



16 June 2016

NSW Scientific Committee
PO Box 1967
Hurstville BC NSW 1481

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Preliminary determinations

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of sixteen Councils in the area south of Sydney harbour. SSROC provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between our member Councils, and an interface between governments, other Councils and key bodies on issues of common interest. We facilitate collaboration between councils on joint ventures, procurement, and projects including advocacy. Together, our member Councils cover a population of over 1.6 million, or one third of the population of Sydney.

SSROC supports the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, including the precautionary principle. We recognise that the conservation of particular species and biodiversity generally has to be balanced against the needs to society and economic growth.

I write now in strong support of the proposed changes to the listing of:

- Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle.

The area of southern Sydney is very developed, and includes some of the most densely populated suburbs in Australia. Our member Councils are keen to ensure that future development and growth in the area makes due allowance for the overall amenity of our region. The need to accommodate a rapidly increasing population means that it is more important than ever that we protect the green space and biodiversity that does exist in the area.

The reasons are manifold, including: biodiversity conservation, threatened species protection, as well as protecting green space for human health and for its role in climate change adaptation. SSROC is also concerned that the existing protections for threatened species within metropolitan Sydney are at risk of being eroded, and that it is essential that every effort is made to maximise the protections for species that are under threat. These particular species are both present in our region, and are therefore of particular concern to SSROC: we urge that they be given the protections that the proposed listings would bring.

Please note that this submission has been written by SSROC's Secretariat and it has not yet been endorsed by SSROC. I will contact you should any issues arise as result. For any enquiries regarding this submission, please contact me or Helen Sloan, SSROC Program Manager on 02 8396 3800.

Yours sincerely,

Namoi Dougall
General Manager
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils