



BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

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BULLETIN 4

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BCCT was established in 1964 and has worked to protect our community for 49 years.

Want to be better informed?

Your Trust delivers these bulletins regularly – many thanks to our dedicated team of 40 volunteer distributors! You might also check our website and weblog at www.2119.org.au. If you would like more regular monthly updates – and give your opinions on emerging issues, please join some 600+ Trust members and friends, who receive concise Trust emails. Just email comment@2119.org.au and we will keep in touch!

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BCCT Spring Walk Sunday 18 August, 2pm to 4pm, Cheltenham Oval

Meet at Cheltenham Oval car park. We will walk through to Kirkham Street. This could be the last time we will be able to do this if work starts on the NWRL next year. We then walk up Midson Road to the Pioneer track and do a loop through the habitat havens site which is now coming along well. This site was established by the Ray Park Heritage Group and is used for education purposes.

When we get back to Midson Road there is the option for some to do another loop down the link track and along to the M2 viaduct, up the steps to the southern side and then back over the creek crossing and along to the Chilworth sign and Scout Hall and back to the oval for afternoon tea. It will give people a chance to see the viaduct area and the bush on that side.

Wear solid shoes, a hat if necessary and bring water. Dogs on leashes are welcome to join the walk. Any queries contact Ross Walker on 9875 4446. Otherwise turn up on the day!

Sign Our e-PETITION to OPPOSE North West Rail Link [NWRL] Downsizing...

Despite overwhelming local resident opposition [90-97%], the NSW Government is persisting with the downsized "Mickey Mouse Metro" as a North West Rail Link. Reflecting resident concerns, the Trust opposes this NSW Government folly. We believe the **NWRL is a good concept– Downsizing it is not.**

The decision to convert the Epping to Chatswood line to run only Metro style trains will **significantly impact on commuters on the Northern Line.** We will have to change to the Metro at Epping to go to Chatswood then change at Chatswood to go to the City or travel via Strathfield with our trains terminating at Central Interurban platforms. We will no longer have a seamless journey to the city.

Your Trust has initiated this petition and is aiming for 10 000 e-petition signatures across the Sydney Region so that the matter will be debated in the NSW Parliament. If you care, please **send the details to your circle of friends.**

The O'Farrell Government's decision to modify the Epping to Chatswood line and to build the North West Rail Link tunnels so that they are both too small for modern double-deck rolling stock is a retrograde step that **MUST** be reversed. Failure to integrate the NWRL into the current efficient rail network cuts off any future option to integrate the system. It seems to be an attempt to break up and privatise Sydney's rail network.

Please register your concern by adding your name to our petition.
Go to www.2119.org.au OR use your smartphone to scan the following code:



The Petition

“The Petition of the citizens of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House that the proposed, and much awaited, North West Rail Link (NWRL) will, to the detriments of all citizens, no longer be integrated into the Sydney rail system. Instead of the original plan, the new line has been downsized to a Metro-style operation. This will:

- require travellers on this line, and existing travellers on the Northern line, to have a disjointed City service,
- require an excessive number of people to stand for unreasonable lengths of journeys, and
- provide no opportunity for further expansion of rail to connect with Parramatta or Richmond

The tunnels will be too small in diameter to accommodate any future reconsideration concerning the use of modern double deck rolling stock on this line.

There are no definite concurrent proposals to convert more of the existing system to the Metro-style operation. Neither the current tender nor the decision to transfer/ convert an existing public asset (in the form of the line between Epping and Chatswood) to private ownership has been open to public scrutiny and debate.”

Council Amalgamations – part of Beecroft to go to Parramatta?

Local government in NSW is currently undergoing a period of reform. The NSW Government established the Independent Local Government Review Panel to review how local governments operate and are structured. In April, the Panel published a report with its recommendations on the future directions of NSW Local Government. A key recommendation of that report is the amalgamation (or merger) of councils. That recommendation would see a reduction in the number of councils in the Sydney metropolitan area from 41 to around 15, and create major new cities of Sydney, Parramatta and Liverpool. It cites ‘more efficient larger local government areas, capable of attracting more highly competent staff to deal with the range and complexity of works and services that Councils administer.’

For our area, the report recommends the amalgamation of Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils, except for Beecroft south of the M2 motorway which would go to Parramatta.

Your Civic Trust has great concerns about the proposal which **would split Beecroft into two council areas**. We also have some concern that local representation and understanding of local issues might be reduced. We consider however, that should a merger be mandated, Kur-ring-gai Council has values and procedures that are compatible with Beecroft and Cheltenham.

The Trust welcomes your views on this. Have your say on this issue at www.2119.org.au or write to the Secretary.

Referendum on Recognition of Councils

At the Federal election later this year, all Australian voters will be asked to consider including Councils in the Australian Constitution.

The Commonwealth already provides significant funds to local government, for example over \$2 billion a year in the form of Financial Assistance Grants. However, local government is not currently mentioned in the nation's founding document, the Constitution. The proposed amendment to the Constitution will mean that the current funding relationship and practices between the Commonwealth and local government are recognised in the Constitution.

The amendment will be:

“During a period of ten years after the establishment of the Commonwealth and thereafter until the Parliament otherwise provides, the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State, or to any local government body formed by a law of a State, on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit.”

Have your say on this issue at www.2119.org.au

Public Concerns on Module Redevelopment

Advice from Councillors, and emails to the Trust, indicate a large number of submissions have been made to Council opposing the 144 residential unit and shopping development proposed in DA 545/2013 – 87-91 Beecroft Road and 16-24 Hannah Street, Beecroft. The Trust's expert resident panel put together an extensive submission, including the following: “In summary, we believe the proposed development has ignored the key characteristics of the newly created Development Control Plan, which the community and Council worked hard to create in order to protect and preserve the historic village atmosphere of Beecroft.

The community does not want another generic, soulless shopping centre. The community want this significant site in the village to be developed to enhance the village atmosphere and create a unique environment – rather than one that does not mark it out from any similar development across Sydney. The proposed development is a retrograde step that will not keep or bring people to Beecroft. Quite simply, the proposal does not satisfy the key objectives of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and must be refused.” More details are at www.2119.org.au

Changes to Hornsby Council's Tree Preservation Order

Hornsby Council is currently reviewing its Tree Preservation Order following the General Council Meeting held 20 March 2013 when this matter was discussed. At that meeting Council authorised the Deputy General Manager, Infrastructure and Recreation to prepare an amendment to the former Tree Preservation Order that protected non-indigenous tree species that are worthy of protection because of their cultural and amenity values.

The meeting discussed the results of tree monitoring undertaken to study the effects of the change to the TPO in September 2011. The monitoring found that there was an average 56% increase in the rate of tree canopy loss in the year following the introduction of the new TPO, which relaxed protection of trees not indigenous to Hornsby Shire. Although the amount of tree canopy lost had significantly increased, the number of trees lost had not. This indicated that the larger trees with big canopy areas were being lost as an increased proportion of total trees lost.

This report identifies additional tree species that could be included in the current Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to mitigate the loss in tree canopy. Council called for the identification of non-indigenous tree species worthy of protection for their cultural heritage and amenity values. Proposals for species to be considered were sought from Council staff familiar with tree management and from some community members. Suggestions were sought from staff within the Parks and Recreation Branch and the Natural Resources Branch. Suggestions were also invited from individuals who are members of Beecroft and Cheltenham Civic Trust and Transition Epping, and who have made submissions on the TPO in the period since 2011. Council appreciated this input.

Approximately 67 tree varieties were evaluated and this resulted in 23 species or 32 tree varieties being recommended for inclusion in the new list of trees to be added to the TPO. Smaller trees e.g. Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Pistachio (*Pistacia chinensis*) and Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*) were not included in the new list. Residents generally do not apply to Council to have these smaller trees removed.

Inclusion of these smaller growing tree species for protection would be unlikely to materially affect the increased rate of tree canopy loss that was the salient finding of the tree loss monitoring conducted for 2010-2012. The finding was clearly that the increased rate of canopy loss for the second of the two years was not matched by an increase in numbers of trees lost. The loss of large trees has increased as a proportion of all trees lost. Only by protecting large trees can this situation be improved.

There are some species of tree that are commonly found in Hornsby Shire gardens and capable of growing to a large size but they were not put forward for consideration. Chief among these are Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and Liquidamber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Both species have aggressive root systems that make them often unsuited for domestic gardens, and Camphor Laurel is a declared Noxious Weed in Hornsby Shire. The list of tree species recommended will go on public exhibition from the end of July for approximately one month prior to Council's confirmation of an amendment to the Tree Preservation Order.

The list focuses on large canopy trees. Smaller trees have not been included as these generally do not raise issues with residents. The additional list is considered manageable. Any significant additions would cause public confusion about what species are protected or exempt and would warrant a reconsideration of the former TPO or a variant with an expanded exempt list. **The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust encourages residents to review the list and write to Council should you have an opinion on this important community matter.**

**Membership subscriptions are the main source of income for the Trust.
Please join the Trust and support your community**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION FORM 2013

Fees are \$20 household (two adults), \$10 individual

Surname (1)..... First name (1)

Surname (2)..... First name (2)

Address

Post Code Street address preferred Suburb

Phone Number Mobile No.....

E-mail address:.....

Membership fees \$ as noted below.

Method of payment please mark appropriate box:-

Post with cheque to PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119

Deposited in bank BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank Beecroft Account No 10068238.

Electric Funds Transfer EFT from your bank account via computer
BSB 062 113 Commonwealth Bank Beecroft Account Number 10068238. NB Use your name as reference.

So we know your details, please send a copy of this completed form to The Treasurer, PO Box 31 Beecroft 2119 OR email your name, address, phone no and email address to treasurer@2119.org.au THANKS.