



REPRESENTING
THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1971



EPPING CIVIC TRUST

Foundation and early years

The Trust was formed in March 1971 and known as the Protection Association for Environmental and Planning Control. This long name was later changed to the simpler Epping Civic Trust.

The main reason for the formation of the Trust was to object to the then proposed Parramatta Planning Scheme which would have resulted in large areas of Parramatta Council-controlled Epping, West Epping and Eastwood being rezoned for medium density 3 storey walk up apartments. In addition, IBM wished to build a multi storey National Headquarters on Carlingford Road, west of Cliff Road.

The Trust's membership was initially small (about 40), consisting of residents from Rawson, High and Victoria Streets, Chesterfield Road and neighbouring streets. Funds and contacts were built up through social fundraising events such as Street Stalls, Photo Slide nights and Progressive Dinners. Meetings were held monthly (initially at member's homes) and at its height, membership grew to over 600.

Development in Epping

The Trust vigorously objected to the Parramatta Planning Scheme and IBM proposal and these were eventually withdrawn in late 1973. However, due to intervention by the Minister for Planning, the area now known as Boronia Gardens between Carlingford Road and Kent Street remained zoned for medium density.

The Trust objected to this move and supported Parramatta Council at the Local Government Appeals Tribunal (now the Land and Environment Court). It was felt that the Trust's involvement resulted in a more acceptable outcome and better placed buildings, underground garages and more space for landscaping.

Heritage Conservation Areas

Due to the committed initiative of Trust members working with Councillor Lorraine Wearne and Parramatta Council most of the land due to be rezoned under the Parramatta Planning Scheme is now part of the Eastwood/Epping Heritage Conservation area with many of the houses in very good condition and representative of their era. Supporting strong HCA's has remained a core aim of the Trust.

Election Involvement

The Trust was very active in council elections and ran its own ACE Independent Team of candidates for Parramatta Council from the early 1970's until 1999 with Trust-sponsored councillors being elected during that period. In the Hornsby Shire controlled area of Epping, Councillors Ron Payne and Owen Nannelli always gave strong support to the Trust objectives.

Local Environment

The Trust has always been very active in promoting tree planting and streetscape improvements. Until the 1970's it was Parramatta Council's policy to plant mainly flowering and other shrubs as street trees. However, by the late 1970's and after representations from the Trust this policy was changed and over 1,000 tall growing trees were planted in Epping streets and parks in that period. A later good example of this is the avenue of Box Brush trees in Bridge Street. Even though planted recently (2008) they have already made a significant positive impact to the view along Bridge Street.

1980's to 2000's

The M2: Land on the border of Epping was originally set aside in the early 1950s for the present-day M2. By the 1970's the Trust was lobbying State Government on when the road (then known as the Epping By-pass) would be built, as traffic built up in the town centre.

There were a lot of divisions in the community over the proposal with those for and against the M2. An alternative idea was to widen Carlingford Road and have a tunnel under Epping coming out at Epping Road near where it joins Pembroke Street.

In the late 1980's a well organised and attended march took place along Carlingford Road to a rally in Boronia Park on the issue. The Trust's main influence over the final project was in the building of the M2 Tunnels under North Epping. An alternative route would have seen a deep unsightly cutting dividing the suburb.

Genesis Building: This site was originally occupied by two garages and some very rough vacant land on the Rawson Street side. The original Lyon development was proposed to be 18 storeys but the Trust objected to this as over development and arranged a huge public meeting in the Church Hall in Bridge Street. The end result was the present building of 8 storeys and a more acceptable development.

Urban Activation Precinct: From the late 1990s ideas and proposals for the redevelopment of the Epping Town Centre were talked about. In 2005, the Trust held a meeting canvassing what positive development may look like rather than wholesale rezoning. But by 2010 it was clear that that was what on the cards was high density zoning and a huge change to the suburb. The Trust lobbied, held meetings and distributed information locally seeking more considered planning but it was to no avail. Only the addition of more Heritage Conservation Areas served to protect the streetscape near the railway station.

The UAP is the largest change in Epping since its founding. Since 2010, the Trust has been holding government to account on poor planning, lack of infrastructure and inability to realise a better vision for the Epping of the future.



Objectives of the Epping Civic Trust

- 1** Preserve the natural beauty of the area - including trees, parklands and bushlands
- 2** Initiate and support moves which will make the area a better and healthier place to live
- 3** Protect the area from:
 - environmental ugliness and bad planning
 - all kinds of pollution and unnecessary noise
 - destruction and vandalism by public or private organisations
 - exploitation by developers
 - future high density housing and development of industry
- 4** Encourage community spirit within the area
- 5** To foster, maintain and encourage an interest in the history and heritage of the district

Presidents of Epping Civic Trust

1971-1975 - Ronald Nott
1975-1976 - Colonel David Rouse OBE
1976-1980 - Graham Lovell
1980-1981 - Ronald Dunstan
1981-2018 - Graham Lovell
2018 onwards - Janet McGarry

For more information and 40th anniversary history go to <https://eppingcivictrust.org/the-history-of-epping-civic-trust/>

*Many Thanks:
To Graham Lovell, Ron Dunstan
and Graeme Wyber for this
history, and Jane Buchan
for her design.*



REPRESENTING
THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1971

