



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 August 2015

### **FOKE Meets with new Ku-ring-gai MP Alister Henskens**

The Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) formally met, for the first time, with Ku-ring-gai Member of Parliament Mr Alister Henskens on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August at his Wahroonga Office.

FOKE has requested that the new Ku-ring-gai MP, Mr Henskens arrange a tour of Ku-ring-gai with the Minister for Planning, Mr Rob Stokes and Minister for the Environment Mr Mark Speakman.

Kathy Cowley, President of FOKE said that the site tour was important.

*“We need to demonstrate and highlight Ku-ring-gai’s dilemma in providing additional new housing, particularly along the environmentally sensitive railway/highway corridor and St Ives, without further compromising Ku-ring-gai’s natural and built heritage”.*

FOKE also sought assurances on the promise by former Premier and member for Ku-ring-gai Mr Barry O’Farrell’s that that the maximum number of new dwellings by 2031 in Ku-ring-gai would remain at 10,000. Mr Henskens said that he *“would not be boxed in”* about the dwelling numbers.

As well FOKE put forward concerns about the serious loss of trees from the flawed 10/50 Vegetation Code; the failure of Private Certification; the urgent need for a recovery plan for the Blue Gum High Forest; inappropriate recreational zoning within Sheldon Forest; the community’s opposition to pressures for amalgamating Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Council; the need for innovative planning protections for Ku-ring-gai village centres; and the sale of community lands.

FOKE President Kathy Cowley said, *“It was reassuring for FOKE to know that Mr Henskens recognised that his community was passionate about protecting Ku-ring-gai as one of Sydney’s most significant environmentally sensitive areas. Mr Henskens acknowledged that Ku-ring-gai’s heritage and environment had been recognised by many eminent and qualified persons and institutions”.*

**For media comment, please call Kathy Cowley on 9416 9007**

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