

Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Program Report – Addendum

This is an addendum¹ to the *Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Program Report* (the Program). The Program was prepared under the strategic assessment provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and submitted to the Commonwealth Government in November 2010. The addendum relates to further commitments and undertakings by the NSW Government. It forms part of the Program, and where ever there is conflict between this addendum and the Program, the provisions of this addendum take precedence.

- The NSW Government is committed to spending the Growth Centres \$530 million Conservation Fund (in 2005/06 dollar values and subject to indexing) on the Cumberland Plain.
- There is still allowance for funding off the Cumberland Plain, but in exceptional circumstances only e.g. when it is not possible to secure conservation sites on the Cumberland Plain in any particular financial year over the 30 year life of the Program.
- The rules governing exceptional circumstances will be agreed between the Commonwealth and State by 20 March 2012.
- The Commonwealth Government will need to agree to any specific offsets off the Cumberland Plain.
- The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program Advisory Group, which makes final funding decisions, will be reconstituted as a Technical Sub-Committee under the NSW Environmental Trust which operates under the NSW *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. This will include new representatives from industry and a peak conservation group.

In addition, it is noted that the annual allocations to the Conservation Fund can be, subject to NSW financial management constraints, reprioritised, accumulated or staged across a number of years.

¹ Addendum prepared January 2012