

**Submission  
No 9**

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW**

**Name:** Mr Gregory Mckittrick

**Date Received:** 4 April 2024

I am pleased that there is an inquiry and review into Historical Development Consents, or Zombie DAs as they are also now known. The current legislation and planning processes and guidelines do not make sense. They do not protect native flora and fauna and further damage many endangered species that live on these historically approved development sites. The process needs to be able to consider the existing state of the ecosystems on any development site and not be limited to assessing only based on the environmental and other conditions at the time of the DA being originally submitted. There needs to be a timeframe (say for eg a maximum of five years) and once this period has passed then a new or revised DA needs to be submitted. In this way we could ensure that the assessment of suitability of any proposed development is based on current environmental legislation and knowledge. Currently developments can proceed on land that would be protected if that DA was put in at the time of the actual development and not decades before. As is clearly established the rate of species extinction is rapidly increasing and as I understand it there is no way at present for those that have the power to oversee and therefore protect this environmental crisis from increasing, to enact current protections and what we now understand to be best practice. It seems a form of madness that we are at the moment making decisions not based on up to date knowledge and understanding but instead being hamstrung by archaic and destructive legislation and guidelines. Thank you.