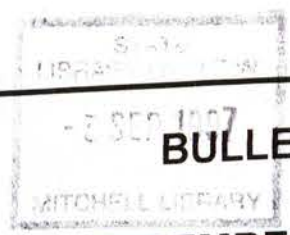


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BULLETIN 3

SEPTEMBER 1997



BEECROFT - CHELTENHAM
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PUBLIC MEETING REPORT POST M2 FEEDBACK FORUM

Over 150 people attended a recent public meeting organised by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust to discuss traffic issues and concerns now the M2 Tollway is operating. Residents directed questions to a panel of experts consisting of members of the Hornsby Traffic Committee, the RTA, Tollaust, Police, Council and local member Barry O'Farrell. This was the first chance for many residents to raise local traffic issues with those that make the decisions. At times the meeting became almost heated as residents told of sleepless nights from noise and lights, poor treatment of cyclists, questionable pedestrian safety measures and local roads still jammed with through traffic.

An overwhelming feeling from the meeting indicated the Motorway was failing to attract numbers - this was however disputed by Tollaust General Manager Avro Tinni. The disproportionate charges to travel on sections of the road was seen by some as a factor in the continued congestion of local roads, particularly Beecroft Road. It was claimed this resulted in toll diversion of between 40% to 60% of possible users.

A great deal of discussion centred around noise levels generated by the Motorway. Complaints came

from all areas. Residents from Austral and Finlay Avenues and around Terry's Bridge told of incessant thumping as vehicles passed over expansion joints, while Kirkham Street residents claimed noise was reflected off the barriers and reaching them through the bushland. A resident near the Epping off-ramp said her view now consisted of 14 lanes of traffic resulting in broken sleep from the noise.

Claims that Beecroft Road was now busier since the opening of the Motorway and subsequent closure of Sutherland Road was acknowledged by almost all present. Suggestions of a greater police presence along Beecroft Road was supported. Other suggestions covered the introduction of a 40 kph zone from Pennant Hills Road to the Motorway as there are three schools and three pre schools accessing Beecroft Road.

Another made the point that Beecroft Road is only a clearway on alternate sides for a part of the day and residents would be quite within their rights to park within the limits, this would have the effect of reducing the speed of traffic along Beecroft Road. These comments led one local newspaper to later proclaim "Beecroft: Reclaim your Road" Precisely our sentiments.

One may only guess as to why the installation of the Copeland Road lights has been repeatedly delayed.

Perhaps it was the widening of Copeland Road (now dropped), the Traffic Plan for Beecroft Centre (where is that now?) or the proposal for a new fire station.

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There was a general call from the meeting for the RTA to complete its traffic counts as a matter of urgency so the installation of additional lights on Beecroft Road could proceed.

Councillor William Blunt indicated that he would call for an urgent meeting of the Hornsby Shire Council Traffic Committee to look at the issues raised. Local Member Barry O'Farrell said he would continue to push both the RTA and Council for answers to his traffic proposal for the area. He also said he would continue to seek some equity for cyclists using the Motorway.

The issues raised at the Forum

served to highlight the extent and complexity of our traffic problem and reinforced the opening remarks by the President that the community be asked to think as a whole and be prepared to accept that a small inconvenience for some may well result in a greater benefit for many.

The Trust is committed to seeking satisfactory solutions to our traffic problems and will continue to pursue the issues raised with the appropriate authorities. A follow up meeting is planned for October when it is hoped some concrete answers will be forthcoming to address the concerns raised by residents at the Forum.

On a lighter note the Weekend Australian recently reported an alternative to NIMBY (Not In My Backyard). It is BANANA Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone!

BEECROFT SPRING FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 4 to 21

With this issue you should receive your complete program for this years festival. Come to as many events as you can. The festival is always a popular event and very much part of the social calendar. It is a great way for the community to get together.

Sunday September 7 will be the Annual Spring Walk. The walk will be leisurely and commence at Dorricks Road at 2.00 pm. It will take about two hours and all are welcome. Along the way Trust Members Tony and Jenny Lewis will talk about plants, and explain the various species found in the area.

NEW MEMBERS FOR PARKS SUB COMMITTEE

The Parks Sub Committee of the Trust is looking for new members. If you think you can help or are interested then please give the Convenor Ross Walker a call on 9875 4446 and he will fill you in on the details.

BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC.

Membership Subscription	Family \$12.00	Single \$6.00
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