



Beth Morris
File Ref: LP/03/880010

25 September 2014



Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

SEPP65 - design quality of residential flats

[In response, please quote File Ref: LP/03/880010]

I refer to the recent commencement of the exhibition of amendments to State Environmental Planning Policy 65 - Design Quality of Residential Flat Development. It is noted that the review of this policy has been ongoing (November 2011). However the draft provisions are only on exhibition for 5 weeks - the exhibition concludes on the 31 October 2014.

Like State government, staff in local government work within the policy framework adopted by the elected representatives. Council has an approximately three week meeting cycle. As staff reports must be completed a week before, it is not possible for Council to comment on the proposed amendments within the required timeframe. Consequently Council is seeking an extension of time to comment.

Due to the recent Mayoral Elections (23 September), public holiday weekend (6 October) and NSW Local Government Conference (20 October) it is likely that full Council will consider a report on the proposed changes at its meeting of the 11 November 2014. The meeting dates/cycle is yet to be confirmed by Council.

It is noted that the Department of Planning & Environment strongly supports public feedback and engagement on planning issues. Council is currently finalising the third exhibition of its comprehensive Standard Instrument Plan (SSDLEP2013) and associated development control plan. The LEP proposes significant increases in residential height and density. It is therefore prudent that Council be given the opportunity to consider fully the implications of the SEPP policy changes.

If you require further information please contact Beth Morris, Environmental Planning Unit on 9710 0376.

Yours faithfully

Mark Adamson
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for J W Rayner
General Manager