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**To:** [epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au](mailto:epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 26, 2011 4:55 PM  
**Subject:** EPBC Act: Reference Number: 2011/6042

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**St Marys Rugby League Club/Commercial Development/ Approx 8km east of Penrith /NSW/St Mary's Rugby League Club upgrade**

[http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc\\_ap.pl?name=current\\_referral\\_detail&proposal\\_id=6042](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_referral_detail&proposal_id=6042)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc (WSCA) urges that this be determined a controlled action due to the significant impact this proposal will have on a matter of national environmental significance.

Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest is now listed as critically endangered. This proposal will clear an important remnant of this CEEC. This remnant is part of the proposed Cumberland Conservation Corridor which has the support of the Federal Government and which has provided \$22.5 million thus far towards its creation. This proposal undermines the creation of the CCC and removes vital habitat for many EPBC and NSW TSC Act listed flora and fauna species.

The area of this proposal is an important refuge for local populations of macropods. The displacement of fauna due to urban development brings fauna into conflict with humans and in the case of macropods, cars. It is likely the local populations of macropods will be extinct within the next few years if developments like this one continue to be approved by our decision makers and conservation managers. The reality of what happens when fauna is displaced, that it usually ends up dead or completely stressed, must be addressed by SeWPAC in this assessment process.

The proponents offsets are totally inadequate and if applying offsetting methodology should equate to the protection of the same CEEC but at an offset ratio of 4:1 or higher. That is the proponent needs to conserve 4 hectares elsewhere for the loss of every 1 hectare. We urge SeWPAC to insist on adequate offsets should compliance be considered. It must be remembered that this proposal is adjacent to the former ADI Site where the EPBC has been switched off and CPWSGTF is being cleared in the hundreds of hectares by Delfin Lend Lease without the provision of any offsets. The Federal Environment department by allowing the EPBC act to be switched off for Lend Lease at the ADI Site has failed us miserably on the protection of CPW at the ADI Site and pushed this CEEC closer to extinction. It is now time to make amends by ensuring superior conservation outcomes are achieved through this referral process.

The CP Recovery Plan identifies the protection of Priority Conservation Lands, which equates to Critical Habitat, as the means to recover the threatened species of the Cumberland Plain. This proposal will impact the nearby PCL's within the ADI Site.

In this day and age any clearing of CEEC's, which are of the highest conservation priority, must be fully offset by the proponent. If this is not the case then this referral should be rejected by SeWPAC and the development not allowed to proceed.

Yours truly,

Geoff Brown