



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

P.O Box 989, Lane Cove NSW 1595

ABN 50 518 833 556

Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO
Chief Commissioner
Greater Sydney Commission
PO Box 25T Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Chief Commissioner

Re: Sydney Northern District Plan - community consultation

As established community groups with considerable knowledge of, and long-term engagement with, planning issues in our respective communities, we, the undersigned, write to you to ascertain the details of community consultation by the Greater Sydney Commission (the Commission) in the Sydney Northern District Region.

We understand that draft District Plans (the Plans) will be released by the Commission in November 2016 for community comment. However, we are unaware of any plans for community engagement prior to the release of these draft Plans.

We note that one of the objectives of the Commission, under the *Greater Sydney Commission Act 2015*, is 'to provide increased opportunity for public involvement and participation in environmental planning and assessment in the Greater Sydney regions.'

Given the powers of the Commission to override Local Environmental Plans and assess rezoning proposals and the chaotic nature of current Council amalgamations, direct and comprehensive community consultation prior to the release of the Draft Plans is essential.

We are aware that the Commission is considering the use of citizen juries as a means of engaging with communities. Whilst citizen juries have their place, these cannot replace broader consultation with experienced and knowledgeable representatives of local groups engaged in planning for their respective communities.

Specific questions we seek information on are outlined below:

- 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?

In the interest of transparency, and given there are only 4 months left until the release of the Draft Plans, we would appreciate receiving an answer to the above queries by 12 August 2016.

Should you wish to clarify any aspect of this letter, please contact Mr Doug Stuart, Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Committee member, on 9428 2527.

Attached is the list of community organisations endorsing this letter.

We look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Ruth Neumann
President
Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society.

The Following Community Organisations have endorsed the letter to Lucy Turnbull, AO, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission:

1. Rob Coote, Secretary, on behalf of the **Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations.**
2. Kerrie Piper, Secretary, on behalf of **Wahroonga West-Side Residents' Group.**
3. Dr Meredith Foley, Secretary, on behalf of **Willoughby Environmental Protection Association, (WEPA).**
4. Tony Recsei, President, on behalf of **Save Our Suburbs.**
5. Kate Eccles, President, on behalf of **Mosman Parks & Bushland Association.**
6. Bob Taffel, President, on behalf of **Willoughby South Progress Association.**
7. Terry Fogarty, Secretary, on behalf of **Chatswood West Ward Progress Association.**
8. Greg Bloomfield, on behalf of **FairGO.**
9. Malcolm Fisher, Vice Chairman, on behalf of **Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee.**
10. Jill Green, President, on behalf of **STEP.**
11. Jacqueline French, President, on behalf of **Save Little Manly Beach Foreshore (SLMBF).**
12. Diane Bowles, President, on behalf of **Brooklyn Community Association.**
13. Gavin Butler, President, on behalf of **Newport Residents Association.**
14. Doug Stuart, Convenor, on behalf of **Residents and Shopkeepers for Appropriate Development. (RASAD).**
15. Phil Jenkyn, OAM, Co-Convenor, on behalf of **Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition.**

16. David Meggitt, President, on behalf of **Friends of Lane Cove National Park.**
17. Phillip Ward, Vice President, on behalf of **Ryde Hunters Hill Flora a Fauna Society,(RHHFFPS).**
18. Kate Russell, on behalf of **Hunters Hill Trust**
19. Deb Keys, Secretary, on behalf of the **Bay Precinct (North Sydney).**
20. Marita Macrae, President, on behalf of **Pittwater Natural Heritage Association.**
21. Guy Hallowes, President, on behalf of **Stringy Bark Creek Residents Association.**
22. June Hefferan, Convener, on behalf of **Lane Cove North Residents' Association.**
23. Kathy Cowley, President, on behalf of **Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE).**
24. Mrs Tanya Wood, Chairperson, on behalf of **Gordon Killara Residents Group.**
25. Dave Platter, President, on behalf of **Curl Curl Lagoon Friends.**
26. Elaine McLaughlin, Secretary, on behalf of **Northwood Action Group.**
27. Rosalind Noone, Secretary, on behalf of **Osborne Park Progress Association.**
28. Anita Jubian, on behalf of **Greenwich St Leonards Action Group.**
29. Graham Medhurst, Vice President, on behalf of **Epping Civic Trust.**
30. Anne Jeffrey, Secretary, on behalf of **Bayview Heights Estate Owners Group** and Member of **The Ingleside Community Reference Group.**
31. Tess Wiseman, Secretary, on behalf of **Ingleside Community Residents Group.**
32. Dr K Leiper, President, on behalf of **The Lane Cove Historical Society.**