

Monday, 19 September 2011

**Robyn Parker and Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc
NSW Community Cabinet Meeting St Marys**

Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc – some achievements

- Obtained \$22.5 million in Federal funding for conservation land acquisition
 - \$15 million in 2007
 - \$7.5 million in 2010
 - This funding was targeted by WSCA specifically to assist the NSW Government acquire land for new nature reserves.
 - Cranebrook was purchased with this funding and OEH are now looking to buy land with the additional 2010 funds achieved by WSCA's volunteer efforts.
 - WSCA has effectively saved the NSW Government \$millions in acquiring this funding
- Successfully stopped the development of the 181 ha former Air Services Australia site at Cranebrook
 - Mapped the site for unrecorded threatened species
 - Hired ecologists to refute developers flora and fauna surveys
 - FOI'd NSW Planning and Environment Dept's revealing support to develop the site. Media exposure forced former NSW Government to abandon support for the development
 - Set up a volunteer bush care group on the Cranebrook site
 - Lobbied for immediate fencing of the site
 - Called for Cranebrook to be a Nature Reserve not a Regional Park
- Facilitates three bush care groups in local area
 - UWS campuses at Hawkesbury and Kingswood
 - Cranebrook bush care group
- Won HNCMA urban land care group award in 2009 largely for Cranebrook outcome
- Authored a new book on planting Cumberland Plain species in the home garden
- Facilitated the nomination of Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland for listing under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act
- Facilitates public awareness about the development threats to OEH mapped Priority Conservation Lands. Strategies include guided bush walks, flora surveys.
- Recorded threatened species on the NSW Wildlife Atlas, including a large population of *Pimelea spicata* on Penrith Council land
- Continuing to have input into a range of environmental planning processes to achieve best conservation outcomes for Western Sydney

Issues

- 1. Broken ADI Site commitment by Liberal/Nationals**
- 2. Impacts of 50:50 urban development policy**
- 3. Media statement by Minister Parker that CPW would be conserved with \$40 million election fund**
- 4. Penrith LEP threat to Priority Conservation Lands**
- 5. Culling of Kangaroos at Orchard Hills Defence Establishment**
- 6. Federal Govt Strategic Assessment – Commonwealth land disposal concept**
- 7. Lerp dieback**
- 8. Regular meetings with Minister**

1. Broken ADI Site commitment by Liberal/Nationals

Protection of an additional 100 ha of Cumberland Plain Woodland at the former ADI Site. This was an election commitment of the Liberal Nationals in 2007 of which Brad Hazzard stated in 2010 and 2011 stated publicly would be honoured by the NSW Lib if elected. We wish to clarify why this commitment has not been honoured. Penrith Council recently approved DA's by Lend Lease that allowed 59 ha of CPW to be cleared. This is the same

area as the 100 ha Liberal commitment. Minister Parkers Dept recently refused to call in a Species Impact Statement by Lend Lease to check for concurrence with the TSC Act.

2. Impacts of 50:50 urban development policy

It is believed that the 50:50 urban sprawl policy of the Liberal Nationals that will see an additional 128000 houses built in Western Sydney over and above the Sydney Growth Centres which the former government approved for an additional 180000 houses. We want to know what impact the 50:50 policy will have on bushland in Western Sydney and what will be the additional cost involved of offsetting the proposed clearing of this bushland? Has any offsets been discussed? You would be aware that the offset conservation fund for the Growth Centres was \$530 million.

3. Media statement by Minister Parker that CPW would be conserved with \$40 million election fund

Minister Parker in the local Penrith Press stated that, when asked why the Liberal/Nationals were reneging on their ADI Site commitment, that the Liberal Nationals were conserving CPW as per its election commitment of \$40 million for conservation corridors in NSW. We wish to be informed of what areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland and how much are to be protected by the Liberal/Nationals as per its election commitment?

4. Penrith LEP threat to Priority Conservation Lands

Stage 1 of the LEP was approved by Tony Kelly and zoned hundreds of hectares of priority conservation land for 2 ha rural subdivision. Stage 2 is yet to be exhibited but concerns are raised that Penrith Council and DoP will allow the Deerubbin Land Council further development friendly zonings on the Priority Conservation Lands in their ownership. We wish for Ministers Hazzard and Parker to intervene in this process and amend the Penrith LEP to protect all the priority lands. These lands make up part of the Cumberland Conservation Corridor that I proposed when WSCA was first formed in 2006. The conservation of these Priority Lands is central to the success of the State and Federal Govs Cumberland Plain Recovery Plan. What discussions have been had with the Deerubbin Land Council about conserving these lands?

5. Culling of Kangaroos at Orchard Hills Defence Establishment

Concerns have been raised about a Kangaroo reduction program commencing at the Orchard Hills Defence Establishment. OEH will need to issue a licence to harm fauna if this is the case. If this is the case then what oversight will OEH have over this process? Why the need for this population control? Who is undertaking the program? What guarantee does OEH have that this process will be humane?

6. Federal Govt Strategic Assessment – Commonwealth land disposal concept

WSCA is opposed to any of the Growth Centres offset funds being spent outside of Western Sydney. WSCA raised with SEWPaC during the Strategic Assessment consultation process the concept that conservation outcomes be achieved whenever the Commonwealth disposed of any surplus land. E.g that Aboriginal Land Councils be funded to conserve their land through this process. We seek the Ministers support for exploring this concept further. This has already been raised with OEH Hurstville Managers.

7. Lerp dieback

High incidence of sick and dying Eucalyptus moluccana across parts of Western Sydney. OEH needs to act.

8. Regular meetings with Minister

There will be a need for a more thorough meeting than this one to fully discuss the issues raised by WSCA. We request a further meeting ASAP. We also request regular meetings with the Minister, possibly every four months.