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BUSH RANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

April 2018

Contents

- Blaxlands Corner development
- Labor Pledge to repeal Land Clearing laws
- A Successful Plant Stall
- NSW native vegetation loses out
- Time2 Choose protest rally

**The Society meets at the Lane Cove Tennis Club,
Central Park, Kenneth St, Longueville.**

every 2nd Tuesday of the month, except January
Anyone is welcome to attend

Next meeting:
Tuesday 10 April
From 7:30pm



Despite the crowd of thousands, it was impossible to miss the many Lane Cove residents at the Climate Change rally on Sunday 25 March, including 'Doctors for the Environment', who demonstrated their disgust at the Federal & State governments' continued addiction to coal mining, accelerating the heating and polluting of the planet.

Blaxlands Corner: the next big development site for Lane Cove?



Submissions close 5pm Thursday, 19 April, 2018

Council has received a proposal to build a development on 'Blaxlands Corner' where River Rd and Longueville Rd meet. The proponent wishes to change the LEP (Local Environment Plan) as it is currently not a permissible development. It is double the permissible FSR (Floor Space Ratio), over the permissible height limit, and adjoins land zoned E2 Bushland-Environmental Conservation by Lane Cove Council.

Separation between the development footprint and remnant native habitat is essential for healthy bushland and its dependant native animals and is mandated in the current E2 zoning.

An objective of E2 zoning is "To prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values". The LCBCS is concerned that the scale of the development will mean it will encroach onto bushland, with night lights perhaps spilling into a zone protected for nature, reducing native habitat.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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Blaxlands Corner development cont.

Longueville and Northwood Resident Action groups held a meeting on Thursday 22nd March at the Lane Cove Golf Club to discuss the 4 storey (at front), 6 story (at back) proposal which plans to provide a 130-bed residential aged-care facility, a medical centre, a vet, five shops and a café.

Major concerns were expressed around traffic movements in and out of the development and the need to turn into Northwood Road and exit via Longueville in order to U-turn to travel north.

Development proposals for Northwood corner go back a number of years and have been rejected by Council, but this one by-passed the Council and was taken to the Northern District Planning Panel who gave leave for a Gateway application to the Planning Assessment Commission.

According to the developer's model, there will be no increase in traffic at this dangerous location, but they haven't taken into consideration the increase generated from development nearby at 266 Longueville Rd.

Variations - 1. Area Covered (Draft Development Control Plan)

Existing study area diagram



Revised study area



The proposed LEP amendments seek to:

- Retain existing B1 (Neighbourhood Centre) Land Use zonings on site;
- Insert a permissible use to allow 'seniors housing' on the site;
- Increase the floor space ratio of the entire site (to a maximum of FSR 1.98:1).
- Increase the height limit to RL 70.250 (height to underside of top level ceiling)

The Draft Development Control Plan can be viewed here:

http://ecouncil.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/TRIM/documents_TE/73940142/TRIM_Amended%20Northwood%20Planning%20Proposal%20-%20Draft%20DCP_1204896.PDF

If you would like to either support or object to the NSW Government's granting a change to the LEP- the land zoning, so as to facilitate a larger development than currently allowed make a submission to the General Manager quoting the reference "Proposed Residential Care Facility at Northwood Shops - SU6981" by: Email: lccouncil@lanecove.nsw.gov.au; Post: PO Box 20, Lane Cove NSW 1595; or Fax: (02) 9911 3600

The consultation period and Submissions close **5pm Thursday, 19 April 2018.**

Labor pledges to repeal Land Clearing laws

If elected in 2019, under Luke Foley, NSW Labor has committed to repealing the entire Land Clearing laws.

The Northwood aged-care proposal and near the Harry Howard walk are just two recent examples of how Lane Cove is regularly

challenged by developers who try to exceed our carefully crafted local development controls that protect remnant bushland.

The Greenwich school and Centennial Ave 'tractor' park are also at risk of tree loss due to population, parking and traffic increases.

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A Successful March Native Plant Stall in the Plaza

Thanks again to the dedication of Ruth Neumann, the coordinator of our Native Plant stall in the Plaza on 17 March and the sixteen Society volunteers for its great success. Over three hours we sold 171 native plants for balconies and backyards, hand-made greeting cards, 'The Bushwalks of Lane Cove' books, and we introduced a native bee display. Some members actively promoted the Society, our bushland and growing native plants to the large group of people who came to our stall.

The stall's appeal increased due to Ruth's innovations: the diversity of our plant range and display and sale of Gecko Plantscape's native bee/insect hotels. Horticulturist Robbie Renu, also a green wall specialist and maker of bee/insect hotels, spoke to people about native bees and insects and their habitat.

Do consider helping out at our Spring Plant Stall on Saturday 8 September. New volunteers are treasured but in short supply. You don't need background knowledge. Plant photos, information and plant experts are on hand to help. Ring Ruth on 0409 609 940 to volunteer.



NSW NativeVegetation Loses Out

Land-clearing laws have been reintroduced by NSW Government despite threats to Koalas and its own advisors warning of accelerated habitat destruction.

Development applications and the development 'boom' heavily impact on the health of the natural environment of NSW and Lane Cove, so our Society must stay alert to Planning Laws and Policy changes by the NSW Government and made locally.

In November 2016, the NSW Coalition government scrapped the state's Native Vegetation Act, the Threatened Species Conservation Act and the Nature Conservation Trust Act, and replaced them with its new Biodiversity Conservation Act. A suite of codes that exempted clearing in a range of circumstances from normal development assessment requirements was also introduced.

A document obtained by the EDO under freedom of information laws referring to advice from the Office of Environment and Heritage to Ms Upton, MP, revealed that

the Berejiklian government knew its new land clearing laws would cause extensive harm to wildlife habitat but pressed ahead with the changes anyway.



Nature Conservation Council CEO Kate Smolski said “This is damning evidence that the Environment Minister (Ms Upton), approved these new laws knowing they would expose 99% of identified koala habitat on private land to clearing” and “further increase agricultural clearing by between 8% and 45% annually.”

“Only 1 per cent of koala habitat on private land is safe”!

Following a challenge filed by the NCC, resulting in the Land and Environment Court ruling them invalid, a critical part of ‘land-clearing laws’ were reintroduced unchanged by the NSW Govt. (they remade the codes overnight).

So flexible are the new State laws, they could lead to the loss of bushland in Lane Cove because the flawed ‘biodiversity off-setting’ rules can affect urban areas.

A developer or even local council could offer alternative land within 100 km of Lane Cove as being equivalent compensation to ‘off-set’ the loss of trees/ bushland to be removed for development! ‘Off-setting’ the loss of trees in exchange for cash payments and other unsatisfactory outcomes is allowed under the new laws, as it is subject to ‘discounts’ at decision-makers’ discretion and payments in lieu of genuine offsets.

If you value nature, clean air or have architectural skills, an interest in environmental management, planning, writing/ editing/ web skills, helping on stalls etc., we encourage you to join with other society members in any capacity to further these interests!

So what can you do to stop the prediction that at the current rate, even the koala may be gone from NSW by 2055? Become involved in campaigns to hold the Government accountable for the environment. Our Submissions can be found under ‘Communications’ on our website: <http://lanecovebushland.org.au/news/>

Time2Choose Protest Rally

An estimated 10,000 attended the rally on Saturday 24 March, one year out from our next State elections. Speeches at Martin Place were followed by a walk that stretched almost two kilometres along Elisabeth Street to Prince Alfred Park. A significant news item, but one given minimal attention by the mainstream media.

The current NSW government has introduced legislation weakening environmental protections in all directions, and many are fed up – and worried.

The rally focused on proposed and operating mining ventures that threaten to destroy groundwater aquifers, agricultural land and rural communities.

First Nations peoples led the way, joined by representatives of farming communities in Narrabri, Liverpool Plains, Wollar (Hunter Valley) Bylong Valley, and the Southern Highlands, and urban environmental and activist groups. Twenty five horsemen from Murrurundi brought up the rear. The message was the same for all: we care about our country. And we vote.

