



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW PLANNING REFORMS

WARNING ON O'FARRELL GOVERNMENT LATEST PLANNING STRATEGY

Developers will be given dangerous new powers under the O'Farrell government's NSW Planning White Paper according to residents of Ku-ring-gai.

Residents of Ku-ring-gai rallied yesterday to protest the Planning White Paper and urge the Premier to give back planning rights to the community as he promised.

"The community is being bombarded with massive changes to the planning system including a further proposal to increase densities with the release of the draft Metro Strategy to 2036.

"It doesn't matter how you dress this up, Barry O'Farrell wants more high rise in Ku-ring-gai" said Kathy Cowley, President of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE).

"The Planning White Paper proposes that once the Local Strategic Plan is finalised, all developments that meet the broad criteria will be fast-tracked through the system with no rights of appeal for ordinary residents. However, both the Planning Minister and the Director-General of Planning will have powers to overrule the Local Strategic Plan if they receive an appeal from a developer. So a 5 storey building will go up next door and you will have limited rights of appeal.

"The White Paper proposes 80% of new development applications will not be notified to neighbours. There will be scant consideration of the environment and heritage. This will effectively grant developers the right to exceed existing local planning controls. Even the despised Planning Review Panels will return under the proposed reforms..

"Your home value cannot be guaranteed anymore as the developer and growth juggernaut marches on. This is a developer driven process to kick start the economy at our expense.

"Our suburbs are choking yet the new released draft Metro Strategy targets 7,400 additional high-rise for Ku-ring-gai. How can you bind a community in a

White Paper contract for the future when every 5 years Barry O' Farrell and Brad Hazzard release a new Metro strategy which moves the goal posts imposing a further 7400 new dwellings on Ku-ring-gai on top of the 10,000 already set? Incredibly it appears that all the thousands of new units built up to 2011 and planned to 2031 will be not counted.

"Our firm message to Premier O'Farrell is to keep to his election promise to Ku-ring-gai of returning planning rights to the community and his promise to limit new dwellings for Ku-ring-gai to 10,000. We urge people to write to Mr O'Farrell with their views on the proposed planning changes, Mrs Cowley said.

For further information contact: Kathy Cowley 9416 9007

See www.foke.org.au and www.betterplanningnetwork.good.do

FOKE is an affiliated member of the Better Planning Network (with over 400 groups now affiliated) and supports their work to raise awareness and lobby for amendments to the state government's new Planning system.

Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (FOKE) Est.1994

PO Box 403

KILLARA NSW 2071