

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

How it will affect you

Why it must be amended

What you can do about it.

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: SUNDAY 29 MAY 2005
TIME: 4:00 pm
PLACE: GLENORIE RSL

In the name of protecting plants, animals, and the ground we stand on, Baulkham Hills Council's Environmental Management Plan threatens to override some of your most basic human rights.

Don't let this happen. Make sure you attend this meeting to hear speakers from **5 Acres Now** explain details of the plan, how it will affect you, and what you can do to protect your freedoms.

- ◆ **PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS—demand compensation for measures that reduce property values.**
- ◆ **INSIST ON BALANCE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN—people are just as important as the environment.**
- ◆ **DEMAND A SAY—don't let extremists dictate your future.**

Councillors vote against subdivision report

Cr Ray Williams is to be thanked for tabling a motion calling for a detailed report on the potential for reduction of the minimum lot size in the rural area at the council meeting of 17 May. Disappointingly though, the motion was hardly debated before being lost on a show of hands, although we were assured that the intent of the motion would be incorporated into the deliberations of the Working Group reviewing the Rural Land Study.

Given that it is now 8 months since the draft LEP was rejected, and 3 months past the date set for the first report from the Working Group, there is growing concern that we are being strung along with more of the same tactics successfully employed for the last 22 years—procrastination, diversionary issues, and attempts to move the goal posts. Let's hope this is not the case.

We must continue to insist that when the draft LEP is finally amended, the council recognises that their job in this issue is to represent **our** interests, not those of government departments or groups who are not directly affected.

More information ...

The primary aim of **5 Acres Now** is to regain the right, withdrawn some 40 years ago, to subdivide large lots to 5 acres in the so-called "rural" area of the shire of Baulkham Hills. That's why we are called **5 Acres Now**. We believe this

is a very reasonable goal that will benefit the area by restoring a moderate level of growth without unduly impacting upon the environment. To find out more, visit our website: www.5acresnow.com.au, or contact us as detailed below.

President's Column

It's now becoming clear that the ban on 5 acre subdivision is part of a much wider denial of choice and lack of respect for private property rights occurring at all levels of government.

There's no better illustration of this than the council's Environmental Management Plan. The source of this is state legislation introduced in 1997 (Ecologically Sustainable Development amendment to the Local Government Act), which itself came about as a result of an agreement between the Commonwealth & States signed in 1992 (Inter-governmental Agreement on the Environment), modelled on proposals tabled at the Rio "Earth Summit".

Throughout this entire process one key factor has been absent—agreement from those who bear the cost through loss of use of their own property. While grand words are spoken about community participation, in reality only an extremist minority have been listened to. The rest of us are expected to meekly let others limit our choices and decide what's best for us. In a free and democratic society, this is unacceptable.

Alex Davidson, President

Upcoming Events

Please note that the dates are subject to change. Telephone the council on 9843 0124 or check their website (www.baulkhamhills.com.au) for confirmation.

7 June—Council meeting to receive report from the Rural Land Study review Working Group. Details will be available from the council on the Friday prior to the meeting.

20 June—The council is holding a public meeting about the Environmental Management Plan. There will be an opportunity for speakers to address the meeting. We strongly encourage you to attend and voice your concerns about the effects of the Plan.

Both these events have a direct bearing on our aims, so please attend.