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Greens, Hornsby Council



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Two big losses in a week have left everyone reeling. But together we are pushing back against destructive overdevelopment. Here's all the news.

We lost the battle to save Coonara from Mirvac bulldozers

The state government has stepping in to allow Mirvac to build apartments on the former IBM site at 55 Coonara Avenue. It's a shocking example of the government intervening to ensure the local community can't stop an inappropriate and destructive development.

And it comes exactly a week after **the state government-controlled Sydney Planning Panel approved the biggest towers ever built in Hornsby** against the sustained opposition of residents.

These two decisions show that local communities have no power to stop destructive overdevelopment while this government allows developer-driven planning across Sydney.

But we can feel proud. The massive community pressure has resulted in some improvements:



a smaller area for housing



an enlargement of the area set aside for conservation.

And remember: Mirvac initially wanted 1270 units on the site. Community pressure got it reduced to 600.

We may have lost this fight, but it has brought us all together. And that's important for the next round: if Mirvac wants apartments in endangered blue gum high forest, **then Hills Councils must force them to build to the highest possible environmental credentials.**

Mirvac boasts that it has built a '[House with no bills](#)' in Cheltenham VIC - a highly efficient and sustainable house where residents have virtually no electricity costs. Mirvac should create a showcase of zero emissions housing at the former IBM site. The site deserves nothing less.

The biggest buildings Hornsby's ever seen

Hornsby will get two enormous towers on the heritage west side of the station. The state-government appointed Sydney Planning Panel approved the Lyon Group's development last Friday, despite submissions from residents objecting to height, impact on the skyline, on birdlife, on traffic and on the heritage precinct.

The Panel dismissed all that. Unanimously.

This comment in particular stands out: "The traffic modelling demonstrates that although the proposed development will result in a reduction in the level of service and slight increases in queuing at several intersections on Peats Ferry Road, the overall impact of the proposal on the road network will be minimal".

Extremely disappointing. Planning decisions need to be in the hands of councillors who actually live in the area they represent - and can be held accountable.

So when the Hornsby town centre masterplan is publicly exhibited later this year, you can be sure I'll let you know. The more people who have a say, the better the outcomes for everyone.

Our wonderful women's shelter!

The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter is tantalisingly close to our final goal of a permanent home - BUT they're still about \$200,000 short.

Their lease is up in 3 months. They desperately need to find a permanent home for the shelter to be able to continue helping vulnerable women and children in our community. So they are running a 10 day donations sprint and [you can help here](#). Please give generously - our community can be so proud of the work HKWS does.

HKWS is a [registered charity](#) and financial donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible

Council: June decisions

On June 10, your Council decided:

- to ask that the NSW Department of Planning not to proceed with the rezoning of 55 Coonara Ave (former IBM site)
- to note reports on debts written off, the budget, variations to development standards and investments & borrowings
- to accept the staff report on Council's response to the pandemic
- to accept the staff report to the state government review of development contributions
- to endorse the Planning proposal on design excellence, the extension of Marramarra NP and the correction of planning anomalies.

The full details [are here](#).

The next Council meeting is 6.30pm Wednesday 8 July, and will be [viewable online here](#). Business Papers (items for discussion and all attachments) will be [available here](#) from Monday 29 July.

Hornsby Connect: 926 and counting ...

926 local families are receiving assistance from the wonderful Hornsby Connect team this winter - and the number is rising. If you would like to donate non-perishable food items, there's a collections bin outside Woolworths in Beecroft. Or you can donate [online here](#).

We can swim again soon!

With the easing of restrictions, Hornsby pool, Galston pool and Thornleigh Brickpit Stadium will open Monday 6 July.

- ✓ Hornsby will be open for lap swimming, lane hire agreements and use of the gym.
- ✓ Galston will be open for lap swimming, lane hire agreements, use of gyms + Junior and Senior squads.
- ✓ Thornleigh Brickpit will resume normal operations and bookings under NSW Government COVID-19 restrictions.
- ✓ Learn to Swim and the re-introduction of Aqua/Group Fitness programs are expected to resume Monday 20 July.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I value it. I will continue to work hard on your behalf to keep this beautiful place in good shape for us, our children, our grandchildren - and those to come.

Stay safe & well - and please keep in touch.

Emma 🌞



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