

# Emma Heyde

*Greens, Hornsby Council*



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**I'm sitting at my desk, next to my daughter's desk. My husband is working on Zoom and my son is chatting with friends online. It's busy like this most days at mine right now! I am feeling very lucky to be in a country with a good public health care system, extraordinary health care workers, and a safety net for everyone losing jobs and businesses.**

It's good to be able to share news about Council & the community ...

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## **A rural lands loss**

Many hectares of our rural land has been eaten up already by vast over-55s developments. So at April's Council meeting I argued that Council should ask for a permanent exemption from the state planning rules that allow these types of developer-driven projects. The outcome? I lost. Most councillors voted for just a temporary exemption. Very disappointing! Local councils and their communities should be in charge of what gets built and where - not developers.

And this is why it matters so much.

The unelected Sydney North Planning Panel has allowed another sprawling seniors' living development near Dural. Here's the bit that really blows my mind: "The proposal will provide seniors' housing near public transport". Really?? I live near public transport in Cheltenham. It would take me nearly 1.5 hours to get to the site. I would need to take a train, then a metro, then a bus, then walk for 20 minutes. That's NOT near public transport. Council needs to decide where these developments are located, not developers.

We need housing for older residents, but let's:

put it near trains & frequent bus services

not put it on rural land

make it affordable

make developments like these sustainable: generating their own electricity, dealing with water onsite

make the units cheap to cool and cheap to heat

challenge the state government who allow developers to decide where it goes.

To read the decision, look at Determination and statement of reasons here:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/.../scc-seniors-housing...>

You'll also see which member of the Panel disagreed with the 4:1 decision.

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## A library win

I'm so happy that Council's wonderful librarians have found a way of getting books into the hands of readers - even during COVID lockdown. They will choose a selection for you - or you can choose your own - and the books will be delivered to your door and collected again at the end of your loan. I just tried it here:

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library> and the reservation system is not the easiest to use. Leaving the librarians to choose books for you is easier. Ring the library if you have trouble: 9847 6100, 9-5pm Monday to Saturday.

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## Which suburb is growing the most?

Congrats North Epping: you're the suburb with the most residents who said YES to a new tree. Only 23% of North Epping residents refused when asked whether they wanted a tree on the nature strip, followed by Brooklyn at 27%. Council's program of tree planting is the biggest and fastest in Australia. Most Australian councils commit to less than 3,000 trees a year. (We've done 25,000 in 2.5)

But what about the ones that have died? Trees were planted within record hot temperatures and lack of rainfall. Despite this, only 250 of over 4,000 street trees have died (less than 7%). And they will be replaced.

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### **A phone-tastic initiative!**

I've been helping turn Hornsby's e-waste into a way of helping women experiencing domestic violence by collecting unwanted phones from residents across the Shire. The phones are delivered to Andrew Mackenzie at iPulse Phone Repair in Dural where the phones are wiped and reconditioned. A clean, un-tracked phone provides a woman with a safe way of reaching out for help. My goal was 100 phones and I've collected 116 in a week.

If you have an unwanted phone, contact me. Even phones that are broken or really old can be useful: they can be stripped for parts so repairs can be made without new imported parts.

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### **Basketball, portalooos and old banners? A glimpse in my inbox!**

I get a lot of emails and calls. This week I've been dealing with:

- An ugly portaloo parked outside a home
- Distress at the decision by the North Sydney Planning Panel to grant an approval for another seniors' development on rural land at Dural
- Help for a residents finding it more & more difficult to exit her driveway because of construction vehicles
- Whether a netball court can have a basketball hoop installed
- Whether we can have a renewable energy target of 100% by 2030 like Ryde Council has just committed to
- A trailer parked in a dangerous place

- How to get old Council street banners to people who want to sew them into drawstring bags for health workers

Many requests for assistance can go straight to Council's front desk staff [here](#), but I'm always happy to answer questions and get you information you need. Please feel free to email or text me. If I miss a call, send me a message.

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## Woohoo! Another place to return & earn

Council's newest reverse vending machine has now been installed at the Brickpit in Thornleigh. Staff continue to work on additional machines for Rofe Park (Hornsby Heights) and Greenway Park (Cherrybrook). This is the fourth Return and Earn machine installed across the Shire. The others are at:

  Hornsby Westfield: Blue Level. Enter Carpark from Albert Street. Left at entrance down a level near exit.

  Galston Club: 21-25 Arcadia Rd, Galston

  Berowra Heights: 1A Turner Rd

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## And before I go, a little brag ...

Today my sister who is a dairy farmer won the 2020 NSW-ACT AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. I couldn't be prouder of her - and more grateful to her and everyone on the land who produces Australia's food. If that's your family too - my gratitude and respect!

Stay safe & well

Emma 



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