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9/10/2020

TO: NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

RE: Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP)

In my roles as a Hawkesbury City Councillor, and as the present Chair of the Hawkesbury River County Council, I would like to make the following comments and recommendations on the Draft CPCP.

1. Although I understand the draft plan's focus on those areas of the Cumberland Plain that are subject to the greatest development pressures, such as the Aerotropolis precinct, it should not be forgotten that there are other areas of Cumberland Plain vegetation significantly at risk in other areas, such as those areas within the Hawkesbury LGA adjacent to the North West Growth Precinct.
2. Every opportunity must be taken to update coverage maps of remnant vegetation across the plain, and this is not evident in the draft plan. A significant example of this shortfall was the Draft EIS released when the Outer Sydney Orbital and Bells Line Corridor were mooted by the Government. It was apparent that the maps used to show the extent of Cumberland Plain Woodland in the EIS were greatly at variance to other maps, such as NPWS maps. Confusion arose due to the lack of canonical maps that were both accurate and current.
3. Some species analysis, for example *Acacia Pubescens*, was mis-emphasised on small stands around the Aerotropolis, and ignored the need for a

freshened analysis of its major range, which is categorically in the Hawkesbury LGA. Again, this is because of the perceived need to evaluate effects around the area of greatest development, but we feel that if this CPCP is to truly steward the whole of the Cumberland Plain, all areas should be represented.

4. More generally, this cannot be called a 'Conservation Plan' in good faith, when the net effect is to give tacit endorsement to a significant additional *loss* of Cumberland Plain vegetation. Too much is lost, and carveouts for conservation are insufficient.
5. The effects of vegetation loss, particularly near waterways like South Creek, and the effects on waterway health are insufficiently addressed.
6. Local Governments, like the two Councils I represent, are unsure as to how management and stewardship costs for the conservation lands created or augmented will be met. If it is the intention for the State Government to establish new Conservation lands but then cost-shift those costs to Local Government, strong objection is made.

I have written on the Draft CPCP on my website, and draw your attention to this article, where I provide examples of maps of the difference in vegetation maps (proof of what I was saying in point #2):

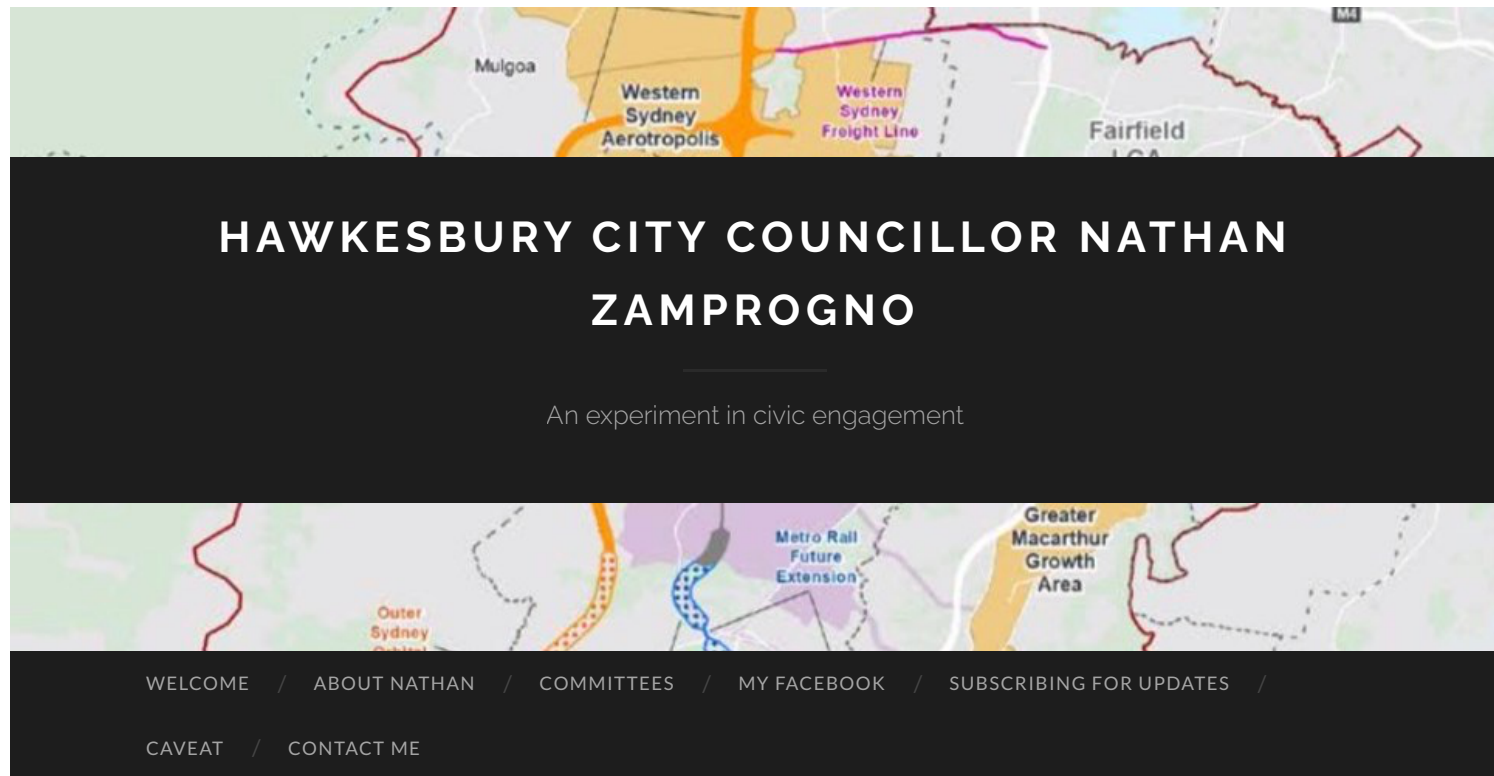
<https://councillorzamprogno.info/2020/08/28/protecting-the-cumberland-plain-woodlands/>

A PDF output of this article is attached below.

Yours Sincerely,



Nathan Zamprogno,  
Hawkesbury City Councillor.  
Chair, Hawkesbury River County Council



# Protecting the Cumberland Plain woodlands

AUGUST 28, 2020 / CLR. NATHAN ZAMPROGNO / EDIT

This week the State Government placed the [Draft Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan](#) on exhibition for comment.

This is a significant document for a number of reasons, although it has some failings which my submission to the Minister will seek to remedy.

The [Cumberland Plain](#) is a generic term for the (mostly) flat geographical area laying between eastern Sydney and the Blue Mountains, encompassing Western Sydney from the south near Wilton to the north including the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain. The forests and grasslands it used to host have been significantly fragmented by urban development, and previous attempts to create woodland corridors or “green lungs” for Sydney have been eroded over the decades, which I’ve [written about before](#), and [explained in a video](#).

The first thing to observe is updated maps relating to the location and extent of the M9/OSO road and infrastructure corridor are a part of the plan, and now formally exclude areas north of Richmond Road. This is heartening, but our community will not have certainty until the final extents are gazetted, which is in my opinion, [significantly](#)

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overdue.

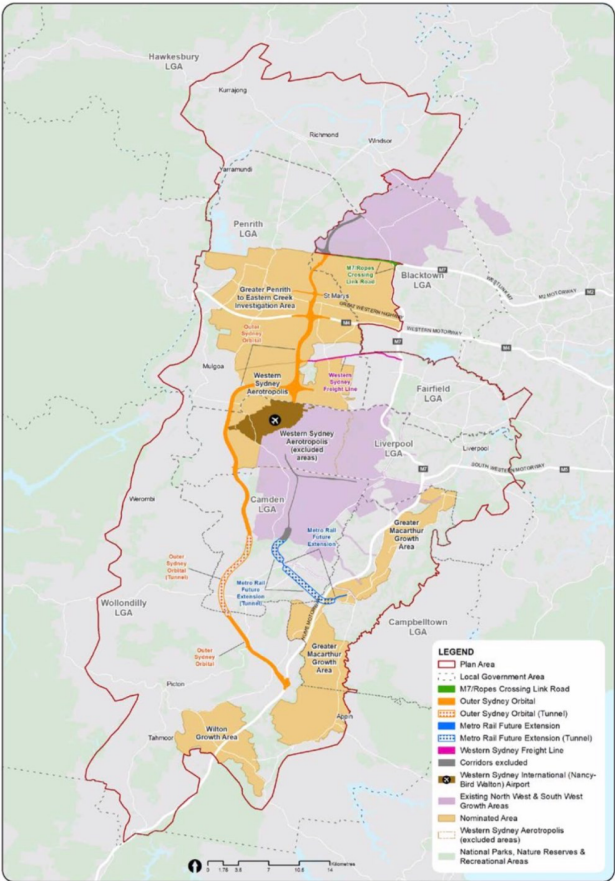


Figure 3: The Plan Area showing four nominated areas for future urban growth and major infrastructure corridors

While we're on the subject of corridors, the [Draft EIS](#) offered alongside the RMS proposal for the M9 included maps which purported to show the extent of Cumberland Plain Vegetation (of various types) along its path.

However, these maps were greatly at variance with other maps, such as NPWS maps, which showed significantly greater coverage.

I pointed this out at the time, both in an [article](#) and a [video](#) showing exactly how the extent of Cumberland woodland has been underestimated. I also created a [Google Earth Overlay](#) comparing the two.

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How many of your elected representatives have taken the time to explain what their views on development are?

Can you spare two minutes? I'd like to share where I stand on this important issue.

This audio taken from an appearance on Garry Cotter's program on [Hawkesbury Radio 899](#).

I want to know what you think. Are we striking the right balance between development and the protection of our semi-rural amenity?

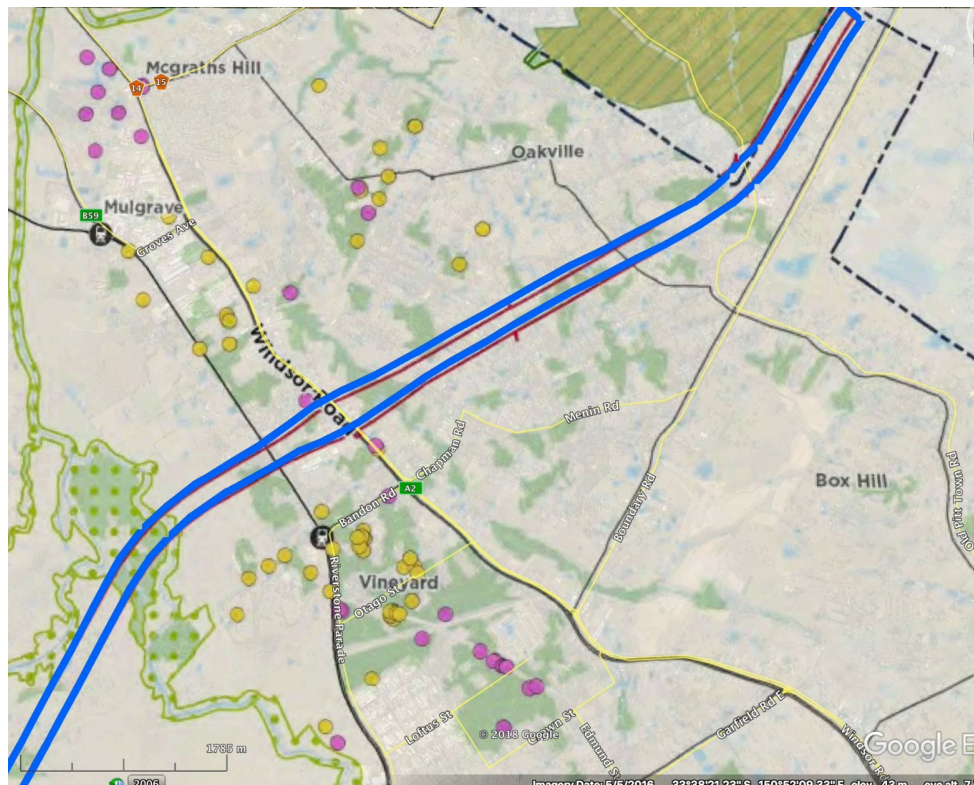
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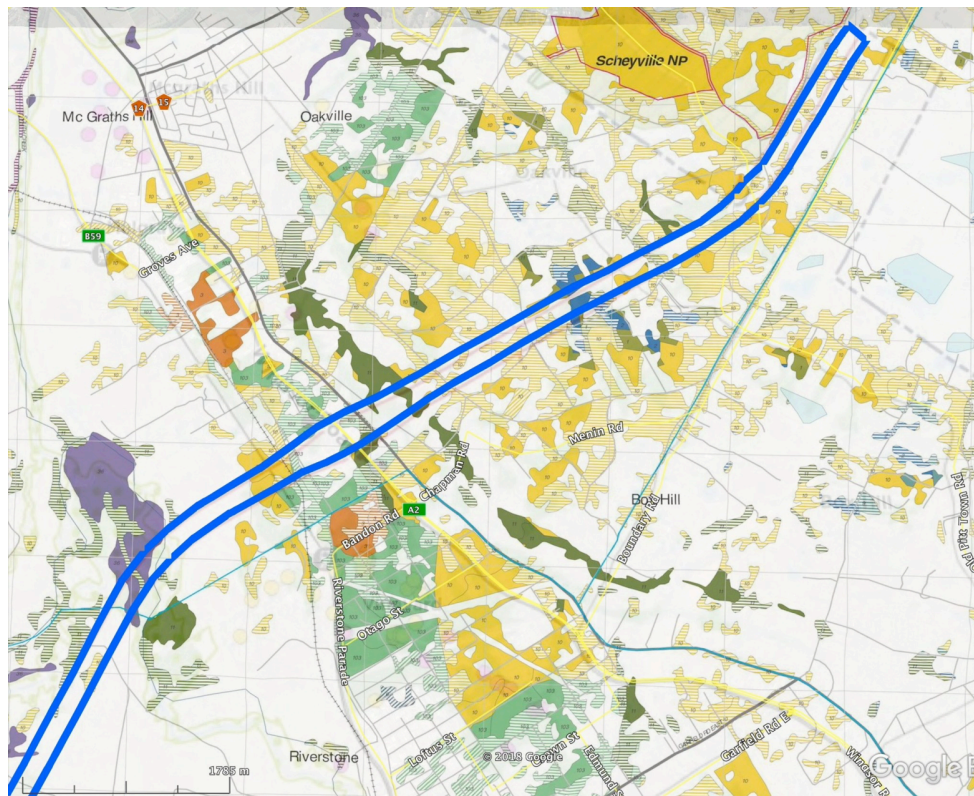
Studies now say that if the Hawkesbury river had a bad flood -- one that is statistically inevitable given what we know about our floodplain, the damage





The northern extent of the proposed M9 corridor (as at 2018, not now) downplaying the extent of woodland in the vegetation study created by Transport for NSW.

The green areas above represent “Threatened ecological communities” and the hatched areas represent “Cumberland Plain Priority Conservation Lands”.



A vegetation study created by the National Parks and Wildlife service. This shows that TfNSW have vastly underplayed the significance of the remnant Cumberland woodland

could be over \$7 billion dollars, and would certainly cause loss of life.

Over 134,000 people live and trade on the floodplain. In such a flood, 90,000 would need to be evacuated, and 12,000 homes would be inundated.

The risk could be reduced by 75% if Warragamba Dam is raised by 15 meters.

There is a lot of misinformation put about concerning the Warragamba Dam raising project. That it's a stalking horse for development on the floodplain. That it will ruin a world heritage site. That it's about increasing Sydney's water supply.

These claims are not true. It's about protecting life and property.

We are the community most at risk, and our voice should figure prominently in the decision to build this infrastructure. I observe that most people who are opposed to the project don't live on the floodplain. They live elsewhere, high and dry. They endure no risk to themselves, their families, or property.

I was approached for an interview recently for some academic research for my alma mater, the University of Sydney. I summarise many of the points I frequently make about this project, and Hawkesbury Council's attitude towards it.

[councillorzamprogno.info/2020/09/29/what-are-the-facts-about-raising-warragamba-dam/](https://councillorzamprogno.info/2020/09/29/what-are-the-facts-about-raising-warragamba-dam/)

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My days as a Soccer Dad are over, so now I'm recycled as a Soccer Uncle.  
Go Pitt Town Football Club!

Again, I'm confronted by sporting groups



(specifically, endangered shale forest) in the corridor area.

Looking through the 3256 page [Draft Assessment Report](#) in the new plan that has been released, it would appear that few actions to update vegetation coverage maps have occurred in the Hawkesbury, in favour of study areas closer to the Aerotropolis closer to Badgerys Creek. I would have preferred that a Conservation Plan incorporating the Hawkesbury took at least some time to update the relevant studies to snapshot the state of the Cumberland vegetation in the Hawkesbury. Instead, the focus is overwhelmingly on the southern areas subject to more intensive development.



Downy Wattle, *Acacia pubescens*

One representative example of this is the treatment of an iconic species prominent to the Hawkesbury, such as the Downy Wattle (*Acacia Pubescens*).

A 2003 NPWS study showed 116 known populations of the species, with just over half of those known populations containing fewer than 20 stems. There are sites in Windsor Downs, Mountain Lagoon, Pitt Town and Scheyville are the major sites in the Hawkesbury LGA, and yet the draft Assessment Report instead targeted study areas on Penrith, Badgerys Creek and Wilton.

Considering the State Government's use of maps in their planning that are seriously out of date, or which disagree with other data, I hoped the Government would take the opportunity to do new work to establish current coverage and biodiversity threats to what's left – especially in those areas of the Hawkesbury that will be likely subject to the greatest development pressure within the time horizon of the plan (out to 2056), like Vineyard, Oakville and Maraylya.

Submissions will close on **25 September 2020**. I encourage you to [make your views known](#).

making do with containers for storage. How much would a slab and a roller door shed cost?

I propose a co-funding scheme where clubs fundraise and Council matches funding and provides DA assistance and approval at no cost.

If you're part of a sporting group that has inadequate storage at a Hawkesbury Council ground, please get in touch with me.

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Today's media about the Colbee Park Masterplan.



#### Ambitious Colbee Park plan – but where's the money?

[www.hawkesburypost.com.au](http://www.hawkesburypost.com.au)

A much used and much loved venue for sporting clubs, McGraths Hill's Colbee Park has also been much neglected over the years but at last is getting some attention with its own Draft Masterplan. The problem is, according to councillor Nathan Zamprogno, there is no money budgeted to carry out any ma...

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There's a new masthead in the Hawkesbury, and god knows we need good journalism these days.

Good luck to the Editor Tony Bosworth and his team for having a go in trying times. I encourage you to Like.

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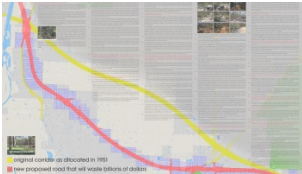
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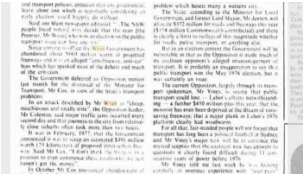
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I wrote recently about the draft masterplan for Colbee Park at McGraths Hill and how important it is for people to have their say about it while it's on public exhibition.

Here's Council's link for people to make submissions and comments.

I've spoken to many local groups and residents about the plan and the park. Some, like Arndell school next door, weren't even called and were unaware of the draft plan (despite the plan having a proposed footbridge to link to Colbee). Other sport groups tell me their expectations haven't been realised in the draft plan.

Further, that Council would advance this plan without any commitment to fund it, even within our decadal works program, is disappointing. Only public pressure will accelerate this into reality!

Have your say by October 16th, please.

- Arndell Anglican College
- Oakville United Soccer Club
- Oakville United Soccer Club
- Hawkesbury Hornets Bmx Club
- Hawkesbury Hornets BMX Club
- Oakville Raiders
- Oakville Raiders Baseball Club
- The Real McGraths Hill
- Hawkesbury Post

The Draft Landscape Masterplan for Colbee Park, McGraths Hill has been prepared which incorporates comments and ideas previously received from the community. The Draft Landscape Masterplan provides a long-term vision for the Park, ensuring that any future improvements are appropriate, and that values of the park are retained.

Community feedback is sought on the Draft Landscape Masterplan and a short survey is available for members of the community to prioritise projects which may be considered for funding in future capital works programs. The last day for the receipt of submissions is Friday, 16 October 2020.

- View the project details here [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/colbee-park-plan](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/colbee-park-plan)
- Complete the survey here [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/colbee-park-plan/survey\\_tools/cps2](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/colbee-park-plan/survey_tools/cps2)