

Our ref: R04/0066.smcb Out-

24 April 2007

The Hon Frank Sartor MP  
Minister for Planning  
Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Sartor

**FORMAL SUBMISSION: PLANNING DRAFT EXPOSURE BILLS**

The Associations welcome the opportunity to make a submission of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2008 and the related draft exposure bills.

The Associations support reform of the NSW planning system but not the complete suite of changes proposed by the NSW Government. There is a need for the simplification of the planning system to improve clarity, certainty and transparency.

The government's proposed changes introduce further complexity into the planning system and override a fundamental planning principle, embedded in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, that recognises the importance of public participation in the process.

The draft bills will reduce the local communities' participation in the planning process, by substantially reducing councils' role in planning decisions and minimising residents' opportunities to make submissions on planning issues. The changes will also increase the financial burden on growing communities by reducing overall development levies on new development.

The Associations are concerned about the haste with which the legislative amendments are being introduced. The 3 week period (3 April to 24 April 2008) has been too short to allow for meaningful review and submissions on over 200 pages of legislation. The Associations call on the State Government to extend the time available to review the impacts of the proposed legislation.

The Associations' preliminary assessment of the key provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2008 are attached along with supplementary papers providing more detailed comment on specific aspects of the draft exposure bills.

Yours sincerely

Cr Genia McCaffery  
**President**  
*Local Government Association of NSW*

Cr Bruce Miller  
**President**  
*Shires Association of NSW*

Cc: Mr Sam Haddad, Director General, Department of Planning