



**BEECROFT
CHELTENHAM**
CIVIC TRUST INC
the voice of our community

The General Manager
Hornsby Shire Council

Dear Sir,

NSW State Government Greening our City Grant Program

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust (Trust) fully supports Hornsby Council's application for a grant from the State Government's Greening our City Grant Program. Over the past four years Council has shown initiative by actively greening the suburbs of the Shire by planting street trees. To date, Council's tree planting program has been successful. However the program cannot be treated as a single event but must be recognised as an ongoing program. Trees have a life span and therefore a long term strategy is essential for the current program to fully succeed.

Council's ongoing program is consistent with the greening components in two of the State Government's strategic plans, namely,

- The Greater Sydney Region Plan - A Metropolis of Three Cities A Metropolis of Three Cities. The Greater Sydney Region Plan (GSRP) has been prepared by the NSW State Government to guide land use planning decisions, including greening Sydney, for the next 40 years (to 2056)
- The North District Plan is a 20-year plan to manage growth and achieve the 40-year vision of the Greater Sydney Region Plan. The North District Plan provides the strategic link between the GSRP and Council's local strategies and plans. Vegetation management including street tree planting is a significant component of this Plan.

The next significant stage in Council's tree planting program will be harder to achieve. It will also take time and to succeed will require a significant amount of additional funding. A key component of this stage will be educating the local communities. The Hornsby Shire can be regarded as a tight knit larger community, with the Trust in regular contact with other local community groups throughout the Shire from Epping, Cherrybrook, Pennant Hills, Berowra and Galston. And to their credit, Council fosters this strong community engagement. So while the various community groups like the Trust can assist with newsletters, (visit BCCT2119.com.au), ultimately the bulk of the work required will fall upon Council. Hence the need for the grant.

A successful grant from the Greening our City Program is exactly what Hornsby Council needs to proceed to the next stage in its tree planting program and commence educating the diverse local community on the benefits of tree cover.

Yours Sincerely

Ross Walker OAM

President
Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust
19 August 2020