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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

(March) April 2020

Next Meeting 7.30 – 9.00pm

Tuesday 14 April 2020

*Meetings will take place
in virtual space until further notice.
Please check your emails for details*

Contents

EP&BC Act review – submissions needed by 17 April
Council meetings and Covid 19 – update
Golf Course development plans – report
LCC energy, water use and canopy targets - report
Towers on Bushland – update
Opposition to CSG grows - report

Autumn Native Plant Stall Cancelled

Our Autumn Plant Stall which would have been held on Saturday 28 March 2020 has been cancelled, due to the Corona Virus (Covid 19) outbreak. **A big thank you all those who had begun planning – let's hope our Spring Plant Stall can take place.**



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act review

HAVE YOUR SAY – due 17 April 2020

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*—Australia's failed national environment law—is **up for a once-in-a-decade review**.

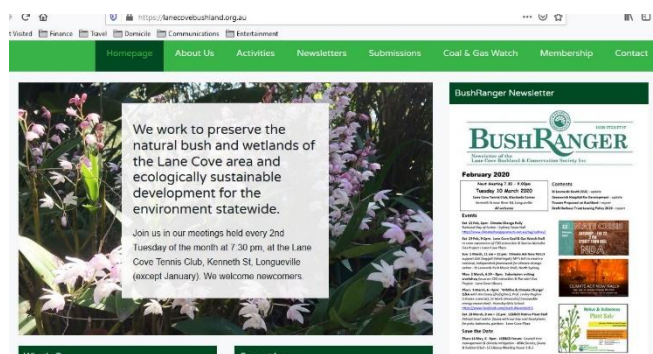
The Australian Government must choose: will our precious species be around for generations to come, or will it back this failed environment law and head down the road to more and more extinctions?

To read the Discussion Paper and make a submission on line: <https://epbcactreview.environment.gov.au/>.

Other websites to check out are the Environmental Defenders Office [edo guide-for-submissions-to-epbc-review/ https://www.wilderness.org.au/newlawsannualreview/placesyoulove.org/australiawelove/naturelaws/](https://www.wilderness.org.au/newlawsannualreview/placesyoulove.org/australiawelove/naturelaws/)

Numbers matter in the eyes of politicians. The Society will soon email members a template of dot points to help individuals to make a submission, due on 17 April. The LCBCS will make its own submission.

Look out for the template. Together, we can demand the Government puts in place nature laws to support life—because life supports all of us..



NEW LOOK WEB PAGE

<https://lanecovebushland.org.au/>

A BIG thank you to Sue Ingham for the fantastic upgrade and presentation of our Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society website.

Members are urged to have a look, comment and like our Facebook page.

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ENERGY EMISSIONS, WATER USE AND CANOPY TARGETS

http://lccweb.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bps/Open/2020/CNL_16032020_MIN_WEB.HTM

Last year Council publically declared a climate emergency, (which the Society supported) and commissioned the Kinesis report. In line with this declaration, at its meeting on 16 March 2020 Council committed to many practical actions to reduce its carbon budget.

However, a significant proportion of the emissions in the Lane Cove LGA are from electricity used by residential and other stakeholders; and the motion stated that “it is imperative that Council establishes closer partnerships with the community and other stakeholders”.

Practical actions of interest included:

- Council consider potential urban heat effects by tracking tree canopy losses (via storms, TPOs and DAs) and additions (via DA landscape plan and open space plantings) with a view to achieving a 40% tree canopy coverage as outlined in the North Sydney District Plan.
- Adopt and incorporate energy and water saving actions into the 2020-2021 Delivery Program & Operational Plan

Towers on Bushland: the push continues

The applicant seeks to amend the Lane Cove Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) to permit redevelopment of industrial zoned land at 166 Epping Rd, Lane Cove West for housing and commercial activities (see March Bushranger).

Having considered the advice of the LC Local Planning Panel meeting of 7 November 2019, the motion of Cllrs Strassberg and Zbik (adopted by Council on 18 November 2019) was to reject Planning Proposal No. 36 in full, and not forward it to the Minister for a Gateway Determination, as it fails the strategic merit test on many grounds eg: it is not consistent with an objective of the Greater Sydney Commission to preserve and manage industrial and urban services land; the site is not identified as a strategic precinct; nor is it considered an appropriate area for housing.

OPPOSITION TO CSG IN NSW GROWS

The severity of the recent bushfires forced a response from the federal government to calls for much greater action on climate change. Disappointingly, much of that response was to tie federal funding to a requirement for NSW to significantly increase the availability of gas as a “transition fuel”.

Many are concerned that moving to another fossil fuel will further delay the transition to renewables and the achievement of net zero emissions in time to prevent global warming above catastrophic levels.

The **LC Bushland & Conservation Society** wrote to the LC Council in relation to the Kinesis report, asking it to undertake recommendations in addressing the climate emergency. These include:

- That the target of zero net emissions by 2050 is too far in the future to be meaningful and urge Council to set an interim, short-term target (eg- 5 year target) for the reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions.
- Emissions for the Lane Cove LGA are only 2% of overall emissions. It is therefore vital for Council to invest and grow partnerships with the community and local business, in order to reduce emissions other than its own. We called on Council to commit to holding a community forum on this issue within the next 12 months.

Two Councillors (Bennison and Brooks-Horn) voted against the Motion, both having stated in Council their disbelief in the certainty of human induced causes of Climate Change



166 Epping Rd next to Lane Cove West Bushland and River.

To see the reasons in the Council minutes, Ctrl/click on [Refused](#) (by Council on [18 November 2019](#))

The applicant has lodged a Rezoning Review request with the NSW Department of Planning. Council has not yet had a response.

Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch are concerned that NSW will see a resumption of coal seam gas mining, despite widespread community opposition to CSG that has led to many mining operations being closed or cancelled in recent years.

In preparation for the likely ramping up of pressure to expand the **Santos Narrabri gas fields**, despite the risks they entail to the Pillaga Forest and recharge areas of the Great Artesian Basin, LCCGW held a meeting to discuss how to support the 93% of farmers who oppose the gasfields and to workshop submission writing to the IPC.

To find out more, contact LCC&GW through our Facebook page or visit <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=533407530805499>