

Mr David Marshall  
General Manager  
Ku-ring-gai Council  
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28 October 2024

Dear David

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc to express our concern about the unexpected announcement of an Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday 30 October 2024 at 7pm.

No reason has been provided to justify an Extraordinary Meeting and, in particular, we are concerned that some Councillors may not be able to attend at such short notice.

We believe meetings which discuss important planning matters such as that being proposed on the Wednesday agenda, should be notified to as many people affected as possible and that an opportunity be provided for residents to comment in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice. We understand an Extraordinary Meeting of Council agenda precludes the right for any resident input.

Our request is not intended to cause any undue or inappropriate delay to Council's resolution of 8 May 2024. We ask that residents be given respectful notice so that people affected by Council's decisions are informed and able to participate in accordance with Council's normal requirements.

We therefore formally request that the Mayor Christine Kay and Councillor Sam Ngai withdraw their Extraordinary Meeting Notice for Wednesday 30 October at 7.00 pm and reschedule the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council of Tuesday 26 November 2024. This will ensure all councillors will be able to attend and that the public has an opportunity to make comments at the Public Forum on Tuesday 12 November 2024.

Additionally, we request a Mayoral Minute be attached to the agenda updating residents on the status and progress of the legal action. The legal action is the only avenue Council has in attempting to hold the State Government to account for the undemocratic and blunt planning policy imposed on communities under the TOD.

We strongly believe that Council Officers need to recommend only a single planning option, drawing on their professional expertise and the expert studies conducted by council to achieve the primary objectives:

1. To retain and protect Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs);
2. To improve urban canopy outcomes; and
3. To meet the dwelling targets stipulated by the State Government for the TOD Program.

The current agenda puts the responsibility on councillors and residents.

It is one thing to offer options when exhibiting a series of plans for a community service such as a park. It is not appropriate however for presenting major planning scenarios that will deliver the future character of TOD affected suburbs.

We believe that offering four scenarios is potentially divisive and may pit neighbour against neighbour. It is apparent that some residents will view the TOD solely as an economic opportunity, overlooking the importance of protecting Ku-ring-gai's heritage, environment and tree canopy and they will make submissions based on their own personal economic interests rather than potentially detrimental planning implications arising from the TOD scenarios.

We are also concerned that the proposed timetable for the community consultation is over four weeks leading up to school and business closures, and the Christmas period, the start of school holidays and the beginning of the annual staff holiday period when usually Council only has skeleton staff on duty to answer questions.

We understand there is no set time to report to the State Government on the planning proposals decided by Council and that strategic planning decisions will not delay or affect the legal action Council is undertaking. As such we request that you reschedule the agenda to Tuesday 26 November Ordinary Meeting of Council.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

*Kathy Cowley*

Kathy Cowley

PRESIDENT

cc Mayor and councillors