

To:

I am a resident in

I am writing to urge you to vote against rezoning West Leichhardt (Kegworth Street, Beeson Street, Hathern St and Tebbutt Street) from R1 to R3 as proposed in Parramatta Road Corridor Stage 1 Implementation Planning Proposal number: PPAC/2020/0003.

The GreenWay wildlife corridor is a profoundly special area for Inner West biodiversity and ecology and it plays a role in the broader ecology of Sydney and the Eastern Seaboard due to it being a stopover site for migratory birds and bats. Kegworth, Beeson, Hathern and Tebbutt Streets are critical trellis streets that connect to and support the most biodiverse part of the GreenWay with the densest connected tree canopy.

This proposal will rezone almost all homes with backyards in the targeted area so they can be replaced by apartments. The NSW Department of Planning has ruled that there can be NO tree canopy target. This will allow for the removal of a large part of the total connected habitat available in the GreenWay corridor to native and migratory animals.

Local wildlife experts and environmental groups, including the Inner West Environment Group (IWEG) and the GreenWay Birdos, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) Inner West, and BirdLife Australia have all recognised the crucial role that this specific area plays to support biodiversity in the GreenWay and the significant ecological harm that would occur as a result of rezoning and subsequent development.

This is the last area in Leichhardt where small birds like the Superb Fairy Wren are common. It supports vulnerable native species such as the Powerful Owl, Grey-headed Flying Fox, Eastern Bent-wing bat, and Long-nosed Bandicoot, as well as established Kookaburra colonies and many other native small birds, lizards and insects. It is an ecological ark for Leichhardt, many species will just disappear from the suburb if the habitat is removed. Furthermore, Leichhardt has one of the lowest levels of tree canopy in the LGA at 11-15% (well below the 40% target for Greater Sydney), which means we cannot afford to lose any more.

Removing large mature tree canopy that clean and cool our air will increase pollution and urban heat for West Leichhardt and Kegworth Public School. It would fragment the GreenWay's vital wildlife corridor, not only endangering the habitat for small native birds, marsupials, reptiles and insect life, but also risking altering the delicate balance that sustains the GreenWay as a crucial stopover for seasonal migrant birds and bats and a habitat for the state-listed Powerful Owl.

The potential consequences of this rezoning extend beyond the immediate site, impacting the broader ecological health of the Inner West for future generations. Quite simply, rezoning will result in one of the worse ecological losses in recent years for the Inner West.

There are alternative areas on Parramatta Road, including a large carpark and disused sites, that could be rezoned instead – this would deliver more housing, more quickly without removing any native animal habitat and tree canopy.

Please vote to exclude Kegworth Street, Beeson Street, Hathern St and Tebbutt Street from the areas proposed for rezoning and save this precious Inner West urban forest for our future generations.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Name:

Address and Post Code:

Email address: