

**The Hon. Mark Speakman, MP
Minister for the Environment
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001**

4 May 2015

RE: Inclusion of land at 10-40 Sussex St, Bundeena to Royal National Park estate

To The Minister,

I am writing this submission on behalf of the Sutherland Group of the Australian Plants Society to request that the NSW Government support the handing over and conservation of the 8.5 hectares of land at 10-40 Sussex St, Bundeena, to the Royal National Parks estate.

The Australian Plants Society is an active community organisation that supports and promotes the preservation and conservation of Australian native plants. Sutherland Group is a long-established, active community group with members committed to conserving Australian native plants in the Sutherland Shire. I am the Conservation Officer for Sutherland Group and am a professional ecological consultant, with expertise in vegetation assessment and ecological significance of vegetation.

This submission follows up letters from our group regarding the high ecological conservation value of the land at 10-40 Sussex St, Bundeena, which adjoins the Royal National Park. The Royal is one of our country's most iconic conservation areas, recently nominated for world heritage listing. Several of our members are members of Friends of The Royal and the National Parks Association of NSW.

In addition, the land has recently being reported as containing the listed State and Commonwealth endangered ecological community *Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub* by Professor David Keith of the University of NSW. This EEC was previously thought to occur only north of Botany Bay. The inclusion of this land into the Royal estate, would ensure its protection and resilience into the long term.

Our group strongly encourages the Minister to support the recent recommendation made by Sutherland Shire Council that this land be handed over to the ownership of the NSW National Parks.

Yours Sincerely

Dan Clarke B.Sc (Hons – Botany)
Conservation Officer Sutherland and NSW Branches
Australian Plants Society,
sutherland@austplants.com.au