

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

A COMMUNITY CHARTER FOR GOOD PLANNING IN NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

7 March 2015

LIBERALS SHUN THE “PEOPLE FOR PLANNING CHARTER”

A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW was sent to all state candidates in the state electorates of Davidson and Ku-ring-gai, by an alliance of Ku-ring-gai community groups fighting overdevelopment and calling on fairer planning in NSW. Our letter invited them to sign and support the Charter, which stands for good planning in NSW,” spokesperson for the alliance of Ku-ring-gai community groups who have signed the Charter, said Kathy Cowley.

“We can announce all but the Liberal candidates for Ku-ring-gai and Davidson have supported and endorsed the Charter. These include the two Labor candidates David Armstrong (Ku-ring-gai) and Douglas St Quintin (Davidson) and the two Greens Candidates Pippa McInnes (Ku-ring-gai) and David Sentinella (Davidson) who have signed and agree to the Charter,” Kathy Cowley said.

“New Liberal candidate for Ku-ring-gai Alister Henskens SC, has not had the courtesy to reply our letter. Disappointingly, Jonathan O’Dea MP for Davidson, has only given us limited written agreement in support of the 5 governing principles and will not go to the extent of supporting the full Charter, as the other political party candidates have agreed.” Kathy Cowley said

“Planning is a big issue not only in Ku-ring-gai but across NSW, so voters will need to decide who to support on polling day, if they want transparent, community-oriented and corruption-free planning in NSW or a continuation of the current state government regime of a ‘top down’ ‘developer driven’ planning system which has resulted in a series of ICAC corruption enquires” said Kathy Cowley

“Considering the Liberals have a strong chance of retaining their seats in Ku-ring-gai and Davidson their constituents, will be very disappointed to learn that the Liberal candidates are not endorsing the People for Planning Charter which supports a fair, balanced, transparent and corruption free planning system in NSW” Kathy Cowley said

“We believe planning is going to be a big issue these elections for residents, based on responses to 1000 Better Planning Network surveys we conducted in shopping centres across Ku-ring-gai in 2013 with 89 % saying planning issues would influence their vote ”, Kathy Cowley said.

Kathy Cowley

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE KU-RING-GAI COMMUNITY GROUPS LISTED ABOVE

www.communitycharter.org

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BACKGROUND

'*The Planning for People Charter*' has been created in response to widespread community disillusionment with recent planning and development that has occurred in Ku-ring-gai and across our State, and it sets out the principles to achieve a more balanced, fairer and more accountable planning system in NSW.

The Charter has been prepared by a working group of community organisations from around the State over a number of months, in consultation with Better Planning Network, Community Councillors Network, Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development, National Parks Association of NSW, National Trust of Australia (NSW), Nature Conservation Council of NSW, NSW Heritage Network, Shelter NSW, Australia International Council of Monuments and Sites and The Total Environment Centre.

These groups, as well as a rapidly growing number of individuals, Parliamentarians and organisations have now endorsed the Charter.

The Charter is not anti-development but aims to deliver sustainable, sympathetic and more relevant housing solutions for NSW residents.

Key principles of the Charter include the well-being of the whole community, the protection of the environment and heritage and based on open, transparent and genuine public participation in planning decisions.

The resident groups listed below, have endorsed the letter to go to the candidates: *Planning for People: A Community Charter for Good Planning in NSW.*

FRIENDS OF KU-RING-GAI ENVIRONMENT INC (FOKE), WAHROONGA WESTSIDE RESIDENTS' GROUP, WEST LINDFIELD AND KILLARA RESIDENTS' GROUP, NORTH TURRAMURRA ACTION GROUP INC. (NTAG), KU-RING-GAI PRESERVATION TRUST INC. (KPT), STEP INC., ST. IVES PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC (SIPA), FRIENDS OF LINDFIELD (FOL), FRIENDS OF PYMBLE, PYMBLE ACTION GROUP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (PAGE) and the GORDON KILLARA RESIDENTS' GROUP.

The Charter details and the link to sign the Charter can be found here:

http://thecommunitycharter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Planning-for-People_-_CHARTER-COMPANION-printer-version.pdf

http://thecommunitycharter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Planning-for-People_CHARTER-Tickbox.pdf