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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

SPECIAL MEETING

August 2016

Tuesday 9 August 7.00 pm
Cove Room, Lane Cove Council Chambers

What is coming up

SPECIAL MEETING - Greater Sydney Commission

You have been notified by separate email about this meeting, organised by the Society for 9 August, with Rod Simpson of the GSC attending. 160 environment and community groups in the GSC's Northern District have been invited. See the next newsletter for a précis of the discussion.

What we have done

Letter on Community Consultation

A letter to Chief Commissioner of the GSC, Lucy Turnbull, has been shared with 140 community groups in the Northern District for them to also sign. Among other things, it asks:

- What is the scope, nature and timing of community consultations planned by the Commission prior to the release of draft Plans in November 2016, including any consultation that has occurred to date?

How does the Commission propose to include our various community groups into this community consultation?

- What will be the role of, and weight given to, community consultation conducted prior to the release of draft Plans?

We also made a submission to the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper in June 2014.

What follows is part of our submission to the current Upper House Enquiry. Both submissions are on our website.

Crown Land has ownership of over 40% of the land of this state. It includes a diverse mix of values and purposes. Much is occupied by leaseholders and some is under the management, care and control of local councils. It is a too valuable asset to be allowed to be sold off or otherwise disposed of.

One of the first tasks associated with any action on Crown Land should be accurate mapping and data collation of the available information on the exact extent and title of all Crown Land.

This data should include the environmental, cultural and social values of the land and be publicly available.

Proposals in the white paper to hand control of some Crown Land to local councils is not supported, particularly in the present climate of rapid development where authorities are obliged to increase housing and employment opportunities in growth areas. Control under local councils could see a massive sell off of Crown Land for development, losing forever important natural areas. Any land handed to councils for their control must be categorised as "Community Land" and not "Operational Land". This would prohibit the sale of that land and keep it for public purposes.

Management of Crown Land throughout the State must be based on ESD and must recognise the importance of protecting ecosystems and the service that they provide such as clean water and air, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Crown Land must remain in the ownership of the State and its people.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch Sub-committee.

At our June meeting we had a great turn-out (approx. 30 people) to hear from Peter Martin, President of Coal Free Southern Highlands about the work his group has done to combat the POSCO coal project in Sutton Forest near Berrima.

We are finalizing plans for the “Dining boom not mining boom” event. Please pencil in Sunday October 23rd 1.00 – 4.30pm for spit roast lunch and guest speaker, at the Greenwich Community Hall. \$25 per head.

Our banner has been finalised.



Join us at our next monthly meeting: Monday 1st August. 6.30 – 8.30 Lane Cove Library.

And by the way, did you know that 37% of Australia is earmarked for coal and gas?

The Lock the Gate Alliance has released a shocking new map of Australian areas at risk from coal and gas mining - and it's a real eye-opener. This interactive map is your chance to check the status of your home and property, or the water resource you rely on, or your favourite holiday location! Are they at risk from unsafe mining? See: www.lockthegate.org.au/australian_mining_map.

For further information about the campaign, contact Sally Kennedy 0424 330 323

In other News

Our Spring Bushwalk, Sunday August 28

Come and enjoy an easy walk in some of the best bushland in Sydney. You will see a wide range of native plants, coastal vegetation and harbour views. Let this experience inspire you to celebrate Lane Cove by growing some of these plants in your own Lane Cove garden. The walk is in North head Sanctuary which can be accessed from Manly via Darley Road and Blue Fish Drive. From Blue Fish Drive follow the signs to North Fort parking area and park there. We are meeting at the visitor centre which is close to the parking area at 10.00am. We should finish the walk by 2.00pm, but there are options for more walks in this area for those who wish to do

so. You will need to bring your own lunch, drinking water, or other drinks. Please wear suitable walking shoes/boots and bring sunhat and sunscreen. There is a coffee shop near the visitor centre for people who may want refreshments before or after the walk. There is a bus service to this area but it is very infrequent. Please contact Ron or Barbara Gornall to book this walk or for further information: 94271125 or email rorgornall@hotmail.com In the event of bad weather on the day, phone 94271125.

And don't forget our September plant stall 9-12 on Saturday 10 September.

Bush Kids program

It's all on the Bush Kids Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lanecovebushkids/

Biodiversity Review Legislation – update

The campaign called standup4nature continues to gather positive momentum. See the video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRDOqB0R7-M

The rally outside Baird's office attracted a lot of attention and support. 5,000 submissions were submitted and the overall sentiment is that:

- Scientists don't like it
- Farmers don't like it
- Conservationists don't like it
- Bird watchers don't like it

BUT THE DANGER IS NOT OVER

To continue the momentum, the campaign will focus on the following three areas:

- Mike Baird – Using stalls to bring home the message in his own electorate.
- Regional National Party seats who are sympathetic to the issue.
- Sympathetic Liberal Party seats.

We need to keep up the pressure to defeat the Government's damaging proposals – you can help by supporting the Stand Up for Nature petition and associated campaign at www.nature.org.au.

Your toothbrush is finished? Don't toss it. LC Council is providing bins in the Council Chambers to collect & recycle oral hygiene items eg toothpaste tubes, dental floss containers.

Amalgamations

We still await the outcomes of court hearings.

Code 10/50

The request by Council to downgrade Lane Cove bush reserves to from Category 1 to 2 making them

exempt from code 10/50 has been supported and implemented by the Rural Fire Service. Batten Reserve remains in Category 1.

This is a win for good bushfire science over the RFS simplistic one-size-fits-all approach. We thank Council's Kerry Heatley for patient negotiation.

Council bushland programs

All are going well and continuing to recruit new volunteers. Council's new program for walks and talks will be out soon.

A Grant for Lane Cove

As part of the GSC administered \$ 3 million for projects to enhance Sydney's Green Grid (about which not much is known), Lane Cove will receive \$79 775 to protect Aboriginal heritage and track upgrades at Greenwich Point, but only if Council matches the grant.

News from around and about

AWC Partners with NSW Government

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has announced an historic partnership with the NSW Government. AWC has been contracted to deliver national park management services in the iconic Pilliga forest and at Mallee Cliffs National Park in the state's south-west. It is the first public-private collaboration of its kind. The centrepiece of this exciting partnership will be the reintroduction of at least 10 mammal species that are currently listed as extinct in NSW.

Mind How You Go! New protest laws have commenced

The NSW Environmental Defenders Office reports that changes to laws targeting environmental protesters commenced on 1 June. The changes include new trespass offences and new offences specific to coal seam gas protests. Changes made to the law to broaden police powers to move people on who are part of a genuine protest and to search and seize property have not yet commenced. More information at: <http://www.edonsw.org.au>.

Where's the biodiversity? It's over there. Where? I can't see it. Maybe it's under that rock.

From NSW Upper House Estimates Hearings (Environment, Heritage] 12 Friday 4 September 2015: -

Dr MEHREEN FARUQI (Greens): Does the Office of Environment and Heritage monitor any biodiversity sites?

Mr BAILEY (Head of OEH): As an agency it monitors an enormous number of biodiversity sites across the State.

Dr MEHREEN FARUQI: What is being monitored?

Mr BAILEY: We monitor for a series of things through our threatened species program and our state -of- the-parks reporting for the parks estate. We monitor for a large number of programs, including biobanking agreements, biocertification and so on. We do monitoring and have management plans with those responsible for them. However, the planning system actually makes those offsetting decisions. We work at setting the policy around that and we have input into planning decisions, but it is a planning matter in managing offsets.

Dr MEHREEN FARUQI: How do you monitor them if you do not have a register of their location and characteristics? What is the monitoring process?

Mr BAILEY: I said I would take on notice the question about the comprehensive system for offsetting.

Dr MEHREEN FARUQI: Thank you for that. However, I am concerned about what you are monitoring if you do not have a register of sites that must be monitored.

Mr BAILEY: I am clarifying that we do an enormous amount of monitoring across a range of different programs. We also do monitoring and accountability with project proponents, again through the planning system in relation to those offset requirements.

Thanks to Janet Harwood of FOKE for this gem.

For amusement Google for lyrics to "The country's in the very best of hands" and the youtube clip of the song from the film "Lil Abner".

Unfortunately some things never change!



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