

**Submission
No 235**

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT CONSENTS IN NSW

Name: Mrs Janene Theol
Date Received: 14 May 2024

Submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly's Committee on Environment and Planning

Subject: Inquiry into Historical Development Consents in NSW - Objection to “Zombie” Development Consents

Honourable Committee Members,

I would like to express my strong objection to “Zombie” Development Consent and ask the proposed inquiry to investigate all historical development consents in NSW. While I acknowledge the importance of ensuring transparency and accountability in the planning process, these “Zombie” Consents are a danger to every area of NSW that they exist.

Primarily, conducting an inquiry into historical development consents will create extra burdens for both government agencies and private entities. Revisiting past decisions, some of which may date back several years or even decades, will consume considerable time, resources, and manpower, however, this burden is required to ensure the protection of current and planned communities. What was approved twenty odd years ago may not suit today’s community.

In a time of increasing urgency to address these global challenges, it is crucial that government resources are directed towards forward-thinking policies and initiatives, but governments need to review old development approvals to ensure the future meets all our global challenges.

Investors and developers rely on regulatory certainty and stability to make informed decisions and commitments, even if the development approval was granted twenty odd years ago. It is vital that any development approval is current, and the reopening of past development consents need to ensure that all approvals meet current environment, infrastructure, and community needs.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the Committee's commitment to ensuring the integrity of the planning process in NSW, I believe that an inquiry into historical development consents is the most effective or prudent course of action.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Your Position/Organization (if applicable)] [Contact Information]