



Hon Jeff Seeney MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning



Our ref: OUT13/6168

28 NOV 2013

Ms Jo-Anne Bragg
Principal Solicitor
Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc
30 Hardgrave Road
WEST END QLD 4101

Dear Ms Bragg

Thank you for your letter of 21 November 2013 about the consultation process for the proposed Planning for Queensland's Development Bill.

I certainly appreciate your focus and attention to this important issue of reform of the state's land use planning and development assessment system.

As you are aware, the Newman Government was elected on the basis of, amongst a range of other initiatives, a platform of reforming our planning system to be the best in the country. That premise was based on significant commentary by local governments, developers, development consultants and planners on fundamental flaws with the process-focused current planning system.

These concerns were further articulated at the March 2013 Planning Forum, which I understand you attended. The forum proceedings, and subsequent survey of participants by my department, confirmed very clear directions for our planning reform program.

At the outset of this process, I clearly said that our reform would not be a long drawn out process and I have drawn the comparison of our focused reform agenda to the often criticised protracted New South Wales process.

In Queensland's case, the key reform directions have been already well articulated by the key participants in the planning system, building on over a decade's progressive decline in the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. Therefore, there is no need for us to adopt a drawn out consultation program.

My department, therefore, needs to focus on how best to deliver Australia's best planning system within the context of these clear existing strategic reform directions.

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To achieve this, the department has adopted a concerted engagement process for the new planning legislation, involving:

- a) the current monthly forums where key planning reform issues are presented and discussed in an open and consultative manner with representatives of all major stakeholder organisations
- b) three targeted professional task forces focusing on plan making, development assessment and dispute resolution, with participants drawn from key industry experts
- c) an ongoing program of participation by departmental officers in numerous workshops convened by key industry organisations including the Local Government Association of Queensland, Council of Mayors South East Queensland, Property Council of Australia and Urban Development Institute of Australia.

Notwithstanding your letter, the advice continually received by my office and the department about this process is that key industry organisations regard this engagement process as effective and useful. I therefore do not intend to alter this.

In particular, I note that the key industry organisations have advised my department that they do not want a lengthy discussion paper process, do not need formal minutes of the monthly planning forum and do not support any further committee process as you have proposed. These specific matters feature in the five requests at the conclusion of your letter. In the context of my above comments, I trust that you will appreciate I cannot agree to these.

Based on the current program of work, I anticipate being in a position in early 2014 to offer an exposure draft of the Bill for broader industry engagement, and I am committed to introducing the Bill into Parliament prior to 30 June 2014.

If you require any further information, Jeff Popp in my office will assist and can be contacted on 3719 7100.

Yours sincerely



JEFF SEENEY MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning