

FOKE • P.O. BOX 403 • KILLARA 2071 • TEL (02) 9416 9007  
 Email [info@foke.org.au](mailto:info@foke.org.au) [www.foke.org.au](http://www.foke.org.au) [www.facebook.com/friendsforkuringgai](https://www.facebook.com/friendsforkuringgai)



FRIENDS OF  
 KU-RING-GAI  
 ENVIRONMENT INC.

The Hon. Paul Fletcher MP  
 Federal Member for Bradfield and  
 Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities  
 Suite 1, Level 2, 280 Pacific Highway  
 LINDFIELD NSW 2070

20 August 2018

Dear Paul,

We are writing to ask for your kind assistance to enquire as to the progress of the Federal Recovery Plan for the Blue Gum High Forest.

In August 2005 The Blue Gum High Forest (BGHF) of the Sydney Basin Bioregion ecological community was listed as a critically endangered ecological community on the **List of Ecological Communities under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)***

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/conservation-advice/blue-gum-high-forest-sydney-region>

The BGHF of the Sydney Basin Bioregion ecological community is also listed in NSW as a critically endangered.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/determinations/BlueGumHighForestEndSpListing.htm>

Over time the BGHF ecological community has undergone enormous loss predominantly from development and land clearing. We understand the original areas of BGHF has been diminished to approximately less than 3 percent remaining.

Quoting from the Federal listing...

*" The five largest high-quality remnants of the Blue Gum High Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion ecological community are the Dalrymple-Hay Nature Reserve, Sheldon Forest, occurrences near Fox Valley Road and Burns Road in the Local Government Area of Ku-ring-gai, and an occurrence that is part of the Cumberland State Forest in Baulkham Hills. The Local Government Area of Ku-ring-gai also contains two occurrences of the threatened ecological community within larger areas of native vegetation as described above. These are located near Burns Road (between Finchley and McRae Place) and south of Mount Pleasant Avenue (between*

*Mt Pleasant and Browns Road).” .....” The **Blue Gum High Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion ecological community** meets criterion one as critically endangered as it has undergone a very severe decline; criterion two as critically endangered as it has a very restricted area of occupancy and is subject to ongoing and demonstrable threats; and criterion four as critically endangered as regeneration is unlikely due to the ecological community's diminished integrity.”*

We are very concerned through the weakening of NSW environmental laws and through inappropriate rezoning and overdevelopment that the BGHF ecological community could become extinct.

Most of the high-density development in Ku-ring-gai is concentrated along the Pacific Highway ridgeline within lands and areas that have stands or larger areas of remnant BGHF. With the deep excavation for apartment buildings BGHF seed bank is being removed, which is not being replaced for regrowth or regeneration. High-density development also leaves little area for deep soil planting.

We believe we have a responsibility as a community to protect and nurture this important ecological community to ensure it has the best chance to recover and survive.

We understand at a Federal level that a Recovery Plan is required and was included on the Commenced List in November 2011. However, to date there is no adopted or made Recovery Plan for this ecological community. This is the reason for us writing to you to request your assistance to find out the status of the BGHF Recovery Plan, its progression and when it is due to be released.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy Cowley  
President