

Habitat threat

HAVING lived in The Hills for over 35 years and being most satisfied with my lifestyle and general amenities, I am now much disquieted by the sullen and uncommunicative attitude of the council in their support of excessive property developments across the Shire.

I am severely opposed to allowing medium to high density development at 55 Coonara Ave, West Pennant Hills, (the old IBM site) which allows 400 apartments and 200 houses built by Mirvac.

Hundreds of NSW citizens enjoy the forest facilities, the walks and verdant trails provide calm respite in busy days. Most of the site is covered in critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest and endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

Appallingly no protective environmental zoning has been proposed. The colony Powerful Owls which are listed as vulnerable species are found on the site.

The proposed development would destroy their habitat. It is not only environmentally damaging and also lacks any proper infrastructure and amenities, with the nearest public transport link over a 1km away.

Neighbouring residents will have to endure added traffic gridlock especially on Castle Hill Rd as a result of the substantially increased local population. Serving the hordes from Dural and surrounds, this will make the area a hotch-potch of traffic dangers.

Most of this land should be rezoned as E2 environmental conservation with protection for mature trees on any part of the site used for residential.

We want our beautiful forest protected not bulldozed for high-density apartments.

To get the full picture and a chance to have your say, go to forestindanger.org.au

Bill Leigh, West Pennant Hills

How can they?

I write regarding the development application by Mirvac for 600 dwellings at the old IMB site.

Mirvac has invested in Eco living apartments for its Marrickville development "The Livingstone". With such socially responsible designs, how can they plan to destroy hectares of forest in West Pennant Hills?

I encourage residents to write to the Minister for Planning if they object to this development

**Catherine Woolnough,
Baulkham Hills**