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St Leonards Crows Nest Draft Green Plan Submission

I object to the St Leonards Crows Nest Draft Green Plan for the following reasons:

- The Green Plan **denies residents even the basic requirements for public open space and is well below any reasonable guideline**. In NSW, the DoPE has used a guide of 2.83 hectares/1000 population, which the Green Plan does not come close to achieving.
- The **figure of 21 hectares of open space and parklands said to be available to residents and workers of the Draft Plan area is misleading**. The correct figure of currently available open space is 12.7 hectares of open space – the remaining 8.3 hectares are outside the boundary of the Draft Plan area.
- The Draft Green Plan has **not adequately assessed open space requirements given the high-density apartment environment that is St Leonards Crows Nest**. More open space is essential to compensate for the lack of private open space, to support active living, to provide a more liveable neighbourhood, and to give children living in high density housing green spaces for play, and social and physical development.
- The solar protection guidelines **do not adequately protect our limited public open space from overshadowing and feeling hemmed in by high rise**.
- The **creation of new open space should be a priority**. To say that the recommendation for increased open space is “aspirational”, “to be used as a guide”, and that it is “not binding”, as set out on page 46 of the Green Plan, is not satisfactory.
- **New open space must be proportional to population growth** and should occur as the population increases, not afterwards.
- **Much of the open space identified in the plan is not of the size or quality required to meet and accommodate a range of recreation activities and needs**. For example, page 14 of the Draft Green Plan identifies that “**Parks aligned with drainage corridors (such as Talus Street Reserve and Newlands Park) are difficult to access due to steep landform and arterial roads, limiting recreational opportunities and placing greater pressure on parks with better accessibility**”. Talus Street Reserve is nearly 2 hectares and Newlands Park is about 1 hectare – these are two of the largest pieces of open space in the Green Plan area.

