



Floodplain Management Association

Supporting Wise Planning and Development
www.floods.org.au ABN 67 007 279 179

Chairman: Ian Dinham 0435 946 525

9 July 2015

Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001.

Dear Ms McNally,

Submission to State Environmental Planning Policy Review 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above.

The Floodplain Management Association (**FMA**) was formed after the disastrous floods in NSW in the mid-1950's to support and promote best floodplain risk management practice. The FMA currently has a membership of 120 local government councils, Catchment Management Authorities, consultants, businesses and individuals involved in floodplain management. Membership and participation includes both technical staff and elected representatives. The FMA has links to flood risk management organisations in the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

The FMA is recognised by State and Federal Government agencies as representing the interests of NSW floodplain communities and those authorities responsible for reducing future flood losses. The FMA meets regularly with State and Federal ministers and their departments.

The FMA supports the intent of the SEPP review to simplify the planning system and remove obsolete planning policies. However, we are concerned that such a review is occurring without a holistic review and introduction of a more relevant and up to date suite of state planning policies as was promised to occur with the review of the NSW Planning system. That holistic review was to see the introduction of the first state planning policy for NSW that addressed natural hazards, in particular floodplain risk management. Such policies have existed in other Australian states for some time.

As outlined within the FMA's submission to the White Paper on the new Planning Act, there remain broader unresolved issues in the manner that flood risk planning is undertaken and communicated in NSW. In that submission the FMA focused on the following 3 important topics of the planning system that require careful resolution in order that the planning system can responsibly incorporate mechanisms to manage flood risks.

- a. Standardisation of a flood risk planning approach across each statutory planning layer.
- b. Integration of NSW Flood Policy into the Environmental Planning Legislation.
- c. Mapping of flood risk areas.

These earlier comments remain pertinent. It is our view that embracing the above three matters can provide greater certainty to the community in regard to flood risk, and support a more efficient development approval system. The resolution of these broader matters would greatly assist in providing a clearer and simpler approach to addressing flooding and coastal hazards in the NSW planning system.

We reiterate that the FMA would be prepared to work with the Department to assist in the implementation of the required mechanisms. We were pleased to meet with your Director of Planning Policy at an earlier time when the preparation of a natural hazards State Planning Policy was on the Government's agenda. However, we have more recently been disappointed with a reluctance to communicate with us in any way, which we assume to be a reflection of inaction in the preparation of the natural hazards State Planning Policy.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet again with Departmental officers to elaborate on the above and to collaborate in the resolution of these matters.

Yours faithfully



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Director - Land Use Planning

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