

Submission
No 209

**INQUIRY INTO DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANSPORT
ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 28 March 2024

Partially
Confidential

We recognise that there is pressure to increase housing across greater Sydney.

While the recently proposed “Transport Oriented Development Program” may provide for additional ‘roofs over heads’, it does not address in adequate detail - detail specific to our unique area - the amenities and infrastructure required beyond that. We strongly feel that there is a need for greater consultation including specific local environmental impact assessments prior to this program “being locked in”. Some of the reasons we ask for this are below. This proposal truly seems to be a case of “Act in Haste, Repent at Leisure”

Adding the population equivalent of a regional centre, such as Armidale, into Ku-ring-gai, without any allowance for improvement of the infrastructure required for such an increase, seems short-sighted at best and disastrous at worst.

For example:

Many schools in the area are already under pressure with ballooning student enrolments.

Water, electricity, sewerage and stormwater services are at tipping points today, just a minor issue away from failure. Designed and built almost 100 years ago, many of these systems are already scarcely fit for purpose with current demands.

Public transport is often at capacity, and services to local suburbs from existing hubs (ie train stations) are limited at best, creating ever more vehicular traffic on the limited roads available.

Without heritage protections, we are likely to lose forever the very character that has defined the region.

The environmental impact of climate change alone is potentially huge for KuRingGai’s precious local flora and fauna. Developments that impact the tree canopy, water flow, and native plants put the tenuous hold that these plants, birds and animals have on survival at even greater risk.

The haste with which this proposal has been foisted upon local councils and with it, the proposal to removal of their authority to refuse developers’ demands, smacks of politicking at its worst. It totally devalues expertise of those who know this area best and are strongly commitment to stewardship of Ku-ring-gai's unique and precious environment - people who are commitment to protect the area for the benefit of the whole population of Sydney both now and in the future.

This is a defining moment for Sydney.

Heritage properties are a vital connection to our past.

The green space and tree canopies that support endangered wildlife while nurturing our human population and protecting both from some of the dangers of climate change, are our connection to the future.

Once these things are gone - they are gone forever.