

17 February 2020

THE TRUTH COMES OUT

The reasons given by planning Minister Stephan Knoll ([Media Release 7 February 2020](#)) for the delayed implementation of the Planning and Design Code seemed implausible at the time. Now we know that they were incorrect.

In his Media Release, the Minister said that:

“ The State Government is on track to deliver the new Planning and Design Code on time.”

“.....the advice from the (State Planning) Commission is that stake holders, councils and the community are asking for more time to understand the Code and become familiar with the new E Planning system”.

“It would be counterproductive to the planning system and developments across South Australia if we were to ignore the feedback from councils and the community and push ahead with the initial timelines.”

On face value, none of this made sense. The Government had been receiving, and largely ignoring, advice and feedback from councils and the community for many months. And if further discussion was to occur and more advice solicited, why was the ‘Consultation’ Period deadline maintained at February, and not moved to accommodate further feedback.

As it turns out, the answer is simple. The Code delay has nothing to do with the reasons given by the Minister. In fact, there is much evidence that the Code is an incomplete and ill-formed mess, and the essential implementation tool, the electronic e- planning system is unworkable.

We now know this to be true, since on 14 February 2020, the following email was sent by a member of the Planning Department staff in response to a public enquiry about the ‘consultation’ deadline:

Good morning

The Minister for Planning has already determined that there will be no extension to the consultation on the Code. The extension of time is for implementation of the e-planning system

https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/634440/Media_Release_-_Government_gives_stakeholders_more_time_to_implement_new_Planning_and_Design_Code.pdf

Regards

Planning Reform Team

Planning and Land Use Services

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

Tel: 1800 752 664 and follow the prompts

Email: planningreform@sa.gov.au

If the Minister is intent on misleading the public, he should ensure that his Departmental staff are briefed on, and complicit in, the deception.

The truth eventually comes out.

Professor Warren Jones AO is the Convenor of the *Protect our Heritage Alliance*, a coalition of concerned organisations and individuals, working to protect our built and natural environment.

Phone: 0419 852 622 Email: convenor@protectourheritage.org.au