

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

2023 Annual update

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure would like to acknowledge the Dharawal, Dharug and Gundungurra peoples, who care for the Cumberland Plain. Others, such as the Darkinjung, Wiradjuri, Guringgai and Yuin peoples who maintain trade or other obligatory care relationships with the area. We extend that respect to the Deerubbin, Gandangara and Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Councils who maintain responsibilities towards Country, community, and culture.

We acknowledge the many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in western Sydney who call the Cumberland Plain home. While their lineage may connect them to other Countries, we acknowledge their deep connection to this Country. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have a relationship with the Cumberland Plains.

The development of the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan acknowledges the continuous Aboriginal connection to the land that makes up NSW.

This annual update recognises that, as part of the world's oldest living culture, Aboriginal peoples share a unique bond with Country. We acknowledge that Country takes in everything within the physical, cultural, and spiritual landscape – landforms, waters, air, trees, rocks, plants, animals, food, medicine, minerals, stories, and special places. It includes cultural practice, kinship, knowledge, songs, stories, and art, as well as spiritual beings, and peoples: past, present, and future¹.

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Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan 2023 Annual Update

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¹ The Acknowledgement to Country was created by Peter Ballard, Indigenous Community Engagement Consultant/GHD/proud Birpai man with family connection to the Bundjalung people, originally for the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy 2023-33

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1 Executive summary

The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) will contribute to the [Western Parkland City](#) by supporting the delivery of housing, jobs and infrastructure while protecting important biodiversity including threatened plants and animals. It will provide necessary biodiversity approvals to help deliver around 73,000 homes for western Sydney.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (now the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure) released the CPCP in August 2022, with NSW approvals in place. Australian Government approval is pending, and we continue to work closely with the federal regulators to ensure it is in place as soon as possible.

This is the first annual update for the CPCP. It shows progress against the NSW approval and the relevant CPCP commitments and actions that have progressed in the first 12 months. This includes work on the CPCP that started early as funded by the NSW Government from 2021 (\$114 million over 5 years to deliver early on-ground conservation and associated ancillary work).

To oversee the CPCP, we have set up a robust governance framework. This includes creating a thorough framework for implementation and assurance and creating governance bodies such as executive committees and working groups. There are also formal agreements and memoranda of understanding in place with delivery partners.

Our key achievements, as of 17 August 2023, include:

- buying around 180 hectares of conservation land, which includes 145 hectares to extend Gulguer Nature Reserve
- transferring 54 hectares to National Parks and Wildlife Service to establish the Georges River Koala Reserve
- buying biodiversity credits equivalent to about 49 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland
- building a crossing at King Falls Bridge to help koalas move safely under Appin Road
- engaging and partnering with local communities
- setting up 5 working groups (koala, restoration, weed, pest control and council)
- creating 2 devolved grant programs in partnership with Aboriginal communities in western Sydney and a \$1.8 million grant to the University of Western Sydney for a research strategy
- developing 2 strategies - the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy and a research strategy.

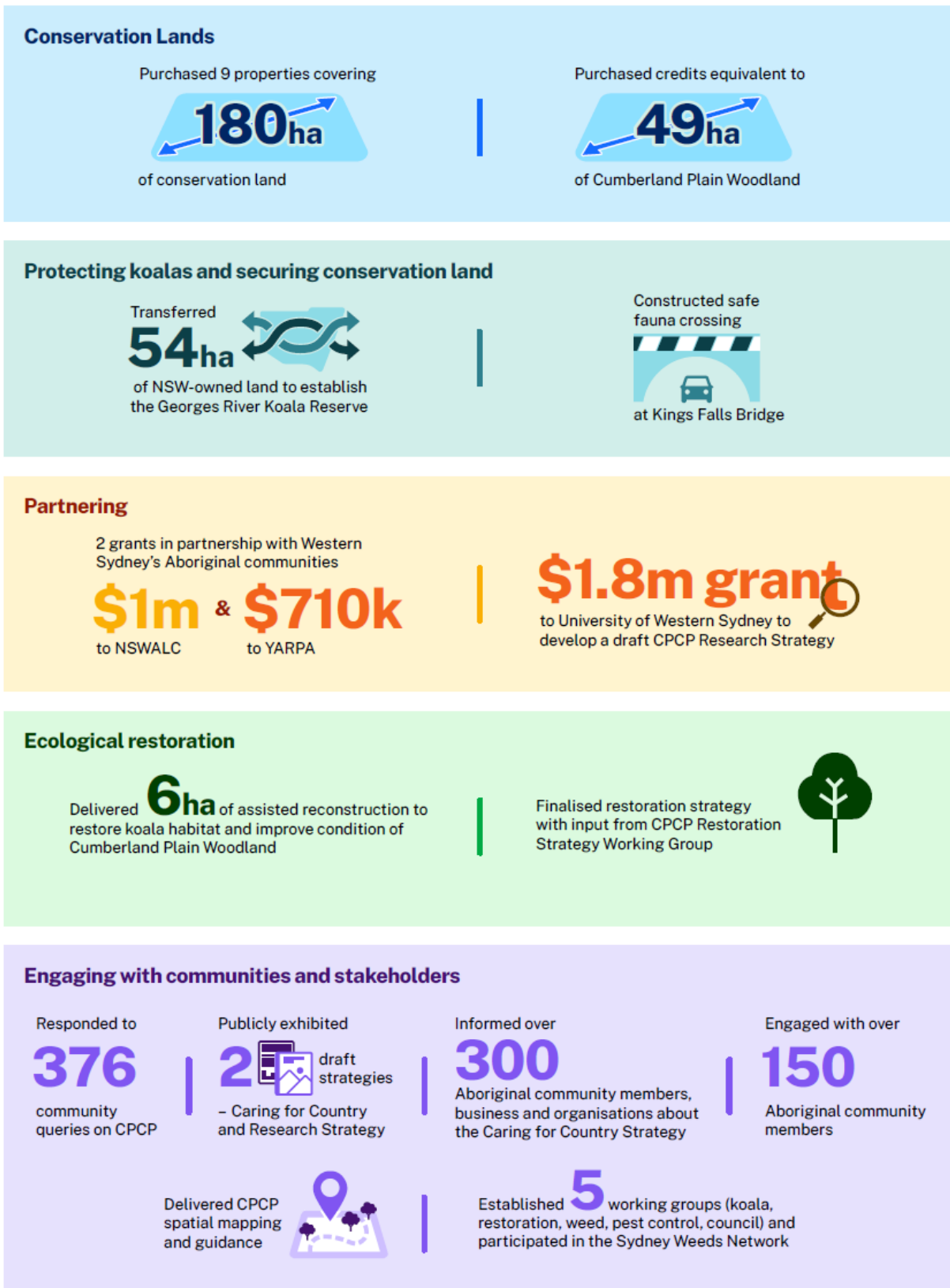


Figure 1. Infographic showing a summary of CPCP's key achievements as of 17 August 2023

2 Introduction

2.1 About the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

The Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) identifies strategically important biodiversity areas within the Cumberland subregion to offset the biodiversity impacts of future urban development. The aim is to support a vibrant, green and liveable city. The CPCP is a 35-year program with 26 commitments and 131 actions.

The CPCP's vision is to support western Sydney's biodiversity and growth. It protects large areas of regionally important habitat, while unlocking delivery of urban growth and development. This includes providing necessary biodiversity approvals to support the delivery of around 73,000 homes planned for the Western Parkland City. By the time we have fully implemented the CPCP, it will protect, connect and restore around 11,900 hectares of conservation land. This includes protecting at least 5,325 hectares of threatened native vegetation to offset the impacts of development.

We developed the CPCP to meet strategic biodiversity certification under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and strategic assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). On 17 August 2022, we received state strategic biodiversity certification for the CPCP (BC Act), also referred to in this document as the NSW Order of Conferral (the conferral). The approval under the EPBC Act is pending.

The CPCP adopts all 31 principles for protecting koalas issued by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer in May 2021. Visit our [website](#) for more information about the CPCP.

2.1.1 The conservation program

The CPCP consists of 26 commitments and 131 actions that will help deliver the CPCP's vision, objectives and long-term outcomes. We will carry out these commitments and actions over the life of the CPCP by working in partnership with delivery partners such as National Parks and Wildlife Service, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, Office of Strategic Lands, Transport for NSW, the 8 councils within the CPCP area, and local Aboriginal land councils.

The program includes actions to avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset the effects that urban development and major transport corridors have on biodiversity, as described in the CPCP. We have developed the program to address the direct, indirect, prescribed and cumulative impacts of development that were identified in the Cumberland Plain Assessment Report.

2.2 Commitments and actions

34 actions have been completed, representing 26% of all actions

60 actions have started and are in progress, representing 46% of all actions

4 actions have been delayed, representing 3% of all actions.

These figures include early implementation actions that began before the CPCP's approval. Refer to **Appendix C** for the progress of relevant CPCP commitments and actions and the conferral.

2.3 Governance and program management

The department is responsible for carrying out the actions of the CPCP and meeting all regulatory requirements. To do this we have set up a robust governance framework. This includes establishing executive committees, working groups and procedures for evaluation, reporting and compliance.

In line with the regulatory requirements, within 3 months of the conferral, the department:

- set up the CPCP Executive Approvals Committee and the Executive Steering Committee (in place of the proposed Executive Implementation Committee)
- got approval for the committees' terms of reference from the delegate for the Minister for Environment
- published the final version of the CPCP on the department's website, including explanatory documents
- released the [CPCP spatial viewer](#)
- put in place the CPCP planning measures, including publishing on department's website the:
 - CPCP guidelines for infrastructure development
 - CPCP Mitigation Measures Guideline.

The department sought and received approval to extend the timeframe by 3 months for completing the Restoration Implementation Strategy and the reconciliation accounting process. This allowed time for the documents to be finalised after meaningful stakeholder engagement. The Executive Approval Committee approved both documents before 17 August 2023, in line with the conferral.

See **Appendix C** for a list of the conferral requirements and CPCP commitments and actions, including the status of our progress against these.

3 What we have achieved

The CPCP obtained approval under the BC Act on 17 August 2022. Approval from the Australian Government under the EPBC Act is pending.

NSW Government funding provided before the CPCP state approval meant we were able to begin delivering the CPCP’s priority actions from 2021. These actions included:

- building safe wildlife crossings
- restoring ecological habitat
- investing in projects for koala health and wellbeing
- delivery of Aboriginal outcomes projects.

The department has successfully bought land for conservation in priority areas and bought biodiversity credits to offset development within the CPCP area. We have also set up strong governance arrangements and done administrative and regulatory work to start the CPCP conservation program. The sections below and associated appendices give more details on key achievements in the first year of the CPCP (including work that began before the CPCP approval) and progress against the conferral.

Awards

In 2021, we received an award from the Planning Institute of Australia for exemplary early engagement with Aboriginal custodians and other stakeholders to develop the CPCP.

In November 2022, the institute recognised the CPCP as a leading strategic conservation project and declared it the winner in its Strategic Planning Project category.



Figure 2. Planning Institute of Australia awards for the CPCP received in 2021 and 2022.

3.1 Conservation land purchase

The CPCP commits to creating new public reserves and private conservation land, connecting important areas of habitat, and helping to restore degraded landscapes. The priority reserves are the Georges River Koala Reserve, the extension to Gulguer Nature Reserve, and the Confluence Reserve Investigation area.

The Office of Strategic Lands, a CPCP delivery partner, leads the program for buying land for reserves. The department has prepared a strategy for buying land. This outlines the process for buying and acquiring land through voluntary acquisition measures, and if required, the process for acquisition by agreement or compulsory acquisition (with stakeholder consultation beforehand).

Since 2021, the department has bought 9 properties under the CPCP land purchase program. These cover around 180 hectares and are mostly in the Wollondilly local government area. They comprise:

- one property in the Georges River Koala Reserve
- 6 properties near or adjoining Gulguer Nature Reserve
- 2 properties with opportunities to enhance connectivity and restore habitat in the strategic conservation area.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

- In April 2022:
 - the department bought one property within the future Georges River Koala Reserve with an area of about 1.4 hectares
 - the department ran an expression of interest process for landholders to sell their land to help establish the koala reserve
 - 54 hectares of publicly owned land at Lysaght Road were transferred from the Office of Strategic Lands to National Parks and Wildlife Service to create the new reserve.
- We worked closely with Office of Strategic Lands and National Parks and Wildlife Service to begin the government's commitment to speed up the transfer of public land to the NSW national park estate in the next 3 years.
- We funded and supported National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop the Georges River Koala Reserve concept plan, which we expect to complete by the end of 2023.

3.1.1 Georges River Koala Reserve

The CPCP commits to creating the Georges River Koala Reserve. Once completed, this will deliver a new reserve of around 1,800 hectares to protect the important north–south koala movement corridor along the Georges River between Appin and Long Point.

In its [Advice on the protection of the Campbelltown koala population, 2020 \(PDF 4.82 MB\)](#), the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer recognised that creating the Georges River Koala Reserve is essential to the survival of what is referred to as the ‘Southern Sydney koala population’.

The NSW Government will transfer identified publicly owned lands between Appin and Long Point to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to create a Georges River koala national park.

The Georges River Koala Reserve will protect and manage koala habitat while continuing to give local communities access to public space for low-impact recreation.



Figure 3. Koala claw marks sighted by the CPCP team at Kings Falls Bridge



Figure 4. Koala paw print sighted by the CPCP team at Mount St Helens Park

3.1.2 Gulguer Nature Reserve

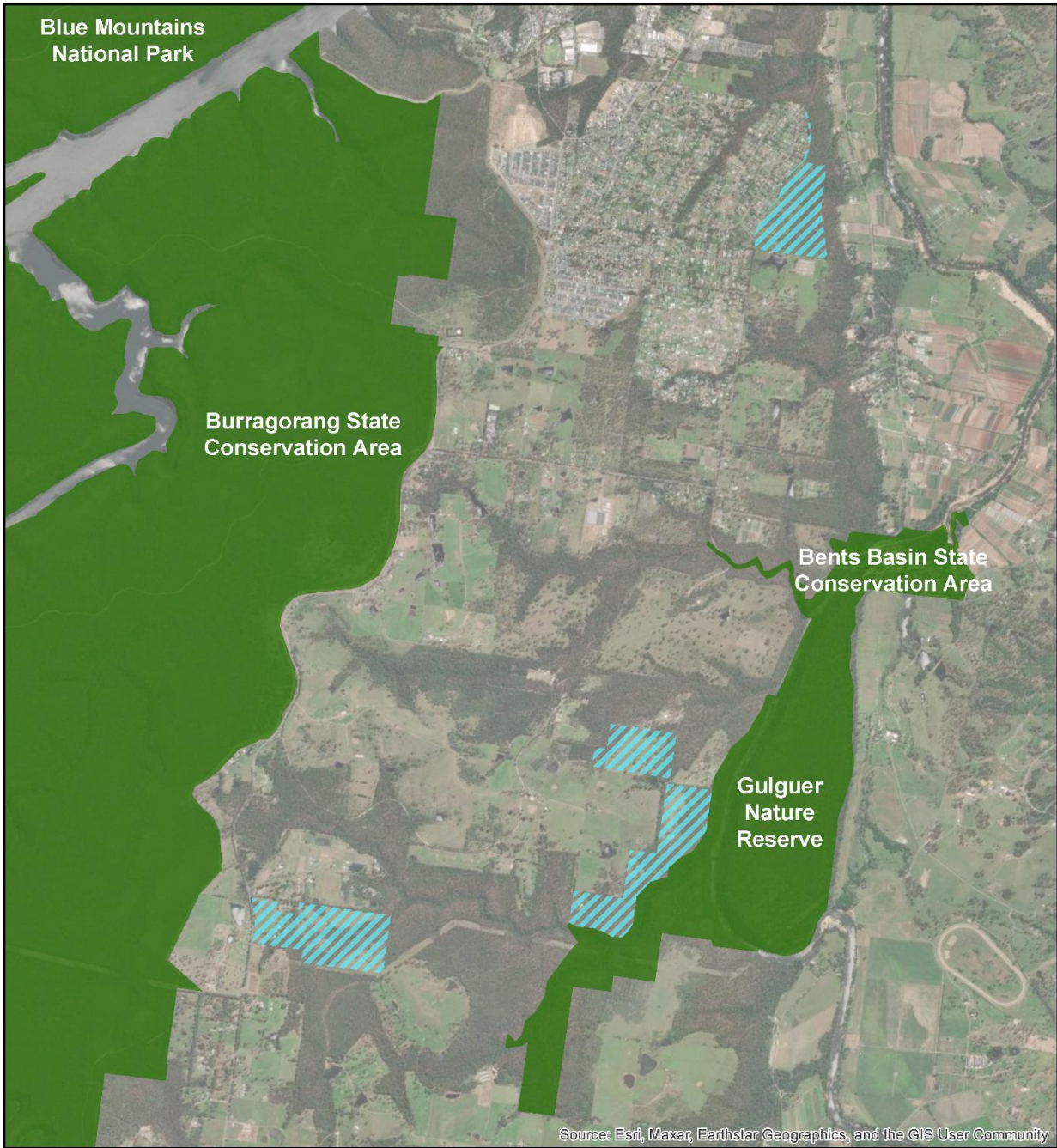
The CPCP commits to setting up a new reserve between the existing Gulguer Nature Reserve, Bents Basin State Conservation Area and Burragorang State Conservation Area. The investigation area covers about 1,850 hectares in the Warragamba region in Wollondilly local government area. A reserve in this area will support the east-west connection between Burragorang State Conservation Area and Gulguer Nature Reserve and expand on the highly visited Bents Basin State Conservation Area.

See Figure 5 for a map of Gulguer Nature Reserve and the properties we have purchased to extend the existing reserve.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

The department:

- bought 6 properties (totalling around 145 hectares in area) in the Gulguer area
- removed existing buildings and other structures from the properties
- assessed the vegetation communities on the properties.



Land Purchased in Gulguer

Legend

-  CPCS conservation properties
-  NPWS reserves



Intended Map Size: A4
 Publication Date: 18/10/2023
 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Disclaimer: The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure makes every effort to ensure the quality of information available on this map. Before relying on the information on this map, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes. The Department cannot guarantee and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, currency or completeness of the information.



3.2 Biodiversity stewardship program

The department delivers the CPCP Biodiversity Stewardship Program in partnership with the [Biodiversity Conservation Trust](#). This program aims to secure biodiversity offsets on private land. We do this by engaging with landholders in western Sydney to set up new biodiversity stewardship agreements within the CPCP area.

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust has developed a 5-year delivery plan to deliver offsets for the CPCP from 2021 to 2026. The Biodiversity Stewardship Program is a key part of the CPCP that will contribute to protecting habitat for threatened species and ecological communities.

We are also working closely with the [NSW Biodiversity Credit Supply Fund and taskforce](#) to buy and retire biodiversity credits (including Cumberland Plain woodland) when they are available.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

The department has:

- bought credits equivalent to 49 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland under the BC Act
- completed 4 business cases and 4 feasibility studies for potential biodiversity stewardship sites and given them to the landholders for consideration
- signed one credit sale agreement to buy Cumberland Plain Woodland credits from a future stewardship site created through the CPCP (site subject to approval).

3.3 Ecological restoration

The CPCP ecological restoration program focusses on creating, extending, or improving conservation land, including koala habitat, within the CPCP strategic conservation area². Focusing our activities in these areas has the greatest potential to deliver beneficial long-term outcomes for areas of important biodiversity on the Cumberland Plain.

The CPCP must deliver and support ecological restoration activities in conservation lands. This includes ecological reconstruction of up to a maximum of 25% of the CPCP's offset target for native vegetation, and associated land management actions needed to restore habitat.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

- Within 12 months of the CPCP conferral, the department established the ecological restoration working group to guide restoration activities under the CPCP.
- In August 2023, we finalised the restoration strategy with input from the restoration working group. The CPCP Executive Approval Committee approved the strategy on 17 August 2023, in line with the conferral.
- We completed 6 hectares of assisted regeneration to restore koala habitat and improve the condition of Cumberland Plain Woodland (refer to Figure 6 and Figure 7).
- We developed a restoration site management plan for 880A–900A Appin Road, Gilead and started a second management plan for 180 Appin Road, Appin to be completed in late 2023.
- We received environmental approval to start reconstructing 10 hectares of koala habitat identified for restoration in the future Georges River Koala Reserve.
- We completed the Cumberland Plain Woodland Knowledge Infrastructure Project (see box 'The Cumberland Plain Woodland Knowledge Infrastructure Project' for more details).
- We formed a partnership with the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan. Garden staff have taken 15 collections of seed from across the Cumberland Plain bioregion to be cleaned, tested and stored for later use under the CPCP restoration program.

² The CPCP strategic conservation area is the area of greatest strategic value to deliver long-term conservation outcomes in the Cumberland subregion and which contains vegetation communities needed to offset biodiversity impacts under the CPCP. The NSW Government will identify and prioritise suitable conservation land from within the strategic conservation area to offset biodiversity impacts over the life of the CPCP.

The Cumberland Plain Woodland Knowledge Infrastructure Project

The project investigated the genetic neighbourhoods for 11 species of plants used in restoration on the Cumberland Plain.

The investigations have given us preliminary guidance on selecting seed sources to maximise genetic diversity and adaptive potential for Cumberland Plain ecological communities in future climates. The department will be applying the guidelines developed through the investigations to our future collections and ecological reconstruction projects. The restoration working group and researchers will monitor the results and report on the outcomes.



Figure 6. Before (left) and after (right) showing initial control of invasive woody weeds.



Figure 7. Cumberland Plain Woodland in Georges River Koala Reserve, which will be restored in 2023–24

3.4 Koala conservation

The CPCP includes specific commitments and actions to protect the Southern Sydney koala population. These will address the impacts and potential risks to koalas from future development in the Wilton and Greater Macarthur growth areas. We developed these commitments and actions based on advice from the [Office of Chief Scientist & Engineer](#) (2020 and 2021) and the [NSW Koala Strategy \(PDF 2.69 MB\)](#) (2018).

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

- In 2021 and 2022, the CPCP contributed funds to [Science for Wildlife](#) to monitor how koalas survive when they are released after being in care.
- In 2022 and 2023, the CPCP funded the [University of Sydney Koala Health Hub](#) to carry out a koala chlamydia vaccine trial in south-west Sydney.
- We applied a suite of [planning controls](#) to address the CPCP's commitments 7 and 12.



Figure 8. One of the koalas in the vaccine trial (courtesy of University of Sydney)

3.4.1 Koala health and welfare and monitoring

In partnership with the Greater Sydney branch of the Biodiversity Conservation and Science Group (formerly the Environment and Heritage Group) and the NSW Koala Strategy, we have developed a 3-tiered program to monitor key koala outcomes for the CPCP. These programs help to ensure that:

- koalas in south-west Sydney remain healthy
- koalas persist and thrive in koala habitat across the region
- the population of koalas within the Georges River Koala Reserve is regularly monitored.

We have started gathering baseline data to help us estimate the koala population in the Georges River Koala Reserve and any biodiversity stewardship sites we will establish under the CPCP where koalas are present.

Between May and June 2023, we surveyed the health of koalas in south-west Sydney to check for the presence of chlamydia. This survey detected 137 koalas in Campbelltown and Wollondilly local government areas (including in the Georges River Koala Reserve). This was an increase from the first disease survey done in 2021, which found 83 koalas from a similar area. Results of the survey will be available in 2024.

3.4.2 Development controls for koala protection

The CPCP has implemented commitment 7, which requires the department to:

‘mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts from urban, industrial, infrastructure development on the southern Sydney koala population to best-practice standards in line with advice from the Office of NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer and in accordance with Appendix E of the [CPCP \(PDF 10.2 MB\)](#).’

Commitment 12 also requires the protection of koala corridors in the Cumberland subregion. This includes those along the Nepean River, Georges River, Cataract River and Ousedale Creek.

Before the start of the CPCP, we applied development controls to protect habitat (see section 3.7) and ensure safe, functional corridors for koala movement (consistent with advice from the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer). This includes development controls in:

- the north–south koala corridor along the Georges River (Commitment 10)
- the north–south koala corridor along the Nepean and Cataract rivers
- the east–west corridor along Ousedale Creek between the Georges River and Nepean River
- Elladale Creek and Simpsons Creek as an area of functional koala habitat
- the north–south koala corridor along Allens Creek.

Case study 1 – Koala conservation

The department funded 2 research projects to support koala health and welfare:

- a study that monitored koalas released after being in care that was carried out by Science for Wildlife in 2021 and 2022
- a chlamydia vaccine trial in south-western Sydney carried out by the University of Sydney Koala Health Hub between 2022 and 2023.

Both projects also received financial support from the NSW Koala Strategy.

Post-release monitoring

The post-release monitoring study found various factors affected koala survival when they are released after being in care. These included diet in care, body weight, climbing skills and the location of release. To help address these issues, an app was developed to help carers find suitable feed trees.

The project also looked at faecal testing as a potential method of assessing koala health before release. It found that there were too many variables affecting the results for this to be a suitable method for carers and vets to use.

Vaccine trial

The chlamydia vaccine trial found that while the vaccine did produce a significant antibody response in koalas, it was not 100% effective at preventing koalas from contracting the disease. Vaccination on its own may not be enough to reduce the likelihood of the disease spreading into the Campbelltown koala population.

The CPCP has also collaborated with the department's Biodiversity Conservation and Science group to plan and finance a koala survey that began in September 2023. We will monitor 55 plots using recording devices and drones to determine occupancy and the relative abundance of koalas within suitable habitat across south-west Sydney. The survey will be repeated annually for up to 5 years until trends become apparent.

The department is also funding a survey to estimate the size of the koala population in the Georges River Koala Reserve. The survey will occur every year in spring. The survey will use songmeters (devices that record koala calls) to estimate koala densities within the reserve.

3.4.3 Koala exclusion fencing and crossings

The CPCP commits to delivering 3 koala (and other wildlife) crossings. The department is partnering with Transport for NSW to deliver 2 of these. The establishment of koala-exclusion fencing and safe animal crossings across Appin Road and other linear infrastructure is part of commitments and planned actions under the CPCP. They are designed to improve ecological resilience and function.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

Koala-exclusion fencing

- In June 2022, the department completed a koala-exclusion fencing feasibility study including a detailed desktop analysis.
- With our project delivery partner Transport for NSW, the department:
 - committed \$1.5 million in April 2022 to planning and delivering koala-exclusion fencing at sites on Hume Motorway, Picton Road and Appin Road
 - entered into agreement for Transport for NSW to do an environmental impact assessment, detailed design work and construction for koala-exclusion fencing at sites on Hume Motorway, Picton Road and Appin Road.

Fauna-safe crossings

- With our project delivery partner Transport for NSW, the department:
 - constructed a safe animal crossing and animal fencing at Kings Falls Bridge in December 2022 (Figure 9)
 - completed a review of environmental factors in early 2023 for the Ousedale koala crossing, near Brian Road, Appin Road, including publicly exhibiting it
 - completed investigations and prepared detailed design work and environmental assessments in June 2023 at the Upper Canal for a future koala crossing.
- In early 2023, the Office of Strategic Lands started the process to acquire 3 partial lots needed to build the Ousedale fauna crossing.

Case Study 2 – Kings Falls Bridge wildlife crossing

Project scope:

- Augment the existing Kings Falls Bridge abutments to allow safer and dry movement for koalas and other animals for north-south connectivity
- Construct up to one kilometre of koala fence along Appin Road adjacent to the crossing

Outcome

The new Kings Falls Bridge wildlife crossing under Appin Road was installed in 2022. Designed by Transport for NSW and funded by the department, this new crossing is designed to provide safer koala movement at Appin Road.

The installation of 750 metres of koala fencing along both sides of Appin Road next to the crossing is to redirect koalas and other animals away from Appin Road and towards the 2 bench-like structures under the bridge.

Since being built, the koala fence and crossing have been subject to ongoing vandalism including cutting away sections of the fence and underpass.

In March 2023, we commissioned Biosis Pty Ltd to carry out monitoring to help determine whether the underpass and koala fence were effective in providing a safer crossing of Appin Road. Both native and exotic animals were detected at the site however more evidence is needed to prove the fencing and underpass are an effective conservation measure. We are looking at ways to carry out monitoring at Kings Falls Bridge over the longer term, including better protection of cameras from vandalism.



Figure 9. New fencing (left) and a new koala underpass (right) at Kings Falls Bridge

3.5 Caring for Country

The Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy for the CPCP is focusing on promoting Aboriginal culture and knowledge, helping Aboriginal people maintain distinctive relationships with land and waters in western Sydney and supporting economic participation.

The implementation of this strategy aims to:

- improve the health and wellbeing of Country
- promote Aboriginal³ culture and knowledge
- help the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra⁴ peoples and the broader Aboriginal communities maintain distinctive relationships with land and waters in western Sydney
- support economic participation for Aboriginal peoples.



Figure 10. Cycle of healthy Country and self-determination – from the strategy

³ Throughout this strategy, the term Aboriginal is primarily used to specifically reference Aboriginal peoples/communities or matters across the mainland of Australia and Tasmania. It has also been used to reference previous themes and actions of the strategy in draft or previous sections of the research strategy.

⁴ Within the strategy we have used the spelling Darug, Dharawal, and Gundungurra to represent the Traditional Custodians of the CPCP area. However, we are aware there are numerous accepted spellings of these names, as they have been passed on verbally for many generations and have been subject to different interpretations.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

- In May 2021, the department partnered with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council to deliver a \$1 million grants program tailored to the 3 local Aboriginal land councils in the CPCP area. This will support the delivery of cultural and conservation outcomes on their land and build their capacity.
- In May 2021, we partnered with Yarpa NSW Indigenous Business and Employment Hub to deliver around \$700,000 under the Business Development Grant Program for Aboriginal businesses. This will help them to build capacity and capability.
- Between November 2022 and April 2023, we released a draft Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy for public exhibition.
- Between 2022 and 2023, we engaged with the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra peoples, the broader Aboriginal communities and groups and a range of Aboriginal organisations from the CPCP region to finalise the strategy.
- We created and filled Aboriginal-identified roles to support the delivery of the CPCP and Caring for Country Strategy and capacity-building roles for one university and one high school student.
- We engaged an Aboriginal artist to produce artworks for the Caring for Country Strategy and its communications materials.

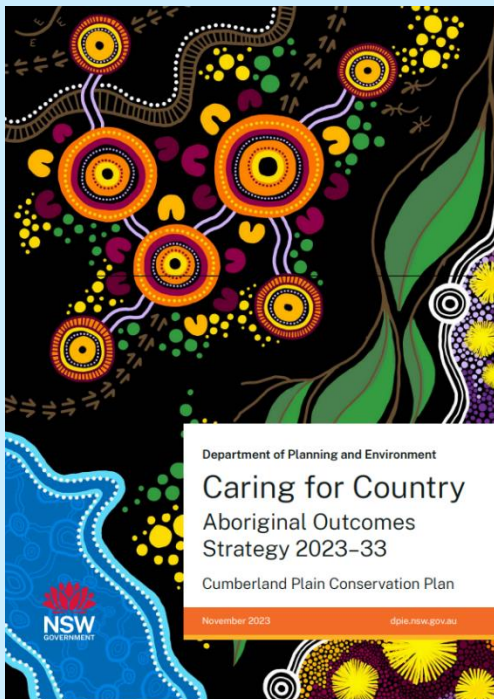


Figure 11. Cover of the Caring for Country Strategy

Case study 3 – Engagement on the draft Caring for Country Strategy

The department released the draft Caring for Country Strategy for public exhibition in November 2022, welcoming comments from the public over a period of 6 months.

During the public exhibition, we had 12 meetings with community groups with 23 total attendees. We also engaged with Aboriginal communities through an email distribution list of more than 150 contacts, attended 3 community events (from which we received approximately 135 inquiries) and organised a webinar. We received 5 written submissions and 6 phone calls. The draft strategy was advertised on Koori radio and newspaper in November 2022.

We have modified the strategy based on the participants' feedback during the engagement.

The following are highlights of the engagement:

- Between 2019 and 2020, we had early engagement with western Sydney's Aboriginal communities to help inform the CPCP's development. This included open events with Aboriginal communities of western Sydney, workshops with NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Gandangara, Tharawal and Deerubbin Aboriginal land councils, walks on Country and information sessions in Liverpool, Mt Druitt and Penrith.
- Between 2020 and 2022, we held around 30 meetings and contacted over 200 members of the Aboriginal communities to understand their priorities and identify opportunities for development of the strategy.
- In 2021, we received a Planning Institute of Australia award for undertaking exemplary early engagement with Aboriginal custodians, representatives and other stakeholders to develop the CPCP.
- In May 2022, we ran 'close the loop' sessions with Aboriginal stakeholders.
- Between November 2022 and April 2023, we engaged with Aboriginal stakeholders on the draft strategy, including by webinar, email distribution, presentations at Aboriginal committee meetings, meetings with Traditional custodians and Knowledge Holders and attendance at 3 community events (Yabun Community Event, Cooee Festival and Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council NAIDOC Festival).

Details on the Caring for Country Strategy and the associated engagement are available on the [department's website](#).

3.6 CPCP research program

The CPCP identifies that while there is a considerable amount of research on the ecology of the Cumberland subregion, there are still some gaps that need to be closed to manage and improve biodiversity over the long term in the CPCP area.

The CPCP has invested \$1.8 million to develop a 35-year research strategy and deliver the first 4 years of research in partnership with University of Western Sydney. This research will underpin the adaptive management needed to improve biodiversity outcomes over the life of the CPCP.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

- Between November 2023 and February 2024, the department and the University of Western Sydney jointly carried out targeted engagement with key stakeholders. We publicly exhibited the CPCP’s research strategy for comment.
- During 2023, we awarded 6 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) scholarships through the implementation of stage 1 of the research program, co-funded by the University of Western Sydney.
- In July 2021, we established the CPCP research program steering committee to oversee the delivery of the strategy. Membership was from across the department and University of Western Sydney.

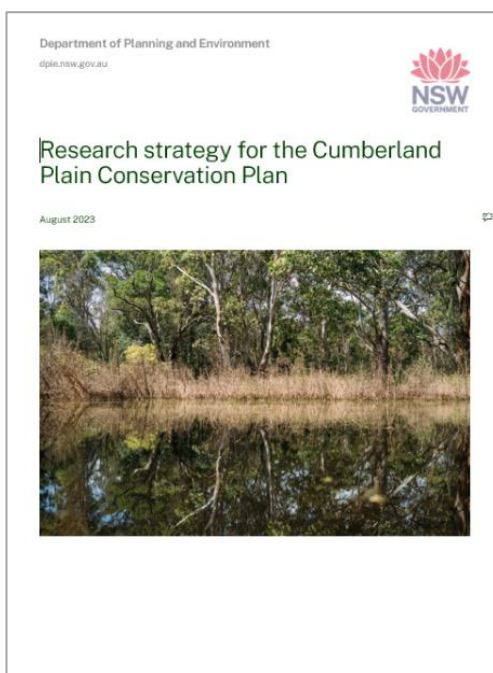


Figure 12. Cover of the CPCP research strategy

3.7 CPCP planning controls

There are 5 planning controls that support the implementation of the biodiversity and development commitments of the CPCP. The planning controls apply to land identified under the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 as:

- avoided land
- certified urban capable land
- land in a strategic conservation area.

We implemented the following 5 planning controls after CPCP approval:

- a Strategic Conservation Planning Chapter (Chapter 13) to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021
- Section 9.1 Ministerial Direction (Strategic Conservation Planning)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Avoided Land) Regulation 2022
- Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Guidelines for Infrastructure Development
- Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Mitigation Measures Guideline and associated controls in the state-led development control plans for Wilton, the Aerotropolis and Mamre Road.

We offer direct support to councils and government agencies, such as face to face training and support, virtual meetings and workshops, to ensure effective implementation of the planning controls.

Key achievements as of 17 August 2023

- In August 2022, we implemented 5 planning controls that support the CPCP.
- We gave councils and other government stakeholders support to deliver the CPCP planning controls. This included face-to-face meetings and a dedicated technical support officer for phone and email enquiries. We took over 190 individual enquiries.
- In January 2023, we did a detailed 'health check' with 4 councils in the CPCP area to review the effectiveness and use of the planning controls. We gave feedback to councils on the outcome of the project.
- In August 2023, we began a review of the CPCP strategic conservation area. This is still underway and will be finalised in 2024, in line with CPCP's modification process (also underway since January 2023).

4 Native vegetation clearing and biodiversity offset reconciliation accounting

The department is tracking secured biodiversity offsets for our native vegetation target, including individual threatened ecological community targets and species targets.

We are also tracking native vegetation clearing in CPCP certified urban-capable land by using CPCP's Vegetation Extent Monitoring program (see the 'Vegetation Extent Monitoring Program' box for details). By doing this, we will reconcile native vegetation clearing from new development and biodiversity offsets secured in the CPCP area to ensure offsets remain ahead of clearing.

4.1 Progress towards native vegetation and species targets

The CPCP commits to protect a minimum of 5,325 hectares of target native vegetation in the Cumberland subregion to conserve biodiversity values in perpetuity. As of 17 August 2023, the department has offset around 134 hectares of this target for native vegetation.

Appendix B outlines the progress (in hectares) towards offsets for individual BC Act-listed and EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities. It also outlines progress (in hectares) towards targets for koala and swift parrot habitat, species locations and potential habitat for species listed in the CPCP.

4.2 Native vegetation clearing in certified lands

In 2023, there was 4.6 hectares of clearing to target native vegetation within certified urban-capable land, based on the Vegetation Extent Monitoring Program. Clearing of target native vegetation impacted during the CPCP's preparation and approval is not included here but has been reported to the authorities through the Vegetation Extent Monitoring Program.

Appendix B outlines the area in hectares of native vegetation clearing within certified urban-capable land for individual BC Act-listed and EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities. It

also includes native vegetation clearing within certified urban-capable land for koala and swift parrot habitat.

Vegetation Extent Monitoring Program

This program monitors the change in area of native vegetation on an annual basis to report on the effects that clearing has on target native vegetation within in the certified urban-capable land and transport corridors. The program also monitors the change in area of native vegetation on an annual basis within the avoided lands and the strategic conservation areas.

The program will allow the department to:

- update the vegetation mapping across the plan area every year
- track the accrued impacts within the certified land to determine the offsets required
- track the available potential offsets across the landscape
- review whether the planning controls are sufficient to protect native vegetation.

The program uses aerial imagery that is captured every year so that annual comparisons can be made. The CPCP aims to capture consistent imagery so that comparisons between 2 time periods are accurate. Images are taken during the summer months each year, so shadows are minimised and the vegetation values in the captured bands remain similar.

4.3 Offset liability and offset delivery for native vegetation clearing and secured offsets

The department has developed a reconciliation accounting process to track progress towards meeting the CPCP's offset target of 5,325 hectares against the rate of clearing of target native vegetation in certified urban capable land. This process provides a clear and accountable way to measure how the CPCP is delivering offsets against its targets (see the box 'The CPCP reconciliation process and determining offset delivery').

The CPCP reconciliation process and determining offset delivery

Offset liability uses a ratio to determine the total amount of target native vegetation in hectares to be offset, based on the area of target native vegetation cleared. To determine the offset liability, a ratio of 3.5:1 is applied to the total area in hectares of target native vegetation cleared in certified urban-capable land and certified major transport corridors.

Offset liability is then compared to secured offsets to date to determine offset delivery (a percentage representing the secured offsets to date divided by the total offset liability).

What is the 'offset delivery' used for?

Where the area of target native vegetation within a conservation land contains less than 80% of the offset liability after year 5, the executive steering committee can trigger adaptive management steps, starting with voluntary acquisition (property acquisition by agreement). There would be at least another 3 years before the final adaptive management step (land use planning responses) would be considered if target native vegetation within a conservation land is still less than 80% of the offset liability. This step would be considered no earlier than year 8. Further information on the offset delivery and the adaptive management steps is in the CPCP.

5 Financial snapshot

5.1 Funding source

The department will deliver the CPCP over the next 3 decades. A contributing factor to the success of the program will be availability of funding.

The NSW Government has committed \$114 million of up-front funding to support the delivery of priority actions in the first 5 years. This includes funding from the Planning Acceleration Reform program, State Voluntary Planning Agreement and from Transport for NSW.

Program costs will also be recovered over time through contributions collected from residential, commercial and industrial developers in the 4 western Sydney growth areas.

5.2 CPCP expenditure

As of 30 June 2023, a total of about \$88 million has been spent since 2020 to deliver the CPCP program. This included budget transfers to other public agencies to deliver work on behalf of CPCP, including the Biodiversity Conservation Trust, the Office of Strategic Lands and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

CPCP's expenditure per financial year includes:

- \$30.9 million for financial year 2020–21
- \$43.5 million for financial year 2021–22
- \$13.9 million for financial year 2022–23.

The key project expenditure to date comprises \$40 million for land purchases and \$35 million for biodiversity credit purchases and establishment of new biodiversity stewardships sites.

5.3 CPCP cost recovery

The cost recovery to date is \$7.9 million, which was collected under the Aerotropolis Special Infrastructure Contributions in financial year 2022–23.

Appendix A: Native vegetation clearing

This appendix provides an update on clearing to target native vegetation within certified urban-capable land and major transport corridors (certified). It outlines the area in hectares for native vegetation clearing impacts in certified land to BC Act-listed and EPBC Act-listed threatened ecological communities. It also outlines clearing impacts to koalas and swift parrots in certified land.

Summary of native vegetation change

The native vegetation clearing data is derived from the CPCP's Vegetation Extent Monitoring Program, which monitors ground cover loss and woody vegetation loss.

The department reports annually on clearing to target native vegetation within the CPCP's certified urban capable land and in the major transport corridors. The clearing data in 2023 for certified urban capable land is based on aerial imagery taken in February 2023 and is shown in Table A1. Transport for NSW has reported no clearing of native vegetation in CPCP certified major transport corridors, as of 17 August 2023.

Clearing of target native vegetation within certified urban capable land during the CPCP's preparation is not included. The department has reported this to the relevant authorities including councils as part of the Vegetation Extent Monitoring Program.

Table A1. A summary of target native vegetation clearing in certified urban capable land in 2023, per native vegetation category type (refer also to definitions below).

Land category	Intact condition (ha)	Thinned vegetation (ha)	Scattered trees (ha)	Derived native grassland (ha)	Total clearing (ha)
Certified urban capable-land	0	1.1	0.7	2.8	4.6

The CPCP reconciliation process and determining offset delivery

Native vegetation condition definitions are as described in the CPCP Impact Assessment Report, including the following:

- **Intact** are areas of wooded vegetation community, including regrowth, that displays a range of structural layers and habitat features such as tree hollows and large trees, fallen timber and a largely unmodified canopy density and a range of age classes and species present.
- **Thinned** includes a range of states such as wooded vegetation with a partly cleared canopy and a more open structure compared to intact the plant community type, as well as wooded vegetation that has been under-scrubbed.
- **Scattered trees** are a single tree or small group of trees surrounded by native and exotic pasture and areas of cultivation. Other structural components of the vegetation have typically been removed.
- **Derived Native Grassland** are native grasslands that have a vegetation integrity score of greater than or equal to 15 (based on data collection in the field).

Clearing of threatened ecological communities

Table A2 and Table A3 outline clearing to threatened ecological communities under both the BC Act and EPBC Act within the CPCP's certified urban-capable land in 2023.

Table A2. Clearing of threatened ecological communities (BC Act) in CPCP certified urban-capable land in 2023

Threatened ecological communities (BC Act)	Total clearing (ha)
Cumberland Plain Woodland	4.0
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest	0
Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest	0.3
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	0.2
Shale Gravel Transition Forest	0.1
Swamp oak Floodplain Forest	0
Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains	0
Moist Shale Woodland	0
Total	4.6

Table A3. Clearing of threatened ecological communities (EPBC Act) in certified urban capable land in 2023

Threatened ecological communities (EPBC Act)	Total clearing (ha)
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest	0
Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest	0.4
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	0
Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest	0.3
Coastal Swamp Oak Forest	0
Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale	0
Total	0.7

Clearing of koala and swift parrot habitat

Table A4 outlines clearing to koala habitat and swift parrot habitat within the CPCP's certified urban-capable land in 2023.

Table A4. Clearing of koala and swift parrot habitat in CPCP certified urban capable land in 2023

Species	Total clearing (ha)
<i>Lathamus discolor</i> (swift parrot)	1.85
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koala)	0

Appendix B: Secured offsets for threatened ecological communities and species targets

This appendix provides an update on the department's progress towards offset targets for native vegetation and threatened species. It outlines the area in hectares of protected land of specified threatened ecological communities listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). It also outlines how the department is meeting its other targets, including towards koala and swift parrot habitat, species locations and potential habitat for species listed in the CPCP.

Values listed are approximate and have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Threatened ecological communities

The CPCP commits to protecting a minimum of 5,325 hectares of target native vegetation in the Cumberland subregion to conserve biodiversity values in perpetuity. This includes minimum area targets of threatened ecological communities listed under both the BC Act (Commitment 8.2) and the EPBC Act (Commitment 8.1). Table B1 and Table B2 show progress towards these targets.

Table B1. Area of BC Act threatened ecological communities protected under the CPCP

Threatened ecological community name (BC Act)	Target (ha)	Area secured as of August 2023 (ha)
Cumberland Plain Woodland	2,885	58
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest	1,455	68
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	505	8
Shale Gravel Transition Forest	285	0
Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest	115	0
Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest	70	0
Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains	10	0
Moist Shale Woodland	0.2	0
Total	5,325.2	134

Table B2. Area of EPBC Act threatened ecological communities protected under the CPCP

threatened ecological communities name (EPBC Act)	Target (ha)	Area secured as of August 2023 (ha)
Shale Sandstone Transition Forest	675	68
Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest	665	25
River-flat Eucalypt Forest	570	8
Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest	125	0
Coastal Swamp Oak Forest	20	0
Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale	0.2	0
Total	n/a	101

Threatened species

The CPCP commits to protecting 17 threatened species likely to be at risk of residual adverse impacts from development under the CPCP (Commitment 9). This includes securing habitat for swift parrot and koala according to specific targets set in the CPCP (see Table B3). This commitment also includes securing offsets to protect known locations for 15 threatened plant and animal species (see Table B4). Each of these species has an offset location target that must be achieved over the life of the CPCP. The number of locations is specified in the order conferring certification (section 4a) and is outlined in Table B4. The department has not yet secured any offset locations.

Table B3. Total area (hectares) secured under CPCP for Swift parrot and Koala

Species	Target (ha)	Area secured as of August 2023 (ha)
<i>Lathamus discolor</i> (swift parrot)	4,410	170
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (koala)	705	44

The department must report potential habitat protected in secured offsets for other threatened species as required under the NSW Order of Conferral. Potential habitat has been determined using models of plant community type association and other attributes. The area of protected potential habitat loosely correlates with area of protected native vegetation.

The area (in hectares) of potential habitat protected through secured biodiversity offsets for species associated with those plant community types is listed in Table B5. The data collected to date

includes land purchases, which are included as a secured offset, as well as land transferred to National Parks and Wildlife Service. The department is still determining a method to calculate potential habitat for areas where biodiversity credits have been purchased and retired.

Table B4. The number of species habitat locations protected under CPCP for specific species

Species	Target offset locations	Number of species habitat locations protected as of August 2023
<i>Cynanchum elegans</i> (white-flowered wax Plant)	2	0
<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>	4	0
<i>Grevillea juniperina</i> subsp. <i>Juniperina</i> (juniper-leaved grevillea)	4	0
<i>Hibbertia fumana</i>	2	0
<i>Hibbertia puberula</i>	2	0
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>Viridiflora</i>	3	0
<i>Persoonia nutans</i> (nodding geebung)	3	0
<i>Pimelea spicata</i> (spiked rice-flower)	4	0
<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>	3	0
<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i> (matted bush-pea)	3	0
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (white-bellied sea-eagle)	2	0
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i> (little eagle)	2	0
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i> (square-tailed kite)	2	0
<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i> (Cumberland Plain land snail)	3	0
<i>Myotis Macropus</i> (southern myotis)	1	0

Table B5. Total area (hectares) secured under CPCP for specific threatened flora and fauna species

Species	Area secured as of August 2023 (hectares)
<i>Acacia bynoeana</i> (Bynoe's wattle)	67
<i>Acacia pubescens</i> (downy wattle, hairy-stemmed wattle)	30
<i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i>	0
<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> (gang-gang cockatoo)	5
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> (glossy black cockatoo)	143
<i>Cercartetus nanus</i> (rastern pygmy-possum)	168
<i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> (large-eared pied bat)	114
<i>Epacris purpurascens</i> var. <i>purpurascens</i>	169
<i>Eucalyptus benthamii</i> (Camden white gum)	22
<i>Grevillea parviflora</i> subsp. <i>parviflora</i> (small-flower grevillea)	0
<i>Heleioporus australiacus</i> (giant burrowing frog)	17
<i>Litoria aurea</i> (green and golden bell frog)	6
<i>Maundia triglochinooides</i>	0
<i>Melaleuca deanei</i> (Deane's paperbark)	28
<i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i>	69
<i>Ninox connivens</i> (barking owl)	128
<i>Ninox strenua</i> (powerful owl)	131
<i>Persicaria elatior</i> (tall knotweed)	0
<i>Persoonia bargoensis</i> (Bargo geebung)	0
<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> (squirrel glider)	159
<i>Pimelea curviflora</i> subsp. <i>Curviflora</i>	42
<i>Pomaderris brunnea</i> (brown pomaderris)	59
<i>Pseudophryne australis</i> (red-crowned toadlet)	149
<i>Pterostylis saxicola</i> (Sydney plains greenhood)	104
<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> (masked owl)	131

Appendix C: Delivery progress of CPCP regulatory requirements, commitments and actions

This appendix provides a summary of the delivery progress for the NSW Order of Conferral for Biodiversity Certification of the CPCP and for CPCP commitments and actions.

This appendix includes the following tables:

- Table C1. Progress against NSW Order of Conferral for Biodiversity Certification of the CPCP under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)
- Table C2. Progress against CPCP commitments and actions, including before start of CPCP, Year 1 and life of CPCP

Table C1. Progress against NSW Order of Conferral for Biodiversity Certification of the CPCP under the NSW *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

Section	Condition description	Time frame	Status
8.3(3)(a)	<p>Condition 1:</p> <p>(a) the Applicant must retire 171 Cumberland Plain Woodland Credits, as required in condition 3 of Schedule 3</p> <p>(b) The Executive Implementation Committee must be established by the Applicant and provide agreed terms of reference in writing for approval by the minister or delegate</p> <p>(c) The following must be published on the department’s website, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the minister:</p> <p>The final version of the Plan, CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development, and CPCP Mitigation Measures Guidelines</p> <p>(d) An amendment to the Strategic Conservation Planning chapter of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021</i> (NSW) must be gazetted to introduce the Strategic Conservation Planning controls contained within the draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Strategic Conservation Planning) 2021 (NSW) unless otherwise agreed in writing with the minister.</p>	Within 3 months from the date of conferral	Complete
8.3(3)(a)	<p>Condition 2</p> <p>(a) the reconciliation accounting process must be approved by the Executive Implementation Committee</p> <p>(b) the Restoration Implementation Strategy must be prepared in consultation with the Restoration Working Group and must be approved by Executive Implementation Committee</p>	Within 9 months from the date of conferral	Complete (extension obtained)
8.3(3)(a)	<p>Condition 3</p> <p>(a) Establish the Koala Working Group</p> <p>(b) Terminate the interim “Reserve Program Delivery Agreement” entered into with National Parks and Wildlife Service dated 12 January 2022</p> <p>(c) Enter into separate memorandums of understanding with Office of Strategic Land, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Transport for NSW by providing for:</p> <p>the role of each party in the delivery of the Plan, variation on the mutual agreement of each party, any other matter relating to delivery of the Plan, and the relevant party to provide information to the Applicant, to allow the Applicant to comply with reporting requirements under this Order. unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Applicant and the relevant party</p> <p>Unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Applicant and the relevant party.</p>	Within 12 months after the date of conferral	Complete
8.3(3)(a)	<p>Condition 4</p> <p>The Applicant is to enter into arrangements providing for the transfer of a minimum of 500 hectares of land for reservation under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> as the Georges River Koala Reserve, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the minister.</p>	Within 5 years after the date of conferral	Started

Section	Condition description	Time frame	Status
8.3(3)(a)	Condition 5 In addition to Condition 4 of this Schedule, within 10 years after the date of Conferral, the Applicant is to enter into arrangements providing for the transfer of a cumulative total of 1105 hectares for reservation under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> as the Georges River Koala Reserve, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the minister.	Within 10 years after the date of conferral	Noted
8.3(3)(a)	Condition 6 The Applicant is to enter into arrangements providing for the transfer of a cumulative total of 1830 hectares of land for reservation under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> as the Georges River Koala Reserve, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the minister.	Within 20 years after the date of conferral	Noted
8.3(3)(a)	Condition 7 Some lands referred to in conditions 4, 5 and 6 of this Schedule within the Georges River Koala Reserve may, alternatively, be transferred to a public land management entity other than National Parks and Wildlife Service by agreement between the Applicant, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the alternative public land management entity. For avoidance of doubt, this condition prevails to the extent of any inconsistency with other conditions in this Order that refer to reservation of land under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .	n/a	Noted
8.3(3)(a)	Condition 8 Recommendation in the Office of Chief Scientist & Engineer report, 'Advice regarding protection of koala populations associated with the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan' (Office of Chief Scientist & Engineer dated 14 May 2021) identified by the Executive Implementation Committee as being relevant to the plan, must be implemented by the Applicant	n/a	Started
8.3(1)	The order conferring biodiversity certification is to specify the measures that are approved conservation measures under the biodiversity certification.	n/a	Noted
8.3(2)	The measures that may be specified as approved conservation measures are the measures to offset the impacts on biodiversity values of the clearing of native vegetation and the loss of habitat on the biodiversity certified land (1) to (4).	n/a	Noted

8.3(3)(b)	<p>Condition 9</p> <p>... the Applicant must provide an annual report to the Executive Implementation Committee and the minister, which</p> <p>(a) provides an update on the delivery of the Plan and approved conservation measures, including:</p> <p>the establishment of biodiversity stewardship sites progress in relation to the establishment of the George's River Koala Reserve, including reporting on the location and amount (in hectares) of lands purchased and revegetated, establishment of biodiversity stewardship agreements and transfer of lands to National Parks and Wildlife Service progress in relation to the establishment of 2 further reserves</p> <p>(b) reports on whether sites have been identified with species listed in condition 4(a) of Schedule 3.</p> <p>(c) reports on monitoring undertaken in accordance with the Plan.</p> <p>(d) reports on the progress of koala conservation measures in the Plan, including:</p> <p>iv. the planning for, and installation of, 120 kilometres of koala exclusion fencing, the planning for, and installation of, safe crossings across Appin Road and other linear infrastructure, implementation of the principles in the Office of the Chief Scientist & Engineer report, Advice regarding the protection of koala populations associated with the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (14 May 2021) identified in Condition 8 of this Schedule as relevant to the Plan, and estimates of the total koala population in the Georges River Koala Reserve and in any biodiversity stewardship agreements established by the Applicant where koalas are present.</p> <p>(e) reports on the effectiveness of development controls in protecting koala habitat required by the Strategic Conservation Planning chapter of State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 (NSW) listed in Condition 1(d) of this Schedule.</p> <p>(f) reports on whether timing requirements in conditions 1 to 6 of this Schedule have been met (if the timing requirement applies during that 12 month period).</p> <p>(g) sets out the results of the Reconciliation Accounting Process completed for the previous 12 month period.</p> <p>(h) plant community types protected through conservation lands under Commitment 8 of the Plan (including through establishment of biodiversity stewardship sites, purchase of credits, and purchase of land.</p> <p>(i) the area (in hectares) of potential habitat protected through conservation lands for the following species credit species associated with those plant community types:</p> <p>i. <i>Acacia bynoeana</i> (Bynoe's Wattle) ii. <i>Acacia pubescens</i> (Downy Wattle, Hairy-Stemmed Wattle) iii. <i>Allocasuarina glareicola</i> iv. <i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> (Gang-gang cockatoo) v. <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> (Glossy black cockatoo) vi. <i>Cercartetus nanus</i> (Eastern Pygmy-possum) vii. <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> (Large-eared Pied Bat) viii. <i>Epacris purpurascens</i> var. <i>purpurascens</i> ix. <i>Eucalyptus benthamii</i> (Camden White Gum)</p>	<p>Within 15 months from the date of conferral and every 12 months following</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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Section	Condition description	Time frame	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x. <i>Grevillea parviflora</i> subsp. <i>parviflora</i> (Small-flower Grevillea) xi. <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i> (Giant Burrowing Frog) xii. <i>Litoria aurea</i> (Green and Golden Bell Frog) xiii. <i>Maundia triglochinoidea</i> xiv. <i>Melaleuca deanei</i> (Deane's Paperbark) xv. <i>Micromyrtus minutiflora</i> xvi. <i>Ninox connivens</i> (Barking owl) xvii. <i>Ninox strenua</i> (Powerful owl) xviii. <i>Persicaria elatior</i> (Tall Knotweed) xix. <i>Persoonia bargoensis</i> (Bargo Geebung) xx. <i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> (Squirrel Glider) 		
8.3(3)(b)	<p>Condition 10</p> <p>The Applicant may obtain an extension in writing from the minister or delegate for providing an Annual Report under Condition 9 of this Schedule of up to 3 months.</p>	n/a	Noted
8.3(3)(b)	<p>Condition 11</p> <p>The Annual Report must be published on a NSW Government website.</p>	n/a	Complete
8.3(3)(b)	Condition 12 to 23	Timeframes not relevant to this annual update/ for noting	Noted
8.3(3)(b)	<p>Condition 25</p> <p>As relating to the content of the restoration implementation strategy and post completion assessment</p>	At least 5 years after restoration or as agreed with Executive Implementation Committee	Started
8.3(3)(b)	<p>Condition 26 to 28</p> <p>As relating to land transfer to National Parks and Wildlife Service and funding arrangements</p>	n/a	Noted
8.3(3)(c)	<p>Condition 29</p> <p>...the CPCP Mitigation Measures Guidelines and CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development must be established and maintained to implement the measures identified as an 'Implementation Mechanism' set out in Column 6 of Table 9 at Appendix E of the Plan, unless otherwise agreed with the minister</p>	Within 3 months from the date of conferral	Complete

Section	Condition description	Time frame	Status
8.3(3)(c)	<p>CONDITION 30</p> <p>An amendment to the proposed Strategic Conservation Planning chapter of State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 (NSW), in accordance with Condition 1(d) of this Schedule, to provide that:</p> <p>(a) for development on certified urban-capable land, development consent must not be granted unless the consent authority has considered whether the development is consistent with the CPCP Mitigation Measures Guidelines, and</p> <p>(b) for essential infrastructure on avoided land, the consent authority must consider whether the development is consistent with the CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development and give written notice of the consent to the Secretary of the department, including a statement setting out whether the consent authority considers the development is consistent with the CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development.</p>	n/a	Complete
8.3(3)(c)	<p>Condition 31 and 32</p> <p>As relating to reporting of clearing in major transport corridors.</p>	n/a	Not started
8.3(3)(c)	<p>Condition 33</p> <p>The memorandum of understanding to be entered into between the Applicant and Transport for NSW in accordance with condition 3(c) of this Schedule must include processes to enable the Applicant to comply with conditions 31 and 32.</p>	n/a	Complete

Table C2. Progress against CPCP commitments and actions, including before start of CPCP, Year 1 and life of CPCP

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
1: Development will be undertaken in accordance with the CPCP and any conditions of approval	Action 1: Integrate the CPCP into the planning delivery framework for the nominated areas through mechanisms including an environmental planning instrument with developed controls, a ministerial direction under section 9.1 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment act 1979</i> , and CPCP guidelines for infrastructure development (commitments 2, 4, 6, 7, 13, 14).	Before start of CPCP	Complete
1	Action 2: Monitor the implementation of urban and industrial development, infrastructure, major transport and intensive plant agriculture through the plan's evaluation program to ensure development is consistent with the CPCP. (a) commitments for avoiding, minimising, mitigating and offsetting impacts (C1/A2) (b) reporting and compliance requirements (c) class of action approvals (EPBC Act) strategic biodiversity certification order (BC Act).	Life of CPCP	Started
1	Action 3: Require proponents of essential infrastructure to notify the department of any development or activity in avoided land, including how the CPCP guidelines for infrastructure development have been addressed.	Life of CPCP	Started
1	Action 4: Implement the CPCP guidelines for infrastructure development, including Appendix A of the CPCP by: (a) notifying proponents of essential infrastructure of their obligations under the EPBC Act, including when development does not have Part 10 EPBC Act approval under the CPCP (b) monitoring the impacts of development on the avoided land (c) monitoring compliance with the avoidance, mitigation and offset commitments of the plan, relevant to those guidelines (d) providing annual updates to the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water share information and data required to assist councils and infrastructure providers to implement these guidelines (e) undertaking monitoring and audit of infrastructure construction and operation as required, to ensure adequate mitigation measures are being applied.	Life of CPCP	Started (partially)
1	Action 5: Undertake a formal modification to the strategic biodiversity certification if required to adjust the boundaries of the certified urban-capable land in circumstances where: (a) minor adjustments are identified at the site (b) updates are consistent with the avoidance criteria and supported by a BAM-accredited assessor (c) residual impacts to biodiversity, including matters of national environmental significance, are mitigated and offset in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (or equivalent) and EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy, 2012 for any EPBC Act matters not covered by the Biodiversity Assessment Method.	Year 1 to year 10	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
1	Action 6: Progress and submit (subject to compliance with legislative requirements) a modification of the strategic biodiversity certification under the BC Act to include lands proposed by Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council.	Year 1	Started (delayed)
2: Strategic conservation planning to minimise impacts	Action 1: Introduce an environmental planning instrument to apply development controls to protect important biodiversity on avoided land under the CPCP.	Before start of CPCP	Complete
2	Action 2: Issue a ministerial direction under section 9.1 of the NSW <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> to restrict rezoning of avoided land from its current zone to a zone that permits a more intensive land use.	Before start of CPCP	Complete
2	Action 3: Introduce the CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development to manage impacts on biodiversity from infrastructure development, including essential infrastructure development, on avoided land in the nominated areas.	Before start of CPCP	Complete
2	Action 4: Monitor the impacts of development on the avoided land through the plan's reconciliation accounting process.	Life of CPCP (as precincts designed)	Started
2	Action 5: Notify proponents of essential infrastructure of their obligations under the EPBC Act, including when development does not have Part 10 EPBC Act approval under the CPCP.	Life of CPCP (as precincts designed)	Started
2	Action 6: Locate Asset Protection zones wholly within certified urban-capable land.	Life of CPCP (as precincts designed)	Started
3 Minimise impacts to threatened ecological communities: Certified major transport corridors	Action 1: To avoid and minimise impacts to threatened ecological communities, species and their habitats, Transport for NSW will apply the CPCP avoidance criteria during the strategic planning phase of each transport project, with specific consideration to the matters identified in commitment 3.	Life of CPCP	Started
3	Action 2: Include the biodiversity benefits of avoiding threatened ecological communities, species and their habitats as well as the costs of offsets into the evaluation of the route options (for example using multi-criteria analysis).	Life of CPCP	Started
3	Action 3: Locate Asset Protection Zones, if required, within the certified-major transport corridor.	Life of CPCP	Started
3	Action 4: Where an action cannot feasibly or practically avoid impacts on an area of high environmental value, these impacts should be minimised as far as possible using design refinements to reduce overall impact.	Life of CPCP	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
3	<p>Action 5: Transport for NSW will provide to the department a clearing reconciliation report within 60 days of the completion of clearing for each major transport corridor project. The report will provide information on vegetation cleared, resulting direct impacts to threatened species habitat and threatened ecological communities, and a demonstration of how the CPCP avoidance criteria were applied. The report will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) inform the plan’s reconciliation accounting process to track impacts (b) determine Transport for NSWs actual offsets liability, which will be reconciled against Transport for NSWs schedule of estimated forward payments for amounts outstanding or overpaid. 	Life of CPCP	Started
3	Action 6: Ensure that proponents of any third party activities not included in the Western Sydney major transport corridors class of action are aware that they must consider the need for referral under the EPBC Act for actions likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.	Life of CPCP	Started
3	Action 7: Impacts to biodiversity (including to matters of national environmental significance) in the major transport corridors will be published through the CPCP annual updates and 5-yearly reviews.	Life of CPCP	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
4: Minimise impacts to threatened ecological communities: Major transport corridors	<p>Action 1: To avoid and minimise impacts to threatened ecological communities, species and their habitat, Transport for NSW will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) undertake surveys to confirm biodiversity values, including matters of national environmental significance during the strategic planning phase of each transport project (b) include the biodiversity benefits of avoiding threatened ecological communities, species and their habitats as well as the costs of offsets into the evaluation of the route options (for example using multi-criteria analysis) (c) avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity values, including matters of national environmental significance, in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (or equivalent) and with specific consideration to the protected matters identified in commitments 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 during the environmental impact assessment phase of each transport project (d) offset impacts to biodiversity values, including matters of national environmental significance, in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (or equivalent) and EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy 2012 for any EPBC Act matters not covered by the Biodiversity Assessment Method (e) report to the department and executive implementation committee on vegetation cleared and adjustments to transport corridor boundaries identified through the NSW state-significant infrastructure or NSW state-significant development approval (or equivalent) for each transport project. <p>This will include: reporting on avoidance achieved within the mapped or protected corridors identified in the CPCP; additional impacts outside of mapped corridors for EPBC Act-listed species, populations or ecological communities; and offsets to be secured under the NSW State Significant Infrastructure or NSW State Significant Development approval and EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy 2012, where relevant.</p>	Life of CPCP	Started
4	<p>Action 2: The department will use this information to track impacts and adjust Transport for NSW's offset liabilities through the plan's reconciliation accounting process, in agreement with Transport for NSW.</p>	Life of CPCP	Started
4	<p>Action 3: Transport-related impacts to biodiversity (including Matters of National Environmental Significance) will be published through the CPCP annual updates and 5 yearly reviews.</p>	Life of CPCP (annually and every 5 years)	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
5: Mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts from urban and industrial development, infrastructure, and intensive plant agriculture on threatened ecological communities, species and their habitat. This includes meeting specific mitigation requirements for threatened ecological communities, species and their habitat in accordance with Appendix E of the CPCP.	<p>Action 1: Incorporate development controls in the state-led development control plans where they apply to relevant nominated areas, setting out development controls that need to be addressed by neighbourhood plans and development applications to mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts on threatened species. This includes:</p> <p>(a) specific controls that apply to the nominated areas to mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts on specific threatened species or ecological communities or other environmentally sensitive areas in accordance with Appendix E of the CPCP</p> <p>(b) a common set of development controls to mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts across the 4 nominated areas that inform general biodiversity protection as listed in Chapter 15 of the Cumberland Plain Assessment Report.</p>	Before start of CPCP	Complete
5	Action 2: Introduce the CPCP mitigation measures guidelines consistent with Appendix E of the CPCP to address indirect impacts in Greater Macarthur Growth Area and Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek investigation area.	Year 1	Complete
5	Action 3: Provide ongoing support to local councils and other proponents in the application of development control plans and the Mitigation Measures Guidelines within the nominated areas, including the sharing of knowledge, maps and data.	Life of CPCP	Started
5	Action 4: Audit growth area development control plans for the nominated areas where they apply to ensure the CPCP development control plan template development controls are incorporated in accordance with the development control plan requirements for each growth area.	Life of CPCP	Started
5	Action 5: Monitor the implementation of the development controls through approval conditions by the relevant consent authority. If monitoring finds that development controls are not being effectively implemented, review and redraft new controls to update relevant state development control plans and the mitigation measures guidelines and re-educate councils to ensure stronger consideration of the controls through their assessment process.	Life of CPCP	Started
5	Action 6: Introduce the CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development to be addressed by a public authority or other proponents of essential infrastructure, including mitigation measures for indirect and prescribed impacts to biodiversity from infrastructure activities in accordance with Appendix E of the CPCP.	Year 1	Complete
5	Action 7: Implement mitigation measures based on the outcomes of environmental assessment of detailed designs in accordance with the requirements of the NSW approval process, as well as published, best-practice guidelines.	Life of CPCP	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
5	<p>Action 8: Consult with the relevant public land manager to minimise disturbance and impacts to threatened species in accordance with Appendix E, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensuring walking tracks and management trails in Wianamatta Regional Park are located in a way that avoids and minimises exposure of <i>Persoonia nutans</i> to human disturbance (b) ensuring land management in potential habitat for <i>Pimelea spicata</i>, particularly mowing and slashing activities and weed management activities involving the use of herbicides, will minimise risks and maintain the species (c) work with NSW DPI – Fisheries to address the risk of illegal and incidental recreational fishing capture along stretches of known habitat for Macquarie Perch in Erskine Creek, Glenbrook Creek, Georges River and Cordeaux River (d) installing signs and/or interpretive displays at appropriate sites in areas used for recreational fishing along Erskine Creek, Glenbrook Creek, Georges River and Cordeaux River to assist with identification of Macquarie perch and awareness of threats. 	Year 1 to year 5	Started (partially)
6: Mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts on threatened ecological communities, species and their habitat within major transport corridors, including the Outer Sydney Orbital and Metro Rail Future Extension tunnel sections.	<p>Action 1: To mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts on threatened species and their habitat, Transport for NSW will across all major transport corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) assess the impacts on biodiversity values for major transport corridors (strategically assessed only) and other environmental values (for certified- and strategically assessed-only major transport corridors) based on detailed design (b) implement specific mitigation measures prescribed in Appendix E and identify and implement additional mitigation measures based on the outcomes of environmental assessment of detailed designs in accordance with the requirements of the NSW state-significant infrastructure or NSW state-significant development approvals process (or equivalent), as well as published, best practice guidelines, including but not limited to, the RMS Biodiversity Guidelines (c) apply further mitigation according to the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BC Act) (or equivalent) for major transport corridors (strategically assessed only), including the tunnels sections (d) identify potential design options for major watercourse crossings to reduce disruption to connectivity and design options to reduce the risk of fauna vehicle strikes (e) establish baseline monitoring data and undertake ongoing monitoring of high-value environmental areas, and review and adjust mitigation measures (where practical) in response to monitoring outcomes, in accordance with the requirements of the state-significant infrastructure (or equivalent) approval. 	Life of CPCP	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
6	Action 2: Transport for NSW will report to the department and executive implementation committee on mitigation measures proposed to manage impacts of each major transport corridor project, including proposed techniques, timing, frequency and responsibility for implementing each measure.	Life of CPCP	Started
7: Mitigate indirect and prescribed impacts from urban, industrial, infrastructure development on the Southern Sydney koala population to best practice standards and in line with advice from the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer, and in accordance with Appendix E of CPCP.	<p>Action 1: Install koala-exclusion fencing, including gates and grids, between koala habitat that can safely support koalas and urban land within the Greater Macarthur Growth Area and Wilton Growth Area, except where exclusion fencing is not feasible or necessary due to slope, heritage or watercourses.</p> <p>(a) Manage impacts to fences by locating koala-exclusion fencing at least 3 metres from any trees where practical (measured from canopy).</p> <p>(b) Apply koala specific mitigation actions in accordance with Appendix E</p> <p>(c) Where fencing must cross existing or planned linear infrastructure such as gas and electricity transmission, consider appropriate access treatments such as gates to ensure integrity of the koala exclusion fencing.</p> <p>(d) Fence off koala corridors that are too narrow to safely support koalas and relocate koalas out of the unsafe corridors if needed.</p> <p>(e) Address the requirements of the CPCP Guidelines for Infrastructure Development as essential infrastructure for EPBC Act approval in the avoided land.</p>	Life of CPCP	Started (partially)
7	Action 2: Complete a feasibility study on the koala-exclusion fencing to help inform the design, locations and construction of the fencing and identify fencing priorities for the first 5 years.	Year 1	Complete
7	Action 3: Install koala-exclusion fencing along the western alignment of the Georges River Koala Reserve where existing urban development is a threat to the koala population.	Year 1 to year 20	Started
7	Action 4: Install koala-exclusion fencing, in the vicinity of koala habitat, along both sides of Appin Road between Rosemeadow and Appin to mitigate koala vehicle strikes at roadkill hotspots. Fencing along Appin Road will be in addition to planned fencing works to be delivered by Transport for NSW.	Year 1 to year 5	Started
7	Action 5: Undertake targeted stakeholder and community engagement to support the delivery of koala exclusion fencing.	Year 1 to year 3	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
7	<p>Action 6: Establish a koala working group with representation from relevant government agencies to support implementation of the koala commitments and actions. The working group will support implementation of the koala sub-plan, by providing advice to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Alignment, staging and design of the koala exclusion fencing and fauna crossing including advice about providing appropriate koala movement corridors (b) Priority locations and approach for koala habitat restoration (c) Monitoring and evaluation of the plan's koala commitments, including providing advice to support adaptive management based on monitoring and evaluation data (d) Community and stakeholder engagement for the koala conservation commitments and actions (e) Research and management actions relating to koalas. 	Before start of CPCP	Complete
7	<p>Action 7: Work with local councils, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Office of Strategic Land to ensure the threats posed by dogs on all public land that is identified as koala habitat protected under the CPCP are managed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) For land that is not publicly accessible, this will include the installation of signs and/or fences (b) For land managed as a reserve or for recreation, this will be achieved by incorporating requirements as a relevant plan of management. 	Life of CPCP	Not started
7	<p>Action 8: Provide safe fauna crossings, based on current best practice design, across Appin Road and other linear infrastructure by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) installing a koala underpass under Appin Road, near the intersection with Brian Road to support east-west koala movement from the Georges River to the Nepean River (b) augmenting Kings Falls Bridge at the Georges River by constructing a bench adjacent to the bridge abutments to allow dry passage for koalas (and other fauna) under Appin Road, supporting north-south koala movement from the Georges River Koala Reserve to the southern koala habitat (complete) (c) investigating options for enhancing koala movement across the Upper Canal (d) addressing the requirements of the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan Guidelines for Infrastructure Development, as essential infrastructure for EPBC Act approval in the avoided land. 	Year 1 to year 5	Started (partially complete)

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
8: Protect a minimum of 5,325 hectares of native vegetation in the Cumberland subregion to conserve biodiversity values in perpetuity in accordance with the conservation land selection steps, which may require up to 11,900 hectares of conservation land.	Action 1: Prepare a conservation land implementation strategy to guide the establishment of land for conservation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) priorities for selecting and purchasing land (b) targets and proposed timeframes for establishing new conservation land (c) proposed land-based conservation type for each area of priority conservation land (reserve or biodiversity stewardship agreement) (d) suitable land managers for each area of priority conservation land (e) a process to secure alternative areas where targets and timing cannot be met. 	Year 1	Complete
8	Action 2: Enter into written agreements with delivery partners to set out the arrangements for conservation land under the plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) roles and responsibilities (b) processes for implementation (c) land management arrangements, including prior to purchase (d) funding arrangements (e) progress reporting. 	Year 1	Complete
8	Action 3: Seek to include the strategic conservation area (excluding cleared areas) in the Biodiversity Values Map.	Year 1	Started (delayed)
8	Action 4: Undertake surveys within the strategic conservation area or other avoided land prior to protecting the land to confirm plant community extent and condition and update vegetation mapping if necessary.	Life of CPCP	Started
8	Action 5: Protect and manage land containing targeted plant communities within the strategic conservation area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establishing reserves under relevant legislation including the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>, <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i> and <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (b) establishing biodiversity stewardship agreements under the BC Act (c) purchasing and retiring biodiversity credits under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. 	Life of CPCP	Started
8	Action 6: Track the progress of meeting threatened ecological community targets (in hectares) through the reconciliation accounting process (Commitment 25 Action 2).	Life of CPCP	Started
8	Action 7: Provide up-front funding for business cases and Biodiversity Assessment Method assessments to support landholders entering into biodiversity stewardship agreements where this investment can be recouped through the later sale of biodiversity credits.	Life of CPCP	Started
8	Action 8: Define a land purchase strategy that will guide decision-making and processes to be used when purchasing land for conservation through the CPCP.	Before start of CPCP	Complete

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
8	Action 9: Purchase land within the strategic conservation area to commence establishing reserves with priority given to land listed for sale and land in the Georges River Koala Reserve.	Life of CPCP	Started
8	Action 10: Introduce an acquisition clause in an environmental planning instrument to land identified for future reserves under the CPCP as funds become available through the program.	Life of CPCP	Not started
8	Action 11: Work with local councils and other land managers to ensure that reserves established through the CPCP provide for increased public access, including the provision of compatible low biodiversity impact recreation activities.	Life of CPCP	Not started
9: Protect threatened species likely to be at risk of residual adverse impacts from development under the CPCP (target species) in accordance with CPCP conservation land selection steps.	Action 1: Assess and record the habitat attributes of where target species have been located and use the information to establish baseline monitoring data for areas of known habitat for target species and incorporate into the evaluation program.	Year 1	Complete
9	Action 2: Protect offset locations and species habitat for the target threatened species through establishing reserves or biodiversity stewardship sites or through the direct purchase of species credits in the Cumberland subregion or across NSW.	Life of CPCP	Started
9	Action 3: Achieve the plan's species targets by applying the conservation land selection steps.	Life of CPCP	Started
9	Action 4: Identify species-specific management measures for areas of known habitat for target species in consultation with future land managers of reserves established through the CPCP and incorporate these into management plans for the land.	Life of CPCP	Not started
9	Action 5: Track progress in meeting species offset targets through the reconciliation accounting process (Commitment 25 Action 2).	Life of CPCP	Started
10: Establish a reserve to protect the north-south koala movement corridor along the Georges River between Appin and Long Point.	Action 1: Transfer and reserve lots identified for early transfer to National Parks and Wildlife Service as the first stage in establishing Georges River Koala Reserve.	Year 1 to year 2	Complete
10	Action 2: Reserve additional areas of the Georges River Koala Reserve between Appin and Kentlyn using NSW government land as a priority and by purchasing additional land (Stages 1a and 1b).	Year 1 to year 10	Started
10	Action 3: Reserve additional areas of the Georges River Koala Reserve between Kentlyn and Long Point using NSW government land as a priority and by purchasing additional land (Stage 2).	Year 1 to year 20	Started
10	Action 4: Restore up to 80 hectares of cleared land for koala habitat in priority areas including the Georges River Koala Reserve to strengthen the north-south koala corridor.	Year 1 to year 5	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
10	Action 5: Restore additional koala habitat within the Georges River Koala Reserve to strengthen the north-south koala movement corridor	Year 6 to year 25	Started
10	Action 6: Work with National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Strategic Lands and other key stakeholders to prepare a concept plan for the Georges River Koala Reserve.	Year 1	Started (delayed)
11: Establish at least 2 new reserves in addition to Georges River Koala Reserve that will protect threatened communities, species and habitat targeted for protection through the CPCP.	Action 1: Investigate a new reserve that will provide an ecological connection between Gulguer Nature Reserve, Bents Basin State Conservation Area and Burragorang State Conservation Area.	Year 1	Complete
11	Action 2: Investigate a new reserve on Wianamatta (South Creek) that will allow for the restoration of up to 370 hectares of threatened ecological communities.	Year 1	Started (delayed)
11	Action 3: Establish a community engagement program with landholders in reserve investigation areas to provide information and seek expressions of interest for land purchase to support establishment of new reserves.	Year 1 to year 10	Started
11	Action 4: Establish biodiversity stewardship agreements appropriate to land purchased for a future reserve to commence management of the site.	Life of CPCP	Not started
11	Action 5: Gazette at least 2 new reserves in addition to the Georges River Koala Reserve by Year 20 of the CPCP.	Year 1 to year 20	Started
12: Protect koala corridors in the Cumberland subregion, including those along the Nepean River, Georges River, Cataract River and Ousedale Creek	Action 1: Apply development controls to koala habitat protected under the CPCP and ensure safe, functional corridors for koala movement (consistent with advice from the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the north-south koala corridor along the Georges River (commitment 10) (b) the north-south koala corridor along the Nepean and Cataract rivers (c) the east-west corridor along Ousedale Creek between the Georges River and Nepean River (d) Elladale Creek and Simpsons Creek as an area of functional koala habitat (e) the north-south koala corridor along Allens Creek (f) excluding koalas from east-west corridors that do not meet the minimum requirements for a functional koala corridor (Corridor C: Nepean Creek to Beulah, and Corridor D: Mallaty Creek to Georges River). 	Before start of CPCP	Complete
12	Action 2: Restore koala habitat in the Georges River and Ousedale Creek corridors to ensure they meet requirements for safe and functional koala movement corridors, consistent with advice from the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer (commitment 13).	Life of CPCP	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
13: Deliver and support ecological restoration activities in conservation land including ecological reconstruction of up to a maximum of 25% of the CPCP's offset target for native vegetation.	Action 1: Establish a restoration working group to guide the implementation of restoration activities under the CPCP including the preparation of a restoration implementation strategy and supporting technical guidance where relevant.	Year 1	Complete
13	Action 2: Develop a restoration implementation strategy in consultation with the restoration working group and other key stakeholders to establish best practice principles and methodologies, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identify the range of restoration activities and what will be undertaken under the CPCP (b) ensure the long-term sustainability of restoration considers genetic diversity in what is established (c) identify considerations for restoration potential and constraints of land (d) provide reference to guidelines for restoration, including NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust guidelines for restoring native vegetation undertaken in a biodiversity stewardship site (e) develop a seed-procurement approach (f) reference research needs being considered through the research program implementation strategy (commitment 22, Action 1). (g) enter into written agreements with delivery partners and engage specialist providers where necessary to implement the restoration actions. 	Year 1	Complete
13	Action 3: Deliver ecological restoration (including reconstruction) to restore koala habitat in the Georges River Koala Reserve and other priority locations in the strategic conservation area including along Ousedale Creek and around Appin.	Year 1 onwards	Started
13	Action 4: Incorporate adaptive management principles into restoration actions including pilot sites to trial and develop restoration methodologies and applying new research as appropriate.	Life of CPCP	Started
13	Action 5: Deliver up to a maximum of 1,330 hectares of ecological reconstruction on conservation land targeting the following threatened ecological communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (b) Cumberland Plain Woodland (c) River-flat Eucalypt Forest (d) Shale Gravel Transition Forest (e) Swamp Oak Forest 	Life of CPCP	Started (partially)

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
14: Minimise impacts from development on biodiversity values in the strategic conservation area.	Action 1: Introduce a State Environmental Planning Policy to apply development controls to the strategic conservation area to require consideration of impacts on biodiversity values when consent authorities assess development applications.	Before start of CPCP	Complete
14	Action 2: Issue a ministerial direction under section 9.1 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (NSW) to require consistency with the objectives of the strategic conservation area when a planning authority prepares a planning proposal or reviews local environmental plans within the strategic conservation area.	Before start of CPCP	Complete
14	Action 3: Work with local councils to integrate mapping of the strategic conservation area into local and regional planning through local strategic planning statements, which guide the local plan making process.	Life of CPCP	Started
15: Manage priority weeds in strategic locations in the Cumberland subregion to reduce threats to land secured within the strategic conservation area.	Action 1: Participate in the Sydney Weeds Network to inform the implementation of weed control activities under the CPCP including the preparation of a weed control strategy.	Year 1	Complete
15	Action 2: Prepare a weed control strategy in consultation with the Sydney Weeds Network to establish a coordinated weed control program in the Cumberland subregion that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Identifies priority weed species and priority locations for weed control to maximise benefits to biodiversity in the strategic conservation area (b) Identifies the training, extension and resource needs to address threats (c) Provides guidance on weed control methods (d) Identifies roles, responsibilities, deliver partners and other stakeholders (e) Provides guidance on funding decisions under the weed control program (f) Is consistent with existing weed programs, reserve or biodiversity stewardship management requirements. 	Year 2	Not started
15	Action 3: Enter into written agreements with delivery partners to implement the weed control strategy.	Year 2	Not started
15	Action 4: Integrate weed control actions for conservation land into reserve management plans.	Life of CPCP	Not started
15	Action 5: Fund organisations to help deliver actions in the weed control strategy eg. Bushcare and Landcare, and local Aboriginal land councils.	Year 3 onwards	Not started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
16: Manage priority pest animals in strategic locations in the Cumberland subregion to reduce threats to land protected within the strategic conservation area.	Action 1: Establish a pest animal control working group to guide the implementation of pest animal control activities under the CPCP including preparation of a pest animal control implementation strategy.	Year 1	Complete
16	Actions 2-5	Year 2/ Year 3 onwards	Not started
17 Manage fire in strategic locations in the Cumberland subregion to support the maintenance of biodiversity values on conservation land.	Actions 1-5	Year 2	Not started
18: Support new or existing programs to control key diseases affecting threatened species and ecological communities in the Cumberland subregion.	Actions 1-3	Year 6 onwards	Not started
19: Support existing or new programs to help threatened species and ecological communities adapt to the impacts of climate change in the CPCP Area.	Action 1: Consider funding research on climate change adaptation in developing the research program implementation strategy (commitment 22, action 1).	Year 1	Complete
19	Action 2: Partner with the Royal Botanic Gardens Greater Sydney to develop seed sourcing guidelines for 10 keystone Cumberland Plain Woodland species and define the species-specific seed transfer zones for these species.	Year 1 to year 3	Complete
19	Action 3: Update the strategic conservation area if new priority locations are identified through research that will support biodiversity adaptation to climate impacts and incorporate these new areas into the conservation land implementation strategy (Commitment 8)	Every 5 years	Not started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
20: Provide opportunities for the residents of western Sydney to learn about and actively participate in biodiversity conservation including koala conservation.	Actions 1–3	Year 4/ Year 5/ Year 5 onwards	Not started
20	Action 4: Invest in the NSW Koala Strategy to raise awareness of the Southern-Sydney koala population and encourage community participation in koala conservation in Western Sydney.	Year 1 onwards	Started
20	Action 5: In partnership with Biodiversity Conservation Trust, establish a community engagement program to educate landholders within the strategic conservation area and promote the opportunities and benefits of biodiversity stewardship sites.	Year 1	Complete
20	Action 6: Work with councils and other landholders to install signs and interpretive displays at identified conservation land to raise awareness of the biodiversity values of a site.	Life of CPCP	Not started
21: Partner with Aboriginal groups and communities to help maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationships with their land and waters in Western Sydney.	Action 1: Fund a grants program to build capacity in the 3 local Aboriginal land councils in the CPCP area to fund land management and biodiversity works, and culture and heritage projects on Aboriginal-owned lands and other important areas.	Year 1 to year 2	Started
21	Action 2: Partner with Traditional Custodians, local Aboriginal land councils and other interested Aboriginal people in western Sydney to collaboratively develop the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy for the CPCP.	Year 1	Complete
21	Action 3 Partner with Western Sydney’s Aboriginal communities to implement the CPCP and the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy for the CPCP through: (a) establishing partnerships, including the co-design of actions under the strategy, with Traditional Custodians, local Aboriginal land councils, Aboriginal businesses and other interested Aboriginal groups (b) establishing an Aboriginal advisory group to provide advice on the delivery of the Aboriginal engagement and implementation strategy and the Plan (c) actively engage and empower Aboriginal groups and community to enable participation in decision-making to deliver the Aboriginal engagement and implementation strategy and the Plan.	Year 2 to year 11	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
21	<p>Action 4: Implement the Caring for Country – Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy for the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan 2022-2032 to support economic participation for Aboriginal people and cultural outcomes under the CPCP to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) recognise, celebrate and promote Aboriginal culture and heritage in Western Sydney with a focus on natural areas and protecting biodiversity (b) recognise and embed the knowledge and connection that Aboriginal people have with Country into the implementation of the CPCP (c) enable Traditional Custodians and interested Aboriginal groups to care for Country on new conservation land (d) grow Aboriginal businesses and employment in the environmental sector. 	Year 2 to year 11	Started
22: Invest in research priorities that will support the implementation of the CPCP and help to deliver the outcomes.	Action 1: Develop a research implementation strategy to guide delivery of a 35-year research program that will help achieve the CPCP's outcomes in Western Sydney, including identifying research priorities for the first 4 years.	Year 1	Complete
22	<p>Action 2: Deliver a research program in accordance with the research program implementation strategy. The research program may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) research on the vulnerability of threatened species and ecological communities to climate change (b) research that increases knowledge of the adaptive capacity of plant, animal and microbial organisms used in active restoration of ecological communities of the sub-region (c) research that improves restoration outcomes, including ecosystem function and resilience, for threatened ecological communities of the sub-region (d) research on ecological connectivity and landscape function at site, local and regional scales to enhance conservation outcomes (e) research into changing community attitudes and behaviour to biodiversity and conservation values including factors influencing those and how they evolve and change (f) research into the connections between land management, biodiversity and Aboriginal culture and practices in Western Sydney as proposed by the Aboriginal engagement and implementation strategy (commitment 21). 	Year 2 onwards	Started
22	<p>Action 3: Support NSW Government programs for threatened species research in western Sydney including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) research on threatened species impacts by the CPCP in the Cumberland subregion through Saving our Species program (b) research that increases knowledge of population demographics, life-history and ecology of the Southern Sydney koala population as part of the NSW Koala Strategy's NSW Koala Research Plan 	Year 2 onwards	Not started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
23: Support rehabilitation measures to help maintain koala health and welfare	<p>Action 1: Invest in the NSW Koala Strategy and other potential partners to implement the koala health and welfare program in south-western Sydney, with key deliverables that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) monitoring koalas, key threats, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures as part of the NSW Koala Strategy Monitoring Framework (b) designating the koalas in south-western Sydney as one of the dedicated monitoring sites for the NSW Koala Strategy (c) designating the koalas in south-western Sydney as one of the dedicated monitoring sites for the NSW Koala Strategy (d) providing grants for community wildlife organisations for resources and carer recruitment and training (e) establishing health and welfare programs to support koalas from threats including vehicle strike, fire, disease and climate change. 	Year 1 onwards	Started (partially)
23	Action 2: Koalas that are captured and/or handled as part of a monitoring program will be vaccinated against Chlamydia and have a tissue sample taken for genetic analysis, with the tissue samples lodged with the NSW Koala Biobank.	Year 1 onwards	Started
24: Establish governance arrangements including roles, responsibilities and funding to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the CPCP.	Action 1: Establish a multi-agency executive implementation committee to act as a central governance steering committee for the CPCP.	Year 1	Complete
24	Action 2: Enter into written agreements with delivery partners, including Transport for NSW as project partner responsible for delivering the major transport corridors, to support the implementation of specific commitments and actions.	Year 1	Complete
24	Action 3: Establish working groups to advise the executive implementation committee and oversee implementation of specific commitments and actions (commitments 7, 13, 16 and 26).	Year 1	Complete
24	Action 4: Establish arrangements to fund delivery of the plan's commitments and actions through contributions from residential, commercial and industrial developers in the nominated areas.	Year 1	Complete
24	Action 5: Ensure that at least 90% of conservation program funding is spent on establishing and restoring conservation land or purchasing biodiversity credits consistent with the conservation land selection steps.	Life of CPCP	Started

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
25: Implement an evaluation program for the CPCP that sets out requirements for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and adaptive management.	<p>Action 1: Finalise the evaluation program in consultation with key stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establishing governance arrangements for the evaluation program (b) establishing a monitoring and data collection methodology (c) finalising evaluation questions including scope and frequency (d) developing a method for evaluation outputs to support adaptive management (e) establishing the reconciliation accounting process to track progress of the plan's commitments and actions (f) developing templates for reporting quarterly to the executive implementation steering committee and annual updates over the life of the CPCP. (g) establishing processes to support independent 5-yearly reviews of the CPCP. 	Year 1	Complete
25	Action 2: Track progress in meeting conservation targets (in hectares) through the reconciliation accounting process.	Life of CPCP	Started
25	Action 3: Implement adaptive management steps for offsets if the reconciliation accounting process determines that the plan's offsets are not keeping track with development.	Life of CPCP	Not started
25	Action 4: Publish annual updates on implementation of the CPCP.	Life of CPCP (annually)	Started
25	Action 5: Undertake independent 5-yearly reviews to progress of the CPCP, including progress towards meeting commitments and achieving outcomes, and publish a review report	Life of CPCP (every 5 years)	Not started
25	Action 6: Undertake internal process reviews at the mid-term point (2.5 years) between independent reviews and provide a report to key delivery partners and stakeholders	Life of CPCP (every 2.5 years)	Not started
25	Action 7: Develop an overarching communication and engagement strategy to support implementation of the CPCP. Review the strategy every 5 years and update it accordingly.	Year 1 and then life of CPCP	Started
26: Implement a compliance program to ensure compliance with the CPCP and conditions of approval.	Action 1: Establish a compliance and implementation working group comprising the department, local councils and other relevant stakeholders to guide the implementation of compliance activities under the CPCP including preparation of a compliance strategy.	Year 1	Complete

Commitment	Action	Timing	Status
26	Action 2: Prepare a compliance strategy under guidance of the working group to: (a) identify relevant compliance mechanisms (b) set out compliance monitoring and auditing priorities and processes (c) set out a decision-making framework for taking compliance action (d) set out procedures and protocols for taking compliance action (e) identify roles and responsibilities for compliance.	Year 1	Complete
26	Action 3: Provide funding to employ 6 full-time compliance officers to work with local councils to carry out compliance activities in the CPCP Area	Year 2 onwards	Not started
26	Action 4: Share knowledge, maps and data and provide ongoing support and training to council staff to help local councils carry out implementation and compliance activities	Life of CPCP	Started
26	Action 5: Publish a compliance report as part of the yearly update on implementation of the CPCP and provide it to local councils for review and investigation	Life of CPCP	Started
26	Action 4: Share knowledge, maps and data and provide ongoing support and training to council staff to help local councils carry out implementation and compliance activities.	Life of CPCP	Started
26	Action 5: Publish a compliance report as part of the yearly update on implementation of the CPCP and provide it to local councils for review and investigation.	Life of CPCP (annually)	Started
26	Action 6: Prepare reports every 2.5 years on any identified breaches with plan commitments and approval conditions, such as auditing development consent conditions and environmental management plans	Life of CPCP	Not started