

FOKE Talk

Ku-ring-gai Fights Back

FOKE endorses Ku-ring-gai Council's call for the immediate withdrawal of the Minns Government's planning 'reforms' and that genuine consultation begins with NSW councils and their communities.

Ku-ring-gai Council Extraordinary meeting of 29 January, 2024 condemned "the State Government for its irresponsible approach to planning for the future of the built and natural environment of NSW".

NSW's Planning 'reforms' are undemocratic and undermine the entire NSW Planning system. They effectively hand over planning controls to developers.

Massive rezonings are planned across Greater Sydney, the Central Coast, Lower Hunter, Greater Newcastle & Illawarra-Shoalhaven.

The rezonings depend on one-size-fits-all-cookie-cutter planning policies — distance from a railway station and/or shopping centre. This will destroy Sydney's unique character, environment and heritage. No suburb is safe.

Nor will the mid-to-high rise apartments be affordable, of quality design, or well constructed.

The costs to NSW in providing the infrastructure to service the additional population is prohibitive. Where will the money come from to fund the additional schools, hospitals, ambulances and other services needed for such a huge population increase? No economic analysis has been provided. There are real fears that the



plans will overwhelm NSW's services and push NSW into bankruptcy.

April Fools' Day, the 1st April, is expected to be the day the NSW Government introduces its first round of rezonings—Transport Orientated Development (TODs) that rezone 400 metres around Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon Railway Stations. This will wipe out Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas and wildlife corridors. The evidence justifying this destruction remains secret as 'Cabinet in Confidence'.

FOKE has met with local MPs—Matt Cross (Davidson), Alister Henskens (Wahroonga), and Paul

Fletcher (Federal MP for Bradfield) as well as Ku-ring-gai Council's Acting General Manager David Marshall, staff and other community leaders.

FOKE thanks Alister Henskens SC MP for 'blowing the whistle' about a senior NSW Planning bureaucrat who purchased a property allegedly knowing that it was going to be upzoned for higher profits. This matter has been referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

FOKE is calling on Shadow Premier Mark Speakman to reject the planning proposals if elected to government. The Minns Government

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

What a start to 2024!

Before we could really enjoy the Christmas and January school holidays the Minns State Government released one of the most alarming and autocratic changes to NSW Planning in NSW that we have experienced.

The Minns Housing Plan is breaking down the NSW Planning System as we know it.

Every Ku-ring-gai suburb will be affected. Roseville, Lindfield, Killara & Gordon will have 6-7 storey apartments (8-10 with affordable housing components) within 400 metres of the railway station. Other Ku-ring-gai suburbs will have units blocks ranging from 2-6 storey in the form of manor houses, duplexes, town houses and dual occupancy which will allow 4 houses on a block size of 900sqm. The only homes spared of Minns' proposals is land zoned C4 (high bushfire prone land).

The Minns Housing Plan is not based on sound strategic planning principles: The plans allow:

- Dual occupancies (two dwellings on the same lot) in all low-density residential zones, with a minimum lot size of 450 square metres.
- Affordable housing bonuses of up to 30% for floor space ratio and height, on top of the proposed new controls.
- Overriding existing planning controls, such as those for heritage and environment.
- Introduction of 'non-refusal standards' for the new planning controls by which development consent may not be refused.
- Impacts on heritage, trees, biodiversity, traffic and stormwater, and significant tree loss.

- No consideration given to the necessary infrastructure to support density such as schools, transport and community facilities;

- The proposed new planning controls to apply in Heritage Conservation Areas - the NSW Government has stated it will result in significant changes in these locations.

- These new controls will override the existing controls in Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans e.g. heritage and environmental considerations.

Ku-ring-gai has significantly exceeded its housing targets (2004-2031) by approximately 60% and has capacity within the current Local Environment Plan to plan to allow for a further 3000- 5000 dwellings to 2026 (set by the now defunct Greater Sydney Commission).

FOKE has with the assistance of members and volunteers letterboxed 17,000 FOKE flyers, distributed FOKE posters on A-Frames and front fences, including handing out FOKE flyers at Gordon Markets and the Council Information Session.

FOKE is now planning a **Save Greater Sydney Coalition Rally** with groups across Sydney and the regions for **Tuesday 12 March commencing 1.00 pm at the 'Tree of Knowledge' directly behind Parliament House in the Domain.** We hope all members will join us at the Rally with your placards.

FOKE's 30th Anniversary will be celebrated this year with its details still to be arranged.

Please save the FOKE AGM date - **Wednesday 22 May 7.30 pm**, Killara Uniting Church Hall, Five Ways Killara. Please also join FOKE for its 2024 National Trust Heritage Festival Events. (See page 3 of this newsletter for dates and events.)

Kind regards

Kathy

PRESIDENT

anti
Fight NSW Gov't's Housing Planning Policy

Save us from high density over heritage

krg.nsw.gov.au/demandbetterplanning



ADVANCE NOTICE FOKE AGM

The FOKE AGM will be on
Wednesday **22 May 2024**

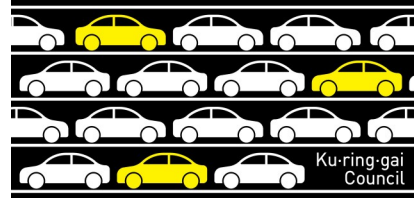
Killara Uniting Church Hall,
Killara 7.30 pm

Details to follow

anti
Fight NSW Gov't's Housing Planning Policy

Save us from traffic gridlock

krg.nsw.gov.au/demandbetterplanning



FRIENDS OF KU-RING-GAI ENVIRONMENT INC.

Established 1994

PO Box 584 Gordon NSW 2072

Tel: 9416-9007

Web: www.foke.org.au

Email: info@foke.org.au

President: Kathy Cowley

Vice-President: Janine Kitson

Treasurer: Tanya Wood

Minutes Secretary: Katrina Pickles

Committee: :Christiane Berlioz,
Joy Bryan, Ursula Bonzol (on leave),
Carolyn Darby, Janet Harwood
Denise Hendy, Dinah Warner

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Jan Langley 2023 Sustainability Award

Congratulations to Charlie Fletcher as the winner of the 2023 Jan Langley Award from East Lindfield Public School.

Charlie has been a keen, conscientious and diligent 'Eco Gardener' for a number of years.

Charlie's main role is making sure the native birds are given fresh food and water and that their cage is always clean. He is always concerned about the birds' welfare. Charlie also helps care for the chickens, watering and harvesting the produce.

Congratulations Charlie.

Jan Langley, was a former Lindfield East Public School parent who volunteered for the school as well as being on the FOKE Committee for many years because of her commitment to sustainability.

Jean Posen Environment Award



Congratulations to Olivia Koper the Lindfield Public School's recipient of Jean Posen Environment Award 2023. This award goes to a student who exhibits passion, enthusiasm and a general commitment to improving sustainable practices and caring for the school environment.

The Award remembers Jean Posen, long standing FOKE Committee member and passionate advocate for protecting Ku-ring-gai's environment.



FOKE
Heritage Festival Events
2024

Join FOKE's walks that celebrate the [Australian Heritage Festival](#)

Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Walks



Long Reef Walk with Dr Peter Mitchell OAM

Join a guided walking tour and be inspired by the geological wonders of this Northern Beaches reef

Date: Saturday 5 May, 2024 Time: 9.45 am for 10 am start.

Finish at 12 noon *Free* Meet at: Anzac Avenue, Collaroy

Bring: Water, snack and wear good walking shoes Bookings:

[Humanitix](#)



Sheldon Forest Walk with Dr John Martyn

Renowned author and geologist, Dr John Martyn will share his geological insights into one of Ku-ring-gai's rarest urban forests - Sheldon Forest

Date: Saturday 11 May, 2024 Time: 9.45 am for 10 am start.

Finish at 12 noon *Free* Meet at: Sheldon Forest, enter via

Warragal Road near FOKE signs *Bring:* water, snack and

wear good walking shoes Bookings: [Humanitix](#)



West Pymble Bicentennial Park Walk

Join a short guided walk led by geologist Dr John Martyn highlighting a unique basalt dyke

Date: Sunday 12 May, 2024 Time: 9.45 am for 10 am start.

Finish at 12 noon *Free* Meet at: Entrance to West Pymble

Bicentennial Park next to carpark via Prince of Wales Drive

off Lofberg Rd (near Ryde Rd) *Bring:* water, snack and

wear good walking shoes Bookings: [Humanitix](#)



GeoRegion = GeoWonder

Talk by Dr Peter Mitchell OAM + Afternoon Tea

Join Dr Peter Mitchell OAM and be inspired by the geological wonders of Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion project

Date: Saturday 18 May 2023 Time: 1.45 for 2pm start. Finish

at 3pm followed by afternoon tea *Venue:* Roseville Uniting

Church, 7A Lord Street, Roseville Bookings: [Humanitix](#)

Donation welcome

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FOKE Posters promoting Save Our Suburbs Rally—**Tues 12 March** - can be ordered from [Lindfield Print](#) at \$25 +GST each

is a minority government.

Minns' planning proposals will radically change Sydney and its regions as we know it, if implemented.

NSW Labor's [landmark Climate Change Bill](#) (Net Zero Future) that legislates ambitious emissions reduction targets and establishes an independent Net Zero Commission will be a farce. The removal of Ku-ring-gai's tree canopy will massively drive up Sydney's greenhouse gas emissions.

Keep writing to the NSW Premier Minns, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully and the Minister for Housing Rose. Tell them they must withdraw their deeply flawed plans immediately. Their addresses are [here](#).

Stop Vandalism of Trees

FOKE is encouraging members to sign the [online NSW Legislative Assembly ePetition](#) to increase penalties for urban forest tree vandalism and recognize trees as Natural Assets in the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework of The Local Government Act.

In November 2023, Lane Cove witnessed the worst act of environmental vandalism in its history. Nearly 300 trees and plants were illegally removed from Council-owned bushland in Longueville.

FOKE is constantly being contacted by residents concerned about tree removals in Ku-ring-gai.

Local governments received more than 1000+ reports of trees being damaged or killed in the previous 12 months.

Current fines for tree vandalism in NSW are paltry compared to ACT's fines of up to \$80,000.

Minns' Wrecking Ball

If implemented there will be:

- Loss of tree canopy & wildlife
- Loss to heritage & character
- Strain on existing infrastructure & facilities
- Traffic gridlock

Together they will destroy NSW's built, natural and cultural heritage and:

- contravenes the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EPA&A) and other NSW environmental & heritage legislation
- will **not** deliver housing affordability
- is undemocratic
- is 'corruption prone'

Remember to write to: NSW Premier & Minister for Planning & Public Spaces & Minister for Housing

DEVELOPERS GIVEN FREE REIN

Minns' wrecking ball coming to you



Statewide Changes to Housing Controls

The Minns Government is threatening every suburb across Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Lower Hunter, Greater Newcastle and Illawarra-Shoalhaven.

RALLY: SAVE YOUR SUBURB

Tuesday 12 March 1pm
Sydney Domain



Under the 'Tree of Knowledge'
behind Parliament House,
Hospital Road, Domain



Lourdes Planning Proposal Unanimously Rejected

The Lourdes Planning Proposal to upzone the site to a vertical six storey retirement village and allow 63 non-seniors townhouses on the bushfire flame zone in Stanhope Road Killara, was refused by the Sydney North Planning Panel.

The decision made by the SNPP five-member panel on 15 December 2023, was unanimous.

The Gateway determination alteration is to be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment requesting the proposal no longer proceed.

The Panel Hearing heard presentations including from Ku-ring-gai Council, FOKE, Step Inc, residents of Lourdes Retirement Village, Killara neighbours and members of the public who had submitted objections to the planning proposal.

Levande, the new owner of the Lourdes spoke in support of the proposal and one resident. The submissions to the SNPP included objections in relating to the changes in zoning from R2 to R3, scale, density, building height, management of bushfire risk, ecology and related transport issues.

The SNPP thankfully found that the proposal did not warrant the support to proceed and should not be made:

Key issues being:

- Bushfire risks and density distribution
- The Panel was not convinced of the proposed solution of a Special Fire Protection Facility (SFPP) being either appropriate or effective as opposed to an Asset Protection Zone.

- The erection, and sale of townhouses to the general population which could still be housed by seniors with the same dependencies and accessibility issues.
- An unacceptable bushfire risk to residents of the likely age and fragility.
- The introduction of a C2 Environmental Conservation Zone could increase bushfire risk thus being a conflicting constraint.
- Not an appropriate balance between neighbour amenity and distribution of density in the form of 6 storey development abutting existing R2 single residential.

Join FOKE Now!

www.foke.org.au