

I hope your Easter was a peaceful and happy one.

It's time for another roundup of what's happening on Council.

Trees: planting & protecting □□□

I visited Ross, Joanne and their volunteers at the Council nursery to see the thousands of street trees they have grown. They've got big banksias and yellow bloodwoods ready to go.

I'm also working on the 10/50 Vegetation clearing code which is meant to protect against bushfires but seems to be frequently used to fell trees for new developments.

Thank you to everyone who sends me reports of trees being removed, and asks for the reasons.

Development: what's being built where? □□□

These are the big DAs on my radar:

- 62 Manor Road Hornsby ([7 houses](#)): 70+ trees will be removed
- 51-57 Sutherland Road Cheltenham ([5 houses](#)): 40+ trees will be removed
- 23 Chestnut Road Mt Colah ([49 houses](#)): 130 trees will be removed
- Peats' Ferry Road/Dural Street Hornsby: [two towers 13 storeys and 21 storeys high](#)

Although councillors don't decide on DAs anymore, I will always work with residents who want to protect their neighbourhoods from expensive and poorly-designed developments that trash trees.

Hornsby Shire's IHAP □

Q: If Councillors get no say in DAs, who makes the decisions?

A: Our new Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (which is costing ratepayers \$110,000)

I went along to the first meeting because I'm so concerned about overdevelopment.

I was surprised that the IHAP Chair (appointed by the state government) closed the meeting after residents had spoken. It is another reason why decisions on contentious DAs should be made by elected councillors, who are accountable to the community.

A bright spot: reasons for the decisions and those voting for & against are published the day after the meeting. [You can read about them here.](#)

How do we get design excellence? □

Many of us are concerned that new apartments are ugly, and expensive to heat & cool.

My response:

Council is reviewing our local planning guidelines, and might also create a design excellence panel to review major developments and look for improvements in quality and design.

I'm also working on ways to improve BASIX, the water and energy efficiency standards for new homes. They're very weak. Contact me if you've got ideas about how BASIX could be strengthened so we get solar PV on every new roof :)

Footpaths (+ libraries, sportsfield upgrades & drains) □□□

I'm finalising my comments on the Council Delivery program for 2018-2012. It contains the list of new footpaths, drains, upgrades to sportsfields and playgrounds.

Missing in action: a new library. Who else thinks Cherrybrook needs one??

You can have your say on the operational plan & budget 12 April - 14 May. I'll email the link.

What's everyone saying?

My inbox is always full. Thank you to the many people who write to me. Here's some of my recent mail:

- ideas about the war memorials (Beecroft)
- concerns about the dangers from wood smoke (Pennant Hills)
- traffic congestion & overdevelopment (Hornsby)
- more tree removals on Galston Road (Hornsby)
- uncovered coal trains passing through our neighbourhoods (Pennant Hills)
- contractors parking outside businesses (Beecroft)
- new signage for a bin room (Hornsby)
- a possible unauthorised boarding house (Beecroft)
- turning chlorinated pools into wildlife-nurturing ponds (Beecroft)
- garbage in the streets (Dural & Galston)
- an illegal brothel (Beecroft)

... and the emails about saving the forest at the old IBM site continue :)

Sustainability: all the news ☐

- The case for replacing 4,326 street lights with LEDs [will be discussed at the April meeting](#). Good for the environment, good for the budget ☺
- Council is collaborating with UNSW to look into problems residents experience during heatwaves & how we can design infrastructure and services to cope better. [Take part here](#).
- I'm calling on the state government to stop the cuts to the National Parks & Wildlife Service which impacts on the tracks & trails, weed elimination and feral animal control we need locally.

April 11 Council meeting ☐

Here's some of what's on the Agenda Should Council:

- request the Greater Sydney Commission not proceed with the South Dural Planning Proposal?
- implement an awareness campaign that Hornsby Mall is smoke-free?
- write to the IHAP chair requesting that the entire meeting be open to the public?
- replace Mr Tony Jones with Mr Brian Scarsbrick AM on the IHAP Panel?
- review the way DA information is supplied so residents can see what's being proposed, when, by whom, and how they can have a say in the process?

☐To have a say on any item, email or phone councillors (details below), or come along on the night.

Please keep in touch. It takes everyone's input to keep Council working in everyone's interests.

Feel free to forward this email on to others who may be interested.

Very best wishes,
Emma

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