

# THE CRAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC

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Seventy-five years of Community Development

January 2000

## Future of Warringah Freeway Land: What is Happening?

### SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

Saturday 22 January, 2000 at 9.15am

At Harold Reid Reserve

(If rain, at Castlecrag Community Centre)

**Purpose:** To inform residents of the proposals being put forward by the consultants to the joint Abandoned Warringah Transport Corridor Planning Strategy, and their implications for the natural heritage of Sugarloaf Bay and Middle Harbour.

**Speakers:** will include the Mayor, Pat Reilly, Council officers and planning specialists.

#### Background

The future use of the land purchased by the Government for the proposed Warringah Freeway and abandoned largely as a result of action taken by the Castlecrag community in the 1970s, should be of concern to all residents. A Commission of Inquiry was held into the future use of the lands (the Kirby Report), which concluded that "Middle Harbour and the escarpment [of the Castlecrag Peninsula] are simply too precious to sacrifice" and recommended against construction in order to protect the bushland.

As previously advised in *The Crag*, consultants have jointly been appointed by the RTA, DUAP and Willoughby Council to examine strategic planning issues concerning important parcels of land in the corridor prior to their sale. The study was to determine if there are any community planning issues that could provide a better outcome than the sale of the land as it is currently zoned. The study covers 75 sites in Willoughby and Castlecrag. The study process includes meetings with 3 Reference Groups and 2 Community Workshops, the second of which is scheduled for 10 February 2000.

#### Why You Should Attend

The consultants have prepared draft recommendations for the Steering Committee and Reference Groups, which will be presented at the Community Consultation Meeting on 10 February. The implications of these proposals, if implemented, are far reaching for the Northern Escarpment and Sugarloaf Bay. It appears that the consultants have arrived at these conclusions in the belief that there is little public interest in the future of this land.

The purpose of the **Special Meeting** is to inform residents of the proposals. You need to become involved in this matter NOW before it is too late. Please come to the meeting on 22 January for detailed briefings on what is proposed. The Harold Reid Reserve has been chosen as the venue as it provides a magnificent vantage point to appreciate the Escarpment. Details of the proposals, maps, etc will be provided at the meeting. If you are unable to come on 22<sup>nd</sup>, please try to attend the Community Workshop at Council scheduled for 10 February. [Note: if rain on 22<sup>nd</sup>, the meeting will be at the Community Centre].

*Bob McKillop, President*