



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 31 July 2013

THREATENED WESTERN SYDNEY BUSHLAND PROTECTED

The NSW Government today announced the conservation of a 50 hectare property at Mulgoa which includes the important and threatened Cumberland Plain Woodland, adjacent to the Mulgoa Nature Reserve.

Environment Minister Robyn Parker said an agreement had been finalised which would see one of the largest remaining stands of the critically endangered Cumberland Plains Woodland in private hands protected in perpetuity.

"The arrangement has been made possible by funding of \$6.37 million of which the NSW Government has provided \$2.26 million," Ms Parker said.

"This offset program will permanently protect some of the most important remaining bushland in Western Sydney and surrounding areas," Ms Parker said.

"Protection is provided by acquiring land for new reserves and funding actions like this Biobanking agreement with landowners to permanently conserve their land.

"The owners of the Mulgoa site will protect and manage the property for conservation under the agreement and will receive annual payments to address threats to biodiversity values including livestock grazing, weed invasion and feral animals."

Mulgoa MP Tanya Davies said over 100 years ago the Cumberland Plain woodlands covered more than 100,000 hectares of the Sydney Basin but today only 10,000 hectares remain, scattered in small pockets across Sydney's western suburbs.

"Every hectare we can protect is critical for the environment," Ms Davies said.

"The NSW Government has pledged to ensure wildlife corridors are established through Western Sydney and to protect the last remaining viable and representative stands of Cumberland Plain Woodland."

The NSW Government's commitment is part of the Green Corridor Program, a \$40 million package that aims to purchase and protect strategic areas of high conservation value and ensure more green spaces across Sydney and NSW.

The Australian Government contributed \$4.11 million to this project.