



FRIENDS OF
KU-RING-GAI
ENVIRONMENT INC.

January 2011

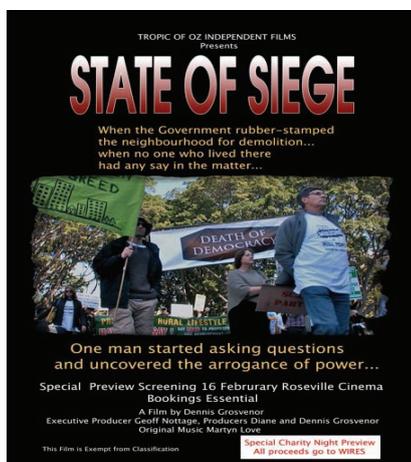
Dear FOKE Members

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM FOR 2011.

WE BEGIN THIS NEWSLETTER BY SAYING, YET AGAIN, HOW MUCH WE VALUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

**WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THE THINGS WE DO!
WE RELY ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES AND, ESPECIALLY, DONATIONS.**

PLEASE RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS TO FOKE - NEW MEMBERSHIP FORMS FROM www.foke.org.au



“STATE OF SIEGE”

Roseville Cinema 6.30pm Wed 16th Feb 2011

A powerful, must-see documentary.

Features commentary from:

Jack Mundy - John Hatton - Lee Rhiannon - Sylvia Hale
- John Mant - Dick Smith - Barry O'Farrell.

\$20 Special Charity Night Preview – followed by refreshments. Proceeds to Wires.

All welcome. See flier/invitation. Spread the word.

“STATE OF SIEGE”- Background... Dennis Grosvenor - Tropic of Oz Independent Films

From the Green Bans of the late 1970's to the present, there has been a constant battle between the forces of conservation and development. With few exceptions, when it comes to the economy and the profit motive, the environment has generally come a poor second.

From Ku-ring-gai to Catherine Hill Bay, from the Tweed to Eden, bulldozers have either moved in, or are poised and ready to change the landscape forever, and the quality of life many take for granted.

When my neighbourhood was rubber-stamped for demolition...FOR MORE .SEE INSERT FLIER/INVITATION

“PLANNING ANGER.....‘THE GOVERNMENT’S PLANNING POLICY IS UNDER SIEGE’ ”

Sydney Morning Herald 28.12.2010

A recent report conducted by the Environmental Defender's Office concluded that the public *“has lost all confidence in the planning system, which favours developers and has concentrated planning powers in the hands of the minister.”* The Report, funded by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and the Total Environment Centre, found that the planning system has become so complex, politicised and dysfunctional that a complete overhaul is needed. The Report said that *“reforms since 2004 to ‘cut red tape’ and ‘streamline the development assessment process’ were clearly linked to the (developer) industry lobbying.”* It concluded that the Labor government’s reforms produced a system that gave priority to short-term economic growth, ignored or played down environmental impacts, and marginalised public input.

(Continued page 4)

KU-RING-GAI - A COMMUNITY AND ITS HERITAGE IGNORED

Goodbye, heritage



North Shore Times

High rise edges closer for Gordon, Turramurra, St Ives, Lindfield, Pymble, Roseville

Horror storeys

Panel gets 1800 causes for concern

We still have no voice, locals fume

EXTRA THE FITZ FILES

Horror storeys continue

PETER FITZGIBBON

Ku-ring-gai makeover a model display

Concrete raiders of a stately Eden

Sarfor set to lose planning in front bench reshuffle

North Shore Times

Three jeers for the bulldozers of Ku-ring-gai

ANGER ALARM APPALLING

Ku-ring-gai plan will swamp housing target, say residents

OPINION

North Shore Times

Our heritage can't be trusted to state's planners

NEWS

26,000 more people for crumbling Ku-ring-gai

The public has lost all confidence in the state planning system, which favours developers & has concentrated planning powers in the hands of the minister...

Environmental Defender's Office Report - S.M.H. 28 Dec 2010 (see FOKE Newsletter page 4)

MEMBERSHIP TO THE HERALD AND GET A TONN OFF EACH

The Sydney Morning Herald

GRAND FINAL 100 YEARS OF LEAGUE

Bursting at the seams

But we can't afford to keep Sydney running, says Rees

Ku-ring-gai's death by concrete

Fighting back against greedy developers

PLANNING SYSTEM IS POLITICISED AND DYSFUNCTIONAL.

Environmental Defender's Office Report - S.M.H. 28 Dec 2010

North shore houses more

THE state government has approved a plan for 4500 dwellings in six north shore suburbs. The Planning Minister, Tony Kelly, gave the green light to the Ku-ring-gai Times Centre Local Environmental Plan which will reveal where apartment and commercial developments will be located in the district when it is released today. The plan will pave the way for development of about six heavy near railway stations. Small strip shopping centres will be transformed into "town centres" at Roseville, Lindfield, Goslen, Pyralde and Tarramona. It is also likely to be included as a future town centre in the plan for the district's development over the next few decades. Another 5000 new dwellings have already been approved. Mr Kelly said the total of 10,000 extra dwellings planned for Ku-ring-gai was "substan-

ially less" than the average of 15,000 dwellings across most Sydney council areas as part of the government strategy to house an extra 1.7 million people by 2036. Residents of the garden suburbs on the north shore have campaigned hard against the plan, arguing it is an overdevelopment that will see the destruction of up to 700 heritage homes. They say the rail line and Pacific Highway are at capacity and the new houses will choke the area. Mr Kelly said 14 new heritage conservation areas would protect valuable properties and the plan would preserve the character of most of the municipality. "Facing the necessity of new dwellings in existing town centres, close to public transport and other services, also means that the remainder of the local government area will retain its existing character," he said. Matthew Moore

Sydney Observer
SHOULDERING THE BURDEN
Ku-ring-gai's days as development fodder

Milson's Pool Renovations
INSIDE:
• HUNTING SYSTEMS
• THE Q&A
• PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
• WIN TIPS for the Sydney Chinese Show

Heritage homes go under the hammer

Heritage homes in Ku-ring-gai are being sold off to developers as part of a plan to build thousands of new houses. The plan, approved by the state government, will see the demolition of up to 700 heritage homes in the district. The plan will also see the demolition of up to 700 heritage homes in the district. The plan will also see the demolition of up to 700 heritage homes in the district.

High-density plans ripping

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Multi-storey future for leafy streets

Multi-storey future for leafy streets. Please, don't turn us into another Chalfont. The plan will see the demolition of up to 700 heritage homes in the district. The plan will also see the demolition of up to 700 heritage homes in the district.

THE RIZZ FILES

Bulldozing the beautiful

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Friendless and furious: Ku-ring-gai fights for life

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From leafy to lacklustre

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Ku-ring-gai planning panel draft plan targets land for road

You've got to move your home out of the way, Fay

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THE NATION'S PAIN

Evacuation concerns for retirement villages

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BETRAYAL OF OUR TRUST

the heart out of Ku-ring-gai

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(Continued from page 1)

Ku-ring-gai, is tragically a testimony to the Environmental Defender's Office Report's findings.

Ku-ring-gai is where damaging overdevelopment has and, without drastic counter steps, will continue to destroy natural and built heritage; where democracy has been denied by the installation of the Minister's Planning Panels; where thousands upon thousands of petitions and submissions, including reports from experts, have been ignored or been met with Ministers' factually incorrect responses, half truths, and misleading statements; where there has been a reduction of services as dwelling numbers increase; where it is a virtual impossibility to effectively widen the major through road, the Pacific Highway, to cope with Sydney's increased traffic; where the cost of duplicating the rail line up the North Shore to Hornsby is prohibitive; where the State Government has approved plans that are inconsistent with the stated objectives and definitions of their own documents; and where, no matter how many compromises were made by Ku-ring-gai Council and residents, the planning "goal posts" were continually changed by the State Government. (See samples of media coverage pages 2 & 3).

► In light of the Environmental Defender's Office Report's findings it comes as no surprise that Ku-ring-gai residents are asking for a total review of and a limit to the number of new dwellings being foisted upon them. In Ku-ring-gai's case, a cap of 6,000 dwellings has been put forward – the projected target to be reached in the Municipality by the State election in March 2011. It also comes as no surprise that there have been calls for a Royal Commission into planning in this State.

New Heritage Website

We are pleased to advise of a new community heritage website www.heritagespace.com.au produced by the National Trust of Australia (NSW). It was created with grant funding assistance from the Heritage Branch in accordance with the Heritage Branch 2005-2010 Strategic Plan Mission Statement to work: "*with the community to know, value and care for our heritage.*" Please visit the website, be updated on news and participate in its activities.

We welcome discussion on all aspects of Environmental Heritage recognition, assessment, conservation and protection. We have created this forum to make it possible for our users to post information directly and to contact others with similar interests. We welcome your comments but most of all your participation... (Website Forum)

Ethical Issues in Planning

From time to time, political vindictiveness is evident in the planning system in NSW. In the case of the NSW Government's urban consolidation policies, Ku-ring-gai has been treated differently to other Council areas. Unlike other local government areas in NSW, Ku-ring-gai Council was not allowed to develop its own housing strategy consistent with the stated objectives of the Government's Residential Housing Strategies namely strategies which are '*tailor made to local areas and backed by high levels of community consultation.*'

In addition, the Minister for Planning refused to gazette local environmental plans adopted by Council to provide statutory protection of the urban conservation areas in Ku-ring-gai which have been identified by the National Trust of Australia as being of National significance.

Furthermore the Council and residents of Ku-ring-gai have been forced to accept a new Town Centres Local Environmental Plan even though LEP 194 gazetted in 2004 already provided the 10,000 additional dwellings required by the Metropolitan Strategy.

The gazetted plans are designed to change the character of the area without regard to the national significance of the heritage conservation areas or the national significance of the vegetation.

However the greatest evidence of political vindictiveness is the lack of good will of the State Government towards the Ku-ring-gai community which would have to be one of the greatest examples of discrimination evidenced in the planning system in NSW.

Jane McMillan
Town Planner

Sincerely FOKE Committee

A Carroll 9498 1807, K. Cowley 9416 9007, J. Langley (Treasurer), R Maltby (Minutes Secretary),
J. Johnston, J. Harwood, D. Mobberley, K. Pickles, J. Posen, D. Warner.