



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### HAZZARD PLANNING LAWS PROTEST – YOUR RIGHTS BULLDOZED!

“We are here at Barry O’Farrell’s Ku-ring-gai office today to launch the Hazzard Tape and appeal to our Premier as an elected member of his community that we want him to ACT on community concerns, and withdraw the planning Bills and re-draft them to address our concerns.” President of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (FOKE) Kathy Cowley said

“This is a once in a generation chance for reform of our planning system. We are appealing to the Government to listen to the people of NSW and truly put the community at the heart of the planning system.” Kathy Cowley said

“The **Hazzard Tape** is a black and yellow plastic tape that is being made available to all the Better Planning Network’s 420 affiliate groups including FOKE . We are encouraging community groups to take the **Hazzard tape** to their local areas. It has a clear message – **Stop Hazzard’s Planning Laws. Your Rights Bulldozed.** We are encouraging community groups to find creative ways in which to express their outrage of the Government’s planning reforms. To wrap their homes, their fences, their trees, themselves and places of community significance.” Kathy Cowley said

“Our hope is that the **Hazzard Tape** will appear all over NSW and be a constant reminder that the NSW Government’s proposed planning reforms are a crime to the community of NSW. And that the only option is to withdraw the Planning Bills and re-draft them to incorporate the community’s concerns.” Kathy Cowley said.

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc has been calling on the NSW Government to withdraw the planning Bills – they are flawed, unfair, undemocratic and completely side-line the community.

“We understand the introduction of the Planning Bills into NSW Parliament is imminent and we are calling on **ALL MPs** to act on their community’s concerns and **reject the Planning Bills.**” Kathy Cowley said

“There have been literally thousands of submissions by community and professional groups raising issues with the Government’s planning reforms and Planning Bills. The issues are serious and include:

- Unreasonable powers for the Minister and increased risk of corruption
- Removal of community rights and involvement in the development assessment process,
- Removal of community rights to third party judicial review
- Massive reduction in environmental and heritage protections” Kathy Cowley said

“We have no evidence that the NSW Government is incorporating any of these issues in their Planning Bills. In fact, the Government has made their position clear – they want fast-tracked planning reforms, and they want nothing to stop them. Even though their own Department of Planning has admitted that they have misled the public in relation to these Planning Bills.” Kathy Cowley said.



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