



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

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Contact: Lou Ewins
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Brendan O'Brien
Executive Director
Housing and Employment Delivery
NSW Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Paulina Hon Land Release (Planning)


Dear Mr O'Brien

I am writing with regard to the outcomes of the review undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in accordance with Commitment 7 of the Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment (the Review). This project reviewed all High Management Viability Cumberland Plain Woodland (HMV CPW) for inclusion within the Priority Conservation Lands (PCLs) across the Cumberland Plain.

OEH has now completed the Commitment 7 Review in consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Environment (DoE). A copy of the final Review report is attached for your information. The DoE has provided written support for the outcomes of the Review and a copy of this correspondence is also attached.

The Review was underpinned by the latest vegetation mapping and representation of threatened ecological communities across the areas of interest to ensure the outcomes are well informed. The Review mapped 2,400 ha of vegetation across 4 sectors and 8 study areas totalling 3,900 ha.

In summary, the Review identified three candidate areas within the Beulah and Leppington sectors which meet the criteria for inclusion within the Priority Conservation Lands: Noorumba Reserve, Leppington and Beulah, near Appin. The Beulah candidate area is approximately 60 ha in area and is managed by the Historic Houses Trust under a biobank agreement. It does not require further action to secure its long-term management and conservation. Noorumba Reserve is a 40 ha local government reserve managed by Campbelltown City Council and as such, enjoys a measure of environmental protection. The reserve would benefit from more active management and further investment. The Leppington area is approximately 85ha in area on the border of Campbelltown and Camden local government areas and is in private ownership. Noorumba Reserve and Leppington are considered to be potential candidate areas for biobanking and external grant funding. OEH will work with the relevant local and State government agencies to ensure the biodiversity values of these candidate areas are enhanced and protected where possible.

No candidate areas were identified within the Windsor Downs and Scheyville sectors due to the highly disturbed, isolated and fragmented nature of remaining vegetation within these sectors.

I understand that the Review report will be published in the Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Annual report due in December 2014. In addition, can I please request that your Department place the report on the Growth Centres website (<http://www.growthcentres.nsw.gov.au/strategicassessment-94.html>). Meagan Hinds is available to assist with this request and can be contacted on 9585 6825 or at meagan.hinds@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



TOM GROSSKOPF
Director Metropolitan Branch
Regional Operations

17 APR 2014

Attachments:

1. Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Commitment 7: Cumberland Plain Woodland HMV and PCLs review, final outcomes report, March 2014.
2. Letter dated 25 February 2014 from Commonwealth Department of Environment in support of draft outcomes report.