

Draft Western District Plan

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Submission content: Dear Sir/Madam - I am writing to register my concern about the proposed developments of the Greater Sydney and Western City District Plan. The aspirations are in the main good and many of the risks to further development are outlined, i.e. loss of tree cover, habitat destruction of native fauna & flora, unrestrained development, risks of climate change, infrastructure and the like. This rural area has already changed substantially given the development from Liverpool out past Oran Park to Narellan and beyond. Already, locals are experiencing the downside of all this - congestion, barriers to travel, constant roadworks trying to keep up with population changes. I have been visiting my daughter in Camden for the past 3 years on a weekly basis and there has been no let-up in the above problems. Narellan Road, now 3 lanes each direction has been under construction this whole time and will only finally be complete just in time to become inadequate again as the population swells. What makes people come to Camden, so far from the City is its rural lifestyle, however, this is fast eroding with suburban subdivisions and they are all of the same ilk - small blocks, all trees cleared, narrow roads and the inevitable congested, unhappy population. On top of this, the clearing of land for development seems to go on without concern for those its displaces - Snakes are abounding this summer in

Camden as their homes have been destroyed and they must seek new ground. Koala are on the move and since July, I have read of at least 17 killed on the roads - this poor colony is being destroyed daily and may not have the genetic diversity to survive. So far, it is the only disease-free koala colony and one of the few left in NSW. I have heard NOTHING from the governments responsible about further protection of this colony. Instead, I read that certain groups are pushing for a parkway to be built within the Georges River Catchment to ease congestion from Campbelltown to Liverpool. How is this a solution to anything? This will certainly lead to isolated pockets of wildlife who cannot go anywhere, being trapped by roads. the entirety of the Georges River catchment that remains should be protected, not given to roads or further development. We have a reckoning coming with climate change and to my mind, the last thing we should be doing is destroying more bushland and increasing the population. More control needs to be exercised over development to maximise the protection of our green canopy, not clear the land to make it easier to develop. Trees are life-giving not just to us with their oxygen and shade, but to all the wildlife that depends upon them. I would like to see them better considered and protected than at present. Yours faithfully, E B Gossell