



YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

18 March, 2025

Ku-ring-gai Council  
818 Pacific Highway,  
Gordon NSW 2072

Dear Mr Marshall, Ms Christine Kay and Councillors,

**Re: Follow-Up on Tree Protection Commitments**

I am writing on behalf of concerned Ku-ring-gai residents following the presentation delivered on 26 March 2024, which detailed the Council's strategies to stem the loss of trees in our area. While the presentation outlined significant measures—including improvements to the DA and CDC processes, Tree Replacement Orders, and various community engagement initiatives—I must express both our ongoing concern regarding the destruction of mature trees and the increasing frustration over the apparent lack of response to reports of illegal tree removals.

Residents have reported that when they notify the Council of unauthorised tree removal, they receive only a voice message and do not receive any follow-up calls. This inadequate communication not only undermines public confidence in the Council's commitment to protecting our urban forest but also leaves our community feeling powerless in the face of continued environmental degradation.

Moreover, there is a recent Facebook post concerning a property in St Ives where every tree on the lot has been taken down—even those trees designated as protected on the Development Application. More than one resident has written to the Council several times since last December regarding this issue, and apart from assurances that the matter would be looked into, there has been no response. Of particular concern is the removal of a final tree that was in good health and exhibited new growth on many branches; this tree could have been pruned rather than removed entirely.

Mature trees are critical to the ecological, cultural, and social fabric of Ku-ring-gai. Their loss directly impacts air quality, biodiversity, and the unique character of our community. It is therefore imperative that the Council's enforcement and monitoring processes are both effective and transparent.

I respectfully request that the Council provide an update on the following:

**Response to Illegal Tree Removal Reports:**

What measures are in place to ensure that residents' reports of illegal tree removals are followed up promptly and effectively? Are there plans to improve communication with residents who report such incidents?

**Enforcement of Tree Protection Measures:**

How is the Council enforcing Tree Replacement Orders and other protection measures, particularly regarding mature trees? Are there additional steps being taken to deter unauthorised removals? Could you send us a list of tree replacement orders and an audit of those?

**Future Strategies for Mature Tree Preservation:**

In light of residents' concerns, what further initiatives will the Council implement to safeguard mature trees and maintain our urban forest canopy?

I believe that addressing these concerns through improved enforcement, transparent communication, and targeted preservation strategies is essential to protecting the natural heritage of Ku-ring-gai. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these issues further and learn more about the Council's planned actions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and to seeing strengthened efforts in protecting our valuable urban forest resources.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristyn Haywood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristyn Haywood  
Convenor  
Ku-ring-gai Views