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FRIENDS OF
 KU-RING-GAI
 ENVIRONMENT INC.

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Gordon Station Must be Protected

FOKE (Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment) was delighted when two Ku-ring-gai Councillors joined their concern for the protection of Gordon Railway Station heritage on 13 February, 2018.

Gordon Ward Councillor Cheryl Szatow and St Ives Ward Councillor Martin Smith (also Deputy Chair of Ku-ring-gai Council's Heritage Advisory Committee) joined FOKE members at a meeting at Gordon Railway Station to highlight a proposal to remove a heritage garden at Gordon Railway Station.

Transport Sydney Trains announced earlier in the week, that it intended to widen platform 1 and construct a canopy to cover the platform. However this would involve removing a heritage garden.

Kathy Cowley, FOKE President, said, "One of our members has already raised concerns that the upgrade would remove a camellia sasanqua hedge, possibly 100 years old."

"If this hedge is removed, alongside with row of tall trees, it would massively denude the greenery on the northern end of the Werona Avenue side of Gordon Railway Station.

Gordon Railway Station is State Heritage listed. The government is required by law to obtain approval from the NSW Heritage Council before it undertakes works. However it appeared that Transport Sydney Trains were proceeding without approval.

"It is outrageous that Transport Sydney Trains would consider doing illegal works on Gordon Railway Station", said Mrs Cowley.

"Transport Sydney Trains seems to have forgotten the campaign that the community ran in 2004 to protect Gordon Railway Station from inappropriate works. In the end it became a 'win-win' for both heritage and an upgrade. New lifts and canopies were sensitively located and safeguarded the heritage of Gordon Railway Station."

FOKE President concluded by saying, "With the support of Ku-ring-gai Councillors we hope that NSW Government will see sense and ensure that Gordon Railway Station will receive the full and proper heritage protection it deserves."