



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOKE CALLS ON LOCAL STATE MEMBERS TO STAND UP FOR KU-RING-GAI OR STAND DOWN AT NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION!

New Planning Minister Pru Goward's statement on 1 June that that garden suburbs like the North Shore should "be prepared for more density" is a complete betrayal of the written promises made by MPs Barry O'Farrell and Jonathan O'Dea to "not to exceed 10,000 new dwellings from 2004- 2031 in Ku-ring-gai " President of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) Kathy Cowley said

" To start advocating even more density around north shore rail stations when an agreed increase of 10,000 dwellings is already planned - is just pure overdevelopment and planning vandalism" Kathy Cowley said

"Ku-ring-gai is taking its fair share and has contributed more to Sydney's growth and new development approvals than most areas in Sydney over the past ten years (See report "Local council tops developer rate" North ShoreTimes 25.7.07) yet has paid for it with a reduction of rail services of up to 20 % with the introduction of the new train timetable and cut backs in the past 5 years." Kathy Cowley said

" Ku-ring-gai has approved nearly 7,000 new dwellings in only 8 years of a 25 year plan with at least 3,000 units still built into the Plan." Kathy Cowley said

"With two threatened ecological communities and heritage conservation areas within the targeted rail zones one wonders where this Minister thinks she is going to cram more highrise!"

"Kathy Cowley said recent random surveys conducted by FOKE at various local centres in Ku-ring-gai earlier this year on planning issues revealed:

97% said planning laws should be driven by principles that protect our quality of life, environment and heritage; 71% said high-rise is impacting on their area; 97% wanted the right to comment on development proposals next door or nearby; only 4% agreed that high-rise apartment should replace family homes in low density suburbs; only 9% agreed that their State MPs had been effective in addressing these issues; only 22% said that if there was an election tomorrow,

they would vote for their current sitting MP; and significantly 89% said these issues will influence their vote."

FOKE calls on Ku-ring-gai's two local state members Barry O'Farrell and Jonathan O'Dea to come clean and answer two direct questions.

- **Will they honour their verbal and written promises to cap Ku-ring-gai's new dwellings at 10,000 until 2031?**
- **And - do they unequivocally reject Minister Pru Goward's statement that Ku-ring-gai should be prepared for even more high rise density?**

Based on their answers the electorate of Ku-ring-gai should consider their vote for next year's state election

" Ku-ring-gai's roads are choked, its train services are being cut, no new infrastructure has been provided and the Liberal government wants to plonk more high rise on Ku-ring-gai. This state government needs to start decentralising development as they promised, or they can expect a strong Liberal backlash from the North Shore at the next elections" Kathy Cowley said

Contact: Kathy Cowley 9416 9007 or Kathy.Cowley@bigpond.com

Also see www.foke.org.au and www.betterplanningnetwork.good.do