

Kerbside cleanups: do we want a new system? □

A lot of discussion goes on at my Facebook page. It's a great way for me to get feedback on decisions & let people know what's going on.

This time I asked on Facebook [here](#) whether people wanted to move to a scheduled service for bulky waste services, instead of the two collections a year.

Most people said they preferred the current system. Why?

- booking online was a hassle
- the system works: if it ain't broke, don't fix it
- people add material to your pile of waste if you've booked a service & they haven't
- people scavenging items off piles is a good thing and it won't happen if people book individual services.

I will report the findings back to the Waste Manager at Council. He will be helping councillors make a decision on whether to move to a new system.

And please email me if you haven't yet had your say :)

Beecroft & Cheltenham news

Some big things happening in postcode 2119:

- 20 October at 10am the new Station Gardens opens.

It's great seeing at least one local business already planning new opportunities: hampers for people planning to eat a picnic at the new tables □ □ □

- Protection for Byles Creek land

On 5 October at a meeting instigated by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic trust, representatives from the Trust, the Byles Creek Valley Union and two sporting clubs decided how to manage the money from the sale of the Cheltenham church. They decided the money will be used to investigate how to protect the Byles Creek area via rezoning. The rest of the money would go to upgrading Cheltenham oval. The decision was passed unanimously on Wednesday at the public Council meeting.

Watch live - or catch up afterwards

You can watch Council meetings as they happen, or watch afterwards [here](#). You can see which way councillors vote (also shown in the Minutes) and listen to residents speaking on items that they feel strongly about.

And remember Public Forum: you can speak on anything important to you in this section of the meeting. Email me for more information or read about it [here](#).

Bike routes revealed □ □ □

Council has designed new cycling routes within suburbs and between them. Surveys often feel pointless, but this one's important because we don't want bike paths that are dangerous or in the wrong places. Check out the maps and [have a say here](#) Let's make sure Council staff put routes where we actually need them.

Better buildings □

Too many new apartment buildings in our area are ugly and lack trees to screen them. So when I joined Council, I suggested extending the 'design excellence' provisions for buildings over ten storeys to townhouses and anything higher. A year later, we have ended up with a very practical list of changes to our local DCP that will improve design outcomes.

Will these changes stop ugly apartment buildings being built? No. But will it improve things? Yes. Will it improve setbacks? Yes. Mezzanines? Yes. The external appearance of buildings? Yes. The placement of driveways and fire hydrants and garbage bins? Yes. Will it help get more vegetation in front of and around these buildings to provide their residents with green views, and screen the buildings from the street? Yes.

You can see the proposed changes here. Have your say on them until

Preparing as the climate changes □

As a mother of two teenagers, I'm scared about what the climate has in store for them and their generation. It's obvious our federal and state governments have no idea how to manage the threat. But there is some good news. Many local councils in Australia are preparing Australians in a practical way for what's coming our way.

Hornsby is one of them.

We are not doing enough yet, but we have just voted to make a start.

We are conducting a turbo-charged review of climate preparedness, bushfire risk, water management and vegetation mapping. This will allow Council's environment staff to find out how we prepare ourselves and our environment for what's coming in terms of heat, more intense storms and increasingly dangerous fires. This is sensible, risk-averse planning.

I'll keep you in touch as results come through next year.

The season to give □ □

Bindi and Sue, two friends of mine, are collecting gifts for women in shelter accommodation. They would love handbags in good condition, and lovely little toiletries to go in them. If you want to purchase a few extra things at the chemist or supermarket, it will make a big difference to someone in need. Body lotions, hand creams, makeup, hairbrushes, nice soaps, body wash, sanitary items, Christmas treats, chocolates or lollies, jewellery or perfume are all welcome.

Bindi & Sue are happy to collect (Beecroft area or RNSH) and they will deliver the handbags and items to the drop off centres at the end of November. Call Sue on 0418 213 212 or Bindi on 0417 663 547

Why did I vote that way □

I'm always happy to explain the way I have voted. Maybe you'll agree; maybe not. But I feel it's important to be transparent and accountable. So here are three of the major decisions from the October meeting. The Minutes are [here](#): they show the way each councillor voted on every decision.

There were three Motions from Councillors at the October meeting.

1. The Byles Creek acquisition strategy

I voted to support because:

- the strategy was decided on by two local sports groups, the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust & the Byles Creek Valley Union on 5 October
- the resolution will protect the land while leaving funds to upgrade the oval
- the land cannot be purchased: it's too expensive and it's not for sale, so protecting via rezoning makes sense
- the oval has the potential to become a hub for kids & adults to enjoy organised sport + leisure time outside

2. Berowra Pool Feasibility

I voted not to support a Motion to spend \$50,000 on a feasibility study because:

- with the loss of the land south of the M2 to Parramatta, Council would struggle to fund a \$5m+ pool build plus an annual subsidy of \$300,000
- there are mixed views in the A Ward area about whether it's needed
- there are already several private pools in the area and a new pool would have to compete with them

3. Surveying the community

I voted not to support a Motion to put a survey of the community on the back of every rates notice because:

- people already have a chance to give feedback via public forums at Council meetings, directly to councillors via email, phone & in person, at community forums, on every major decision which is exhibited, via Facebook & Twitter, via responses to the monthly E-News and via emails to senior staff. There is such a thing as survey fatigue.
- given the opportunities for feedback, an additional survey would use up a lot of staff time in deciding on the questions, collating the responses, providing them to councillors & creating briefings to discuss them.
- I would prefer to rates notice was used for notifying people of events & news e.g. the Waste strategy, the 25,000 trees campaign, the LEP review, the draft bike routes.

See you in Cherrybrook! ☐

The C Ward community forum is in Cherrybrook on tonight: Tuesday 16 October starting 6.30pm. You can register your question for councillors [here](#). A written report will be provided to everyone who registered, and you can read the reports from previous Community forums [here](#).

Very best wishes,

Emma

