

## Support the Unwin Green Street Proposal

**Issue:** Two State-identified 'green corridors' can be linked by this proposal but it needs co-operation between State Government, Canterbury-Bankstown City Council, Unwin Street residents and the Wolli Creek Preservation Society.

### Background:

- The Department of Planning has been working with Sydney Councils to identify and consolidate 'green corridors'. It has stressed the need to increase and improve the connectivity of green space for ecological and recreational purposes.
- Local residents and the Wolli Creek Preservation Society (WCPS) have sought support from the State Government and Canterbury-Bankstown City Council for a 'green street' to complete a link missing between two identified inner-city green corridors.
- A brief summary of the concept, together with the location of the (Unwin) Green Street, its corridor linking role, and artist impressions of the completed proposal is here <http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Support-UGS-pix-230131.pdf>.
- Federal and State ALP policies are committed to increasing conservation and open space in urban areas.

### Current position:

- The land sought from the State Government consists of several vacant blocks on Unwin St held by the Office of Strategic Lands (OSL).
- Informal understanding is that OSL will seek to transfer several of the blocks it holds in ways compatible with the Unwin Green Street concept.
- However, OSL is moving to sell three of the blocks (14-16 Unwin St) in the second half of 2023 (first it has to assess and remediate known contamination on the blocks). The blocks are zoned for low-density single storey residential development. The three blocks are only about 1700 sq m in total and the potential building area is even smaller.
- Withdrawal from sale would mean some loss of sale revenue to the State Government. But remediation costs to residential use standard would be much higher compared with open space standard, reducing any sale proceeds.
- Canterbury-Bankstown City Council has informally indicated in-principle support for the proposal, subject to cost assessment.
- All residents (30 households) in and adjacent to Unwin St have signed a petition to the Mayor seeking Council support for the concept.
- NPWS has informally indicated a willingness to accept the two blocks proposed for addition to the Wolli Creek Regional Park. There would be some minor costs involved in revegetating them.
- Wolli Creek Preservation Society has offered to support the residents by providing advice about how to make their gardens "bush-friendly": a program began in January 2023.

### Comment:

- There is widespread support for the concept among relevant agencies and the residents.
- The proposal is an excellent example of how green corridors can be expanded and urban streets and gardens used to support habitat for native wildlife and its movement along corridors. This could serve as a pilot project for other areas adjacent to nominated green corridors.
- Benefits of the proposal include increase in community amenity (conservation education and access to community involvement in local, small scale conservation activities), land and habitat conservation, and improved access to Wolli Creek National Park.
- You can support the proposal by signing an online petition at <https://www.change.org/UnwinGreenStreet>