



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday 26 May 2010**

### **PLANNING FOR FEAR AND CONFUSION IN KU-RING-GAI**

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) today responded to the release of the Ku-ring-gai LEP (Town Centres) 2010 by stating that the plan fosters nothing but fear and confusion. The Minister for Planning has failed to protect the heritage that defines Ku-ring-gai's neighbourhood character.

One example is the critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest located between Lamond Drive and Finlay Road bordering Pacific Highway Turramurra. The LEP scheme text prohibits apartment construction on lots less than 5,000m<sup>2</sup> within this area with a clearly stated intent to protect the remanent habitat while simultaneously upzoning the site for seven storey towers on amalgamated blocks.

**Mr. Scott Woodcock, Public Relations Director said** "The Minister appears indifferent to the fact that a seven storey construction site will display all the sensitivity of an open cut coal mine. The proposed towers will fell forest, overshadow understorey and irrevocably alter the site's hydrology. The National Trust maintains that the best way to protect the remaining 5% of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest is not to put apartments in it."

Similarly, John Cob Crew Bradfield's former home has been rezoned for townhouse development despite the former Minister for Planning; The Hon Kristina Keneally's MP statement in the North Shore Times on the 14 August 2009 that "in fact the Bradfield House is proposed for heritage listing under the plan." It appears that the current Minister for Planning has not honoured promises made by The Hon Kristina Keneally MP to the community to protect Bradfield's former home for posterity.

"Most disappointingly, the plan fails to create suitable transition areas with five to six storey apartments planned to demolish the National Trust heritage listed Sydney Ancher House in Lindfield and intimidate neighbouring single storey residences in Beaconsfield Parade. The plan relies too much on sophisticated design solutions to overcome avoidable land use conflicts. Regrettably the majority of active developers in Ku-ring-gai have demonstrated that they are incapable of subtlety in a sensitive environment. Recent apartments exude all the warmth and charm of fluorescent hospital blocks," **added Mr. Scott Woodcock**

"The National Trust is now committed to achieving downzoning of land within its urban conservation areas and the creation of appropriately zoned transition zones. The Ku-ring-gai LEP (Town Centres) 2010 is testament to the failure of combining planning and heritage in the one portfolio. The National Trust will therefore be unwavering in its pursuit of a separate Minister for Heritage to prevent the continued erosion of heritage values in NSW. Finally the National Trust will remain the voice of heritage in Ku-ring-gai for the protection of its outstanding natural and built amenity and in defence of this garden suburb's unique sense of place."

ENDS

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