

DLEP 2013 Review

9th February 2014

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Sutherland LEP Review

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Introduction and Process.

There is a great deal of pressure by supporters of DLEP2013 on opponents of the DLEP to “stop holding it up and let the Shire develop.”

An attempt was made to close down the Save Our Shire Web site and Face Book page.

A solicitor’s letter is attached. It is based on false and misleading information.

The sites are still operating.

It should be noted that the Liberals controlled the last year of the previous council and did nothing to expedite completion of the DLEP. It did not suit them to do so. One reason may have been the looming election, not a good time to introduce planning initiatives such as the “Mayoral Minute”.

A year was wasted.

The extraordinary circumstances surrounding the ill drafted Mayoral Minute wasted another eight months and possibly longer.

An attempt was made in October 2012, a month after the election, by the Mayor, Kent Johns, to pre-empt DLEP2013 and introduce radical changes to Landscape and FSR controls. This attempt was totally mismanaged, cost staff time and ratepayers’ money and finally abandoned in September 2013. (Details in Save Our Shire submission)

Without any semblance of public consultation, the Mayor offered two areas to the state government for Urban Activation Precincts. The Member for Miranda intervened and demanded that Miranda be excluded as he could see no benefit for the residents of Miranda. The Mayor removed Miranda from the offer.

Following an intensive campaign by SOS to have Waratah park removed from the Sutherland UAP (we could not see any valid reason for it to be included), we were attacked for running a scare campaign. Waratah Park was removed from the UAP. However, height and floor space controls are still present on the zone maps of the second draft of the LEP for 13346 m² of public open space.

The presentation of the Mayoral Minute on 29 July was, in effect, an ambush. It was not intended that there would be a fair and vigorous debate.

Preferred Action.

1 Retain the Landscape and FSR controls as in LEP2006.

If some reductions in Landscape are deemed necessary then a site area control must be introduced.

2. Remove the Height and FSR controls on the 13346m² of public open space land which is part of Waratah Park , Sutherland, from the amended DLEP.
3. Remove excessive heights and density from buildings in the centres which are not required to comply with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure directive for 10100 extra dwellings by 2031. The Department has planned for staged development, not forced expansion without any regard for necessary infrastructure, amenity or the ambience of the Shire.
4. Recommend changes to prevent the use of the Mayoral Minute as a device to limit debate.
5. Appoint an outside professional to oversee the final draft of the plan for presentation to the minister. The council should be distanced from the process.

Conclusion.

If the 1900 objectors to the first draft are to receive recognition for responding to council's invitation to comment, there will need to be a sixth exhibition of the plan which addresses the major issues.

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