

CPCP IMPACTS to CONNECTIVITY

Impact in summary

In total 12,807 hectares of habitat will be permanently isolated by the proposals contained in the CPCP. Much of this open woodland which is not mapped as native vegetation in the CPCP, which focuses on trees not wildlife. This represents 59% of the Cumberland Plain region.

This is likely to result in catastrophic decline of wildlife at a regional scale across two modes

- Direct decline of fauna species – especially terrestrially-moving mammals e.g. Koalas, Echidna and Wombat
- Decline as a result of the loss of ecosystem service providers – the loss of Eastern Grey Kangaroo is particularly concerning; this species grazing is necessary to keep woodland grassy and open and vital for the survival of other endangered plants & animals

Impact on connectivity of existing National Parks lands

The CPCP will permanently isolate three of the four National Parks lands which currently protect significant areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland. These are Wianamatta Regional Park, Shanes Park, and Colebee Nature Reserve.

Wildlife presently move freely (across two local roads) between these three reserves. The CPCP M7 motorway and M7-Ropes Crossing Link Road proposals would completely isolate these three reserves from each other as shown below.

The propose isolation will result in the loss of most or all native mammal species from Colebee Nature Reserve, which is of insufficient size to maintain its populations of Echidnas, Kangaroos and Sugar Gliders in isolation.

Kangaroos, which are vital for maintaining the grassy structure of healthy Cumberland Plain Woodland, will be a particularly impacted species, with cascading impacts to many other grassy woodland plant and animal species which rely on these grazers to maintain suitable habitat.



The CPCP talks considerably about the importance of connectivity, but it fails completely in adequately assessing the vast scale of connectivity loss proposed, and in providing proportional improvements to regional connectivity.

There are two key opportunities for improving the CPCP and mitigating its impact on connectivity:

- Extending the Cobbitty-Cawdor tunnel to avoid isolating EMAI and Cobbitty Hills
- Reinitiating the Cumberland Conservation Corridor, a Federal Government-Community partnership which has already made significant improvements to connectivity (mapped overleaf)

CUMBERLAND CONSERVATION CORRIDOR Linking the bushland of the northern Cumberland Plain

The Cumberland Conservation Corridor is a community vision & program to link the bushland of the northern Cumberland Plain. The corridor layout was approved by the NSW Government and incorporated in the NSW BIOMap. Since 2011 the corridor has received over \$50 M in Commonwealth funding, conserving wildlife corridors and linking bushland remnants.

