



NSW Field Ornithologists Club Inc

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17 May 2018.

To whom it Concerns.

## RE: The Bells Line of Road Castlereagh Corridor and Outer Sydney Orbital. (BLoR and OSO)

### RE: Government Plans to reserve land.

Following pleas from concerned residents in the Grose Wold, Gross Vale and Kurrajong areas close to the Bells Line of Road and others at Cobbitty-Camden in the Macarthur areas affected by the idea of an OSO, we write to **object** to any further destruction of natural Australian ecosystems.

We are most conscious of the reduction of bird life in regions where infrastructure is built. Close to the proposed OSO and BLoR will be the Western Sydney Airport, a development that will mean the destruction of thousands of trees and remaining Cumberland Plain Woodlands.

Not only birds, but a great variety of wildlife is at risk, many species are listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act as being endangered. We are also conscious of the serious threat to the Blue Mountains National Park which contains so much of the iconic bushland so well loved and sought after by our International Tourists.

Birds are the beacons of biodiversity health as they are the easiest creatures to find. Modern technology has provided databases that are constantly updated and a check just now on the eBird database reveals bird species up to May 2018 for the districts of:

Kurrajong Hills 135 species.

Grose Vale 74

Castlereagh 152

Bents Basin 134

Cobbitty 149 (which includes my own survey lists of just under 100 surveys)

Nepean River Camden 119.

Included amongst those numbers are a range of bird groups with diverse food requirements starting with diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey at the top of the chain, through honeyeaters and insectivore to seed-eaters at the bottom clearly indicating that the ecosystems are at least *reasonable*.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and over 400 members of Birding NSW, this Office asks that the Transport department of the NSW Government **re-considers its plans** for major expressways and rail lines that will destroy so much of our irreplaceable bushland.

Sincerely

Ian Bailey, OLO

Office of Conservation, Birding NSW.