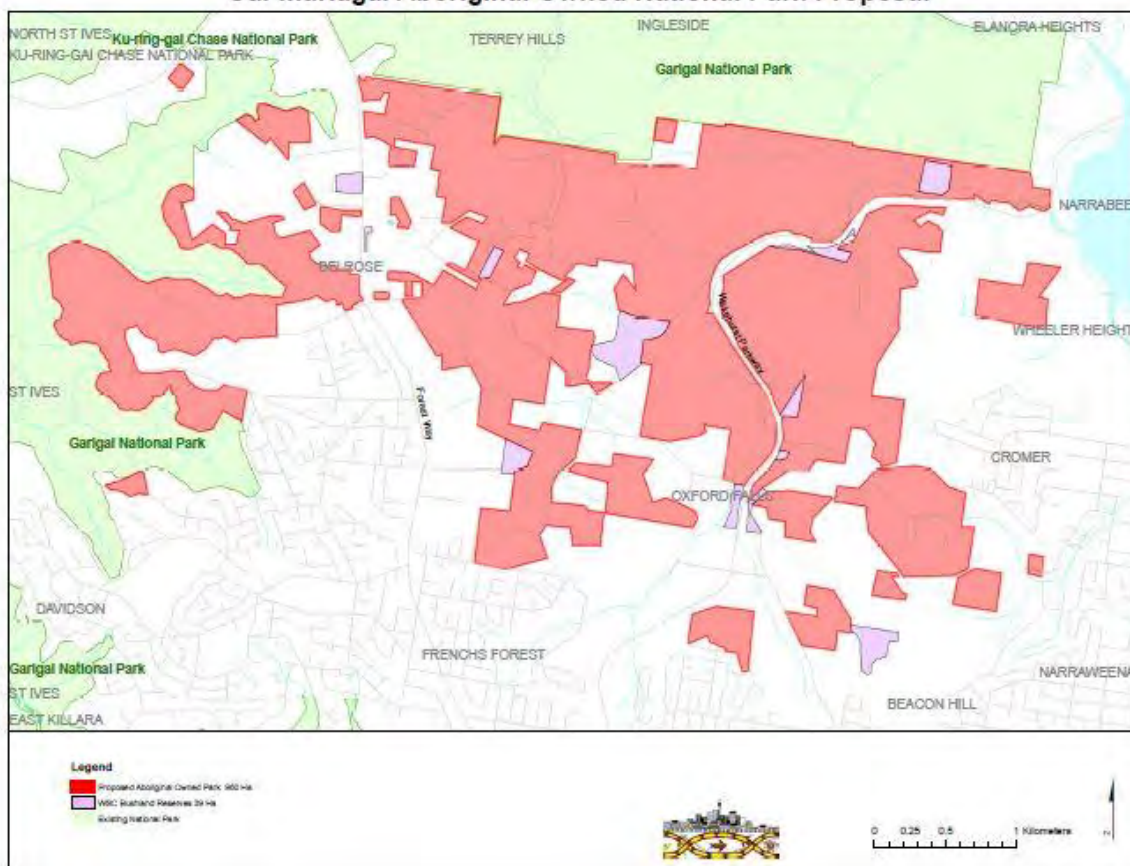
Summary

Name of Investigation Area Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park

Location

The proposed Gai-Mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park has an area of about 1,000ha and is located at Cromer, Oxford Falls and eastern Belrose within the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment and also at western Belrose within the Middle Harbour Catchment. The proposed Park adjoins Garigal National Park in both catchments. The park will be enhanced by the adaptive reuse of the former Waratah Park in Duffys Forest as a “Gateway” to the park including an Aboriginal Knowledge Centre and visitor amenities.

Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park Proposal



This map shows the relationship of the proposed Gai-mariagal National Park to other nearby protected areas of Garigal and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks. Waratah Park is in Duffy’s Forest which is north of this map.

See [Appendix G – Maps 1, 2 and 3](#) for the following maps:

Proposed park’s position in relation to nearby National Parks	Proposed park in relation to the local area	MLALC owned lands and lands under claim proposed for the park
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Availability of the land

The vast majority of the area is owned or claimed by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC). There are some smaller areas of Crown Reserve and some Council Reserves. Further there are a number of Road Reserves which would need to be de-gazetted.

***There are two parcels of land, currently in private ownership that are key to the Aboriginal significance of Wheeler Creek Valley – one contains the cave mentioned above and the other contains the sub-initiation carvings identified as highly significant by Mr Jacobs.**

See [Appendix G – Areas owned by MLALC](#) to see which areas are owned and which are under claim.

Role of the NSW public reserve system

The proposed Gai-mariagal National Park will assist OEHS to fulfil the three primary roles of the NSW public reserve system which are to:

“• protect the full range of habitats and ecosystems, plant and animal species, and significant geological features and landforms found across the state

• protect areas of significant cultural heritage, including places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people, as well as rural, unique and working heritage; places of scenic beauty and landscapes and natural features of significance; wilderness areas and wild rivers; water catchments; popular places for nature-based recreation; and certain icons and sites of national significance.

• provide opportunities for public enjoyment including nature-based recreation and education in a diverse array of landscapes across NSW.” (Dept of Environment and Climate Change, 2008)

Rationale

1. There are significant areas of Aboriginal heritage in the proposed park that are not found in the existing nearby National Parks. These areas link together with places within the existing parks to “tell a story”.
2. Key recommendations from the Tourism Task Force are that because Aboriginal Culture has a strong appeal to tourists from within Australia and from overseas,
 - i) New South Wales needs to “tell its story”
 - ii) there is a need for stronger Aboriginal Cultural representation in Sydney
3. NSW Government is committed to increasing the number of Aboriginal owned parks.
4. The offer from Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council provides a unique opportunity to establish this Aboriginal owned park within easy travelling distance from Sydney.
5. Because of its proximity to Sydney, the park can provide valuable tourism opportunities and cultural experiences for both Australian and International visitors.
6. There will be Aboriginal employment opportunities in the Knowledge Centre, in planning and conducting tours, in management and maintenance of the park.
7. The proposed park will protect threatened species and eight ecological communities in the area that are not currently protected within the NSW Park system.
8. The land provides connectivity for wildlife from Garigal National Park West and Narrabeen Lagoon through to Wheeler Creek Valley via Oxford Falls Valley.
9. The proposed park will provide protection for the catchments of creeks that flow into Narrabeen Lagoon which is Sydney’s largest lagoon and is recognised as a regional resource
10. The catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon is in a much more natural state than that of other Sydney lagoons such as Dee Why and Manly lagoons. Narrabeen Lagoon water is currently suitable for primary contact activities because of its catchment which has not been the case for other lagoons for many years.
11. This park provides a unique opportunity to protect this catchment – currently half of the catchment is natural bushland, a quarter is open space and a quarter is urban development.
11. Establishing this park will meet identified future needs for natural and scenic areas as the population of Sydney expands
12. The park will prevent loss of biodiversity to urban development and help stem erosion and siltation flowing into Narrabeen Lagoon or Middle Harbour.
13. An enhanced experience for visitors to the Narrabeen area seeking Aboriginal cultural experiences has the potential to provide a significant revenue stream for Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, local businesses and State Treasury.

Community Support

The proposed area for Gai-mariagal National Park - Sydney's first Aboriginal Owned Park - has long been recognised as a needing protection for its natural and cultural values.

See [Appendix A for a History of park proposals](#) for this area.

Community and environmental groups are supportive of this initiative from Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council because it will provide much needed environmental protection for large areas of bushland in catchments of Narrabeen Lagoon and Middle Harbour that are under constant threat of being replaced by urban development. Warringah Council's LEP currently zones the area B2 – non-urban land

See [Appendix G – Current Planning](#) for the area but this area is still under review regarding its zoning.

These groups include Manly Warringah Aboriginal Support Group, National Parks Association, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, Duffys Forest Residents Association, Northern Beaches Envirolink, Garigal Landcare and Belrose Rural Community Association.

See [Appendix H – Letters of support](#)



There are many rock art sites in the proposed Gai-mariagal National Park area.

Photo N.Skelton

Statement of Intent

Statements by Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

On 25 February 2013, the Chairperson of MLALC, Ricky Lyons wrote to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP requesting that as part of the Strategic Review into Oxford Falls Valley and Belrose North, he should consider progressing their request for an Aboriginal Owned Park:

“The Board of MLALC has determined, subject to member approval, that the most appropriate way to proceed, given community aspirations for the lands, is for the lands to be reserved and leased as an Aboriginal Owned Park under Part 4A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act: s 71C(3).

We are of the view that the lands are of both cultural and natural significance to Aboriginal people, and that such a park would be a very important addition to the local, national and international visitor experience within the Sydney Region.”

“MLALC confirms that its preferred position is that the lands identified in the map on the western side of Forest Way, Belrose North are incorporated into the Gai-Mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park. There are a number of significant natural and cultural values on these lands, including endangered flora and fauna.” Ricky Lyons Chairperson MLALC.

See [Appendix B – land west of Forest Way](#)

Rarity of acquisition opportunity

Unless MLALC members approve of a lease of land as an Aboriginal Owned Park, and such areas are permanently reserved as such by the Government, the lands will inevitably be made available for development and sale, as MLALC is subject to a statutory duty to protect the interests of Aboriginal persons in their area when managing their land assets.

Relationship with non-Aboriginal people

MLALC believes that this offer to permit a National Park to be established on their land is in line with the efforts of non-Aboriginal people who have fought for many years for protection of these lands from urban development for both their environmental and their Aboriginal cultural values. The proposed park area is adjoining an existing National Park (Garigal) that is managed by non-Aboriginal people. The proposed park will increase the core values of the existing Garigal National Park and provide better protection for those values.



The area's natural beauty is valued by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Photo N. Skelton

Cultural recognition

Detailed descriptions are found in [Appendix C – Aboriginal Heritage](#)

Summary of Important Factors

1. There are many cultural sites of significance within the proposed park area, perhaps the most significant of which is Wheeler Creek Valley.
2. There are places in the proposed park that had specific uses for ceremonies at different times in the life of an Aboriginal person and some are still in use today.
3. Treaty Rock is significant because it demonstrates the links between the people of this area and those of the upper Hunter Valley.
4. There were well-used trading routes between these areas and others places such as the Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley. Protecting certain areas (such as clay sites) will assist in “telling the story” to future generations.
5. There were Aboriginal walking tracks linking areas of significance within the proposed park to parts of Ku-ring-gai Chase NP and beyond for ceremonies and for trade.
6. Aboriginal people from the Northern Territory have affirmed the importance of this area. (NPA, 2002)

Ceremonial Importance

Some of the ceremonies undertaken within this area include: the Warragul, Emu, Kangaroo, Wallabies (x 3), Possum, Fish, Shark, Eagle, Dolphin, Raven, Shellfish, Bugala, Gubja, Gargon, Moon, Brown Snake, Canoe, Stars, and Heaven ceremonies which shows the extreme importance of this area for each title has several different interpretations depending on the gender and ages of the participants. As mentioned every cave, every shelter, every water hole and every rock ledge is important although there are a level of degrees as some are more important than others.

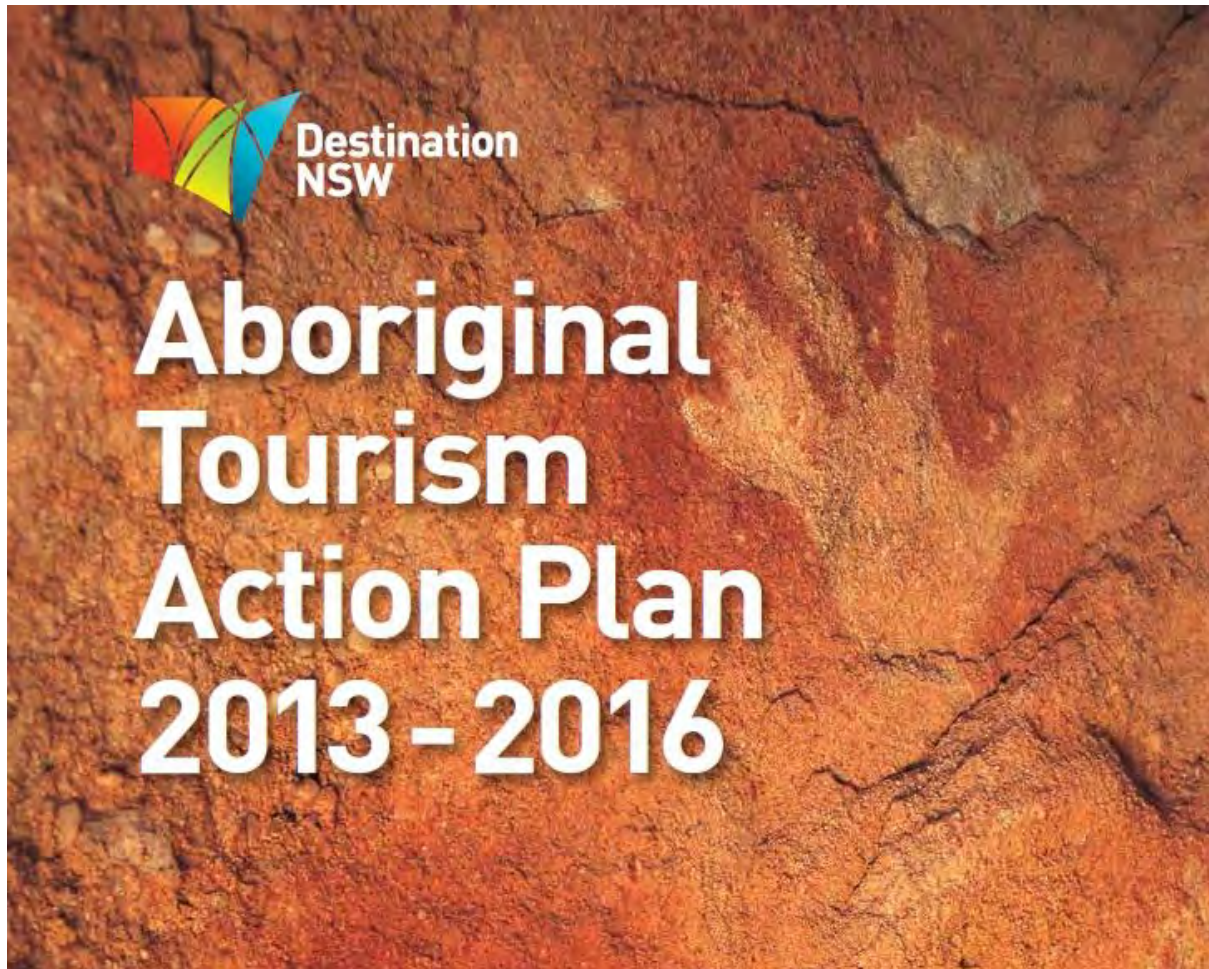


There are many local rock formations that have different degrees of meaning. Photo N. Skelton

Aboriginal tourism opportunities

NSW has been identified in the Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2013-2016 as the state most in need of additional Aboriginal tourism opportunities.

- a) Of all international tourists who visit Australia, those interested in cultural experiences stay on average twice as long in the country and spend almost twice as many dollars ((\$6300 per person compared to \$3800)
- b) Of all cultural tourists in Australia, 70% are Australians. Sydney offers almost no Aboriginal cultural experiences to meet this huge demand. (Destination NSW, 2013)



Reasons for proposal

There are many factors that amount to threats to the environmental and cultural values of this area. Providing permanent environmental protection via the proposed Park would alleviate these threats.

Threats

- a. **Damage to Aboriginal Heritage sites** – the Knowledge Centre, tours and signage proposed to be provided within Gai-mariagal National Park will provide education that will raise awareness and the desire to protect Aboriginal sites.
- b. **Reduction in biodiversity** due to pressure from increasing population of Sydney needing more housing. **Clearing of native vegetation** is a key threatening process.
- c. **Rising land values** making it appealing to attempt to develop this land for housing
- d. **Increases in disposable income** leading to increased pressure from various forms of recreation – some of which are destructive in bushland. The area needs to be well managed to protect biodiversity.
- e. Increases in recreational **pressures on nearby National Parks** – establishing Gai-mariagal National Park could help to manage the area in a manner that kept recreation away from core areas needing protection.
- f. Without establishing this proposed Gai-mariagal National Park, species not common elsewhere could become **locally extinct**
- g. Increases in urbanisation within the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon would cause **siltation and deterioration in water quality of streams** and of the lagoon itself – this park is needed to protect the waterways. (MWH Australia Pty Ltd, March 2004)

Importance of Habitat Conservation within the proposed NP area

See [Appendix E – Ecology, flora and fauna](#), for details:

- Combines with Garigal NP to form a **large, continuous, 2000ha, patch of remnant bushland habitat** which will be able to sustain the Threatened Species it currently contains
- The connectivity of proposed conservation areas with appropriate fire management will enable an increase in populations of currently threatened species.
- **Connectivity** of suitable habitat is an important ecological function for urbanised flora and fauna. Large areas of habitat provide this direct connect and reduce the need for species to cross dangerous barriers i.e. major roads and urban areas in search of resources such as food, water, shelter and prospective mates.
- The area contains high **species richness** with at least at least 163 fauna and 517 flora species calling the area home
- Many **Threatened Species** are known to occur and several more may be predicted and are yet to be discovered
- The area contains **Endangered Ecological Communities**
- Without this proposed area being added to the existing National Parks, populations within the patch are likely to be isolated from other populations due to ecological barriers such as major, multi-laned roads and urban development. Genetic diversity needs to be conserved by linking conservation areas – this proposal will greatly assist that aim.
- The area contains several matters of **National Environmental Significance**

Matters of National Environmental Significance

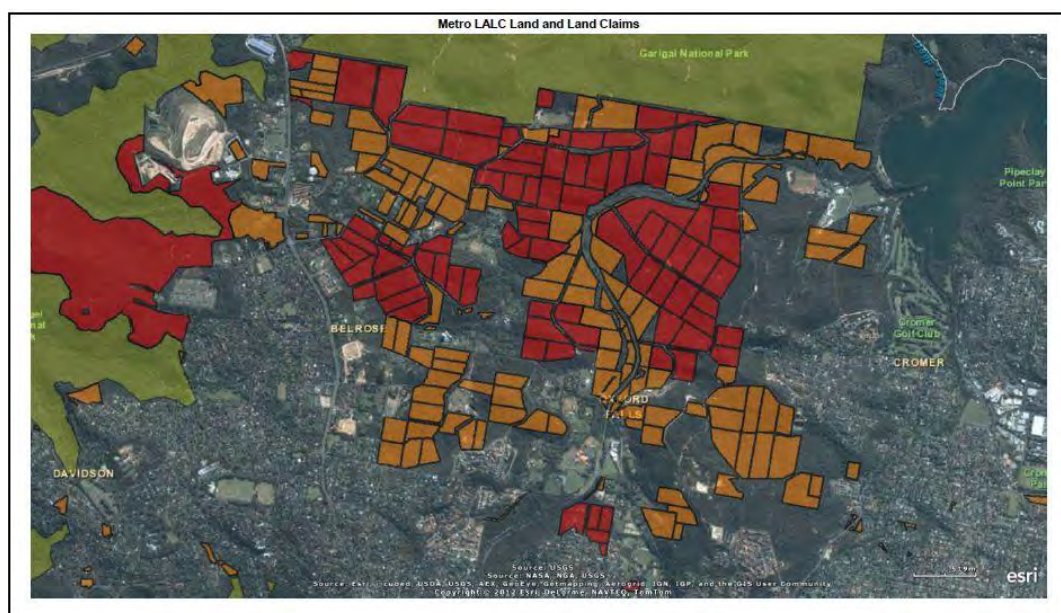
The area is also known to contain **Matters of National Environmental Significance** (EPBC Act 1999) including; 7 places on the **Register of the National Estate** (RNE): **4 Natural Areas** (Belrose Grevillea caleyi Site, Deep and Middle Creeks Area, Mona Vale Road Bushland Corridor and Ku-ring-gai Chase NP), **one Indigenous Area** (Wheeler Creek Valley Area) and **2 Historic Areas** (Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, Upper Middle Harbour Area).

There is a World Heritage Property in the vicinity (Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park 1 km to the west 3km to the north) and a Commonwealth listed Threatened Ecological Community in the vicinity (Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and moist Woodland on Shale - Critically Endangered ecological Community).

Benefits of establishing this Park

There are many benefits to be gained by establishing the proposed park including

1. Common goals expressed by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to conserve this bushland and to promote understanding of Aboriginal culture.
2. Employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in park management, park maintenance, tour guiding, operation of the Aboriginal Knowledge Centre and staffing of visitor facilities.
3. Provision of identified tourism opportunities within the Sydney region within easy reach of the Sydney CBD and airport in the manner outlined by studies conducted by Tourism Australia.
4. Permanent protection of areas identified as environmentally or culturally sensitive but that are currently not protected within the National Park system.
5. Protecting native bushland will result in maintaining or improving water quality in creeks, in Narrabeen Lagoon and in Middle Harbour
6. Maintaining or improving water quality will result in opportunities for public recreation.
7. Provision of an income stream to MLALC from protected natural bushland - rather than being compelled to destroy bushland and replace it with urban development to achieve their required social welfare income.
8. Inclusion of two vegetation communities in the proposed National Park that are not found in either of the nearby National Parks. (Harris C, 2010) (There are six other vegetation communities in nearby land that are not included in the current or the proposed National Parks but would be better protected by the establishment of the proposed Gai-mariagal National Park.)
9. Garigal National Park protects only one third of the bushland in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon. The proposed Gai-mariagal National Park would protect another third of the remaining bushland in this catchment. (Harris C, 2010)
10. Settlement of approximately 140 Aboriginal land claims over crown land in a manner that is pleasing to the local community – thus avoiding expensive court cases and years of dispute.



Key: Red = MLALC land Orange = Land under claim by MLALC

Financial Aspects of the Park Proposal

Bio-banking proposal

[Appendix G - Biobanking](#) outlines the Proposal for registering the park as a biobanking credit area. The area contains significant biodiversity credits that could provide an income that would fund the management of the park. This would greatly reduce if not eliminate the need for Government contributions towards the lease-back of the land for the operation of the Park.



Rock ledges provide viewing platforms across undulating bushland. Photo: N. Skelton

Tourism potential

The Tourism Task Force report identified that

- a) In 2009 (just after the GFC), tourists brought \$11.1billion to NSW
- b) From tourists who stayed at least one night, NSW earned \$47m per day
- c) There are currently about 20 million international visitors to Australia per year. 21% of these obtain Aboriginal experiences somewhere in Australia but NSW is not offering as many cultural experiences as other states.
- d) 42% of tourists who did not obtain Aboriginal experiences indicated that they would have liked to.
- e) 20% of people choosing to visit Australia indicated that an opportunity to be involved in cultural experiences influenced their decision to make the visit. (Tourism NSW, 2010)

The proposal for Gai-mariagal National Park is to use the former Waratah Park as a “Gateway” where visitors could gather and receive an introduction to Aboriginal culture at a “Knowledge Centre”. An accredited eco-tourism company would manage this part of the operation and provide an income stream to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council in addition to providing employment for Aboriginal people.

See [Appendix F – Tourism Potential](#) for information and surveys indicating a high tourism potential for this proposal

New Protected Area Investigation Report

Grants available

There is a potential to apply for funding under the Federal Government's Indigenous Protected Area program – particularly for setting up the "Knowledge Centre" at Duffy's Forest and establishing the cultural tours program.



Many of the rock ledges in this area are part of Aboriginal stories or places of meaning. Photo N.Skelton



Aboriginal engravings Photo N.Skelton

Physical Attributes

See [Appendix D Geology](#) for a detailed description

Geology

This portion of the Hornsby Plateau contains upland sites - remnant plateau tops of generally low relief; headwater valleys with dish shaped profiles; major valley sides – the dominant landform - featuring low cliff lines and intervening linear to concave-convex hillslopes; and valley bottoms, which feature either a bedrock dominated stream channel or a valley fill of deposited sediments. (NPA, 2002)

On the Hornsby Plateau, the ecological significance of podzol (i.e. iron pan layer under leached white sand) soils is the distinct differences in plant associations that occur in otherwise uniform settings, according to the presence or absence of a podzol. Species such as Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) and Grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea arborea*) are two examples of species that favour podzol soils, while Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) may grow in proximity to but rarely if ever on podzol soils. (NPA, 2002)

A further important characteristic of the sandstone is its linear joint structures - breaks in the body of rock which may form along planes of weakness either inherited from the original sedimentary materials or resulting from the process of lithification. These joints may be orientated laterally, vertically or at some intermediate angle. Joints which penetrate some metres to tens of metres through the sandstone strata are particularly important in the long term processes of mechanical weathering and drainage development. (NPA, 2002)

Some minor occurrences of basaltic igneous rock have been identified in the Middle Creek catchment in the form of small dyke features. This rock, in stark contrast to the Hawkesbury sedimentary unit, contains no quartz mineral and weathers readily at the outcropping surface to yield clay materials – some of which had economic value during Aboriginal occupation of the area and close to which ceremonial sites were established. (NPA, 2002)

See [Appendix G – Geology](#) and [Appendix G – Soils](#) for maps showing dykes, folds and soils

Scenic amenity

The area is greatly admired for its scenic qualities. The rocky outcrops, undulating terrain, waterfalls, and open vistas are very appealing.

There are many outcrops of rocks which form vantage points to enjoy views over the surrounding bushland and, from some points, on out to Narrabeen Lagoon or to the sea.

From the shores or from boats on Narrabeen Lagoon, there are many points from which to enjoy views up into the bush clad catchment. There are also appealing water views along creek lines and near waterfalls.



View from Corymbia Circuit looking northeast

See [Appendix G – Contour Map](#) to see how undulating this area is which leads to scenic beauty.

New Protected Area Investigation Report



Wheeler Creek



View from Cromer Heights looking north

One of the unique features of the area is that from some vantage points, the viewer can see almost uninterrupted views of bushland that can remind people of what the area has looked like for thousands of years. This is unusual because there are densely populated suburbs on every side of the proposed area.



View from Oxford Falls looking north



Looking from the west towards Narrabeen Lagoon and the ocean

Non-urban Land

The major part of the land proposed for this Gai-mariagal National Park has been designated “non-urban land” by Warringah Council and defined as “environmentally sensitive”. (Warringah Council, 1998a) (Warringah Council, 2001b)

The Warringah Creek Management Strategy identified further reasons why the catchments of some of the creeks within the non-urban lands recommended that the “cross-hatching” of areas of the non-urban lands study areas be removed such that those catchments become more highly protected from development. (page 14) (MWH Australia Pty Ltd, March 2004)



Waterfall in Wheeler Creek

Ecology, Flora and Fauna

See [Appendix E](#) for details concerning Ecology, Flora and Fauna

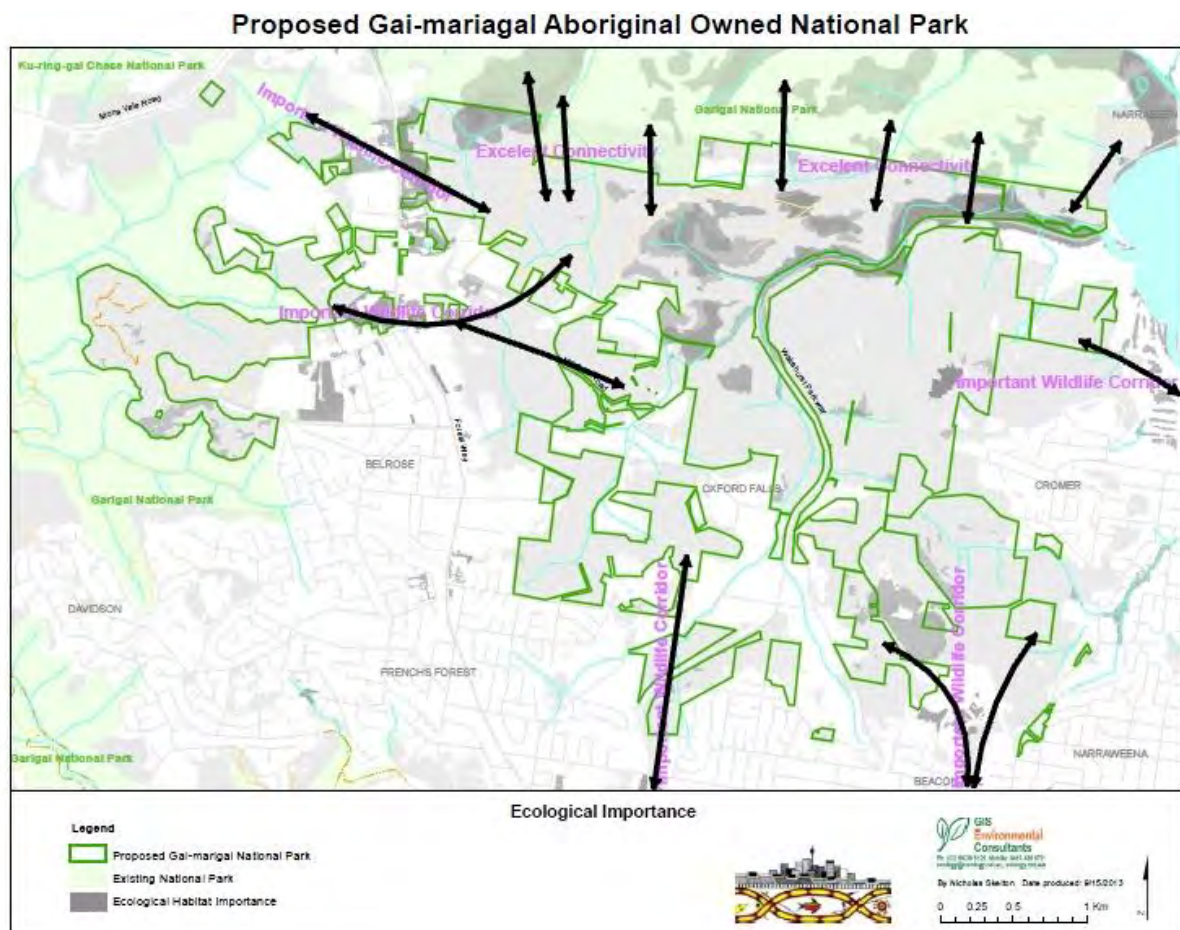
General Ecological Values

The proposed Gai-mariagal National Park will be the southern half of a large, 2000ha, patch of native remnant sandstone bushland that stretches from Forest Way in the West to Narrabeen Lagoon in the East and Mona Vale Road in the North to Warringah Road in the South. The northern half of this bushland habitat is the Eastern part of Garigal National Park. Additionally there are over 200ha on the western side of Forest Way proposed for inclusion in Gai-mariagal National Park.

This combined area is sufficiently large to sustain viable populations of at least 23 Threatened species and more than 680 other native species.

Wildlife Corridors

Many of the proposed patches of bushland are registered as significant wildlife corridors that will become increasingly important as urban pressures increase and the climate changes. Wildlife corridors such as these provide opportunities for exchange of genetic material, improved fire management such as mosaic burns which do not cause local extinctions and movement of species over time as other pressures dictate. (Skelton, 2013)



Creek Catchments

The March 2004 Warringah Council Creek Management Study document ranks the creek catchments in order of quality and of their need for protection. Within the proposed Gai-mariagal NP areas, the following creeks rank as having high ecological value and are at high risk from urban developmental pressures – Wheeler Creek, Narrabeen Foreshores, Bare Creek, Snake Creek and Oxford Creek. (MWH Australia Pty Ltd, March 2004)

No other large city in Australia (and probably the world) can reproduce the combination of sandstone escarpments, waterfalls, rainforest streams, coastal lagoons and oceans that are found in Warringah. (MWH Australia Pty Ltd, March 2004)

Wheeler Creek and Deep Creek in the proposed park have been rated as having very high ecological value with less than 10% connected impervious area. (MWH Australia Pty Ltd, March 2004)

Snake, Oxford and Bare Creeks are rated as having high ecological value (10-15% connected impervious areas. (MWH Australia Pty Ltd, March 2004)

See [Appendix G – Creek Catchments](#) for a map of showing creeks in the proposed Gai-mariagal NP

Unique ecological communities

The parts of the site that have particularly high ecological importance are the small areas of impleaded drainage (hanging swamps), ridge tops (where there is lateritic soils), upper slopes with exposed sandstone bedrock, four endangered ecological communities and the creek lines.

Species Richness

See [Appendix E – Ecology, Flora and Fauna](#) for details of flora and fauna

The proposed National Park area is home to at least 163 fauna and 517 flora species, which have been recorded or sighted within the park and surrounding bushland habitat. Unfortunately, there has been no comprehensive flora or fauna survey of the area of the proposed national park to date and therefore, the actual numbers of flora and fauna inhabitants is likely to be significantly greater than the above estimation.

Known records are likely to be a mixture of occasional sightings along the limited roads and tracks that run through the area and sightings along the bushland edges.

With this in mind, the list provided in the [Appendix E – Ecology, Flora and Fauna](#) is only a select group and not a complete list, nevertheless it contains many iconic species which are of high interest to Australian and International visitors and that are at risk of extinction without our intervention.

See [Appendix B – land west of Forest Way](#) for extra listings of flora, fauna and threatened species that occur west of Forest Way.

Risk of Extinctions

The risk of extinctions – even local extinctions is that this reduces the resilience of the biodiversity on which human life depends. Listed threatened species are usually iconic indicators that a whole ecosystem is at risk. There is a growing awareness of this situation and this proposal by MLALC represents an opportunity to protect a variety of threatened species and threatened ecosystems in the Northern Beaches suburbs of Sydney.



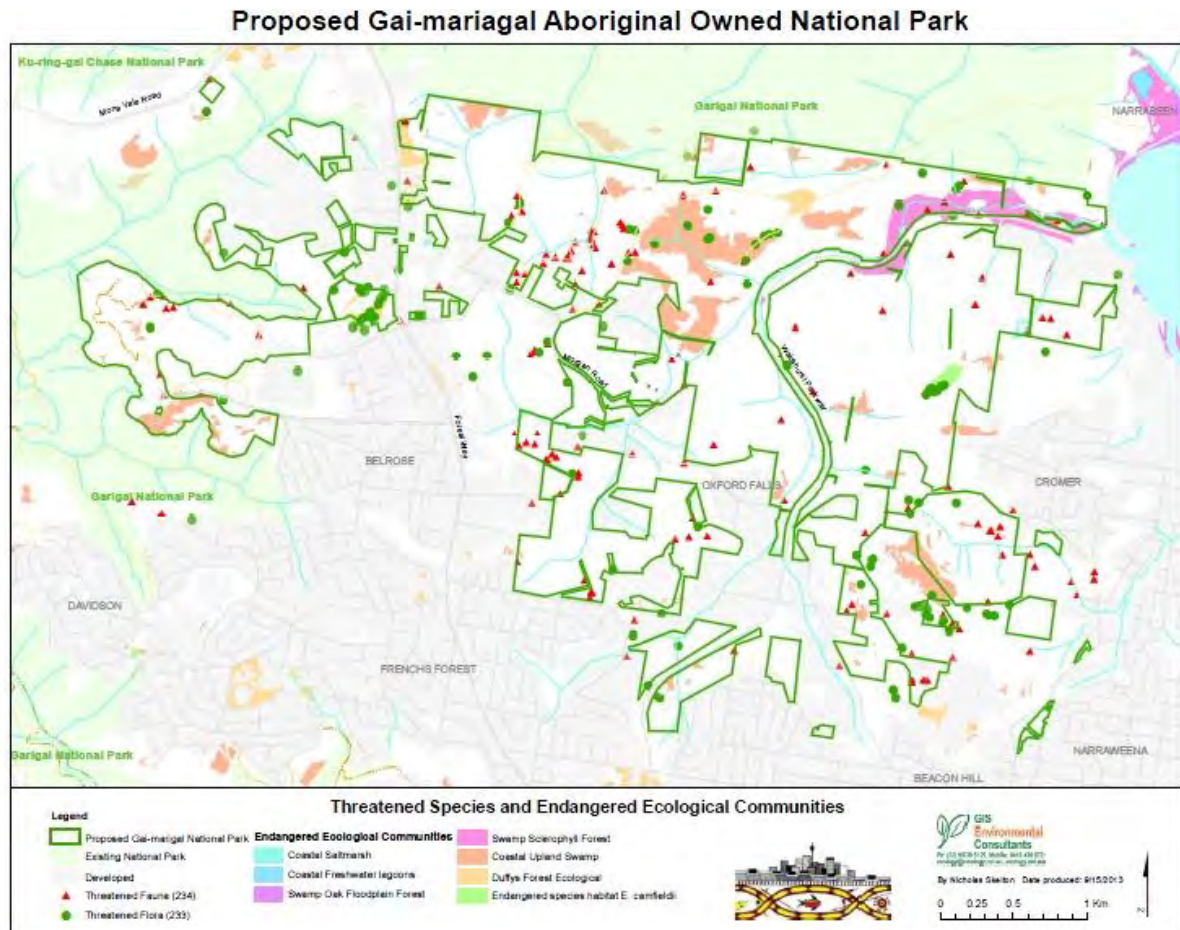
Eucalyptus Camfieldii Photo N.Skelton

One of the more important biological values of the site is an extensive, multi-stemmed individual ***Eucalyptus camfieldii*** which occurs on the eastern side of the proposed park which covers an area of ~700 x 200m. This is the largest known individual of the species and could be hundreds or even thousands of years old – making it possibly one of the oldest living being in the area. *E. camfieldii* is an highly unusual and scientifically interesting species, as it consists of many (sometimes 100s) small clonal trunks growing from a large woody root system and has rough heart-shaped leaves, relatively short trunk (3-5 m high) and mallee structure this species is considerably different from its other Eucalypt relatives. It consists of expansive network which can span 100s of meters in diameter – giving the specimen a far bigger appearance than a mere observation of the aboveground trees could suggest. (Skelton, 2013)

New Protected Area Investigation Report

Threatened Species

Due to the lack of field survey there are expected to be many more unrecorded Threatened Species within the area waiting to be discovered due to the large amount of good quality remnant bushland habitat available. This is a map of the known threatened species and endangered ecological communities:



This proposed National Park will provide a unique and irreplaceable sanctuary of good quality habitat to ensure the survival of these species for future generations.

Commonwealth-listed Threatened Species

There are records of 39 **Commonwealth-listed** Threatened Species (6 Birds, 2 fish, 5 frogs, 8 Mammals, 1 reptile and 16 plants) and 13 migratory species (all birds) and 14 listed Marine Species (All birds) in the vicinity. (Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Water, Population and Communities, August 2013)

There are records of **at least 20 Threatened fauna state-listed species** and **3 Threatened flora state-listed species** from within the area.



Heath Monitor

New Protected Area Investigation Report

State listed Threatened fauna

State-listed Threatened fauna species recorded include small mammals such as the Eastern Pygmy Possum, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Little – and Eastern Bentwing Bat, Eastern Freetail Bat, Southern Myotis, Grey-headed Flying Fox, greater Broad-nosed Bat (Skelton, 2013) and last but not least the iconic Koala with one very recent sighting in 2000 near Forestway (roadkill), (Harris C, 2010) threatened birds such as the Powerful Owl, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Black Bittern, Varied Sittella, Scarlet Robin, the Eastern Osprey and Swift Parrot, threatened amphibians such as the Giant Burrowing Frog and the Red-crowned Toadlet and the Rosenberg's Goanna, a threatened reptile which is a recurrent resident of the proposed park area. (Skelton, 2013)

State-listed Threatened flora

State-listed Threatened flora species include the Hairy Geebung, Camfield's Stringybark and Caley's Grevillea, which are confirmed from recent sightings within the area. Other listed Threatened species which are known to occur in the vicinity are the Black-eyed Susan, Netted Bottle Brush and the Bauer's Midge Orchid.



Eucalyptus camfieldii N Skelton



Juvenile Powerful Owl with lorikeet in talon in Wheeler Creek Valley
Photo taken 12/2/14 by C. Stort

Locally Significant Native Species

Furthermore enigmatic and well-known marsupials as the Swamp Wallaby and Short-beaked Echidnas are residents within the proposed area. Known populations of Sugar Glider, Feather-tailed Glider – both known to be susceptible to habitat fragmentation - are breeding within the boundaries of the proposed National Park. (Skelton, 2013)

Locally significant bird species such as the Pheasant Coucal, Painted Button Quail and the Rock Warbler are sharing the unique habitat of Red Hill with the Brush Bronzewing, the Bar-shouldered Dove and the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater. (Skelton, 2013)

Threatened Species Management

Many of the Threatened species listed above are less mobile in their habits and require several patches of sufficiently large habitat within the Sydney Sandstone ecological communities that can each be burnt independently to achieve a mosaic of fire histories that have species in different stages of their life cycle which is required for the long-term survival of the species.

It is also important for these types of species to have populations in several parks to protect against wide scale wildfires that often burn whole parks. Without such conservation areas there will be local if not state extinctions and a loss of genetic distinctiveness.

Managing the proposed Gai-mariagal National Park

Aboriginal joint management of parks

“The NPWS acknowledges that the Indigenous peoples of Australia are the original custodians of the lands and waters, animals and plants of NSW and its many and varied landscapes. The NPWS staff [statement of reconciliation](#) gives a commitment to invite greater involvement of Aboriginal communities in the management of all areas under NPWS control. The NPWS has endorsed the statement and have undertaken to incorporate these commitments in all dealings with Aboriginal communities and future heritage and conservation initiatives.

One way to do this is through Aboriginal joint management of national parks, reserves and other areas. Under an Aboriginal joint management arrangement, the government and local Aboriginal people share responsibility for a park's management. The aim is to ensure that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to participate in planning and decision making for the park, reserve or area, while maintaining access to parks for everyone.” (Dept of Environment and Climate Change, 2008)

Legal requirements

The Park will be established in accordance with Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act: s 71C(3)*. The Park will be managed according to best practice as required by this act. There will be a Management Plan that must be approved by the Minister for the Environment after a Management Board has been appointed according the requirements of the NPW Act.

The Management Plan

The Management Plan will not be prepared until after the Board is established. This process is outlined in the NPWS Act. The draft management plan for the Oxford Falls Regional Crown Reserve would be useful for this process as would plans created by Warringah Council for management of creeks, riparian zones and bushland areas.

Details of that Management Plan cannot be decided at this stage but the plan is likely to include:

Financial Plan: capital funding, income and expenses over time.

Biobanking is an important aspect of this proposal because it may mean that the current proposal will not require Treasury to contribute to leasing the land for the park.

Additional income will be generated by the operation of tours and of visitor facilities at Waratah Park.

Facilities and services, layout, entry points

The Plan will need include detailed maps outlining the facilities and services to be offered to the public. The map will need to show any planned tracks, entry points, parking, position of signage, etc

Management Challenges

The proposed park is similar to other urban National Parks that are close to residential areas and are readily accessible for recreational use.

The management issues needing to be addressed in the Management Plan include:

1. Fire management –
 - a) for ecological reasons - in line with the recommended frequency for each of the various vegetation types and planned to occur in a mosaic pattern to minimize the impacts on fauna
 - b) for human safety reasons – to reduce the risk of injury or death from bushfire
 - c) for asset protection of facilities within the park and of nearby residences
2. Feral Animals -

Management of feral animals in this park would be planned in conjunction with other land managers such as NPWS and Warringah Council,
3. Weeds -

The Management Plan would identify the challenged areas where there are weeds and funding would need to be sought to reduce the impacts of weeds

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4. Track maintenance and management of erosion – when preparing the Plan of Management, existing tracks would be identified, closures planned where necessary and new tracks planned if appropriate. Funding would need to be sought to conduct appropriate track work and erosion control
5. Incursions – the Management Plan would identify a program of boundary inspections to ensure that any incursions by neighbours were appropriately addressed.
6. Recreational users – ongoing interactions will be necessary with relevant recreational user groups such as bush walkers, mountain bike riders, model aeroplane fliers, orienteering enthusiasts, 4-wheel drivers, motorised bike riders – to establish reasonable precautions against damage to the environment or the cultural heritage.
7. Monitoring impacts – over time, the impacts of tourism activities will need to be monitored and programs altered if the impacts are unacceptable. The Management Plan would identify a suitable regime for this monitoring.



There is a long history of mountain bike riders building their own tracks and jumps in the bushland and of motorised bikes or 4WD vehicles causing severe erosion. Photo N.Skelton

Steps towards to establishing the park

Determining the exact boundaries of the park

Surveys need to be conducted to establish exactly where the boundaries are, and to confirm the owner of each parcel.

Where there is currently crown land under claim by Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, those claims need to be processed. Because throughout New South Wales there are many thousands of unresolved land claims, it could be appealing to the Government to be able to quickly settle a large number of claims in the area outlined for the proposed Gai-mariagal National Park by transferring them pursuant to Section 36 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

Consulting with stakeholders

Consultation will need to be undertaken with the members of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, those who are descended from the Aboriginal people who lived in the area, Aboriginal people who live in the area now, residents and landowners in the area, Warringah Council and Department of Lands.

Warringah Council have already given this proposal “in principle” support as have several local environmental organisations.

Negotiating the Lease

NPWS will need to negotiate with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council as per the requirements of the NPW Act to establish the terms of the lease.

Checking requirements for infrastructure

The need for fencing, or signage or visitor facilities will need to be investigated and funding secured by grants or donations.

World Parks Congress

The World Parks Congress is due to be held in Sydney in November 2014. This is an opportunity for ministers to proclaim Gai-mariagal Aboriginal-owned National Park or make a statement of intent that it will be established.



Part of area proposed for Gai-mariagal National Park Photo N.Skelton

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Appendix A - History of Reservation Proposals

1949: Several nature conservation societies considered that the whole of the Deep Creek catchment and part of Middle Creek catchment had such great natural values that they should be protected in a Warringah National Park. However, the proposal was not approved because it involved the acquisition of so much alienated land National Park Association (**NPA**) 1961.

1961: NPA proposal for a National Park in the Deep Creek - Narrabeen area. This was supported by the National Trust (NSW) and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia.

1968: The National Trust's publication *Sydney 2000* proposed the addition of the Deep Creek catchment to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

1974: Northern Beaches Bushland Committee proposal for a Regional Natural Park in the Middle Creek - Deep Creek area. This was supported by the NPA, National Trust (NSW), Total Environment Centre and ten local associations and environment groups NBBC 1974).

1977: October. Collin C Donges and Associates (Consulting Town Planners and Surveyors, Landscape and Environmental Analysts, and Property Consultants) wrote to the NPA, National Trust (NSW), National Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Preservation Society to urge discouragement of development in the Deep Creek area and recommend its acquisition by the NPWS for nature conservation purposes (pers. comm. in NPA files 7.10.77).

1977: November. Submission from the NPA to the State Pollution Control Commission about the preservation and management of Narrabeen Lagoon (including the Deep Creek catchment) as a National Park or State Recreation Area, or preferably as an addition to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

1984: The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) claimed about 500 ha in the Deep Creek catchment area.

1986: The National Trust (NSW), at the recommendation of its Landscape Assessment Committee, classified and entered into the National Trust Register the Narrabeen Lakes Western Catchments Landscape Conservation Area, including the area currently proposed for addition to Garigal National Park. The National Trust also recommended that Narrabeen Lakes and the catchment of Deep Creek be dedicated as a State Recreation Area centred on Narrabeen Lagoon.

1987: NPA proposal for reservation of the Deep Creek catchment. The southern boundary was the same as that of the 1995 proposal, although it extended east to Wakehurst Parkway incorporating the recreation reserve.

Late 1980s: After an unsuccessful bid by the land owner, Dainford Pty Ltd, to subdivide the catchment's ridges for residential development, a land swap was agreed to whereby 95% of the freeholdings (about 900 ha) were obtained by the Government and vested in public ownership.

1990: April. Stage 1 of Garigal National Park (approximately 786 ha) was gazetted.

1991: April. The NPA announced that the proposed Garigal National Park was too small to be ecologically sustainable and should have included more of the Deep Creek catchment, adjacent crown land, Narrabeen Lagoon foreshores and the lagoon itself (NPA Press Release 6.4.91).

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1991: April. The NPA noted that the Garigal National Park proposal appeared to be the first stage of a larger National Park and requested from the then Minister for the Environment (Mr. Tim Moore) comments about possible further stages (pers. comm. in NPA files 15.4.91).

Early 1992: The Independent, Dr Terry Metherill, introduced to the Legislative Assembly a [Private Members Bill \(the Garigal Park Extension Bill 33kb .pdf\)](#) which was designed to bring the Park southward along the Wakehurst Parkway and incorporated the Manly Dam Reserve.

1992: April. Davidson State Recreation Area (of approximately 1200 ha and embracing most of Middle Harbour from North St Ives to Killarney Heights) was transferred from its Administrative Trust to the NPWS as an addition to Garigal National Park. The NPWS planned to include the vacant land to the south of the National Park.

1992: Stage 2 of Garigal National Park (including the former Davidson SRA) was reserved.

1993: June. Most of the proposed Stage 3 of Garigal National Park was granted to the MLALC. Although the NPWS had tried to prove their interest in the area prior to 1984 by using the NPA's 1961 Deep Creek National Park proposal, the then Minister for CaLM (Mr George Souris) granted 57 of the Land Council's claims, with no restrictions.

1994: February. An addition of 130 ha in one Portion was made in the north-east corner of Garigal National Park adjoining Monash Golf Course.

1994: June. The NPA emphasised to the Director General of the NPWS the need to add the 29 Crown Portions to the National Park. The NPWS desired such an agreement to ensure a sensible southern boundary and cover such items as fire and noxious weed control.

1995: The State Labor Party claimed that it would gazette Garigal National Park additions (including Manly Dam Reserve) if elected in March 1995 (Carr 1995; Daily Telegraph Mirror 23.1.95 p.5).

1995: October. NPA proposal for Crown Lands and freehold additions to Garigal National Park in first edition of this report.

1999: January. Renewed NPA proposal for Crown Lands and freehold additions to Garigal National Park.

2004: January/February. Public comment was invited to the Department of Lands assessment of crown lands between Cromer and Belrose. Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) is collating responses and a final determination of the preferred land use is in progress.

(This history has been adapted in part from notes supplied by Jim Somerville, NPA Sydney Branch).

Appendix B – Gai-mariagal NP west of Forest Way

Location

The proposed Gai-Mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park includes substantial environmental lands on the western side of Forest Way in the Middle Harbour Catchment area.

This section of the proposed Park is contained in an area with Mona Vale to the North, Forest Way to the East and Garigal National Park to the West and South.

The land contains creeks and gullies that flow into Bare Creek, Middle Harbour Creek, Fire Clay Gully and Frenchs Creek which are all located within Garigal National Park.

Values

This land includes a ridgeline plateaus, and is surrounded by conservation lands, which have Ecological value and provide an important link with the surrounding Garigal National Park. The watercourses and landscape that lead into the adjoining National Park are known to contain rare and threatened species. It also forms part of the natural connective landscape that supports Garigal National Park and provides connectivity to other surrounding catchments.

An extensive section of these lands adjoin Garigal National Park. This section of Garigal National park is very narrow which means that it can be easily adversely impacted by any increase in any development. Therefore, this proposed Park will provide substantial benefits to Garigal National Park and for the bushland and other properties in the proposed Park.

Flora and Fauna

Most of the areas are native bushland areas and consist of many native species including threatened species.

Threatened fauna species include:

Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heliophorus Australiacus*), Red-crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*), Rosenberg's Goanna (*Varanus rosenbergii*), Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Little Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta pusilla*), Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), Little Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus australis*) and Eastern Bentwing-bat (*Miniopterus orianae oceansis*)

The lands include plateau heath lands, hanging swamps, steep bushland and water ways.

The land includes threatened flora species, *Tetradlea glandulosa* and endangered *Grevillea caleyi*, together with Ecological Endangered Communities Coastal Upland Swamp of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and Duffys Forest Ecological Community.

The *Grevillea caleyi* is only found in an 8 Km square area around Belrose/Terrey Hills. It occurs in three major areas of suitable habitat, namely Belrose, Ingleside and Terrey Hills. All sites occur on the ridge top between elevations of 170m to 240m in association with laterite soils and a vegetation community of open forest, generally dominated by *Eucalyptus sieberi* and *Eucalyptus gummiifera*. These species are recognised under either the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) and/or the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC Act).

Further, Warringah Council staff members from the Natural Environment Unit have observed the threatened fauna species, Eastern Pygmy Possum while other species known to the area include the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and New Holland Mouse.

Warringah Council's Biodiversity study completed 2012, shows that this area is rated as having 'high to very high' ecological conservation value.

Statement of Intent

"MLALC confirms that its preferred position is that these lands (Western side of Forest Way, Belrose North) are incorporated into the Gai-Mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park. There are a number of significant natural and cultural values on these lands, including endangered flora and fauna."

Ricky Lyons Chairperson MLALC.

Photos of areas west of Forest Way



Figure 1 Photo from North ridge MLALC Land Belrose North. Middle Harbour Catchment. Potential breeding habitat for Giant Burrowing Frog



Figure 2 Looking to the West Ridge of MLALC Land, Belrose North. Middle Harbour Catchment



Figure 3. South Ridge MLALC Land Belrose North. Middle Harbour Catchment



Figure 4. Rock outcrops within the MLALC Land and the Heath Land. Belrose North. Middle Harbour Catchment. Undeveloped plateau on the Lambert soil type, the last jewel in a golden crown of ridgeline.



Figure 5. MLALC Land at Belrose North. Middle Harbour Catchment. This site forms part of a natural connective landscape that supports Garigal National Park and provides a habitat corridor connecting to other catchments. Looking from the east towards Garigal National Park, where boundaries join.



Figure 6. MLALC Land at Belrose North, Middle Harbour Catchment. Heath land. It is a biodiversity hotspot of exceptional species, richness and floristic diversity that supports at least 226 native plant species and 97 fauna species along with the thousands of invertebrates, fungi and other organisms essential to a thriving ecosystem

Appendix C – Aboriginal Heritage information

Wheeler Creek Valley

Wheeler Creek Valley has significant Aboriginal heritage and the sheltered rainforest area would have been used in the context of the whole valley and connected terrain. Within the Wheeler Creek Valley and in nearby areas are a series of sites that would have formed a circuit visited for various purposes in the life of an Aboriginal person.

Men more often used walking tracks along ridgelines whilst those along creek lines tended to be used more by women and there was one that linked Wheeler Creek to South Creek and beyond.

There are caves and overhangs in Wheeler Creek Valley and carvings, all of which have significance for Aboriginal people through to contemporary times. At least two of these sites are currently threatened by private sale for development purposes.

Stanbury and Clegg state that because "cult heroes are not depicted it was not thought that this area was of great ceremonial importance". However, as reported in The Sydney Morning Herald on January 27th, 1976, when Mr Jackson Jacobs (who lectured on Aboriginal art and culture at the Australian Museum) saw the carvings of the Wheeler Creek Valley he said "This is a very powerful place. It was a sub-initiation site where the magic men congregated." He was referring to carvings on both the North and the South sides of the valley, the men's sacred cave and to the amphitheatre between them in which a particularly important rock stands.

"Mr Jacobs located a very unusual rock and traced out a great semi-circle from it and suggested it could have been a corroboree ground. Campbell, in 1899, had commented on how the area formed a natural amphitheatre. Another short walk and Mr Jacobs located a heap of shells or midden." see

[Appendix C – Aboriginal Heritage.](#)

The carvings and caves are also significant to nearby non-Aboriginal people who have fought to protect these features - in the 1970s from the actions of the electricity authority and in recent times, from threatened urban development.

There is a particularly important rock in the centre of the valley that has been significant for centuries - around it Aboriginal people gathered to tell stories of how the seas rose and covered the areas they used to live in - some 20 miles out to sea now. The seas rose 6000 years ago.

Aboriginal people had permanent homes until recently on the shores of Narrabeen Lagoon where the NSW Academy of Sport now stands. Older local people remember them living their traditional lifestyles near here through until 40 or 50 years ago (into the 1960s).

Reference to "Repossession of our Spirit"

Dennis Foley, a descendent of these people, mentions this fact also on page 57 of his book entitled *"Repossession of our Spirit"* published by Goanna Print in 2000. He tells how the Academy of Sport was built on the bulldozed remains of their campsite after the sandmining of Narrabeen Lagoon ceased.

Dennis has expressed his stories powerfully in ways that enable the reader to envisage many aspects of the life people lived here. The Aboriginal heritage of Wheeler Creek Valley and other areas in the Narrabeen catchment have been brought to life in his writing. More importantly, he has drawn attention to the fact that in Australia there are still people with this heritage and these memories alive and well today but not living in the area.

He has mentioned some of the relationships the local people had with other Aboriginal groups both near and far.

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"There was once a trail that led to the Oxford Falls, this was a men's site. Remember the old Pig Farm there? - That was right on top of a sacred area. The other trail from Wheeler Creek went down the side of South Creek, this met up with the main trail that went straight up to the Bora Rings at Duffy's Forest (refer the thesis of Dr. Annie Ross, I think it was her Honours, Sydney Uni around 1974) and the women's sites there and at Terrey Hills.

This track continued to Coal and Candle and across to the canoe spot (Whale engravings) to go north, and from Duffy's Forest another trail led both east and west to other major sites. Wheeler Creek and Duffy's Forest and Terrey Hills are all Bandicoot land. This is women's business. We are matriarchal and some would say that it is all Bandicoot, look for the funny 'V' shape carvings that are lateral. This is the sign of the Bandicoot head." - email from Dennis Foley, July, 2002.

Interactions with other tribal groups

Another additional story that Dennis has supplied concerns the Treaty Rock. On July 14th, 2002, he wrote

"OK, the land of Wheeler Creekto the north western corner there should be a rock, that is raised - it holds the carving of a small wallaby, the short-tail of which depicts the Gai-mariagal clans and superimposed kangaroo, the big tail, that represents the Wonnarua clans of the upper Hunter River. These include people of Singleton and right up to Scone. They lived in our land in a time of great drought. This is Treaty Rock.

In his book *"Repossession of our Spirit"*, on Page 21, Dennis tells of burial practices - where after allowing the person's spirit to depart, the body would be cremated. The ashes were used by close family members to coat them in their sorrow. The remaining bones were placed in freshly cut bark which, after being smoked, would form a cylinder. This cylinder was then plugged with clay and painted red with ochre before being carefully placed in a hollow tree, a cave or a high rock crevice.

The presence of clays and coloured ochres in Wheeler Creek Valley so close to the carvings is an important clue that these carvings were an integral part of regular Aboriginal cultural use. White clay was particularly important for ceremonial use and for trading.

Dennis Foley mentions that there was a good supply of white clay in the area and people living beside Narrabeen Lagoon packed this clay into abalone shell containers of a uniform size for regular trading with other Aboriginal peoples from areas where white clay was scarce.

On the northern side of the Wakehurst Parkway, along the land linking from Middle Creek to Deep Creek heading west along the ridge lines, there are several spur lines, mostly ridden and currently being desecrated by mountain bike riders heading from the lagoon and creek to the ridge tops back to the north west and north east of the existing aero modellers' club. Within this area there is an important initiation site, re-birthing site and the foundation of two of the three important women's sites together with permanent running water. Then heading west from the aero modellers' site, which was once a quarry and a tip, the land to the south running parallel to Forest Way and skirting over through Belrose all contains sites linked back to Wheelers Creek, Cromer and Red Hill. Several ridges north of the old quarry have significant importance and link via other ceremonial sites to Terrey Hills.

Dennis Foley notes that the entire area is connected with seasonal ceremonial sites that have many uses crisscrossed by streams, waterfalls and waterholes that are of extreme importance, it is not just the ridge tops and pictograph sites. As an example all hanging swamps are accordingly sacred for in times of drought these were tapped for water during ceremony and subsequently used in body painting and processes of scarification. There is the story about the creation of the gift of the hanging swamp and its importance to Aboriginal land management that needs to be recognised.

Likewise all areas containing orchids and red Grevillea are also special, for the juice of the flower was mixed with ochre creating the viscosity enabling body painting. These areas too are sacred for their interactions with the specific tangible cultural heritage sites. As were wild bee trees and wherever the

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red rump wallaby gathers, for these are our Elders and so the complexity of the landscape fabric intensifies.

Some of the ceremonies undertaken within this area include: the Warragul, Emu, Kangaroo, Wallabies (x 3), Possum, Fish, Shark, Eagle, Dolphin, Raven, Shellfish, Bugala, Gubja, Gargon, Moon, Brown Snake, Canoe, Stars, and Heaven ceremonies which shows the extreme importance of this area for each title has several different interpretations depending on the gender and ages of the participants. As mentioned every cave, every shelter, every water hole and every rock ledge is important although there are a level of degrees as some are more important than others.

Dennis Foley has prepared a map highlighting the areas of significance, and the pathways that connect them and this can be provided on a confidential basis to NPWS for the purpose of recording the cultural heritage attributes of the proposed Park, with his express permission of the actual text used.

Cuttings referring to Aboriginal heritage

These papers have been kept by Yvonne Witton of Cromer Heights since 1976. The first is an article from the June/July 1976 NPA Journal. The second is from the Sydney Morning Herald of January 1976

Place of the Wallaby People

by Joy Lee



Engraving suggested as "the spirit with the sacred axe" poised to deal a deadly blow to any man passing who failed to offer the finest cut of his captured prey.

A local resident, Mr George Robinson, disturbed by the burial of the carvings reported it to the National Parks and Wildlife Service who are charged with the responsibility of protecting Aboriginal relics. The Service arranged a site visit with council officials and it was agreed that work should stop near the site and that council should carry out restoration works. The problem remains that the damage has been done and the area totally changed by the road. In January, Mr Jackson Jacobs, an Aboriginal elder from Mornington Island, who lectures on Aboriginal culture and who has spent a great deal of time visiting Aborigines in Northern Australia, collecting information on his people and their traditions, was in Sydney. Mr Jacobs was shown a drawing of the site and asked to interpret the strange carving. He answered without hesitation *sacred cave*. There was nothing on the drawing to indicate the presence of a small underground cave just below where the road has covered the carvings. He also said the carvings showed that this was a site that linked two places and that many Aborigines would have passed through. The land lies between Narrabeen Lagoon and Dee Why Lagoon. He pointed out that another of the buried carvings is a marking sign that, according to Aboriginal traditions, should never be moved.

Mr Jacobs said there were many great stories

In 1899 W.D. Campbell recorded a group of Aboriginal rock carvings on a single large surface of rock between Wheeler and Middle Creeks, above what is now known as Cromer.

He described the carvings as altogether one of the finest groups the writer has come across. He recorded a second set of carvings on the other side of the gully and one was described as a strange looking figure ten feet long, well cut, resembling the leg of a man.

In December 1975 Mackellar County Council constructed a power line through the area, one pole being placed beside the most important group of carvings with two steel stanchions being driven into the rock.

A service road, bulldozed through the valley buried five carvings in the second group including the strange ten foot figure. The road not only desecrated the carvings but opened up the area to hundreds of trail bike users.



A large expanse of rock on which about 120 engravings have been made. The engraving in the foreground is suggested as an "offering place" where the passing hunter was required to leave part of his catch.

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involved with the carvings but because I was a woman I could only be told the explanations given to the uninitiated. The site was a sacred site that linked back to early times when the great rainbow serpent roamed Australia giving the tribes their land. In each area a special site was set aside where the law would be taught and kept. This was such a site and the Wallaby people had been charged with keeping it. He pointed out that the kangaroo and fish with spears in them did not mean this is how an Aborigine kills animals but were related to the breaking of the laws and how the kangaroos and fish would vanish from the area if the laws were not obeyed.

Mr Jacobs pointed out that one of the large figures carried a woomera, the other a magic axe and if a person broke the law they would see that he died. They would not have to see the individual - so powerful were the magical forces associated with the site.

Mr Jacobs was taken to visit the site and became even more excited as many things had not been shown on the drawing, being regarded as natural erosion or the result of natural forces. Mr Jacobs said the small rock pools and ridges in the rock were very important to the Aborigines.

Mr Jacobs was very concerned about the burial of the carvings and insisted that no women or young boys should be allowed to enter the sacred cave.

Mr Jacobs located a very unusual rock and traced out a great semi-circle from it and suggested it could have been a corroboree ground. Campbell, in 1899, had commented on how the area formed a natural amphitheatre. Another short walk and Mr Jacobs located a heap of shells or midden.

Adjacent to the road where the carvings are buried is a large rock shelter that had obviously been used for hundreds of years. Mr Jacobs felt strongly that the area should be given protection because of its religious significance to the Australian Aborigines.

But is that possible?

The National Parks and Wildlife Service has been considering for some time whether it should acquire the lands for dedication as an Aboriginal area but has not as yet made a decision.

The NSW Planning and Environment Commission has been considering for many years what plans it should make for the non-urban land in Warringah.

Should they allow several hundred thousand people to settle in the area or should they take into consideration the serious environmental effects such an action would have?

Meanwhile actions by utilities such as Mackellar County Council, and trail bike users, reduce the possible options open to the planners, by changing the character of the landscape... In other parts of the world the rock carvings would be recognised as incredibly valuable primitive art.



The "centre stone" of the corroboree ground. Holes have been drilled in its base.

Unfortunately, there was no date on the paper kept by Yvonne but research by Karen Petley of NPA through the archives of the National Parks Association revealed it was printed on pages 5,6 and 7 of the June-July, 1976, National Parks Journal.

Sydney Morning Herald article

This article was published in the Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday, January 27, 1976, after the Mackellar County Council electricity authority had erected a power pole amongst rock carvings.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tues. Jan 27, 1976 2

Poles, road desecrate Aboriginal rock carvings

By JOSEPH GLASCOTT,
Environment Writer

One of the most valuable Aboriginal rock-carving sites in the Sydney region has been desecrated by power lines, a service road and trail bikes.

The carvings are on a large rock ridge over Wheeler Creek, behind the suburb of Cromer near Narrabeen.

In spite of State laws protecting Aboriginal rock carvings, the Mackellar County Council has constructed a power line through the valley.

One power pole has been placed beside the most important rock of carvings.

Two steel stanchions have been driven into the rock to hold the pole.

A road has been bulldozed through Wheeler Creek Valley to service the lines and it has covered parts of another important rock carving on the other side of the valley.

By opening up the area the county council also has made it a venue for trail bike riders.

Riders congregate beside the rock carving site, ride over the carvings as part of their trail and park their bikes on the rock.

The carvings were recorded in 1899 by Mr W. D. Campbell, a surveyor for the then Department of Mines and Agriculture.

Mr Campbell's book *Aboriginal Carvings of Port Jackson and Broken Bay* is still considered the most authoritative on Aboriginal relics for the Sydney region.

Mr Campbell described the Cromer carvings "as altogether one of the finest groups the writer has come across."

More than 76 years after Mr Campbell's discovery and hundreds of years after Aboriginal tribes carved them, the drawings remain deeply etched and easily defined.

Recent research has revealed 120 figures on the Cromer rock face. They illustrate kangaroos, fish, moons, almost life-size men and a series of secret signs.

Mr Jackson Jacobs, a Mornington Island Aboriginal from the Gulf of Carpentaria who lectures on Aboriginal art and culture for the Australian Museum, explained the significance of the carvings to me yesterday.

Barefooted and with his family moonstone slung around his neck, he said: "This is a very powerful place. It was a sub-initiation area where the magic men congregated."

While he explained the meanings of the carvings and signs, motor cycles roared around us.

Protests by local conservationists and Aboriginal historical groups already have caused Mackellar County Council to have second thoughts.

The council has unhooked the powerline stay ropes from the rock face, and it has indicated that it will re-survey the powerline. But the damage already has been done.

The desecration of the carving demonstrate the ineffectiveness of laws to protect Aboriginal relics.

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act Aboriginal carving sites are protected under penalty of fines of up to \$1,000 but public authorities and the workmen, either unaware of the law or of the significance of the relics, have no check on their operations.

Mr John Lough, of Double Bay, a recorder of Aboriginal carving sites said yesterday: "Public authorities can go to the National Park and Wildlife Service for information."

"They are referred to the of W.D. Campbell recordings made last century."

"For the uninitiated and also because of new mapping over the period, that is of little help."

Nevertheless, the Cromer carvings were so well defined that a one could miss them.

Archaeologists and conservationists say the Wheeler Creek Valley should be preserved from all residential and service development because of its historic importance to the Aboriginal race.



Mr Jackson Jacobs (right), his wife Enid and Mr Ken Thompson, of Mornington, looking at one of the Aboriginal carvings on a large rock between Cromer and Oxford Falls.

Appendix D - Geology

Landscapes of the Southern Hornsby Plateau

compiled in 2001 for NPA by J.L. Macris, Bsc and R.J. Daniel, BSc

Geology

The areas within this study mainly feature a bedrock of Hawkesbury Sandstone. In its unweathered state, this rock is dominantly off-white coloured, consisting of medium-fine grain quartz sand particles, bound by a matrix of argillaceous cement (Humphreys, 1976).

Commonly observed sub-forms as described by Conaghan (1980) are:

- a) Sheet facies, identifiable by cross bedding sedimentary forms, up to 5 metres thick. This facies is the most resistant to weathering.
- b) Massive facies, with no obvious sedimentary layering within the unit and a fairly uniform sand grain-size. This is lighter in colour and more easily weathered.
- c) Thin lenses of shale or siltstone, which occur as occasional interbeds with facies types a) and b).

The regional dip of the Hawkesbury Sandstone is less than 0.5° towards the east and south.

A further important characteristic of the sandstone is its linear joint structures - breaks in the body of rock which may form along planes of weakness either inherited from the original sedimentary materials or resulting from the process of lithification. These joints may be orientated laterally, vertically or at some intermediate angle. Joints which penetrate some metres to tens of metres through the sandstone strata are particularly important in the long term processes of mechanical weathering and drainage development described in the following sections.

Some minor occurrences of basaltic igneous rock have been identified in the Middle Creek catchment in the form of small dyke features. This rock, in stark contrast to the Hawkesbury sedimentary unit, contains no quartz grains (the typical component of most sands) and weathers readily at the outcropping surface to yield clay materials.

Drainage and Landform evolution

The present day plateau surfaces share a fairly uniform elevation of 100-200 m asl. Although subject to some down-wearing erosion over the millennia, these upland areas indicate an approximation of the former topographic surface at the time of tectonic uplift in the mid Tertiary (Jones and Veevers, 1982). The main agent of landform evolution since then has been incision and headcut valley extension along watercourses (Nott *et al*, 1996).

Structural controls on this drainage development have been significant for most Sydney Basin sandstone landscapes. Studies of the drainage networks of the Hornsby Plateau (see Humphreys, 1976, p17-19 for summary) have reported a generally close association between the orientation of major joints in the sandstone (clearly visible from aerial photography) and the dominant direction of major valleys and escarpments.

The major process-form relationship over the geological timescale therefore, has been gradual dissection of a former widespread plateau surface by the erosive action of water, with preferential erosion, and hence valley formation and expansion along the axes of the major sandstone joints.

The horizontal strata of different weathering potential - the bedded and massive sandstones and lenses of shale and siltstone - favour the gradual development of a 'stepped' hillslope, with sections of low angle sandstone bench on the sheet facies terminating at small bands of cliff line. The highly

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weatherable shale lenses promote undercutting of the overlying strata. Larger bodies of more erodible rock (the massive facies) will favour a more linear to concave slope between the stepped sections.

The regional dip of the bedrock, although minor, appears to have contributed to asymmetric valley profiles in some catchments of the Hornsby Plateau. This is believed to be largely due to the consequent differences in mass strength of the eroding valley slopes, where the truncated bedrock face dips towards the slope (more erodible) or away from it (less erodible) (Humphreys, 1976).

Some further complicating factors important in the evolution of valley slopes are the presence of basalt dykes, which as sites of preferential erosion, have generally steeper linear slopes in their vicinity than occur on the adjacent sedimentary bedrock.

Prior to the current sea level high-stand of the past 6000 years, the valleys of the Hornsby Plateau extended further seaward, with slope evolution progressing along the lines described above. Substantial parts of the lower valley systems have subsequently been drowned to form bays and estuaries. Narrabeen Lagoon has further evolved from a coastal embayment to an estuarine lagoon, after enclosure by a sand barrier.

The mean lake height has formed the adjusted base limit to erosion and transport by rivers and mass movement. Some creek valleys, for short distances upstream of Narrabeen Lagoon, have also accumulated bodies of sediment across their floors, thus changing the overall valley profile.

From this range of influencing factors, the present valley profiles encountered are either:

- a) Dish shaped, which is a common form in upland, low order streams;
- b) 'V' shaped, which is common to higher order streams and indicates incision and valley expansion over millions to a few tens of millions of years (Nott *et al*, 1996); or
- c) Trough shaped, which have evolved from 'V' shaped valleys over a few thousand years by infilling of sediment on the valley base (Humphreys, 1976).

In summary, this portion of the Hornsby Plateau contains upland sites - remnant plateau tops of generally low relief; headwater valleys with dish shaped profiles; major valley sides - the dominant landform - featuring low cliff lines and intervening linear to concave-convex hillslopes; and valley bottoms, which feature either a bedrock dominated stream channel, or a valley fill of deposited sediments.

Surface processes

and the resulting Soil Province and Types within Land Units

See [Appendix G – Soils](#) for a map of soil types

Superimposed on the major geological time-scale land-forming factors described in the previous section, are surface and near-surface processes operating on shorter time-scales of years to thousands of years, which have yielded the soil products of the various land units.

a) Laterisation - Where weathering occurs along the boundary of sandy and shale units, iron minerals from the bedrock often enter solution and, by subsequently concentrating in other sediment layers, lead to the formation of iron-cemented bands and pebbles known as Laterites (Hunt *et al*, 1977). These have been recorded in the Red Hill area.

b) Fire - Bushfires have been shown to cause rapid episodic breakdown of sandstone outcrops into platy cobbles, gravels and smaller particles, through heat expansion of liquids within the rock pores (Adamson *et al*, 1983). Given the long term role of fire in the Sydney basin sclerophyll forests, this process may even have been of significance in contributing to slope profile variations between sites with fire-prone versus fire-sheltered aspects.

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c) Near surface bedrock alteration - Weathering of Hawkesbury Sandstone at depth produces a saprolite (bedrock modified in its original location) rich in quartz sand but also including a significant clay component (Paton *et al*, 1995). The end-product subsoil is mineralogically similar to the bedrock from which it derives, and provides most of the materials which through surface processes lead to topsoil formation.

d) Bioturbation - Studies have been undertaken in the Middle Creek catchment (Humphreys and Mitchell, 1983) and elsewhere in the Sydney Basin, of the transporting effects of soil mesofauna such as earthworms, ants and termites. Through regular activities of burrowing, overturning and mounding at the surface, these and other fauna produce a well sorted topsoil which overlies the saprolite or bedrock on most parts of the plateau and hillslopes. This uppermost soil horizon is best termed the 'biomantle' (Johnson, 1990) due to its association with biotic processes. The rates of bioturbation generally exceed all other non-catastrophic movement of sediment on these hillslopes (Humphreys and Mitchell, 1983).

e) Rainwash - Sediment exposed at the land surface by bioturbation, or following fires, is susceptible to downslope movement during storm generated runoff. This phenomenon, termed rainwash, has also been quantitatively studied in the Middle Creek catchment (Mitchell and Humphreys, 1987; Koop, 2000). On well vegetated slopes, patterns of micro-relief related to forest litter accumulations (litter dams) and root clusters of numerous plant species, act to buffer against mass sheet erosion, favouring incremental downslope movement of biomantle material (Mitchell and Humphreys, 1987).

The smallest particle sizes - clays and fine silts - are less easily retained and are readily transported in suspension during rainwash, allowing their rapid export from the slope. This winnowing of clays and silts acts to progressively leave a coarser textured biomantle, and gives rise to duplex soils on the hillslopes of this area, featuring a coarse textured upper horizon (the clay depleted biomantle) overlying a more clay rich soil, formed by direct alteration of bedrock (the saprolite) (Paton *et al*, 1995).

f) Alluviation - Valley fills have been described already for the main watercourses upstream of Narrabeen Lagoon, arising from termination of stream transport at the lake. Much of the clay and silt material removed by rainwash from the catchment is deposited from suspension in the lagoon, or as a component of the alluvial valley fills.

Localised accumulating sediment bodies are also quite common on the valley floors and foot slopes at higher elevations in the sub-catchments of Narrabeen Lagoon. The term 'hanging swamp' is often applied to those deposits within watercourses or in a waterlogged position perched on rock shelves (Buchanan, 1980). These features form where the bedrock structure or in-stream vegetation prompts organic and inorganic detritus to pond and settle out as laminar sediments (Young, 1986).

Other deep (1-7 m) deposits of sand occur in footslope settings adjacent to watercourses, where an upslope source area such as a bench, cliff and colluvial slope sequence occurs. One such deposit in the Middle Creek catchment has been shown by radio carbon dating to have commenced accumulating prior to 10,000 years before present (Field and Humphreys, 2000). A distinctive soil-vegetation relationship has been documented on such sand bodies and this process is described in the following point.

g) Podzolisation - The deep, porous sand bodies provide relatively acid and infertile soil conditions for vegetation. Plant species adapted to these harsh growing conditions tend to produce organic acids in their foliage, known as simple polyphenols (Blaser, 1994). As fallen leaves etc. decay, the ongoing downward percolation of these polyphenols mobilises iron from the upper soil horizon, which redeposits at depth as the acid is gradually neutralised (Blaser, 1994). The concentration of iron often forms a cemented or 'pan' layer within the sand, while the upper profile is typically bleached white due to iron removal. These profiles are termed Podzols (Buchanan and Humphreys, 1980).

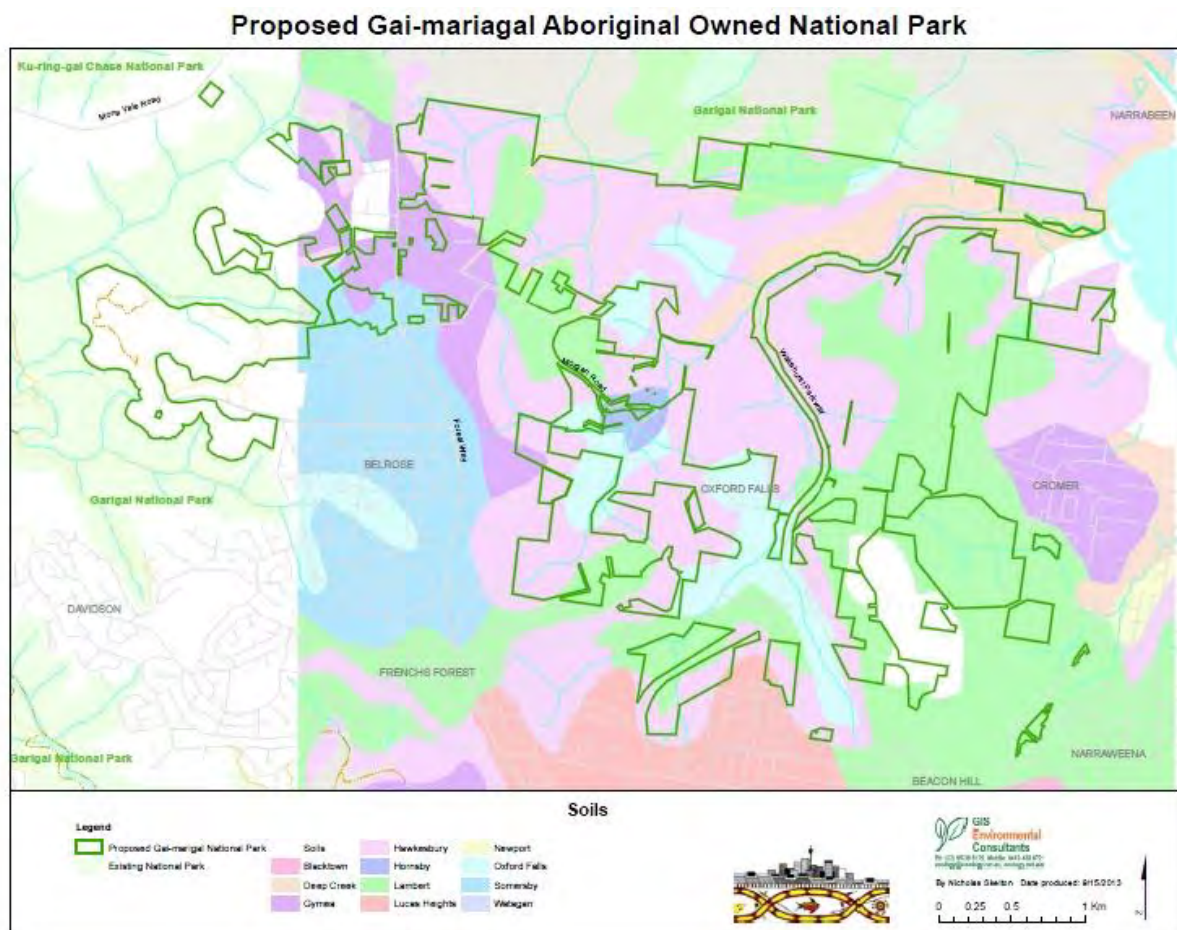
On the Hornsby Plateau, the ecological significance of Podzol soils is the distinct differences in plant associations that occur in otherwise uniform settings, according to the presence or absence of a podzol. Species such as Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) and Grass trees

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(*Xanthorrhoea arborea*) are two examples of species that favour podzol soils, while Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) may grow in proximity to, but rarely if ever on, podzol soils (Buchanan and Humphreys, 1980). Tree and shrub species are also observed to grow generally taller on the podzol soil than in the immediate surrounding area (Buchanan and Humphreys).

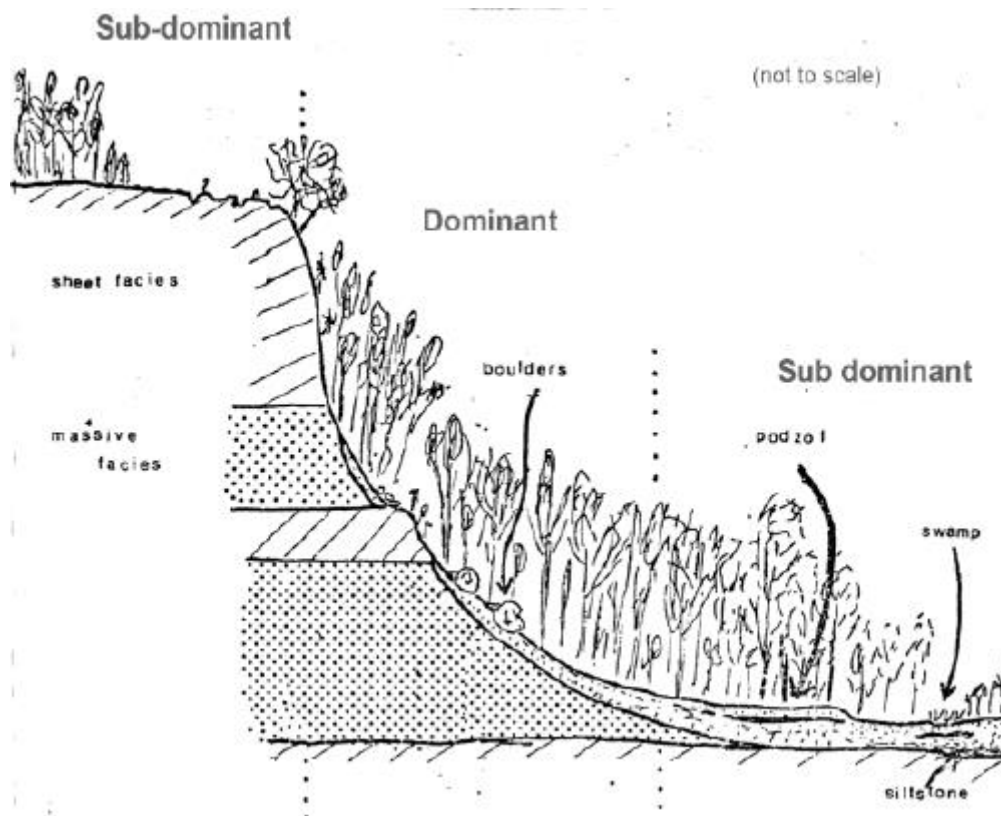
The following soil provinces and types, based on the work of Humphreys (1976) and other cited research, are outlined according to land units and the relative importance of the various process factors outlined above:

- a) Residual - At the plateau tops, soils form dominantly by *in situ* processes of bedrock alteration and bioturbation, yielding yellow earths or uniform to gradational soils. Laterite formation has also been prevalent on some plateau areas.
- b) Transportational - On valley slopes, the biomantle is mobile over an *in situ* layer of saprolite, or directly over bedrock, due to rainwash processes. This process also removes clay and fine silt in suspension. The resulting soils commonly have a distinct texture contrast and have been termed yellow podsols or duplex soils.
- c) Depositional - On or near valley bottoms, the weathered materials from upslope and/or upstream, aggrade to form swamp deposits, deep sands or lake muds and deltas. Soil types are typically alluvial soils or podzols.



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Figure 1. Land Units and Soil Provinces of the Southern Hornsby Plateau (after Humphreys, 1976, p. 33)



Plateau Top	Valley Slope	Valley Bottom
Low degree of long term landscape evolution on upland sites.	Long term evolution according to structural controls such as joint orientation, and progressive slope and escarpment retreat.	Range of settings, with incision and headcut concentrated to the plateau margins.
Surface Processes mostly limited to in situ bedrock alteration and bioturbation.	Down-slope mobility of topsoil and other surface materials. Important in combination with bioturbation in formation of hillslope soils.	Surface processes range from river transport and deposition to footslope accumulation of slope sediments.
Soil Province: Residual	Soil Province: Transportational	Soil Province: Depositional
Typical soils: Yellow Earths and Earthy Sands, with uniform to gradational texture profiles.	Typical soils: Yellow Podzolics and Lithisols, with a duplex (texture contrast) profile.	Typical Soils: Alluvial and Podzols.

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Appendix E – Ecology, Flora and Fauna

Ecological Importance of the Proposed, Aboriginal Owned, Gai-mariagal National Park

By Nicholas Skelton, Principal Ecologist

Executive Summary

The proposed Gai-mariagal National Park is a large 1000ha patch of remnant bushland habitat that is the core of the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment running from the upper reaches of Middle Creek all the way down to its sealevel.. The remaining bushland in this valley is being increasingly encroached by new developments that are reducing the viability of this patch of habitat.

This site is unique and of high ecological value due to it's; high concentration of threatened species, concentration of endangered ecological communities, the presence of an intact progression of ecological communities, suitability as a wildlife refugia, important wildlife corridor links and a particularly ecologically important and extremely rare mallee Eucalypt that occurs on the eastern side.

The site contains and will conserve an ecological progression that transitions from coastal/estuarine lagoon habitats through the series of ecotones to the dry ridgetop habitats. This park will link the coast and lagoon containing the important dunes, seagrasses, reed-beds, mud flat habitats to the floodplain ecosystems containing Endangered Fern Swamp, Swamp Oak Forest and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest, which then transitions up the Middle Creek valley through Endangered Palm Forest, Tall Eucalypt Forest, Rainforest and Gully Forest. Furtehr up the slopes are the upper slopes and ridge tops containing Endangered Duffys Forest, shrub-land, woodland, heath and Endangered hanging swamps that occur on lateritic ridge tops in the north and west of the site. Conserving such a complete progression is important to allow the seasonal movement of fauna species across vegetation types and up and down altitude gradients. There is a wide variety of fauna that need to migrate up and down catchments to utilise seasonal resources. Two examples are Threatened Species such as gliders, honey eaters and the winter flowering Swamp Mahogany trees, then, summer flowering upland heaths on the ridge tops; or Tree Snakes that move between upper and lower parts of the catchment with the seasons.

The proposed National Park shares the full length of it's northern boundary with the Garigal eastern National Park which connects to form an area of 2000ha in size. This combined area is sufficiently large to sustain viable populations of many Threatened and locally significant species and is at the same time a separate catchment that is well insulated against devastating wildfire so it will act as a refugia to prevent the extinction of species when a catastrophic events such as wildfires or water spread diseases such as Phytophthora, occur in the other few habitat remnants in the Sydney basin.

Despite being well insulated by the large Mona Vale Road and Forest Way the site maintains strong wildlife corridor links with Ku-ring-gai Chase and (the western part of) Garigal National Parks in the north and west to the habitat surrounding Narrabeen Lagoon in the east and to Manly Dam Bushland Park to the south. Without the conservation of these corridors, wildlife populations of many species will become isolated and fragmented leading to local extinctions. Most of the species in this part of Sydney, require large areas of habitat with a range of fire frequencies to allow their long term survival. Prevention of extinctions can only be achieved by having a reserve system that can be managed to achieve a mosaic of inter-connected patches of bushland and areas such as this are essential to be able to provide suitable habitat. Without such areas there will be many more local extinctions in the long term.

This site will be an important part of providing these required habitat mosaic conditions which will help to prevent local and regional extinction of the flora and fauna inhabitants into the future. Linking these

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areas of high ecological importance enables re-colonisation of species and retains resilience to cope with climate change and catastrophic events such as wildfire.

The site has a high richness of flora and fauna species and ecological communities including a particularly important example of a threatened mallee Eucalypt (*Eucalyptus camfieldii*).

The proposed National Park site is home to at least 275 fauna and 517 flora species that have been recorded or sighted within this bushland habitat. Many of these species are not represented in nearby conservation reserves. Unfortunately, there has been no comprehensive flora or fauna survey of the site to date, due to the large amount of good quality remnant bushland habitat available and the lack of field surveys in the site, the actual numbers of flora and fauna are likely to be much greater.

There are records of at least three (3) Critically Endangered species in NSW, thirteen (13) species listed as Endangered, one (1) Endangered population, thirty-nine (39) species listed as Vulnerable and thirteen (13) species listed as Rare all found within the proposed National Park site.

Listed Threatened fauna species recorded include small mammals such as the Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*), Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus obesulus*), Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), Little- and Eastern- Bent-wing Bat (*Miniopterus australis* and *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), Eastern Free-tail Bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*), Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and the greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*). Threatened birds recorded include the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), Black Bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*), Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*), the Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) and Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and Threatened amphibians such as the Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*), the Red-crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*) and the Rosenberg's Goanna (*Varanus rosenbergi*), a Threatened reptile, are all current residents of the proposed park area.

State listed Threatened flora species include the Camfield's Stringybark (*Eucalyptus camfieldii*), Hairy Geebung (*Persoonia hirsuta*), and Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*), which are confirmed from recent sightings within the area. Other listed Threatened flora species that are known to occur in the vicinity are Black-eyed Susan (*Tetratheca glandulosa*), *Pimelea curviflora* var. *curviflora*, Netted Bottle Brush (*Callistemon linearifolius*) and the Bauer's Midge Orchid (*Genoplesium bauera*).

There are also records of Commonwealth listed species; twenty-five (25) Threatened Species, thirteen (13) migratory bird species and fourteen (14) listed Marine bird species which occur in or near to the site.

The area is made up of fifteen (15) vegetation communities, and boasts four (4) Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC's) including; Freshwater wetlands, Swamp Oak Forest, Swamp Sclerophyll Forest. Two sub-types of the Endangered Duffys Forest Ecological Community will also be integrated into the proposed National Park; the most significant of these being the Angophora/White Mahogany Forest as only approximately 2.9ha of this vegetation type is known to exist, all of which will be integrated into the National Park. Two patches of Silvertop Ash-Brown Stringybark Forest will be included in the proposed National Park site, one small patch next to Forestway, near Garigal East National Park, and another stand on the western side of Forestway near Linden Avenue.

One of the more impressive biological values of the site is an extensive multi-stemmed mallee eucalypt. The *Eucalyptus camfieldii* plant which occurs on the eastern side of the proposed park and covers an area of approximately 700m x 200m. The whole extent of this area is likely to be a single individual with many thousands of stems (mallee growth form). This is the largest known specimen of this species (and may be the world's largest clonal plant) and it is likely this plant is hundreds or even thousands of years old. *E. camfieldii* is a highly unusual plant species as it consists of many stems growing from a large woody root system (lignotuber). It has rough heart-shaped leaves, relatively short trunks (2-3 m high). All efforts to enhance reproductive success in vitro via artificial germination

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in horticulture have all remained futile. This is of high concern for the future of this species and without adequate protection of the proposed National Park area; this species is heading towards inevitable extinction due to human induced disturbances and development. This individual has at least two mountain bike tracks travelling directly through the plant which is causing damage and the relatively new plant pathogens *Phytophthora* and Myrtle Rust, both found in the vicinity, are considered immediate threats.

This threatened and extremely rare Eucalypt, known as Camfield's Stringybark or Heart-leaved Stringybark is only found on coastal scrub and on sandstone ridge tops within the Sydney region. The current distribution of this species is unknown and considering its unpredictably low reproductive success and anthropogenic influences such as inappropriate fire regimes and introduced pathogens it is predicted that numbers of individuals have been drastically reduced in recent years.

For example, numbers in one known population on North Head, NSW, have plummeted from 79 known specimens to a mere remaining 10 trees over the past 20 years (personal comm. Nicholas Skelton). All efforts to enhance reproductive success in vitro via artificial germination in horticulture have all remained futile. This is of high concern for the future of this species and without adequate protection of the proposed National Park area, this species is heading towards inevitable extinction due to human induced disturbances and development. (Skelton, 2013)

The Aboriginal peoples of this land have a particular connection to bandicoots, and hold ceremonies to maintain and increase the population of the two species of Bandicoot that occur on this site, the Threatened Southern Brown Bandicoot and the locally significant Long-nosed Bandicoot. The proposal contains a large patch of suitable habitat, which is sufficiently large to sustain and conserve a viable population for each of these species of bandicoot within the site.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) has been recorded most recently in 2013 and a number of times in the last 10 years from this site. The Spotted-tailed Quoll is the largest marsupial carnivore remaining on mainland Australia. This important high-order predator has suffered severe population declines due to habitat loss and deliberate persecution by urban landowners. As a result much of the remaining populations only exist in isolated habitat patches, which are too small to support a viable population. The Spotted-tailed Quoll requires large home ranges, which means in the highly fragmented, urban environment habitat remaining in Sydney it heavily, relies on wildlife corridors to connect the limited areas of remaining suitable habitat. The conservation of this large area of habitat will provide this habitat requirement, ensure its conservation into the future and also provide valuable connections to other suitable habitat necessary for population long term viability.

The impressive and ecologically important nocturnal predator, the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), are known to have raised their chicks at the Wheeler Creek valley for at least the last 10 years. The area supports about 7 – 10 % of known breeding pairs (3 maybe 4 pairs) in the Sydney Metropolitan.

The Vulnerable Black Bitterns (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*), an unusual looking estuarine bird, breeds within the part of the site along the lower reaches of Middle Creek and along Narrabeen Lagoon.

The loss and fragmentation of these types of ecological value habitat by urban development has led to many less mobile species being declared Threatened and more species are likely to become listed as Threatened as the remaining habitat of the remaining flora and fauna populations is removed, degraded and fragmented reducing their viability and resilience. Without such conservation areas that are sufficiently large, insulated from wildfire and well connected to other areas of suitable habitat there will be further local and state-wide extinctions and a permanent loss of genetic diversity for future generations.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are one of the most effective tools available for conserving biodiversity and preparing landscapes for climate change. They can help insure against climatic uncertainty through the conservation of habitat and provide pathways for species' movement and adaptation. Habitat loss and fragmentation are two main contributors to the loss of biodiversity within landscapes as the on-going sustainability of populations and ecosystems are dramatically reduced as areas become isolated.

The independent review of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* suggested that, in the light of climate change, future biodiversity management should focus on improvement of ecosystem resilience and the connectivity of fragmented ecosystems, expansion of the National Reserve System and protection of important refugia (Steffen *et al*, 2009b).

Large patches of remnant bushland, like the proposed National Park area, are rare and vitally important for all native species. This proposed National Park would help to retain and restore corridors, linking areas with areas of remnant habitat and ecological value, and allow the exchange of genetic material and population growth in a highly fragmented urban landscape. Connectivity of suitable habitat helps to minimise local extinction and inbreeding of individual populations and hence conserve species' for the future.

Many of the species in this part of Sydney including many threatened species require several patches of sufficiently large habitat that can each be burnt independently to achieve a mosaic of habitat with a variety of fire histories to survive in the long term. It is also important for these species to have linked populations in a few parks to protect against wide scale wildfires that often burn whole parks. This site will be an important part of providing these conditions to prevent the extinction of the animals and plants.

The loss and fragmentation of these types of habitat by urban development has led to many less mobile species being declared threatened and more species will also become endangered as pressure is put on the habitat of the remaining populations reducing their viability and resilience. Without such conservation areas that are sufficiently large, insulated from wildfire and well- connected there will be further local and state-wide extinctions and a loss of genetic diversity.

Endangered Ecological Communities

The proposed National Park area contains significant Endangered Ecological Communities (see Table 1).

Both sub-types of the Endangered Duffys Forest Ecological Community will be integrated into the proposed National Park; the most significant of these is the Angophora/White Mahogany Forest where only approximately 2.9ha of this vegetation type is known to exist, all of which will be integrated into the National Park. Two patches of Silvertop Ash-Brown Stringybark Forest will fall within the proposed park, a small patch next to Forestway, near Garigal East National Park, and another stand on the western side of Forestway near Linden Avenue.

The Endangered Freshwater wetlands on coastal floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner bioregions Ecological Community is also found within the proposed boundaries, as is Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest, Coastal Sandstone Heath and Coastal Swamp Forest Complex as well as EEC's Littoral Rainforest, Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on the Coastal Floodplains.

Flora and Fauna

The proposed National Park area is home to at least 163 fauna and 517 flora species that have been recorded or sighted within the park and surrounding bushland habitat. Unfortunately, there has been no comprehensive flora or fauna survey of the area to date, due to the large amount good quality

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remnant bushland habitat available and the lack of field surveys the actual numbers of flora and fauna are likely to be greater than the above estimation.

There are records of 3 species listed as Critically Endangered in NSW, 13 species listed as Endangered, 1 Endangered population, 13 species listed as Rare and at least 39 species listed as Vulnerable all found within the proposed National Park area.

State listed Threatened fauna species recorded include small mammals such as the Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*), Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus obesulus*), Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), Little – and Eastern Bent-wing Bat (*Miniopterus australis* and *Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis*), Eastern Free-tail Bat (*Mormopterus norfolkensis*), Southern Myotis (*Myotis macropus*), Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and the greater Broad-nosed Bat (*Scoteanax rueppellii*).

Threatened birds such as the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), Black Bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*), Varied Sittella (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*), Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*), the Eastern Osprey (*Pandion cristatus*) and Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), Threatened amphibians such as the Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*), the Red-crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*) and the Rosenberg's Goanna (*Varanus rosenbergi*), a Threatened reptile, are all current residents of the proposed park area.

State listed Threatened flora species include the Hairy Geebung (*Persoonia hirsute*), Camfield's Stringybark (*Eucalyptus camfieldii*) and Caley's Grevillea (*Grevillea caleyi*), which are confirmed from recent sightings within the area. Other listed Threatened species that are known to occur in the vicinity are Black-eyed Susan (*Tetratheca glandulosa*), Netted Bottle Brush (*Callistemon linearifolius*) and the Bauer's Midge Orchid (*Genoplesium baueri*).

There are also records of 25 Commonwealth listed Threatened Species, 13 migratory bird species and 14 listed Marine bird species within the vicinity. This information has been compiled from the Commonwealth, Department of Sustainability, Environment, water, population and communities' web site August 2013 from rectangular vicinity around the proposed park area.

Mammals

The long-term viability of the Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus obesulus*) in the wild is inhibited by its patchy distribution and the consequent potential for localised population extinction. There are known populations of this species within the Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks. The local extinction of the Southern Brown Bandicoot from the proposed National Park area would be tragic ecologically, resulting in both the loss of a local population of threatened species and a decrease in species richness. The conservation of the National Park will provide larger areas of habitat for the Bandicoot and ensure the survival of the species.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) has been recorded in 2013 and a few times in the last 10 years from this site. The Spotted-tailed Quoll is the largest marsupial carnivore remaining on mainland Australia. This important high-order predator has suffered severe population declines due to habitat loss and deliberate persecution by urban landowners. As a result much of the remaining populations only exist in isolated habitat patches, which are too small to support a viable population. The Spotted-tailed Quoll has large home ranges which means in the fragmented, urban environment it heavily relies on wildlife corridors to connect the limited areas of suitable habitat. The proposed National Park will provide the large habitat requirement and connection to other suitable habitat needed for population growth.

The Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*), a small and very elusive marsupial, is known from a very high number of sightings and is reported to have a healthy population in the proposed area.

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Birds

The endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) is a beautifully colourful migratory bird which breeds in Tasmania and travels to south-eastern Australia which it calls home for the winter months. This species needs urgent habitat protection as the species has a rapidly declining population and current population estimates suggest only about 1000 pairs remain in the wild.

While impressive nocturnal predators such as the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) are known to have raised their chicks at the Wheeler Creek valley for at least 10 years, other unique species have been observed at daylight. The Glossy Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*), for example, eats only Casuarina seeds that occur in patches throughout the proposal area.

The part of the proposal area along the lower reaches of Middle Creek and along Narrabeen Lagoon is the home of a pair of Vulnerable Black Bitterns (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*) and the Sooty Oyster Catcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*).

Amphibians

The Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*) is geographically confined to the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range and coastal regions from near Mt Corridugy and Kings Cross in Wollemi National Park, New South Wales, to Walhalla in the central highlands of eastern Victoria. This species has not adapted to modified and urban landscapes and therefore relies heavily on native remnant bushland for its continued survival.

The Red-crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*) relies heavily on suitable habitat and currently only occurs as localized and discrete populations generally within the Sydney Basin. Due to its habitat restrictions, even relatively small and localized disturbance may have a significant impact on local populations if disturbance occurs on favoured breeding or resting site for this species.

Reptiles

The Rosenberg's Goanna (*Varanus rosenbergi*) is of high importance and is known to occur within the proposed National Park Area.

Locally Significant Native Species

Furthermore enigmatic and well-known marsupials as the Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) and Short-beaked Echidnas (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) are residents within the proposed area. Known populations of Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) and Feather-tailed Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) – both known to be susceptible to habitat fragmentation - are breeding within the boundaries of the proposed National Park.

Locally significant bird species such as the Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*), Painted Button Quail (*Turnix varius*) and the Rock Warbler (*Origma solitaria*) are sharing the unique habitat of Red Hill with the Brush Bronze-wing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), the Bar-shouldered Dove (*Geopelia humeralis*) and the Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Glyciphila melanops*).

Fire Management

Many of the Threatened species listed above are less mobile in their habits and require several patches of sufficiently large habitat within the Sydney Sandstone ecological communities which needs to have that can each be burnt independently to achieve a mosaic of fire histories that have species in different stages of their life cycle which is required for the long-term survival of the species.

Menkhorst and Seebeck (1990) considered that the Southern Brown Bandicoot displayed a true preference for newly regenerating heathland habitat, making the species amenable to active ecological management. They suggested the use of controlled fires to produce a mosaic of areas of different ages, such that favoured seral habitat was constantly being created.

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It is also important for these types of species to have populations in a few parks to protect against wide scale wildfires that often burn whole parks. Without such conservation areas there will be local if not state extinctions and a loss of genetic distinctiveness.

Other Matters of National Environmental Significance

The area is also known to contain Matters of National Environmental Significance (EPBC Act 1999) including: 7 places on the Register of the National Estate (RNE): 4 Natural Areas (Belrose Grevillea caleyi Site, Deep and Middle Creeks Area, Mona Vale Road Bushland Corridor and Ku-ring-gai Chase NP), one Indigenous Area (Wheeler Heights Area) and 2 Historic Areas (Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, Upper Middle Harbour Area).

There is a World Heritage Property in the vicinity (Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park 1 km to the west 3km to the north) and a Commonwealth listed Threatened Ecological Community in the vicinity (Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and moist Woodland on Shale Critically Endangered ecological Community).

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Ecology and ecological communities

Wildlife Corridors will increase in importance during climate change

Large patches of remnant bushland like this one are rare in suburban Sydney and vitally important for all native species particularly when they are linked via wildlife corridors to other patches of native vegetation. These linkages will become increasingly important as the climate changes and wildlife needs to adapt or move to more suitable areas.

Wildlife Corridors allow exchange of genetic material

Wildlife corridors and areas of connected bushland help to conserve flora and fauna populations, allowing exchange of genetic material and population area growth in an otherwise highly fragmented urban landscape. Examples of less mobile species that are known to occur in the proposal area are threatened plants such as Netted Bottle Brush, Camfield's Stringybark, Bauer's Midge Orchid, Caley's Grevillea, Hairy Geebung and the Black-eyed Susan and threatened animals such as Eastern Pygmy-possum, Giant Burrowing Frog, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Red-crowned Toadlet and Rosenberg's Goanna.

These less mobile species of the Sydney Sandstone ecological communities require several patches of sufficiently large habitat that can each be burnt independently to achieve a mosaic of fire histories which contain individuals in different stages of their life cycle. It is important for these types of species to have populations in a few different parks to protect against wide scale wildfires that could burn whole parks.

Connectivity of suitable habitat is an important ecological measure for urban Flora and Fauna. Even though the more mobile species may be able to cross main roads around the park they still rely upon wildlife corridors to travel between areas of habitat.

This avoids extinction and inbreeding in local populations of Fauna and Flora.

Value of Wildlife Corridor increases with pressure from urban development

The loss and fragmentation of this type of sandstone habitat by urban development has led to many species being declared threatened and more will follow as pressure is put on the remaining populations reducing their viability. Without protected conservation areas with protected wildlife corridors there will be local if not state extinctions and a loss of genetic distinctiveness.

As the population of Sydney grows, there is increasing pressure to replace bushland with urban development. Retention and enhancement of wildlife corridors connects local populations of flora and fauna, allowing exchange of genetic material and viability of wildlife in otherwise highly fragmented urban landscapes. Over time, the value of having the areas offered under this Gai-mariagal NP proposal protected will increase exponentially.

Failure to protect this large, intact area of remnant bushland habitat would result in a significant loss of important habitat and loss of wildlife corridor values which is likely to result in local extinctions of threatened and locally significant species under our watch.

Importance of threatened fauna

Mammals

The resident population of **Southern Brown Bandicoots** is of both high conservation and cultural values. This now threatened species is of central importance for the local Aboriginal tribe as a once abundant food resource of the Indigenous people. The local Gai-mariagal tribe have a number of important ceremonial sites marked by a distinct V-shaped rock carving which symbolise the head of this marsupial are scattered over the entire proposed National Park area.

These ceremonies were believed to increase the abundance of local Bandicoot population and were performed in combination with ritualized burning of small patches of Bushland – creating a uniquely diverse habitat for this species.

This fire regime is similar to modern techniques, which has been scientifically proven to increase local biodiversity, which benefits not only the Southern Brown Bandicoot but also the entire bushland ecosystem. The local extinction of the Southern Brown Bandicoot from the proposed National Park area would be tragic both ecologically, as a loss of a local population of threatened species and a decrease in species richness and culturally, as part of the identity and tradition of the Gai-mariagal tribe.

The **Spotted-tailed Quoll** is the largest marsupial carnivore remaining on mainland Australia. This important high-order predator has suffered severe population declines due to habitat loss and deliberate persecution by urban landowners. As a result the remaining populations only exist in isolated habitat patches, which are too small to support a viable population. The Spotted-tailed Quoll has large home ranges which means in the fragmented, urban environment it heavily relies on wildlife corridors to connect the limited areas of suitable habitat. The proposed National Park will provide the large habitat requirement and connection to other suitable habitat needed for population growth.

Eastern Pygmy Possums, a very small and elusive marsupial is known from a very high number of sightings and is supposed to have a healthy population in the proposed area.

Birds

The endangered **Swift Parrot** is a beautifully colourful migratory bird which breeds in Tasmania and travels to south-eastern Australia which it calls home for the winter months. This species needs urgent habitat protection as the species has a rapidly declining population and current population estimates suggest only about 1000 pairs remain in the wild.

While impressive nocturnal predators as the **Powerful Owl** are known to have raised their chicks at the Wheeler Creek valley for at least 10 years, other unique species have been observed at daylight. The **Glossy Black Cockatoo** for example eats only Casuarina seeds which occur in patches throughout the proposal area.

The part of the proposal area along the lower reaches of Middle Creek and along Narrabeen Lagoon is the home of a pair of Vulnerable **Black Bittern** and the **Sooty Oyster Catcher**.

There are at least 89 bird species that can be seen in the area. Superficially the proposed park looks like any of the other heath and woodland covered part of Sydney's Northern Beaches, yet it attracts several unusual bird species, either rare or not seen at all in nearby similar environments.

Birds such as Pheasant Coucal, Painted Button-quail, Rock Warbler, Brush Bronzewing, Bar-shouldered Dove and Tawny-crowned Honeyeater can all be seen at Red Hill. No other area on the Northern Beaches are known to support all of these species.

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Amphibians

The **Giant Burrowing Frog**, is geographically confined to the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range and coastal regions from near Mt Coridudgy and Kings Cross in Wollemi National Park, New South Wales, to Walhalla in the central highlands of eastern Victoria. This species has not adapted to modified and urban landscapes and therefore relies heavily on native remnant bushland for its continued survival.

The **Red-crowned Toadlet**, heavily relies on suitable habitat and currently only occurs as localized and discrete populations generally within the Sydney Basin. Due to its habitat restrictions even relatively small and localized disturbance may have a significant impact on local populations if disturbance occurs on favoured breeding or resting site for this species.

Reptiles

The Rosenberg's Goanna is of high importance and is known to occur within the proposed National Park Area. Thirteen snakes, skinks and lizards were recorded. The endangered Heath Monitor was captured and released near its burrow on the ridgeline and seen in two locations in the valley

Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment – Past, Present and Future

Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment – Past, Present and Future

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to describe the changing profile of fauna and flora in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, an area of bush and suburban land on the northern beaches of Sydney. The paper documents the large range of species and plant communities presently existing in the catchment, frequently outside the existing National Park system, and highlights the high conservation value of the remaining bush in the area. The paper is limited by the paucity of documentation regarding the local environment. Future threats to the area and responses to these threats are briefly discussed.

Key words: Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, survey, peri-urban bushland, biodiversity

Introduction

Narrabeen lagoon is one of over one hundred intermittent closed and open lagoons (ICOL) scattered along the coast of New South Wales (see figure 1). It is situated about 18 km north of central Sydney (33° 43' S, 151° 17' E) and is fed by Deep Creek, Middle Ck, South Ck, Mullet Ck, Narrabeen

Ck and Nareen Ck (listed according to decreasing size). The catchment of the lagoon covers about 55 square kilometers, excluding the lagoon itself, which occupies approximately 2.2 square km. The catchment falls within two local government areas - Warringah and Pittwater - and about one sixth within Garigal National Park.



Figure 1. Map of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment showing boundaries and landuse

Pp248 - 262 in The Natural History of Sydney, edited by Daniel Lunney, Pat Hutchings and Dieter Hochuli, Royal Zoological Society of NSW, Mosman, NSW, Australia, 2010

Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment (NLC) has until recently remained reasonably intact, given its position within the northern suburbs of Sydney, but it now finds itself under considerable pressure from encroaching development. This article originated from the work of two of the authors (LH and JM) with local school children (see figure 2) who wished to record their favourite animals and challenge the adult world as to how the environment of the catchment would be bequeathed to them. The aim of this paper is to briefly describe the history of the area and to document the diversity of fauna and flora, much of which lies outside any form of protection, so as to form a baseline for community action.

History

Human impact from Aboriginal settlement of the catchment goes back at least 6,000 years and on some estimates as far as 20,000 years (Jacobs 2004). Dennis Foley, a descendant of the Gai-mariagal, the indigenous people of the catchment, mentions many fauna species as sources of food. Due to their customs, some species were only consumed at certain times of the year. Taboo were animals sharing the "skin colour" people were given, which included for the Gai-mariagal "the red-necked wallaby, the taven, the gecko and the sulphur-crested cockatoo" (Foley 2001). Carvings in the Catchment often depict hunting and fishing. Another main evidence record regarding the local fauna was established by examining middens. Within the catchment, no well preserved midden has been found, but excavations at a midden about 8 km to the north (Arnhemrow 1892) indicate that about 2000 years ago a

much larger variety of species within the macropodidae were present than today. Some examples are the Black-striped Wallaby (*Macropus dorsalis*), the Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), the Wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*) and the Red-necked Pademelon (*Thylogale thomasi*).

Aboriginal influence on the ecology of the area rapidly declined with the arrival of Europeans in 1788. Due to the spread of smallpox and possibly other diseases, Aboriginals nearly ceased to exist. On 6th of June, 1789 Governor Phillip travelled inland from Sydney to Broken Bay and the devastating effects of smallpox were seen by the skeletons which covered their path in many places (Jacobs 2004). The last large gathering was observed in 1790 when over 200 Aboriginals came together for a feast at Maily Cove prompted by a stranded whale (Jacobs 2004). By 1853, the annihilation of the Aboriginal population was obvious from the blanket distribution to the tribe between Manly and Palm Beach amounting to only six blankets (Jacobs 2004).

The introduction of the fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), domestic cat (*Felis catus*), black cat (*Prionus catus*) and rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) no doubt had a similar significant impact upon native fauna and inevitably in turn the vegetation of the area. When considering damage to the land it is important to note that as well as indirect effects as the introduction of exotic species had and would continue to have an increasing effect upon the local ecology (Low 1999).

Early records of fauna and flora within the catchment by Europeans are minimal. From Governor Phillip's excursion to Narrabeen Lagoon in August 1788 we know



Figure 2. Kirra School poster

their menu for dinner (Champion and Champion 1997). They shot and ate a fine duck together with the succulent leaves from the local cabbage tree palms (*Livistona australis*). Another early record exists from February 1805 when George Caley traveled from Pennant Hills to the coast. He followed the upper ridges in the north of the catchment, collected a *Grevillea* species, and then descended and walked along a lagoon which he named "cabbage tree lagoon" (Lawrence 2006).

The first land grants in the catchment were on the northern side of the lagoon in January 1816 (Champion and Champion 1997). "By the 1840's farmland and public and private roads effectively blocked access to traditional Kuringgai (sic) campsites and fishing grounds on the Northern Beaches." (Jacobs 2004). Often only a portion of the land was cleared and fenced. Soils were mostly very low in nutrients and the terrain too steep and rocky for agricultural use. Charles de Bore, in his description of his holiday in the area in 1861, described passing abandoned farms and the poverty of the small holdings (Jennings 1991). Settlement of the Catchment proceeded slowly. By 1867 less than 10% was occupied (Archives Authority of NSW Map Number 2392). The swampy ground in the Warriewood Valley proved to be very good for vegetable growing and, with bushcraze Narrabeen, it was, in 1906, the first area to be subdivided (Lawrence 2006).

Timber was exploited along the ridges bordering the catchment by the French and the Terrey families, both of whom have left their names on present day suburbs. The streams into Narrabeen Lagoon and the lagoon itself were not used for the transport of the logs (Boyce 2006). Exploration for coal, gas and oil was conducted within the Deep Creek area in the 1880's (Sheringham and Sanders 1993). Mining leases for shale, sandstone and kaolin were also granted.

Overall settlement within the catchment was sparse until the 1970s. Warringah Shire Council was formed in 1906 and the census held in 1911 counted 2823 people living within 700 households. The population approximately doubled every decade until the rate of population growth slowed in the late 1960s. The most recent data (ABS 2004) from Warringah and Pittwater suggest a population of over 195,000. Of that 19,500 households are within the catchment (Pittwater and Warringah Councils 2008).

The north west of the catchment is mainly comprised of a section of Garigal National Park and "Kimberli", a large regional recycling and waste disposal center. Garigal National Park (NP) was originally proposed in 1949 by several nature conservation societies, however the land was only gazetted on 29th April 1991. The park was proposed in three sections (Sheringham and Sanders 1993). The first was derived from a land swap from a developer along Murrumbidgee Road. The second extended the park down to Middle Harbour, outside the Catchment, and including the Davidson State Recreation Area. The third area would have extended the National Park down to the Wakehurst Parkway and south as far as Oxford Falls. Unfortunately this last section was never approved. Much of the land was granted to the Metropolitan Local

Aboriginal Lands Council in 1993. The addition of two parcels of land, 130 ha in the north east and 32 ha on the southern boundary, enlarged Garigal NP from 819 ha to nearly 1000 ha in 1994 (National Parks Association 1995).

Garbage disposal was a continuing problem for local government, solved locally by the dumping of waste into swamps or wetlands. A total of four wetland tips (St Matthew's Farm, Bouldash Reserve, Jackson Reserve, North Narrabeen Reserve), were situated in the catchment (Curby and Macleod 2003). The 275 acre (1111ha) "Kimberli" landfill site was opened in 1974 but only licensed in 1977, and brought an end to the use of wetlands as sites for garbage disposal. The landfill site was soon met with opposition, and the Narrabeen Lagoon Regional Park Association called for its closure as further destruction to bushland was feared. However, this non-potestible landfill site continues its operation to this day and services municipalities from across northern Sydney. Garigal NP acts as a buffer to the landfill site and Narrabeen lagoon; however runoff and leachate from Kimberli did contaminate Deep Creek, the main waterway within the National Park (Curby and Macleod 2003).

Vegetation of the Catchment

At present, the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon can be roughly divided into just under half being bushland, one quarter being parks, sports fields and rural lands and the remaining quarter being for residential and industrial use. Garigal NP makes up just over one third of the bushland. The remaining two thirds of bushland are held by the Crown or are in private ownership. Twenty six indigenous vegetation communities are to be found in the catchment (see table 1) and eight of these vegetation communities are not found in either Garigal or the neighbouring Kuringgai Chase NP. Eleven of these 26 vegetation communities are listed as threatened within NSW. One community, the Hamlet-leaved Stringybark Mallee (National Parks Association 2002), is threatened in Australia and another, the Yellow-Tip Ash Mallee, is rare in Australia (Smith and Smith 2005a). A count of plant species for the catchment has not been done, however the flora of Warringah's Local Government area, outside of National Parks, has been surveyed and 914 species were recorded by Smith and Smith (2005a). Significant species, such as *Grevillea caleyi* and *Lesathaea glandulosa*, are found in the catchment. A small terrestrial orchid, *Amphicribus proboscis*, classified as rare in Australia, was added to Warringah's list in 2003 following its discovery within Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment by the author GH.

The forests on the top of the ridge are accompanied by unusual understorey vegetation characterised by high biodiversity with an abundance of plants from the Proteaceae family. The soil on these ridge top locations shows a different composition to surrounding Hawkesbury sandstone. It contains ironstones "laterite soil" (Benson and Howell 1990) which fosters a particular type of vegetation. French, Terrey and Dully logged these tal-

Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Table 1. Indigenous vegetation communities found in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment (adapted from Smith and Smith 2005a)

Native Vegetation Community in Catchment	Presence in NP	Status
Coachwood Rainforest	+	
Silver-top Ash – Brown Stringybark Forest (DFEC)	+	T NSW
Blackbutt – Turpentine Forest (DFEC)	minimal	T NSW
Angophora – White Mahogany Forest (DFEC)	0	T NSW
Bangalay Slopes Forest	+	
Spinyfex Grassland	0	
Peppermint-Angophora Forest	+	
Bloodwood – Scribbly Gum Woodland	+	
Narrow – leaved Scribbly Gum Woodland	+	
Angophora Woodland	+	
Coastal Wattle Heath	0	
Narrabeen Escarpment Scrub	0	
Sandstone Heath	+	
Yellow-top Ash Mallee	+	Rare A
Heart-leaved Stringybark Mallee	+	T A
Sandstone Swamp	+	
Coastal Freshwater Lagoon	0	T NSW
Swamp Mahogany Forest	0	T NSW
Bangalay Alluvial Forest	+	T NSW
Palm Woodland	0	T NSW
Water Fern Swamp	+	T NSW
Estuarine Reedland	Minimal	T NSW
Saltmarsh	+	T NSW
Seagrass Meadow	+	
Tall Open Forest/ Closed Forest	+	
Paperbark Swamp	+	T NSW
Artificial Wetland	0	

Legend: NP – Garigal or Kuringai National Park, + – present, 0 – absent, T – threatened, A – Australia, NSW – New South Wales
DFEC – Duffy's Forest Ecological Community

trees (*Eucalyptus viminalis*, *Eucalyptus capitatus*, *Eucalyptus phillipsii* and *Syncarpia glomulifera*) and Caley had collected an unusual grevillia species (*Grevillia caleyi*) (Lawrence 2006). The construction of major roads and adjacent houses along the ridgelines impacted severely on this vegetation community, which is now listed as an endangered ecological community (Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995) – "Duffy's Forest Ecological Community".

Between bushland and urban areas or roads, weed infestation is nearly always encountered. These weed infested fringe areas are often utilised as habitat or as sources of food. Foxes and birds enjoy berries. Little birds and native solitary bees are often attracted to *Lantana* (*Lantana camara*). Swamp wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) are often encountered in the disturbed vegetation and rabbits in the woody shelter adjacent to grassed sports fields.

Fauna of the Catchment

Provision of 26 indigenous vegetation communities plus several artificially created landscapes enables a large variety of fauna to occupy the catchment. In addition

to the endemic fauna, many migratory species use the habitat provided. A comprehensive fauna survey for the catchment has never been done. However, we have compiled a list of vertebrate species, with the exclusion of fish, observed in the NLC since 1990 based upon the fauna survey conducted by Smith and Smith (2005c) for Warringah Council of its local government area (see table 2). To be included in the NLC list of species, species needed to have been observed in one of a number of environmental surveys of sections of the NLC conducted after 1990 or as part of a biodiversity survey (Bastum 2005; Cox 2008; ICF and Australian Museum 1994; National Parks Association, 2002; Smith and Smith 1998a and b; 2000, 2003; 2005c; 2008; Taronga Zoo Fauna Survey Team 1992; Tinson 1996). In addition, two databases were accessed – the Department of Conservation and Climate Change Atlas of NSW Wildlife database and the Australian Museum specimen records (see Australian Museum Sydney Mammals Database 2009; Boles 2008; Sadleir 2008). Finally, in a limited number of cases, the existence of a species was confirmed from sightings

Table 2. List of all vertebrate species other than fish observed in the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment since 1990

S = Status: Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999: V = vulnerable; E = endangered; M = migratory; New South Wales Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995: e = endangered; v = vulnerable; B = biogeographically significant; Garigal NP: y = species found in Garigal National Park according to Smith & Smith, 2003c

Class Amphibia		Frogs	Status	Garigal NP
Family	Myobatrachidae			
Adelotus	brevis	Tuiked Frog		
Cinia	signifera	Common Eastern Froglet		y
Halioporus	australicus	Giant Burrowing Frog	Vm	y
Limnodynastes	dumerili	Eastern Baro Frog		
Limnodynastes	peroni	Striped Marsh Frog		y
Limnodynastes	taamanienae	Spotted Marsh Frog		
Pseudophryne	australis	Red-crowned Toadlet	y	y
Uperoleia	fusca	Dusky Toadlet		
Uperoleia	laevigata	Smooth Toadlet		
Family	Hylidae			
Litoria	caerulea	Green Tree Frog		
Litoria	filica	Dwarf Tree Frog		
Litoria	freycineti	Wallum Rocket Frog		
Litoria	heroni	Peron's tree Frog		
Litoria	phylochroa	Green Stream Frog		y
Litoria	tyleri	Tyler's Tree Frog		
Litoria	verreauxi	Whistling Tree Frog		
Class	Reptalia	Reptiles		
Family	Chelidae			
Chelonia	longicollis	Snake-necked Turtle		
Family	Geckonidae			
Diplodactylus	vittatus	Eastern Stone Gecko		y
Oedura	isodon	Leicester's Velvet Gecko		y
Phyllurus	pictus	Broad-tailed Gecko		y
Underwoodsauros	ma	Thick-tailed Gecko		y
Family	Pygopodidae			
Lialis	curtisi	Burton's Snake-lizard		
Pygopus	lepidopodus	Common Scaly-foot		y
Family	Agamidae			
Physignathus	lesueurii	Eastern Water Dragon		y
Family	Varanidae			
Varanus	roosembergi	Heath Monitor	v	y
Varanus	varus	Lane Monitor		y
Family	Scincidae			
Bassano	platyrus	Red-throated Skink		y
Cryptoblepharus	virgatus	Wall Lizard		
Ctenotus	taeniolatus	Copper-tailed Skink		y
Egernia	cunninghami	Cunningham's Skink		y
Egernia	whiti	White's Skink		y
Eulamprus	quoyi	Eastern Water Skink		y
Lampropholis	obsoleta	Garden Sun-skink		y
Lampropholis	gichenoti	Grass Sun-skink		y
Scolophorus	equalis	Three-toed Skink		y
Soprososaurus	mustelinus	Weasel Skink		y
Tiliqua	scutellata	Eastern Blue-tongue		y
Family	Typhlopidae			
Ramphophis	regiosens	Blackish Blind Snake		y

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Family	Boidae		
<i>Morelia</i>	<i>spilota</i>	Diamond Python	Y
Family	Colubridae		
<i>Bogert</i>	<i>irregularis</i>	Brown Tree Snake	Y
<i>Dendrolaphis</i>	<i>punctulata</i>	Green Tree-snake	Y
Family	Elapidae		
<i>Acontophis</i>	<i>antarticus</i>	Common Death Adder	Y
<i>Cocophis</i>	<i>scoumuloaus</i>	Golden-crowned Snake	Y
<i>Demonia</i>	<i>psammophis</i>	Yellow-faced Whipsnake	Y
<i>Hemiaspis</i>	<i>signata</i>	Marsh Snake	Y
<i>Notechis</i>	<i>scutatus</i>	Tiger Snake	Y
<i>Pseudochis</i>	<i>perpallidus</i>	Red-bellied Black Snake	Y
<i>Pseudonaja</i>	<i>textilis</i>	Eastern Brown Snake	Y
<i>Rhinoplocephalus</i>	<i>regius</i>	Eastern Small-eyed Snake	Y
<i>Hemicoelia</i>	<i>ornulata</i>	Bandy-bandy	Y
Class	Aves	Birds	
Family	Megapodidae		
<i>Alcedo</i>	<i>ithomi</i>	Australian Brush Turkey	Y
Family	Phasianidae		
<i>Columba</i>	<i>peccator</i>	Stubble Quail	
<i>Columba</i>	<i>palumbus</i>	Brown Quail	Y
<i>Anas</i>	<i>platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	
<i>Anas</i>	<i>superfasciata</i>	Pacific Black Duck	Y
<i>Chenonetta</i>	<i>jacksoni</i>	Australian Wood Duck	
<i>Cygnus</i>	<i>corax</i>	Black Swan	
<i>Puffinus</i>	<i>pacificus</i>	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	M
Family	Anhinga		
<i>Anhinga</i>	<i>melanogaster</i>	Darter	
Family	Phalacrocoracidae		
<i>Phalacrocorax</i>	<i>corax</i>	Great Cormorant	Y
<i>Phalacrocorax</i>	<i>melanoleucus</i>	Little Pied Cormorant	Y
<i>Phalacrocorax</i>	<i>sulcirostris</i>	Little Black Cormorant	Y
<i>Phalacrocorax</i>	<i>ururus</i>	Red Cormorant	Y
Family	Pelecanidae		
<i>Pelecanus</i>	<i>conspicillatus</i>	Australian Pelican	
Family	Fregatidae		
<i>Fregata</i>	<i>aquila</i>	Lesser Frigatebird	M
Family	Ardeidae		
<i>Ardea</i>	<i>alba</i>	Great Egret	M
<i>Ardea</i>	<i>cinerea</i>	Cattle Egret	M
<i>Ardea</i>	<i>pacifica</i>	White-necked Heron	
<i>Botaurus</i>	<i>noronhai</i>	Australian Bittern	V
<i>Butorides</i>	<i>striatus</i>	Striped Heron	Y
<i>Egretta</i>	<i>garzetta</i>	Little Egret	Y
<i>Egretta</i>	<i>novae-hollandiae</i>	White-faced Heron	Y
<i>Ixobrychus</i>	<i>exilis</i>	Black Bittern	V
<i>Nycticorax</i>	<i>alexandrinus</i>	Narrabeen Night Heron	Y
Family	Threskiornithidae		
<i>Pelecanus</i>	<i>regia</i>	Royal Spoonbill	
<i>Threskiornis</i>	<i>aethiops</i>	Sacred Ibis	
<i>Threskiornis</i>	<i>melanocephalus</i>	Australian White Ibis	Y
<i>Threskiornis</i>	<i>spinicollis</i>	Straw-necked Ibis	Y
Family	Accipitridae		
<i>Accipiter</i>	<i>collaris</i>	Collared Sparrowhawk	Y

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Accipiter	fasciatus	Brown Goshawk		y
Accipiter	novaezelandiae	Grey Goshawk		y
Aquila	audax	Wedge-tailed Eagle		
Aviceda	subornata	Pacific Baza		y
Circus	approximans	Swamp Harrier		
Eurypyga	oxylans	Black-shouldered Kite		
Haliaeetus	leucogaster	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	M	y
Haliastur	sphenurus	Whistling Kite		
Lophochelidon	rupestris	Square-tailed Kite		
Milvus	migrans	Black Kite		
Pandion	haliaetus	Osprey	Mw	
Family	Falconidae			
Falco	bengali	Brown Falcon		y
Falco	carolinensis	Nankeen Kestrel		y
Falco	longipennis	Australian Hobby		
Falco	pergrinus	Peregrine Falcon		y
Family	Rallidae			
Rallus	opus	Eurasian Coot		
Gallinula	tenebrosa	Dusky Moorhen		y
Gallinula	philippensis	Buff-banded Rail		
Porphyrio	porphyrio	Purple Swamphen		y
Porzana	pusilla	Baird's Crake		
Porzana	tabuensis	Spotless Crake		
Rallus	pectoralis	Lewin's Rail		
Family	Turnidae			
Turnix	torquatus	Painted Button-Quail		y
Family	Scolopacidae			
Colinus	acuminatus	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	M	
Phalaropus	pugnax	Ruff	M	
Troglodytes	nebulosus	Common Greenshank		
Family	Recurvirostridae			
Recurvirostra	novaezelandiae	Red-necked Avocet		
Family	Charadriidae			
Vanellus	melanocephalus	Masked Lapwing		y
Family	Laridae			
Larus	novaezelandiae	Silver Gull		y
Sterna	bergii	Crested Tern		
Family	Columbidae			
Columba	leucorhoa	White-headed Pigeon		y
Geopelia	humeralis	Bar-shouldered Dove		
Geopelia	striata	Peaceful Dove		y
Lopholaimus	antonyus	Topknot Pigeon		y
Macropygia	ambiguus	Brown Cuckoo-Dove		
Ocyrops	lophotes	Crested Pigeon		
Phaps	chalcopseus	Common Bronzewing		
Family	Cacatuidae			
Cacatua	galactura	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo		y
Cacatua	roseicapilla	Galah		y
Cacatua	sanguinea	Little Corella		
Cacatua	temminckii	Long-billed Corella		
Calyptorhynchus	funereus	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo		y
Calyptorhynchus	lathami	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	v	y
Family	Pittaciidae			
Alisterus	scapularis	Australian King Parrot		y

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Glossopitta	canonina	Musk Lorikeet		y
Glossopitta	pusilla	Little Lorikeet		y
Lathamus	discolor	Swift Parrot	Eu	y
Platycercus	alpinus	Chimney Redstart		y
Platycercus	eximius	Eastern Redstart		y
Trichoglossus	chlorolepidotus	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet		y
Trichoglossus	haemorrhoidalis	Rainbow Lorikeet		y
Family	Cuculidae			
Coccyzus	flabellifrons	Fan-tailed Cuckoo		y
Chrysocolaptes	basalis	Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo		
Chrysocolaptes	lucius	Shining Bronze-cuckoo		y
ssp.	lucius	W		
Cuculus	saturnus	Oriental Cuckoo	M	
Eudynamis	scolopacea	Common Koel		y
Scythrops	novaezelandiae	Channel-billed Cuckoo		
Family	Centropodidae			
Centropus	phasianus	Pheasant Coucal		y
Family	Strigidae			
Ninox	conversus	Barking Owl		
Ninox	novaezelandiae	Southern Boobook		y
Ninox	strepera	Powerful Owl	V	y
Family	Podargidae			
Podargus	striatus	Tawny Frogmouth		y
Family	Caprimulgidae			
Eurostocheilus	mystecius	White-throated Nightjar		
Family	Agrochelidae			
Agrochelidae	ornatus	Australian Owlet-nightjar		y
Family	Apodidae			
Apus	pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift		
Hirundo	caudatus	White-throated Needletail	M	y
Family	Alcedinidae			
Alcedo	azura	Azure Kingfisher		y
Family	Halcyonidae			
Dacelo	novaezelandiae	Laughing Kookaburra		y
Todiramphus	maclayi	Forest Kingfisher		
Todiramphus	sonatus	Sacred Kingfisher		y
Family	Coraciidae			
Eurystomus	orientalis	Dollarbird		y
Family	Pittidae			
Pitta	versicolor	Noisy Pitta		
Family	Merulidae			
Merula	novaezelandiae	Superb Lyrebird		y
Family	Climacteridae			
Climacteris	pyramus	Brown Treecreeper		
Climacteris	leucophaea	White-throated Treecreeper		y
Family	Maluridae			
Malurus	cyaneus	Superb Fairy-wren		y
Malurus	lamberti	Variegated Fairy-wren		y
Family	Pardalotidae			
Acanthiza	chrysorrhoa	Yellow-rumped Thornbill		
Acanthiza	lineata	Striated Thornbill		y
Acanthiza	novaezelandiae	Yellow Thornbill		
Acanthiza	pusilla	Brown Thornbill		y
Acanthiza	reguloides	Buff-rumped Thornbill		

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<i>Gerygone</i>	<i>molle</i>	Brown Gerygone	
<i>Gerygone</i>	<i>olivacea</i>	White-throated Gerygone	
<i>Hylacola</i>	<i>pyrrhopylus</i>	Chestnut-rumped Heathwren	y
<i>Origma</i>	<i>solitaria</i>	Rockwren	y
<i>Pardalotus</i>	<i>punctatus</i>	Spotted Pardalote	y
<i>Pardalotus</i>	<i>striatus</i>	Striated Pardalote	
<i>Seneciois</i>	<i>frontalis</i>	White-browed Scrubwren	y
<i>Seneciois</i>	<i>magnirostris</i>	Large-billed Scrubwren	
<i>Smicromis</i>	<i>brevirostris</i>	Weebill	
Family Meliphagidae			
<i>Acanthorhynchus</i>	<i>tenuirostris</i>	Eastern Spinebill	y
<i>Anthochaera</i>	<i>coronulata</i>	Red Wattlebird	y
<i>Anthochaera</i>	<i>chrysoptera</i>	Little Wattlebird	y
<i>Lichenostomus</i>	<i>chrysops</i>	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	y
<i>Lichenostomus</i>	<i>fuscus</i>	Fuscous Honeyeater	y
<i>Lichenostomus</i>	<i>leucotis</i>	White-eared Honeyeater	y
<i>Manorina</i>	<i>melanocephala</i>	Noddy Miner	y
<i>Meliphaga</i>	<i>lewinii</i>	Lewin's Honeyeater	y
<i>Meliphreptus</i>	<i>brevirostris</i>	Brown-headed Honeyeater	y
<i>Meliphreptus</i>	<i>gilberti</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater	
<i>Meliphreptus</i>	<i>lunatus</i>	White-naped Honeyeater	y
<i>Myzomela</i>	<i>sanguinolenta</i>	Scarlet Honeyeater	
<i>Philemon</i>	<i>ditropidus</i>	Little Friarbird	
<i>Philemon</i>	<i>corniculatus</i>	Noisy Friarbird	y
<i>Phylidonyris</i>	<i>melanops</i>	Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	
<i>Phylidonyris</i>	<i>nigra</i>	White-cheeked Honeyeater	y
<i>Phylidonyris</i>	<i>novae-hollandiae</i>	New Holland Honeyeater	y
<i>Xanthomyza</i>	<i>phryga</i>	Regent Honeyeater	E.S.M. y
Family Petroicidae			
<i>Eopsaltria</i>	<i>australis</i>	Eastern Yellow Robin	y
<i>Micropod</i>	<i>fasonensis / leucophrys</i>	Jacky Winter	y
<i>Petroica</i>	<i>mulicolor</i>	Scarlet Robin	
<i>Petroica</i>	<i>rosea</i>	Rose Robin	y
Family Cinclosomatidae			
<i>Cinclosoma</i>	<i>punctatum</i>	Spotted Quail-thrush	
<i>Orthonyx</i>	<i>temminckii</i>	Logrunner	
<i>Pagiphaea</i>	<i>olivacea</i>	Eastern Whiptail	y
Family Neosittidae			
<i>Daphoenosticta</i>	<i>chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sitella	
Family Pachycephalidae			
<i>Callipepla</i>	<i>harmonic</i>	Grey Shrike Thrush	y
<i>Falcunculus</i>	<i>frontatus</i>	Crested Shrike-thrush	
<i>Pachycephala</i>	<i>olivacea</i>	Olive Whistler	
<i>Pachycephala</i>	<i>pectus</i>	Golden Whistler	y
<i>Pachycephala</i>	<i>rufiventris</i>	Rufous Whistler	
Family Dicaeidae			
<i>Dicaeum</i>	<i>bractatus</i>	Spangled Drongo	y
<i>Gallinula</i>	<i>cyaneoleuca</i>	Maggie-lark	
<i>Monarcha</i>	<i>melanops</i>	Black-faced Monarch	M y
<i>Myiagra</i>	<i>impudens</i>	Restless Flycatcher	
<i>Myiagra</i>	<i>subaculea</i>	Leaden Flycatcher	y
<i>Rhipidura</i>	<i>fuliginosa</i>	Grey Fantail	y
<i>Rhipidura</i>	<i>leucophrys</i>	White Wagtail	y
<i>Rhipidura</i>	<i>ruficeps</i>	Rufous Fantail	H y

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Family	Campephagidae		
<i>Campico</i>	<i>novaezelandiae</i>	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	y
<i>Cerodno</i>	<i>tenuspsis</i>	Cuckoo-bird	y
<i>Lolige</i>	<i>incolor</i>	White-winged Triller	
Family	Oriolidae		
<i>Oriolus</i>	<i>spilargus</i>	Olive-backed Oriole	y
<i>Spinecotheres</i>	<i>indis</i>	Flybird	
Family	Artamidae		
<i>Artamus</i>	<i>cygnopterus</i>	Dusky Woodswallow	y
<i>Cracticus</i>	<i>nigrigularis</i>	Pied Butcherbird	
<i>Cracticus</i>	<i>torquatus</i>	Grey Butcherbird	y
<i>Gymnorhina</i>	<i>tibicen</i>	Australian Magpie	y
<i>Streptopelia</i>	<i>graculina</i>	Pied Currawong	y
Family	Corvidae		
<i>Corvus</i>	<i>coronoides</i>	Australian Raven	y
Family	Ptilonorhynchidae		
<i>Ptilonorhynchus</i>	<i>violaceus</i>	Satin Bowerbird	
Family	Motacillidae		
<i>Anthus</i>	<i>novaezelandiae</i>	Richard's Pipit	
Family	Passeridae		
<i>Neochmia</i>	<i>temporalis</i>	Red-browed Finch	y
<i>Troglodytes</i>	<i>bichenovii</i>	Double-banded Finch	
Family	Dicaeidae		
<i>Dicaeum</i>	<i>hindinoceum</i>	Mistletoebird	y
Family	Hirundinidae		
<i>Hirundo</i>	<i>arid</i>	Fairy Martin	y
<i>Hirundo</i>	<i>neoxena</i>	Welcome Swallow	y
Family	Sylviidae		
<i>Cisticola</i>	<i>exilis</i>	Golden-headed Cisticola	
<i>Megalurys</i>	<i>gramineus</i>	Little Grassbird	
<i>Megalurys</i>	<i>immanis</i>	Tawny Grassbird	
Family	Zosteropidae		
<i>Zosterops</i>	<i>lateralis</i>	Silvereye	y
<i>zsp</i>	<i>flavilaps</i>	yb	
<i>zsp</i>	<i>lateralis</i>	w	
Class	Mammalia	Mammals	
Family	Tachyglossidae		
<i>Tachyglossus</i>	<i>aculeatus</i>	Short-beaked Echidna	y
Family	Dasyuridae		
<i>Antechinus</i>	<i>stuarti</i>	Brown Antechinus	y
<i>Antechinus</i>	<i>swainsoni</i>	Dusky Antechinus	y
<i>Dasyurus</i>	<i>maculatus</i>	Spot-tailed Quoll	E.v
Family	Peramelidae		
<i>Isodon</i>	<i>obesus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot	E.v y
<i>Peromyscus</i>	<i>nasuta</i>	Long-nosed Bandicoot	y

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Family	Phascogasteridae			
Phascogaster	cinereus	Koola	v	y
Family	Phalangeridae			
Trichosurus	vulpecula	Common Brush-tail Possum		y
Family	Burramysidae			
Cercartetus	ninus	Eastern Pygmy Possum	v	y
Family	Petauridae			
Petaurus	breviceps	Sugar Glider		x
Family	Pseudocheiridae			
Pseudocheirus	peregrinus	Common Ringtail		y
Family	Macropodidae			
Macropus	gambus	Eastern Grey Kangaroo		
Wallabia	blackii	Black Wallaby		y
Family	Pteropodidae			
Pteropus	pauiculus	Grey-headed Flying Fox	v	y
Family	Rhinolophidae			
Rhinolophus	megaphyllus	Eastern Horseshoe Bat		
Family	Molossidae			
Mormopterus	australis	Little Bentwing Bat		
Mormopterus	nanjokensis	East-coast Freetail Bat	v	
Mormopterus	sp.	(undescribed)		
Todonomys	australis	White-striped Freetail Bat		
Family	Vespertilionidae			
Chalinobius	gouldi	Gould's Wattle Bat		
Chalinobius	nanus	Chocolate Wattle Bat		
Mimopterus	schreibersi	Common Bent-wing Bat	x	
Scoteanax	nigripes	Greater Broadhosed Bat	x	
Vespertilio	darlingtoni	Large Forest Bat		
Vespertilio	ulturnus	Little Forest Bat		y
Family	Muridae			
Hydromys	chrysogaster	Water Rat		y
Rattus	fuscipes	Bush Rat		y
Rattus	luteolus	Swamp Rat		y

published in the local press (Anonymous 2000; Lake 1993), ornithological society newsletters (Cox 2008) or by the authors. This was confined to easily identified species eg the report of a koola (*Phascogaster cinereus*) killed on a road in the catchment (Anonymous 2000). By this process, a total of 272 species have been observed within the catchment since 1990.

Several difficulties were encountered in the compilation of this list of species that suggests that it, if anything, underestimates the diversity of wildlife in the region. Firstly, several reports known to the authors were not sighted because they were commercial reports and were not released to the authors. Secondly, the surveys completed are limited in time and may easily have missed migratory species whose residence in the catchment is relatively brief. Thirdly, the impact of urbanisation and land management practices, such as baiting for foxes is likely to have marked effects upon the population of many species (Coates 2008). Finally, we have not included a wide range of seabirds that are observed at times on the margins of, but not within, the catchment.

To summarise, the NLC provides habitat for a minimum of 272 species, excluding fish, many of which are nationally significant:

- 7 species (2.6 %) are vulnerable or endangered in Australia (1 frog, 1 reptile, 2 birds and 3 mammals),
- 18 species (6.6 %) are vulnerable or endangered in NSW (2 frog, 1 reptile, 6 birds and 9 mammals),
- Another 14 species (5.1 %), all birds, are protected by international migratory species agreements, and
- Another 2 species (<1 %) are biogeographically significant (1 reptile and 1 bird) (after Smith and Smith (2005c)).

A number of species are assumed to be locally extinct including Red-naped Sooty (*Fregata aedon*), White-fronted Chat (*Ephalamus alpinus*) and the Beautiful Firetail (*Emblema bellii*). Also locally extinct are several of those species, which archaeological excavations documented like the wombat (*Vombatium ursinus*). Emus (*Dromas novaehollandiae*) have been observed after hand-reared animals were released in the catchment, but their continued

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existence has not been confirmed. The Feathertail Glider (*Acrotrix pygmaea*) has been seen on the edge of the catchment in 2005 (DEC Atlas of NSW Wildlife database) but has not been included in this survey.

A number of species are still regularly encountered in the catchment. These include the echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), brown antechinus (*Antechinus stuartii*), grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and several other species of bats. After an initial population decline (Anonimous 1992) the following species rebounded and are now seen quite frequently - the swamp wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), the long-nosed bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*) and the brush turkey (*Alectura lathami*). Twenty years ago it was rare to see a dead wallaby on the Wakehurst Parkway, however Harris, Marlow and Illams, (2008) observed that 28 swamp wallabies had been killed on an 11.4 km stretch of road within the catchment over a 36 week period in 2005-6. This increase in swamp wallaby roadkill is likely to reflect an increase in animal population which may be a result of the biannual fox baiting program that was commenced in 2000 over the region (Woodford 2000). Foxes are thought to impact upon the juvenile populations of swamp wallabies (Goose 2008). Marginal changes in species populations can, over time, have a significant impact upon overall numbers (Ramp and Ben-Ami 2006).

Some species appear to be declining in numbers. "Sugar gliders were found to be quite common during spotlighting transects" of Middle Creek (Timonga Zoo 1992, p26). However, no recording of sugar gliders was found in the Middle Creek survey by Smith and Smith (2008). Three large koala populations, one at the top of Deep Creek near Kimbriki, one where Middle Creek now crosses the Wakehurst Parkway and one where the present NSW Academy of Sport is located, were killed by the 1939 "Black Friday" fire (L. Kelly personal communication). Since then, they have rarely been sighted. The last sighting of a platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) burrow was in 1992, in the lower section of Middle Creek (Timonga Zoo 1992). No live observations of this species have been recorded since 1970 (Ride 1970). Littered sightings of the spotted-tailed quoll (*Diposoma maculatus*) have been made. One was caught in Elmore in 1993 (Lake 1993) in a suburban garden, and another was killed on the Wakehurst Parkway in 2001 (personal communication C. Grudnoff 2008).

Significant amphibian species (the Giant Burrowing frog *Haliplus australis* and the Red-crowned Toadlet *Pseudophryne australis*) have been observed within the catchment. A number of the sites at which they have been observed are under current threat of development (Oxford Falls and Red Hill). The Heath Monitor (*Virinus rosenbergi*) has been seen frequently across the catchment live and as roadkill.

A number of vulnerable or endangered birds have also been seen within the catchment. A Regent Honeyeater (*Arthropya regina*) was reported by Smith and Smith (2000) in 1998 at Ironwing reserve. An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) successfully fledged a chick close to the edge of the lagoon in both 2007 and 2008. This is the southernmost example of breeding in recent memory (Goose 2008). The Glossy Black Cuckoo (*Colaptes auratus lathami*) has a presence in the Lizard Rock area of the catchment (Timonga Zoo 1992; author CH).

Some large birds have increased in numbers in urban areas of the catchment as in other areas of Sydney. Channel bill cuckoo (*Scythrops novaeollandiae*) have noticeably increased over the last decade. They were so unusual in 1992 that their presence was noted in the local press (Gill 1992). By December 2007, flocks of the birds could be seen above Narrabeen lagoon (author JM). The white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) is commonly observed during summer over the lagoon (author JM). The powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*) is present in the catchment with individuals being found as roadkill (Anonimous 1997; Harris et al. 2008) and observed frequently.

Waterways and the Lagoon

The Narrabeen Lagoon, like the bushland surrounding it, has suffered significant degradation with the urbanisation of the area. Prior to the 1970s the lagoon mouth was closed for much of the time. Since then the water level in the lagoon has been lowered by the frequent opening of the mouth so as to protect low lying properties from flooding and to improve water quality (Gordon 2006). The opening of the lagoon into the sea has been restricted to a dedicated inlet since 1949 (Prenen 1989). The depth of the lagoon has also been affected by siltation, particularly at the mouths of Middle Creek and South Creek due to developments within the catchment. Sand deposited from dredging has been used to form new land in Belarong reserve and parts of Jamieson reserve.

Water quality has been affected not only by sedimentation from urban runoff but also from the use of adjoining wetland areas as garbage tips (see above - Corby and Macleod 2003). This threat has continued until recently with the one remaining landfill site, Kimbriki, being threatened with prosecution for sediment flow into Deep Creek as recently as 1996. Considerable effort has been made to improve the environmental impact of this site since then (Corby and Macleod 2003). The phasing out of backyard septic tanks and the provision of sewerage treatment plants for the housing surrounding the lagoon has led to a decrease in blue-green algal bloom that frequently closed the lagoon to swimming in the early 1990s (Teutsch 2001).

Fire

Wildfires have regularly burnt out areas of the catchment, with major fires in 1890, 1939, 1965, 1979 and 1994 (Prenen 1989; Macleod 1996). Laurie Kelly (personal communication) claims that the wildflower industry deliberately burnt sections of the local bush each year to ensure a good harvest. This claim fits with there being 21 large fires of which 11 were severe, in the Oxford Falls area between 1942 to 1957 (Macleod 1996). Given that species can either be advantaged or disadvantaged by fire (Smith and Smith 2000), a fire management regime of regular mosaic burning has been advocated. Unfortunately no regional fire management plan has been devised for the catchment, fire management being left on a more localised level.

Wildfires in 1979 and 1994 were extensive (Macleod 1996) with the later fire burning at least 53% of the catchment.

Resultant loss of habitat lead to an increase of animal rescue by local animal protection services (Macleod 1996). We note that fire can significantly alter the balance of factors affecting populations of animals such as ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) causing a large drop in animal numbers (Russell et al. 2003). Unfortunately no local studies have been performed to allow for more specific comment on the effect of fire in the NLC.

Future

The health of the NLC is significantly challenged by stresses common to many such areas both in Australia and internationally. One of the most significant challenges is undoubtedly climate change with sea level rise drowning low lying areas of the catchment, extremes of weather and warming increasing the risk of catastrophic fire and flooding and the continued destruction of forest in the catchment contributing in its own small way to carbon release. These pressures will have a negative effect upon the diversity of species in the area (Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change 2008).

The introduction of exotic species has a complex effect upon the environment, not necessarily negative. An example of this is the effect of the domestic house cat. High cat activity both kills native birds and controls other causes of egg predation such as rat activity (Dickman 2007). However, it is likely that warming will favour a range of exotic species and see a loss of biodiversity (Garnett 2008). To our knowledge, the effect of exotic pest species upon the NLC has not been studied.

Human activity continues to impact upon the environment of the area. Roadkill can imperil species causing populations to dip below self-sustaining levels (Ramp and Ben-Ari 2006). Frequent fires can change both the fauna and flora of an area (Auld and Scott 2004; Whelan et al. 2006) and because of the proximity of much of the NLC bush to suburban housing this is expected to continue. Pollution and sedimentation from suburban development and the recycling and waste disposal centre is highly likely to have caused the local extinction of the platypus.

Although the Narrabeen Lagoon has been declared as biologically significant (DECC 2008) ongoing development constitutes the greatest immediate threat to the NLC with developments proposed for Cronet, Ingleside, Lland Rock, Oxford Falls and Red Hill (Warringah Council 2008; Department of Planning 2007). An area of approximately 328 ha or 6% of the catchment. Of these areas, approximately 180 ha is still high quality bushland. As late as July 2007, the only area gazetted for development by the Department of Planning was the Ingleside area. Thus the past year has seen a huge increase in land proposed for development despite the existence of documents that purportedly plan development out to 2032 (Department of Planning 2007).

The continued existence of the NLC as a biologically significant area and the protection of the large number of plant communities will require the protection of the remaining bushland and a move from greenfield to brownfield development. The extension of the existing

Garigal NP to include the originally planned third stage extending the park to Oxford Falls and the protection of other significant pockets of bushland within the catchment such as Jamieson Park and the Wieriewood Wierlands, would provide a network of bushland that is more ecologically sustainable in size. This is still possible as much of the land originally gazetted for the park remains bushland with a substantial proportion (446 hectares) being Crown land (Debus 2005). An important component of this program would be the protection, restoration and re-establishment of wildlife corridors on either Crown or private lands linking the core with other parcels of bushland. These corridors (Smith and Smith 2005b) include sites that have recently been proposed for development.

The lagoon itself should be proclaimed an aquatic reserve. This will assist in the protection of the lagoon whilst still allowing for some recreational use. The recent discovery of a hitherto unknown species of mollusc (*Salinator teta*) (Golding et al. 2007) underlines the environmental value of the lagoon. The protection of the catchment will enhance the water quality of the lagoon and will facilitate the lagoon becoming an aquatic reserve.

The catchment is situated within an international city that needs its bushland spaces. Australia is one of the most urbanized societies in the world, however the existence of major national parks within the perimeter of Sydney provides an exciting opportunity for the education, both formally and informally, of people about the beauty and scientific value of the bush. The NLC is fortunate to have an educational facility, the Coastal Environment Centre, situated by Narrabeen Lagoon, which is visited by about 13,000 people a year (Pittwater Council 2008). The extension and support of the educational role that the centre provides especially to schools is important.

The fate of the catchment has been a cause of continued community action. An example of this is the promotion of the catchment with bushwalks, tours and "ecopaddles" organized by the Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment (www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au). This is supported by regular seminars and newsletters that inform the community about activities, the sustainable use and protection of the Catchment along with the community activities required to maintain and protect it. The involvement of such grass-root community groups provides an essential monitor on development within the area, complementing the often slow and erratic actions of local and state instrumentalities.

The Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment encapsulates many of the challenges of the preservation of our natural environment in an urban setting. The recognition of the true worth of this area has been slow in coming, for instance this being the first paper that has catalogued the rich diversity of fauna and flora existing specifically in the catchment, however even now, despite this and the acknowledged threat of climate change the balance of competing interests for the use of the land seemingly remain tilted towards further development. The question posed by the children of the area at the beginning of this paper, asking what environment they would inherit from us remains open.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Jim Somerville and Phil Colman for their life-long dedication to Gangal National Park and the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, Judith Bennett for her outstanding effort in winning a 1.9 million dollar remediation

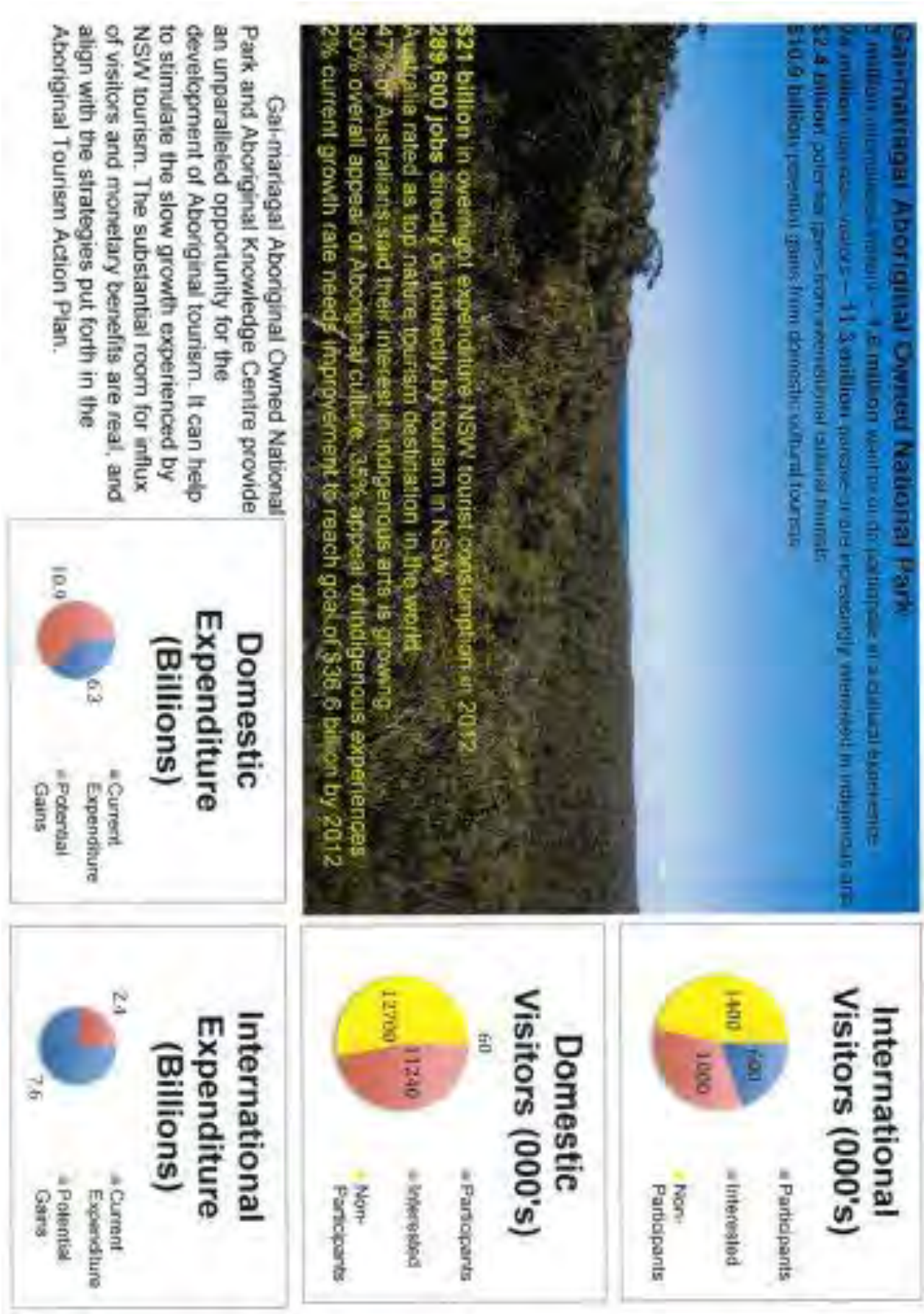
grant for the Nartabeen Lagoon Catchment and Dr Dan Lunney RZS for his encouragement. We are indebted to staff at Warringah Council and Library, especially Tina Graham, who helped with the finding of technical reports.

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Appendix F – Tourism Potential



Relevant Supported Task Force Conclusions

- 1A: Brand development and communication to attract a broad spectrum of visitors.
- 6C: Identify and release Crown Land Suitable for visitor economy purposes, including family or Aboriginal-based tourism developments. Ensure that sustainable development and management practices are adopted.
- 16C: Support Industry and Government initiatives to promote and expand career opportunities for Aboriginal trainees in visitor economy occupations
- 18A: Ensure Destination Management Plans address the demand, supply, policy and planning issues including infrastructure and tourist industry development
- 26E: Increase Aboriginal cultural representation in Sydney and work with stakeholders across Government.

Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan Component	Gai-mariagal's potential to satisfy said goal
1.1 Celebrate Aboriginal Stories with brand marketing and integration into social media	The Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Centre will help to spread awareness of Aboriginal heritage
2.4 Collaborate with Land Council	The Gai-mariagal proposal is partnered with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
2.5: Develop Research Agenda concerning demand	Demand from target markets, including growth seen in China, but also the large domestic market will be catered to
2.8: Support Aboriginal tourism business with training	Potential for integration of Aboriginal community members into tourism through leading guided tours or giving cultural background and awareness
3.3: Aboriginal cultural awareness training among mainstream tourism operators	The Gai-mariagal Proposal is partnered with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and will necessitate Aboriginal cultural awareness throughout development

Current projected growth for overnight visitor expenditure in NSW is 2.2%, while a 7.1% growth rate is required to reach \$36.6 billion by 2020. The Gai-mariagal proposal could provide quick boosts from international and domestic visitors, with domestic indigenous tourists spending \$190 per night as opposed to \$139 per night, and international cultural tourists spending \$8280 including airfare, as opposed to \$3832. Convenient access to an authentic cultural experience near the most central hub for incoming visitors will promote the Australia as a cultural center and attract tourists with higher average expenditures.

2020 New research to help Australian tourism reach its potential

A major **international tourism research project** into how consumers view Australia and the factors most likely to motivate them to visit here has been undertaken by Tourism Australia.

The scale and depth of the research is unprecedented and provides unique insights into consumer demand in 11 of Australia's most important inbound markets overnight. The findings will contribute towards the industry achieving its **Tourism 2020** goal – to increase annual tourism spending by up to A\$140bn by the end of the decade.

The research will be used to help shape the future marketing of Australia and identify opportunities to make the country's tourism offering more attractive to overseas visitors.

KEY FINDINGS

The findings show that most international markets have high expectations of Australia and, for those that visit, the good news is that Australia is delivering strongly – with the destination's greatest drawcards identified as its world class beauty, safe environment and welcoming people.

- Australia's biggest strength is its **world class nature**, well regarded from all markets and core to our global tourism offering.
- The greatest drivers of international visitor demand to Australia are **coastal** (including beaches), **aquatic and wildlife experiences**, with Tropical North Queensland, Sydney and the Gold Coast continuing to rank highest for uniqueness and appeal.
- Australia rates **No.1 for safety** amongst those who have visited – people's actual experiences scoring much higher than perceptions of those who haven't visited, particularly from India and a lesser extent Indonesia and South Korea.
- Perceptions of **Australia's Food and Wine offering** are mixed across markets, although rankings are very high amongst those who have visited and sampled, presenting significant future international marketing opportunities.
- **Aspiration and intention to visit** is very high across the board, however awareness of experiences within Australia and converting interest into actual visits for leisure or holiday travel is lower.

"By better understanding what motivates consumers in our key target markets, we're clearly in a much better position to craft our message to convert awareness of our country into visits. It also gives Australian tourism operators valuable insights into how to adapt and develop their business to best attract new visitors."

Tourism Australia Managing Director, Andrew McEvoy



NATURE

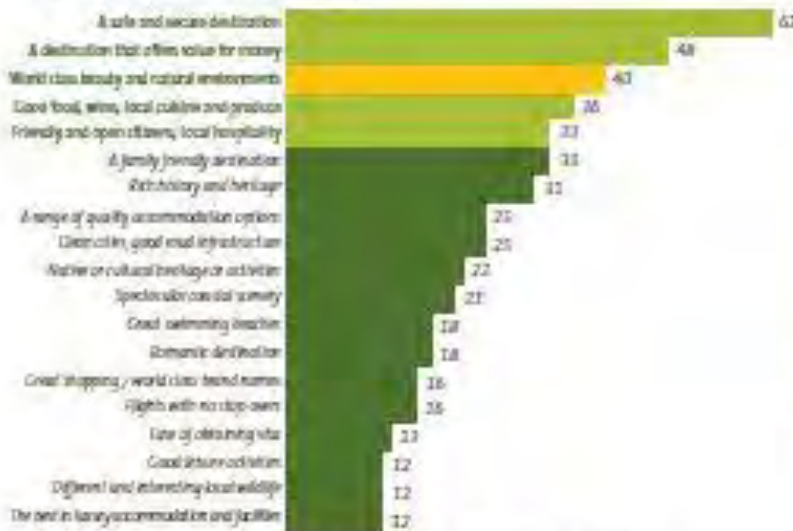
Australia's biggest strength is its world class nature, well regarded from all markets and core to our global tourism offering.

Australia – with its unrivalled combination of blues and greens and yellows and reds – leads the world when

it comes to the quality of its Nature. For 40% of respondents, nature is a 'Top 5' consideration when it comes to selecting

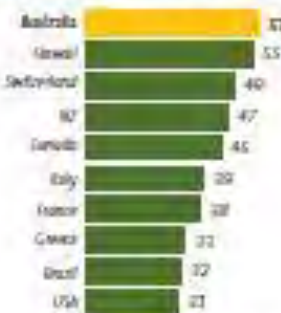
a holiday destination – and Australia tops the ratings when it comes to world class beauty and natural environment.

WORLD CLASS BEAUTY AND NATURE VERY IMPORTANT WHEN SELECTING A HOLIDAY DESTINATION



Read on: 61% of respondents rate 'a safe and secure destination' as among the top 5 most important factors when choosing a holiday destination

AUSTRALIA NUMBER 1 FOR WORLD CLASS BEAUTY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS



Read on: 57% of out of region respondents associated Australia with world class beauty and natural environment, the highest rank of all countries.

CASE STUDY: Australia's National Landscapes Program – promoting areas of outstanding natural beauty

Australia's National Landscapes Program is a partnership between tourism and conservation to identify Australia's iconic landscapes, which capture and promote areas of outstanding natural beauty and cultural significance.

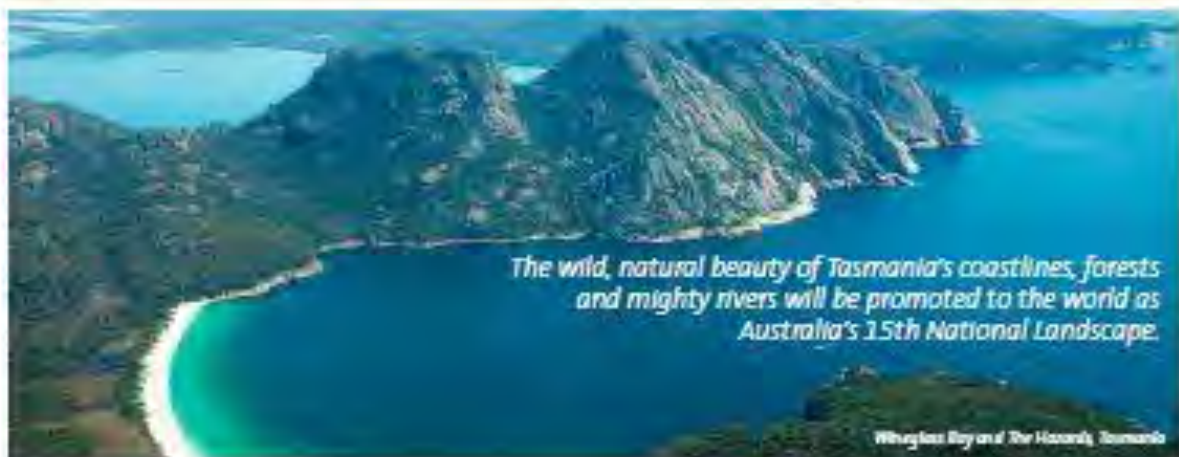
The initiative is managed by Tourism Australia and Parks Australia and aims to

achieve positive conservation, social and economic outcomes for Australia and its regions via the promotion of truly great nature based tourism experiences.

The program aims to promote and protect Australia's natural and cultural experiences long into the future and ensure they can be enjoyed by locals and visitors in a sustainable manner.

Tasmania's Island Heritage was named Australia's 15th National Landscape in October 2012, and will be promoted around the world as one of the country's leading ecotourism drawcards.

The state joins a select group of regions on Australia's National Landscapes list, which includes iconic destinations such as The Kimberley, the Red Centre and the Great Barrier Reef.



FOOD AND WINE

Perceptions of Australia's Food and Wine offering are mixed across markets, although rankings are very high amongst those who have visited and sampled, presenting significant future international marketing opportunities.

Food and Wine is another key factor in holiday decision making, the next most important emotive 'trigger' after **World Class Beauty**. In the research, **Food and Wine** is considered the sixth most important single factor but ranking fourth when the top 5 factors are assessed.

Perceptions of Australia's **Food and Wine** offering are mixed across markets, although response is very high amongst those who have visited (53%) and sampled, presenting significant future international marketing opportunities.

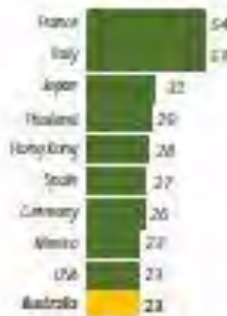
For people surveyed by country they gave Australia the following rankings:

- **Good** with India, NZ and UK
- **Moderate** with Singapore, Malaysia and China
- **Weak** with Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Germany and USA

For people surveyed who have visited, those from China, the USA, India and the UK rank Australia as No. 1 for **Food and Wine**.

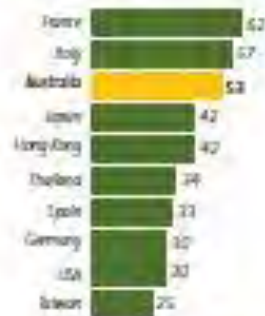
FOOD AND WINE RANKS VERY HIGH AMONGST PREVIOUS VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

NOT VISITED AUSTRALIA



Read as: For those that have not previously travelled to Australia, 54% of out of region respondents associate France with 'good food and wine' while 21% of out of region respondents associate Australia with 'good food and wine'.

VISITED AUSTRALIA



Read as: For those that have previously travelled to Australia, 53% of out of region respondents associate Australia with 'good food and wine'. This puts Australia ahead of countries like Japan, Thailand and Spain.



CASE STUDY: Many of Australia's wineries offer a complete tourism experience – restaurants, accommodation, tours, picnic facilities and recreational facilities

With so many of its best wineries and cellar doors located in such stunning settings, the opportunities to build **Food and Wine** into the Australian holiday experience are enormous. No longer simply venues to taste and purchase wine, many of these attractions offer a complete tourism experience – restaurants, accommodation, tours, picnic facilities and recreational facilities.

Tourism Australia is already exploring ways of incorporating Australia's top wine and culinary experiences into its international marketing activities, in line with the broader thrust of its current *There's nothing like Australia* campaign – to highlight examples of the very best attractions and experiences that Australian tourism has to offer.



Audrey Wilton Winery, Hill Top, NSW

SAFETY AND SECURITY

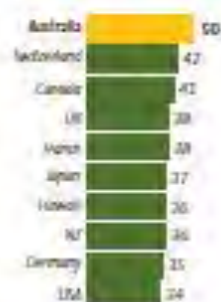
Australia rates No.1 for safety amongst those who have visited – people's actual experiences scoring much higher than perceptions of those who haven't, particularly from India and a lesser extent Indonesia and South Korea.

Safety and Security is by far the most critical factor when it comes to travellers determining their destination of choice; and this is no different for Australia. For those who have already been, Australia

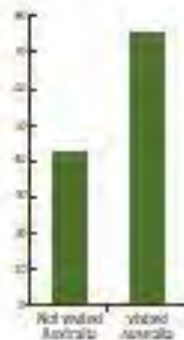
rates No. 1 for the **safe and secure** environment it offers visitors. However, rankings are significantly less positive amongst people who have not yet visited, with low rankings in a number

of key Asian markets, notably India but also Indonesia and Korea. Such clear differences in perception and reality pose both challenges and opportunities in the international promotion of Australia.

AUSTRALIA NUMBER 1 FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY AND HIGHEST AMONGST PREVIOUS VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA



Read as: 50% of out of region respondents consider Australia a safe and secure destination.



Read as: 75% of out of region respondents who have visited Australia consider it a safe and secure destination.

CASE STUDY: Namaste: India nationals demonstrating Australia's warmth and friendliness

A small number of well-publicised attacks against Indian students in 2009 created damaging perceptions of Australia's safety towards visitors, particularly in India.

As part of its response to these negative perceptions, and recognising the power of word of mouth advocacy, Tourism Australia turned to Indian nationals to demonstrate Australia's warmth and friendliness through the eyes of Indians who have settled here or visited on holiday.

Indian chef and restaurant owner Vikrant Kapoor living in Sydney and married couple Divya Patel and Aditya Hittkari – theatre personalities who travelled to Australia for their honeymoon – shared their own personal views of Australia in a series of television, print and online adverts which ran across India.

Work brought Vikrant to Australia many years ago and is now his home. "This campaign has given me a fantastic opportunity to share my story with fellow Indians back home and tell them more about this beautiful country. This is the place that has helped me achieve my dreams and has helped me create my identity. I have witnessed multiculturalism at its best here and it is easily one of the things I admire the most about Australia," Vikrant said.

"This campaign has given me a fantastic opportunity to share my story with fellow Indians back home and tell them more about this beautiful country"
Vikrant Kapoor



THE RESEARCH

The research project was carried out by **BDA Marketing Planning**, a consultancy who specialise in international demand side strategy development and consumer research.

BDA Marketing Planning was originally employed by Tourism Australia in 2010 to work on a major strategic project which was the forerunner to the industry's **Tourism 2020 strategy**.

The aim of this follow-up consumer research project was to help determine the strategic priorities to achieve the **Tourism 2020 goal**, by providing a comprehensive assessment of Australia's current destination appeal and the future tourism potential of key Australian holiday options.

The research was carried out in eleven of Australia's key tourism markets: China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, UK and USA.

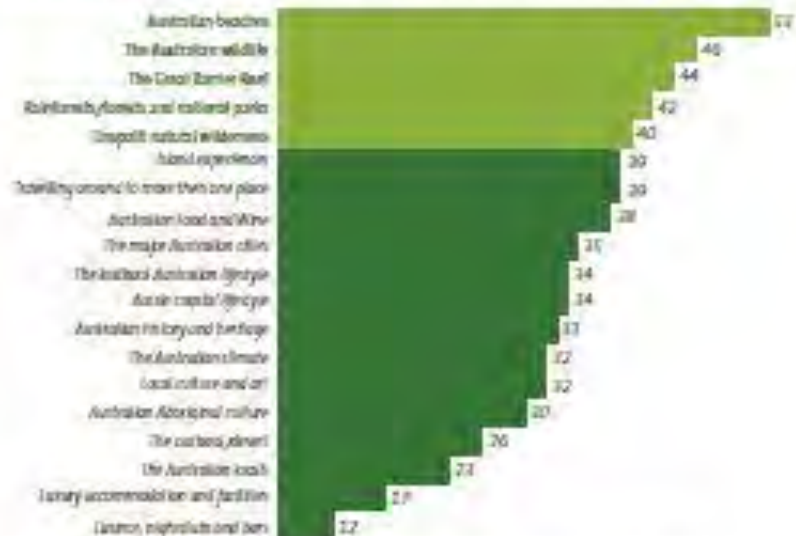
Respondents completed an online questionnaire and were canvassed on a range of different Australian holiday options including Sydney, Melbourne, Tasmania, Gold Coast, Tropical North Queensland, Byron Bay, Red Centre, Kakadu, Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Margaret River and Broome and the Kimberley.

13,385 consumers participated (approximately 1,200 per market), selected on the basis of their previous long haul travel behaviour and/or their intention to travel long haul in the next few years.

ABOUT BDA:

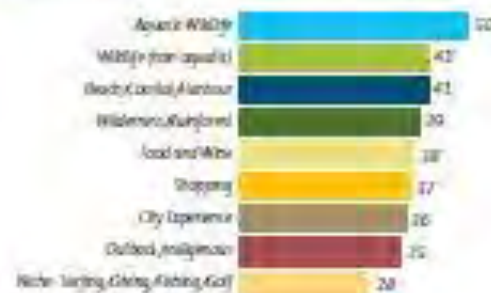
BDA Marketing Planning is a strategic business planning consultancy specialising in proprietary methods of systematic demand planning, consumer understanding and economic modelling. BDA Marketing Planning has been applying its Productive Marketing Process in the Tourism Industry for twenty years and over this period has worked extensively with both Government Authorities and private operators. The consultancy is based in Melbourne.

BEACHES CONSIDERED THE MOST APPEALING AUSTRALIAN ATTRACTION



Read on: Australian beaches top the list of most appealing attractions with 52% appeal.

AQUATIC WILDLIFE MOST APPEALING TYPE OF EXPERIENCE



Read on: Aquatic wildlife experiences top the list of thematic appeals, averaging 50% appeal across these experiences.



MARKET DIFFERENCES

The research findings revealed variations across different markets:

- World class nature is highly regarded from all destinations and is certainly Australia's biggest strength.
- Australia rated most highly with China – Australia's fastest growing and most valuable inbound tourism market – especially on value for money and world class nature, ranking as their most important travel factor.
- The highest levels of intention to visit were amongst Chinese and Indians, two of the markets Tourism Australia is most heavily targeting, as part of its **China 2020** and **India 2020 Strategic Plans**.
- For those that have already visited, Australia ranked number one for safety across all origins. However, for those who haven't visited, Australia ranks very low in some key markets, including India, Indonesia and Korea.
- Perceptions of Australia's food and wine offering very widely – ranking lowest with Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Germany and United States and most highly with the United Kingdom, India, New Zealand and China.
- Perceptions of Australia offering 'great leisure activities' rank extremely low from most Asian markets amongst those who haven't been, but high amongst those who have, suggesting more needs to be done to highlight these attractions and activities.
- Intention to visit Australia was greatest amongst respondents from New Zealand, China and India after being exposed to the holiday experience stimuli, indicating the strongest source markets based on latent demand.
- Travellers from China and India prefer to travel during the second half of the year, whilst New Zealanders and Europeans are more interested in visiting during their winters, with Queensland their top preference.

TOURISM 2020

Tourism 2020 is Australia's national strategy to enhance growth and competitiveness in our industry, focusing on six strategic areas:

- Growing demand from Asia
- Building competitive digital capability
- Encouraging investment and implement regulatory reform agenda
- Ensuring tourism transport environment supports growth
- Increasing supply of labour, skills and indigenous participation
- Building industry resilience, productivity and quality

Tourism 2020 builds upon recommendations from the **Jackson Report** and integrates the **National Long-Term Tourism Strategy** with the long term growth aspirations of the **2020 Tourism Industry Potential**. Endorsed by

all state and territory tourism ministers, it brings the existing work, research and collaboration between industry and governments into a single plan, one that links tourism supply with demand.

It is a year since the strategy was unveiled and in that period Australian tourism has continued to undergo major transition. International focus is rapidly changing from western to eastern markets, and the global travel market becomes ever more competitive.

The industry has made good progress in this past year and is growing, both in terms of international and domestic visitors.

There's more to be done, but the industry has a clear direction, a renewed sense of purpose, and is more united than ever as it moves forward towards its long term goals of growth and sustainability.



For more details, please contact the Global Insights team in Sydney

Contact:

Geoff Turner
Tourism Australia
Senior Insights Analyst, Global Insights
Email: gturner@tourism.australia.com
Phone: +61 (2) 9363 1207

For media queries, please contact the Corporate Affairs team in Sydney

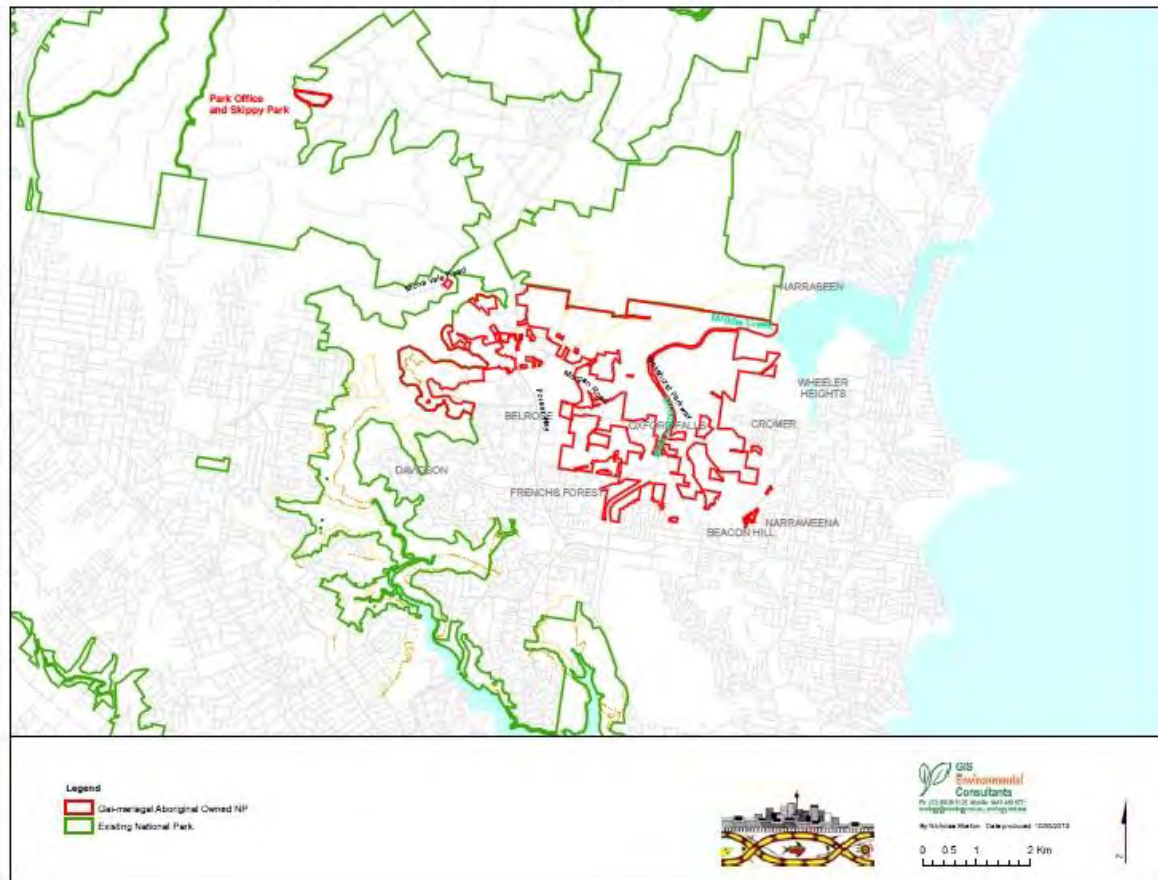
Contact:

Leo Seaton
Tourism Australia
Manager, Media Relations
Email: lseaton@tourism.australia.com
Phone: +61 (2) 9363 1363
or ask.us@tourism.australia.com
www.tourism.australia.com
Twitter: @TourismAus

Appendix G – Maps

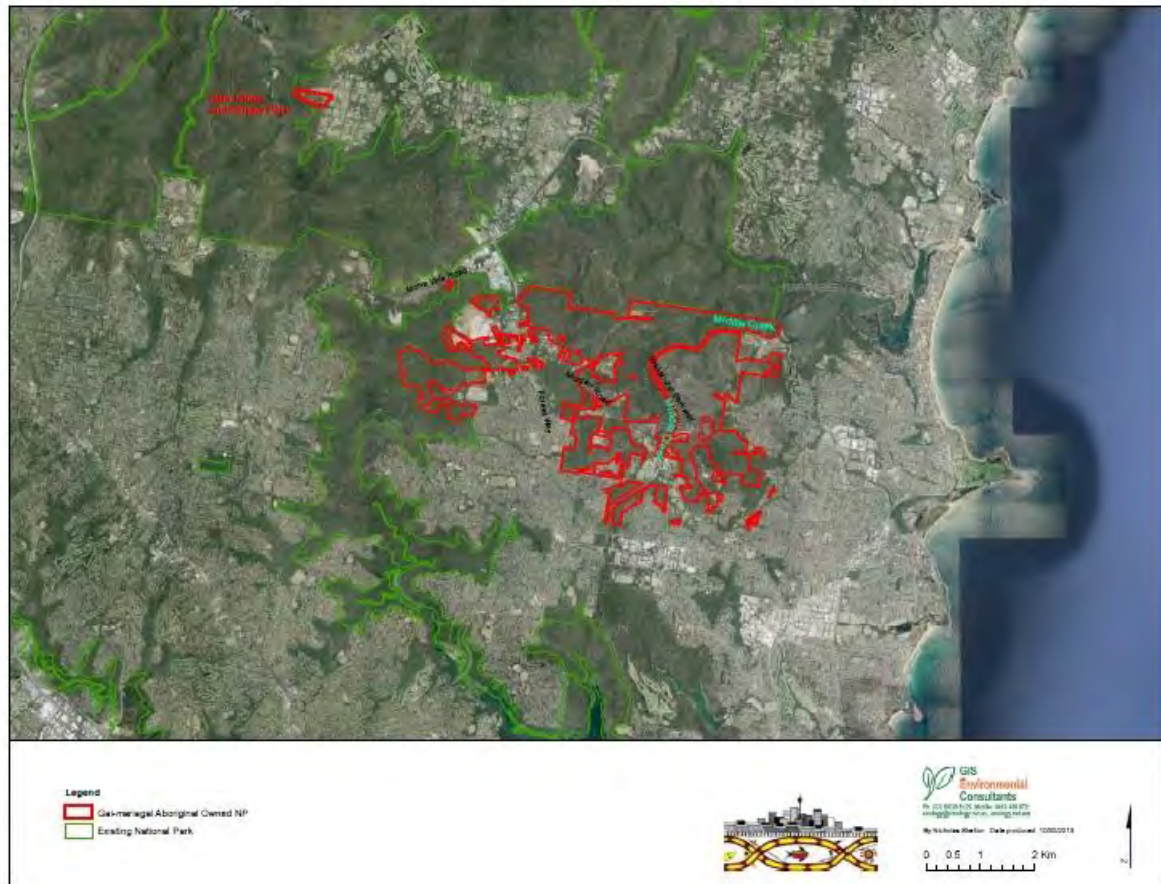
Proposed park in relation to nearby National Parks

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



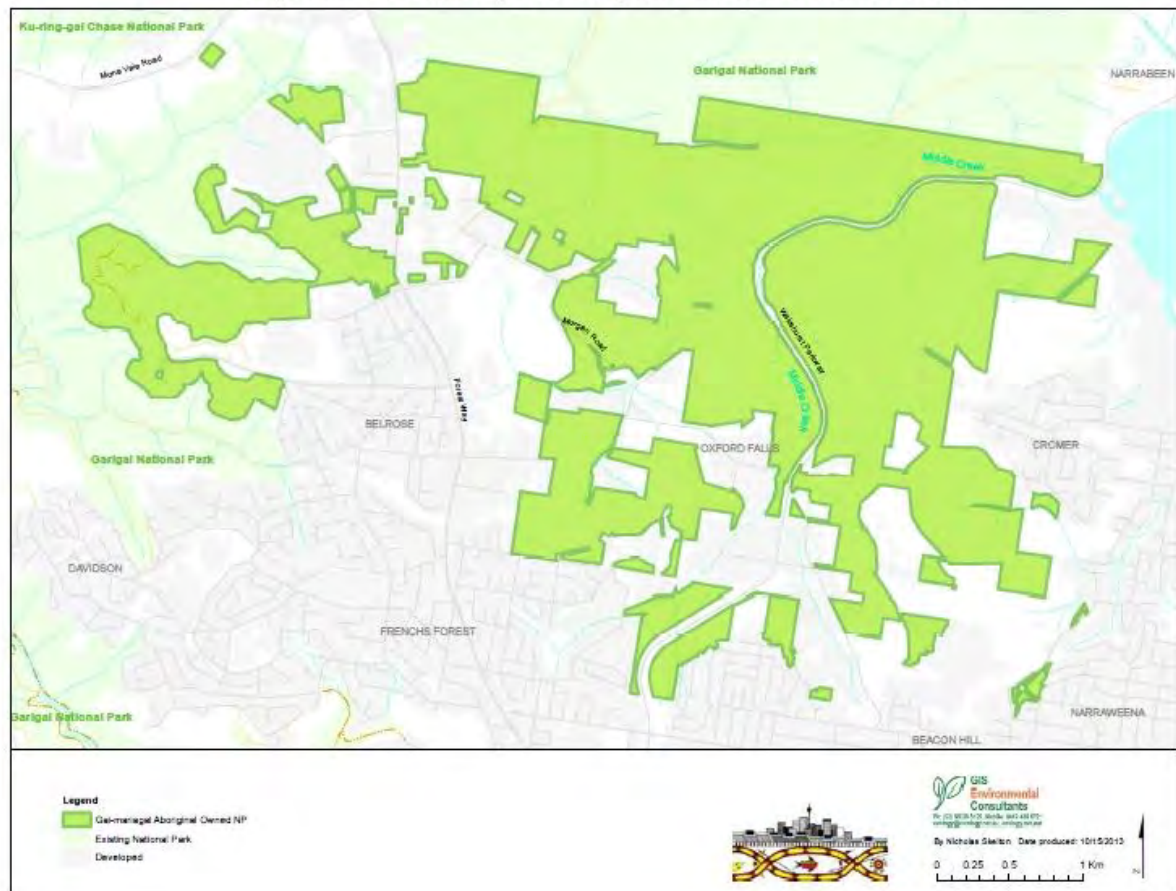
Proposed Park in relation to Northern Beaches of Sydney

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



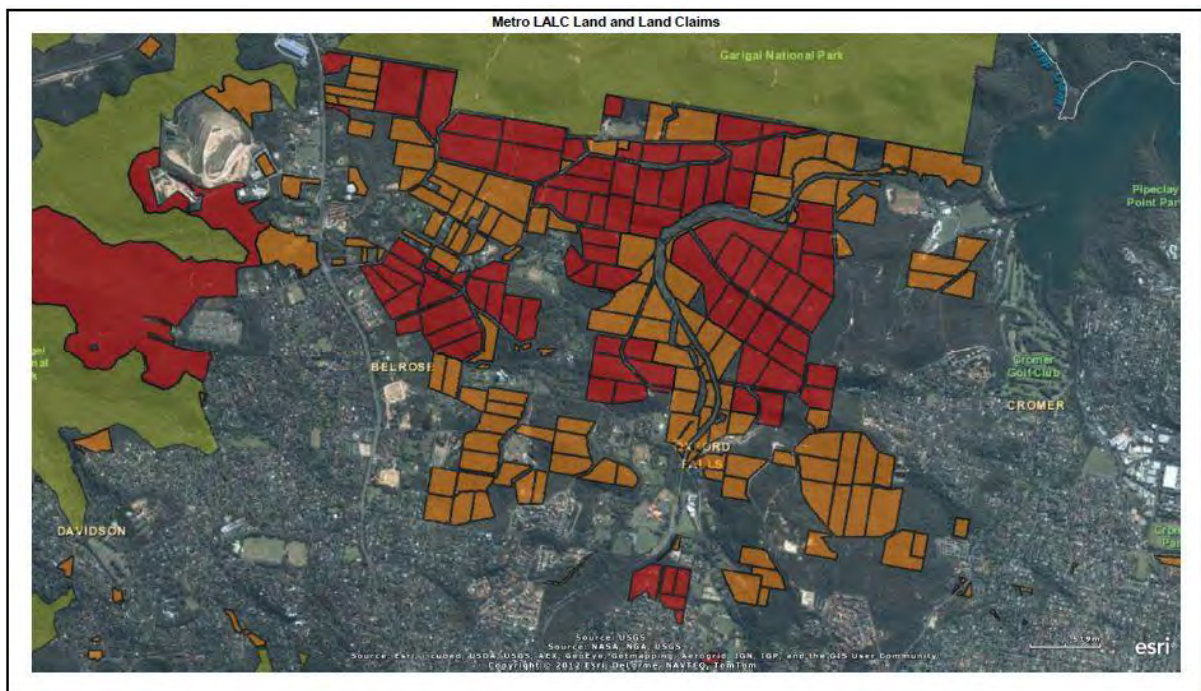
Proposed Gai-mariagal National park

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



New Protected Area Investigation Report

Areas of proposed park already owned by MLALC

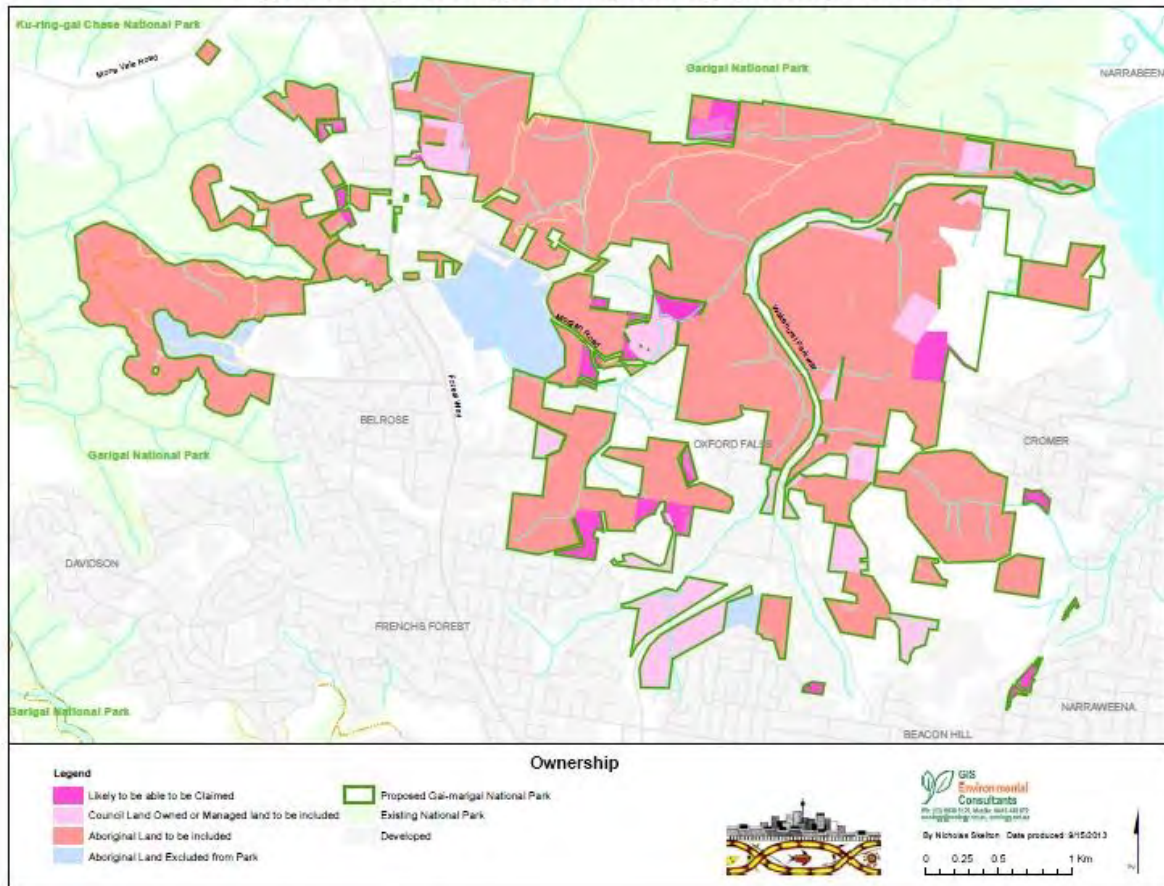


Red=Land already owned by MLALC Orange=Land under claim by MLALC

New Protected Area Investigation Report

MLALC land excluded from the proposed Gai-mariagal NP

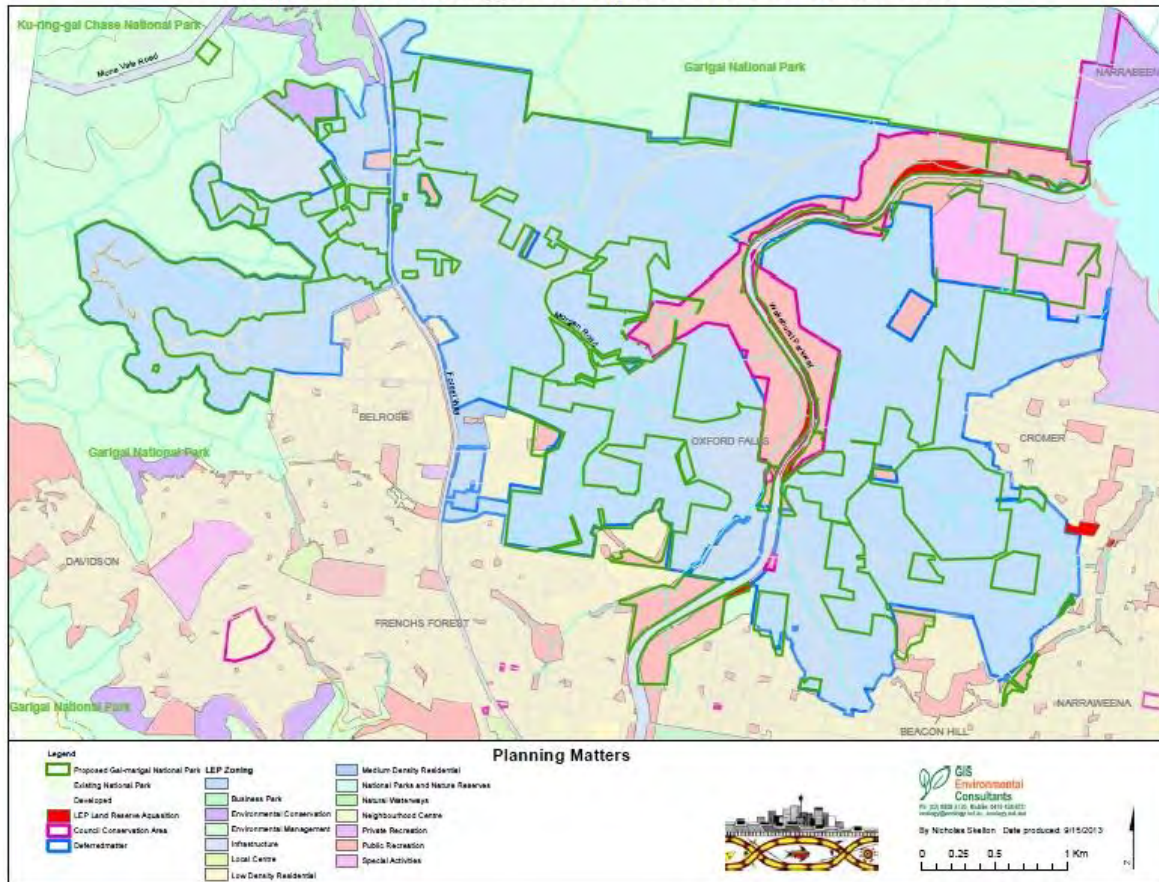
Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



Dark Pink=MLALC owned or claimed land Pale Pink=Warringah Council bushland to be included
Bright Pink = Land likely to be claimed by MLALC Blue= MLALC land not included in proposed Park

Current Planning for the Area

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park

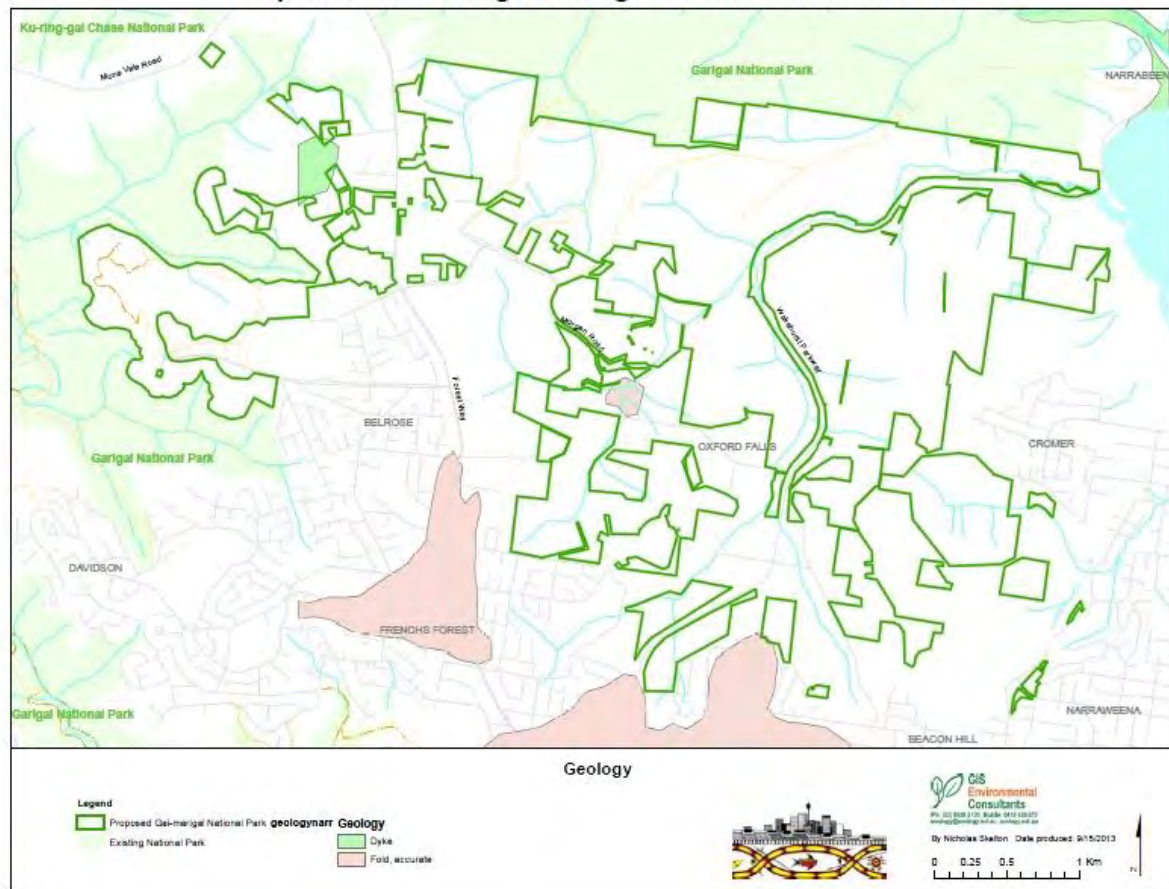


Legend

 Proposed Gai-mariagal National Park	LEP Zoning	 Medium Density Residential
 Existing National Park	 Business Park	 National Parks and Nature Reserves
 Developed	 Environmental Conservation	 Natural Waterways
 LEP Land Reserve Acquisition	 Environmental Management	 Neighbourhood Centre
 Council Conservation Area	 Infrastructure	 Private Recreation
 Deferred matter	 Local Centre	 Public Recreation
	 Low Density Residential	 Special Activities

Geology

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park

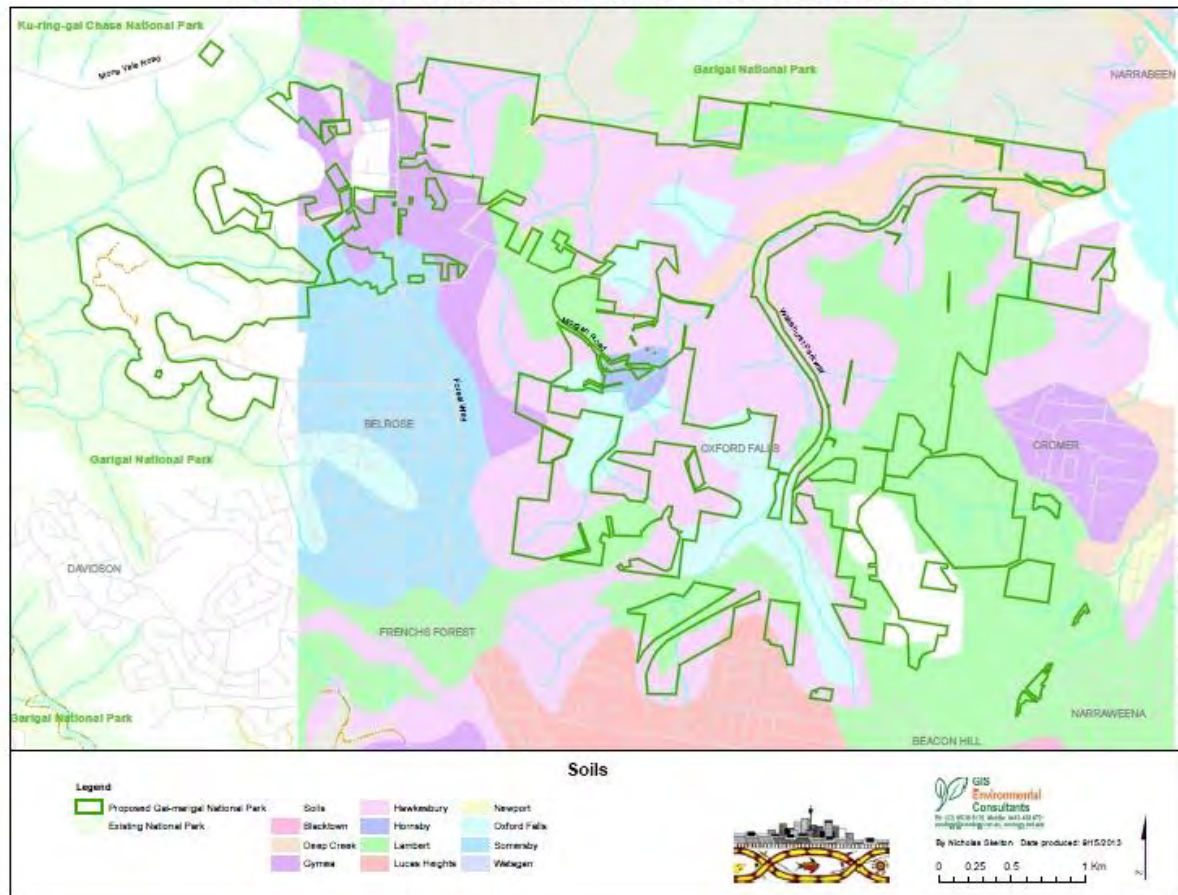


Green = Dyke Pink = Fold

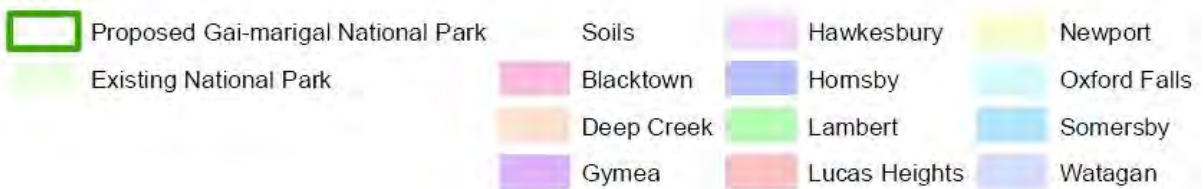
New Protected Area Investigation Report

Soils

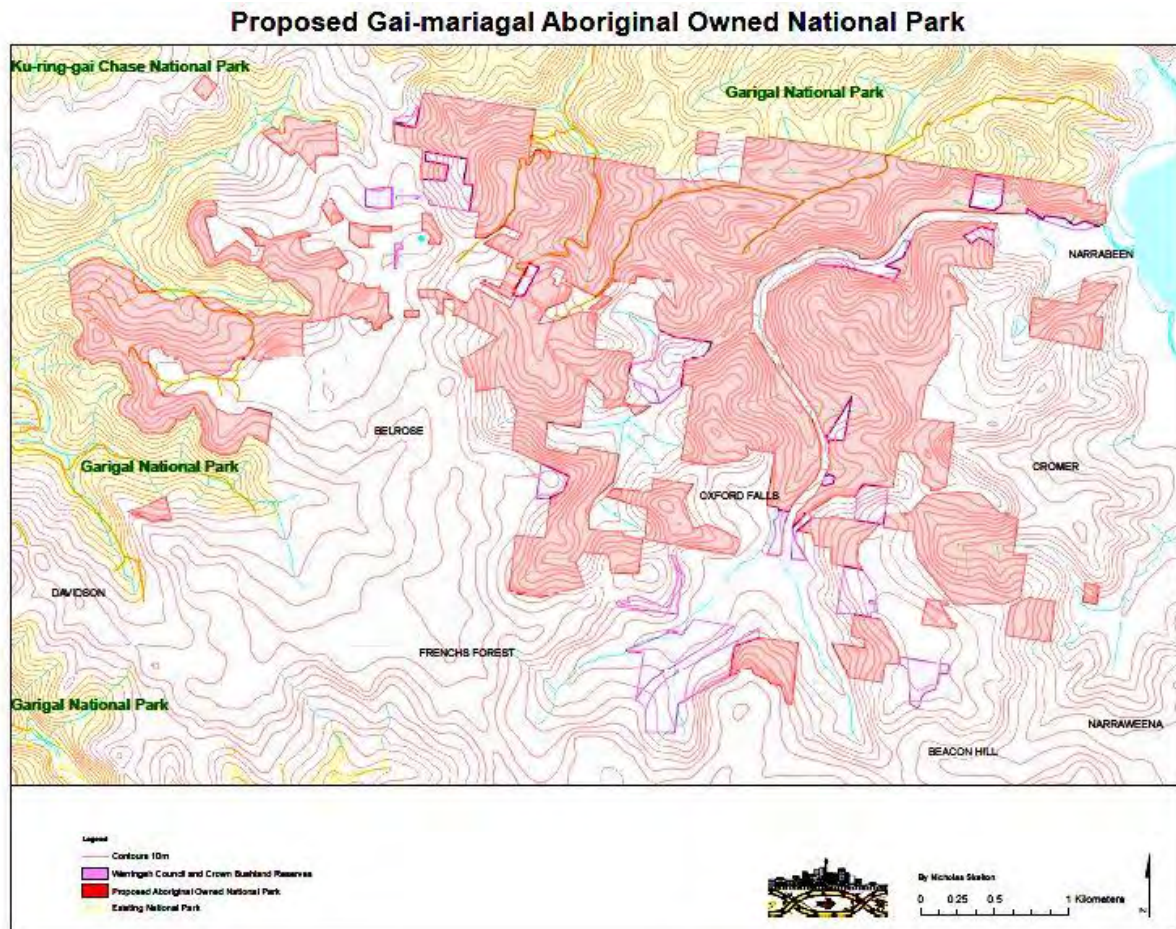
Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



Legend



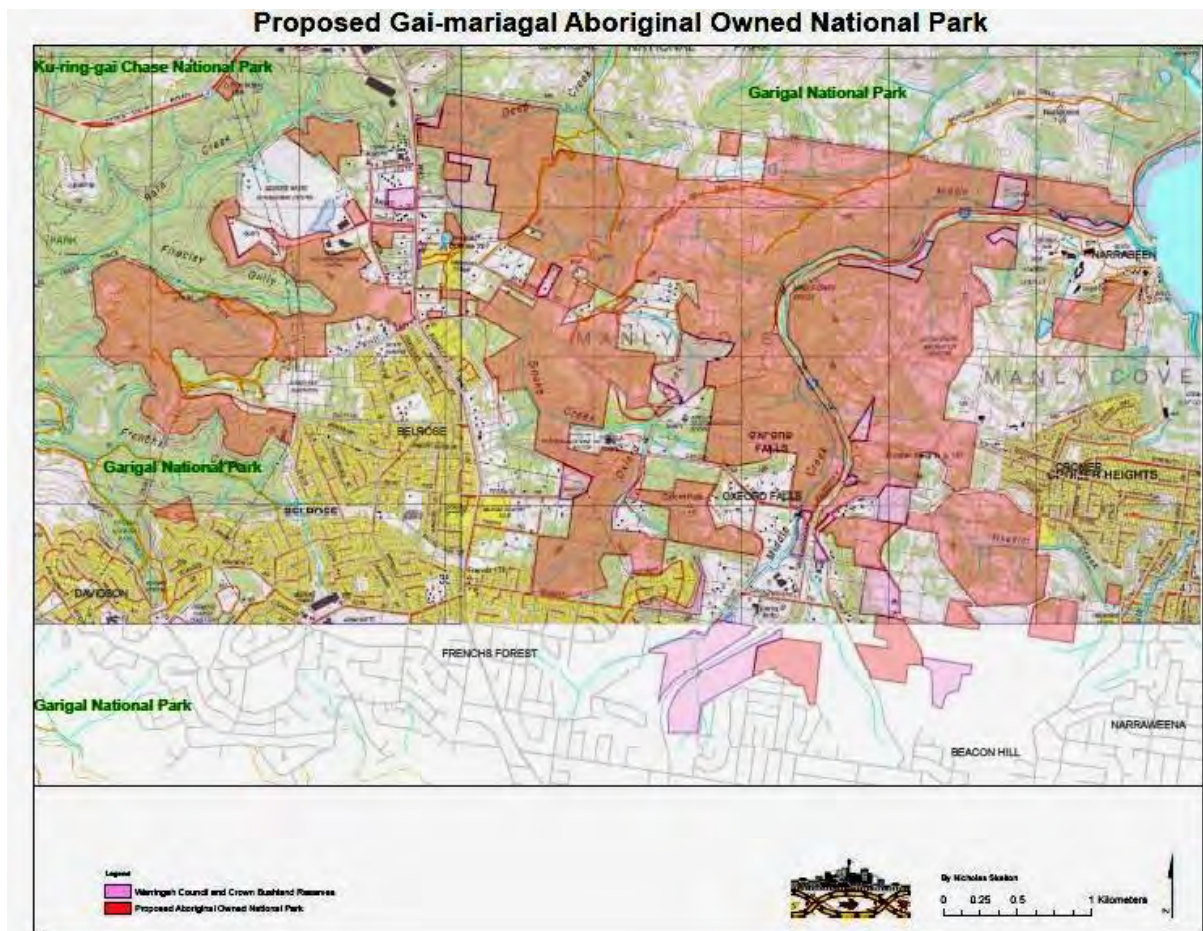
Contour map of the area



The land in the proposed National Park area is quite steeply sloping wherever the contour lines are close together. This characteristic, together with the soil types that are easily eroded cause the area to be not suitable for urban development due to the risk of siltation to the creeks and to Narrabeen Lagoon.

However, the undulating terrain contributes to the scenic amenity of the area.

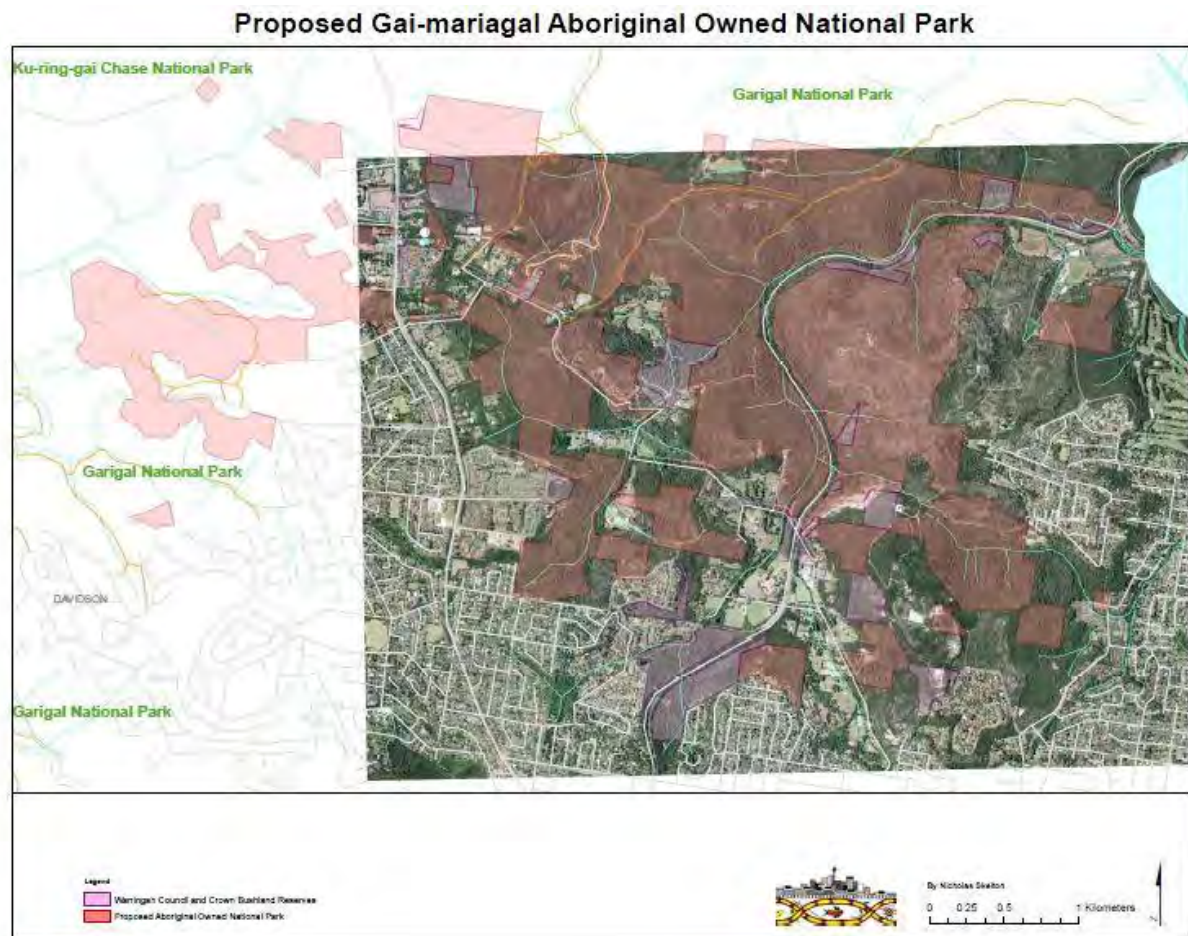
Cadastral Boundaries and suburban interface



Yellow=suburban areas Green= Existing National Parks Red and pink = proposed Gai-mariagal NP
Turquoise= Narrabeen Lagoon

This map indicated the relationship of the existing and proposed National Parks to suburban areas.

Creeks and catchments

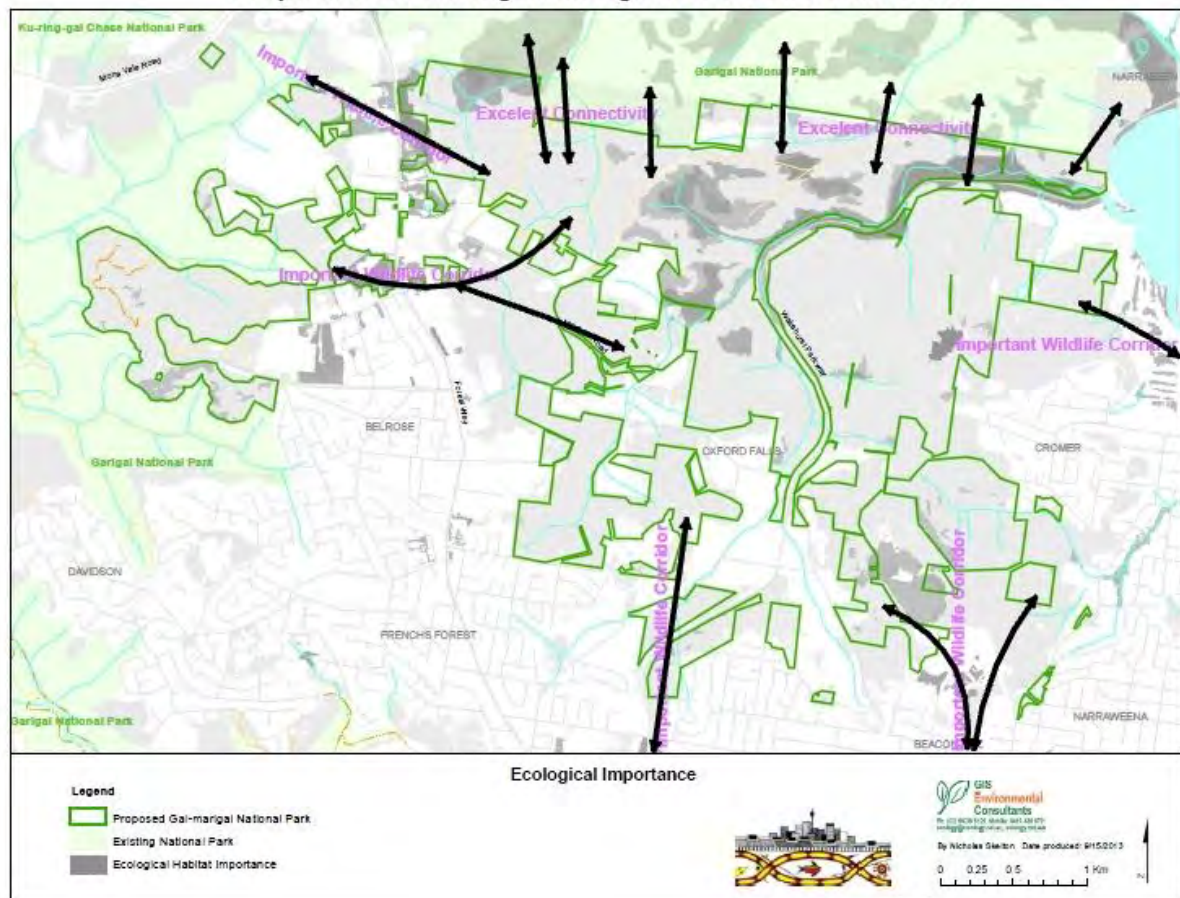


This map shows the creeks in the proposed area.

There are a number of creek catchments within the proposed National Park that are important to protect.

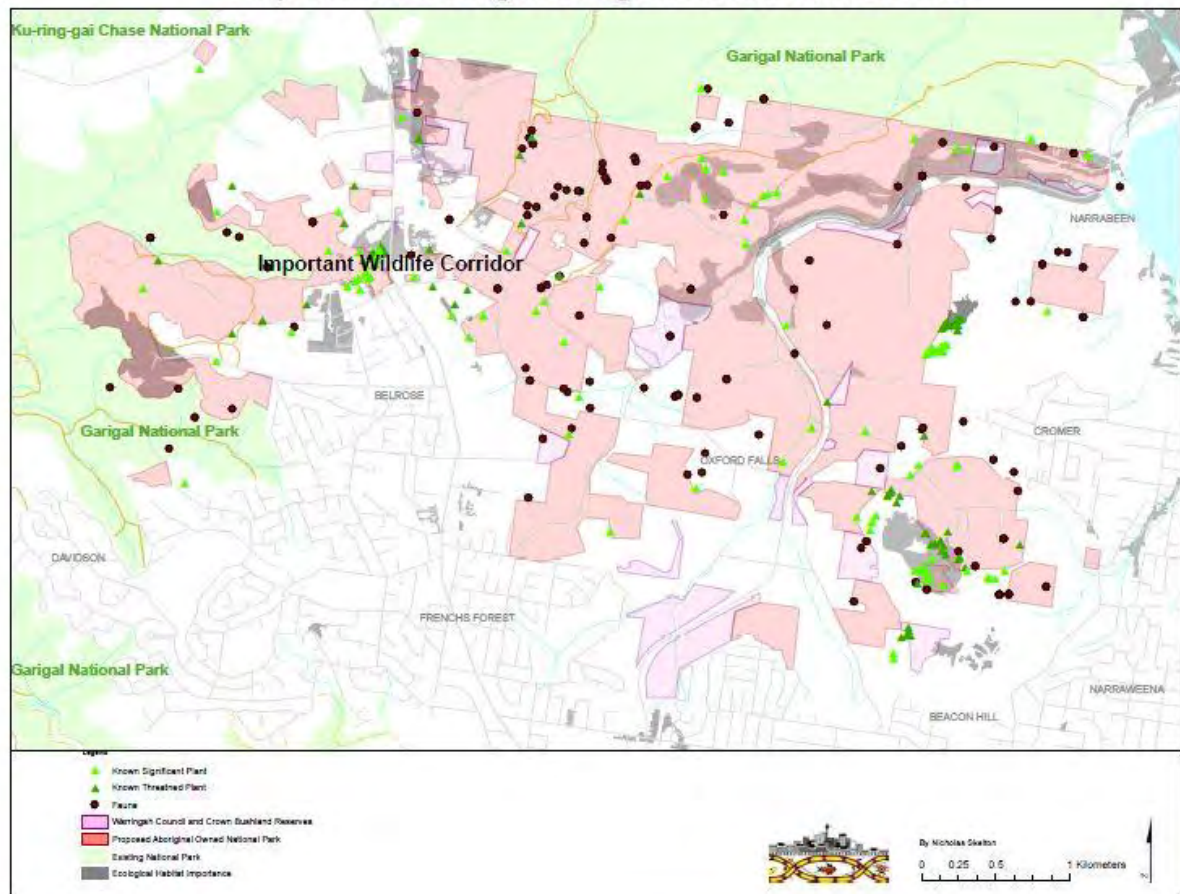
Ecological Importance – wildlife corridors

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



Flora and Fauna threatened species

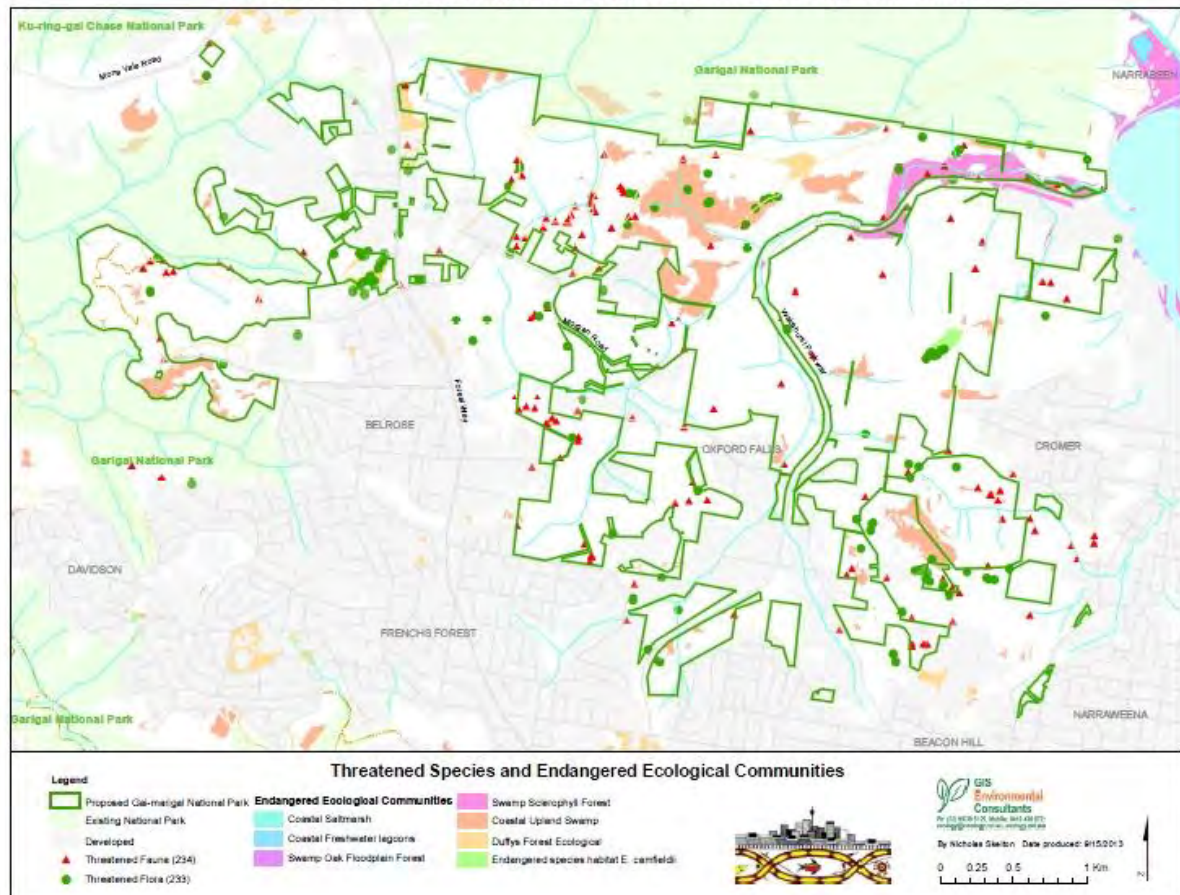
Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



Black = threatened fauna Dark green = threatened plant Pale Green = significant plant
Grey areas = ecological habitat importance

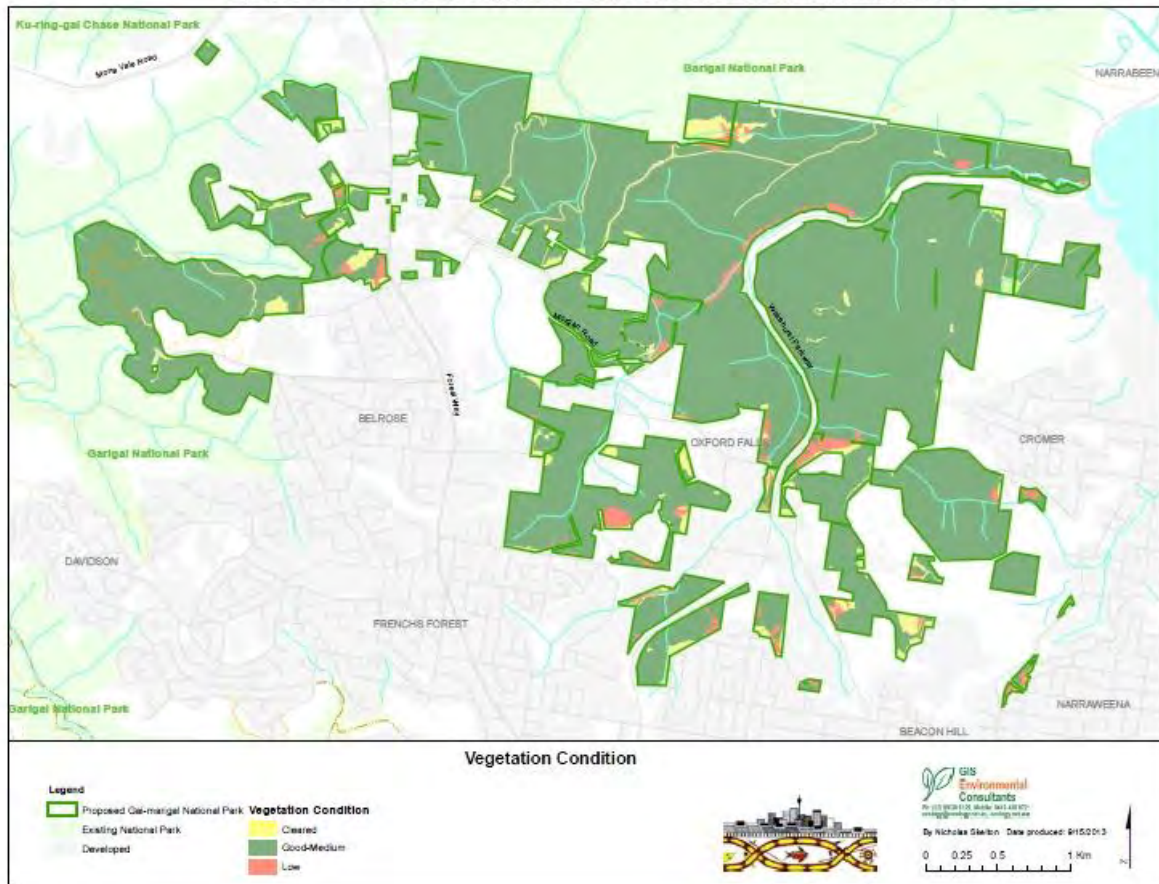
Threatened Species and communities

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



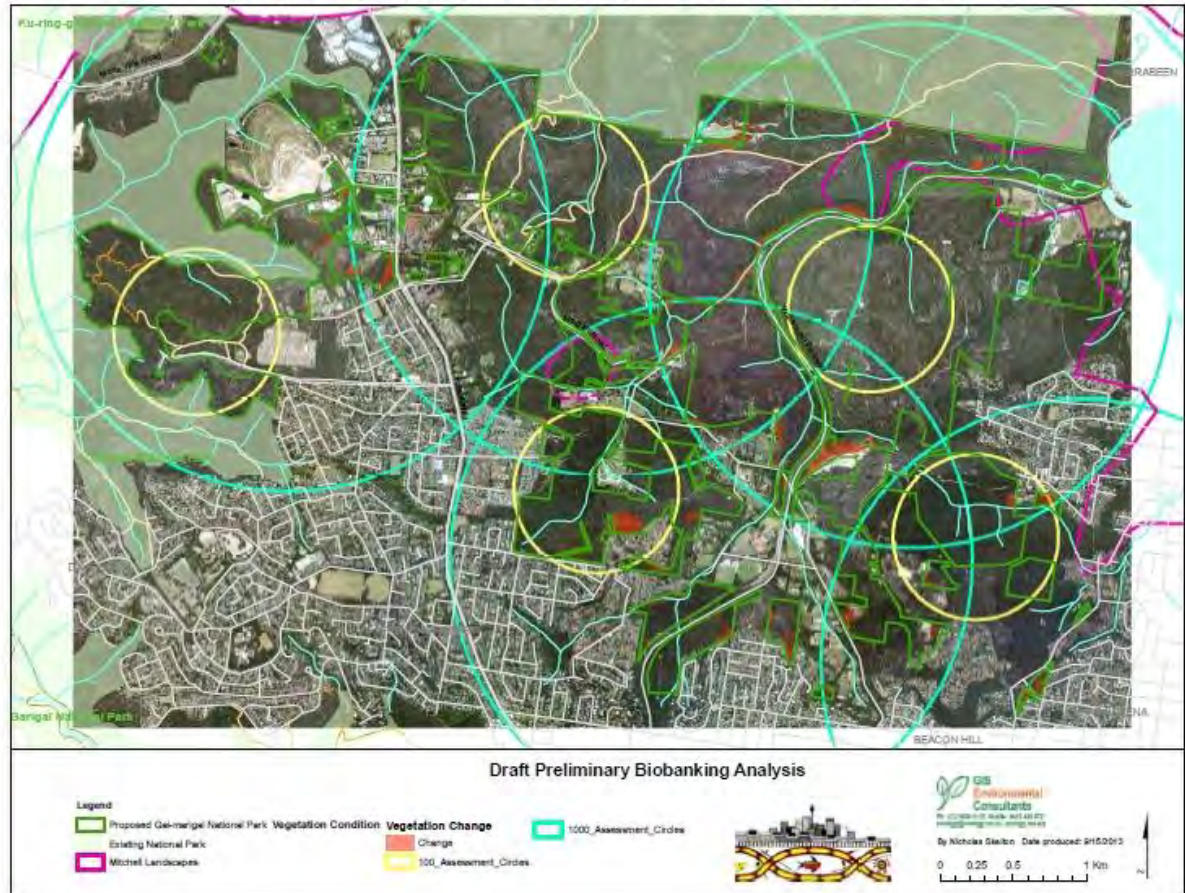
Vegetation Condition

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



Biobanking Assessment Map

Proposed Gai-mariagal Aboriginal Owned National Park



Appendix H – Letters of Support

From Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

Friends of
Narrabeen Lagoon
Catchment



P.O. Box 845, Narrabeen NSW 2101

Mr Ricky Lyons,
Chairperson
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 1103
Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012

13 August, 2013

Dear Mr Lyons,

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment members were pleased to meet you last Wednesday at Narrabeen Lagoon and hear you speak about plans for Gai-mariagal National Park.

Seeking permanent environmental protection for the remaining bushland in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon is our mission.

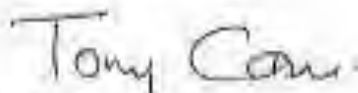
We support the concept of an Aboriginal owned National Park under Part 4A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act of NSW for the lands owned by Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.

We are keen to see a Plan of Management that would provide protection for the Aboriginal heritage of the lands in Narrabeen Lagoon catchment and welcome your plans to provide cultural tourism and education in this area.

We would support the inclusion of crown land in Gai-mariagal National Park pursuant to provisions in Section 36A of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

We look forward to working with members of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council as this project proceeds.

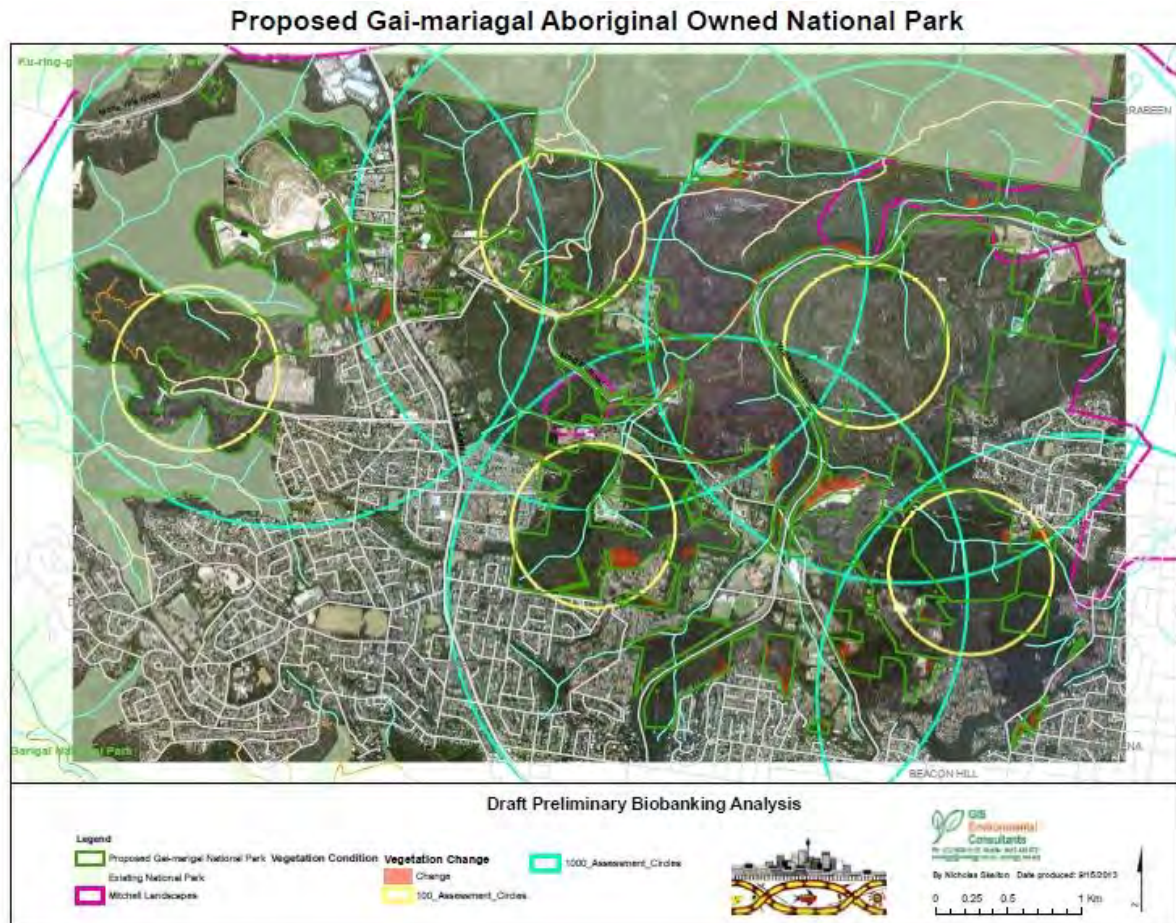
Yours sincerely,



Tony Carr
President

From National Parks Association of NSW

Appendix I - Biobanking



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Emma

Family name

Peterlin

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

emmapeterlin58@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Davidson

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object because it's gonna be a loss of habitat for flora and fauna, it's a bushfire risk and it's gonna cause more traffic. It's also gonna increase flooding potential.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to the Patyegarang / Lizard Rock development proposal. In general, I support developments that are appropriate for an area and serve to improve the community, such as increased density where public infrastructure can support it. However, this proposal is short sighted, clearly profit motivated and will not serve the community. My reasons for opposing the development are as follows:

1) Transport Infrastructure: The proposed site for the Patyegarang development is significantly lacking in the infrastructure required to support an increase in the population of the area. Specifically, there is no public transport service at the site or along the length of Morgan Road. As stated in the traffic report, the nearest public transport options are bus services running along Forest Way, which could be up to a 2km walk for the residents at the easternmost side of the development. In addition, some journeys would require crossing Forest Way on foot to access the bus stop. This would significantly discourage most residents from considering public transport as an option, creating an unwalkable car dependant neighbourhood. At a time when city planning is moving towards walkable, "5 minute"

neighbourhoods where essential services are within a reasonable walk or bicycle ride of all homes, creating such a car dependant neighbourhood is backward and unsustainable.

In addition, existing roads do not have capacity to support the addition of an estimated 400 trips per hour at peak times. In particular, the intersection of Oxford Falls Road and Wakehurst Parkway already has significant queues for right turns for much of the day.

I believe the current traffic assessment is grossly overestimating the current traffic infrastructure and grossly underestimating the potential impacts of the development.

2) Loss of Important Bushland: The Lizard Rock site is an area of largely untouched natural bushland, housing many important species, including critically endangered flora. This development will require the clearing of significant area for dwellings themselves and for a bushfire buffer zone which places further strain on these critical species.

This bushland is also an important habitat for local fauna. Loss of habitat reduces the populations that can be supported in an area, and can cause additional stress on territorial species which are now forced to compete for food. Increased traffic on Morgan Road and Oxford Falls Road will also lead to increased collisions between vehicles and native animals along the entire stretch of road.

In addition, as climate change continues to worsen extreme weather worldwide, it is necessary to protect any and all existing carbon sinks. Natural bushland also serves to limit the impacts of extreme weather by reducing the severity of winds, reducing erosion and land slip, and reducing the urban heat island effect. Please consider this submission, and the many others made by local community members, carefully when evaluating this development proposal.

Yours sincerely.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Annabel

Family name

Fieldhouse

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

Annabelfieldhouse@hotmail.com

Suburb/ Town

AVALON BEACH

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I object to the Patyegarang Panning Proposal on the following grounds:

- this is a sacred Aboriginal site with widely acknowledged cultural ties and artistic significance to local Aborigines,
- the natural landscape is significant and is the habitat of flora and fauna which is a legacy for future generations,
- the impact of housing and road development will cause runoff into the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment including Wakehurst Parkway,
- the call on infrastructure to support this housing is a great cost to local government such as traffic congestion, bushfire services and public transport.

This is a significant area under Land Council control and as guardians of such a significant site turning the land into a housing estate for 450 homes is poor planning to redress Aboriginal needs for money to go to other parts of the state.

Yours sincerely,
Annabel Fieldhouse

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Tamara

Family name

Keniry

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

tkeniry@purefree.com.au

Suburb/ Town

SYDNEY

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment. It is heartbreaking to think that such a large area of beautiful, living, Australian bushland, a corridor for native animals, would be flattened for profit.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

· Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.

- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
- Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
- Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.
- Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

We need to ensure developments to increase housing are done smart - maximum outcome for minimum disruption, particularly to the natural environment - which we are all reliant upon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamara Keniry

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Letter submitted

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- **Loss of habitat** for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
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- **Negative precedent in the deferred lands** – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council’s draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the

planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Name:



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Fiona

Family name

Baker

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

fionajb@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

North Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

I wish to OBJECT to the proposal and I have attempted to attach a file

Fiona Baker

North Narrabeen NSW 2101

fionajb@gmail.com

07/11/2023

PATYEGARANG HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Aka LIZARD ROCK, Morgan Rd Belrose.

I wish to OBJECT to the proposal known as Patyegarang, currently under consideration by the NSW Planning Department

Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to record my strongest possible objection to this proposal on a number of grounds including the bushfire risk to both residents and the Emergency Services, traffic congestion and lack of infrastructure such as schools and public transport, despite Northern Beaches (NB) Council already allocating sufficient and affordable housing construction on more advantageous sites.

In addition, the unnecessary loss of wildlife habitat and the threat to multiple unique and endangered Australian species that are present in this area, is widely viewed as unacceptable by NB residents.

As examples of the value our community places on our flora and fauna, I draw your attention to a striking artwork on the wall of the Brookvale Community Health Centre on Pittwater Rd, depicting local Black Cockatoos and Waratah flowers, located in the Patyegarang area. This mural exists to engage with our community, utilising familiar and treasured characteristics of the Northern Beaches. Loss of these icons and other precious flora and fauna such as koalas, wombats and goannas will be cruel and irreversible once this project commences and will arouse significant ill feeling in the local residents. These animals will die unnecessarily.

Of particular note, I wish to draw your attention to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (Culture is Identity) Bill 2022. This Bill asserts the right of Australian Indigenous peoples to empowerment, identity and culture; to ensure that Australian Indigenous peoples enjoy their rights, and to have access to appropriate advice, service and representation.

These rights are supported by the Australian Indigenous Cultural Heritage Group (AICHG) who provide a bridge between the justice system and ALL Indigenous communities.

There are Aboriginal people with direct songlines, cultural and spiritual connections to the area in question and this has not been adequately investigated to date. I respectfully point out that the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC)'s willingness to sacrifice the Patuegarang area is for reasons known only to themselves, and does represent the wishes of the First Nation people of the Northern Beaches area.

I protest, that there are likely to be extensive, as yet undiscovered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Objects and Places, that are the property of all local Aboriginal people, all Australian people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and indeed all people throughout the world.

The Juukan Gorge incident in which Rio Tinto destroyed multiple ancient Objects and Artifacts caused National and indeed International, outrage. It is accepted that First Nation's people are the custodians of the oldest living culture in the world and as such, their history informs and delights ALL people of the world, as it encapsulates a significant portion of the history of the entire world. If ancient Objects were again, to be destroyed even unwittingly, prior to a full exploration of this area, it would not be a trifling matter.

To permit excavators and heavy construction equipment into this area, and then to build permanent structures and sell this land, where there are known ancient rock carvings, prior to a full exploration, would seem premature and unwise. To build houses on top of undiscovered Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Objects and Artifacts would amount to a deep loss for local Aboriginal people and likely a breach of Australian law.

Yours faithfully
Fiona Baker, RN, MSN, NP

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

Fiona

Family name

Baker

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

fionajb@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

North Narrabeen

I have made a reportable political donation

No

☒

I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Painted mural on the wall of the Northern Beaches Community Health Centre building, painted to engage with the community.
this painting represents the attachment our community feels towards the unique and endangered wildlife in the Patyegarang area.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Ms

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

· Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.

The 2022 State of the Environment report revealed that Australia has lost more mammal species to extinction than any other continent in the world. Climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction, as well as the lack of solid environmental management frameworks, have resulted in the near collapse of close to 20 ecosystems. A further 200 plant and animal species joined the threatened list in the 5 years since the previous report was published.

“We're serious about protecting our environment.” (NSW Labour)

Following a review of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, led by Dr Ken Henry, which found the laws were failing to protect the environment and that clearing of vegetation and intensifying land use had led to the destruction of habitat across the state, Minister for Climate Change, Energy and the Environment Penny Sharpe said the government was committed to stopping excessive land clearing and this would form part of its response to the Biodiversity Conservation Act review and a separate review of Local Land Services laws.

In NSW, 7.6 million hectares of land occurs in the NRS (National Reserve System), equivalent to just 9.6% of the total land area. Moreover, more than 60% of ecosystems have less than 15% of their area protected.

NSW has a long way to go to contribute towards Australia's goal of 30% protection by 2030. It is an ambitious but worthy goal.

Approving the destruction of bushland for housing is unwarranted and inconsistent with this ambition.

- Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.

I object to this proposal as it is entirely inconsistent with NSW Labor's commitment to the environment, conserving biodiversity, stopping habitat loss and protecting delicate ecosystems.

- Loss of Sydney's Green lungs as trees are renown for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

The Minns' government introduced the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Bill 2023 which commits NSW to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. Unnecessary and ill thought out land clearing is inconsistent with this ambition.

- Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events. This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.

I note that the proposal does not contain an adequate evacuation plan. This would be an abrogation of accountability to site a dense housing project in a bushfire risk area without an adequate evacuation plan.

- Traffic and urban sprawl – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.

- Broader Strategic planning implications - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council

to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.

· Negative precedent in the deferred lands – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to strongly oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- **Loss of habitat for iconic species of flora and fauna** such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.

The 2022 State of the Environment report revealed that Australia has lost more mammal species to extinction than any other continent in the world. Climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction, as well as the lack of solid environmental management frameworks, have resulted in the near collapse of close to 20 ecosystems. A further 200 plant and animal species joined the threatened list in the 5 years since the previous report was published.

“We're serious about protecting our environment.” (NSW Labour)

Following a review of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, led by Dr Ken Henry, which found the laws were failing to protect the environment and that clearing of vegetation and intensifying land use had led to the destruction of habitat across the state, Minister for Climate Change, Energy and the Environment Penny Sharpe said the government was committed to stopping excessive land clearing and this would form part of its response to the Biodiversity Conservation Act review and a separate review of Local Land Services laws.

In NSW, [7.6 million hectares](#) of land occurs in the NRS (National Reserve System), equivalent to just 9.6% of the total land area. Moreover, more than 60% of ecosystems have less than 15% of their area protected.

NSW has a long way to go to contribute towards Australia’s goal of 30% protection by 2030. It is an ambitious but worthy goal.

Approving the destruction of bushland for housing is unwarranted and inconsistent with this ambition.

- **Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment** as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.

I object to this proposal as it is entirely inconsistent with NSW Labor’s commitment to the environment, conserving biodiversity, stopping habitat loss and protecting delicate ecosystems.

- **Loss of Sydney's Green lungs** as trees are renowned for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.

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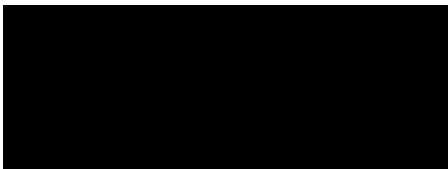
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- **Broader Strategic planning implications** - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.

- **Negative precedent in the deferred lands** – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

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Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Frenchs Forest

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submission

I strongly object to the proposed destruction of our precious native bushland, which is rapidly disappearing in all areas, and must be protected at all costs. Green spaces within metropolitan Sydney are crucial for the wellbeing of everyone, and once they are destroyed, they do not come back. This project must be stopped, and our bushland preserved.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

Ann

Family name

Sharp

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

aesharp@bigpond.net.au

Suburb/ Town

Curl Curl

I have made a reportable political donation

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

See attached file.

To: Department of Planning and Environment
Dear Sir/Madam

Partyegarang Project - Lizard Rock
Planning Proposal by MLALC
PP-2022-3802

7 November 2023

I object to the Planning Proposal for urban development in the Lizard Rock area.
Reasons include:

Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

The protection of the remaining bushland areas in the surrounding catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon is important to protect waterways and biodiversity. The proposed urban development would have a major cumulative impact in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

- The Lizard Rock area has environmental and planning constraints that make it unsuitable for urban development.
- The subject site is in a high bush fire prone area and would require extensive removal of vegetation for APZ purposes.
- The bushland area has high biodiversity values and significant environmental features.
- The natural landscape contains Aboriginal heritage values and engravings.

Strategic Plans

Strategic Plans at the Regional, District and local level seek to protect the environmental and rural values of the non-urban land in the MRA and future investigation areas.

Strategic Plans designate the Lizard Rock area as Metropolitan Rural Area (MRA), which is not suited for urban development.

Warringah LEP 2000

Lizard Rock is located in the Oxford Falls Valley (B2) Locality of Warringah LEP 2000. The proposal is not compatible with clauses in the Desired Future Character (DFC) Statement for the Locality.

- *The natural landscape including landforms and vegetation will be protected and, where possible, enhanced.*
- *Development in the locality will not create siltation or pollution of Narrabeen Lagoon and its catchment and will ensure that ecological values of natural watercourses are maintained.*

The proposal would greatly exceed the housing density standard (1 dwelling per 20ha) for the Locality. The low density housing standard is a long standing control to protect non-urban land in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

The intensification of use would have catchment wide and cumulative impacts.

Bushfire Hazard

The Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 and local housing strategy seek to avoid locating urban development in bushfire prone areas exposed to hazard.

Climate change impacts include the increased the intensity and risk for bushfire.

Asset Protection Zone (APZ)

The APZ will result in the extensive loss of vegetation and biodiversity within much of the site.

The urban development is incompatible with the protection of biodiversity and core habitat for native flora and fauna.

The proposal will result in land use conflict between the removal of vegetation for bushfire hazard and conservation outcomes.

High Quality Catchment

The proposal would have a major impact on Oxford & Snake Creek Catchment, which is identified as a high quality catchment.

Snake Creek flows into Oxford Creek, which is a major tributary of Middle Creek, which in turn flows into Narrabeen Lagoon.

Riparian Land

A wide area of bushland adjoining Snake Creek is identified as riparian land in the Warringah DCP overlay map. The proposed riparian width for Snake Creek does not adhere to the recommended guidelines or best practice, and is too narrow to provide adequate protection for the waterway or riparian vegetation. No adequate buffer zone is provided for the ephemeral creeks in the catchment.

The ephemeral creeks are tributaries that flow into Snake Creek and can be defined as waterways.

Hydrology

The development will affect waterways, soil moisture, seepage and groundwater conditions. The changes to hydrology including subsurface flow will affect the vegetation and ecology.

Site Coverage

A site coverage of 10% is land use criteria to protect high quality catchments and waterways, such as Snake Creek Catchment. The proposed urban development for 450 dwellings will greatly exceed 10% site coverage within the Catchment. The increased site coverage within the Catchment is associated with reduced water quality, increased pollution and weed invasion.

Erosion and Siltation

The development is associated with a very high risk of erosion and siltation, which would affect waterways and native vegetation within the site.

The predominant soil type (Hawkesbury Sandstone) has an extreme erosion hazard.

The site contains steep land with a slope of 20% gradient.

More intense rainfall events will also increase the risk of soil erosion and flooding.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

“While WSUD has potential to significantly reduced flow and quality impacts, claims for anything approaching complete offset following urbanisation are optimistic in the extreme, especially for urbanisation in the relatively steep bushland areas of the Oxford Falls Valley.” (PAC, 2009)

Biodiversity Impact

The development would have a devastating impact on biodiversity and connectivity within Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment. It would result in a substantial loss of habitat for native flora and fauna, including habitat for foraging, breeding, shelter and reduce the population and viability of native species, not just within the site, but also in surrounding areas in the Catchment.

Cumulative Impacts

The current land valuation is based on the non-urban status of the land. The bushland site has environmental constraints and conservation values that limit the scope of development. The rezoning for urban development, if approved, will result in an inordinate increase in land value and incentive for other land owners to follow suit and submit proposals to upzone their land.

The cumulative impact associated with the increase in land values and development pressure will threaten biodiversity, waterways and wildlife habitat in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment. The proposal will set a precedent for inappropriate development and encroachment of non-urban land. The significant cumulative impacts of the proposal have not been considered.

Funding

The MLALC seeks funding for various projects and this urban development is proposed as a means to raise funds. However, this is a lost opportunity to reap long term benefits via the sustainable management of the land. Alternative sources of funding are available for many of the projects without sacrificing the irreplaceable ecological and heritage values.

The proposal would destroy much of the natural landscape that contributes to the heritage values of the site and provides a curtilage and context for the Aboriginal engravings.

Garigal National Park

The site provides connectivity with Garigal National Park, including waterways and wildlife habitat, and shares high conservation values. The urban development will impact directly and indirectly on the conservation values within the Park.

The existing Garigal National Park has a limited area. The sustainable management of the Park is dependent on the protection of the surrounding bushland areas in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

The urban development of this land will have a significant, adverse and ongoing impact on the adjoining reserve and National Park, including waterways and wildlife.

The subject site is on land that was previously part of a proposed extension of Garigal NP.

Catchment Health

Increased population means increased pressure on natural areas, which are used for recreation (both active and passive). Natural areas that provide for recreation and education have benefits for the health of the catchment as well as people.

The bushland site is an integral component of core habitat within Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment. Much greater weight should be given to protecting conservation values within the Catchment.

The planning proposal will result in an irreversible and extensive loss of natural heritage values. The site has connectivity with surrounding bushland areas and makes a significant contribution to the protection of conservation within the Catchment.

Compensation

It is a misappropriated charitable gesture to promote or approve this planning proposal as compensation for past events. It is not in the public interest and will sacrifice irreplaceable conservation and cultural values within the Catchment.

It is a misconception that this proposal is benefiting traditional owners. It is destroying an important area of intact habitat in which Aboriginal people once lived. The site has significance by virtue of its context within Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment and its distinctive natural features.

The development would be a travesty for cultural heritage and a tragedy for wildlife and biodiversity.

Scenic Landscape

The site not only supports a diversity of native species and a complexity of life, it is also a place of scenic beauty with distinctive natural features. The varied topography, vegetation, waterways and rock outcrops all contribute to the beauty of the landscape. Damage to any place of natural beauty is distressing. In this instance the extensive damage resulting from the proposed development would be positively heartbreaking and a sad loss to future generations. The beauty and integrity of this natural area should be celebrated and conserved, not rezoned for intensive development.

Charitable status does not entitle MLALC or anyone else to rezone land for inappropriate development in order to raise funds.

The Aboriginal Land Rights Act also allows MLALC to earn some income from the land – but this use should be sustainable and protect the conservation values and environmental constraints of the land.

The proposal appears to be antithetical to traditional Aboriginal Values that relate to Caring for the Earth and Connection to Country.

Crown Road reserves

The proposal includes the privatisation of Crown Road reserves for incorporation into the urban development. The unmade road reserves allow for access (on foot) across the natural landscape of Snake Creek Catchment and should remain in public ownership. The Crown Roads have topographical and environmental constraints that inhibit vehicular access.

In 2009 the NSW Planning Assessment Commission rejected a previous proposal for 430 dwellings in this area. Similar to the previous proposal, the current plan does not satisfy sustainability criteria and would have significant cumulative impacts in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

Oxford Falls Regional Crown Reserve (OFRCR)

The proposal includes 4 lots of land that were previously part of the Oxford Falls Regional Crown reserve that was gazetted in 2006.

Visual Amenity and Landscape

“The OFRCR has particularly high scenic value and comprises areas of relatively intact natural vegetation, ecological features and landforms, with extensive views from higher reaches and ridgetops looking down to areas such as the Oxford Falls Valley”.

A final draft Plan of Management (2011) includes the following recommendations:

- Acknowledge the value of the largely undeveloped, vegetated area of land within the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon (NSW Fisheries)
- Narrabeen Lagoon and the Garigal-Oxford Falls areas should be managed as a single unit to maintain biodiversity values (Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority)

Previous proposal

In 2009 the NSW Planning Assessment Commission rejected a previous proposal for 430 dwellings in the Lizard Rock area. Similar to the previous proposal, the current plan does not satisfy sustainability criteria and would have significant cumulative impacts in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

In conclusion, the Planning Proposal for Lizard Rock is inappropriate and should be refused.

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mr

First Name

Nicholas

Family name

Chambers

☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

nicholaschambers068@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

To whom it may concern,

I write to you today in strong objection to the proposed development at Lizard Rock/Patyegarang.

The Northern Beaches is an ecological hotspot, with a vast collection of native species calling this bushland home. We are privileged in the Northern Beaches to live amongst considerable native bushland, allowing the flora and fauna, as well as the human inhabitants, to thrive. We are touched daily by the natural beauty of our surroundings, developing a distinct connection with our natural environment that is appreciated by all, and unique to this part of the world. The local community is in widespread disagreement to this development due to the environmental harm it would cause. We are privileged to enjoy this aspect of our beautiful community, and it is imperative that we ensure future generations can also enjoy this.

Destruction of almost 45ha of predominantly native vegetation will cause permanent ecological consequences to the local biodiversity and Narrabeen Lagoon

Catchment. The destruction will also see vast quantities of native flora and fauna, including core habitats of threatened species, and threatened ecological communities as per the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Furthermore, artificial structures such as roads, houses and metals have incredibly low infiltration rates, therefore increasing surface water and flooding. The destruction of native bushland, swampland and forest throughout Australia is causing detrimental impacts to our national health, and contributing to climate change through gradual destruction of flora and release of stored carbon.

I call on you to act in the interests of the local community, Australia's youth, and our planet's future.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Chambers

Submission Type

I am making a personal submission

Title

Mrs

First Name

[REDACTED]

Family name

[REDACTED]



Name withheld

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Email

[REDACTED]

Suburb/ Town

Cromer

I have made a reportable political donation

No



I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the destruction of pristine bushland at Morgan Road Belrose, (Patyegarang). This is not the way forward anymore, we cannot go on destroying bushland until there's nothing left. This is home to iconic flora and fauna, such as wallabies and the critically endangered grevillea caleyi. It is a valuable wildlife corridor and is irreplaceable.

Australia needs to take climate change seriously, we need more trees not less. Trees keep urban temperatures down and draw carbon from the atmosphere. As reported earlier this year the NSW Government is ranked last out of every state and the Federal Government in combating deforestation.

This proposal is far from infrastructure and the residents will be dependent on cars, that's not modern sustainable planning. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.

If houses are built here, they will be at a huge risk of bush fire and as we've seen with our changing climate, that is just not viable or acceptable.

The builders mow all the bush down, people come in and pave as much as they can, causing run off to Narrabeen Lagoon catchment. With less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary, there will be an impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet, spotted-tail quoll, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon. People move in with cats which will have a huge impact on native wildlife in the area.

Please preserve this bushland for the animals whose home it is, and as part of the Northern Beaches lungs. Lets be smart and preserve, not destroy.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submission Type

I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Title**First Name**

Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee

Family name☐

Name withheld

Please tick this box if you do not want your name published in the list of submitters on the department's website

Email

savemanlydamcc@gmail.com

Suburb/ Town

Manly Vale

I have made a reportable political donation

No

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I agree to the Privacy statement

submission

The Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee strongly objects to this proposal.

We represent a large number of people who want to see pristine areas of bush maintained in urban areas. Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park (Manly Dam), which has been recently State Heritage listed, shares many of the same High Conservation and Environmental values with the area of the planned Patyegarang development.

This pristine land was transferred by the Government to the MLC based on their claim that this area had cultural significance. It is critical that the Government work within their processes to enable proper funding for our Indigenous people without sacrificing the very land they identify with.

There are so many reasons to refuse this misconstrued planning project:

- The housing targets are not part of the government's or the Northern Beaches Council targets.

- The proposed development will see the destruction of 45 football fields worth of bushland and the construction of 450 homes in bushfire prone land. This is unacceptable use of a key area of the remaining bush in the Sydney area. This is an unacceptable fire risk and a burden to the rest of the area with respect to traffic and infrastructure implications.
- The NB Council experts' have reported – “The planning proposal has significant planning, environmental and hazard issues, including bushfire risks, enormous loss of high biodiversity habitat, inconsistency with planning strategies and inconsistency with Council's Conservation Zones Review.” Of even more concern is the fact that the revised planning proposal failed to sufficiently address any of these issues – even after they have been significantly aired.
- Loss of habitat and wildlife corridors connecting National and State Parks.
- Impacts to Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
- Ongoing loss of Sydney's green lungs - when we know this is a critical resource. In Europe the community would be camped all over this site to protect this green space and save such an effective carbon sink.
- Traffic impacts and lack of infrastructure.

There is so little land like this left in Sydney. We have a responsibility to the next generation and to the environment.

Please look for alternative ways to fund the needs of the MLC and allow this land to remain as treasured bushland for so many to enjoy.

Please do not approve this project.

Regards
Ann C

Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee