

# The Future is the Natural World



"Biodiversity loss is the most significant environmental problem facing Australia"  
Professor David Lindenmayer. (2007) "On Borrowed Time"

**Thank you for opportunity to submit on behalf of the Natural World.**

**State Significant Development: SSD 800 182 08**

Ref: Julius Avenue Data Centre SSD-80018208 Proposed Data Centre construction at 6-8 Julius Ave North Ryde by ISPT Pty. Ltd.

This SSD shows Australia urgently needs to review how SSDs impact the Natural World. This submission demonstrates the need for Eco-Literacy & Survival Economics.

To save last Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) from lack of Eco-Literacy, consider Ecologically Sustainable Survival Economics (ESSE) as Australia is a Continent in Crisis.

How development creeps, & then rushes into, areas that should be protected for last Fauna.

With enormous Executive power and little or no Ecological awareness, the DPHI still dominates advice given to Elected Government, by reviews, recommendations and decisions.

One of these decisions is the power to decide what is State Significant Development. This usually begins as an 'ultra vires' decision (one made outside the Law). The DPHI Website shows a flurry of excitement as Data Centres are considered and made State Significant Development. Later Approval of Proposed Data Centres is then fait accompli.

How decisions are made without Eco-Literacy.

When activity becomes accepted norm (eg technology) it also becomes accomplished fact.

Ecological considerations are by passed, and certainly a written precedent is not established. For instance here are some examples:

(a) the non-assessment of Critical habitat as "*critical biological Infrastructure*" for rare urban fauna and flora for the Future for corridor connectivity and last habitat for other than human species,

(b) the inability of the EP&A Act to assess *cumulative impact* caused by development and Height of buildings approved in a location which should have been declared critical biological infrastructure and

(c) understanding the ripple survival effect, of *avoiding baseline shift* and of adopting *advanced landscape conservation*, for future security and survival of all species including humans.

Without Eco-Literacy - the powerful DPHI (Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure) can make sweeping environmental assessments, decide on tree removal policies and make recommendations about Biodiversity Conservation legislation - to elected Government.<sup>1</sup>

The Complexity of ACTION required in Australia - after decades of delay & disregard of Wildlife & Habitat Protection – is massive. Did this worry the DPHI? Not a jot.

The Planet is breaching Survival boundaries in multiple measures – biodiversity (Fauna and Flora), climate, water, soils – but does DPHI know it?

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<sup>1</sup> Many Other sweeping decisions made in error and advised to elected government can be listed.

## **SSD-80018208 Proposed Data Centre construction at 6-8 Julius Ave North Ryde by ISPT Pty. Ltd. Needs Questions like these - to be asked:**

1. Should corridor ecology be protected for “ecosystem engineers” to survive the next hundred years of biodiversity, climate and insect Crises? Should we have new zones for Eco-Literacy - to tell the Public that Nature needs some places to stay un-disturbed from human USE, for future generations to survive?
2. Should we update the definition of Infrastructure to “*critical biological Infrastructure*” to save Critical Habitat - so wildlife can continue to keep healthy, and maintain the viability of Ecosystems which humans & all species need for future Survival ?
3. Should we try and protect some of the rarest forest, especially in Urban Areas of high biodiversity – for our kids and unique native wildlife?
4. Other related questions DPHI should ask need much more Eco-Literacy.<sup>2</sup>

Awareness of the needs of rare urban biodiversity & ecological integrity survival into the near and far future – has fully escaped the planning and development “system” in the location of this State Significant Development.

In June 2021, the direct flurry of excitement in DPHI “planning reforms” became evident in the language, which lacked deep thought of anything – except money. Childish excitement of senior executives forgot precautionary principles, ecological sustainability and everything except decisions which were “financially sustainable”.

Even developers noticed this lack. Not all data centres, but as Planning Proposals for this and that (affordable housing, housing, childcare, aged care, and other reasons), developers pounced on every opportunity to develop rare native bushland.

Nothing is Protected in the end lease of all voiceless Nature. *We sterilize the future for kids and wildlife - because land USE is not matched by land Protection.*

What we know in 2025 is so many Minister’s “delegates” possess authority to approve or decide if critical habitat can be destroyed – especially in the vicinity of the Lane Cove National Park and all the rarest Reserves located in the Ku-ring-gai LGA – that this last critical habitat and corridor ecology has almost lost All its ecological integrity.

**There is no, repeat no, assessment of mounting cumulative destruction of original native vegetation, conversion of soils & seedbank to concrete, and irreversible loss of regenerative capacity – in SSDs, Planning Proposals, Agreements and developments.**

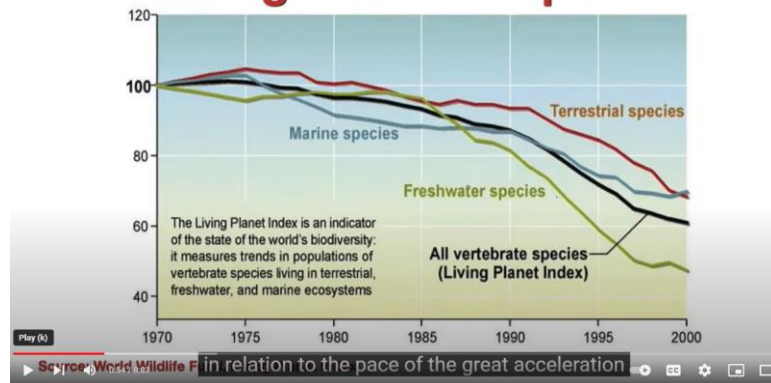
**DPHI Executives just think up a new name, and the same destruction is achieved - with little or no consideration of the total loss of critical habitat essential for all species and Nature’s Survival.**

**SSD-80018208 Proposed Data Centre construction at 6-8 Julius Ave North Ryde by ISPT Pty. Ltd. is just one more SSD, joining multiple other so-called SSDs in neighbouring Ku-ring-gai, in an opportunistic frenzy because there are No New protection zones. Outdated concepts and archaic controls apply.**

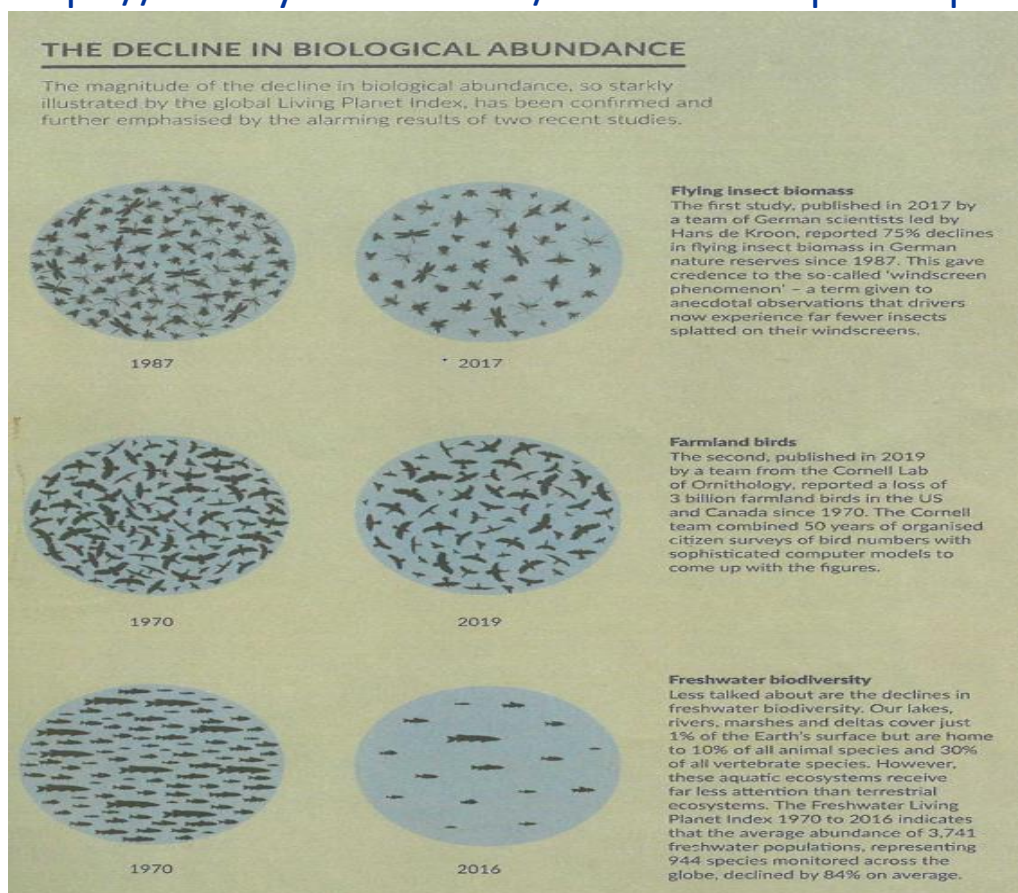
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<sup>2</sup> “..... developing a deeper understanding of ecological communities has an urgent timeline. If we fail to develop such an understanding within the next twenty to fifty years, there will be very few intact communities to use as models for the restored communities we hope to build. This will significantly reduce our ability to maintain ...the viability of all human health and economic welfare”

## Declining Wildlife Populations



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRTpYYIfCqw>



Above shows we are in the Age of Environmental Breakdown Quick action on “planning reforms” in changing decisions (about SSDs), definitions (of SSDs), policies (relating to SSDs), meant that there was no time to lobby for updated concepts like Critical Biological Infrastructure (CBI), Advanced Landscape Conservation (ALC) or Baseline Shift Avoidance (BSA).

There was No time to ensure Protection of soils, seedbanks or critical habitat for Australia’s most unique wildlife residents of rare Urban Forest.

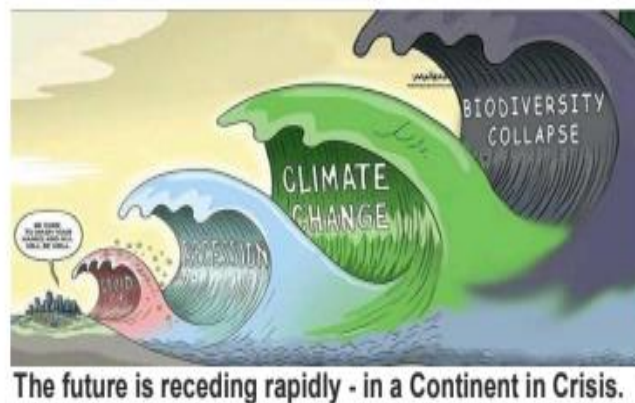
## NoEnvironment=NoEconomy=NoSociety

### **More reasons to err on the side of caution:**

"For the first time in history a conviction has developed among those who can actually think more than a decade ahead that we are playing a global endgame". E.O.Wilson Half Earth – Our Planet's Fight for Life (2017)

"..... developing a deeper understanding of ecological communities has an urgent timeline. If we fail to develop such an understanding within the next twenty to fifty years, there will be very few intact communities to use as models for the restored communities we hope to build. This will significantly reduce our ability to maintain ...the viability of all human health and economic welfare". Andy Dobson's Foreword for "Corridor Ecology - The Science and Practice of Linking Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation" (2007)

## **NoEnvironment=NoEconomy=NoSociety**



All new SSDs in unprotected Rare Urban Biodiversity suffer from Absurdity (or lack of Eco-Literacy). This is happening so fast, and on so many fronts, it is impossible to guarantee that Environment, which supports Economy & Society, will survive the next 10 years, with ecological Integrity. The Future is indeed lost for wildlife.

## **The Future is the Natural World**



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