

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.

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.

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. 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,
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