

MEDIA RELEASE

David Borger
Minister for Housing
Minister for Western Sydney



“Guerrilla Gardeners” to inspire Western Sydney councils

August 5, 2009

Minister for Western Sydney David Borger will today host the second ‘Urban Parks and Open Spaces’ Forum in Western Sydney with Channel 10’s “Guerrilla Gardeners”.

Mr Borger said the aim of these forum was to put leading landscapers and urban planners together with Councils to come up with innovative and cost effective solutions for dead beat parks.

“Unfortunately well-designed parks that attract multiple activities and people can be hard to find in most areas of Western Sydney,” Mr Borger said.

“Somewhere in the last 50 years we have forgotten how to design urban parks - too often these “parks” are left over land with no clear value for the local neighbourhood.

“They are just huge swathes of grassed areas with no movement, no trees and no activity – with absolutely no incentive to lure kids from the playstation to the great outdoors.”

Mr Borger said that as Western Sydney grows with more housing and employment Councils and communities need to turn their attention back to building great urban spaces.

“That why late last year I asked for an audit on all the parks and reserves in the area and why I initiated these forums,” Mr Borger said.

“At the forum Councils are invited to talk about their nominated piece of land and are given cost effective and fast acting solutions to help turn things around.

“Special guests at today’s forum are the well known “Guerrilla Gardeners” from Channel 10 – I asked them to join us to share their unique ideas and experiences.

“It’s great that they agreed and are happy to fill us in on all the inspiring work they’ve been involved in.

“We will also be hearing feedback on what progress councils have made since the first forum held in March.”

Guerrilla Gardener Scott Lipman and the show's creator and executive-producer Nick Murray will share highlights of their experiences in transforming some of the city's biggest eye-sores.

"We are thrilled Minister Borger wanted us to be involved. The beautification and maintenance of public spaces is obviously an important concept to Guerrilla Gardeners and so it is fantastic that local councils in Western Sydney are fully behind this idea," Mr Lipman said.

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