



The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC
Chair, Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
NSW Legislative Council
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Via email: cate.faehrmann@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Faehrmann

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Committee's inquiry into the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021. The public hearing was a productive forum and demonstrated the complexity and necessity of reform in this area.

I have read the Committee's report and accept its recommendation that the Bill only progress after the release of draft regulations and other material containing the details of reform implementation.

I am mindful of the fact that stakeholders have had the opportunity to design and shape the reform package both in its conception by the NSW Productivity Commissioner, and now through ongoing engagement with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on its implementation. I want to ensure businesses, councils and communities understand fully the benefits of this reform and how it will more efficiently deliver infrastructure to support growth.

I am pleased the Committee has not identified any defects in the Bill itself. The Bill's provisions have been carefully prepared to balance the outcomes of reform across the 29 recommendations of the Productivity Commissioner. The intent is that no one is left worse off by this system.

I would also like to assure the Committee that the sustained engagement with industry and local government stakeholders will continue as the reform details are being worked through. Since the public hearing the Department has convened technical working groups on the land value contribution, regional infrastructure contribution and digital tools supporting the new system.

I do want to underline the importance of this reform. It is simply not an option to leave the contributions system as it currently operates. It is opaque, inefficient and does not deliver the infrastructure the community needs to support growth.

The infrastructure contributions system is central to supporting new, growing communities across our State. This is a rare opportunity to make the system more transparent, consistent, simpler, and fairer. The NSW Government will work together with industry and councils to do the work needed to make the most of this opportunity and I thank the Committee for helping us do so.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
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