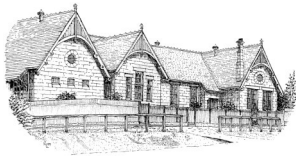


Submission
No 53

INQUIRY INTO DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Organisation: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society

Date Received: 19 March 2024



Ku-ring-gai Historical Society

799 Pacific Hwy Gordon ■ PO Box 109 Gordon 2072 ■ 02 9499 4568 ■ khs@khs.org.au ■ www.khs.org.au

Submission to the Legislative Council of NSW's Inquiry into the Transport Oriented Development Program

The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society is deeply concerned that the proposed new planning laws are a major threat to our area's unique character and heritage. We are aware of the need to solve Sydney's housing affordability crisis, but urge that the solution is not at the expense of irreplaceable heritage.

We are particularly concerned about the impact of the proposed Transport Orientated Development policy. This policy will be especially disastrous for the Ku-ring-gai area because the area was developed around the railway line. This means that some forty per cent of the affected area is heritage listed.

Our chief concern is that heritage protection currently in place by local councils can be overridden. Disturbingly, it does not appear that the proposed changes support heritage protection at all. We remind the Government that the quality of people's lives is enhanced by their local heritage with widespread social benefits. The destruction of that heritage is irreversible and should not be taken so lightly.

More specifically, the current NSW proposals could detrimentally affect over 4,000 properties in Ku-ring-gai's 46 conservation areas and nearly 900 listed heritage items. The issue is not just the direct impact of the destruction of these heritage items, but of existing heritage properties becoming over-shadowed by higher density residences. An example is the State Heritage listed historic camellia gardens of Eryldene at Gordon. These gardens could not survive if over-shadowed by apartment blocks.

Our heritage is not just buildings, gardens and the streetscape, but also the tree canopy that is such a feature of the north shore and an important animal habitat. This aspect of our heritage is prized by locals and visitors alike. The benefits are broad and not just local.

We urge the Legislative Council to reconsider the proposals to take into account the importance of heritage considerations. Greater housing supply can be achieved without sacrificing much-prized heritage and destroying local amenities.

Ku-ring-gai Historical Society