

To the Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Link Road rezoning proposal.

I was alarmed on hearing that this precious area of bushland is under threat of development.

This 592 ha of bushland proposed to be developed for housing is rare remaining threatened species habitat.

25 threatened species of fauna occur on this site such as the Swift Parrot and the Bent-winged bat. We can also assume that Koalas live here.

Additionally 27 threatened flora species also occur on the site including several types of orchids, scrub turpentine and native guava.

As we see the sprawl of Newcastle and recent developments around John Hunter Hospital further reduce our remaining natural areas of bush, it is time to recognise the essential value of any areas of bushland to the health of our human and natural communities. Not only should we be concerned with maintaining air quality, after so much forest was lost in the bushfires, we must consider the health and survival of our native species. This section of bushland proposed for development, importantly provides vital habitat connectivity between Newcastle and Lake Macquarie bushland.

At this point in time when our native species are facing endangerment and even extinction, it is of utmost importance that bushland areas such as these are preserved and protected.

It would be extremely short sighted and greedy to exploit this natural resource for financial gain.

Your rejection of this proposal will ensure long term benefits from the protection of this bushland for future generations.

Our children will thank us for saving remaining areas of bushland like this, close to our city, that encourage the survival of native species and generally improve our quality of life.

Thankyou,

**Marion Giles**