

## Questions Raised in Phase 1 Community consultation (survey and interactive mapping – later 2020)

The following matters were raised by the community in the first phase of community consultation

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p><b><i>Why is Council undertaking this work when a Housing Strategy hasn't been adopted?</i></b></p>	<p>There are a number of drivers that make this study relevant:</p> <p>Council is committed to protecting the character of Ku-ring-gai through a range of mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firstly the North District Plan requires Council to consider local character in the planning process</li> <li>• in February 2019 the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment released the Local Character and Place Guidelines; and</li> <li>• this year the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have developed a local character overlay and draft local character LEP clause. This will allow councils to insert a reference to local character in their LEP via a Local Character Statement and map.</li> <li>• Ku-ring-gai Local Strategic Planning Statement (KLSPS) Planning Priority K12. The objective of this priority is to manage change and growth in a way that conserves and enhances Ku-ring-gai's unique visual and landscape character. There are four Actions related to this Planning Priority - Action 1 - Define Ku-ring-gai's unique visual and landscape character through community engagement</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Why is Council undertaking this study when they already have a Visual Character Study?</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A visual character study prepared by M A Schell and Associates in 1999 is now over 20 years old. Its assessment was largely based on housing styles and the study only partially covered the Ku-ring-gai LGA.</li> <li>• DCP 38 references the Visual Character Study 1999 as an assessment criterion for consideration in the design process. DCP 38 - visual character criteria is no longer used</li> <li>• in the intervening 20 years since this study was prepared, GIS mapping capabilities (i.e. detailed aerial photography, improved mapping of trees and vegetation and the built form) have advanced significantly. this detailed suite of information allows us to overlay and compare multiple factors more</li> </ul>

	<p>easily, giving a much richer indication of local character across the LGA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the consultants engaged to undertake the Local Character Study, have reviewed the M A Schell &amp; Associates study as part of their comprehensive analysis of background information, to assist them in their in depth appraisals of the LGA and its local character attributes.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Will this current piece of work actually be useful in informing any future planning of Ku-ring-gai?</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes it will</li> <li>With the DPIE emphasising the importance of local character and through the LEP clause offering potential give some level of protection to character areas. it makes sense for Council to investigate this opportunity.</li> <li>however its important to note that this is only a first step in the process.</li> <li>The intention of the study is to provide the basis for further research into 'local character' in the future.</li> <li>This Background study is primarily focused on the analysis and identification of Ku-ring-gai's physical characteristics.</li> <li>this Background Study does not fully meet the requirements of the Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment's (DPIE) Local Character and Place Guidelines, 2019.</li> <li>study does not include a detailed examination of the social and cultural characteristics of the LGA,</li> <li>once we undertake this work we can commence discussion with the Department</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Why have the local centres been left out of the study?</i></b></p>	<p>The Local Character Study was originally designed to investigate the centres in more detail however as Council's adopted Housing Strategy requires no change/intensification in land use around these areas this is no longer necessary</p> <p>The study has included the Local Centres (Turramurra, St Ives, Pymble, Gordon, Lindfield and Roseville) as part of a broad local character area called the Kur-ring-gai Ridge and Centres Character Area</p> <p>Key Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher density and population</li> <li>Larger buildings</li> <li>Commercial and medium/high density residential</li> <li>Less tree canopy cover</li> <li>Follows major ridge-line</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Why have the proposed Broad Character Area Statements ignored the contributions of HCAs and Heritage Items?</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCAS and heritage items have been considered as part of the character of areas</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These areas already have high levels of protection under the heritage act</li> <li>• Aim of this study is to identify other additional areas that may warrant some level of protection</li> </ul>
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## Webinar Q & A – Local Character Background Study

The following questions were raised by the community at the webinar that took place on Monday 15 March 2021.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p><b>Is the character a point in time only? For instance, the number of canopy trees in my suburb have declined markedly in the last decade. Does that mean we're 'locked in' to the current status or could it return to what it was just a few years back?</b></p>	<p>Severe weather events, pressure from development, bushfire risk mitigation and significant legislative changes have impacted upon the extent and density of Ku-ring-gai's tree canopy.</p> <p>Since the 1990s Council has undertaken a significant amount of mapping (vegetation mapping &amp; aerial imagery) to monitor tree canopy change.</p> <p>To date, tree canopy has been protected by Council's LEPs and DCP planning controls, via deep soil and landscape/planting provisions, Tree Preservation Orders, Tree and Vegetation Preservation clauses and riparian land/biodiversity mapping &amp; controls.</p> <p>Council has a long history of supporting canopy replenishment and is soon to commence the preparation of an <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i>, with the intent of improving the quality and diversity of Ku-ring-gai's urban forest and to increase, manage and protect Ku-ring-gai's urban tree canopy.</p>
<p><b>What's the impact of being in one character area verses another? Is there any value in 'lobbying' to move to a different area?</b></p>	<p>The Study defines the existing character of areas so there is no advantage to be in one or the other. All are equal weighting. However if you feel that the boundaries between character areas is not correct you can make a comment on this and we will review.</p>
<p><b>In terms of heritage and preservation in cultural terms/concepts, who will be accountable for consultation with Aboriginal people who are descendants of Dharug and Gurngai/Gaimaraigal peoples? This topic includes ancient landforms, sites and other knowledge.</b></p>	<p>Council regularly confers with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) regarding consultation with Indigenous communities. And will continue to engage with the MLALC, as both a land holder and a rep</p> <p>The <a href="#">Ku-ring-gai Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)</a> adopted on 17 March, 2020 plans for Ku-ring-gai's economic, social and environmental land use needs for the next 20 years (2016-2036). This is the first LSPS developed by Council.</p>

	<p>The LSPS draws together the priorities and actions from Councils existing land use plans and policies to present an overall land use vision for Ku-ring-gai.</p> <p>Aboriginal Communities and Cultural Heritage are referenced in the LSPS, with two key Local Planning Priorities, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>K15</b> – Strengthening recognition and support for Aboriginal communities and cultural heritage; and</li> <li>• <b>K16</b> – Protecting, conserving and managing Ku-ring-gai’s Aboriginal heritage objects, items and significant places.</li> </ul> <p>Since 2006, Ku-ring-gai Council has also been a member of the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO). The AHO’s projects and activities are based on three (3) main areas of education, council support and site management. Council, through works undertaken by AHO, continue to protect, record, monitor and restore Aboriginal sites within the Ku-ring-gai LGA.</p>
<p><b>Does KMC have a liberal and generous strategy to allow removal of aged trees? Plenty of old trees have gone in the past 15 years. What is the detail of replacing trees? What input is there from RFS about built places in fire exposed zones?</b></p>	<p>Council’s Tree Management Policy requires tree work decisions to have a focus on retaining and protecting trees, unless there is strong justification for removal. Some possible justifications for tree removal include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where there is likelihood of tree failure and a high likelihood of impacting a dwelling or a regularly used external area and remedial actions to mitigate hazards are not feasible or practical;</li> <li>• Where the tree is in poor and declining health with a Useful Life Expectancy of less than 5 years;</li> <li>• Where the tree is causing substantial and continuing structural damage to a dwelling or substantial structure; and</li> <li>• Tree in declining health, has poor form or structure and there are no tree management options.</li> </ul> <p>See the <a href="#">tree section</a> of Council’s website for more information.</p>
<p><b>One could be forgiven for thinking that the real purpose of the current Ku-ring-gai Local Character Study and the introduction of the concept of ‘Broad Local Character Areas’, is to facilitate yet a further round of re-zonings for increased high rise development and other forms of development intensification – what the consultant referred to as ‘change’. While</b></p>	<p>At its meeting on Tuesday 22 October, 2020, Council voted <i>not to proceed with increased heights or new zonings</i> and adopted a housing strategy that would provide new housing to the year 2036 <i>from existing capacity</i> within Ku-ring-gai’s current planning controls.</p>

**limiting protection for Ku-ring-gai's heritage and character areas, items and streetscapes, which would impede this. What guarantees are there that this is not the true purpose of the Local Character Study?**