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**AWABA STATE CONSERVATION AREA**

**(PROPOSED)**

**MAY 2016**



The **proposed Awaba State Conservation Area** is largely comprised of Crown Land adjacent to the existing Sugarloaf State Conservation Area and the Awaba State Forest. Securing this land will assist in the establishment of an important and vital wildlife corridor to the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area, a habitat corridor extending from the Watagans to Lake Macquarie. It will also assist in existing government and non-government organisation (NGO) wildlife corridor programs including the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative and Our Green Corridor Coalition.



## Background

The establishment of the proposed Awaba Conservation Area (at the time referred to as the Awaba Nature Reserve), on Crown Land between Awaba and Dora Creek was recommended in 1972 by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in the Hunter 2000 report (SWC Consultancy 1995 p 1). Subsequent to this, in 1995, Lake Macquarie City Council commissioned SWC Consultancy to undertake an ecological assessment of the site.

The ecological assessment concluded that the proposal by the National Trust of Australia was justified and that approximately 2,190ha should be set aside to assist in conserving and protecting rare and endangered flora species and protect the habitat of endangered fauna species in the area.

In 2009 the NSW State Government acknowledged the importance of the land for its high conservation and biodiversity values stating:

*Additional conservation areas in West Lake Macquarie are clearly the next highest priority for the future. DECC will be actively working to improve conservation of priority lands in the West Lake Macquarie area by improved conservation practices on other crown tenures, through private land partnerships or as the sites for conservation offsets*

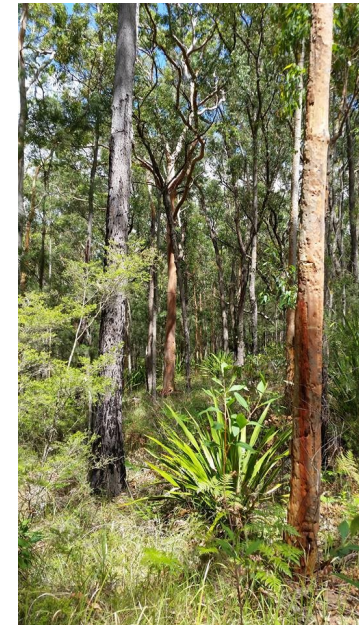
(DECC 2009 p32).

In 2013, Lake Macquarie City Council, acknowledged the proposed Conservation Area within the Lifestyle 2030 Strategy. The Lifestyle 2030 Strategy also identified the threats and stresses to ecosystems and biodiversity.

## OPPORTUNITIES:

A Managed SCA could be used to promote recreation, local, national and international activities and events such as:

Bushwalking	Sight-seeing
Orienteering/Rogaining	Picnics
Mountain bike riding	Wild-flower sightings
Cross—country running	Bird watching
Endurance events	Wildlife encounters
Scout activities	Photography / art activities
Research and Study opportunities	School excursions



### THREATS INCLUDE:

ILLEGAL DUMPING \* COAL MINING AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MINE SUBSIDENCE, SPEEPAGE FROM MINE WATER\* INAPPROPRIATE DIRT BIKE AND 4WD ACTIVITY WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO EROSION AND FRAGMENTATION OF HABITAT \* LOSS OF TREE HOLLOWS BY HUMAN INTERVENTION\*

URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT \* FOXES AND FERAL CATS

### Ecological communities include:

*Coastal Plains Smooth Barked Apple Woodland, Coastal Sheltered Apple-Peppermint Forests, and Coastal Plains Scribbly Gum Ironbark Forest, River Flat Eucalypt Forest (EEC) and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest (EEC).*

### Individual Flora species include:

Spotted Gum, Grey Gum, Banksia, Gynea Lilies, Drumsticks, Christmas bells, Crinklebush, *Acacia bynoeana*, *Angophora inopina*, *Grevillea parviflora* subsp. *Parviflora*, *Tetratheca juncea* Cheese Tree and Sandpaper Fig Sydney Red Gum. Hairy Hakea

**Native Animals** include: Squirrel Glider, Masked Owl, Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl, Barking Owl, Grey-headed Flying Fox, swift parrot, regent honeyeater, green-thighed frog, wallum froglet, little bentwing bat, Echidna

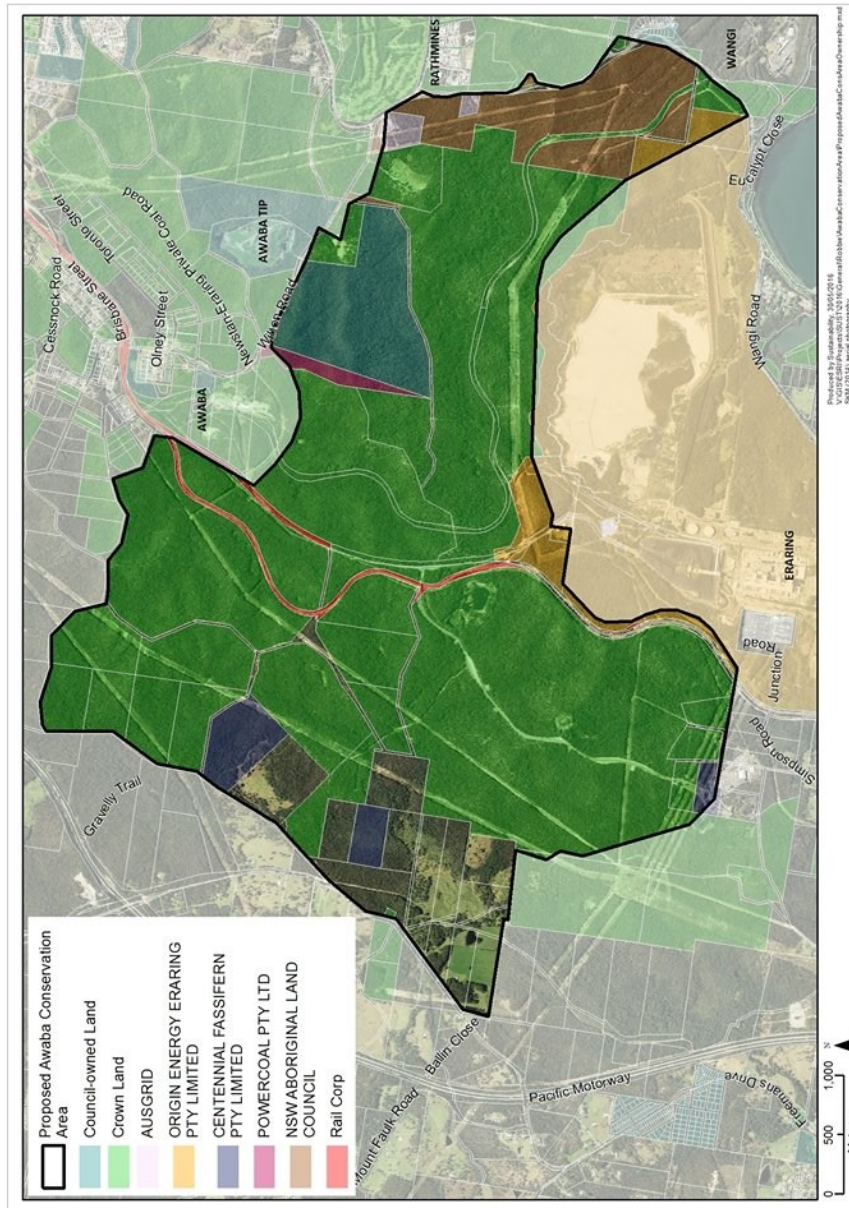


Red-bellied Black snake, Sugar Glider, Ring-Tailed Possum, Brush-tailed Possum, Goanna, Jacky Lizard, Raven, Currawong, Eastern Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail, Eastern Whipbird, Superb Fairy Wren, Swamp Wallaby, Bull ants, Sugar Ants, Swordgrass Brown Butterfly





Figure 1: Land Ownership within the Proposed Awaba Conservation Area.



The Powercoal Land is now Crown Land  
Map produced by LMCC.

## OUR AMBASSADOR—THE SQUIRREL GLIDER “GLINDA”

Squirrel Glider facts:

Body mass: 220g

Season of Birth: June- Jan

Litter Size 1-2

Time to weaning (Months) 4

Litters per year: 1

Female Longevity: 5-6 years

Social Organisation: Colonial (up to 9 individuals)

Mating system: Polygynous

Home Range: 3-5 Ha

Population Density (IND/HA): 0.01-0.2

From UNSW Press Australian Natural History Series-

" Gliders of Australia A Natural History" by David Lindenmayer 2002

