

Submission  
No 166

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 5 November 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

## **SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO ADAPTION PAPER MLC PORTFOLIO 7 – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – HIGH RISK BUSHFIRE AREAS**

As a resident of North Turrumurra for more than three decades, and current President of our Residents Group – NTAG, have lived through some really horrendous and frightening bushfires in the early 90's where evacuation was ordered but was impossible.

This was due to the fact there is only one access/egress road with one side of the road dedicated to fire and emergency vehicles entering the northern end of Bobbin Head Road to work on firefighting and evacuating people from Lady Davidson Hospital, the High School and the Aged Care facilities – 12 of which are at the northern end closest to the National Park and surrounded by dense bush on three sides. This leaves only a single lane to safely evacuate around 2,700 vehicles with people, their belongings and animals. People trying to evacuate were turned back due to traffic buildup at Burns Road intersection.

It was a terrifying time and occurred just before there was an increase in development with the SEPP's for Over 55's with North Turrumurra a targeted area for development due to its large lot sizes.

The SEPP 5 Developments were finally stopped by residents taking action and our local member Barry O'Farrell calling attention to our plight with Minister Andrew Refshauge who brought in legislation prohibiting any further SEPP 5 developments and changing the zoning to a CROSS HATCHED area due to the fact it is one of the highest risk bushfire prone areas in NSW.

Since this occurred, development has been largely limited to new housing estates but even they have put immense pressure on the population with approximately 200 new homes containing up to 4 people per house – another 800 people being added to those who will already need to be evacuated in our next fire.

With Climate Change Scientists predicting more frequent and more intense bushfires, residents here are even more fearful as they know that evacuation was not been a viable option in the last fire. Over the past week two fires in NSW have been on days of 22 and 26 degrees respectively – not even high fire risk days. This creates an even more frightening scenario for us. Over the last week, two large intense bushfires have occurred on days of 22 degrees and 26 degrees respectively - not even categorised a high fire risk days.

With a recent development approved by the KLPP where the developer plans to bring 175,000 people into Bobbin Head Road annually, we have grave concerns for the lives in the 12 Aged Care Facilities within 500 metres of the site as well as our own safety, The fact that 175,000 more people will be using a single lane access road every year can only put all of us in more danger.

This submission is to urge you to ensure the cross hatched areas for high risk bushfire areas remain and that any development which allows more vehicles on single lane access road is disallowed through legislation to ensure that lives are not lost due to increased delays with emergency vehicles and evacuation.

Yours sincerely