

THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC.

ABN 99 023 656 297

Conserving our heritage • Encouraging a sense of community • Working for Glebe's future www.glebesociety.org.au

PO BOX 100
GLEBE NSW 2037
AUSTRALIA



The Premier
Farrer Place
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Premier

The Glebe Society is dismayed that the funds for the Environmental Defender's Office may be diminished. This is a small, highly professional agency that provides a democratic service to our community. Planning and environmental matters are complex and legally fraught. Within this context communities cannot afford the sort of legal assistance that developers may buy. The Environmental Defender's Office helps to ameliorate this imbalance by providing as a state duty advice to communities which may be disaffected by planned developments. You personally challenged the previous government's record on planning matters in the Port Stephens area and therefore you would know that the excellent work of the Environment Defender's Office helped the community stop planned depredations.

Budgetary restraints apply to all major undertakings and the community commends your responsible actions but you pause a while..... The Environmental Defender's Office is marginal to the State budget. Any cuts to it will diminish your government's *bona fides*, which due to electoral promises will be measured by the authenticity of its community engagement.

On behalf of the Society I urge you not to cut funding to this valuable agency.

Yours truly

John Gray

John Gray PhD
President
December 3, 2012