

Snapshot

Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan



Supporting new housing and infrastructure

The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) provides biodiversity approvals for new housing and infrastructure corridors to support the delivery of the Western Parkland City.

The CPCP covers 200,000 hectares of Western Sydney from Wilton in the south to Windsor and Kurrajong in the north.

- The CPCP will:
 - facilitate the construction of around 73,000 new homes, employment areas and infrastructure across 4 nominated areas: Wilton Growth Area, Greater Macarthur Growth Area, Western Sydney Aerotropolis, and Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek Investigation Area
 - support the delivery of 4 new infrastructure corridors spanning 100 km
 - ensure that NSW and Federal biodiversity approvals are in place for development of 11,115 hectares of urban-capable land and transport corridors
- The CPCP covers parts of 8 local government areas: Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly
- It includes 3 Local Aboriginal Land Councils - Deerubbin, Gandangara and Tharawal



Environmental values

The area covered by the CPCP supports species and ecological communities that are unique to the subregion and a range of other natural assets that are valued by the community.

- More than 100 threatened species and ecological communities are found in the CPCP Area.
- It is home to the largest koala population in the Sydney Basin with 600-1000 koalas.
- It supports 20,000 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland and 12,500 hectares of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, which are both critically endangered plant communities.
- There are 680 kilometres of waterways in the 3 major river catchments (Hawkesbury, Nepean and Georges rivers)



Little Eagle - Charles Dove DPE



Biodiversity assessment

A detailed scientific assessment was undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity from the delivery of housing and infrastructure.

- Field surveys were completed across 2,630 hectares of nominated areas to survey for fauna species and check vegetation mapping and condition
- Ecologists surveyed 258 vegetation plots as part of the biodiversity assessment across the 4 nominated areas
- Approved experts prepared 19 threatened species assessment reports



The conservation program

The CPCP's conservation program is designed to offset all impacts on biodiversity by protecting around three times the area affected by development.

- Up to 1,753 hectares of unavoidable impacts on threatened ecological communities will be managed through the CPCP's offset program.
- The CPCP will protect at least 5,325 hectares of native vegetation in perpetuity
- 8 threatened ecosystems will be protected and restored by strategically identifying vegetation linkages and corridors across the landscape.
- The conservation program will protect and manage important habitat corridors for koalas and other species.
- A total of 4,505 hectares of land will have planning controls applied for environmental conservation including riparian corridors.
- Around 27,200 hectares of land with biodiversity value is identified for selecting future conservation lands (reserves and biodiversity stewardship sites).



The Southern Sydney koala population

The conservation program includes actions to protect koala habitat and reduce threats to koalas from urban development and roads.

- The Georges River Koala Reserve will protect up to 1,830 hectares of land for koala habitat along the Georges River corridor.
- Up to 280 hectares of cleared land will be revegetated to restore important koala habitat in the Georges River Koala Reserve and other priority locations.
- Over 8,175 hectares of koala habitat will be protected through planning controls for biodiversity conservation.
- Koala exclusion fencing will be installed around new development and along both sides of Appin Road, to stop koalas entering urban areas and being hit by vehicles.
- The Ousedale corridor between the Nepean River and the Georges River will be protected and 2 safe koala crossings will be constructed under Appin Road, with another crossing of the Upper Water Canal under investigation.



Cumberland Plain Woodland
- Dayle Green/DPE