

Wednesday 28 March 2018

CITY OF RYDE FIGHTS TO SAVE BUNDARA RESERVE MORE THAN 20 TREES SET TO GO TO PROTECT FOOTBRIDGE FROM BIRD DROPPINGS

The City of Ryde has expressed its strong objection to a NSW Government proposal to remove more than 20 trees from Bundara Reserve in North Ryde to, in part, mitigate the impact bird droppings will have on a new pedestrian footbridge.

Bundara Reserve is a small pocket of bushland located in the middle of Epping Road, Delhi Road and the M2 Motorway that crucially houses a stand of protected Turpentine-Ironbark trees.

The NSW Government initially gave assurances that a proposed footbridge over Delhi Road would not have any impact on Bundara Reserve. However, last week the NSW Government opened public consultation on a modified plan which would see the removal of trees from the green space to allow for the new footbridge.

An independent report was used by the NSW Government to justify the tree removal, claiming the removal was to “mitigate the effect of bird droppings” and to “mitigate the effect of falling branches” on the footbridge.

Incredibly, despite such a major modification, public consultation is only open for a two week period and includes the Easter break.

At its meeting this week, City of Ryde resolved to prepare a submission opposing the modified pedestrian footbridge and writing to the NSW Minister of Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts, requesting an extension of the public consultation period.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said from what he can see the only reason given to remove the trees at Bundara Reserve was to avoid undertaking regular maintenance work of the pedestrian footbridge.

“No vegetation on Bundara Reserve should be destroyed, particularly for something as trivial as to protect the paint on a footbridge from bird droppings,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Quite literally, this State Government values paint ahead of protected trees and green space.”

“What is happening to Bundara Reserve is a symptom of the extreme overdevelopment that is impacting on the City of Ryde at the moment. And in a cynical move, they are trying to push this proposal through – which would see dozens of protected trees destroyed - without proper scrutiny or consultation with the community.

“The Bundara Reserve survived the creation of the M2 and the widening of Epping Road so it should definitely survive the installation of a footbridge. Local residents can be assured that the City of Ryde will do whatever it can to save this beautiful piece of green space.”