

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

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

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## Introduction

Sustainable development that addresses the needs of communities now and into the future needs to be a top priority of government planning. These needs include:

- Access to green open space
- Viability of forests that can house flora and fauna unique to a location
- Access to renewable sources of energy
- Building and landscape design that works with the natural resources available
- Contribution to biodiversity through use of plantings and open spaces that encourage native flora and fauna
- Access to affordable housing
- Access to community facilities
- Development practices that do not endanger health or well-being

## Essential Areas for Collaboration in Sustainable Housing and Residential Development

To foster the growth of sustainable housing and residential development, the NSW state government should collaborate with federal departments and agencies that institute controls, recommendations, and evidence-based codes. This partnership can ensure that sustainable practices are integrated into housing and residential planning. Here are some key areas where this collaboration is essential:

### 1. Policy Alignment and Coordination

**Unified Building Codes:** Develop harmonized building codes and standards that mandate energy-efficient designs and sustainable materials for residential construction. This alignment ensures consistency across state and federal levels, making it easier for developers to comply.

**Integrated Urban Planning:** Coordinate urban planning initiatives to promote compact, mixed-use developments that reduce the need for long commutes and encourage sustainable living practices.

### 2. Research and Innovation

**Sustainable Building Technologies:** Support collaborative research into new materials and technologies that enhance the energy efficiency and sustainability of residential buildings.

**Pilot Projects:** Fund and monitor pilot projects that demonstrate innovative approaches to sustainable housing, providing valuable data and insights for broader application.

### 3. Infrastructure Development

**Green Infrastructure:** Invest in green infrastructure, such as parks, green roofs, and rain gardens, within residential developments to enhance environmental quality and residents' well-being.

**Smart Grid Integration:** Modernize the electricity grid to support the integration of residential renewable energy sources, such as rooftop solar panels, and improve energy efficiency in homes.

### 4. Regulatory Frameworks

**Energy Efficiency Standards:** Enforce stringent energy efficiency standards for new and existing homes, ensuring that buildings consume less energy and produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

**Sustainable Land Use:** Implement regulations that promote sustainable land use, preventing urban sprawl and protecting natural habitats and agricultural land.

### 5. Public Engagement and Education

**Community Involvement:** Engage communities in the planning and development process to ensure that sustainable housing projects meet local needs and gain public support.

**Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate homeowners, developers, and the general public on the benefits and practices of sustainable housing.

### 6. Environmental Protection

**Biodiversity Conservation:** Integrate biodiversity conservation measures into residential planning, ensuring that new developments protect and enhance local ecosystems.

**Climate Adaptation:** Design homes and residential areas to be resilient to climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events, ensuring long-term sustainability and safety.

### 7. Economic Growth and Job Creation

**Green Jobs:** Promote the growth of green jobs in the construction and maintenance of sustainable homes, boosting local economies and supporting the transition to a green economy.

**Sustainable Real Estate Market:** Foster a market for sustainable real estate, attracting investments and encouraging developers to prioritize sustainability in their projects.

### Conclusion

By collaborating closely with federal departments and agencies, the NSW state government can create a robust framework for sustainable housing and residential development. This partnership can drive the adoption of green building practices, promote energy efficiency, and ensure that residential planning aligns with broader sustainability goals. Through coordinated efforts, NSW can lead the way in creating sustainable, liveable, and resilient communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

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