

I oppose the residential development of habitat connectivity at former Riverstone Meatworks wetlands. There is high ecological value for important habitat areas threatened by the ‘dividing the total area of revegetation and/or restoration required under condition 8b (iii), by 3.’ (NSW Planning and Environment, (September, 2018)., p.6). Where, ‘..more than 100 bird species — including migratory birds — seen at the site.’ (Machado (2017)).

Known and Threatened Species:

Long-necked Turtle, *Chelodina longicollis*
Azure Kingfisher, *Alcedo azurea*
Wandering Whistling Duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata*
Pelican, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*
Australian Painted Snipe, *Rostratula australis*
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*
Australian Pratincole, *Stiltia Isabella*
Grey Teal, *Anas gracilis*
Eastern Grey Kangaroo, *Macropus giganteus*
Gold and Green Bell Frog, *Litoria aurea*

Dominant tree species of Blacktown soil types and associated natural drainage had vegetation and landscape complexity with an historical presence of *E. teretifolia*; *E. crebra*; *E. moluccana*; *E. malucatta* (eg. Hill (2000), p.25), with mosaic distributions of other Cumberland Plains Woodland; Mulga Ironbark; sedges; and floodplain grasslands. With floodplains, substrate and subsoils, shale bedrock supporting high terrestrial ephemeral; and aquatic ecological values. Riparian corridors and wetland connectivity had an important cultural value for local and other indigenous peoples; and the practice of traditional customs.

Shallow water ponds; floodplains and associated wetlands have a distinct habitat connectivity with remnant Mugga Ironbark and Cumberland Plains Woodlands Forest. The Blacktown geomorphic connectivity consists of ‘Winamatata’ group soils (Hill, 2000, p.25). Where, habitat migration has historically allowed a seasonal increased genetic diversity, with seasonal counts of ‘over 400 birds’ together; from a variety of species, (Machado (2017)).

There is strong heritage value and high conservation value for late 19th to 20th century farm building; historical estate; rudimentary cottages and other thoroughfares. These include habitat areas and connectivity at and neighbouring, GDA 94, zone 56, E.3031029; n. 6272121 (Davies et al. (2018)). These places and heritage artefacts have a high cultural significance to local history particularly- the steel culvert in the eastern division; the timber bridge over South Creek in the eastern division and the placement of the concrete bridge between the former Riverstone meatworks and the study area (Davies et al. (2018)., p. 19, 75, 83). Where, much terrestrial strata and habitat has restored via natural regeneration and other activity corresponding to topography (Aerial photography (1975)). There is a strong characteristic strata development and structure linked to Western Sydney remnant woodlands; floodplains and wetlands.

There is an important habitat connectivity associated with wetlands for nesting and food groups flora species. Wetlands remain protected under international convention including 'Ramsar' protocols and agreements. Historically, the proportion of wetlands in coastal buffer zones; extending 50 kilometres inland; has evolved, varying with niche and emergent ecosystems and lowland littoral rainforest. This

highly adapted ecosystem of high ecological values has been threatened; lost or degraded via urban encroachment and agriculture and other continued threats.

These environmental factors would attribute to the ongoing risk of extinction of fauna species; loss of biodiversity and other complex climatic change associate with long term seasonality and other meteorological extremes of spikes during regional homogenous and heterogeneous landscape interactions. Local water storage and seasonal precipitation release would be historically associated with wetland abundance and connectivity.

References:

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