

Submission  
No 234

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

**Organisation:** Campbelltown City Council

**Date Received:** 16 April 2024

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Ms Susan Higginson MLC  
Chair Portfolio Committee No. 7  
NSW Parliament  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Higginson,

**Parliamentary Inquiry – Planning System and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the 'NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment' inquiry into the planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities.

**Flooding**

Broad and generic changes to flooding impact assessment requirements have led to greater challenges for Council to deliver planning approvals together with uncertainty for developers and the community. Consideration should be given to a State led risk-based approach to flood management including, in some circumstances, construction with flood compatible materials and robust evacuation strategies to ensure otherwise suitable and well-located sites are not sterilized from development.

**Biodiversity Framework**

The complexities surrounding the NSW biodiversity framework appears to have contributed to an increase in unauthorized land clearing and has led to uncertainty for both Councils and the development industry. A simplified policy framework would contribute improved environmental outcomes and allow delivery of appropriately located housing in proximity to public transport and services without impacting important biodiversity corridors.

**SEPP (Exempt and Complying Codes)**

Expanding Complying Development Codes should be further developed to support improved building performance and energy efficiency outcomes. Greater focus on passive solar design principles, use of energy efficient and recycled materials, a greater emphasis on the recycling of grey water for flushing of toilets, and additional tree planting could be incentivized through the planning framework via a range of financial levers, including tax relief.

Again, I thank you for the invite and we look forward to joining with the Macarthur group of Council's at the future inquiry.

Yours sincerely,