

foke



FRIENDS OF
KU-RING-GAI
ENVIRONMENT INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 28 MAY 2026

This has been a year of both vindication and vigilance.

A year on from FOKE's 2025 annual report, the reality of the impacts and implementation of the NSW Government's State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), being the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) and Low and Mid-Rise Housing (LMRH) policies are now in full effect and in operation across Ku-ring-gai and other parts of metropolitan Sydney. The dual occupancy rezoning affecting suburbs across New South Wales (NSW) has also been part of this suite of changes.

Not only will we have to contend with the new housing policies but the most significant overhaul of NSW planning legislation in a generation is now being rolled out in incremental stages. The changes being anchored by the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Planning Systems Reforms) Act 2025 which passed into law in November 2025 with near unanimous support in the NSW Government. Commencement is by staged proclamation with the first tranche taking effect on 15 December and the second on 21 March 2026, with further provisions to follow over the next 12 months. There is more detail about the NSW Government's significant planning changes later in this report.

In updating you with Council's response to the NSW Government's TOD housing policy, Ku-ring-gai Council unanimously resolved at its meeting on 18 November 2025 to accept the NSW Government's offer to discontinue Council's legal challenge in the Land and Environment Court against the State's original Transport-Oriented Development (TOD) policy. With both parties agreeing to bear their own costs, the resolution brought the legal proceedings to an end following the NSW Government's decision to adopt council's alternative TOD plan that reflects Council's preferred approach for the four station precincts (Gordon, Killara, Lindfield and Roseville).

The NSW Government published the amended clauses for Ku-ring-gai's TOD Alternative on the NSW Legislation website on 14 November 2025, marking the formal adoption of the plan. This plan delivers 24,562 dwellings, 1,362 dwellings over the required government's TOD target housing capacity of 23,200 dwellings for Ku-ring-gai. The council's alternative plan is still to be tested as to whether it will provide stronger protection for Ku-ring-gai's

heritage, environment and tree canopy, and ensuring more appropriate transitions between lower and higher-density development than the State Government's TOD State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).

Council's TOD alternative plan was the product of public consultation with the community and collaboration with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and council's consultants. Council had submitted its TOD Alternative to DPHI on 10 June 2025, followed by proposed amendments to the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 and the relevant State Environmental Planning Policy on 12 June 2025. This submission stemmed from Council's 5 June 2025 resolution to adopt draft Local Environmental Planning maps and clauses, together with a revised implementation strategy, for the purpose of preparing a SEPP to implement the alternative plan.

Unfortunately, before the council's alternative TOD was adopted NSW Planning Minister Paul Scully 'saved' every SSD lodged before the 13 June 2025. A number of these projects sit outside the new TOD precincts and continue to be approved under the original, more permissive controls. The proposals will heavily impact neighbouring properties – loss of sunlight, privacy, outlook and tree canopy, heritage conservation areas, heritage items and add pressure on streets and infrastructure that the TOD Alternative Plan was specifically designed to protect.

Currently there are thirty (30) Ku-ring-gai TOD State Significant Developments (SSDs) in the process of being determined by the Department of Planning, Heritage and Infrastructure and seven (7) TOD applications are being determined by Ku-ring-gai Council and Sydney North Planning Panel. FOKI has submitted responses to a great majority of the development proposals as well as a number of the TOD SSDs which have been subsequently amended following their response to submissions.

Eight (8) TOD SSDs have been approved since December 2025 namely 3-9 Park Avenue Gordon; 3A, 3B, 5A and 7 Burgoyne Street and 4 Burgoyne Lane and 1 and 3 Pearson Avenue, Gordon; 9-21 Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield; 2-4 Larkin Street and 1-5 Pockley Avenue, Roseville; 2-16 Pockley Avenue, Roseville; 12-16 Bent Street, Lindfield; 27-29 Tryon Road, Lindfield and 5-7 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield (Land & Environment Court Appeal decision).

Considerable community concerns have arisen in responding to the 'saved' TOD development proposals. Considerations such as impacts on people, cumulative impacts on neighbourhoods such as loss of solar access and privacy, heritage, environment, traffic and infrastructure being key issues. The multi-storey proposals will have a dramatic impact on local character, neighbourhoods, amenity and lifestyle.

We question whether the TOD 30% bonus increase in height of buildings in allowing so called affordable rental units will be 'affordable' for low-income families. One-bedroom apartments are being sold off the plan from \$900,000 - \$1 million and rise by approximately a \$1million per additional bedroom. We question why the government has only mandated the affordable housing for just 15 years and not in perpetuity. Unfortunately, we are seeing that TOD In-fill affordable dwellings are too often assigned to the least liveable units that have little or no solar access or cross flow ventilation with some of the dwellings planned below natural ground level or as council refers to them as 'subterranean' dwellings.

With the luxury 8-10 storey residential apartments being designed with more family sized 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments the lack of provision of suitable private open spaces for children to safely play, ride a bicycle or to kick a ball is evident. Private open space provisions in these residential apartment buildings is being planned on the rooftop of these buildings being areas totally unsuitable as play areas for children. The government's legislation needs to be changed to address the needs of families with children living in TOD high-rise apartments.

The broader reform agenda of the NSW Government discussed below, concentrates power, weakens consultation and treats the planning system as a delivery mechanism for development, rather than a framework for shaping liveable, distinctive and resilient communities.

Key Aspects of the State Government's Planning 2025/2026 Reforms affecting Ku-ring-gai and NSW.

The most significant change introduced through legislation since May 2025 is the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 passed by NSW Parliament on November 11, 2025, and assented to on November 24, 2025. It acts as a major overhaul of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, focusing on accelerating housing, simplifying approvals, and shifting to risk-based, "proportionate" assessments and summarised as:

- **Legislative Changes:** Passed as the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Act 2025* (No 71).
- **Proportionate Assessments:** Replaces the requirement to consider environmental impacts "to the fullest extent possible" with a requirement "proportionate to the nature and risk of the activity".
- **Housing Delivery Authority (HDA):** Formally enshrined in legislation to fast-track state significant residential development.
- **Development Coordination Authority (DCA):** Created as a "single front door" for government agency advice on major projects.
- **Targeted Assessment Pathway:** A new, streamlined assessment pathway for projects already subject to strategic planning.
- **"Zombie" DA Management:** Introduced measures to facilitate the cleanup of long-dormant ("zombie") development applications.
- **Amended Objects of the Act:** Added new requirements for planning to consider climate change resilience, housing supply, and proportionate assessment.
- **Consolidated Community Participation:** Aims to replace over 100 separate consultation plans with a single, state-wide Community Participation Plan.

Concerns have been raised by stakeholders such as the Environmental Defenders Office regarding potential reductions in environmental protection and community participation resulting from the planning reforms.

The passing of the *Planning System Reforms Act 2025* in April this year, marks the most significant overhaul of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in a generation, streamlining the foundational legislation of the state's housing, jobs, infrastructure, and energy delivery to the detriment of local communities across NSW.

The State Government announced that the reforms are designed to simplify the planning process making for more unaccountable decision-making. The government reforms can only be described as an autocratic top down approach that has granted an avenue for the planning minister and a few bureaucrats unchecked powers to control planning and development which will primarily benefit the NSW property and development industry.

The NSW Government reforms include:

Objects of the EP&A Act

The objects of the Act have been updated to reflect the State Government's 'one size fits all' planning priorities. Changes to encourage an abundance of housing supply, promote unproportionate assessment in decision-making, and to embed climate change resilience for the first time. The amendments were supported by the Opposition.

Sydney 's High Rise Plan

In April FOKE responded to the Government's SYDNEY PLAN, a 20-year strategy for housing, jobs, infrastructure and growth. There remains major concern that the Plan's emphasis on development speed and housing delivery compromises comprehensive strategic planning and major infrastructure to support an increasing population.

FOKE's concerns being:

- The Plan's approach to the statewide 'one size fits all' policy overrides local variation in character, heritage, infrastructure needs and environmental values of different places.
- Planning should not be reduced to facilitating development. Good planning is not just about building more but shaping cities and suburbs that are liveable, distinct and resilient.
- Planning should recognise heritage as an asset, not an obstacle. Historic homes, streetscapes are part of the fabric of our cities, and irreplaceable once lost.
- Affordable housing is not a short-term product to be produced by market churn. Permanent social and affordable housing available secured **over the long term is needed.**
- Reliance on continual changes to the plan, increased flexibility, and fast tracking for development. Speed should not come at the expense of undermining certainty for councils and communities, transparency or proper community consultation.
- Vague reference only to infrastructure. Without an adequate plan for investment for supporting infrastructure such as schools, parks and community service, growth will be unsustainable.
- Failure to set strong standards for construction standards to assure quality, liveability and good design.
- Inadequate protection of biodiversity, bushland and vulnerable ecological communities. Failure to protect our environment.

- Proposed increased Ministerial Discretion in planning increases risks of lack of accountability, risk of corruption and uncontrolled overdevelopment

Housing Delivery Authority

The role of the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) has been legislated to help boost and fast track housing supply across the state.

The HDA acts as a specialist panel advising the Minister for Planning on major residential projects (over (\$60) million in Sydney, (\$30) million in regional areas), accelerating them to an SSD pathway.

Since 7 February 2025 – 31 March 2026 the HDA has declared 364 proposals as SSDs out of a proposed 775 applications received for a total of 126,494 new high density residential dwellings.

On average the HDA members spend 2-3 minutes per SSD application (following briefings from DPHI staff) in deciding whether to declare a development proposal as an SSD or not or to defer the application. We understand that 176 of these 364 projects have been issued with a Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and only 35 development applications have been received by the DPHI since February 2025. The NSW Government has terminated **7 fast tracked residential development projects** from the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) pathway for failing to comply with the mandatory **9-month deadline** to formally lodge their development application (DA). On the 29 April the DPHI issued its Summary of Housing Delivery Authority 12 Month Review to overview the HDA's operations with a view to ensuring its alignment with other major reforms across the planning system and continuous improvement.

At the 17 February 2026 HDA meeting four (4) proposals from Ku-ring-gai were declared SSD for fast tracked development for a total of 1,646 new dwellings being development proposals for 2,2A,4,6,10,12,14, 14A and 18 Orinoco Street Pymble, 386 dwellings; 12-20 Wolseley Road Lindfield, 121 dwellings (including 5% affordable); 802-808 Pacific Highway, 786- 788 Pacific highway and 784 Pacific Highway Gordon (Charter Hall P/L) 33 storeys and 809 dwellings; and 1A and 1-7 Carlotta Street Gordon (Uniting church NSW) 300 dwellings (including 10% affordable).

Development Coordination Authority

In establishing the Development Coordination Authority (DCA) the government plans to coordinate state agency concurrences and referrals and advice on development applications and planning proposals.

The DCA will issue general terms of approval for integrated development and provide statutory and advisory inputs on development applications and rezonings.

The DCA is defined as the Planning Secretary, and its staff will be officers of the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure. This centralisation means independent input that specialised agencies e.g. (Heritage Council, Rural Fire Service) have historically provided, is replaced with advice from within the planning department itself. The reforms

have been described as contradicting fundamental ICAC principles of accountability, transparency and oversight.

A Single Community Participation Plan

The underlying legislation, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025, passed both houses of Parliament on November 11, 2025, and received assent on November 24, 2025, establishing the framework for this new state-wide approach of a single Community Participation Plan.

The proposed single Community Participation Plan has been placed on public exhibition for comment until 3 June (having been voted upon with the support of both political parties) and will apply across all planning authorities and functions across the state, 'harmonising exhibition and consultation requirements, providing certainty for all interactions with the planning system.'

The proposed changes which are already in place, will make it harder for council and community members to engage in the public processes that impact their local environment and places they love, live and work.

Impacted communities have rights to be genuinely consulted which are set out in the United Nations Rio Declaration for Environment and Development, to which Australia is a signatory. Australia is also a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which enshrines the public's right to take part in the conduct of public affairs.

Following the public exhibition period which ends on 3 June 2026, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will review all submissions and may revise the draft. Once finalised, the Minister will "make" the plan by approving its publication on the NSW planning website and the NSW legislation website.

FOKE will be making a submission before 3 June 2026 and encouraging FOKE members and residents to do the same. FOKE is extremely concerned at the intended removal of community review to any development, whether large or a neighbouring property. The lack of community oversight will raise the likelihood of increased corruption within planning processes.

Complying development

The complying development pathway has been expanded, allowing certain variations to development standards through a deemed approval process. Submissions on the Complying Development Code Variation will end in June 2026.

Key Aspects of Expanded Complying Development (2026)

- **Minor Variations Allowed:** The new planning reforms allow minor variations (e.g., small setbacks, landscaping deviations) to be approved by councils, avoiding a full DA.

- **Deemed Approval Deadline:** If a council does not decide on a variation within 10 days (or 20 days if combined with a Complying Development Certificate), the variation is deemed approved.
- **Housing Pattern Book Code:** A new, faster pathway is introduced specifically for homes built using pre-approved designs, with approvals possible in just 10 days.
- **Broader Scope:** The expansion aims to cover more types of development to meet housing demand, shifting more projects away from the complex DA process.
- **Streamlined Modifications:** It is now easier to make minor changes to existing applications without incurring long approval wait times.

These reforms, part of the *NSW Planning System Reform Bill 2025*, aim to reduce red tape, improve certainty for developers, and accelerate home construction across the state. However this again removes community consultation and council oversight.

Targeted assessment pathway

A new targeted assessment pathway allows certain projects to bypass a full merit assessment where relevant issues and impacts have already been addressed upfront.

Key Changes to the Targeted Assessment Pathway

- **Faster Approvals:** Designed to bridge the gap between Complying Development Certificates (CDC) and full Development Applications (DA), aiming for significantly faster assessment.
- **Trigger Mechanism:** The pathway is only available for development declared in a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).
- **Reduced Scope:** Enables bypassing a full merit assessment where key impacts are addressed upfront.
- **Public Consultation:** A mandatory minimum 28-day public exhibition period is required for the SEPP that enables this pathway.
- **Excluded Projects:** Designated developments are ineligible, focusing the tool on lower-risk, predictable projects.

Development assessment

Other development pathways and processes have been reformed to promote a more streamlined and outcomes-focused approach to assessment and the timely construction of development.

Key 2026 Changes to NSW Development Assessment:

The NSW development assessment process has been overhauled under the **Planning System Reforms Act 2025** to speed up housing delivery. Here is the high-level summary:

- **Faster Pathways:** New "Targeted Assessment" pathways for low-risk projects (like pattern-book homes) can cut approval times by **50%**.
- **Automatic Approvals:** Minor variations to building standards are now "deemed approved" if a council doesn't decide within **10–20 days**.
- **Narrower Focus:** Planners now only assess "**significant**" impacts rather than every minor detail, and minor modifications to existing approvals can be cleared in **14 days**.

- **Single Entry Point:** The new **Development Coordination Authority (DCA)** acts as a "one-stop shop," coordinating advice from all state agencies (like Transport or Water) so you don't have to deal with them individually.
- **Local Control:** Regional planning panels are being phased out, returning more assessment power to **local councils**.
- **New Priorities:** For the first time, the law explicitly prioritises **housing supply, climate resilience, and proportionate assessment** (matching the level of scrutiny to the size of the project).

• FOKE'S SUBMISSIONS - GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PLANS

As already discuss the past year has been extraordinarily demanding for the FOKE committee in researching and preparing submissions in response to changes with State Government legislation and housing policies, Ku-ring-gai Council policies and plans and State Significant Development (SSD) proposals. As a reminder, all FOKE's submissions are posted on the FOKE website as a record for members and the public to download and read.

During the year we have had several meetings with Matt Cross MP over the TOD policy and two meetings with Nicolette Boele MP Member for Bradfield, one being with her community Policy & Engagement Officer Gillian Bennett in February 2026.

We also arranged a tour of the TOD and LMR with MPs Matt Cross and Shadow Minister for Planning Chris Rath MLC on 22 April 2026. We stopped at four key TOD sites for the MPs to hear at first hand from residents the impacts of the TOD proposals. We are now seeking to arrange a tour of the TOD with the Leader of the Opposition Kellie Sloane and to meet with a delegation of resident groups fighting the TOD developments.

Listed below are FOKE's submissions recorded from May 2025 – May 2026

NSW Major Project Portal – TOD State Significant Developments (SSDs):

3-9 Park Avenue, Gordon; 2-8 Highgate Road, Lindfield; 2-4 Woodside Road and 1-3 Reid Street, Lindfield; 59-63 Trafalgar Avenue and 1A & 1B Valley Road, Lindfield; 10,14 & 14A Stanhope Road, Killara; 9-21 Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield; 24, 26 & 28 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield; 19-25 Balfour Street, Lindfield; 1-5 Nelson Road, Lindfield; 11-19 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield; 21, 23, 25 McIntosh Street and 55 Werona Avenue, Gordon; 16-20 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield; 5-9 Cowan Road, St Ives; 5-9 Nulla Nulla Street and 4-6 Ku-ring-gai Avenue, Turramurra; 27-29 Tryon Road, Lindfield; 10, 14 & 14A Stanhope Road, Killara amended proposal; 9-17 Balfour Street, Lindfield, 16-24 Lord Street and 21 - 27 Roseville Avenue, Roseville; 142 -150 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba; 27 -29 Tryon Road, Lindfield amended plans; 2-8 Highgate Road, Lindfield amended plans; 16-24 Lord Street and 21-27 Roseville Avenue, Roseville amended plans; 59-63 Trafalgar Avenue and 1A & 1 B Valley Road, Lindfield amended plans; 5-9 Cowan Road, St Ives amended plans.

TOD development applications lodged with Ku-ring-gai Council:

3 and 3A Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield; 23- 25 Lorne Avenue, Killara; 17,19 and 21 Shirely Road, Roseville; 5-7 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield; 24-26 Russell Avenue, Lindfield; 3 and 3A Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield amended plans; 23-25 Lorne Avenue, Killara amended plans.

FOKE gave evidence at Land and Environment Court Conciliation hearings for 5-7 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield and 24-26 Russell Avenue, Lindfield.

Submissions on Plans, Policies and development applications:

- Ku-ring-gai council TOD Preferred Scenario Exhibition
- UPA Seniors Housing Proposed Development at 1610 Pacific Highway and 1614-1634 Pacific Highway and 5 Munderah Street, Wahroonga
- Draft Heritage Strategy
- Draft Affordable Housing Strategy
- Green Grid Strategy
- Inquiry into access restrictions in Parks
- Planning Proposal 1364-1396 Pacific Highway and 1, 1A, 3, 3A Kissing Point Road, Turramurra
- Character Areas/ Proposed Amendments to the Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan Part 14, Local Character Areas
- Draft Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) National Environment
- Development Application 8 Arnold Street Killara – Killara Tennis Club alterations
- A New approach to Strategic Planning and the Sydney Plan
- Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade West Pymble
- Letter to Minister Hoenig – Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade
- Climate Change and Natural Hazard's State Environmental Planning Policy
- Dual Occupancy Floor Space Ration Planning Proposal
- Gardens of Stone
- Establishing the Development Co-ordination Authority
- Draft Statewide Community Participation Plan

Together with the written submissions FOKE sent several emails directly to Council's General Manager David Marshall, the Mayor and all councillors on matters of policy and process debated at monthly Council meetings to reinforce FOKE's submissions. We also keep Members of Parliament - Matt Cross MP, the Hon. Alister Henskens SC MP, and newly elected Nicolette Boele MP Member for Bradfield updated as to FOKE's work by emailing all FOKE submissions directly to their offices so that they are aware of our views on a range of planning issues.

FOKE was grateful to have received another Bendigo Bank Staff and Directors Grant of \$1000 donation nominated by staff member Celesse Yang held on Tuesday 11 November 2025 for the purchase of an iPad which we will use for GeoRegion presentations and at the monthly Sunday Rotary Gordon Market stalls.

The Bendigo Bank \$1000 director's grant awarded to FOKE in 2025 for a Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion educational flyer is in the process of being designed and should be printed and ready for distribution in libraries and schools later this year.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES May 2025 – May 2026

Please see the accompanying Appendix.

● KU-RING-GAI GEOREGION, POTENTIAL UNESCO GEOPARK LISTING

As a reminder in 2018 FOKE initiated a project to add extra protections to, and increase awareness of, Ku-ring-gai's natural heritage focusing originally on Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. This has since developed into a much broader area as FOKE has advanced the proposal of the Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion (KGR), with Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park as its centre, by extending along Berowra Valley, from the Hawkesbury River to northern Lane Cove National Park and east to the coast from Barrenjoey to Dee Why. This large area, of approximately 44,000 ha, across northern Sydney showcases exceptional characteristics, with over 50 nationally and internationally significant geological environments of the Triassic sandstone landscapes of the Sydney Basin, volcanic diatremes, and unique and rare flora and fauna, as well as a density of Aboriginal sites that reflects the length of habitation in this area, with over 1,400 sites currently recorded.

2025 has been a very productive year in progressing this FOKE project. With the GeoRegion Steering Committee working with the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), and Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Northern Beaches councils we now have a range of additional interpretative signs and improved geotrails highlighting our world class geology, significant flora and fauna and cultural heritage to be introduced in 2026.

We are grateful to the Bendigo Bank who has given us another grant this year to support the production of a GeoRegion brochure for libraries and schools. The 2024 grant allowed the development of our dedicated GeoRegion website, which, we are pleased to say, has been receiving many accolades. Check out the website for some interesting walks to explore the geology and history of northern Sydney. www.kuringgaigeoregion.au

As part of the support provided to the GeoRegion, to enhance its interpretation, the NPWS, in collaboration with the NSW Geological Survey, has now agreed to upgrade the West Head geotrail to be included in the Survey's suite of Geotours which already includes completed geotrails of other national parks in NSW. Adding to this collaboration, the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW) has committed substantial funding to create this new geotrail. Both FOKE and Geotourism Australia are very appreciative of the generosity of the FNPW in enabling the creation of this exciting new geotrail. This will be the first GeoRegion trail App, with an anticipated release date of late-2026.

Significantly, we have received funding from the NSW Government jointly with Ku-ring-gai Council as part of the Community Building Partnership 2025. This will enable us to develop and install two large interpretative signs in the Wildflower Gardens for visitors and educational purposes. It is planned to have these erected by September 2026.

SMEDG (Sydney Minerals Exploration Discussion Group) has agreed to financially support the creation of a virtual geotrail for the Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion on Sydney's Northern Beaches. This important Triassic coast programme will focus on four coastal trails from North Head to Barrenjoey, with video footage and narrations to be added to specific stops. The project aims to broaden public access to one of Australia's most significant geological, ecological, and cultural landscapes.

Additionally, the NSW Committee of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) has funded the development of an interpretative display at the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Kalkari Visitor Centre highlighting the important evolution of the area over the millennia.

We wish to express our thanks to the members of the Steering Committee for their outstanding commitment to the project and for their achievements to date. The range of activities now coming to fruition is a testament to the tireless support of the group.

● BETTER PLANNING NETWORK (BPN) NEWS

FOKE committee members Christiane Berlioz along with our Vice President Janine Kitson continue their valuable role on the Leadership Group of BPN.

The aims of BPN are to actively promote the planning principles outlined in the BPN *Planning for People Charter* and to represent the interests of members and communities to government.

BPN continues to inform members such as FOKE (a foundation group member) of government policies and processes in the context of the many new planning changes across NSW. BPN continues to participate in monthly online stakeholder meetings organised by the Department of Planning, Heritage, and Infrastructure. These meetings provide an opportunity to hear from Department staff on key initiatives and offer a valuable platform for engaging with Department staff, allowing stakeholders to pose questions, provide comments, and facilitate discussions.

Up to four representatives of the BPN Leadership Group have attended Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) monthly stakeholder meetings this year. While these meetings are largely information sessions, they allow BPN to provide significant feedback and raise pertinent questions on behalf of our members, which does result at times in changes to policies.

BPN achieved a significant outcome for the Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy with regard to bushfire prone land. The first iteration of the Policy excluded no vegetation categories. After representations to DPHI, Category 1 vegetation zones were excluded. After further representations to Ministers and DPHI, all Category 1, 2 & 3 vegetation and their buffer zones were excluded from the Policy. An outstanding win for the community and its safety.

BPN recently made a submission and gave evidence to the NSW Select Committee Inquiry on *Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform*. A regional representative kindly came to Sydney to give evidence and was ably assisted by the BPN Deputy Convenor. BPN also made a submission to the NSW Select Committee Inquiry on *Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways*.

BPN made significant submissions on the *Explanation of Intended Effect: Changes to Deter Illegal Tree and Vegetation Clearing*, with a total of 23 recommendations made in the submission. Other submissions included an extensively detailed submission made on the *Draft NSW Heritage Strategy* which included numerous recommendations.

During the run up to the Federal election, BPN agreed to co-host a Meet the Candidates session with a small media outlet where the seat of the sitting member was seen to be at risk. It was a successful meeting with all candidates attending bar one, together with many residents. The session was promoted through the BPN network and the media outlet.

Representatives from the Leadership Group have given presentations to member groups regarding various planning changes. BPN has also provided articles on planning to media outlets.

Most recently BPN was active in campaigning against the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Amendment Bill 2025*. Scores of Upper and Lower House Members were emailed individually, members were provided with information on the proposed Bill, social media was used and members urged to contact MPs. Sadly, on Tuesday 11 November 2025, the Bill passed the Upper House with no changes, clearing the way for gazettal. This was a sad Remembrance Day for NSW. The amendments to the EP&A Act from this Bill dwarf any planning policy the NSW Government has thrust onto communities so far.

On Monday 20 April BPN was a witness and presented evidence at the ‘Inquiry into Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways’ to the Select Committee on Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways at Parliament House along with FOKE and the Friends of North Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

In April BPN formed a sub-committee ‘Doing Density Better’. The committee has been formed with representatives of resident groups across Sydney that are fighting State Government housing policies such as the Low and Mid-Rise housing policy which allows for 2 storeys and up to 6 storey residential development in R3 zones. FOKE has been invited to participate in the sub-committee meetings.

● NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL (NCC) MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Now 65 years old, the NCC is the State’s peak environment organisation and provides a single voice for 180 environment groups including FOKE and other community organisations across NSW. The NCC is NSW’s leading environmental advocacy organisation.

Apart from the campaigns the NCC mobilises communities, and advocates passionately for the protection of NSW unique wildlife and bushland and has notched up countless wins for wildlife, bushland, marine life, and local communities over the decades of work on behalf of its members.

NCC environmental policies outline a positive vision for a sustainable future for New South Wales. Through the annual conference, the NCC formulates policy positions on a diverse range of environmental issues including:

- Climate Change Policy
- Urban Density Policy
- Biosecurity Policy
- Bushfire Policy
- Flying Fox Policy
- Forest Policy
- Intrinsic Value of Nature Policy
- Planning Policy
- Water Policy
- Steady state economy policy

An example of the significant government and policy issues that were covered in the over 35 NCC submissions between May 2025 and April 2026 were:

- Opposition to the proposed changes to the Community Participation Plan
- Net Zero Commission 2025 Consultation
- Explanation of Intended Effect: Changes to deter illegal and vegetation clearing April 2022
- NSW Transmission Planning Review 2025 Options Paper
- A New approach to Strategic Planning Discussion Paper
- The EPA Proposed Climate Change Licensee Requirements
- Proposed Land Management Code Amendments
- The Climate Change and Natural Hazards SEPP
- Outer Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program
- NSW Legislative Council Public Accountability and Works Committee Inquiry into Data Centres

• **NATIONAL TRUST - AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2025 -2026**

FOKE held four events for the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival conducted through the National Trust. Janine Kitson has planned, organised and conducted the events for FOKE over a decade for which we are very grateful and appreciative.

With the NSW Government TOD policy underway and a significant number of State Significant Developments lodged on the NSW Major Projects portal for high density residential development, four *Heritage in Peril* walks were planned for the Australian Heritage Festival organised by the National Trust over April and May 2025.

- Roseville Heritage in Peril – Saturday 26 April
- Lindfield Heritage in Peril – Sunday 27 April
- Killara Heritage in Peril – Saturday 3 May
- Gordon Heritage in Peril – Sunday 4 May

FOKE organised two events for the Australian Heritage Festival held 18 April – 18 May 2026. The first event planned was the Australian Heritage Festival Walk “The Battle to Save Gordon Station” on Sunday 3 May 2026 that highlighted the battles to save Gordon Railway Station’s heritage since 2004. It highlighted why Gordon Station’s heritage is so important to the Ku-ring-gai’s community groups including FOKE and the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society.

Saving Gordon’s Station’s heritage was a huge battle from 2004-2006 with the proposed location of lifts at Gordon Station in front of the Overhead Booking Office facing towards Sydney (Up City). The community believed this location would diminish the heritage of this State Heritage listed station and recommended relocating the lifts to the rear of the Overhead Booking Office facing towards Hornsby (Down Hornsby).

Ku-ring-gai historian and member of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Jennifer Harvey’s expertise in railway history provided much of the professional evidence that was presented to the NSW Heritage Council who then agreed with the community that the lifts should be

relocated to the rear of the Overhead Booking Office facing Sydney.

Historian Jennifer Harvey's (1946-2024) work achieved a 'win-win' for both accessibility and heritage. Jennifer Harvey worked with Form Architects to prepare a Heritage Impact Report to assess the impact of proposed upgrades to Gordon Station including access ramps and platform coverings.

Jennifer was an outstanding historian and renowned for her work with the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society in researching and documenting Ku-ring-gai's outstanding local and State heritage listed items and Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas.

The walk was planned with Graeme Harvey, the late Jennifer Harvey's husband. FOKE is hoping to arrange with Graeme and the Minister for Transport a plaque in memory of Jennifer Harvey's advocacy to protect the stations State heritage significance

FOKE's Australian Heritage Festival walk also highlighted the importance of Ku-ring-gai as the birthplace of the Australian conservation movement, with the establishment of the Ku-ring-gai Tree Lovers' Civic League and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) that was founded by Gordon resident Annie Forsyth Wyatt.

FOKE continues to follow this conservation tradition and calls for stronger protections for Ku-ring-gai's unique heritage and environment. The battle to save Ku-ring-gai's heritage continues.

The second festival event was held on Wednesday 13 May with the preview and screening of the film 'H Is for Hawke' at the Roseville Cinema. A powerful new film celebrating the beauty and significance of the natural world, birds, and our shared environment.

Following the screening, acclaimed author Helen Macdonald presided over a Q&A, offering insights into her award-winning 'H Is for Hawke' that has received global acclaim, including the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction, Costa Book of the Year, and the Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, and was shortlisted for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

● FOKE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

We thank Leo Martyn, web developer, for his ongoing availability and professional assistance to FOKE and our webmaster Ursula Bonzol. We thank Ursula and Janine Kitson who collaborate and continue to manage and update the website content, posting submissions and reporting on current issues affecting Ku-ring-gai, as well as addressing any technical problems with Leo which we inevitably encounter throughout the year.

● FOKE'S STUDENT PRIZES

Jan Langley Sustainability Award – East Lindfield Public School

We congratulate Nicole Chen for her award in recognition of her commitment to caring for Lindfield East Public School's Eco Garden. Nicole diligently weeds, waters and harvest's the garden's produce. She also cares for her chickens, collects the playgrounds compost buckets, assists with recycling and mentors younger students.

This Award is presented each year in memory of Jan Langley who was a former Lindfield East Public School parent who volunteered for the school as well as being on the FOKE committee for many years by way of fulfilling her commitment to sustainability and the environment.

Jean Posen Environment Award – Lindfield Public School

The 2025 Jean Posen Environment went to year 6 student Annabel Reid. 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, a long standing FOKE committee member and passionate advocate for speaking out and protecting Ku-ring-gai's environment and heritage. Three of Jean's grandchildren attended the Lindfield Public School.

●FOKE COMMITTEE

FOKE's committee consists of a terrific group of passionate heritage and environment advocates —Ursula Bonzol, Joy Bryan, Christiane Berlioz, Carolyn Darby, Janet Harwood, Denise Hendy, Janine Kitson, Julie McArdle, Katrina Pickles, and Tanya Wood. I would personally like to thank each of them for the time and commitment they give to FOKE and for their valuable contribution to the committee's work throughout the year.

I would particularly like to thank patient stalwart Tanya Wood for her valuable contribution as Treasurer for the past few years and who retired as treasurer in April this year. Julie McArdle has kindly stepped in to take over her role.

We also thank FOKE's meticulous and reliable Minutes Secretary, Katrina Pickles, for the great care in recording and writing up the committee meeting minutes every two months. Another committee member who has been carrying out the role for many years.

Also, our thanks and appreciation to Public Officer Carolyn Darby, for her persistence and patience in attending council meetings and reporting to the committee about decisions made by Ku-ring-gai Council, the Ku-ring-gai Planning Panel and the Sydney North Planning Panel.

A special thank you to member Jill Johnstone who retired as membership co-ordinator in April. For the past 20+ years Jill had managed and updated FOKE's membership lists and printed the labels for FOKE TALK newsletters etc. Having Jill's assistance was of immense help to me and to the committee. We thank Jill sincerely for her tireless support and assistance to FOKE.

Our incredibly talented and hard-working Vice President, Janine Kitson has continued in the role to collect, organise, write, and edit the newsletter, *FOKE Talk* and Mailchimp Enews. Our email list of members and supporters has grown considerably over the past year. Switching to Mailchimp has been a good decision. It enables FOKE to build email lists, design newsletters, through a user-friendly interface, specialising in mass email distribution and membership communication. However, FOKE's communication to members would not function without Janine's IT expertise.

We thank Janine for being a witness and in representing FOKE at The Select Committee on Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways and to give evidence at the ‘Inquiry into Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways’ on Monday 20 April 2026 at Parliament House.

A huge thank you to Bruno Codemo a long-standing member and FOKE’s auditor who has just audited our account for the 31st time. Bruno’s years of professional accounting expertise and assistance to FOKE each year is greatly appreciated. Bruno has kindly offered to continue the audit in 2026.

Congratulations to FOKE Committee member Christiane Berlioz for her Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare Outstanding Contribution Award for being a tireless environmental volunteer who has made a difference in Ku-ring-gai for over 17 years.

Christiane has been the Convenor for Mashmans Quarry, Turpentine Forest—The Coppins and the Ivor Wyatt Reserve in St Ives demonstrating outstanding leadership and care for the bushland. She has also played a key role in Streamwatch, monitoring Quarry Creek in Bicentennial Park and has served for many years on the Ku-ring-gai Bushcare Association (KBA) Committee.

Christiane is a strong advocate for places like Norman Griffiths Oval and the St Ives Showgrounds “always standing up for our local environment and community”.

●FOKE MEMBERSHIP

I would like to express the committee’s sincere thanks for your support and for the generous donations which we receive each year that enable us to continue FOKE’s work and advocacy.

You will see from FOKE’s audited accounts that a significant proportion of our funds are spent on printing, postage, banners and flyers for FOKE campaigns, the Gordon Market Stalls and in annual memberships of other community organisations dedicated to the environment and heritage such as the Better Planning Network (BPN) and the Nature Conservation Council (NCC).

Due to the intensity of the work on the TOD submissions, FOKE’s 30th anniversary celebrations did not eventuate due to the heavy workload we experienced in responding to the significant number of TOD State Significant Developments and other council and state government policy submission responses.

The ongoing and difficult task of protecting Ku-ring-gai’s environment and heritage is being constantly put to test due to the impost of the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) SEPP and Low and Mid-Rise Housing SEPP which are both well underway across Ku-ring-gai and NSW.

With now 37 TOD State Significant Developments (SSDs) for approximately 6000 new apartments the FOKE committee is spending most of its energy in responding to development proposals. It is exhausting work with considerable hours working on the

written responses. I thank Janine Kitson, Christiane Berlioz and Ursula Bonzol who have worked so hard assisting me in responding with submissions.

FOKE remains as always committed to work on behalf of members to keep you updated with proposals that impact Ku-ring-gai. 2026, as pointed out above, will be another year for community action not only in Ku-ring-gai but across Greater Sydney through the connections we have made.

The NSW Government's housing policies highlight the considerable heritage and environmental issues at stake, including urban density, infrastructure pressures, climate change issues and further ecological and biodiversity degradation.

● IN CLOSING

FOKE's ultimate mission is to work to protect Ku-ring-gai's heritage and environment so our generation can pass onto future generations and families of Ku-ring-gai a sustainable and healthy future. With the state government's policy focussed primarily in producing an abundance of housing without appropriate place based strategic planning and infrastructure, there will be an inevitable negative cost to Ku-ring-gai and Sydney resident's lifestyle and wellbeing if we do not continue to act.

FOKE will continue to research, write, submit and speak up on proposals that affect Ku-ring-gai – and to defend the right of every resident to a genuine voice in decisions about their neighbourhood. I thank every member, volunteer and supporter who has written submissions, attended meetings and stood with us this year. Your efforts are what keep this organisation effective and respected, and they remain our greatest strength as we face the year ahead of us.

As a committee we ask for your continuing support to help in alleviating the worst impacts from the NSW Government's autocratic and destructive planning and housing policies.

We wish our members a happy, safe and healthy year ahead and look forward to welcoming you all to the 32nd AGM in 2027.

Kathy Cowley
PRESIDENT
May 2026

APPENDIX

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS May 2025 -May 2026

May 2025

- 21 May 2025: FOKE AGM 2025. FOKE President's Report (final publication 22 July 2025). Read it [HERE](#)
- 21 May 2025: FOKE briefs NSW Shadow Planning Minister. See FOKE Briefing Notes [HERE](#)
- 21 May 2025: 3-9 Park Avenue Gordon (100 apartments) SSD-78775458, CPDM P/L [HERE](#). Read FOKE's Submission [HERE](#)
- 21 May 2025: 27-29 Tryon Road Lindfield (76 apartments) SSD-78669234, Bridgestone Projects P/L [HERE](#)
- 21 May 2025: 12-16 Bent Street Lindfield (115 apartments) SSD-78156462, Trustee for The Sundale Northland Development Unit Trust [HERE](#)
- 28 May 2025: 2-4 Woodside & 1-3 Reid Street Lindfield (89 apartments) SSD-79261463, CPDM P/L [HERE](#)
- 28 May 2025: 2-8 Highgate Road Lindfield (84 apartments) SSD-78493518, CPDM P/L [HERE](#). See FOKE Submission [HERE](#)
- 28 May 2025: 21-27 Roseville Avenue and 16-24 Lord Street, Roseville (SSD-78996460). Read FOKE's Submission [HERE](#)
- 29 May 2025: Ku-ring-gai up to 20 State Significant Developments

June 2025

- 3 June 2025: Deadline for submissions for 59-63 Trafalgar Avenue, 1A and 1B Valley Road Lindfield (237 apartments) SSD-79276958 State Significant Development (SSD) [HERE](#)
- 3 June 2025: Deadline for submissions for 10,14, & 14a Stanhope Road, Killara (135 apartments) SSD-81890707, CPDM P/L State Significant Development (SSD) [HERE](#)
- 5 June 2025: World Environment Day. FOKE holds World Environment Day Tour. This FOKE walk started at the Annie Wyatt Park, cnr of St Johns Avenue & Henry Street, Gordon (opposite Gordon Railway Station) for a tour of Gordon to Roseville. Ku-ring-gai is listed on the United Nations website [HERE](#)
- 5 June 2025: [Extraordinary Council Meeting](#) re regarding the Ku-ring-gai Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Preferred Alternative was adjourned to Thursday 5 June 2025. Mayor Christine Kay uses her casting vote to DEFER the Extraordinary Meeting to Thursday 5 June 2025 for Council to consider community views expressed at the 21 May Extraordinary Public Forum (22 May 2025). See Council report on Ku-ring-gai TOD Preferred Alternative [HERE](#)
- 6 June 2025: [DA for 23-25 Lorne Ave, Killara](#)
- 6 June 2025: Sydney Morning Herald article [After fighting new housing, this Sydney council just voted for more](#) by David Barwell See [HERE](#)
- 7 June 2025: FOKE holds World Environment Day Tour. This FOKE walk started at the Annie Wyatt Park, cnr of St Johns Avenue & Henry Street, Gordon (opposite Gordon Railway Station) for a tour of Gordon to Roseville. Ku-ring-gai is listed on the United Nations website [HERE](#)
- 8 June 2025: FOKE Information Stall at Gordon Markets

- 10 June 2025: Forum on a Non-Plastic Future for Community Ovals, Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, 1186 Pacific Hwy, Pymble
- 12 June 2025: Deadline for submissions for 3a,3b,5a, 7 Burgoyne and 1&3 Pearson Avenue and 4 Burgoyne Lane Gordon (105 apartments) Willow Tree Planning State Significant Development (SSD) [HERE](#)
- 16 June 2025: FOKE Committee meeting
- 17 June 2025: FOKE launches Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion dedicated website www.kuringgaigeoregion.au
- 18 June 2025: Deadline for submissions for 2,4,6,8,10,12,14, &16 Pockley Avenue Roseville (apartments) SSD-77825469, Aqualand State Significant Development (SSD) [HERE](#)
- 18 June 2025: Deadline for submissions for 2-4 Larkin Street and 1-5 Pockley Avenue Roseville (apartments) SSD-77829461, Aqualand State Significant Development (SSD)[HERE](#)
- 18 June 2025: 6.30 pm Save Greater Sydney Coalition meeting via ZOOM
- 23 June 2025: SSD 9-21 Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield
- 23 June 2025: 4.30 pm FOKE Committee Meeting via Zoom
- 26 June 2025: [NSW State of the Environment Report](#) tabled. The Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the state's leading environmental organisation describes the report as a "grim picture of the health of NSW ecosystems".

July 2025

- 2 June 2025 6.30: Save Greater Sydney Coalition Meeting
- 13 July 2025: draft NSW Heritage Strategy submission deadline. Read FOKE's Submission [HERE](#); National Trust of Australia (NSW) Submission [HERE](#); Better Planning Network (BPN) Submission [HERE](#)
- 17 July 2025: FOKE Newsletter [HERE](#)
- 21 July 2025: FOKE Submission 19-25 Balfour Street, Lindfield [HERE](#)
- 22 July 2025: Ku-ring-gai Mayoral Minute on [Transport Oriented Development \(TOD\) preferred scenario update](#). Read it [HERE](#)
- 22 July 2025: Ku-ring-gai Council consider the amendment of the Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan to include Local Character Areas and endorse its public exhibition. See [HERE](#)
- 28 July 2025: Nicolette Boele MP, Member for Bradfield NSW, gives her first speech in the House of Representative [HERE](#)
- 30 July 2025 6.30 pm: Save Greater Sydney Coalition meeting
- 31 July 2025: FOKE Submission for Inquiry into Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways [HERE](#)

August 2025

- 1 August 2025: Deadline for NSW Upper House [Select Committee on Access Restrictions to Public Lands and Waterways](#) Inquiry.
- 5 August 2025: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Steering Committee meeting
- 11 August 2025: FOKE Committee Meeting
- 13 August 2025: Ku-ring-gai Council Rates Increase Meeting
- 13 August 2025: 1-5 Nelson Road, Lindfield (167 apartments) SSD 82899468 [HERE](#)
- 14 August 2025: Deadline for 11-19 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield (173 apartments) SSD 82900461
- 18 August 2025: FOKE Committee Meeting

- 20-21 August 2025: FOKE attends NSW Government's NSW Heritage Forum on the theme of 'Heritage adapting to the future'
- 23 August 2025: Vale Graham Lewis. Read more [HERE](#). Read FOKE's draft Mayoral Minute [HERE](#)
- 31 August 2025: Ku-ring-gai Council deadline for Increase Rates for Infrastructure Levy

September 2025

- 1 September 2025: Deadline for Ku-ring-gai Council amendment to Part 14 of the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* (KDCP). The eight Character Areas formalised in the Council adopted *Ku-ring-gai Local Character Background Study* are proposed to be inserted at the beginning of Part 14 of the KDCP. Read FOKE Submission [HERE](#).
- 3 September 2025: FOKE member Graham Lewis funeral
- 9 September 2025: 19-25 Balfour Street, Lindfield SSD submission [HERE](#)
- 10 September 2025: Submission on Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade [HERE](#)
- 11 September 2025: Deadline for submissions for SSD-83478456 development for 21, 23 & 25 McIntosh Street and 55 Werona Avenue, Gordon that neighbours State Heritage listed Eryldene House and Garden proposing 3 buildings, 8 storeys, 162 apartment and 191 car spaces. Read FOKE's submission [HERE](#)
- 11 September 2025: Deadline for submissions for SSD development 19-25 Balfour Street, Lindfield. Read FOKE's submission [HERE](#)
- 17 September 2025: Henry Halloran Debate Sydney University – The Housing abundance is the Solution”.
- 30 September 2025: Housing NSW Forum – Parramatta Stadium

October 2025

- 7 October 2025: 16-20 Middle Harbour Road Submission [HERE](#)
- 13 October 2025: FOKE Committee Meeting
- 21 October 2025: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Steering Committee meeting
- 22 October 2025: Sydney Morning Herald article by David Barwell 'This high-rise housing reform promised 185,000 homes. One suburb is doing the heavy lifting' 23.10.25 Read it [HERE](#)
- 23 October 2025: Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)'s 40th Anniversary Dinner, Sydney Town Hall. EDO celebrated their 40th Anniversary dinner to recognise four decades of justice for nature, people and our shared planet, and those who have propelled the EDO along the way. Kathy Cowley and Janine Kitson attended representing FOKE.
- 26 October 2025: FOKE (Janine Kitson) speaks at WildThings NSW Forum on the disastrous environmental consequences of the Environment Planning and Assessment (Planning System Reform) Bill 2025
- 29 October 2025: Sydney North Planning Panel Meeting – 5-7 Middle Harbour SSD determination – refused
- 31 October 2025: FOKE meeting with Ku-ring-gai Council on Low and Mid-Rise Housing policy

November 2025

- 3 November 2025: FOKE attended Jacqui Scruby MP Community Meeting on Stat Government's Housing Policies Mona Vale
- 9 November 2025: FOKE Gordon Markets Stall

- 10 November 2025: FOKE Meeting with Matt Cross MP
- 10 November 2025: FOKE to give evidence at L&E Court hearing 3 @3A Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield SSD
- 11 November 2025: Bendigo Bank presents FOKE with a \$1000 cheque
- 11 November 2025: NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025* passes that will set environmental protection in NSW back decades.
- 12 November 2025: Forum – How the National Construction Code Shapes Housing
- 18 November 2025: Ku-ring-gai Council abandons its legal action against the NSW Government and approving its TOD Alternative Plan (with NSW Government Amendments).
- 19 November 2025: FOKE raises concern over Mayor's Media Release regarding Councillor's vote to discontinue legal action against NSW Government. Read [HERE](#)
- 22 November 2025: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Talk at St Andrews Uniting Church, Turramurra
- 24 November 2025: FOKE Meeting with Matt Cross MP
- 24 November 2025: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Steering Committee meeting
- 26 November 2025: FOKE attends celebration for the centenary of Joseph Maiden's death (1896-1925)
- 26 November 2025: FOKE gave evidence at Sydney North Planning Panel Meeting on 24-26 Russell Avenue, Lindfield SSD
- 27 November 2025: Submission deadline for NSW biodiversity credits market. Read FOKE's submission [HERE](#)

December 2025

- 1 December 2025: EPBC Climate, Conservation and Construction Forum
- 4 December 2025: FOKE attends Better Planning Network AGM
- 4 December 2025: The EDO Briefing – Historical Environmental Reforms
- 8 December 2025: FOKE Committee Meeting – annual Christmas lunch
- 9 December 2025: Lindfield Public School FOKE Presentation of Jean Posen Environment Student Award
- 10 December 2025: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Steering Committee luncheon
- 10 December 2025: East Lindfield Public School FOKE Presentation of Jan Langley Sustainability Student Award
- 17 December 2025: FOKE's Submission on SSD 94893958 Nulla Nulla Street and 4-6 Ku-ring-gai Avenue, Turramurra. Read [HERE](#)
- 19 December 2025: FOKE congratulations to FOKE Committee member Christiane Berlioz for her Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare Outstanding Contribution Award for being a tireless environmental volunteer who has made a difference in Ku-ring-gai for over 17 years. Read [HERE](#)
- 19 December 2025: The Minns Government has announced it will sell Hillview Community Health Centre, 1334 Pacific Highway, Turramurra by selling this 10,000m2 heritage conservation site to private property developers.
- 19 December 2025: FOKE Newsletter. Read [HERE](#)

January 2026

- 13 January 2026: FOKE submission for 10,14 & 14A Stanhope Road, Killara – Amended DA [HERE](#)
- 18 January 2026: 9-17 Balfour Street, Lindfield SSD Submission [HERE](#)

- 28 January 2025: FOKE submission for 27-29 Tryon Road, Lindfield – Amended DA [HERE](#)
- 30 January 2026: Deadline for Australia’s draft National Environmental Standards for Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES Standard) and the draft Environmental Offsets Standard. Read FOKE’s Submission [HERE](#)

February 2026

- 2 February 2026: Deadline for 6-24 Lord Street and 21-27 Roseville Avenue, Roseville comprising of four buildings, with 252 dwellings (including 55 affordable housing apartments); three-level basement providing a total of 344 car parking spaces.
- 9 February 2026: FOKE Committee Meeting
- 23 February 2026: Ku-ring-gai Council Gordon Bowling Club Workshop
- 26 February 2026: Read FOKE’s Submission for 16-20 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield SSD-83431958 [HERE](#)
- 26 February 2026: Read FOKE’s Submission for 5-9 Cowan Road, St Ives SSD-88948458 [HERE](#)
- 27 February 2026: Deadline for ‘A New Approach to Strategic Planning: Discussion Paper’ or ‘The Sydney Plan’. Read FOKE’s Submission [HERE](#)

March 2026

- 11 March 2026: FOKE submission for 3 & 3a Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield - Amended [HERE](#)
- March 2026: FOKE Newsletter. Read [HERE](#)
- 29 March 2026: FOKE submission for 23-25 Lorne Avenue, Killara - Amended [HERE](#)
- 31 March 2026: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Steering Committee meeting

April 2026

- 3 April 2026: Sparke & Helmore Q& A 5-7 Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield SSD L&E Court decision
- 7 April 2026: Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion Steering Committee meeting
- 13 April 2026: FOKE Committee Meeting
- 21 April 2026: Henry Halloran Meeting – Planner in Residence – Wellbeing in Planning
- 22 April 2026: FOKE Tour of TOD and LMR with Matt Cross MP and Chris Rath MLC Shadow Minister for Planning

May 2026

- 3 May 2026: FOKE Australian Heritage Festival Walk – ‘The Battles to Save Gordon Station’. Read more [HERE](#)
- 4 May 2026: FOKE meeting with Matt Cross MP
- 7 May 2026: FOKE attends NSW Heritage Curtilage Meeting
- 7 May 2026: FOKE meets with met with Ku-ring-gai residents facing Transport Oriented Development (TOD) State Significant Development (SSD) rezonings for 8-10 storeys in their neighbourhood.
- 12 May 2026: FOKE meeting with Better Planning Network sub committee – doing Density Better
- 13 May 2026: FOKE & Roseville Cinemas Australian Heritage Festival Event: Film ‘H is for Hawk’

- 23 May 2026: East Gordon Community Meeting – Protect Our Heritage Houses & Gardens, 6 Glenview Street, Gordon
- 28 May 2026: FOKE AGM 2026