



Oatley Flora & Fauna Conservation Society Inc.
Working to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment
locally and globally, since 1955

12 November 2021

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society is committed to 'working to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment locally and globally' for current and future generations to treasure and enjoy.

GRC residents love living here because of the beautiful environment in the Georges River LGA. However, decades of overdevelopment have led to fewer and fewer pockets of natural environment and increasing loss of biodiversity in native plants and animals.

We know you are concerned about the environment and ethics, as are members of the community. So we want to inform our members if you support the following issues:

(Please enter **Y** or **N** in the right-hand columns):

Issue	Yes	No
Ensuring the current (GRLEP2021) Foreshore Scenic Protection Area is not reduced in size or level of protection	Y	
<p>In June of 2020, along with OFF members, I provided written and verbal submissions to the GRC Local Planning Panel (LPP), for their recommendation on the finalisation of the Georges River LEP 2020 (LPP027-20). I objected to the reduction of the Foreshore Scenic Protection Area (FSPA) of the former Hurstville LGA giving reasons why the amendment should be deleted, and further, why the FSPA of the former Kogarah LGA should be reinstated. In addition, I requested that a minimum of a Biodiversity Study and an Aboriginal Heritage Study be completed before proposing any changes to the FSPA, the latter also being a recommendation provided in the <i>Foreshores Strategic Directions Paper</i>.</p> <p>This was successful, the GRC LPP gave their support, as reported in The Leader https://www.theleader.com.au/story/6816211/georges-river-planning-panel-recommends-retention-of-foreshore-scenic-protection-area/</p> <p>Since then, the Biodiversity Study which OFF members have provided the greatest contribution to, is nearing completion by Council, and will be finalised in the next term.</p> <p>In July of 2021, I moved <i>NM060-21 Aboriginal Heritage Study and Management Strategy for Georges River</i>, which was supported unanimously by Council. The first part to my Notice of Motion read:</p> <p>(a) That Council undertake an Aboriginal Heritage Study and Management Strategy in conjunction with Local Aboriginal Land Councils to support the implementation of Aboriginal heritage legislation in the Georges River Local Government Area;</p> <p>i. To assist land owners, applicants and developers to understand their risk of harm, their legislative obligations, and to clarify the level of assessment required with any development application for development or potential disturbance;</p> <p>ii. To inform future Local Environmental Plans (LEP) and Development Control Plans (DCP);</p> <p>iii. In accordance with Planning Priority 11 of Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), for Aboriginal and other heritage to be protected and promoted; and</p> <p>iv. Subject to the identification of a suitable funding source for preparation of the Study, including appropriate grant programs.</p>		
Saving Glenlee to protect the flora, fauna and indigenous heritage for future generations to enjoy	Y	

The second part to my Notice of Motion *NM060-21 Proposed Preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Study and Management Strategy for Georges River*, was for the preservation of Glenlee for this purpose. I moved:

- (b) That the expert witness assessments of the Aboriginal heritage and Aboriginal cultural heritage (for the area identified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) as the Lugarno Early Settler Landscape at 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno) undertaken for the Class 1 appeal proceedings in the NSW Land and Environment Court be utilised to inform the Aboriginal Heritage Study and Management Strategy.
- (c) That following completion of the relevant heritage assessments (above) Council consider the inclusion of the area identified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) as the Lugarno Early Settler Landscape at 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno in the Schedule of Heritage Items in the Georges River Local Environmental Plan.
- (d) That Council acknowledges that the area under threat adjoins a site registered as an Aboriginal Place of extremely high significance, with the NSW Government's Office of Environment and Heritage.
- (e) That Council officers consult with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council while undertaking an Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Assessment for the area identified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) as the Lugarno Early Settler Landscape (80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno) during of the preparation of expert evidence for the Court appeal.

With the whole of the Glenlee estate not having statutory protection as a local heritage item, with only parts of it heritage listed, I believe it must be a priority of the next term of Council to progress with a planning proposal to include the estate in the LEP. To this end, I liaised with the Conservation Director of the National Trust, the CEO of the LaPerouse Aboriginal Land Council and the CEO of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council to cover the outstanding issues. All three spoke in support of this Motion at the Council meeting, and it was adopted unanimously.

Further, I thank OFF members for speaking in support of my contributing Motion at the same meeting, *NM052-21 Creation of a Register for Heritage Conservation Management Plans*, which was also supported unanimously by Council.

Establishing a Significant Tree Register	Y	
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Georges River Council is undertaking the preparation a Significant Tree Register, delayed due to budgetary constraints, it is now anticipated to come before the next term of Council. This is a result of my Notice of Motion of May of 2018, which was unanimously supported and resulted in a comprehensive Tree Policy being adopted for the LGA. The original Motion read:

NM031-18 Street Tree Management in Georges River Local Government Area

- (a) That, the General Manager provide an urgent report on the block removal of Tallowwood street trees (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) in Ocean Street, Kogarah and their replacement with a suitable species in accordance with the adopted Kogarah City Council Street Tree Management Strategy and Masterplan 2009.
- (b) That a short term moratorium be placed on all further street tree removals in the Georges River Council local government area until such time as the development of Council's Canopy Enhancement Program and the Urban Forest Strategy, including a Street Tree Masterplan, are considered and endorsed by Council.
- (c) That the short term moratorium not apply to street trees that pose a significant risk to human safety.
- (d) That alongside the adopted Kogarah City Council Street Tree Management Strategy and Masterplan 2009 Council adopt the final draft Hurstville Street Tree Management Study 2015 as an interim policy for the management of street trees in the former Hurstville Council area until such time as Council's Canopy Enhancement Program and the Urban Forest Strategy, including the Street Tree Masterplan, are endorsed by Council.
- (e) That the Kogarah City Council Street Tree Management Strategy and Masterplan 2009 and the final draft Hurstville Street Tree Management Study 2015 be placed on Council's website to ensure the public is aware of the adopted Policy in regard to the removal and replacement of street trees across the local government area.
- (f) That Council's new Street Tree Masterplan include a database linked to GIS mapping to help guide planting of the most appropriate tree species based on site suitability, aesthetic, functional and biological attributes, performance and the potential to contribute to the local landscape character. This information can also be applied when seeking new tree planting opportunities in appropriate locations to maximise canopy cover and deliver ongoing environmental, economic and social benefits.
- (g) That Council prepare a Significant Tree Register, to compile and use information to better conserve trees on public and private lands of a significant category, where nominations are successfully supported by the property owner or by Council adoption.
- (h) The Council commence an appropriate communications strategy to (amongst other things) notify adjoining property owners of trees that have been listed on the Significant Tree Register and also provide information to the adjacent residents on the planting of new trees.
- (i) That Council notify the community and stakeholders (except where emergency works are required), of major tree planting projects and any other projects impacting on its street trees, through a permanent 'street tree' presence on Council's website.
- (j) That relevant Ward Councillors be consulted prior to the removal of any street trees in their Wards.

Eliminating 'single use' plastic items in the LGA	Y	
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Yes, and a place to start would be to reduce the use of plastic election corflutes, by promoting the alternative of biodegradable 'outdoor board' signage which has a life span of 12 weeks, longer than an election campaign.

Climate change actions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Organics Garden Organics collection services (with potential savings of \$1million annually) • All electric Council vehicle fleet, particularly waste collection trucks, and additional EV charging points • Additional Bushcare groups, Sustainability & Biodiversity projects and tree planting events • Promotion of roof top solar systems for new residential, commercial and GRC buildings 	Y	
Do you have pecuniary interests that would result in your being absent (and therefore not being able to represent your constituents and the community's interests) when the council debates motions and actions related to the above issues?		* N
<p>*No, I do not reside in the FSPA, however my principle place of residence was included in the Character Study which was part of the recent review. The majority of councillors were similarly affected, leaving Council without a quorum to discuss or vote on the item.</p>		

Thank you for taking the time to respond to us on these very important issues.

Should you wish, please add comments on any of the above issues:

Name: Leesha Payor, on behalf of Group D, Kogarah Residents' Association: Leesha Payor, John McCarthy and Valerie Opitz

Ward: Kogarah Bay Ward