



MEDIA RELEASE

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'STEALTH BOMBING' OF SUBURBIA- NOW OBVIOUS IT WAS NO MISTAKE

The State Government and Councils are deliberately misleading local residents and threaten to destroy quiet neighbourhoods to profit developers, according to the Independent candidate for Heathcote electorate, Greg Petty.

"This kind of 'stealth bombing' by government will devastate family suburbs in Heathcote electorate."

"Quiet streets from Engadine to Bangor (via Woronora) will become a highway bypass, while Bangor's Menai Road would become a busy shortcut to Bankstown, to avoid queuing at the slip-lane west of the Woronora Bridge. Council plans for new 20-metre high-rise at Engadine under its latest LEP2015," Mr Petty said.

"Property values and safety will nose-dive for 12,000 people, if this kind of disastrous highway shortcut goes through," Mr Petty predicted.

"Mayor Kent Johns just apologised to Sutherland Shire residents for a 'massive error' in the new LEP2015, which they uncovered. Despite promises to ban a controversial new road through sensitive bushland reserves, Council has concealed the truth - it can dump new roads anywhere it chooses by stealth, invoking State policy which overrides any local planning scheme [under its new LEP2015]."

"Motorists need to get directly to the State's train station and the Princes Highway, not to be shunted off down steep bush tracks, turning back streets into a shortcut for Bankstown," he said.

"The Council and the local Liberal MP have promised 'urgent' action to have the Minister fix the local plans for Woronora, for example, while concealing its overriding road powers at State level (the Infrastructure SEPP)," Mr Petty charged. Make no mistake, the State Government will override Council and the prospect of the old fire-trail of becoming a major thoroughfare road is guaranteed. "

"This is dishonesty on a 'Titanic scale' – leaks abound in the new State planning scheme, and in the local Council plans which copied it. These ships of State are sinking fast."

Mr Petty promised a battle to restore an existing prohibition on new roads in environmental zones, such as a controversial fire trail to Woronora, originally planned by Council for decades as "the new shortcut for trucks and drag-racers from Bankstown to Engadine".

The Shire's controversial new LEP2015 awaits approval from the Planning Minister, with "errors" already admitted by Mayor Kent Johns. He claimed that all councillors had not noticed that they allowed public roads through sensitive bushland conservation zones (E2), where they had been prohibited for a decade.

"Urgent action has been promised to fix the mess by Council and local state Liberal MP Lee Evans. But nothing is happening until after the NSW election," Mr Petty said. "This is politics at its most cynical."

Now we know the SHIRE-BIZ report of October 2014 page 6 states "*There should be a feasibility study into opening the Woronora fire trail to through traffic. It has been reported there are no plans to open the fire trail in the 2013 Sutherland Shire LEP*". Surely if there are no plans, why have a feasibility study?

This smacks of the various underhanded deals in Newcastle area and the resultants resignation by over 14 Liberal members in this government term.

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