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MR George Butt  
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**RE: DA2017/1274 - 52 Cabbage Tree Road BAYVIEW NSW 2104**

I am a retired biologist/ecologist/land-manager.

As a retiree, when flying in and out of the Newcastle/Sydney/Woolongong conurbation, I am sometimes relieved. "Ah - yes - wildlife corridors - someone is thinking ahead and getting things right!"

This proposal is getting it WRONG.

The value of these wildlife corridors is going to escalate over time. The more they're 'not sold, kept forever' the greater their value will be.

Moreover, the land is not 'idle'. Undeveloped land provides 'ecological services' that we take for granted. It's not only things like 'oxygen production' (which is small), it's matters like catchment management. Hardening catchment in these sorts of one-off developments - by the hundreds - contributes directly to the sorts of disasters as seen recently in Toowoomba.

This proposal in this location is a Bad Idea. A similar proposal in an area in need of urban renewal or upgrading to higher-density housing would have my support.

We only get to lose land like this once. A restoration of a devastated site to anything like 'renewed wildlife corridor' costs many, many more millions (sometimes whole number multiples! - see overseas experiences) than any profit, rates, or benefit derived from this kind of short-term thinking with effectively forever consequences.

Sincerely,

George Butt