

**Submission
No 217**

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW

Name: Mr Jacob Shields

Date Received: 3 June 2024

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly Committee for Environment and Planning

I am responding to your call for submissions on 'zombie' housing projects. In my opinion, there is no place for any housing project which damages the precious remnant ecosystems we have left in Australia. This should be now self-evident with the effects of human induced climate change now beginning to plague the world in earnest. You of course will recall the horrors of Black Summer, a natural disaster directly linked to forest mismanagement. In my locality of the Bega Valley we saw a massive area of ecocommunity stabilising forest severely damaged. Now a Zombie DA from 34 years threatens to destroy a critical remnant nature corridor full of nationally recognised species (of note are the Long Nosed Bandicoots, Swift Parrots and the world-rare, hyper endemic Merimbula Star-Hair). The corridor is the final forest highway keeping two ecosystems connected and healthy. It is an utterly crucial piece of Bushland for the Bega Valley community.

The fact that it can be legally destroyed under the obviously defunct legislation in place at the time of its approval (late 1980s), is a huge blight on NSW's reputation as a state who claims to be environmentally responsible.

I so appreciate the chance to communicate directly with you on this issue. For a long time myself and my peers have been campaigning for simple and sensible reform to protect crucial, community and continent stabilising environments.

Please see this documentary on the topic of the Tura Beach Zombie DA which was produced in partnership with the Bega Valley community.

<https://youtu.be/ypRUfpmMWeA?si=Ja4KurAD5QSSGYtk>

Please also see this short video which tells the story of our youth delegation to NSW parliament where we presented the ministers for housing and environment with specific and nuanced legislative solutions to the Zombie problem. H

https://youtu.be/B4W9_G0bYhU?si=G6xQGUPJpFRDpH7r

In particular the latter video is of extreme significance as it represents the perspective of young NSW citizens on this issue, and so I strongly suggest every committee member takes the short time to view it.

Forests and other critical ecocommunities must be prioritised at this era of catastrophic tipping points. We can have no economy on a scorched and flooded continent. You can not run for or win office if our ecosystems collapse.

It is so make or break right now. Young citizens and voters like myself have long since grown tired of snail pace reform where instead there should be rapid, decisive and life saving action taken.

So put all of your brains together and pull off some good politics so you can stop the Zombies, get on track to stabilising our environment and ultimately save the nation.

As for specific legislative advice, again watch the youth delegation video - it's all outlined there and should be achievable.

Again, thank you for opening this channel of communication. I am totally on-board to assist you in any way to make this happen. Reach out anytime.

Again, thank you for opening this channel of communication.

Yours in solidarity,
Jacob Shields

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