

## **An opportunity to say No.**

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to you as a sixty-four-year-old lifelong resident of the City of Newcastle.

I have three young Grandchildren, and with the current trajectory of environmental degradation, I am concerned for their future.

My understanding is that in the not too distant future, Councillors will be asked to consider the pros and cons of rezoning a large parcel of land.

Adjacent to the Link rd extending out from Wallsend to Minmi, the site is 592 hectares of bushland, and the proponent for the application is Eden Estates (Newcastle)Pty Ltd.

For some of the reasons, I am urging you to reject the application.

1. Only 15% of our original bushland remains on the coastal plain for the entire length of NSW. The subject site is large and unfragmented and forms a significant part of the remaining 15%.
2. The site provides effective connectivity between the Watagans Range and the Coast. It's the last piece of continuous bushland linking East Lake Macquarie and Newcastle's Reserves.
3. It's home to 15 identified threatened species, including the critically endangered Scrub Turpentine.
4. Relying on offsets ( Ellalong Lagoon)as a mitigation for the destruction proposed is a flawed methodology. We need both areas preserved and protected in perpetuity for all future generations.
5. Traffic currently is bumper to bumper and barely moving during peak times along the link road. Therefore, it is poor planning to approve land development expecting our current roads to carry the increased traffic.
6. Land development and housing construction only provide short term flurries of activity. Developers along with councils have been exchanging brief labour opportunities for long term environmental destruction.

In conclusion, as you are undoubtedly aware, it's more crucial than ever that we all do our part to try and protect the natural world moving forward. The rampant destruction of the natural world has to stop. So I am pleading with you to take a stand and say NO to the rezoning application.