

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Rainforest Reserves Australia

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## SUBMISSION

Rainforest Reserves Australia is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Australia's rich biodiversity. We fully support the objectives of Manyana Matters, a volunteer community organization that aims to safeguard the natural, social, and cultural environment of Bendalong, North Bendalong, Manyana, Cunjurong Point, Berringer, and the surrounding Conjola National Park. Together.

One pressing issue at hand is the proposed development of 76 hectares of bushland known as Inyadda Drive in North Manyana. This area, despite being zoned as "Residential," is situated within a major bushfire corridor and experiences frequent flooding. The waterways on the property are crucial for Endangered Ecological Communities and are home to several threatened shorebird species, including the critically endangered Eastern Curlew and Hooded Plover. Allowing development in this area would pose existential threats to vulnerable, endangered, and critically endangered species, as well as destroy valuable habitats protected under state and federal conservation laws.

The potential environmental impacts of these developments are far-reaching, affecting a wide array of wildlife, including the Greater Glider which was recently listed as Endangered due to habitat destruction and fragmentation. The destruction of these habitats would not only harm the local fauna but also have indirect effects on the biodiversity and ecological balance of the entire area. In addition to the environmental concerns, there are significant community impacts at stake, including trauma, declining mental health, physical danger, and financial burden for residents.

Therefore, we urge for an immediate moratorium on the commencement of historical development consents, especially those involving the clearing of native vegetation, while an inquiry into the matter is conducted. This moratorium should extend to development consents granted in bushfire-affected areas before the devastating 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires.

We are particularly concerned that the mere announcement of this inquiry may spur reckless land clearing by property owners in anticipation of unfavourable outcomes. It is essential to prioritize the protection of biodiversity and community well-being in all decision-making processes regarding land use and development in the Manyana region.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Emms, President, Rainforest Reserves Australia