

**Submission
No 19**

**INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

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The Director,
Select Committee on Social, Public & Affordable Housing,
Parliament House, Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Sir, **Submission: Social Public & Affordable Housing (Inquiry)**

Herewith is my submission on the situation of housing in NSW.

(a) Projections of future social, public, and affordable housing supply and demand 2020.

If we continue on the path that we are on the whole population will be living in crowded towns, or overpopulated mega cities. The United Nations Agenda 21 would have all Property rights removed and everyone living within city clusters. Rural life would be finished, homelessness, crime and vandalism would increase to an extent that society would collapse. It is therefore essential that more land be released, government control of every aspect of country living be removed and we return to the basic freedoms which we had before the Socialist/Communist agenda was introduced into Australia under the Local government Acts of 1989 and 1993. These Acts are in fact unconstitutional, since we had a Referendum in 1988 in which Local Government was rejected as a third tier of our government system. Careful studies should be done as to just how much land is locked up under State forests, National Parks and Reserves, and how these can be reduced at a safe level to maintain a reasonable area for catchment and the environment. However, over the past few years vegetation and timber plantations has increased to the extent that there is nowhere to run, in the case of catastrophic fires, because the whole land has been repossessed by nature and humans have been dispossessed of their right to farm, live and be happy and safe in rural Australia.

Those ill-informed people pushing their agenda fail to realise that animals have a better chance of survival where humans are allowed to develop the land, especially with small acreage farming and rural residential living is allowed. We were taught that “big is beautiful” and allowed multinational corporations to take over our farming. They are the main offenders of clearing the land and disregarding the environment, all in the name of profit for shareholders.

(b) Data regarding the link between the lack of appropriate social, public and affordable Housing in NSW and indicators of social disadvantage.

The government has too much control over where and how people live. This country was developed by people moving on to the land and living in whatever conditions which were necessary for them to survive and make a living. Just when did the government decide that it was their job to control every aspect of life. I know, it was 1989! It was laughable 30 years ago

to think that government would have so much control, in a supposedly democratic country, where freedom was promoted as being something cherished and well worth preserving. Somehow we became the most over-governed country in the world, outside of the USSR or Communist China.

When I moved into the Nymboida shire in 1980, we had the freedom to buy a piece of land and build whatever we wanted to, as long as there were no complaints from the neighbours. Things were booming and people were moving out of the city en masse. Now with the availability of solar systems, it is quite possible to live a comfortable life in country areas without either electricity or town water. We should not be forced into crowded cities because of the lack of land, because there is a never ending supply, if we just allow it.

Good soil is rare and irreplaceable and should be preserved for growing food, other areas for farming, but many areas with poor soils could be released for housing, particularly land along established roads and railway lines.

© Housing design approaches and social service integration necessary to support tenant Livelihood and well being.

As long as public transport is provided, there is no need for governments to get involved with the social life, housing design, social services of residents. Social disadvantage would disappear, or be reduced if more land was released and sold for a reasonable price. It is the high cost of land, rent and lack of affordable housing which causes most poverty. A working couple, fully employed can hardly maintain a decent standard of living because of high cost of rent or mortgage repayments, unless they happen to be a CEO reaping obscene benefits.

(d) Maintenance and capital improvement costs and delivery requirements.

With proper management, good business skills, careful budgeting, there should be no problem in providing maintenance and delivery requirements from the rent collected from government housing.

State governments should return to building scattered residences for low income families, as they did before, with option to buy when possible.

(e) Criteria for selecting and prioritising residential areas for affordable and social housing Development.

Many mistakes have been made in the past. I am sure there is enough research already done to give some new ideas on what is required. Most people on low incomes have more children, more animals, drink and smoke more. That is a known fact. Areas should be selected in country towns, plenty of space, plenty of bush area for the children to play, and most importantly a good bus or train service, which has been seriously neglected over many years. I remember living in the bush in 1952, walking about 2 miles to catch a bus which took us to the movies in town, and was waiting outside the theatre when we got out. What has happened to that type of service. It has gone and needs to be re-introduced again.

(f) The role of residential parks

Every human being needs open space.

May I remind you that cities are not a natural environment for families. Those who continue to live in them too long lose all sense of nature and the real world and the knowledge of how the food is provided. Have you ever considered how far removed from reality it is when people sit at a desk all day and transfer numbers and information across the world, without even having to do any physical work to provide their basic necessities of food and shelter. They have to trust that somebody else is doing it and someday soon, they may not.

Crowding people into cities can be compared to forcing cattle into feedlots, and yet that is what is planned in Australia by those who do not know any better, or follow a communist ideology that has failed miserably everywhere it has been tried.

(g) Policy initiatives, planning laws, social benefit bonds, market benefit bonds, Market mechanisms and incentives, Funding Partnerships with the Federal Govt.

I have read much on the plan to include communities in planning initiatives. However, it is the responsibility of those who are employed in these departments to come up with the answers of what is needed, by consultation and surveys, for which they are being paid.

The problem I see is that despite all the feedback and work by the community, the ultimate decision comes back to the Minister for Planning.

The final decision needs to be given to a panel or a committee of 7 people, from State Government and Local Councils who can debate and decide what is good for certain areas. This is how clubs work. The President does not have full say, but it has to be taken to the committee and in some cases to the members for approval. Giving final authority to one person is a dangerous move.

Summary:

It was the introduction of the Local Government Acts around 1989 and the GST of 2000 which have derailed our system of government, and caused the lack of housing, infrastructure, and investment across Australia. Local Councils now regard themselves as a third tier of government, despite this being rejected by Referendum in 1988.

We now have so many rules and regulations it is impossible to function, at any level.

A solution is that we repeal the Local Government Act and re-instate the "Councils" who take their instructions from their constituents and present it to the State Government for approval or rejection. State governments need to demand their fair share of GST from the Federal Government, or face the fact that they will be removed as the second tier of government and replaced by "Local government" taking their orders from Canberra. This will require a new Constitution and will cause untold chaos, unless carefully handled.

Yours sincerely,
Bev L. Pattenden.