

# Senator the Hon Robert Hill



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Leader of the Government in the Senate

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Minister for the Environment and Heritage

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## **Huge Win for Cumberland Plain Woodland in Sydney**

In a major environmental win for Sydney, the Howard Government will ensure an additional 250 hectares - including all the endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland - will be protected from development on the former Australian Defence Industries Site at St Mary's.

Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill said that this historic commitment means that the entire 828ha entered by the Australian Heritage Commission in the Register of the National Estate would be preserved.

"This is a landmark commitment for western Sydney," Senator Hill said.

"This site is recognised for its natural heritage values, it is home to seven nationally threatened plant species listed under the EPBC Act and is well-known for its precious Cumberland Plain Woodland," Senator Hill said.

Lindsay MP and Sport and Tourism Minister Jackie Kelly welcomed the commitment to increase the amount of Cumberland Plain Woodland protected by an additional 178 hectares.

"This is a great victory for the people of western Sydney," Ms Kelly said.

"This commitment protects one of the largest stands of Cumberland Plain Woodland in western Sydney."

Earlier this year the Carr Government approved a Regional Environment Plan (REP) for the St Mary's site, which would fail to fully protect the environmental values of the site.

"Cumberland Plain Woodland was once abundant in western Sydney but intense agricultural and urban development means only eight per cent remains," Senator Hill said.

Senator Hill said that as a result the Government would commission an extensive review of all remaining Commonwealth open space in western Sydney to assess their conservation values.

"The Coalition will ensure that future development of such land is compatible with good conservation practice. The Commonwealth will in such circumstances consult with developers and community interests to maximise mutually agreeable outcomes," Senator Hill said.

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