

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Communication and Engagement Strategy

Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

2023-27





Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure would like to acknowledge the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians, who care for the Cumberland Plain. Others, such as Darkinjung, Wiradjuri, Guringai and Yuin maintain trade or other obligatory care relationships with the area. We extend that respect to the Deerubbin, Gandangara and Tharawal local Aboriginal land councils, which maintain responsibilities towards Country, community, and culture.

We acknowledge the many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Sydney who call the Cumberland Plain home. Although 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 people who have a relationship with the Cumberland Plain.

The development of the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan acknowledges the Aboriginal people's continuous connection to the land that makes up New South Wales.

This Communication and Engagement Strategy recognises that, as part of the world's oldest living culture, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share a unique bond with Country. This significant connection to Country has played an important part in shaping the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan.

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 people: past, present, and future.

Published by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
planning.nsw.gov.au

Communication and Engagement Strategy

First published: May 2025

Department reference number: DOC23/971547

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TMP-MN-R-WC-V1.2

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Background

About the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the department) supports a thriving New South Wales by supporting the delivery of new houses and jobs in a resilient and sustainable environment.

The department released the Cumberland Plain Conservation Plan (CPCP) in August 2022. The CPCP is a conservation plan for Western Sydney that identifies strategically important biodiversity areas within the Cumberland subregion to offset the biodiversity impacts of future urban development.

The CPCP's vision is to 'support Western Sydney's biodiversity and growth'. It will support the delivery of infrastructure, housing, and jobs for the people in the Western Sydney while protecting important biodiversity through a program of conservation actions and commitments. This includes protecting, among others, the Southern Sydney koala population; the Cumberland Plain Woodland; foraging habitat for the swift parrot; and significant plants, such as the nodding geebung and spiked rice flower.

The CPCP includes 26 commitments and 131 actions that aim to improve ecological resilience and protect biodiversity on a landscape scale. This will help safeguard Western Sydney's natural environment over the long term while allowing for necessary growth and urban development. This includes facilitating the planned delivery of as many as 73,000 new homes in the Western Parkland City.

The CPCP will deliver its environmental, social, and economic outcomes by:

- establishing new, or additions to existing, national parks and public reserves
- establishing and investing in biodiversity stewardship sites
- undertaking ecological restoration of native vegetation
- undertaking priority research projects
- protecting koala habitat and reducing threats to koalas from urban development.

The department developed the CPCP in consultation with many stakeholders over 4 years (see Case study 1). We look forward to implementing the CPCP with timely and transparent communication and engagement with the CPCP's stakeholders.

Case study 1 – Engagement to develop the CPCP

Since 2018, the department has engaged with stakeholders to help inform and develop the CPCP. These stakeholders include government agencies, local councils, landholders, industry groups, environmental groups, community members, Aboriginal¹ land councils, the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra² Traditional Custodians and the wider Aboriginal communities and groups.

Early engagement activities included a CPCP People's Panel. The panel comprised 18 randomly selected community members who attended a series of workshops and a daytrip to nominated areas, where they could provide community views on how a proposed conservation program should be implemented. The department also established a CPCP community reference group of independent biodiversity conservation experts. This group provided expert advice on strategic planning.

The department conducted 6 months of early engagement from July to December 2019 to seek feedback before statutory public exhibition of the CPCP. Consultation activities included targeted meetings, workshops, and community drop-in sessions.

Early engagement highlighted a strong desire in the community to:

- protect biodiversity, waterways and wetlands, with publicly accessible reserves the preferred method for protecting biodiversity in perpetuity
- protect native vegetation corridors for wildlife movement and migration and preserve the rural character of the Cumberland Plain.

The draft CPCP was on public exhibition for 9 weeks from 26 August to 2 November 2020.

The department received more than 500 individual submissions. The CPCP What we heard report outlines the key themes and issues raised and how the department updated the final CPCP to address the feedback.

The department would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development and refinement of the CPCP.

¹ Throughout this Strategy, the department primarily uses the term 'Aboriginal' to specifically reference Aboriginal people and communities or matters across the mainland of Australia and Tasmania.

² 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.

Purpose of the Strategy

The CPCP is one of the largest strategic conservation planning exercises ever undertaken in Australia. It will be implemented over 3 decades to 2056.

The department will work with government and non-government stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the CPCP. The CPCP Communication and Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) establishes the overarching approach to and principles for engaging with our stakeholders and the community for the first 5 years of the CPCP (2023–27).

We are committed to:

- building and maintaining collaborative relationships with our stakeholders and the community
- developing the capacity and capability of our staff to deliver effective stakeholder engagement and participation
- listening to and considering the views of the community in decision-making
- providing clear, timely, relevant and meaningful communication
- using communication and engagement tools that can equitably reach all relevant stakeholder groups
- enhancing the community's knowledge of the biodiversity of the Cumberland Plain and the social, recreational and wellbeing benefits that protection and conservation of natural resources bring
- partnering with the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and other Aboriginal people, groups and communities to help maintain distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationships with their land and waters in Western Sydney.

We will undertake a diverse range of projects and actions, requiring different levels and methods of engagement and participation.

Part 1 of this strategy defines why, with whom and how we engage.

Part 2 defines how we will identify the level of engagement that we will use for specific projects.

Part 3 outlines the major program areas that we will focus on over the next 5 years.

This strategy aligns with the [department's Community Participation Plan](#) and [Australian Public Service Framework for Engagement and Participation](#). The CPCP contains an implementation and assurance framework to ensure that the department delivers the intended outcomes, objectives, and vision of the plan. The CPCP will undergo an independent review every 5 years to evaluate its effectiveness and delivery, and we will update this strategy every 5 years in line with this review.

Part 1

Why we engage

The CPCP affects the people of Western Sydney, now and into the future. The department is responsible for implementing the CPCP and will work closely with the community, government and non-government partners to deliver the conservation program.

The CPCP will deliver on-ground actions to meet 8 long-term outcomes for environmental, social and economic values in Western Sydney (Figure 1).

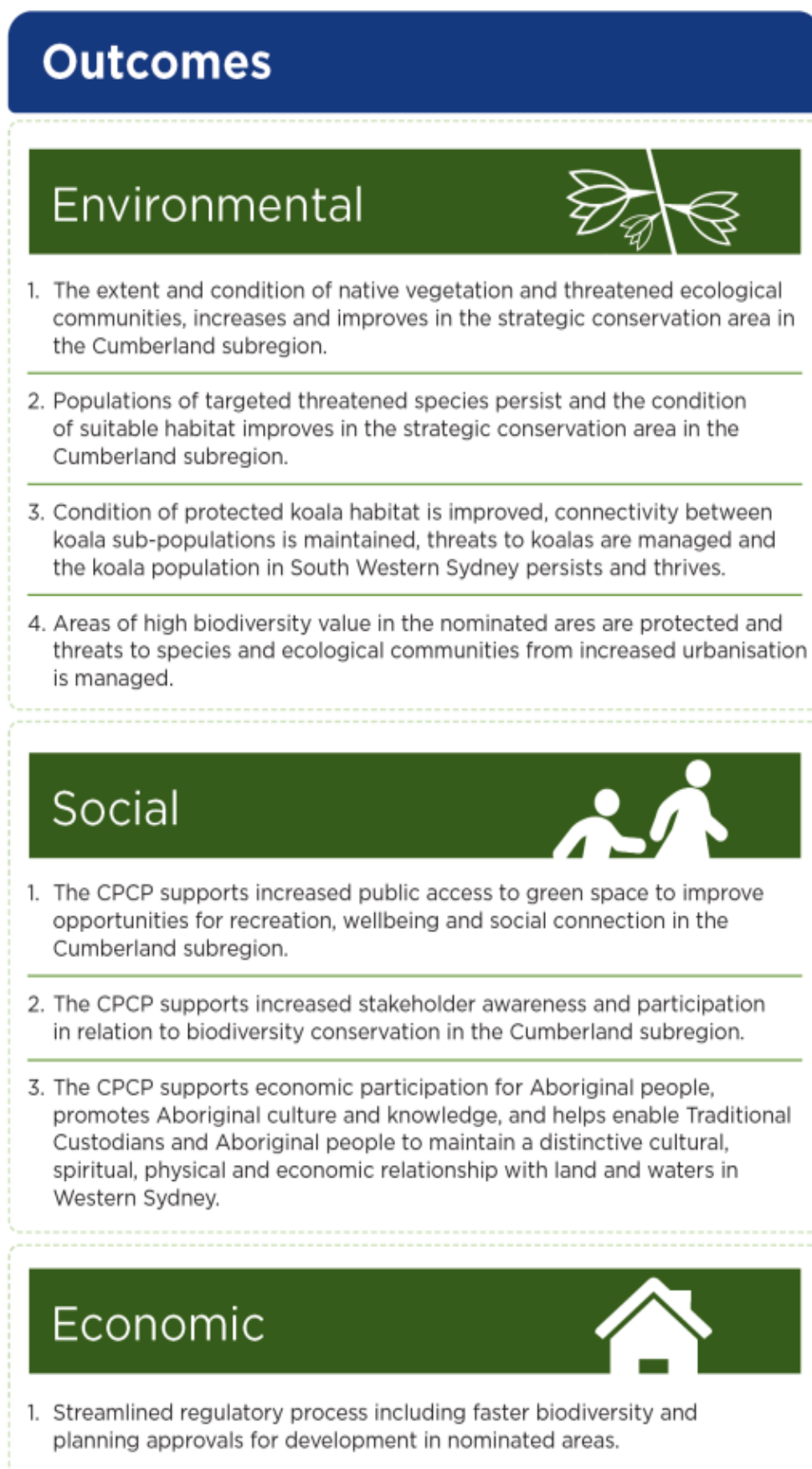
Dynamic communication, strong relationships and active participation will create the collaborative problem-solving culture required to deliver these actions and, ultimately, results for the people of Western Sydney.

We are committed to ongoing community engagement to implement these actions, monitor results and provide information for adaptive management when necessary.

By working with stakeholders, we are better able to:

- identify local priorities and needs
- deliver better outcomes
- build joint awareness of the importance of biodiversity
- identify risks and ways to mitigate them
- provide easy access to information
- provide ways to give feedback
- continuously improve the way we engage and make decisions.

Figure 1. Long term outcomes for the CPCP



Who we engage with

Effective engagement means connecting and working with varied stakeholders to harness collective knowledge and expertise.

How effectively the department works and collaborates with individuals, communities, businesses and all levels of government will impact the quality of the outcomes.

A vital component of engagement includes identifying and understanding the key stakeholders. This includes determining who the CPCP will impact and who has an interest in a decision. Given the scope of the CPCP and its conservation program, we need to hear a range of views.

A stakeholder is an individual or group with a strong interest in the decisions of the CPCP or who the outcomes directly impact. Communities become stakeholders when a project directly affects them.

Traditional Custodians and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Western Sydney is home to one of the largest concentrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. The department is committed to nurturing respectful and honest engagement with the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the CPCP. The department will incorporate culturally appropriate practices when engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Under the CPCP, the department is committed to supporting the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and the Aboriginal communities of Western Sydney to connect with and care for Country in a meaningful way, guided by them through the development of the [Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy 2024–33](#).

We recognise that there are many challenges to engaging appropriately with the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including distrust, cultural safety, consultation fatigue and thoughts on who has the responsibility to speak ‘for Country’. We acknowledge that government has often not done well in this area, and we are actively seeking to do better by ensuring we work with communities right from the start to develop an approach that is respectful and culturally appropriate and that recognises the historical reasons for these challenges. This strategy will provide more information in the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy section.

Community

Community engagement supports communities in having their say on matters that may impact or interest them. Community means those individuals or groups of people that live, work, or spend time within the CPCP area. It can also cover businesses that operate in the area.

People have chosen to make Western Sydney their home, embracing the benefits of the abundant natural areas and amenities. These residents have a range of values and priorities and different levels of experience and knowledge about biodiversity and conservation.

The population of the CPCP area is diverse. We need to consider the demographics of the population we are targeting with engagement. The department is committed to ensuring that engagement methods allow for equitable participation and reach all the necessary stakeholders, community groups and individuals.

Stakeholder groups can change and evolve over time, and different approaches may be required to support engagement with impacted and interested groups over the duration of projects.

The community within the CPCP area:

- has a high proportion of full-time workers
- has a higher-than-average NSW population under the age of 19
- has a lower-than-average population over the age of 65
- has a high rate of socio-economic disadvantage in a number of local government areas (LGAs)
- has a below-average rate of internet access
- has a high proportion of the population born overseas
- is a culturally and linguistically diverse community
- has some areas of rural population.

Councils

The CPCP covers land within 8 local government areas (LGAs): Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Penrith, Blacktown and Hawkesbury.

Local councils are key delivery partners for implementing the CPCP and its on-ground conservation program. This includes monitoring compliance, ensuring conservation is embedded in local planning controls, collaborating to manage landscape threats, building knowledge and capacity, and protecting high-value sites or council reserves.

Government departments and agencies

The department has worked closely with other government agencies at the state and federal level to develop the CPCP. Interdepartmental working groups and technical advisory groups have been established to support implementation and coordination of major initiatives of the CPCP.

Key government delivery partners on our projects include:

- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Office of Strategic Lands (OSL)
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT)
- Transport for NSW (TfNSW)

Non-government organisations, universities, industry groups, environmental groups and developers

The department consulted with universities, industry groups, environmental groups and other professional and scientific groups in Western Sydney to gain independent expert advice in the development of the CPCP.

We will continue to work with these organisations to gain their expertise and perspective across a range of topics and to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the CPCP.

How we engage

The aim of this strategy is to find ways to inform people and encourage participation from interested stakeholders and give them the opportunity to have a say.

The department seeks to understand the needs of our stakeholders by:

- building respectful relationships with shared knowledge and understanding
- being transparent about the nature of engagement
- sharing insights to guide policy, program development and decisions for impactful delivery
- recognising the importance of diversity and inclusion and those whose voices may be underrepresented
- continuing engagement when appropriate by maintaining feedback loops or concluding in meaningful ways.

We will base stakeholder communication and participation on the objectives set out in the department's Community Participation Plan. Its objectives are to be open and inclusive, easy to access, relevant, timely and meaningful (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Stakeholder communication and participation objectives



Engagement activities need to incorporate the diversity and dynamics of the communities, help different groups consider issues constructively and manage potential conflicting interests. We will work to ensure that all stakeholders have fair and equal access to engagement and will avoid engagement approaches that risk polarising community interests.

When the department asks the public to share its views, the department will be clear on what is up for discussion and provide feedback on how these views have influenced any changes. Where the department could not make a change, we will be clear about the reasons for it.

Stakeholder engagement does not replace the final decision-making power of the NSW Government, but it is invaluable, as it enhances the department's capacity to make well-informed, acceptable and sustainable decisions.

Engaging with Western Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Over the life of the CPCP, the department will continue to communicate and engage with Western Sydney's Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in a meaningful way.

We used different forms of engagement during the development of the CPCP and the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy. We considered all forms of engagement and took into consideration engagement participant preferences. A lot of engagement occurred on Country, face-to-face and in small groups, at a time and place suitable to members of the Aboriginal communities.

The department will use a similar approach as we deliver the CPCP and the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy. The approach will provide flexibility and easier access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to participate in the consultation and the delivery of the CPCP as well as the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy and its programs in a culturally safe way.

We will continue to refine this implementation engagement model with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities so that it reflects what they identify as the right fit for two-way communication.

As we deliver the CPCP, we will keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities informed about what has been done to date, what work is currently happening, and where the CPCP and Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy is heading next.

Part 2

5- year communication and engagement actions

Table 1 outlines the communication and engagement actions and tools the department is planning to use during the first 5 years of the CPCP to inform and engage communities and stakeholders. The list is not all-encompassing or definitive. Our communication actions will respond to the needs of individual projects and the affected stakeholders. Projects and programs being implemented as part of the CPCP might have additional communication and engagement actions to support their delivery.

Table 1. Communication and engagement actions and tools for the CPCP’s first 5 years

Action	Description
Community survey	<p>Community survey across the CPCP area to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• knowledge in biodiversity• knowledge of Aboriginal caring for Country approaches• attitudes on access to and importance of green space. <p>We will conduct the survey regularly to measure change in knowledge, sentiment, and awareness.</p>
Information sheets	<p>Fact sheets and frequently asked questions that set out key information on the topic for the target audience.</p>
Community contact line	<p>A dedicated phone number and email address for CPCP inquiries, provided on all communications.</p>
Website	<p>The department’s website has specific pages for the CPCP, with updates, key projects and information on how to get involved.</p>
One-on-one and small group meetings	<p>One-on-one or small group meetings and walks on Country with Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and groups in a culturally safe space. This will be flexible in line with communities’ needs.</p>
Email updates	<p>Email updates to mailing list recipients showcasing CPCP projects and achievements.</p>

Action	Description
Annual report	Annual report on the progress of the CPCP published on the CPCP website.
Webinars	Online information sessions for people to find out about a specific project or action.
Community events	The department attends community events where community members can meet officers and ask questions.
Working groups	Working groups set up to discuss matters relating to specific projects or implementation areas.

Part 3

CPCP priority programs

We outline some of the key projects being delivered in the first 5 years of the CPCP below. Each of these programs will require specific community consultation and engagement activities.

Reverse land purchase program

The CPCP identifies areas critical to protecting threatened ecological communities and threatened species listed in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). It also identifies areas critical to enhancing the ecological connectivity across the landscape to protect biodiversity. The department will deliver a land purchase program in collaboration with its delivery partners that aims to voluntarily purchase private land of conservation value in these critical areas.

The department is engaging with eligible landholders through targeted letters and updates.

Biodiversity stewardship program

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme is the framework for offsetting unavoidable impacts on biodiversity from development with biodiversity gains through landholder biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSAs). The department is working with the BCT to encourage Western Sydney landholders to establish new biodiversity stewardship sites in the CPCP area.

Landowners can enter a BSA to permanently protect and manage an agreed patch of land for conservation in return for financial and other benefits. The BCT has published a guide to [BSA for landholders](#) that gives an overview of the process and the key matters for establishing a BSA on your land.

Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy

Western Sydney is home to one of the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. Three Aboriginal Nations care for the area that the CPCP covers: the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra. Other groups, such as, Darkinjung, Wiradjuri and Yuin, maintain trade or other obligatory care relationships with the area.

Local Aboriginal land councils (LALCs), constituted under the NSW *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*, are major landowners in LGAs that the CPCP covers. LALCs within the area the CPCP covers include Tharawal, Deerubbin and Gandangara.

Since 2019, we have been working with Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal communities in Western Sydney to understand their priorities for employment, education and training, caring for Country and recognising culture within the Cumberland Plain (see Case study 2). The outcomes of these discussions have resulted in the [Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy](#) to promote and support economic opportunities and caring for Country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. As we deliver this 10-year Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy, we hope to reach more and more members of Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities so they can see actions in this strategy that support them.

Case study 2 – Developing the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy

Engaging and partnering with Western Sydney's Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and LALCs are important components of implementing the CPCP.

The department began engaging with LALCs in 2018 and conducted early engagement with Western Sydney's Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal communities to help inform development of the CPCP in 2019 and 2020. This included open community events, workshops with LALCs and walks on Country.

Through this work, a strong message emerged that an Aboriginal outcomes strategy should be developed to support the CPCP's implementation. The Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy was developed in response to this need. It was co-developed in partnership with Traditional Custodians, Aboriginal land councils, Registered Aboriginal Parties, members of local Aboriginal communities, businesses and organisations in Western Sydney.

The department publicly exhibited the draft Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy from November 2022 to April 2023 to seek feedback.

Consultation participants highlighted:

- the importance of connecting to Country through meaningful activities that are informed by the deep cultural knowledge that the Aboriginal communities of the region hold
- the importance of seeking the Aboriginal communities' vision for healthy Country and giving Traditional Owners a consistent voice on what happens to Country
- the importance of involving Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in decision-making during planning

- the importance of preserving tree canopy, ancient trees and cohesive connecting corridors to prevent fragmentation
- that the process to reclaim holistic traditional land management practices requires a different approach from that provided by Western legislation or concepts of land tenure or maps
- the importance of Aboriginal lore, which provides for traditional roles and a system for connecting with and protecting Country, which Western legislation may not reflect.

You can find the summary of the engagement in the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy What we Heard report, and the final Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcome Strategy on our [website](#). The department will continue to work closely with Traditional Custodians and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Western Sydney to implement the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy.

Koala conservation actions

South-west Sydney is home to the largest koala population in the Sydney region, which is one of the healthiest in New South Wales.

The Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer provided expert advice on koala protection measures, and we have incorporated these into the CPCP.

The NSW Government has committed funds for actions under the CPCP that include:

- establishing the Georges River Koala Reserve and restoring habitat to form a safe and continuous corridor for koalas
- installing koala crossings for the safe passage of koalas and other animals across Appin Road and other impediments to movement
- constructing koala-exclusion fencing as a key mitigation measure to protect koalas from urban threats, including vehicle strikes
- koala monitoring and research to learn more about the density and disease status of the koala population in south-west Sydney.

The department is working closely with our delivery partners and undertaking works in line with advice from the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer and the NSW Koala Strategy. We will aim to provide consistent and meaningful information to the community about the progress of [CPCP koala projects](#). We also aim to provide opportunities for landholders, community members and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed koala fencing.

Research program

The CPCP Research Program aims to solve challenging issues and barriers to create a greener and more sustainable Western Sydney.

The department is collaborating with Western Sydney University to develop a 35-year research strategy and implement the first 4 years of research.

The research strategy identifies research priorities within 4 core themes:

- supporting Aboriginal connections
- engaging with people and cultures
- conserving threatened species and ecosystems
- restoring and reconstructing ecosystems.

The research strategy was on public exhibition in 2022. Feedback from the community is helping shape the final CPCP Research Program Implementation Strategy and determine priority research areas for the next 4 years.

Compliance work with councils

Local councils are key delivery partners for implementing the CPCP and its on-ground conservation program. One of the key areas of collaboration is monitoring compliance. Other areas include ensuring conservation is embedded in local planning controls; collaborating to manage landscape threats and build knowledge and capacity; and protecting high-value sites or council reserves. The department regularly engages with the 8 councils in the CPCP area through a working group.

Project and program-specific engagement

Many of the projects implemented as part of the CPCP will require separate communication and engagement plans that have specific engagement needs that go beyond the actions listed in Table 1. These communication and engagement plans will identify and define specific stakeholders to engage, mechanisms for engagement and key messages for the project.

Every project is different and requires scoping and planning to reflect its unique context and constraints. The department will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision process. The department will use communication and engagement strategies that reflect the required level of engagement and participation.

The ways the department engages fall into 4 categories:

- **share:** when the department needs to inform or educate the public about an initiative

- **consult:** when the department needs to gather feedback about a problem or a solution
- **deliberate:** when the department needs input from the community because a problem involves competing values and requires trade-offs and compromise
- **collaborate:** when the department needs help from the community to find and implement a solution

We will use the community participation framework in Table 2 to determine the necessary level of community participation and use an engagement strategy that is relevant to the level of input the community has. The framework has been adapted from the Australian Public Service Framework for Engagement and Participation and the International Association for Public Participation Spectrum.

Table 2. Community participation framework

Category	Share	Consult	Deliberate	Collaborate
Community participation goal	To provide the community with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and solutions	To obtain community and stakeholder feedback on options, decisions or both	To work directly with the community and stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that the department consistently understands and considers their concerns and aspirations	To partner with the community and stakeholders in each aspect of the decision, including developing alternatives and identifying the preferred solution
Promise to the community	The department will keep you informed and provide you with tailored information to understand key concepts and projects.	Your voice will be heard. The department will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge your concerns and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the decision.	The department will work with you to ensure that the developed alternatives directly reflect your concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the decision.	The department will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Category	Share	Consult	Deliberate	Collaborate
Example communication and engagement tools	Website and apps Social media Electronic newsletters Letterbox drop Public notice Local media	Public exhibition Focus groups Surveys Public meetings Targeted feedback to specific stakeholders Webinars Field trips	Workshops Steering committees Expert panels One-on-one meetings and phone calls Informed participation	Advisory committees Recurring committee meetings Participatory decision-making Community workshops Progress check-ins
Example communication and engagement tools	Website and apps Social media Electronic newsletters Letterbox drop Public notice Local media	Public exhibition Focus groups Surveys Public meetings Targeted feedback to specific stakeholders Webinars Field trips	Workshops Steering committees Expert panels One-on-one meetings and phone calls Informed participation	Advisory committees Recurring committee meetings Participatory decision-making Community workshops Progress check-ins

What success looks like

The department is developing a monitoring, evaluation and reporting program to track the CPCP's progress using relevant indicators and key evaluation questions to inform adaptive management of the CPCP. The evaluation program will ensure that the CPCP achieves its outcomes, that the biodiversity and social benefits are delivered in perpetuity, and that biodiversity offsets align with the staging of development.

Public reporting will include annual updates on the CPCP implementation as well as independent reviews every 5 years on the effectiveness of the CPCP and its delivery. The department will make these available on our website.

Collaborating on the projects and sharing CPCP progress with key stakeholders and the community allows the department to build more awareness of the Cumberland Plain's biodiversity, celebrate successes and drive improvement.

What you tell us will drive the department's understanding of how successful we have been in our communication and engagement. We will monitor and report on the effectiveness of our engagement.

We will be successful if:

- you trust us to communicate openly and work effectively with you to deliver regulatory outcomes for the environment and community
- you feel you know where to find information about the CPCP and the project you are interested in
- you know how to get involved with engagement activities
- you feel like you have been consulted on decisions that affect you
- when we make decisions, you feel you have been listened to and heard, and you know why we have made the decisions
- we have strong relationships with communities and stakeholders, our conversations and collaborations are respectful and productive, and we work together to reach the outcomes of the CPCP.
- The Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra Traditional Custodians and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are heard and know where to find more information on the Caring for Country Aboriginal Outcomes Strategy and how to get involved.

Contact us

You can contact us in several ways. [Our website](#) has up-to-date information on our projects and ways to engage and share your ideas. You can also contact us by:

- calling the dedicated community CPCP contact line on 02 9585 6060
- emailing CPCP@planning.nsw.gov.au.

For translating and interpreting services, phone 13 14 50 and ask for an interpreter in your language to connect you to 02 9585 6060. When connected, please ask to speak to the CPCP team. If you wish to receive CPCP updates to your email, contact us to add you to our stakeholder mailing list.