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Major advance for Wolli Valley Bushland

“We welcome the commitment of the ALP to introduce legislation to transfer bushland at Bexley North from Roads and Maritime Services to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the Wolli Creek Regional Park,” said Deb Little, President of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society. “We are really pleased that Luke Foley and other leading figures in the Opposition have taken the trouble to walk through the bushland and have recognised the importance of its retention.”

The land to be transferred is two hectares of densely treed bushland and would represent 11% of the Park’s highest priority bushland. It completes the western end of the Park and protects the start of the popular 13 km Two Valley Trail, keeping it readily accessible from Bexley North station.

“This is a major step forward for the Park and one the Coalition Government could easily have made. But our request to make the transfer has been dismissed by the Government, despite Roads Minister Duncan Gay’s loudly trumpeted public declaration in June 2015 that the bushland would now not be needed for WestConnex”, a perplexed Ms Little pointed out.

WCPS members have been fighting for the Wolli Valley’s bushland since the late 1970s and formalised a proposal to have the bulk of it made into a Regional Park under NPWS management in the late 1980s. Transferring the present 2ha will not complete the whole Park as it was previously envisaged, as there are still ‘missing links’ at the eastern end.

“WestConnex has already destroyed a Critically Endangered Ecological Community at Beverly Grove further up the Wolli Valley”, noted Bushcare Co-ordinator Peter Stevens, “and we just cannot allow any more of this precious community resource to be taken away for vague ‘future transport needs’. Amazingly, decisions to irreversibly destroy bushland can be executed within the span of a few years, yet decisions to protect it can drag on for decades and still be treated as reversible, even when it is classified as critically endangered.”

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