

Appin Precinct (Developer: Walker Corporation): 1,284-hectare site for over 12,000 homes.

I strongly object to the fast tracking and rezoning of Appin Village and surrounding areas for more than 12,000 homes. This development will destroy part of the critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and negatively impact Koalas and other threatened species, as well as endangering the water running into the Nepean and Georges Rivers and drinking water catchments.

The planning principle for the Greater Macarthur Growth Area is the conservation of biodiversity for koala population yet this planning proposal fails to adequately conserve biodiversity and the Planning Minister cannot be confident the Endangered Species like Koala will survive long term.

This planning proposal is underpinned by the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) currently being assessed by the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The Chief Scientist identified one Koala Corridor across Wilton Road south of Appin Village and Ousedale Creek within the Village. The Chief Scientist was also concerned about whether the CPCP's preferred east-west koala habitat corridor - Ousedale Creek - could be properly set aside as a workable koala habitat corridor, noting that its function is dependent on land purchases and restoration that will take an indefinite time to deliver.

The Nepean and Georges River are both Primary Corridors but no 425m minimum wide corridors have been included in this planning proposal. The majority of advice given to DPE

by the NSW Chief Scientist has not been adequately incorporated in the CPCP.

The CPCP Assessment Report acknowledges that only approximately 13 percent of the pre-1970 extent of native vegetation in the Cumberland Plain subregion remains intact, with an additional 12 percent occurring as heavily degraded communities (e.g. scattered trees) in disturbed areas.

The CPCP will impact 1,753.6 hectares of threatened ecological communities including Cumberland Plain Woodland, Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and River-Flat Eucalypt Forest.

Alarmingly, the CPCP also notes that "biodiversity loss significantly increases once habitat fragmentation by clearing exceeds 70 per cent of the landscape." This threshold has already been passed and will accelerate if the CPCP is implemented in its current form.

The importance of the Aboriginal heritage has been identified by the listing of the Massacre Site on the NSW State Heritage Register but will the NSW State Government protect the site from development?

In their petition, No development at Appin Massacre Area, the Dharawal and Gundungurra family groups are calling on the NSW Government to protect the Appin massacre site from future development. "This area should never be built on. It's a place of trauma, great sorrow and death.

Development on this land will yet again trigger that trauma for our communities."

Appin and North Appin are now being considered as Priority Precincts, according to Minister Roberts (Daily Telegraph Dec 5th) which means the CPCP has grossly underestimated the amount of dwellings and the accompanying impacts on Endangered and Threatened Species including the Koala.

The NSW Government has a social, moral and legal obligation to protect endangered and threatened species by enforcing its own legislation and regulations designed to protect those very endangered and threatened species, including the Cumberland Woodland Plain.

This project must be refused.