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# Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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12 May 2022

## **Re: Sediment Control and Erosion Control Failures Affecting Bushland**

The General Manager  
Mr Craig Wrightson  
Lane Cove Council

Cc: The Mayor, Cllr Zbik and all Councillors

Dear Mr Wrightson and all Councillors,

The Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society has a 51year history of protecting the bushland reserves of Lane Cove, working proactively with Council to achieve best practice. This endeavour has never been more worthy than at this time of unprecedented climate change affecting the environment and the popularity of increased local bushwalking during the ongoing pandemic.

The Society now writes to you to highlight the failure of protections we have witnessed in the catastrophic failure of sediment and erosion control at the Pathways site, which has resulted in vast quantities of sediment flowing down over bushland across a wide front (even as far as the golf course), as well as encroachment of clearing into the E2 zone. The sediment flows are disastrous for bushland particularly because they bury the seedbank needed for regrowth and regeneration. Post construction clean-up which scrapes away the sediment is likely to also take much of the litter and this seedbank, affecting this bushland and its flora species on a long-term basis.

This has happened before – in just the last few years where sediment overwhelmed inadequate sediment barriers at the 1 Sirius Road site to flow into the wetlands Endangered Ecological Community below. Parts of this area have still not recovered.

Lane Cove must do everything possible to ensure THIS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.

There are at least three more development sites in various stages of planning for steep sites directly adjacent to bushland: 266 Longueville Road, Greenwich Hospital and the Lane Cove North Data Centre. The Society requests:

- That all future projects adjacent to bushland must include detailed erosion and sediment control plans in the DA documentation so that the community can understand what bushland protection is in place.
- That Council insists on much stronger erosion and sediment control infrastructure adjacent to bushland, in both the proponent's plan and in Council's consent conditions
- That this stronger infrastructure includes the provision for double fencing on steeper sites with at least one of the fences to be 2m high steel fencing properly anchored in the ground and lined with sediment fabric to a minimum of one metre off the ground
- That Council does not permit work to start without the sediment control in place inside the agreed and marked site boundary

- That Council puts in place regular effective and consistent site monitoring, especially for large and sensitive sites, such as those detailed in this letter, with immediate fines and a stop-work for a breach.
- That fines imposed by Council for breaches are sufficiently punitive to encourage/ensure compliance (from the start, not after a breach when the damage has been done),

The Society would appreciate your response as to how this problem can be improved either through our BMAC representatives or directly via email to us.

Yours sincerely,  
Shauna Forrest, President,  
on behalf of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society