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2024 - Celebrating 30 years of Caring for Ku-ring-gai

Sue Higginson MLC  
Chair Portfolio 7 Committee  
Inquiry -Transport Oriented Development Programme TOD  
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23 July 2024

Dear Ms Higginson

RE: Portfolio 7 Committee TOD Inquiry – Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc (FOKE) Supplementary Evidence – Bushfire SimTable Video – Roseville TOD

Thank you for the opportunity for Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc (FOKE) to give evidence to the Portfolio 7 Committee TOD Inquiry on Monday 20 May 2024 highlighting Ku-ring-gai's environmental and heritage constraints.

FOKE now wishes to submit new evidence – the Roseville SimTable Bushfire video. This shows a simulated (modelled) fire progression burning within 400 metres of Roseville Station, an area designated as a TOD site.

The Roseville SimTable Bushfire video is part of the Ku-ring-gai Council's SimTable – or Simulation Table. Its purpose is to show simulated (modelled) fire progressions. This AI tool was first developed by the US Military for simulated exercises for strategic purposes. Ku-ring-gai Council was one of the first agencies to take up the SimTable in Australia. Since then, it has been used by councils across Australia as well with the Country Fire Authority in Victoria. The SimTable can also model other hazards including flooding and storm events. This proactive planning tool was strongly emphasised by a number of bushfire enquiries including the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (2020).

Ku-ring-gai is considered to be the third most bushfire prone LGA in NSW with its extensive tracts of bushfire prone mapped valleys and ridgelines. A major destroyed over a dozen houses not far from where this simulated fire is depicted in 1994.

Mr Mark Schuster, Ku-ring-gai Council's Strategic Bushfire Officer, notes in the video that no two fires are ever the same. He also says that with climate change the frequency and intensity of bushfires will increase.

We ask that each of the Committee receive a copy of the Roseville SimTable Bushfire Video that we have provided on a USB stick as part of FOKE's evidence to the TOD Inquiry. The Roseville SimTable Bushfire Video is also available via the link <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hhb5bbw3nc60j0ofnjzhw/TOD-presentation-compressed.mp4?rlkey=7bwfv6chc51z0twle28thzkxa&st=kkfp5xj2&dl=0>

Thank you for your consideration of this important new evidence that highlights threats to property and lives with further densification and why Ku-ring-gai is an unsuitable location for the TOD program.

Yours sincerely

*Kathy Cowley*  
Kathy Cowley  
PRESIDENT

2016 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED  
2009 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED  
2008 NSW GOVERNMENT HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS AWARD  
2000 FOKE, WINNER, NSW HERITAGE OFFICE CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD  
"HERITAGE WATCH OVER OUR PLACE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE –KU-RING-GAI"  
KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (NSW) METRO PRIDE AWARDS.