

What is the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP)?

The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) is a plan to replace the standard rules which require developers to set aside land for conservation and instead to replace these rules with a new 'strategic' approval.

It would approve all the largest development proposals in Sydney's west including the Gilead-to-Appin housing estates, M9 Orbital freeway and the corporate agriculture precinct surrounding Western Sydney Airport.

The developments included in the CPCP will clear 10,470 hectares of land and destroy more than 10% of the entire Cumberland Plain Woodland ecosystem.

They will also permanently isolate koalas from much of SouthWest Sydney, destroy Aboriginal burial grounds, and force more than 50 residents from their homes.

The CPCP will replace developer's legal requirements to compensate for ('offset') this damage. Will the CPCP be an improvement? This depends on whether key shortcomings are addressed:

- Locking in sufficient funding
- Staging development to the satisfactory completion of offsets
- Conserving corridors including the CCC & Gilead Koala Corridor
- Conserving intact bushland instead of planting trees
- Ensuring all offsets are new – not existing public reserves
- Ensuring developers pay for offsets – not the taxpayer

It is vital that the community is heard and changes are made to both the developments proposed and the offsets offered under the CPCP.