

Bush fire fuel grows

Councillor Max Parker recently visited the bush fire fuel which is mounting alongside Henry Lawson Drive at Padstow Heights.

The same is occurring in other parts of Padstow Heights through to Plemic Point.

Cr. Parker responded to a number of complaints regarding Council's inactivity on the issue of backburning and clearing of bushland to prevent such fuel storage.

Cr. Parker is still working to ensure that Council implements its Fire Protection Strategy in areas at risk of bush fires in the forthcoming Summer.

He was on the committee to establish relevant programs, and is keeping a close eye on the problem which is one of great fear to the residents alongside the Georges River.

"Council should be undertaking such activity already. The former committee responsible for identification of areas for back burning and clearing initiated a program of education for residents about bush fire risk and what they can do to minimise risk to their residence." Cr Parker commented.

"If residents feel that any area of bushland should have been cleared or back burnt, please notify Bankstown City Council, or contact me personally and I will follow this up for residents."

Thanks, but no thanks

The respected Georges Hall resident, Mamma Lena, will not be able to present an award to former Prime Minister Paul Keating at the Mayoral Ball this weekend.

Mamma Lena had suggested to mayor, Cr Ian Stromborg, that "hopefully during the ball I will be able to confer to you and to ex-Prime Minister Paul Keating the 'Heart of Mamma Lena' medal. This is a medal I give to people I hold in high regard and as a 'thank you' for the support given to the Italian-Australian community."

Cr. Stromborg has since said that "regrettably, due to a very tight time schedule on the night of the Ball, this will not be possible. However, if you would consider another time for the prestigious honour, it would be appreciated."

Council candidate Mr Arnold Bello, called it "a very sorry affair."

"It's beyond my comprehension why Ian did this sort of thing," Mr Bello said.

"I have no objection to Paul Keating Park," he said but "we just wanted to say thank you."

Airport - slap in the face for country

A group of MPs voiced concerns about the proposed Bankstown Airport upgrade yesterday.

Country Labor MPs, and member for Bankstown Mr Tony Stewart, yesterday demanded that the Federal Government abandon plans to redirect all regional airlines to Bankstown.

They described such plans as a "slap in the face for country families."

Mr Stewart, the Minister for Regional Development and Rural Affairs Mr Harry Woods, and Country Labor MLC Mr Tony Kelly and Member for Bathurst Mr Gerard Martin made their concerns known at Bathurst Airport, on the eve of the Federal Government's decision.

"Country people should not have to be forced to land at Bankstown when in most cases they will have to go to Sydney's Kingsford Smith for further redirection. They, like everyone else, should have a right to immediate access to Kingsford Smith," Mr Stewart said.

Mr Stewart said the proposal would mean some 1.4 million passenger movements into Bankstown.

"This plan should be terminated in the interest of Country NSW and the people of Bankstown.

Member for Bathurst, Mr Gerard Martin said it was not fair that a person from Bathurst or Orange would have to face an extra 45 minutes to an hour on their journey.

"Why is it that someone from the US and Japan can have immediate access to Mascot and country people cannot?"

Mr Kelly said country people opposed the plan because it would add up to an hour to every journey for country families.

"It would also cause major disruptions to one in four regional passengers who go through Sydney on their way to other destinations," Mr Kelly said.

A spokesman for the Federal Minister for Transport Mr John Anderson said "John has previously indicated that regional access to Sydney is a priority to him. We'll have to see how cabinet deals with the issue."



Dino Guslin and Mamma Lena