

**Submission
No 246**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE
AND THE BROADER HUNTER REGION**

Name: Ms Marilynne Gledhill

Date received: 24/10/2014

as a matter of urgency the Legislative Council must investigate the unexplained alterations to the LEP covering Newcastle's King Edward park.

The LEP zoned the land on which the bowling club once stood as public open space that specifically excluded a function centre.

A developer, I believe one of Keith Stronach's companies, made application to have the said site exempted from the prohibition of a function centre. This was refused by Council.

That was the situation in February 2012, yet By June 2012 it was discovered that an exception had been made allowing a function centre to be built on the site. Interestingly, the wording of the amendment was exactly that of the developer in the DA.

Here it becomes interesting. There appears to be no record of the application going back to Council, there was no public notification of the intention to change the LEP, there is no record of process for the change nor reasons for it.

Given recent ICAC revelations regarding the influence that developers in Newcastle have had on local and state politics, the lack of probity, the lack of transparency, the lack of public consultation and the possible conflict of interests in this matter it is essential that the Upper House investigate this matter.

Sincerely

Marilynne Gledhill