

SAVE HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY COALITION

A coalition of community and precinct groups and residents determined to save the historic Municipality of Hunters Hill
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The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, MP
NSW Premier
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
13 November 2013

Dear Premier,

Re: Planning Bills 2013

We express our considerable disappointment and concern that you as Premier and the Government are proceeding with what are deeply flawed Planning Bills.

As we stated in our letter and email dated 22 September, which is attached and has not been acknowledged, the Bills are not only in breach of your election promises, but also in breach of your own State Plan 'NSW 2021' Goal 32 – 'People to have a real say and be involved in localised decision making, including through local government'.

The many serious problems with the Bills have been raised by many communities and others right across NSW. That this is so can readily be seen from an examination of the almost 5,000 submissions made to the draft Bill and White Paper, as summarised in the Department's own [Feedback Report](#) This Report sets out the many legitimate concerns and the inadequate response made by the Government.

The widespread community opposition to the Bills can also be seen from the coming together of over 430 community groups and organisations across NSW to form the Better Planning Network (BPN). This has never happened before on an issue like this in the history of NSW - and the issue is planning.

It is important to make the point, also made in the Report, that the vast majority of community submissions supported increased growth and jobs in conjunction with the provision of infrastructure, strategic planning, a Community Participation Charter and evidence based planning. However the community found many flaws with the actual draft Bill. The devil is always in the detail.

The Bills as we know are now before the Upper House.

Please find attached the Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC) Analysis of the Planning Bill 2013. Information about SHHMC including this Analysis is on our website www.savehuntershill.org particularly under 'Latest News' and 'Important links' – SHHMC Documents.

This document not only deals with the serious flaws remaining in the Bills, but is extremely critical of the way the Government has handled the whole process, particularly after the failure to adopt many of the recommendations in the independent 'Moore and Dyer' Report.

These Bills, if passed, will have a serious adverse impact on all communities.

It is our belief that it is in the best interests of everyone - Government, the property industry and communities, to promote sustainable growth and jobs using strategic planning, while at the same time properly protecting community values and the environment.

This requires a truly fair and balanced planning system, one that is easy to understand and has community support. What is proposed in the Planning Bills goes nowhere near achieving that.

The Bills require so many amendments in so many places impacting on many other provisions that to go down that path will produce bad legislation with serious consequences.

There is no other practical course now but for the Bills to be rejected.

We have emailed all members of the Upper House raising these issues and attaching the above Analysis.

This letter was emailed to office@premier.nsw.gov.au on 13 November 2013 at 5.17pm.

Kind regards,



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