

DRAFT LETTER TO MPs

Dear

I wish to express my concern and dismay at the Government's dogged commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the Planning and Design Code.

I am aware that the Code is still evolving even after the inordinate length of time it has been in preparation, and despite the Phase 2 (rural) roll-out being underway, still in an incomplete and confusing state.

The complex and ambiguous content and format of the draft Code has made it impossible to adequately assess and provide meaningful feedback during the poorly managed 'consultation' process.

Of particular concern is the role of the property, building and development lobby in influencing the formulation, content and implementation of the Code. In contrast, despite Government protestations to the contrary, public engagement, consultation and feedback has been largely ignored.

I believe that the Code disenfranchises Councils, communities and individuals, promotes inappropriate high rise and urban infill development and erodes current protections for state and local heritage items.

I urge you to consider seriously the extent of concern about the Code in the community, amongst key stakeholders and expressed by Opposition parties and MPs.

The Code must now be reviewed, exposed to genuine public consultation and reconstructed, and its implementation deferred to mid 2021. This imperative is heightened by the impact of COVID 19 pandemic and the dire budgetary situation on the functioning of State and Local Government departments.

It is now important that the new Planning Minister, Vickie Chapman assumes control over the reform process, listens to the community, and fulfills her public commitment to re-consider the important issues of high rise, infill, heritage protection and the preservation of contributory items.

Yours Sincerely