

Section 1

#1 "Over the past year alone, more than 500 mature trees have been removed across Greenhollow to make way for new apartment buildings, bigger roads, and shopping centres. These aren't just any trees—they're huge, beautiful eucalypts and paperbarks that have been part of our neighbourhood for decades."*

Strengths:

- Effective use of specific numbers (500 trees) gives credibility to your concern
- Good detail about native Australian tree species (eucalypts and paperbarks)

Weakness: Limited impact explanation → While you mention trees being removed, you could strengthen the emotional impact by describing the specific consequences more vividly. Your writing describes the trees but doesn't fully capture what their removal means for the community.

Exemplar: *These aren't just any trees—they're towering eucalypts and paperbarks that have sheltered our community for decades, trees where generations of children have played and where countless birds nested each spring.*

#2 "According to the Greenhollow Urban Canopy Survey (2024), our tree cover has dropped by 12% in just two years. That might not sound like a lot, but when you walk to school and feel the sun burning on the back of your neck where there used to be shade, it's a big deal."*

Strengths:

- Strong use of evidence with the specific survey and percentage
- Makes the abstract percentage personal with the relatable example of walking to school

Weakness: Incomplete climate connection → You touch on the heat impact but miss an opportunity to connect this directly to climate change and your community's wellbeing. This would strengthen the urgency of your message to the councillor.

Exemplar: *That 12% loss means entire streets now bake in the summer heat, turning our once-cool neighbourhood walks into uncomfortable journeys and causing our community's electricity bills to rise as more people rely on air conditioning.*

#3 "I'm asking the Council to consider: • A temporary stop on developments that remove large native trees • Stronger rules to keep trees when land is cleared • More money for local replanting programs and park restoration • Teaching people about why trees matter in schools and community centres • Making it harder for people to remove trees without a good reason"*

Strengths:

- Clear, organised list of specific requests
- Mix of short-term actions and longer-term solutions

Weakness: Lack of feasibility context → Your requests are valid but don't acknowledge any implementation challenges or how they might realistically fit into council priorities and budget. This makes your requests seem less well-considered.

Exemplar: *I'm asking the Council to consider implementing a staged approach, beginning with a temporary pause on developments that remove large native trees while creating stronger protection rules that balance development needs with environmental preservation.*

■ Your letter shows genuine passion for protecting Greenhollow's trees, which comes through clearly. To make your letter more persuasive, you could add more specific examples of how tree preservation benefits the entire community economically. Also, mentioning which other community groups support tree protection would show the councillor this isn't just one person's concern. You could strengthen your case by suggesting a specific timeline for action, which makes your requests seem more urgent and practical. The letter would be more compelling if you briefly addressed potential concerns about development restrictions. Your tree-planting example is excellent, but you could build on this by proposing how the council could expand such initiatives. Remember to thank the councillor for specific environmental actions they've already taken, which shows you appreciate their past efforts.

Overall Score: 41/50

Section 2

Formal Letter to Local Council
To: Councillor Jane Morley
From: Ayaan Talwar
Subject: Urgent Protection of Greenhollow's Native Tree Canopy

Dear Councillor Morley,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to you not just as a local student, but as someone who genuinely cares about the environment around me. I've grown up in Greenhollow, and I've always loved how green and leafy our suburb used to feel. But now, it's like the trees are slowly disappearing—quietly, one by one—and no one's really noticing until it's almost too late.

#1 Over the past year alone, more than 500 mature trees have been removed across Greenhollow to make way for new apartment buildings, bigger roads, and shopping centres. These aren't just any trees—they're huge, beautiful eucalypts and paperbarks that have been part of our neighbourhood for decades. They cool us down in summer, clean our air, and give shelter to animals like possums and lorikeets. Without them, everything feels hotter, louder, and more concrete. It's like nature is shrinking around us.

#2 According to the Greenhollow Urban Canopy Survey (2024), our tree cover has dropped by 12% in just two years. That might not sound like a lot, but when you walk to school and feel the sun burning on the back of your neck where there used to be shade, it's a big deal. And it's not just about comfort—there's actual evidence that the rising heat and flash flooding in Greenhollow are tied to the loss of trees. It's affecting our health and making the suburb less safe, especially for kids and older people.

We don't want to stop building things or making the suburb better. But there has to be a smarter way to do it—a way that doesn't mean cutting down the very trees that make our community livable.

#3 I'm asking the Council to consider:

- A temporary stop on developments that remove large native trees
- Stronger rules to keep trees when land is cleared
- More money for local replanting programs and park restoration
- Teaching people about why trees matter in schools and community centres
- Making it harder for people to remove trees without a good reason

There are already signs that people want to help. Last weekend, I joined a tree-planting event at Ridgeview Park with my family. There were little kids digging, grandparents watering saplings, and heaps of smiles. It felt like we were giving something back. That's the kind of energy we should be building on.

You've always supported local projects and listened to residents. That's why I'm hopeful you'll take this issue seriously and speak up for our trees. They can't talk, but we can. And I believe we owe it to future generations to protect what we still have.

Thank you for your time and everything you do for Greenhollow.

Sincerely, Ayaan Talwar 039590285 ayaant285@hotmail.com