



Residents Action Group for Auburn Area

HOMEBUSH BAY WEST, NEWINGTON AND SILVERWATER

For many residents this will be your first Council Election here. Welcome to the Auburn Local Government Area.

While the state government is the consent authority for most development in this area, it is undergoing rapid changes from being the site of the 2000 Olympics, to essentially being a medium/high density area, surrounded by parklands. Although the area was master-planned, several problems have already arisen.

Some residents were apparently unaware of the Lidcombe liquid waste plant and the waste transfer station. The concern of residents about these plants is echoed by other residents after the State Government's approval of the Collex Waste Facility off Parramatta Road near Duck River.

Traffic is also an issue for many residents. A roundabout is proposed at the corner of Bennelong & Hill Roads, and hopefully traffic lights will be installed in the not too distant future at Hill Road and the Avenue of Oceania. Right hand turns at this intersection are becoming an increasing problem due to the amount of traffic using Hill Road.

After much lobbying by residents of Silverwater, flat development is no longer permissible in the established Silverwater residential area. Despite this, the State Government approved a flat development by Meriton in Carnarvon Street, behind Newington.

Silverwater is still under development pressure, however, with the new Auburn townhouse code allowing 3 storeys. Many new applications have been lodged with Council for significant town house developments.

This new style of town house currently being approved is visually, from the street, little different to a flat development.

RAGAA has consistently opposed over-development.

RAGAA -- Working for the community from within the community

For more information on just what is happening regarding developments in the Auburn Council Area visit our website at

www.ragaa.org

RAGAA

“putting the residents first”

JANUARY, 2004



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

With the term of the current Council due to end with the Local Government Election on March 27th 2004, it seems appropriate to review what is happening in the Auburn Local Government Area.

As predicted in a previous newsletter, the skyline of all our suburbs is changing dramatically. Numerous developments are in the process of being built and the 9 storey development near the railway line in Auburn (*the subject of so much controversy*) will soon be dwarfed by the development of Auburn Central, in Queen Street. This project will have many buildings with the highest reaching 14 storeys. **While the addition of shops, such as Big W and Woolworths, should be good for Auburn, there are serious concerns about the 471 flats which are to be built above these shops. After all, neither Bankstown Square nor the Westfield complexes have residential above them.**

Recent outbursts in the gallery by those who have come to observe Council meetings, are a sign that many residents are frustrated with Council & its Councillors. A number of petitions, Letters to the Editor and the formation of several community groups, such as the Residents for a Better Berala, are further evidence of this.

RAGAA has always promised to be a voice for the residents, and we do not deny the right of people to develop. We do maintain, however, that this development should not come at the expense of neighbours. They have a right to privacy, sunlight and protection from inappropriate development.

Overdevelopment leads to other pressures on our infrastructure...schools, hospitals, parklands, traffic, parking and other community services.

The reality is that most development in our area is 'infill', that is, pushed into existing built areas.

COLLEX: RAGAA has been opposed to this waste plant since the application first came to Auburn Council's notice.

Many of our members attended the recent rally outside Parliament House. Cr Irene Simms (RAGAA) and the mayor met with Michael Richardson (*the shadow minister for the environment*) on Dec 1st. They also met with the NSW upper-house cross-benchers on December 2nd (*with John Drake, Allan Brzoson and Cr Maureen Walsh from Parramatta*) to try to convince them why they should oppose the bill introduced by Labor to overturn the Land and Environment Court win by John & Allan.

As residents would be aware, the bill was passed, although it was opposed by the Liberal party and, we are pleased to say, nearly all of the cross-benchers who had been lobbied.

It should be noted that both our state member, Barbara Perry and Granville's, Kim Yeadon, voted for the waste plant.

ENVIRONMENT: Following an invitation from SOPA, Irene Simms (RAGAA) is on the Sydney Olympic Parklands Authority Parklands Advisory Committee, which advises the SOPA board regarding the Millennium Parklands.

Several of our members work on various Duck River committees, and are involved in the local environment group, Auburn Greenspace.