



# The Hon David Bradbury MP

## FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LINDSAY

### Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

22 December 2011

## **\$530 Million Secured for Western Sydney Conservation**

Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury, has welcomed the Commonwealth and New South Wales Government's signing off on the Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Program, paving the way for 30 years of sustainable growth in Western Sydney.

The Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment incorporates a \$530 million commitment by the NSW Government for the Growth Centres Conservation fund to be invested in the preservation of bushland in Western Sydney, including at least 1,200 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodland.

"Under an earlier proposal put forward by the NSW Government only 25% of the funds raised through development levies on Western Sydney homes were guaranteed to be spent in Western Sydney.

Mr Bradbury, who along with his fellow Labor Western Sydney MPs, Michelle Rowland and Ed Husic, has been campaigning for a fairer share of these funds for Western Sydney.

After an extensive lobbying effort, the three Western Sydney MPs were able to convince the Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke to hold off on signing off on the plan until a better deal for Western Sydney could be secured.

"This is a great result for the people of Western Sydney, which will ensure that a substantial part of our region's remaining native bushland and greenspace can be preserved for future generations," said Mr Bradbury.

"The O'Farrell Government tried to short-change the people of Western Sydney, but as a result of our campaign and the efforts of the Federal Labor Environment Minister they have been forced to back down and amend their earlier proposal.

"This is about looking at the cumulative impacts of development to ensure that our natural assets are preserved for future generations."

The Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Program will ensure that development over the next 30 years is sustainable and takes into account Western Sydney's unique environment.

The program will eliminate the need for hundreds of individual project submissions, many of which would not have needed federal environmental approval and consequently would have had dire consequences for the Cumberland Plain woodland.

For more information go to: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/assessments/strategic.html>