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Submission on NSW Planning law reform closing date 31/3/17

The main objective of all planning and infrastructure development and works should be that of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Those who sit on planning panels should be required to make decisions and explain those decisions by responding with environmentally sustainable goals and targets and specifically outlining just how proposed developments meet such.

Require an overarching objective that addresses climate change. Planning authorities and decision makers such as JRPPs, when proposing changes or deciding over LEPs and SEPPs, must consider and be able to explain how proposed alterations and developments respond to the climate change risks we face and to show how the development will mitigate further dangerous climate change risks.

The planning secretary should most definitely not take the place of the already existing environmental agencies: OEH or the EPA and should not be able to give advice or approve proposals.

Improve rather than erode the Environmental Impact Assessment requirements we currently have in NSW.

Reinstate third party merits appeals. Repeal 23F and ensure community access to the court that is in line with the recommendations made by ICAC. We should be strengthening opportunities for communities' voices to be heard and given much weight when explaining the social impacts of proposed developments as they see them.

Developers' rights are already more than adequate. There should be no further expanding on the developers' rights to seek internal reviews on decisions made about major developments.