



# Development Applications

## 52 Essex Street, Epping DA/416/2022

An appeal against the refusal of an amended application for an 80-place childcare centre at 52 Essex St, in the Essex St Heritage Conservation Area, was under consideration by the Land and Environment Court. This DA was opposed by the Trust, due to the large scale of the development, lack of tree replacement, and its modern design, which is incompatible with the nearby heritage buildings and streetscape. The Land and Environment Court has upheld the appeal by the developer, so that the proposed Development is now approved.

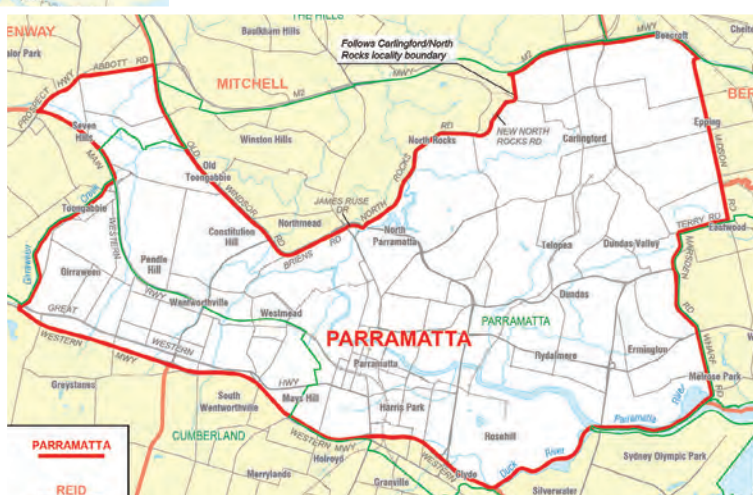
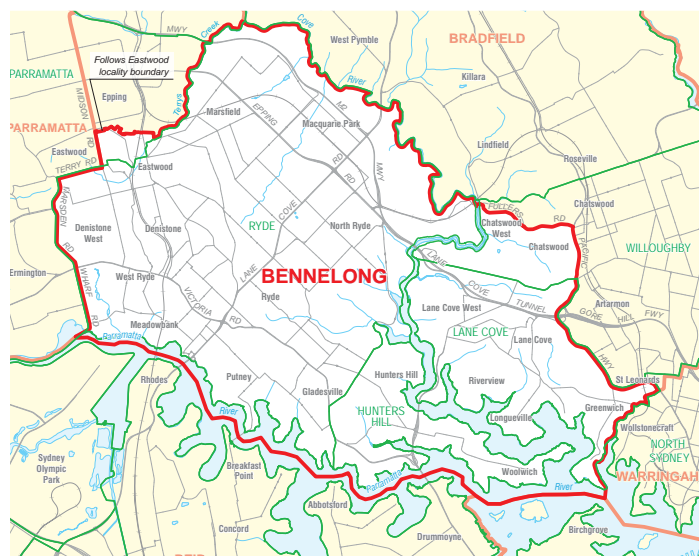
## 242-244 Beroft Road, Epping

A State Significant Development application for 374 apartments with 5% affordable housing on this site was previously approved. The developer has submitted an amendment for an additional 101 apartments including 15% affordable housing, but exceeding the approved floor space ratio and height by 30%. The site is partly located above the North West Sydney Metro underground tunnel. Questions are raised around the additional traffic generation and impact on surrounding roads, and solar access and amenity, within the site.

## New Electoral Boundaries for Bennelong, Berowra and Parramatta

You may have received a letter recently from your new Federal representative. Approximately every 7 years, the Australian Electoral Commission considers the population distribution across all Australian electorates to determine if the electoral boundaries should be adjusted. In the recent redistribution, the number of Federal seats in NSW was reduced by one, (since our population has increased less than the rate of increase of Australia's total population). The Redistribution Committee decided to eliminate the electorate of North Sydney, and surrounding electorates including

Bennelong were changed to absorb those voters. Following periods of public consultation (with hundreds of submissions, including from the Trust), this decision has now been enacted. Consequently, most of Epping has been removed from Bennelong, and it is now shared between Berowra and Parramatta. Thus three Federal representatives have an interest in our area! We are hopeful that they will be able to work together in support of initiatives for Epping.



New electoral boundaries.  
Refer to the AEC website  
[www.aec.gov.au/redistributions](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions)

## Bus Routes and Bus Shelters

Many residents in Carlingford and West Epping rely on the 550 Bus that goes along Carlingford Rd to Epping Station and then on to Macquarie Centre via Epping Rd. The buses are often full in the morning and evening peak hours, and as we see increasing numbers of residents in Carlingford, more buses are needed on that

route. The lack of bus shelters for patrons waiting along Carlingford Rd and Epping Rd, especially during rainstorms and hot summer days, is also concerning. The Trust would like to see increased services on the 295 bus route, which links North Epping residents to Epping station and beyond.

# Parramatta Councillor Lorraine Wearne draws curtains on historic career

By Ellie Busby from *Western Sydney Publishing Group*

Lorraine Wearne, long-time Parramatta Councillor and the first female Lord Mayor of a Sydney Council, has announced she will not be contesting the Local Government Election this year. After almost 30 years, the final curtain has come down on the Epping Ward Councillor's impressive career in local politics.

Independent Wearne has served as a local Councillor since September 1995, taking on the mantle of Lord Mayor twice during her time on Council from 2000-2001 and 2011-2012. She said it has been a pleasure to assist residents with council issues and fulfil her role as a Councillor at a local level. "I have been able to carry out the role of Councillor and assist the community over the last 29 years which has included the creation of the conservation zones in Epping, the construction of appropriate development, the acquisition of the Boronia Grove Community Centre and the retention of free parking in Epping," Wearne said.

"During my two terms as Lord Mayor I was delighted to welcome the Olympic Torch into Parramatta at Parramatta Park, help Council staff to be ambassadors of our city to the many local and international visitors during the Olympic Games period and subsequently go as an invited delegate to a Conference in Athens to assist with their preparation for the next games. "I believe Parramatta and Australia showed the world the true meaning of volunteering during this period."

Although her time on Council has come to an end, Wearne said it would not be the end of the Lorraine Wearne Independents – confirming Charles Chen will take over to win a spot on City of Parramatta Council.

"I am pleased to advise that Mr. Charles Chen will head my team for the upcoming election on 14th September, and I believe that he will carry forward my legacy of upholding the community interest and wishes," she added.



Lorraine Wearne

"I would like to express my immeasurable gratitude and thanks to the people of my Ward with all its changes in name and boundaries from Lachlan Macquarie to Epping for their continued support and assistance which has enabled me to achieve my 29 years 'on the job'."

Reflecting on the milestones she achieved during her time on Council, Wearne thanked her fellow Councillors, Council staff and the Epping Ward community. "To end on a high note? I must mention that whilst Lord Mayor, as a fundraising event, I abseiled my way from the roof top to the ground of the Park Royal Hotel in Phillip Street," she said. "A feat I look forward to a future Lord Mayor completing."

Reprinted with permission from August 2024 edition of Parra News: <https://www.parranews.com.au/2024/08/parramatta-councillor-lorraine-wearne-draws-the-curtains-on-historic-career/>

## Transport Oriented Development Program – Report

The NSW Legislative Council Report on the Transport Oriented Development Program (TOD) was released. The TOD was designed to address the current housing crisis in NSW by accelerating development around transport infrastructure. The Report acknowledges the rushed consultation and lack of local planning context afforded by the TOD. The Report has 10 recommendations including: more targeted consideration of the drivers of housing affordability; the need to work with stakeholders and local councils

on planning controls; the need for a framework for affordable housing and focussed infrastructure investment around areas of growth; a renewed commitment to 40% urban tree canopy across Greater Sydney by 2036; maintenance of robust design and building standards; and delivery of family-friendly apartments. The State Government's response to this report is due on 15 Jan 2025. <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3035#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

## Preparing for a Hot Summer Ahead

Are you concerned about the risk of bushfires near your home? The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a hot and wet summer ahead for Sydney. We are expecting higher than average temperatures (both day and night) over most of Australia, and above average rainfall across parts of Eastern Australia.

The Rural Fire Service anticipates an average fire danger risk for the summer of 2024-2025. This means that residents and home owners should think about their preparations for the summer now. Firefighters have already responded to more than 1600 bush and grass fires across NSW since July 1. While some areas have already entered the Bush Fire Danger Period, the statutory bushfire season runs from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025. [https://www.afac.com.au/docs/default-source/bushfire-seasonal-outlook/spring-2024/afac-seasonal-bushfire-outlook\\_spring-2024.pdf](https://www.afac.com.au/docs/default-source/bushfire-seasonal-outlook/spring-2024/afac-seasonal-bushfire-outlook_spring-2024.pdf)

The Rural Fire Service provides detailed information on making a family bushfire plan, and knowing the risks. Keep up to date with

the Hazards Near Me NSW smart phone app. See the RFS NSW website: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/)

Additional helpful information, including interviews with bushfire survivors, is available from the Bushfire Resilience Inc website: [www.BushfireResilience.org.au](http://www.BushfireResilience.org.au)

Residents are encouraged to take simple steps to lower their fire risk, including:

1. Trim overhanging trees and shrubs.
2. Mow grass and remove the cuttings and have a cleared area around your home.
3. Remove material that can burn under or near your home, such as door mats, wood piles, mulch and flammable liquids.
4. Clear and remove all debris and leaves from gutters surrounding your home.
5. Prepare a sturdy hose or hoses that reach around your home.

## North Epping Men's Shed



The Shed has been established adjacent to the North Epping Bowling Club as a multipurpose community facility where men and women can meet to undertake meaningful projects for themselves, the Shed and other community organisations. A major benefit of Men's Sheds is the improvement to men's general health, wellbeing and their mental health. However, the North Epping Shed welcomes both men and women to join.

Final fit out of the Shed is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Shed will then operate as multi-disciplinary workshop, including the full range of woodwork activities, metalwork and other activities such as arts and crafts, electronics and computer classes. The Shed is a sustainable facility with solar panels and a Tesla Battery. The official opening ceremony for the Shed is scheduled for March 2025.

For more information about Shed activities and membership visit the North Epping Mens Shed website - [www.nems.org.au](http://www.nems.org.au) or alternatively send an email to the membership coordinator [derryt@nems.org.au](mailto:derryt@nems.org.au)

## Report from Cllr Charles Chen

As a new councillor for Epping Ward of the City of Parramatta Council, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every one of you for your support during this election. Your trust in me inspires a deep commitment to serve our community to the best of my ability. I am dedicated to truly understanding the needs of our community and I am excited to listen to your ideas, address your concerns, and collaborate on initiatives that will enhance our neighbourhood. I am also excited to work closely with my colleagues, Councillor Sreeni and Deputy Mayor Cameron, to ensure we address the needs of Epping Ward effectively. I invite you to share your thoughts and concerns so we can create meaningful change together. My email is: [cchen@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cchen@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)



Cllr Charles Chen

Note: All Councillors are invited to send reports for the Epping Civic Trust Newsletter.

## Epping Civic Trust Membership & Donations

Epping Civic Trust Membership is by calendar year - if you renew now you will continue as a member for 2025.

### Useful Contacts

Members who have concerns about issues in Epping are always free to contact the Trust through our email or website. However, if you have issues that you would prefer to discuss with our elected representatives, here are their contact details:

Deputy Mayor and Councillor  
Cameron Maclean  
**Phone: 0422 141 415**  
c/- City of Parramatta Council, PO Box 32,  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
[cmaclean@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cmaclean@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Charles Chen  
**Phone: 0497 376 547**  
c/- City of Parramatta Council, PO Box 32,  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
[cchen@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cchen@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Sreeni Pillamarri  
**Phone: 0499 116 664**  
c/- City of Parramatta Council, PO Box 32,  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
[spillamarri@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:spillamarri@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Verity Greenwood  
**Phone: 0402 444 456**  
c/- Hornsby Shire Council, PO Box 37,  
Hornsby NSW 1630  
[vgreenwood@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vgreenwood@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Ben McSweeney  
**Phone: 0423 411 928**  
c/- Hornsby Shire Council, PO Box 37,  
Hornsby NSW 1630  
[bmcsweeney@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bmcsweeney@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

Councillor Matthew Conley  
**Phone: 0432 835 120**  
c/- Hornsby Shire Council, PO Box 37,  
Hornsby NSW 1630  
[mconley@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mconley@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NSW

Member for Epping to be confirmed following by-election.

### COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Member for Bennelong, Jerome Laxale  
32 Beecroft Rd, Epping  
Phone: 9869 4288 Email: [Jerome.Laxale.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Jerome.Laxale.MP@aph.gov.au)

### COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Member for Berowra, Julian Leeser  
Level 11, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills  
Phone: 9980 1822 Email: [Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Julian.Leeser.MP@aph.gov.au)

### COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Member for Parramatta, Andrew Charlton  
Suite 1 / 25 Smith St Parramatta  
Phone: 9689 1455 Email: [Andrew.Charlton.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Charlton.MP@aph.gov.au)



## EPPING CIVIC TRUST

**PRESIDENT: Judith Dawes**  
**SECRETARY: Dave Black**  
P.O. BOX 271, Epping 1710  
[www.eppingcivictrust.org](http://www.eppingcivictrust.org)

**Proposed Meeting dates for 2025**  
**Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 18 February;**  
**General Meetings: Tuesday 20 May;**  
**Tuesday 19 August; Tuesday 18 November**  
at 7.30 pm, at the  
Church of Christ Hall, 31 Bridge St, Epping.