

**Submission
No 239**

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

Name: Mr Rod Edwards

Date Received: 29 April 2024

Committee No. 7 Planning and Environment
Legislative Council Members
NSW Parliament
Sydney 200

Re: Planning System and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities.

Estimate Members of the Committee

There are two (2) phrases that warrant an innovative response for consideration, these being: "*mitigate and adapt*" and "*climate change and natural disasters*".

The first "*mitigate and adapt*" is a phraseology that could be likened to waving a red flag at a bull, in this case the bull being mother nature. After watching Western Sydney rivers flood for a third (3rd) time, with the only noticeable change being the intensity of focus upon the news cycle and weathering the social unrest from community frustrations, it is apparent that the only path forward is to weather future storms. Perhaps if more of the community gained empathy with those so affected, a lesson from the "*school of hard knocks*" would stimulate a more innovate path forward. For the population of Sydney are yet to experience record breaking driving rain, flooding Greater Sydney again and again.

The second "*climate change and natural disasters*" is this phraseology adaptable and therefore inclusive of the element "earth"?

Sydney residents have thus far experienced the element's "*water, fire and wind*" but fortunately not yet encountered that of the element "*earth*" connected with earthquakes. With the earthquake recorded in recent memory being that which impacted the city of Newcastle, perhaps the unasked question is just how many of the apartment blocks built in the last fifteen (15) years throughout metropolitan Sydney could withstand such a shaking. A nuisance question and easily ignored, the truth be told it was never explored.

Hopefully reading this does not take too much of your time.

Yours sincerely

Rod Edwards
29th April 2024