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Online Submission

Mar 24 (13 days ago)

k To:

SUBMISSION TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT ON THE DRAFT CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL PLAN

State Government thorough commitment to proper public consultation needed

I consider that the NSW State Government has an important opportunity in which to demonstrate a more thorough commitment to proper public consultation than presently when implementing the Draft Central Coast Regional Plan (Draft).

This needs to be achieved by referring to its Green Paper (A new planning system for NSW) Community Participation objective July 2012 p.19 which stated that:

“Community and public interest will be at the centre of the new planning system. All parts of the community – individuals, organisations and businesses” will be able to participate to ensure we achieve the best possible planning outcomes.”

BEST regulatory environment approach is highly questionable

in achieving the “best regulatory environment” (Draft p.17) is highly questionable as acknowledged by the Nature Conservation Council in November 2015 when they stated:

“Major changes to the state planning laws have been ushered through parliament largely unnoticed as part of the Greater Sydney Commission Bill 2015 – This latest move discredits the Baird’s government’s commitment to proper public consultation and better outcomes for the environment and communities.”

Evidence of undesirable planning outcomes in Gosford

We have seen evidence of undesirable planning outcomes in Gosford such as allowing excessive building heights, the selling off of public land and the erosion of the 2010 Masterplan commitments which are strongly opposed by leading community representatives.

The Government has over ridden majority community on planning in Gosford

The Government has over ridden the majority community view on planning by pursuing their own political agenda rather than honouring its commitment noted in the draft as to establish “the best regulatory environment” in consulting with the community as described in the Draft Central Coast Regional plan (Draft) p.17.

Public Consultation without acknowledging and supporting the majority community view will fail to achieve the BEST regulatory environment.

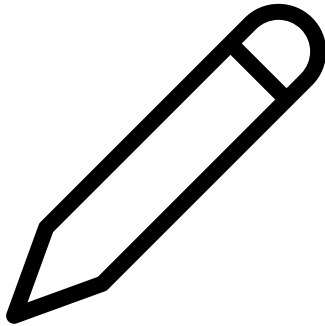
State Government needs to be congratulated for injecting funds into Gosford Although the Government’s at State and Federal level are to be congratulated in injecting funds into developing Gosford it would be a great injustice and opportunity lost to have political planning appointees override majority public opinion and hence spoil the Gosford character by detracting from what could become a city of international destination and repute.

Community Participation Charter

The solution to ensure that the "best possible planning outcomes" are achieved would be to introduce a Community Participation Charter as recommended by the State Government in its White Paper for a New Planning System for NSW April 2013p.46.

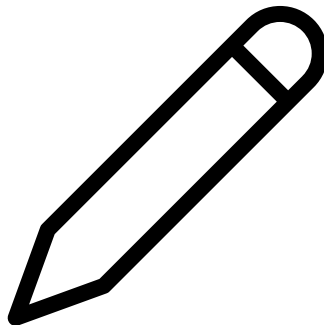
Summary

I submit that if the State Government is serious about achieving the best possible planning outcomes then majority public opinion will be best served through the introduction of a Community Participation Charter

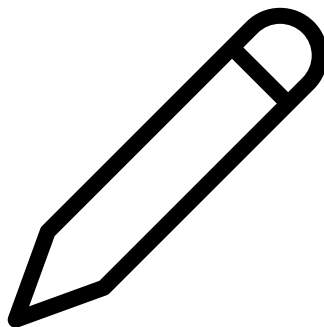


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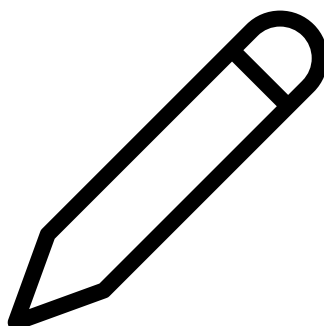
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Priority Medium

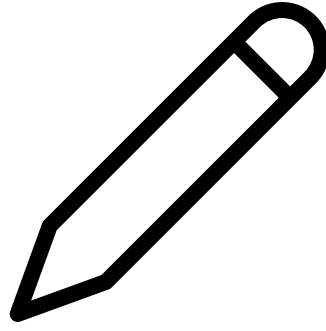


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