

Better Planning Network

An affiliation of over 60 community groups across NSW

Ms Corinne Fisher
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URGENT

The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, MP
Premier and Minister for Western Sydney
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Friday 12 October 2012

Dear Premier

I refer to my correspondence dated 27/09/12, requesting to meet with you to discuss the NSW Planning Review. I write to reiterate this request, as well as urge you to extend the proposed consultation period for the upcoming White Paper and draft legislation.

Since my earlier correspondence, an additional 20 community groups have joined our network and we expect many more to do so in the next few weeks. This rapid expansion reflects the high level of community concern relating to the proposed planning reforms and timeframe for enacting these reforms.

At a White Paper Development Workshop held last week on 11/10/12, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure confirmed plans to release the White Paper and draft legislation before the end of this year for a consultation period over the summer holidays. He also indicated that legislation to effect the proposed planning changes would be put to the NSW Parliament in March 2013.

The Minister, with whom I had the opportunity to speak after the Workshop, indicated that he would consider extending the consultation period, but suggested that I forward my request to you as Premier.

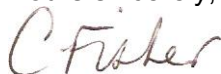
Unlike other stakeholders, many community groups are run entirely by volunteers. Releasing hefty and complex documents before the Christmas and New Year period and over the summer holidays would preclude many of these groups from providing meaningful input into these documents.

I urge you to ensure that the community has a minimum of 6 (six) months to engage with and comment on the White Paper and draft legislation.

The proposed planning reforms will be with us for many years to come and will have impacts on every community in NSW. We firmly believe that if communities are not satisfied that they have been listened to and heard, the planning reforms will not succeed in the long-term.

I can be reached on ph: 0421 831 889 or betterplanningnetwork@gmail.com, and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Corinne Fisher
Better Planning Network