

Towards a simpler planning system by Eva Wiland, Gazette editor

Artarmon and other residents from the Willoughby local government area last month had an opportunity to provide input at a forum which was the first step in the biggest overhaul of the NSW planning system in more than 30 years.

Former Greiner Government environment minister Tim Moore and former Carr Government community services, aged services and disability services and public works minister Ron Dyer, who head the review panel, were conducting the forum at Club Willoughby as part of a “listening and

scoping” exercise across NSW.

They said the EP&A act would be repealed and replaced with new legislation to be introduced in a year’s time, based on the 1979 act.

The review will consider four key areas: the new legislation’s objectives and philosophies; the plan-making process; development proposals; and the rights to appeal, review, conciliation and mediation during the determination process.

The review also aimed to create a planning system that protected local communities from overdevelopment

and conserved the environment.

Moore said the current planning instruments did not provide for climate change; it could possibly be split into planning and development; and needed to encourage alternative dispute resolution because the costs of taking residential disputes to court started at \$15,000 to \$20,000, which was outside most people’s reach.

Among interested residents at the Willoughby meetings, were transport minister and local member Gladys Berejicklian; local councillors and former council officers and representatives of Artarmon and Castle Cove progress associations and Save Artarmon.

CLr Rebecca Giles-Gidney said the Willoughby community was very concerned there should be community consultation over big Part 3A-type developments such as the Channel 9 site.

But those who came for answers to specific issues like the Channel 9 site were disappointed – no specific developments were to be discussed – only

To page 14

Concourse Library opens by Eva Wiland, Gazette editor

By the time of the official opening of the new 5,000sq m Concourse Library (Chatswood) on October 14, 60,000 visitors had been through the doors after the grand opening of The Concourse last month, and 3,000 new members had joined.

Invited guests at the official opening of the new library received a tour of the various sections, including the book sorter at the end of the book return chute. Officials said the “reading tree” in the children’s story corner had been a big hit.

CLr Stuart Coppock told the Gazette the library was proving very popular. At the soft opening the previous month, Stuart was the first councillor to enter the new library when a waiting library visitor cut the ribbon. “I was overawed by the facility, to use the modern jargon, it is awesome!” he said.

The new library is one of five branch libraries, including Artarmon. It has free wi-fi access and activities include a new book and movie lovers’ club for people who love talking about films and books and internet tutorials for



R: Local NSW MP Gladys Berejicklian with WCC officials and library staff ... at official opening

beginners and internet tutorials for every day living. Stuart said the new library would welcome volunteers.

The Willoughby library now sends email alerts for holds and overdue items. Go to: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Library/News--Events

* Teenagers are welcome to join the Teenage Reading Group at Artarmon Library. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from 3:45pm to 4:45pm and at this month’s meeting, Jane Caro is invited to talk about her new young adult book “Just a girl”. Stuart said the group was reportedly well supported and likely to become a citywide service. ■

Inside

Editorial	page 2
Note from the president	page 3
School turns out winners	page 5
Artarmon’s residential beginnings	page 6
APA history project takes shape	page 7
Branches knit, stitch with Love	page 8
Youth voice	page 9
Bouquets & Brickbats	page 10
Artarmon Reserve – soils, vegetation	page 11
Councillors’ Feedback	pages 12-13
Talking 2064	page 14
Sustainability Street	page 15



From front page

general and in-principle issues.

APA executive committee member and representative of Federation of Progress Associations Peter Egan raised concerns about social and environmental impacts; transport, infrastructure and services; accumulated impacts; and the appropriateness of future land use. Dyer asked for information about some of the specific instances of accumulated impacts.

It was pointed out the EP&A act superseded the Native Vegetation & Species acts and zoning was not a suitable mechanism to assess damage from a single zoning or development. Soils, an area's seedbanks were not declared critical habitat under the EP&A act.

Berejiklian confirmed transport planning should be considered as part of the integrated planning.

Cllr Wendy Norton requested the new planning system be a process of community participation, not merely consultation then "going on in the

same way originally intended by Government" as often was the outcome of the so-called consultative process.

Moore and Dyer said the number of steps involved in the decision-making process would be reduced and the number different applications would be also come down.

NSW planning minister Brad Hazzard's directive was for maximum information technology involvement in the planning process, including online tracking of the development application process and one single electronic portal.

The deadline for forums, comment and submissions was November 4. An issues paper will be released on December 8 for consultation and feedback to February 17. The green paper will be submitted to the state government and published to interested parties who have provided e-mail addresses and to councils about the end of April. The government will consider recommendations after the legislation is introduced, which will be followed by public consultation from about April to June 2013. For more information, go to www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au

APA will have ongoing information and news about the planning review on its Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/pages/Artarmon-Progress-Association/168829419796269

Quiz No 23 Answers

1. On July 7, 1898
2. John Roberts Grant
3. The Thomas Broughton, Sir Alexander Stuart and Shepherd Smith families.
4. JB Nicolson, J Farram, IB Fitzhardinge and FH Jackson

Compiled by Eva Wiland, *Artarmon Gazette* editor. **Questions on page 3**

(reported by Plamen Basarov;
Christine Kelley) ■