
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



Annual Reporting Framework

Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP)



October 2024

dphi.nsw.gov.au



Cover image: Views from Nepean Bridge, Picton Road, Appin (source CPCP team)

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Published by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

dphi.nsw.gov.au

Annual Reporting Framework

First published: October 2024

Copyright and disclaimer

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure 2024. Information in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing, October 2024, and is subject to change. For more information, please visit nsw.gov.au/copyright. ECD9040

DPHI-MC-R-WC-V1.0

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan	1
1.2	CPCP reporting	1
2	CPCP Annual Reporting Framework	2
2.1	About CPCP's annual reporting framework	2
2.1.1	Details of the CPCP Annual Reporting metrics for protected matters	3
2.1.2	Assurance and Compliance with CPCP approvals	6
2.1.3	Reporting on the number of CPCP modifications in certified urban capable land and total area of certified urban capable land	6
2.1.4	CPCP reporting key sources of data	6
2.1.5	Limitations or uncertainties	7
2.1.6	Timeframes for submission of Annual Reports and the reporting periods of Annual Report metrics	7
2.1.7	Process for submission of late reports	7

1 Introduction

1.1 Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) is delivering the [Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan \(CPCP\)](#) which will enable growth in Western Sydney to 2056 and beyond.

The CPCP is a strategic conservation plan which protects large areas of regionally important habitat while unlocking delivery of urban growth and development. This includes facilitating the delivery of around 73,000 homes planned for the Western Parkland City by providing necessary biodiversity approvals.

The CPCP conservation program includes 26 commitments and 131 actions comprising of new conservation land, threat management, planning and development controls, research and community education and engagement.

In March 2024, the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the NSW Minister for the Environment jointly announced a further [8 new enhancements](#) to the CPCP to improve ecological outcomes.

The CPCP obtained State approval under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) on 17 August 2022 and Commonwealth approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 26 March 2024.

1.2 CPCP reporting

The Department is required (Commitment 25) to provide publicly available and regular assurance reporting on CPCP's implementation progress. This will include an update each year, an independent review of the CPCP every 5 years and regular finer-scale program and project reporting from the relevant delivery partners. Figure 1, below, provides an overview of the CPCP Implementation and Assurance framework.

The CPCP is further mandated by the [State](#) (BC Act) and [Commonwealth](#) (EPBC Act) approvals to provide publicly available Annual Reports. Both approvals prescribe specific information to be included in the Annual Report. The requirements of the Commonwealth approval are addressed in section 2 below.

Further, the Commonwealth approval requires that the Department:

- must obtain approval for the CPCP Annual Reporting Framework from the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water (or delegate), within 6 months of the Commonwealth approval being obtained (i.e. by 26 September 2024)
- must publish the approved CPCP Annual Framework on the Department's website, within one month of it being approved by the Commonwealth's Minister for Environment and Water (or their delegate)
- may submit a revised Annual Reporting Framework to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cwth DCCEEW) for the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water (or delegate) approval
- must submit each Annual Report to the Cwth DCCEEW in accordance with the approved Reporting Framework and;
- must publish the Annual Report on the Department's website within 1 month of the Annual Report being finalised and ensure it is available to the public for the duration of the CPCP Commonwealth approval (until 31 December 2066), unless otherwise approved in writing by the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water.

This document has been prepared to satisfy the first dot point above which is to outline the minimum information and metrics required to be published in CPCP's annual reporting, as mandated by the State and Commonwealth approvals.



CPCP's Implementation and assurance framework







2 CPCP Annual Reporting Framework

2.1 About CPCP's annual reporting framework

The Commonwealth approval requires that the approval holder (i.e. the Department) *“must develop a set of reporting metrics for protected flora, each impacted protected ecological community and for Swift Parrot and Koala in consultation with the Department.”*

Also, *“the reporting metrics must be able to demonstrate how the CPCP's outcomes and commitments will be met, including how the cumulative impacts resulting from development in certified-urban capable land and certified-major transport corridors will be reconciled against the offsets secured.”*

More specifically, the approval requires that the Annual Reporting Framework must include the following criteria. These are further addressed in Section 2.1.1 to Section 2.1.7.

-  detail the reporting metrics for protected matters in accordance with the above condition
-  specify how each Annual Report will provide accurate and complete details of compliance and non-compliance with the conditions of this approval and the CPCP
-  specify the number of modifications made to the boundary of certified -urban capable land and the total area of certified -urban capable land
-  summarise key sources of data used to inform reporting and methods used to collect data
-  detail any limitations or uncertainties resulting from the type or method of data collection
-  specify timeframes for submission of Annual Reports and the periods that will be reported on in respect of each metric in each Annual Report and detail a process for submission of late reports

2.1.1 Details of the CPCP Annual Reporting metrics for protected matters

The Department will report on Annual Report key reporting metrics, as shown in the table below, in line with the CPCP Commitments and the State and Commonwealth approvals.

Table: CPCP KPIs included in the Annual Reporting Framework

Output KPI	Metric summary	Protected species/ecological communities
#25: Minimum hectare targets for BC Act-listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) are secured as an offset, including alternate offsets, in accordance with the Conservation Land Selection Steps	Hectares secured for each TEC	Cumberland Plain Woodland Shale Sandstone Transition Forest River-flat Eucalypt Forest Shale Gravel Transition Forest Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains Moist Shale Woodland

Output KPI	Metric summary	Protected species/ecological communities
#26: Minimum hectare targets for EPBC Act-listed TECs are secured as an offset in accordance with the Conservation land Selection Steps	Hectares secured for each TEC	Shale Sandstone Transition Forest Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest River Flat Eucalypt Forest Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest Coastal Swamp Oak Forest Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale
#31: Known locations for 17 target species will be protected in perpetuity as an offset	Hectares of habitat protected for each species	<i>Lathamus discolor</i> (Swift Parrot) <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Koala)
#31: Known locations for 17 target species will be protected in perpetuity as an offset	Number of offset locations protected for each species	<i>Cynanchum elegans</i> (white-flowered wax plant) <i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i> <i>Grevillea juniperina subsp. Juniperina</i> (Juniper-leaved Grevillea) <i>Hibbertia fumana</i> <i>Hibbertia puberula</i> <i>Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. viridiflora</i> <i>Persoonia nutans</i> (Nodding Geebung) <i>Pimelea spicata</i> (Spiked Rice-flower) <i>Pultenaea parviflora</i> <i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i> (Matted Bush-pea) <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (White-bellied Sea-eagle) <i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i> (Little Eagle) <i>Lophoictinia isura</i> (Square-tailed Kite) <i>Meridolum corneovirens</i> (Cumberland Plain Land Snail) <i>Myotis Macropus</i> (Southern Myotis)
#48: Clearance of BC Act listed TECs is minimised	Hectares cleared of BC Act listed TECs	Cumberland Plain Woodland Shale Sandstone Transition Forest River-flat Eucalypt Forest Shale Gravel Transition Forest Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains Moist Shale Woodland

Output KPI	Metric summary	Protected species/ecological communities
#49: Clearance of EPBC Act listed TECs is minimised	Hectares cleared of EPBC Act listed TECs	<p>Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest</p> <p>Shale Sandstone Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion</p> <p>River-flat Eucalypt Forest</p> <p>Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest</p> <p>Coastal Swamp Oak Forest of NSW and south-east Queensland ecological community</p> <p>Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale</p>
#50: Clearance of habitat for threatened species with habitat targets is minimised	Hectares cleared of EPBC Act threatened species with habitat target	<p><i>Lathamus discolor</i> (Swift parrot)</p> <p><i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (Koala)</p>
#24: Potential habitat for specified species, credit species and key Matters of National Environmental Significance, is protected in conservation land	Hectares of potential habitat secured for each species	<p><i>Acacia bynoeana</i> (Bynoe's Wattle)</p> <p><i>Acacia pubescens</i> (Downy Wattle, Hairy Stemmed Wattle)</p> <p><i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i></p> <p><i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> (Gang-gang Cockatoo)</p> <p><i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> (Glossy Black-Cockatoo)</p> <p><i>Cercartetus nanus</i> (Eastern Pygmy-possum)</p> <p><i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> (Large-eared Pied Bat)</p> <p><i>Epacris purpurascens subsp. Purpurascens</i></p> <p><i>Eucalyptus benthamii</i> (Camden White Gum)</p> <p><i>Grevillea parviflora subsp. parviflora</i> (Small-flower Grevillea)</p> <p><i>Heleioporus australiacus</i> (Giant Burrowing Frog)</p> <p><i>Litoria aurea</i> (Green and Golden Bell Frog)</p> <p><i>Maundia triglochinos</i></p> <p><i>Melaleuca deanei</i> (Deane's Paperbark)</p> <p><i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i></p> <p><i>Ninox strenua</i> (Powerful Owl)</p> <p><i>Persicaria elatior</i> (Tall Knotweed)</p> <p><i>Persoonia bargoensis</i> (Bargo Geebung)</p> <p><i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> (Squirrel Glider)</p> <p><i>Pimelea curviflora subsp. Curviflora</i></p> <p><i>Pomaderris brunnea</i> (Brown Pomaderris)</p> <p><i>Pseudophryne australis</i> (Red-crowned Toadlet)</p> <p><i>Pterostylis saxicola</i> (Sydney Plains Greenhood)</p> <p><i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> (Masked Owl)</p>

2.1.2 Assurance and Compliance with CPCP approvals

Monitoring and evaluation will be completed through 4 components:

- Key Evaluation Questions (KEQs)
- Output and outcome Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Reconciliation Accounting Process (approved by the CPCP Approval Committee in August 2023, in accordance State approval under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*)
- Acquittal reporting.

As part of the broader Implementation and Assurance Framework, in line with Commitment 25 of the CPCP, in August 2023, the CPCP team in consultation with the State and Federal regulators, developed the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework (MERI). The MERI was developed in line with the NSW Government Program Evaluation Guidelines and it clearly details KEQs for the CPCP and KPIs for each CPCP output and outcome. The KEQs frame periodic evaluation of the performance of the CPCP and focus on impact, appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency. KPIs provide a reliable basis to assess progress towards outcomes, including data sources and intervals of data collection for protected flora, each impacted protected ecological community including for Swift Parrot and Koala. Together, the KEQs and the KPIs guide data collection and align monitoring and evaluation with reporting on the CPCP commitments, actions, and conditions of approval.

The Reconciliation Accounting Process provides a clear and accountable process to track progress towards the CPCP's biodiversity offset targets.

Acquittal reporting, detailing the progress of each CPCP Commitment, action, enhancement and how the conditions of approval are being or not being met is completed through quarterly updates provided to the CPCP Steering Committee, as part of CPCP's governance framework.

We have also developed a data management plan and completed a data review, storage and management project to ensure data is appropriately stored and managed and can be easily accessed for various reporting needs, including for Annual Reports.

A CPCP evaluation database is in development. The database will store KPI and KEQ data which will improve reporting accuracy and efficiency. This database is planned to be completed in late 2025.

2.1.3 Reporting on the number of CPCP modifications in certified urban capable land and total area of certified urban capable land

Where relevant, the CPCP Annual Reports will report on any modifications to the urban capable land including the total area of certified urban capable land.

This information will be gathered as part of the CPCP MERI framework.

2.1.4 CPCP reporting key sources of data

The key CPCP data sources include, but are not limited to as follows:

- Annual results of the Reconciliation Accounting Process (the process was approved by the CPCP Approval Committee in August 2023)
- CPCP evaluation database (when finalised) for KPI and KEQ data, currently stored in Content Manager10
- CPCP Data Management Plan
- Department's Content Manager10 and CPCP's Consultation Manager (for correspondence and stakeholder management)
- reporting from delivery partners as agreed under executed Memorandum of Understandings or funding transfer agreements (e.g. with National Parks and Wildlife Services, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Office of Strategic Lands, Transport for NSW, Water NSW etc.)
- other internal program implementation tracking on budget and procurement, risk and change management, project delivery progress updates, internal communication and reporting (e.g. weekly priorities, monthly snapshots, quarterly reporting to Executive Steering Committee)
- the Department's planning portal/e-planning
- CPCP Council working group/compliance unit.

2.1.5 Limitations or uncertainties

The Annual Report will specify limitations and uncertainties which affect reported metrics and reporting against CPCP commitments and actions resulting from the available data types and data collection methods. Likely limitations include:

- biodiversity stewardship agreements/sites and credit offset private information sensitivity and method of translating credits into hectares to satisfy conditions of approval
- availability of information on the type and extent of development occurring in western Sydney/ inability to capture additional information data through e-Planning due to privacy limitations
- reporting on compliance investigations/details and obligation under privacy laws and so as not to compromise the outcome of any investigations and any legal proceedings
- native vegetation clearing data prior to CPCP approval
- lagging data availability as data is often not available relating to the relevant financial year to be reported in time for the CPCP Annual Report so may be reported in the following year
- weather implications around flyover for the CPCP Vegetation Extent Monitoring (VEM) method.

2.1.6 Timeframes for submission of Annual Reports and the reporting periods of Annual Report metrics

In accordance with the State approval, CPCP Annual Reports will be submitted to the CPCP Executive Steering Committee and the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Environment within 15 months from the State approval and every 12 months thereafter.

The Department will publish the Annual Reports on the CPCP website within one month of the Annual Report being finalised and will ensure the Annual Report remain on the CPCP website for the duration of the approval (as required by the Commonwealth approval).

The Annual Report will report on CPCP implementation progress per financial year¹, for the reporting period between 1 July and 30 June, the following year in line with available data. Where data is externally sourced and not yet available, it will be reporting the following year.

The data for the Annual Report will be collated annually.

2.1.7 Process for submission of late reports

Under the State approval, the Department can seek approval for a 3-month extension from the NSW Minister for Environment or their delegate, to finalise the CPCP Annual Report.

In the event that the extension has been obtained, the Department will submit any late reports to the Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water or their delegate, accompanied by the NSW Minister for Environment or their delegate extension period approval.

Any further delays beyond this will be communicated to the State and Commonwealth Ministers for environment via the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces as soon as possible (within 90 days of the delay being identified) and reported via the quarterly Executive Steering Committee meetings/quarterly updates.

If required, the Department will seek approval of a revised Annual Reporting Framework from the Commonwealth Minister for Environment or their delegate.

¹ Note: the first CPCP Annual Report contained information on early implementation actions which commenced before the CPCP State approval was granted. It also reported on the CPCP implementation progress between 17 August 2022 and 17 August 2023, 12 months from the State approval, except the financial information was reported per financial year, in line with NSW Government budget. The first Annual Report was published on the Department website outside of the 1 month timeframe as this requirement commenced (i.e the Commonwealth approval was obtained) after it was completed.