**Local Matters Forum – Leichhardt - Gulgadya 28 November 2023**

On Tuesday 28 November, 13 Leichhardt ward residents gathered at Annandale Community Centre to discuss local matters that were of key importance to them. The agenda for the group discussion was driven by residents.

**Below is a summary of the discussion:**

| Subject/issue | Discussion and response from Council | Further action if required |
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| Bluett Award | | |
| When will the mayor and/or GM reveal to the community the contents of their submission to the OLG for the Bluett Award? | * Inner West Council was awarded best Metropolitan Council in NSW by winning the AR Bluett Memorial Award for 22/23 which is the pinnacle of Local Government in NSW. This award recognises the most progressive Council in the State and acknowledges the efforts made in serving the community and continuous improvement. * We are lucky to have progressive Councillors who strive to achieve great things including the Voice Campaign, improvements to customer service, main street revitalisations, advocacy work and more. These achievements are great for the community and staff and we are committed to continuously improving our services. Everyone can access our achievements in our [Annual Report.](https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/1602/Annual%20Report%202022-23.pdf.aspx) * Council is happy to share our winning submission. It’s too big to print in the newsletter but we will send a copy to the resident and anyone else who would like one. | Resident to contact Council to obtain a copy of the submission. |
| Community engagement | | |
| Please provide evidence of how deliberative engagement is being incorporated into Council decision making. Council's Democracy Groups are in fact advisory groups and in effect stakeholder groups - they are the antithesis of the random selection, demographically representative everyday people that comprise the heart of best practice deliberative engagement - everyday people making sensible decisions on the behalf of the wider population based on adequate and unbiased information, time and facilitation that enables group decision making. Please explain. | * Council’s 13 Local Democracy Groups bring together over 150 local community members with lived experience, expertise or interest in areas such Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Access and Inclusion or Seniors matters.   Council also routinely works with a range of groups that reference groups consultation forums, interagencies etc to understand the lived experience of community members and to get feedback and taskforces with community members. Examples include our Customer Service committee, Pride Centre Community Reference group Panel and Balmain Precinct working group.  Council will also be developing a citizen jury in 2024 and the process on how that is established including how we get a demographic spread will be worked out in the new year. |  |
| Is there any internal audit process in place of Council decision-making through the "Your Say" model?  I appreciate the value of seeking opinions through "Your Say", but a too heavy emphasis on popularity - and concentrating on the few most popular responses - can displace or overwhelm some unexciting, "unpopular", but vitally important considerations. I particularly suggest public liability and facility for, and adverse effects on, younger and older community members and those living with disability.  In a similar vein, "Your Say" popularity is potentially, I would say likely, an unrepresentative "popularity". I accept that it draws in a sample most affected by a certain issue, measure or action; but that sample is still skewed to those with the personal persuasion skills, capabilities in writing and perhaps resources to advance a narrow individual or club/group self-interest.  Perhaps there are "important" matters that are already known to Council and will be given effect to; but this is not advertised. | * Council takes into account a range of voices, research, expert advice and other inputs to inform its decision making.   Any community consultation is planned to comprehensively identify stakeholders who may include individuals, groups or organisations who will be affected by or who have an interest in an area or will be affected by a decision. We widely promote opportunities for participation to ensure a range of perspectives is heard, and the community’s needs, values and expectations are represented.  We use face to face workshops, onsite pop-ups, staffed hotlines and online methods. We run ten Local Matters Forums (such as this one) each year, across the area, to hear from those who prefer to speak directly to their ward Councillors.  When a matter comes to Council for a decision by Councillors, a report detailing all feedback received is presented to the elected representatives. They then consider this input and a range of other information relevant to fee specific issue before making a decision. |  |
| Development and planning | | |
| Why has this building, the Annandale Town Hall, been neglected in terms of maintenance? It was determined 5 years ago as in need of maintenance, and funds were allocated but not spent, which obviously results in maintenance needs increasing and what was initially $200 k ++ now is $1 mill.? | * Annandale Town Hall needs some attention and over the next 2 years Council is allocating $1.5M to fix issues with the roof and freshen the building up. The project is currently in the scoping stage with delivery aimed for mid 2025. |  |
| Why is Council pursuing town hall events to talk about contentious issues which only serve to air the grievances of the angry and the articulate and do not provide opportunity for people to listen and hear from the full range of views which every community holds about every issue? The rezoning for Parramatta Road, the Forum and Leichhardt Norton Street shopping centre is an example, as is Taverners hill. | * In 2016, the former State Government endorsed Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy (PRCUTS) as a 30-year plan to renew the Parramatta Road Corridor including Leichhardt, Taverners Hill and Kings Bay/Croydon precincts in the Inner West.   Delivery of this strategy is the responsibility of local councils through amendments to planning controls. Council is undertaking public consultation because we want the voice of our community to be heard.  We’re doing this in a variety of ways to allow all those affected or interested to hear from Council and ask the questions that concern them, in order to assist the community to lodge a submission if they wish. Our comprehensive program of engagement includes three community drop-in sessions plus meetings in venues across the precincts. These meetings are being kept small in that numbers are deliberately capped and venues selected so that attendees can ask questions and have them answered on the night. For those meetings that are fully subscribed, demonstrating community interest, we added more events to the engagement schedule. We are encouraging submissions by letter, email, and online survey. Community members can also call in with their questions to hotline staffed by specialist officers. |  |
| What are the Council's plans for development along the Parramatta Road corridor at North Croydon? | * Kings Bay - The area bounded by Parramatta Road, Lang Street, Dalmar Street and West Street are included in the Kings Bay/Croydon Planning proposal [currently on public exhibition.](https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/parramattardcorridor) This proposal includes 3 storey low rise apartments along Dalmar Street, four storey apartments on Croydon Road, four storey commercial development along Parramatta Road and mixed use development on some sites adjoining Croydon Road.   We held a number of face to face community meetings for Kings Bay and while we don’t plan any more we have a number of drop in sessions where the team and I would be very happy to take you through the detail of proposal for this precinct. |  |
| How does Council justify plans to convert family homes in west Leichhardt into 19 blocks of flats that include  • no affordable housing,  • no protection for the existing tree canopy, and with  • no provision for parkland needed by the occupiers of the 370 new dwellings? | * The Department of Planning and Environment’s Feasibility Tool showed that affordable housing contributions were not feasible. In Taverners Hill. It would require much greater density of development before affordable housing would be feasible. Tree canopy targets remain and building envelopes and setbacks have been developed to maximise the retention of mature trees. Council’s Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2023 has considered PRCUTS in its preparation, this includes contributions towards open space, community facilities, active transport etc. |  |
| Environment and climate change | | |
| Can you please update us on the Community Battery project. Thanks | * Through a Commonwealth Grant opportunity Council worked toward a partnership with Ausgrid, however Ausgrid have reviewed their approach and have advised they are focusing on large-scale battery systems to be located within existing Ausgrid substations. After reviewing potential sites within their network area, Ausgrid could not identify a suitable site in the Inner West LGA that met the space and noise considerations for a large battery system due to the high-density residential area.   Council subsequently supported an Expression Of Interest to ARENA for battery opportunities on Council facilities. We are expecting feedback from ARENA by mid-2024 and will update the community as soon as we have news to share. |  |
| Access to information (GIPA) | | |
| Why does IWC take more than 4 months to answer a question about the cost of the skatepark, which it has chosen to make a GIPA request, and admits that GIPA is overwhelmed with requests? | * Whilst it is acknowledged that there are a large number of GIPA applications at this point in time, our Right to Information team are systematically working through all applications to ensure that comprehensive responses are provided to each applicant, and in the interests of fairness to our community, these are progressed in the order they are received, irrespective of the complexity of the particular matter. Council staff will liaise with the resident on the specific query regarding the Leichhardt Skate Park. |  |
| Parking and traffic | | |
| Could the residents on John St please receive parking permits for the residential houses between Styles St and Hill St, which is a congested one-way section, and could the council please install appropriate signage to allow the residents to stop losing their parking bays during the week days? | * Generally, Council investigates a request for a resident parking scheme if more than 3 requests from different properties are received from the street, and parking levels are typically higher than 85%. There have been no recent requests for John Street Leichhardt. Council is happy to review should these requests be received and these requests can be in the form of a petition or an email to Council’s generic email. |  |
| Could the council please mark the parking bays with painted lines on both sides of John Street between Styles Road and Hill Street, also allowing for 2 dedicated motorcycle bays for each side of the street? | * Dedicated motorcycle parking areas are generally provided in commercial areas where there is strong on street parking demand and typically established when a space isn’t long enough for a car. However, we would be happy to meet you on site to discuss the motorcycle needs of the area.   Parking bays are not typically marked outside of commercial areas as marked bays must be marked to the Australian Standard which is designed for a large car. Surveys show that generally vehicles can park closer together when a street is unmarked which results in greater capacity. |  |
| Can the Council get a pedestrian crossing in place at the corner of Reserve and Young Sts in Annandale (preferably on the northern side of the intersection), so children walking to school have a safe space to cross and drivers trying to use the intersection slow down. Also can there be a no parking zone on Reserve St between Mayes and Young Sts on the northern side to improve visibility for traffic? With driveways etc there are only a maximum of three car spaces in any case so cars currently park right to the corner. | * This is great feedback as we want our streets as safe as possible. We are currently undertaking a traffic management study of the area and I encourage you to make a submission via the [Your Say webpage.](https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/annandale-precinct-LATM) Last day to provide feedback is 10 December 2023.   We will consider the submissions and develop some options to go back to the community. |  |
| Does the Council plan to put up 'no stopping' signs to improve visibility when turning into T intersections in North Croydon? This is a real safety issue now because increased on-street parking over recent years has resulted in limited vision, particularly when turning from Hammond Avenue into Bay Street; and from Byron Street into Dalmar Street. Often cars park right up to the intersection, well within the 10 metre limit.  The problem is compounded by teachers/students from Rosebank College on the north side of Parramatta Road parking on this side so that they can cross at the Harris Road lights. | * This matter has been investigated by Council Traffic Officers. They will be proposing 10m of No Stopping on Dalmar Street (either side of Bryon Street) and Bay Street (either side of Hammond Avenue) respectively. This matter is expected to be presented to the Local Traffic Committee in February 2024. |  |
| Roads and footpaths | | |
| * How can we help to reduce the graffiti springing up? There seems to be a relatively small number of taggers responsible. Could council have a simple snap and send app where people report new graffiti? Could council assist private owners who are subject to repeated graffiti on their walls / fences either by supplying paint or cleaning chemicals or similar?   It seems like the longer tags are up, the more tags that are appearing.  I should add - we're lucky and touch wood this isn't us - but I feel for the people who are constantly repainting / cleaning | * Council’s current graffiti management practice involves working closely with both police and government organisations, such as transport for NSW, Australia Post etc to treat graffiti which has been identified. Within our LGA, Council currently undertakes:   + Removal of graffiti from Council property as part of regular infrastructure services, with a focus on highly visible and highly tagged spaces which are accessible within public spaces.   + Removal of graffiti from private and commercial property that is deemed offensive by Council which is readily accessible. Offensive graffiti includes racist, culturally offensive, defamatory, or images/language of an indecent nature.   + Engagement with community / residents to apply for the living Arts programmes whereby murals are adopted within the community to help reduce graffiti on walls (both private residence and public buildings) * Unfortunately council is not in a position to implement any penalties or separate fines on those undertaking graffiti unless council rangers can catch those in the act of undertaking graffiti on council owned assets. Reporting to Police is certainly the correct cause of action for any unsafe or illegal behaviour occurring, as they can apply the consequences as dictated by the NSW law enforcement to those caught carry out graffiti |  |
| Trees | | |
| There seems to be a backlog of requests around trees. Does Council have arborists employed or is everything contracted?  The team doing the park maintenance are great but it seems like a very small team doing an awful lot… | * We have been working through a large number of requests, and making good progress in resolving them. Council engages specialised contractors to undertake the work. Council is also currently undertaking a tree inventory survey which will help set proactive work schedules. |  |
| Can Council provide a company, at no cost to residents, to clear the guttering of residents' homes when they become clogged with leaves from street trees and thus overflow in rain creating a cascade of water which prevents safe exiting of their home? | * Trees provide such good canopy and benefits for our community though some maintenance is required. Anything in the public realm Council will maintain, anything falling on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. |  |
| Waste and recycling | | |
| How many tons of hard plastic waste did Council create by retiring rubbish bins and what plans does it have to purchase products made from it? | * Council reuses bins that are in good condition. Any that are at the end of their life, are melted down to make resin for new garbage bins to be made. |  |
| What action is council employing to keep bins of residents and businesses from being stored, or remaining for very long periods of time, on public space/ council's property? | * Council's waste inspectors and education officers conduct "bins off street " stickering and letterbox drops and target areas on an as-identified basis. If you have any area which you find have their bins on the street beyond a reasonable time, please lets us know and we will investigate. * Resident advised that this has already been reported. * General Manager advised to speak to the Engagement Team at the end of the meeting to report the specifics. | Resident to contact Council to provide further details. |
| Can SCOUT/non for profit groups book in hard waste collections? | * The Council clean up service is only available to residential properties that pay the domestic waste charge in their rates. However, our weekend transfer stations are available to all residents in the Inner West. |  |

**Only answers to questions were provided on the night to those who attended. Responses to questions that were submitted but not discussed during the Forum are as follows:**

| Subject | Response from Council |
| --- | --- |
| De-amalgamation | |
| At the last Council Elections in 2021, there was a Referendum, if you can call that, where we were asked whether or not ratepayers would be in favour of De-amalgamation. It is my understanding that 62.5% were in favour and would like to revert to the previous arrangement. As this is majority, Would you please inform the Forum and the community at large what has been done about this issue. | Council resolved to undertake a Business Case for de-amalgamation and this was undertaken by an independent consultant. Following completion of the Business Case Council then resolved in December 2022 to submit it to the Minister for Local Government for consideration and referral to the Boundaries Commission.  In October Council was advised by the Boundaries Commission that following their initial review they had engaged a consultant to undertake a review of the financial advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.  They have also announced public hearings to be held on 6 December which the community can attend, in addition to making written submissions to the commission by 31 January 2024.  https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/commissions-and-tribunals/local-government-boundaries-commission. |
| Development and planning | |
| What plans are there for the actual Parramatta Rd Corridor (PRCUT) and when will residents know the details of the 2nd stage rezoning under PRCUTS? | Council has commenced work on implementing the Camperdown Precinct. This Precinct is part of Tech Central and Council is working with other stakeholders including the City of Sydney, greater Cities Commission, RPA Hospital and Sydney University. There is no timeframe at this point to undertake this stage under PRCUTS.  Ultimately Council must meet the dwelling targets for our LGA - the pace of change is moving rapidly from day to day and there has been a number of announcements from the State Government about rising to the challenge.  Planning for the longer Parramatta Road Corridor remains of interest – and the PRCUTS Ministerial Order that Council is working under was predicated upon the provision of transport infrastructure along Parramatta Road which has not materialised thus far, so this remains an advocacy piece for Council. |
| Why are the PRCUTSs study recommendations for Taverners Hill being ignored? | The Planning proposal is consistent with the PRCUTS Planning and Design Guidelines (one of the six documents that make up the Implementation Tool Kit). This includes an R3 medium density residential with residential flat buildings permitted, heights from 8.5m to 17m (up to 30m at Lords Road which is not the subject of this proposal and 32m on the Kolotex site in George Street). Councils urban design study proposed some variations to this to ensure a smaller building footprint and therefore provide for a more extensive tree canopy.  The recommendations from PRCUTS are not being ignored. In fact, they are being implemented with minor variations to create the opportunity for greater tree canopy and deep soil planting. Council officers are providing a significant number of face to face community meetings to present and illustrate how PRCUTS is being implemented. |
| Is there to be a new Traffic study performed for the Taverners Hill area as the last study was 2016? | The Cardno (now Stantec) Precinct Wide Traffic and Transport Study commenced in 2018 and completed in 2022. No new study will be undertaken. Given the longitudinal nature of the study this is regarded as recent and in depth, and satisfied the requirements of the Department of Planning. |
| Is the environment ( Flora & Fauna including species in trouble)something that IWC are going to protect in regards to the proposed rezoning plans Taverners Hill? | Flora and fauna assessments have been undertaken for a number of projects along and adjacent to the Greenway in recent years, the most recent being in 2021. These studies along with mapping held by Council, do not indicate there are any threatened species (flora and fauna) that would be impacted by this planning proposal.   Ensuring opportunities for extensive tree canopy through the provision of deep soil planting supports the urban forest and fauna. |
| Parking and traffic | |
| I have a question for council regarding the long long long standing parking problem that exists on Elswick Street (North of Marion St)  As council would be aware, Elswick st does not have timed parking whilst all streets between Elswick and Norton all have timed parking  We find it very difficult to park in our street, as customers and workers who frequent Norton St obviously want to park without paying , hence they park in our street taking up already scarce sparking spots. We often have to park in the timed parking and many of us have been fined ! We do not qualify for permits although we have no choice but to park as our street is parked out!  Council need to install parking restrictions in Elswick st with resident parking permits to bring us in line with the adjacent streets and allow us parking near our dwellings without the risks of fines!  Please can council put this on the agenda and quickly deal with this issue. | This section of Elswick Street was considered in the Leichhardt West Precinct Parking Study which was recently adopted by Council this year. The study identified a Resident Parking Scheme to be implemented in the Stage 1 area (Allen Street precinct) which is planned for December 2023 - February 2024, which include sections of Elswick Street between Regent Street and Allen Street. A stage 2 parking restriction expansion will be considered approximately 6-12 months afterwards subject to community support and parking levels in line with Council's Parking Policy. |
| Can parking officers attend Henry Street Leichhardt more often. People parking incorrectly also across footpath. These creative problems fir disabled people. | Council officers have attended numerous times throughout November, with eight penalty notices having been issued for various offences. Officers attend both upon complaint and during random patrols. Appreciating you raising this issue and Council has organised for officers to attend more frequently for a period of time, which will allow Council to determine the extent of the issue. |
| This is also for parking officers. Please attend streets that have mail boxes. People DO NOT leave free.  It's about time people get booked for these things so they stop doing it. | Council officers do issue infringements for this offence (stopping / parking in front of Australia Post Mail Boxes) when it is observed, however it is not an offence that is observed often. Only 19 penalty notices have been issued for this offence in 2023. Council do however respond to complaints of illegal parking and residents can report these through Councils online portal or call us and we will attend as quickly as we are able. |
| Is there an ability for council to take action on trailer owners who are not local residents but yet leave their trailers parked in the Leichhardt areas where there are no parking restrictions. | Council can act under the Public Spaces Unattended Property Act (PSUP). Registered trailers must not be left in any one spot for 28 days or more, or 15 days for unregistered trailers. This legislation applies to all vehicle owners, not just non-residents. Residents can report these matters via Councils online request portal. |
| Parks and sporting grounds | |
| Braddock Park has no rubbish bins so is polluted, dead trees are left in Braddock Playground which could fall down at anytime making it unsafe, and there is no equipment for children in the area. | We did consider a bin in Braddock Park however the park is for passive recreation and council encourages residents to take their rubbish home with them for that type of park especially being so close to neighbouring properties. Council is mindful the placement of a bins can lead to dumped rubbish which we want to avoid. Braddock Park is currently being reviewed as part of the neighbourhood and pocket park plans of management process. Future site suggestions include: ecological improvements, bicycle racks and a water bubbler, improved park signage. As part of the Plan of Management process Council will consider a small future playground for this site. In regards to the tree, the remaining tree stump and small dead tree within Braddock Park will be scheduled to be cut down to ground level by Council's Tree Contractors before 30 November 2023, weather permitting. |
| Roads and footpaths | |
| What can Council do to install a shelter over the bus stop at the corner of Bland Street and Parramatta Road? | Council staff have met with the bus shelter contractor to begin discussions over installing a shelter there. We are currently working through the terms in line with the contract. |
| Regarding lighting: Why do some areas in the Inner West seem less valued than others? We live in Meeks Road in Marrickville and the lighting is very poor on the street which makes it unsafe for walking when it is dark. | Street lighting is an Ausgrid asset and we have asked them to comment on Meeks Road. The Australian Standard for lighting of roadways and other public spaces sets minimum lighting requirements for each type of roadway and footpath.. Ausgrid requires that its street lights are to comply with all relevant Australian Standards.  Meeks Road is a residential street and as such lighting levels would need to comply with Pedestrian “P” Category lighting levels. The existing street lights are new LED lights and their spacing is considered adequate to meet the minimum levels of street lighting for “P” Category in residential streets. Therefore, the geometry and installation of street lights in Meeks Road appears to be within the normal design parameters used by Ausgrid for compliance with the Standards  It should be noted the Australian Standard does not consider the locations of, nor the interference caused by, trees in the road reserve. It is accepted that lighting levels in this area of Meeks Road may only nominally be compliant with standards mainly due to the shielding effect of the existing low level tree canopy. The provision of higher output street lights or additional street lights will not likely improve lighting levels for residents without undertaking moderate levels of pruning to the existing trees. Adding more lights or converting to higher output lights would likely impact the amenity of residents due to light spillage that would eventuate from such changes. Residents residing in the street would need to write collectively to Council requesting such a change to the existing street lighting levels before Council would consider such a change.  In consideration of the above, no change is proposed to the existing street lights and lighting levels in Meeks Road at this stage. Notwithstanding, we will further review to identify whether some judicial pruning can be undertaken to improve the lighting levels and distribution (whilst maintaining a good tree canopy) within the street. |
| Recent night road works in Percival Road: why were they not carried out during daylight hours? There was no consideration for families that lived in the area with the noise and lights at night. | Council prefers undertaking works during the day however there are some roads were this is unfortunately not feasible due to safety reasons and/or traffic. With respect to Percival Road, we needed to obtain a road occupancy license from TfNSW to undertake the work. A condition of that permit called for night works. |
| Another concern is the alley way between 93 and 95 Edwin Street. Could council arrange for a monthly cleaning and erect signage stating dumping of rubbish and urinating is an offence? The alleyway is dirty and unsightly and because of this people either dump rubbish on the ground or urinate in front of 95’s front door.  Your assistance in both these matters would be much appreciated. | Thanks for bringing this item to our attention. This area will be added to our streetscape maintenance program which is on a 20-day summer cycle and a 40-day winter cycle. We will keep an eye on how the alley looks thereafter. Remember you are able to report dumped rubbish and Council will have it picked up promptly. |
| Waste and recycling | |
| I don't think the garbage should be collected on Sunday. I believe all bins should be collected on Monday as they have always been collected. You would be charging double time to staff to empty on Sundays and wouldn’t' be saving money. Can Council remove the Sunday collection and move bins to be collected on Monday? If you did a survey of the community in the area they would all agree. | Bin pick ups are a logistical feat. There are 48,000 houses a week being serviced across the LGA, there are 2 pick ups a week per house which equates to 96,000 bins getting picked up every week. There are tight lanes which slow trucks and restrictions due to the traffic. With all this considered, we need Sunday pick ups to ensure the entire LGA is serviced every week. |
| I reported this to Inner West council on 3 August, 17 August and 18 August 2023.  Ref number REQ2023-088684  John Hendry was supposed to contact me back but till now I’ve had no response.  Our neighbours plus our waste bins are being dumped in front of my garage door. This garage is used/accessed by 4 people 24/7. Photos were included in the initial email sent on 3 August.  Need to have a better solution for rubbish bins to be collected by the waste contractors. Maybe they can be picked up in front of the properties not in the back lane way so obstruction to my garage door is solved.  Another issue is that non of the neighbours including myself have been issued green bins. The red bins are being left along the back lane way, in front of my garage and the alley way for two weeks. Are we receiving the green bins or not? If not the red bins should be collected on a weekly schedule. | This is a side-arm collector with our contractor. It is noted that residents place theirs bins in the lane way, runners then take the bins and put them on the street ready for the collection truck. Currently, runners return within 2 hours to return bins to the presentation spot, however, this delay causes the garage door to be blocked by the bins. The front of property has a pedestrian crossing and it is not safe to have the truck collect from this spot as it would block the crossing during collection time. Council has spoken with the contractor and the driver will exit the truck after the bins have been emptied and place the bins against the wall opposite the garage door, so the bins no longer block the entry/exit to the garage. Green bins will be delivered this week. |
| Why was the decision made to reduce waste collection to fortnightly without any communication and/or feedback from rate paying residents in the inner west? | Council publicly exhibited and adopted the [Zero Waste Strategy](https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/develop/plans-policies-and-controls/strategic-plans/zero-waste-strategy) in 2021, which included the need to identify and recycle organic waste at the kerbside as a key way to avoid landfill. Around 40% of the average Inner West red-lid bin was made up of recyclable organic waste and another 10% could be put into the yellow bin resident’s bins were audited. This audit demonstrated that fortnightly red lid bin collections without the average bin being full. This is the recommended model from the NSW EPA. However, we know this doesn't work for everyone and we have been offering support to our residents including upsized bins, extra pickups, and consultation with our wastebusters. |
| The new Rubbish collection scheme is now well and truly in operation, as far as I know not many of my neighbours or myself are happy about the changes, nor I know anybody in the area happy about the changes. I therefore would like to know whether has any feasibilities studies has been conducted in this regard besides savings. Also has any consultation been conducted with residents. As far as I am concerned $375,000 in savings per year representing more or less $4 per household is not a worthwhile exercise, and would not make much difference to the environment. | This change to FOGO is driven by environmental and sustainability goals including emissions targets and climate change, not revenue or budget. It is also a requirement for all Councils from the NSW EPA. It has been carried out after undertaking Inner West waste audits which in turn have informed the targets in our [Zero Waste Strategy](https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/develop/plans-policies-and-controls/strategic-plans/zero-waste-strategy) which Council adopted in 2021. We have also used industry data from the EPA and other Councils which already provide a FOGO service including Randwick and Penrith. Our residents are already exceeding targets and have diverted over 1000 tonnes of organic waste for recycling in the first month of operation. |

Ends.