

**Submission  
No 101**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
COMMUNITIES**

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I wish to voice my concerns with regards to outdated zombie development applications and the possible impacts said applications have on the environment and coastal communities along the eastern seaboard.

Approvals and zoning decisions such as those proposed for our villages in the Shoalhaven, as well as other areas result in clearing of native vegetation, many of which have high biodiversity values, leading to huge impacts on threatened species and endangered ecological communities listed under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act and the Federal EPBC Act. For example there are some DA's that have been approved as far back as 2011 – such DA's were approved at a time when much less care was given to the environment, potential risks with sea level rise, waterways and an understanding of the impacts of tourism. With what we know now, planning strategies must be all encompassing.

It is time to recognize the impact on inappropriate developments on communities. It cannot simply be enough to voice 'we need more housing subdivisions' when many coastal zones are predominantly for holiday or second homes. Also now known is with climate change leading to rising bushfire risks, increasing the population of small coastal towns that have single access roads, is not a responsible solution to NSW's housing crisis.

I urge the NSW Government to putting an immediate moratorium on developments in bushfire affected areas.

Any development that was approved before the 2019/20 Black Summer bushfire be reassessed under current environmental planning legislation.

Development consents more than 5 years old, must seek new approval within 2 years

Amend the planning laws to ensure that they are contemporary, backed by rigorous science and in keeping with coastal communities.

Many Councils and Regional Planning Panels must apply set guidelines that ensure that development is sustainable and that the environment is not **impacted adversely**. For example, already at least 4 major developments have been given consent in a small patch of the Shoalhaven around Jervis Bay. Hectares of habitat will be cleared to make way for large-scale residential developments, and developers don't hesitate to raze areas prior to development. This has been observed frequently in the Shoalhaven and Jervis Bay area.

It is time for the NSW planning system and legislation to be adapted to account for how climate change is leading to species extinction and biodiversity loss. Examples of this are becoming well documented where endangered species like the Greater Glider and Gang Gang Cockatoo are impacted. The Black Summer Bushfires of 2019/20 severely impacted the Shoalhaven/Illawarra biodiversity and ongoing ad-hoc developments will contribute to destruction.

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