



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW Labor out of touch with North Shore contribution to new dwellings

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc feels compelled to respond to the Opposition Leader Luke Foley's political statement (NST February 25 "*Share Home Load*") that when elected the North Shore target could be tripled to share population growth across Sydney.

"Mr Foley, a former resident of St Ives, would be well aware that far from not sharing the load of new dwellings across Sydney, Ku-ring-gai in the last 10 years, has contributed far more new dwellings than most Sydney councils and injected billions of dollars into the state economy from stamp duty and other taxes" stated Kathy Cowley, President of FOKE.

"One only has to observe the proliferation of 5 storey units along the Pacific Highway and around rail stations to know that Ku-ring-gai has well and truly contributed more than its fair share to Sydney's population growth over the past 10 years, without any new state infrastructure."

Ku-ring-gai was set a new dwelling target of 10,000 dwellings from 2004-2031 when Labor governed NSW. Most of this was rushed through, to the extent that within the last 10 years approximately 7000 units have already been approved, with another 3000 units to go, to meet the 23 year plan!

"With an expected 25-30% population increase, Ku-ring-gai residents have seen infrastructure and services downgraded- losing up to 20% of our rail services with the introduction of the Chatswood to Epping Line. Similarly infrastructure in terms of schools, medical facilities, utilities and amenities are not coping with the current level of increased residents" stated Kathy Cowley.

"This rapid growth rate is completely unsustainable - meanwhile destroying Ku-ring-gai's heritage and environment, creating an overheated housing market and a commodity market for foreign investors."

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