

**Submission
No 2**

INQUIRY INTO DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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Date Received: 25 February 2024

Proposed changes to NSW Government Housing Policy: Impact on wildlife My community is deeply affected by the NSW Government's proposal which will effectively put an end to the chorus of biodiversity that is an integral part of our family home, our backyard play, our heritage and our history. In this impulsive and reckless medium housing grab, developers are circling, gratified they are 'helping' the State Government. 138,000 new homes are proposed along 31 train stations in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong which will bring an average of 13,000 new residents per suburb. Ku-ring-gai LGA has four stations in this catchment. • Support the residents of Sydney. Vote against the state governments proposed housing policy changes which remain inconsistent with the National Housing Accord. • Help us slow down the government's urgency so we can 'do density right'. Biodiversity is abundant in Ku-ring-gai. If the state government's proposal is approved that biodiversity is facing an extremely high risk of extinction. Ku-ring-gai is home to over 700 native plant species, 690 fauna species, over 300 vertebrate species, numerous invertebrate species and over 160 bird species. The proposed changes will lead to the abolition of 7 endangered ecological communities as well as the destruction of large swathes of natural homeland. Habitat stepping-stones will be removed permanently. An entire ecosystem is at risk: • Ringtail and brushtail possums, feathertail gliders and wallabies, even koalas. • Kangaroos and short-beaked echidnas. • Lorikeets, parrots, rosellas, cockatoos, tawny frogmouth owls, wedge tail eagles, wood ducks and pelicans • Blue tongue and frill necked lizards and leaf green tree frogs. • Grey headed flying foxes, goannas, microbats and long nosed bandicoots. 75% of Ku-ring-gai's tree cover is on private land. Not council land. The government's proposed changes will reduce requirements for deep soil planting and tree targets from 50% to 7% of the site area. These changes, allowing 6 – 7 storey dwellings (up to 9 in some areas) with no definitive tree canopy targets, are proposed to commence in less than 2 months - April 2024. Thousands of animals will lose their habitat and community capacity for connectedness to nature will be erased. Years of history will disappear. While jamming more than 138,000 dwellings along the train lines of Sydney will provide boxes for people to 'live' in, it is a short-term solution that will create long-term disaster. 'Density done right' requires time, thought, planning and proper process in collaboration with councils and the community. For more than 100 years, Ku-ring-gai has fought hard to sustain their abundant ecosystem. With a stroke of the pen the NSW State Government's plan will allow the demolition of trees meaning native flora and fauna will lose their habitats. This is unacceptable. As Tom Uren once said: 'You have something special here in Ku-ring-gai. Fight for it.' Wildlife don't have a voice. They cannot fight for their homes. It is up to us, as residents of this community, to defend what is theirs as much as it is ours. This is history and heritage. If the ecosystem of Ku-ring-gai disappears, the fabric of Sydney will also disappear. What will be left for our children and for future generations? Save our Sydney and say NO to the state governments proposed housing policy changes. Yours sincerely Robyn Haynes 2069