



ISSN 0727 7717

BUSH RANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

June 2018

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR WINTER

In June 2018, the Society meets at
the Lane Cove Library
Longueville rd., Lane Cove

CHANGE OF TIME FOR NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 12 June, 7pm – 9pm

Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month,
except January

Anyone is welcome to attend



2018 EVENTS:

- Sundays, 3rd & 10th June 2018, 2- 4pm, Repair Cafe (see notice below)
- Thurs. 21 June, 12.30pm - Rally outside NSW Parliament- National Parks Assoc.
- 5pm, 29 June 2018: closing date to submit to 'the review of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs)' by the NSW Govt. now – see email address below
- 12 July - Boomerang Alliance: 'The Future of Plastic Packaging Forum & 'Snap Back' action
- Sunday 5th August – Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch stall @ Hunters Hill Moocooboola Festival.
- Sat. 8 Sept. 2018, 9 am-12. Our Spring Native Flower Stall in the Lane Cove Plaza.

Contents:

Lane Cove's High Density and Complying Development Plans- article by June Hefferan
The LCBCS May Meeting- Residents Combine: Action to address High Density –Complying Development
The Regional Forest Agreements- Increasing logging intensity throughout public native forests
The SANTOS Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project – Report of Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch
The St Leonards South Planning Proposal – Commitments re housing supply targets to 2026
Threatened Species Children's Art Competition

Celebrate Sally Kennedy's Sustainable Citizen Award !

Do join us at our next meeting in the Library - 7pm, Tuesday 12 June to raise a glass to celebrate Sally's Award!

We are thrilled to announce that Society member, Sally Kennedy won a Lane Cove Council Citizenship award in recognition of the role she has played with the **LC Coal and a Gas Watch** over the past four and a half years. In particular, for raising awareness of the issues with coal mining and coal seam gas.

This is only the second time a NSW council has given a citizenship award for trying to stop coal mining and CSG!!

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc
Inquiries Ron Gornall 9427 1125
e-mail lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com

Address PO Box 989 Lane Cove NSW 1595
facebook: www.facebook.com/LCBCS
Website www.lanecovebushland.org.au

There Goes The Neighbourhood! ... and it's getting worse

Medium Density - Complying Development and High Rise

By June Hefferan, Convener of the Lane Cove North Residents Association

It can't have escaped your notice that Lane Cove is bulging with high density development. The 2011 Census showed that nearly half our occupied dwellings (43.6%) were flats, units or apartments. The results of the 2016 Census, due out soon, will show further encroachment of high density and fewer single dwelling houses (49.8% in 2011).

Now comes the push for more medium density. But the State Government always seems to have a little treat in its pocket for the developers. This time it's Complying Development. The Government's new Low Rise Medium Density Code comes into force in July and provides fast track complying development for "one or two storey dual occupancy." That means terrace houses, town houses and manor houses, permitted only in areas where Council Local Environmental Plans (LEP) allow medium density development. The new Code could have had serious impacts on Lane Cove's low density residential neighbourhoods (R2) had Planning Minister Roberts not granted Council an exemption while Council negotiates the 'Gateway process' to amend the LEP because Lane Cove had historically permitted single storey villa development in its R2 zone.

Of much more concern is complying development itself. This was initially a sensible strategy to allow people to build truly low impact development, a backyard barbecue or carport, replace a side fence etc. without a Development Application (DA). Complying development for single dwelling houses was introduced some time ago. The rationale was that replacing the family home was low impact so 'mum and dad developers' should not waste time and money in the DA process.

Complying development means that if a proposal you submit meets the criteria, you can go ahead and build. You are obliged to notify your neighbours but they can't object. Problems occur when people build something different (usually higher, closer to the boundary or turning basement storage into rooms), or if the new house blocks neighbours' sunlight or overlooks the back garden. Once the neighbours realise, it's too late and it's very rare for a Court to rule against these developments and force them to be taken down.

Medium density complying development brings all these risks but on a larger scale. If there is sufficient profit to be made and developers consolidate land, they might build twenty or so terrace or manor houses in a single street. We will lose even more single dwelling houses so neighbourhoods will change. Trees and vegetation will disappear. The purpose of complying development is to provide a swift, smooth, cheaper path for development. The *raison d'être* is that we have a rapidly growing population and Sydney desperately needs more housing. Suburbs like Lane Cove are targeted because we are close to the city and major job hubs like Macquarie Park. Complying development allows developers to proceed without neighbour or community objections that may require negotiation or modification to plans and might cost money.

Fast track development is not concerned about environment or amenity. Indeed, as we have seen, the first casualties are trees – those backyard beauties that have contributed so much to make us 'leafy Lane Cove.' The unprotected units become hotboxes requiring air conditioning and clothes driers because the buildings and garages take the whole site, leaving no room for clothes lines, trees or gardens. (A personal plea: don't complain about laundry drying on balconies- At least it's not contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.)

While most of us might prefer medium-density, rather than still more high-density development in Lane Cove, it's possible that the new Low Rise Medium Density Code is a stalking horse for the next phase where apartment buildings up to eight or ten stories will be declared 'medium density' and their developers will want to be included in the Complying Development Code.

Only people power can put the brakes on this so become active! Our politicians have to be told, loud and clear, that we don't want our suburbs destroyed by excessive development. Now it's up to you.

LCBCS MAY MEETING HOSTED COMBINED RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS TO RESPOND TO CONCERNS ABOUT HIGH DENSITY, HIGH-RISE AND OVERDEVELOPMENT

At our May meeting, Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society hosted 50 people, invited from local resident groups, for an open discussion about the NSW Govt's new 'Medium Density-Complying Development Code' (in force on 6 July). Also, to address concerns about the amount of high density apartment building projected for Lane Cove and the uncertainty or contradiction in government responses.

The Society has always led action to preserve Lane Cove's natural environment for its own intrinsic value, for human amenity (eco-services) and for survival of nature. So, the meeting resolved to form a joint sub-committee to discuss further overdevelopment and action to reduce the loss of our 'leafy' environment.

The Regional Forest Agreements are Driving Our Wildlife to Extinction

National Parks Assoc. of NSW Rally Outside NSW Parliament Thurs. 21 June, 12.30pm

Your support now is vital; our public forests and precious wildlife will not survive another 20 years of industrial logging. For the last 20 years logging in our forests has driven many species to the brink of extinction.

Join the fight against native forest logging

- Importantly, send a letter to your MP encourage friends to do the same, go to: www.npa-nsw.good.do/endlogging

Attend a Public Forum hosted by NPA NSW, NCC and WEPA

Thurs. 7 June- 6.45pm: Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, 1 Bedford St. Newtown

Wed. 20 June- 6.30pm: Parliament of NSW, Macquarie St. Sydney

Register at: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/public-forumlogging-our-wildlife-away-tickets-45465453395?aff=efbeventix

The review of the integrated forestry operations approvals (IFOAs): It's EASY to email to your MP today and call for a stop to unsustainable logging of our native forests at this online site: <http://staging.nature.org.au/get-involved/take-action/forests/>



The Coalition government is negotiating to extend the Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) for another 20 years so NOW is the crucial time to take action! These RFA's are the deals between the Commonwealth and State governments that have licensed the industrial logging and destruction of our public native forests, their natural carbon stores and damaged our waterways for most of the past 20 years, and are set to continue.

Read about NPA's alternative plans and for more information on this issue go to NPA's website: <https://npansw.org/npa/campaigns/end-native-forest-logging/> Also, Consider donating to this worthy cause.

National Parks Association of NSW is a non-government conservation group that seeks to protect, connect and restore the integrity and diversity of natural systems in NSW and beyond, through national parks, marine sanctuaries and other means. Over the past 60 years, NPA have been involved in the establishment of many of the national parks and protected areas in NSW today.

The SANTOS Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project

The Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch Report

The LCCGW successfully screened 'Sacrifice Zone', a documentary about the real gas crisis in Australia – The SANTOS Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project. Many of the coal and gas watch members had contributed funds towards the doco. The screening was followed by guest speakers Anne Kennedy and Megan Kuhn, both executive producers of the film who brought the human story of living with the threat of coal seam gas hanging over their properties in North West NSW.

The documentary includes interviews with farmers, Gamilaray people, groundwater engineers, medical experts, financial analysts, lawyers, activists, astronomers, toxics experts, politicians, whistle blowers and ecologists. Together they weave a compelling argument against this destructive and unnecessary industry.

The large crowd of around 60 people filled two adjoining rooms at the library and contributed \$500 in donations which have been given to the film makers. **You can download 'Sacrifice Zone' for free at this link, with additional footage:**
<https://vimeo.com/257444267>

SAVE THE DATE:

LCCGW stall at the Hunters Hill Moocooboola Festival on Sunday 5th August.

Volunteers for 2 hour shifts between 9.00am - 4.00pm would be much appreciated.

Email: Sallykennedy123@hotmail.com



Help Boomerang Alliance to name and Shame Plastic Offenders

Enter 'Snap Back' and The Future of Plastic Packaging Forum

Boomerang Alliance is offering the opportunity to enter 'Snap Back' - to name and shame the most appalling examples of unnecessary plastic packaging with the chance to win a JOCO cup.

On July 12, the results and evidence from 'Snap Back' will be presented to representatives from Australia's biggest retailers, at Boomerang's 'The Future of Plastic Packaging Forum'.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

How to enter Snap Back– it's too easy

1. Take a photo [within Australia only]
2. Go to our Snap Back page on Facebook
3. Upload your photo [you can submit more than one]
4. Name and shame the offending product/retailer
5. Be in with a chance to win a \$29.95 JOCO cup
6. Get your friends & family to vote [limit one vote per FB user]

According to a National Recycling Survey 2014–15 by the Australian Packaging Covenant [APCO] Australia consumes 944,300 tonnes of plastic and 844,300 tonnes in 2015-16*.

That's nearly 35-39 kilograms of plastic consumed by every single Australian - every year. So next time you see sliced capsicums beneath a tight layer of cling wrap, don't get mad – get snapping! #snapback

Find out more at Boomerang Alliance:

www.boomerangalliance.org.au

*National Recycling and Recovery Survey (NRRS) 2015–16 for plastics packaging

<https://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/documents/item/1070>

The Society considers plans for major developments in Lane Cove as these changes often involve the loss of tree canopy, vegetation and habitat:

The St Leonards South Planning Proposal and the Medium Density Housing Code

At its March Meeting, Council resolved to seek an extension of time for it to complete the St Leonards South Planning Proposal to allow for the public release and consideration of the St Leonards / Crows Nest Planned Precinct Draft Land Use Infrastructure and Implementation Plan. I am pleased to say a 12 month extension has been granted to allow this to occur.

Council sought confirmation that if the St Leonards South Planning Proposal proceeds, and given the recent rezonings in St Leonards east of the railway line, that these rezonings will satisfy Council's housing supply targets to 2026. Council received correspondence from the Greater Sydney Commission which acknowledges this. The two key sentences in the letter are:-

"Based on Council's estimates of capacity created via planning strategies currently being considered and Council's 2009 LEP, the LGA has the potential to exceed a 6-10 year (2021-2026 target)....."

"In this regard we recognise that the additional capacity you are creating now through your local planning will be counted towards your achievement of a 10 year target."

From: Mayoral Minute - Update on Planning Matters - Ordinary Council Meeting 21 May 2018.
http://lccweb.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bps/Open/2018/CNL_21052018_AGN_SUP_WEB.HTM

CORRECTION: Sustainability Small Grants Program

The May 'Bushranger' reported that the Council approved the three projects recommended for funding through Councils Sustainability Levy for 2018 at their 16 April Council Meeting. However, Council deferred them for further consideration. At the subsequent meeting, these same 3 organisations received the Grants, but with some differences, mainly that the 'Sustainability' criteria was increased.



Date & Time: 2pm to 4pm **Sunday 3rd & 10th June 2018** (always 1st & 2nd Sundays of month)

Place: Living and Learning Centre, 180 Longueville Rd, Lane Cove.

Parking: free all day parking along Longueville Rd or park for 3 hours free on Little St Car Park

Contact: Wendy 94204884 or 0410280912

Email: enquiries@repaircafesydneynorth.net

Website: <https://repaircafesydneynorth.net> or Facebook

BROKEN ITEMS we fix for FREE includes: jewellery, ceramics, shoes, toys, clothes, bags, household battery operated items, sharpening knives, secateurs, pruning tools. Contact us about items not mentioned.

One of our volunteers told us of a spectacular UK headline - "End of throwaway fashion as we make do and mend". Article states... "Research has found 50,000 fewer tons of clothing going into waste bins. This weight is equivalent to a combined total of 300 jumbo jets!"

Threatened Species Children's Art Competition

The 2018 competition will be open to children 5-12 years old in NSW and the ACT with winners announced on Sept. 7, Threatened Species Day. At least fifty finalists' works will hang in a two week exhibition in September.

Ph: 0414 958 714 02 806 88805

<http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au>

Follow the competition on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/289862308022985/>

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

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/>