

Draft Eastern District Plan

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Submission content: I am a General Practitioner and have been a resident of Bardwell Park for 12 years and have some serious issues with the South District draft plan for Earlwood and the Eastern City District draft plan for Bardwell Park & Turrella. Earlwood, Bardwell Park and Turrella are connected by the Wolli Creek Valley Regional Park and Bardwell Valley Parklands. The proposals for urban renewal areas in the District Plans will have a negative impact on the entire area, and particularly on its wildlife, the green canopy, waterways and open space. We are currently experiencing an increase in severe weather events, higher summer temperatures and environmental stresses; why would would the community accept a loss of green space to accept such a large number of new dwellings. The proposals for 'upzoning' existing low-density residential housing to develop high-rise housing will force residents away from their familiar neighbourhoods and communities. The proposed increases will have major negative ramifications for existing infrastructure, will worsen road congestion and overcrowding on public transport and reduce the livability of our suburbs. Already our roads are struggling to cope with morning and afternoon peak periods; the trains are crowded by the time they reach Bardwell Park- how are more commuters going to be accommodated? The District Plans foreshadow increases in families with primary-aged

children and people aged over 65 years in the two Districts but there is no clear provision of social infrastructure, and so the burden will fall on local councils and community providers. Increased population will put even more pressure on already overcrowded schools, hospitals and other public facilities in the local area. I work in health and see our local health facilities are already overcrowded and staff working tirelessly to deliver excellent health outcomes but struggle to understand how existing facilities will cope with such a substantial increase in patient numbers. There needs to be a commitment to an increase in services before this plan is enacted. The topography of Earlwood and Bardwell Park is significant because the suburbs are built on sandstone escarpment, making access difficult. Streets are narrow with little room to expand and so traffic congestion will significantly increase with even a modest increase in population either in Earlwood and/or Bardwell Park and Turrella because the suburbs share roadways and public transport facilities. The housing projections proposed in the District Plans are unfair. The combined targets for Canterbury City Council and Bayside Council is for 23,400 homes in the next 5 years. This is a huge increase in population and is grossly disproportionate to other suburbs/areas within the two Districts and compared to the whole of Sydney. The plans give little consideration given to affordable and social housing. Increasing supply of high-rise housing does not necessarily improve affordability or housing choice, yet the plans seem to imply that this is a fact. Any resident who passes through Wolli Creek or Canterbury can see the case example of large increases in population with minimal infrastructure, roads in appalling chaos and buildings being built as close to the limits of property sizes. Integrated planning and development requires genuine and sustained consultation with the local community to ensure that the housing density levels are appropriate for our suburbs in a way that respects the needs of the community and its urban character. Development should only be allowed where it includes additional public transport, good traffic planning, new schools, open spaces, and community facilities in proportion to any projected increase in population. The

community meetings I attended recently were filled with people very upset about these massive changes to our local communities and angry that there had been little attempt to involve the community in discussion and planning. I would like to see a serious response to community concerns and would be happy to speak with representatives at any time.