

Today marks six months since I was elected to Hornsby Council.

I thought I'd reflect on events and decisions, and signal some of what's ahead.

The good □

- We passed new rules that protect every tree (except weed species)
- There's been a real change in the attitude to development: Councillors are not supportive of any more rezonings. Hornsby town centre is the focus of planning
- We appointed a new GM - it's been 2.5 years without anyone at the top
- We joined the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership & gave new encouragement to our environment & sustainability team
- We are asking the Planning Minister to allow Council to decide where Seniors' living developments go, rather than the state government
- We are working on economic development - particularly support for small businesses
- We are finding ways to improve the design of new buildings - particularly 2 storeys & higher
- The ten councillors are making a big effort to work together constructively - and mostly succeeding □

The bad □

- Parramatta was 'gifted' parts of Hornsby Shire by the state government - and now wants North Epping as well. Neither the mayor nor local MPs nor state Ministers have fixed this absurd situation.
- Hornsby has been left \$9m a year worse off. Until it's fixed, staff and councillors can't get on with proper planning for our area.

The Ugly □

- Councillors have no say on DAs: that right was removed by the state government on 1 March. Instead, we have Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels, whose members are mostly appointed by the state government. I feel strongly that elected councillors who are accountable to their communities should be in charge of decisions on DAs.
- Recycling crisis: China won't take Australia's garbage. Hornsby is facing higher charges for recycling, & maybe even our recyclables being dumped. We need investment from local, State & Federal governments to make sure we have a viable domestic market for our recyclables.

What next?

My next six months includes:

- Continuing to push for the state government to reinstate Hornsby's boundaries - NOW
- Working on practical ways to reduce plastic waste
- Supporting plans for a big Shire-wide tree-planting program coming
- Finding solutions for the challenges facing waste & recycling
- Encouraging participation via live-streaming of Council meetings
- Keeping cycling on the agenda: both mountain biking & bikes for transport
- Supporting replacement of old-tech street lights with energy-efficient (and cost-saving) LEDs
- Making sure Hornsby town centre is planned as green, people-focussed and sustainable
- Keeping in touch with as many residents and business owners as possible ☐

A few facts to finish

Your Council ☐

- Hornsby Council has over 550 staff - many are locals, and they are incredibly proud of their work for residents
- Council has \$1.6bn in assets (total equity for 2017)
- Hornsby collected \$87m in rates & annual charges, down from \$95m in 2016
- Council spent \$22m on garbage collection & recycling last year

Find the [full financial statements for 2017 here](#).

For more detail about the things you're interested in:

- Text or ring me: 0403 589 722
- Email me: eheyde@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
- Follow me on Facebook: [@EmmaHeydeHornsby](#)

Thank you to everyone who has phoned, emailed, posted on Facebook and talked with me over these last six months.

I love where I live, and I love working with so many fellow residents to make it even better.

Very best wishes, and please stay in touch!
Emma



PS - the next Council meeting is Wednesday 14 March: [the Agenda is here](#) and you can email me + other councillors with comments.

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