

12 March 2020

PETITION ON PLANNING CHANGES GOES TO PARLIAMENT

The rapidly escalating community reaction against the Government's ill-formed and ill-considered draft Planning and Design Code has found powerful expression in a petition to be delivered to Parliament House today (12/3/20).

Initiated by the 'Protect our Heritage Alliance', a campaign alliance of community and environment organisations, the document petitions the Parliament to:

- *undertake independent reviews of the operation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, and the governance and operation of the State Planning Commission and the State Commission Assessment Panel.*
- *defer implementation of the Planning and Design Code, pending further and genuine public consultation, risk analysis and review, and*
- *ban donations to political parties by developers.*

The Petition, signed by more than 15,000 members of the public from across the State, calls on the Parliament to defer and review the Code, and to undertake to ensure that there is genuine community consultation on its provisions, in order to get the planning system right, once and for all, and to protect our valuable heritage.

So far, the Government has ignored the feedback from the community, local government and sections of the development industry that the proposed Code is unworkable and unacceptable. What has been presented to the public to date is a shambolic mess and its essential implementation tool, an electronic e-planning system, is not yet fit for purpose. The community has been denied the opportunity to know and understand the full implications of the Code in its confusing provisional form.

Planning Minister Stephan Knoll and State Planning Commission Chair Michael Lennon must resile from their entrenched and misguided position defending the terminally flawed Code with misleading and confusing information. They need to confront the unpalatable truth that the Code must be reviewed and re-constructed, however difficult and time-consuming that might be.

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