

17 March 2020

## **PLANNING FOR THE PEOPLE..... PLANNING BY THE PEOPLE** **Community Rally Cancelled**

In response to the COVID 19 virus threat and the ban on gatherings of more than 500 people, the major community rally planned for Parliament House steps on Sunday 22nd March 2020 has been cancelled. However, the campaign against the State Government's ill-considered Planning and Design Code will continue unabated.

On Thursday 6th March, the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (2016) Commencement Amendment Bill was passed by the Parliament. It foreshadows the delayed implementation of the Code until the end of September. This must now allow the process supporting the Code and its provisions to be properly reviewed, genuinely consulted upon, and re-structured, in order to 'get it right', no matter how long it takes.

The dilapidated and confusing state of the draft Code, and the un-preparedness of its essential implementation tool, the e-planning system, mean that the resolution of these substantial problems is likely to take many months. Only when the information gaps, errors and inconsistencies have been corrected should the Code and its e-planning system be offered for public consultation.

The community and political pressure to suspend the Code implementation are escalating. A 15,500 signature Petition calling for a Parliamentary review of the Code, will be tabled in State Upper House on 26th March.

Public awareness and anger is responding to the multiple threats to built and natural amenity and our heritage and environment embodied in the proposed changes. There is palpable concern, right across the State, about the prospect of unfettered infill development, increased high rise, loss of trees and green space and the loss of designated heritage places and areas.

The Planning Minister and the State Planning Commission are withdrawing from rational public debate, and have bunkered down behind a façade of promised, but unlikely, response to the sham five-month 'consultation' process. They must now admit their mistakes and rectify them. The community will accept nothing less.

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