

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Hon Robert Stokes MLA  
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces  
52 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

**Re: State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Koala Habitat Protection – Possible Mapping Error**

I write to alert you of a possible error in the map overlays of the State Environmental Planning Policy Koala Habitat Protection (Koala SEPP).

The Koala SEPP maps, surprisingly, include the entire Western Sydney Airport precinct between Bringelly Road and Elizabeth Drive, but then exclude the areas to the north of Elizabeth Drive and to the south of Bringelly Road. Given the SEPP map covers the northern part of the South West Growth Centre, yet excludes the southern section, it is unclear whether the South West Growth Area is intended to be included in the Koala SEPP or not.

Including any part of the bio-diversity certified South West Growth Centre appears anomalous, given that the bio-diversity certification process required full-offsetting with the purchasing of new land in other areas.

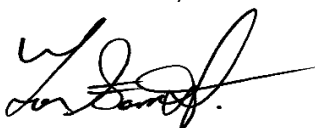
The move towards spatial mapping is positive in so far as allows practitioners to view, in real time, impacts of government policies on their properties. However, as currently applied, spatial mapping has reduced the capacity to look at and check the multiple layers of planning policy affectation on a precinct by precinct, LGA by LGA and/or region by region basis. As a consequence, simple errors, such as including half of South Western Growth Centre in the Koala SEPP can occur (as may have been the case in this instance). In the past these maps have been produced via high resolution pdf which (while clumsy) gave practitioners and landowners the capacity to appreciate affectation on a regional basis and then zoom in for a precinct or street level view. This capacity is critical in rapidly growing areas such as Western Sydney.

The Urban Taskforce has many members that are active in the Aerotropolis area and Western Sydney surrounds. Clarifying the Koala SEPP mapping will avoid uncertainty and confusion which, as you are aware, is fundamental to investment in this area.

The Urban Taskforce requests immediate clarification of the mapping under the Koala SEPP, so that our members and the broader industry can be clear on the Government's intentions for this critical precinct.

We look forward to your response at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



**Tom Forrest**  
CEO - Urban Taskforce Australia

cc. Jim Betts, Secretary, DPIE  
cc. Sarah Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Western Parklands City Authority  
cc. Sam Sangster, Western City and Aerotropolis Authority