



FRIENDS OF  
KU-RING-GAI  
ENVIRONMENT INC.

March 2009

*Dear FOKE Members*

**KU-RING-GAI PLANNING PANEL'S TOWN CENTRE PLANS.**

**THE PANEL HAS YET TO ADVISE THE DATE OF THE MUCH ANTICIPATED "TOWN CENTRE PLANS AND ENVIRONS" MEETING. WHEN THE DATE IS KNOWN, YOU ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND.**

**KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GORDON.**

**A possible date is Wed 29<sup>th</sup> April 5.00pm. For confirmation: see Council's website/  
Council 9424 0888/ announcements in local papers.**

**SPREAD THE WORD - SEE ISSUES IN ENCLOSED FOKE FLIER.**

**CRUCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL, HERITAGE & PLANNING ISSUES IN OUR TIME.**

***MONDAY 11 MAY 2009 ADVANCED NOTICE. SPREAD THE WORD.***

**7.30 PM... FOKE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY**

**8.00 PM... "SHREDDING KU-RING-GAI'S ICONIC CANOPY"**

**THE HON CATHERINE CUSACK MLC**

**NSW SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY.**

**"I was gobsmacked by the scale and intensity of the proposed rezoning of Ku-ring-gai. The area is already staggering under the impacts of \$1.7 billion of development."**

**"The threat to Ku-ring-gai compares with the significance of the plan to demolish the Rocks or building a freeway through Paddington. In some senses it is worse because the scale is even larger. We must avert it."**

**"Ku-ring-gai's iconic tree canopy that connects through to the National Parks will be shredded like waste paper. Threatened species such as the critically endangered Blue Gums will almost certainly become extinct and wildlife will shrink due to loss of habitat."**

**"The community and environmental values of the municipality will be torn, and that damage to Sydney as a whole will be irreversible."**

**"(Town Centre) Plans include cramming ugly 15 storey buildings into the historic village shopping centres; and massive 5 storey blocks within a radius of 800 metres of every train station will mean densities are greater than many inner city suburbs. I have never seen anything so inappropriate and politically vindictive."**

**"A serious debate needs to occur about the design of new dwellings, because much current design does not enhance the feel of Ku-ring-gai."**

**KILLARA UNITING CHURCH HALL, CNR ARNOLD STREET & KARRANGA AVENUE.**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS**

Recently Ms Cusack visited and toured parts of Ku-ring-gai with FOKE Committee Members.

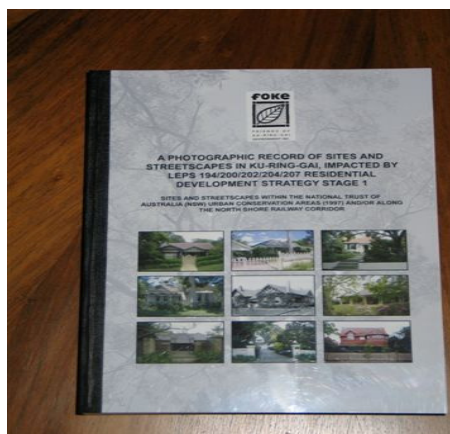
FOKE thanks Jonathan O'Dea MP, Member for Davidson, for facilitating Ms Cusack's visit.

FOKE, RECIPIENT, 2008 NSW GOVERNMENT HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS AWARD  
FOKE, WINNER, KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (NSW) 2000 METRO  
PRIDE AWARDS, NSW HERITAGE OFFICE CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD,  
"HERITAGE WATCH OVER OUR PLACE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE -KU-RING-GAI"

On 20 November 2008 NSW Planning Minister The Hon Kristina Keneally MP presented a 2008 NSW Government Heritage Volunteers Award to FOKE for its 400 page photographic record entitled “ *A Photographic Record of Sites and Streetscapes in Ku-ring-gai Impacted by LEPs 194/200/202/204/207 Residential Development Stage.*”



**Left: Receiving the Award on behalf of FOKE - Valerie Bray, Kathy Cowley, Katrina Pickles, Anne Carroll with The Hon Kristina Keneally MP, NSW Minister for Planning.**



**Right: The award winning publication, containing over 2,000 photos, highlights the plight of our nationally recognised National Trust classified Urban Conservation Areas (UCAs). It is disturbing to note that 75% of the recorded rezoned homes, which are now earmarked for 5-storey development, are situated within these UCAs. One quarter of these areas has already been destroyed.**

**It is ironic that FOKE received the award for recording the very areas that the NSW Planning Department wants to destroy with high-rise development. FOKE representatives are to meet with the NSW Heritage Branch.**

**FOKE undertook the preparation of this publication:**

- to create a permanent photographic record of those impacted sites and streetscapes;
- to highlight the direct threat to many of Ku-ring-gai’s heritage-listed items, proposed heritage-listed items and contributory items;
- to illustrate the lack of appropriate interface provided by the Ku-ring-gai LEPs between the sites rezoned for multi-storey developments and adjacent single dwelling sites
- to expose the direct threat of destruction and loss of Ku-ring-gai’s character and heritage under the Ku-ring-gai LEPs; and
- to provide a visual evidentiary platform to support:
  - community protest against and resistance to this threat; and
  - community advocacy and agitation for:
    - the immediate gazettal of Ku-ring-gai’s urban conservation areas, and
    - the adoption, enactment and enforcement, by governments at all levels, of policies and laws which protect the natural and cultural heritage, not only in Ku-ring-gai, but across Australia.

**People are appalled when they view the photographic record and see the quality of housing and landscapes that are being destroyed.** Given the importance and purpose of the publication, copies of it, in hard and digital forms, have been presented to The NSW Parliamentary Library through Mr Jonathan O’Dea MP, The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales), The Historic Houses Trust, the State Library of NSW, Ku-ring-gai Council, The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society and Mr Sam Haddad, Director General of Planning.

**Support FOKE by attending Ku-ring-gai Planning Panel meeting on ? Date to be determined! and FOKE’s “SHREDDING KU-RING-GAI’S ICONIC CANOPY” Mon 11 May 2008.**

*Sincerely FOKE Committee*

*A Carroll 9498 1807, K. Cowley 9416 9007, J. Langley (Treasurer) R Maltby (Minutes Secretary), J. Johnston, M. Galloway, J. Harwood, J. Kitson, K. Pickles, J. Posen, D. Warner.*

**NB: National Trust of Australia (NSW) membership brochures are included in this mail out. Support the work of the National Trust.**

## KU-RING-GAI PLANNING PANEL MEETING

### TOWN CENTRES.

Date to be confirmed, possibly WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2009.

5.00 PM KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GORDON.

YOU ARE STRONGLY URGED TO ATTEND. SPREAD THE WORD.

ASK THE QUESTIONS – SEE OVERLEAF. Be there 15 minutes beforehand.

### KU-RING-GAI IS BEING PROGRESSIVELY PILLAGED.

*“I have never seen anything so inappropriate and politically vindictive. If it proceeds, the strategy will be the greatest act of urban vandalism since the demolition of the Sydney Rocks.”*

*“Building densities will be greater than many inner city suburbs and Ku-ring-gai’s iconic tree canopy that connects through to the National Parks will be shredded like waste paper.”*

The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC Shadow NSW Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (March 2009).

The Draft Town Centres Plan is yet another example of the flawed “planning” process for this part of Sydney. It has been distinguished by lack of transparency; changing goal posts; incorrect, false and misleading information; ad hoc processes, unsustainable outcomes; withholding of crucial studies and ignoring of others. See overleaf.



Foreground: The nationally significant and valuable Ku-ring-gai landscape and canopy and habitat connecting wildlife to surrounding National Parks contrasts sharply with the Chatswood CBD towering above it (background). The Draft Town Centre Plan failed to adequately respect our natural, built & cultural heritage. Unacceptable.

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2000 KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (NSW) METRO PRIDE AWARDS.

## **PLANNING PANEL'S DRAFT TOWN CENTRE PLAN – UNACCEPTABLE!**

*“The (exhibited) Plan was “not sustainable. The long-term damage to the environment and community in Ku-ring-gai cannot be justified.” (Ku-ring-gai Councillors’ submission).*

The exhibition process was *“flawed, lacked transparency and procedural fairness.” (National Trust of Australia (NSW) submission.)*

*Such an inconsistent approach to planning in Ku-ring-gai demeans and discredits the basic principles of planning in New South Wales. (Source: The National Trust of Australia (NSW) submission).*

### **SATISFACTORY ANSWERS REQUIRED BEFORE THE PLAN GOES TO MINISTER KENEALLY FOR GAZETAL.**

- **Have the Plan’s unacceptable inconsistencies with the Government’s Metro Strategy been rectified?**
- **Has the over provision of dwelling targets (i.e. 40% in excess of the Metro Strategy’s target of 10,000 new dwellings for Ku-ring-gai) been reduced to that target?**
- **Has the up zoning of commercial centres been scaled back? Studies underlying the Draft LEP found there is enough development potential under existing zonings to meet employment targets set by the State Government.**
- **Has the overly aggressive approach to rezoning been scaled back? A slower, more progressive rezoning and development plan to deal with Sydney’s housing needs is recommended. (Source: Developer’s address to Planning Panel Meeting Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2008).**
- **Has the Planning Panel provided a solution to the significant lack of infrastructure (eg road, rail) to support the increased densities? The population increases are in excess of the maximum limits identified in Council’s 2000 “baseline studies.” The Road and Traffic Authority have not committed to purchasing land for widening the Pacific Highway.**
- **Has the significant lack of extra open space to support increased densities been addressed appropriately and with certainty?**
- **Have the proposed high-rise towers alien to their context, anti-environment, anti-heritage and anti-social, been reduced in height to respect Ku-ring-gai’s key natural feature – the tree canopy level?**
- **Have the inconsistencies with other recently gazetted LEPs (eg Liverpool’s LEP 2008) based on the Government’s standard template been addressed?**
- **Has the Panel rectified the failure to incorporate “the nationally-accepted, adopted and used principles of the Burra Charter which require the protection of the setting of heritage items and a thorough assessment of the impacts of any development on, adjacent to or near heritage items”**  
*“Heritage items must have a visual setting to preserve their significance as heritage items but those settings are threatened by blanket zonings to increase heights and densities across and surrounding the sites of those heritage items.” (Source: The National Trust of Australia (NSW) submission).*
- **Has the failure to recognise the significance of the Federation and Interwar housing of Ku-ring-gai and Ku-ring-gai’s Conservation Areas been rectified?**
- **Have the provisions of the Draft LEP that permit “tall, bulky, buildings totally out of scale with their surrounding neighbourhoods, irreversibly and detrimentally changing the character of the town centres” been removed? (Source: Ku-ring-gai Councillors’ submission).**
- **Has the Panel’s failure to address the issue of the generation of greenhouse gases (e.g. carbon dioxide) been addressed? (Source: Ku-ring-gai Councillors’ submission).**