



ISSN 0727 7717

BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Meeting 11 July 7.30pm

Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd.

**We will have heaters but
Wrap up Warm!!**

What we have done

Meeting with Anthony Roberts

Members of the Society, LCSAG (LC Sustainability Action Group) and Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Society met Anthony Roberts as Planning Minister on June 6 and presented our concerns about the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Regulations. We asked that:

He should lobby Cabinet to remove the option of cash payments altogether. This would require an amendment to the Biodiversity Conservation Act itself, which is not impossible to achieve.

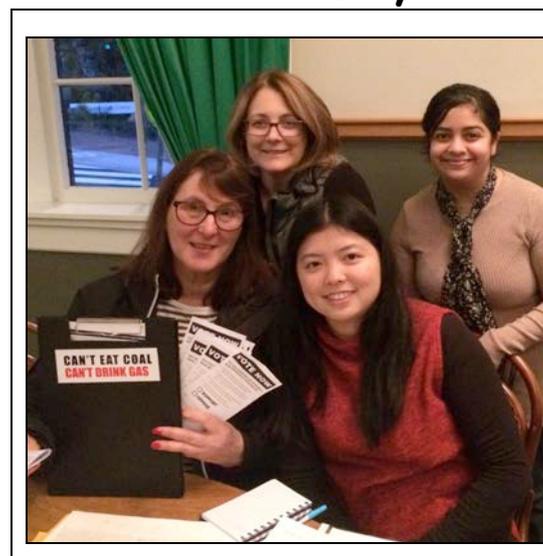
As an alternative, he should lobby Cabinet to introduce a prerequisite in the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2017 for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to verify that there are like for like offsets available before accepting money from developers. If there are no like for like offsets available, then cash from developers should not be accepted.

He should lobby Cabinet to tighten the variation rules for offsets. For example, communities will not be happy if their local biodiversity can be traded for something in Bega!

He should, in his capacity as Minister for Planning, ensure that the new Biodiversity Conservation package is not switched on before koala habitat under the Koala Habitat SEPP 44 has been properly identified (at the moment only five councils have mapped their koala habitat).

He acknowledged that there was more work needed to implement the Regulations, but could not guarantee that their implementation would be delayed. He noted our concerns and suggested we write to Environment Minister Upton about them and he would lobby her on our behalf.

July 2017



Sally Kennedy (at top) and fellow Coal and Gas campaigners

Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch

Sally Kennedy writes:

A great result from our door knocking in June which showed that 97% of Lane Cove households support a new approach for NSW Coal and Gas mining.

It includes:

- No coal seam gas in NSW. (production or exploration)
- The legal right to object to mining.
- Promotion of agriculture and reliable clean energy.
- Protection of farmland and water catchments from coal mining.

Thanks to everyone who pulled together to make this happen. It was a true team effort of organisers and door knockers headed up by Winnie and Laura.

Here are the stats:

We door knocked 407 houses and 138 households completed the survey (34%)

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completion rate - higher than previous door knocks which averaged 25% - the cold weather meant more people were home ;) Houses where the survey wasn't completed were typically because people were not at home. We got very few outright rejections.

Of the 138 completed surveys only 4 opposed the new approach, ie 97% in favour of our proposal.

OUR NEXT DOORKNOCK WILL BE IN LANE COVE WEST ON 30 JULY. Please put your name down to be involved. The more people we have the more homes we can cover. Please email Sally at sallykennedy123@yahoo.com.

Thanks again everyone. We have some clear results to share with Anthony Roberts next time we meet with him in July.

Remember we have no monthly group meeting in July. Our next monthly meeting is Monday 7th August in the Lane Cove Library from 6.30pm till 8.30pm.

Submission on Regulations and Codes flowing from the Biodiversity Conservation Act (aka tree clearing codes!)

We regard this as one of the worst pieces of legislation that this government has enacted. Our submission is towards mitigating its impacts: -

Summary

The LCB&CS recommends that the commencement of the regulations be delayed until all documents are completed and together with all related mapping is made available for public comment. This to include all detailed mapping of environmentally sensitive land, rural categories 1 and 2 mapping and core koala habitat mapping.

The Vegetation SEPP must include robust protection for trees either by the inclusion of the wording of clauses 5.9 and 5.9AA, or retaining these clauses in the Standard Instrument LEP. Any reduction of these standards will lead to further degradation of our urban environment.

The Objects and Options

The Executive Summary outlined in the Draft Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2017 (The Regulations) states. "The stated purpose of the Act is to maintain a healthy, productive and resilient environment for the greater well-being of the community, now and into the future, consistent with the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development. (ESD)"

However ESD is not the overarching principle of most of the regulations. There is no inclusion of: -

- **The Precautionary Principle**
- **Intergenerational equity**
- **Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.**

In many instances the exact opposite is written into the Regulations.

There is also no mention of Climate Change and the effect that this will have on the environment.

Recommendation – rewrite the Regulations to include the

principles of ESD and include consideration of climate change as the primary principles of the documents.

The full submission is on our website.

Submission on Crown Land

Crown Land Management Act has been passed by the Government but is not expected to commence until 2018.

We draw your attention to some notable changes:

- Local land will be able to be transferred to a local council.
- State land remains with the state.
- Criteria for transfer/retention to be included in the regulations

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- Local land must be wholly within the LGA. Council must agree and it must be suitable for local use. It is automatically classified as Community land unless the Minister directs otherwise at the transfer. To change the classification it must go to a public hearing under the Local Government Act.

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- Local Councils can lease Crown Land.
- The Minister can lease/license or easement land as they see fit, but must consult the land manager and it must be in the public interest, which should include more than only financial benefits.

Lane Cove has a number of areas of Crown Land, some large and a few small areas around Woodford Bay. Some could be vulnerable if the Minister decided to sell or lease them.

The full submission is on our website.

What is coming up

Autumn Plant Sale Date...?

Our Autumn Plant Sale date is undecided, the date of Sept 9th being taken by the council elections. WATCH THIS SPACE !!

Our Spring Wildflower Walk will be on on 27th August at North Head Sanctuary. Don't miss it. Full details in the next newsletter.



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In other News



Stand Up for Nature Rally

Bushland Society member Corinne Fisher led a rally on June 23, which included Society members. The rally delivered 7662 submissions to Premier Berejiklian's office opposing the Government's latest move to bulldoze nature.

We showed Premier Berejiklian that we won't allow the excessive clearing of nature in NSW for cash. And we won't accept the changes put forward that will remove the checks and balances in place to protect nature.

Rally speakers were The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC (Shadow Minister for the Environment); Dr Mehreen Faruqi, MLC (NSW Greens Spokesperson for the Environment); Lane Cove Councillor Pam Palmer; Willoughby Councillor Lynne Saville; Daisy Barham (Campaigns Director Nature Conservation Council of NSW); Jeff Angel (Executive Director Total Environment Centre)

This is one of our last chances to tell the NSW Premier that changes to existing tree clearing laws are unacceptable. Our precious environment deserves greater protection, not bulldozers. See photos and video on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LCBCS

A WEPA event: "Understory"

David Gallan's film outlines the four decades long campaign to save the NSW south east forests from wood chipping, and features unique wildlife footage in our forests. (80 mins)

To be shown at the Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) meeting on Tuesday 18th July at 8pm, Glenaeon School Hall, 121 Edinburgh Road (opposite The Parapet), Castlecrag.

Note that the south east forests will be part of the review of the Regional Forests Agreement from 2019.

All welcome. Film followed by supper. Free. For further information see www.wepa.org.au or call 9438 4073.

Twenty years after the establishment of the South East Forests National Park, the film Understorey has been made about the campaigns to protect the public forests on the far south coast. The south east forests campaign was a long and complex one.

It was ultimately successful because of the untiring contributions by people who valued the natural environment and wanted to protect it. The South East Forests National Park was created in 1997 by the amalgamation of Genoa, Tantawangalo, Bemboka, Yowaka and Coolangubra National Parks.

A film to watch out for: "Blue"

Watch out for future release of the beautifully crafted new Australian Documentary 'Blue', premiered at the Sydney Film Festival - 'Blue' was a call to action about the plight of the oceans and marine preservation, a wake up call to the state of the earth's oceans, dedicated to creating awareness and change. Overfishing and the scourge of plastic in the oceans and its effects on seabirds was dramatically shown.

AMALGAMATIONS – another chance to have your say

At its meeting of 15 May Council resolved to conduct a Poll in conjunction with the Council Election on 9 September, with the Poll questions to be:-

- i. Do you want Lane Cove to amalgamate with Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils? **Yes/No**; and
- ii. Should Lane Cove become amalgamated with Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils, would you support the de-amalgamation of Lane Cove if this choice was available to you? **Yes/No**.

Our Society has opposed the amalgamation of Lane Cove Council with any other Council from the beginning. We are considering a Poll campaign opposing the forced amalgamations.

Details are being worked out, but your help will be welcomed and needed.

Watch this space.