



MEDIA RELEASE

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Kuring-gai's Heritage to be 'Strip Mined' for development

Hundreds of heritage buildings and century old trees will be lost if the State Government's Planning Panel proceeds with its proposal to put the bulldozer through Kuring-gai.

The National Trust of Australia (NSW), Advocacy Manager, Graham Quint, says no one would consider such destruction in Paddington or Glebe, but the State Government is allowing the heritage precincts of Kuring-gai to be sacrificed for short term financial gain.

"The Trust is alarmed by the Kuring-gai Town Centres Local Environment Plan (LEP) which was presented at a public hearing last night, attended by 1,000 people," Mr Quint said.

"The LEP proposes nothing less than the strip mining of Kuring-gai's heritage. We can find no evidence that the Panel has given serious consideration to the area's natural and cultural heritage.

"We call on the Minister for Planning Kristina Keneally to act urgently to protect Kuring-gai's town centres.

"This development plan, designed with disregard for the community, will create a scar on the landscape. The National Trust is united with the Kuring-gai and conservation communities in their opposition to the proposed LEP. The NSW Government cannot revive its revenues by extracting stamp duty at the expense of Sydney's heritage," Mr Quint said.

"Kuring-gai's heritage precincts are listed on the National Trust (NSW) Register. The region is of outstanding state heritage significance because it:

- Contains the last remaining 4.5% of Blue Gum High Forest in Sydney;
- Is a rare, intact model representing the values of the Garden City Movement; and
- Contains a largely intact, significant period in Sydney's architectural history.

"For example, the Sydney Ancher designed home at Lindfield was identified by the National Trust to be of State heritage significance. In response, the Panel has not reduced the draft planned densities but has actually up-zoned this site for even higher development. The Panel's decisions consistently lack transparency and logic," Mr Quint said.

The National Trust has acted to nominate the Kuring-gai town centres and the Sydney Ancher property as one of three endangered places in NSW for [Australia's Heritage at Risk](#).

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Media enquiries: Kathy Scott 9258 0131 or Victoria Walker 9258 0130