

**Proposed State Significant Site Listing and EPBC Act Strategic Assessment-
West Menai**

See <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

WE urge you to make a submission to reach Department of Planning and Infrastructure by close of business Wed 29th February. Some ideas below are provided as a guide, but try to put your concerns into your own words. Consider reading the detail in the appendices for areas that you are skilled in or have some particular interest. The specific consultants often allude to impacts not fully explored in the Summary document.

**Post: Director, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
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NSW 2011 [\\or](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au) Email to:
plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au**

In summary the development will involve:

- **Clearing of 339 hectares of indigenous vegetation for residential and commercial development and associated infrastructure.**
- **Removal of known habitat for threatened fauna including Red-crowned Toadlet, Powerful Owl, Varied Sittella Grey-headed Flying Fox, Koala, Little Bent-wing Bat, Eastern bent-wing Bat and Rosenberg's Goanna.**
- **Removal of the threatened flora *Acacia bynoeana* and *Melaleuca deanei* and Hibbertia (Menai)**
- **Removal of 5 hectares of Upland Swamp a proposed Endangered Ecological CommunityC**
- **Removal of the largest known population of *Allocasuarina diminuta ssp mimica* currently under consideration by the NSW Scientific Committee for listing as a threatened species.**

In the proponent's own words "the proposed project has potential to have a significant impact on the biodiversity values of the project area" (Cumberland Ecology Assessment 2011).

Koala Corridors will be cut; Far more threatened plants, including ones listed by the Commonwealth, will be destroyed. NPA found 10 new populations of the threatened *Acacia bynoeana* and *Melaleuca deanei* after just two hours extra searching. NPA's recommendations to more fully search for threatened plants, animals and endangered ecological communities. Indicate support for all the NPA's recommendations inthis regard.

Gandangara's ecology consultants who highlight the threats to endangered ecological communities adjacent to development precincts such as weeds, trampling and erosion.

The justification of the project relies on the conservation of 506 hectares of gully habitat that will not be developed. The areas proposed for conserved contain habitats that are well represented in conservation areas while conversely the

ridgetop heath and woodland areas proposed for development are the least protected.

Clearing of native vegetation, removal of bushrock and loss of hollow bearing trees are recognised as key threatening processes. Powerful owls abound in the area, and are known to hunt for prey well away from known roosting sites to the north east of the project area. Large scale removal of indigenous vegetation is clearly not best practice catchment land management.

The works already done to help manage this catchment will be severely compromised by the impacts associated with development of 2700 residences and a large commercial area along Heathcote Road.

The area is in a highly fire-prone location

Many lots proposed are much smaller than any that Council has ever approved

There is insufficient documentation to indicate the project is financially viable...reliance on lot sizes smaller than those in the Shire may be an unreasonable assumption when funds need to be generated to build major infrastructure that will not be supplied by government