

**Submission
No 183**

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW

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Submission to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into historical development consents in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this inquiry.

It is wholly inappropriate for developments that were approved in a different day and age to proceed in the present time. Community expectations have changed as we have all awoken to the need to preserve and protect our valuable natural assets for endangered species habitat, biodiversity conservation and as carbon storage.

As an analogy, allowing the "zombie" developments to proceed would be like allowing a new house to be built now without reference to any BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) rating or energy star rating etc. as these were not in place back in the day. Any building application like that which came before Council today would be laughed and sent straight back to the drawing board. This is the absurdity of allowing historical developments to proceed today.

Climate change has rendered even more critical the need to protect ecological communities from encroachment. For instance, the increasingly destructive wildfires are an environmental impact that was never considered back in the day of these approvals. Such fire events are pushing species closer to extinction – witness the impact of the 2019/20 fires on the population of NSW koalas where so many perished. This has made the preservation of uncleared bushland so much more important as refugia for ALL our threatened species.

Furthermore the flawed and deceitful biodiversity offsets scheme used by developers to remove obstacles to DAs should never be used to justify removing threatened species habitat. This is a very real possibility for the Tura, Dalmeny and Manyana proposals. We have already lost Coila Lake foreshore to a "zombie" DA. Let's not lose any more valuable environmental assets like this.

We urgently need an audit of all the historical DAs in NSW so that we don't have to keep fighting against them one by one...that is a draining waste of community energy and resources. **There are already enough environmental battles to be waged on other fronts.**

Nick Hopkins

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